



**The NORFOLK
CHURCHES TRUST**

Annual Report

2022–2023

Chairman's Report

This has been another productive year for the Norfolk Churches Trust in which, with the pandemic firmly behind us, we have been returning to normal levels of activity.

We have offered grants totalling £144,400 to 37 churches and have paid out £157,029 to a similar number. Grant offers yet to be redeemed by 61 churches total £302,046 and the Trust has of course to make provision to cover these as they materialise. The grants budget is made up of sums raised from events and from donations from other trusts and individuals who during the last year have given nearly £52,000 to our work.

Events and fundraising activities which provided the lion's share of grant money this year achieved a total of £136,284 (gross). The Stately Car Boot Sale held in the lovely setting of Sennowe Park through the generosity of the Temple Richards family was a very remarkable success and raised £81,850 net in a single day. This event, delayed from the previous two years by the pandemic, was fruitfully combined with an auction of promises that attracted much interest. Once again Holkham Opera, a

combination of great music in stunning surroundings, possible through the kindness of the Leicester family and a range of sponsors, made an important contribution of £20,700 net.

The Bike Ride was held two days after the very sad announcement of the death of Her Late Majesty the Queen. All the East Anglian churches trusts were clear that the rides should go ahead. The duty to protect our historic churches was an activity closely related to her life of service and her embodiment of the history and traditions that add so much to our national life. A record sum of £133,890 was achieved and meant that we reached a milestone of £4 million raised since the Bike Ride started in 1983. We are very grateful to our hard-working volunteer organizers and to all those who took part.

Trust merchandise made a total of £6,084 and much of this was contributed by the sale of our Christmas card (£4,638).

Because our staffing and general administration costs are supported by our investments – which have continued to perform reasonably well against recent



Stately Car Boot Sale, May 2022. (Photo: Colin de Chair).

headwinds – any sums given or raised for the Trust, or received from the sale of merchandise, go in their entirety to the care of historic churches and chapels across Norfolk. This includes the 13 redundant churches that we lease from the Diocese of Norwich and the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia. Urgent repairs, to the spectacular late Victorian church of Our Lady of Consolation and St Stephen at Lynford were completed with a grant from the Cultural Recovery Fund administered through the Roman Catholic Patrimony Committee. At St Peter's Corpusty a further generous grant from the Behrens Foundation

has enabled additional works to the building so that it may accommodate more exhibits and events. Legacies given during the year amounting to nearly £14,000 are increasingly helpful in the care of the leased churches and will help us meet future liabilities including the necessary structural repairs identified this year at St Peter's, West Rudham.

The management of our leased churches, the administration of the grants programme, the provision of advice to parishes and the successful running of our events are dependent on our small and dedicated staff.

Chairman's Report *continued*

Our committee members also give a great deal of time and creative energy to our work. This year Caroline Egerton retired as a trustee and has joined the Advisory Council where her experience and wisdom will still be available to the Trust. Christopher Hartop whose expertise in fine art was very valuable retired from the Advisory Council which this year acquired four new members, Laura Baily, Moira Morrissey, Mike Smith and Richard Wolstenholme.

The condition of Norfolk's churches, thanks to a good level of government grant in the closing years of the last century, is largely stable. But there are many causes for concern in individual cases. There is moreover a general and justified anxiety about the impact of declining congregations and clergy numbers combined with what are now inadequate levels of state aid. The Bishop of Norwich's Commission into Church Buildings, on which the Norfolk Churches Trust is represented, was established this year under an independent chair to consider the present situation and make recommendations for the future. Meanwhile the General Synod's intended



Stately Car Boot Sale. Bishop Graham judging the schools art competition.

revision of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 has been in process. The initial green paper (GS2222) was controversial. At the time of writing, revised proposals have yet to be presented and debated.

John Maddison
Chairman, June 2023

Where does the money come from?



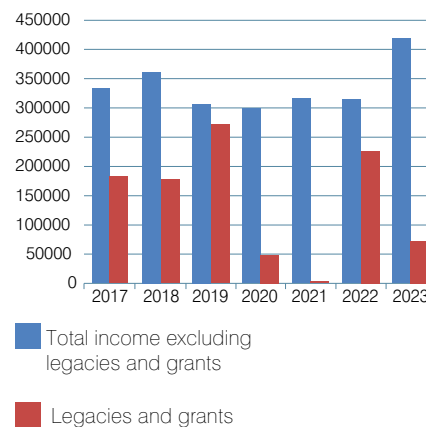
- Donations
- Legacies
- Subscriptions
- Grants
- Sponsored Bike Ride
- Trust events
- Sale of goods
- Investments

Where does the money go to?



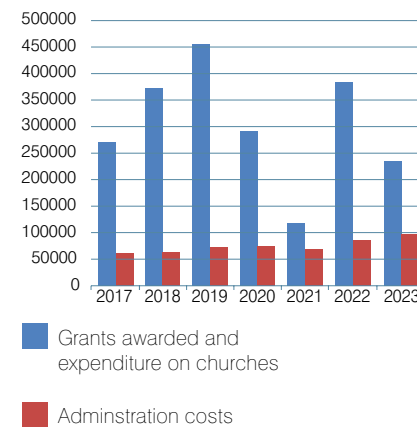
- Costs of generating voluntary income
- Fundraising costs (incl. parish share of Bike Ride)
- Grants offered
- Expenditure on leased and other churches
- Support costs
- Governance costs

