



**Cornwall Historic
Churches Trust
Annual Report 2021**

CORNWALL HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

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Mrs Emma Thompson (until 23 rd Sept 2021)	
Mrs Ruth Trinick	Treasurer
Mrs Katherine Willis	

Charity Registration No	218340
Secretary	Mrs Chrissie Hogg
Principal Address	Orchard House, Higher Pentire, Degibna, Helston, TR12 7PR
Website/email address	www.chct.info ; secretary@chct.info
Independent Examiners	Francis Clark LLP, Lowin House, Tregolls Road, Truro TR1 2NA
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc, 14 King St, Truro TR1 2RB

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

It wasn't until September, at our annual meeting, that we met in person for the first time since the start of the pandemic. There was a larger-than-usual turn out, and all that were present were riveted by Professor Nigel Saul's talk. Nigel continued our historical timeline, this time focusing on the Perpendicular period. He drew an interesting parallel between now and then, saying that during the 14th century, when the plague was ripping through the population, the local parishioners must have felt similarly to the way that we all have over the past two years. Interesting too that despite losing up to two-thirds of the population, church building during that period was extensive, particularly in Cornwall.

Today, having seen how easily services migrated to Zoom, it is perhaps tempting to see bricks-and-mortar churches as superfluous. But that perspective completely overlooks the importance of these buildings to the communities they serve. To many, churches are the embodiment of the community, symbolising the faith and fortitude of past generations. They provide a sense of belonging that cannot be replaced by a screen, a crucial link with those who have gone before, and an inspiration for the future.

Our sponsors have been unfailing in their support, and without their involvement we would not be able to offer the meaningful help that we do. They all share the same belief that our churches represent our local history and heritage; something that we cannot allow to be lost. Despite the inevitable decline in worshippers, and therefore in church income, many parishes have come up with innovative ways to adapt their buildings to accommodate 21st century needs.

For example, Constantine has set up a very successful internet café in the church; St Mellanus has installed WiFi in the church with the express purpose of running courses to teach those unfamiliar with online technology how to order groceries or book appointments; and St Mylor and All Saints have started a 'Grow it Forward' project, providing plants for local parishioners.

We have been hearing much in the news about the increased rate of church closures throughout the UK, but I'm happy to say that here in Cornwall no new applications for closure have been received by the Diocese during 2021. In fact, this past year, we awarded a grant to the Catholic Church in Penzance to expand its premises by building a new aisle with a much-needed parish room below.

Very sadly our hopes to hold the 2021 Christmas party were dashed in the week before Christmas when it became very apparent, with the latest Covid variant sweeping the country, that we could not proceed. I would like to thank both Savills and Caroline and Richard Williams who, until the last, were ready to go ahead if circumstances permitted.

We were sad to say farewell to Archdeacon Audrey Elkington, who retired from

the committee in February. Audrey was an active committee member and one who we often referred to for insights and advice. Happily, this void has been filled by Revd Graham James, who we were pleased to welcome to the committee. Graham, who was Bishop of Norwich until his retirement, had previously been Bishop of St Germans, so he is more than familiar with our Cornish churches. Elizabeth Meldon-Smith also joined us and takes over from Emma Thompson as representative of the St Austell area. Emma and Dolly Scott stepped down from the main committee, but both continue to help from the side-lines.

My thanks to Kirstie Newton who continues to shine a spotlight on Cornish Churches in the media. During her time at the Voice, she regularly featured Cornish churches, and now as editor of My Cornwall she continues to promote the work of the Trust.

As my time as chairman reaches its conclusion, I look forward to handing over to Cecilia Bisson, who has done pivotal work for the Trust over the past three years. I would like to thank all on the committee who have worked so hard for the Trust, and also a heartfelt thank-you to both our president and vice president who have offered their help and guidance so generously.

