



Cornwall Historic Churches Trust Annual Report 2023



CORNWALL HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

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The Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel E T Bolitho OBE

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Honorary Life President

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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

Front Cover: St Denys, North Tamerton

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023

This year saw the advent of new dawns for several churches and chapels that the Trust has assisted as their projects reached fulfilment. Examples are Lamorran opening their doors full time with regular services after an eight year closure and South Hill, St Sampsons completing the renovation of 13 windows. It was encouraging too to receive a resurgence of applications for new restoration and maintenance projects across the county which are reported fully on page 11.

Our Grants for a Hostile Climate Scheme was launched in February and a smattering of applications instantly appeared. We were somewhat surprised that the opportunity to recoup up to £500 on production of a qualifying invoice did not result in the scheme selling out within months. However, complimentary comments have encouraged us to renew the scheme for 2024 with £10,000 available for distribution.

Sadly Ruth Trinick stood down from the committee as her workload for the Diocese increased; however we are grateful for her commitment to continue to assist the Catering Corps at our Christmas Party for which we are seeking more volunteers. Please contact our secretary in the first instance if you would like to help at this very successful event.

In April Jeremy Sharp again presented at the Transformation Cornwall Meet the Funders Conference and we also reached out to a wider audience with a stand (right) in the Churches Together tent at the Royal Cornwall Show, for which our grateful thanks to the organisers.

It has been a successful year for social/fundraising events starting with the first of two Garden Open Days at the end of April. Our thanks to David and Anna Wilson and Lucie Nottingham for generously allowing us to visit

Boskenna and Trenarth respectively. At Boskenna a tide of bluebells swept out to the backdrop of a blue sea as promised for the occasion. Then in June Lucie welcomed Friends and guests to Trenarth on a perfect summer's day. Thanks to all those who attended the events which raised over £1300.

Our Annual Meeting was held on 24th May at Gorran Church where we were warmly welcomed by Rev McQuillan and about 40 Friends enjoyed a captivating talk by Canon Michael Warner who always manages to entertain whilst imparting knowledge.

In September the Friends' Outing, ably organised by Jill Jobson, encompassed visits to both Warleggan and St Neot and our thanks are due to Rev Swinton and Michael Swift for making the day one to remember.

The Christmas Party at Scorrier rounded off the year supported again by Bonhams and Jonathan Cunliffe to whom we are indebted for making the event possible. Despite IT glitches (apologies to all affected) the event virtually sold out ensuring a financial success and a jolly good party.

Thank you to all our sponsors, donors, and Friends who make our work possible. Finally my thanks to our hard-working committee, their husbands/ wives and other volunteers for their assistance throughout the year.

Cecilia Bisson



Boskenna Garden Open Day 30th April

Eighty friends and their guests braved a rainy start to the day and were rewarded with sunshine and an inspirational guided tour of the gardens by David Wilson.

The view across the lawn to the swathe of bluebells backdropped by a blue sea beyond as one rounded the house was a wonder to behold but it was the secret rock garden which truly took one by surprise. David's work in progress in the Walled Garden elicited several hopes of the chance to return to view the project completed in a year or two!

The happy afternoon ended with a sumptuous tea ably prepared by Libby, Jill, Katherine and helpers.

Our grateful thanks to David and Anna Wilson for their warm welcome and to Anna for her surprise donation of the royalties from the sale of any of her children's books sold on the day. An amazing £75 bonus which took the proceeds to nearly £900!



Anna and David Wilson receiving a silk screen picture of Launceston Castle from Cecilia



We shall restore!

Chrissie Hogg reports on the lecture given by Canon Michael Warner at our Annual Meeting on 24th May at St Goran Parish Church

Friends of CHCT were treated to a fascinating lecture by Michael Warner, based on his book 'A time to build. Signposts to the building, restoration, enhancement and maintenance of Cornwall's Anglican Churches and Mission Rooms, 1800-2000'. This book references all the identifiable works carried out to these buildings in those two centuries together with a comprehensive list of architects and surveyors involved.

Michael was prompted to start his great research project when the Diocesan Advisory Committee visited a church where some asbestos slates had been placed on the North face of the North aisle roof. On enquiry, it was found that neither of the church wardens had been in place for long, the vicar had already left, and the record keeping was non-existent. Michael thought then that such data would be available somewhere so he started a card index of his research, which (in his words) 'like topsy has grown'. The result is his great gazetteer.

