

Devon Historic Churches Trust

Dedicated to funding repairs
and maintenance to places of Christian worship
in the Diocese of Exeter and throughout Devon



Newsletter

January 2013

Welcome to our second annual Newsletter. The support of so many parishes and individuals enables the Devon Historic Churches Trust to continue providing grants to help Devon's churches.

This newsletter provides a small sample of some of the work undertaken recently with our help and gives a glimpse of a selection of our supporters out and about raising funds and having fun in the process on our Devon Historic Churches Day (incorporating the Ride+Stride) which has raised just over £42,000 (at the time of writing) in 2012 – half of which is returned immediately to participating churches.

Tower Roof repairs at St Sylvester's Church, Chivelstone



West slope restored 10th August 2011

"Our last Quinquennial inspection highlighted that urgent repairs were needed to the Tower Roof. Following an unsuccessful application to English Heritage, we were delighted and relieved to receive a £5,000 grant from DHCT, which together with £17,000 of church fundraising, has enabled us to complete the work."

N Higgins, PCC Treasurer

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St Mary's Church at Atherington.

St Mary's is a 15th century grade 1 listed church with remnants of fabric from earlier 12th and 14th century buildings. The church was wholly re-roofed in 15th and 16th centuries and the principal roof structure dates from this time, a typical 'waggon' roof of the period. The whole church was thoroughly repaired in the 19th century. The church interior contains monuments from the 13th to 18th centuries, a magnificent 15th century rood loft and screen and carved pew ends.

At our latest Quinquennial inspection the roof and guttering were identified as needing urgent attention and the costs



Bat slates in ridge



were estimated at £190,000. We were fortunate to receive a grant from English Heritage for the major part of this, but the shortfall exceeded our own funds and we are very grateful to Devon Historic Churches Trust for their generous grant to enable us to complete the work, thereby preserving this beautiful building for future generations.

The work done included: re-slatting the south nave, the south transept and the south porch and the chancel. Also repairing the roof timbers and wall tops and repairing and renewing the guttering.

Margaret Large, Churchwarden and PCC Treasurer



Niche repairs at St John the Baptist Church at Plymtree

The chancel arch is constructed of limestone and the niche forms part of the lower north side. The carved decoration that survives around the niche is perpendicular in style. It is evident that part of this structure was hacked back when the 15th century screen was inserted. Much of the canopy and the corbelled shelf are missing.

The niche originally contained a statue and the painted decoration was evidently applied when the statue was in situ as the area at the back was left unpainted.

“Again, our thanks to DHCT for supporting the restoration work in our church, we are so pleased with the result.”

Bill Luttmann, PCC Secretary, John the Baptist, Plymtree.

Some Anecdotes....

from regular supporters of our **Devon Historic Churches Day & Ride+Stride:**

Going the extra mile(s)!

Alice May of Cheriton Fitzpaine walked 38 miles on Saturday, September 8, in aid of Devon Historic Churches Trust; husband Patrick [left] cycled 52 miles and father Don King of Kennerleigh managed 43 miles, all in different parts of the Cadbury Deanery. It may be a local record - three members of one family covering 133 miles in a day for the Trust with a combined local sponsorship topping £1000.

“Sunshine in Mid-Devon's beautiful countryside greeted riders and striders on Saturday, September 8 this year - as it nearly always does. The trio may "try harder next year", they say.”



Patrick and Alice May with Donald King

Doing it in tremendous style!

The Rev. Roderick Withnell of Chulmleigh



“In September 1990, a few weeks after I was first ordained, a man who was to become one of my closest friends urged me to join him on the annual Chelmsford Historic Churches Trust Bike Ride. Little did I realise then what I was getting involved with. 22 years later and in a different diocese (Exeter) I am just as enthusiastic now for the marvellous work of the Devon Historic Churches Trust as I was then.

I've encouraged and led teams of cyclists through the S. Devon hills and the N. Devon river valleys. I've seen people go around on horseback, in a Tractor link box padded with

bales and a three wheel disability scooter. With a little encouragement people have walked and ridden bikes, horses, tractors, Motorbikes and even a vintage Morris 8 to raise money for a really good cause.

