



# 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 2016

**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 2015 the DHCT awarded £69,700 in main grant funding, a selection is illustrated here:



#### St George's Church, Modbury "Raising the Roof"

*The story so far....*

St. George's Church, Modbury, is a wonderful Grade 1 listed building, with a nightmare of a roof! In 2014 the Modbury PCC learnt, what they had suspected for a number of years - that the roof was no longer fit for purpose and needed replacing, along with essential repairs to the tower. In December of that year, the cost of this work was quantified at about £540,000, double that anticipated!

The team started applying for funding, and in February 2015 had its first success with a grant of £5,000 from Devon Historic Churches Trust. This early success spurred them on and applications were submitted to other organisations. In June 2015 The Heritage Lottery Fund approved their maximum grant, and suddenly

when the grants and promises of donations were added up, the realization set in that their prayers had been well and truly answered - just £6,000 was needed to achieve the first target.

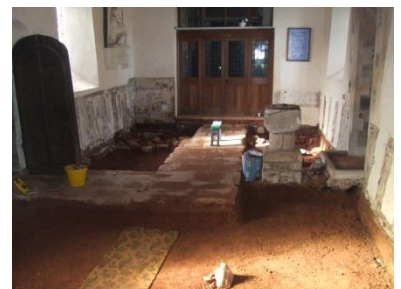
In September 2015 physical test opening up of the roof took place, which caused great interest locally when two spider cranes arrived on site to lift team members to wherever needed on the roof. In a little over 12 months, a dream has turned into a reality, and the community of Modbury can look forward to a rejuvenated community asset.

A final word from Alex, *"The goodwill shown to the project by everyone involved has just been amazing and very humbling. I think that the biggest spur was right at the start of the project, when we were talking to Devon Historic Churches Trust. Their grant may not have been the biggest overall, although it was a major grant for them; but more the encouragement and support they gave in the early days was immense and gave us the belief that we could achieve our goal"*.

Alex Hammerstein, Churchwarden, Treasurer and Project Leader

#### St James Church, Jacobstowe

Wet rot has severely damaged the raised timber floors and pews in the nave necessitating the removal of both. The existing floor covering, a mix of stone flags and medieval tiles, had to be removed, the floor excavated and reinstated to provide a safe, level and breathable finish. The pews, also having rotted, had to be replaced. In doing this work the church is enhanced allowing its use for community purposes, there being no building in Jacobstowe for community events. The DHCT gave a grant of £5,000 towards this project.



## St Peters Church, Lamerton



The plaster from the west wall had to be removed as it was breaking away in several places and was therefore quite dangerous. The wall was very damp caused by the close proximity of the yew trees on the outside and paint on the inside which would not let the wall "breathe". The wall was re-plastered with lime mortar in the summer and was then dry enough to repaint.

Whilst preparing the 'Church Trail' the PCC realised that, although the church is dedicated to St Peter, the only reference to him were the keys on the side of the font. On the bell ringers outing they were extremely impressed by the medieval murals on the walls of one of the churches which were being uncovered. They therefore thought it would be very good to have a modern mural bringing alive some of the references in the New Testament to their patron saint.

The PCC approved the sketches by Jon Minshull who, when leaving the church on his first evening enjoyed a particularly lovely sunset, which he photographed and reproduced on the wall the next day. So they have a genuine Lamerton sunset in church. A great deal of local Dartmoor landscape is incorporated into the painting along with Dartmoor Grey Faced and Dartmoor White Faced sheep. A number of his father's sheep are immortalised in the work!

The lighting in the painting is based on where the sun actually sets in the West. At sunset the light comes through the window where the sun would be in the painting connecting the painting to the real world outside and creates a beautiful glow.

The mural was completed in October 2015 before the rededication of the church by the Bishop of Plymouth following extensive renovations to the tower, rainwater goods and east gable ends towards which the DHCT gave £5,000 in three stages.

