

# News & Annual Report 2020



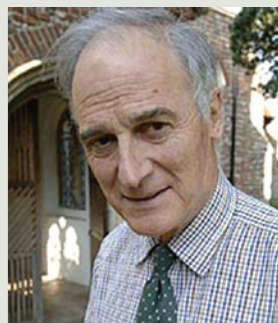
Caring for Christian churches and chapels in Essex and East London



**Monument commemorating William Harvey, 1719, and wife Bridgett, 1701, seen during the October Study Day at Hempstead, St Andrew.**

© David Carrington

## Inside this newsletter



**Quinlan Terry will give the Gepp Lecture on Thursday, 14th May. See page 12. Do bring a friend. The Lecture is open to non-members.**

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**The Friends of Essex Churches Trust 2019-20**

# Chairman's message



**Jeremy Beale**

This last year the Friends of Essex Churches Trust has become the conduit for grants for roof alarms to protect church roof lead. The funds have been granted by the Allchurches Trust and we welcome

applications. The need for roof alarms is a reminder of the many things that those who care for our places of worship have to think about. Not just the maintenance and improvement of buildings but also protection from thieves and vandals, not to mention things outside the grant-giving parameters for this charity – church halls, graveyards, etc. The task of looking after these buildings can sometimes seem daunting.

We aim to help churches, chapels and meeting houses, from village churches to the variety of religious buildings in our larger towns and the five London Boroughs that we cover. Almost all of these buildings are being looked after by volunteers, people like the membership of this charity who take pride in the public buildings that are places of devotion. I doubt I am alone in being both a supporter and a beneficiary of this charity. The village church in my home parish received a significant grant from the Friends in my childhood and very probably will be a future applicant. It is the mutuality

of friendship that is one of the main strengths of this charity. We are unable to give grants that fully fund most of the projects that are applied for but our Grants Committee advisors are knowledgeable and experienced, they often suggest other avenues of fund-raising. Our Study Days provide a wealth of information about the specific places of worship that are visited and also add to the wider appreciation and knowledge of our religious architecture. The shared history of our county's churches and chapels is both the purpose of this charity and its pleasure, the beauties and peculiarities of these buildings delight us now and will long outlast us. Thank you for your participation.

**Jeremy Beale**

**Chairman – Friends of Essex Churches Trust**



*Springtime at Stratford, St John the Evangelist.*

© David Richards

# Events

2019 began with a delightful evening of unaccompanied singing from 'Camerata' to an appreciative audience in Holy Trinity Church, Pleshey. The Events Committee made sure the patrons were well-rewarded for turning out on a winter's evening.

The AGM and Annual Gepp Lecture were held in St Peter's Church, Coggeshall. Brian Mooney gave a magnificently illustrated talk on 'pilgrimage without hullabaloo' from Coggeshall to Rome, inspiring the large audience to consider their own pilgrimages! The Committee excelled with delicious canapes, and Gepp and Sons kindly provided the refreshments.

By kind permission of Mr and Mrs James Bardrick, our Garden Open, at Scrips, Coggeshall Hamlet, allowed us to roam across a large and spectacular garden. A good sum was raised from visitors, and from sales of plants and cakes.

We held an extra event this year, when the High Sheriff offered use of his marquee and garden for an Antiques Valuations evening, in conjunction with Sworders and local expert, Bunny Campione. The large turnout was blessed with a beautiful sunny evening, raising an excellent sum shared between FECT and The High Sheriff's Fund.

The Fair at Hylands House, Chelmsford was opened by Katherine Jeffrey, Principal of New Hall School, who was delighted to find several alumni amongst the stallholders. The Fair was a resounding



*Katherine Jeffrey, Principal of New Hall School, opened our Gift Fair. © Rachel Grainger*

success, with profits up 12%. Emma Brice has shown tireless commitment as Fair organiser, with dedication, hard work and an inspired eye, and is to be congratulated on another great triumph.

Our Christmas card sold very well and featured 'the Adoration of the Shepherds', a 19th century copy of a work by 17th century artist Bartolome Esteban Murillo, which hangs in St Peter's Church, Goldhanger.

Finally, I would like to praise the Committee for their hard work, enthusiasm and unfailing good humour in devising and organising the events, and effortlessly providing an enormous array of delicacies – the match of any Bake Off finalist!

Jo Pimblett now takes the helm and I wish her every success as chairman.

**Rachel Grainger**  
**Chairman – Events Committee**  
Email: [events@foect.org.uk](mailto:events@foect.org.uk)

# Grants

The Grants Committee met four times in the year; between meetings a member of the Committee visited every church and chapel from whom applications which could qualify for a grant were received.

