



Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Supporting Oxfordshire's Churches since 1964

ANNUAL REVIEW 2020

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 OBE FSA FRHS Gillian Argyle (to Feb. 19th, 2020) Hilary Cakebread Hall (Vice-Chair of the Trust & County Organiser for Ride and Stride) Dr Nicola Coldstream (from May 12th, 2020) Giles Dessain (Treasurer) Richard Hughes (Secretary) Dr Stephen Goss (Chair) Cynthia Robinson (Grants Officer) Jonathan Scheele (to Feb. 19th, 2020) Stephen Slack (from May 12th, 2020) 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 to 31.3.2020) Beverley Bhaskare (Ride and Stride Administrator from 1.4.2020) David Warr (Visits Coordinator)
Website	www.ohct.org.uk
Registered address	4 Haslemere Gardens, Oxford, OX2 8EL
Email	secretary@ohct.org.uk

FROM THE CHAIR

The year 2019-20 has been remarkable with a higher than ever demand for support from the Trust. The total cost of the work that churches were seeking to undertake was unusually high, with eight projects costed at over £200k as compared with just two in each of the two preceding years. The Trust is indebted to Cynthia Robinson, our Grants Officer and to our Area Representatives who help churches to submit appropriate applications and whose contributions to our decision-making are essential.

In all, the Trust awarded a total of £256,974; comprising £230,500 in grants for general purposes (minor works, restoration, and modernisation of facilities) and, with welcome help from the Allchurches Trust, £26,474 for roof alarms to guard against lead theft, these amounts all being increased over the previous year. Fortunately, our income too increased this year, and I should like to thank all our donors.



Wallingford, St Mary Le More

Major project

Extensive structural repairs were needed to make the tower safe. The work, which was complicated, took place over some two years and finished in November 2019.

OHCT contributed a total of £20,000.

As well as many individuals, a number of charitable trusts made donations including the Doris Field Charitable Trust, St Michael and All Saints Charities, John Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust, J A Pye Settlement, Schuster Charitable Trust, and the Adrian Swire Charitable Trust. In addition, the Allchurches Trust has set up a special fund with us which has covered over half the cost of our roof alarm grants this year. Given the level of applications this year, the Trustees made some call on our reserves. This has emphasized the need for us to maximise our income and to keep costs to a minimum. To that end, we continue to rely heavily on volunteers and have no paid staff. A list of this year's grants follows this article.

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. Unless you say otherwise, legacies are held in our Heritage Fund and contribute investment



Misericord: Swinbrook, St Mary

income for use on grants. Whilst every donation matters, one extremely generous legacy must be mentioned here: we are to receive approximately £2m in the 2020-2021 year from the estate of the late Dr. David Booth. He had long been a regular and generous supporter of our work. Words cannot adequately express our gratitude, and we shall look for a lasting way of remembering him.

I am very glad to say that revenue from Ride & Stride bounced back this year to £112,234 (£99,013 in 2018-19). Of this revenue, £47,519 was passed directly to churches nominated by participants - this over and above our programme of grants. All those who took part in Ride and Stride and their sponsors deserve our very special thanks as does our coordinator, Hilary CakebreadHall, who was tireless in finding new ways to promote the event. A new and efficient provider for online giving also made a difference, as did the excellent weather on the day! Jeanette Thomas stood down as Administrator at the end of March, and Hilary CakebreadHall has rightly written a grateful acknowledgment in 'Ride & Stride' below.

We had a successful and most enjoyable year of events (see pages 8-11), the last of which - at Abingdon Baptist Church - just 'got under the wire' before the pandemic.

Sadly, this is the last year in which Bishop Colin will be our President as he will be retiring in the Autumn. He has given the Trust tremendous support over the years, and we offer him our sincere thanks and our very best wishes for the future.

This year saw Robin Harland stand down from our Development Committee after many years sterling work. We are especially indebted to him for his energetic work both during and after the Jubilee Appeal which gave birth to our Heritage Fund. Finally, our special thanks go to Gillian Argyle and Jonathan Scheele whose term as Trustees came to an end in February 2020: I am delighted to say that they are continuing to help the Trust by moving to positions on Council. In May 2020, we welcomed two new Trustees, Dr Nicola Coldstream, an expert on medieval buildings, and Stephen Slack, until recently Chief Legal Advisor to the Archbishops' Council and General Synod.

