Gloucestershire
Historic Churches Trust

Helping historic churches – our living heritage

Annual Review 2022

www.ghct.org.uk

President

Edward Gillespie OBE
(HM Lord Lieutenant)

Vice-Presidents

Dame Janet Trotter DBE

Sir Henry Elwes KCVO

The Right Reverend Rachel Treweek
(Bishop of Gloucester)

The Right Reverend Declan Lang
(Bishop of Clifton)

The Right Reverend Vivienne Faull
(Bishop of Bristol)

The Reverend Nigel Coles
(Senior Regional Minister
West of England Baptist Network)

The Reverend Steve Faber
(Moderator, West Midlands Synod
United Reformed Church)

The Reverend Dr Jonathan Pye
(Chairman Bristol District –
The Methodist Church)

Sir Simon Jenkins

Members of the Council

Chair

Colin Senior*

Vice-Chair

Helen Whitbread*

Treasurer

David Kingsmill*

Secretary

Stephen Langton*

Chair, Grants Committee

Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis*

Council Members

Naomi Buckler
Tony Branson
James Drennan*
Revd Canon Michael Garland
Adam Klups
Jane Jenner-Fust
Simon Ray
Sue Pearce
Ray Singleton*

****Trustee***

Photographs

Our cover photo is a novel view of St Mary's Tetbury, by John Hudson ARPS. You will find more about his work on our website.

The photos of Quarry Chapel on pages 14-15 are by Marcus Green, and those of Didbrook on pages 10-11 are by Simon Ridley.

Other photos are by Jonathan MacKechnie Jarvis, who is also the Editor of the Annual Review.

The Aims and Objectives of the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

The Trust's Constitution states that: ***The object of the Charity is to advance the Christian religion by the preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement, upkeep, beautification and reconstruction of churches in Gloucestershire and of the monuments, fittings, fixtures, stained glass, furniture, ornaments, goods and chattels in such churches and of the churchyard belonging to any of such churches for the benefit of the public.***

In practice the Trust aims to achieve this object through:

- Making funds available to help places of Christian worship of all denominations with repairs and improvements to the fabric of the buildings and their contents, as well as their surrounding churchyards
- Assisting those responsible for the care of places used for public worship which belong to a Christian religious body

We therefore aim to:

- Maintain a large support base whose financial support will enable the Trust to carry out its work
- Foster an informed appreciation of the history, architecture and beauty of the churches and chapels and so provide a way for the wider community to help in maintaining that heritage
- Raise substantial funds through events, including the annual Ride+Stride event
- Cooperate with other grant-making bodies which have matching objectives

We thank our supporters for helping to make all this possible. Indeed, there has never been a more important time to give to the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust. Please continue to help us help churches!

Chair's Report

After last year's Anniversary celebrations, 2022 has been a year of building. We plan to expand GHCT's activities in the coming years, so we must upgrade our administration, our communications and our fundraising.

Our Council has been strengthened with three new recruits: Sue Pearce, Tony Branson and Simon Ray. They bring a wealth of skills, experience and enthusiasm, which will underpin our efforts in the coming years.

We also welcome as a new Vice-President the Rt Rev Vivienne Faull, Bishop of Bristol; an appointment that reflects the growing links between GHCT and the diocese of Bristol.

In 2022 we formed an alliance with the Julia and Hans Rausing Trust which alongside us has made grants totalling £50,000 to churches in Gloucestershire. JHRT has been very pleased with the partnership and we are delighted that it has committed a further £50,000 for 2023. All supporters of GHCT will be very grateful to Julia and Hans Rausing for their generosity to our churches.

During 2022 Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis and his team of volunteers have approved 30 grants for repairs and improvements to our churches and chapels. After ten years in the job, Jonathan is stepping down as Chair of GHCT's Grants Committee this summer and we are delighted that this critical role will be passing to Ray Singleton (who has so successfully masterminded Ride+Stride for the last three years). We are very glad that Jonathan intends to stay on as a Trustee and member of our Council.

