



Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Supporting Oxfordshire's Churches since 1964

ANNUAL REVIEW 2022

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

THE OXFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

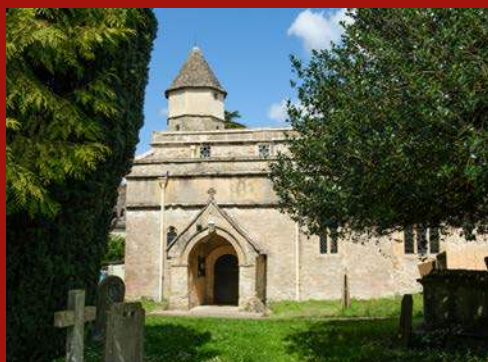
Charity Number 1168567

Patrons	Marjorie Glasgow BEM, 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 14.4.21 Bernard Taylor DL
President	Mr Charles Baker (from 19.07.2021) Sir Hugo Brunner KCVO (to 19.07.21)
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 Giles Dessain FCA (Treasurer) Dr Stephen Goss (Chair) Richard Hughes (Secretary) Cynthia Robinson (Grants Officer) Michael Sibly Stephen Slack CBE
Other officers	Gillian Coates (Website Editor) Basil Eastwood CMG (Development Officer) Clare Fox (Events Administrator) Eluned Hallas (Data Manager) Phoebe Hart (Membership Secretary from 01.04.2021) The Ven David Meara (Lectures Coordinator) David Warr (Visits Coordinator)
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FROM THE ACTING CHAIR

I have no doubt that at the dawn of 2021 we thought it was going to be another challenging year and indeed the pandemic continues to affect us all. The Trust was no exception, most of our events were impacted, there were changes to the pattern of our income, applications for grants significantly different and quite separately our Chairman, Dr Stephen Goss, had to step back from active participation in the Trust as he undertook a period of intense medical treatment. It has been my privilege to serve as Acting Chairman during this period.

The Trust's income benefited from a sharp rise in investment income but suffered a significant reduction in funds raised by our Ride+Stride event – gathered evidence suggests the lengthy period when few fund-raising events could be held earlier in the year resulted in much competition for people's time in September – and we saw a drop in receipts of around £15,000.



Witney, St Mary Cogges (Grade I listed)

The church originated as a two-cell Anglo-Saxon structure, with the earliest part being 12C and has a distinctive octagonal west tower. A lavish north chapel added c.1340 has elaborate late-Decorated window tracery and a frieze of carved grotesques.

Awarded £20,000 to undertake roof works and overhaul of the rainwater goods.

Applications for grants were significantly fewer than in previous years – this will be unsurprising to many of us as we have seen churches struggling to reopen and the clergy and officers have been focussing on their congregations and re-establishing the pattern of worship. The majority of Grants have been awarded for repairs – often urgently required – rather than major re-ordering projects which take lengthy and considerable planning. We awarded £220,950 in 2021 down from the record figure of over £295,575 the previous year. We have sought to be as generous as possible, in the understanding that many churches faced the double ‘whammy’ of their available funds being depleted as a consequence of the pandemic and materials and skilled contractors were significantly more costly. We anticipate that we may see a marked increase in major project applications over the next year or two as churches are able to return to plans for works they had been considering pre-Covid.

Sadly, many of the planned calendar of events had to be postponed for the second year in succession – happily some of these will now be taking place in 2022. The pleasure in the few ‘live’ events we were able to enjoy, was as a consequence even greater. Our 2021 President Sir Hugo Brunner presided over our Annual Members Meeting held at Broughton Castle by kind permission of the Hon. Martin Fiennes on an exceptionally hot July afternoon – we were glad to be able to hold the Meeting in the cool of the Great Hall before retreating to the shade of the fine trees in the Gardens for light refreshments.

Many of us enjoyed one of Holly Kilpatrick’s August evening outings to one of the county’s many fine churches, in this instance, All Saints Sutton Courtenay followed by supper at a local hostelry. All Saints has undertaken a major project recently creating wonderful new facilities including a large meeting room, offices, kitchen and toilets – the Trust had made a substantial contribution to this and for many of us it was the first opportunity to visit to see the finished project.

Wroxton, St. Thomas of Canterbury RC

The church has a very unusual thatched roof, the only one in Oxfordshire; and has some fine stained glass windows, salvaged from other buildings after the Second World War. The original church was built in 1887; subsequently rebuilt in 1894 and has been remodelled over the years.

Awarded £5,000 towards the cost of re thatching the roof.



