



# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

*raising money to grant-aid historic churches  
and chapels in Nottinghamshire*



Annual Review  
2024 - 25

*Front cover: Blyth Priory Church of Saint Mary and Saint Martin*  
*(photograph - Dr Christopher Brooke)*

## Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust

**T**he Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust was founded in 1986 and gave its first grants in 1987. It raises money to grant-aid historic churches and chapels in Nottinghamshire. It is non-denominational and can consider making grants to any Christian historic church or chapel in need of support.

On 31 December 1986 a small handful of committed people, concerned at the decline in the ability of Christian church groups to fund proper care of our historic ecclesiastical buildings, met to sign the Trust Deed thereby creating the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust. Today there are between twelve and twenty trustees at any one time, invited to take on the role because of their expertise, knowledge of and interest in the preservation of our architectural heritage.

### *The Trust raises money from*

- Individuals
- Institutions
- Local authorities
- Charitable trusts and foundations
- Legacies

### *It organises*

- The annual Ride+Stride
- The Friends of NHCT
- Annual Summer Party
- Events and visits

A Friends' Application Form and Standing Order is available from the Trust secretary. These, together with details of the Ride+Stride and other information, are also on our website: [www.nottshistoricchurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.nottshistoricchurchestrust.org.uk)

### *The Trust spends money*

- By making grants to historic churches and chapels in Nottinghamshire for the repair and maintenance of the fabric and fittings. Most buildings in receipt of grant-aid pre-date 1914, but the trustees may also consider places of worship built between 1914 and 1969.
- Size of grants depends on various conditions laid down by the Constitution at the discretion of the trustees.

### *Why the Trust needs your help.*

- The Trust makes a major contribution to the preservation of our heritage by helping to conserve and repair ecclesiastical buildings of outstanding architectural merit or of historic interest.
- The Trust must keep raising money to continue with its work. The task of preserving our ecclesiastical heritage increases rather than diminishes with time.

**Details of our work can be found on our website at: [www.nottshistoricchurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.nottshistoricchurchestrust.org.uk)  
Registered with the Charity Commission No. 1171623**

## Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trustees

**Patrons:** The Rt Revd Paul Williams, Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham  
The Rt Revd Patrick McKinney, Bishop of Nottingham  
The Dean of Southwell  
His Honour Tony Mitchell

**President:** Mr Richard Brackenbury  
**Chairman:** Mr Graeme Renton  
**Vice Chairman:** Mr Andrew Paris  
**Treasurer:** Mr Jon Dawson

**Trustees  
as at April 2025** Professor Jenny Alexander  
Mr David Atkins  
Professor John Beckett  
Mrs Margaret Bennett-Samuels  
Dr Christopher Brooke  
Mr Richard Craven-Smith-Milnes DL  
Professor Michael Jones  
Mr Anthony Marriott  
The Revd Canon Professor Alison Milbank

The trustees of the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust are chosen from various backgrounds to represent a cross-section of occupations and professions suitable to look after the needs of the Trust. Among these trustees are architects, archaeologists, specialists in many historical matters, landowners whose estates include an historic church, representatives from the legal and accountancy professions, surveyors, valuers, and various other appropriate disciplines. All give their services free and are diligent workers in achieving the aims of the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust.

### Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust can be contacted via:

Secretary & Administrator: 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)

Grants Administrator: Mrs Margaret Lowe on 07757 800 919  
or email: [info.nhct@gmail.com](mailto:info.nhct@gmail.com)

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

Ride+Stride Organiser: Mrs Margaret Lowe on 07757 800 919  
or email: [info.nhct@gmail.com](mailto:info.nhct@gmail.com)

Print Production: Andrew Paris on 0771 460 3060

## Chairman's Report

This is now the end of my fourth year as Chairman and it is encouraging to be able to report that the work of the Trust continues in a positive way, despite the financial challenges that we face, as we seek to help churches and chapels across the county. We are having to work harder to raise funds and are therefore very appreciative of all who help to support our work, including the organisations who provide grants for us to use. A special thank you to those reading this Annual Review who have supported our work in many different ways; it is much appreciated.

As noted last year, we are still waiting to find out whether the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will be extended beyond March 2026 which enables any VAT to be claimed back on fabric repairs to our listed buildings. If I can stress the importance of submitting claims as soon as you can if this applies to you, to demonstrate an increasing need for this funding as I understand the level so far this year has dropped.

