

THE FRIENDS OF WILTSHIRE CHURCHES

Annual Report 2016

www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk

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Luke Hughes

Furniture in Architecture

The Friends of Wiltshire Churches

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Photography by Brian Woodruffe, Hugh Syngé
and Luke Hughes

Coffin bier in St Peter's, Marlborough.
(Opposite)

Future Events

Saturday 11 February 2017

Lecture on Stained Glass after WW1
in Wessex churches to be given by
Brian Woodruffe. Urchfont Village
Hall 3.00pm

Saturday 18 March 2017

Annual General Meeting, followed by
the Annual Guest Lecture 'Churches of
Russia: Art & Liturgy' to be given by
Jane Angelini. St Mary & St Nicholas
Church, Wilton at 2.30pm.

Saturday 8 April 2017

Proposed tour of churches in the Frome
area, to include Beckington, Berkley,
Lullington with Orchardleigh and
Rodden, to be led by Glyn Bridges.

Saturday 6 May 2017

Proposed tour of churches displaying
medieval graffiti to be led by Tony Hook.

Saturday 8 July 2017

Proposed tour of Salisbury Cathedral,
library and surrounds to be led by
John Osborne.

Saturday 2 September 2017

Proposed tour of churches around
Corsham to be led by Edward Buchan.

It is hoped to arrange at least one social
event, probably in June. Further details
of all these events will be announced in
due course.



Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust Grants

This year we have been able to take advantage of partnership grants offered by the National Churches Trust up to the value of a total of £10,000 awarded to the county for the year.

The following grants were awarded by the Trustees on 20 June 2016:

Church	Project	Trust Grant	NCT Grant
St Mark's, Swindon	Repair of tower	£5000	£5000
St Peter & St Paul, Great Somerford	Re-roofing nave and chancel	£2000	
Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	Re-roof tower and nave	£2000	
St Andrew, Castle Combe	Re-roofing	£2500	£2500
St Thomas, Trowbridge	Roof, drainage and weatherproofing	£2500	
St Denys, Warminster	External and internal stonework repairs	£2500	£2500
St Peters, Lordsmead, Chippenham	Weatherproofing spire and flashings over brickwork	£1000	
St.Philip & St.James Neston	Restoration of porch cross	£200	
All Saints, The Leigh	Reinstatement of door	£1000	
All Saints, Wardour	Reinstatement of doors	£1000	
All Saints, Swindon	Replace ceiling tiles	£2000	
St Thomas a Becket, Box	Kitchen and toilet	£2000	
Holy Trinity, Calne	Toilet and sewage system	£2000	
St Mary, Purton	Electrical safety	£450	
St Andrew, Blunsdon	Churchyard wall repairs	£1000	
St James The Great, Bratton	Organ conservation and restoration	£1000	
	TOTAL	£28150	£10000

The following grants were awarded by the Trustees on 12 November 2016:

Church	Project	Trust Grant
St John the Baptist, Berwick St John	Chancel roof	£4000
Abbey of St Mary and St Melor, Amesbury	Nave roof	£3000
Christ Church, Swindon	Roof	£3000
Holy Trinity, Bowerchalke	Roof, gutters	£3000
Christ Church, Bradford on Avon	Chancel roof	£4000
St Mary, East Knoyle	Tower	£2000
Christchurch, Worton and Marston	Cupola	£1500
St Michael and All Angels, Shalbourne	Nave wall	£1000
St Andrew, Donhead St Andrew	Nave floor	£1000
Union Chapel, Kington Langley	Toilet	£2000
St James, South Wraxall	Stained glass windows	£1000
St Mary, Redlynch	Historic clock	£1000
Holy Trinity, Tidworth	Guttering	£2000
St Andrews, Collingbourne Ducis	Rainwater goods	£1500
TOTAL		£30000

TOTAL FOR 2016: £68,150 from WHCT and NCT Partnership Grants (recommended by Trustees)

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who joined during 2016:

Mr & Mrs Norman Barter (*Bishopstone*)
Mr Joseph Caunt (*Salisbury*)
Mr Bruce Fox (*Ogbourne St Andrew*)
Lt-Cdr & Mrs Dennis Gell (*Calne*)
Mr & Mrs Jeremy Groom (*Horton*)
Mr & Mrs Rob Henman (*Milston*)
Brigadier Nigel Jackson (*Corsham*)
Mr Richard Lavers (*Shalbourne*)
Mr & Mrs Terence Lodge
(*Winterbourne Earls*)
Mr Chris Macey (*Salisbury*)
Mr & Mrs Martin Marriott (*Salisbury*)
Mr Richard McBain (*Chittoe*)
Mrs Jean Potter (*Bradford-on-Avon*)
Mr Christopher Scott-Moody (*Corsham*)
Ms Amelia Shaw (*Pewsey*)
Ms Victoria Stace (*Sopworth*)
Mr & Mrs Graham Turner (*Salisbury*)
Mr & Mrs Robert Waddington
(*Upper Minety*)
Mr & Mrs Tim Wade
(*Ogbourne St George*)
Mr & Mrs Anthony Wilson (*Cherhill*)



17th century decoration (above) on pulpit in St Michael and All Angels, Winterbourne Earls and (below) on chest now in Connecticut Museum, New Haven

News Round *by Martin Knight*

It is good to report on another successful year for the Friends.

We kept to the established format with our activities and you will find reports of these below.

