

Berkshire Historic Churches Trust



News

for

Friends of Berkshire Churches

August 2023

SUPPORTERS of the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust have enjoyed three events specially arranged by the Trust this summer.



In June, Willie Hartley Russell welcomed us to the splendid gardens which he had re-created at Bucklebury House, reflecting the history and setting of this estate.

In July, despite torrential rain, a group of supporters and friends visited Woolhampton, Midgham and Brimpton to see the work of the architect John Johnson in three churches with rich decoration and interesting fittings as well as Woolhampton House (now Elstree School).

And in August we were introduced to two historic gems in the modern wilderness of Slough - St Laurence Upton, a Saxon/Norman church with the grave of Sir William Herschel, musician and astronomer (who discovered Uranus), and the fascinating Kedermister Library at St Mary Langley Marish.

Our final event for 2023 is the Annual Meeting and church tour - for details see the centre pages.

Recent Grants by Berkshire Historic Churches Trust

All Saints, Windsor : £5,000

for new LED lighting of the nave and chancel

St James, Leckhampstead : £6,000

for a toilet, new heating system, re-laying the nave floor with under-floor heating

St Mary, Beech Hill : £500

for definition of remedial work for a structural problem

St Andrew, Boxford : £10,000

for repair of the tower roof and improvements to drainage

St Peter, Brimpton

for a new electric under-pew heating system

Thatcham Methodist Church

for installation of accessible toilets, and roof repairs



The annual sponsored Ride+Stride event is the largest single source of funds for the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust, enabling us to continue giving grants to help keep churches in repair. In 2022 the total raised was £25,882, the best result for several years.



Half the sponsorship money raised by participants can also go directly to their nominated church or chapel.

The Daphne Barnes-Phillips cup, awarded by the Trust each year to the most successful church, is currently held by St Peter's, Woolhampton.

We are very grateful to all those who participate - those who open churches and welcome visitors, riders and striders, and everyone who generously sponsors them.

Further information, including a list of churches open to visitors on the day, is at

<https://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk/ride-and-stride-2/>

Sponsorship and donations for Ride+Stride can be made online at <https://www.justgiving.com/berkshirechurchestrust>

Annual Meeting and Church Tour



Theale



Englefield



Tidmarsh



Sulham



Pangbourne

The Annual Meeting of the Trust will be held at **2 pm on Saturday 16 September 2023** at Holy Trinity, Theale [RG7 5BX], which dates from 1820-31, and is one of the most important examples of late Georgian church-building in the country. This will be followed by visits to St Mark, Englefield [RG7 5EN], a 13th-century church which was partly rebuilt by G.G. Scott; St Laurence, Tidmarsh [RG8 8ER], with its splendid Norman doorway (illustrated on the front of this Newsletter) and 13th-century vaulted apse; St Nicholas, Sulham [RG8 8EG], and ending at St James the Less, Pangbourne [RG8 7AX] for tea and Evensong. All are welcome, but so that we can cater for the right number we would ask you to book in advance,

either online at www.TicketSource.co.uk/Berkshire-Churches-Trust or by phoning Marion Elly on 01628 482637.

The meeting and tour are free; there is a charge of £6 per head for tea.



The Kedermister Library at Langley Marish

The south transept of St Mary, Langley Marish, was built in the 17th century

to form the Kedermister chapel, with the family burial vault below and their private pew above, the occupants hidden behind an ornate Jacobean screen.

The pew leads to a hidden gem - the most beautiful parish library in England, a room lined with Jacobean panelling with doors opening to reveal the collection of books given by Sir John Kedermister in the 1620s. The paintings on the panels include portraits of Sir John and his wife Mary, landscapes and pictures of saints.

One particular treasure is the Kedermister family Pharmacopolium, a beautifully hand-written collection of remedies for various ailments; the title page, illuminated with the coats of arms associated with the family, and a page from the index, are illustrated on the right.

The recently-appointed Honorary Librarian, Jane Sculpher, hopes to open the Library to the public once a month. The next opportunity to see this truly remarkable room is on 3 September 2023, 2:30 to 4:30pm. The church is in St Mary's Road, Langley, Slough SL3 7EN.



Berkshire Historic Churches Trust

Registered charity no. 288797

www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk

Joint Presidents: The Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading
James Puxley Esq., Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire

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Berkshire Historic Churches Trust was founded in 1983 to help with the costs of maintaining the historic churches, chapels and meeting houses, of all Christian denominations, in the Royal County, and to provide funds towards the provision of the facilities that churches need if they are to serve effectively as centres of their communities.

Since its inception it has given grants towards the costs of repairing or replacing roofs, towers, spires, stonework, windows, heating and lighting and installing toilets and kitchens.

All this costs money. To date we have given grants totalling over £650,000 – but this is only a fraction of the costs of keeping our churches in good order, and new requests for help come in every year.

We are most grateful to the Friends of Berkshire Churches who pay a regular subscription to support the Trust.

Could you support the Trust with a legacy in your will?

Once you have considered bequests to family and friends, a legacy gift in your will would be a lasting way to help protect the historic churches of Berkshire for the future. We would be happy to discuss this - please contact the Chairman or Secretary.

The Berkshire Historic Churches Trust is a registered charity, and a legacy in your will is therefore exempt from Inheritance Tax; in addition, if 10% or more of the total estate is left to charities, a lower rate of Inheritance Tax will apply to other bequests.

You should consult your solicitor or professional will-writer about the appropriate wording of any legacy.