



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 2014

Welcome to our 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 £45,000 (at the time of writing) in 2013 – half of which is returned immediately to participating churches.

Devon Historic Churches Trust – here to help in times of emergency

Thanks to a generous legacy from one of our supporters, the DHCT is creating an emergency fund to help our churches who urgently need funds to assist when the unexpected occurs. It could be a tarpaulin to cover a sudden hole in the roof, special equipment to tackle the effects of a flood, or expert removal of graffiti that appeared overnight on the church door. These are just random examples, but illustrate how an email to us (grants@devonhistoricchurches.co.uk) could provide assistance to cover an emergency bill in your hour of need.

Coping stone replacement at St Michael's Church, Sowton



"We were very grateful to receive the DCHT grant towards the cost of this project. The work involved replacing (like-for-like) approximately 6 metres of masonry coping stones on the east end of the church that were deteriorating rapidly, and allowing ingress of water that was starting to affect the walls below. These walls are the richly decorated with stencilled stylised flowers and scrolled foliage."

Mike Fernbank, Churchwarden

Restoration work of West Windows at St Andrews Church, Clyst Hydon

"After fears of losing the West windows in the bell tower, sections had to be removed safely and carefully stored for repair. Unfortunately, this did mean that for a while they were replaced with rather unsightly boards instead of the beautiful stained glass display. However, this was only temporary as with the generous contribution given by Devon Historic Churches Trust, along with monies raised via the local community fund raising activities and PCC funds, sufficient monies were made available for the restoration work to begin.



Andrew Johnson, and his team of stained glass specialist and master glaziers, were employed to restore the weather-beaten windows bringing them back to their former glory. Now securely fitted into place, they should survive many more years to come."

Darren Clifton-Jones, Churchwarden

Floor, window & plaster works at St Mary's Church, East Worlington

"The tranquil sanctity of St Mary's, East Worlington has been inspiring worshippers and visitors for over seven hundred years. However by 2011 the rebuild by its Patron, the Earl of Portsmouth, in 1879 was beginning to show its age.

The Quinquennial report highlighted three main areas requiring action:

- 1) Significant jacking to the floor in the sanctuary had taken place, loosening large sections of the decorative tiling. 2) The putty, painted decoration and metalwork of the 19th century diamond glass quarries set in cast iron lattice of the nave and tower windows had reached the end of their life and they needed to be cleaned, repaired and re-protected. 3) The plaster to the western face of the chancel arch had suffered a significant amount of decay. Altogether, after an exhaustive round of fund raising, we spent some £26,800 on the repairs and we are very grateful to Devon Historic Churches Trust for their help with a generous grant".



Rewiring at St Mary's Church, West Worlington

"It was with considerable horror that one of the churchwardens, on entering St Mary's, West Worlington in 2012, found smoke wafting in the roof space. An inspection showed that the wiring, originally fitted to replace the gas lighting, had suffered the ravages of time and needed complete replacement as soon as possible. Thanks to a generous grant from Devon Historic Churches Trust and the unstinting support of the local community, the work was able to be carried out with a minimum of disruption to our service schedule."



Charles Hodgson, East & West Worlington

Restoration to South Molton Methodist Church

"South Molton Methodist Church was pleased to receive a grant from Devon Historic Churches Trust towards the cost of cleaning and restoring the bath stone and stonework at the front of the Church.

The Church was built in 1883 and over the last 20-30 years; significant improvement works have been carried out to the interior and the extensive buildings that surround the premises.

The Church exterior was in need of repairs and restoration and members had been raising money towards this for a number of years, it has made a wonderful difference to our church - it no longer looks shabby and uncared for."

Derek Summers, Churchwarden



Kitchen, lighting and community space at Holy Trinity, Galmpton

"I am husband of Church Warden, Jeanne, and I prepared all the drawings, specifications etc for the application for a Faculty (a challenging process!), and then organised the contractors who carried out the works. These comprised the installation of a kitchen in the vestry, the removal of some pews to create open spaces for community use, and the installation of a new lighting scheme. These works were completed in May 2013 following a grant gratefully received from the Trust and everyone agrees, is a stunning improvement.



The Faculty included a spiritual garden, to be created on the south face of the church, with pavings suitable for wheelchair users, planting and benches which will be provided by church members in memoriam of loved ones. Unfortunately, funds then available did not permit these works to be carried out at the same time, but we are hoping that we will have enough to do so in the coming spring."

Eric A Stevens FRICS

Some Anecdotes....

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

Holiday Coast launches its Mission Community

Following three years of working on a development plan for the parishes of Holcombe, Dawlish, Cofton and Starcross, the process came to a climax on Saturday 14th September when more than a hundred members of the congregations joined a 'pilgrimage' which linked the churches of St George's Holcombe, St Gregory's Dawlish, St Mary's Church Hall Dawlish Warren, St Mary's Cofton and St Paul's Starcross.



The Bishop of Crediton accompanied them and others joined the route for some or all of the sections and others met with the party at each of the five locations. Bishop Nick complimented all of the churches for their involvement in the Holiday Coast (combining the two initial letters of Holcombe, Dawlish, Cockwood and Starcross) Mission planning and he emphasised the benefits of churches working together and sharing skills and resources.

Ray Moore, Dawlish Mission Community



Holy Trinity Church, Littleham cum Exmouth

Encapsulating the outstanding spirit of our church communities we have heard from Bob Soutter of Holy Trinity Church, Littleham-cum-Exmouth about Teresa Morrison, a severely disabled lady in an electric wheelchair, who raised £162 visiting 7 churches in Exmouth - with a 'walker' beside her.

She was thrilled to have taken part.

40 couples in wedding celebration...



St Michael's Church, Kingsteignton get a star prize for originality this year with their day-long celebration of marriage. St Michael's organiser Jackie Edwards laid on a wedding display featuring the dress she wore down the aisle there 44 years ago. Other matrimonial exhibits were provided by her friends and the Vicar the Rev. Mark Smith did his bit by cycling 40 miles to visit other churches while back at the church trips up the tower proved a hit, with bell-ringer Ian Avery escorting at least a dozen parties to the top. Helped by prize draws and donations the day's total came to an amazing £1,182!

One of the supporters, Mrs Edwards said "the highlight for me was undoubtedly the short wedding blessing given by our curate Sandra Gill. To see the place packed with at least 80 people taking part was very emotional."

Our new Chairman Lady Burnell-Nugent DL



With her husband Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent and grandchildren

Fundraising suggestion from Chulmleigh



The Rev. Roderick Withnell, one of our most successful annual supporters, cleverly sources sponsorship from local Funeral Directors.

An inspired idea – I am sure you will agree!

And to close, some pictures of other supporters raising funds....



Cream Teas at Uffculme



Climbing the Tower at Culmstock



Kingsteignton volunteers for celebration teas

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.

Devon Historic Churches Day 2014

Including Ride+Stride

Saturday 13th September

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

Make a note in your diary
and encourage your friends

Email: contact@devonhistoricchurches.co.uk. Grants: grants@devonhistoricchurches.co.uk

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

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