Our prime aim is to support the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust which we do by collecting annual membership fees, charging for our various events and publications. I am pleased that we were able to welcome 20 new Friends during the year and continued to raise substantial sums from the Annual Lecture, 4 church tours, the party at Roche Court, the annual Ride & Stride and the sale of books and Christmas cards.

As a result, the Trust was able to distribute grants to the value of almost £60,000 to some of our needy churches. We are also grateful to the National Churches Trust for allowing us to allocate a further £10,000 from their funds. The AGM was held on 19 March at the Salisbury Museum and was attended by some 70 members where our guest speaker, Luke Hughes, intrigued us by describing the history of woodwork in our churches and drawing parallels with such work in New England. Luke is no stranger to the Trust, having served on the Friends committee since its inception. We are very grateful to him for giving us such a lively lecture and for his company's continued support of

the publication of this Annual Report. Following the lecture, many members were able to enjoy Choral Evensong in the cathedral.

Four church tours took place, details of which can be found later in this Report. We are blessed with a number of very fine churches in our county. Since its inception, the Friends have now visited over 100 of them. The time has therefore come when we are beginning to do repeat visits and even arrange tours beyond the bounds of our county. We visited London in April to mark the publication of Michael Hodges fine book on London churches. We plan a visit to some churches in Somerset in April 2017. As usual, we are extremely grateful to those who lead the tours and give all the participants such a rewarding experience. We are also grateful for those who write up these tours for publication in the Annual Report. I believe Nigel Jackson has set a new standard in his review of the Devizes tour by adding in many relevant photographs taken on the day. I hope we may pursue this more friendly format in the future.

We were once again hugely indebted to Madeleine, Countess of Bessborough, who invited us to enjoy her stunning sculpture garden at Roche Court and kindly provided a wonderful supper after evensong at Farleigh church on Sunday 11 September. We were also delighted that Nicholas Holtam, the Bishop of Salisbury,



preached at the service. To receive such support means a lot to us. My very grateful thanks to Diana Matthews-Duncan for organising the event.

Our website (www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk) is a great fount of information and continues to develop under the innovative and guiding hand of Nigel Jackson.

We were once again able to raid Brian Woodruffe's wonderful collection of photos to produce two Christmas cards. The sale of these raised in the region of £800. On the subject of photographs, many of our members come on tours with camera in hand. We are always looking for new and unusual views of our

churches. So please feel free to forward anything of a suitable quality which we might add to our library or website.

It is with sadness we record the death of one of our vice-presidents, Lord Talbot of Malahide. We also record the departure of Richard Clark, Anthony Edwards and Vicki Villers from the committee of the Friends and thank them for their support over the years.

Finally, our grateful thanks also go to Luke Hughes of Furniture in Architecture, who has once again kindly sponsored the publication of this report.

(above) St John's, Devizes, (right) hinge detail at St Mary's Devizes

Ride and Stride *by Charles Graham*

'The clouds poured down water' (Psalm 77 v.17). They did indeed. Some who had obviously kept a close eye on the forecast delayed their departure till the afternoon, but the 10.00 starters had got thoroughly drenched by then. The unfriendly conditions may partly explain why the number of participants this year dropped by about 8%, and the number of churches represented was a mere 108 (i.e. under a quarter of the churches in the county). However a great deal of determination was shown by those who did brave the weather, and their sponsors enabled them to raise nearly £44,000 which, with the addition of Gift Aid, should bring a total similar to last year's. Congratulations to all. The Trust is grateful for support from the Diocesan Communications Offices, the National

Churches Trust and Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville, who donated the cups and continues to contribute prize money.

A list of prize-winners can be found on the website, but here are a few highlights:

- In Devizes, Liz Overthrow, Secretary of Wiltshire Churches Together, led a pilgrimage round all ten churches in the town, stopping at each one to give a brief history and to say a prayer.
- Rev. Keith Brindle cycled from the most northern church in Salisbury Diocese (St. Bartholomew's, Royal Wootton Bassett) to the southernmost (St. Andrew's, Portland), via his own church, St. James in Devizes, and Salisbury Cathedral – a total of 106.6 miles. He raised £1377.



– Henry Stevenson, of St Michael & All Angels, Hilperton, also cycled more than 100 miles and certainly gets the prize for the most rain-sodden sponsorship form. Others from his church opted to stay in the dry and covered 162 miles on exercise bikes.

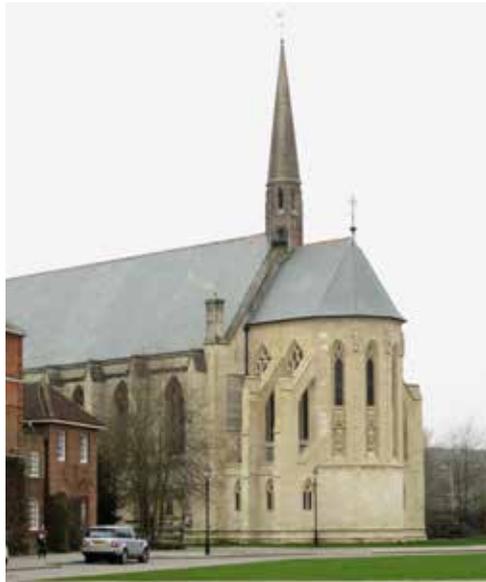
– Martin Hoad, of Christ Church, Shaw, rode 19.5 miles on his unicycle, visiting 4 churches.

