



# Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

*Supporting Oxfordshire's Churches since 1964*



## Annual Report 2014

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

Reg. Charity No. 235644



# OXFORD HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST COUNCIL

Office holders as at 5 April 2014

- President:** Richard H Lethbridge, DL\*
- Vice-President:** The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, OBE,  
*Bishop of Dorchester*
- Chairman:** Basil Eastwood, CMG\*
- Vice-Chairman:** John Yaxley, CBE\*  
The Ven. John Morrison  
*County Organiser Ride and Stride\**  
Mrs Caroline Jones  
*Communications Officer*  
The Ven. Martin Gorick,  
*Archdeacon of Oxford*  
The Revd Canon Judy French,  
*Assistant Archdeacon of Oxford*  
Ms Natalie Merry  
*Secretary, Diocesan Advisory Committee*  
and all Area Representatives – see back cover
- Secretary:** Jonathan Scheele\*  
20 Portland Road, Oxford, OX2 7EY  
01865 435076,  
jonathan.scheele@virginmedia.com
- Treasurer:** William Andrewes\*  
Apple House, Combe, Oxford, OX29 8NU  
01993 891376, billandrewes@yahoo.co.uk
- Membership:** Mrs Holly Kilpatrick  
23 Lucerne Road, Oxford, OX2 7QB  
01865 512358, hollykilpatrick8@gmail.com
- Grants Officer:** Martin Trowell\*  
The Old Vicarage, West Hanney  
Wantage, OX12 0LW.  
01235 868131, martintrowell@btinternet.com

\* *Trustee*

Cover photograph: Stoke Row, St. John the Evangelist (awarded a grant of £7,500). This church was built in 1846 and is by R C Hussey. It is in the style of C13 with lancet windows, and chancel and nave in one. The upper part of the tower is octagonal with a pyramid roof. It is possible that it was originally intended to have a spire.

The Forty-Eighth Annual General Meeting  
of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust  
will be held at St Helen's Church, Abingdon at 2pm  
on Saturday 26 July 2014

## AGENDA

The President's opening remarks

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. To receive the Accounts for the year ended 5 April 2014
6. Election of officers and members of Council
7. Any other business

After the meeting there will be an opportunity to look round St Helen's, before going to visit St James's, Radley with its famous collection of stained glass. The church is kindly providing tea in the church room and this will be followed by a short service of Evensong. Those staying for tea are asked to send a cheque for £5 per head (payable to 'OHCT') to the Secretary, Jonathan Scheele, at the address on the facing page. Tickets will not be issued.

NB: There is a pay and display car park in West St Helen's Street, near to the church.

## THE TRUST AND HOW YOU CAN JOIN IT

The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, was formed to provide financial help for repairs to churches of all denominations in Oxfordshire, to encourage wider interest in them and to raise funds for this purpose. Since the Trust was formed a total of over £3.5 million has been given in grants to help churches with essential repairs and new facilities.

Members are entitled to attend meetings, lectures and tours and to receive a copy of the Annual Report. The minimum annual subscription is £20 for individuals, £30 for families (at the same address) and £25 for parish membership. A membership application form is enclosed with this report. PCCs should apply to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Holly Kilpatrick, at the address on the facing page, or visit the Trust's website at [www.ohct.org.uk](http://www.ohct.org.uk)

## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This was a busy and productive year.

We made grants totalling £160,000, a near record. We had interesting and well attended lectures in Wolfson College by Lord Harries and at Blenheim by William Whyte. Our church visits were again fully booked, despite the experiment of repeating some of the visits to double the number of places.

So our normal pattern of activity continued, but this was no ordinary year. In May 2013 we finalised a planning paper to define our role for several years ahead. This started from the sad but surely sensible assumption that many, and in rural areas perhaps most, congregations will find it increasingly difficult to muster unaided the human and financial resources to keep their buildings fit for purpose. We therefore needed both to make a wider public more aware of the importance of these buildings and readier to help maintain them, and also we ourselves needed to provide more financial support for repairs and practical enhancements. Specifically we needed to raise our average level of grant from 7.7% to 10% of the costs of projects.

