

TRUST NEWS

Saving The Past For The Future



BIKE 'N HIKE: GET READY FOR 14 SEPTEMBER 2024

Bike 'n Hike 2023 raised the fantastic sum of £99,666 for much needed grants to help repair local churches. But we couldn't have done it without the wonderful people who take part, sponsors, those who welcome church visitors and Madeline Russell's team of Area Organisers and all who keep the show on the road.

Special thanks to seven churches which received gold certificates for raising over £2,000: All Saints, Willian; St. Mary, Reed; St. Nicholas, Harpenden; King Charles the Martyr, Potters Bar; St. John the Baptist, Royston; St. Mary, Northchurch and particularly St. James, Stanstead Abbots which raised over £3,000.

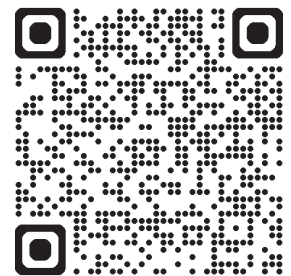
Everyone who takes part likes feeling they are part of an event so it's really important that a poster is displayed and the register of visitors is available. Cold drinks are welcome and it's even better if the church is open. People really like to spend a few minutes looking round the churches they visit.

Madeline Russell

Help make Bike 'n Hike on 14 September 2024 a big success:

- Take part and help YOUR church – Sign up with your Church Organiser or see our website. Half of what you raise goes to your own church and the rest to the Trust.
- Keep your church open to welcome bikers and hikers – why not use the opportunity to hold a fundraising event for your church, such as afternoon tea?
- Help your church take part - Be a Church Organiser for your local church – encourage support and give sponsor forms to those who want to take part.
- Be an Area Organiser – we have vacancies! AO's liaise with Church Organisers in their local area and make sure churches have the information they need to take part.

Find out more from your Bike 'n Hike Church Organiser, or our website:
bedshertshct.org.uk/bike-n-hike/ or use the QR code.



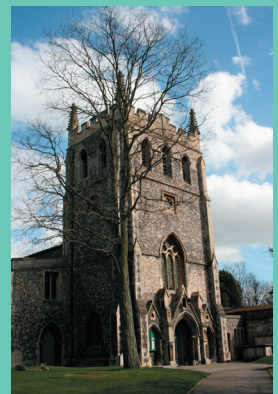
Everyone appreciates an open church and a welcome - even St George on his Pennyfarthing

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAM WARD

Founding member of the Trust and Bike 'n Hike Area Organiser, Pam Ward, who was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours for services to the community in Whipsnade, Bedfordshire.

Book now for our Church Tour in September 2024

Please see the booking form for details.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, 2023-2024

Our Trust is now functioning fully as a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO), and at the end of the financial year all our assets were transferred to our new bank accounts. We have tried to ensure that all our Friends and Corporate Supporters have been informed of this. It means that all who pay subscriptions or make regular or occasional donations – for which we are always grateful – need to amend standing orders or other instructions to their own banks for all contributions towards our work.

This process of change has proved to be unbelievably tortuous and bureaucratic, but we are now able to organize our finances in ways that give access to wider options for the investment of our assets to benefit the Trust, and the churches it assists.

Although we are now a legal entity called a CIO, our title is not altered: we have preserved our old name, viz. Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust, to preserve continuity with all that we have achieved since our inception in 1991.

The past year has seen some changes among our Trustees. In the autumn, the Venerable Paul Hughes resigned on health grounds. He joined us on his retirement from the post of Archdeacon of Bedford which he had occupied for 16 years, and the Trust was particularly grateful for his knowledge of the churches there. Early in the new year, Mrs Judith Howard, one of the Deputy Lords Lieutenant in Bedfordshire, also stood down after 10 years as a Trustee. We thank them both for their interest in and service to the Trust. At the final Trustees' meeting of the current year, we appointed Richard North, who has served for many years

as the Treasurer of our Bike 'n Hike fund-raising event, as a Trustee, and we look forward to his contribution to our work together. We are also hearing "rumbles" that one or two other Trustees are looking to be replaced in the not too distant future.

