



Our New Trust Secretary



"At the May 2010 AGM the Trustees were very glad to welcome Jane Webster as new Trust Secretary. After almost a year in harness we thought it best to ask Jane to introduce herself .

" My interest in historic churches goes back many years and, having been a Churchwarden of a 15th century church, well understand the challenges facing PCCs as they strive to maintain and repair our lovely old churches. I know just how hard it is for parishes to raise enough money to support their buildings and the time and effort which goes into this work.

"Before I retired from my career I was a site manager, looking after factory and office buildings and grounds – not quite as old as some of our churches but interesting and challenging non-the-less. Interestingly the building which gave me the least trouble was the oldest – a Victorian office block – and the ones which gave the most problems were built in the 1960s!

"I am very involved in voluntary work for Girlguiding UK . I was a national trustee for 5 years and still work as a trainer delivering sessions on governance and the role of the trustee for them.

"In my spare time, I enjoy textile crafts and love the range and variety in the use of textiles in our churches. Warwickshire and Coventry are rich indeed in textile heritage and it is lovely to see new, vibrant work appearing in churches alongside that which has stood the test of time for very many years."

WCHC Trust AGM

23rd May, 2012

at 5.30 pm

~ All Saints, Sherbourne ~

a Gilbert Scott church

CV35 8AP

6.00 pm drinks and nibbles
followed by a talk by John Scouller
'Gilbert Scott in Warwickshire'



Tickets £7.50,
including wine and light
refreshments

Please e-mail Jane Webster
to book your place

ejane@lilley2.plus.com

Date for your diary



In order to raise our profile, increase membership, and fundraise in the county, we have plans to hold an autumn charity concert, reception and dinner.

We hope that this will be on Saturday, **15th September** at Whichford House in Whichford just outside Shipston on Stour.

A well known 'celebrity' has been invited to help host the event and we plan to have some really top class entertainment. Check the website for more announcements coming soon but please pencil this into your diary in the meantime. We look forward to seeing some of you there.

Grants given in 2011

£15,000 from WCHCT funds was allocated in 2011 to the following churches

<i>St Nicholas, Warwick</i>	2500
<i>St Mary Magdalene, Lillington</i>	500
<i>All Saints, Weston on Avon</i>	1500
<i>St Giles, Gaydon</i>	500
<i>St Marks, Bilton</i>	1500
<i>Old Meeting Church Bedworth</i>	1500
<i>Holy Trinity, Hatton</i>	3000
<i>St Giles, Chesterton</i>	2000
<i>Wolvey Church</i>	1500
<i>Newbold on Stour Church</i>	500

In 2011 The National Churches Trust introduced a new funding scheme, reported on in last year's newsletter. **£20,000** was earmarked to be given to churches and chapels in Warwickshire. The NCT set down criteria and asked our trustees to recommend projects that would be suitable to receive these funds. The trustees are delighted to report that all the projects recommended were awarded grants, utilising the full allocation. The scheme will continue in 2012.

The nominated and successful churches for the NCT Partnership funding were as follows:

<i>All Saints, Bedworth</i>	5,000
<i>St Peter and St Clare, Fenny Compton</i>	5,000
<i>St Mary the Virgin, Stoneleigh</i>	10,000

You can explore the other grant schemes that the NCT offer by going to their website at

www.nationalchurchestrust.org

Please continue to encourage parishes to make applications to the Trust. Details of forms and guidelines for applicants are available at the WCHCT website at www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/

Don't forget to visit the Divine Inspiration website. You'll find over a hundred churches in Coventry and Warwickshire that are open to visitors and you can be assured of a warm welcome at all of them. You'll also find details of events and happenings at a church near you! www.divine-inspiration.org.uk

News from a grateful beneficiary!

After nearly three years of silence, the fine peal of bells at St Nicholas, Warwick, once again ring out over the town.

In 2009, due to the dangerous state of the spire and tower, instructions were issued that bell ringing should cease, and it was estimated that the repairs to effectively remove and rebuild much of the spire would cost in the region of £250,000.

English Heritage committed £91,000, and the community, with the help of local donations and grants from funders who will support repairs to church buildings, found the shortfall. The Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust were very glad to be able to make a contribution to this amount and send congratulations to the project team who managed the work so brilliantly and professionally.



Robert Perkins, PCC member and the project manager, said: 'This has been an enormous challenge for our church. We remain grateful to the W&CHCT for their grant, and I will doubtless be pedalling with some colleagues again for Ride and Stride in September 2012!'

Robert is pictured above, second from the right, at the 'topping out' ceremony at St Nicholas at the end of 2011.

NOTE: You can find out how to take part in this years Ride and Stride on page three.