Income 2017–2023



- Total income excluding legacies and grants
- Legacies and grants

Expenditure 2017–2023



- Grants awarded and expenditure on churches
- Administration costs

Financial Summary

Norfolk Churches Trust

Year ended 31 March 2023

Summary Statement of Financial Activities

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Income from:		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	51,917	50,909
Legacies	13,725	100,000
Subscriptions	40,760	43,233
Grants	-	126,867
Leased churches	59,374	942
Other trading activities		
Sponsored Bike Ride	134,333	130,360
Trust events	136,284	39,213
Sale of goods	6,084	5,481
Investment income	51,739	45,419
Total income	494,216	542,424
Expenditure on:		
Raising funds		
Costs of generating voluntary income	(20,138)	(15,644)
Fundraising costs incl. parish share of ride	(121,552)	(102,843)
Charitable activities		
Grants offered	(143,900)	(169,595)
Expenditure on leased and other churches	(89,388)	(213,984)
Support costs	(60,690)	(58,744)
Governance costs	(14,975)	(10,388)
Total expenditure	(450,641)	(571,198)
Net (surplus/deficit) for the year	43,573	(28,774)
Net (losses)/gains on investment assets	(68,071)	149,191
Net movement in funds	(24,498)	120,417
Fund balances brought forward	2,008,383	1,887,965
Fund balances carried forward at the end of the year	1,983,885	2,008,382

Summary Balance Sheet

	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
Fixed asset investments	1,623,702	1,681,037
Net current assets	360,183	327,346
Net assets	1,983,885	2,008,383
The funds of the charity:		
Restricted	-	-
Unrestricted	1,983,885	2,008,383
Total funds	1,983,885	2,008,383

TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of The Norfolk Churches Trust. For further information, the full annual accounts should be consulted. Copies are available from The Norfolk Churches Trust, Manor Farmhouse, Diss Road, Tibenham, Norfolk NR16 1QF.

The full accounts have been independently examined by Larking Gowen and received an unqualified report. They were approved by the Trustees on 22 June 2023 and will be submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies.

Privacy Statement

The preservation of your privacy is important to the Norfolk Churches Trust. We treat all the personal data you give us with great care and we are committed to letting you know how we use your personal information and only making responsible use of your data.

The Norfolk Churches Trust (NCT) complies with the General Data Protection Regulation by keeping personal data up to date; by storing and destroying it securely; by not collecting or retaining excessive amounts of data; by protecting personal data from loss, misuse, unauthorised access and disclosure, and by ensuring that appropriate technical measures are in place to protect personal data.

We use personal data for the administration of NCT membership records; promoting the work of the Trust; administering fundraising events; the administration of grants to churches and the administration of subscriptions, donations and Gift Aid.

The full Privacy Policy Statement is available on our website:
www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk

Grants 2022–23

During the past year, the Trust offered and paid grants from its General Fund to the following churches:

General Fund	Offered in year £	Paid during the year £	Unpaid 31st March 2023 £
Anmer, St Mary		3,960	6,040
Beachamwell, St Mary	5,000	3,000	5,000
Billingford (by Diss), St Leonard	6,000		6,000
Blickling, St Andrew		10,000	0
Blo Norton, St Andrew	500	500	0
Bracon Ash, St Nicholas	3,000	13,000	0
Bradwell, St Nicholas	3,000		3,000
Brandon Parva, All Saints		2,376	0
Breckles, St Margaret		4,000	0
Brisley, St Bartholomew		4,853	10,147
Brooke, St Peter			5,000
Caister on Sea, Holy Trinity		5,000	0
Colkirk, St Mary		2,000	0
Congham, St Andrew			3,000
Cranworth, St Mary	1,000	1,000	0
Crostwight, All Saints		10,456	0
Dereham, Baptist	500		500
Deopham, St Andrew		2,588	1,037
Elsing, St Mary	5,000		5,000
Felthorpe, St Margaret			1,000
Field Dalling, St Andrew	2,000		2,000
Flitcham, St Mary the Virgin	4,000		4,000
Foulden, All Saints	7,500		7,500
Geldeston, St Michael			10,000
Gooderstone, St George			2,000
Great Ryburgh, St Andrew	1,000	1,000	0
Guist, St Andrew	5,000		5,000
Hapton, St Margaret	2,000		2,000
Harpley, St Lawrence		9,901	99
Haveringland, St Peter	5,000		5,000
Helhoughton, All Saints			10,475
Hemsby, St Mary the Virgin			10,000
Hickling, St Mary	3,000		3,000
Hindringham, St Martin			3,000
Ingham, Holy Trinity	2,000	2,000	0
Kettlestone, All Saints			6,092
Kirstead, St Margaret			5,000
Larling, St Ethelbert	3,000		3,000
Limpenhoe, St Botolph		5,000	0
Little Cressingham, St Andrew			10,000
Long Stratton, St Mary		2,000	0
Ludham, St Catherine		500	0