Sponsorship

We are most appreciative of the generous support from

The Duke of Cornwall's Benevolent Trust	Dan Humphries Stained Glass
Cornwall Heritage Trust	Gloweth
The Tanner Trust	Heritage Cornwall Ltd
Savills	Holywell Glass
The Nare Hotel	Metal and Glass Ltd
Scott & Co	RHR Restoration
A1 Complete Builders Ltd	St Ives Steeplejack
Cathedral Builders	Walker Crips
CF Piper and Son Stonemasons	West Access Conservation
Cornish Lime Company	Wheeler Roofing Services

All our sponsors are shown on the website www.chct.info with contact details and clarification of the services and areas that they cover throughout Cornwall.

We would welcome any new corporate sponsors or enquiries to find out more about becoming one.

Please contact Caroline Tetley if this is something that would interest you:
carolinetetley@chct.info

Talks at the Annual Meetings 2017 - 2021

Since 2017 we have been extraordinarily lucky to have been able to attract the most highly respected and knowledgeable lecturers on the architectural development of Cornish Churches. Notes from these inspired talks are here with further details on our website www.chct.info. On the 25th May 2022 we have Professor Nicholas Orme talking to us on 'Going to Church in Medieval Cornwall' and I am sure it will be as riveting a talk as all the others.

Caroline Tetley

Romanesque Period (1066–1200)

by Alex Woodcock

The Romanesque style of architecture took off in England following the Norman Conquest of 1066. Already well developed on the European mainland, Romanesque, as the name implies, drew upon many aspects of Roman architecture and decoration but recycled and developed them, mixing them up with features from eastern and northern cultures to the extent that it has been called the first pan-European style. This included the rounded arch, massive masonry construction and use of geometric and figurative ornament in its architectural sculpture. Chevron carving around doorways and arches is characteristic and other carved features include capitals, tympana (the segmental infill above a doorway) and baptismal fonts. In Cornwall excellent examples can be found at the churches of St Germans and Morwenstow, the latter with a nave arcade of beakhead, a kind of figurative/geometric hybrid motif, and at Egloskerry and Treneglos where carved tympana feature a wyvern and lions. At the end of the period the workshop connected to Bodmin Priory was one of the best in the country and responsible for a group of fonts of which the exemplar remains in the church at Bodmin, carved with luxuriant foliage and animals. Romanesque has been derided as primitive by some but it has a sense of life often lacking in later medieval work. Twentieth-century artists such as John Piper, Henry Moore and Fernand Léger responded to its sculpture's unusual perspectives, content and compositions and through their work did much to help establish its importance within British and European art.



Door detail St Antony-in-Roseland

Early English Period

by Stuart Blaylock



Lancet window Rame

Of the four periods discussed in this series this is probably the leanest. Much was in place from the C12th and much of the inherited stock of C12th–14th building was replaced in the Perpendicular period (broadly C15th and C16th). Nevertheless, by drawing on disparate fragments and occasional more complete examples, it is possible to build up a picture of the typical parish church in the C13th.

From the two-celled plan (nave and chancel), sometimes with a tower, typical of the C12th, parish churches were often enlarged by the addition of transepts, to make a cruciform plan, now often masked by the addition of late-medieval aisles (e.g. Gorran, Mawgan-in-Meneage, St Anthony-in-Meneage, Lanlivery). Typical survivals might be one transept plus adjoining fabric in the chancel or nave (Budock, Gerrans, Ruan Lanihorne, etc.). Even where a transept does not survive, a wider bay in a later arcade may indi-

cate its former position (St Ewe). St Anthony-in-Roseland is the surviving example par excellence, albeit a cell of Plympton Priory as well as a parish church; Tintagel is another, achieving a full cruciform plan in the C13th.

Lancet windows are perhaps the most common single architectural feature, as single or multiple lights (e.g. Gerrans). Early tracery is almost non-existent in Cornwall, although at the very end of the century Y- or intersecting-tracery appears, looking forward to the C14th. Aisled plans are few and far between, St Austell and St Minver being among the few examples. Towers (often with later rebuilding above) are fairly common. Some early towers are placed over the transept rather than at the west end (at least nine examples, probably more); some may have had spires (St Enodoc); central towers are a rarity (Crantock had one, which collapsed in 1412). Sculpture appears occasionally (Lanteglos-by-Fowey, St Allen, St Anthony-in-Roseland). Incised/sculpted memorial slabs form the main surviving type of funerary monument, sometimes of Purbeck marble, from Dorset.