– Richard Aylen, of Christ Church, Derry Hill, did a “Ride+Morris”, cycling to Calne and Avebury and performing there with his Morris Dancing team

– 12-year-old Joe Cooke cycled to 39 churches with his father, in aid of Christ Church, Warminster.

– Roger Simpkins and Astrid Laurence visited 24 churches on a tandem, and with 9 others from St. Bartholomew’s, Royal Wootton Bassett, raised a magnificent £2110.

St. James, Bratton not only won the **Brooke Cup** for the sixth year in succession but also regained the **Junior Group Cup** which they lost in 2015. They fielded 29 walkers and 13 cyclists, and they get not only the cups, but an extra £600 to add to the £1766 they raised from sponsorship. Their churchwarden has magnanimously offered to provide a simple guide for other parishes, to show that with a modest amount of effort a great deal can be achieved. Who will take up the challenge for 2017?



(Top) Marlborough College Chapel.
(Below) enduring popularity of ‘ride-and-stride’.

Report on the Annual General Meeting and Annual Lecture held at the Salisbury Museum on Saturday 19 March 2016

by David Evans

The meeting was held in the lecture room of the Salisbury Museum. About 70 members attended.

Apologies had been received from many members, and in particular the President, Sarah Troughton.

The minutes of the AGM of 2015 were accepted. The Chairman, Martin Knight, apologised for an error in the Annual Report, where the figures cited in the Treasurer’s Report were those for the year ending March 2014, instead of those for the year ending in 2015.

The Chairman told the Friends that the past year had been a good one for both the Friends and the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. About £100,000 had been given out to churches, though the Trust was anxious to receive more applications for grants. The number of Friends had increased, but not by much. The church tours had been especially popular: as many as 50 had come to the tour of the Upper Kennet churches.

The Chairman thanked: those who had led tours; Marlborough College and St Mary’s Calne for the splendid concert at Edington in the summer; Nigel Jackson, who is improving the Trust website,

including the Friends pages; Charles Graham for organising Ride & Stride and Luke Hughes and his co-workers, who had again produced a handsome Annual Report.

The Chairman looked ahead to the new year, when church tours would begin to branch out beyond the borders of Wiltshire. A social event is planned for the summer. He also hoped that the work of the Friends and the Trust would become more widely known, and he urged each Friend to try and recruit a new member.

The Treasurer, Peter Smith, gave his report on the Friends’ finances. They are in a healthy state. The balance of income less expenditure had improved somewhat to around £25,000, thanks to generous donations and the large profits from the Lecture on Magna Carta.

The next date of the next AGM was provisionally announced as 25th March 2017.

The Annual Lecture, given by Luke Hughes

Snug the Joiner and Peter Quince the Carpenter: the fascinating role of Shakespeare's rude mechanicals in early 17th century joinery in churches in Wiltshire and the East coast of the USA.

The speaker's photographs of the 17th century woodwork in local Wiltshire churches demonstrated remarkable similarities among the various churches. Further photos established that the same patterns were even more widespread, to be found as far away as Durham, Denmark and even New England.

In early 17th century England three trends proceeded in parallel: the increase in imports of timber from the Baltic; the growth in the number of disputes over pews; and the increase in the number of surviving pulpits. Each of these trends peaked in the 1630s, when the demand for joinery in churches was at its height. Important in stimulating this demand were the policies of the new breed of 'high church' bishops, Lancelot Andrews leading the way, with Neile, Laud, Wren and Montague following in Charles I's reign. They insisted that parish priests should report what had been done to effect the necessary improvements in the internal ordering of their churches.

The similarities over wide areas of the work of early 17th century joiners point to common sources for their designs. Widely used pattern books, such as

those by Serlio and de Vries, suggest what these were. The offices of works, especially those at the two universities, were also important in adopting patterns which could be widely imitated. As for the remarkable similarity of much New England joinery, that seems to be accounted for by the emigration of English workmen to the New World. Just as they adopted familiar village names such as Tisbury and Chilmark, so they reproduced familiar designs in their joinery.

New England joiners had plenty of local woods to use. English ones worked with prepared Baltic oak. English joiners were organised in guilds, such as the Joiners' Guild of Salisbury, which paid for its charter from the Crown in 1617. It is rarely possible to know much about individual joiners, but the speaker was able to end with a photo of Humphrey Beckham's panel to be found in St Thomas' Church, Salisbury, proudly announced as *his own work*.

The Chairman led the applause for a stimulating and informative lecture.

Wainscot decoration from 1620s, illustrated in the annual lecture. (Top) Wadham College, Oxford (Bottom, left) Wells Cathedral (Bottom right) Trinity Chapel, St Anthony's, Lewseston.



Tour of Churches in Chelsea on Wednesday 13 April 2016 led by Michael Hodges

by *Martin Knigh*

It may come as a surprise to read of the Friends of Wiltshire Churches visiting a number of churches in Chelsea. But then you realise that our tour leader was Michael Hodges who had been commissioned by History of London to write a book on London's churches* (excluding the City). So some 25 Friends and others were privileged to gather on a beautiful spring morning to be guided by the man himself.

What better place to start than **Chelsea Old Church** which, besides its regular services, has been witness to many weddings and funerals over the years. To illustrate the point we were greeted by a host of beautiful flowers and a very busy professional flower arranger preparing for the next event.