Marham, Holy Trinity			90
Marlingford, Assumption of the BVM			2,000
Mutford, St Andrew		10,000	0
Narford, St Mary the Virgin	5,000		5,000
North Elmham, St Mary	7,000		7,000
North Tuddenham, St Mary		4,820	7,180
Norwich Mile Cross, St Catherines		7,000	0
Norwich, New Catton, Christ Church	1,500		1,500
Postwick, All Saints			500
Pulham Market, St Mary Magdalene		6,000	0
Pulham St Mary, St Mary the Virgin			10,000
Reymestone, St Peter			1,008
Ringland, St Peter		2,000	0
Saxthorpe, St Andrew			10,000
Sculthorpe, St Mary & All Saints	3,000		3,000
Shropham, St Peter	5,500		5,500
Sloley, St Bartolomew			5,000
Southburgh, St Andrew	1,000		1,000
South Burlingham, St Edmund			4,000
South Walsham, St Mary	3,000	3,000	0
Stockton, St Michael & All Angels	2,400		2,400
Stoke Holy Cross, Holy Cross		2,000	0
Surlingham, St Mary			7,000
Swaffham, St Peter			5,000
Swainsthorpe, St Peter		1,018	0
Tasburgh, St Mary			2,000
Tatterford, St Margaret		5,064	2,936
Terrington, St John		5,000	0
Thrextton, All Saints		3,000	0
Thrigby, St Mary		1,992	348
Thursford, St Andrew	5,000		5,000
Tittleshall, St Mary		7,000	0
Tivetshall, St Margaret	5,000		5,000
Topcroft, St Margaret		4,500	0
Tuttington, St Peter			10,000
Twyford, St Nicholas			8,000
Wacton, All Saints		7,500	0
Warham, St Mary	10,000		10,000
Waxham, St John	1,500	1,000	500
Weasenham, St Peter			2,195
Wells next the Sea, St Nicholas			5,000
West Beckham, All Saints	1,000	1,000	0
Weston Longville, All Saints	5,000		5,000
West Lynn, St Peter	5,000		5,000
West Raynham, St Margaret	2,000	2,000	0
Wickhampton, St Andrew	7,000		7,000
Wilby, All Saints	12,000		12,000
Wiveton, St Mary			7,000
Wood Rising, St Nicholas	4,000		4,000
General Fund total	144,400	157,029	302,046

1grant (totalling £500) outstanding for more than 5 years which is no longer needed has been withdrawn.



Funding Matters

Warham, St Mary. £10,000. Roof, tower, masonry and drainage repairs.

The number of churches applying for grants remains lower than pre-Covid years and this has been matched by a reduction in the grants budget. The trend for carrying out smaller repairs has continued with many applications focusing on urgent work identified in a recent Quinquennial Inspection Report. This has the benefit of catching the repairs before they cause more serious problems to the fabric of the building if delayed. Applications to improve drainage systems and replace rainwater goods feature more strongly than ever. Possibly because of increased heavy rainstorms that overwhelm older inadequate gutters and downpipes causing consequential damage to the walls and internal plastering.

Despite the gloomy predictions, churches facing major repair projects continue to benefit from National Lottery Heritage

Fund (NLHF) grants albeit far fewer than in the days of the Grants for Places of Worship (GPOW) programme which was dedicated to repairs at places of worship. Applicants frequently endure several unsuccessful applications which is incredibly demoralising and often results in less determined applicants abandoning their project. Fornsett, St Peter and Haveringland, St Peter are two of the churches that have recently made successful Lottery applications for repairs linked to projects enabling greater community use of the churches. Over the last two years there have been far fewer grant applications to the Trust for major repair projects requiring large grants from National grant providers. As yet, it is impossible to predict when the applications requiring this scale of work will return to their former levels.

Thirty-seven churches were awarded grants

totalling £144,000 (34 awarded £172,437 in 2021/22) and grants previously awarded of £157,029 were paid out to the same number of churches where the repairs have been completed this year (£131,495 paid out to 31 in 2021/22). Grants awarded to 61 churches but not yet claimed total £302,046, down slightly on last year's figure of £315,175 but still an indication that repairs at many churches are being delayed. If this trend continues there is an obvious concern that the condition of these churches will deteriorate and the cost of the repairs increase.

The grants table on the previous pages lists the status of all the grants in detail. Whilst many of the churches are familiar names, some which are less well known have treasures equal to any in the county. For instance, the 14th-century wall paintings at Wickhampton, St Andrew (£7,000 for roof

repairs), or nearby South Burlingham, St Edmund (£4,000 for thatching) which has 14th-century wall paintings, a 15th-century painted screen and pulpit, plus all manner of pre-Reformation bench ends. Both are well worth a visit.

The largest grants awarded this year were to Wilby, All Saints (£12,000) for chancel roof, porch and buttress repairs and to Warham St Mary (£10,000) for a long list of work including drainage, roof, tower and masonry repairs. Other sizeable grants were awarded to Foulden, All Saints (£7,000 for porch repairs) and North Elmham, St Mary (£7,000 for surface water drainage renewal). Billingford, St Leonard is another church struggling with water penetration, made worse by hard render trapping the damp in the walls: it was awarded £6,000 to replace the hard render with lime render. Elsing, St Mary and Narford St Mary were both awarded £5,000 to replace damp-affected interior plaster. Tivetshall, St Margaret and Weston Longville were both awarded £5,000 for repairs to rainwater goods and surface water drainage. Churches awarded grants for window repairs included Haveringland, St Peter and Thursford, St Andrew (both £5,000), and Hickling, St Mary and South Walsham, St Mary (both £3,000).

The tower repairs at Anmer, St Mary are almost completed. Here instead of using scaffolding the contractors abseil down the tower repairing each area as they descend. Excellent results without the cost of scaffolding.

Urgent minor roof repairs at Waxham, St Mary which had led to the church being locked were paid for in full to enable the building to be open to visitors again. As a chapel of ease



Anmer, St Mary. £10,000. Tower, roof, drainage and window repairs. Contractors abseiling to do repairs.

with virtually no funds this was a case of doing everything possible to help keep it open to the many people who come to Waxham beach and visit the church when they are passing.

