



Chairman's Welcome

Summer 2015 has been a busy time for the Trust, with a raised level of applications for grants. The Trust has been delighted to be able to support so many Nottinghamshire churches with grants for essential repair works and improvements.

The Ride+Stride on 12th September seems to have been well supported and Keith Goodman is working out the sponsorship income as I write. His work on updating the organisation of this event has been over and above the call of duty, and we in the Trust are extremely grateful for his time and effort in creating a template for the future running of this important event. We are looking for someone to take on this challenge and if you know anyone who would like to do so, please get in touch with Keith, or the Trust Secretary, on an informal basis, for further information.



The Trust's fundraiser, Maureen Hallam, is very successful at raising funds to enable the Trust to keep up its level of grant making but there is a hope that there are people out there who would like to support the work of the Trust by way of a legacy in their will. It is a difficult thing to think about but it can be advantageous to nominate a charity such as NHCT to receive a proportion of your estate in your will before Inheritance Tax is applied. A bequest to NHCT in your will is a wonderful way to help secure the future of our heritage.

Richard Brackenbury - *NHCT Chairman*

NHCT Summer Party

Clumber Park



The restored vine house at Clumber Park

The annual NHCT Summer Party this year was held in Clumber Park, with the kind and generous help of the National Trust. Nearly 100 people gathered in the superbly restored vine house in the Walled Kitchen Garden on a rather typical English June evening (i.e. just warm enough, with rain threatening, which kindly held off until everyone was leaving!).

There was much chatter, with wine and sandwiches, in the amazing Victorian glass houses, and people wandered round the various parts of the blossoming garden which was just coming into its summer best, with the scent of roses filling the air.

We then wandered down the Cedar Walk to Clumber Chapel where organist Stephen Carey gave a lovely recital on the Chapel organ before a most interesting talk from Michael Hall, who had just published the definitive work on G.F. Bodley, the renowned Victorian architect in whose (arguably finest) creation we were sitting.

Michael Hall, FSA, has written regularly for Country Life, has edited Apollo magazine, is the author of several books on Victorian architecture and the Gothic Revival, and is a noted architectural historian.



Clumber Chapel - architect G.F. Bodley

Our Unique Christian Heritage

A Summary - Bassetlaw Christian Heritage Network

A circle 30 miles in diameter drawn around Retford in the North of Nottinghamshire will encompass a small, rural area that has had an enormous global impact on Christianity. Every English-speaking nonconformist church in the world can trace its origins to the area. If we include Aslockton, the birthplace of Thomas Cranmer, within the region, then we could say every English-speaking Protestant church originated from this handful of villages and market towns.

Recent historians have identified the 'Kingdom of Lindsey' as the area of modern north Lincolnshire and north Nottinghamshire. Christianity can be traced from 627AD when Paulinus and Edwin - both future saints - baptized people in the Trent, probably at Littleborough which was then a Roman town where the road crossed the river. St. Edwin was briefly buried in the forest near Edwinstowe after being killed in battle.

The Normans built churches and abbeys across our area, such as Worksop, Blyth and Rufford. These produced great medieval works like *The Cloud of Unknowing* or the *Tickhill Psalter*. Then from 1534 Henry VIII engineered the English Reformation, but a local tendency towards radical re-interpretation of the Faith was emerging. John Lascelles, from a Gateford and Sturton-le-Steeple family, was an influential leader of this movement within King Henry's Court, but he was denounced by his enemies, and burnt at the stake in 1546 for challenging the King's views on the nature of the bread and wine in the Mass.

In Retford and nearby villages, a network of people wanted to further reform the Church of England. Families like the Denmans in Retford, the Hercys at Grove and the Helwys of Askham and Saundby used their influence to place 'godly' clergy into local churches. Ordsall, Babworth, Headon and Scrooby saw a succession of curates and clerics who wanted to continue the Reformation. James Brewster was the puritan rector of Sutton-cum-Lound, and his family influenced the curates at Scrooby and Bawtry in the 1590s.

