

Berkshire Historic Churches Trust



ANNUAL REPORT 2025–26

Berkshire Historic Churches Trust

Patron	The Rt Hon Lord Benyon of Englefield PC GCVO
Joint Presidents	The Rt Revd Mary Gregory, Bishop of Reading Andrew Try, Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire
Honorary Vice-Presidents	The Lady Eliza Mays-Smith • The Most Revd and Rt Hon the Lord Carey of Clifton Erica Lady Harman • The Rt Revd Dom Geoffrey Scott OSB • James Puxley CVO Jim Barnes-Phillips
Trustees	Graham Barker MStJ DL (to July 2026) • Jim Barnes-Phillips (to June 2025) Dr Peter Durrant MBE DL • Catherine Haig (to June 2025) Willie Hartley Russell MVO DL • Graham Mather CBE Torquil Montague-Johnstone • James Puxley CVO • Eleanor Rice FCA Jonathan Welfare OBE • Lucy Zeal DL
Executive Committee	Chairman : Dr Peter Durrant MBE DL Hon Secretary : John Pritchard • Hon Treasurer : Eleanor Rice FCA Anne Armitage • Liz Kitch • Torquil Montague-Johnstone The Ven Stephen Pullin • Henry Sanders AABC RIAS RIBA • Jonathan Welfare OBE Primrose Wilson CBE
Address	The Chairman, 84 Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5QE
Bankers	Virgin Money (Yorkshire Bank plc), 35 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4ND
Independent Examiner	John Cullen FCCA (Retired)
CONSTITUTION	The Trust was set up by a Declaration of Trust dated 6 Feb 1984 under the name "Royal County of Berkshire Churches Trust". The name was changed to "Berkshire Historic Churches Trust" in June 2020. Registered Charity number 288797
OBJECTIVES	To raise funds to help with the cost of repairs to the fabric of Christian Churches, Chapels and Meeting Houses in Berkshire, and for the repair and preservation of monuments, fittings and fixtures and stained glass. The Trust will also consider applications from Churches, Chapels and Meeting Houses for schemes to achieve a sustainable future as the centre of every community in the County, making use of their buildings for the benefit of the community at large, and may help to fund facilities necessary for this purpose, if this can be achieved without compromising the historic or architectural quality of the buildings and their settings within the local landscape.
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES	The Trustees are authorised by the Trust Deed to delegate any of their functions, and have done this by the formation of an Executive Committee. Applications for grants are considered by the Executive Committee with the help of documentation and professional advice. Once decisions are made, progress of works is monitored before funds are released.

Approved by the Trustees on 1 June 2026 and signed on their behalf by

.....  Trustee

from the Chairman



Do churches matter? It may seem a strange question for the Chairman of a Historic Churches Trust to ask, but in an age of declining congregations, rising costs and fierce competition for resources, it is a question that others will ask if we don't. Of course, the answer must be, emphatically, that they do matter – very much. They matter not just as places of worship for a few but as places with the potential to sustain and enrich the lives of all. Their contribution to our cultural life, as uniquely rich expressions of architectural and artistic achievement, is uncontested. And their contribution to our community life is increasingly clear: the National Churches Trust has shown that nearly 80% of Church of England buildings host some 31,300 social action projects a year, including emergency food provision, warm spaces and parent and toddler drop-ins, contributing millions of pounds of social value annually. They are also places that offer, in the widest sense, spiritual refreshment, connecting us to the past and providing space for quiet reflection.

But churches are expensive to keep in good repair, and the Government's recent decision to end the Listed Places of Worship Grants scheme, which enabled listed churches to reclaim the cost of VAT on repairs, has significantly increased the cost of essential work. Our small trust can offer only limited support for repair work, though as is clear from the pages that follow, the grants we offer are undeniably important. We would love to do more, but for that we will need help. You, our supporters, have given generously financially. Could you also give us some of your time? As I wrote last year, we need people to join our Executive Committee to help us sustain and grow our membership, to organise events and generally to help us promote our work. The commitment need not be great, but the impact could be enormous. If you think you can help, do get in touch: you can email me at berkschurchestrustchair@gmail.com. I shall look forward to hearing from you!