His fascinating anecdotes painted a forlorn picture of the state of many Anglican churches in the 19th century. There were many neglected buildings with issues such as leaking roofs, collapsed floors, dirty and dilapidated interiors and ugly and dysfunctional additions. These problems were found throughout the county, from St Enodoc to St Buryan, from Mevagissey to Mabe.

Michael asked 'How did such a situation come to pass in the first place?' One reason is the decades of indifference by some clergy more interested in making money from fees and glebe rents than in keeping their church buildings in good condition.



*Canon Michael Warner at Gorran Church
© Geoff Rayson*

Another reason was the many alternative places for people to worship. The rise of non-conformity, especially methodism, meant that a significant number of people in Cornwall had left their parish church and were now worshipping in newer buildings, with better heating, some with school rooms and even toilet facilities.

The Anglican situation was changed radically with the appointment in November 1830 of Bishop Henry Philpotts as the Bishop of Exeter, a bishopric he served until 1869. He approached his task in the diocese (which stretched from a few parishes in Somerset through Devon and on into Cornwall) with enthusiasm and diligence, and thus rescued the dire situation at the beginning of the 19th century. Gradually changes started

both in the attitude to church buildings, but more importantly, the attitude of the clergy themselves.

Turning to the ways and means that the restorations were undertaken, Michael's research shows that not all the restorations were by one architect, they were not all completed to the original proposals and not all of them were completed within budget. The architects faced considerable challenges; mistakes were made (whether by ignorance or cost cutting) such as design errors, putting plaster over centuries of limewash, using polyphant stone inappropriately, misaligning roof trusses, all of which meant work had to be repeated in the decades ahead.

Finding the money for the restorations was a significant problem particularly in the 1860s and 1870s when the mining industry was collapsing. For example, architect J P St Aubyn restored St Just-in-Penwith in 1866, midway through a decade that saw the population fall from 9,000 to 6,400. Similarly at Gwennap, where he started the 29 year restoration in 1862, the census shows that the population fell from 11,000 in 1841 to 6,000 in 1881. Few parishes were able to pay for the restoration of the church without committed fundraising and appeals raised in the local press; much of the works were undertaken gradually, in phases as funds allowed. Just as today, parishioners found many ways to raise funds while some vicars personally funded works which, in some cases, led to their bankruptcy.

Michael next covered the effect that the Victorian (and to some extent the Edwardian) restorations had on church buildings by the start of the 21st century. In his opinion most churches in Cornwall are now in a reasonable state although after 150 years many are getting 'nail-sick'. The use of easily eroded polyphant stone continues to



Gorran Church roof, a good example of J P St Aubyn's work

present difficulties to this day (eg in St Paul's Truro) while many restorations took years to complete (for example Perranaworthal was without pews or an organ for many years). Sometimes architects recycled materials from wealthy parishes (eg St Cuby Tregony's seating was all second hand (and mismatched) coming as it did from Gulval and St Austell). All three churches were restored by J P St Aubyn.

Some restorations were undertaken against a background of conflict, details of which Michael found in newspaper articles. For example at Liskeard parish church (restored by architect Richard Coad) it seems an ancient tower was demolished despite the faculty for this work being refused, while at Gwennap (another J P St Aubyn project) there was disapproval of half the seats being supplied with doors and the other half being left open (as can still be seen today). Michael also noted that the Victorians had little concept of

conservation and even if items were considered important enough to be saved, such expertise and skills were not easily available.

Michael concluded that the details in his book are witness to the dedication, hard work and commitment of all those who were involved in the building, restoration, enhancement and maintenance of Cornwall's Anglican churches and mission rooms and churches. There are major discussions currently being held over the future of these buildings and whether the church

needs the number that it currently has. His work will continue to inform that discussion as has all the work of the Cornwall Historic Churches Trust in helping to maintain these significant buildings. His talk ended with the remark: 'We must be thankful that, at that moment in history, someone said '...we shall restore'',

To read the full text of Michael's lecture, including numerous pertinent anecdotes, go to our website www.chct.info/news

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. To find out more go to: chct.info/legacy

Sponsorship

We are most appreciative of the generous support from:

The Duke of Cornwall's Benevolent Fund

Raymond James

Cornwall Heritage Trust

Cornish Lime Company

Bonhams

Gloweth

Jonathan Cunliffe Ltd

Leven House Ltd

Scott & Co

Krystal

All our sponsors are shown on our website www.chct.info with contact details and clarification where appropriate 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

Trenarth Garden Open Day 18th June



© Geoff Rayson

It was a perfect summer's day for our visit to Trenarth Garden in Constantine. Friends and guests were welcomed by Lucie Nottingham and taken on a tour of her delightful garden of rooms, with quirky features to make us laugh such as the bus stop with timetable from Wales on the path to Trenarth Bridge and the red telephone box with a loo inside for those caught short!

