



Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Supporting Oxfordshire's Churches since 1964

ANNUAL REVIEW 2018

www.ohct.org.uk Reg. Charity No. 1168567

THE OXFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Charity Number 1168567

This is the first Annual Review of Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (2016), a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered by the Charity Commission on 2 August 2016. The assets and liabilities of the original Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, which was founded in 1964, were transferred on 1 April 2017 to the new CIO, and this new body, still known simply as the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, continues the work of the 1964 trust with its aims unchanged.

Patrons	Tim Stevenson OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire The Rt Rev Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford Bernard Taylor DL Sir Hugo Brunner KCVO
President	The Rt Rev Colin Fletcher OBE, Bishop of Dorchester
Trustees	Prof. Malcolm Airs (from April 2017) Gillian Argyle Hilary Cakebread Hall (County Organiser for the Ride and Stride and Vice-Chair of the Trust from January 2018) Giles Dessain FCA (Treasurer) Basil Eastwood CMG (Trustee and Chair until December 2017) Dr Stephen John Goss (Trustee from April 2017 and Chair from January 2018) Cynthia Robinson (Grants Officer) Jonathan Scheele (Secretary) Michael Sibly
Other officers	Gillian Coates (Website Editor) Stephen Dawson (Development Officer until December 2017) Basil Eastwood CMG (Development Officer from January 2018) Clare Fox (Events Administrator) Eluned Hallas (Data Manager) Holly Kilpatrick (Membership Secretary) David Warr (Visits Coordinator) The Ven David Meara (Lectures Coordinator) Jeanette Thomas (Ride and Stride Administrator)
Website	www.ohct.org.uk
Registered address	20 Portland Road, Oxford, OC2 7EY
Email	secretary@ohct.org.uk

FROM THE CHAIR

It is a pleasure to write about a full and successful year for the Trust, and to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to that success.

We have awarded £217,049 in grants to churches and chapels, most of this for repairs or practical enhancements, but including £22,549 for the installation of roof alarms against the theft of lead. We also made recommendations to the National Churches Trust, so bringing a further £10,500 to Oxfordshire churches via the Partnership Grants Programme. You can find a full list of grants at the end of this Review along with some illustrated examples.

Our roof alarm fund, set up through an appeal two years ago, has been put to excellent use: the fund is now completely spent down, and new requests are tailing off. The Trust will, however, maintain its express route for applications for help with alarms for at least this calendar year (we fear there remain many churches which could benefit).



Summertown, St Michael and All Angels.

The nave, which, ever since 1909, had ended in a plain brick wall, now has a new extension, the 'Threshold', containing a multi-purpose narthex and meeting space, new catering facilities and conveniences. It was opened and blessed by the Bishop of Oxford on 22 April, 2018. OHCT had given a grant of £15,000.

We are indebted to all who have generously donated funds to support our work, and to all who have worked to raise funds – not least the participants in Ride and Stride, our largest annual source of funding. A summary of our accounts is included below. We continue to encourage our members to remember us in their wills. Our grateful thanks go to our solicitors, Freeths, for their sponsorship of the brochure enclosed with this Review.

The Trust also aims to promote the appreciation, and that includes the enjoyment, of our wonderful heritage of historic religious buildings. In addition to this year's church tours, which are described on pages 7-9, Dr Sarah Brown, Director of the York Glaziers Trust, gave us a talk on stained glass conservation illustrated by visits to three Oxford College chapels. That was heavily over-subscribed, and we are repeating it this year.

Our guest lecture programme was extremely well received. The Wolfson Lecture was given by Gerald Russell, a former diplomat and a writer on the religions of the Middle East. He spoke on the bleak prospects for Christianity in the terrifying maelstrom of

the region where it was born. For the Blenheim Lecture, David Starkey delivered a stimulating and witty account of Henry VIII's break with Rome. He saw "England's Brexit" as a turning point in the development of our national identity. As ever, our thanks are due to the Duke of Marlborough for making the Palace available for this lecture and reception.

This Review would not be complete without a mention of our single most popular church visit (as ever, combined with a light pub supper). This year, our Membership Secretary arranged an August evening out to Cassington to see its beautiful little church dating from the 12th-century.



St Peter's Church, Cassington

During the year, we have made considerable progress with our IT work: the website is steadily evolving and becoming more informative and better linked to our underlying database. We now routinely use online ticketing for events, and online grant submission and registration for Ride and Stride are in place (though we maintain the human alternative for those who prefer). The database will greatly facilitate our compliance with new data protection regulations and we have developed an updated Privacy Policy.