The routine work of the Trust continues. The 2023 Bike 'n Hike raised £99,666, which provides most of the money the Trust awards in grants to individual churches – and we salute all those who struggled on despite the heat of the day. Our partnership with the Wixamtree Trust makes further money available for work in Bedfordshire; we wish we could find an equivalent partner for Hertfordshire, which would enable us to increase our support there. The sum raised by the Bike 'n Hike has hovered around the £100,000 mark for a number of years now, and, conscious of how costs in the building industry are increasing, we are looking for ways to break through the barrier.

I am very conscious of how much this Trust owes to its Trustees and the voluntary work they devote to it, but their efforts could not extend as far as they do without the support and active involvement of all our Friends and Supporters, and the many well-wishers who help in so many different ways. We are always ready to welcome new followers and partners in our task of "saving the past for the future", and suggest that they visit our website, www.bedshertshct.org.uk, for further information.

Malcolm E. Grant, Chairman of Trustees



IT'S NOT ALWAYS AN HISTORIC CHURCH

Late last year, the Trust received an application from St. Julian's Church in the Cottonmill area of St. Albans which was built in 1956 to cater for an expanding community. It is the daughter church of St. Stephen's Church in St Albans.

The land originally was the site of a searchlight placement and a nissen hut which was first used as the church just after the Second World War and which the current building replaced. It has floor to ceiling double sliding doors separating the Nave from the Crossing and Chancel which provides a clean, open and safe space for church services and for community use. Several groups use the space, including Tots & Teddies, a Muslim Ladies' Group, and a community café, all of which meet weekly, and the Cottonmill Crafters meet there once a month. It shows just how much St Julian's caters for both spiritual and social needs and is at the heart of the local community.

In terms of building repairs, the putty around the diamond lead, single glazed windows of the Chancel, the Crossing and the Nave was very brittle and the cost to replace this was prohibitive. The grant request to the Trust was for the replacement of all windows with double glazed units in keeping with the extension which was built 10/12 years ago. The Trust provided £5,000 towards this work.

Neville Scott



ANNUAL MEETING 20 JULY

Friends are warmly invited to attend the Trust's Annual Meeting at All Saints' Church, Kings Langley on **Saturday 20 July at 2.00pm** for 2.30pm meeting start. This will be followed by afternoon tea and Sung Evensong at St. John's, Boxmoor.

Further information from:
general.enquiry@bedshertshct.org.uk

All Saints' Church, Kings Langley (pictured) dates from the 13th century. It contains encaustic floor tiles over 600 years old, and the tomb of Edmund de Langley 1341-1402, 1st Duke of York and Brother of The Black Prince.



LEGAL CHANGE OF STATUS . . . BUT OUR OBJECTIVES STAY THE SAME

From 1 April, the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with a new charity number, 1197228.

Why have Trustees made this change? BHHCT is now a legal entity in its own right which enables us to act as a unit rather than individuals. This is more professional, particularly when investing our endowment and other funds. It is similar to the way that many professional practices are becoming Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP's).

Apart from the charity number, and a new bank account, nothing has changed in that we continue to enjoy the benefits of charitable status, such as recovering tax under Gift Aid.

Our main objective is still to raise funds and grant aid repair of the fabric of any place of public Christian worship within

the boundary of the Diocese of St. Albans. Our secondary objective is to raise awareness of churches as buildings, their art and architecture, and as repositories of local history.

Friends and Corporate Supporters of the Trust have received letters from our Treasurer requesting that they change their subscription standing orders to the new bank account and we are grateful to all those who have already done so.

If you or your church would like to support our work, please go to www.bedshertshct.org.uk where you will find an application form. We suggest annual subscriptions of £20 for individuals, £30 for couples and £50 for churches.

Churches need our support more and more to be able to preserve the wonderful heritage of these places of worship.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN THE TRUST?

Perhaps you are a Friend with a passion for churches and are wondering how you could help the Trust or whether you could get more involved.