During tea Alan Pearce from Constantine PCC gave a short talk on the history of the Church and the plans for further community uses for the building to future fund the fabric which he explained already boasted a free hyper-fast WiFi hub and Monty's Café. As an extra bonus the Church was open for visitors to view afterwards.

Our thanks to Lucie (*pictured right receiving a Bridget Holden plaque*) for a lovely afternoon and all attendees for raising over £400.



Friends' Outing 8th September

by Susie Gore

On a lovely early September day about 35 Friends of the CHCT came together for two hugely enjoyable church visits, both distinctive in their way - St Bartholomew, Warleggan simple in its charm and atmospheric setting on the edge of Bodmin Moor, and St Neot, majestic and impressive in the village, with its nationally important windows.

We were met and warmly welcomed at Warleggan by the Rev. Garry Swinton, and by coincidence the day of our visit, the anniversary of the death of our beloved late Queen, was also the first anniversary of Fr Garry's inauguration as vicar of this rural benefice. Fr Garry talked about the history of the building and we were thankful that the church has been able to move on from its former Poldark fame. It is so light and well kept, and in addition to regular services, there are also concerts and it is hoped a youth group is to come to camp in a nearby field in 2024.

The fame of St Neot is well deserved and we so appreciated Michael Swift (coming out of retirement he told us especially for the CHCT) to lead us around the church with a full explanation of the stunning windows. The church guide says "The glory of the church is its pre-Reformation stained glass which dates from c1460-1530. Among British parish churches only the Renaissance scheme at Fairford parish, Gloucestershire is more complete and that scheme is contemporary with St Neot". We all felt honoured to hear Michael speak so eloquently about the windows and keen observation of their details made us realise how status and display of wealth was important to the



Rev Garry Swinton welcomes Friends to Warleggan Church © Geoff Rayson

original family donors of some of the windows. We were also grateful for the input from Jo Mattingly and in good CHCT fashion we ended a very successful and informative Friends Outing with a splendid tea, provided by the Tea Group of St Neot.

Our Christmas Party at Scorrier



Claire and Jonathan Vickers (left representing Bonhams), and Jonathan and Verity Cunliffe await guests' arrival at Scorrier House

Thanks to our sponsors, Bonhams and Jonathan Cunliffe, Libby Reed and her team of helpers in the kitchen, Willa Bailey for collecting contributions for an overflowing basket of goodies to raffle, Alexandra Bolitho for creating several highly sought after wreaths for sale, all the donations and of course all those who came on the night our annual Christmas Party raised in excess of £7,000. A fantastic result!

Our thanks too to Barnaby Hodgson, Florence, Jackson and Reuben Cunliffe and their Spanish guest for superior service handing out the canapés, which was much appreciated by all. Including our helpers the age range of attendees spanned nine decades!

Liz Harris (*pictured right with Cecilia*) was the lucky winner of the Christmas Hamper.



GRANTS MADE BY CHCT IN 2023

The return to normality seemed to gather pace in 2023 as memories of the pandemic faded. PCCs were more willing to consider catching up with maintenance and major repairs, in spite of the uncertainty generated by all the changes in the Diocese of Truro. In recognition of the rises in costs, we increased the maximum grant award to £7,000 and £10,000 from 1 January 2024. We made grants to 23 grants to 22 churches, totalling £67,108. Of these, 10 were Maintenance or Kickstart payments under our Grants for a Hostile Climate of up to £500. This scheme has been extended for 2024 with a total of £10,000 available. Once again, we are deeply grateful to the Duke of Cornwall's Benevolent Fund and Cornwall Heritage Trust for their generous funding during the year.

Jeremy Sharp, Grants Secretary

Details of the grants are given below:

Church: St Cleer **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 5th Jan
Grant: £6,300 **Work:** To replace and augment the existing ring of bells from 6 to 8, retuning and repairs to frames.