Peter Durrant

Report of the Executive Committee

GRANTS

In the year under review it was matters relating to heating that seemed to dominate our discussions. Four of the eight grants we awarded and two of the grants offered but not yet released at the year's end were for projects that were wholly or partly concerned with heating—reflecting our ambition that churches should be warm and welcoming, and indeed must be if they are to attract a wider use. But of course it was not heating alone that concerned us and the churches that we supported. Repairs to walls and windows, improvements to lighting, and the provision of toilets and a kitchen were also among the applications that we considered during the year.



St Mary Hampstead Norreys

Our largest grant was to **St Mary, Hampstead Norreys**, for a project that embraced both heating and lighting. The existing heating system had failed and the existing lighting was woefully inadequate, making reading during services extremely difficult. New Far Infra-Red heating panels were installed, mounted on the walls just below roof level, and LED lighting introduced, designed to make as little impact as possible on this Grade I listed building. We contributed £9,000 towards a total cost of just over £90,000.

Improved heating was also part of a larger project at **Holy Trinity Cookham** (the scheme there included the installation of an accessible toilet and



St Clement Ashampstead

re-laying part of the floor) and comprised the whole of projects at **St Clement, Ashampstead**, where the aged under-pew heaters had failed, and at **St James, Pangbourne**, for phase 2 of a plan covering the whole church: this phase saw the installation of wall-mounted infra-red radiant heaters for the open area at the west end of the building. We contributed £5,000, £1,300 and £1,000 respectively to these schemes.

Apart from these, we contributed towards the costs of repairs to the Lady Chapel roof at **St Mary Magdalene, Tilehurst** (£1,300), repairs to windows at **Thatcham United Reformed Church** (£500), external repairs at **St Stephen, Upper Basildon** (£3,500), and towards the cost



St Stephen Upper Basildon



Patching decayed shingles on the spire at Brimpton

the woefully inadequate heating. The total cost of the project is estimated at £1.74 million. We have offered £15,000 – our maximum grant – towards the costs of toilets, kitchen and heating.

Another major project is being undertaken at **St Michael, Sandhurst**, where the spire needs reshingling following

of a survey of the spire at **St Peter, Brimpton** (£1,000) – this last being work needed to establish the condition of the timber structure before plans for repairs could be prepared and executed.

Altogether we paid £22,500 in grants. This was less than in either of the two previous years, and less than we could have afforded. However, to set against this, we had, by the year's end, pledged a further £64,200 towards eight projects. Nearly half of this sum was carried forward from previous years. The remainder was for new projects.

The largest and most ambitious of these was at **Holy Trinity, Sunningdale**, where a major scheme to provide new facilities includes a small hall, meeting room, servery and café area and accessible toilet, along with replacement of



Sunningdale Holy Trinity

serious damage by woodpeckers. (It appears that some of the holes they made were large enough to allow rooks to get inside the spire and build nests). The project also includes repairs to the roof, restoration and rehanging of the bells and repairs to the clock. The cost of all elements is £256,500. We have offered £12,500 towards the cost of spire and roof repairs.

At **St Mary, East Ilsley**, we have agreed to contribute towards the costs of essential repairs to the roof, gutters and leadwork, and external stonework, and the relaying of the floor in the porch to create level access to the building. The church hopes eventually to instal a kitchen and toilet, in order to increase the potential



East Ilsley St Mary

for community use of the building (the village has no public hall), but this will also involve laying on mains water and drainage, and has been deferred until the fabric of the building has been secured. We offered £8,000 towards a project cost of £83,600.

Our final offers during the year were towards conservation work on two stained-glass windows at **St James, Barkham** (£2,000) and the replacement of a rather ineffective heating system at **St John, Stockcross** (£1,300). The total value of these new offers was £38,800.

