



# *News* for Friends of Berkshire Churches

**Berkshire Historic Churches Trust**  
**September 2025**





Don't forget the annual Ride+Stride event - this year on Saturday 13 September - which raises funds for the Trust and for participating churches.



The National Churches Trust has arranged a series of three lunchtime online talks

### **Decoding Sacred Symbols**

Depicting the Divine | Symbols of Saints | Nature

9, 10 and 11 September, 1 pm - 2 pm

A ticket for the series costs £27.33

Further details at <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/events>

The NCT also offers a range of training sessions for those who care for churches: <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/training>

The British Association for Local History has arranged an online talk which may be of interest to Berkshire Churches Trust supporters:



### **Church Going - A Stonemason's Guide to the Churches of the British Isles by Andrew Ziminski**

(master stonemason, and author of the best-selling book)

**Tuesday 18 November, 7 pm**

**Tickets cost £5, from**  
<https://www.balh.org.uk/events>

**Cover picture:** the Choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor

## **Recent grant offers by the Trust**

### **Sandhurst, St Michael**

The mediaeval church at Sandhurst was largely rebuilt in 1853 by GE Street, who added a south-west tower with wooden belfry and shingled timber spire, the base acting as the porch. In 1864-5 the chancel was rebuilt and a north aisle added, by WH Woodman, and the north porch and south vestry were added in 1887 by W Ravenscroft. The church is listed Grade II\*.

The cedar shingles on the spire are decaying and many are missing - a process accelerated by woodpeckers, who eat the insect grubs in the decayed wood, and rooks have been nesting in the holes. The spire is to be re-shingled in oak (which is harder and more resistant to insects); with repairs to lead gutters, and overhaul of the bells and clock, the project will cost over £250,000. The Trust has offered a grant of £12,500 towards the cost of re-shingling.



### **Upper Basildon, St Stephen**

A new "iron church" in Upper Basildon was licensed for services in 1895.



The present church of St Stephen was built in 1964-5, and became the parish church in 1973.

Repairs are now urgently needed to the exterior walls, rainwater goods and drainage, at a cost of £42,600; the Trust has offered a grant of £3,500.

### **Ashampstead, St Clement**

The church of St Clement dates from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, and contains mediaeval wall-paintings of national significance; it is listed Grade I. The current electrical under-pew heaters were installed in 1959 and many no longer work - they will be replaced with modern units, at a cost of £17,000. The Trust has offered a grant of £1,200.

The Trust has also offered a grant to **Stockcross, St John** for new electric heating to replace an aging oil-fired boiler, and an increased grant to **Hampstead Norreys** for their heating installation.



# Annual Meeting and Church Tour



The **2025 Annual Meeting** will be held at **Cranbourne St Peter** (SL4 2EG), at 2 pm.

St Peter's church was built in 1849-50, designed by Benjamin Ferrey, and enlarged in 1859. It contains some fine stained glass, including two windows by William Morris, and a reredos with painted figures of saints. The church was restored in 2007 after an arson attack had destroyed the organ and badly damaged the pews and other fittings.

We will then visit St Mary, **Winkfield** (SL4 4SF). The interior of the mediæval church was reconstructed in 1529, with a very unusual arcade of oak posts between two equal aisles. The red brick tower dates from 1629, and the east end was rebuilt by GE Street in 1858-9.



Then to St Michael, **Warfield** (RG42 6EE), originally 13<sup>th</sup> century with notable Decorated and Perpendicular additions. GE Street was responsible for a conservative restoration in 1874-6.



We will end at St Nicholas, **Hurst** (RG10 0SN) for tea and Evensong. The church is of Norman origin, with a fine 14<sup>th</sup> century roof and Jacobean Royal Arms. It was restored and enlarged in 1855 and 1875-6.

## Sunday 28 September 2025 at 2pm

Attendance at the meeting and tour is free; there is a charge of £6 per head for tea. Please book your place online at [www.TicketSource.co.uk/Berkshire-Churches-Trust](http://www.TicketSource.co.uk/Berkshire-Churches-Trust) or phone John Pritchard (01865 859973)



# Visit to St George's Windsor



Windsor Castle was founded by William the Conqueror, and has been a royal residence since the time of Henry I. It was Edward III who founded the Order of the Garter in 1348 - the oldest order of chivalry in the world - and a collegiate church at Windsor to serve it. Construction of the new chapel of St George at Windsor started in 1475, taking several decades to complete: it is a masterpiece of late mediæval



architecture, home of the Order of the Garter and burial place for kings and queens - most recently Queen Elizabeth II. It contains 15<sup>th</sup> century stained glass, stunning carved stone-work, heraldic banners and stall-plates of the Knights of the Garter, and many monuments.

The Dean & Chapter Archives contain records dating from the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, relating to the history of the Chapel, the properties it once owned across England and Wales, and the Order of the Garter, including deeds, maps, plans, photographs, accounts, correspondence, and over 6000 rare books, many in their original bindings.

We have arranged a guided tour of the Chapel and a visit to see some of the treasures in the Archives, ending with choral Evensong in the Chapel for the feast of St Edward the Confessor.



**Monday 13 October 2025 at 2:30pm**

Windsor Castle has strict security, and requires details of attendees in advance of the visit. **Bookings must be made no later than 1 October.** Only those with pre-booked tickets and photo ID will be admitted. Joining instructions will be sent nearer the date.

**Tickets £25**

Book online at [www.TicketSource.co.uk/Berkshire-Churches-Trust](http://www.TicketSource.co.uk/Berkshire-Churches-Trust) or phone John Pritchard (01865 859973) or email [secretary@berkschurchestrust.org.uk](mailto:secretary@berkschurchestrust.org.uk)

# Berkshire Historic Churches Trust

**Registered charity no. 288797**

[www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk)

**Patron:** The Rt Hon Lord Benyon of Englefield, PC GCVO

**Joint Presidents:** The Rt Revd Mary Gregory, Bishop of Reading  
Andrew Try Esq., Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire

**Vice-Presidents:** The Lady Eliza Mays Smith • Erica Lady Harman  
The Most Revd and Rt Hon the Lord Carey of Clifton  
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**Secretary:** John Pritchard [secretary@berkschurchestrust.org.uk](mailto:secretary@berkschurchestrust.org.uk)

**Treasurer:** Eleanor Rice [treasurer@berkschurchestrust.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@berkschurchestrust.org.uk)

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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 £750,000 – 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.

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## 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.