



DEVON HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

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

NEWSLETTER

February 2015

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 in their hour of need. 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) – half of which is returned immediately to participating churches.

Grants Awarded during the past 12 months

During 2014 the DHCT awarded over £70,000 in main grant funding, a selection is illustrated here:

Stairway to Heaven - a Grant with a difference



Twenty years or so ago, **Holy Trinity Church in Exmouth** was re-ordered, and two halls were created at the back of the church, one on the first floor, the other on the second. They were accessed by a staircase, and a lift. The Fire Officer permitted up to 150 people 'above the ground floor' at any one time.

That was then - this is now. In 2013 the current Fire Officer told the parish that the rules had changed, and the number permitted 'above the ground floor' was restricted to 60 - because there was only one means of escape - the lift didn't count. This caused major problems for the church, particularly as it is used frequently by the Community for Concerts etc. At those events, refreshments were always served in the first floor hall - often with 120 or more there. For a year the hall became unusable for those occasions, together with lunches, Harvest Suppers etc. Rather than treat this as a disaster, the parish decided to make it an opportunity, and on the 23rd January 2015, Bishop Nick McKinnel blessed and dedicated a new £85,000 staircase connecting the first floor hall directly with the nave. The PCC were delighted to receive grant funding from various bodies, including DHCT, meaning that there was no call on either the Church members or the Parish's almost non-existent reserves. Our picture shows Bishop Nick cutting the ribbon and declaring the staircase Open!

Bob Soutter

Replacement of the dove window in Escot Church, near Ottery St Mary.

The dove in the east window is very unusual. Over the years it had deteriorated, cracked and pieces had been falling out which prompted us to contact Andrew Johnson to come and have a look at it. Andrew has completed other work for us over the years, has a wealth of knowledge and knows the church well.

In order to protect the old dove window from any further damage, and eventually the new one, Andrew fitted a piece of polycarbonate to the outside. Photos were also taken.

When he was ready to complete the work the old pieces were removed taken back to the workshop where the new quatrefoil section of dove window was made by painting and firing the glass.

The day it was installed was quite nerve-wracking for us to watch. As you can see by the pictures the glass is very thin and not of a regular shape. It had to be transported up the ladder to the top of the scaffold



and then offered into the space left by the old one.

Thankfully all went well and Andrew and his colleague were able to putty in the new glass without any adjustment. Phew! I think you will agree that it looks amazing.

At some point the old pieces will be put together in a frame so that they can be displayed in church for everyone to see. To see them it is incredible to believe they have lasted for so many years.

We are thrilled with the result and grateful to the Trust for their support.

Eve Townson, Churchwarden



Work to Bell Tower, St Budeaux Church, Plymouth

The 1st stage of the project was started in January 2014 and took a week; this included the lowering of the Bells from the Tower and their transportation to John Taylor's workshop in Loughbough.

During this week there were over 130 Children from Local schools (Plaistow Hill, Foundation & Marine Academy), the local Guides, Brownies & Rainbows plus other visitors, which received extensive Media coverage.



The lowering of the one of the bells was also covered by the local ITV News, the Plymouth Herald and other papers where there have been a number of stories around this project, including one thanking the trust for its support

Peter Sparkes

Chairman of the St Budeaux Parish Church Bell Fund

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

Thanks to a generous legacy from one of our supporters, the DHCT created an Emergency Fund in 2014, which has proved of immense value to churches who needed assistance urgently. Below are a couple of examples of ways we have helped under this new initiative:

St Edmunds Church, Dolton.

Following a large tree falling on the graveyard in the spring of 2014, the DHCT awarded an emergency grant of £1,000 to assist with its removal and the re-instating of fallen grave stones.

"We were overjoyed to have that sort of support from DHCT. I have placed the plaque adjacent to the main church entrance gate for all to see."

John Thouless, Dolton Church



CHELDON: is a very small church just a couple of miles from Chawleigh; serving a small hamlet and is supported by a few farming families and loyal visitors who come to its monthly service. This is a Prayer Book Evensong, still a very popular service amongst the older generation and they are fortunate in their priest, Roderick Withnell, who is as much at home with the Book of Common Prayer as he is with Common Worship. As a church community their income is small but with several fund-raising events a year they manage to pay all their regular obligations, as well as to keep the building in good repair. A small fall of masonry from their tower was speedily dealt with, thanks to generous help from DHCT. At Christmas their Carol Service congregation fills this tiny, welcoming church.



Paul Holmes. DHCT Church Assessor

Some Anecdotes....

from supporters of our **Devon Historic Churches Day & Ride+Stride in 2014:**



Tom Sewell (a young man with Down's Syndrome) raised £590 through his JustGiving page doing a sponsored walk for **Christow** church, which is a fantastic result. He walked from Bridford, through Christow, Ashton and Doddiscombeleigh and from the variety of photos sent to the trust, he clearly had fun along the way.