I also mentioned the generous legacy of Miss Cynthia Whitt to help with the maintenance of our churches and while we have not allocated funds yet, we are close to assisting in at least one project and we will keep you up to date on how it will be spent.

The trustees have continued to meet on a regular basis throughout the year to review our activities and to confirm the allocation of grants, and we work well together as a team.

Looking back on the Trust's activities held over the past year, the annual Ride+Stride took place in September 2024 and we are delighted to report that just over £21,500 has been raised which represents the largest total so far. A big thank you to Margaret Lowe for all her hard work in organising the event once again.

Our summer party held at Staunton Hall in June 2024 was a great success and we were very grateful to Will and Su Staunton for their kind welcome and hospitality. A visit to the adjacent Staunton St Mary was made more special by Cantares, a choir which came together especially for the occasion.

The Friends had the opportunity to visit St Mary's Edwinstowe and All Saints Clipstone last October with a very good attendance and input from Dr Chris Brooke and Prof. Michael Jones, and we are also indebted to Prof. Jenny Alexander for her input in leading church visits on other occasions. The Trust is always looking to welcome new Friends and an application form can be found on our website.

Returning to our core purpose, it was good to record that grants this year totalling £38,050 have been offered to 19 churches in the county to help with their vital maintenance.

The trustees are most grateful to the Patrons for their support of the Trust and especially to Dean Nicola Sullivan on her retirement as she moves away from the area.

Many thanks go to Anthea Moat for all her hard work in a busy life in organising the events and encouraging the Friends, to Maureen Hallam for her crucial work in successfully finding grants and of course to Jon Dawson our Treasurer as he seeks to look after our finances. I would also like to thank all the trustees for their support and to the work of our President Richard Brackenbury. Finally, my thanks are extended to Andrew and Julie Paris and Richard Craven-Smith-Milnes for the kind use of their homes for our trustee's meetings.

**Graeme Renton RIBA AABC IMA PS EASA - *Chairman***

## Grants Committee Report

During 2024/2025, the Trust offered grants to churches and chapels across the county amounting to a total of £38,050 slightly higher than last year's total (£34,500), although the number of churches helped was down from 22 to 19.

The grants offered were spread widely across the county with many denominations in receipt of grants. The majority of the grants came from our own funds. Unfortunately, a couple of applications were turned down for not matching the eligible criteria of the Trust.

The following churches have been helped with offers confirmed over the past 12 months: -  
The actual drawdown will depend on the programme of the project.

|  | £     |
|--|-------|
| AWSWORTH ST PETER: Replace rotten windows to vestry                                  | 1,200 |
| BECKINGHAM ALL SAINTS: Repairs and restoration of church clock                       | 1,500 |
| BILSTHORPE ST MARGARET: Repoint, repair and restoration of stonework                 | 3,500 |
| BRADMORE: Pointing around tower, raising areas of parapet with new stone             | 2,500 |
| CARLTON IN LINDRICK ST JOHN: Replace electrical switch gear                          | 200   |
| CLAYWORTH ST PETER - Criminal damage to oil tank (unusable)                          | 800   |
| CLIFTON ST MARY: Dig out retained soakaways, excavate below ground level             | 1,750 |
| EASTWOOD ST MARY: Clean, repaint icon bell frame and fittings                        | 1,500 |
| EVERTON HOLY TRINITY: Replace tower roof covering with terre coated steel plus other | 4,000 |
| KIRKBY WOODHOUSE ST JOHN: Replace condemned boiler with infra-red heaters            | 1,250 |
| MISTERTON ALL SAINTS: Install new bell frame (old 15C/17C) add new bells             | 4,000 |
| NOTTINGHAM ST MARK: Replace roof covering to lean-to entrance (vandal damage)        | 500   |
| NOTTINGHAM ST NICHOLAS: Repair spalled sections of stonework/repair glazing          | 3,000 |
| OXON ST PETER & ST PAUL: Remedial works following storm damage                       | 1,000 |
| RATCLIFFE ON SOAR: Restoration of east chancel window                                | 1,250 |
| RETFORD GROVE ST METHODIST: Roof repairs, repainting, replastering new lights        | 3,500 |
| SNEINTON ST CYPRIAN: Replace bespoke cast iron hopper and missing drainpipe          | 300   |
| TEVERSAL ST KATHERINE: Quinquennial report necessary works                           | 4,000 |
| TOTON METHODIST: Replace old gas heating with infra-red electric heating             | 2,500 |

As the details show, grants went towards a wide variety of repairs and restoration works, both internal and external, and helping to support major works of repair greater than £200,000 and down to £250.

