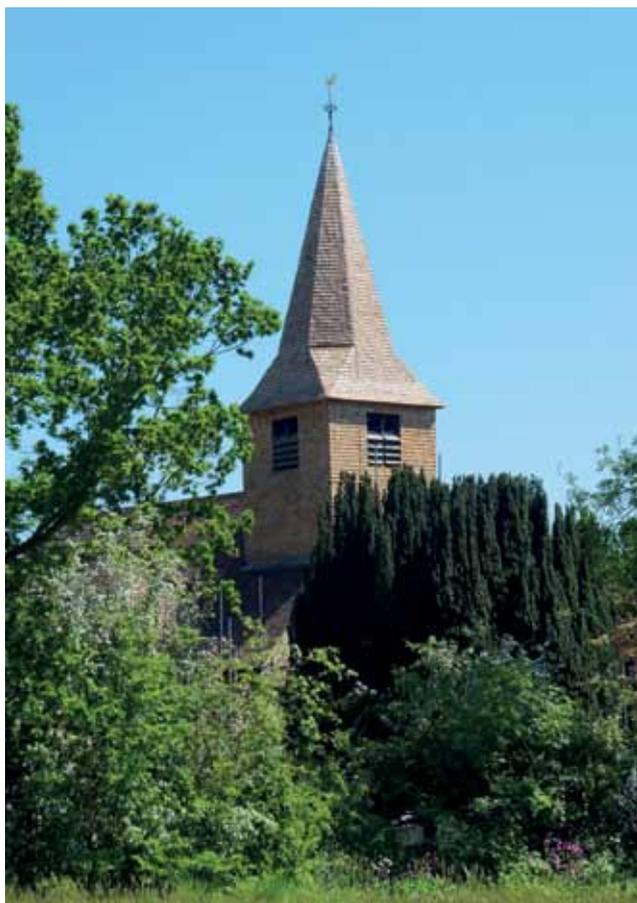


# News & Annual Report 2013



Major work completed at St Peter's, Great Totham.  
Read the full story on Page 3

## Inside this newsletter

- 2 Message from our Chairman
- 3 Where does the money go?
- 4 A successful year for events
- 5 Grant offers top £100,000
- 7 2012 grant offers in full
- 8 Ride and Stride – £89,000 raised... and still counting
- 9 Study Days
- 10 Simon Heffer heads our line-up for 2013
- 12 You are our backbone
- 13 Subscriptions  
Gift Aid  
Treasurer's Report
- 14 Treasurer's Report and Summarised Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012
- 16 Legacies

# Message from our Chairman

The Friends of Essex Churches Trust was founded in 1951 and was one of the very first of the county trusts. The need was particularly great in Essex – which, for the purposes of the Trust, includes East London as far west as Stratford – because of the damage caused to our churches during the Second World War.

Since then the situation has improved greatly, and it is now quite rare, not to say shocking, to go into a church and find that it is damp, or seems otherwise neglected. Most churches are wind- and water-tight, and more often than not there is a lavatory and facilities for making a cup of coffee and washing up afterwards.

But the amount of effort that goes into achieving this improved state of affairs should not be underestimated.

Grants from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund are a great help, but benefit only a small number of churches with the biggest problems.

Churchwardens have to cope with the uncertainty of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, and the sometimes baffling requirements of English Nature with regard to the protection of bats.

Then, just as enough money has been raised to embark upon a long-cherished project, the lead is stolen from the roof and the replacement of that has to take priority, and it's back to square one on fund-raising.



But in spite of these hurdles to overcome, parishes do manage not just to stand still, but to move forward, in terms of looking after and improving their buildings. It's tempting, sometimes, to think in terms of miracles.

**“We are proud to be able to help the churches of Essex and East London with their repairs, and are enormously grateful to our members and other supporters for enabling us to do so.”**

We are proud to be able to help the churches of Essex and East London with their repairs, and are enormously grateful to our members and other supporters for enabling us to do so.

