



WORCESTERSHIRE AND DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



WORCESTERSHIRE & DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Patrons

Mr. Michael Brinton, Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire
Lord Sandys, DL. Mr. John Berkeley, DL.
The Right Reverend Dr. John Inge, Bishop of Worcester
The Most Reverend Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham
The Right Reverend David Walker, Bishop of Dudley
The Reverend John Howard,
Chair of the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury Methodist District
The Reverend William H. Anderson,
Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District
Mr. Michael J. Wall

Trustees

Chairman

Tim Bridges
3, Severn Drive, Upton upon Severn, Worcs. WR8 0JL
Tel: 01684 593257

Secretary

John Davies
Yarringtons, Alfrick, Worcester WR6 5EX
Tel: 01886 884336 E-mail: flora.donald@virgin.net

Treasurer

Jean Crabbe
Fetterlocks Farm House, Fetterlocks Lane
Shelsley Beauchamp, Worcs. WR6 6QS
Tel: 01886 812373

Andrew Grant, DL.
Philip Jones
Annette Leech

Richard J. Slawson
Michael Thomas
Sam Driver White

Officers

Cycle Ride Event Organisers

Helen Peberdy, 79, Corbett Avenue, Droitwich Spa, Worcs. WR9 7BH

Committee Secretary

Jacci Hunt

Front Cover Photograph: St Leonard, Ribbesford *Gil Barlow*

Back Cover Photograph: Croome *Gil Barlow*

Chairman's Report

During my sixth year as Chairman of the Trust, we have been working hard to continue our work in assisting those responsible for looking after the numerous historic churches, chapels and meeting houses across Worcestershire and Dudley with the often difficult task of repairing and maintaining their buildings. These places of worship are greatly valued by members of local communities and visitors alike, and whilst some date back to the Norman Conquest and before, others have yet to celebrate their first centenary. There is ever increasing pressure on the funds of organisations such as this trust, and we have been pleased to give grants for works at a further eight places of worship during the past year. These are listed in this report, and we are pleased that one grant of £2,500 to the Norman church of St Nicholas, Earl's Croome was matched with a partnership grant from the National Churches Trust. We are also very pleased to receive support from the R.D. Turner Trust which helps us to increase our available grants to churches. We continue to make a financial contribution towards the post of Historic Buildings and Communities Officer in Worcester Diocese, now halfway through a second three year term. This valuable work undertaken by Andrew Mottram to secure increased use and better care of church buildings fulfils a prime aim of this trust, and is a most worthy reflection of the objective of the great preservationist William Morris

to "stave off decay by daily care". Prevention is always better than cure, and such work helps ensure that our resources can be directed in the most useful and beneficial way.

I would like to record my thanks to our trustees and officers for all the extremely valuable work that they undertake for the Trust. We warmly welcome Philip Jones as a new trustee, but are sad to record the passing last February of our long standing patron Lord Sandys. We also record with gratitude the support of our patrons, the Bishop of Dudley, the Right Reverend David Walker, who has moved to become Bishop of Manchester, and the Reverend Bill Anderson, Chairman of the Birmingham and District Methodist Church, who has now retired. We look forward to welcoming their successors in the coming year. It is also a great pleasure for me to once again acknowledge the hard work of both John Davies our Secretary and Jean Crabbe our Treasurer, and Jacci Hunt who continues to provide us with expert secretarial support. We rely heavily on all of them to keep the Trust running so efficiently and it is much appreciated

'Ride and Stride' continues to be our most significant fundraising venture, and our thanks go to Helen Peberdy for the enormous amount of work that goes into organising the day in September, as well as distributing paperwork before the event and processing the collection of funds afterwards. Helen has been much helped by Anna Hill and Annette Leech, and we are very grateful to them all for ensuring the continued success of 'Ride and Stride' in our area. We also linked up with the Churches Festival, organised with the Diocese and Herefordshire and Shropshire Church Tourism Groups, which undoubtedly helped to raise the profile of our churches over the weekend of 14th and 15th September. We are pleased to note that the Festival period has been extended to a fortnight around the 'Ride and Stride' weekend in 2014. We hope that many more people will support the work of the Trust through 'Ride and Stride' this year in whatever way they feel able; by cycling, on foot or on horseback, as well as by sponsoring participants or arranging for churches, chapels and meeting houses to be open and welcoming on the day, or by participating in the Festival by hosting an extra event or activity.