The paper also set specific objectives for the year, and I am glad to report that we have met nearly all of them. They included, of course, preparations for our Jubilee events, and by the time you read this you will be able to judge the success of the events in Dorchester Abbey in April 2014 and at Broughton in May.

Of longer-term significance was our decision on the basis of a separately funded feasibility study to launch a £3 million Jubilee Campaign to 'kick-start' our Heritage Fund, which we hope will then continue to attract future legacies from our members. I look forward to telling members more about this at our Annual General Meeting.

We also decided that we needed a new website. We were able to attract financing for this from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The new site went 'live' in March 2014. It is beautiful to look at and contains a mass of information. I encourage you to visit it ([www.ohct.org.uk](http://www.ohct.org.uk)). It is not only our shop window for the wider public; it will also be an increasingly important means of communication with our members and Riders and Striders. I am most grateful to all who have contributed to it. The gazetteer in particular is still very much work in progress, and we need your contributions and comments.

Another feature of the year has been our publication (also separately funded) of Becky Payne's book *Churches for Communities: Adapting*

*Oxfordshire's Churches for Wider Use*, describing the tribulations and the triumphs of twenty-five churches and chapels which have undertaken major adaptations while maintaining their sense of sacred space. The book has been well received, and we believe that any church council considering a major project would do well to read it. I pay tribute to Bishop Colin Fletcher, who had the idea for the book and who has done so much to drive the project forward to a successful conclusion.

From the beginning of this year we have rationalised our membership fee structure slightly while keeping the minimum fees as low as possible. The minimum fee for an individual is still £20; for two or more members of a family at the same address it is now £30. We ask churches which receive grants from us to take out what we now call parish membership at a minimum of £25. This enables us to tell them and their congregations about our events. We want to be an open and welcoming organisation but we also want you – our members – to feel that OHCT is your organisation. If events are oversubscribed, we will give preference to those who are individual or family members; we did not feel able, for example, to invite parish members to the Broughton Jubilee event.

We welcomed to our Council Martin Gorick, the new Archdeacon for Oxford (responsible for the Oxford and Cowley deaneries), and look forward to welcoming Judy French as the first Archdeacon of Dorchester (responsible for all the remaining deaneries in Oxfordshire).

Hugo Brunner stood down after nearly 30 years on the Council and as Trustee having made a enormous contribution to the success of the Trust over the years. Charles Powell and Ben Simpson retired from our Council after many years of stalwart service as the Area Representatives for Chipping Norton and Cowley respectively. Ben was also our webmaster but nobly continued to maintain our old website until the new one could replace it. George Russell stood down as Area Representative for Abingdon and eminence grise of the Ride and Stride. Norman Dawson succeeds him in the former capacity. Francis Hazeel has joined us to help look after the Chipping Norton area. I also welcome the emerging pattern of Alternate Area Representatives who help, and if necessary stand in for, Area Representatives.

2013/14 was indeed a busy year. 2014/15 seems likely to be even busier!

*Basil Eastwood*

Churches featured in the photo slices are Albury, St. Helen; Checkendon, St Peter and St Paul; Cottisford, St. Mary; Standlake, St Giles; Stoke Row, St John the Evangelist; all of which received grants in 2014

Photographs in this report are ©2014 John Ward, Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire. The Trust is most grateful for his permission to use them.

Design and layout by Orange & Blue Design [www.orangeandbluedesign.co.uk](http://www.orangeandbluedesign.co.uk)

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Towards the end of the year the Trust launched its Jubilee Campaign with the aim of generating a Heritage Fund of £3m. If we are successful this endowment will greatly enhance our grant giving capacity. The Trustees resolved to credit all legacies, including those of the past five years, to this fund and, in furtherance of this decision, have transferred £99,954. By the end of the financial year £131,255 had been raised and £69,828 expended; the Heritage Fund balance stood at £166,381.