St Cleer



Penzance Baptist Church

Church: Penzance Baptist Church **Denomination:** Baptist **Date of Grant:** 9th March **Grant:** £1,600 **Work:** Replacement of main front doors.



St Mawgan in Meneage

Church: St Mawgan in Meneage **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 24th May **Grant:** £2,500 **Work:** Repointing of pinnacles, work to prevent water ingress between tower and roof.



Pelynt

Church: Pelynt **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 28th Sept **Grant:** £1,000 **Work:** Repair to tower roof.



St Sampson

Church: St Sampson, South Hill **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 28th Sept **Grant:** £6,000 **Work:** Pointing and repairs to external masonry around tower, Manaton Chapel and chancel east gable wall.

Church: St Paul's Charlestown **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 9th March **Grant:** £7,000 **Work:** Replacement of north aisle roof, additional rainwater goods.

Church: Egloskerry **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 24th May **Grant:** £4,500 **Work:** Re-roofing of south aisle and new downpipe.

Church: Maker **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 24th May **Grant:** £7,000 **Work:** repointing of tower pinnacles and renewal of the tower roof.

Church: St Julitta, Lanteglos by Camelford **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 28th Sept **Grant:** £8,000 **Work:** Repairs to medieval glass and associated stonework.

Church: Zion Community Church **Denomination:** Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches **Date of Grant:** 28th Sept **Grant:** £1,000 **Work:** Exterior repairs to make building watertight and internal decoration.



St Goran

Church: St Goran, Gorran **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 28th Sept **Grant:** £4,500 **Work:** Repairs to SW gable and repairs to stop water ingress.

Church: St Denys, Tamerton **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 28th Sept **Grant:** £5,000 **Work:** Repairs and restoration of the bells.



St Briget's

Church: St Briget's, Morvah **Denomination:** Church of England **Date of Grant:** 28th Sept **Grant:** £8,000 **Work:** Repairs to polyphant stone windows. Grants of up to £500 were awarded to the following churches through our Maintenance & Kick Start Grant Scheme: Par Church, St Stephen in Brannel, Sticker Church, St Blazey Church, Antony Church, St Mellion, Pillaton, St Mewan, St Goran Gorran, St Just Gorran Haven.

2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

No printed invitations will be sent so make a note now!
To receive email reminders and an invitation to apply for tickets to the Christmas Party email secretary@chct.info
Full details will also be published prior to each event on our website: www.chct.info and on Facebook

- 18th April **Talk by Andrew Langdon**, St Mawgan-in-Pydar Church 2pm
"Illuminating our Cornish Lantern Crosses"
- 16th May **Annual Friends' Outing** St Hilary Church TR20 9DQ 2pm
 Speakers: Caroline and Owen Baker *"St Hilary Church: Its rich and celebrated history and collection of unique artwork"*
- 2nd June **Garden Open Day** Menabilly, Par PL24 2TN 2 - 5pm
 courtesy of Sir Richard Rashleigh
- 19th Sept **Annual Meeting** St Gluvias Church, Penryn PL30 4HB 2pm
 Speaker: Very Revd Roger Bush *"We utterly refute this new English"*
- 16th Dec **Christmas Party** Boconnoc PL22 0RG 6.30 - 8.30pm

*Garden
Open Day
Sunday 2nd June
2 - 5pm
Menabilly
Par PL24 2TN*



Sir Richard Rashleigh is very kindly opening his garden at Menabilly for CHCT Friends and their guests to enjoy **£10 entry includes tea and cake served from 3pm**
Children free, dogs on leads, plant stall



Registered Charity No: 218340

CORNWALL HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Annual Friends' Outing

16th May 2024 at 2.00 pm
at

St Hilary Church TR20 9DQ

Parking in farm yard beyond the church

The Chairman and Committee of the Cornwall Historic Churches Trust invite you to the Friends' Outing to be held at St Hilary Church, Thursday, 16th May, 2024 at 2.00 p.m. You will be welcomed by Revd. Jeff Risbridger. Caroline and Owen Baker will give a talk entitled "*St Hilary Church: Its rich and celebrated history and collection of unique artwork*". The Heritage Centre will also be open to view. A Cream Tea will be served after the talk at a cost of £10.00 per head, payable on the day, proceeds shared by St Hilary PCC and CHCT. If you would like to join us, to assist the catering, please complete and return the slip below. No tickets will be issued. If you have any questions please contact our Honorary Secretary, Chrissie Hogg, 01326 565021 or e-mail secretary@chct.info

Cornwall Historic Churches Trust Friends' Outing

16th May 2024 at 2.00 pm

I/We will be attending the Friends' Outing

How many in your party?.....

