

# 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

### *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

John Bailey, M.B.E.  
John Colley  
Andrew Grant, DL.  
Annette Leech

Richard J. Slawson  
Michael Thomas  
Sam Driver White

## *Officers*

### *Cycle Ride Event Organisers*

John Colley  
Helen Peberdy

### *Hon. Publicity/Fundraising Officer*

Stephen Dowling

### *Committee Secretary*

Jacci Hunt

## Chairman's Report

This is my fourth year as Chairman of the Trust. It continues to be a privilege to serve the historic churches, chapels and meeting houses of Worcestershire and Dudley in this way. The Trust makes grants to assist with a wide variety of repair works, thus helping to keep these buildings at the heart of their communities, both as valued places of worship and reflection, as well as important landmarks in both townscape and countryside. This work continues to be vital at a time when many churches find it increasingly difficult to stay open, running and well maintained. The economic situation has continued to be uncertain and difficult, so there is ever increasing pressure for assistance on limited financial resources and grant making bodies such as ours. However, this trust continues to support places of worship as far as possible and our grants for the year are listed in this annual report. 2010 saw the launch of the National Churches Trust's partnership grant scheme, and this trust was fortunate enough to be allocated £20,000 for distribution during 2011 in Worcestershire and Dudley based on agreed criteria in conjunction with some of our own grants, and these are also listed in this annual report. We continue to contribute financially towards the post of Heritage Buildings and Community Development Officer in Worcester Diocese. Our support for this valuable work, on which we are regularly updated, is helping to secure increased use and better care of church buildings. Prevention of decay through effective maintenance remains a better solution for our churches than having to find expensive cures through restoration.

The Trust is indeed fortunate to be served by diligent and enthusiastic trustees and officers, and it is a pleasure for me to take this opportunity to thank them all once again. However, I would particularly like to thank John Davies our Secretary and Jean Crabbe our Treasurer, who both do such vital hard work to ensure we can function efficiently and effectively. Jacqui Hunt has also continued to provide expert secretarial support with meetings and the annual report, and I am most grateful for this.

'Ride and Stride' remains our main fundraising event, and I would like to thank John and Jean Colley along with Helen Peberdy for all they do to collate and distribute paperwork and forms, organise the day in September, and process both forms and collected funds afterwards. We are always keen for more people to support the work of the Trust through 'Ride and Stride' in whatever way they feel able. If cycling is not for you, then contributions on foot and horseback, amongst other interesting modes of getting around, are extremely welcome, and of course sponsoring the participants or ensuring churches are open and welcoming on the day are also vital roles in the event!

Haydn Rhodes and Jan Gill organised their first very successful car tours last June and July to two groups of delightful medieval churches around Bredon Hill with excellent teas. Look out for details of the 2012 tours. The coach tour in August was to a number of historic churches in Birmingham, most of which had at one time been in Worcestershire before the villages of Northfield, Kings Norton and Yardley were enveloped within the city. By contrast the 2012 August coach tour will be to Herefordshire. In October Annette Leech and I led a walk around some of the historic and less well known places of worship in Malvern, where we saw the buildings of several non-conformist denominations before partaking of tea at Holy Trinity, Link Top. Next October we look forward to a visit to Bromsgrove. Steve and Carol Dowling have continued to help with bookings and arrangements for these tours and I offer them my sincere thanks.

During the Worcester Festival on Wednesday 17th August we held a reception at St George's Church, Barbourne, Worcester, where Friends of the Trust joined trustees, and a number of interested members of the public, to view some of the recent restoration work at this wonderful Arts and Crafts church, which had been assisted by the Trust, and to hear more about the work and achievements of the Trust.

Further details of all our events are posted on our website which is at present at <http://worcestershirechurches.blogspot.com/>, but as this is shortly to be updated the site can also be accessed via a link on the National Churches Trust website at [www.nationalchurchestrust.org](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org). We are most grateful to Annette Leech for all she does to enhance and update our site. Please visit it to see information on the work of the Trust and sources of funds, as well as historic pictures of local churches and links to other useful websites. .

Some four times a year I attend meetings in London of the Historic Churches Liaison Group (HCLG), which I currently chair and on which I have represented this trust and those of Staffordshire, Herefordshire and Shropshire. These meetings and the annual conference hosted by the National Churches Trust, which was in Llandaff Cathedral, have enhanced the links between the Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust and other county and national churches trusts during the year.

There is of course so much more we can all do to help historic churches in Worcestershire and Dudley. In the future you may consider making a bequest to the Trust; we have distributed funds from our first ever legacy during the past year to help historic churches in need of restoration. By becoming a Friend and encouraging others to do the same, or by making a donation to the Trust, 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 other Trust events.

I look forward to seeing you during 2012.