During the year churches where repairs have been completed several years after grants were awarded include Blickling (aisle roof), Bracon Ash (nave roof and high-level masonry), Crostwight (wall painting conservation), Harpley (roof and high-level masonry), North Tuddenham (tower) and Tittleshall (pew platforms). Other major repairs completed include the tower repairs at Mutford and high-level repairs at Mile Cross in Norwich.

Making the Difference:

These are some of the churches that have benefitted from grants this year. There is more information about all the grants awarded on our website.

This report focuses on the larger grants awarded, however it is often the smallest grants helping with urgent seemingly minor repairs that have the most impact as they resolve the problem before it becomes a serious issue. The old saying “a stitch in time saves nine” is most appropriate to the care of our churches and if this advice was followed more rigorously, many of the large repairs costing tens of thousands of pounds could be avoided.

Scilla Latham

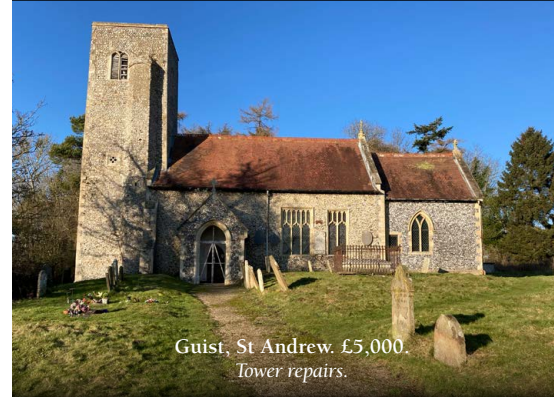
Secretary, Norfolk Churches Trust



Wickhampton, St Andrew. £7,000.
Roof, rainwater goods, and internal plaster repairs.



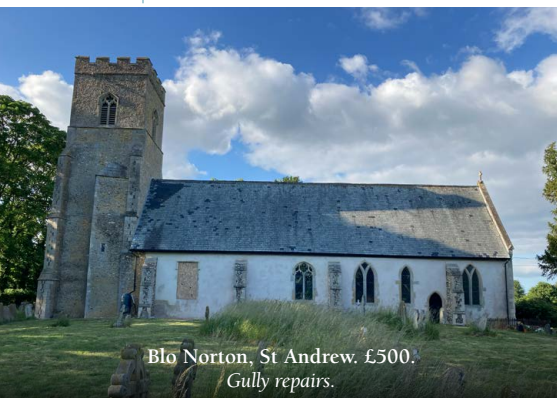
Foulden, All Saints. £7,500.
Porch repairs.



Guist, St Andrew. £5,000.
Tower repairs.



Sculthorpe, St Mary and All Saints. £3,000.
Coping stones, and interior wall repair.



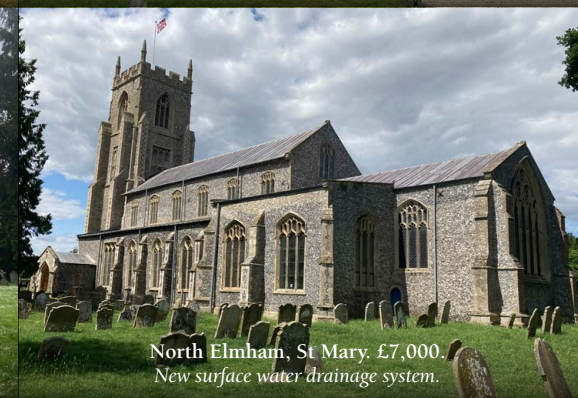
Blo Norton, St Andrew. £500.
Gully repairs.



Bradwell, St Nicholas. £3,000.
Window repairs.



Stockton, St Michael and All Angels. £2,400.
Buttress repairs.



North Elmham, St Mary. £7,000.
New surface water drainage system.



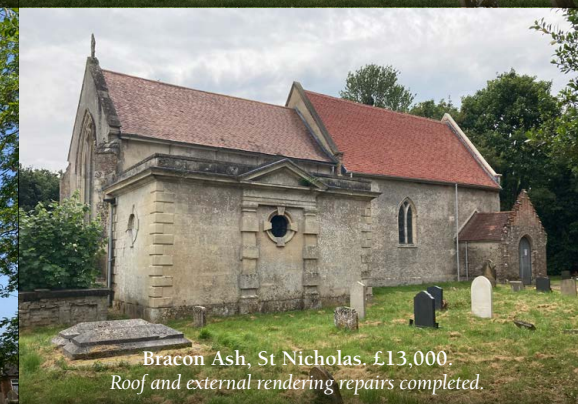
Shropham, St Peter. £5,500.
Drainage, rainwater goods and roof repairs.



Tittleshall, St Mary. £7,000.
Pew platform repairs completed.



West Lynn, St Peter. £5,000.
Chancel roof repairs.



Bracon Ash, St Nicholas. £13,000.
Roof and external rendering repairs completed.

Leased Churches

This year has seen long awaited repairs at the two Leased Churches that came into the care of the Trust in 2009 make significant progress. The time span illustrates how long it can take for the Trust to raise the funds to carry out repairs at the 13 churches leased from the Diocese of Norwich, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia.