I should like to record my personal thanks and warmest wishes to my predecessor, Claire Cottrell, for all her contributions to the Friends, and to Don Woracker, who has retired from the Executive Committee having led the Southend Branch with distinction for many years.

**James Bettley**



*St Peter's, Great Totham under wraps...*

## Where does the money go?

St Peter's, Great Totham, was hidden by scaffolding during the first five months of 2012 while the roofs were re-tiled and the spire re-shingled (and the weathervane re-gilded). This major work was supported by a grant of £10,000 from the Friends. You can read more about St Peter's in the Featured Church section of our website [www.foect.org.uk/church\\_of\\_the\\_month/featured\\_church.htm](http://www.foect.org.uk/church_of_the_month/featured_church.htm).

If you would like your church to be featured in the website, please email [jamesbettley@btinternet.com](mailto:jamesbettley@btinternet.com).



*...and with the tiles stacked up inside the covers*

# A successful year for events

We have had a most successful and varied year. Our first event was held in March, a bridge drive in the Salings Millennium Hall. With the help of Patricia O’Gorman the afternoon ran smoothly. A delicious tea was served during which a raffle was drawn.

We were due to have visited the gardens of Philippa Burrough at Ulting Wick in May, but due to the atrocious weather this had to be cancelled. This was



*Pictured at our Christmas Fair in Hylands House (left to right) Katie Griffith-Jones, Caroline Hely Hutchinson, Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell – Bishop of Chelmsford, Catharine Hutley and James Bettley*

extremely sad as many people had been due to attend. Fortunately we have the opportunity to re-arrange the event on Tuesday, 30 April 2013, when we shall be praying for a beautiful day.

The annual Christmas Fair was again

held at Hylands Park in October. The fair was opened by The Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell. He was most interested to see the wide range of stalls and the variety of merchandise on offer. A very successful day with the takings slightly up on 2011, which was most heartening. Our Christmas Fair has become a popular and highly rated event for shoppers and stall holders alike.

In November we hosted the Brentwood School Big Band in St Andrew’s Church, Hatfield Peverel. An audience of about 120 were entertained to a truly memorable concert given by the young and very talented group. The acoustics in the church combined with the wonderful architecture made the evening very special.

Our annual Christmas card featured the alterpiece of St Mary the Virgin, Great Canfield. The photos for the card were taken by one of our members, Roger Jiggins. The image proved very popular and the card sold out extremely quickly.

I am grateful to Katie Griffith-Jones, who has stood down as events chairman, for her hard work on behalf of The Friends.

**Catharine Hutley,  
Chairman – Events Committee**

E-mail [events@foect.org.uk](mailto:events@foect.org.uk),  
tel 01371 820344

# Grant offers top £100,000

For the first time in recent years the number of grant applications fell to nineteen. The previous year had been a high of twenty-nine. The fall is probably due to the continuing recession, creating fund raising difficulties. The applications were spread throughout the year and required the committee to meet on the usual four occasions. Thanks should again be extended to the committee members who both attend the meetings and visit the churches applying for grants. All of the committee have been members for many years and it is therefore sad that this year our numbers have been seriously depleted by those who have retired.

The chairman has written personally to each retiree thanking them for their excellent work and it is only right that each one of them should receive a special mention in this report: Bill Morris, Eileen Hance, Sir Alastair Stewart and Jim Boutwood. Fortunately three new members have been found and will be joining the committee in 2013.

At the end of the 2011 report, attention was drawn to the grant budget for 2012 which was likely to be significantly lower than the previous year. The budget for the year was set by the Executive at £120,000 and at the first two meetings it looked as though funding would be exhausted before the last meeting. It eventually transpired that there were only three applications in September and five in November. The total amount finally offered was £104,500; the balance as always will be carried forward

to 2013. The final result again showed that the way the committee works, taking each application on its merits and not worrying that there may be a lack of money at later meetings, is the right way to proceed.