By 1605 the area had produced some of the leading religious radicals in England. Richard Clyfton at Babworth was established as a great puritan preacher whilst John Smyth and John Robinson from Sturton-le-Steeple were becoming influential theologians. At Worksop Richard Bernard was also a progressive reformer. All were disappointed by King James 1's refusal to further reform the Church of England and in 1606 Clyfton, Robinson and Brewster left the Church to form their own congregation which met at Scrooby Manor. John Smyth and his friend Thomas Helwys formed a congregation at Gainsborough.

By 1608 almost all of these had gone to Holland to find greater freedom. The Scrooby group settled in Leiden and in 1620 some sailed to America; those on the *Mayflower* included William Brewster (Scrooby), William Bradford (Austerfield) and Katherine Carver (Sturton) and her husband John.

Smyth and Helwys became the first English Baptists before Helwys returned to England in 1612 to start the English Baptist Church. He wrote the first full argument in favour of freedom of belief for all. He was arrested and died in Newgate Prison in about 1615.

The Quakers began in Mansfield, Tickhill and the surrounding area. The first Quaker to die for his beliefs was a 20 year old from Retford, James Parnell in 1656.

A century later John Wesley produced another radical change in the Church, preaching often in Clayworth, Misterton and Owston Ferry on his way to his home town of Epworth. Later missionaries criss-crossed the globe, and more recently, the Assemblies of God set up its national training school in Mattersey from where graduates spread out to all continents. The story isn't finished yet.

With grateful thanks to Adrian Gray for permission to use his summary.



St. Edwin: depiction at St Mary, Sledmere, Yorkshire

12th September 2015

RIDE+STRIDES for Churches

Ride+Stride in Nottinghamshire

Saturday 12 September dawned grey and showery but the weather forecast was hopeful and at 10am a small but determined band of pilgrims and a very large cross left Underwood Church on our mission to visit 10 Churches over 14 miles, our final destination being St Martin of Tours in Bilborough.

Ten minutes into our walk and yes, we all had to don our waterproofs but we were not to be thwarted and continued on our way and what a wonderful day we had. We walked in pairs, or singly or in groups throughout the day, chatting and laughing and encouraging each other, especially as the day progressed and our legs and feet started to feel the results of our efforts.

Carrying the cross created the interest we had hoped for. People commented, stared or pipped their horns as they passed and those we engaged in conversation with were keen to listen and wish us good luck on our way.

The weather became more wonderful as the day progressed and on the only footpath we crossed between Cossall and Strelley, we could be heard singing as we wended our way.

We had a wonderful reception at each church we visited (only two were closed) and as per the timed schedule for arrival at each church, we intended to arrive at St Martins in Bilborough at 4.30pm and at 4.31pm we walked through the church doors!! We were greeted with tea and cake and wonderful Christian fellowship. We spent some time there immersing ourselves in their Heritage Open Day before being transported back to Underwood on a Hammonds red double decker bus.

Thank you to everybody who participated, not only those who walked but also to those who manned St Michael and St James Churches to provide a cheery welcome and refreshments to visitors and to everybody who sponsored the event.

Karen Hammond - *Underwood Parish Magazine*

Local poet, Rosemary Shatcliff of All Saints, Annesley was inspired to write a poem while sitting in the church during this year's Ride+Stride:



HISTORIC CHURCHES (Ride+Stride)

*I sat at the church, up the hill 'midst the woods
I wondered how many o're the years here had trudged,
The rain fell down swiftly, like tears from above
To water the trees and the plants in the wood,
The blue skies appeared and the sun with its rays
Dappled through leaves with a strange kind of haze.
Riders and Striders they puffed up the hill
Then taking a moment, 'midst the calm and the still,
To see All Saints Annesley, a beautiful church
On top of the hill, 'midst the trees it does perch.
The ladies are busy in the church hall below
With food and some stalls, tea n coffee it doth flow,
Then there is a wedding after dinner, at three
And guests have arrived and now all agree
A jewel in the crown, is this church on the hill
'Midst the trees, in the quiet, and the peace and the still.*

With love

Rosemary

If you would like to take part in next year's Ride+Stride in Nottinghamshire on 10th September 2016 and help the NHCT and your favourite church raise money, please contact nhct@keithgoodman.com or ring Keith Goodman on 0115 972 6590 or Anthea Moat on 01909 472324.

