



Spring Newsletter 2024



St Peter's Parmentergate, Norwich

A warm welcome to the first newsletter of 2024. Spring has sprung, well when it is not raining, but on those days when we do have a glimpse of blue sky it is great to get outside in the fresh air and visit some of the wonderful churches that our county has to offer.

Spring also makes us think about planning for the months ahead, so with that in mind see the events section of this newsletter for some ideas for days or evenings out, whilst at the same time supporting the work of the Norfolk Churches Trust.

We also look forward to and start planning, and training, for the annual **Sponsored Bike Ride**, which takes place this year on Saturday 14h September. For the results from the 2023 event, see below.

We have also held our first Grants Meeting for the year and awarded £54,400 which is to be shared by eight churches, for details see below.

Grants Awarded

Funds raised from subscriptions, donations, events, legacies, and our Sponsored Bike Ride enables the Norfolk Churches Trust to award grants to churches throughout the county. These grants are to assist with a trio of repairs to thatched roofs, repairs to windows, guttering, and scaffolding to enable internal repairs.

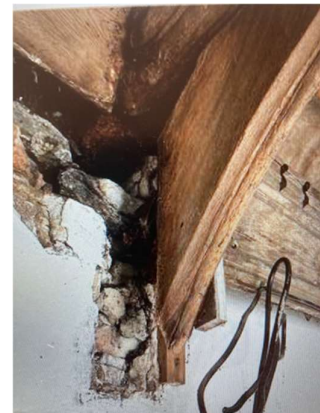
Erpingham, St Mary	£10,000	Pentney, St Mary Magdalene	£4,000
Ingworth, St Lawrence	£10,000	Scottow, All Saints	£3,400
Irstead, St Michael	£6,000	Taverham, St Edmund	£5,000
Outwell, St Clement	£10,000	Walsingham Methodist Church	£6,000



Scottow to repair downpipes and , gullies to prevent damp in the church.



Ingworth, work required to address further deterioration of the thatched roof.



Outwell, urgent repairs to roof structure, close inspection of of beams and wall post figures.

You can see from the photographs on the previous page just how much help some of our churches need. Once water gets into a building it can have serious consequences. The Trust continues to fund repairs that will hopefully save further, more expensive works in the future.

Works in progress

Talking of waterworks, the Trust was pleased to award a grant in March 2022 of £15,000 to Brisley St Bartholomew. This enabled them to complete Phase 1 of a major maintenance project, namely the installation of drainage pipes, a soak away system, plus the removal of a concrete apron around the base of the church, works that you can see in the photograph on the right.

The church has begun fund raising and planning for Phase 2 of the project, this is to replace the south aisle roof and to repair a large part of the north aisle roof. This is likely to be a longer-term project with costs at present estimated at well over £200k.



We wish them well with their fundraising efforts.

Upcoming Events



House by the Church

2024 sees the return of the Norfolk Churches Trust's unique House by the Church event, which will be taking place on Saturday 18th May from 10am to 5pm. Approximately 20 houses of interest in West Norfolk will be open exclusively for Trust members and their guests.

As the title suggests the churches close to the houses will be open for you to look round and enjoy.

The cost per person is £50 and numbers are limited, with the closing date for bookings being Monday 15th April make sure you do not miss out.

Book via our website:-

<https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/events/>

Gypsy Swing

Following last year's sell-out event at Elsing Hall, the Transatlantic Hot Club are once more stopping off in Norfolk for a special evening of Gypsy Swing. The venue for this year is St Margaret's, Cley-next-the-Sea on Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm. For those who have not seen them before you are in for a treat, for those that have, you know that you are in for a fantastic toe-tapping evening. Tickets, priced at £20pp are limited, please apply via our website:-

<https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/events/>



Films at Wells Maltings



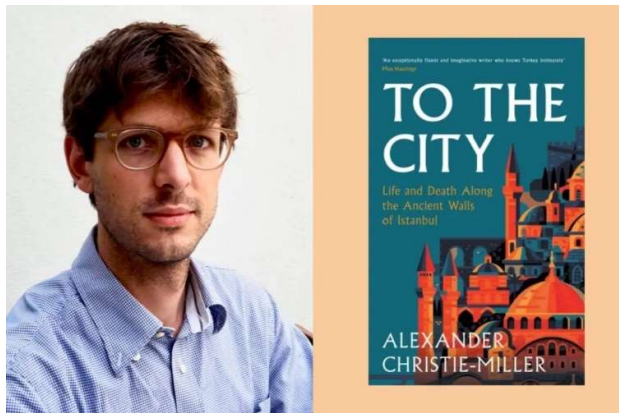
Due to popular demand, there will be a repeat showing of a special double bill of locally made films celebrating local subjects and themes. This will be taking place at Wells Maltings on Friday 3rd May at 7pm. The films in question are *Lucy Lavers – Return to Dunkirk* (63') which documents the *Lucy Lavers*, following her restoration by Rescue Wooden Boats, and *Still Life* (37') which tells the story of the life of Victorian benefactor Sir Alfred Jodrell, whose generosity helped restore many North Norfolk Churches, and who gave us the Glandford Shell Museum, pictured here.

