



The Lovelace Mausoleum at St Martin's Church, East Horsley was visited as part of the church study day



St Thomas a Becket Church at East Clandon was also visited as part of the Study Day



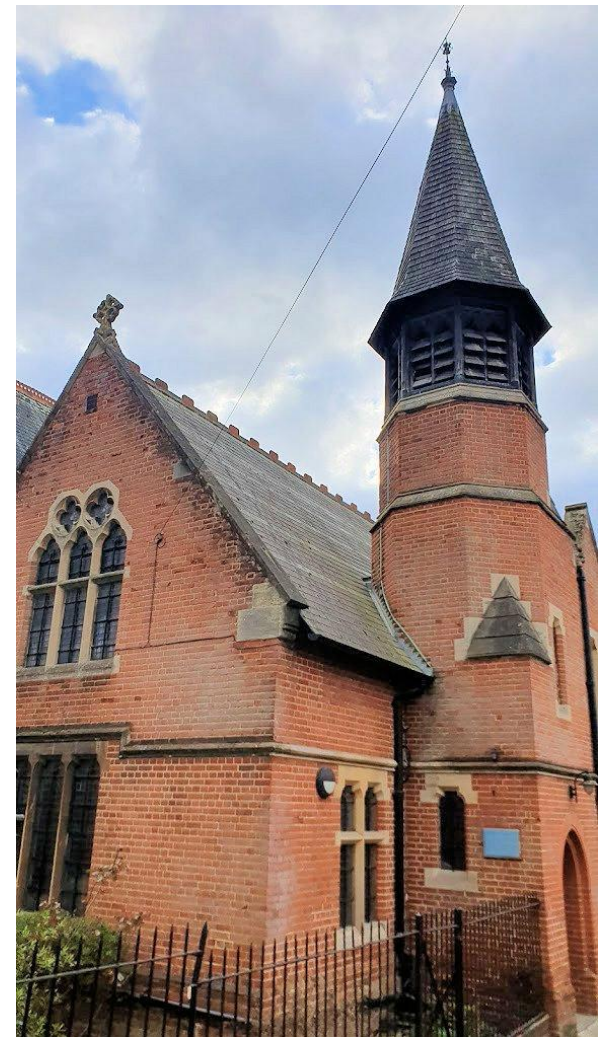
Surrey Churches Preservation Trust

www.SurreyChurchesPreservationTrust.org

(Registered Charity No 1063656)

Annual Report for the year to 31st March 2025

The Trust gave a grant to St Barnabas Church, Sutton for repairs to the South Aisle and Lady Chapel roof



Trustees' Report

The Trustees present this abridged report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025. A copy of the full report may be obtained from the Chair at the registered office, Edgecombe, Hill Road, Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 2JN.

Trustees

Hamish Donaldson MBE DL, Chairman, Sam Osmond (Hon Secretary to 10 June 2024), Martin Higgins, Father Alex Hill, Geoff Martin Hon Treasurer (from 10 June 2024), Richard Morris (Hon Secretary from 10 June 2024), Andrew Plumridge, John Roll Pickering (Hon Treasurer to 10 June 2024).

Patrons

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

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 is the Secretary and leads on marketing and publicity aspects; Andrew Plumridge was formerly architectural advisor to the Berkshire Churches Trust, Martin Higgins served on the Southwark DAC and was 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, John Roll Pickering, Geoff Martin 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, 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 Annual General Meeting to be held on 16 June 2025, Hamish Donaldson, Martin Higgins, Rev Alex Hill and Richard Morris retire by rotation but offer themselves for re-election. Teresa Clark who has been helping Richard Morris with Marketing the Trust's activities is standing for election as a Trustee.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31 March

	2025 £.p	2024 £.p
Income		
Donations and Subscriptions	2,749.59	2,115.99
Gift Aid	1,571.26	1,702.00
Ride & Stride Sponsorship	11,448.50	12,097.43
Church Tour	479.50	65.00
Study Day	2,782.98	227.10
Interest	453.53	363.61
Total Income	19,485.36	16,571.13
Expenditure		
Cost of Raising Funds	792.10	790.53
Shares to Nominated Churches	5,625.50	5,712.85
Grants to Churches	6,500.00	2,500.00
Study Day	148.00	57.12
Total Expenditure	13,065.60	9,060.50

