



*Members visited St Martin's Church, Blackheath on the October church tour and admired the extensive wall paintings*

*Wall-painting detail*



*Members also visited St Augustine's Abbey on the Tour*

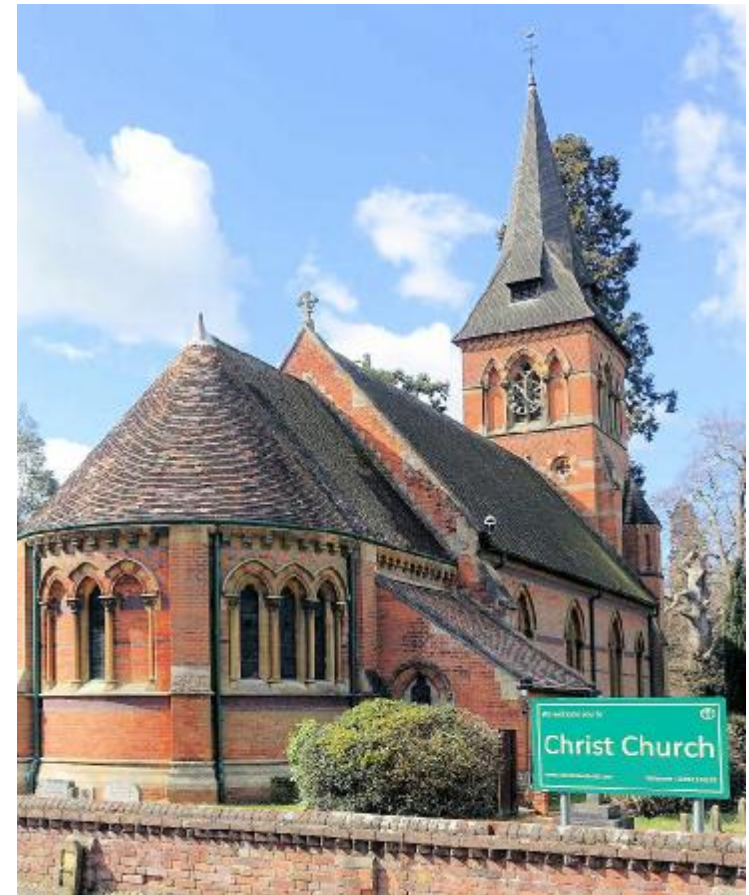


# Surrey Churches Preservation Trust

[www.SurreyChurchesPreservationTrust.org](http://www.SurreyChurchesPreservationTrust.org)

(Registered Charity No 1063656)

## Annual Report for the year to 31st March 2020



*Christ Church, Ottershaw, which received a grant from the Trust*

## **Trustees' Report**

The Trustees present this abridged report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2020. A copy of the full report may be obtained from the Chairman at the registered office, Edgecombe, Hill Road, Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 2JN.

### **Trustees**

Hamish Donaldson MBE DL, Chairman, Sam Osmond, Hon Secretary, Dr Mary Alexander, John Harris, Martin Higgins, Father Alex Hill (appointed 8 April, confirmed at AGM on 17 June), Revd. James McKeran (appointed 7 October), Richard Morris (appointed 8 April, confirmed at AGM on 17 June), Geoffrey Pink (retired 17 June), Andrew Plumridge, John Roll Pickering, Hon Treasurer

### **Patrons**

The Bishop of Guildford, The Bishop of Arundel & Brighton, The Bishop of Southwark, Dame Sarah Goad DCVO JP, Michael More-Molyneux Esq Lord Lieutenant of Surrey.

### **Structure, Governance & Management**

The Charitable Trust was established on 7th July 1997 with a Trust Deed which established its objects and powers. The Trust is not incorporated.

### Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The work of the Trust falls into three categories: the raising of money (mainly through the annual sponsored Ride & Stride), the distribution of grants to needy churches in the county and the education of the public in our church heritage. Accordingly the Trustees require skills which reflect these needs in addition to the need to be representative of different Christian denominations. When vacancies occur the Trustees identify what skills might be strengthened and consult with the relevant Diocesan Advisory Committees (DACs) and others so as to identify suitable candidates.

Richard Morris leads on marketing and publicity aspects, Andrew Plumridge was formerly architectural advisor to the Berkshire Churches Trust, Martin Higgins sits on the Southwark DAC and is Historic Buildings Officer Surrey County Council and Hamish Donaldson was chair of the Guildford DAC for 19 years.

The Trustees also take into account the benefits of a broad representation of different Christian denominations. Hamish Donaldson, Revd. James McKeran, John Roll Pickering and Sam Osmond represent Anglican churches in the Diocese of Guildford, Father Alex Hill and Richard Morris represent the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel & Brighton, John Harris represents URC churches, Martin Higgins represents Anglican churches in the Diocese of Southwark.