Our thanks also go to Haydn Rhodes and Jan Gill who again organised highly successful car tours last June and July, this time to groups of churches in East Worcestershire and the Vale of Evesham. Details of the 2014 tours appear at the back of this report. In October Annette Leech and I led a walk around some of the historic places of worship in Bromsgrove, which included the remarkable Roman Catholic church of St Peter, the United Reformed Church which is about to be converted to a new use, and finished with a lovely tea at All Saints. This year we are planning a day school on churches to be held in October, and a visit to Rugby to celebrate William Butterfield's bi-centenary.

Further details of these events and how to book will be posted on our new website www.worcesteranddudleyhistoricchurches.org.uk. We are extremely grateful to Annette Leech for all she is doing to establish and build up such an excellent site, which went live last June. Annette has been assisted by Gilbert Barlow in developing an ever increasing library of photographs of our places of worship, which is a highly valuable resource. Please visit the website to have a look at the photographs, as well as to find information on the work of the Trust, other sources of funds and links to further useful sources of information.

During the year I attended meetings in London of the Historic Churches Liaison Group (HCLG), now renamed the Churches Trusts Forum. After three years in the chair I was able to hand on the baton to John Mills of the Devon Historic Churches Trust at the last annual conference held at St Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Birmingham. I continue to represent this trust, along with those of Staffordshire, Herefordshire and Shropshire, and the Forum helps to enhance links between the county trusts and the National Churches Trust.

As always I conclude with a plea to all our supporters to continue to help our work with historic churches, chapels and meeting houses in Worcestershire and Dudley. Please consider making a

bequest to the Trust, or becoming a Friend and encouraging others to do the same. If you are able to make a donation to the Trust by using the form at the back of this report, you will help the Trust with its valuable work. Please support 'Ride and Stride' in September, and keep an eye on our website for information on our tours and other Trust events.

I look forward to seeing you during 2014. Thank you for any help you are able to give us.

Tim Bridges

St Leonard, Ribbesford

The Trust was delighted to be able to make a grant of £5,000 during this year to help with repairs to the stonework, roofs, windows, belfry, drainage and rainwater goods at this fine church.

St Leonard has a beautiful setting on the edge of Wyre Forest, next to Ribbesford Court and close to the River Severn. The isolated position of the church is in contrast to its important historic role as the parish church of the town of Bewdley until 1853, and this helps to explain its relatively large size. Built mainly of red sandstone, part of the north aisle is the original Norman church, and the fine doorway has delightful carving by masons of the Herefordshire School of Sculpture, notably the curious hunting scene on the tympanum. The rebuilding of much of the rest of the church in 1877, following a lightning strike, was much criticised at the time by the Victorian architectural writer, John Ruskin, but the resulting preservation of the fine 15th century timber south arcade is to be highly commended.

The spacious interior houses further medieval carving in stone and wood. Several pieces reset from the rood screen can be seen on the pulpit, including a dancing pig and other delightful scenes from folk tales. There is also some good 15th century stained glass, but the finest window is that designed in the pre-Raphaelite style by Burne Jones and made in 1875 by Morris and Co to commemorate Hannah Macdonald, grandmother of Stanley Baldwin. The 13th century bell in the tower is probably the oldest in Worcestershire.

The Trust hopes that this grant will help secure the future of this much loved historic church for many generations to come.

Tim Bridges

Historic Churches Car Tours 2013

We are pleased to report that Mike Wall has remained involved with the car church tours. offered to undertake at least one introductory talk during the two tours. For this we are very grateful.

Sunday, 23rd June - We gathered at St. Edmund, Stoulton at 2.30 pm; a church which has several Norman features which have survived. The large fragment of a 15th century cope is of particular interest. We were grateful for the warm welcome and support given by Mrs. Marchant, Churchwarden. We moved on to St. John, White Ladies Aston where the offer of refreshments was a pleasant surprise. Mike Wall gave his usual entertaining talk based on many years of local knowledge. Our next port of call was St. Nicholas, Peopleton where Mike gave a repeat performance. By this time tea was beckoning and we descended with high expectations on St. Nicholas, Pinvin. Expectations also included the wonderful medieval wall paintings. A retired vicar, from the parish, gave a talk, when the hubbub of tea and conversation was quelled. We were very grateful for a splendid tea put on by the ladies of the village led by Mrs Elliott, churchwarden.