Stephen Goss

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2018-2019

		£
Ashbury, St Mary	WC/kitchenette; drainage	5,000
Begbroke, St Michael	WC/kitchenette; QQ repairs	8,000
Bix, St James	Extension for WC/kitchen/community hub	20,000
Broadwell, Ss. Peter and Paul	WC/kitchen; stonework repairs	10,000
Chadlington, St Nicholas	Tower stabilisation	3,000
Charlbury Methodist Church	Restoration/repair of windows	5,000
Charlbury St Mary the Virgin	Re-roofing and roof cleaning	10,000
Childrey, St Mary the Virgin	Overhaul of organ	5,000
Chinnor, Community Church	Roof repairs	3,000
Chinnor, St Andrew	Repairs to stonework	10,000
Chipping Norton Methodist	Stonework/rainwater goods	1,500
Cogges, St Mary	Urgent roof and stonework repairs	12,000
Cuddesdon, All Saints	Replacement of roof	7,000
Denchworth, St James	Replastering and repainting	4,000
Dry Sandford, St Helen	Stabilisation: Re-roofing	20,000
Goring, Our Lady & St John (RC)	Extension; WC and kitchen	20,000
Horton cum Studley, St Barnabas	Rainwater goods; repointing	3,000
Ipsden, St Mary	WC/wheelchair access drainage	5,000
Longcot, St Mary the Virgin	Creation of community space	20,000
Long Wittenham, St Mary	Repair/retune/rehang bells	4,000
Old Marston, St Nicholas	Improvements: re-ordering	10,000
Spelsbury, All Saints	Major roof repairs	20,000
Sutton Courtenay, All Saints	Extension for WC/kitchen	5,000
Swerford, St Mary	Repairs: floor works and drainage	20,000
	24 grants	Sub-total
		230,500
Roof alarms	12 grants	26,474
		Total new grants
		256,974
		Less cancellations
		3,500
	GRAND TOTAL COMMITTED	253,474

RIDE AND STRIDE

For the first time for some years, Ride & Stride Day was sunny – but not too warm or too windy – in fact perfect cycling and walking weather. As I visited around 25 churches in one part of our county there was a buzz about the ‘day’. Many churches set up their Welcome Desk outside their church, in some instances on the pavement thus using the opportunity to tell curious passers by why they were there and what was happening. An additional ‘by product’ resulted in a few purses and trouser pockets being emptied and donations made to the coffers.

I am delighted to report that just over £112,000 was raised this year and over £47,000 was passed on to churches nominated by participants. The Trust was also very grateful to those who choose to donate their entire sponsorship to our Grant making programme.



For the first time a national launch was held for Ride & Stride which we were delighted to host. Members of the clergy from 13 counties joined us in a school playground to learn the art of riding a penny-farthing – and crazy though this may sound, it gained significant interest from national press including radio and television as well as newspapers. OHCT continued to maximise the opportunity this created in the run up to the ‘Stride’.



We would like to thank every single participant, however they choose to get involved, and it is particularly heart-warming to hear of people who have taken part for many years. We are committed to ensuring the on-going success of Ride & Stride: thank you to the team at Charlbury who are running a marvellous children’s ride between local churches – heavily marshalled (!) and in conjunction with the Windrush Bike Project. An innovative group of horse riders in Witney got



together, and, as the photo shows, they involved both the smallest to largest horses (with appropriately sized riders).

Finally and as many will know, our Administrator, Jeanette Thomas has retired from her post – with the intent of spending more time with her recently retired husband, Steve – and in particular to do more traveling – but as I write this in our 5th week of Lockdown, that sadly is on hold. Our very best wishes go to both of them, with thanks to Jeanette for many years of dedicated work ensuring the smooth running of Ride & Stride.

We are delighted to welcome Beverley Bhaskare to the post. Beverley worked at the University of Oxford for many years before a period living in South Africa with her family. She has recently returned to the UK and now lives in Oxford. Beverley lists walking and historic churches amongst her interests so is obviously going to be well suited to the role!