Michael pointed out that the church has no particular architectural merit. It was bombed in 1941 but well restored by Walter Godfrey in 1949. The east end is medieval and the south chapel was restored by Sir Thomas More in 1528. We noted beautiful Italianate renaissance carving of the capitals. The roof of the

chapel uniquely survived the bombing. More also prepared a tomb for himself on his resignation as Lord Chancellor in 1532. His body never lay there.

Michael emphasised that the monuments were the real reason for coming to the church. Besides that to Sir Thomas More, of particular note is that to Jane Guildford, Duchess of Northumberland, widow of Edward VI's Protestant Lord Protector, mother-in-law of Lady Jane Grey and mother to Queen Elizabeth's favourite, the Earl of Leicester. Other monuments and tombs were dedicated to Edmund First Lord Braye, Richard Jervoise, Thomas Hungerford, Sir Thomas Lawrence, Gregory Fiennes, Sir Arthur Gorges, Sara Colville, Sir Richard Stanley. On the north side of the nave is a memorial to Lady Jane Cheyne, widow of Charles Cheyne, Viscount Newhaven. She was a great benefactor of Chelsea and the church. The construction is by Pietro Bernini, son of the great Bernini.

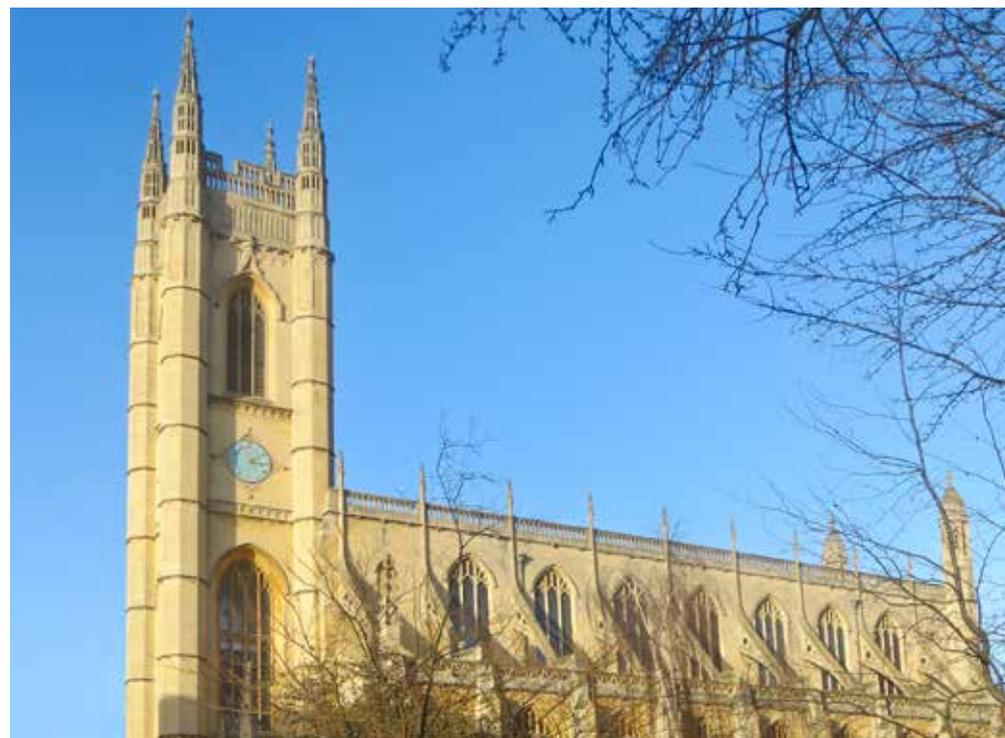
Michael concluded by telling us that his mother's ashes are to be found in the columbarium.

It was then only a short walk along the blossomed lined streets of Chelsea to arrive at the church of the **Most Holy**

Redeemer and St Thomas More in Cheyne Row. Arrive we did but, alas, got no further. Even Michael's painstaking arrangements could not cope with a jammed lock on the door of the church. The priest was nowhere to be found (out for a walk and not to be disturbed) and so, reluctantly, we had to quit our visit and merely 'admire' the outside while Michael told us what we were missing. The church, designed by Edward Goldie, was opened in 1895 and Sir Thomas More was added to the dedication in 1935. In 1940, 19 people were killed by a bomb whilst sheltering in the crypt. Inside were several dedications to St Thomas More and many paintings. Another time...

We all hoped they managed to unlock the door as a funeral was scheduled the next day!

Another stroll in the beautiful sunshine brought us to **St Lukes** which stands very distinctively in Sydney Street. This is known as a Commissioners or Waterloo church. During the last half of the Napoleonic Wars, a demand had gone up that more churches should be built and in 1818 the Churchbuilding Act was passed, allocating £1 million for new churches. By 1838 225 churches had been built. In general 'useless splendour' was deprecated! St Lukes was designed by James Savage and consecrated in 1824.



St Luke's, Chelsea

**The Parish Churches of Greater London: A Guide*, available @ £25 from the Heritage of London Trust, 34 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.