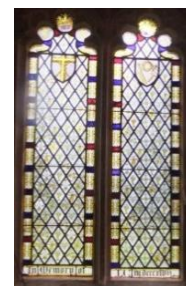
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## Devon Historic Churches Trust – here to help in times of emergency

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. For example:

**St Mary's Church, East Worlington.** *"St Mary's Church in East Worlington has undergone much repair work, including full refurbishment of the classic metal windows. This proved to be an expensive but very necessary and worthwhile exercise. A very attractive coloured window had to be excluded due to pressure on funds. However the Devon Historic Churches Trust came to our aid with an emergency grant. This enabled us to complete the exercise and restore our beautiful historic church to its full glory. The Congregation and PCC remain extremely grateful."*

Geoff Boyles, Churchwarden



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## Some Anecdotes .... from supporters of our Devon Historic Churches Day & Ride+Stride in 2015:

### The Chulmleigh Community:

This year just five 'activities' by the Chulmleigh & District church community raised £1,808.78 towards the Devon Historic Churches Day and Ride+Stride. By far the largest and most imaginative was an indoor gym, where 103 miles was 'travelled' sponsored at £10 per mile by 21 people, using rowing machines, static bicycles and tread mills. This raised an impressive £1,030. However our tiny church neighbours at **Cheldon** raised £100, our **Team Rector**, Roderick, raised £260 by a variety of 'networking', and sponsorship of weekly grass cutting in the Upper Churchyard during the summer months raised £175. These smaller figures were boosted by a Saturday Coffee Morning in Chulmleigh Town Hall, where the local ladies baked and sold an impressive array of pastries, cakes, jams and similar produce to raise £243.78.



Though participating 'riders and striders' were few, these varied activities involved a good number of the local community in raising a goodly total as well as keeping Devon Historic Churches Trust in the public eye.

Paul Holmes

County Organiser's note: *"Chulmleigh were our top fundraisers in 2015 – Well done!"*

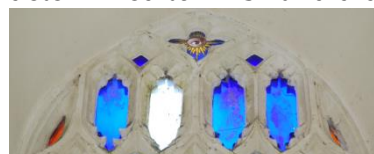
## Clyst St Lawrence - "We try to pick a different course each year"

Our Clyst St Lawrence team has now been cycling on the DHCT Ride+Stride days for a while now (since the last century!) and right from the start we wanted to use the ride as an opportunity to find out more about the wonderful buildings we have in our area, as well as to free up some of the rust in our joints with some exercise.



To keep it fresh, each year, we have taken a different route and when possible, have added in something that is a little different. In the early days, we went on the Starcross-Exmouth ferry as part of a round-trip of the Exe Estuary and were granted access to the Royal Marines' chapel at Lympstone. In 2006 we travelled on a West Somerset Railway steam train as part of the ride and in 2009, we were lucky to visit on one of the few open days each year for the historic chapel at Ayshford where the interior is simple but with stunning detail.

This was the year Kester joined us (then aged 9) and he has rapidly become the strongest rider in our team, even though in 2010 he nearly dropped from exhaustion 10 miles from home on our longest ride from Taunton to Clyst St Lawrence. To his great credit, he was determined to finish and did so – his mother was amazed he had stuck with it.



Despite always varying route, two things are consistent. Firstly, we always find at least one surprise 'star of the show' on each trip, which may be a church window (here the all-seeing eye at Clyst St Lawrence).

Sometimes, the 'star' quality is the setting: we have visited many churches in wonderful locations, such as Sampford Peverell - and then of course there are so many that are fascinating for their architecture, like these at Poltimore and Greenham:



And the second thing?

Well, It can be a long day.... and Churches are generally near the old heart of a community, which by strange coincidence is usually where the best local hostelrys can be found. We always make the most of this and could tell a similar tale of the lunches we have enjoyed!