Sunday, 21st July - St. Egwin, Norton and Lenchwick was the first church. It is a must for those who like medieval tombs and memorials. We were welcomed by Mr Green (churchwarden) & Mrs Green who gave the introductory talk. We set off to St Leonard, Bretforton where, unfortunately, no representative of the church was available. However, we were able to appreciate the Preedy glass and the interesting 17th century panelling in the 'Squire's Pew'. Haydn gave the talk. We strayed over the border into Gloucestershire to visit St. Nicholas, Saintbury which is in the hands of the Churches Conservation Trust. Mike Wall's introductory talk was somewhat hampered by scaffolding in the Chancel where medieval wall paintings have been discovered and are being exposed. A delicious tea was served at St Peter, Willersey by the village ladies and Jan gave the talk from the pulpit and everyone learned what 'croquetted' means!

Sponsored Ride and Stride, 14 September 2013

Help! Our regular and faithful cyclist isn't available this year because of work commitments, so what to do? No other keen cyclists in the congregation spring to mind, so perhaps it's time for the 'Stride' option? The publication of the new season's fixture list provides a home game and leads to the thought that an early start should result in a timely arrival for the afternoon's entertainment at Aggborough, so that settles it.

And so off before 8am for a circuit of Droitwich, collecting just one signature from a fellow parish warden also out early at St Andrew's getting ready for the Festival of Churches and the local Saltfest celebration, before a few minutes at St Augustine's to prepare for the tower opening for these events and of course for riders and striders. Then off into the country on an overcast but pleasant late summer morning, but with much evidence of the heavy rain in the previous week. This makes the advice of a dog walker beyond Rushock to walk round the point to point course at Chaddesley Corbett rather than take the path across the middle seem very sound. Sneaking into the porch during a lusty rendering of Cwm Rhondda by a wedding congregation at Harvington and a break for a drink at Stone lead to a walk around Kidderminster, with both St George's and St Mary's having good numbers of visitors for their Festival of Churches events but not many riders and striders, and finally a plod up Hoo Road for a late lunch and a couple of hours later a welcome three points! Nineteen churches and chapels from six denominations, enjoyable, uplifting, an opportunity to reflect and modestly profitable, so well worthwhile. Striding seems to gain contributions as much as riding. But how to encourage more involvement and seize the opportunity that the Festival of Churches is bringing? Perhaps some email communication using diocesan lists would help to raise awareness. *Richard Rose, St Augustine, Dodderhill, Droitwich*

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31st December 2013

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

| | 2012 | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| INCOMING RESOURCES | | |
| Voluntary Income | | |
| Donations : R.D.Turner Trust | 5000 | - |
| Others | 455 | - |
| Refunded Grant | 3862 | |
| Donations from Grant Aided Churches | 3316 | 2403 |
| Friends' Subscriptions and Donations | 1057 | 1415 |
| Gift Aid recovered | 272 | 256 |
| Sundry Income | - | 23 |
| | <u>13962</u> | <u>4097</u> |
| Activities for Generating Funds | | |
| Annual Ride & Stride | 10172 | 7575 |
| Gift aid recovered | 956 | 1138 |
| | <u>11128</u> | <u>8713</u> |
| Investment Income | | |
| Bank and deposit interest | 537 | 995 |
| | <u>537</u> | <u>995</u> |
| TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES | <u><u>25627</u></u> | <u><u>13805</u></u> |
| | | |
| RESOURCES EXPENDED | | |
| Costs of generating funds | | |
| Ride & Stride fund raising costs | 558 | 403 |
| Charitable Expenditure | | |
| Grants paid to churches | 16500 | 38000 |
| Refunds to churches and chapels - Ride & Stride | 4846 | 3536 |
| | <u>21346</u> | <u>41536</u> |
| Governance Costs | | |
| Trustee secretarial and administration | 825 | 879 |
| Support for English Heritage inspired programme | 2000 | 2000 |
| Trust Website Design | - | 2472 |
| Independent Examiner's fee | 200 | 200 |
| | <u>3025</u> | <u>5551</u> |
| TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED | <u><u>24929</u></u> | <u><u>47490</u></u> |
| | | |
| NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR | 698 | -33685 |
| | | |
| BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY 2013 | 34069 | 67754 |
| | | |
| BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER 2013 | <u><u>34767</u></u> | <u><u>34069</u></u> |