After a period of uncertainty as Covid infection rates started to rise again we were very pleased that we were able to hold our Annual Blenheim Lecture and thank His Grace the Duke of Marlborough for his generous hospitality in permitting us to enjoy the Orangery and Marlborough Room as our venue. Our speaker was Simon Bradley, currently editing a revision of the Pevsner Guide for Oxfordshire – a talk full of fascinating detail of the ‘detective’ work required in the quest for an accurate account of the changes to the buildings and developments of the built environment.

We were delighted to launch our series of Online Lectures – inaugurated by Dr Nicola Coldstream, one of our Trustees, on medieval churches and the architectural styles from the Anglo-Saxons to the Reformation in Oxfordshire with tips on how and what to spot! I have no doubt that many of us had our appetites wetted to get out and about putting what we’d been told into practice.

This account may seem to indicate the Trustees have had less to consider this year – the truth is this is far from the case and we have been carefully examining how some

of the wider issues being faced will impact on the work of the Trust and the churches in our county.

As far as the Anglican church is concerned we work closely with the DAC, not only with regard to the Faculties required but more importantly on the challenging issue of the Church of England's objective to become carbon zero by 2030 and the impact this is having already on how a church develops its plans. We try to replicate this knowledge when receiving applications from other denominations, aware that the same challenges on environmental responsibility face us all.

Many of us have also been aware of the considerations being voiced on the long-term future of church buildings – for all denominations – brought more sharply into focus following Covid. There have been a number of Reports produced over the last year and these have been noted by the Trustees.

We thought it important to include in our Annual Review two articles reflecting some of the considerations the Trustees have been reflecting on regarding these issues. We are very grateful to Cynthia Robinson and Stephen Slack for authoring these.

We have been very grateful to a long-term stalwart of the Trust, Charles Baker, currently serving as the Alternate Member on Council for Aston & Cuddesdon Deanery for serving as our President for 2021-22. In the midst of much turmoil, it has been reassuring to have his counsel and support. One of our greatly valued Patrons, Sir Tim Stevenson KCVO stepped down on his retirement as Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire and we are greatly honoured that his successor, Mrs Marjorie Glasgow BEM has agreed to succeed him. We look forward to welcoming her to future events.

Hilary CakebreadHall

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

Despite all the restrictions posed by the pandemic, the Trust was able to hold our Annual Members Meeting in July, and not as in the previous year on Zoom.

We are very grateful to the Hon. Martin Fiennes for a very warm welcome to Broughton Castle – the most beautiful setting in which to meet, and chaired by our 2020-2021 President, Sir Hugo Brunner. The opportunity to meet

one another again, enjoy refreshments in the grounds - suitably distanced - made it a specially memorable afternoon, as was Evensong in St Mary the Virgin church celebrated for us by Revd Neil Bowler, the Rector.



GRANTS AWARDED IN 2021-22

		£
Alvescot, St. Peter*	Emergency roof support	2,500
Beckley, Assumption of BVM	Repairs to roof tiles	5,000
Bladon, St. Martin	Renovation of pipe organ	13,000
Bloxham, St. Mary	Heating upgrade	12,000
Bloxham, St. Mary	Installation of WC/kitchen	25,000
Cowley, St. James	Installation of WC	13,500
Dorchester Abbey	Conservation of four brasses	1,000
Ducklington, St. Bartholomew*	Repairs to coping stones/slates	1,000
Duns Tew, St. Mary Magdalene	<i>Repairs to windows/tower work</i>	6,000
Fritwell, St. Olave	Emergency works to chancel/nave roof	1,500
Goring, St. Thomas	Overhaul of organ	20,000
Great Bourton, All Saints	Repairs to Lychgate	7,000
Great Rollright, St. Andrew	Repairs to boundary wall	2,000
Hook Norton Baptist Church**	Remedial works to drainage	25,000
Horley, St. Etheldreda*	Replacement/repairs to windows	500
Kidmore End, St. John*	Woodworm/drainage works	2,200
Over Worton, Holy Trinity	Restoration of organ	15,000
Oxford, New Road Baptist Church	Installation of New Boilers	6,000
Pyrtton, St. Mary	Heating/lighting/kitchen work	10,500
Rose Hill Methodist Church	Repairs and updating kitchen	3,000
Rotherfield Greys, St. Nicholas	Renovation of pipe organ	5,300
Sandford St. Martin, St. Martin	Repairs to south porch	3,000
Sibford Gower, Holy Trinity	Stabilisation/repairs to boundary wall	1,500
Sonning Common, Christ The King	Removal of heating panels	1,000
Swalcliffe, Ss Peter and Paul*	Drainage works	3,000
West Hanney, St. James	Repairs to bell clappers	1,000
Witney, Cogges St. Mary	Repairs to roof/rainwater goods	20,000
Wolvercote, St. Peter	Replace stone cross	500
Wroxton, St. Thomas RC	Complete rethatch of roof	4,000
Wroxton, St. Thomas RC*	Supplementary grant for rethatch	1,000
All general purposes grants	30 grants	Sub-total 212,000
Roof alarm grants	2 grants	8,950
Total new grants awarded		220,950
Less grants not taken up from previous years		(10,000)
	GRAND TOTAL COMMITTED	210,950