EVENTS

We were not able to arrange an Englefield Lecture this year, but on a lovely sunny day in June we enjoyed a visit to the gardens at Haines Hill where our host was trustee Lucy Zeal. On a slightly chillier day in October a group of us visited Windsor Castle. The afternoon began with a visit to St George's Chapel Archives, where the Chapel Archivist Kate McQuillian

showed us round and treated us to a small display of some of the treasures held in the archives. We then moved into the Chapel itself, for a guided tour followed by a service of Sung Eucharist for the feast of St Edward the Confessor. Both events were greatly enjoyed by those attending, and we are grateful to all who made them possible.

The annual Ride and Stride event took place as usual in September. A full report appears below.

The final event of the year was our annual meeting and church tour, which this year included visits to four churches in east Berkshire. A full report follows.



St George's Chapel from Pyne's Royal Residences (1819)

COMMUNICATIONS

Publication of our occasional Newsletter continued, with three issues produced during the year.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Towards the end of the year we began preparations for an event aimed at churches facing significant repairs or thinking about embarking on a project for improving facilities. Aware that such projects can be major undertakings, we hope to bring together churches that have successfully completed work with those about to start.

Development more generally, however, was hampered by our lack of resources. We urgently need to find people to help with several aspects of our work, including managing contact with our supporters, organising events, co-ordinating Ride and Stride, and with publicity and promotion.

PEOPLE

In June we said farewell to two long-standing members of the Executive Committee, Catherine Haig and Marion Elly. Catherine had also been a trustee for ten years, during which time she had managed our website and social media presence, had commissioned and introduced a new website, and had taken an active part in Ride and Stride. Marion had served for many years as our Membership Secretary. We are very grateful to them both for their support for the Trust and wish them well.

At the Trustees' meeting in 2025 Jim Barnes-Phillips, who had previously announced his retirement as a Trustee, confirmed that he would be stepping down after more than 30 years service, including 17 years as Treasurer. The Trustees recorded their sincere thanks to Jim for his contribution to the Trust. The Trustees agreed unanimously to invite him to become a Vice-President, and we were delighted that he accepted.

Ride and Stride 2025

Ride and Stride is such a great event! It raises money to support our churches, and it offers a wonderful opportunity for participants to see some of the amazing churches in our county and to meet some of the people who love and care for them. And it's great exercise! Whether you walk or cycle, whether you go on your own or with a friend or make it a church event and go in a larger group, you can have a great day out – with a purpose. Almost everybody who takes part, even if they end the day slightly weary and footsore, would warmly recommend it.

Nationally, Ride and Stride has raised millions of pounds over the years. Here in Berkshire last year we raised a fraction under £25,000, a little less than in 2024 but still a significant achievement. After a proportion of this was returned to participating churches, the Trust received over £16,000, a vital contribution to our funds and thus to our ability to make grants towards the costs of repairs and improvements to our churches.

Some 35 churches made returns, recording visitor numbers of between one and 36, though only a handful reported more than ten visitors on the day. We know that over a hundred people took part, making over 400 church visits between them. Participation figures were boosted once again by large groups from St Nicolas, Newbury, and St Matthew, Midgham, both of which made the day a parish 'event', generating a lot of interest and community spirit. Other churches, which fielded smaller groups, also found that the day can be fun and congenial, and a great way to spend time together.

Individual successes included one cyclist who visited 32 churches in west Berkshire, another who visited 22 in the Bradfield area (travelling some 60 miles to do so), a third who visited 19 in the Reading area, and a 90-year-old who visited seven churches in and around Thatcham. The Chairman walked with

former trustee Catherine Haig for ten miles along footpaths and country lanes between Brimpton and Burghfield, visiting eight churches, and marvelling once again at the wonderful variety and beauty of the churches that we have inherited as well as enjoying conversation with clergy and churchwardens along the way.

