



Northumbria Historic Churches Trust

Annual
Report
2005

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Recent Annual Reports have signalled the need to ease the Trust into responding to the changing circumstances in which it must serve historic churches and those who care for them. As with these hallowed, cherished places, rapid change is rarely appropriate - but change there must be. First, I reported on a comprehensive review of the governing document of the Trust and how it should be applied 25 years after it was drafted. This has retained the central ethos of commitment to Christian places of worship but widened eligibility to include more non-conformist and Catholic churches and others of historical interest up to 1945. Then I reported on how the Trust itself must be more representative, and we now have an excellent board of trustees who contribute a comprehensive range of personal expertise and experience. Having prepared the ground, I anticipated a year ago that we would need to seek more 'fuel' to fire up the Trust's resources to meet a growing need at the very time our long-standing Secretary was seeking to retire. I am pleased to report this year that we have now been able to allow Canon John Ruscoe to retire by securing the services of a new Secretary, Peter de Lange, and valuable additional funding from English Heritage to help us build on the substantial legacy John leaves.

In recent weeks a national campaign has been launched by English Heritage called 'Inspired!' In addition to its core message that listed places of worship alone would require £925m over the next five years to effect all necessary repairs, it highlights one of the most fundamental problems of grant regimes of this country: that applications only become eligible when routine need has become a major problem; call it crisis management if you like. In other words, there is no 'stitch in time' funding for responsible planned care and maintenance, but leave that leaking gutter until it spawns dry rot and the work miraculously attracts financial support. What kind of signal does this send?

Of course it would be a gross error to suggest grants encourage neglect; the most common problem (and the sobering message of the campaign) is that many congregations are simply overwhelmed by a scale of responsibility that escalates faster than they can raise the means to tackle it. It reminds me of a cartoon of a huge gas-guzzling American car at a petrol station where the attendant asks the driver, "Can you turn the engine off, please: she's gaining on me!" The veneer of timelessness that our churches convey can be misleading if the first

signs of trouble are not addressed promptly. Hence the campaign is about stitch in time help and asking the Chancellor to provide essential funds specifically to support local training programmes, new categories of maintenance grants and repair grants for works not covered by the current joint English Heritage / Heritage Lottery Fund scheme, and Support Officers to guide congregations in improving care of their buildings. If you want to add your support to this campaign, please write to the Chancellor *now*, details are available from the Trust's Secretary or English Heritage.

For us, this is a timely endorsement of the direction we are taking and improvements we have begun introducing. Apart from updating administrative procedures, Peter's role is to share in the trustees' ambition to make the Trust a more accessible and effective resource. This will make more use of email and a website, etc., to publicise guidelines and provide helpful advice, hopefully all leading to more successful applications. Our aim is to ensure a better take up of grant from us, an improvement to the state of the region's stock of historic churches and wider appreciation of their significance and what it involves to maintain them. Last year we paid out nearly £30,000 in 19 grants and offered another £17,000 in grants. The Trust is grateful to the Sir James Knott Trust, Robin Rowell Charity Trust, W A Handley Charity Trust, the Right Rev. Alec Graham, Lord Vinson, all those involved in the Steeplechase, and our many subscribers and supporters for making this possible.

Graham Bell

May 2006

A LEGACY FOR CHURCHES

Legacies are an effective way of making a larger gift to the Trust without diminishing your present income. They are not liable to inheritance tax and could benefit your estate as a whole. We appreciate that decisions about making bequests are personal, and the interests of your dependants must be considered. But do please talk to your financial adviser, or the Chairman or Secretary of the Trust, if you would like the Trust to benefit.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JANUARY 2006**

