

Churches Trusts Forum

Issue 2, December 2014

supporting
churches
trusts
to help
places of
worship

2014 – A Very Busy Year for Churches Trusts

I am truly delighted to welcome you to this second edition of our Newsletter. Feedback on the first edition was very positive and the publication seems to have been well received.

Looking back over 2014, it is plain to me that the sector is generally in good health and is vibrant. The articles in this edition and in the previous one demonstrate the range of excellent work taking place across

The sector is generally in good health and is vibrant

the country and financial support to places of worship in need of maintenance or repair.

In addition to Ride+Stride there are other major fundraising initiatives taking place or in the process of development; joint working between regional groupings of Churches Trusts with staff of the Heritage Lottery Fund to help places of worship

understand and be successful with grant applications; joint working with the National Churches Trust to extend help to some of those areas not currently served by a Trust or where a Trust might be struggling; regional working to promote and develop church tourism; better and more extensive use of

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About the Churches Trusts Forum

The Churches Trusts Forum (CTF) represents churches trusts and provides a point of liaison with the National Churches Trust and other national bodies.

It provides a panel of regional representatives who volunteer to help raise issues at national level. The group also develops guidance on issues where needed and requested.

Call for your input

Please tell your CTF representative what guidance would be useful for your trust, from help with publicity to current recommended guidance on best practice for trustees of small charities.

The Churches Trusts Forum is supported by the National Churches Trust

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fundraising platforms such as JustGiving; developing maintenance initiatives; and helping to adapt places of worship for wider community use, to mention but a few. I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to colleagues and partner organisations for their help in bringing these initiatives to fruition.

The Forum has gone from strength to strength during the year and is now nearly up to its full complement of volunteers to support all areas of the country. This is good news indeed in that we are able to have a much wider perspective and range of views on the issues we discuss. Once again, I would like to thank you for your contributions to this Newsletter and thank the staff of the National Churches Trust for all the work which they do to bring it to publication.

May I wish everyone a very peaceful and joyful Christmas and a happy New Year

John Mills,
Chairman, Churches Trusts Forum



Helping churches to access funding

The Churches Trust Forum (CTF) welcomed the £15 million government-funded Listed Places of Worship: Roof Repair Fund which opened to applications on 8 December 2014.

Congregations across the UK responsible for looking after listed places of worship of all faiths and denominations can apply for grants to address urgent repairs to ensure that churches are weather-tight, safe and open for use.

Grants will be from £10,000 to £100,000 to help meet the costs of urgent repairs to roofs and rain-water disposal systems. Congregations that already have HLF grant offers are not eligible to apply.

If congregations can answer 'Yes' to the following they may be eligible to apply:

- Is the place of worship listed?
- Is the place of worship used solely or mainly as a place of worship?
- Is the project for the repairs to the roof and/or rainwater disposal systems?
- Has the repair work been identified in a recent professional report as being necessary within the next five years?



There is only one opportunity to apply and the timing is tight! The closing date for applications is noon on **Friday, 30 January 2015**. Application outcomes will be known by 31 March 2015

More information and application forms can be found at www.lpowroof.org.uk/
For enquiries, email: enquiries@lpowroof.org.uk or tel: 01392 223 979.

The fund was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Autumn Statement on 3 December 2014. It is administered by the National Heritage Memorial Fund on behalf of the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS).

News from Local Trusts

Devon Historic Churches Trust

The Earl and Countess of Wessex honoured the Devon Historic Churches Trust (DHCT) by supporting the charity as part of The Earl's 50th birthday tour of Wessex.

The Earl and Countess visited Powderham Church, St Clements to meet the congregation and support them in the challenges they face with maintaining and preserving this historic building, which are typical of those facing all parish churches throughout the Diocese of Exeter and beyond. During the visit, Lady Katherine Watney briefed them on the significant history of the church, not least its role in the Civil War, forming part of the siege of Powderham Castle.

Our funding in action

Hugh Harrison, a leading national expert on historic screens and woodwork, illustrated the particular beauty of the church screen and the need for significant work to be undertaken to ensure its survival. Andrew Johnson, one of Devon's most skilled stained glass

window restorers then escorted Their Royal Highnesses round the church to inspect the works that had been recently completed with funding from the DHCT. After meeting the congregation they departed to the sound of the bells pealing in pleasure at the significance of the visit.

