

# WORCESTERSHIRE & DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

## **Patrons**

The Viscount Cobham  
Mr. John Berkeley, DL.  
The Right Reverend Dr. John Inge, Bishop of Worcester  
The Most Reverend Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham  
The Right Reverend Graham Usher, Bishop of Dudley  
The Reverend John Howard, Chair of the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury Methodist District  
Mr. Michael 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](mailto:flora.donald@virgin.net)

### **Treasurer**

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

Andrew Grant, DL.	Richard Slawson
Michael Howard (from May 2015)	
Philip Jones	Michael Thomas (to Nov 2015)
Annette Leech	Sam Driver White

## **Officers**

### **Cycle Ride Event Organiser**

*currently vacant*

### **Committee Secretary**

Jacci Hunt

Front Cover Photograph: St James, Hartlebury

Back Cover Photograph: Christ Church, Great Malvern

*Courtesy Gilbert Barlow: [www.flickr.com/photos/tudorbarlow](http://www.flickr.com/photos/tudorbarlow)*

## Chairman's Report

The Church of England's report on church buildings has been much in the news since its publication in the autumn of 2015. The report is the work of the Church Buildings Review Group, chaired by the Bishop of Worcester, and has highlighted many of the issues facing church buildings across the country. These are very much reflected in places of worship supported locally by the Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust. Some three quarters of our historic church buildings are listed, and indeed the Church of England alone is responsible for almost half of the grade I listed buildings in England. More than half of church buildings in the country are located in rural areas with under 20% of the population. However, the Trust is also acutely aware of the number of historic church buildings in urban areas, including those of other denominations, which are often in need of extensive repair and support. There will be further debate and discussion on the Review Group's report during 2016, but it is important to note the growing public interest in the future of church buildings. The Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust will be closely monitoring progress and looking to improve outcomes for church buildings as a result of this review.

Further acknowledgement of the significance of churches as heritage buildings also came in 2015 with what turned out to be the first of two rounds of grants, offered by the Government to listed church buildings for the repair of roofs and rainwater disposal systems. The Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust has been able to contribute towards shortfalls on some of these projects, and will support applicants in the second round of early 2016. The Trust is also very pleased to note the continuation by the Government of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme for reimbursement of VAT at least until 2020.

Although funding by the Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Trust remains limited, another eight grants to places of worship for repairs and improvements have been authorised during the year totalling £12,500. Details appear later in the report. This Trust received a further generous grant from the R.D. Turner Trust which, together with grants from the Ratcliffe Foundation and Rodway Trust, continue to enhance the assistance this Trust can offer to places of worship. We should like to record our grateful thanks to the trustees of these organisations for their continued support of our work. Our links to the National Churches Trust continue to be strengthened by participation with other county trusts in the Churches Trusts Forum, and we hope local places of worship will be able to benefit from the National Churches Trust's Partnership Grant Scheme in 2016.

As ever, I should like to record my thanks to the trustees and officers for all their hard work and support during the year. Michael Thomas stepped down as trustee during the autumn and we have particularly benefitted from his great expertise in reviewing grant applications. Our grateful thanks are also due for the enormous amount of hard work undertaken by our Secretary, John Davies, and our Treasurer, Jean Crabbe. These roles are vital to the successful running of the Trust, and so it is with great sadness that we have accepted the resignation of Jean as Treasurer following long and invaluable service to the Trust. Jean will be greatly missed by us all and the search is now underway for a new treasurer. We would therefore much welcome expressions of interest from anyone with experience of being a treasurer who might be able to assist the Trust. I would like to record our thanks to Jacci Hunt as Committee Secretary for her valuable hard work during the year. We also welcomed new trustee, Michael Howard, to our meeting in August. Michael has recently retired after many years of service with Worcestershire County Council, and his wealth of management experience is already of great benefit to the Trust.

'Ride & Stride' on 12th September proved very successful with to date a total income to the Trust for 2015 of almost £14, 000, representing an increase of some £2,000 on the 2014 total. Some 50 groups or individual places of worship raised funds this year for the Trust. They are too many to list here, but the significant contributions from Pershore Abbey, St James' Bishampton, Alvechurch Baptist Church and St James' Wollaston

deserve special mention. Participating documentation for 'Ride and Stride' was this year placed online at our website as the result of much hard work by trustee Annette Leech, assisted by Gil Barlow, and we are extremely grateful to them for updating and managing this information. Once again we hope that as many people as possible will support the event on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016 by travelling around churches on bicycle, foot, public transport or horseback, as well as by sponsoring participants or arranging for places of worship to be open on the day. Annette and Gil have indicated that now details of 'Ride and Stride' are available online, 2016 will be the last year that they will administer the event. We are therefore now looking for someone to take this on for the Trust, and would welcome expressions of interest.