The Roman Catholic church of Our Lady of Consolation and St Stephen, Lynford, near Thetford was already in poor condition in 2009. Early attempts to get grant funding were unsuccessful, largely due to its location with no immediate community, out of sight down a long forestry track. The most urgent repairs were carried out soon after the church was taken on, and routine repairs in following years have kept the building safe and dry. However, the clock was ticking, and the intricate stonework of the parapets deteriorating month by month. The extreme cold temperatures and arctic winds of March 2018 left the north parapet so unstable that it had to be supported by scaffolding to hold it in place until funds could be raised for the repair. Meanwhile, the costs continued to rise. In the summer of 2021, essential holding repairs to the north parapet were agreed so that the scaffolding could be removed. But before this work could be started the church's fortunes changed for the better when, as reported in last year's report, the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia approached the Trust with a proposal to coordinate a



Our Lady of Consolation and St Stephen, Lynford. Restored bellcote, detail of bell and striking mechanism.

funding application for extensive repairs at Lynford with applications from three other churches in the diocese to the Cultural Relief Fund administered by Historic England.

The work had to be done within a very tight schedule to comply with the conditions of the grant and was completed on time in July 2022. At last, the parapet was freed from the supporting scaffolding that had been in place for over four years and the exceptional quality of the repairs carried out by Skillington's could be fully appreciated. In addition to the stonework conservation, the elegant metal cross that had been taken down from the bellcote because it was no longer secure was fully conserved and returned to its rightful place. The

deteriorating stonework on the bellcote was painstakingly restored and after many years of silence the mechanism to chime the bell was returned to working order. Combined grants of £134,745 covered the cost of the repairs.

Other repairs at Lynford including the parapet on the south side and the conservation of the set of stained-glass windows remain on the list of work to be done, but we can briefly enjoy the satisfaction of a job well done.

The continuing restoration of the interior of St Peter's Corpusty, which was taken on from the Friends of Friendless Churches in 2009, received a significant boost through a second generous donation from the Behrens Foundation. This grant of £26,500 is to re-instate the pavement floor in the chancel which was stolen when the church was vandalised in the 1970s, lay a limecrete floor in the tower and replace two missing mullions in the chancel screen. As I write this report, the work is underway. Once completed, these improvements will enable the whole building to be used for exhibitions and community events, whilst remaining a place for occasional worship. In addition



West Rudham, St Peter. (Photo: Colin de Chair).

to these repairs, the Behrens Foundation grant funded the publication of a new history of the church and guide to the headstones, from the Lettering Arts Trust Memorials Collection, installed in the churchyard (*Do the Stones Speak?*).

Looking ahead, the extensive repairs at St Peter's, West Rudham are the next major project to be faced. With an estimated cost in the region of £600,000 these repairs will have to be phased over several years with the most urgent areas being dealt with first, and then as funds permit the remaining phases carried out. The first priority is to repair the chancel arch so that the church can be reopened for visitors later in the summer of 2023.

Scilla Latham

Secretary, Norfolk Churches Trust

We are always keen to encourage more people to take part in our work caring for this special collection of churches across the county. Because of their geographical spread, there is bound to be one or possibly more near you. This is a wonderful way to get first-hand experience in all aspects of looking after a church and its churchyard and meeting other like-minded people in the process: training will be given if you are uncertain how to do what you want to do! If you would like to become part of the team of people who support us by helping in many different ways in looking after these churches, or perhaps in other ways such as researching or developing new ways of providing information about them to improve the welcome we give to visitors, please do get in touch by emailing me on secretary@norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk.



40th Bike Ride Report 2023

The Bishop of Norwich with the Bishops of Thetford and Lynn get on their Bikes in support of our 2022 Bike Ride.

savills

I wonder if the pioneering people who first did the Bike Ride in 1983 would believe that it is still going strong in 2023 and that the event has raised over £4 million for churches. The bikes, the clothes, the world has changed enormously but one thing hasn't changed, we still have our magnificent churches and I don't think we have lost any in the last 40 years. I think the Bike Ride, the Norfolk Churches Trust and our amazing supporters can take a lot of credit for this. However, the challenges facing our churches are still enormous and I hope you will help celebrate this 40th year by making a huge effort to support a church of your choice and the Norfolk Churches Trust by taking part in the 40th Bike Ride. We would love to hear from anybody who took part in 1983.

Last year the Bike Ride produced another amazing result. An extraordinary total of £133,890 was raised by 622 gallant participants. Given the increase in cost of living I was amazed and delighted that we beat the previous year by over £3,000. This money will make a huge difference in preserving Norfolk's iconic and beautiful churches. A total of 286 places of worship received cheques last year. We would like to

pass on an enormous thank you to everybody who took part either cycling, walking, driving or manning the churches.

I thought I would report a few statistics, highlights and results of the competitions that run alongside the Bike Ride from last year's event.

- Mary Heather from Burnham Thorpe raised the most money last year but Anthony Meynell, who amazingly cycled around 70 churches in his 70th year won the Lord Lieutenant Certificate as Mary had been a previous winner.



Anthony Meynell cycled round 70 churches.

- Filby, All Saints was the most improved church and will receive a cheque for £1,000.
- Stephen Burbridge was the top cyclist, having visited a staggering 126 places of worship.
- James Akehurst was the top walker visiting a blistering 60 churches.
- Three people won £50 cheques for their photographs.

- Burnham Thorpe All Saints, Hempstead All Saints, Burgh Castle St Peter and St Paul, Hindringham St Martin and Filby All Saints were the top 5 churches.

Of the 622 who took part, 191 of them were new participants who we warmly welcome and hope that they enjoyed themselves and will want to do it again this year. We also thank all our loyal regulars who have taken part in previous years.

We would like to thank Savills for again sponsoring the event this year. With the cost of organising the Bike Ride increasing we really appreciate their support. We are also delighted with the support we had from the Diocese in promoting the event and thoroughly enjoyed the picture of The Rt Revd Alan Winton, The Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen and Rt Revd Graham Usher on Bikes.

