



Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Supporting Oxfordshire's Churches since 1964



ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

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

THE OXFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Charity Number 1168567

Patrons	Sir Tim Stevenson KCVO, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford Sir Hugo Brunner KCVO The Rt Revd Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester from 14.4.2021 Bernard Taylor DL
President	The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher OBE, Bishop of Dorchester to 30.9.2020 Sir Hugo Brunner KCVO (from 1.10.2020)
Trustees	Prof. Malcolm Airs OBE FSA FRHS Hilary Cakebread Hall (Vice-Chair of the Trust & County Organiser for Ride and Stride) Dr Nicola Coldstream FSA (from 12.5.2020) Giles Dessain FCA (Treasurer) Dr Stephen Goss (Chair) Richard Hughes (Secretary) Cynthia Robinson (Grants Officer) Michael Sibly Stephen Slack CBE (from 12.5.2020)
Other officers	Gillian Coates (Website Editor) Basil Eastwood CMG (Development Officer) Clare Fox (Events Administrator) Eluned Hallas (Data Manager) Holly Kilpatrick (Membership Secretary to 31.3.2021) Phoebe Hart (Membership Secretary from 1.4.2021) The Ven David Meara (Lectures Coordinator) David Warr (Visits Coordinator) Beverly Bhaskare (Ride and Stride Administrator to 31.12.2020)
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FROM THE CHAIR

As I write this in May, all we can do is hope and pray that the end of the worst aspects of the pandemic is in sight. Just as this has been a difficult and sometimes distressing time for us on a personal level, so it has created considerable difficulties for our churches and for the work of the Trust in supporting them. More of that anon, but, to start with the good news: our work has continued apace, and we have made another leap in our level of grant-giving.

In 2020-2021, the Trust awarded a total of £295,575 in grants (up from £256,974 in 2019-2020). This included a little over £4,325 for roof alarms from the special fund provided by the Allchurches Trust - less than last year, but applications were down, doubtless an effect of Covid. We were able to raise our grants budget to £300,000 in the expectation that the very considerable legacy from Dr David Booth would be transferred to us during the year: this is now in our Heritage Fund where it will produce additional income for us to use. To remember his generosity, we have decided to designate one or two major grants each year as David Booth Grants, and the first of these was made to St Michael and All Angels, Clifton Hampden.



Clifton Hampden, St Michael & All Angels (Grade II* listed)

St Michael and All Angels, originally 13th century, was rebuilt in 1843 by George Gilbert Scott. It is on a prominent site overlooking a meadow by the Thames, and it boasts a fine Victorian chancel. It was re-roofed this year with Cotswold stone slates, and repairs were made to cracked stonework.

Awarded our first David Booth Grant: £22,000

It is a pleasure to thank our members for their ongoing financial support and also our other donors who, in the year to March 2021, included the following charitable trusts: the Doris Field Trust, the C L Lloyd Trust, Lord Phillimore's Trust, the Schuster Trust, the Adrian Swire Trust, and the Kilroot Foundation. We continue to receive legacies for our Heritage Fund. 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.

During the year, we changed our grants policy to make it more generous: for smaller projects (costed at less than £30,000), we now give up to 20% of costs instead of 15%;

and for major projects we give up to 15% capped at £25,000 (provided our funds permit) instead of £20,000. The listing on pages 6-7 shows a high demand once again for major projects – such that, unfortunately, we have not yet managed to fund any grant at the new maximum. As always, we strive to keep our costs to a minimum. We rely heavily on volunteers to serve on our committees, to help raise funds, and to help churches with their applications and subsequently to decide on grants. The last tasks fall to the Area Representatives on Council, to whom we owe special thanks: this year, they had to deal with restrictions due to Covid on travel and meetings, but they nonetheless found a way to do all that was needed.

As I have said, Covid brought problems for our churches. Many lost a significant amount of income - in particular revenue from letting their space. Not surprisingly, more churches than usual were unable to start their planned works, with the result that £56,000 in grants from previous years were not taken up. We must look to help these churches in future years. We can only expect a continuing upward pressure on our grant-giving capacity.

Sutton Courtenay, All Saints (Grade I listed)

A refurbishment and extension created new office space and a fully serviced hall for a wide range of uses by the parish. Opened in 2020.

