



## Chairman's Welcome

It is a pleasure once again to be writing a few words for the spring newsletter. Whilst it is always a delight to see the appreciation that our grants to churches generate, rarely a week goes by without yet another survey being published showing evidence of a decline in churchgoing, with the consequent lack of financial support for our ecclesiastical buildings. At the same time, the pressure on all charitable giving seems to increase daily. The challenges this creates are clear.

We are looking at ways of addressing this tension, to increase our support and to broaden its base. We continue to look at our marketing activity and are dipping our toe in the water of social media - do please "like" and contribute to our Facebook page! We are also actively looking at promoting a small series of concerts to spread the word of our existence. Of course, we are most keen to retain your support, so please do let us know if you have any ideas, or feedback, that might help us. I am sure this newsletter will give you a good idea of what we are currently undertaking, and I look forward to seeing you, our supporters, at events throughout the year.



**Richard Brackenbury** - *NHCT Chairman*

## NHCT Grant Aided Restoration Projects St Paul's Church, Carlton-in-the-Willows



St Paul's Church, Carlton-in-the-Willows, was consecrated in 1885. The building was funded entirely by the Fourth Earl of Carnarvon who also gave the land upon which it stands. Unfortunately he died before it was completed, and the building stands as a very fine memorial to his concern and interest in the welfare of the parish and its people.

As with many Victorian buildings, time and the weather have taken their toll on the church, and ongoing repairs and maintenance is a challenge. In particular the large, circular west window became unsafe due to wind and rain damage and, in 2013, had to be boarded up. The west end of the church presents a very sorry sight, and in fact some passers-by thought that the church had actually closed because of the boarded-up aspect!

Fundraising was begun to pay for the window's repair; quite a task as it was estimated that £10,000 would be needed to secure the future of the window - the circular window is made up of around 2,000 individual leaded panes. With the help of a grant from NHCT the target was reached and the window is expected to be put back in place within the next few weeks.

Fortunately this is a tale with a happy ending, and it will be wonderful to see the restored window back in place and the west end returned to its Victorian splendour. It is planned to feature a picture of the renovated window in a future NHCT newsletter.

## NHCT Grant Aided Restoration Projects

### St George the Martyr, North & South Clifton



The church of St George the Martyr dates from the 13th Century, although there are records which suggest that there was an earlier church prior to the Conquest. The church stands on a spur of higher land overlooking the flood plain of the River Trent. It is on the west side of Church Lane, which links the two villages of North & South Clifton. Apart from minor alterations in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries there was little evidence of any major changes until the end of the 19th Century. Significant building work was then undertaken including adding a vestry, a new south porch, the almost complete rebuilding of the chancel and a new roof to the nave.



In 2015 the Trust grant-aided the cleaning and conservation of the reredos to the high altar at the church of St George. The reredos, which was probably commissioned around 1882, is an extremely fine example of craftsmanship, possibly by the school of George Frederick Bodley, though it is not known at present to be one of his works. The reredos was suffering from much dirt pickup and some blooming due to the effects of atmospheric water, it had also been damaged by bat droppings.

It was expertly repaired and cleaned, and where appropriate re-gilded, by Michelle Pepper, art conservator, of Newark.

*The reredos at St George the Martyr - before conservation and cleaning (TOP), and afterwards (BOTTOM)*

## NHCT Summer Party

### Carlton Hall, Carlton-on-Trent



The Trust's Summer Party will be held at Carlton Hall, Carlton-on-Trent, on Friday 17th June, by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs George Vere-Laurie, and we have been lucky enough to have persuaded The Lord Cormack, DL FSA to come and speak to us in the church later in the evening on "The Fascination of Old Churches". As Patrick Cormack he was elected MP for Cannock in 1970, and then for South Staffordshire, and is a very active and respected, long serving Parliamentarian. His wide interests include the arts and heritage. He has lectured and spoken extensively in this country and the USA; he has written countless articles and books, including one on English Cathedrals and British Castles. For more details and tickets please contact the Secretary.



10<sup>th</sup> September 2016



## Ride+Stride in Nottinghamshire



*Beatrice Compton aged 90 - a R+S walker - and Hilary Wheat, Bilborough St Martin of Tours contact person.*

Why not visit unique historic buildings, see beautiful countryside, explore your town or city, and get some exercise having fun with friends and family? Ride+Stride is a sponsored event in which people walk, cycle or otherwise move between churches, exploring and enjoying the Nottinghamshire landscape.

This annual event is an important fundraiser for NHCT and for all the churches taking part, since all the money raised is divided equally between the Trust and the participating churches. Last year the amount raised was £16,814 plus the Gift Aid claimed, making a total overall of £20,355. These funds help save historic Christian churches, chapels and meeting houses for future generations by helping to fund urgent repairs.

In 2015 more than 200 Nottinghamshire churches took part, including St Barnabas Cathedral in Nottingham, providing a great opportunity to look round some of the county's most beautiful buildings, and to tuck in to the delicious refreshments that are on offer to participants at many of the churches.