Hilary Cakebread Hall

OHCT EVENTS IN 2019

THE SPRING TOUR: IRONSTONE CHURCHES

David Warr writes:

As usual, I repeated the Spring Tour on consecutive days. Although the churches are well known, there was a good turn out of people who enjoyed re-visiting (or, for some, visiting for the first time) the glorious collection of little churches nestling against the beautiful River Windrush between Witney and Burford.



St Mary, Swinbrook



Memorial to William Fettiplace d. 1562

We began at St Mary, Swinbrook with its collection of extraordinary Fettiplace memorials, two triple-decked memorials for six Fettiplaces stretching from the time of Henry VII to Queen Anne.

The chancel boasts five medieval choir stalls, possibly brought from Burford Priory (photograph top of page 4).

We had the good fortune of being told a number of charming anecdotes by Clendon Daukes, a local parishioner. One of these centred on the blowing out of the East window by a WWII German bomb. The fragments were collected by the vicar William Boyd and incorporated in a small window in the South aisle.



The second visit took us to St Nicholas, Asthall just to the west of Witney. We were reminded that the Manor House behind the Church was the birthplace of Deborah (the youngest of the Mitford sisters, later to become the Duchess of Devonshire and now buried at Chatsworth - Swinbrook likewise has links with the Mitfords). An earlier occupant of the Manor House was Lady Joan Cornwall married to Sir Richard Cornwall: her effigy lies under a splendid 14th century canopy in the North transept. An intriguing verge and pendulum clock mechanism survives in the North aisle.

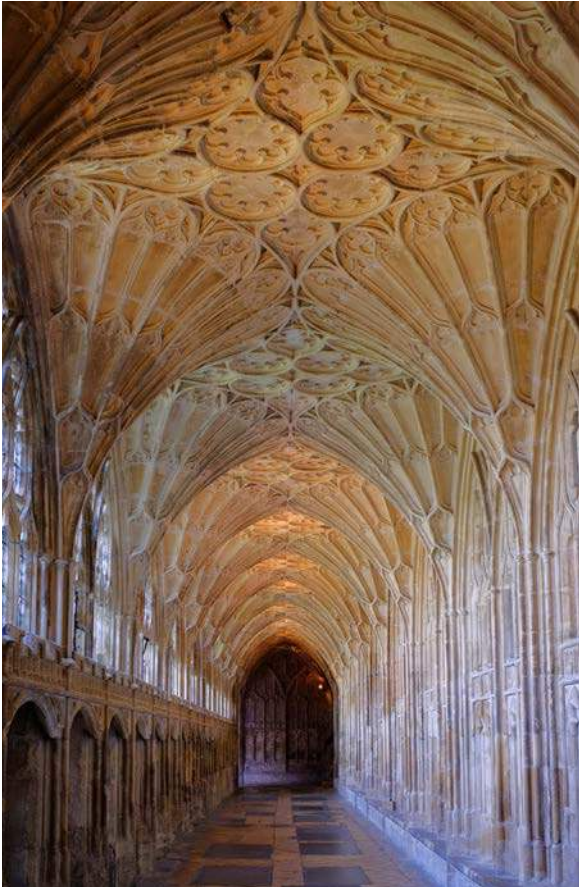


After a hearty pub-lunch, we moved on to the church of St Oswald, a little gem standing isolated in a meadow north of the river near the village of Widford. Built over a Roman building, whose mosaic floor remains under the paving of the Chancel, it houses a number of medieval wall paintings including the 'Living and Dead Kings' shown here.

From Widford, the Spring Tour concluded at St John the Evangelist at Taynton. This beautiful late perpendicular building displays the abundance of skills available as a result of Taynton's quarry and stonemasons' skills. Despite its distance from London, Taynton provided not only stone but also a master mason to Sir Christopher Wren for many London churches including St Paul's.



TOUR OF GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL



Dr Nicola Coldstream, architectural historian and now a Trustee of OHCT, conducted a fascinating tour of Gloucester Cathedral in June. Despite the wet weather, we began with an explanation of the early cathedral structure at the east end which was followed by a careful demonstration of how the Norman arch choir had had applied to it a new set of perpendicular clothes. Both styles are clearly visible and are an eloquent example of how a plain building over time acquired a layer of decoration unsurpassed in Gothic architecture.