This is a fundraising event, with proceeds shared by the Norfolk Churches Trust and Rescue Wooden Boats, a charity enthusiastic about restoring maritime heritage.

For more information and how to book see our website:- <https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/events/>

Talk by Alexander Christie-Miller

The Trust is hosting a special talk on Thursday 18th April from 6.30 to 8.00pm, in the Marble Hall of Wolterton, one of the great houses of Norfolk, courtesy of Mr Richard Ellis and his family. This is sure to be a fascinating evening on the turbulent history of Istanbul, seen through the eyes of Alexander Christie-Miller in his book, *To the City: Life and Death Along the Ancient Walls of Istanbul*. *To the City*, seamlessly blends two narratives: the story of Turkey's tumultuous recent past told through the lives of those who live around the walls, and the story of Ottoman Sultan Mehmet II's siege and capture of the city in 1453. After the talk there will be an opportunity for audience questions and a glass of wine. Tickets, priced at £25 are limited, and selling fast so please book early to avoid disappointment.



As ever for details of our events, see the dedicated page on our website.

Royal Norfolk Show



The Trust will once again be at the Royal Norfolk Show which is taking place on June 26th and 27th June. Please do pay us a visit if you are attending, and find out more about the work we do, we would love to see you, and of course we will have our branded merchandise available for you to purchase.

Looking forwards

Our events committee are working hard to bring you other events for 2024, with some interesting talks in the pipeline, the proceeds of which all go to helping keep our county's churches open for the benefit of all. Check our website for the latest news.

Sponsored Bike Ride, 2023

The first bike ride in 1983 took place in a heatwave, and history certainly repeated itself last September on the 40th Anniversary of the event. Nevertheless, an intrepid 579 of you took part by bike, e-bike, static bike, tandem, on foot, by car, including an MG1953, some took advantage of their bus pass and did their 'ride' courtesy of public transport. However, you did yours a big thank you for once again making it a such a successful and enjoyable day and raising the fantastic sum of £129,373.28 which has been split between your nominated churches and the Norfolk Churches Trust grant fund. Our youngest participant was 3 and our eldest included a few octogenarians. Many of you take part year on year, for some this was their first time, to all of you we are really grateful for your efforts. Since its inception the Bike Ride has raised more than £4.3 million which is certainly something to be enormously proud of.

Callum Ringer heads our *Wall of Fame* for 2023 by visiting a sweltering 54 churches on the day. He was taking part for the benefit of Bodham, All Saints. You can see the *Wall of Fame* on our website at <https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride-walk/activities-competitions/wall-of-fame/>. Of course, the dedicated Bike Ride and Walk page on our website is where you can find out all the latest information, news and to download forms.

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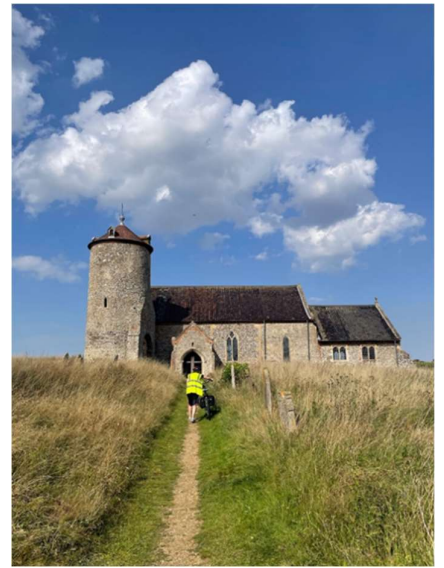
Below are some of the images from last September, thank you to those who sent in photographs, the winners of the Photography Competition and the Most Improved Church, will be released shortly.



The long and winding road



A certain vintage



Who said Norfolk was flat?



A day out with friends



Is it over yet?

Welcome refreshments!



How did you do yours?



Bike



Bus



Walk



The end of a long day

We hope that these photos give a flavour of the day, we do love to hear your stories and see your photographs. Perhaps you are already in training for the next one, which takes place on Saturday 14th September.

Please send in your plans before the event so that we can advertise your efforts on our social media platforms. Do not forget to send in a photo, and which church you are raising funds for to info@norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk

In 2024, as in every year, the Norfolk Churches Trust relies upon our members and supporters, without your backing we would not be able to support the many wonderful churches in our county, so a big THANK YOU.

On social media, why not follow the Trust on Facebook or Instagram?



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