Many of the churches mentioned have visibly complex fabric and would undoubtedly benefit from closer scrutiny and detailed archaeological recording, such as that carried out by Warwick Rodwell at Lanlivery and John Allan at Minster. I noted Budock and St Allen as deserving cases during preparation for my talk at Gerrans in 2018.

Decorated Period

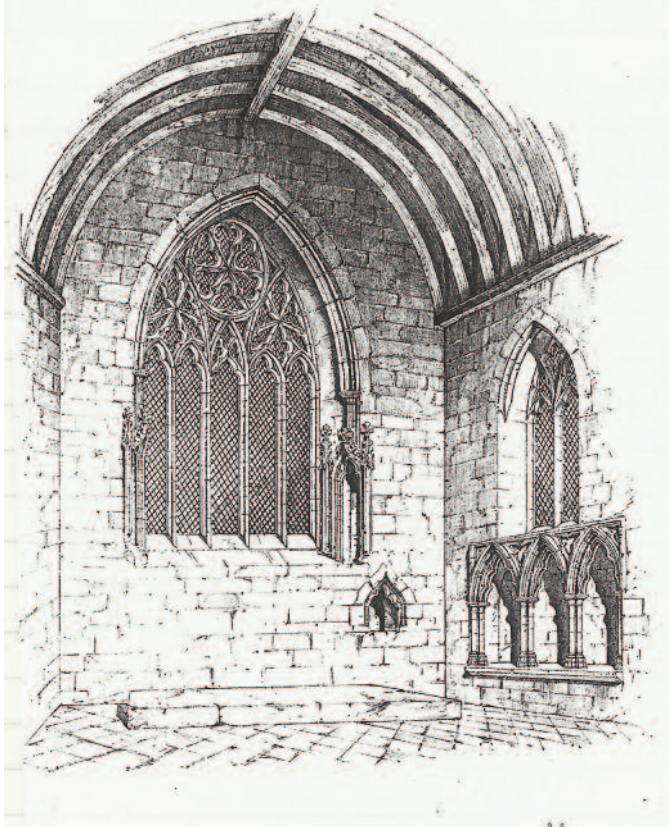
by John Allan

It is well known that the medieval churches of Cornwall are mainly in the Perpendicular style of the later Middle Ages. There is however appreciably more surviving architecture of the preceding Decorated style in the county's churches than is widely appreciated, and this includes a number of works of high quality, linked to major buildings elsewhere. It should also be emphasised that most ambitious programmes of church building in the Decorated style were undertaken by monastic houses, and have largely been destroyed. The most important, at Launceston Priory and Glasney College, had features which linked them to the cathedrals of and Exeter, especially the latter, including highly elaborate with curvilinear window tracery and delicate internal furnishings.

In my talk to the CHCT I discussed a series of other churches which also show close artistic links to Exeter cathedral, especially in the period c. 1320–50: St Ive, Sheviock, South Hill, the south aisle of St Germans and the parish church of Tywardreath, now rebuilt. Each of these buildings made use of Beer stone from SE Devon – a material especially associated with the cathedral workshop. St Ive deserves special emphasis as a church of outstanding importance, with high-quality tracery, furnishings and other sculpture, closely related to the style of the cathedral. The church of St Michael Penkevil, where we met for our talk, is a further example of the group related to Exeter. On first visiting we may have the impression that the structure has been almost entirely rebuilt. On more careful examination it becomes apparent that much of this richly furnished church survives from the early 14th century.

Not all ambitious work of this period shows clear links to Exeter or Bristol. St Bartholomew's, Lostwithiel, sometimes regarded as the most impressive Decorated church in Cornwall, is a case in point; its design may perhaps relate to friary churches.