See their participation in Ride and Stride on page 8.

*OHCT contributed a total of £15,000
(Grant offer made in 2015-16)*



In the midst of a sorry story, it was a huge relief to see that Ride and Stride was as successful as ever. Praise and thanks are owed to our Ride and Stride Organiser, Hilary Cakebread Hall, and her helpers, and to all who took part or who sponsored participants. Ride and Stride brought in £108,233. On page 10, our Treasurer has taken a long view of our income and grant giving over the years. Ride and Stride was a great success from the outset, when the money it raised provided the greater part of our total in grants. Since that time, with help from other sources, we have greatly increased our grants, but it is a remarkable achievement that, for 35 years, Ride and Stride has very nearly kept pace with inflation and remains our chief recurrent source of income.

Our events in 2020 were postponed for Covid: we are hoping for better fortune in 2021.

Our Annual Meeting in September (conducted by Zoom) saw Bishop Colin stand down as President as he retired as Bishop of Dorchester. With Simon Haviland

and Charles Baker, he had laid the plan for Becky Payne's book 'Churches for Communities'. We thanked him for his support over many years, not least as a Ride and Strider. He is staying close by and will be keeping in touch. His successor, Gavin Collins, has kindly agreed to become a Patron – he, too, is keen to Ride and Stride.

At that same meeting, we remembered Simon Haviland, who had died the previous March, and Robin Cotton who had died in August. Robin had been Chairman and then President of the Trust, and was responsible for introducing Ride and Stride to Oxfordshire after he had seen it in Norfolk. Simon, another distinguished servant of the Trust had been an 'Area Rep' and our Membership Secretary. He was followed in the latter role by Holly Kilpatrick, and she has just stepped down having done a splendid job. My heartfelt thanks go to her, and I know that you will be glad that she is again planning an August evening visit for us to a church (and a pub!). Phoebe Hart has kindly taken over as our new Membership Secretary and is looking forward to getting to know our Members.

I note with sadness the death this April of Christopher Walton. He was twice Chairman of the Trust (following on from Robin Cotton), then he became President. He was 'Father' of the Wolfson Lectures, and he was awarded the MBE for all this in 2011. As a newcomer to the Trust, I was impressed that, at a great age in recent years, he still took an active part in our meetings: his boundless goodwill was a huge encouragement.

Finally, as I sign off the proofs, it is a pleasure to record that our Patron, Tim Stevenson has been newly appointed a KCVO in the Queen's Birthday Honours as he prepares to step down as Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire. He is a strong supporter of the Trust and an enthusiastic source of assistance to the Trustees.



**Mixbury, All Saints
(Grade II listed)**

A Gd II listed church,
with a fine zig-zag carved
12C south doorway,
needed pinning to
strengthen the East
wall, repairs to the East
window and tower,
and improvements to
drainage.*

Grant awarded: £20,000

Stephen Goss

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2020-2021



16/17th-century carving in the screen, All Saints, Wroxton

		£
Abingdon, St. Helen	Roof repairs and heating work	5,000
Abingdon, St. Nicholas	Tower repairs	7,000
Aston Rowant, SS Peter & Paul	Repairs to windows and buttresses	7,000
Binsey, St. Margaret	Masonry and associated works	6,000
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, St. Agatha	Repair and renewal of gullies	3,000
Cassington, St. Peter *	Vestry roof repairs	3,400
Chinnor Community Church	Re-roofing and gutter repairs	2,000
Church Recording Society	Start up Fund for recording churches	250
Clifton Hampden, St. Michael & All Angels	<i>The David Booth Grant</i> Re-roofing and repairs to masonry	22,000
Didcot Baptist Church	Improvements including better access	8,000
Elsfield, St. Thomas	Stonework and rainwater goods	2,000
Gt. Haseley, St. Peter	Tower and stonework repairs	5,000
Headington Quarry, Holy Trinity	Creation of a community space	11,000
Hempton, St. John *	Repairs to roof valley gutters	£1,000
Horley, St. Etheldreda	Replacement and repair of windows	8,000
Kidlington Methodist Church	Improvements, new heating and WCs	20,000
Kidmore End, St. John *	Roof repairs	1,600
Little Faringdon, St. Margaret	Re-roofing stone slate roof	18,000
Longworth, St. Mary	Repairs and rehanging the bells	13,000
Middleton Stoney, All Saints	Repairs to roof/rainwater goods	£7,000
Mixbury, All Saints	Repairs to masonry and structural pinning, improvements to drainage	20,000
Nuffield, Holy Trinity	Community space and WC/heating	20,000
Rotherfield Grays, St. Nicholas	Roof repairs	2,000
Sandford St. Martin, St. Martin	Repairs to tower and porch	9,500
Swalcliffe, SS Peter & Paul	Drainage works	7,000
Sydenham, St. Mary	Repairs to church steeple	3,000
Upton, St. Mary the Virgin	Extension for WC and kitchenette	6,500