The grants offered ranged from £1,000 to £10,000 and covered a wide range of repairs. Every year includes quite a number of roof repairs and 2012 was no exception. Included among them was the church of St Mary the Virgin, Newport. This building is one of the larger parish churches in the Diocese of Chelmsford and maintaining such a building is a heavy burden. Their current project is the re-leading of the chancel with associated masonry repairs. It is hoped that the grant offer of £10,000 will help to repair this magnificent edifice.

The committee are fully aware that minor repairs stave off further decay and were pleased to give a small grant of £1,000 to St Barnabas, Mayland for masonry repairs at low level around the church. The church of St Anne and St Laurence at Elmstead Market has some delightful box pews installed in 1821. The south set were repaired previously and it is now time to repair the north set. A grant offer of £5,000 has been made for this work and the associated plaster repairs using traditional lime plaster. Other grants cover many different aspects including the repair of a cupola, repairs to a timber turret and the repair of some important stained glass.

The applications for grants not only cover a wide range of repairs but also are

spread throughout the county. The range is from Quendon in the north-west to Manningtree in the east and down to the London boroughs in the south. There were actually six grant offers to these Boroughs, nearly one-third of the year's offers.

The committee were glad to receive two requests from non-Anglican churches, these being the Methodist churches of Tendring and Manningtree.

The partnership grants with the National Churches Trust entered their second year, although funding was reduced to £10,000. St John the Baptist, Little Maplestead and St Michael, Fobbing were put forward for £5,000 each.

As reported last year the changes made to the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme, whereby parishes can reclaim VAT expended on repairs, left some churches in

the country in a difficult financial position. The government, after some lobbying, recognised this problem and, although far too late for some parishes, have now increased the funding and it is hoped that in the coming year churches will receive a 100 per cent return.

The grant budget for 2013 will be set by the Executive at the first meeting of the year and it is hoped that the figure will not be significantly different from 2012. Applications from all denominations and for any type of repair will continue to be welcome in the year ahead.

**David Lodge, Chairman – Grants Committee**

- Application forms for grants are available from John Bloomfield, E-mail john.bloomfield@btinternet.com, tel 01708 745273



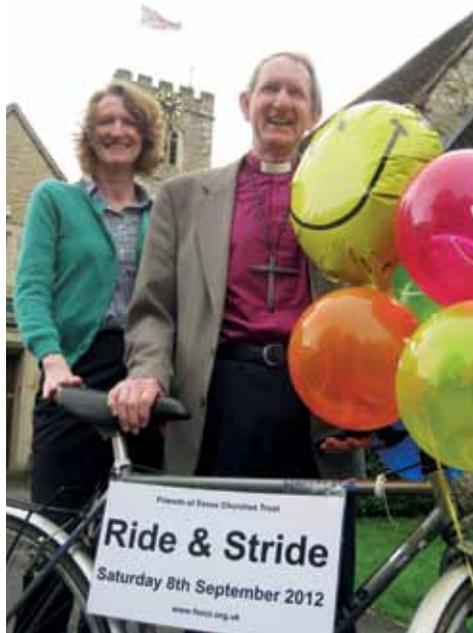
*Manningtree Methodist Church was offered a grant for cupola and stone repairs. The appeal was also supported by the Osborne Trust which awards grants to Methodist churches in Essex.*