St Mary's, Chelsea

We certainly experienced the impressive size of this building. It can hold 2500 people. The impressive west pinnacle is 142 ft high and the nave is a lofty 60 ft high with aisles large enough for galleries. The east window has stained glass by Hugh Easton (1959). However, there is a feeling that this church is a failure from an artistic point of view. Charles Eastlake in his book on the Gothic Revival believes there is an unfortunate lack of proportion which deprives the building of scale and gives it a cold machine made look. He also believes the stone carving is poor and lifeless and that there is a 'foolish overstrained balance of parts'. However, Pevsner says 'yet its timidity and meagreness have appealing qualities'. Two monuments were worth noting: one to Lt Colonel Henry Cadogan who died at the Battle of Vitoria in 1813, the

second to Luke T Flood, of Flood St fame. The architect Savage is buried in the churchyard. It was also in this church that the ill-starred marriage between Charles Dickens and Catherine Hogarth took place in 1836.

Suitably fortified by lunch in various hostelries, we met again at **St Mary Cadogan**.

The original church was built at the north west corner of what is now Cadogan St and Pavillion Rd. It was a plain Georgian Chapel, opened in 1812 by the Duchess d'Angouleme, the daughter of Louis XVI. By 1825 2-3000 parishioners were worshipping in the chapel which was bursting at the seams. To alleviate this problem, a 2.5 acre site was purchased in 1875 and John Francis Bentley, the subsequent architect of Westminster Cathedral was appointed to build a new church which opened in 1879. The old church was demolished but various things were brought across to the new church, including E.W.Pugin's Blessed Sacrament Chapel. A.W.N.Pugin's cemetery chapel was also incorporated, the cemetery having been closed in 1858.

St Mary's is very simple externally but has a most impressive interior, tall and light with refined detailing. We moved round the church noting the former baptistery in the south west corner: the font is believed to have come from the old church. We passed various chapels on the north aisle. In the north transept is a beautiful 1894 Shrine of Our Lady with marble base and wooden canopy.

The pulpit is of 1864 by Bentley who also created the magnificent altar of alabaster and marble in the north east chapel. Both came from the old church.

Another short walk took us through Sloane Square to **St Mary's Bourne Street**. Dedicated in 1874, Michael told us that the building resulted from a decision by the vicar of St Paul's Knightsbridge to build a mission chapel in the poorer section of the parish. This was a rough area at the time The architect was R.J.Withers who according to an obituary built 'a good cheap type of brick churches'.

The interest in the church primarily relates to the splendid fittings inserted in the inter-war years. One of the church wardens at the time was Viscount Halifax, the long time president of the English Church Union. His contribution is marked by a baroque monument by Goodhart Rendel. By the 1920s the congregation had become very smart indeed. In 1910 the Society of St Peter & St Paul ad been set up to promote Anglo-Catholicism through the adoption of what John Betjeman described as 'the divine baroque'. The chief exponent of this style was Martin Travers who was responsible for the sarcophagus-shaped high altar and reredos as well as the lovely statue of Our Lady of Peace in 1920.

Between the wars H.S.Goodhart Rendel became the architect. Amongst other things, he coveted the pub next door, the Pineapple, into the presbytery, designed the ingenious polygonal north west

porch and the north aisle called to Seven Sorrows Chapel, the confessional, the sunburst above the high altar and the domed tabernacle to the statue of St John the Baptist.

St Mary's retains its distinctive liturgy blending the Roman rite of the Catholic Church with the Book of Common Prayer. It has also seen many interesting events, perhaps none more curious than the wedding of the notoriously gay Labour MP Tom Driberg in 1951. This was commemorated by a marvellous ode by Osbert Lancaster which Michael then read, giving us smiles on our faces as we then walked round.



St Barnabas, Pimlico

Finally, we reached **St Barnabas, Pimlico**. In similar circumstances to St Mary's Bourne Street, St Barnabas' was the result of an appeal by the vicar of St Paul's Knightsbridge in 1847 to fund a church with presbytery and school in the rougher end of his parish. The architect was Thomas Cundy II who worked mainly for the Grosvenor estate as surveyor. That trenchant magazine, the Ecclesiologist, declared the church as most satisfactory 'the most sumptuous church which has been dedicated to the use of Anglican communion since the Revival'. From the start the ceremonial was fairly splendid and the church was lampooned as the convent of the Belgravians. Bishop Bloomfield of London disapproved of the ceremonial. At that time there was a general no-popery scare and the ritualists were considered to be in league with the Pope. There were resulting riots at St Barnabas. The furnishings are mostly late Victorian. The chief glory is the altar and reredos by

Bodley & Garner with tiers of excellent carved figures. The fine choir stalls and parcloze screens are by Jordan & Co in the 1850s. Comper was responsible amongst other things for the altar-piece of Lamentation which Pevsner describes as 'entirely unsentimental' (Michael felt this to be a compliment).

St Barnabas for a long time had a distinguished musical tradition. At the start of the 20th century, Vaughan Williams was organist and the compilers of the first English Hymnal often met here.

Here our wonderful excursion on such a glorious spring day ended. Michael did us proud with his vast knowledge of the subject. Our very grateful thanks go to him for organising such a fascinating day and we wish him every success with his publication.

St John the Baptist, Allington



Tour of Bradford-on-Avon and its Churches on Saturday 21 May 2016 led by Colin John by Diana Beattie

Colin Johns, Architect for the Wiltshire Historic Buildings Trust, led a fascinating tour of Bradford on Avon. Accompanied by Julian Orbach (who lives in the town and is writing the Wiltshire edition of Pevsner) and Michael Hodges (author of a very comprehensive book *Parish Churches of Greater London, a guide*). This gave us a most interesting three-dimensional insight not only into Bradford's churches, but also into the economic and social history of the town.