New Trust President - David Atkins

At the Annual General Meeting of the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust on 14th September 2015, Mrs Jenny Mellors, DL, resigned as President of the Trust after many years of valued service as Chairman and, lately, President. She is the widow of a founder Trustee and her knowledge of county and church affairs will not be lost as she will continue to serve as a Trustee. David D Atkins JP, RIBA, a former Chairman, is the newly elected President of the Trust.

David is a retired architect and former managing director of the Howitt Partnership Ltd in Nottingham, responsible for a wide range of building types from private houses and housing estates to factories and public houses. He has experience of Listed Buildings and churches in the county having carried out quinquennial inspections in more than 40, mostly non-conformist, churches. He has also helped with church reordering and extensions at Bradmore, East Bridgford and Musters Road Methodist Church among others. He has had the privilege of designing new church buildings for Methodist and URC congregations at West Hallam, Long Eaton, Marpool and Oakwood, Derby. David is a member of the Methodist Church and is married to Cecily. They live at East Bridgford where David is a Parish Councillor, an active Art Group painter, and a life member and past chairman of the Bingham & District Choral Society.



As a member, Trustee and past Chairman of the Trust over 25 years, David is looking forward to raising more funds to provide grants to help with maintaining church buildings. He is a member of the Trust's Grants Committee and of WREN Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire Advisory Panel and recognises the importance of church buildings which provide a centre of worship and are the only community buildings in many villages. He has ridden in the Ride+Stride sponsored bike ride for over 15 years and will be using his Presidency to encourage many more churches, particularly those in the under-represented non-conformist traditions, to take part. There are ways of raising sponsorship even in those churches with no riders which not only brings money to the Trust but also to the participating churches.

It is likely that David will be contacting your church before next September's Ride+Stride so please help him and the Trust to increase next year's income and enable us to give more back to those churches in need of our support.

Friends of the NHCT - Help Support the Work of the Trust

The Friends of Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust are a growing band of people interested in the history of our County's churches in a wide variety of ways. Some of us just love seeing the small details of life over the centuries which are recorded or visible in some form in our parish churches. Some of us have detailed local knowledge, or wider knowledge of the history of our region. Some of us just like a happy afternoon out with a usually splendid tea at the end of it. Whatever your interest, the Friends are all friends, and all of us support the Trust's stated aim to help keep the historic churches in the County in repair.

For your subscription you will be invited to join three or four Saturday afternoon visits each year to a group of churches, and to have specially reduced ticket prices to the annual Summer Party and any other event the Trust arranges, including concerts, etc.

In 2015 the Friends visited the village churches at Clarborough, Hayton and Clayworth in the spring, Carlton-, Sutton- and Normanton-on-Trent in mid-summer, and Epperstone and Lowdham in the autumn. To find out about becoming a Friend of NHCT please contact the Secretary or go to the Trust's website www.nottshistoricchurchtrust.org.uk

The Trust can be contacted via:

The Secretary, Mrs Anthea Moat on 01909 472324 or email: nhct@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer, Keith Goodman on 0115 972 6590 or email: nhct@keithgoodman.com

The Grants Administrator, Mrs Margaret Lowe, email: info.nhct@gmail.com

The Fundraising Co-ordinator, Mrs Maureen Hallam on 01636 812580
or e-mail: maureenjhallam@googlemail.com

'Ride+Stride' Administrator, Keith Goodman on 0115 972 6590
or email: nhct@keithgoodman.com

www.nottshistoricchurchtrust.org.uk

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