In terms of our normal activities, Ride and Stride revenues reached a near record level. Grants from charitable trusts were somewhat less than the exceptional level in the previous year but individual donations increased substantially for the first time in several years. Income from investments grew as a result of recent changes in the disposition of funds.

The Trust was fortunate to secure individual donations which almost entirely covered the editorial and production costs of *Churches for Communities*, and a grant of £10,000 was awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the development of the new web site. Expenditure of £7,000 has so far been incurred. This is included under management and administration costs, which explains the large increase in that category.

The Trust made thirty-eight grants totalling £163,000 but there were two cancellations amounting to £3,000. The distribution of bicycle ride revenues amounted to £56,458 which, taken together with the grants awarded, represents the largest level of support save in those years when we received substantial sums of landfill monies.

The investment portfolio increased in value by £79,861. A number of changes were made to individual holdings and £50,000 of surplus cash invested. The Trustees have appointed Cazenove to manage the investments and more of our cash balances will be deployed at a propitious moment.

For the first time, total funds employed in both the Accumulated and Jubilee Funds together exceeded £1m.

*Bill Andrewes*

The Trust gratefully acknowledges major grants and donations received from the following:  
 St Michael's and All Saints Charities • Doris Field Charitable Trust • The Tanner Trust  
 • Greys Charitable Trust • The Adrian Swire Charitable Trust • Lord Phillimore Trust •  
 Trusthouse Charitable Foundation and additional funding of £10,000 from the National  
 Churches Trust under their Partnership Grants scheme

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2014

This is a brief extract from the audited accounts. A full set of the statutory accounts will be available at the AGM. Copies can also be obtained from the Treasurer, whose address can be found on page 2 of this report.

	2013/14 £	2012/13 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
Grants from charitable trusts	55652	65062
Sponsored bicycle ride	130334	121662
Subscriptions, donations and tax recovery	23320	17804
Investment income and bank interest	39028	35553
Jubilee Campaign and legacies	136255	3595
Lottery Grant	10000	
Other income	2495	2668
	<u>397084</u>	<u>246344</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
Grants to churches	160000	139000
Distribution of share of bicycle ride revenues	56458	52712
Costs of Jubilee Campaign	69828	
Management and administration	10729	3952
Administration of bicycle ride	8093	7580
Other	1046	
	<u>306154</u>	<u>203244</u>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	90930	43100
<b>UNREALISED GAINS ON INVESTMENTS</b>	79861	83748
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	170791	126848
<b>FUND BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	877114	750266
<b>FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>1047905</u>	<u>877114</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>		
Investments	939074	809213
Current Assets	350056	267242
Current Liabilities	-241225	-199341
	<u>1047905</u>	<u>877114</u>

## THE RIDE & STRIDE 2013

The weather was definitely unkind on 14 September; but our noble Riders, Striders and Welcomers were undeterred in spite of getting wet. Headed by the Bishop of Dorchester and the OHCT Chairman, Basil Eastwood, who cycled up some steep hills in the Henley area, 800 St/Riders and 135 Welcomers raised the magnificent total of £127,344 which is close to a record; and in the OHCT Fiftieth Anniversary year we hope to do even better.

More and more people are realising what fun Ride & Stride Day can be, and they are not confined to riding and striding only. Tony Crabtree arranged a bell-ringing outing starting at Burford. Mary Hughes walked her dog, Charlie. Most unusual, a Strictly Come Dancing Sweepstake was organised by St Mary's, Black Bourton. The most senior, Tony Moore (aged 86), cycled to 20 churches. Luke Saxell (aged 1) took part in the Crawl, Toddle or Walk for under-5s at St Giles, Standlake. John Griffin, of the Quaker Meeting House, Wallingford, went to 58 churches. Jo Appleford (aged 9) of St Mary's, Wootton called in at 40. Chris Brennan visited one church in each of the six counties adjoining Oxfordshire, covering 199.4km. Caroline Dalton of Wheatley went to London and walked to 20 churches between Battersea and St Mary-le-Strand, and the St/Riders of Chadlington were waved off by the Prime Minister! Just a few among many achievements, and not enough space to record them here, but they can be found on the Ride & Stride pages of the website.