GHCT is run entirely by volunteers. This means that virtually all of the funds we raise go to help our churches; but it also means that we constantly need new volunteers to help us with our work. If you would be interested in taking on a role within our team, please look at page 21 of this Annual Review. We would love to hear from you – email us on *administration@ghct.org.uk*.

Finally, I would like to express gratitude to all our donors, volunteers, Council Members and Trustees for everything that they do to support our work with churches in Gloucestershire and North Bristol.

Colin Senior Chair of Trustees

Frenchay, Unitarian chapel, c1720

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Income Funds	Capital Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
Income				
Donations, Legacies and Charitable Activities				
Subscriptions & Donations	£32,476	–	£32,476	£29,914
Legacies				£52,031
Grant from Diocesan Funds:				
Stratton Davis Bequest	£10,000	–	£10,000	£10,000
40th Anniversary Appeal				£44,730
Ride & Stride event – gross income	£23,401	–	£23,401	£36,915
Investments	£79,546	–	£79,546	£72,211
Total Income	**£145,423**		**£145,423**	**£245,801**
Expenditure				
Costs & Raising Funds				
Ride & Stride grants paid to churches	£11,365	–	£11,365	£16,867
Other fund raising costs	£4,506		£4,506	£11,320
Grants payable to Churches	£146,450	–	£146,450	£150,000
Other support costs	£8,738	–	£8,738	£6,864
Total Expenditure	**£171,059**	**–**	**£171,059**	**£185,051**
	(£25,636)	**–**	(£25,636)	£60,750
Gains/(Losses) on Revaluation Of Investments (Unrealised)	–	(£155,724)	(£155,724)	£181,401
Net Movement in Funds for Year	(£25,636)	(£155,724)	(£181,360)	£242,151
Total Funds brought forward	£8,854	£1,990,631	£1,999,485	£1,757,334
Transfer				
Total Funds Carried Forward	**(£16,782)**	**£1,834,907**	**£1,818,125**	**£1,999,485**

Follow us on social media

Our social media channels are a great place to keep up with current activities at Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust. We share updates on how your money has helped church buildings, upcoming events in our local area and ways you can get involved and support us. We also test our followers' local knowledge with our fortnightly "guess the church" posts.

We gained 574 new followers in 2022, and 7,700 people have engaged with our content since March 2022.

Find us here

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GloucestershireHistoricChurchesTrust

Twitter: @GlosHCT

Instagram: @gloucestershirechurchestrust

▼ *Framilode St Peter: apse ceiling*

Your donations in action ...

Each year we focus on several of the projects we have supported. We start with two remarkable stories of volunteer effort ... and specialist skills.

St Cyr's, Stinchcombe .... *Open to All*

For some churches, creating 'access for all' is a tough proposition. Anyone who knows St Cyr's, Stinchcombe will realise the problems. Steps up from the road, down into the churchyard and then up into the church, were truly a barrier to access for many. It is greatly to the credit of the church community that the problem has now been solved. Not only that, but in the same project, a much needed loo and kitchen facility were also provided.

No steps here now ... the team at Stinchcombe after completion of the access project.

The new loo and servery

St Cyr's came to us in 2021 with their scheme pretty much ready to go, but with a large amount still to find for their budget of some £83,000. Three things came over clearly from their application: a strong community-based need for the work, excellent planning, and a total determination to succeed. We were delighted to help with a total of £13,000 towards the project.

The "Open2All" project would not have happened but for a remarkable blend of local effort and expertise. Without this, the cost would have been far higher and quite possibly unattainable. Much of the planning was done by John Pinch, who lives nearby and who has designed and built previous schemes for the church. He directed a dedicated group of volunteers who completed the project in just three months. A full dossier has been produced to record what was done.

Suffice it to say that this project was not for the faint-hearted. The lift well, for example, required a massive hole in the church floor some 3m by 1.4m, to be dug to the requirements of the church archaeologist. Outside, major civil engineering was needed for the ramp, the trench-arch drain, and the drainage holes through the church fabric.

We are proud to have helped such an ambitious and worthwhile scheme.

