

Devon Historic Churches Trust

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



Newsletter

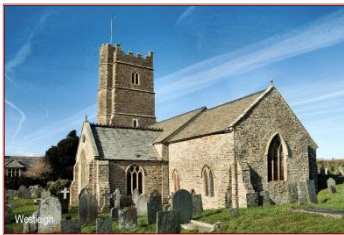
January 2012

Welcome to our first Newsletter.

The support of so many parishes and individuals in Devon has enabled the DHCT to provide grants to help churches with their repairs and maintenance for nearly 40 years. So, in this our first Newsletter, we would like to take the opportunity to thank our supporters for their generous contributions to the Trust.

This is also a good opportunity to give some examples of the work undertaken recently with our help, to give some up-to-date information on our grant giving format, and to show a few pictures of some of our supporters out and about raising funds.

Heating Project at St Peter's Church Westleigh.



"DHCT gave a grant of £2,000 towards new heating at Westleigh in 2011. St Peter's overhead heaters were condemned as

unsafe and removed in 2010. As a result the church had to be closed for 3 months during last winter's cold weather. It was necessary to completely rewire the whole church before installing a new more efficient heating system at a total cost of £22,212. We received just over £9,000 in Grant Aid from four different sources –

the rest was raised by the Parishioners through donations and fundraising activities.

We are extremely grateful to DHCT for their helpful attitude and understanding of the value of heating in the church, which gave us great encouragement. We now have four night storage heaters keeping a constant low heat in the church. They can be boosted during services, plus the addition of under-pew heating in our central pews. Our conservator visited the church recently for the first time since the work was completed and congratulated us on the difference it has already made to the temperature".

Viv Ansell on behalf of PCC

Dry Rot at St Edmund's Church, Kingsbridge

"At the end of 2010, at St Edmund's Church, Kingsbridge, dry rot was noticed in the first floor vestry, which had begun to spread to the ceiling below. Our roofing company was called in to investigate the gully and timberwork from above and to price for remedial works and treatment. Once they had begun working and had cleared the gully debris, the roof plate was revealed to have virtually disappeared. The ends of the roof braces supporting most of the weight of the roof in that area were rotten, with nothing to rest on. Revised costings were drawn up to include replacement timber etc.

Whilst our own funds could just about have coped with the dry rot aspect, we were unable to afford the additional timberwork, which almost doubled the original cost. However, it made sense to do the roof plate while the scaffolding was on site and the roof already opened. We therefore applied to various bodies for grants, including the DHCT and we were very grateful to receive their cheque for £3,000 towards the repair, in May 2011. This is the second grant we have been fortunate to receive from DHCT, a sum of £3,000 towards the £250,000 cost of roof repairs in 2005".

Jackie Pearce PCC Treasurer.

Roof and Tower Repairs. St Mary's Church, High Bickington



Presentation to the Rev Michael Clark from Judith Kauntze Trustee, DHCT.

“Our last Quinquennial inspection highlighted problems with both the roof and the tower and we applied to English Heritage for a grant towards the total costs. They were able to provide £182,000 towards re-roofing the Church but were not prepared to make a grant towards the Tower repairs. We were also delighted to receive a grant of £4,000 from Devon Historic Churches Trust and a grant of £6,800 from Devon Waste Management as the Church lies within 10 miles of a landfill site. We also received a grant from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme towards the VAT element of the total cost of the building works although under the new rules covering this

particular scheme we are not guaranteed to receive the full amount of VAT expended. Local fundraising raised a further sum of approximately £2,000 mainly from a Gift Day held last year but also from other smaller events. The re-roofing works which cost £238,000 were completed in time for us to move back into the Church for Remembrance Sunday when we traditionally have a combined service with our Methodist friends. We hope to be able to proceed with the Tower repairs next year and the main fundraising for this is being co-ordinated by the Friends of St Mary's who have already raised approximately £9,000 towards the total sum needed. It is certainly good to be back worshipping regularly in the Church after spending six months sharing the Methodist Chapel with our Methodist friends who made us so very welcome”.

Ian Cornwell PCC Treasurer

An anecdote

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

Patrick May, from St Mathew's Church, Cheriton Bishop.

My father-in-law, Donald King aged 78 managed 26 miles from Kennerleigh Church and caused not a little hilarity by having a kip on a verge part way round with passers-by thinking he had had an accident. In fact while getting off his bike (was mine and far too big!) he did cut his leg and two very kind ladies at Lapford Church patched him up. My son Edward aged 15 started the ride with him, had commitments playing squash and then completed the last two churches with me.

Last year I rode round the North Creedy team churches so decided this year to visit the remaining 17 Cadbury team churches with the westernmost Beacon Church at New Buildings and the furthest East at Poltimore. Special mentions must go to St Swithuns at Sandford and St Mary Magdalene at Stoke Canon both of which were cheerily “manned” all day and the latter providing a

delicious sponge cake! Another highlight was watching a couple exchange their vows whilst in the belfry of Newton St Cyres church in the company of the bell ringers. For the statistically minded I rode just under 46 miles with a total ascent of 2028 ft and from start to finish the journey took 8hrs 7mins, stopping about 10 minutes at each church.



Edward & Patrick May
upon their return to St Mathew's Church
at Cheriton Fitzpaine.

How the DHCT can help.....

The DHCT interprets the word 'historic' very broadly! The Trustees certainly do not confine themselves only to helping Devon's rich legacy of mediaeval churches; they are also concerned in the upkeep of Georgian, Victorian and later churches both urban and rural. They tend to look first at the particular 'need' of a church and then at its age! The recently revised constitution allows us greater flexibility on what we can and what we cannot support. Our policy now is that we are open to requests for help with the cost of anything from loos to lighting; re-wiring to re-ordering. We realise that a cold and

uncomfortable church however ancient and beautiful is not attractive to congregations! But the 'fabric' of the building remains our first and major concern - the roof, the tower, the walls and the floors. We do not fund repairs to bells or monuments as there are other specialised Trusts which undertake these matters.

The Trust is non-denominational and accordingly welcomes applications from Churches and Chapels within the Diocese of Exeter and the County of Devon.

Lady Anne Boles

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



Holly Moser (rt)
and mother Jo
from Chulmleigh



Dolton Church
Exercise Bike-In



Exeter Prayer Walk



Jane Gibson
from Burrington



Silverton
Bikers



Jenny Chetwin & David Netherway from Swimbridge
using their bus passes to visit 12 Churches.



West Dartmoor
Benefice

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

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