	2006	2005
	£	£
Incoming Resources		
Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources:		
Trust donation	43,250	17,350
Other donations	1,705	640
Covenant and Gift Aid Income (Gross)	<u>4,087</u>	<u>3,565</u>
	<u>49,042</u>	<u>21,555</u>
Investment income		
Treasury stock interest	3,383	3,383
Bank interest	603	716
COIF interest	<u>6,053</u>	<u>4,793</u>
	<u>10,039</u>	<u>8,892</u>
Activities for generating funds		
Subscriptions	3,600	2,816
Steeplechase	24,241	22,175
Sale of cards, tea towels etc.	1,302	1,466
Events	865	825
Sale of painting	<u>300</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>30,308</u>	<u>27,282</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>89,389</u>	<u>57,729</u>
Resources Expended		
Direct charitable expenditure:		
Grants to churches	29,900	19,400
Steeplechase expenses and parish share	12,241	11,429
Events expenses etc.	1,015	684
Cost of cards, calendars etc.	1,231	424
Other expenditure (Inc VAT):		
Management and administration	5,011	4,872
Accountant's fee	1,328	820
Accountant's fee for independent examination	130	130
Stagshaw surplus repaid	-	266
Depreciation charge	<u>102</u>	<u>102</u>
Total resources expended	<u>50,958</u>	<u>38,127</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	38,431	19,602
Unrealised loss on investments	<u>(6)</u>	<u>(1,094)</u>
Net movement in funds	38,425	18,508
Total funds brought forward	<u>199,025</u>	<u>180,517</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>237,450</u>	<u>199,025</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2006

	2006		2005	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets		105		207
Investments		<u>91,940</u>		<u>91,946</u>
		92,045		92,153
Current assets				
Stock of cards and tea towels	1,400		1,600	
Debtors	2,123		858	
Cash at bank	<u>143,365</u>		<u>105,649</u>	
	<u>146,888</u>		<u>108,107</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year				
Accountancy fee		1,233		950
Other creditors	<u>250</u>		<u>285</u>	
	<u>1,483</u>		<u>1,235</u>	
Net current assets		<u>145,405</u>		<u>106,872</u>
Net assets		<u>237,450</u>		<u>199,025</u>
Funds				
Unrestricted		<u>237,450</u>		<u>199,025</u>
		<u>237,450</u>		<u>199,025</u>

DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FOR £500 OR OVER £

The WA Handley Charity Trust	750
The Robin Rowell Charity Trust	25,000
The Sir James Knott Trust	17,500
The Right Rev AAK Graham	2,500
Lord Vinson	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>46,750</u>

These are extracts from the full financial accounts, which have been independently examined by Rycroft Glenton Chartered Accountants. A hard copy of the full accounts is available on request from the Secretary (a contribution towards the costs of printing and postage would be appreciated). Alternatively an electronic copy (portable document format file) can be e-mailed to you (e-mail your request to NorthumbriaHCT@aol.com), or the accounts should soon be available on the Charity Commissioners' website (www.charity-commission.gov.uk).

NORTHUMBRIA HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Registered Charity N^o 511314

Trustees

G Bell (Chairman)
Rt Hon Alan Beith MP *
Mrs E Conran
C Downs
Ven P Elliott
M Festing OBE
Rev R Firth
Mrs I Ferguson

Sir Josslyn Gore-Booth
J B Kendall
Mrs E Norris
R C Norris
Canon J E Ruscoe (Secretary to
February 2006)
Lord Vinson *
Mrs G Walker

* Non-executive

Acting Secretary

Peter de Lange
20 Aykley Vale
Aykley Heads
DURHAM
DH1 5WA

0191 383 2704
NorthumbriaHCT@aol.com

Financial Administrator

Carolyn Courage
Five Dykes
Steel
Whitley Chapel
HEXHAM
NE47 0HZ

01434 467 3584

STEEPLECHASE

As always the Trust is indebted to those who help to organise, take part in, or sponsor the annual Steeplechase, which provides a steady income to both the Trust and the participating churches. Special thanks are due to the Area Organisers – Ivy Ferguson (Durham) and Elizabeth Norris (Newcastle) – and to Bruce Napier, the Steeplechase Treasurer, and to all the District Organisers listed below.

ALNWICK

Mrs M Weaver
East Mount
Main Street
Red Row
Northumberland
NE61 5AQ

AUCKLAND

Mrs Lynda Readman
5 Coronation Avenue
Shildon
County Durham DL4 2AA

BAMBURGH & GLENDALE

from Jan 2007
Miss G Courtney
2 Coupland Cottages
Milfield
Wooler
Northumberland
NE71 6QT

BARNARD CASTLE

Not taking part in 2006

BEDLINGTON

Mrs V Rimmer
4 Beckford Close
Battlehill
Northumberland
NE28 9AY

BELLINGHAM

Dr J McCollum
Greenacres
Humshaugh
Hexham
NE46 4AA

CHESTER-LE-STREET

Mrs Pat Bunting
26 Carnoustir
Wentworth Park Estate
Ouston
Chester-le-Street
DH2 1JS