We will be posting out packs again which should arrive in the parishes in early July with plenty of time to prepare for the 40th Bike Ride and Walk on the 9th of September. Many of you used the online Bike Ride Registration on the new website which gives an alternative to the paper packs sent out to parishes. A lot of participants last year also used Just Giving as a useful way to help raise

money from family and friends and there is a link on the new Bike Ride website pages. There are also copies of all the documents in the packs on the website.

The Bike Ride committee tries very hard to publicise the event with road signs, media, and contacting companies and organisations. We are also making a big push to keep people informed with our regular newsletters and using social media, so please do follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (www.facebook.com/NorfolkChurchesTrust/). However, none of this effort beats friends persuading more friends to take part and enjoy the day together. So please do try and encourage people to pump up their tyres, dust off their walking boots, pack a picnic and plan a route to visit as many of the most beautiful churches in Norfolk as possible on the 9th September 2023 and help make the 40th Bike ride a bumper year for Norfolk's churches. Don't forget to send in your photographs of the day. The three we like best will receive £50 and the chance to get your picture published in the Eastern Daily Press. Please see the website for more details.

Charles Inglis

Chairman of the Bike Ride Committee

Bike Ride Photo Competition Winners

Congratulations to the prize-winners whose photographs were published in the EDP and received a prize of £50



Julia Hoskins.
Interior of
St Peter and
St Paul, Heydon.



Tim Lees. Flower decoration in Limpenhoe,
St Botolph.



Report of the Events Committee 2022–2023

Stately Car Boot Sale at Sennowe Park. May 2022 (Photo: Colin de Chair).

At long last things returned to near normality after Covid and its after effects and we were able to put on a more or less normal schedule of events. The financial year opened with a fascinating tour of the STANTA battle area churches (see more below) and was followed in April by a tour of Salle and Cawston churches led by the redoubtable Justin Nolan who delivered a well-researched tour placing the churches in their historical contexts and providing much interesting insight. The tour was followed by a sumptuous and well-received tea provided by Cawston PCC. The tour raised £1,166 net. Justin has volunteered to do a follow-up tour of Swanton Morley and Elsing churches as well as a repeat of the Salle/Cawston tour later in the year. Tickets are limited so early booking is recommended.

April also brought us a Gypsy Swing concert performed in a wonderful venue so kindly lent by Mr and Mrs Aspinall at Oxnead Hall. Ticket holders were invited to take a stroll around the lovely gardens cascading down to the River Bure prior to the concert. The concert was well attended and an enjoyable evening was had by all. The concert raised £1,171 net. Gypsy Swing returned again this year in the guise of the Transatlantic Hot Club who performed an open-air concert in the gardens at Elsing Hall. We were also, after three attempts, able to bring back the perennial favourite Stately Car Boot Sale.

Once again the Sennowe Estate generously allowed the amazing park to be taken over for this event. The event, after much hard work by a tireless committee and team of volunteers, was a tremendous success and enthusiastically received by attendees as well as pitch holders. The event raised a staggering £81,850 net. We only wish we could run this event more often but every three years is really the limit of what we are able to do given the sheer amount of work that goes into each event – all conducted by volunteers who sacrifice so much time and energy on behalf of the Trust. Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Charles Temple-Richards and Mr Tom Cook for allowing use of the venue yet again.

The major Summer event of the year was a very successful evening visit to St Benet's Church, Horning followed by a supper cruise on The Southern Comfort paddle steamer down to St Benet's Abbey where members were given a guided tour of the site by two members of the Norfolk Archaeological Trust. The event raised £2,418 net.

In July we teamed up with Heydon Church to bring you Harpland. The event was a sell-out with 120 people packing the historic St Peter and St Paul Church at Heydon to hear internationally renowned harpist Ruth Wall and her husband the composer Graham

Fitkin perform a fun-filled evening of harp music and amusing demonstrations. The Trust's share of event proceeds was £594 net.

Diva Opera also came back at full force this year 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 as well as Sarah, Lady Leicester who works so hard to bring the event together and raise the much needed sponsorship to enable it to happen. The events raised £20,825 net. Look out for this year's productions of Verdi's Rigoletto on Friday 28th and L'Elisir d'Amore by Donizetti on Saturday 29th July.

On the musical front we were also delighted to be able to bring you more world-class music to Norfolk this time in the form of a piano recital by Sir Stephen Hough CBE. Houghton Hall's picture gallery was the fabulous setting for the recital by Sir Stephen in September. As expected the evening quickly sold out and our guests were treated to a wonderful programme of music by this world-class pianist. Many thanks are due to Lord and Lady Cholmondeley for the loan of the venue as well as bringing the event to the Trust. Without such supporters it would be very hard to create such an interesting set of events each year. The event raised £2,100 net.

Due to the very sad death of Her Majesty The Queen, the planned talk by Hugo

Vickers at Model Farm, Holkham, that was due to take place in September had to be postponed until February 2023. But the event was none the worse for that and Mr Vickers kept his audience very well entertained with a talk about the late Duke of Edinburgh's mother Alice, Princess Andrew of Greece. Our thanks go to Mr Vickers for the wonderful evening. The evening included a two-course supper provided by Sarah, Lady Leicester so we were not only well entertained but also very well fed. The event raised £2,198 net.

The year closed, as it started, with another tour of the STANTA battle area churches. This event has been run for many years now and never fails to sell out almost immediately. The tour gives a fascinating glimpse into the battle area that was requisitioned by the Army at the start of the Second World War and is still held by them to this day. This event (together with the tour in April 2022) jointly raised £980 net.

