



# WARWICKSHIRE AND COVENTRY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Issue 5 - winter 2013

[www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk](http://www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk)

## New Beginnings for WCHCT



Above: Claire Ragg

It's nearly the end of another year and 2013 has seen many changes for the WHCT.

An exciting decision taken by the trustees at the beginning of the year to find and appoint a part time professional administrator has led to the engagement in June of Claire Ragg.

Claire has worked as a PA for over 10 years and has a strong background working in office management roles. For the last year Claire has been working for herself as a virtual PA after taking time out to have her youngest son and look after her family.

For the past two years the trustees have been looking for someone to take over the coordination of the Ride and Stride from Will Hawkes who has been organising the event for several years. Claire's first task was to take over running the Ride and Stride event from Will, a huge task, and to launch the event for 2013 at short notice. It is too early to publish any results yet but income looks to be in line with last year at present.

With Ride and Stride now behind us, a small group of trustees are meeting regularly with Claire to update the operational activities of the organisation in order to achieve the targets set by the board of trustees.

### Are you giving by 'Just Giving'?

It's that time of year again when our treasurer is buried under a pile of Ride & Stride sponsor forms. Why not give 'Just Giving' a try for your church's sponsorship for next year? It's very easy to use and if you need a bit of help to get started then Claire Ragg is on hand to guide you through it. You can contact Claire on [Claire@everythingbutthetea.com](mailto:Claire@everythingbutthetea.com)

## WCHCT 2014 AGM

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

St Charles Borromeo (RC) Church

Hampton on the Hill

Times to be confirmed

## Where would we be without Will?

The Trustees would like to say a huge thank you to Will Hawkes, who has run the Ride and Stride almost single handedly for many years, raising many tens of thousands of pounds for the restoration of churches of all denominations in Warwickshire.



Above: Will and Bishop Christopher who participated in Ride & Stride

Although retiring from the fund raising side, Will remains an active trustee, and will continue to chair the grant giving committee where his expertise and long experience as an architect are invaluable.

In thanking Will for all he has done our current chairman Kevin Bond pays tribute to the enormous contribution he has made to the work of the trust.

*"Over the past few years Will has made a very significant contribution to WCHCT - leading both our Ride and Stride fund raising group and also Chairing our Grants Committee, using his extensive experience in conservation architecture. Will is continuing to share his experience with newer members of our Trust whilst also supporting newer developments"*

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# WARWICKSHIRE AND COVENTRY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

## RIDE+STRIDES

### Grants given in 2013

£ 14,750 from WCHCT funds has been paid to the following churches during 2013:

St David, Newbold on Stour with Armscote	£ 500
St Deny's, Long Compton	£ 2000
St Giles, Chesterton	£ 2000
Holy Trinity, Morton Bagot	£ 4000
Holy Trinity, Stratford upon Avon	£ 1500
St John the Baptist, Wappenbury	£ 750
St Marks, Bilton	£ 1500
St Mary's, Warwick	£ 1000
St Peter's, Grandborough	£ 1500

### St David's, Newbold on Stour is a good example of a church that we have been able to help this year

On the night of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012, after a protracted period of heavy rain, part of the retaining wall facing the



A3400 at St David's Church, Newbold on Stour fell down. The wall had been built in 1834 at the same time as the church. After discussions with insurers they found themselves short of

£2800 to rebuild the wall. This was a substantial amount for the PCC to find. They started a brick appeal and "sold" bricks for £5 each, and applied to WCHCT for a grant. Together with other generous donations they were able to instruct the builders in a short space of time and now have a beautifully restored wall.



*Above: the before and after pictures of the wall at St David's, Newbold on Stour*

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014

### Ride & Stride or Hike & Bike?

The concept of a sponsored walk or ride has been an extremely effective way of parishioners raising funds for their churches for more than thirty years. The Trust is now looking for ways to refresh the idea and encourage wider participation. One suggestion is geocaching, a trail with clues to be found at each church on a set route. Also being considered is the possibility of collaborating with bicycle clubs to stage a competitive race around a series of churches, not unlike the sponsored walks and marathons organised by other charities.

Much work is needed to see if these ideas are practical and can be turned into reality for the 2014 event. It is hoped to attract a younger group of participants and move beyond the immediate church going community to raise funds.

Any ideas or suggestions of things you would like to see for future ride and strides are welcome. Please contact Claire Ragg with details.