Very many thanks to the Area and Church Organisers who work so hard, and also to the St/Ride team: Jeanette Thomas (Administrator), Alison Shaw (Press & Publicity), David Miles (Database manager), Chris Brennan and George Russell. Their hard work, wisdom and experience have been invaluable.

*John Morrison, County Organiser*

### Area Organisers:

**Abingdon:** Mr Norman Dawson. Mr George E B Russell (Alternate) **Aston:** Mr Robin Fieth **Bicester and Islip:** Mr Christopher Brennan **Chipping Norton North:** Mrs Gillie Galloway **Chipping Norton South:** Mr Hubert Beaumont **Cowley:** Miss Daphne Jefferies **Cuddesden:** Dr Michael L Watkins **Deddington:** Mrs Elizabeth Addley **Henley-on-Thames:** Mr Tim Streatfeild **Oxford:** Mrs Jenny Farthing **Vale of White Horse:** Mrs Diane Blease **Wallingford:** Mr Ian Steel **Woodstock:** Mr & Mrs Roger Powell **Radio St/Ride:** Mr Harry Hogg

## GRANTS AWARDED IN 2013/2014

	£
Albury, St Helen	3,000
Ardington, Holy Trinity	2,000
Baulking, St Nicholas	11,000
Bodicote, St John the Baptist	2,000
Charlbury, Quaker Meeting House	1,000
Checkendon, St Peter and St Paul	5,000
Chipping Norton, Holy Trinity (RC)	3,000
Chipping Norton, St Mary	5,000
Cogges, St Mary	5,000
Cottisford, St Mary	1,000
Cottisford, St Mary	6,000
Curbridge, St John the Baptist	500
Fyfield, Baptist Chapel	1,000
Horley, St Etheldreda	2,000
Hornton, Methodists	4,000
Kingston Bagpuize, St John the Baptist	8,000
Long Hanborough, Methodists	10,000
Longcot, St Mary the Virgin	5,000
Milcombe, St Laurence	5,000
North Aston, St Mary the Virgin	2,500
Oxford, All Saints, Highfield	7,000
Oxford, Quaker Meeting House	5,000
Oxford, St Barnabas	12,000
Oxford, Wesley Memorial Chapel	7,000
Piddington, St Nicholas	2,000
Sandford St Martin, St Martin	500
Sandford St Martin, St Martin	3,000
Souldern, Annunciation of the BVM	2,000
South Newington, St Peter ad Vincula	2,000
South Newington, St Peter ad Vincula	2,000
Standlake, St Giles	1,000
Stoke Row, St John the Evangelist	7,500
Stonesfield, St James the Great	1,000
Stonor, Holy Trinity Chapel (RC)	15,000
Upper Heyford, St Mary	8,000
Wantage, Methodists	2,000
Wolvercote, St Peter	3,000
Wootton, St Peter	1,000
	<u>163,000</u>
Less cancellations	
Southmoor, Methodists	1,000
Upper Heyford, St Mary	2,000
	<u>3,000</u>
	<u>160,000</u>



**Stonor, Holy Trinity Chapel** (awarded a grant of £15,000). The chapel was built in late C13 though there is no record earlier than 1331. Extensions and additions in C14 probably prompted the recorded consecration in 1349. A plaster rib vault rests on angel corbels; doorways have ogee hoods and finials. In late C18 the interior was remodelled in Gothick style and in 1960 work was carried out to return it to how it must then have looked. The brick tower may date to the early C15; the wooden lantern is Georgian.

**Albury, St Helen** (awarded a grant of £3,000). Built in 1830 in Gothic style by Thomas Rickman and restored in 1891. It has a C12 font with zigzag lower band and roll moulding above which it is re-cut. There is stained glass of 1913 in the style of Kempe.