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

BALANCE SHEET At 31st December 2013

| | £ | 2012 £ |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Debtors and Prepayments | 108 | 269 |
| COIF Charities Deposit Fund | 2745 | 2732 |
| Market Harborough BS Deposit | 25317 | 25796 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 6943 | 5667 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 35113 | 34464 |
| Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year | | |
| Accruals | 346 | 395 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| NET ASSETS | <hr/> 34767 <hr/> | <hr/> 34069 <hr/> |
| INCOME FUNDS | | |
| General Fund - Unrestricted | <hr/> 34767 <hr/> | <hr/> 34069 <hr/> |

Note: A further 6 grants totalling £11,000 have been authorised for payment by the Trustees subject to the appropriate faculty being obtained, a satisfactory report from the visiting Trustee, and work starting within twelve months.

STATEMENT BY THE TRUSTEES

The preceding summarised financial statements contain information extracted from the full accounts and may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Trust. For further information, the full accounts together with the Independent Examiner's report on those accounts should be consulted; copies can be obtained from the Secretary.

The full financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 26th February 2014 and have been independently examined. They will be submitted to the Charity Commission in due course.

The statement shown above was approved by the Trustees on 26th February 2014 and signed on their behalf by

T. J. Bridges - Chairman of the Trustees

STATEMENT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF

WORCESTERSHIRE & DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

In my opinion the summarised financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013 are consistent with the full financial statements in respect of which I signed an unqualified independent examiner's statement on 27th February 2014.

38 Lark Hill

Richard T. Barnes

Worcester

WR5 2EQ

GRANTS PAID IN 2013

| Church | Place | Project | Cost | W&DHCT Grant | NCT |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--|----------|--------------|----------------|
| St Leonard | Ribbesford | Extensive internal and external repairs | £121,716 | £5,000 | |
| St Mary | Stanford on Teme | Restoration of monuments | £18,432 | £2,500 | |
| St Mary & St Andrew | Knightwick | Refurbishment of benefactor name boards | £3,660 | £1,000 | |
| Friends Meeting House | Stourbridge | Wall repairs & internal refurbishment | £39,660 | £2,500 | £2,500 |
| St Nicholas | Earls Croome | Re-roofing & wall repointing | £38,244 | £2,500 | £2,500 |
| St Giles | Heightington | Preservation of wall paintings | £15,500 | £500 | |
| Holy Trinity | Old Hill | Re-roof transept, repairs to stonework & rainwater goods | £146,438 | £1,000 | |
| St Mary de Witton & St Andrews | Droitwich | Re-siting of ancient coffin lid | £4,351 | £1,500 | |
| TOTAL | | | | | £16,500 |

GRANTS AUTHORISED IN 2013

| Church | Place | Project | Cost | Grant |
|-------------------------|--------------|---|----------|---------------|
| St. Stephen's | Barbourne | Preparations to hang new peal of bells | £90,000 | £1,000 |
| Holy Family | Bewdley | Damp & mould treatment, interior redecoration | £2,569 | £500 |
| Bethel Chapel | Wollescote | Cast iron window and hopper repairs | £8,752 | £1,000 |
| St. James' | Hartlebury | Nave roof & ceiling & external stonework repairs | £145,200 | £2,500 |
| Bringsty Mission Church | Avoncroft | Exterior, heating & electrical maintenance | £8,500 | £1,000 |
| St Giles | Heightington | Preservation of wall paintings | £15,500 | £500 |
| Holy Trinity | Old Hill | Re-roofing transept, repairs to stonework and Rainwater goods | £146,438 | £1,000 |
| TOTAL | | | | £7,500 |

WORCESTERSHIRE & DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Bankers: Lloyds TSB Bank plc
Malvern

Barclays Bank plc
Droitwich Spa
(Cycle Ride Account)

**Independent
Examiner:**

R.T. Barnes
Worcester

Registered Charity No. 1035156

Constitution:

Trust Deed dated 21 October 1993, as amended by a Deed of Variation dated 23 November 2005.

