

Why the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust deserves your support!

Our churches and chapels are special but under threat

Soaring churches light up every town and village and are often their oldest and finest buildings. Chapels stand out too, reflecting passionate beliefs and an independent spirit. All tell the stories of our people and communities. Now they host cafés for young parents and the elderly, foodbanks and concerts, as well as services, weddings and funerals.

Churches and chapels are so much part of the local scene that it is hard to imagine life without them. But keeping the rain and wind out, and the roofs and walls strong and true, needs people to care for them - from clearing the drains to carrying out major repairs. And those repairs are not cheap.

Looking after our listed and local heritage of churches and chapels is a huge challenge. And one that often falls on the shoulders of a few people. It is the parish volunteers that have to find the bulk of the funding. Grants are hard to get and fundraising takes a lot of time and effort.

What the Trust does

- We celebrate and support our historic and modern churches and chapels and their volunteers
- We help fund repairs and building improvements that better serve communities and worshippers
- We cannot offer huge sums but give grants which make a real difference and pull in other funding
- We have given over £4 million in grants over the last 20 years - £159,000 in the last year alone
- We run events from church tours to concerts

How we raise money

We can only help churches because we get funding through individual donations, membership subscriptions, bequests and, in Bedfordshire, from the Wixamtree Trust.

Our main fundraiser is the annual sponsored Bike 'n Hike, always on the second Saturday of September. The aim is to visit as many churches as possible on the day. Those taking part – walking, cycling, mobility scooter or even car – set their own personal challenges and encourage family, friends and others to support them. The money is split between a chosen church and grants.

Who the Trust is for and why you should join us and/or donate

The Trust is for those who enjoy and are fascinated by churches and chapels and want to explore and learn more. It is for those who care for and look after the buildings. And for everyone who wants to help keep them in sound condition and give them a good future.

Our Friends are made up of worshippers and those who have little or no religious faith but share a love of our church and chapel heritage. Please join us as a Friend or Corporate Member and/or make a donation.

For more information on the Trust and how you can join and support us see our Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust website <https://bedshertshct.org.uk/> and Facebook page.