Didbrook: *tower repaired and bells renovated*

St George's, Didbrook is a hidden gem among Cotswold churches, mostly dating from 1475 when it was rebuilt by William Whitchurch, Abbot of Hailes. The distinctive "engaged" west tower is built inside the west end of the nave, rather than projecting from it, and has a unique set of internal flying buttresses and arches. There is a ring of five bells, originally cast by Bagley in 1706 and re-cast by Taylors of Loughborough in 1911.

By 2016 the tower had been long neglected and the bells were unringable. Water ingress had caused a lot of damage, and in places you could see through the tower walls for lack of mortar. The safety of the building was causing concern.

For a village of just 150 souls, restoration of the tower was a major problem. However, a team of bellringers from St Mark's, Cheltenham and St Peter's, Stanway, took on the challenge. In August 2020, repairs to the tower got under way, and work to the bells started a year later.

Simon Ridley, who co-ordinated the project, comments: "The total project cost was £75,000, *which was kept low by the use of extensive volunteer labour*". The italics are ours – the fact is that this project simply could not have happened as it did, had it not been for the drive and hard work of the ringers.

Didbrook is now blessed with a beautiful ring of bells, suitable for ringers of all abilities, hung in a restored and resplendent tower. As a Trust, we were delighted to support the scheme with two grants totalling £10,000, and we salute the team which made it happen.

To learn more, or to arrange a tour, please contact *didbrookbells@gmail.com*

Working on the Didbrook bellls

St Stephen's, Soundwell....
Unlisted does not mean Unloved

There are plenty of very pleasant, traditional, churches which have the misfortune of being unlisted. The style may be quite plain, and the architect probably not well known, but that doesn't stop the buildings being well-used and well-loved locally.

Such churches face an uphill task when a fabric appeal is needed. Some grant-makers exclude unlisted churches, and, even worse, the VAT cannot be recovered. All this applied recently at St Stephens, Soundwell. To make matters harder, the work was extremely urgent for safety reasons, and at about the same time, a break-in caused £12,500 worth of malicious damage ... for a theft of £2.50.

St Stephen's is on the eastern fringes of Bristol, an urban church serving a population of about 9,000. There is plenty going on, and a lively style of worship. The church, of 1904, has a bell-cote at the west end and a rather charming timber and lead spire above the east end. Alas, when inspecting the lightning conductor in late 2020, the steeplejacks found the base of the spire badly decayed. The whole structure was moving, and very unsafe – with potential consequences for users of the church hall below.

Such was the urgency that the PCC had to press ahead with repairs, not knowing quite how they would be paid for. There was a shortfall of £15,000, against a budget of some £60,000.

You will gather from the story that our grants committee were extremely sympathetic. We were able to make a grant of £7,000, which meant a great deal to the congregation.

➤ *Sunday morning at St Stephen's*

St Stephen's Soundwell, with its spire safe once again.

Cam's Quarry Chapel

Cam's Quarry Chapel isn't the best-known church in Gloucestershire, but it does a great job in its local community. Marcus Green visited on behalf of the Trust, and takes up the story...

If you are on the Grants Committee of GHCT, there is an expectation that you'll know about many of the churches on the patch. But when an application came in from the URC Cam Quarry Chapel, I found myself scratching my head.

The application was reasoned and solid, with all the information we needed. However, with many applications, we like to get the hard hat on and have a look on site. I found this was a unique church built in 1852 (for just £130) by miners using stone quarried on site. I learned that there had been no work done for 40 years and that the issue now was improving access, to make it DDA compliant. This would benefit church users and would expand the brilliant community work already facilitated by Abi Nicol the development worker, supported by Revd Simon Helme. (Pictured below).

When I arrived it soon became clear that this was a hub for an area in need of our support. Here were all manner of creative projects supporting the community through and beyond Covid. There is a warm focus on individuals, families and those most in need – right at the heart of this church's mission.

▲ *Cam's Quarry Chapel*

This is a tiny church, but the lack of investment was now hindering progress. A new kitchen has been donated and work had already started. Other local trusts had supported, the URC was on side but with an extra push from GHCT, far more could be done.

Our grant of £15000 will make a big difference and we were thrilled to support the project.