* Denotes emergency application

Warborough, St. Laurence	Repairs to roof and masonry	8,000
Waterstock, St. Leonard	Stabilisation and repairs	9,000
Watlington Methodist Church	Replacement of roof slates	4,000
West Hendred, Holy Trinity *	Repairs to bell tower wall	1,000
West Hendred, Holy Trinity	Roof repairs	7,000
Wheatfield, St. Andrew	Restoration and conservation	20,000
Wheatley, St. Mary the Virgin	Extensive refurbishment	20,000
Wolvercote, St. Peter	Tower repairs	4,000

All general purposes grants	35 grants	Sub-total	291,250
Roof alarm grants	2 grants		4,325
Total new grants awarded			295,575
Less grants not taken up from previous years			(56,000)
	GRAND TOTAL COMMITTED		239,575

* Denotes emergency application



Middleton Stoney, All Saints: A Gd II* listed church set in beautiful parkland. Dating from C12, it has fine extant Norman work and extensive C14 additions, and it was partly rebuilt in C19 by Teulon and Street. Its font claims to have been used to baptise Edward the Confessor. £7,000 awarded to repair roof and rainwater goods: a stitch in time.....

RIDE AND STRIDE



In? Out? On? Off? Definitely? Maybe? Ride+Stride 2020 had at times the feeling of learning the Hokey Cokey (now there's an admission of age!). But in the end all came good. How blessed we were – an almost perfect 'getting out and about day' and just two days before a further Covid-restriction on numbers permitted to meet inside – or outside.

We fully understand that for many churches the requirements to open their building was simply too much to undertake in September. For some, a sign-in sheet left in the porch was do-able; for others, the opportunity to arrange a welcomer, safely distanced but without the usual signing-in procedures, was a much appreciated opportunity to enjoy some permitted chats and a feeling that for a few hours life was almost 'normal'. So, whether a church could simply put up a Ride+Stride poster by way of welcome or go to the boundary of permitted activity, "Thank you". A magnificent sum of just over £108,000 was raised, equivalent to one third of the Trust's grant expenditure – vital support for the wonderful churches of Oxfordshire.

As for many activities last year, we were challenged to make all the usual arrangements for Ride+Stride in a short lead-in period and so took the opportunity to combine all our OHCT 'family' in a way we have not done before by posting out our Annual Review and

All Saints, Sutton Courtenay, welcoming Ride+Striders



The Churn Benefice Youth Group – socially distanced but having a good time

letter from our Chairman together with the information about Ride+Stride. The feedback has been so positive we have done the same this year.

In a year when many of us came to realise that much could be done using the internet, we warmly welcomed the opportunity this brought to make involvement in Ride+Stride easily

accessible for some – but we do know that for others this was less easy. A very special thank you must go to our Area Coordinators who helped those without access to a computer printer.

The intrepid group in Charlbury even managed a socially-distanced Children's Rally, a feat of magnificent planning – well done! And the Cygnets, the Churn Benefice Youth Group, also overcame a number of challenges to take part. They walked between Blewbury, Upton and Chilton – great to see you and thank you!

As the Annual Review goes to press we are planning our 2021 Ride+Stride reflecting some of the simplified procedures learnt in 2020. Many thanks to everyone for their support in past years: we are looking forward to your involvement again in 2021.



A Ride+Strider being welcomed at St Nicholas' church on Abingdon market place.