Ride and Stride remains the most important fund-raising event of the year and we are so grateful to all those who took part in 2025 – local organisers, church stewards who welcomed visitors, the riders and striders themselves, and those who generously sponsored them. It is a little disappointing that still only a minority of Berkshire's churches take an active part, and we would love to encourage more to be involved. Why not try it? A number of tested routes can be found on our website, or you can devise your own, for whatever length feels right for you. You never know: you might enjoy it too!



Riders and striders at St Nicolas Newbury

Annual Meeting 2025

For our 2025 annual meeting and church tour we visited four churches in east Berkshire – St Peter, Cranbourne, St Michael, Warfield, St Mary, Winkfield, and St Nicholas, Hurst.

We began the afternoon at Cranbourne. This small Victorian church on the



road between Ascot and Windsor and on the edge of Windsor Forest, was designed by Benjamin Ferrey and built between 1849 and 1866. It has some wonderful details including elaborate carved stonework, a reredos with painted figures of saints and some extremely fine windows. Badly damaged by an arson attack in 2006 it has been lovingly restored, but has recently had serious problems with

its roof: the tiles have reached the end of their working life and many have slipped. We have offered a grant towards the costs of renewal. Our group was given a warm welcome and a brief talk on the history of the building and the plans for restoration, followed by a chance to explore and admire.

From Cranbourne we made our way to Warfield. St Michael's is an interesting church of many periods. The earliest part is the north aisle, once the nave of the original, much smaller, church, built in the late twelfth or early thirteenth century. The north chancel chapel was rebuilt in the early fourteenth century. The present nave and chancel were added in the later Middle Ages. The church was restored by GE Street in the nineteenth century, though it has been extensively reordered since. We

spent some time examining the details and looking at the monuments and stained glass.



Our next stop was Winkfield. St Mary's is an unusual church, having twin parallel naves separated by a row of five octagonal wooden posts, an arrangement dating from a rebuild in 1592. The chancel and chancel aisles were rebuilt by GE Street, and the chancel decoration is by Henry Woodyer. The church has many attractive features, including a high Victorian stone reredos and painted tiles on the chancel walls (which once featured on one of our Christmas cards) as well as some very nice Victorian furnishings.

We ended the day at St Nicholas' church, Hurst, another church to which we had recently given a grant, this time towards the cost of renewing the heating system. Here, after a cup of tea and slice of cake, and an introductory talk on the history of the church, we had a good look round. The church has some very fine monuments. The visit concluded with a service of evening prayer when, as is our custom, we gave thanks for Berkshire's rich heritage of historic churches, and prayed for blessing on our future endeavours to help preserve them.