The Trust contributed to the Taylor Review of the Sustainability of English Churches and responded to its final report. We are working, with Dorchester Abbey and the Diocese, to arrange a forum to consider the Report's implications and share relevant experience.

The Trust is a volunteer organisation, and as Chair, I should like to thank all who give what is often a considerable amount of time to support our work. Not least of these is Basil Eastwood, to whom the Trust owes so very much, who stood down as our Chair at the end of 2017: he deserves our very special thanks. He continues with us as a Council member and our Development Officer. The Trustees have been strengthened by the appointment of Professor Malcolm Airs who will also be Area Representative for Aston and Cuddesdon. New volunteers are always welcome: please contact me if you'd like to help.

Stephen Goss

RIDE AND STRIDE 2017

Evolution not revolution might be one way of summing up Ride and Stride 2017 as we took our first steps into new ways of engaging with participants. Following the development of our new website, we launched an entirely paper-free option for joining in. For the first time, participants could choose to sign-up online and direct all their sponsorship through Just Giving; they could email their friends, family and colleagues across the world to sponsor them and then simply enjoy their day out and about visiting churches in the safe knowledge that their sponsorship was being automatically processed. In parallel, we maintained our traditional route for enrolment using a paper form available from your Church Coordinator, recording sponsorship on a Sponsor Form and then submitting that to the Trust. We shall continue to provide the two routes so that people can choose whichever they find most convenient. Our aim is that the alternative routes will increase participation, and that is most important since Ride and Stride is our single largest source of income. The Trust depends heavily on your support so that it can continue to make Grants available to the churches and chapels of the county – you will see elsewhere in this Review more details of the projects supported this year.



Taking a break during Ride and Stride in Christ Church Meadows

Summer 2017 also saw the fun (and challenge) of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race crossing the north of the county (at high speed!) which encouraged us to embrace this with some publicised routes to follow in their track plus a brand new initiative organised in Charlbury by Basil Eastwood for primary school children to do their own mini 'Ride and Stride' – we are hoping this will be a pilot for future events for young people.

Our new Chairman, Stephen Goss, joined a Family Walk around eight churches in Oxford led by the Revd Canon Edmund Newey, Sub-Dean of Christ Church, gathering up members of those churches (and others) during their progress.



Canon Edmund Newey signing in for Ride and Stride at St Giles'

Finally, Oxfordshire-based church historian (and keen supporter of Ride and Stride) Clive Fewins has produced 'Curiouser & Curiouser' – short, entertaining 'postcards' for children about amusing and fascinating things that they can spot in churches (an example is shown inside the back cover). You can print these from the Ride and Stride information section of our website. Why not encourage your family and friends to visit a church with their children and excite a new generation with the richness of our heritage?

The arrangements for joining in Ride and Stride 2018 will be publicised on our website– www.ohct.org.uk.

Hilary Cakebread Hall

CHURCH TOURS IN 2017

The Spring Tour: organs and churches

I ran the Spring Tour twice, on consecutive days, in order to accommodate some 50 people in all. It was a tour with a difference: instead of a tour centred on architecture and history, I thought it would be nice to focus on music in church and specifically organ music.

We were fortunate to have Dr Charles Mould (retired secretary of the Bodleian Library and Fellow of St Cross College) demonstrating organs at Blenheim Palace, St Michael's Great Tew and St Nicholas, Heythrop. The tour started with coffee at Blenheim Palace where Charles demonstrated the great Father Willis organ in the library amidst a crowd of enthusiastic Chinese visitors who, like us, were thrilled by the power and impressive range of sounds produced by this mammoth instrument.

From there we went to Great Tew where Charles contrasted the capability of its newly restored organ with what we had seen at Blenheim. After lunch, we moved on to the great Blomfield church at Heythrop where, not only did we hear the third organ of the day, but we also had the chance to visit the much earlier original church hidden away on adjacent land and not normally accessible to the public.

This was a bit of a departure from the usual OHCT spring tour, but everyone seemed to enjoy the change, and it gives me some encouragement to perhaps think about themed tours in the future.

David Warr



St Michael and All Angels, Great Tew.



Demonstration of the organ at Great Tew

THE SEPTEMBER TOUR: THREE VICTORIAN CHURCHES

Twenty-one members met at St Mary the Virgin, Freeland, built in 1866-71 by John Loughborough Pearson, later the architect of Truro Cathedral. St Mary's is a masterpiece also of the Victorian firm of Clayton and Bell whose painted decoration of scenes from the Passion with buff figures on a red background runs round the upper levels of the rounded apse. Clayton and Bell also supplied the stained glass: The Marriage at Cana is shown here, and The Flight into Egypt was the OHCT Christmas card in 2015. Pearson designed Freeland as a group combining church, vicarage and primary school and, thanks to the kindness of the Convent of St Mary, we were able to admire the picturesque garden front of the former vicarage.