The Earl and Countess of Wessex then attended an Evening Reception at Powderham Castle by kind invitation of the Earl and Countess of Devon. This was a truly memorable occasion when over 200 guests gathered to meet Their Royal Highnesses in these glorious surroundings.

Key volunteers and supporters from all parts of Devon were formally presented and the guests were very privileged to meet the royal couple as they mingled during the evening. This significant event was given a delightful added zest with a recital by Paul Morgan

(emeritus organist at Exeter Cathedral) on the newly restored castle organ and a warmly applauded choral programme performed by the girls' choir of Maynard School, Exeter.



The evening, which was sponsored by Savills estate agents and supported by Bearnes Hampton & Littlewood fine art auctioneers, together with Louise Crossman Architects, drew to a close in a spectacular manner with Their Royal Highnesses departing by helicopter from the park in front of Powderham Castle whilst the guests waved farewell from the lawns.

Judith Kauntze

Norfolk Churches Trust

The Norfolk Churches Trust has moved and welcomes a new secretary. Our new address is Manor Farmhouse, Diss Road, Tibenham, Norfolk NR16 1QF; tel: 01379 677272.

Mrs Scilla Latham has taken over as Secretary of the Trust and can be contacted on the above number or by email: secretary@norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk

Share your news

If you have a story, update or best practice to share in the next CTF Newsletter, we would love to hear from you. Please email your contributions to: alison.pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org

2014 – A year in the life of Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

A busy but productive year has just in effect ended with the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) sell-out autumn lecture at Blenheim Palace.

Our grant-making is running at about £160,000 a year. Our church visits have again been fully subscribed. We do not yet have reliable figures for the proceeds of the Ride+Stride but there has been a marked increase in the number of JustGiving pages.

The Bishop of Dorchester and I led a happy bicycle cavalcade (pictured below at St Mary's, Uffington) round the Vale of the White Horse in the southern part of the county for what I hope is becoming an annual joint morale-boosting (and muscle-toning) effort.



The major features of this our 50th anniversary year, however, have been the initiatives flowing from last year's planning paper (which I will be happy to share with other county trusts). Our new website went live in March (www.ohct.org.uk). It looks good



Their Royal Highnesses with Chloe Bramwell and Robin Fieth

and contains a mass of useful information. It can still be improved and the gazetteer of Oxfordshire churches and the linked mapping is still not complete, but colleagues may like to see what can be done. It was financed by a 100% grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Catalyst Programme. Unfortunately this particular programme has now closed but I suspect that there will be other similar ones in future.

Essential insight

February saw our publication of *Churches for Communities— Adapting Oxfordshire's Churches for Wider Use*, Becky Payne's account of the tribulations and triumphs of 25 church adaptation programmes.

An unknown Amazon reviewer wrote "Essential reading for anyone (volunteers, incumbents) wanting to adapt their own place of worship. Also full of essential insight of interest to DACs, LA's, funders into what is involved in adapting a historic place of worship! Great interviews with people making the difference and great pictures!" I could not have put it better myself!

Celebrating 50 years

The year has also seen two major events to mark our Jubilee year. Broughton Church was full to overflowing for our members-only service of celebration followed by a very enjoyable reception in lovely Broughton Castle next door.

We then had another birthday event for our Ride+Stride community in Dorchester Abbey. After the service the Earl and Countess of Wessex cut the bicycle shaped birthday cake. A good time was had by all despite pouring rain – rather too much of which found its way into the Abbey!

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This year has also seen the launch of our £3 million Jubilee fundraising campaign to 'kick-start' an endowment Heritage Fund which we hope will then continue to attract legacies in the future.

We have recruited a powerful Campaign Committee and are

making steady progress. As part of the campaign we conducted a survey of our members. Their loyalty and enthusiasm was very clear but so too their belief that we need to reach out to younger generations.

Generation-change is also taking place in our leadership. This year

we say fond farewells to trustees and Council members who in some cases have given over 25 years of service to the Trust. Fortunately we know that we newcomers can continue to rely on their wise advice for the future.

*Basil Eastwood. Chairman
Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust*

Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust



Herefordshire was delighted to celebrate the 60th birthday of their Historical Churches Trust with a drinks party in July of this year.