We have a range of roles to fill:

- Trustees – some of our existing Trustees will stand down soon for health reasons.
- Area Organisers and Church Organisers support and enable our annual Bike n Hike and we have vacancies in a number of areas in the two counties

- Events Secretary- to help Trustees with the organisation of events such as the Annual Meeting and Church Tours. This involves booking venues/ transport/catering; receiving payments; organisation on the day.

We would be delighted to hear from you if you are interested in any of these vacancies.

Please contact: general.enquiry@bedshertshct.org.uk

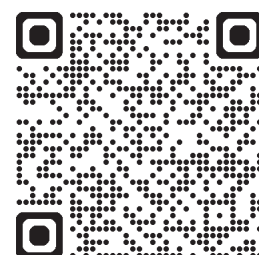
KEEPING UP TO DATE

We rely on subscriptions from Friends and Supporters so please help us by updating your Standing Order with our new bank details and current rates by completing the Application Form on our website: bedshertshct.org.uk/join-us/ or use the QR code.

Please let us know if you change your address so we can keep in touch.

Our new bank details

The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust
Account: 43234452 Sort Code: 20-05-73



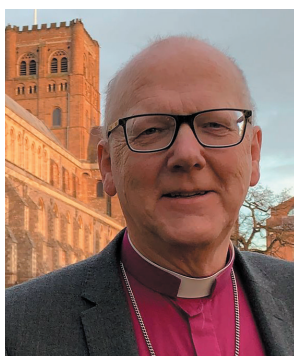
MEET A TRUSTEE

One of our newer Trustees is the Revd. Tom Sander. Tom was born and brought up in north Hertfordshire and east Bedfordshire and first became interested in churches as buildings through bellringing. When Tom was Vicar of St. Leonard, Flamstead the whole of the roof needed to be replaced so he has personal experience of the issues that small parishes face when church fabric needs replacing and therefore the work of BHHCT.

Now Rector of St. Giles-in-the-Fields in London, where the Book of Common Prayer is used for all of its worship, including Sung Holy Communion and Evensong every Sunday, Tom is also Chaplain to the Household Cavalry with the rank of Captain. Long-distance cycling is Tom's other passion. He has completed the John O'Groats to Lands End cycle trip as well as long distance rides abroad. He is very supportive of the Bike 'n Hike and is using social media to promote both the event and the Trust more widely.



The Revd Tom Sander



VISIT THE BISHOP'S GARDEN THIS SUMMER

We are very grateful to the Bishop of St Albans - our Patron, for his continued and generous support. Bishop Alan will be opening his two acre garden **every Sunday from 9 June - 11 August** with all proceeds to BHHCT. The garden is an oasis in the centre of St Albans and well worth a visit. **Entrance:** £5 per adult; dogs on leads welcome. Plants for sale on some weekends. Please note there is no parking in the lane. **Address:** Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, St Albans AL3 4HS.

Bishop Alan (pictured), a keen gardener, is generously opening his garden to visitors in support of the Trust.

THE CATHEDRAL AND THE MISSING SNOWDROPS

Our tour of the St. Albans Cathedral and visit to the Bishop of St. Albans' garden took place on 2 March. It was overbooked and we are sorry that some Friends had to be turned away.

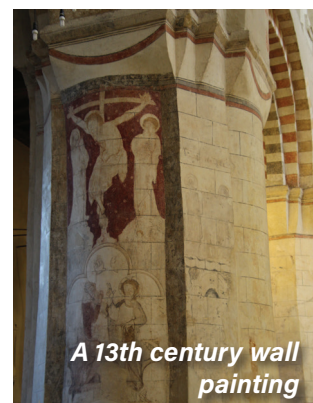
The day started with torrential rain and driving to St. Albans was not easy but, arriving at the cathedral, the weather certainly looked up. We met our guides, Ann Banham and Neville Scott, in the transept and began our tours. Even those who have visited the cathedral often were surprised with things they didn't know.

The highlight for many were the wall paintings which, with modern technology, can be shown much as they would have been seen originally. They were painted over with limewash at the time of the Reformation but a special project, the first of its kind in the country, uses light projection beamed from cameras mounted high up along the walls of the nave to recreate the images. The figures come to life when the technology is turned on, using a programme on a tablet computer.