Bradford on Avon is situated on a sharp bend of the River Avon and a study of the street plan we were given showed Abbey Mills and Kingston Mills along the North bank. From Saxon times onwards the economy was based on wool and the processing which wool requires – spinning, cleaning, dyeing, weaving and finishing. By the 1820s to 1835 this was in decline. But in 1848 Stephen Moulton bought Kingston Mills and brought rubber technology to the town. The Moulton bicycle comes from here. Bradford on Avon is a flourishing town which boasts six very smart wedding dress shops!

We kicked off at the **Congregational Church in St. Margaret's Hill**. We were welcomed by Harry Wishart who

explained the history of congregational worship and explained that the church now focuses on social and welfare work. The church retains its original galleries.

By popular demand our second visit was the **Tithe Barn**, part of the estate of the Abbess of Shaftesbury. One could only wonder at the extraordinary economic significance that the church had over everyday life in Saxon times. The barn is huge and is nearly always open for visitors.

We crossed the river to visit the **Saxon Church**, which was in use as a school from about 1715 for some 150 years. It was during some alterations to install a chimney that two large pieces of sculpture representing angels were revealed. The lost church was found. Canon WH Jones, the vicar, was an antiquarian whose research in 1871 discovered a reference in the Bodleian Library "there is to this day at that place Bradford on Avon a little church Aldhelm is said to have founded in the name of the Blessed St. Laurence". The church was well documented by JT Irvine, a Saxon scholar and architect, and GG Scott during the rescue operation. Irvine had been appointed to supervise the works of restoration in 1874, but he resigned following

a disagreement with the trustees over their decision to demolish the Master's House on the south side and replace it with a buttress and the south porch. It was clear that Irvine's intention was to ensure that none of the Saxon fabric was removed and that any insertion was done in a way that would differentiate it from the original.

The Catholic Church of St. Thomas More, was originally built by a group of businessmen who wanted a new town hall. The architect appointed was Thomas Fuller of Bath and the Bradford on Avon town hall is his major work in England. Much of Fuller's later work can be found in North America and he won the competition for the Canadian Parliament building in Ottawa. The building was rescued following a campaign by Canadians and it was purchased firstly by the Midland Bank and then in 1955 by the Diocese of Clifton to become the Catholic Church of Thomas More.



After an excellent pub lunch; Denise Leigh, churchwarden, welcomed us at **Christ Church**. Work started on the church in 1843, designed by George Manners, the City architect of Bath. The intention was to serve the people living in the villas to the north of the town centre. GG Scott modified the church in 1877 to create a Gothic revival church. A very poignant Lady Chapel was added in 1919, dedicated to the memory of Lieutenant Eric Moulton, who died on 16th September, 1915, age 26, his grave is in Brown's Road Military Cemetery, Festubert, Pas de Calais.

Our final visit was to the **Chapel of St. Mary Tory**, following a very scenic walk looking down across the valley of the River Avon – even in the rain it was a stunning view. This chapel was built as a hermitage for Pilgrims on their way to Glastonbury. By 1877 the chapel was in ruins. It was rescued by TB Saunders, QC. There is some good modern glass by Mark Angus.

We had a wonderful day in spite of the rain, and Bradford on Avon is a testament to the work of conservationists who have battled to save its wonderfully fine heritage – well worth a visit.

With grateful thanks to Colin Johns and his note on the Churches of Bradford on Avon.

Churches in Bradford on Avon. Top (opposite): St Lawrence). Left and (opposite), right: St Thomas More Catholic Church. Far right St Mary Tory Chapel.



Tour of Churches around the Marlborough Downs on Saturday 9 July 2016 led by John Osborne *by Clare Miles*

A gentle climb north-east from Marlborough brought us to the attractive downland village of **Aldbourne**. At its heart is the perfect village green, overseen along its upper edge by an imposing flint and ashlar church with a massive western tower. Its dedication to **St. Michael** was possibly intentional as the Saint's name is sometimes associated with churches on elevated ground. No wonder that this is a village favoured by film location managers. After a swift round of coffees at the old Blue Boar Inn on The Green we were in the pews, a sizeable party, to listen to John Osborne's account of the church's phases of construction.

A Norman building on this site was largely destroyed by fire in 1220, evidence of it survives in an arch in the south porch and in bold zig-zag carving of three arches fitted into the Gothic southern arcading of the nave which dates from a 13th century reconstruction. The early aisled, cruciform church possessed a central tower which was inadequately supported by round arches at the crossing; these were replaced in the 15th century by bold piers with lofty pointed arches. The tower was removed and the western tower constructed. The church flourished as shown by the addition of a northern Lady Chapel and

chantry and the accumulation of fine quality brass memorials, wooden screens, an alabaster tomb chest of 1510 and an imported Jacobean pulpit.

Animating the interior are two sophisticated early 17th century wall monuments with sculpted figures possibly by the same hand. In the Lady Chapel the long lived brothers, William and Edward Walrond, kneel facing outwards. The painted figures in their niches have genial, round faces. The text below describes Edward as a lover of hospitality and entertainer of many friends – a Jacobean personage one would have liked to have met. In the south transept is an elaborate monument to Richard Goddard, a local church benefactor who died in 1615. Six kneeling family members face outwards, the praying hands of each struck off by iconoclasts.

