

Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust

Trustees' Report and Financial Statement for the year ended March 31st 2024

Registered charity number 211068

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Trustees

Laurence Howard	President
Sarah Furness	Vice President
Peter Lawson	Chair
John Clement Saunders	Hon. Treasurer
Beverley Hancock	Hon. Secretary
Catherine Coulson	Trustee
Stephen Harris	Trustee
Peter Hitchcox	Trustee
Patricia Morley	Trustee
Stephen Taylor	Trustee
Susan Thomas	Trustee
Vyvyan Wainwright	Trustee
Martin Wilson	Trustee
Roger David Wood	Trustee

The Trust has no employed staff and its activities are conducted by a Board of Trustees. Each trustee has responsibility for liaising with a group of churches. Potential new trustees are considered first by a Nominations Sub Committee then by the Board of Trustees. Officers and trustees are appointed/reappointed at the Annual Meeting.

There were a number of retirements during the year.

- Mr. Howard Philips and Mr Richard Adams both retired after 25 years as Trustees.
- At the end of the year, Sir Laurence Howard KCVO retired as President after 20 years. He will continue as a Trustee in the role of Vice President and be succeeded as President by The Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, Dr Sarah Furness.
- At the end of the year, Mr John Saunders retired as Treasurer after 15 years of service: Beverley Hancock will serve as Acting Treasurer.
- Rt. Rev. Debbie Sellin, Bishop of Peterborough accepted the role of Patron.

Objective and Achievements

Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust exists to provide financial assistance to all churches and chapels within the County of Rutland, whenever they may need help for conservation and maintenance. The Trust's philosophy is that Rutland's places of worship - many of them fine buildings of architectural and historic interest - have been inherited by our generation and it is our responsibility to use them, diligently care for and preserve them, and pass them on to the next generation.

The Trust's income is derived from investments, donations, legacies and a biennial fundraising event, Ride and Stride. This year income from these sources totalled £46,311, approximately half of which was raised through Ride and Stride. This enables the Trust to provide grants to churches to help with repairs and restoration. Around 50% of the funds raised through Ride and Stride, £11,060 was given to participants' nominated churches. The efforts of participants and church organisers were celebrated at an event in March when gifts and certificates were presented to participants who had cycled to the greatest number of churches, who had used

the quirkiest mode of transport (a unicycle) and to the youngest (6 years and 4 years) and oldest (95 years) participants.

Grants

In addition to payments to churches raised by Ride and Stride, the Trust awarded grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 to the following churches:

- Great Casterton St Peter & St Paul towards installation of a new heating system
- Stretton St Nicholas towards roof repairs
- Whitwell St Michael & All Angels for wall repairs
- Braunston All Saints towards repair of the west tower
- Barrowden St Peters towards repairs to the bell tower and bell frame
- Market Overton St Peter & St Paul towards repairs to the lychgate, churchyard wall and tree work.

These six grants totalled £40,000. We extend our sincere thanks to all our supporters for making this possible. Grants are paid on completion of work so there is a difference between the number of grants awarded and the number of grants paid in any year. This year the Trust paid £63,353 to nine places of worship.

Finance

The Trust's finances are managed by a Finance Sub-Committee which reports to the twice-yearly Trustees Meetings. The Trust retains healthy reserves which are invested in ways that will enable support of the county's places of worship for many years to come. The Finance Sub-Committee keeps the Trust Reserves and Investment Policy under close review and proposes an annual budget for grants which is approved at the AGM. Equity investments are under expert management for charitable purposes by CCLA. The Finance Sub-Committee will continue to monitor these funds prudently and afford opportunities to harvest a proportion of the growth in these funds annually in order to increase our grant giving capacity whilst, at the same time, inflation proofing our investments over the long term. In this context, Trustees gratefully acknowledge the most valuable investment advice we receive from our specialist Trustees in this field, and the sterling work of the Treasurer for his very capable management of our range of investment options.

We also thank Gill Brand, for independently examining, the Trust's finances and annual report.

Receipts and Payments: Year Ending March 31st 2024

	2023 – 2024			2022 – 2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Opening Cash Balance			95,849			160,787
Receipts						
Ride & Stride Sponsors	21,120			464		
+ Gift Aid	2,582			0		
less payments to churches	-11,065			0		
less administration	0	-		0	-	
Ride & Stride Surplus	12,637			464		
Donations (inc. Gift Aid)	10,453			1,145		
Interest & Dividends	11,656			10,326		
Calendar Sales Donation	500	35,246		600	12,535	
Payments						
Grants	63,353			69,547		
Administration	460	63,813	-	497	70,044	-
Surplus / Deficit			-28,567			-57,509
Movement of Investments						
Deposits opened		-27,000			50,000	
Deposits withdrawn	-	50,680	23,680	-	-42,571	-7,429
Closing Cash balance			90,962			95,849

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at March 31st 2024

Assets						
Bank Balances						
Barclays current account		50,110			56,833	
COIF deposit account	-	40,852	90,962	-	39,016	95,849
Investments						
Equity based (market value)		763,271			672,136	
Short term deposit		52,449			51,214	
Fixed term deposits	-	158,378	974,098	-	178,652	902,002
Total Assets	-	-	1,065,060	-	-	997,851
Liabilities						
Grants committed			41,500			64,853
Total Net Funds			1,023,560			932,998



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of** Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust

**On accounts for the year
ended** MARCH 31st 2024 **Charity no
(if any)** 211068

Set out on pages 1 - 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

**Responsibilities and
basis of report** As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement** I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: G Brand **Date:** 3-6-24

Name: Gill Brand

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):** AAT

Address: 66 STATION ROAD
OAKHAM
RUTLAND LEIS 6 QU