A snapshot of 2011

We are very pleased to report that the money raised on the 2011 sponsored cycle/walking event was £15,500, topping the amount raised in 2010. We wish, of course, to thank everyone involved - the riders, the sponsors, the organisers and the 'hosts' at the churches - for helping to raise this impressive sum. All the money raised goes towards funding repairs to churches across our area.

The Trust are determined to maintain this upward trend and have already taken steps to raise the profile of Ride and Stride. We are hoping that you will be able to give us more help, confident in knowing that the money raised is for the benefit of all who have responsibility for maintaining our priceless legacy of historic churches.

The 2011 total of £15,500 was raised by some 170 riders/walkers who came from only 20% of the churches in Warwickshire & Coventry. Think what we could achieve if every parish took part. Barcheston came out tops this year raising £1261—and the three of them were on horses!

To raise more money, we need greater participation from those not yet so fully involved. If we get more Riders/ Striders out on the day it will instantly transform the amount raised. There are huge variations in the size and resources of our parishes and this will inevitably be reflected in the level of support we can reasonably anticipate. But we have suggested here various ways in which you can help not forgetting, of course, that so many of you already are doing what you can to make the day a success—for which, many thanks indeed!

RIDE+STRIDES

Make sure your church is open on the day.

Many churches are open anyway. If possible, do a little more to make riders/walkers feel welcome. Water and soft drinks are always welcome and if you have toilets, please make sure they are open.

If you feel the need, arrange for a rota of 'hosts' to greet riders/walkers.

This allows churches with security concerns to be open.

Although the Ride is from 10am to 6pm, you may decide to restrict the opening hours to the more active period of 10am - 3.30pm. Don't be disappointed if you only manage to greet a few participants. It's difficult to predict how many visitors you are likely to get!

Publicise the ride as widely as possible within your parish

This can be done by word of mouth and by displaying the poster that will be sent to you in advance, but you could also include a paragraph in your parish newsletter or make announcements at other parish events.

Identify a champion to ride for your parish.

One well-sponsored rider in a parish can raise £300 if he or she receives the whole-hearted support of those living there. If every parish did the same we could raise £75,000!

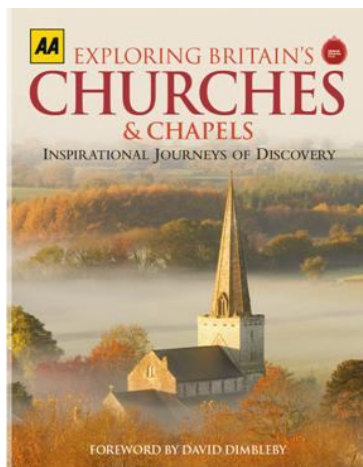
Ride and Stride 2012

The 2012 Ride and Stride is on 8th September. Those who act as Parish Contacts will receive more information in June nearer the event but please make a note of the date now and take advantage of any opportunities that arise to let people within your parish know what was achieved last year, perhaps through your newsletters, and to encourage increased support this year. You will be able to download the forms from the website in June by following this link.

http://www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/ride_stride.html

Warwickshire Churches and Chapels in Print

You may remember from last year's edition of the Newsletter that the WCHCT had made a significant contribution to the new AA Guide 'Exploring Britain's Churches and Chapels'. This is quickly becoming a 'must have' book for all those who like nothing better than a 'church crawl'. It features many of our Trustee, James Kerr's, photographs.



You can order it on-line from the AA (£25) or, considerably cheaper, from Amazon (£16.99). The Historic Churches Trust, who collaborated on the guide, have a sample page on their website so you can see what to expect should you make a purchase. The links to order the book are also on the same page. Happy browsing!

Try geocaching this year?

We are working on the development of a geocaching challenge for this year's Ride and Stride. For the uninitiated, geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunting game. It is particularly attractive to teenagers and younger people. Players try to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, using GPS-enabled devices and then share their experiences online. More about geocaching and how it works can be found here www.geocaching.com/ If you have a smartphone—an i-Phone or a



Blackberry type device - you can find out more by scanning the QR code printed here with your phone sometime in June when details of the Ride and Stride hunt will be posted.

Cycle Routes to download

The Trust is always looking at ways to make it easier to take part in the Ride and Stride event. For some years now we have been building a library of cycle routes that take in lots of churches in a circuit. Some participants like to do a different ride every year and they are especially good for if you plan to ride with others. This year we hope to add another ride to the growing number on the website. You can find them here www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/local_rides.html

You could also explore using the routes that make up the Centenary Way. Bishops Christopher and John walked from church to church on their pilgrimages this year and were able, on some days, to visit four or five churches in a day.



You'll find a Three Church Walk on the Divine Inspiration website that takes you between Eastern Green, Berkswell and Meriden churches. Go to www.divineinspiration.org.uk and click on the Resources tab to find Visitor Resources. You can find the bike ride routes mentioned above here too!

The Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust

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www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk
for further information about the Trust