We are grateful to Ann and Neville for a very interesting morning. As well as being Cathedral guides, many will remember Ann as our super Events Secretary over many years and Neville is a longstanding Area Rep, helping with the awards of grants.

After lunch and plenty of chatter in the Abbot's Kitchen, we walked the short distance to Abbey Gate House. By this time, the sun was shining but it was very wet underfoot. Nature had beaten us – the snowdrops had flowered early with the warmer weather and were now almost over. However, it was very pleasant wandering through the Bishop's garden in the sunshine with daffodils, forsythia and a camellia in full bloom. Thank you to Bishop Alan for allowing us to visit and to his PA, Jane Smith, for hosting us.

Madeline Russell



A 13th century wall painting



Signs of Spring in the Bishop's garden

Contact us

Chairman: Rev'd Canon Malcolm Grant, chairman@bedshertshct.org.uk

Secretary: William Marsterson, general.enquiry@bedshertshct.org.uk

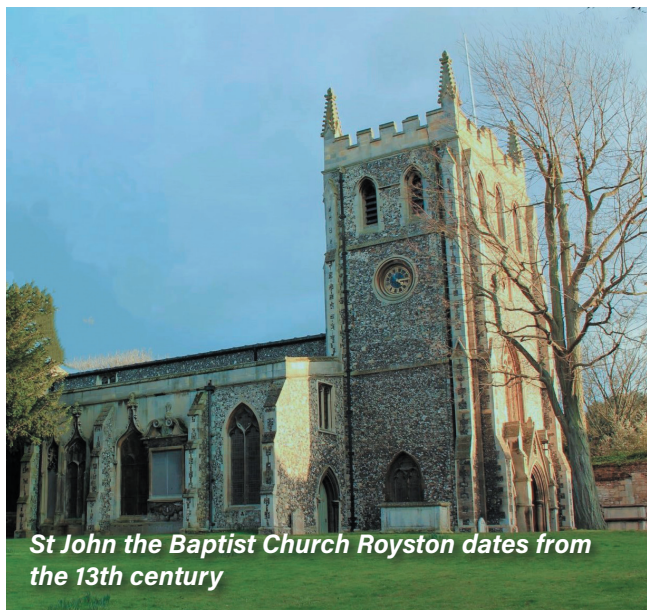
Membership Secretary: membership@bedshertshct.org.uk *Editor:* Katrina Grant, trust.news@bedshertshct.org.uk

Trust News is published by Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust www.bedshertshct.org.uk. Printed by Gpex www.gpex.co.uk

Registered Charity number:1197228

BOOK NOW

CHURCH TOURS 2024



St John the Baptist Church Royston dates from the 13th century

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CHURCHES TOUR SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2024

Our next church tour will take place on Saturday 21st September and will be led by Trustee Richard Genochio.

Starting from Royston train station at 10am, we will meet the coach which will transport us throughout the day.

We will visit some beautiful and historic Cambridgeshire churches and the newly restored church of St John the Baptist, Royston, Herts, which recently re-opened after a terrible fire in December 2018.

We will visit two churches in the morning and stop for a pub lunch before visiting two more churches in the afternoon, followed by afternoon tea.

The cost is £30 for Friends and £40 for other guests, which includes coach travel and afternoon tea.

If you would like to join us please complete the booking form and send it as soon as possible (1st September 2024 at the latest) with payment.

Your booking will be confirmed by email.

Booking form and payment details overleaf.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CHURCHES TOUR

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2024

BOOKING FORM

I WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE
FOLLOWING CHURCH TOUR:

Tour	
Friends of the Trust £30; other guests £40	
Saturday 21 September 2024 (Book by 1st September 2024 at the latest)	
No of tickets	Total £
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

EMAIL

TELEPHONE

**Please enclose a cheque to be made payable
to The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic
Churches Trust.**

Post this form and payment to:
Madeline Russell, Wychbrook, 31 Ivel Gardens,
Biggleswade, SG18 0AN.

Book by 1st September 2024 at the latest.

Places are limited so book as soon as you can to
avoid disappointment.