Hilary Cakebread Hall

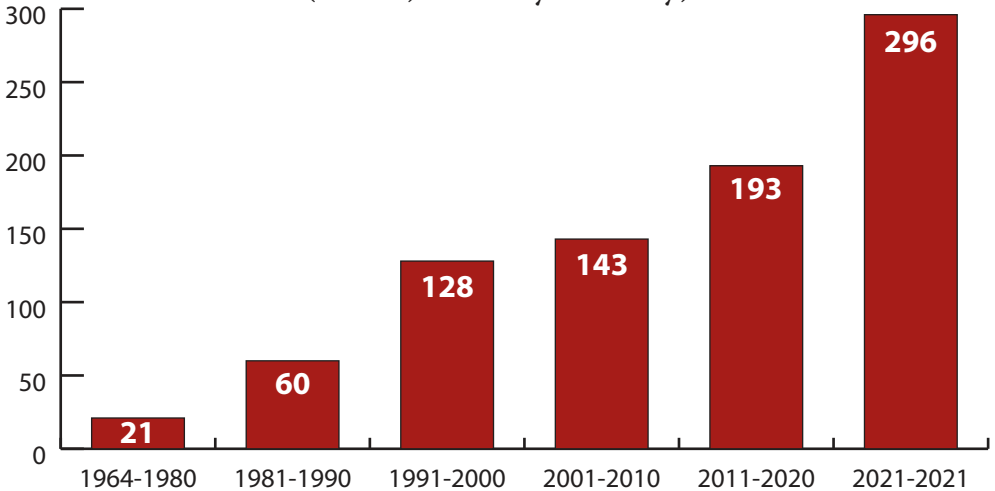
OHCT 2020 - 2021 – A HISTORY IN NUMBERS

As past Officers of OHCT have cleared their lofts and attics in the absence of anything to do in Covid lockdown, I as Treasurer have acquired a complete set of OHCT accounts from 1978 to date. So here is a brief history of OHCT in numbers from its origins in a small but active founding group to the present day.

GRANTS TO CHURCHES

Grants to churches, our principal raison d'être, took off from a small start. In the early years (1964 -1980) the total of annual grants averaged £1,560 (in today's money £21,000). Since then, our grants have steadily grown, so in our last year we were close to giving £300,000 in grants.

