

Welcome to our April Newsletter!

Here an image of works taking place on the tower and porch roof at Great Cressingham, St Michael, one of seven churches that were venues for our **Heritage Skills & Maintenance Day** on Saturday 18th April.

We were delighted to welcome so many people who were able to see first-hand the many diverse range of maintenance skills involved to keep our churches safe and watertight. Works took place at each venue and the contractors on site were able to display their skills and answer questions as to the tasks taking place on the day.



There were even opportunities to 'have a go,' such as the flint wall workshop at Foulden, All Saints.

The skills covered on the day were numerous and varied, including flint wall repairs, stained glass and tower repairs, historic lettering, church drainage, water ingress, advice on cleaning monuments and ledger stones, timber roof repairs, eco church, churchyard wildlife, bell restoration, setting up Friends Groups, leadwork, grant advice, sustainable flower arranging and promotion of our Classic Car Road Trip an exciting new element to this year's Bike Ride, Walk & Drive fundraising event in September.

Representatives from the Trust were on hand at each church to talk about the work that we do and we were incredibly grateful for the enthusiastic response we received. Overall, an extraordinarily successful day, thank you to everyone who supported this event. We are especially grateful to those at every venue who supplied delicious cakes and refreshments that kept us all going through the day. Handouts from the experts with useful contact details and notes will be available to download from our website shortly.



It has been a busy few weeks for us here at the Norfolk Churches Trust. We had a wonderful evening with Justine Picardie at the beautiful Wolterton Hall on 27th March. Pictured here waiting for our guests beneath the exquisite tapestries in the Saloon at the hall, Justine gave us a fascinating, illustrated talk on her new book ***Fashioning the Crown: A Story of Power, Conflict and Couture***, which she signed for our guests at the end of the evening.

On Saturday 11th April a group of members of the Norfolk Churches Trust attended Justin Nolan's extremely interesting and informative **Elephants and Squirrels, Arcades and Tracery Tour**. Taking in two distinctive, but quite different Grade I listed churches in South Norfolk namely, St Andrew, South Lopham and St Peter and St Paul, East Harling. The tour took us from the Anglo-Saxon period to the dawn of the Reformation, looking at why these churches were located where they were, and who were the people who funded them. The afternoon was rounded off by a delicious afternoon tea provided by members of East Harling church.



Our April **Coffee, Clean & Chat**, saw us moving south in the county to Snetterton, All Saints where we welcomed a group of volunteers who dusted, polished, and swept, vacuumed, and washed the floors. The transformation was incredible. Here they are pictured in front of the medieval rood screen at the church, a big thank you to them.



The following churches will be getting the Coffee, Clean & Chat treatment over the coming months, all taking place on Tuesdays from 10am to 12.30pm.

- 12th May - Illington, St Andrew
- 2nd June - Barmer, All Saints
- 7th July - Lynford, Our Lady of Consolation and St Stephen

On Friday evening, 17th April in a candlelit, and atmospheric Heydon, St Peter & Paul, the assembled were treated to a wonderful evening of opera from Norfolk's very own Jacob Harrison accompanied on the piano by Mark Jones.

The performance of **La Primavera**, inspired by Botticelli's La Primavera included works by Schubert, Wolf, Donizetti & Verdi, was captivating. The feedback has suggested that this was one of the best events that Trust has ever arranged. So, a special thanks to Jacob for this magnificent evening.





Proceeds from our fundraising events enable the Trust to support churches **grant funding**.

For example, all the windows at Gissing, St Mary have buckled and require repair. If left these would cause further problems to the integrity of the building. The Trust awarded a grant of £8,000 to the church towards these repairs in November 2025. The PCC are now working through the church a window at a time as funds become available.

We are pleased to report that the first stage has been completed, already making an enormous difference to the light coming into the church.