**Tim Bridges**

### **St Andrew, Ombersley**

It was particularly significant that during 2011 the Trust was able to support restoration work at this church to the sum of £10,000, as it included £5000 in the form of the Trust's first partnership grant received from the National Churches Trust. These funds have assisted towards the cost of vital repairs to the stonework, windows and drainage systems of this imposing and extraordinary estate church in one of Worcestershire's most attractive villages.

St Andrew's Church is one of the finest surviving works by the Birmingham architect, Thomas Rickman. It was constructed between 1825 and 1829 to the cost of some £18,000 for the Sandys family of Ombersley Court. Rickman was a serious student of Gothic architecture and his terms of Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular styles continue to be used to this day. St Andrew's is in the fourteenth century Decorated style, but Rickman's innovative architecture included extensive use of ironwork which became popular at the time of the Industrial Revolution, but which has also led to severe subsequent deterioration of the masonry. The church has an imposing west tower and spire which dominate the village, and these are attached to a substantial aisled nave and chancel.

Much of the interest in this church lies in its interior which remains much as it was originally designed by Rickman. The pulpit, organ and box pews survive, as does the family pew of Lord Sandys, complete with fireplace. The Commandment Boards and Lord's Prayer can still be seen in the chancel, and the unusual patterned stained glass is all contemporary. It is a remarkable period piece. However, we are reminded of the earlier history of the site through the survival of the chancel of the old church and medieval cross a short distance to the south across the churchyard. The chancel is the mausoleum of the Sandys family, and contains memorials to members of the family who built the nineteenth century church.

The Trust is pleased to support the restoration of St Andrew's in the form of this partnership grant with the National Churches Trust, so that it continues to thrive at the heart of this village. It is important for the Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust to continue such vital work helping to preserve places of worship throughout the area.

**Tim Bridges**

### **Church Tours**

Many people have enjoyed Mike Wall's 'Church Car Crawls' over the last 15 years. When Mike announced that he was 'retiring' we felt that it would be a shame if the tours did not continue so we agreed to offer to follow in Mike's footsteps.

As a tribute to Mike we chose to repeat his first tour. This was close to home for us and the churches are relatively close together. We met at St. John the Baptist, Beckford and enjoyed the Norman doorways and their unusual tympana and the decoration of the Norman tower arch. The next stop was St. Faith's, Overbury and it's impressive chancel. St. Nicholas, Kemerton was an interesting contrast being Victorian High Church. We were grateful for the 'cuppa and cakes etc.' at St. Giles, Bredon. Mike joined us there and was presented with a watercolour of the church and was thanked and applauded for his hard work over 15 years.

The July tour started at St. Peter, Little Comberton which retains several Norman features. Next stop was St. Mary, Wick which has a Norman font and several windows by Charles Eamer Kempe. St. John the Baptist, Fladbury is a fine example of the work of Frederick Preedy and has several medieval monuments. Then on to St. Michael, Cropthorne with its splendid Norman arcades and a spectacular monument to the Dingley family. A fine tea was provided at the converted tithe barn at Charlton.

We would like to thank Mr. Grubb our peripatetic organist who creates a welcoming atmosphere at each church. Also, we are grateful for the cooperation of the vicars, and church wardens involved and the ladies who provide the teas. Finally, thank you for the support of our 'tourists'!

## **Haydn Rhodes & Jan Gill**

### **Coach Tour and Town Walk**

In August the coach tour had a very urban theme for a change. A full coach travelled to see the medieval churches of the former Worcestershire villages all now within the sprawling southern suburbs of Birmingham. We had coffee and a delightful tour of the lovely 13th century St Laurence, Northfield, another excellent tour of St Nicolas, King's Norton, with its landmark spire, where we also saw the fascinating medieval grammar school and enjoyed lunch in the restored timber framed Saracen's Head, now St Nicolas Place. St Mary, Moseley has much interesting Victorian work, and we were intrigued by the 20th century basilica at St Francis, Bournville in the midst of Cadbury's garden village. Our final stop was at St Edburgha, Yardley where another landmark spire crowns an interesting medieval church with fine memorials dedicated to the patron saint of Pershore Abbey. The tea in another historic grammar school building was a most welcome end to a very enjoyable day.

In October our town walk was to some less well known places of worship in Malvern. Although we met at the Priory, we concentrated on the Victorian Baptist and URC churches both situated right under the hills, though the view from Holly Mount Church was unforgettable in the autumn sunshine. We were fascinated by the stories behind the foundation of these buildings and the mid 20th century Friends' Meeting House. A splendid tea was served at Holy Trinity Church, Link Top, where we able to enjoy the fine Victorian wall paintings and stained glass.