One third of the Trustees retire by rotation every year but may offer themselves for re-election. At the Special Meeting to be held on 13th July 2020, Mary Alexander, John Harris and Andrew Plumridge retire by rotation but offer themselves for re-election. Revd. James McKeran was elected a Trustee on 7th October and his appointment will be confirmed at the Special Meeting.

### Organisation

In addition to the AGM, the Trustees meet three times a year. At two of the meetings (in April and October) they consider Grants and once a year (in December) they review the last Ride & Stride and plan the next one. The annual sponsored Ride & Stride is organised by the County Organiser (Hamish Donaldson) and a team of up to 16 area organisers. Andrew Plumridge is the Grant's Secretary.

### Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed and have systems in place to mitigate the risks the Charity faces.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The Trustees apply the funds of the Trust for the restoration, maintenance, preservation, repair and reconstruction of Christian Churches and Churchyards (and of any fixtures and fittings in the said churches) in the County of Surrey. The funds are applied through grants (typically of £1,000 to £3,000) made to churches that apply to the Trust. The main fund raising event is the Annual Ride & Stride which is described below.

The Trust also educates the public in the appreciation of church buildings and their heritage by organising study days and church tours.

### **Achievements and Performance**

#### The 2019 Fund Raising Ride & Stride

The second Saturday in September is always the day of the National Churches Ride & Stride and this year it again coincided with National Heritage Day. About 30,000 people took part nationwide, raising approximately £1.2 million to aid church preservation. This was the twenty-second year that we in Surrey have participated and 29 churches welcomed cyclists and walkers, who raised £9,067 continuing something of a downward trend. Fetcham St Mary, Great Bookham St Nicolas, Godalming St Edmund RC and Merton Priory were the top scorers. Leatherhead, Godstone and Godalming were the top areas.

The organising committee consisted of: Hamish Donaldson, Chairman & County Organiser, John Roll Pickering, Hon. Treasurer, Sam Osmond, Hon. Secretary, and a team of dedicated and experienced Area Organisers. Our Gift Aid procedure was handled by the Treasurer who was able to reclaim £1,833 in tax refunds. Our Treasurer, our Secretary and our Area Organisers put in a great deal of time and effort to make the Ride & Stride a success and we are very grateful for all their enthusiasm and hard work.

This year's Ride & Stride will, lockdown permitting, take place on Saturday 12th September – and we hope that as many as possible will take part – and enjoy themselves.

## Grants

When considering Grant Applications, the Trustees take account of the Ride & Stride activity of the applying church. Our funding system only works if churches help the Trust to raise funds as well as benefiting from grants.

At the April 2019 meeting, grants were approved for Christ Church, Ottershaw - £1000 towards re-pointing of brickwork, SS Mary & Nicholas, Leatherhead - £500 towards repair of marble step, St Paul, Woldingham - £4000 for prevention of water penetration and St Bartholomew, Horley - £500 for repair of lychgate roof.

At the October 2019 meeting, grants were approved for St Matthew, Surbiton - £2,000 for repairs to tower, windows, stonework etc, St Mark, Upper Hale - £1,000 for repairs to wall paintings, St Mary Magdalene, Holmwood - £1,000 for repairs to aisle ceiling.

## The Easter Quiz

Under the heading 'Planning for the Future' one of the Trust's objectives is to find new ways of generating income for the Trust. Accordingly, the Trustees approved a proposal by the Chairman to run an 'Easter Quiz'. The Quiz took the form of forecasting the Political, Financial and Sporting results of 2019 (up to December 31st). To promote the Quiz (which had significant prizes) 10,000 leaflets were printed; 3,000 were distributed to all the churches on the SCPT list and 1,000 delivered to each of 7 selected post codes in the County'. In addition, all U3As in the County were approached to circulate details to their members and information and application forms were posted on the SCPT web-site. The result was very disappointing. Our aim was to get at least 1,000 entries but, in the event, we only had 109 entries from 35 punters. Thanks to sponsorship we were able to achieve a modest surplus of £390.20.

## Church Tour

The October church tour, organised by Mary Alexander and Richard Morris visited three churches in near Womersley in the West of the county.

St. Augustine's Abbey, Sample Oak Lane, Chilworth GU4 8QR

St. Martin's, Blackheath Lane, Blackheath GU4 8RA

St. John the Baptist, The Street, Womersley, GU5 0PG

All three places of worship were very different and very interesting.

