

# The Trust gave £78,000 in 2007

IN THE YEAR just ended grants totalling £78,000 were approved by the Trustees for the following churches: St Laud's, Sherington; St Nicholas, Nether Winchendon; St Mary & All Saints, Beaconsfield; Holy Cross, Slapton; All Saints, Wotton Underwood; St Giles, Water Stratford; St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill; St Peter & St Leonard, Iver; St Mary the Virgin, Mentmore; St Mary & St Nicholas, Chetwode; St Mary the Virgin, Aylesbury

During 2007 the Trust received the following:

Donations from Churches and Chapels	£1,951
Donations from individuals	£882
Other donations	£565
Proceeds from summer reception	£8,590

A total of 25 churches and chapels and 30 individuals made donations. In addition it is anticipated that the proceeds of the 2007 Cycle Ride will produce net income for the Trust of over £21,000. At the time of writing, money from the ride is still being received.

## Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust

Affiliated to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust. Charity Number: 206471

<b>President:</b>	<b>The Lord Lieutenant</b>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>The Rt Rev Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham</b>
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# Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust

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## It's true - Trust finds where there's muck, there's money

REMEMBER that old saying about muck and money?

Well it's gained a whole new meaning for a string of churches situated across the northern half of Buckinghamshire.

Thanks to some diligent finding-out and energetic form-filling by Churches Trust officers, they are to benefit from a provision in the Landfill Tax Act that recycles some of the money collected from councils and firms dumping their rubbish in the area's old brickfields to local environmental good causes.

Any church situated within ten miles of the landfill sites at Calvert or Bletchley, in Bucks, and over the county boundary in Bedfordshire, will be entitled to bid for up to £10,000 to help with the cost of restoration and repairs.

The money - up to a total of £100,000 in the first instance - will

come from the Landfill Communities Fund set up as a result of the Landfill Act.

It will be distributed by an independent environmental body called the Waste Recycling Group (WREN), which has agreed that the Trust will administer the grants with the help of Buckinghamshire Community Action.

Trust president and Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher, says: 'I am delighted that WREN has recognised the expertise that the Historic Churches Trust has in dealing with grant requests for repairs and restoration work to churches.'

'The grant of £100,000 will make huge difference in terms of our ability to help to ensure that churches continue to play an important role in our communities'.

## Let's all be Friends

Odd as it may seem, the Trust has lots of supporters, but no Friends. No-one, that is, who is a member and who pays a subscription to be so. Until now. Welcome to the Friends of Buckinghamshire Churches. See inside.

# Another good day out

By Patricia Burstall

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL year for the Trust's annual Ride and Stride fund-raising event. Once again, the September weather was just right and the amount raised, with money still coming in, amounts to a grand total of £42,000.

As usual half the money raised will go to churches or chapels nominated by participants and half to the Trust.

Three churches, St James, Gerrards Cross, St Mary, Hitcham, and St Lawrence, Bradwell, each raised at least £1,000.

As usual, most people rode cycles, including four children riding for the Marlow team ministry and four on in support of St Mary-le-Moor, Cadmore End. Two walkers, from St Mary,

Hawridge, took their dogs along with them and one organised a route for members of her running club, the Marlow Striders.

I wore a 'Friends of Kent Churches' tee-shirt advertising the ride for several days before the event and was amused and grateful to be given 50p for the funds by the person standing behind me at the bank. Every little helps!

My warmest thanks to all who took part and to those who provided the essential administrative back-up - especially to our three new Deanery organisers: Andrew Harrison-Jones (Buckingham), Heidi Meakin (Claydon) and Emila Chua (Newport)

● **This year's Ride and Stride will be on Saturday, September 13.**

## Trust to get friendly

**TWO OLD friends of the Trust have agreed to become Friends indeed by helping organise a new group, to be known as the Friends of Buckinghamshire Churches. Marilynne and Nick Morgan, who live at Aston Sandford, near Aylesbury, will formally unveil the Friends at the Trust's summer reception, in June.**

Appeals committee chairman Cherry Aston said she hoped the Friends would raise the profile of the county's churches by organising visits and lectures and, of course, raise funds for their maintenance. She said: 'The Trust has many supporters, but it has never had any formalised membership structure. We hope that the Friends will be able to build up our membership base while offering a broader range of activities for people who are interested in knowing more about our lovely churches.'

For more information, contact Marilynne Morgan, Stone Lacey, Aston Sandford, Aylesbury Hp17 8LP (01296 291217).

## High level consultations lead to grants for four churches

THE TRUST is making grants to four widely dispersed churches following visits by the Inspection Committee in October.

St Peter's, Iver, has elements from all periods since Saxon times. Its walls, which are mainly of flint with some clunch and a form of puddingstone, even contain some Roman bricks.

On the west tower, flints have fallen, allowing water penetration, and the problem has been exacerbated by the previous use of inappropriate cement mortar for repairs. English Heritage have funded an investigation. We are helping with the actual repair work

At St Mary's, Mentmore, a church that was heavily restored in Victorian times, some intrepid members of the Committee climbed the tower to see for themselves the problems with the lead on its roof, which needs replacing, as does the lead on the roof of the north aisle.

At the same time the inappropriate plastic downpipes will be replaced.

The small congregation has already raised a substantial sum.

Chetwode is a little gem, all that is all



*Proving that inspecting is not just a paper exercise, Jennifer Moss took this picture of the committee on top of Mentmore church tower. It shows (l-r) Sherry Bates, from BZ Conservation, the Hon Mrs Jenefer Farcombe, Appeals committee chairman Cherry Aston and Caroline Abel-Smith.*

that remains of a much larger priory church, with some very early stained glass.

The congregation is tiny. They have asked for help with renovating plaster affected by damp - a perennial problem here.

Finally we visited St Mary's, Aylesbury, where the lead roofs of the chapter house and St Luke's Chapel are failing, letting in water.

The state of the timber roof structure is not yet known. It is essential to secure the roof before considering all the other work that is likely to be needed before long.

● **Mike Davis**