Over the twenty years or so that I have been a member of the Committee, the size of the grants we are able to make has slowly increased, and we have expanded the range of our grants to include some improvements. I wonder if the people who are seeking to repair their churches and chapels fully understand what we do. We are here to help any Christian church in the historic county of Essex, which includes a lot of the east of Greater London, in as far as Stratford.

There are fewer applications than I would expect from three groups. They are non-Conformist, Roman Catholic and Greater London churches and chapels. We do try to let these groups know of our willingness to help them, but with limited results.

The members of the Committee are always willing to meet with church leaders, to look at their building, and advise on the likelihood of work they wish to do qualifying for a grant. The Chairman and the Secretary are available too, to deal with emergency requests, such as that this year when in the course of work they were self-funding, Ardleigh church uncovered asbestos beneath the floor, bringing work

to a standstill and substantially increasing the cost. The Trust was able to give them help so the asbestos could be removed and the work could go ahead.

We are always pleased to be consulted.

In the past year we have made twenty repair grants and three improvement grants. The largest sum we have given is £15,000 to each of Farnham (Improvement), Hadstock (Repair) and the smallest £2,000 to Little Chishill (Repair), Middleton (Repair) and North Ockendon (Repair). There is no rule limiting us to any particular percentage of the money required by an applicant. We are keen to help, unless it is clear that there are already adequate funds held for the work to be done. We are inclined to be more helpful to those who are making efforts to raise money locally.

We now have funds from the Allchurches Trust Limited for grants to help with the cost of installing roof alarms to help to deter thefts of lead, copper and other material from church roofs. These grants will usually be £2,000 but this may vary depending on the cost of the work. We are keen to encourage applications for these grants and wish their availability to be widely known.

We are currently giving serious thought about awarding a grant at an early stage where work is to be carried out in stages and there are funds for the first stage held





*Roof repairs in progress at Castle Hedingham, St Nicholas. © Martin Stuchfield*



*Roof repairs and replacement of rainwater goods at Great Sampford, St Michael. © Martin Stuchfield*

by the place of worship but not enough for the later stages. The idea being that an early grant from us might persuade other grant making authorities to help the whole scheme. We have not yet reached a conclusion about this; one problem being uncertainty that the later stages will actually go ahead.

The Committee is not a static body; we are always looking for new members, people who are willing to look at churches and chapels which wish to carry out work, to report to the Committee on what they find, so we can have an informed discussion

at our meetings, when we consider the application. The member who made the site visit will lead this discussion. It is a worthwhile and interesting task. Please approach the Chairman or the Secretary if you would like to help us.

**Lance Lepper**  
**Chairman – Grants Committee**  
Tel: 01245 400284

**Application forms for grants are available from John Bloomfield**  
Email: [john.bloomfield@btinternet.com](mailto:john.bloomfield@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 01708 745273

# 2019 grant offers in full

## Repairs

Beneficiary	Repairs	Amount
Ardleigh, St Mary the Virgin	Heating system	£10,000
Beauchamp Roding, St Botolph	Chancel ceiling repairs	£5,000
Berden, St Nicholas	Roof repairs	£6,000
Castle Hedingham, St Nicholas	Roof repairs	£7,500
Creeksea, All Saints	Roof repairs	£10,000
Great Bromley, St George	Floor repairs to north aisle	£5,000
Great Sampford, Baptist Church	Replacement of windows and masonry repairs	£7,000
Great Sampford, St Michael	Roof repairs and replacement of rainwater goods	£7,500
Great Wigborough, St Stephen	Floor repairs to nave and south porch	£9,000
Hadstock, St Botolph	Replacement of rainwater goods, coping stones and works to the nave and north porch	£15,000

Beneficiary	Repairs	Amount
Ingrave, St Nicholas	Tower repairs	£3,000
Little Chishill, St Nicholas	Repairs and re-plastering	£2,000
Little Tey, St James the Less	Stabilisation of tower cracks	£5,000
Middleton, All Saints	Barge board repairs and tile replacement to spire/tower roof	£2,000
Moulsham, St John the Evangelist	Roof repairs and drainage works	£6,000
North Ockendon, St Mary Magdalene	Tower repairs and internal re-plastering	£2,000
Saffron Walden, Abbey Lane URC	Ceiling and plaster repairs	£10,000
Shalford, St Andrew	Replacement of stolen lead	£9,000
Tolleshunt D'Arcy, St Nicholas	Turret bracing and tower repairs	£10,000
Widdington, St Mary the Virgin	Tower repairs	£5,000
TOTAL		£136,000