# 2012 grant offers in full

Beneficiary	Repairs	Amount
Arkesden St Mary the Virgin	Masonry	£5,000
Ashen St Augustine of Canterbury	Buttress	£9,000
Barking St Patrick	Roof	£2,000
Bowers Gifford St Margaret	Floor	£3,000
Brentwood St Thomas	Roof	£8,000
East Mersea St Edmund	Plaster	£2,000
Elmstead Market St Anne and St Laurence	Box pew and plaster	£5,000
Great Ilford St Alban	Various	£4,000
Great Wigborough St Stephen	Tower masonry	£7,000
Leytonstone St John the Baptist	Plaster and masonry	£10,000
Loughton St Michael and All Angels	Roof	£2,000
Manningtree Methodist Church	Cupola and stone	£6,000
Mayland St Barnabas	Masonry repairs	£1,000
Newport St Mary the Virgin	Roof and masonry repairs	£10,000
Plaistow St Martin	Bellcote repairs	£7,000
Quendon St Simon and St Jude	Timber turret repairs	£6,000
Stapleford Tawney St Mary	Roof retiling	£6,000
Tendring Methodist Church	Stained glass	£1,500
West Ham All Saints	Porch stonework	£10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£104,500</b>

# Ride and Stride – £89,000 raised... and still counting

Once more we had glorious conditions for the Ride and Stride. “This year the weather provided everything. Sunshine and very light breezes, absolutely perfect cycling conditions.” “One of the best days, weather wise, I’ve ever known for the cycle ride. All the more amazing considering the summer we’ve (not) had”. Over 600 people were reported to be out and about riding and striding throughout Essex and East London and, at the time of going to print, we had raised £89,273.



*The Bishop of Barking launched the 2012 Ride and Stride at Barking Abbey with Philippa King from Plaistow Memorial Community Church*

For a second year, a group of pilgrims joined together to cycle from Barking to Waltham Abbey with slight variations to avoid the banned routes during the Paralympic Games; a group of 40 strode from Bentley Common to Navestock where they were welcomed to a church buzzing with activity as part of the national Heritage Open Day; the Rainbow and Brownie packs at St Margaret Church, Stanford-le-Hope held a sponsored walk around the grounds; and Mr Harrington from Lindsell, Dunmow took to his bike for the 29th year and cycled 51 miles visiting 17 churches.

As with other years, some churches reported that the number of visitors was down for the 2012 event, while others commented on the fact that numbers were up. St Edmund's, Ingatestone reported 70 visitors and St John's Leytonstone held an open afternoon and reported 50 visitors. Whilst not all of these visitors would have been Ride and Stride participants, it does show that there are people out there interested in visiting and finding out more about our county's churches. So please could all FECT members try to encourage their local church to open on Ride & Stride day and to promote the fact of their opening in local newspapers and church magazines. Why not combine the church opening with a coffee morning, exhibition or flower festival or get some tasks



*Ride and Stride with a difference - Mel and David Roberts took part in the Ride and Stride aboard their vintage tractor. They are pictured with Harlow MP, Robert Halfon at St Mary's, Sheering.*

done such as cleaning and churchyard maintenance? St Augustine's, Birdbrook used Ride & Stride day as a cleaning day and reported afterwards that they "sparkled".

Thank you to all who took part in the 2012 Ride and Stride. 2013 Ride & Stride will be on Saturday, 14 September.

**Fiona Nelmes,**  
**Organiser – Ride and Stride**

E-mail [fionanelmes@lineone.net](mailto:fionanelmes@lineone.net),  
tel 01245 380365

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## **Study Days** by our Vice-Chairman, **Christopher Starr**

Our two Study Days took place in May and October and on both days there was a good turnout of Friends and guests.

In May we visited a cluster of churches to the west of Maldon beginning at All Saints, Little Totham where we examined the mainly medieval church, hidden away from the rest of the village. Especially interesting was the eleventh-century north door, one of the few Norman doors to have survived in Essex. St Peter, Goldhanger followed, a Norman church extensively but not disastrously restored in the 1850s. Brasses to the Heigham family also caught our attention. Our next stop was at St Nicholas, Tolleshunt Major where the magnificent brick tower of about 1545 was commissioned by Stephen Beckingham the builder of Beckingham Hall next door; a notable example of a church/manor complex.