**South Newington, St Peter ad Vincula** (awarded two grants each of £2,000). There is evidence of the late Norman origins of this church which was extended around 1300; but it is probably best known for its series of wall paintings dating from c 1330. The earliest paintings, in the north aisle, include an elegant representation of the Virgin with kneeling Donors. The medium, oil on plaster, is unusual. By contrast, the scenes from the Passion over the nave arcades on the south side are in the archaic style of a country painter and date to late C15.



**Kingston Bagpuize, St John the Baptist** (awarded a grant of £8,000). The present church, built in 1799/1800, is the third to stand on this site, the first having been built soon after the Conquest. The design is based on one by Sir Robert Taylor for an Italian church and its plan is cruciform with an apsidal chancel.



**Charlbury, Quaker Meeting House** (awarded a grant of £1,000). The first meeting house, built in 1681, was replaced in 1779 by the present one, built on the same site. It is a square building, with a hipped roof and arched windows. The inside has been extensively remodelled but it retains its coffered roof.



**Cogges, St Mary** (awarded a grant of £5,000). This small late Norman church, once part of a priory, was remodelled in C14 when an unusually placed tower was added and a chapel, thought to have been built by Lord Grey in the latter half of C14 in memory of his mother, Lady Margaret. Around the walls there is a carved frieze of grotesque monsters and corbels of animals playing musical instruments. There is a Norman tub font on an octagonal base of C14, a fine tomb chest and other monuments.



**Oxford Wesley Memorial Chapel** (awarded a grant of £7,000). Built in 1877/78 in Decorated Gothic Revival style, with a very prominent steeple and cross-gabled aisles. Columns with carved capitals by Henry Frith of Gloucester depict twelve different English plants.

## AREA REPRESENTATIVES

(All Area Representatives are members of Council.

\* denotes those who are also Trustees)

- 
- Abingdon:** Norman Dawson,  
01235 526415, reade.corner@talk21.com
- Aston and Cuddesdon:** Mrs Debbie Dance OBE\*  
01865 242918, d.dance@oxfordpreservation.org.uk
- Bicester and Islip:** Charles Hebditch  
01869 277980, charleshebditch@hotmail.com
- Chipping Norton (Joint):** John Yaxley CBE\*  
01993 831385, jpyaxley@btinternet.com  
Francis Hazeel,  
07770 466109, francis@hazeel.co.uk
- Cowley:** Revd Martin Wellings  
01865 559026, martin.wellings@oxfordmethodists.org.uk
- Deddington:** Mrs Elizabeth MacLeod  
01608 737554, elizabethmacleod@dial.pipex.com
- Henley:** Mrs Cynthia Robinson  
01491 572445, mrscar@sky.com
- Oxford:** Mrs Gillian Argyle  
01865 558645, gillian.argyle@gmail.com
- Vale of White Horse:** Mrs Julia Twynam MBE  
01367 820222, juliatwynam@hotmail.co.uk
- Wallingford:** Mark Phillips  
01491 836625, markphillips38@btinternet.com
- Wantage:** The Hon. Mrs Sue Tyser  
01235 868203, sue@suetyser.plus.com
- Witney:** Mrs Alison Shaw  
01865 300615, ali46pshaw@yahoo.co.uk
- Woodstock:** Simon Haviland\*  
01993 891614, sj@sjhaviland.co.uk

## WHO MAY APPLY FOR A GRANT

Places of worship built before 1945 (and in exceptional cases later) which are open for public worship may apply for a grant for repairs to the fabric and installation of facilities. Area Representatives will be glad to advise on the scope of grant support. In considering applications the Trust takes into account the applicant's own financial resources and its ability to raise additional funds. Detailed guidance notes and applications forms can be downloaded from the website ([www.ohct.org.uk](http://www.ohct.org.uk)) or obtained from the Grants Officer, whose address can be found the inside front cover.