## Events planned for 2020

Due to the virus lockdown it has not been possible to hold the AGM scheduled for June

- Mon 13 July - Special Zoom Meeting of Trustees and Area Organisers
- Sat 12 Sept – County wide Ride & Stride
- Wed 23 Sept - Annual Lecture (SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA – the Portuguese Way)
- Sat 4 October - Church Crawl

Details of all these events can be obtained from 01252 716772

## Financial Review

### Funding Sources

The money raised by the Ride & Stride together with Gift Aid recovery, Easter Quiz and Donations means that the Trust had a gross income of £15,007.75 for the year. Half of the funds raised by the Rider is given to the church for whom he/she rides. A total of £4,243 was returned to the fund-raising churches in this way.

### Reserves Policy and Going concern

The Trustees have a policy of retaining £10,000 as a reserve in the event of an urgent call from a church in need. Otherwise it is the policy of the Trustees to distribute all monies raised by the Trust. The Trust has £5,000 liabilities for grants awarded but not yet paid.

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

### Investment policy

The Trustees run a current account and a deposit account with Barclays Bank. This deposit account meets the needs of the Trust to have access to the funds while obtaining a higher rate of interest than that available in a bank current account.

## Plans for the Future

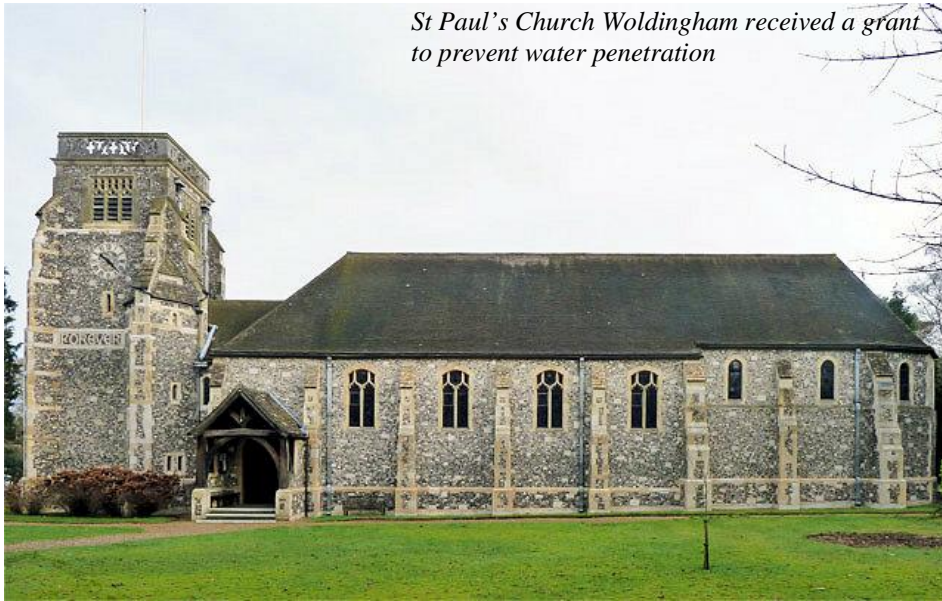
The Trustees have set themselves the objectives of

1. finding new ways of generating income as income from the Ride & Stride is decreasing
2. finding a new County Ride & Stride Organiser for 2022
3. increasing the number of Area Organisers from 8 to 12
4. increasing the number of paid up members to 200 during the next 18 months

Approved by the Trustees on 13th July, 2020 and signed on their behalf by:



Hamish Donaldson MBE DL, Chairman



*St Paul's Church Woldingham received a grant to prevent water penetration*

**Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31 March**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Donations & subscriptions	1,563.95	2,735
Gift Aid	1,833.25	1,854
Ride & Stride Sponsorship	9,066.67	12,408
Church Tour	490.50	278
Easter Quiz	1,823.20	-
Study Day	175.00	-
Interest	55.18	49
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15,007.75</b>	<b>17,323</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Cost of raising funds	1,622.65	863
Ride & Stride Administration	161.60	428
Shares to Nominated Churches	4,243.30	5,750
Grants to Churches	10,000.00	6,000
Church Tour	300.00	220
Easter Quiz	1,433.00	-
Study Day	-	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>17,760.55</b>	<b>13,261</b>
<b>Net Income for the year</b>	<b>(2,752.80)</b>	<b>4,062</b>

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect, accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or the accounts do not accord with those records; or the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

Sarah Alexander FCCA ACA, Lewis Brownlee (Chichester) Ltd  
Chartered Accountants

<b><u>BALANCE SHEET At 31 MARCH</u></b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Current Account	11,301.75	9,110
Deposit Account	30,119.73	30,064
	<u>41,421.48</u>	<u>39,174</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Grants to Churches authorised but not yet paid	(5,000.00)	-
<b>The Funds of the Charity</b>		
Unrestricted funds	<u>36,421.48</u>	<u>39,174</u>

Approved by

.....  
Hamish Donaldson, Chairman

.....  
John Roll Pickering, Treasurer