## Improvements

Beneficiary	Improvements	Amount
Colchester, St James the Great	Lavatory and associated drainage	£5,000
Farnham, St Mary the Virgin	Kitchen/servery and lavatory	£15,000
Feering, All Saints	Kitchen/servery and lavatory	£10,000
TOTAL		£30,000



**Floor repairs at Great Bromley, St George.**  
© Martin Stuchfield



**Replacement of stolen lead at Shalford, St Andrew.** © Martin Stuchfield

# Ride+Stride 2019

After the encouraging lift given to the event by the Archdeacon's valiant ride around the boundaries of his Stansted archdeaconry in 2018, it is disappointing to have to record that the momentum was not continued into this year's Ride+Stride. Both the numbers taking part and the churches opening for the event were down in 2019, not just in Essex but across the country, and much thought has been going into the reasons for this.

It is a useful national convention that Ride+Stride always occurs on the second Saturday in September, as it helps planning and the raising of sponsorship. However, this can also mean that autumn is starting to set in, and minds become more focused on post-summer holiday activities. The event took place on 14th September in 2019, the last possible date that it can take place, and a good week after many of the schools had returned. Regrettably, this caused a clash with several other events that were taking place on that day, including a confirmation in Chelmsford that prevented some of the clergy who had been involved in previous years from participating.

However, for those taking part, Ride+Stride offered the usual opportunities to see some of Essex's wonderful churches, and explore routes that the usual Saturday pelotons do not take. For those taking

part, the day was pleasant and dry. I was cycling in the north of the county, where the temptation to follow the path set by the Tour de France during its most recent visit to this country (Great Chesterford, Saffron Walden, Finchingfield, Felsted, etc.) proves irresistible to those just interested in clocking up miles. I patiently explain that this is not an event to compare oneself against the likes of Chris Froome or Geraint Thomas, but an opportunity to get to some of those spires that you might flash by, and to use some of the quieter, less traffic bound roads. I'm not sure that younger speedsters appreciate that one can have just as enjoyable day out without setting a personal best for miles covered; indeed, this is an event where you can take as much pleasure in the 'pit stops' as you do in the saddle.

For the record, Ride+Stride has raised over £40,000 at the time of writing. St Thomas', Brentwood recaptured their crown as the leading fundraiser, having been overtaken by St Mary's, Saffron Walden in 2018.

As in so many previous years, our deep gratitude to Ray and Beryl Clements for all their hard work.

**John Pickthorn**

**Organiser – Ride+Stride**

Email: jejpickthorn@gmail.com

Tel: 01799 523311

**THE 2020 RIDE+STRIDE WILL TAKE PLACE ON 12TH SEPTEMBER**





**Wendens Ambo, St Mary the Virgin.**

© John Pickthorn



**South Woodford, Holy Trinity.**

© Pat Mossop



**Upminster, St Laurence.**

© Robert Brabner

# Study Days

The first of our two Study Days in 2019 was led by Dr Christopher Starr, his last as the main leader at these events. Christopher has been organising these days since October 2009 (supported by his wife Susan with the administrative arrangements since 2015) and felt that it was time to pass the baton. Christopher's Study Days have been a delight to the many members who attend, full of information – historical, architectural and unexpected – and always entertaining. Future Study Days will have alternating speakers, some of whom will be very well-known to members.

Christopher took us first to All Saints, Rettendon with its fine hilltop location and its surprisingly large monument to Edmund Humphrey. Then to St Mary, Runwell where there are two 15th century wooden porches, some fragments of medieval wall paint and a rather startling 20th century decorative painting of monuments and wooden furnishings. In the afternoon we went to St Mary and St Edward, West Hanningfield where there is an intricately timbered semi-detached tower and obvious evidence of the repeated building and rebuilding that many ancient churches have undergone. Lastly St Mary the Virgin, Woodham Ferrers with its 15th century wall painting and the fine monument, erected in 1619, to Cecilie Sandys, wife of the Archbishop of York.

The October Study Day to a group of four medieval churches in north Essex was led by Dr David Andrews, the well

known Essex historian, and organised by Martin Stuchfield, our Vice-Chairman and Hon Secretary. The day commenced with a visit to St Andrew's church at Hempstead that was consecrated in 1365 as a chapel-of-ease to Great Sampford. Unfortunately the 15th century tower fell in 1882 resulting in the destruction of half the nave and part of the south aisle. The nave was restored in 1886-8 with the tower rebuilt in 1933-4 and completed in 1959-61. Notwithstanding, the building contains a remarkable series of monuments to members of the Harvey family including that to William Harvey, 1657, chief physician



