



## Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Supporting Oxfordshire's Churches since 1964

From the Chairman

Stephen Goss

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### SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

It is a pleasure to write about our events, tours and special guest lectures for 2019.

Online booking for the first three events opened on April 10<sup>th</sup>: please go to the OHCT website [www.ohct.org.uk](http://www.ohct.org.uk) and click on 'EVENTS' at the top of the page. If any of you prefer not to use the online system, then do contact Clare Fox on that date or soon after (by email: [events@ohct.org.uk](mailto:events@ohct.org.uk), or phone 01844 279716 or 07941717687). The number of places on these events is necessarily limited, so please book at the first possible opportunity: we can do no better than allocate places on a first-come, first-served basis.

#### Churches in the Windrush Valley – Friday & Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

David Warr's Spring tour will follow the route of the Windrush Valley and visit a group of churches in the Burford benefice. The tour will be run twice, on consecutive days, starting mid-morning. Details of the itinerary and arrangements for lunch will be confirmed in due course to those who have booked.

- *St Nicholas, Asthall* This church dates from the 12th Century, with a 14th Century transept converted into a Chantry Chapel. It has a very rare 14th Century altar with a built-in piscina and two reliquaries and a huge tomb recess housing a delicately carved effigy of the Lady Joan Cornwall. The striking clock (c.1670) is unmodified and therefore very rare indeed.
- *St Mary the Virgin, Swinbrook* This church dates back to the 12th Century although the tower wasn't added until 1822. The church is spacious and light with the clear glass windows illuminating both the architecture and some remarkable monuments to the Fettiplace family.
- *St Oswald's, Widford* This is a tiny church in Widford built on the site of an earlier Roman villa or temple. The building is mainly 13th Century with remnants of an 11th Century Saxon or Norman building. Once surrounded by a medieval village, it now stands alone among fields.
- *St John the Evangelist, Taynton* Taynton church dates from about 1450, but many of the architectural features are reminiscent of the earlier Decorated style. The church contains a wonderful collection of sculptured heads which are the work of 15th Century stone masons.

In addition, David will try to arrange for tea at St James The Great, Fulbrook, though timing would not permit a full tour of that church.

*Please note that this tour will involve some walking over uneven ground*

#### Afternoon visit to Gloucester Cathedral – Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>

We are delighted that Dr Nicola Coldstream has agreed to lead a tour for us of Gloucester Cathedral. Nicola is a specialist in medieval architecture with several published works on the buildings and the craftsmen who built them, and she is a member of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission.

Following the tour, tea will be provided in the Laud Room in Church House, after which it will be possible to attend Evensong.

We shall make our own way to the Cathedral (advice on parking will be provided) and meet at the main entrance at 2.00 p.m. Highlights of the building include the Norman nave; the early appearance of the

**Patrons:** The Rt Revd Dr Stephen Croft, Bishop of Oxford, Tim Stevenson OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire; Bernard Taylor DL; Sir Hugo Brunner KCVO

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Perpendicular style in the south transept and the choir; and the refurbished Lady Chapel, with new lighting and a beautiful window in memory of the composer Ivor Gurney. We shall also look at the tomb of Edward II, one of the finest monuments of 14th-century Christendom, and at the cloister, with its famous fan vaulting (and more current fame as a star player in the Harry Potter films).

Parking details will be included in the joining instructions. The full tour will unavoidably involve significant walking, but anyone who wishes may peel off early for tea which will be available from 3.00 p.m. onwards. Evensong is at 5.00. To make the tour manageable, numbers will be limited to 25.

**Summer Lecture in Wolfson College: Oliver Everett – Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> July at 5:30 p.m.**

*How HM The Queen entertains at Windsor Castle: Treasures from the Royal Library*

Oliver Everett, CVO, is Librarian Emeritus of the Royal Library, Windsor Castle, and was formerly Assistant Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales, and Private Secretary to Diana, Princess of Wales. He has an extensive knowledge of the Royal Library and lectures widely in Britain and abroad. His illustrated lecture selects about 45 of the finest items in the Royal Collection to demonstrate its range and magnificence, as well as showing the varying collecting interests of individual monarchs and other members of the Royal Family. This will be an exciting opportunity to hear from someone with an intimate knowledge of the royal collection.

The Lecture will be followed by a Drinks Reception, which, with a repeat of last year's good weather, will be outside with a view over the river.

<b>Annual Meeting of the Trust and our Autumn events:</b> <i>details will be given in the June Newsletter</i>
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**Annual Meeting: Burford – Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July**

Please reserve the date. We shall try a new approach which we hope will be more convenient as well as more congenial. The meeting, chaired as usual by Bishop Colin, will run from 4.00 p.m. and will be followed by a guided tour of the church and evening prayer. Then we'll return to Warwick Hall for a ploughman's supper and bar – we hope, out-of-doors by the river.

**Ride and Stride: Saturday – 14<sup>th</sup> September**

Tell a friend! Touring churches on *Ride and Stride Day* is by far our most important fundraiser, and it is always heartening to meet so many others during the day who value our churches. This year, for those who like to have their sponsors give online, we are switching to *Virgin Money*, a service which is particularly easy to use.

**Late August evening outing – Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> August**

We shall visit the newly restored church at Kingston Lisle and have a pub supper afterwards.

**'Friends Forum' in Dorchester Abbey – Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> September**

Promoting your church in your community to ensure it is broadly valued, well used, and preserved for the future: an all-day meeting with national speakers and with workshops to share ideas and experience.

**The Blenheim Lecture and Reception: – Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

John Simpson, World Affairs Editor of BBC News, will speak on "The Emergence of China as a World Power: Reflections on Fifty Years of Broadcasting".