St Nicholas Hurst

Recent Grants to Churches

2019/20	£	2023/24	£
East Garston, All Saints <i>Repair of buttress</i>	2,000	Brimpton, St Peter <i>New under-pew electric heating</i>	1,400
Leckhampstead, St James <i>Renewing roof</i>	10,000	Hungerford, St Laurence <i>New toilets, kitchen, heating etc</i>	10,000
Thatcham URC <i>Repair of windows</i>	500	Kintbury, St Mary <i>Replace stolen lead on roof with TCSS</i>	1,800
		Leckhampstead, St James <i>Re-lay nave floor, heating, toilet, kitchen</i>	6,000
2020/21		Peasemore, St Barnabas <i>Create meeting area, with toilet & kitchen</i>	7,000
Combe, St Swithun <i>Roof alarm</i>	1,000	Thatcham, St Mary <i>Repairs to roof and walls</i>	4,100
East Garston, All Saints <i>Roof repairs</i>	5,000	Windsor, All Saints <i>New lighting system</i>	5,000
Farnborough, All Saints <i>Repairs to tower roof and nave window</i>	2,000	2024/25	
Fawley, St Mary <i>Replace guttering</i>	2,000	Boxford, St Andrew <i>Repair of tower roof and drainage</i>	10,000
Lambourn, St Michael <i>Boiler replacement</i>	1,500	Caversham, St Peter <i>Re-plastering after water damage</i>	500
Leckhampstead, St James <i>Repairs to windows</i>	2,000	Fawley, St Mary <i>Repair to lead cap on tower roof</i>	500
Wokingham, All Saints <i>Roof alarm</i>	1,000	Hurst, St Nicholas <i>Replacement heating system</i>	3,000
Woodley, Emmanuel <i>New facilities including toilets & kitchen</i>	5,000	Newbury, St John <i>Alteration to improve disabled access</i>	10,000
Woolhampton, St Peter <i>Repairs to bell-turret and spire</i>	10,000	Newbury, St Nicolas <i>Feasibility study for re-ordering project</i>	1,000
		Stockcross, St John <i>Replacement of rainwater goods</i>	1,200
2021/22		Thatcham Methodist Church <i>Roof repairs and accessible toilets</i>	1,500
Boyne Hill, All Saints <i>Restoration of Victorian floor tiles</i>	10,000	2025/26	
East Ilsley, St Mary <i>Repairs to windows</i>	3,000	Ashampstead, St Clement <i>Replacing old under-pew heating</i>	1,200
Maidenhead, St Joseph RC <i>Replacement of boilers</i>	5,000	Brimpton, St Peter <i>Specialist surveys of the spire</i>	1,000
2022/23		Cookham, Holy Trinity <i>New heating & accessible toilet</i>	5,000
Beedon, St Nicholas <i>Repairs to plaster in ceiling</i>	450	Hampstead Norreys, St Mary <i>Replacement heating, lighting & wiring</i>	9,000
Eastbury, St James <i>Renewal of roof on south side</i>	5,000	Pangbourne, St James the Less <i>Replacement heating at W end</i>	1,000
East Garston, All Saints <i>Tower access and repairs to stonework</i>	3,300	Thatcham URC <i>Repair of windows</i>	500
Great Shefford, St Mary <i>Inspection & treatment of dry rot</i>	500	Tilehurst St Mary Magdalene <i>Re-tiling Lady Chapel roof</i>	1,300
Wokingham, All Saints <i>New floor, heating, toilets, servery, access</i>	10,000	Upper Basildon, St Stephen <i>External repairs</i>	3,500

**BERKSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2026

		2026		2025
	Note	£	£	£
Income				
Voluntary Sources				
Donations & membership		2,670		
Legacies & one-off donations		968	4,895	
Gift aid for current year		535	444	
Church Membership		<u>2,240</u>	<u>2,415</u>	
		6,413		7,754
Fundraising Income				
Ride & Stride	1	16,351	17,737	
Ride & Stride 2024 late receipt		208	-	
Englefield Lecture	4	-	1,010	
Other events / Fund Raising	5	<u>362</u>	<u>216</u>	
		16,921		18,953
Trading Income				
Christmas Card Sales	3	-		193
Other Income				
United Trust Bank		5,199	2,467	
CCLA		<u>1,490</u>	<u>1,731</u>	
		6,689		4,198
Total Income		<u>30,023</u>	<u>31,108</u>	
Expenditure				
Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Grants to Churches	2	22,500		27,700
Administration				
Printing, Postage & Administration		151	105	
Web hosting		135	130	
Insurance		75	75	
Heritage Alliance, Local History Assoc.		120	66	
Annual Report & Leaflets		<u>187</u>	<u>182</u>	
Total Expenditure		<u>23,168</u>	<u>28,258</u>	
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD		<u>6,855</u>	<u>2,850</u>	

Balance Sheet as at 31 March

	2026	2025
	£	£
Assets		
Yorkshire Bank Current account	35,515	34,702
less grant to Upper Basildon paid April 2026	(3,500)	
Ride & Stride account	3,415	2,840
CCLA COIF Charities Deposit Fund	38,164	36,673
United Trust Bank	62,120	59,674
United Trust Bank 1-year deposit	27,752	25,000
Gift Aid on donations, received April 2025		444
Gift Aid on Ride+Stride, received April 2026	2,615	
Yorkshire Bank WREN account (Restricted)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>166,189</u>	<u>159,334</u>
General Fund		
Balance at 1 April 2025	159,334	156,484
Surplus for year	<u>6,855</u>	<u>2,850</u>
Balance at 31 March 2026	<u>166,189</u>	<u>159,334</u>

**BERKSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
NOTES TO THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

	2026	2025		2026	2025
	£	£		£	£
Note 1 - Ride & Stride			Note 3 - Trading profits from sale of Christmas cards		
The major fundraising event during the year was the sponsored Ride & Stride. This raised:			Total Receipts	-	193
Gross Funds (without Gift Aid)	21,121	22,249		-	193
Gift Aid	<u>3,805</u>	<u>5,592</u>			
	24,926	27,841			
less repayments to Churches	<u>8,575</u>	<u>10,105</u>			
	16,351	17,737			
less expenses	-	-			
	<u>16,351</u>	<u>17,737</u>			
Note 2 - Grants to Churches in year to 31 March			Note 4 - Englefield Lecture		
St John, Newbury		10,000	Total Receipts		1,010
Thatcham Methodist Church		1,500	Less expenses	-	-
St Andrew, Boxford		10,000		-	1,010
St Mary, Fawley		500			
St Peter, Caversham		500			
St Nicolas, Newbury		1,000			
St John, Stockcross		1,200			
St Nicholas, Hurst		3,000			
Holy Trinity, Cookham	5,000				
St Clement, Ashampstead	1,200				
St Mary, Hampstead Norreys	9,000				
St James the Less, Pangbourne	1,000				
St Peter, Brimpton	1,000				
St Mary Magdalene, Tilehurst	1,300				
St Stephen, Upper Basildon	3,500				
Thatcham United Reformed Church	500				
	<u>22,500</u>	<u>27,700</u>			
Grants offered but not paid at 31 March					
St Mary, Beech Hill (offer lapsed)		500			
St Mary, Thatcham *	900	900			
St Peter, Cranbourne	15,000	15,000			
All Saints, East Garston	9,500	9,500			
St Mary, Hampstead Norreys		5,000			
St Peter, Brimpton		1,000			
Holy Trinity, Cookham		5,000			
St James, Barkham	2,000				
Holy Trinity, Sunningdale	15,000				
St Michael, Sandhurst	12,500				
St John, Stockcross	1,300				
St Mary, East Ilsley	8,000				
	<u>64,200</u>	<u>36,900</u>			

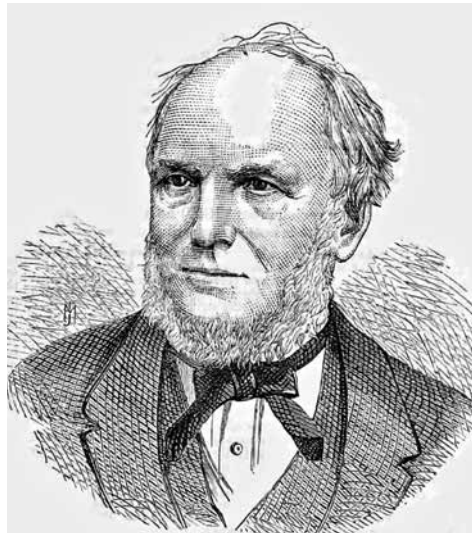
* balance of original grant

I have examined the books and records and confirm that these accounts reflect the transactions for the year.