* Denotes emergency application

** Awarded the David Booth grant

THE BLenheim LECTURE 2021.

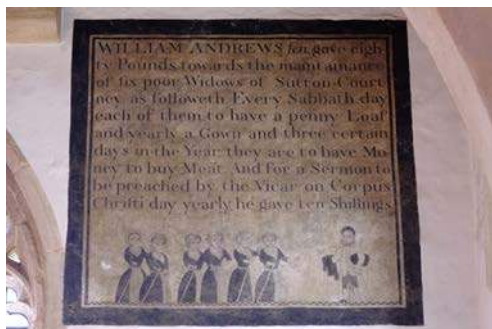
On the 13th October 2021 OHCT members were delighted to be able to assemble in person once again at Blenheim Palace. After a congenial drinks reception and a delicious buffet meal in the Orangery we gathered in the Marlborough Room for the lecture, given by Simon Bradley, the Joint Editor of the celebrated Pevsner Architectural Guides, formerly known as the Buildings of England. Pevsner's original Oxfordshire first appeared in 1974, and Simon described his work on the revised version of Oxford and South East Oxfordshire, highlighting a number of individual buildings within the City, and the new knowledge he has unearthed. The process is a bit like an elaborate detective investigation, and the level of detail uncovered is impressive, so we look forward to the book's eventual publication. The evening was a great success, and as always, we are very grateful to His Grace The Duke of Marlborough for his hospitality, and the chance to hold our lecture evening in the gracious surroundings of Blenheim.

David Meara

Bell tower lychgate - Great Bourton
Repairs to lychgate £7000



MEMBERS EVENING AT SUTTON COURTENAY



As ever, our annual August outing to visit a church followed by a pub supper proved popular. Our thanks to Holly Kilpatrick for her splendid organisation and to the Vicar and PCC of All Saints Church, Sutton Courtenay for their warm welcome and interesting talks. The Swan pub, conveniently next door, allowed us a relaxing chance to catch up. It has to be noted how often there is an excellent pub next door to the church!

RIDE AND STRIDE

Oxfordshire has over recent years been blessed with a Diocesan Bishop who is also an enthusiastic and keen cyclist as well as one of our Patrons. For many years that was Bishop Colin who joined cyclists around one of the Deanery in 'his patch' – always with the slight proviso that we avoided too many hills!

Now his successor for Dorchester, Bishop Gavin has continued this tradition and spent Ride+Stride 2021 in the Bicester and Islip Deanery cycling with their Area Coordinator, Chris Brennan who planned a careful route taking in fifteen churches and the all-important pitstop for lunch!

Bishop Gavin came to the task well-practised, he and his son cycled from John O'Groats to Lands Eye in 2020 – when I asked him more about this he said “it sort of just happened” – I am still trying to figure out how you 'just happen' to do that!



The Fifth Charlbury Kids Rally was a great success, much enjoyed by all the children as they cycled round the five churches in Charlbury followed by a Bike Gymkhana and School Picnic . The Gymkhana is held in conjunction with the Windrush Bike Project and is a wonderful example of bringing two organisations together along with the Charlbury School Association which can be enjoyed by a new generation of Ride+Stride participants – and the brainchild of former OHCT Chairman, Basil Eastwood – he and his wife Alison have been stalwart supporters of Ride+Stride for many years. They have now moved to Bristol to be nearer family and we thank them for all they have done and wish them much happiness in their new home. This does

also create two vacancies – for Area Coordinators in both the Chipping Norton South and Woodstock Deaneries. Please do get in touch if you might consider helping with one of these roles.