Finally, my talk emphasised the need for detailed archaeological study of the sort undertaken by Warwick Rodwell at Lanlivery if we are to improve our understanding of the subject. Such work would be especially desirable at the church of St Michael Penkevil itself.



St Ive engraving © G.E. Street

"The Transactions of the Exeter Diocesan Architectural Society"

Perpendicular Period

by Nigel Saul

Cornish parish churches come across to us today as overwhelmingly the architectural products of the Perpendicular period, even though many of them incorporate work from earlier periods. Estimating building dates is often difficult in the absence of documentary evidence. The most active periods, however, appear to have been the later fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. In some churches, building went on right up to the Reformation, and furnishing them, for example with seating, went on into Elizabeth's reign.



Interior at Creed Church

Cornish churches present a very different aspect to the eye from Perpendicular churches in other parts of the country where much building was undertaken in this period. Unlike in Kent, for example, they do not make use of corner stair turrets on towers; and unlike in Gloucestershire and East Anglia they do not employ clerestories to illuminate the nave. The omission of clerestories is probably to be explained by the intractability of granite, which made both building upwards and carving window tracery especially difficult. Without a clerestory there could be no chancel arch and so the task of separating the chancel from the nave was done by a wooden screen across the church, as at Altarnun. Cornish churches are low, even tunnel-like inside, but where there are side aisles they can also appear wide, as at Probus.

In some parts of England, for example the East Midlands, Herefordshire and the northern Border counties, there was very little Perpendicular building, because the economic conditions of the time did not allow it. The shortage of labour that followed the Black Death, combined with the rising wages linked to this, put an end to much large scale construction. In Cornwall, however, the

wealth brought by the flourishing tin trade, which in the late Middle Ages was especially strong in the east and centre of the country, brought levels of wealth that were lacking in those parts of the country where a cereal economy was dominant. It is no coincidence that perhaps the finest Perpendicular church in the county, that at St Neot, served a parish that embraced the heart of the tin-streaming country on the southern flanks of Bodmin Moor.

A window into the world of those who built Cornwall's Perpendicular churches is opened by the surviving building accounts for St Petroc's, Bodmin, for the years 1469 to 1472, which supply us with the name of the master mason, or architect as we would say now – Richard Richowe – and furnish a wealth of information about the other contractors involved, the building practices of the time, and the sources of stone used.

As for the patrons, the people who commissioned the churches, many were drawn from the country gentry class, notable among them Sir John Arundel, who paid for parts of St Columb Major and St Mawgan in Pydar, and Sir John Colshull, who was responsible for the magnificent chantry chapel at Duloe. At Liskeard we know that the town council, acting for the parishioners, commissioned extensions to both the north and south sides of the chancel. In both town and country, confraternities – otherwise known as guilds – provided the structures through which the middling and the less well-off of the parish could find a way of involving themselves in the building and fitting out of churches, as seems to have been the case at both Creed and St Neot.

It's never too soon to consider leaving a legacy to CHCT

Some gifts are easily forgotten: Yours will last for generations.

Many of the Cornish historic churches, chapels and meeting houses are fighting a battle against the ravages of time. We need to make sure they get the repairs and renovations they need to remain open at the heart of local communities.

The CHCT is a registered charity which means your gift will be exempt from inheritance tax. In the first instance we suggest you speak to a solicitor who can advise on the different types of legacy and the tax advantages of a charitable legacy.

We cannot afford to let down the work of previous generations and every penny you give will go towards grants that will help us protect our churches so they remain at the centre of our communities for future generations to enjoy.



CORNWALL HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Patron: HRH The Duke of Cornwall

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Registered Charity Number: 218340

www.chct.info

The Cornwall Historic Churches Trust was formed in 1955 to support all the churches open for public worship in Cornwall. From the outset the priority has been to raise money and publicise the urgency of the need to make our churches weather-tight, but not to neglect the need to protect any artistic work. Its funds are applied for ***"the preservation and maintenance, improvement, upkeep, beautification and reconstruction of churches in Cornwall and of monuments, fittings, fixtures, stained glass, furniture, ornaments and chattels in churches and churchyards"***. If you are associated with a Cornish church of any denomination in need of restoration, repair or just confronted with a backlog of maintenance we may be able to help.