Grants to Churches
(£000's) in today's money

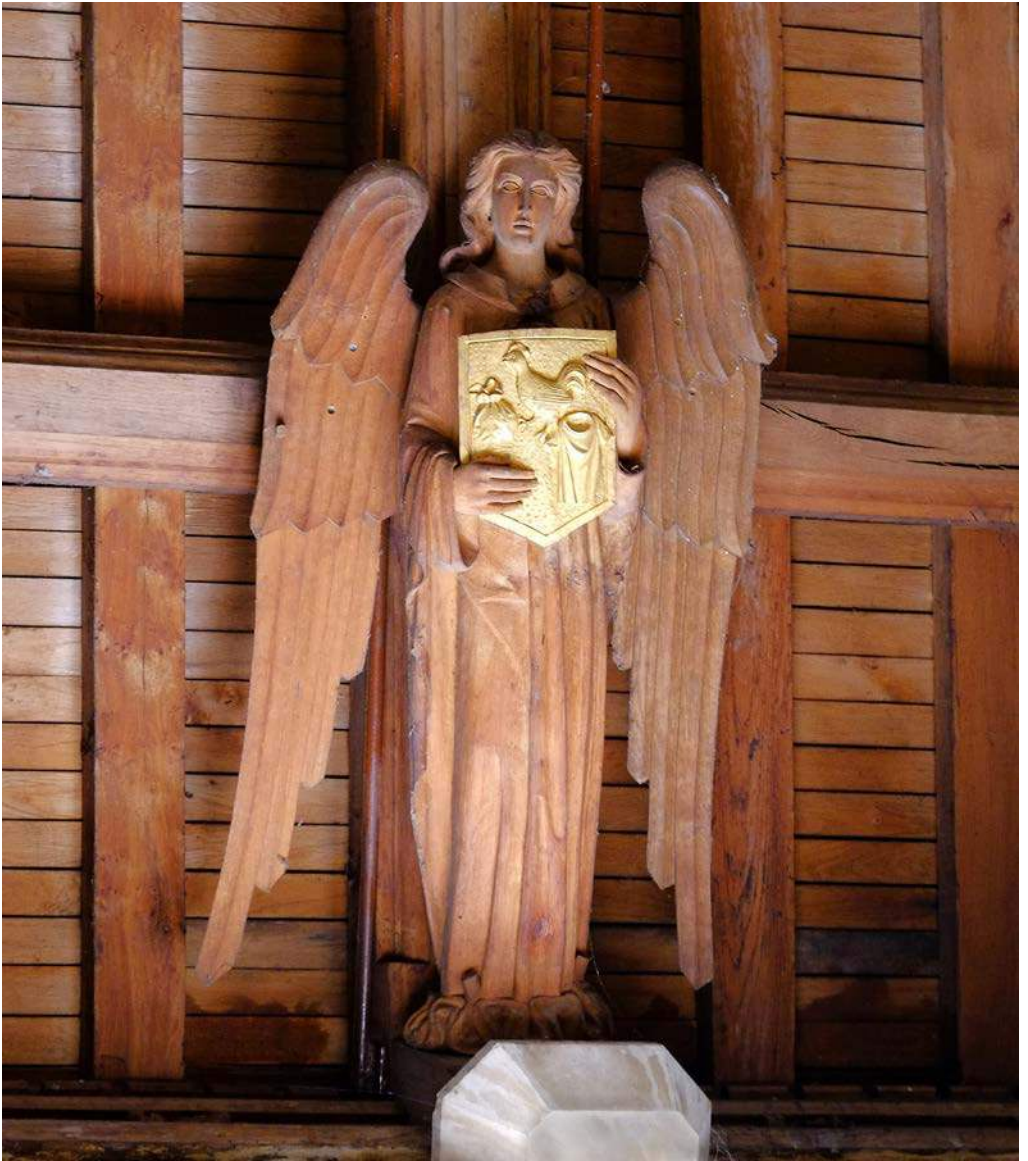


RIDE AND STRIDE

Ride and Stride started in 1986, 35 years ago, and was immediately an important money raiser. In its first four years, it raised on average £45,000 per annum (£135,000 in today's money) and continues to be our most important single money raising event.

FUND RAISING

Members' subscriptions and donations have been an important source of income, and continue to be vital. But there have been several notable milestones. In 1988 we received an anonymous donation of £270,000 (over £500,000 in today's money). In 2014, Basil Eastwood, as chairman, set up the Jubilee Appeal to celebrate 50 years of OHCT. This has raised £980,000 over the last 7 years. In November 2020, we received the proceeds from the legacy of Dr David Booth worth £2,576,000.



The roof of Standlake, St Giles: an angel displaying signs of the Passion (19C)

IN SUMMARY

Over the years, OHCT has raised over £10.8 million and given £6.2 million to maintain and support churches. It now has reserves of £5.1 million. We are now a well-funded charity, aiming to give up to £350,000 each year to support Oxfordshire's churches.

Giles Dessain, Treasurer

SOME OF THIS YEAR'S GRANTS

HORLEY, ST ETHELDREDA



(Grade I listed)

This north Oxfordshire church, with tower and chancel dating from the 12C and with striking medieval wall-paintings, is built from friable Hornton ironstone which has needed regular repair over the years.

Awarded £8,000 towards extensive repairs to windows

LITTLE FARINGDON, ST MARGARET OF ENGLAND



(Grade II* listed)

Originally a chapel-of-ease and now a parish church, St Margaret's has fine 12C capitals and carved heads on the north side of the nave – all now protected with a renewed stone slate roof.

Awarded £18,000 towards reroofing

KIDLINGTON METHODIST CHURCH



This church was opened in 1936 as a successor to a smaller 19C chapel. Work costing some £300,000 to improve access and facilities is planned to start this Autumn.

Awarded £20,000 towards general improvements including new flooring, heating and WCs

ELSFIELD, ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY



(Grade II* listed)

This 13C church, substantially restored in 1949 by H J Underwood, needed a second phase of work to external stonework and rainwater goods.

Awarded £2,000

SWALCLIFFE, ST PETER & ST PAUL



(Grade 1 listed)

This imposing building dates from Saxon times and was developed further from C12 through to C15, when the clerestory was added and the tower built higher. The Victorians undertook further restoration and added some fine stained glass.