Approved by

Hamish Donaldson, Chairman

Geoff Martin, Treasurer

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 2026
4. increasing the number of Area Organisers from 8 to 12
5. increasing the number of paid-up members to 200 during the next 18 months

Approved by the Trustees on 16 June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Hamish Donaldson MBE DL, Chairman

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

		2025	2024
		£.p	£.p
Current Assets	Current Account	32,906.86	26,984.13
	Deposit Account	31,091.44	30,565.91
		63,926.30	57,550.04
Liabilities	Grants to Churches authorised but not yet paid	6,500.00	6,000.00
	Net Assets	57,426.30	51,550.04

Organisation

In addition to the AGM, the Trustees meet three times a year. At two of the meetings (in April and September) 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 Grants 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 £500 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.

The 2024 Fund Raising Ride & Stride

The second Saturday in September is always the day of the National Churches Ride & Stride. In the event, 23 churches in Surrey took part and raised £11,448.. Godalming and Godstone were the top areas; St Edmund RC in Godalming was the top church.

The organising committee consisted of: Hamish Donaldson, Chairman & County Organiser, Geoff Martin, Hon. Treasurer, Richard Morris, 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 £1,571 in tax refunds from all sources of income. 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 take place on Saturday 13th 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. The Trustees have therefore put a cap on grants for churches that have not raised funds for the Trust in the previous 10 years. This policy has meant that churches applying for grants are encouraged to take part so that a larger grant can be considered.

At the April 2024 meeting the following grants were approved

St Michael's (Barn) Church at Farley Green £1,000 for their heating project
Ewhurst Baptist Church £1,000 for their re-wiring project
St Thomas on the Bourne £1,000 for stained glass window

At the June AGM the following grant was approved

St Barnabas, Sutton, £2,000 for repairs to the South Aisle and Lady Chapel Roof

At the September 2024 meeting

St Martin by the Green in Bourne £1000 to upgrade their toilet facilities.
St Andrews Church at Frimley Green £500 towards re-roofing their Church Hall.

At the December 2024 meeting

Sutton Baptist Church, £1,000 for electrical work

Church Tour

Our church tour this year was on Saturday 12th October in the middle of the county. We visited:

- St Martin's Church East Horsley (Grade 2*), which dates back to Norman times. There is an interesting mausoleum in the North East corner of the churchyard built by the Lovelace family
- St Mary's Church West Horsley (Grade 1) The foundations of the present church were laid in 1030 by a Saxon thane called Thored. The church tower was built in 1120 around a ladder which remained in situ until about the year 2000 It now hangs on the wall of the south aisle.
- St Thomas of Canterbury, East Clandon (Grade 1), Construction of the present building started soon after the Norman Conquest of 1066. Following the murder of Thomas Becket, the 'turbulent priest' of Canterbury, the Benedictine monks changed the dedication of the church in 1220 to the new saint, Thomas of Canterbury.

Events planned for 2024

Events planned for the coming year include:

- Monday 7th April 2025 2:30pm Trustee meeting – Grants
- Monday 16th June 2025 2pm Trustee Meeting, followed by AGM
- Saturday 13th September 2025 Ride & Stride
- Monday 15th September 2025 2:30pm Trustee meeting – Grants
- Saturday in October (TBC) Church Crawl in East Surrey
- Monday 1st December 2025 2.30pm Trustee meeting with area organisers

Details of all these events can be obtained from Richard Morris
shac202@yahoo.com tel 07454 364015

Financial Review

Funding sources

The money raised by the Ride & Stride together with Gift Aid recovery Subscriptions and Donations means that the Trust had a gross income of £19,485 for the year. Half of the funds raised by the Rider is given to the church for whom he/she rides. A total of £5,625 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 £6,500 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.