After a break for lunch we visited St Nicholas, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, a church closely associated with the D'Arcy family, many of whom are buried in the north chapel and whose memorial brasses line the walls. Later, at St Mary the Virgin, Tollesbury, the opportunity was taken to explore this fascinating church, perhaps once a minster, with its unique 'Swearing Font' paid for by a man who in 1718 was fined for swearing in the church. The AGM was held in the church following an address by the incumbent, Revd Geoff Bayliss. The Study Day concluded with a splendid tea in the church hall.

The theme of the October Study Day was churches in the Roding Valley (notorious in the Middle Ages for bad roads) and four of the seven Roding churches were visited, beginning at St Edmund, Abbess Roding. This medieval

church has a particularly fine eighteenth-century pulpit which retains its original tester and associated hourglass stand. St Michael and All Saints, Leaden Roding followed; here the pulpit is of the fifteenth century and one of the oldest in Essex. After lunch we visited the pleasant but heavily restored St Mary the Virgin church at Aythorpe Roding, still open despite the remoteness of the building and the small population of the village. We completed our tour of the Rodings at St Martin's church White Roding, recently refurbished with great care. The fine medieval roofs and the boldly decorated Norman font were some of the many items we focussed on in this building. We concluded our visit with welcome refreshments provided for us.

We are most grateful to incumbents, churchwardens and members of the congregation who made our visits possible, particularly for ensuring that churches were open on the day and refreshments were provided. I would also like to thank Sarah White for making the administrative arrangements which ensured our smooth progress from church to church. It is hoped that Friends will not only attend the next Study Day on Wednesday 8 May 2013, but also bring guests to join us; they



*Stained glass window at St Nicholas, Tolleshunt D'Arcy*

will be very welcome. Our May Study Day will include the parish churches of Ardleigh, Boxted, Great Horkesley and Langham.

- An article, "Ancient Essex churches in the modern landscape" by Christopher Starr appeared in the October 2012 issue of *Essex Life* and can be downloaded from [www.foect.org.uk/news/archive.php](http://www.foect.org.uk/news/archive.php)

## Simon Heffer heads our line-up for 2013

Author, journalist and columnist, Dr Simon Heffer will be the star attraction following our AGM on 16 May 2013 (see opposite).



*Simon Heffer (picture courtesy of Daily Telegraph)*

# Events

## **Tuesday 30 April - Visit to Ulting Wick**

An opportunity to visit Philippa Burrough's garden at Ulting Wick on the afternoon of Tuesday 30 April. Please email [events@foect.org.uk](mailto:events@foect.org.uk) for further details. Find details of the garden at [www.ultingwickgarden.co.uk](http://www.ultingwickgarden.co.uk)

## **Wednesday 8 May - Spring Study Day**

The Spring Study Day will be visiting churches at Ardleigh, Langham, Boxted, and Great Horkesley. Find out more at [www.foect.org.uk/studydays.php](http://www.foect.org.uk/studydays.php)

## **Thursday 16 May - Talk by Dr Simon Heffer**

Evening lecture by the author, journalist and columnist Dr Simon Heffer, at All Saints, Writtle CMI 3EN at 8.15pm, following the Annual General Meeting at 7.15pm and refreshments from 7.45pm. Open to members and non-members; admission free. Please email [jamesbettley@btinternet.com](mailto:jamesbettley@btinternet.com) to be sent further information; it would help us to know if you are planning to attend.

## **Thursday 11 July - Wine-tasting Evening**

We are planning a combined event hosted by the High Sheriff, our former chairman, Julia Abel Smith. This is still at the planning stage, but we hope to have a wine tasting with the guests bringing their own picnic supper. Proceeds to be shared with the High Sheriff's Fund.