*Detail from the monumental brass commemorating John Berners, esq., 1539, in armour with tabard at Finchingfield, St John the Baptist. © Martin Stuchfield*



to Charles I who discovered the circulation of blood. The party were afforded the rare opportunity to visit the crypt to see the remarkable early lead coffins of the Harvey family. Viewing of the collection of six medieval brasses and especially refreshments were greatly appreciated before travelling the short distance to Great Bardfield. Following a welcome from the vicar (Rev Dr Robert Beaken) the astonishing stone screen of 14th century origin, and slightly later in date than its counterpart at Stebbing, generated considerable interest. Attention was also drawn to the brasses commemorating William Bendlowes, a lawyer and a major benefactor, and his wife Eleanor, who both died in 1584. The Norman church at Finchingfield, occupying a lofty position above the quintessential village green, was the focus following lunch. The north chapel contains numerous memorials to members of the Kemp and Ruggles-Brise families not least that to Sir John Ruggles-Brise, 2nd Baronet, who served as Lord-Lieutenant from 1958-78, and who was so fondly remembered by



*Hempstead, St Andrew. © Martin Stuchfield*

many of those present. The fine brass commemorating John Berners, in armour with heraldic tabard, 1539, and his wife Elizabeth, 1523, adorning a fine altar tomb in the south chapel stimulated considerable interest. The day concluded with a sumptuous tea at Little Bardfield church. Although the church contains a tower of Anglo-Saxon date the building is chiefly renowned as a stunning example of Bodley's work dating from 1865-6.

**Jeremy Beale  
and Martin Stuchfield**



*Great Bardfield, St Mary the Virgin. © Pete Duxton*



*Little Bardfield, St Katharine. © Alamy*

# Upcoming events

## **WEDNESDAY, 6TH MAY – *Spring Study Day***

Our next study day, led by Martin Stuchfield, will visit Stock (C of E and RC churches), Ingatestone, Blackmore and Writtle. Details to follow.

## **THURSDAY, 14TH MAY – *Spring Meeting including AGM and Gepp Lecture***

Our Gepp Lecturer for 2020 will be Quinlan Terry the renowned classical Palladian architect who will speak on 'Brentwood Cathedral and the five Classical Orders'. Brentwood Cathedral, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AT at 8.15p.m., following the Annual General Meeting at 7.00p.m. and refreshments from 7.30p.m. Open to members and non-members; admission free. Please email [martinstuchfield@pentlowhall.uk](mailto:martinstuchfield@pentlowhall.uk) for further information; it would help us to know if you are planning to attend so that it is possible to gauge numbers for refreshments.

## **TUESDAY, 14TH JULY – *Garden Visit***

2.00p.m.-4.30p.m. The much-admired garden at Horkesley Hall will be opened for us to enjoy. Tickets are £13.50 each. Please make cheques payable to FECEC and send to: Jess Southwell, Conduit Farm, Birch Park, Colchester, Essex CO2 0LS. Tel: 01206 330338 or 07885 302339. Email: [jesscottrell74@gmail.com](mailto:jesscottrell74@gmail.com).

## **SATURDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER – *Ride+Stride***

9.00a.m.-5.00p.m. Take part in our sponsored cycle ride and walk. Visit unique churches, have fun with the family, enjoy some gentle exercise, and have a great day out in aid of a good cause. Download sponsorship and other forms from [www.friendsofsexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride](http://www.friendsofsexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride) and create your own fundraising page on [www.justgiving.com/foect](http://www.justgiving.com/foect).

## **WEDNESDAY, 14TH OCTOBER – *Gift Fair***

Our acclaimed Gift Fair at Hylands House, Chelmsford CM2 8WG is the perfect place to start your Christmas shopping. Light lunches will be available. Details to follow.

Find full and updated details of events at [www.friendsofsexchurches.org.uk/events](http://www.friendsofsexchurches.org.uk/events).



*Blackmore, St Laurence. © Alamy*



*Stock, All Saints. © Alamy*



# Membership and Gift Aid

Firstly, may I introduce myself as the new Membership Secretary. My name is Catherine Leeder (née Rayner) and I originate from Paglesham, a small village in south Essex, where I was born and raised on our family farm. I was pleased to discover that the Friends of Essex Churches awarded a grant of £9,000 in 2009 when major restoration works were carried out to the tower at St Peter's, Paglesham.

I moved to Richmonds Green, Thaxted four years ago, which is very different to the flat marshlands of Paglesham. The parish church of St John the Baptist with our Lady and St Lawrence is very much the focal point of Thaxted. It dominates the town and was once described as the finest parish church in the country.

I have very big boots to fill in taking over from Keith Gardner, who undertook the role for fourteen years and in that time really got to know the membership. I would personally like to thank Keith for his guidance during the handover period.