## **Tim Bridges**

### **Sponsored Ride & Stride Account**

"It was a windy but otherwise fair day for a cycle ride on 10 September, when I took part in this year's 'Ride and Stride' event. I began with Droitwich, where I found plenty of welcoming volunteers, and even an art exhibition waiting for me at St Andrews Church! Cycling on into the Bowbrook parishes, further out into the countryside, I visited many churches that were unmanned but all with sign-in-sheets and plenty of refreshments to keep me going. Thanks are owed to everyone who helped man and equip the churches!

I found the cycle ride a fantastic opportunity to visit so many of the local churches that I've not had the excuse to see before. After cycling through most of Bowbrook, I moved on to churches such as Flyford, North Piddle and Churchill that I wouldn't otherwise have known of. Finally, I arrived at my local church, Oddingley, having spent an enjoyable but rather tiring day visiting twenty-three Worcestershire churches. Luckily, Gayle and Lynne the church wardens were there waiting with a cup of tea and a biscuit to round off the day! I hope all the walkers and cyclists had as enjoyable a day as I had, and definitely recommend taking part in the event in future years."

This year's report has been written by a young member of the congregation of Oddingley church, Tobias Thornes. I would like to add that I did do the cycle ride myself too, and clocked up 15 churches! The amount raised to date is £9460.

## **Helen Peberdy**

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**For the year ended 31 December 2011**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

2010

	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Voluntary Income</b>		
Donations :		
R.D.Turner Trust	5000	
Grimley Charity	1000	
Legacy		22321
Others	85	1050
Donations from Grant Aided Churches	2313	2740
Friends' Subscriptions and Donations	1139	991
Gift Aid recovered	286	224
Sundry Income	234	234
	<u>10057</u>	<u>27560</u>
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>		
Annual Ride & Stride	10500	11945
Gift aid recovered	1443	1670
	<u>11943</u>	<u>13615</u>
<b>Investment Income</b>		
Bank and deposit interest	980	713
	<u>980</u>	<u>713</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<u><u>22980</u></u>	<u><u>41888</u></u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>		
Ride & Stride fund raising costs	330	382
<b>Charitable Expenditure</b>		
Grants paid to churches	33500	41205
Refunds to churches and chapels - Ride & Stride	4807	5721
	<u>38307</u>	<u>46926</u>
<b>Governance Costs</b>		
Trustee Secretarial and administration	1030	1237
Support for English Heritage inspired programme	2000	2000
Independent Examiner's fee	200	200
	<u>3230</u>	<u>3437</u>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<u><u>41867</u></u>	<u><u>50745</u></u>
<b>NET OUTGOING / INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR</b>	-18887	-8857
<b>BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY 2011</b>	86641	95498
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER 2011</b>	<u><u>67754</u></u>	<u><u>86641</u></u>

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

	£	2010 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors and Prepayments	390	251
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	6188	29054
Market Harborough BS Deposit	49846	49000
Cash at bank and in hand	13841	9055
	70265	87360
<b>Creditors</b> : Amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals	2511	719
	67754	86641
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	67754	86641
<b>INCOME FUNDS</b>		
General Fund - Unrestricted	67754	86641
	67754	86641

**Note:** A further 11 grants totalling £44,500 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 Examiners' report on those accounts should be consulted; copies can be obtained from the Secretary.

The full financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15th February 2012 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 15th February 2012 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 2011 are consistent with the full financial statements in respect of which I signed an unqualified independent examiner's statement on 17th February 2012.

Richard T Barnes  
38 Lark Hill  
Worcester  
WR5 2EQ

<b>GRANTS PAID IN 2011</b>				
<b>Church</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>WDHCT Grant</b>
S Peter & St Paul	Rock	Repair of access steps & create disabled access	£94,194	£3,500
St John the Baptist	Grafton Flyford	Repairs to collapsing chancel wall	£37,600	£3,000
Pershore Abbey	Pershore	Repairs to tower roof	£20,870	£1,500
St Mary the Virgin	Kempsey	Deal with damp and wood rot	£81,535	£3,000
St Johns	Worcester (1)	Repairs to tower	£146,502	£5,000
St Andrew's	Ombersley	External stonework restoration	£248,657	£5,000 (+ £5,000 NCT PG)
St Nicholas	Peopleton	Renewal of clay tiled roof, repair of bell-cote	£56,844	£5,000
St Thomas	Stourbridge	Repair of ceilings and upper walls	£45,378	£2,500 (+ £2,500 NCT PG)
St Johns	Worcester (2)	Further work on tower	£47,708	£5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£33,500</b>