The tour included the extraordinary feats of stone engineering to counteract the load of the tower (huge embedded flying buttresses) and the support of the vaulted ceiling over the crossing (flying arches). We looked at the 14th-century stained glass in the huge east window, and the smaller windows in the newly restored

Lady Chapel that commemorate local composers Herbert Howells, Gerald Finzi and Ivor Gurney. Before the tour concluded with cream tea in the Laud Room, we were able to examine in detail the tomb of Edward II and the magnificent late 14th-C cloister (shown here).

THE WOLFSON LECTURE 2019

In July, our annual lecture at Wolfson College was given by Oliver Everett, CVO, Librarian Emeritus of the Royal Library at Windsor. His excellent illustrated talk showed how the Royal Collection of art had grown over the years under the succession of monarchs, and he described how the Queen entertains visiting heads of state with items carefully selected for their relevance. After the talk, which had been attended by some 60 people, we moved for drinks and conversation to the college lawns overlooking the Cherwell.

AUGUST EVENING CHURCH VISIT



We are grateful, as ever, to our Membership Secretary, Holly Kilpatrick, for arranging our evening outing in August to the late 12th-century church of St John the Baptist at Kingston Lisle. The building had been beautifully restored inside and out with help from OHCT (as was the organ, which was dedicated only late in March). After visiting the church, following tradition, the group moved to “The Blowing Stone” for supper.

St John the Baptist, Kingston Lisle

Note the fine woodwork: the Jacobean screen and pulpit, and 15th-C bench-ends. The wall paintings in the jambs of the east window are just visible in this photograph.

THE BLENHEIM LECTURE 2019

After gathering in the Orangery at the Palace for a reception and buffet, we were given a stimulating talk by John Simpson, renowned journalist and World Affairs Editor for BBC News. He reflected from his long experience on the series of political social changes that have taken place in China and on its meteoric rise in international significance. We are once again indebted to His Grace, the Duke of Marlborough, for generously extending to us the facilities at Blenheim.

GUIDANCE FOR THOSE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS

In September, with the Oxford Diocese and Dorchester Abbey, OHCT ran an all-day Forum in the Abbey with local and national speakers giving talks and running workshops on the Sustainability of English Churches (the subject of the recent ‘Taylor Report’). Some sixty people attended from across the county and diocese.

In March 2020, the Trust ran one of its evening ‘Roadshows’ for 30 participants to provide guidance on how to approach projects, both major and minor, in churches: how to get the necessary permissions, how to plan and run a project, and potential sources of funds. We are grateful to Abingdon Baptist Church for providing the venue, a splendid building whose major restoration was recently completed with OHCT support.

SOME OF THIS YEAR'S GRANTS

SWERFORD, ST MARY



(Grade II* listed)

This church dates from the late 13th-century, the north aisle having been added in 1846. It is built on steeply sloping land and needs extensive repairs including to the floor.

Awarded £20,000 towards repairs

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

OLD MARSTON, ST NICHOLAS



(Grade I listed)

This church not unusually has Early English work incorporating the original Norman. Less usual is the 16th-century south aisle which was interposed behind the south door of ca 1300.

Awarded £10,000 towards improved accessibility, heating, power and lighting

CUDDESDON, ALL SAINTS



(Grade I listed)

All Saints belonged to Abingdon Abbey and dates from the 12th-century. The bells have been rehung, which required extensive engineering works and which was supported with an OHCT grant made in 2016. This year, the roof needed urgent repairs.

Awarded £7,000 towards roof repairs

(Photograph – Robert Wilson)

GORING, OUR LADY AND ST JOHN, ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



This church was built by William Ravenscroft in 1898.

The plan is to extend the building to accommodate a kitchen and WC.

Awarded £20,000 for improvements to facilities

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

DRY SANDFORD, ST HELEN



(Grade II listed)

This church was built in 1855 by J. B. Clacy in Early English style in limestone with buff ashlar dressings. Serious structural problems have meant it has had to be closed for the time being. Repairs are planned and fundraising has started.