Patrick May & family raised £2,243.42 for **Cheriton Fitzpaine**, with an amazing £1k matched funding from a private charity for their 'travels' on the day. His Father-in-law even approached a local supermarket for sponsorship and although not successful they are hopeful that they might provide some refreshments for churches in 2015.



Chulmleigh – always one of our most supportive communities raised £2,068.35 a record even for them! A variety of options were organised to suit all tastes, with Sue Croft's coffee morning and cake stall, Claire Withnell, the Rector's wife did a bike ride and they had a collection jar in the Red Lion.

Paul Holmes

Exeter's Exciting Ecclesiastical Exploration....

Diane Coombes organised this walk through Exeter, raising just short of £2,000 – another really enjoyable adventure through the centre of this most historic city and with the generous support of the Dean of our Cathedral, not only were most enjoyable refreshments served in the Chapter House, but this significant sum was raised to support our parish churches in their hour of need. Sign up to join the 2015 exploration ASAP!



Littleham-cum-Exmouth - Once again, the Parish of Littleham cum Exmouth fielded a good turnout for this event. At one stage there were 15 cyclists from the parish visiting numerous churches, plus two walkers. One young lady put us all to shame - she visited no less than 40 churches, despite having to walk back from Exeter to Exmouth, as a result of minor damage to her bicycle. And having had it repaired, off she set to visit even more churches...

The parish was delighted to send a total of £1129 to DHCT.

Bob Soutter

Wiggaton. Wiggaton, where's Wiggaton? Well the clue is that St Edward's was built as a Chapel of Ease for the vicar of Ottery St Mary, so it must be somewhere near there! Christopher Neville who lived in the village was churchwarden until his death in 1998, and Chairman of DHCT from 1987 to 1995. His memory is honoured still by the generous donations from the village and from his family (in 2014 these amounted to £1042). This generosity takes its toll on the current churchwarden, the treasurer and the Reader who have traversed East Devon on a certain Saturday in September for many years now. We know exactly which church supplies what (eg coffee morning at Whimble), and we meet old friends from neighbouring parishes engaged on the same project. This year we confined ourselves to the Otter Valley, but we have been as far afield as Cullompton (unintentionally – don't ask!) Lest you imagine we are cycling fanatics, cycles and cyclists are only checked for roadworthiness a few days before the event. But we'll be at it again this year, accompanied by the treasurer's super-fit grandson – oh darn! That presages a long, painful day. All in a good cause!!

John Maybery



Jackie Edwards raised £1,050 by organising some really interesting events in **Kingsteignton** church running throughout the day. The theme was a celebration of Creative Talents that so enrich our communities, with Painters, Knitters, Crochet Makers, Wool Spinning, Model Making, Cross Stitching, Flower Arranging and a Lace-maker giving lessons. There was also tower visits, lunch and historical photographs...another memorable day for all!

Dolton "We held a fun event in our church on Saturday, 11th September for DHCT from 10am to 5pm. It was treated as an open day with free breakfasts and free afternoon tea and cakes, two exercise bikes with a relay of cyclists endeavouring to break our 125 miles record in 7 hours (we achieved 127.4!! We invited people to ring the bells under supervision, we held a quiz for the children and an organist played popular music all day and an insight into its workings. We charged for nothing but invited voluntary donations with a box at the exit. We made £255 on the day and also received a cheque for £500 from Charlie (Rolling Stones drummer) and Shirley Watts, making a total of £755."



John Thornless



Sandford - raised £730 – with a **Hike from Hartland Quay to Tintagel** Ronald Somerville (aged 84!) and friends walked 37 miles through the most challenging section of the SW Coastal Path – very beautiful, through coombe valleys and vertical drops to the sea. Ronald undertook the walk in thanks for his renewed life after having his artery cleared of a 90% blockage 2 years ago.

A selection of other creative contributions:

Withycombe Raleigh raised £865, much of it by a hearing dog Niven walking with his owner.

Heavitree - Hamish Adams - raised £557 via his JustGiving page with a 30 mile walk on Dartmoor and sent us the most interesting story of his exploits.

Instow raised £490 with an exhibition of WW1 memorabilia, needlework, bell ringing, historical artefacts and details of their extensive fundraising activities over many years to cover their substantial repair works.

Kenn raised £451 with a cleverly designed 4 Village circular walk – their publicity material was excellent.

Hatherleigh - £264 of the £370 total raised was by their Vicar Rev'd Dr Ruth Hansford with her 10 month old lurcher puppy Eby. They went on a 1½ hr sponsored walk with Eby's mum Swallow and Uncle Flynn!!

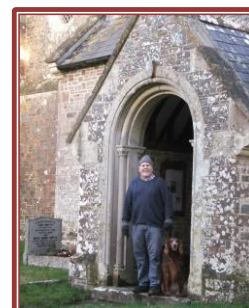
And to close, some pictures of other supporters raising funds....



Bell Ringing lessons at Dolton



Concert refreshment preparation at Instow



Steve Baber trekking on Exmoor for the Worlington churches

"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 2015

Including Ride+Stride

Saturday 12th 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.

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

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