How many for Tea?

Name

Address

.....

.....Telephone

Email.....

Please return this slip to Chrissie Hogg. Hon Sec CHCT, Orchard House, Higher Pentire, Degibna Lane, HELSTON. TR12 7PR or email secretary@chct.info



CORNWALL HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Annual Meeting

Thursday 19th September 2024 2 pm

**St Gluvias Church, Church Hill,
Penryn TR10 8AJ**

Registered Charity No: 218340

Limited parking at the Church and on Church Hill.
Advise Commercial Road or Permarin Car Park

The Chairman and Committee of the Cornwall Historic Churches Trust invite you to our Annual Meeting at St Gluvias Church, Penryn on Friday, 19th September 2024. Our President the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Sir E T B Bolitho OBE will chair the meeting. The speaker will be the Very Revd Roger Bush with a talk on the Prayer Book Rebellion 1549 "*We utterly refute this new English*". Tea will be served afterwards thanks to St Gluvias PCC at a cost of £5 p.h. payable on the day, shared between CHCT and the church. If you would like to join us, to assist the catering, please complete and return the slip below. No tickets will be issued. If you have any questions please contact our Honorary Secretary, Chrissie Hogg, 01326 565021 or e-mail secretary@chct.info

Cornwall Historic Churches Trust Annual Meeting

19th September 2024 at 2 pm

I/We will be attending the Annual Meeting

How many in your party?.....

How many for Tea?

Name

Address

.....

.....Telephone

Email.....

Please return this slip to Chrissie Hogg. Hon Sec CHCT, Orchard House, Higher Pentire, Degibna Lane, HELSTON. TR12 7PR or email secretary@chct.info

**CORNWALL HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Restricted funds		Unrestricted funds		Income Fund	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
	£	Designated Capital Reserve £	Designated Expendable Reserve £				
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	-	-	-	47,854	47,854	47,854	54,326
Friends of Cornish Churches subscriptions	-	-	-	5,492	5,492	5,492	5,786
Fund raising events	-	-	-	7,736	7,736	7,736	8,516
Investment income	-	-	-	15,758	15,758	15,758	14,969
Total income	-	-	-	76,840	76,840	76,840	83,597
Expenditure on:							
Cost of fund raising events	-	-	-	1,488	1,488	1,488	1,111
Grants approved less grants withdrawn	-	-	-	58,858	58,858	58,858	27,330
Investment management fee	-	-	-	672	672	672	3,752
Administration	-	-	-	3,577	3,577	3,577	3,464
Total expenditure	-	-	-	64,595	64,595	64,595	35,657
Net income/(expenditure)	-	-	-	12,245	12,245	12,245	47,940
Transfers between funds	-	-	12,245	(12,245)	-	-	-
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	-	3,324	3,324	-	6,648	6,648	(33,728)
Net movement in funds	-	3,324	15,569	-	18,893	18,893	14,212
Fund balances b/fwd at 01/01/2023	1,945	188,117	224,873	-	414,935	414,935	400,723
Fund balances c/fwd at 31/12/2023	1,945	191,441	240,442	-	433,828	433,828	414,935

**CORNWALL HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets		
Investments	285,445	272,370
Current Assets		
Debtors	8,842	11,837
CBF Church of England deposit fund	99,039	30,039
Walker Crips capital account	129	8,333
Bank current account	128,131	144,790
	236,141	194,999
Current Liabilities		
Accruals	2,358	3,184
Other Creditors	-	120
Grant creditors	85,400	49,130
	87,758	52,434
Net Current Assets	148,383	142,565
Net Assets	433,828	414,935
Unrestricted Funds		
Designated Capital Reserve	191,441	188,117
General fund	240,442	224,873
Restricted funds - Emergency funds	1,945	1,945
	433,828	414,935

The above figures are an extract from the financial statements which were approved by the trustees on 21 March 2024 and independently examined by Darren Perry of 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.

Back Cover: St Paul's, Charlestown

Photos unless otherwise accredited courtesy of Tony Hogg <https://tonyhogg.wixsite.com/mysite>