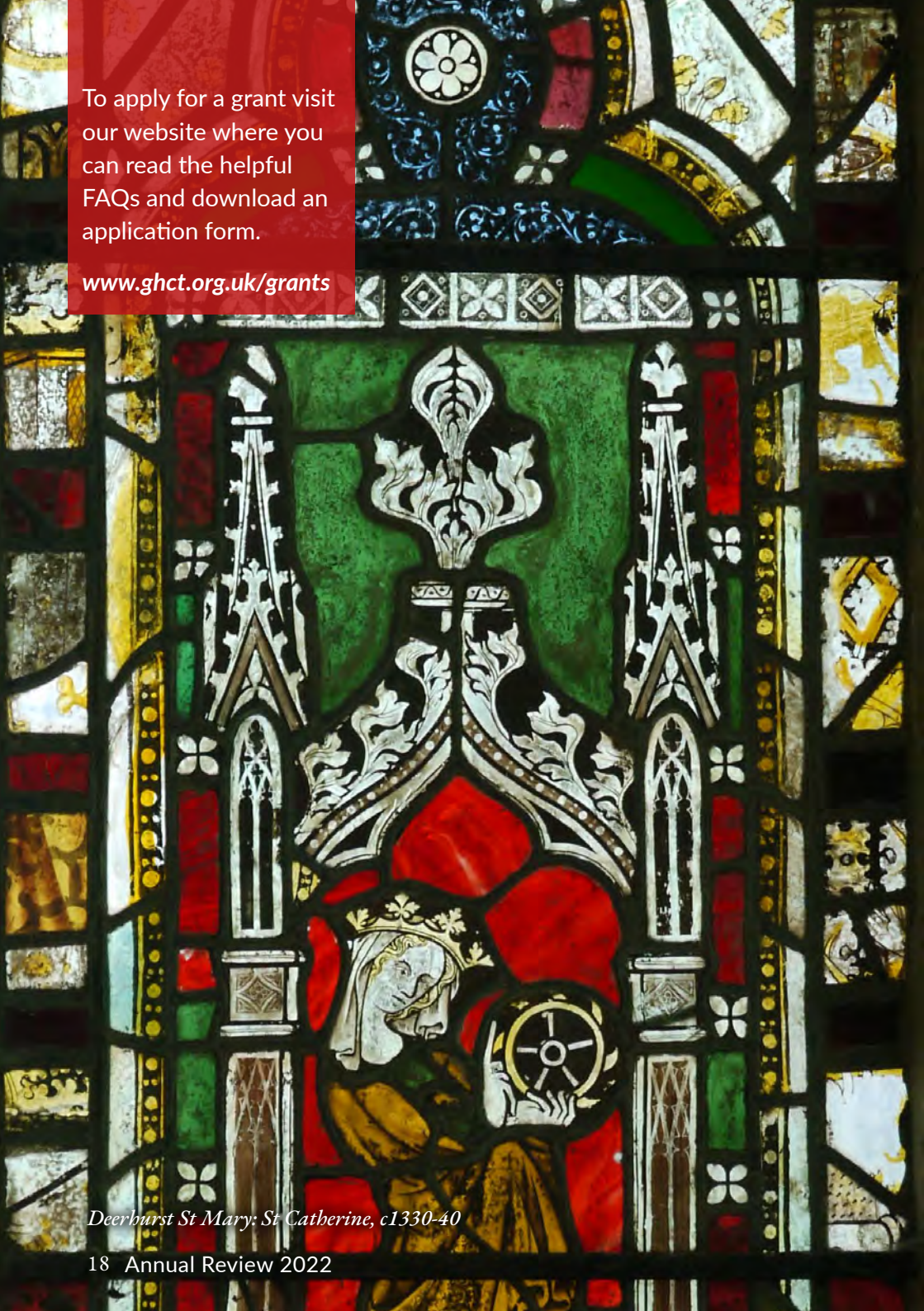
Our Grants to Churches in 2022

Arlingham *St Mary the Virgin*	*Conservation of memorials* £5,000
Batsford *St Mary*	*Renew pedal board of organ* £500
Bitton *St Mary*	*Top up grant re major reordering* £6,000
Bisley *All Saints*	*Relining stone gutters* £2,000
Bristol *SS Philip & Jacob*	*Quinquennial repairs* £2,000
Cam *Quarry Chapel*	*Create accessible loo, kitchen etc* £15,000
Cheltenham Minster *St Mary*	*Table Tomb repairs* £1,000
Corse *St Margaret*	*Rehang bells* £4,000
Cotham *St Saviour w St Mary*	*Reordering* £10,000
Didmarton *St Lawrence*	*Improve path and new disabled access* £2,750
Duntisbourne Abbots *St Peter*	*Reroof porch and S slope of S aisle* £6,000
Dyrham *St Peter*	*Roof repairs and redecoration* £10,000
Hartpury *St Mary the Virgin*	*Rehang bells and create training facility* £10,000
Leckhampton *St Peter*	*Protect & presentation of C15 memorial* £2,500
Longhope *All Saints*	*Major repairs to tower* £10,000

Minchinhampton *Holy Trinity*	*Overhaul and extend organ* £5,000
Naunton *St Andrew*	*Overhaul bells and fittings* £750
Painswick *St Mary*	*Reroof nave and chancel* £10,000
Poulton *St Michael & AA*	*Install new toilet and servery* £9,000
Redbrook *St Saviour*	*Further repair training weekend, also removal of failed vinyl paint* £5,000
Selsley *All Saints*	*Reroof organ chamber and vestry* £3,000
Soundwell *St Stephen*	*Repairs to spire* £7,000
Southrop *St Peter*	*Create Garden of Remembrance* £1,500
Staunton (Ledbury) *St James*	*Roof repairs* £8,000
Stoke Bishop *St Mary Magdalene*	*Improvements to hall* *£10,000*
Temple Guiting *St Mary*	*Releather organ bellows* £3,000
Turkdean *All Saints*	*Rehang bells* *£5,000*
Wick *St Bartholomew*	*Repair floor affected by wet rot* £1,500
Windrush *St Peter*	*Table tomb repairs* £2,000
Withington *St Peter*	*Repair organ* £1,000

To apply for a grant visit our website where you can read the helpful FAQs and download an application form.

www.ghct.org.uk/grants



Deerhurst St Mary: St Catherine, c1330-40

Ride+Stride 2022