Awarded £7,000 to improve the drainage system and protect the ironstone from damp

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 our website 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

Thanks to the generous legacy from Dr David Booth, this year's revenue was £2,880,068, an increase of £2,518,997 over last year; overall, our legacy income was increased by £2,557,682. Grants from trusts for general purposes, at £37,700, were reduced by £9,950, some trusts having directed their giving elsewhere to meet acute needs arising from Covid. With Covid impacting most public events, we had been anxious that the 2020 Ride and Stride, our principal fundraising event, might be heavily hit; but, in the event, our supporters responded well and generated £108,233, just £4,000 less than in 2019.

With the benefit of the Booth legacy, we have substantially increased our grants to churches: in all, we allocated £295,575 (c.f. £256,974 in 2012-2020). In addition, we distributed £43,686 as individual churches' share of Ride and Stride sponsorship.

It was an unfortunate consequence of Covid that some churches were unable to get their projects started. The Trust's policy is to hold open its grant offers for three years, which is normally sufficient for the works to be well underway if not completed. This year, grants worth £56,000 expired and were cancelled – an unprecedented amount. The Trust can consider renewed applications in these cases in due course.

Our annual running costs at £29,190 are £4,096 down on 2020. Our largest costs were IT infrastructure (45%), data processing (14%), audit (14%) and publicity for Ride and Stride (17%).

Our investment portfolio has been transformed during the year. Valued at £1,827,267 at 31st March 2020, it rose to £5,279,295 by the year end. This increase includes £2,759,324 in new investments (£2,576,291 from the Dr Booth legacy plus £183,033 moved from cash held in our bank accounts). In addition, we had revaluation gains of £692,703 as the stock markets recovered from their nadir in March 2020.

Of our portfolio, 85% is held in three broad based multi-asset funds managed by CCLA, Cazenove and Newton Investment Management. The remaining 15% of the portfolio is held in funds managed by M&G and Savills (the latter in property). I would like to thank Bruce Crawford and James MacNamara for their help at the Finance Committee supporting these major changes in our investment portfolio.

In line with Charity Commission guidelines and professional advice, we are continuing our policy of allocating legacies to the Heritage Fund, creating an expendable endowment, with the investment income used to fund grants.

Giles Dessain FCA

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Year to:	March 31st 2020	March 31st 2021
REVENUE			
Ride & Stride		112,234	108,233
Subscriptions & Donations		23,644	19,621
Trusts		47,650	37,700
Investment Income		101,009	122,029
Events and miscellaneous sales		1,069	679
General Fund Income (sub-total)		285,605	288,261
Heritage Fund income		45,466	2,591,807
ACT Roof Alarm Fund Income		30,000	0
Total Revenue		361,072	2,880,068
EXPENDITURE			
Grants awarded (excluding ACT Roof Grants)		244,974	291,250
Less grants not taken up		(3,500)	(56,000)
Parish share of Stride revenue		47,519	43,686
Stride administration		12,457	8,299
Administration		20,829	20,891
General Fund Expenditure (sub-total)		322,279	308,126
ACT Roof Alarm Fund Expenditure		12,000	4,325
Total Expenditure		334,279	312,451
MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS			
Net income/(expenditure)		26,792	2,567,617
Gains (losses) on investments		(243,729)	692,703
Overall Movement in Funds		(216,937)	3,260,321

BALANCE SHEET			
Investments		1,827,267	5,279,295
Current assets:-			
Bank Accounts		293,806	103,757
Gift Aid recoverable /Prepayments		2,394	1,172
(sub-total)		296,200	104,929
Less current liabilities:-			
Grants still to be paid		302,868	303,744
Accrued expenses		5,300	4,860
(sub-total)		308,168	308,604
Net assets		1,815,299	5,075,619
Comprising:-			
General Fund		783,176	1,292,400
Heritage Fund		1,014,123	3,769,545
ACT Roof Alarm Fund		18,000	13,675
Net assets		1,815,299	5,075,619
Movement in investments			
Starting balance		1,868,996	1,827,267
Additions at cost		202,000	2,759,324
Gains/(losses) on investments		(243,729)	692,703
Closing balance invested		1,827,267	5,279,295

Full Statutory Accounts and the Annual Report will be filed with the Charity Commission when they have been audited, and they will be published on the Trust's website in the Autumn



The Last Trump (15C, restored 1872): South Leigh, St James the Great

[Front cover: Ducklington, St Bartholomew]

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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