



Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Supporting Oxfordshire's Churches since 1964



ANNUAL REVIEW 2019

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

THE OXFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Charity Number 1168567

Patrons	Tim Stevenson OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire The Rt Revd 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 Gillian Argyle Hilary Cakebread Hall (Vice-Chair of the Trust & County Organiser for Ride and Stride) Giles Dessain (Treasurer) Richard Hughes (Trustee & Secretary from January 2019) Dr Stephen Goss (Chair) Cynthia Robinson (Grants Officer) Jonathan Scheele (Secretary to December 2018) Michael Sibly
Other officers	Gillian Coates (Website Editor) Basil Eastwood CMG (Development Officer) Clare Fox (Events Administrator) Eluned Hallas (Data Manager) Holly Kilpatrick (Membership Secretary) The Ven David Meara (Lectures Coordinator) Jeanette Thomas (Ride and Stride Administrator) David Warr (Visits Coordinator)
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FROM THE CHAIR

The year 2018-19 has been another busy and successful one, for which I should like to thank all the volunteers, donors and members who make the Trust's work possible.

We awarded £213,750 in new grants for a wide range of repairs and enhancements and a further £11,189 for the installation of roof alarms, giving an overall total of £224,939. Our special fund for roof alarms had been spent down in 2017-18, and so this year's alarms were funded from our general revenues. I am glad that we have recently secured a grant for alarms from the Allchurches Trust, which will allow us to launch a new dedicated fund for the year 2019-2020. A list of this year's grants is given at the end of this Review.



Towersey, St Catherine's

Major project - Extensive repairs to stonework, in particular to the tower; restoration and redecoration to the interior, new lighting, a servery with an area of flexible seating and WC. The work was dedicated and blessed by the Bishop of Dorchester on 3 June, 2018. OHCT had given a grant of £15,000.

It is normal for churches to apply to us early in their fundraising, and our grants then represent useful seed-funding. Unfortunately, the financial climate continues to be difficult and, occasionally, a church is not able to raise sufficient to start its planned work before the three-year currency of our offer expires. This year was exceptional, and we saw cancellations amounting to £31,500 (compared with only £3,000 last year). This sad outcome goes only to emphasize the difficulties that churches are facing. In these cases, we shall of course do our best to help in the future if the church sees an opportunity to move ahead with its plans.

I should like to make special mention of our 'Area Representatives' and the 'Alternates' who assist them. These members of the Trust's Council are listed on our website. With their local knowledge and expertise, they are the first port of call for churches seeking our grants, and their advice at Council meetings is central in helping the Trust to take informed decisions. Our Grants Officer, Cynthia Robinson does a splendid job coordinating grants applications and advising Area Representatives and Council on case history and policy.



Swordsman and the chase: the chancel frieze of St Peter's, Hanwell

We are most grateful to all who have generously donated funds, both individuals and charitable trusts including the Cooper Charitable Trust, Doris Field Charitable Trust, Marlborough Charitable Trust, St Michael and All Saints Charities, Lord Phillimore's Charitable Trust, Sandra Charitable Trust, Schuster Charitable Trust, Adrian Swire Charitable Trust, and the HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust.

The summary of accounts included in this Review shows that Ride and Stride raised over £99,000 and was again the biggest single source of income contributing to our grants. Almost half the Ride and Stride income is passed by us directly to churches chosen by participants, adding a further £42,427 of support for the county's churches over and above our programme of grants. All those who took part in Ride and Stride and their sponsors deserve our very special thanks.

Another much valued source of income is donations through legacies. Do please consider remembering the Trust in your will if you have not already done so. We are indebted to Freeths, our solicitors, who are sponsors of our legacy campaign.

To increase the Trust's practical support to churches, the Trust has instituted evening meetings to offer advice to those planning to restore or improve their churches. In particular, we include information on regulatory requirements, the best use of professional consultants, and raising funds. The first two meetings were held at St Catherine's, Towersey and St Kenelm's, Enstone.