In the 1860s the Victorian church architect William Butterfield undertook some work on the 13th century chancel and sanctuary and raised the roofs. In the 1980-1990s a major redecoration took place and what is presented today is an uncluttered, spacious interior, well lit from the largely clear lights in the windows and warmth offered by the

ochre painted walls. In a corner is a display of an old set of hand bells, a reminder of the village's heritage of bell founding (three of the eight church bells were cast locally in the 18th century) and also kept is a pair of village fire engines, made in London in 1778.

The village of **Ogbourne St. Andrew** was a short drive west down to the Og Valley. Here at **St. Andrew's Church** willow and pollarded lime trees skirt the church yard which at its eastern end contains amongst trees the site of an Early Bronze Age round barrow. The church has a simple castellated west tower, a short clerestoried nave and squat roof. The north doorway with Norman decoration is matched by a comparable south door. John introduced us to Bruce Fox who has made a study of the archaeology and early church history of this ancient site. He drew our attention to a small display featuring the ongoing research and excavations on the

barrow and its burials dating from at least 2,500 BC. On the church he explained that a 12th century construction was built over a Saxon one. It was probably used by a cell of monks governed by the Abbey of Bec Hellouin, Normandy. Later connections with St. George's Windsor, Charterhouse, London, and King's College, Cambridge, then ensued. St. Andrew's shared in this complex medieval history with neighbouring Ogbourne St. George; today both churches form part of the Ridgeway Benefice.

Architectural features include Norman arcades with round piers and simply carved capitals, a 13th century chancel and a 15th century tower the base of which was fitted into the westernmost bay of the nave. It displays an attractive tierceron vault with roof bosses and a central opening for bell ropes from the belfry. Curious stone corbels and pilgrims' markings were pointed out. Victorian



St George, Ogbourne



touches occur in restoration work by the architect, William Butterfield, in a Lavers and Westlake stained glass window depicting the four cardinal virtues and in low pine benches.

As at Aldbourne, the local, landowning Goddard family is represented. In a good monument of 1665; William and Elizabeth sit within a round recess, below are their eight children, six of whom, like their parents, clutch skulls. Also buried in the chancel is Obidiah Sedgwick, puritan preacher and author who was active during the English Civil War. The Victorian civil engineer, Sir Samuel Canning, is remembered in a simple tablet; he laid the first transatlantic cable in 1857-58.

Only just absorbing the outline of this church's rich history we left to fit in lunch at the local Silks on the Downs pub (very good). We then headed back up the road to the small village of **Ogbourne**

St. George to find its tucked away, well proportioned church of rubble, flint and limestone dressings. It has neat, Perpendicular square headed windows and a simple tower of the same period. Passing through the 13th century south door we found ourselves in the three bay nave with Early English pointed arches on round columns some of which had simple leaf carvings on the capitals.

In his historical introduction John explained that by the 12th century a church existed here in the northernmost settlement of the Og Valley. In 1148 Maud of Wallingford endowed a priory on this site to the previously mentioned Abbey of Bec Hellouin, in Normandy. The Abbey's estates in the south of England were to be administered by the priory up to the 15th century. The Manor of Great Ogbourne had gained prominence and prosperity and like Ogbourne St. Andrew, it was bound briefly to Charterhouse and for centuries

to King's College, Cambridge. By the 14th century the dedication to St George was established. Alterations were made in the 15th and 16th centuries and much restoration work was undertaken by T. H. Wyatt, Diocesan architect, around 1873. The Victorians made their mark in memorable images of a bold, blue painted banner above the chancel arch with a text proclaiming 'Glory to God in the Highest', also the bright stained glass of the east window and, to either side of it, in the equally colourful, large mosaic panels of the Annunciation and the Nativity, made by Powell, the prolific ecclesiastical decorators.

The rewarding experience of the tour thus far was to reach near saturation point when we hit **Mildenhall**, known as Minal, in the Kennet Valley, just east of Marlborough. The modest appearance of the small church of **St. John the Baptist** was not unlike those of the Ogbourne churches, although a closer inspection of the tower revealed Saxon and Norman elements. The interior offered a bigger



surprise in the unified presentation and fine workmanship in the joinery of the pulpit and matching reading desk, Commandments board above the altar, pews and shapely west gallery. This 1816 treatment was the culmination of badly needed restoration works, sponsored by local landowners at a cost of £2,000. By virtue of its distinctive charm, this interior precluded any late Victorian 'beautification' project. John quoted Betjeman's fulsome description, from the nave's robust, late Norman arcade and chancel arch down to the 1816 red leather kneelers (still there) by the Chippendale style communion rails, from his 1952 book on British architecture, 'First and Last Loves'.

Having pointed out features of the building, John introduced us to David Sherratt who had prepared a small, detailed exhibition in the church to mark this year's 1816 bicentenary. He gave us an engaging account of the patronage and advancement of the Reverend Charles Francis, from Marlborough Grammar School boy to Rector of Minal's church; he died in 1821. We saw his wall monument, a white marble Gothick affair complete with a crocketed ogival arch and palm trees, by Harris of Bath. Noticeable on our departure was the small, stone relief placed in the porch to mark the Millennium. Sebastian Brooke carved The Lamb, symbol of St. John the Baptist. Then on to **Marlborough** towards the landmark tower of **St. Peter's Church** at

St Andrew, Ogbourne (Opposite)
St Sampson, Cricklade

the west end of the famous wide High Street. It has to be said that our leader's clever time-keeping had insured that we were able to enjoy pots of tea and cake in the coffee shop of this Redundant Church which is run by a charitable trust. As we sat in the high, spacious interior, John explained that a Norman church had served a nearby castle just outside the town wall but it was replaced by a Perpendicular building in the 15th century. Its tower with plain pinnacles similar to those of some other substantial churches in Wiltshire, was restored in 1862 by, again, T. H. Wyatt. He also replaced an old barrel roof in the nave and fortunately spared the tierceron rib vaulting of the chancel. Wyatt was probably responsible for the bold decorative text at Ogbourne St. George's and chances are he struck again here in the same emphatic way with a banner over the chancel arch which bears a text from scripture.