Ride+Stride is our main annual fundraising event. 50% of the money raised is returned to participating churches/chapels and the remainder is used to support grant applications.

The 2022 event was somewhat overshadowed by the death of Her Majesty the Queen on September 8th, just two days before Ride+Stride. After careful consideration, we decided to proceed with the event, as visiting churches and chapels is an opportunity for reflection and a potential source of comfort in difficult times. Prior to the event, 91 churches/chapels had registered to take part with teams of riders or striders, special events organised, or had pledged to be open for visitors. On the day, the event had a subdued feel – there were fewer participants and many churches that regularly take part decided to respectfully mourn the late Queen.

Nevertheless, there were some sterling efforts this year. John Amos from St. George's, Nailsworth rode with Urij Ivanovich, a Ukranian refugee, who gave a moving narrative of his day, which you can find on the News pages of the GHCT website. Mike Thomas from Christchurch, Abbeydale rode 93 miles to visit 'gems' he had not seen previously. Walking in small and larger groups is becoming more popular – the Thornbury benefice team of ten striders led by Revd Tom Keates visited all four churches in their benefice. There was a welcome increase in the number of churches in North Bristol taking part in 2022.

The total raised for R+S 2022 including Gift Aid was £30,508 compared with £45,052 in 2021. This is a significant reduction, which may be accounted for, in part, by the Queen's death but may also reflect a slow decline in church attendance in some areas. St John the Baptist, Coln St Aldwyn was the top fundraiser for the third year in a row, raising a total of £1,639, very closely followed by St. Peter's, Southrop with £1,635. £11,365 has been returned to participating churches and chapels.

All the money raised or donated, no matter how much or how little, is vital to support the work of the Trust. We are extremely grateful to all who took part in 2022 and we look forward to a successful event in 2023.