In a similar vein, the Trust is currently working with Dorchester Abbey and the Diocese to mount a Forum for Friends of Churches this September. This will focus on how churches can engage with the community to ensure that their buildings are looked after, well used and valued as widely as possible. A flyer is being distributed with this Review.

Finally, I should like to thank Jonathan Scheele who stood down at the end of 2018 as the Trust's Secretary. He has made many important contributions during his tenure, not least overseeing the new registration of the Trust in 2016 as a CIO with the Charity Commission and the implementation of the contract for the development of our website and new database. We are glad that he continues as a Trustee, and we welcome Richard Hughes as a new Trustee and as his successor as Secretary.

Stephen Goss

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2018-2019

		£
Abingdon, All Saints Methodist	Refurbishment works	15,000
Banbury, St. Leonard	Installation of disabled WC and kitchen	5,000
Banbury, St. Mary the Virgin	Repairs; conservation; improved access	20,000
Blewbury, St. Michael & All Angels	Replacement of window	2,000
Chesterton, St. Mary	External repointing; rebuild boundary wall	7,500
Childrey, St. Mary	Roof repairs following lead theft	10,000
Chinnor Community Church	Repairs and refurbishment	4,000
Chinnor, St. Andrew	Replacement boiler and pipework	2,500
Combe, St. Laurence	Drainage works/repointing/window repairs	2,500
East Hendred, St. Augustine	Roof repairs	1,000
Elsfield, St. Thomas	Stonework repairs	6,000
Fulbrook, St. James	Restoration of four tombs	5,000
Gt Tew, St. Michael & All Angels	WC, servery, heating; new meeting space	12,000
Hanborough, Ss Peter & Paul	Steeple, chancel and nave repairs	3,750
Hanborough, Ss Peter & Paul	Replacement boiler and pipework	2,000
Horley, St. Etheldreda	Replacement of stolen lead roof with steel	5,000
Hornton, St. John the Baptist	Installation of WC; servery; improvements	12,000
Kingston Lisle, St. John	Installation of pipe organ	4,000
Littlemore, St. Mary & St. Nicholas	Work to tower and chancel; WC & kitchen	11,000
Littleworth, Holy Ascension	Repairs to churchyard wall	8,000
Nether Worton, St. James	Repairs to tower and rainwater goods	18,000
Oxford, St. Frideswide	Rainwater goods	3,000
Oxford, St. Mary Magdalen	Repairs to tower clock	500
Sonning Common, Christ the King	Cladding repairs to exterior	2,000
Shorthampton, All Saints	Replacement of lead roof	12,000
Shrivenham, St. Andrew	Repairs; installation of WC; kitchen; AV	15,000
Wallingford, St. Mary Le More	Repairs to west wall of tower	5,000
West Hanney, St. James	Tomb works/PA system/bells	3,000
Wheatley, United Reformed Church	Repairs to stonework; roof and floor	7,000
Wroxton, All Saints	Roof works and window repairs	10,000
	30 grants	Sub-total 213,750
Roof alarms	7 grants	11,189
	Total new grants:	224,939
	Less cancellations	31,500
	GRAND TOTAL COMMITTED	193,439

RIDE AND STRIDE

As always, on the second Saturday in September, supporters of Ride and Stride took their exercise and raised money through sponsorship by touring churches in the county.

Ride & Stride for 2019 will take place on September 14th. There are many ways in which you can do your bit, and they are all equally important. There are the walkers, cyclists and riders ('riding' has included horse-riding and riding on tractors) – or you might find a new way of using the day to raise funds. Another valuable way of



Cyclists stopping to pose by our new banners

making your contribution is to welcome participants as they visit your church and to offer them a friendly chat, and perhaps something to drink and a biscuit to keep their strength up: have you considered being a Welcomer? It is also important to spread the word and recruit new participants; and of course please be as generous as you can with your sponsorship, and do encourage your friends and acquaintances to become sponsors.

The arrangements for joining in Ride and Stride 2019 will be publicised on our website – www.ohct.org.uk. You'll also find there some new ideas to bring in more participants, and you may have your own ideas for taking part: any variant on visiting churches, raising money to help maintain them, and having some fun in the process



is most welcome. Introducing the younger generations is especially something to aim for. For instance, you might bring the family together across the generations for an enjoyable day out: this family taking a mid-Ride and Stride lunch break was headed by grandparents who have been supporting Ride and Stride in Oxfordshire for the last 33 years.