Currently we offer three types of grant:

Restoration and Repair Grants: - for larger and more complex works. Maximum grant £4,000, £5,000 for Church Friends (see below)

Smaller Project Grants: - for maintenance and repairs identified in Q1 survey or similar for works costed at £10,000 or less. Maximum grant £1,000 or 20% of project size, whichever smaller.

Maintenance Inspection Incentive Grants: - for Church Friends, to help with up to half the annual cost of routine inspections of roofs, gutters, rainwater goods etc. Maximum grant £250.

In the first instance please look at our website: www.chct.info or email our Grants Secretary, Jeremy Sharp: grants@chct.info. Alternatively, contact your area representative listed on the website.

The Trust has limited capital and resources and its work can only continue and be effective through the continuing generosity and support both of the people of Cornwall, and the many kind and benevolent friends and families from beyond its borders who share the love of this county and its Christian heritage.

Church Friend membership – a Church Friend applying for a grant has the benefit of a maximum possible offer increased from £4,000 to £5,000 as well as being directed to other grant funding bodies which have helped with similar projects. We very much hope that every church in Cornwall will become a Friend. The current cost is £50 per annum. Contact your area representative or our membership secretary for more information: membership@chct.info

Major grant giving organisations include:

The National Churches Trust: <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/our-grants>

Historic England: <https://historicengland.org.uk>

ChurchCare: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare>

GRANTS MADE BY CHCT IN 2021

The impact of the pandemic continued throughout the year, making it hard for churches to raise funds and to plan ahead. This was especially frustrating, given the growing awareness of how regular inspections and maintenance can reduce or even eliminate long term problems. Nevertheless the pace of applications increased and by the end of the year we had made fifteen grants, totalling £42,500, a figure that was only marginally below that for 2019. Once again we are immensely grateful for the support received from the Duke of Cornwall's Benevolent Fund, Cornwall Heritage Trust and the Tanner Trust. The number of enquiries has increased markedly over the first few months of 2022

Jeremy Sharp, Grants Secretary

Details of the 2021 grants are given below:

Church: St Julitta, Lanteglos by Camelford **Denomination:** Church of England
Date of Grant: 4th Feb 2021 **Grant:** £1,000 **Work:** Repair to rope chamber in bell tower



Church of the Immaculate Conception, Penzance

Church: Church of the Immaculate Conception, Penzance **Denomination:** Roman Catholic **Date of Grant:** 4th Feb 2021 **Grant:** £2,000 **Work:** Damp proofing to lower crypt walls and floor, renewing joists

Church: St Neot. **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 4th Feb 2021 **Grant:** £5,000 **Work:** Repairs to medieval stained glass window



St Moran, Lamorran

Church: St Moran, Lamorran **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 4th Feb 2021 **Grant:** £5,000 **Work:** Repairs to enable reopening of church after bat infestation

Church: Marazion Quaker Meeting House.. **Denomination:** Quaker **Date of Grant:** 24th June 2021 **Grant:** £4,000 **Work:** New roof and heating system

Church: St Grada, Grade **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 24th June 2021 **Grant:** £5,000 **Work:** Reroofing, rainwater goods, replastering

Church: St Sampson, South Hill **Denomination:** Church of England. **Date of Grant:** 24th June 2021 **Grant:** £3,000 **Work:** Gutter repairs and re-leading of gullies

Church: All Saints, Tuckingmill **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 24th June 2021 **Grant:** £2,500 **Work:** Replacement of louvres in tower to prevent water ingress

Church: St Just in Roseland **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 23rd Sept 2021 **Grant:** £1,000 **Work:** Replacement electric cable and new phone cable

Church: St Tudy Methodist Church **Denomination:** Methodist **Date of Grant:** 23rd September **Grant:** £2,000 **Work:** Re-slate roof and repairs to windows