Haydn Rhodes and Jan Gill arranged the very successful car tours to the Lower Teme Valley area in June and the Himbleton area in July. They too have now resigned from this role and finish with our most grateful thanks. Our new trustee Michael Howard has kindly agreed to arrange this year's tours which will be around Evesham and Bewdley. Details of these tours appear at the back of this report. Although our planned visit by coach to Rugby unfortunately had to be cancelled as it coincided with the General Election, we were delighted to be invited to a special Evensong in October by the Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral. The beautiful service in the choir of the Cathedral was followed by a reception at the Guesten for the Trust, its supporters and guests. Annette Leech arranged an excellent demonstration of the website, and our thanks go to her for this, and indeed for much of the organisation of this very successful occasion. An evening reception event at Spetchley in partnership with the Churches Conservation Trust is currently being planned for May 2016.

Our excellent website continues to be developed and managed by Annette Leech, and is the main channel of communication for the Trust. Details of our events and particularly how to participate in Ride and Stride are here, along with information on grants and how to apply for them. Annette continues to be assisted by Gil Barlow in adding photographs and details of the historic places of worship to the site, including information on opening arrangements at many churches. This wonderful resource is now largely complete for Worcestershire and the current focus is on the Dudley area. Please visit the website at [www.worcestershireanddudleyhistoricchurches.org.uk](http://www.worcestershireanddudleyhistoricchurches.org.uk) and enjoy exploring.

As ever, I would like to conclude by encouraging all who are interested in the churches, chapels and meeting houses of the Worcestershire and Dudley area to consider becoming a Friend, making a bequest to the Trust, and encouraging others to do the same. Please support 'Ride and Stride' in September and visit our website for further details of the Trust and its events. If you are able to support the Trust by using the form at the back of this report or via our website, you will be helping the Trust to undertake valuable work in preserving and providing a sustainable future for these greatly loved historic buildings.

Our thanks for any help you are able to give to the Trust in 2016.

**Tim Bridges**

### **St James, Hartlebury**

This important church received a grant from the Trust of £2,500 during 2015 towards major building repair projects. St James stands in the centre of the village and close to Hartlebury Castle, former residence of the Bishops of Worcester. It is a striking red sandstone building, and behind the west tower built for Bishop Sandys in 1567 there is a large aisled nave erected to designs by Thomas Rickman in 1837, with striking Decorated style windows and galleries supported by cast iron piers. Rickman had previously rebuilt much of the medieval chancel and side chapels, which still contain a 13<sup>th</sup> century arcade. The font of 1882 contains part of a Norman bowl, the earliest artefact in the church. The fine nave pews by J.A. Chatwin of 1908 are carved with the arms of the various Bishops of Worcester, whilst the woodwork of the Bishop's Throne dates to 1925 by the Bromsgrove Guild. The church also contains a number of memorial tablets to Bishops of Worcester, several of whom are buried in the churchyard.

**Tim Bridges**

## **Worcestershire & Dudley Historic Churches Trust Church Car Tours 2015**

Friends and guests enjoyed two car tours in 2015. The first on Sunday 21 June visited Cotheridge St Leonard, Broadwas St Mary Magdalene, Alfrick St Mary Magdalene and Leigh St Edburga. The second tour on Sunday 26 July visited Crowle St John the Baptist, Himbleton St Mary Magdalene, Huddington St James and Grafton Flyford St John the Baptist.

We are grateful to Jan Gill and Haydn Rhodes for organising these tours and to the last visited churches on both occasions for providing teas for the participants.

**Michael Howard**

### **Ride and Stride**

'Ride and Stride 2015' was held on September 12th, and thanks to the provision of our online documentation as a result of much hard work by Annette Leech and Gilbert Barlow, a total of well over £12,000 has been raised so far. This year's event will be held on Saturday 10th September and we warmly welcome participation from supporters who get sponsorship for riding or walking to visit the many churches, chapels and meeting houses across Worcestershire and Dudley which we hope will be open to welcome them

**Rick Warner took part on behalf of Shrawley and Great Witley churches. Here is his account:**

'I had a great time, blew off a few physical cobwebs, visited some interesting churches (which I'll try to visit again) and met some very nice welcomers! Hopefully I should have raised a few coppers from the folks in Shrawley and Witley. (Photos to be published on Trust Website). I drove in from Machynlleth in the morning, did a couple of churches by car, then parked in Worcester ready to cycle out in the Pershore direction.

Here is my sequence of churches:

St Lawrence, Lindridge>>St James, Pensax>>St David's Worcester>>Worcester Cathedral>>St Swithun's Worcester>>St Andrew's Worcester>>St George's RC Worcester>>St George's CofE, Barbourne>>St Martins, London Road>>St Philip & St James Whittington>>St Nicholas Peopleton>>St Nicholas Pinvin>>St Anne's Wyre Piddle>>Pershore Abbey>>St Michael Crophorne>>St John the Evangelist Charlton>>St John the Baptist Fladbury>>St Thomas Lower Moor>>St John in Bedwardine Worcester>>St Stephen's Barbourne, but late in day! 17.30

Here are my Oscars!

Nicest church to spend time in (subjective I know): St Philip & St James, Whittington - cool, peaceful, very friendly welcome. I'd really recommend. Ancient Yew in churchyard. Toilets!! Planning a meeting room/extension - Great!!