If you would like to take part in the 2016 event please contact your local church or the NHCT Ride+Stride Organiser, or go to the NHCT website where you will find the information you will need. You can then collect pledges from sponsors, indicate which church - if any - you would like to receive half the money you raise, and plan a route to suit your mode of transport. The JustGiving website is a very simple way of raising sponsorship, and makes it easy for you to collect and your sponsors to donate.

On 10th September 2016 all the participating churches listed on the NHCT Ride+Stride section of the website should be open from 10am until late afternoon. Cycling is the most popular way of travelling from church to church, but you can walk, run, use public transport or ride your horse or tractor - whatever you feel like doing. Any good stories of your experiences could be published in NHCT's Newsletter or even the National Churches Trust's publicity - this is a nationwide event run by each individual county trust.

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## Some gifts are easily forgotten. Others last for generations.

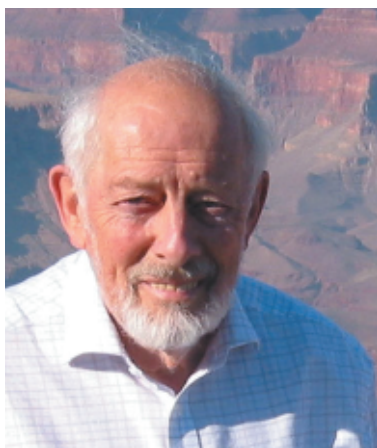
Leaving a gift in your will to the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust isn't just a gift; it's an investment. Many of the county's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses are fighting a battle against the ravages of time. We need to make sure that they get the repairs and renovations they need to remain at the heart of the local communities. Leaving a gift in your Will helps the Trust to keep these precious buildings alive for future generations.



*St George the Martyr. North & South Clifton*

To find out how you can keep Nottinghamshire's churches alive, please call the Trust's Treasurer, Jon Dawson on 0115 987 7291 or 07581 729 520 or email [jon@jndaccounting.com](mailto:jon@jndaccounting.com) or visit [nottshistoricchurchtrust.org.uk](http://nottshistoricchurchtrust.org.uk)

## The Trust's Retiring Treasurer - Keith Goodman



**E**normous thanks go to Keith Goodman for his 15 years as a most capable Treasurer of NHCT and we are delighted that the Trust will continue to benefit from his wisdom and experience as a Trustee.

As a retired chartered accountant, he became a Trustee and Treasurer in 2001. He was born in Stapleford, Nottinghamshire, and attended school in Long Eaton. He took a degree in Industrial Economics at Nottingham and then went on to serve articles with a firm of chartered accountants in Nottingham. After qualifying he spent ten years working for the Church of South India as a diocesan treasurer. Returning in 1972 he worked in Nottingham for two firms of chartered accountants before retiring in 1999.

He can trace his Methodist roots back to 1828 and over the years has held many offices in the church including a 13 year spell as Treasurer for the Nottingham and Derby District. He is a Vice-President of the Thoroton Society, the county historical society, after having been its treasurer for 13 years. He is, at present, part of a group researching the history of a number of parishes in Nottinghamshire for the Victoria County History series. He is also trying to put his family history notes into some semblance of order. He is married to Margaret, whom he met when they were at school together and they have two children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**The Trust is delighted to welcome its new Treasurer, Jon Dawson, who writes:** "The colour of my remaining hair (grey) will tell you that I have been an accountant for more than 30 years and for the past five years I have been running my own practice in Nottingham.

My interest in and love for churches goes back much further than my accounting career and I have visited a great number of churches throughout the country and beyond. It is a pleasure to help in a small way with the preservation of our churches."

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

**T**he growing band of Friends of Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust are the unofficial ambassadors for the Trust. Beyond the modest annual subscription, there is no commitment to any of the activities the Trust might arrange for the Friends, such as the three or four visits each year to some of the less familiar churches in the County, and friends of Friends are always welcome to join these outings. There are also special rates to some of the events such as concerts or talks, and to the annual Summer Party.

The Spring church visit is planned for 16th April to Sibthorpe and Flintham, just off the A46. In October last year Dr Jenny Alexander, one of the Trustees, led us round the churches at Epperstone and Lowdham where we were made most welcome. One of the pleasures of these visits is that even the experts seem to find new and exciting details – often from Friends, or locals who join us to enthuse about 'their' church. Another of the pleasures is the tea that rounds off the afternoon, accompanied by lots of chat! The Friends' subscriptions make a vital contribution to the Trust's core purpose of keeping the county's churches in repair for future generations. **To join the Friends, either visit the website and download the application form, or contact the Secretary for more information.**

The Trust can be contacted via:

The Secretary, Mrs Anthea Moat on 01909 472324 or email: [nhct@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nhct@hotmail.co.uk)

Treasurer, Jon Dawson on 0115 987 7291 or 07581 729 520, or email [jon@jndaccounting.com](mailto:jon@jndaccounting.com)

The Grants Administrator, Mrs Margaret Lowe, email: [info.nhct@gmail.com](mailto:info.nhct@gmail.com)

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

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

**[www.nottshistoricchurchtrust.org.uk](http://www.nottshistoricchurchtrust.org.uk)**

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