St Mary the Virgin, Freeland

From Freeland, narrow country roads took us to St Michael and All Angels, Leafield, a huge barn of a church by George Gilbert Scott, begun in 1858 and consecrated in 1860. Compared with Freeland, the interior, a severe imitation of 13th-century architecture, is positively austere, although the walls are enlivened by improving texts painted in colours on cut-out bands of sheet brass, allegedly painted by Mrs Worsley, wife of the first incumbent.



OHCT visit to St Michael and All Angels, Leafield

After a fortifying lunch, we drove on to St John the Evangelist, Hailey, begun in 1866 by Clapton Crabb Rolfe, then aged only 21. The designs for Hailey, which is exactly contemporary with Freeland, were described at the time by G.E. Street as 'needlessly eccentric', and we were able to delight in this eccentricity in the North arcade piers, of red stone - but with a projecting reel of white halfway up; in the font, of quatrefoil plan with bands of grey and white stone; and in the stone pulpit, carved with symbols of the Four Evangelists in arched openings supported on grey columns with red capitals.

From Freeland to Leafield and on to Hailey was a distance of perhaps eleven miles, within which we were able to see three very different Victorian ecclesiastical visions.

Peter Hughes

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Gross revenue this year decreased from £353,912 to £288,674, the income for 2016-17 having been unusually inflated by £69,364 received through the special roof alarms appeal. Expenditure decreased from £340,319 to £305,874, giving a net operating deficit of £17,200 in comparison with the previous year's surplus of £13,593. This year's expenditure included £22,549 on roof alarms, which virtually depleted the remaining funds raised specifically for that purpose: the opening balance on the Roof Alarm Fund had been just £22,818 which was transferred for expenditure into General Funds. The General Funds ended the year with a net surplus of £5,617.

Our single most important source of income was again the annual sponsored Ride and Stride which raised £118,782 versus £120,052 in the previous year.

We continue to receive generous grants towards our current programme from a number of Oxfordshire charitable foundations. We also received contributions to the Heritage Fund, with receipts this year of £118,595 (2017 £81,175).

Our investment income, £91,250, was increased by 7.6% over last year's. The portfolio shows a capital decline of 0.6% after a stellar performance in the previous year, when it had risen by 10.8%.

As anticipated in last year's report, administrative costs during the year rose from £16,752 to £27,464 owing to the set-up costs of our database and improvements to our website. The contracts to update and adapt our website and to design and implement a centralised remotely hosted database are now near completion. Historically our administration costs have been extremely low. We intend that they should remain modest and that an improved IT infrastructure will enable us to remain essentially an all-volunteer organisation. We expect administrative expenditure to decline in the future.

The following summary of accounts is currently being independently audited. A full set of statutory accounts will be published on the Charity Commission's websites and will be available on request. The Statutory Annual Report will also be published on the OHCT website.

Giles Dessain FCA



St Mary the Virgin, Adderbury

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Year to March 31st 2017	Year to March 31st 2018
	£	£
REVENUE		
Stride	120,052	118,782
Subscriptions & Donations	22,023	23,253
Trusts	56,350	52,500
Roof Appeal	69,364	0
Investment Income	84,835	91,250
Bank Interest	226	477
Events	1,061	1,476
Miscellaneous sales	1	936
	353,912	288,674
EXPENDITURE		
Grants awarded (net)	264,546	217,049
Parish share of Stride revenue	49,413	49,034
Stride administration	9,608	12,327
Administration	16,752	27,464
	340,319	305,874
Roof Fund Net Income/(Expenditure)	22,818	(22,818)
General Fund -Net Income/(Expenditure)	(9,225)	5,617
 Net Income/(Expenditure)		
General Fund	(9,225)	5,617
Heritage Fund	81,175	118,595
Roof Fund	22,818	(22,818)
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments, General Fund	121,712	4,364
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments, Heritage Fund	60,226	(16,032)
Net Movement in Funds	276,706	89,726
 BALANCE SHEET		
Investments	1,904,944	1,893,275
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts	333,432	377,147
Gift Aid recoverable	6,545	17,886
	339,978	395,033
Less Current Liabilities		
Grants still to be paid	329,887	284,430
Accrued expenses	4,037	3,154
	333,924	287,584
Net Assets	1,910,998	2,000,724
Represented by:		
General Fund Starting balance	889,552	1,002,039
Net Income for the period	(9,225)	5,617
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	121,712	4,364
General Fund	1,002,039	1,012,020
Heritage Fund Starting balance	744,739	886,141
Income (Donations)	81,175	118,595
Expenditure	0	0
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	60,226	(16,032)
	886,141	988,704
Roof Fund	22,818	0
	1,910,998	2,000,724