Best coffee: see above! St Philip & St James, Whittington

Friendliest welcome: St John the Evangelist, Charlton - greeted by ladies decorating church for next day's Harvest Festival and Cream Tea Festival. A really warm welcome, wish I could have stayed longer.

Most interesting 'heritage': St Nicholas, Pinvin: extraordinary wall paintings. The church in the field.

Best refreshments: St Thomas, Lower Moor: cup cakes!

Easily missed but worth visiting?: St Martin's on the London Road.

Thanks to all of the hosts! I'd really like to repeat next year!' **Rick**

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
For the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>	Unrestricted General Fund £	2014 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Voluntary Income</b>		
Donations R.D.Turner Trust	2500	5000
The Ratcliffe Foundation	1000	-
The Rodway Family Trust	1000	-
Donations from Grant Aided Churches	1190	1522
Friends' Subscriptions and Donations	1195	1215
Gift Aid recovered	256	199
Sundry Income	18	-
	7159	7936
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>		
Annual Ride + Stride	12432	10659
Gift Aid recovered	1559	1560
	13991	12219
<b>Investment Income</b>		
Bank and deposit interest	454	314
	454	314
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	21604	20469
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>		
Ride + Stride fund raising costs	187	125
<b>Charitable Expenditure</b>		
Grants paid to churches	12500	1000
Refunds to churches and chapels re Ride	6088	5026
	18588	6026
<b>Governance Costs</b>		
Trustee, secretarial and administration	1260	941
Support for English Heritage inspired programme	3000	2000
Independent examiner's fee	200	200
	4460	3141
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	23235	9292
<b>NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR (2014 INCOMING)</b>	-1631	11177
<b>BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY 2015</b>	45944	34767
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER 2015</b>	44313	45944

**Continuing Operations** - None of the charity's activities were commenced or discontinued during the above financial year

# WORCESTERSHIRE AND DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

	£	2014 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors and Prepayments	62	127
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	4282	8758
Market Harborough B S	33048	32619
Cash at bank and in hand	7251	4909
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	44643	46413
<b>Creditors</b> : Amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals	330	469
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	44313	45944
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<b>INCOME FUNDS</b>		
General Fund - Unrestricted	44313	45944
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**Note:** A further 3 grants totalling £5,500 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 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 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 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 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 2015 are consistent with the full financial statements in respect of which I signed an Unqualified Independent Examiner's statement on.

**GRANTS AUTHORISED IN 2015**

<b>Church</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Grant</b>
St John's URC	Stourbridge	Roof Repairs	£8,250	£2,500
St Thomas	Crown East	Lavatory & Kitchen installation	£30,000	£1,000
St Anne	Bewdley	Roof guttering & ceiling repairs	£151,240	£2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£5,500</b>

**GRANTS PAID IN 2015**

<b>Church</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Grant</b>
St James	Hartlebury	Nave ceiling & external stonework repairs	£122,700	£2,500
St Martin London Road	Worcester	Total electrical refit, renovate choir stalls	£98,250	£2,500
St Peter	Powick	New central heating boiler	£14,783	£1,000
Bringsty Mission Church	Avoncroft	Exterior conservation & redecoration	£8,500	£1,000
St Peter	Abbots Morton	Bell tower repairs	£43,033	£1,500
All Saints	Evesham	Extensive renovation of bell tower	£370,186	£1,000
Christ Church	Malvern	Complete re-roofing	£193,000	£2,000
Holy Redeemer	Pershore	Disabled access & lavatory	£13,700	£1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£12,500</b>

## WORCESTERSHIRE & DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

**Bankers:** Lloyds Bank plc  
Malvern

**Independent  
Examiner:**

R.T. Barnes  
Worcester

Barclays Bank plc  
Droitwich Spa  
(Cycle Ride Account)

**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.

During the year the Trust approved provisional grants to 3 churches, totalling £5,500. We paid out £12,500 to 8 churches. A further 8 grants remain to be paid totalling £11,750.00

**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:  
 John Davies, Yarringtons, Alfrick, Worcester, WR6 5EX, Tel: 01886 884336 E-mail: [flora.donald@virgin.net](mailto:flora.donald@virgin.net)  
 Payment (minimum £15) may be made by cheque, standing order, or online.

**BANKERS ORDER** (Do not detach)

To the Manager .....Bank plc

..... Sort Code...../...../.....  
 Please pay to Lloyds 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 the .....day of .....201..... 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

## **FORCOMING TOURS AND EVENTS IN 2016**

23 May 2016 - joint meeting with the Churches Conservatio Trust – An Evening with Loyd Grossman at Spetchley Park Gardens

8 May 2016 - CAR TOUR to churches in Honeybourne, South Littleton and Throckmorton

10 July 2016 - CAR TOUR to churches in Ribbesford, Trimpley and Wolverley

(book tours through Michael Howard – 01905 887259: [Michael@mhoward.me/uk](mailto:Michael@mhoward.me/uk).)