*Above: Riders and Striders outside St Mary's Church, Tysoe*

### Follow us on Twitter and Facebook

You can follow us on Twitter [@warkchurches](#) and soon you will be able to join our Facebook page. We would love to hear from you with stories or activities that you would like to share or promote on behalf of your church. Social media really does work and since joining this trend we have seen an increase in our website activity with hits having doubled to around 3000 hits a month since July.





# WARWICKSHIRE AND COVENTRY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

## Appointment of Patrons

In line with most county trusts it was decided to invite the following to become Patrons of the trust:

- The Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire Timothy Cox
- Sir Martin Dunne KCVO (Recently retired Lord Lieutenant)
- Michael Fetherstone - Dilke
- Bridget Herrtage
- Lady Willoughby de Broke.

We look forward to their support in helping the trust in all its activities.

## Appointment of New Trustees

At the time of writing new trustees with a record of fundraising or other appropriate skills are being sought. The Trustees would like to hear from anybody who would like to help to in any capacity.

We would like to welcome Caroline Gunn as a new trustee.



*Above: Caroline Gunn*

Caroline, an Associate Lecturer at Oxford Brookes University, has lived in Warwickshire with her husband and family for the last thirty years. She has always had a great interest in the historic Christian legacy of our county. As a Catholic she feels that our heritage of ancient

churches, built by our ancestors, must not only be preserved and maintained for future generations but treasured and, as far as possible, used by the community today.

## Are you a member?

Both individual and church membership numbers have been static for a number of years. In 2014 the trust aims to increase numbers significantly, especially church memberships which only cost £ 50.00 per annum. Whilst recognising that church budgets are difficult to balance the trustees hope that this additional support will mean more grants can be made to churches in the county in need of renovation. We attach a membership form for any of you who wish to join (individual £ 25 pa).

We held a wonderful garden party at Longdon Manor courtesy of Jane Brabyn in September this year. This generated a significant number of new members. In 2014 we plan to hold a similar event for churches and to invite one or two representatives from each parish to come along and hear more about the work of the trust.

## Other Fund Raising Events

In future the Trust plans to organise at least one other major fundraising activity a year in the form of a concert, historical talk or similar event. The aim, apart from fundraising, will be to publicise the trust's activities to as wide a group of potential and actual supporters as possible.

## PR and Marketing

In order to expand and find new sources of funding for the charity the trustees will be actively looking for as much publicity as possible.

If you would like to help with either of these initiatives then we would love to hear from you. Please contact Claire Ragg.



# WARWICKSHIRE AND COVENTRY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

## A word from the chair.....

### Looking Ahead

Our County Trust is one of many around the various counties of the country. Because the county lines and the Diocesan boundaries do not always follow one another there are gaps in coverage. In our case, we find close correlation between what we now know as Warwickshire and the Coventry Diocese. There are some small issues around the South and North of the country boundaries. What is interesting for those of us who still think of Warwickshire in more historic terms is the gap in Historic Churches Trust coverage for the Birmingham Diocese/City. This is still outside the remit of fund raising by a county trust. The National Churches Trust has supported Birmingham church investment in fabric but there is a need for a more permanent fund raising body. In our own case, in Warwickshire, we need to step up our fund raising game as many churches have investment needs which are currently beyond the ability of the local PCC. I am indebted to my Trustee colleagues and James Kerr in particular, for the leadership given in new fund raising initiatives.

Many challenges remain. Our churches continue to age and new needs make themselves felt - heating systems, roofing repairs, window condition. Yet, amidst all of this, the churches are the living testimony to the vibrant communities which have built Warwickshire into the glorious place to live which we enjoy and we all have to ensure that our future generations enjoy what we have today.

Claire Ragg has joined us to bring a much needed administrative coordination to our affairs. Claire's presence is already being felt. Please do keep in touch with us and continue to support the work of your county churches trust. The great thing about what we all do together is that it is around us in a visible way that provides signposts of our healthy communities every time we see the spire or tower of our favourite church.

*Kevin Bond - Chairman*

## Dates for your diary

**Grants meeting – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

(Deadline for applications 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014)

**AGM – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014**

(St Charles Borromeo, Hampton on the Hill)

**Ride & Stride - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

### The Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust

**Chair:** Dr Kevin Bond

**Deputy Chair:** James Kerr

**Treasurer:** Lesley Read

**Secretary:** Jane Webster

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**Ride & Stride Coordinator /Trust Administrator:**

Claire Ragg

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Visit [www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk](http://www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk) for more information

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***The Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust would like to wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year in 2014.***