**Graeme Renton RIBA AABC IMA PS EASA - Chairman of the Grants Committee**

# Summarised Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

| <i>Income &amp; Expenditure</i>          | 2025           | 2024           |
|--|----------------|----------------|
|  | £              | £              |
| <b>Income</b>                            |                |                |
| Donations and legacies                   | 32701          | 58617          |
| Other trading activities                 | 15629          | 13551          |
| Investment income                        | 5395           | 4278           |
|  | <u>53,725</u>  | <u>76,446</u>  |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                       |                |                |
| Raising funds                            | 9886           | 10099          |
| Grants awarded (less withdrawn)          | 45550          | 35150          |
| Management and administration            | 5755           | 6006           |
|  | <u>61,191</u>  | <u>51,255</u>  |
| <b>Net income for the year</b>           | -7,466         | 25,191         |
| Change in value of investments           | 4618           | -259           |
| <b>Net movement in funds in the year</b> | <u>-2,848</u>  | <u>24,932</u>  |
| <br><b>Balance Sheet</b>                 |                |                |
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                      |                |                |
| Investments at market value              | 47072          | 42454          |
| <b>Current assets</b>                    |                |                |
| Debtors and prepayments                  | 2821           | 2512           |
| Bank and cash balances                   | 118157         | 119758         |
| Total current assets                     | <u>120,978</u> | <u>122,270</u> |
| <b>Liabilities due within one year</b>   |                |                |
| Grants awarded not yet paid              | 64150          | 57950          |
| Other creditors                          | 560            | 586            |
| Total current liabilities                | <u>64,710</u>  | <u>58,536</u>  |
| <b>Total net assets</b>                  | <b>103,340</b> | <b>106,188</b> |
| <b>Funds</b>                             |                |                |
| General unrestricted fund                | 97166          | 97688          |
| Restricted funds                         | 6174           | 8500           |
|  | <u>103,340</u> | <u>106,188</u> |

## The Trustees' Statement on the Summarised Accounts

The summarised accounts are an extract from the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Annual Report and Accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf on 10th September 2025.

These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to gain complete understanding of the financial affairs of the Trust. Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Treasurer, Jon Dawson, Unit C17, Kestrel Business Centre, Colwick Industrial Estate, Nottingham NG4 2JR.

In accordance with the legislation relating to charity accounts, the accounts have been subject to an independent examination by Zydna Limited.

On behalf of the trustees.

**Jon Dawson** - Treasurer

## The Friends of NHCT

The group of Friends of NHCT continues to expand, and their contribution to the financial state of the Trust is greatly appreciated, as is their interest in the County's churches. One of the aims of the Trust is to spread the news of these precious repositories of craft and art on our doorsteps, as well as helping to protect these treasure troves of creativity and history.

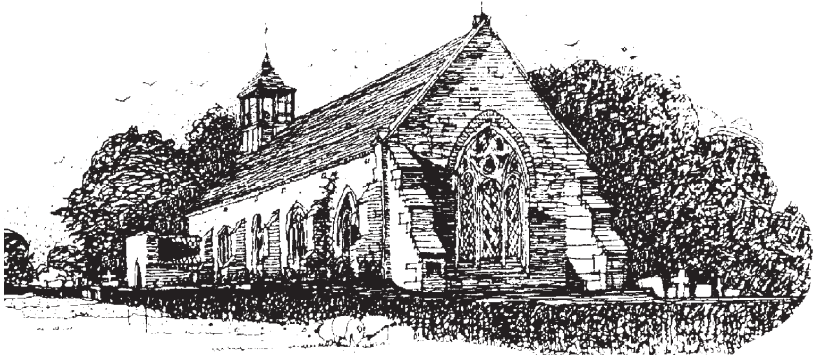
Many of the Friends enjoyed the Summer Party held at Staunton Hall on a mercifully dry July evening (rain had been forecast earlier in the week!). The adjacent church rang to the sounds of choral music, while the evening light glowed warm and atmospheric as the sun slowly set in the west. The drink and food and general chat made for a relaxed and happy evening, and the Staunton family were the most generous of hosts.