St Tudy Methodist Church

Church: Our Lady & St Neot, Liskeard **Denomination:** Roman Catholic **Date of Grant:** 4th August 2021 **Grant:** £2,000 **Work:** Repairs to late work adjacent to main road, water seepage and damp, stabilisation of stone cross



St Grada, Grade

Church: Truro Cathedral **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 23rd September 2021. **Grant:** £4,000 **Work:** Repairs to roof, stonework and rainwater goods of St Mary's Aisle

Church: St Creda, St Clether **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 23rd September **Grant:** £1,000 **Work:** Beetle infestation in roof timbers and essential electrical work

Church: Carharrack Methodist Church **Denomination:** Methodist **Date of Grant:** 23rd September 2021 **Grant CHCT:** £1,000 **Work:** Repairs to tower

Church: Connect Wadebridge **Denomination:** Wesleyan **Date of Grant:** 23rd September 2021 **Grant:** £1,000 **Work:** Replacement of roof, repair windows, dryline interior wall

Church: St Andrew, Stratton **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 23rd September **Grant:** £3,000 **Work:** Repairs to chancel roof, protecting headstones and monuments



St Neot

Photos by Tony Hogg <https://tonyhogg.wixsite.com/mysite>

Front Cover: Come to Good Meeting House, Back Cover: St Just in Roseland

**CORNWALL HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds				
		Designated Capital Reserve	Designated Expendable Reserve	Income Fund	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£		£	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	5,000	-	-	46,953	51,953	68,254
Friends of Cornish Churches subscriptions	-	-	-	7,437	7,437	5,793
Fund raising events	-	-	-	1,350	1,350	3,009
Investment income	-	-	-	12,835	12,835	11,332
Miscellaneous income	-	-	-	-	-	50
<i>Total income</i>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,575</u>	<u>73,575</u>	<u>88,438</u>
Expenditure on:						
Cost of fund raising events	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants approved less grants withdrawn	14,100	-	-	27,650	41,750	37,500
Investment management fee	-	-	-	2,776	2,776	2,536
Administration	-	-	-	4,252	4,252	6,476
<i>Total expenditure</i>	<u>14,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,678</u>	<u>48,778</u>	<u>46,512</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>(9,100)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,897</u>	<u>24,797</u>	<u>41,926</u>
Transfers between funds	-	-	33,897	(33,897)	-	-
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	-	11,990	11,990	-	23,980	(15,054)
Net movement in funds	<u>(9,100)</u>	<u>11,990</u>	<u>45,887</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,777</u>	<u>26,872</u>
Fund balances b/fwd at 01/01/2021	11,045	192,991	147,910	-	351,946	325,074
Fund balances c/fwd at 31/12/2021	<u>1,945</u>	<u>204,981</u>	<u>193,797</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>400,723</u>	<u>351,946</u>

**CORNWALL HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets		
Investments	<u>316,371</u>	293,312
Current Assets		
Debtors	5,597	7,241
CBF Church of England deposit fund	30,039	30,039
Walker Crips capital account	-	1,221
Bank current account	<u>109,064</u>	70,196
	<u>144,700</u>	108,697
Current Liabilities		
Accruals	4,878	2,719
Other Creditors	120	144
Grant creditors	<u>55,350</u>	47,200
	<u>60,348</u>	50,063
Net Current Assets	<u>84,352</u>	58,634
Net Assets	<u>400,723</u>	351,946
Unrestricted Funds		
Designated Capital Reserve	204,981	192,991
General fund	193,797	147,910
Restricted funds - Tanner Trust IT, communication, training	-	-
Restricted funds - Tanner Trust IT, fast track maintenance	-	9,100
Restricted funds - Emergency funds	1,945	1,945
	<u>400,723</u>	<u>351,946</u>

The above figures are an extract from the financial statements which were approved by the trustees on 3 March 2022 and independently examined by Francis Clark LLP, Chartered Accountants.

A copy of the full annual report and the financial statements will be submitted to the Charity Commission and may be obtained on request from the Trust.