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2017-2018

		£
Adderbury Quaker Meeting House	Repairs to stonework/rainwater goods	3,000
Ascott-under-Wychwood, Holy Trinity	Repairs/stabilization of bells	1,500
Bampton, St. Mary the Virgin	Replacement of lead roof	6,000
Barford St. Michael, St. Michael	Upgrading footpaths in churchyard	1,000
Bodicote, St. John the Baptist	Repairs to chancel East window	2,000
Caversfield, St. Laurence	Repairs to stonework/drainage work	8,000
Claydon, St. James the Great	Repairs to graveyard wall	1,000
Culham, St. Paul	Repairs to roof	3,500
Deddington, Ss Peter & Paul	Replacement of rainwater goods	1,500
Didcot, All Saints	Upgrading footpath and lighting	5,000
East Challow, St. Nicholas	Upgrading and modernisation	6,000
Hailey, St. John the Evangelist	Floor repairs; new servery and WC	3,000
Hempton, St. John the Evangelist	Installation of new heating	500
Hook Norton Baptist Church	Drainage work; lighting and heating	16,000
Ipsden, St. Mary	Upgrading footpath; disabled WC	10,000
Leafield, St. Michael & All Angels	Repairs to vestry chimney	2,000
Lower Heyford, St. Mary	Repairs to windows	500
Marsh Baldon, St. Peter	Modernisation; WC and kitchen	20,000
Minster Lovell, St. Kenelm	Repairs to roof; lighting improvements	20,000
New Hinksey, St. John	Repairs to roof/timbers	500
North Aston, St. Mary the Virgin	Restoration of two medieval windows	2,500
Oddington, St. Andrew	Tower works	9,000
Oxford, St. Anthony of Padua (RC)	Replacement of organ	7,000
Shipton-under-Wychwood, St. Mary	Refurbishment of bells	6,000
South Hinksey, St. Laurence	Miscellaneous works and repairs	3,000
Steeple Barton, St. Mary	Repairs to windows	2,500
Stoke Lyne, St. Peter	Works to floors/heating/lighting	15,000
Taynton, St. John the Evangelist	Structural repairs to tower	8,500
Wantage, Ss Peter & Paul	Repairs to roof	5,000
Wendlebury, St. Giles	Repairs to roof and stonework	6,000
Witney High St. Methodist Church	Restoration of organ	2,000
Witney, Holy Trinity	Lighting improvements and renewal	5,000
Witney, St. Mary	Removal of asbestos from chancel	3,000
Wootton, St. Mary	Reordering/servery	7,000
Wroxton, All Saints	Repairs to walls/windows/stonework	5,000

(35 grants)

Sub-total: 197,500
Less cancellations: 3,000
Total: 194,500

Roof alarms (11 grants awarded)

22,549

GRAND TOTAL: 217,049

**ADDERBURY, Friends Meeting House
(Grade II* listed)**

Built in 1675 by order of Bray D'Oyly, a leading Quaker and landowner, the building is largely unchanged, retaining its interior simplicity and fittings. It is the third oldest meeting house in the country.

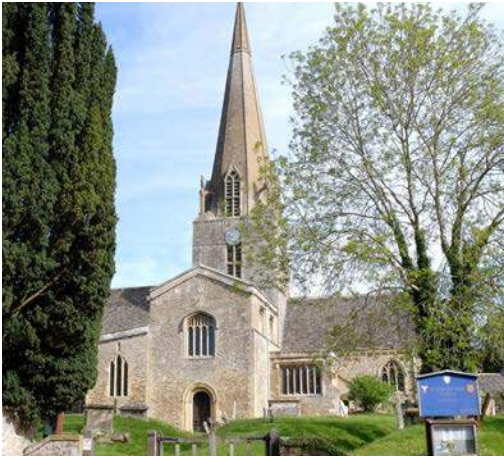
Awarded £3,000 for repairs to stonework and rainwater goods.



**BAMPTON, St Mary Virgin
(Grade I listed)**

Bampton once lay at the heart of an Anglo-Saxon royal estate and the church, consecrated in 1062 was a Saxon minster. The size of this church testifies to its significance as an early religious foundation. The Saxon tower survives, and the interior contains a fine carved stone reredos (c.1400).