Objects:

1. The preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement, upkeep or beautification of any Christian church within either the Church of England Diocese of Worcester or the County of Worcester;
2. The education of the public in the history and architecture of churches.

Trustees:

New Trustees are appointed by the serving Trustees. The total number of Trustees shall not exceed eleven. There is a sub-Committee for the running of the Cycle Ride that has one member who is not a Trustee. There is also a Sub-Committee for the arrangements of events. Decisions are made by the Trustees at their quarterly meetings. Administration is carried out between meetings by the Secretary in accordance with guidelines agreed from time to time. The Trust is affiliated with the National Churches Trust (Registered Charity Number: 1119845).

Policy:

The Trust has no permanent endowment and distributes the income. Apart from reimbursement of some expenses, no payments are made to Trustees.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

All requests for grants must be made through our Secretary who, providing the project meets our criteria, will forward an application form for completion. A considerable amount of information is requested both in relation to the scope and specification of the project, and the profile and financial position of the parish. Applications are considered at the quarterly Trustee meetings when provisional grants are agreed and then confirmation of the grant is subsequently given following a satisfactory visit to the church by a Trustee.

The grant reservation is normally held for a maximum period of twelve months and payment will only be made following receipt of an architect's interim certificate or an appropriate invoice.

WORCESTERSHIRE & DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Will you be a Friend of the Trust?

- Yes, I want to be a friend of the Trust
- I wish to make a single donation
- I wish to make a regular donation
- I enclose cheque / CAF voucher.

(Tick as appropriate)

Signed..... Date.....

Name..... Address.....

.....
.....

GIFT AID If you wish to Gift Aid your donations please sign this form. We can then claim Gift Aid tax relief of 25p on every pound you give.

I am a UK taxpayer and would like the Trust to reclaim the tax on any donations I make now or in the future. I confirm that I will pay an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax each year at least equal to the amount of tax that all charities that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that year. I note that other taxes such as Council Tax and VAT do not qualify.

Signed..... Date.....

Please return completed form to the Treasurer – Mrs J Crabbe, Fetterlocks Farmhouse, Fetterlocks Lane, Shelsley Beauchamp, Worcester. WR6 6QS

Payment (minimum £10) may be made by cheque, standing order, or on line.

BANKERS ORDER (Do not detach)

To the ManagerBank plc

Sort Code...../...../.....

Please pay to LloydsTSB Bank plc, Belle View Terrace, Malvern, Worcs. WR14 4QG, Sort Code 30-95-41
For the credit of Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust a/c 01166146

The sum of £.....(.....) (*in words*) commencing

on theday of201..... and on the same day each month/quarter/year (delete as appropriate) until further notice and debit my account No.....with each payment made.

.....
Full name in block letters

.....
Address

.....
Signature

WORCESTERSHIRE & DUDLEY



HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

2014 CHURCH TOURS AND EVENTS

CAR TOUR: Sunday 22 June

Dodford, Chaddesley Corbett, Wilden & finally Hartlebury

CAR TOUR: Sunday 20 July

Bushley, Queenhill, Longdon & finally Castlemorton

Enquiries – Mrs J Gill 01386 554441 – jangill46@gmail.com or
Haydn Rhodes: 01386 554953 – haydn@pershire.eclipse.co.uk

RIDE AND STRIDE WEEKEND: Saturday and Sunday 13-14 September

Details and sponsor forms from Helen Peberdy on 01905 772847.

This year the Ride and Stride will take part during the **CHURCHES FESTIVAL WEEKEND** – 6-21 September.

TOWN TOUR: Sunday October led by Tim Bridges and Annette Leech.

Start time: For more details contact: Tim Bridges tim@victoriansociety.org.uk

OR

Day School: 4 October