The Friends visited several churches during the year. We went to Kingston-on-Soar and Ratcliffe-on-Soar in the spring, two fascinating churches with so much to discover. Prof. Jenny Alexander enlightened and entertained us in equal measure, and the abundance of alabaster led to much interest. Mr Ray State, churchwarden and expert on alabaster and especially its local connections, was on hand to tell us more, which lead to ever more interesting discussions.

In the autumn the Friends visited the comparatively new church at Clipstone, with its focus on the local coalmining industry, followed by the ancient church at Edwinstowe, full of legends and stories of kings and vagabonds! It was an interesting contrast. Sherwood Forest may have shrunk in size over the last century or two, but the myths and stories live on in the historic buildings that survive. Churches are among the most important of these, as they have largely continued to be used as the repositories of local records of events which have come to shape our history. The many Historic Churches Trusts across the country are vital to the continuing care of these precious places.

The Friends are always most grateful to the trustees who so generously give up their Saturday afternoons to lead these visits, who do the research, and who so passionately enthuse us to look more deeply and to care more actively about these special places. In this particular year, my thanks go to Dr Chris Brooke and Prof. Michael Jones, as well as to Prof. Jenny Alexander. They share their considerable knowledge and enthusiasm most willingly. I would also like to thank the church wardens and those who care for the churches that we visit, for all the help that they give us, and for the always warm welcome that we receive; and the teas they produce for us are always a highlight of these visits!

**Anthea Moat** - *Trust Secretary & Administrator*



## Ride+Stride 2024

All sponsorship money collected by the annual Ride+Stride goes towards upkeep of the historic churches and chapels in our county. This event is the single largest fund raiser for the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust and the Trust relies on this income to boost its funds to enable it to offer grants to churches to help with repair and maintenance costs.

Ride+Stride is an excellent opportunity for churches to open their doors to visitors and local residents alike. The event also gives riders and striders the chance to visit other churches outside of their own parish while raising money for a good cause, and gives churches the opportunity to interact with their local community.

The Ride+Stride “meet and greet” to kick off the 2024 event was held at Winkburn Hall on Friday 18th July. A pleasant evening was very well attended, and the buffet supper was most enjoyable. Following the welcoming speeches, prizes for those who had contributed the most for the 2023 Ride+Stride were presented, and a special thank you was given to our host Richard Craven-Smith-Milnes for again holding the event.

Most of the churches which had taken part in the 2023 Ride+Stride joined in again this year but there were some churches which were already committed to other duties that weekend. Unfortunately, I was unable to persuade all those churches previously involved to open up for the event again, and it was a disappointing that some did not want to be involved.

A total of 135 churches initially agreed to take part (including three new ones for this year) and the actual day was a great success although numbers taking part were slightly down on last year.

A number of churches held special events on the day included coffee mornings, a musical event, a table-top sale, and a scarecrow weekend with stalls. Some even offered lunch, plus other refreshments along with stalls and a raffle, and made a real effort to welcome and entertain visitors.

Ride+Stride offers participating churches the option to retain 50% of the sponsorship money raised by the members of that church. A total of 54 churches retained their 50% which was slightly up on last year’s figure with nine churches passing 100% of sponsorship raised to NHCT. In total, £7,813.90 was paid back to the churches taking part.

The grand total for the 2024 Ride+Stride was £21,571.03. Well done and grateful thanks to all those taking part.

Funds are collected by the Trust in various ways, with Just Giving being very effective. Money can also be paid directly into the Trust’s account, and Gift Aid makes a useful addition to any donation.

**The event in 2025 takes place on Saturday 13th September.**

**Mrs Margaret Lowe - Ride+Stride Administrator**

## **Gifts in wills help care for the history and heritage of Nottinghamshire**

Our ancestors created a wonderful heritage for us when, lovingly and with great faith, they built the parish churches which are such a feature of our towns and villages in Nottinghamshire. In many instances building work on these churches continued over generations, and further additions and enrichments took place over subsequent centuries. The history, architecture and decoration of these sacred spaces are a priceless inheritance.