Lots of fun at the Charlbury Kids Rally



One of the consequences of the lengthy period of lockdowns in the first half of 2021 was that many charity and other events were put back to September and we faced much competition for people's time and commitment – an issue also faced by other County Trusts across the country. This did result in a reduced income from Ride+Stride but nevertheless we raised £93,597 – a commendable sum and an important part of the available funds for our Grants programme. We have distributed £38,941 to participating churches supporting their work and are looking forward to a reinvigorated Ride+Stride in 2022.

We are very grateful to everyone who helps in any and every way – as a church coordinator, a welcomer, a donor or participant – THANK YOU!!

Hilary Cakebread Hall

CHURCHES IN OXFORDSHIRE AND CARBON 'NET ZERO'

The Diocese of Oxford has pledged to reach a net zero target by 2035, i.e. by then to have reduced their emissions as much as possible across all their activities and to be offsetting what they cannot reduce. When they reach that point, they will no longer be contributing to climate change.

Churches are an important part of that target and the Diocese wishes to provide support. It has implemented a subsidised energy audit programme to enable those churches, wishing to participate, to receive expert guidance either through a site visit or video/telephone consultations. Grants are available from the Diocese towards the audit costs so that for on-site visits the church pays £150 with the Diocese paying the balance. In addition, there is an implementation grant available of up to £300. Smaller grants for consultation and implementation are available for video/telephone consultations. The Diocese has a relationship with 'Parish Buying' for the purpose of helping churches switch to renewable tariffs for gas and electricity, using the bulk buying power of the churches to obtain competitive prices for gas and electricity with 100% of the electricity from UK-based renewable sources.

It is hoped that all churches planning major works will take the opportunity to arrange energy audits, which are encouraged by both architects and the DAC, as this will enable churches to see practical ways of implementing improvements. Changes effected to date as a result of the energy audits range from installation of an LED lighting system to the installation of a new, environmentally sustainable heating system.

The Church Buildings Council has issued a two page summary 'A practical path to "net zero carbon" for our churches' which provides a list of helpful recommendations intended to assist churches reduce their energy use and associated carbon emissions.

As part of its grants programme OHCT awards grants towards heating and lighting upgrades and improvements and it is hoped to increase its grants further towards assisting those churches seeking to reduce their carbon emissions.

Cynthia Robinson

15C carved misericord
in the chancel of
Swinbrook, St Mary's



WIDER ISSUES FACING HISTORIC CHURCHES'

In going about their work, the Trustees have been very aware of the increasingly challenging environment in which those responsible for maintaining our churches have to work, especially in rural areas: the financial and other effects of the Covid pandemic have brought the issues already raised by declining and ageing congregations into even sharper focus.

That greater community use of our historic church buildings will be an increasingly important factor in securing their future is clear – and is [(as explained elsewhere in this Report)] already reflected in the character of the projects for which the Trust's assistance is sought. But whether that alone will make a significant difference is, as yet, unclear. The Trustees will accordingly continue to take an interest in wider discussions (of the kind recently initiated by the National Churches Trust) about how the country's rich heritage of historic churches can best be protected in perpetuity, contributing to them as necessary.

At a more practical and local level, the Trustees will be giving active consideration to how those who shoulder the day-to-day responsibility for caring for this precious part of our heritage can be supported by means other than the making of financial grants.

A priority in that respect will be the revival, and possible enhancement, of the Trust's programme of roadshows (which inevitably had to be suspended during the pandemic): it has provided not just an opportunity to share expertise on the conduct of parish buildings projects but also a forum in which churchwardens and others can give and receive mutual encouragement and support. We are also at work on the production of a suite of short but authoritative online talks on basic issues relating to maintenance and repair. And we shall also seek to explore with the diocese ways in which we can work proactively with DAC staff and others to support and encourage those on whom the important responsibility of caring for our church buildings falls.

Stephen Slack

Pyrton, St Mary's

Dating back to 987AC this Grade II* church has continued refurbishments ever since and this grant supports their latest project.

Awarded £10,500 for work on heating/lighting/kitchen work .



SOME OF THIS YEAR'S GRANTS

BLOXHAM, ST. MARY'S (Grade I listed)



This magnificent medieval church stands on the hill dominating the village and has stood there for a thousand years. The Milcombe chapel was built during the 15C – the stonework of which is a fine example of a renowned Banbury based group of stonemasons.

Awarded a grant of £25,000 towards the installation of WCs and modern kitchen facilities as part of an ongoing modernisation programme.

COWLEY, ST. JAMES (Grade II* listed)



The church is a substantially intact medieval parish church with major changes from the 12C to 15C. Especially notable is the 12C chancel arch with its painted decoration.