Invitations were sent to all members and supporters of the Trust, and representatives of all the churches in the county.

The party was held at the home of Prince Charles de Rohan and was very well attended, with about 140 guests.

The guests enjoyed a display of the original Minutes Books and Trust Deed and the original Finance Documents signed by the

founders of the Trust, Sir Richard Cotterell and Bishop Tom Longworth.

The Chairman of the Trust, the Earl of Darnley gave an address thanking all those present for their time, effort and donations, and gave an overview of the Trust's more recent work.

We look forward to the next 60 years.

*Sarah de Rohan,
Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust*



*Top left: The Earl of Darnley
and Sarah de Rohan
Above and Left: Photos of
the party*

Lincolnshire Churches Trust

The Lincolnshire Churches Trust (LCT) worked with SPAB Maintenance Cooperatives, the Diocese of Lincoln, the National Churches Trust and Heritage Lottery Fund to run a free repair workshop on 1 November for church-wardens and others running places of worship. The lively day was well attended and well received by a packed audience at Leadenham Village Hall.

The workshop took the audience through the stages of a project – from maintenance checks to identifying the need for repair; organising a project to fundraising and, finally, getting the work done.

A hot lunch was provided by LCT trustees in the hall's kitchen, which attendees could donate towards covering the costs.

The Trust intends to run other events in the future following the success of this one. Local architect and LCT member, Graham Cook, also took part, giving very useful advice on working with architects to get the most from the relationship.

Representatives from St Margaret's Church, Thimbleby presented the history of their project to date talking specifically about local fundraising and organising an emergency repair project to share and inspire.

Save The Date

30 April 2015

Churches Trusts Forum Annual Conference 2015 'Tradition and Architecture'

The Churches Trusts Forum annual conference in partnership with the National Churches Trust and the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust will take place on 30 April 2015 at Winchester Cathedral, 10am –5.30pm—to be followed by Evensong in the Cathedral.

Details will be confirmed and released in the new year
We hope to see you there

Devon Historic Churches Trust Emergency Grant Scheme

When the DHCT received a generous legacy a year ago, it decided to create an Emergency Grant Scheme which would quickly and effectively come to the aid of places of worship when the unexpected happened.

The problems experienced could have many causes – wind, water ingress, subsidence etc. For example, it could be to acquire a tarpaulin to cover a sudden hole in the roof, scaffolding to examine falling masonry, or special equipment to tackle the effects of a flood.

As time is of the essence in these cases, a short and simple application process is in place, with forms easily accessed from the DHCT website and funds available up to a maximum of £1,000.

Once the Hon. Secretary receives an application it is forwarded to the local Archdeacon (or for Non- Anglican places of worship, someone of equivalent seniority),

the Trust's Chairman, local Trustee and local Grant Assessor with a request for a decision to approve (or not) the application.

In making a recommendation, the Archdeacon is asked to have regard to their knowledge of the financial circumstances of the place of worship.



“We were delighted to receive the full sum required to cover the scaffolding and tower stone replacement from the DHCT. We are a very small congregation with no surplus funds, so this enabled the danger of falling masonry to be addressed immediately before an accident occurred.”

The Archdeacon, Chairman, Trustee and Assessor are asked to respond to the Hon. Sec. with their decision within 48 hours. Should any of them be absent, a decision can be made with the agreement of a minimum of two of them. As this entire process is

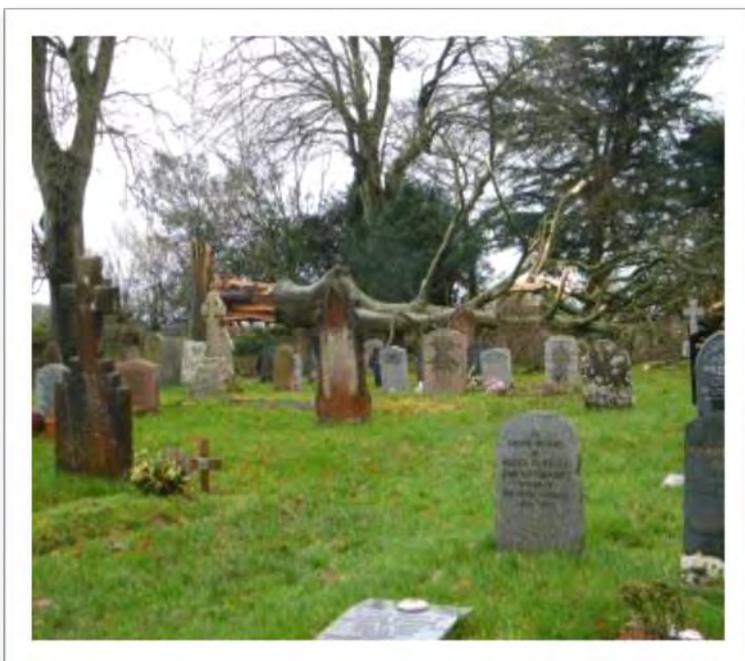
undertaken by email it provides a simple, speedy solution to the application process.