This year, we were delighted that the Bishop of Oxford, one of the Trust's Patrons, publicised Ride and Stride in the City by leading a group between its churches on a series of walks linked together by riding on the canal and on the Thames in a longboat. He blessed each church, marking the entrance of each as a sign, and he and the group took pleasure in meeting supporters and church-goers on route.

If you would like to know more, please do contact me direct on rideandstrideoxon@ohct.org.uk or visit our website.

Hilary Cakebread Hall

CHURCH TOURS IN 2018

The Trust's tours are designed to promote appreciation of our built heritage – and they are a complete delight. Our thanks go to the members of our Council who planned the events and to the individual tour organisers.

The Spring Tour: Ironstone Churches

David Warr writes:

I ran the Spring Tour twice, on consecutive days, in order to accommodate some 50 people in all. This year we looked at the common building material in the north of the county, namely ironstone. We visited four of the eight churches in the 'Ironstone Benefice'.



St John the Baptist, Hornton is sited close to the source of ironstone in this part of the county and is especially unique with its wonderfully preserved wall paintings.

Left: Hornton: 14th-century wall painting depicting Edward, Prince of Wales and Earl of Woodstock (the Black Prince) in the heroic style of St George. His helmet and moustache resemble details on his tomb in Canterbury. The background is decorated with his emblem (a single ostrich feather) and fleurs-de-lis and the coronet of France.



Above: The tour at Hornton



Our second church was **St Etheldreda, Horley**, the home to one of the best renditions of St Christopher in the country (image: left) keeping watch in the North aisle.

For lunch, we cheated a little by going just out of Oxfordshire to Ratley for one of the best cold buffets available for miles, and then on to **All Saints, Wroxton** with its rich history of famous alumni ranging from the founder of Trinity College Oxford (Sir Thomas Pope) to Lord North (who lost the American colonies). Here we saw the beautiful tomb of Sir William Pope, Thomas's nephew, and his wife.

Finally, we visited **St Peter, Hanwell** with its wonderful figures jostling for position on the Nave arcade and the stunning external Chancel friezes (photographs below and in From the Chair).



The churches at Horley, Horton and Wroxton all received grants from the Trust this year: ironstone is very friable and needs constant attention. In all the churches, we were welcomed and given guided tours by parishioners.

All Saints, Wroxton: tomb of Sir William Pope, Earl of Downe, and his wife, Lady Anne (17th-century).



Below: Two armed men and a hare: the chancel frieze of St Peter's, Hanwell.

Tour of stained glass in Oxford Colleges



Following last year's sell-out event, this was a second opportunity to hear Dr Sarah Brown, Director of the York Glaziers Trust, explain some of the painted glass in Oxford and speak on how the glass degrades over time and how it can be conserved and protected for the future. This is an area where she is a leading expert. Our group of 45 people started in New College and then moved to Wadham, where Dr Browne gave her illustrated talk. We enjoyed a buffet lunch in Wadham's 400-year old Hall, after which she showed us the glass in Wadham and Balliol chapels. During the day, we thus saw some fine glass for the most part in chronological order of its manufacture.

Wadham College Chapel: detail from the East window (Bernard van Ling 1622)

August evening church visit

Our evening outing, arranged as ever by our Membership Secretary, was to the 12th-century church of St Laurence at Appleton. After a welcoming drink, we were treated to a talk by the well known English landscape historian and archaeologist, Trevor Rowley, followed by a talk on the history of the Whites and their connections with the church given by one of their descendants five generations on, Roger Mitty. The evening was rounded off, following tradition, with a local pub supper.



St Laurence, Appleton



12th-century carved capitals

Walking tour of domestic architecture in Dorchester



The final tour of 2018 was postponed and took place in April 2019. A group of 15 were led by one of our Trustees, Professor Malcolm Airs, a leading architectural historian who lives in Dorchester. He gave us an overview of local history from before Roman times to the present and taught us to look with a new eye at the outside of houses and see the clues showing how they have been remodelled over the years – a most stimulating (if somewhat chilly) afternoon.