## **Saturday 14 September - Ride & Stride**

To raise funds for the Trust and participating churches. 10.00 am to 6.00 pm. Everyone can ride, stride, steward or sponsor! Further information at [www.foect.org.uk/rideandstride](http://www.foect.org.uk/rideandstride)

## **Saturday 5 October - Autumn Study Day**

More information will be published at [www.foect.org.uk/studydays.php](http://www.foect.org.uk/studydays.php)

## **16 October - Christmas Fair**

At Hylands Park, Chelmsford

All Friends of Essex Churches events for 2013 can be found at [www.foect.org.uk/events.php](http://www.foect.org.uk/events.php)

# You are our backbone – A “thank you” from our Hon. Membership Secretary

Our members are the backbone of the Trust. That is why we value you so much.

2012 was the year of the twelves! It saw the start of a special effort to garner new “Friends of Essex Churches”. I am pleased to say this resulted in two-times-twelve new people becoming members. But as usual there are losses. Twelve this year means that, despite our efforts, the net gain is only twelve. At the end of December our membership stood at just over 550, counting couples as one; say 800 in all.

The most effective recruitment avenue was “one to one” contacts. Are there any people you know who might like to be with us? If so, ask me, **Keith Gardner**, to send you or them an invitation. I am on **01708 688576** and **keith@thegreenwood.me.uk**. Please search your minds and address books.

We also continue to seek new members through increased publicity. And we are examining reciprocal mailing with likeminded organisations and making presentations to groups such as Essex U3As. First steps have been taken to procure the sponsorship of essential tasks costing money which could otherwise be given in grants.

Church congregations are also very supportive. One way and another, our efforts mean 20 more made contributions than in the previous year. Our thanks are due and given.

An analysis of where our money comes from and where it goes to was made to assist in the recruitment effort. It was very revealing and, amongst others, it highlighted Newham Deanery as having potential. The chairman and I addressed their Synod in February and received a warm welcome. The outcome will be interesting and the analysis will be of future use.

In 2012 our members have been very generous. Their individual subscriptions, including the gift aid earned on them, come to £22,696.38. To this must be added the contributions from churches of £12,572.31 and one off donations of £10,415.00. A very grand total of £45,683.69. This compares favourably with previous years. My task is to make 2013 even more favourable. For this I need your help. Personal one-to-one contact cannot be beaten.

Every donation is a valuable donation. We have been very fortunate in receiving large amounts from The Augustine Courtauld Trust, The Drapers Company, Lodge & Sons (Builders) and gifts in memory of Tom Gepp, a long standing member and former Chairman of The Friends. Many churches are very regular in their giving and give according to their means. Very notable amounts have been received from St Paul Goodmayes, Danbury and Stebbing; each of £500 or more.

My thanks to you all and do try to recruit someone you know.

# Subscriptions – a reminder

Many of you will have committed your contribution to us by Standing Order. Others will have already sent me a cheque. For everyone else, now is the best time to renew. A renewal sheet is enclosed to make the task easy. If you would like to set up a Standing Order or have not already Gift Aided your subscription, there are sections for this on the renewal sheet. Please remember that any new Standing Order will cancel an existing one.

To keep our overheads to a minimum, we do not acknowledge subscriptions as a matter of course. Please accept our thanks now. If you would like a receipt, please indicate accordingly when you complete the renewal form and I will be happy to send one.

**Keith Gardner,**  
**Honorary Membership Secretary**

E-mail [keith@thegreenwood.me.uk](mailto:keith@thegreenwood.me.uk),  
tel 01708 688576

## Gift Aid

The increased requirements of HM Revenue & Customs for information supporting Gift Aid claims from membership subscriptions and Ride and Stride income have made extra work for our Membership Secretary, Keith Gardner and our wonderful husband-and-wife team, Ray and Beryl Clements who account for the sponsorships of our Riders and Striders.

Our claims have complied with the new requirements and been approved by the authorities: grateful thanks to Keith, Beryl and Ray for all their hard work and dedication.

A small cash donations scheme starts in April. See [www.hmrc.gov.uk/charitiesonline](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charitiesonline).

**Alastair Stewart, Gift Aid Representative**

## Treasurer's Report

Our finances improved significantly in 2012 with reserves increasing by over £100,000 to £466,056. The major reason was a legacy from the late Mrs Norma Radford of £76,000 for which we are grateful. The other main reason for this rise was an increase in our investments of over £21,000.