Before the grant is paid the local Grant Assessor will visit the place of worship to discuss with the applicant whether or not there is a need to make a further formal application to the Trust for more significant financial support from the trust's General funds.

In the first year of implementation of this initiative the Trust has had several applications for a variety of reasons and were pleased to be able to support the churches 'in their hour of need'.

Judith Kauntze

“Thank you for the cheque for £1,000 safely received. We were overjoyed to have that sort of support from DHCT when a tree fell across the graveyard.”



National Churches Trust

— supporting trusts



The National Churches Trust website features dedicated pages to the work that the National Churches Trust carries out to support and promote local churches trusts.

As well as a page highlighting the relationship between local and national organisations, the website contains contact information for each trust and a link to the Ride+Stride national website.

The CTF asks trusts to check the contact information for their trust, which is displayed in the listings section on the National Churches Trust website and send updates to: alison.pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org

This section of the newsletter includes some of the ways the National Churches Trust is working with and supporting local trusts. There is also news of important changes that will effect local trusts.

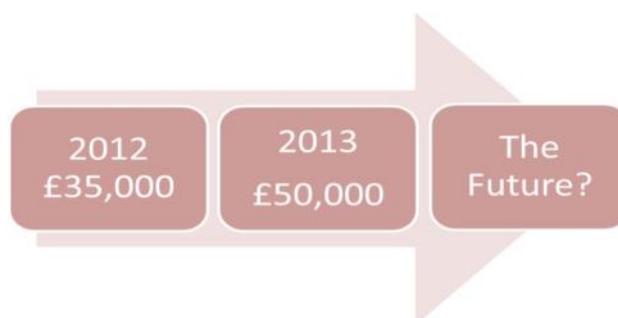
Online fundraising takes off for county trusts

Online fundraising presents a learning curve for us all. It is, however, a leap that is very worthwhile for most. Some trusts are benefitting from the monthly fee free agreement between the National Churches Trust and JustGiving www.justgiving.com . Trusts can, of course, use any online fundraising platform that they prefer. This article focuses on JustGiving because we have more information about it and a larger number of trusts use it.

Raising future success

Most trusts using JustGiving accounts use them solely or primarily for their Ride+Stride event (or its local title).

In 2012 ten trusts raised over £1,000 each with JustGiving. Although statistics are not complete, nearly £35,000 was reported as being raised in total across England that year. The most successful trust reported income raised c£4,500. In 2013 the reported total raised was just under £50,000. The highest amount raised by a trust was £14,000. The potential is clear!



Understanding trust fundraising

Chris Field from JustGiving came to the 2014 CTF Annual Conference in Bloomsbury to speak about the online platform during the afternoon workshops. The workshop raised some interesting questions and attendees wished to discuss the platform further. Therefore, later in the summer he met with Ride+Stride co-ordinators from Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire to better understand how the event and trusts work. Somerset also supplied some questions and comments for the meeting.

Chris also attended the National Ride+Stride Annual Meeting in Bristol this autumn—you can read more about this in the Ride+Stride article on page 10.

The CTF, National Ride+Stride Standing Committee and the National Churches Trust thank him for his continuing interest in our cause.

Some Pros and Cons...

- Those using the accounts have found that it is true that people give larger amounts online
- The accounts come with a text giving number
- Trusts have found that reading the reports provided by JustGiving can be challenging to say the least. JustGiving acknowledge that they want to improve the reports, although they have to provide information for a huge range of charities so it is likely that there will always be some limitations
- JustGiving take a transaction fee on money raised. As they factor in Gift Aid, a £10 donation would arrive at your trust as over £11 (other platforms have different arrangements).

