



# Autumn Newsletter 2022



We certainly have been blessed with some beautiful autumn days recently, with clear blue skies and stunning autumn colour. So there has been plenty of opportunity to get outdoors and see some of our wonderful Norfolk Churches, like Stoke Holy Cross Parish Church pictured here.

## Grants Awarded News

The Grants Committee met on 16<sup>th</sup> November and have awarded £54,400 which has been split between the following thirteen churches.

Beachamwell, St Mary	£5,000	Tivetshall, St Margaret	£ 5,000
Bracon Ash, St Nicholas	£3,000	Warham, St Mary	£10,000*
Ingham, Holy Trinity	£2,000	Waxham, St John	£ 1,000
Larling, St Ethelbert	£3,000	Weston Longville, All Saints	£ 5,000
New Catton, Christ Church	£1,500	Wickhampton, St Andrew	£ 7,000
Shropham, St Peter	£5,500	Wood Rising, St Nicholas	£ 4,000
Stockton, St Michael & All Angels	£2,400		

These grants cover such items as helping towards roof and masonry repairs and even conservation of decalogue boards. However, many of these grants awarded are to help with one of the most common problems with our county's Medieval churches; damage caused by worn out drains, gullies, and downpipes. If left, additional problems such as damp penetrating the church building could ultimately lead to structural damage, and expensive repair work. At the Grants Committee Meeting held in July, St Andrew's, Blo Norton was offered a grant of £500 towards the repair and refurbishment of two gullies, the end result of which can be seen in the photograph.

\*The funds for the repairs at Warham St Mary were from the generous £10,000 legacy left to the Trust by Derek Fullerton to be used for a grant for repairs to a church in North Norfolk.



## Beachamwell

In addition to a grant previously awarded for £3,000; also included in the grants above is £5,000 for Beachamwell, St Mary, to assist with repairs that are not covered by insurance. It is now more than nine months since the devastating fire that left St Mary's Beachamwell a shell, of its former self. The fire that started on the morning of February 2<sup>nd</sup>, soon took hold and within minutes the entire thatched roof was ablaze, you can see from the pictures here just how devastating the fire was.



The Norfolk Churches Trust is pleased to report that the restoration of this Grade 1 listed building has now commenced, with the hope that the building will be weathertight by the summer of 2023. You can read a fuller report on the progress of the works on our website at

<https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/an-update-on-the-progress-of-the-restoration-of-st-marys-beachamwell/>

On a recent visit to the church by Scilla Latham, Trust Secretary a special supervisor in the form of a Little Owl sitting on the buttress was spotted casting its wise eye over proceedings. So not so much a phoenix, but an owl a symbol of contemplation doing just that, whilst the church rises from the ashes.



## Events

The proceeds from events that the Norfolk Churches Trust puts on goes towards providing the grant income for the churches shown above. Recently these have included '**Harpland**' which took place on a very warm



Harpist Ruth Wall

Saturday evening in July. The event was a sell-out with 120 people packing the historic St Peter & St Paul Church at Heydon to hear internationally renowned harpist Ruth Wall, and her husband the composer Graham Fitkin perform. The proceeds of the event were split between the Norfolk Churches Trust and Heydon, a very enjoyable summer's evening was had.



Following the Covid restrictions of 2021, which had to allow for social distancing, Diva Opera were back in the Marble Hall at Holkham Hall, where they belong. There were performances of Puccini's Tosca and Mozart's comic opera, Cosi Fan Tutte accompanied by picnics on the terrace. Our grateful appreciation and thanks must go to Lord and Lady Leicester for continuing to host this event for which the Trust has benefited so much over the years.



With thanks to Lord and Lady Cholmondeley, Houghton Hall's picture gallery was the fabulous setting for a **piano recital by Sir Stephen Hough CBE**, on 24<sup>th</sup> September. As expected the evening quickly sold out and our guests were treated to a wonderful programme of music by this world class pianist.



Sir Stephen Hough CBE

Due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the supper and evening lecture by Hugo Vickers at Model Farm, Holkham, that was due to take place in September has been postponed until Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Tickets already purchased will be honoured for this new date. There are some limited tickets available for this event, please contact the Trust for more information.