Sadly, this rich inheritance is under threat; many of the county's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses are fighting a battle against the ravages of time. With smaller congregations and falling funding, there is now little money available to churches to maintain and protect their carvings, decorations, windows, and even the very structure of the building. How awful it would be to lose these treasures for future generations.

A bequest or legacy in your Will is one of the more traditional forms of giving to charity but remains a very important one.

### **Once you've taken care of your loved ones, would you consider leaving us a gift too?**

Leaving a gift in your Will to the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust isn't just a gift, it's an investment in the future of our heritage. A legacy in your Will will help the Trust to preserve these precious buildings for future generations and is one of the greatest gifts you can give to a charity. These legacies help care for the places that enrich our lives - supporting the historic buildings and irreplaceable history for everyone to enjoy.

You're never too young to consider leaving a legacy to ensure that future generations will enjoy our county's rich heritage of churches and chapels. We welcome all legacies, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in protecting the future of the heritage of churches in Nottinghamshire.

**All legacy income is spent on direct project work and is never spent on general administration costs.**

All gifts given to charity in your Will are tax-free and are deducted from your estate before inheritance tax is calculated. Therefore, you could reduce or remove your estate's potential inheritance tax liability by including a gift to charity in your Will.

There are several ways to benefit a charity; by leaving a specific legacy which is a fixed financial amount from your estate, or by leaving the charity a share of your residuary estate. After any funeral, taxes and testimonial expenses are paid the balance left is known as your residuary estate and can be left to charity in full or in part.

**If you wish to leave a legacy to NHCT in your Will please contact one of the Trustees or a Trust Officer who would be delighted to discuss this with you.**

## Acknowledgements

The Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the help and support it has received from:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Advertiser Group Newspapers                        | The Stuart Heath Charitable Settlement                                  |
| The Beaverbrook Foundation                         | The Lady Hind Trust   |
| Geoffrey C Bond, OBE, DL                           | The Jones 1986 Charitable Trust   |
| The Andrew Buchanan Charitable Trust               | The Beatrice Laing Trust  |
| Christian Guild                                    | The Linmardon Trust   |
| The Helen Jean Cope Charity                        | Mrs Jenny Mellors   |
| The David Crane Charitable Trust                   | The Manifold Trust  |
| The Coutts Charitable Trust                        | Newark and Sherwood District Council                                    |
| The De Brito Trust formerly the<br>Obserton Trust  | Newark Area Arts & Leisure Foundation                                   |
| The J N Derbyshire Trust                           | Nottinghamshire County Council  |
| Dian Hall Conservation                             | Pinder's Optometrists   |
| Sir Harry Djanogly, CBE                            | The Poyser Fund   |
| The Dunn Family Charitable Trust                   | The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation                             |
| East Midlands Airport Community Fund               | Rainbow Nightfreight Ltd  |
| The Sir John Eastwood Foundation                   | Shakespeares  |
| Alan Evans Memorial Trust                          | The Jessie Spencer Trust  |
| The Thomas Farr Charity                            | The Thoresby Charitable Trust   |
| The Jill Franklin Trust                            | The Veneziana Fund  |
| Gay & Peter Hartley's Hillards<br>Charitable Trust | Lady Warner and the Estate of<br>the late Sir Frederick Warner          |
| The May Hearnshaw Charitable Trust                 | Mr and Mrs R J Weston-Price   |
| The Gray Trust                                     | The Whiteley Charity  |
| Hardy & Hanson                                     | Mr and Mrs A Wilkinson  |
|  | Anonymous donations from trusts and<br>individuals, including legacies. |

We would also like to thank all of our Friends, supporters, and the Trustees who work so hard for the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust. Finally, our thanks to Richard Craven-Smith-Milnes for letting us hold our meetings at Winkburn Hall, and Julie & Andrew Paris for hosting meetings at Halam.

# Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust



**The Trust can be contacted via:**

**Secretary & Administrator:** 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)

**Grants Administrator:** Mrs Margaret Lowe on 07757 800 919  
or email: [info.nhct@gmail.com](mailto:info.nhct@gmail.com)

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

**Ride+Stride Administrator:** Mrs Margaret Lowe on 07757 800 919  
or email: [info.nhct@gmail.com](mailto:info.nhct@gmail.com)

**Print Production:** Andrew Paris  
on 0771 460 3060

[www.nottshistoricchurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.nottshistoricchurchestrust.org.uk)



Registered with the Charity Commission No. 1171623