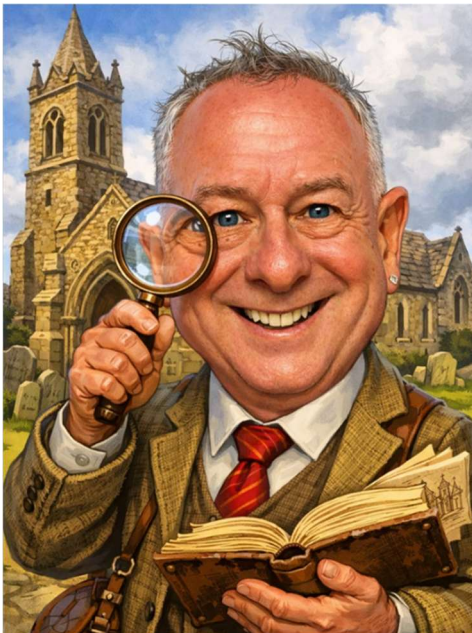
We wish them well with the rest of their repairs.

Looking forwards

A special musical evening to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Norfolk Churches Trust is being held at St Mary Magdalene, Warham, NR23 1NH, on Saturday 30th May from 5.30pm. The concert, featuring works by Handel and Telemann amongst others, will be performed by the internationally acclaimed **Brook Street Band**, (pictured), and award-winning tenor **David de Winter**.



Tickets are priced at £50pp to include champagne and canapes following the concert at The Rectory, Warham.



Ecclesiastical Historian John Vigar will be our guide for two unique church tours this summer taking in the Leased Churches in the Care of the Norfolk Churches Trust. Discover their history, architecture, and the stories they hold as John brings each building to life with expert insight and engaging commentary. A fascinating day for anyone interested in local heritage, churches, and their history

Tour 1 - 8th July 11am to 4pm

Starting at **Bagthorpe, St Mary**, the tour will take in **Barmer, All Saints, Dunton, St Peter** and, **West Rudham, St Peter**.

There will be approximately 20 minutes of driving between the churches with a suggested lunch stop in Fakenham.

Tour 2 – 22nd July 10.30am to 4pm

Commencing at **Hargham, All Saints** and moving onto **Snetterton All Saints, Illington, St Andrew** and **Lynford, Our Lady of Consolation & St Stephen**.

This self-drive tour requires approximately 40 minutes of driving between churches and allows time for a local lunch.

Light refreshments will be served at the final church of the day on both tours.

The tours are priced at £20 for members and £30 for non-members



Diva Opera, Britain's foremost chamber opera company, is set to return to the magnificent Marble Hall at Holkham this summer. Performing La Bohème on Friday 24th July and La Cenerentola (pictured) on Saturday 25th July. To register your interest contact events@holkham.co.uk

Sponsorship from this event supports the work of the Trust thanks to the tireless efforts of Sarah Countess of Leicester.

Here Comes the Sun – Music for a Summer's Evening

On Thursday 30th July, from 7pm the **Saltmarsh Strings** comprising Freya Goldmark (violin), Sara Longe (violin), Jim O'Toole (viola), and Ivan McCready (cello) will be our musical accompaniment for the evening at Corpusty, St Peter.

The evening will take us on a musical journey from Dvorak to the Beatles.

The ticket price of £25 will include a drink reception at this historic church with its views over the surrounding countryside. St Peter's stands proudly on a hill above the villages of Corpusty and Saxthorpe on the main Norwich to Holt Road (NR11 6QE).



This church is one of thirteen in the direct care of the Norfolk Churches Trust. The annual insurance premium and basic maintenance cost for these churches is approximately £20,000 per annum. The proceeds from this event will help us maintain these buildings for the benefit of all.

So, do not miss this opportunity to celebrate summer in style with this wonderful musical ensemble.



The Trust has taken delivery of new **'blank for your own message' greetings cards**. Coming as a mixed collection featuring interiors of Norfolk churches, they are priced at £8 for a pack of ten.

The Trust has a selection of branded merchandise available on our website or for sale at our events, including special 50th anniversary mugs.

Proceeds from all our merchandise supports our work.

To book any of our events, purchase merchandise or for further information please see our website norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk or contact the office, details below.

Thank you for your support.

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