RIDE+STRIDE for Churches

Ride+Stride will take place on Saturday 9th September 2023. Remember that 50% of the funds raised are returned to participating churches or chapels and creating a JustGiving page is a convenient way to collect sponsorship/donations.

How to take part, set up a JustGiving page and all the documents you will need are available at ***www.ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride***

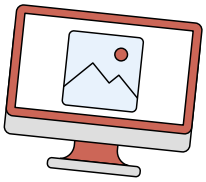
John Amos, Churchwarden of St George's, Nailsworth, was joined on last year's ride by Urij Ivanovich (on the right), from Ukraine. Urij hopes to take part again this year.

Could you become part of the GHCT team?

The Trust has no employees and relies almost entirely on the efforts of volunteers.

By supporting GHCT with some of your time and experience, you can play an important part in conserving our historic churches and chapels for future generations to enjoy. Your contribution could be made simply through general volunteering or through joining our Council or by taking part in our annual sponsored Ride+Stride fundraising event.

Some extra help in the following areas would give us a tremendous boost!



Communications: Someone with a love of churches, both as buildings and as community hubs, who could coordinate the Trust's activity on social media, through our newsletters and on our website, as well as working closely with our Public Relations advisers.

Website Monitoring: Do you work with websites? We need someone to help us make best use of our website and sharpen up our message.

Events: A good organiser who could help with GHCT's events programme.

Ride+Stride: An organised person, possibly a keen cyclist, who can help with the management of our annual fundraising event.

These roles are just examples of where you could help if you have a passion for preserving and improving our churches. Even if you don't have the specific skills we have mentioned, please get in touch as we can put your enthusiasm and experience to work.

All the work of the Trust is voluntary, but we pay necessary expenses and mileage to any volunteers who claim them.

www.ghct.org.uk/support/volunteer

Stoke Orchard St James

Can you help us to help our churches?

Any donation will make a difference! You can help us by making a donation which will go towards supporting the upkeep of churches in Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and North Bristol.

Donations can be made via Just Giving and can be a one-off gift or a regular payment. Plus, if you are a taxpayer you can also allow us to reclaim tax through Gift Aid. Just visit our website to donate:

www.ghct.org.uk/support/donate

Please remember GHCT in your will

After providing for those you love, leaving a gift in your Will is a very personal way to make a lasting difference to a cause you care about. If you or your family are from Gloucestershire or Bristol it is likely that there will have been many of your family baptisms, weddings and funerals in one or other of our wonderful churches or chapels. We surely wish to continue this heritage for future generations.

Over the years our churches have benefitted greatly from generous supporters who have remembered the Trust in their Wills. In 2021 we received legacy income of over £50,000 from a small number of kind benefactors. These legacies have been credited to our endowment fund and, as that grows, they ensure that GHCT will have the resources to continue helping our churches long into the future. When you are making your own Will, please consider a bequest to GHCT and, through us, to the 630 churches that we serve.

Leaving GHCT a legacy could be easier than you think!
Not sure about how to give to charity in your Will? There are several services available that do much of the work for you -- and one such is the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) Legacy Service. CAF offers a flexible way to leave one gift in your Will to benefit as many charities as you like. And you can revise your choice of charities at any time. CAF also offers advisors who can help you select charitable causes that are important to you, such as GHCT.

▲ *Buckland, St Michael: polychromed roof truss*

A prayer for the work of the Trust

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the churches
we serve where your word is proclaimed week by week.
We pray for all the people who look after them and
who use them to extend the work of your kingdom.

We thank you too for the generosity of all those
who have given money and effort to build up the funds
now set apart for the work of the Trust.

Grant us your wisdom in our decisions and your
special blessing on the congregations in those places
where our grants are being sought. ***Amen.***

Address for correspondence
FREEPOST GHCT

Email
administration@ghct.org.uk

Registered Office
Wenn Townsend,
5 Gosditch Street,
Cirencester GL7 2AG

Design Sugar Ink Creative / *Print* YZ DESIGNS

Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

www.ghct.org.uk

© Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust 2023 | Registered Charity Number 1120266