### **46<sup>th</sup> Norfolk Churches Trust Annual General Meeting**



Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September saw the holding of the Trust's Annual General Meeting. Held at the impressive, Grade 1 listed St Mary's, North Tuddenham. In the chair our President, General the Lord Dannatt, welcomed those assembled and began the meeting by thanking everyone involved in making the past year so successful despite the difficulties resulting from Covid. He introduced the Chairman and Honorary Treasurer, who gave their reports for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, in what had been another difficult year due to the ongoing restrictions of the aforementioned Covid 19 pandemic. However, the annual Bike Ride, whilst down on the record breaking year of 2020, still provided a good result, the seventh most successful year overall. Necessity meant that most other events within the year took place out of doors, but this diversification provided some very welcome income.

Once the formalities were over, Mike Smith, Fabric Officer of St Mary's presented *A Race Against Time*, an illuminating talk describing how the church tower was saved from collapse. For a fuller report check our website:- <https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/norfolk-churches-trust-annual-general-meeting-2022/>

## Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October, saw the presentations for the 2021 Bike Ride by the Rt Revd Jane Steel, Bishop of Lynn. The Prince of Wales certificate was awarded to Harry Steel from St Mary's church Baconsthorpe where Harry is Churchwarden, and where the presentations took place. A cheque for £1,000 for the Most Improved Church was presented to Mark Little and Fiona Scott from St Peter's church, Brampton. You can read more of the day on our website including details of the 'triathlon' that Harry, and others from St Mary's completed for the second year running. <https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/winners-of-the-prince-of-wales-certificate-and-the-most-improved-church/>



Mark Little and Fiona Scott, from St Peter's Brampton



Harry Steel receiving the Prince of Wales Certificate

## The 2022 Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk

The incredibly sad news of Her Majesty's death that came to us all on 8<sup>th</sup> September, was received with deep regret by the Norfolk Churches Trust. The President and Trustees determined that the best way to honour the Queen's memory was by holding the Bike Ride as planned that weekend. It was felt it would be an opportunity to commemorate her life of dedication and service by raising as much as possible to support the churches that embody our history and identity and are of course close to the heart of our Royal Patron, who has since been proclaimed King Charles III.

Therefore, the Trust would like to express its gratitude for all those who cycled, walked, drove, and ran and of course sponsored this year's event. To date a fantastic sum of over £120,000 have been received. Every year we are astounded by the generosity of those who sponsor or donate towards the event. We love to hear your stories and see your photographs of the day, so please do send these in so that we can share them with everyone. Our website 'news page' contains stories of some of our intrepid participants this year. Including Kate who likes to 'du diffrent' and walked with her dog Jakke; Steven who cycled 135.48 miles, burned 9,021 calories, and visited 69 churches (I would need a lot of chocolate!); octogenarian George, who recommends the bike ride for a good night's sleep! and North Norfolk MP Duncan Baker, who ran in preparation for the London Marathon.

Pictured here is Anthony Meynell at the Trust's AGM, whose aim was to celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, by cycling round 70 rural churches, clocking up 173 kilometres, Anthony is approaching the £10,000 mark, thank you Anthony for your sterling efforts, and of course to all our participants, it is a fantastic achievement.



## It is beginning to look a lot like .....

There will be Carol Services at three of our Leased Churches this December, everyone is welcome, so please do join us to get in the festive spirit.

All Saint's Church, **Hargham**, NR16 2JW on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm – followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

St Peter's **Dunton**, NR21 7PG, on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm – please bring a torch and warm clothing!

St Mary's, **Bagthorpe**, PE31 6QY, Christmas Eve, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm



The Trust is once again selling Christmas cards, this year's design features an angel from a stained glass window at St John's Church, Garboldisham. There are other designs available, please see our website <https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/shop/> where you will also find branded Norfolk Churches Trust merchandise which would make ideal Christmas gifts.



**Thank you as ever to our wonderful members and supporters for your continued support, we could not do what we do without you.**

[www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk)

**Other ways to find out about our work.**



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