A donation of £8,000 boosted income. Other sources of income held up well, given the difficult economic climate.

Grants approved were lower by almost £25,000. This was not because of a policy of restraint but because of fewer suitable applications than in recent years. Our policy remains to provide assistance in repairing and restoring the fabric of churches in Essex.

Our Summarised Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012 are overleaf.

**Philip Smith, Hon. Treasurer**

# Summarised accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012

## Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2012

Total 2011 £'000		Total 2012 £'000
36.8	Subscriptions and donations	45.7
1.5	Legacies	76.0
53.8	Fundraising - ride & stride	52.1
14.3	Fundraising - other events	15.8
12.6	Interest and dividends	12.3
<b>119.0</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>201.9</b>
(0.5)	Support costs	(0.5)
(2.0)	Governance costs	(2.0)
(2.7)	Fundraising/publicity costs	(2.9)
(3.7)	Fundraising expenses - ride & stride	(4.1)
(5.3)	Fundraising expenses - other events	(5.9)
(128.0)	Grants payable	(103.5)
<b>(142.2)</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>(118.9)</b>
(23.2)	Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	83.0
(13.6)	Gains/(losses) on investments	21.4
(36.8)	Net movement in Funds	104.4

## Summary balance sheet as at 31 December 2012

2011 £'000		2012 £'000
221.9	Investments - market value	243.3
196.8	Cash and deposits	296.0
6.9	Sundry debtors	12.2
<b>425.6</b>	<b>Total assets</b>	<b>551.5</b>
(62.0)	Undrawn grants	(83.5)
(1.9)	Creditors	(1.9)
<b>361.7</b>	<b>Net assets</b>	<b>466.1</b>
	<b>Represented by</b>	
361.7	General Fund (unrestricted)	466.1
361.7		466.1

# Auditors Statement to the Members of The Friends of Essex Churches Trust

We have examined the above summarised financial statements.

## **Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the summary financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendations of the charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustees' Annual Report.

We also read other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we became aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

## **Opinion**

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of The Friends of Essex Churches Trust for the year ended 31st December 2012.

## **Edmund Carr LLP**

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
146 New London Road  
Chelmsford  
Essex  
CM2 0AW

11th March 2013

# The Friends of Essex Churches Trust 2012-13

## **Patrons:**

The Bishop of Brentwood, the Bishop of Chelmsford, HM Lord Lieutenant of Essex.

## **President:**

George Courtauld, Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Essex.

## **Executive Council and Trustees:**

James Bettley (Chairman), Christopher Starr (Vice-Chairman), Philip Smith (Hon. Treasurer), Keith Gardner (Hon. Secretary & Hon. Membership Secretary), Jill Cole (joined March 2013), Catharine Hutley (joined September 2012), David Lodge, Ralph Meloy, Fiona Nelmes, Katie Griffith-Jones (resigned September 2012), Don Woracker (resigned September 2012).

## **Advisory Council:**

John Bloomfield, Ray Clements, Ann Hilder, David Hoppit, Simon Mynott, Neil Stedman, Sir Alastair Stewart, Sarah White.

We are grateful to all our supporters and members.

## **Legacies**

In 2012 we unexpectedly received a legacy of £76,000 from the late Mrs Norma Radford. Mrs Radford was not a member of the Friends, but she left a percentage of her estate to us by way of a “thank you” for all the pleasure that she and her late husband had derived from visiting churches throughout Essex. We have not yet decided how we should mark this extremely generous bequest.

Legacies are an important source of income for charities, and bequests to charity can reduce your liability to Inheritance Tax. We urge all our members to consider remembering us in their wills. Please contact the Hon. Treasurer if you would like advice on suitable wording: Philip Smith, 13 Britten Crescent, Great Baddow, Chelmsford CM2 7ER.