Awarded £20,000 as seed-funding for repairs

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

This year's total revenue was £361,072 compared with £327,760 last year, a 10% increase, achieved through a successful Ride and Stride fund raising event as well as increased investment income. Ride and Stride, our largest source of income for regular expenditure, raised £112,234 compared with £99,013 in 2018-19 as we recovered from technical issues relating to online giving last year. Other sources of revenue include generous gifts from a number of charitable foundations to be spent directly on our grants, as well as donations from individuals for our Heritage Fund to serve as a reserve to add to our investment income. That fund is the result of our Jubilee Appeal which, though now closed, still brought in £45,466 during the year in gifts and legacies.

Expenditure, at £334,279, shows an increase of £62,310, up 23% over the previous year, largely driven by our spend on grants to churches. We spent £253,474 on grants, an increase of £60,035 (31%) on the previous year. This was made possible firstly by the decision of the Trustees to dip into reserves to meet the strong surge in requests for grants in the first quarter of 2020 and secondly by a £30,000 grant from the Allchurches Trust to support our campaign to install roof alarms on Churches with lead roofs.

Over last summer we invested in our portfolio £202,000 which had been held as cash but was excess to our liabilities. Our investment income grew by 14% to £101,009, but our portfolio has suffered from the effects of the Coronavirus on stock market values, showing a drop over the year of £243,729, a 12% decline. Our portfolio, worth £1,827,267 at year end (2019 £1,868,996) is held in charity specific funds: managed by M&G, CCLA, Cazenove and Savills (for the property fund). These are long term holdings yielding 5.5% (2019 4.7%).

Historically our administration costs have been extremely low. We intend that they should remain modest and that our improved IT infrastructure enables us to remain essentially an all-volunteer organisation.

The accompanying summary of accounts is currently being independently examined. The full set of Statutory Accounts, including the Statutory Annual Report, will be available on both our own and the Charity Commission's websites.

Giles Dessain FCA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Year to:	March 31 2020	March 31st 2019
REVENUE			
Ride & Stride		99,013	112,234
Subscriptions & Donations		33,598	23,644
Trusts		37,775	47,650
Investment Income		88,329	101,009
Events and miscellaneous sales		1,007	1,069
General Fund Income (sub-total)		<u>259,722</u>	<u>285,605</u>
Heritage Fund income		68,039	45,466
ACT Roof Alarm Fund Income		0	30,000
Total Revenue		<u>327,760</u>	<u>361,072</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Grants awarded (net & excluding ACT Roof Grants)		193,439	241,474
Parish share of Stride revenue		42,427	47,519
Stride administration		14,421	12,457
Administration		21,682	20,829
General Fund Expenditure (sub-total)		<u>271,970</u>	<u>322,279</u>
Heritage Fund Expenditure		0	0
ACT Roof Alarm Fund Expenditure			12,000
Total Expenditure		<u>271,970</u>	<u>334,279</u>
MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS			
Net income/(expenditure)		55,791	26,792
Gains (losses) on investments		(24,279)	(243,729)
Overall Movement in Funds		<u>31,512</u>	<u>(216,937)</u>
BALANCE SHEET			
Investments		1,868,996	1,827,267
Current assets:-			
Bank Accounts		450,849	293,806
Gift Aid recoverable /Prepayments		1,323	2,394
(sub-total)		<u>452,171</u>	<u>296,200</u>
Less current liabilities:-			
Grants still to be paid		283,000	302,868
Accrued expenses		5,932	5,300
(sub-total)		<u>288,932</u>	<u>308,168</u>
Net assets		<u>2,032,235</u>	<u>1,815,299</u>
Comprising:-			
Starting balance		2,000,724	2,032,235
Net income/(expenditure) for the period		55,791	26,792
Gains/(losses) on investments		(24,279)	(243,729)
Net assets		<u>2,032,235</u>	<u>1,815,299</u>
Movement in investments			
Starting balance		1,893,275	1,868,996
Transfers of cash		0	202,000
Gains/(losses) on investments		(24,279)	(243,729)
Closing balance invested		<u>1,868,996</u>	<u>1,827,267</u>



Tomb of Sir Robert Harcourt (died ca 1471): Stanton Harcourt, St Michael

[Front cover: Checkendon, St Peter & St Paul]

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.

FREETHS
SOLICITORS