The National Churches Trust agreement is with JustGiving because it is the most popular and successful platform. Spending money is always an issue for charities and particularly for smaller charities run by volunteers. Those that have been using the JustGiving accounts for a while report that they consider the transaction fee on payments as well worth it because of the benefits and amounts of money raised. JustGiving are very aware of this issue. They want to offer the best service they can and to help charities move with the times and technologies.

Getting more from JustGiving

Trusts with accounts may find it beneficial to think about using them more widely, if they do not already do so. JustGiving find that it is possible to encourage people to make donations, run campaigns and other local events. One way is the regular blog facility, which is accessible and inspiring, suggesting easy and cost efficient ways to encourage more people to support you.

If your trust does not have an account and you would like to find out more or set one up contact Alison Pollard at the National Churches Trust, email: alison.pollard@nationalchurchestrust.org

The helpdesk tel: 0345 078 2063 at JustGiving can help you to make wider use of your account and to grow your online fundraising. They are quite a small team, dealing with a lot of charities, but they are very willing to help.

Churches in the snow

The National Churches Trust has invited people to post photos of snow covered churches on its Facebook page. People are sharing really magical photos, and it has been a fun and quick way of attracting Likes and friends.

If you would like to see more or add your own snowy church photo, visit the [National Churches Trust Facebook](#)



www.facebook.com/nationalchurchestrust/





Ride+ Stride County Co-ordinators met in November 2014 in Bristol Cathedral Chapter House for their Annual Meeting with the National Committee. We reviewed the 2013 Ride+Stride events which together raised over £1.2 million.

Jeanette Thomas from the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust talked about a survey she carried out to give an overview of the counties' administration. There were thanks and a word of appreciation supported by a small gift for Jim Barnes-Phillips, retiring after the six years' maximum as National Treasurer of Berkshire Churches Trust. Alison Pollard, Grants & Local Trusts Manager and Eddie Tulasiewicz, Communications Officer from the National Churches Trust talked about the national brand and their continuing support of our events.

After lunch Chris Field from JustGiving gave a presentation in which he stressed the increasing trend to donate online and, indeed, to donate larger amounts online. He added that introducing a JustGiving website was not only about giving, but also about creating publicity for Ride+Stride. The JustGiving agreement with the National Churches Trust was made possible through the existence of the national brand—more about that later.

Annual report

Our National Annual Report covered a lot this year. It highlighted the importance of gathering statistics about the events to help with publicity and to spot opportunities for development.



This includes keeping track of financial information and numbers of participants, whether they are walkers, cyclists, runners, joggers, disability scooter drivers, horse-riders or churches.

The more we work together the more we can do to think up new ideas and find new opportunities

All figures are collected by our Hon. Secretary, the Revd Preb David Crowhurst of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. A form to use for this purpose is available from d.crowhurst@btinternet.com

National Ride+Stride brand

The national brand has been developing since 2009 with our committee's input and the National Churches Trust's continuing investment and help. We would encourage trusts to use the national logo which is available from Georgina Rogerson, email: georgina.rogerson@nationalchurchestrust.org

The "strip" logo can be used in part, parts or whole and without the colours, if preferred. A shared logo is a way of making the events instantly recognisable to the public and media and helping those trusts whose events do not raise as much money as others. The brand tries to secure national and local publicity. Georgina can also help with your trust's page on the national brand's website, so please provide her with any updates.

Ride+Stride day is always the second Saturday in September, thus it's time to start getting ready for 12 September 2015! Available to support publicity is a lively message from Bear Grylls, outdoor enthusiast, Chief Scout, TV presenter, author and supporter of the National Churches Trust, who has agreed to extend his support to Ride+Stride. His message and a photograph for use is available from Georgina Rogerson.

Please send Eddie Tulasiewicz, eddie.tulasiewicz@nationalchurchestrust.org at the National Churches Trust high quality photographs and interesting stories about your trust's event—unusual events, exciting plans for your next event or photographs which attract attention are particularly requested. The more we work together the more we can do to think up new ideas and find new opportunities.

David Knowles DL, Chairman, National Ride+Stride Committee, Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust

Churches Trusts Forum Members

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