Awarded £13,500 towards the costs of the installation of a WC.

GORING, ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY (Grade I listed)



Much of the church was built in the 12C. A bell stage was added to the west tower in the C15 with the addition of an apse to the east end in 1887.

Awarded £20,000 for the overhaul of the three-manual organ built in the 1870s. Music is an important part of the church's outreach and this grant enables the church's musical heritage to be continued.

HOOK NORTON BAPTIST CHURCH



One of the oldest chapels in existence, tracing its roots back to the 1640s, the chapel was built in 1787 and has a Victorian gallery.

Awarded £25,000 for urgent external works to prevent further damage from damp and water ingress. Other repairs and improvement works will also be undertaken. This grant represents the Trust's second David Booth award.

OXFORD, NEW ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH (Grade I listed)



This chapel was rebuilt in 1798 in the form of a typical 18C meeting house and successor to the first non-conformist chapel on the site built in 1720. Subsequent alterations have been made to the building over the years.

Awarded a grant of £6,000 for the installation of new energy efficient boilers.

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

Our General Fund Income increased to £320,674 versus £288,261, in 2021. 2021 Ride and Stride, our principal fundraising event, was hit by competing events and generated £93,597, nearly £15,000 less than in 2020. However, investment income at £169,768 was sharply up as we had a full year of dividends from our investment portfolio.

Heritage Fund income was £130,269, with a generous legacy from Simon Haviland of £50,000 and £64,179 remaining balance from the estate of Dr David Booth.

One of the consequences of Covid being that churches have struggled to get projects under way, and we have seen a sharp drop off in application for grants. As a result, we allocated £220,950 (c.f. £295,575 in 2020-2021). In addition, we distributed £38,941 as individual churches' share of Ride and Stride sponsorship. We hope the level of applications will increase now and are ready to give sympathetic consideration to all applications.

Our annual running costs at £27,190 are £2,109 down on 2021. Our largest costs were IT infrastructure (47%), audit (16%) and publicity for Ride and Stride (25%).

Our investment portfolio performed well during the year. Valued at £5,279,295 at 31st March 2020, it rose to £5,815,529 by the year end. We invested £100,000 of cash which was above our immediate needs and had increase in value of our holdings of £436,234 as the stock markets performed.

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 are 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 and support at the Finance Committee.

Giles Dessain FCA



Beakhead carvings on the
Norman chancel arch of
Asthall, St Nicholas

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Year to:	March 31st 2021	March 31st 2022
REVENUE			
Ride & Stride		108,233	93,597
Subscriptions & Donations		19,621	16,816
Trusts		37,700	39,520
Investment Income		122,029	169,768
Events and miscellaneous sales		679	972
General Fund Income (sub-total)		288,261	320,674
Heritage Fund income		2,591,807	130,269
ACT Roof Alarm Fund Income		0	0
Total Revenue		2,880,068	450,943
EXPENDITURE			
Grants awarded (excluding ACT Roof Grants)		291,250	215,950
Less Grants cancelled		(56,000)	(10,000)
Parish share of Ride and Stride revenue		43,686	38,941
Ride and Stride administration		8,299	6,624
Administration		20,891	20,457
General Fund Expenditure (sub-total)		308,126	271,972
ACT Roof Alarm Fund Expenditure		4,325	13,675
Total Expenditure		312,451	285,647
MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS			
Net income/(expenditure)		2,567,617	165,296
Gains (losses) on investments		692,703	436,234
Overall Movement in Funds		3,260,321	601,530

BALANCE SHEET			
Investments		5,279,295	5,815,529
Current assets:-			
Bank Accounts		103,757	149,370
Gift Aid recoverable /Prepayments		1,172	1,495
(sub-total)		104,929	150,865
Less current liabilities:-			
Grants still to be paid		303,744	284,744
Accrued expenses		4,860	4,500
(sub-total)		308,604	289,244
Net assets		5,075,619	5,677,150
Comprising:-			
General Fund		1,292,400	1,548,831
Heritage Fund		3,769,545	4,128,318
ACT Roof Alarm Fund		13,675	0
Net assets		5,075,619	5,677,150
Movement in investments			
Starting balance		1,827,267	5,279,295
Additions at cost		2,759,324	100,000
Gains/(losses) on investments		692,703	436,234
Closing balance invested		5,279,295	5,815,529

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



15C wall painting in St Peter ad Vincula, South Newington

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). To find out more please visit our website www.ohct.org.uk/membership or email membership@ohct.org.uk



Broughton , St Mary