CORBRIDGE

Mr D Welsh
10 Cragside
Corbridge
NE45 5EU

DARLINGTON

Mrs Val Curry
20 Twinsburn Road
Heighington
Darlington
DL5 6RL

DURHAM

Mr Martin Taylor
35 Wearside Drive
Durham DH1 1LE

EASINGTON

Miss Dorothy Green
9 Harding Terrace
Darlington
DL3 6HG

GATESHEAD

Mrs Jean Bush
18 Dryden Road
Low Fell
Gateshead

GATESHEAD WEST

Mrs Ann Britton
13 Denham Grove
Winlaton
Blaydon-on-Tyne
Tyne & Wear NE21 6HR

HARTLEPOOL

*vacant – volunteer
needed*

HEXHAM EAST & WEST

Mr & Mrs R Dance
18 Loughbrow Park
Hexham
NE46 2AD

HOUGHTON LE SPRING

Mrs Judith Lees
Islemount
Primrose Hill
Burnmoor
Houghton-le-Spring
County Durham

JARROW

Mrs Ivy Ferguson
6 Briardene Drive
Wardley
Gateshead
NE10 8AN

LANCHESTER

Mrs Liz Parker
178 Benfieldside Road
Consett
Co Durham DH8 0RW

MORPETH

Miss M Robertson
1 Pont Street
Ashington
Northumberland NE63
0HH

NEWCASTLE CENTRAL

Mt T Froud
61 St Georges Terrace
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE2 2DL

NEWCASTLE EAST

Mrs J Brown
39 Fir Tree Crescent
Forest Hall
NE12 0JU

NEWCASTLE WEST

Mrs H Wood
2 North Southwick Farm
Stannington
NE61 6BG

SEDFIELD

Mr Alan Thompson
64 Stoneybeck
Bishop Middleham
Ferryhill
Co Durham DL17 9BN

STANHOPE

*vacant – volunteer
needed*

STOCKTON

Mr David Bate
Southrigg
9 The Pines
Yarm
N Yorks TS15 9EW

TYNEMOUTH

Mr T Mennear
6 St Vincents Way
Whitley Bay
NE26 1HS

WEARMOUTH

Mrs Hilda Cawthorne
9 Cedars Park
Sunderland
SR2 7TQ

If you would be interested in volunteering for any of the vacancies,
please contact the appropriate Area Organiser

NORTHUMBRIA HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

GRANTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 JANUARY 2006

Grants paid

Church	Object	Amount £
Belford UR	Window frame renewal	250
Birtley, St Giles	Repointing spire, bell tower & external wall	2,500
Birtley, St Giles	Renewal of spire finial	1,000
Blackhall, St Andrews	East window protection	250
Byker, St Michael	Chancel roof repairs	1,000
Darlington, St James	Stonework & guttering	5,000
Esh, St Michael & All Angels	Porch & roof restoration	1,500
Gateshead, St George	Dry rot	400
Gateshead, Durham Road Baptist Church	General repairs, guttering, pointing	1,500
Gateshead, Durham Road Baptist Church	Roof and front pediment repairs	500
Hedworth, St Nicholas	Woodworm, retiling	2,500
Holystone, St Mary the Virgin	General repairs	3,000
Horton, St Mary	Reslating – preliminary survey	500
Horton, St Mary	Roof & other repairs	4,000
Matfen	Lead gutter renewal	500
Prudhoe Our Lady & St Cuthbert	Stonework and guttering	2,500
Rothbury, All Saints	General repairs	1,000
Stannington, St Mary the Virgin	Rewiring & lighting	1,000
Stanley (Crook), St Thomas	Spire stonemasonry	<u>1,000</u>
		<u>29,900</u>

Grants offered but not yet paid

Church	Object	Amount £
Bensham, St Cuthbert	Major refurbishment	4,000
Bishopwearmouth Pallion, St Luke	Stonework pointing	2,000
Greenhead, St John	Spire reshingling	2,250
Horsley, Ecumenical Church	Spirelet reslating	2,000
Longhirst, St John	Spire repairs	1,250
Otterburn, St John	General repairs	1,500
Sleekburn, PCC	Guttering repairs, pointing & stone dressing	1,500
Stannington, St Mary the Virgin	Stonework repairs	<u>2,500</u>
		<u>17,000</u>