John Griffiths, Andrew Buxton....together with Kester Griffiths

County Organiser's note: "*Clyst St Lawrence arranged match-funding for their efforts – a very clever idea!*"

## Exeter Prayer Walk

On Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, due to the Installation of Dame Sarah Mullally as Bishop of Crediton at 4.00 pm our Lay Chairman, David Smith, decided on a shorter route ending at lunch time. We commenced at St Mary Steps at 9.20 and arrived at the cathedral at 10am to be welcomed by Ian, our Canon Pastor and Carol Plumstead our Deanery Representative. Renata had again provided us with tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits.



We were delighted that other churches from the City Centre were open - St Martin's was taking part in the Heritage weekend by remembering worshippers from the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Some of us were invited to peer out from the cardboard cut outs of these figures wearing the apparel of the day! At St Sidwell's we admired the modern colourful glass depicting the story of St Sidwell's murder.

Onwards then to St Anne's Orthodox Church full of wonderful icons, then to St James, then to St Marks. From there we had an interesting walk through the old cemetery which brought us out in Heavitree. Our final destination was St Luke's College where some of us remained to have our picnic.

Our two intrepid 'bus pass' users excelled themselves this year by tramping the streets of the **City of London!** They visited 27 churches including of course St Paul's Cathedral. We are very grateful to the many that sponsored us and please book the date for next year when we are unlikely to be installing another Bishop!

Photos: Dr David Smith, Lay Chair of Christianity Deanery Synod, Exeter

Margaret, Renata, Sue, Roz and Diane

County Organiser's note: "*Altogether the churches of Christianity Exeter together with Exeter Cathedral raised an amazing £1,000 – Well done indeed!*"

## Crediton. Holy Cross

On Saturday 29 August with the sun shining, Crediton Rector Nigel Guthrie was joined by a small group of parishioners for a morning sponsored walk around the footpaths and bye-ways of Sandford, Upton Hellions and Shobroke, a distance of around 10 miles, in support of the Devon Historic Churches Trust. There were few navigational problems but it was wet and muddy underfoot and in a couple of places six foot high maize growing right up to footpath edges made for interesting progress. An early lunch was enjoyed at Shobrooke and raised £445.



Bill Jerman. Photo: Mike & Jean May, Stephen Mitchell and Nigel Guthrie

## Withycombe Raleigh with Exmouth Mission Community

Essentially we tried to focus on getting people involved, rather than targeting money and where we could, looked to raise money from people outside the congregation. Some of the walkers didn't raise any money, and the amount raised from the congregation has actually gone sharply down; but the number of people participating has seen a sharp increase, and where they did get sponsorship from friends outside the church or indeed neighbours on their street, they were hugely successful. This year we also tried to broaden out what we did: serving tea and cake at the church. Again this proved more of a hit with those not in the congregation: the street around the church was leafleted, as were one or two others, and there was a notable response. This wasn't just from people with Christian sympathies but sometimes from those who just wanted the local churches preserved for cultural or heritage reasons, which was interesting.



This year we also linked the event up with the installation of Bishop Sarah and a lot of the congregation turned out for that. I believe a few brave souls walked or cycled, while others arrived by a variety of means and met up on the Green.

I don't suppose you can arrange another Bishop's installation for 2016 can you!?

Karen Thompson

## Lamerton, St Peter

Live music from the Medieval & Renaissance periods was played by the talented duo 'Time and Tide Waits'. Followed in the afternoon by the inauguration of a Church Trail, which particularly aims at the children, friends and families of the local area, to include visitors to Devon who visit local churches. It was tested by class 2 of our local Church Primary School who appeared to thoroughly enjoy it! Local villagers came along to work with the children who then served refreshments afterwards.



Annie Jefferies

**Galmpton and Hope Cove:** "an amazing community". This year raised a superb £1,745. Well done indeed.

*"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 2016

Including Ride+Stride

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 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

Contact the Devon Historic Churches Trust on:

Email: [contact@devonhistoricchurches.co.uk](mailto:contact@devonhistoricchurches.co.uk). Grants: [grants@devonhistoricchurches.co.uk](mailto:grants@devonhistoricchurches.co.uk)

Further information on our website: [www.devonhistoricchurches.co.uk](http://www.devonhistoricchurches.co.uk)

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