<b>GRANTS AUTHORISED IN 2011</b>				
<b>Church</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>WDHCT Grant</b>
St Andrews	Ombersley	External stonework restoration	£248,657	£5,000 (+ £5,000 NCT)
St Nicholas	Peopleton	Renewal of tiled roof and bell-cote repairs	£56,844	£5,000
Ascension	Malvern	General & draining repairs, rebuild chimney	£76,625	£7,000
Methodist Church	Areley Kings	Replace floor	£22,999	£2,500 (+ £2,500 NCT)
St Thomas	Stourbridge	Repair of ceiling and upper walls	£45,378	£2,500 (+ £2,500 NCT)
St Nicholas	Dormston	Timber-frame tower and drainage repair	£59,806	£5,000 (+ £5,000 NCT)
St James	Eve Hill	Tower and rain-water goods repair	£229,824	£5,000
St Mary	Stanford-on-Teme	Restoration of monuments	£18,432	£2,500
St Andrew	Droitwich	Re-siting of ancient coffin-lid	£4,351	£1,500
Holy Trinity & St Matthews	Ronkswood	General repairs especially to concrete doors	£24,724	£5,000
All Saints	Bromsgrove	Tower, roof and wall repairs	£163,380	£5,000 (+ £5,000 NCT)
St Leonard's	Ribbesford	Extensive general repairs inside and out	£121,716	£5,000
St Peter	Powick	Replace stolen lead roofing with tiles	£13,520	£2,500
St Johns	Worcester	Further work on tower	£47,708	£5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£58,500</b>

## 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.

During the year, the Trust approved provisional grants to fourteen churches, totalling £58,500. We paid out £33,500 to nine churches (five of them approved for grants in 2010). A further eleven grants remain to be paid, totalling £44,500.

WORCESTERSHIRE & DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

**Will you be a Friend, or make a single donation to the Trust?**

- Yes I want to be a Friend of the Trust
- I wish to make a single donation to the Trust
- I wish my subscriptions to be treated as Gift Aid donations and I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer, and will inform the Trust if this ceases to be so
- I enclose cheque/CAF voucher.

*(Tick as appropriate)*

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

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

.....

Telephone ..... .....

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 annually by cheque or Standing Order.

**BANKERS ORDER *(Do not detach)***

To the Manager ..... Bank plc.

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

Please pay to Lloyds Banking Group plc., BelleView Terrace, Malvern, Worcs. WR14 4QG  
Sort Code 30-95-41

For the credit of Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Trust a/c 1166146

The sum of £ ..... (.....) (in words),

commencing on the ..... day of ..... 20 ..... and a like sum on  
the same date each year until further notice/ for a period of ..... years in total,\*

*\*(Delete as appropriate)*

and debit my account no. .... with each payment made.

..... Address .....

*(Full name in BLOCK LETTERS)* .....

Signature .....



# WORCESTERSHIRE & DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

## 2012 CHURCH TOURS AND EVENTS

### **Sunday June 17 – CAR TOUR:**

Starting 2.30pm from Eastham then on to Knighton on Teme, Mamble and tea at Rock.  
Any queries - Mrs J Gill 01386 554441 – [jangill46@google.com](mailto:jangill46@google.com) or  
Haydn Rhodes 01386 554953 – [haydn@persshore.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:haydn@persshore.eclipse.co.uk)

### **Sunday July 22 – CAR TOUR:**

Starting 2.30pm from Pirton then on to Severn Stoke, Kempsey and tea at Norton juxta Kempsey.  
Any queries - Mrs J Gill 01386 554441 – [jangill46@google.com](mailto:jangill46@google.com) or  
Haydn Rhodes 01386 554953 – [haydn@persshore.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:haydn@persshore.eclipse.co.uk)

### **Thursday August 23 – COACH TOUR** of Herefordshire led by Tim Bridges.

To include Aymestrey and Stretton Sugwas churches plus others. Meet at 9.30am at Croft Road car park. Return approx. 6.30pm - cost to be confirmed  
Booking form will be available June on wards - from Steve and Carol Dowling 01905 350156 or [dowling43@sky.com](mailto:dowling43@sky.com). 19 Grayling Close, Worcester WR5 3HY

### **Saturday September 8 – RIDE AND STRIDE**

Details and sponsor forms from Helen Peberdy  
01905 772847 or John Colley 01886 832964.

### **Sunday October 21 – TOWN TOUR** of Bromsgrove led by Tim Bridges and Annette Leech

Starting 2.00pm.

For more details contact Steve and Carol Dowling 01905 350156 or [dowling43@sky.com](mailto:dowling43@sky.com), 19 Grayling Close, Worcester WR5 3HY. Cost to be confirmed. Limited numbers.

### **Please note:**

The church crawls - just turn up, no booking required.

Coach trip and town tour - cheques will be cashed after the coach trip and town tour.

No confirmation of booking for the coach trip or town tour will be sent, unless a sae is enclosed with booking form. You will be notified only if it is cancelled.