



## Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

*Supporting Oxfordshire's Churches since 1964*

From the Chair  
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Dear Members

### **The pandemic and OHCT activities: update June 2020**

We are fortunate to have enjoyed some glorious weather this May, and the countryside and our gardens are a joy. We are, alas, only too aware that the pandemic is not yet over, and it will still be some time before we are able to return to our normal routine. In this context, I am writing about changes to our plans for the Trust's Members' Activities.

#### *Summer Events*

I am sure that you will understand that we cannot go ahead with our events in early July: this is most unfortunate, but we simply cannot expect to be able to bring large numbers of people together from across the county for a meeting indoors. Diarmaid MacCulloch's Wolfson Lecture has been rearranged for July 4<sup>th</sup> 2021; and we shall delay our Annual Meeting which was to have taken place at Broughton Castle. We need a business meeting for all members each year, and my intention is to arrange for something relatively simple in the Autumn. Then we can look forward to visiting Broughton next year.

I have prepared our Annual Review for printing, and I'll send that round a little later than usual, by when I hope to have clearer information for you about the rest of the year. As you'll see when you read the Review, the Trust has had an exceptionally good year in which we gave a record amount in grants to our churches. That was only possible through the support of our Members, and so I should like to thank you all for your generosity and enthusiasm.

#### *Ride and Stride: September 12th*

Last September, our loyal Ride and Striders raised £112,000 – up 13% on 2018, and it is important for our work that we continue to aim high in this annual fundraiser. Since Ride and Stride is essentially an outdoor activity, we fully expect that it will go ahead, though most probably in a simplified way. We shall send out our publicity later than usual to reflect the changes to the administration and procedures, but all those who can take part should please mark the date now and keep it free. Ride and Stride will bring some welcome variety amidst what may remain of the pandemic restrictions.

### *Events for this Autumn*

We should like to be able to have our usual August evening out to a church and pub in August, and we are hoping that that will become possible as the 'lockdown' is relaxed. Likewise, David Warr is planning a day in Chalgrove to visit both St Mary's and the Manor on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Simon Bradley's Blenheim Lecture on his revision of Pevsner is still scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>, though we have to wait to hear from the Palace as to what will be possible. Please keep these dates in your diaries, and I'll write again nearer the time.

If you have received this letter by post, that means that we don't have a working email address for you. If you use email, do please send an email to [data@ohct.org.uk](mailto:data@ohct.org.uk), and Eluned Hallas will update our records. That will allow us to send you information with least delay and it will reduce the Trust's postal expenses.

### *In Memoriam*

It is my sad task to note the passing in March of a long-standing member, an energetic and generous supporter of the Trust, Simon Haviland. He will have been known to many of you as our Membership Secretary (Holly Kilpatrick's predecessor in that role), and he was crucial to the production of Becky Payne's book *Churches for Communities*, whose relevance has again come to the fore with publication of the Taylor Report on the Sustainability of Churches. Simon was a stalwart supporter of Ride + Stride, including flying the flag for it in the wonderfully named *Stonesfield Slate*. He will be remembered with affection and with gratitude for his wise counsel and many contributions to the work of the Trust.

### *And to close:*

I do very much hope that we shall be able to go ahead with our Autumn Events – it is always a pleasure for us to meet one another and indulge our shared love of the art and architecture of our churches. Meanwhile, do take care to avoid the virus – with my very best wishes