All in all it was a very full year of events and a very busy year for all of our wonderful volunteers. As ever the Trust offers its sincere thanks to all those who unstintingly give their time, creativity and energy to bring these events to the membership and wider public. None of it would be possible without them. In all a total of £114,174 net was raised towards the Trust's funds.

Another full schedule of events is underway for the 2023/24 year. Please take a look at the Trust website for further details.

Patrick Lines
Chair of the Events Committee

Leased Churches cared for by the Norfolk Churches Trust

Whenever possible the churches are kept open during daylight hours. Keyholder details are provided in case a church has had to be locked. Some postcodes are for the nearest house and a few of the churches are down farm drives and grassy tracks so access is not always easy.

Bagthorpe, St Mary: PE31 6QY
Local contact: 01485 578528

Barmer, All Saints: PE31 8SR
In middle of field off B1454
Local contact and keyholder: 01485 578220

Cockthorpe, All Saints: NR23 1QS
Local contact and keyholder: 01328 830202

Corpusty, St Peter: NR11 6QE
off Norwich Road
Open on Fridays throughout the year.
Key also available in village shop.
Local contact and keyholder: 01263 587014

Dunton, St Peter: NR21 7PG
Local contact: 01328 853226

Hargham, All Saints: NR16 2JW
Local contact and keyholder: 01953 455553

Illington, St Andrew: IP24 1RS
Illington Road. Reached via a farm drive and grassy track.
Local contact and keyholder: 01953 498121

Lynford, Our Lady of Consolation and St Stephen: IP26 5EL. Reached via forestry track 34, off West Tofts Road. Hidden in trees.
Local contact and keyholder: 01842 878246

Morton on the Hill, St Margaret: NR9 5JS
Reached via farm drive from Ringland Road.
(Locked please contact the keyholder in advance)
Local contact and keyholder: 01603 880165

Rackheath, All Saints: NR13 6QT
Brown heritage sign on Wroxham Road: continue to Swash Lane. Lane gated due to security concerns. Please contact the keyholder in advance.
Local contact and keyholder: 07858 370400

Snetterton, All Saints: NR16 2LR
Keyholders: World Horse Welfare reception (office hours) 01953 498682
or local contact and keyholder: 07867 512084

West Bilney, St Cecilia: PE32 1XQ
Local contact and keyholder: 01760 337382

West Rudham, St Peter: PE31 8TE
Local contact and keyholder: 07584 122346

It is never too soon to consider leaving a legacy to the Norfolk Churches Trust

By leaving a legacy to the Norfolk Churches Trust in your Will, you will be investing in the long-term future of Norfolk's churches and help to ensure the Trust can satisfy the continuing demand for grants for repairs to these precious buildings.

The Norfolk Churches Trust is a registered charity which means your gift will be exempt of inheritance tax. In the first instance we suggest you speak to a solicitor who can advise on the different types of legacy and the tax advantages of a charitable legacy.

We cannot afford to let down the work of previous generations and every penny you give will go towards grants that will help us protect our churches so they remain at the centre of their communities for future generations to enjoy.

The Norfolk Churches Trust Ltd

Patron

HM The Former Prince of Wales

Vice Patrons

The Duke of Norfolk
The Bishop of Norwich
The Bishop of Ely

President

General Lord Dannatt, GCB, CBE, MC, DL

Vice Presidents

Bolton Agnew
Charles Bingham-Newland
Emma Bridgewater CBE
Peter de Bunsen
Neil Foster
Lady Fraser
Mrs Sara Foster DL
Roger Last
Ian Lonsdale
Matthew Rice
Peter Sheppard

Trustees/Directors

Dr John Maddison (Chairman)
Michael Sayer
(Chairman, Grants Committee)*
Rosabelle Batt
Amelia Courtauld
Lady Egerton OBE*
(resigned September 2022)
Charles Inglis
(Bike Ride Co-ordinator)
Sarah Countess of Leicester *
Patrick Lines
Ian Lonsdale TD, DL*
Lauren Parker
Peter Sheppard*

Advisory Council

Lady Agnew DL
Laura Bailly (elected Sept 2022)
Maurice de Bunsen
Lady Egerton OBE (elected Sept 2022)
Jonathan Ellis
Col. Tom Fitzalan Howard CBE
Fr Philip Gray (Hon Chaplain)
Christopher Hartop
(resigned September 2022)
Stephen Heywood
James Hickman
Mrs Scilla Landale
Revd Canon David Longe (Hon Chaplain)
Revd Canon Mair McFadyen
(Hon Chaplain)
David Missen (Hon Treasurer)
Moirra Morrissey (Elected Sept 2022)
Michael Pollitt
Matthew Rice*
Ashley Spooner
Mike Smith (Elected 2022)
Julian Taylor
Frederique Baroness van Till
John Vigar
Mrs Alison Wakes-Miller
Revd Ian Whittle (Hon Chaplain)
Michael Wingate
Richard Wolstenholme (Elected Sept 2022)

* indicates a Vice President

Company Secretary

Mrs Scilla Latham

The Norfolk Churches Trust Ltd

Patron: HM The Former Prince of Wales.

Vice-Patrons: The Duke of Norfolk, The Bishop of Norwich, The Bishop of Ely.