I've always felt that the DHCT has been a good cause partly because of the invaluable help they give to our churches and chapels at times of great need and also because of the very unusual, and

generous, way in which they give back to each church a half of all the fundraising they have raised. That has meant that we have been free to decide what use, or charity, our unexpected fundraising income can be put to." As the Americans would say, 'It's a win-win situation!'

The Rev Roderick Withnell. Rector of Chulmleigh

The DHCT is delighted to report that together the Little Dart Team raised £1,509 – excellent!

'Walking on Water'!

Sue Mumford and friends by land and sea...



First Ferry load across the River Yealm.

"Twenty Two of us set out from Brixton, plus 3 dogs repeating the walk we first did in 2011 and were delighted to have doubled the numbers. We came from five churches, Brixton, Yealmpton, Newton Ferrers, Noss Mayo and Wembury and visited them in that order with lunch this year kindly provided by Newton Ferrers. It is a spectacular walk over fields, beside rivers up and down hills and of course the exciting ferry journey to join the coastal footpath to Wembury. Some people walked all the way about 14 miles, others did parts of it but all had a wonderful time and raised £1,151 for DHCT!

Sue Mumford

Meanwhile, just for fun.....

The Rev. Mike Clark of High Bickington writes:

"This year the five parishes which make up the 'southern group' of the Two Rivers Mission Community joined together to raise money for Devon Historic Churches Trust.

St Mary's Atherington held a coffee morning and started early to send the walkers and cyclists on their way. We first visited St Mary's High Bickington and then made the 5 mile trek across to St Giles in the wood, where teas and cakes were provided for our lunch break; on

then to Roborough and finishing at Beaford. There were about 10 walkers (including me) and 2 cyclists with a distance covered by most of about 15 miles- one of the cyclists also cycled home so must have covered at least 20 miles. All enjoyed the day and look forward to doing it again next year." The DHCT is delighted to report that together they raised £1,055.



Silverton bikers....

Bill Croome and friends visiting Columb John Chapel. This little chapel is on the Killerton estate and was built in 1841 to replace an earlier 17th century building. Columb John itself is an ancient manor mentioned in the Domesday book. The Silverton bikers raised nearly £200 visiting a group of churches and places of interest in the area.

The Exeter Prayer Walk

"It was good to be able to welcome to the Cathedral Chapter House those taking part in the 'Exeter Walk' who were supporting the Devon Historic Churches Trust. A wide range of members from the congregations of the City Churches planned to visit each one and pray for the regular worshippers and the residents of each of the parishes. The Deanery is wide flung with twenty four places of worship including the Mission Community of Alphington, Shillingford and Ide in the West to Whipton in the East, As far north as Exwick and as far South as Countess Wear. A large area to traverse - well done!" Another fantastic sum raised of £1,789.



Ian Morter Canon Pastor and Treasurer

Welcoming church visitors with 21st century technology



ViewPoynt a pioneer in delivering low-cost audio tours via mobile phones generously offered to provide a complimentary package for four of Devon's churches. This proposal was enthusiastically embraced by the churches at Chulmleigh, Brent Tor, Holne and Tavistock. The DHCT is very grateful to Chris Whatmore of Viewpoynt for his hard work in delivering these audio tours for our churches, which will ensure that visitors have a truly memorable and thoroughly enjoyable discovery of their special features and history.

Rev Roderick Withnell & Chris Whatmore of Viewpoynt, creating the 'Chulmleigh Experience'

Advance notice: Handel's Messiah 'from Scratch'. Saturday 23rd March 2013 7.30pm
St Peter's Church, Oakford.

Proceeds to Devon Historic Churches Trust and Age UK Tiverton
Directed by Andrew Daldorph, Director of Music for the East Devon Choral Society.

Come and join us to sing (no need to be perfect) or listen.

Tickets £10 from Monica Colvin 01398 351 675

Email: monicacolvin2@gmail.com

Information from: Roland Notley 01363 866864

Email: rolandnotley@yahoo.co.uk

Devon Historic Churches Day 2013

Including Ride+Stride

Saturday 14th September

Make a note in your diary
and encourage your friends

Organise an event to support the Devon Historic Churches Trust
Or visit our churches and send us a donation.

We always enjoy hearing about the activities of our supporters, and appreciate all those who raise funds to enable us to continue giving Grants to our Devon Churches.

Further information on our website: www.devonhistoricchurches.co.uk