OHCT LECTURES

The Wolfson Lecture 2018

Professor Nigel Saul, Emeritus Professor of Mediaeval History at Royal Holloway College, gave a thoughtful historical lecture entitled *The Endless Joy of Variety: Social and Geographical Difference in the English Medieval Parish Church*. Illustrating his argument with slides of local churches, he showed how their development reflected geological, economic and social factors. Afterwards, we had time for discussion and a glass of wine overlooking the Cherwell.

The Blenheim Lecture 2018

The Blenheim Lecture was packed to capacity in October to hear A. N. Wilson, acclaimed author and biographer of Queen Victoria, speak on common misconceptions about her relationship with Prince Albert and her work as monarch. The reception and buffet beforehand in the Orangery were a great success. As always, we are indebted to His Grace, the Duke of Marlborough, for generously extending to us the facilities at Blenheim.

Left: Victoria in Holy Trinity, Over Worton



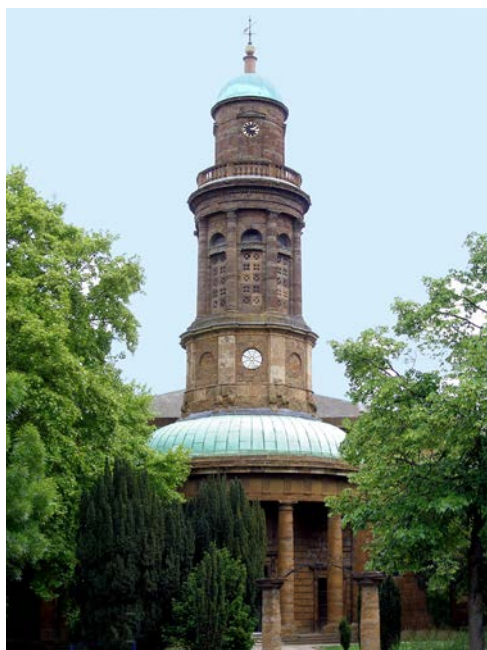
MORE ON SOME OF THIS YEAR'S GRANTS

BANBURY, St Mary the Virgin (Grade I listed)

This late Georgian building was consecrated in 1797, its predecessor having collapsed. It was designed by S. P. Cockerill on a square plan, with a dome resting on twelve pillars. The east end was rebuilt in the 19th century and richly decorated. The friable ironstone has needed, and continues to need, extensive attention.

Awarded £20,000 towards repairs, conservation and improved access.

*(Photograph - courtesy of John Ward
www.oxfordshirechurches.com)*



HORNTON, St John the Baptist (Grade I listed)

This church, dating from the 12th century with changes and additions up to the 15th, is particularly notable from the outside for the rich colour of its ironstone. Inside, there are many treasures, including 12th-century wall paintings of the crucifixion, a Pieta, a Last Judgement, and a painting of the Black Prince (photograph: see The Spring Tour). It also has a large finely decorated 12th-century stone font.



Awarded £12,000 towards a servery, WC and other improvements.



NETHER WORTON, St James (Grade II*)

This delightful little 14th-century church, with a tower dating from 1630, has a fine panelled sanctuary, and 17th-century barley-twist communion rails and chancel balustrade.

Awarded £18,000 for tower repairs and rainwater goods.



WHEATLEY United Reformed Church

As shown in the photograph, this church has a significant project underway with new building. The chapel was originally made by converting a tanning barn in the 1840s, and a school room (now church hall) was added in the 1890s.

Awarded £7,000 for repairs to the stonework, roof and floor of the 19th-century building.

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 (see www.ohct.org.uk for details) who 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.

The application form is short and simple and may be completed and submitted online.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Gross revenue this year decreased from £288,674 to £259,722, principally due to a drop in our main annual fundraising event, Ride and Stride. Expenditure decreased from £305,874 to £271,970, giving a net operating deficit of £12,248. In 2017-18, the deficit against income had been £17,200; but, since £22,818 was available from the Roof Fund for alarm grants, the overall outcome became a surplus in the General Fund of £5,617.