President: General the Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL

Chairman: Dr John Maddison

Secretary: Mrs Scilla Latham

Trust Office: Manor Farmhouse, Diss Road, Tibenham, Norwich NR16 1QF

47th Annual General Meeting

St Peter and St Paul, Honing (NR28 9QW)
on Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 5:30pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Presiding Chairman's opening remarks.
3. To confirm the Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting, held at St Mary's North Tuddenham on Wednesday 7th September 2022.
4. Any matters arising from those Minutes.
5. To receive the Chairman's Report.
6. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's Report.
7. To receive the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023.
8. Election of the Board of Directors/Trustees.
The following retire and seek re-election: Rosabelle Batt, Amelia Courtauld and Ian Lonsdale
The following seek election: Julian Taylor
9. Election to the Advisory Council.
The following retire and seek re-election: Scilla Landale, and Matthew Rice
The following seek election: Delphine Steel
10. Propose the appointment of Larking Gowen as Independent Examiners and authorise the Trustees to agree their remuneration.
11. Any other business of which notice has been received of not less than two weeks before the meeting.

Following the meeting, Laura McGillivray, Chair of the Church Buildings Commission, will give a talk titled "What future for Norfolk's churches?"

Light refreshments will be served after the talk

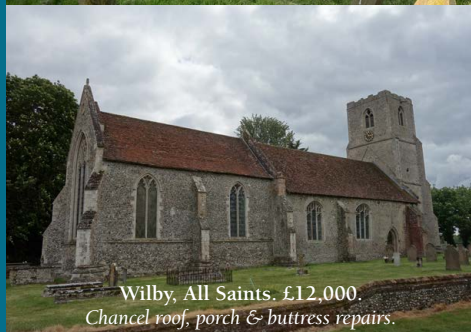
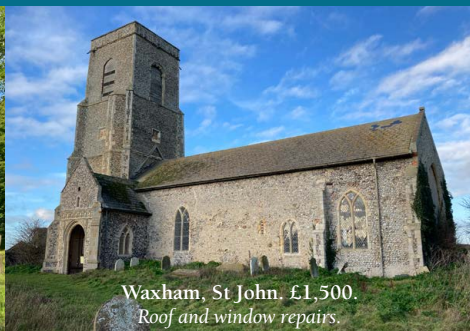
Evensong will follow at 7:00pm

Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting of The Norfolk Churches Trust Ltd

held at St Mary's, North Tuddenham on Wednesday 7th September 2022.

Present: General the Lord Dannatt (President and Presiding Chairman), John Maddison (Chairman of the Board of Directors/Trustees), Scilla Latham (Company Secretary) and 39 Directors/Trustees, Advisory Councillors and Members of the Trust.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Michael Sayer, Sarah Leicester, Peter Sheppard, Maurice de Bunsen, Jonathan Ellis, Tom Fitzalan Howard, Mair McFadyen, and six Trust members.
 2. **Presiding Chairman's opening remarks:** Lord Dannatt thanked the Rector and Churchwardens for allowing the Trust to hold their AGM in the church. He reflected on the pleasure of having churches open this year as concerns about the pandemic receded and added that even during World Wars at times of far greater peril churches remained open. He expressed the hope that the Bishop's Church Buildings Commission might find solutions to the general anxiety about the future of some rural churches with dwindling congregations. Yet again the Bike Ride committee's hard work was rewarded by another excellent result, and he drew attention to this year's event on the coming Saturday.
 3. **To confirm the Minutes of the 45th AGM.** Lord Dannatt signed and dated them.
 4. **There were no matters arising from the Minutes.**
 5. **To receive the Chairman's Report:** John Maddison reported on grants awarded which are slowly picking up after the pandemic. Good progress made on repairs at Lynford and Corpusty churches. It has been a good year for donations from individuals and Trusts, plus the Annabel Buchan bequest. He thanked everyone involved in organising events. Open Gardens Day was a welcome return to large gatherings, and the Bike Ride raised over £130,000. The Prince of Wales hosted a reception at Sandringham to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of its founding. He thanked Scilla, Helen and Caryl for their hard work behind the scenes keeping the work of the Trust on track.
 6. **To receive the Hon Treasurer's Report:** David Missen gave an overview of the Trust's financial position which has been generally positive. Referring to the accounts he reported that turnover, donations and subscriptions were all up. Grants for repairs at the Leased Churches virtually funded the projects. Fundraising was still hit by the Covid effect. Dividends back to 2019/20 levels
 7. **To receive the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022.** Approved unanimously. Proposer: Caroline Egerton; Seconder: Julian Taylor.
 8. **Re-election and Election of the Directors/Trustees:** It was proposed by Ian Lonsdale and seconded by Shirley Cargill that Charles Inglis and John Maddison be re-elected as Trustees. Approved unanimously.
 9. **Re-election and Election to the Advisory Council:**
 - It was proposed by Michael Pollitt and seconded by Scilla Landale that James Hickman, Tom Fitzalan Howard, Stephen Heywood, Alison Wakes-Miller and Michael Wingate be re-elected as members of the Advisory Council.
 - And it was proposed by Patrick Lines; and seconded by Rosabelle Batt that Caroline Egerton, Laura Baily, Moira Morrissey, Mike Smith and Richard Wolstenholme be elected as members of the Advisory Council.
 - All approved unanimously.
 10. **To propose the appointment of Larking Gowen as Independent Examiners and for the Trustees to agree their remuneration:** Proposer: Michael Pollitt; Seconder: Malcolm Fisher. Approved unanimously.
 11. **Any other business:** there was nothing raised.
- Lord Dannatt closed the meeting at 5:57pm.



'Supporting Church Buildings'

REGISTERED OFFICE:

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www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk

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