Awarded £6,000 for the replacement of roof lead.



**MINSTER LOVELL, St Kenelm's
(Grade I listed)**

Built in 1431 on the foundations of an earlier priory minster, this small church retains many of its original fittings. Pevsner described it as '... almost entirely unaltered.' It contains the alabaster tomb of the 7th Baron William Lovell (1455).

Awarded £20,000 for roof repairs and lighting improvements.



TAYNTON, St John the Evangelist (Grade II* listed)

The existing church dates from c.1450 but many of its architectural features are reminiscent of the earlier Decorated style (c.1360). It contains a fascinating collection of C15 carved stone heads on the corbels and an elaborate octagonal font. The chancel was rebuilt in 1865 to plans by W F Poulton.

Awarded £8,500 for structural repairs to the Perpendicular Gothic tower.



HOOK NORTON, Baptist Church (Grade II listed)

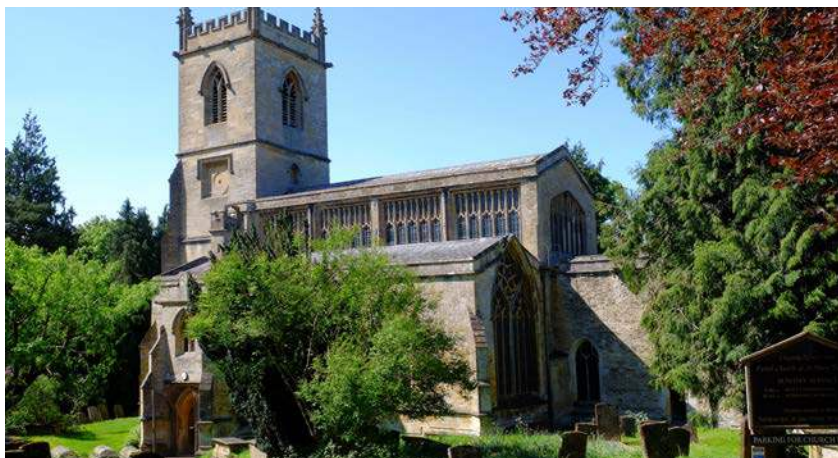
Tracing Its roots back to the 1640s, this chapel is one of the oldest in existence. Rebuilt in 1787 it retains its Georgian exterior. The interior was altered by the Victorians, adding a gallery and box pews, the latter removed in 1970s.

Awarded £16,000 for drainage work and improvements to lighting and heating.

WHO MAY APPLY FOR A GRANT?

OHCT gives grants for repairs and practical enhancements to places of Christian worship of all denominations provided that they are more than 50 years old and open for regular public worship. Churches considering applying may wish to make contact with our Area Representative either directly or through our Grants Officer (see our website www.ohct.org.uk for contact details), and they will be pleased to visit and advise on the scope of our grant support. The Council of OHCT meets three or four times per year to consider applications, though, in emergencies, grants may be awarded outside these meetings. In considering applications, the Council takes into account the applicant church's financial resources and its ability to raise additional funds.

Further information for prospective applicants is available on the OHCT website. The application form is short and simple and may be completed and submitted online.



St Mary the Virgin, Chipping Norton



Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust
Supporting Oxfordshire's Churches since 1964

Chipping Norton: St Mary the Virgin

FUNNY FACES AND A STAIRWAY TO NOWHERE

Part One:

The parish church at Chipping Norton is very fine, with lots of memorable features. But young church explorers will probably find the porch the most fascinating part.

So don't skip through it...
and do LOOK UP!

There are lots of funny faces up there. Can you see a sheep overpowering a wolf? And a lion sticking out his tongue?



3

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust • ohct.org.uk

Curiouser and Curiouser
Exploring churches made fun for children (see 'Ride and Stride')



St John the Baptist, Burford

[Front cover: St Mary the Virgin, Adderbury]

MEMBERSHIP AND HOW TO JOIN

Joining the Trust is an enjoyable and easy way of helping us in our work in the preservation of Oxfordshire's heritage of churches and chapels. Members receive our newsletters and get priority booking for our church visits, lectures and meetings. Members are asked to make an annual donation of at least £20 for individuals or £30 for a family (at one address). Use the form attached to this Review, go to our website, or email membership@ohct.org.uk to join.

Freeths offer a free preliminary consultation to those interested in making a gift to OHCT in their will.

FREETHS
SOLICITORS