Membership is definitely not a dull task, as subscriptions and donations appear to be forthcoming throughout the year and in many different formats – cheques, standing order

payments and via CAF payments. Technology certainly helps to keep all in order, although sometimes it does also appear to make things a little complicated.

If you know of anyone who would like to become a member of Friends of Essex Churches Trust and would like some more information, please pass on my contact details.

## **Subscriptions, donations and Gift Aid**

Money is received throughout the year, with Gift Aid claimed on a large percentage thereby benefiting the work of the Trust.

Gift Aid is claimed in respect of UK taxpayers only and for every £1 donated an extra 25 pence is reclaimed by the Trust. For example, a subscription of £20 means that £5 can be reclaimed. If you are unsure whether or not Friends of Essex Churches is claiming Gift Aid against your subscription then please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Catherine Leeder**  
**Membership Secretary**

Email: leedercatherine@gmail.com

Tel: 07833 626843

# Summarised accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019

## Statement of financial activities

Total 2018 £'000		Total 2019 £'000
58.2	Donations and subscriptions	36.9
–	Restricted grant for church roof alarms	20.0
1.0	Legacies	62.5
50.0	Fundraising – Ride+Stride	33.9
19.5	– other events	29.3
14.1	Dividends and interest	11.3
<b>142.8</b>	<b>Total income</b>	<b>193.9</b>
(2.0)	Governance and support costs	(2.0)
(0.2)	Ride+Stride – fundraising expenses	(0.1)
(20.4)	– returned to churches	(14.6)
(5.4)	Other events – fundraising expenses	(10.7)
(2.5)	Promotion of public interest in churches	(1.5)
(83.6)	Grants for work payable to churches	(166.2)
<b>(114.1)</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>(195.1)</b>
28.7	Net income/(expenditure)	(1.2)
(27.4)	Unrealised (loss)/gain on investment	25.7
1.3	<b>Net increase in funds</b>	<b>24.5</b>

## Summary balance sheet as at 31st December 2019

2018 £'000		2019 £'000
180.4	Investment – market value	143.9
257.7	Cash and deposits	381.4
2.7	Sundry debtors	0.6
<b>440.8</b>	<b>Total assets</b>	<b>525.9</b>
(119.5)	Undrawn allocated grants	(180.0)
(1.5)	Accruals	(1.6)
<b>319.8</b>	<b>Net assets</b>	<b>344.3</b>
	<b>Represented by</b>	
319.8	General Fund (unrestricted)	324.3
–	Restricted Fund – grants for church roof alarms	20.0
<b>319.8</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>344.3</b>

# Treasurer's report

You may recall that 2018 was a bumper year for donations due to a £27,000 gift, but £37,000 was very welcome for 2019. In the past four years the total of legacies was very small and £62,000 this year was most welcome – and one large legacy is already expected in 2020.

Grants awarded were high at £166,000 and the £20,000 special grant received will be very useful in helping local churches to install roof alarms.

The value of our one investment rose again markedly, though part of the holding was sold as a precaution.

My thanks go to everyone who helped to provide funds in any of the various ways.

**Harry Marsh**  
**Treasurer**

Email: [harry.marsh@talktalk.net](mailto:harry.marsh@talktalk.net)  
Tel: 01245 478038

## Legacies

We are always saddened to learn of the death of members, but sometimes the news is accompanied by donations taken at the funeral, a thought that is greatly appreciated. We have also, over the years, received some very generous bequests. We urge all our members to consider remembering us in their wills;

bequests to charity can reduce liability to Inheritance Tax.

Please contact the Treasurer if you would like advice on suitable wording:  
Canon Harry Marsh, 5 Vicarage Lane,  
Great Baddow, Chelmsford CM2 8HY  
Email: [harry.marsh@talktalk.net](mailto:harry.marsh@talktalk.net)

## The Friends of Essex Churches Trust 2019-20

### Patrons

The Bishop of Brentwood  
The Bishop of Chelmsford  
HM Lord-Lieutenant of Essex

### President

Rt Revd Thomas McMahon

### Vice-Presidents

Dr James Bettley  
Lord Petre

### Executive Committee and Trustees

Jeremy Beale (Chairman)  
Martin Stuchfield, MBE JP DL  
(Vice-Chairman and Hon Secretary)  
Harry Marsh (Hon Treasurer)  
Jill Cole  
Rachel Grainger  
Catherine Leeder  
Lance Lepper  
David Lodge, MBE  
John Pickthorn



*Replacement of windows and masonry repairs in progress at Great Sampford, Baptist Church.*

© Martin Stuchfield



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