Our single most important source of income is the annual sponsored Ride and Stride which raised £99,013 versus £118,782 in 2017-2018. We believe that much of this unfortunate decrease was attributable to technical problems with our supplier for online giving, and this has been addressed for 2019.

We continue to receive generous grants towards our current programme from a number of charitable foundations as well as donations from individuals, and we are still receiving contributions promised to the Heritage Fund, with receipts this year of £68,039 (2018: £118,595).

Our investment income, at £88,329, shows just a small drop due to the timing of dividend payments and investment management charges. Our portfolio, worth £1,868,996 at year end (2018 £1,893,275), is held in tax-efficient funds for charities managed by M&G, Cazenove, and Savills (the last a property fund). These are long-term holdings yielding 4.7% (2018: 4.8%). Our cash holdings rose significantly during the year, and some will now be invested for additional income.

The drop in expenditure was due to a cancellation of some grants (largely through delays in churches' ability to carry out their programmes) and to the overall reduction in Ride and Stride income resulting in less being passed to parishes as their share.

As anticipated in last year's report, administrative costs during the year fell from £27,464 to £21,682 as the one-off costs incurred in 2017/18 for the set-up of our database and improvements to our website have fallen away.

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 owe thanks to Martin Trowell and to Angus Saer who have stood down after sterling service on our Finance Committee, Martin having contributed to OHCT in many capacities over the years. We are pleased to welcome to the committee James Macnamara and Bruce Crawford, both of whom bring considerable financial experience in the charity sector.

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

Giles Dessain FCA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Year to:	March 31st 2018	March 31st 2019
		£	£
REVENUE			
Stride		118,782	99,013
Subscriptions & Donations		23,253	33,598
Trusts		52,500	37,775
Roof Appeal		0	0
Investment Income		91,727	88,329
Events and miscellaneous sales		2,412	1,007
		<u>288,674</u>	<u>259,722</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Grants awarded (net)		217,049	193,439
Parish share of Stride revenue		49,034	42,427
Stride administration		12,327	14,421
Administration		27,464	21,682
		<u>305,874</u>	<u>271,970</u>
Credit from the Roof Fund for alarm grants		(22,818)	0
General Fund net income/(expenditure)		<u>5,617</u>	<u>(12,248)</u>
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS: GAIN/(LOSS)			
General Fund		5,617	(12,248)
Heritage Fund		118,595	68,039
Roof Fund: Cleared to General Fund for alarm grants		(22,818)	0
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments, General Fund		4,364	(6,185)
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments, Heritage Fund		(16,032)	(18,094)
Overall net Movement in Funds		<u>89,726</u>	<u>31,512</u>
BALANCE SHEET			
Investments		1,893,275	1,868,996
Current Assets:			
Bank Accounts		377,147	450,849
Gift Aid recoverable		17,886	1,323
		<u>395,033</u>	<u>452,171</u>
Less Current Liabilities:			
Grants still to be paid		284,430	283,000
Accrued expenses		3,154	5,932
		<u>287,584</u>	<u>288,932</u>
Net Assets		<u>2,000,724</u>	<u>2,032,235</u>
Comprising:			
General Fund Starting balance		1,002,039	1,012,020
Net General fund income/(expenditure)		5,617	(12,248)
Unrealised gain/(loss) on GF investments		4,364	(6,185)
Total General Fund		<u>1,012,020</u>	<u>993,588</u>
Heritage Fund Starting balance		886,141	988,704
Income to Heritage Fund		118,595	68,039
Expenditure from Heritage Fund		0	0
Unrealised gain/(loss) on HF investments		(16,032)	(18,094)
Total Heritage Fund		<u>988,704</u>	<u>1,038,648</u>
		<u>2,000,724</u>	<u>2,032,235</u>



St Mary's, Bloxham

[Front cover: St Mary the Virgin, Ewelme]

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 tours, 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.

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