Amongst the many Georgian and Victorian wall hung monuments is a small early 17th century tablet with two quaint kneeling figures, set there in remembrance of three children of Sir Nicholas Hyde, Lord Chief Justice. The historical fact inserted into any description of this church is that Thomas Wolsey, later Cardinal, was ordained here in March, 1498.

The Chairman, Martin Knight, expressed our thanks to John Osborne for researching, planning and presenting the day's very enjoyable and informative excursion.



St Peter's, Malborough

Tour of Churches in and around Devizes on Saturday 3rd September 2016 led by David Evans *by Nigel Jackson*

Twenty-six members of the Friends assembled in the foyer of **St Andrew's Church** in Long Street, Devizes on a day forecast for heavy rain. Fortified by coffee and with an eye on the weather, they then walked across the road to visit **St John's Church**.

Built from 1120 to 1130, this major Norman church was inside the original castle baile. Reflecting the early patronage and development by Bishops Osmond and Roger of Sarum and subsequent development of the civil town and military garrison of Devizes, it now combines Norman, late medieval and 19th century architecture. Devizes Castle was attacked in the Civil War and the east wall of the church is peppered with the shot marks.

The views from the Tower – climbed by around half of the Friends group – showed up the significance of the church being sited on a high outcrop of rock that provides panoramic views of the town.

The internal highlights of this Grade 1 church include the splendid Norman Chancel, the Beauchamp Chapel (1492), the interesting 19th Century use of stone from Box and Chilmark in the two-tone columns and the Victorian stained glass window.

The group then walked through the town centre to **St Mary's Church**, which is now used only occasionally for worship and is being actively considered for other uses.

Another originally Norman construction with a dominating tower, this town church was extensively changed in the 15th century. An inscription in the roof records this rebuilding by William Smith, who died in 1436. The highlights of the church are the Norman Chancel, the high Perpendicular archway to the tower and the embattled porch, with Norman zig-zag bands carved into the stone archway.

The Castle Hotel provided lunchtime sustenance for the group. It then rained heavily!

The group started in the afternoon at **St Nicholas, Bromham**, where we were hosted by the Churchwarden.

This very attractive Grade 1 church owes much to its Norman heritage and linkage to Battle Abbey. The church was enlarged by 1400, a spire was added by the Lord of the Manor by 1500 and the Chancel was changed three times – once without a Faculty, which incurred the wrath of the Bishop and Chancellor.



St Mary's, Bishops Canning and (below) detail of entrance

The Baynton Chapel, with its decorated ceiling, alabaster knight's tomb of Sir Richard Tocotes, memorials, brasses and stained glass windows, was a wonderful sight. The link to the Irish poet, Thomas Moore, who was buried in the churchyard, has also been cherished.

Our next stop was at **St Mary the Virgin, Bishops Canning.**

This large village church is known locally as the Cathedral of Pewsey Vale. The Early English work throughout the church includes a long Chancel that is almost cut off from the rest of the church and grand arches in the nave.

It was developed in the 13th and 14th centuries by the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral. The East side of

the Transept is uniquely odd, as is the penitential seat with Latin inscriptions. The final visit was to Etchilhampton to see **St Andrew's Church**, a 14th century building which was changed in Victorian times.

The box pews were retained and stand out, as does a 14th century carving of the Archangel Gabriel and a knight's tomb of the same date.

There is also a Simon Whistler Millennium engraved glass window with local scenes, including the Long Memorial, in the north wall.

It was an excellent day, with a wide variety of significant churches and fascinating national and local history to absorb. Many thanks to David Evans for planning and leading this very informative and enjoyable tour and for sharing his encyclopaedic knowledge of these particularly well-chosen Wiltshire churches.



Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust (WHCT) Treasurer's report for the year ended 31st March 2016

by Peter Smith, Hon Treasurer

The net assets of the WHCT stood as of 31st March 2016 at £249,000 (£292k, 2015).

The gross income of the WHCT for the year was just short of £96,000 (£100k, 2015).

The Friends had income of £14,270 from membership fees and Gift Aid; £6280 from activities; £6350 from donations (including £4400 from the Wiltshire Masters Golf Day); £970 from ongoing sales of Brian Woodruffe's book *The Parish Churches of Wiltshire* and £1500 from the sale of Christmas cards: a total of £29,370.

Against this costs of £2840 (mainly postages and printing) were incurred, leading to a profit for the year of £26,530 (£24k, 2015).

The WHCT gave 34 grants totalling £100,400 for the year to 31st March 2016.

Full details of the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 are available for viewing online at the Charity Commission website (www.charitycommission.gov.uk) by entering the WHCT's Registered Charity Number 1075598.

St Mary's, Bourne Street (see p 15)





Legacies

Please remember the Wiltshire
Historic Churches Trust in your will.
The Registered Charity number of the
WHCT is 1075598.