John Cullen FCCA (retired),
Independent Examiner of Accounts

Benjamin Ferrey, architect (1810–80)

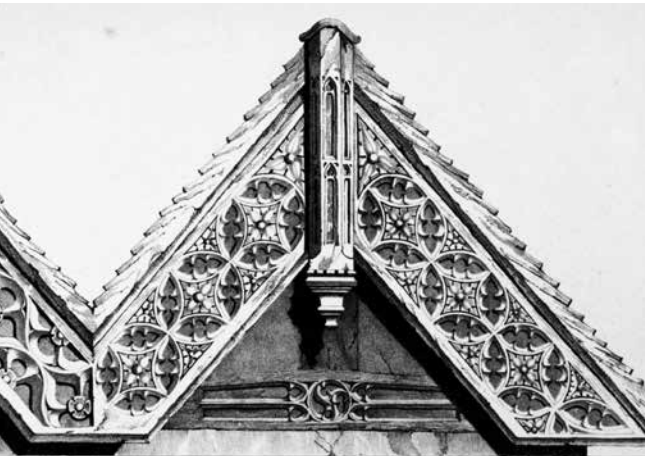
Benjamin Ferrey was born in Christchurch, Hampshire, the son of a draper and sometime Mayor of the town, of Huguenot descent. He was educated at Wimborne School, where he spent many hours drawing in the Minster church; in recognition of his artistic talent he was sent to London around 1825 as an articled pupil to Augustus Pugin, the antiquary and architectural draughtsman. Here his fellow pupils



included AWN Pugin and Thomas Talbot Bury. Augustus Pugin published several books of illustrated examples of (mainly gothic) architecture, and took his pupils on drawing tours in England and France to collect material; Ferrey contributed a number of plates in these books. Ferrey later wrote

Recollections of A. N. Welby Pugin and his Father, Augustus Pugin, published in 1861.

After seven years pupillage, Benjamin Ferrey gained practical experience of architecture as an assistant in the office of William Wilkins, working on detailed drawings for the building of the National Gallery, before setting up his own office in 1834, initially in partnership with T L Walker, a fellow pupil of Pugin. Early work



Gable at Bond's Hospital, Coventry, drawn by Benjamin Ferrey and published by Augustus Pugin

included development of Sir George Gervis' estate on the South coast, building villas and a hotel, which formed the nucleus of the entirely new seaside resort of Bournemouth. Having thus established a career, Ferrey was able to marry; his wife Ann, daughter of William Lucas of Stapleton Hall, Hornsey, shared his antiquarian interests. The couple had two

daughters and a son, Benjamin Edmund, who was to become an architect.

Like other architects in the 1830s, Ferrey experimented with the Romanesque, designing a couple of churches in that style, but the influence of his friend Pugin convinced him to adopt 14th century Gothic, and he established a reputation as 'one of the earliest, ablest, and most zealous pioneers of the modern Gothic school' putting into practice the revival of the medieval style advocated by Pugin and the Cambridge Camden Society. His church, parsonage and school of St Stephen, Rochester Row, Westminster (1845–50) for Miss Burdett Coutts was widely regarded as



St Stephen's church and schools, Rochester Row, Westminster

(*Builder* vol.5 (1847))

a leading example. However, he was a competent designer rather than an innovator, and resisted the influence of Italian and French Gothic, preferring English precedents. Other architects took the lead in developing a High Victorian style, and Ferrey's later work looks old-fashioned.

Benjamin Ferrey was appointed as Diocesan Architect to Bath & Wells in 1841 - one of the first such appointments - which resulted in significant work in the West Country. He also came to the attention of Samuel Wilberforce, consecrated as Bishop of Oxford in 1845, who commissioned him to make substantial improvements to the episcopal palace at Cuddesdon including a new chapel. Wilberforce also recommended Ferrey to undertake the restoration of St Lawrence's church in Reading, but when it was proposed

to appoint a Diocesan Architect the post went to the young G E Street, who was willing to act without any fees.

Ferrey's office was at Trinity Place, Westminster, but he lived at Fairmile, Henley-on-Thames, from 1846 to 1853—a particularly happy period—which led to several commissions in that area. For some years he shared the office with T H Rushforth, although not as a formal partnership.

He was elected FRIBA in 1839, was twice Vice-President of the RIBA and was awarded the Royal Gold Medal in 1870; he was particularly proud of his election as FSA in 1863.

Ferrey's practice was mainly ecclesiastical, though he also designed schools, parsonages, and houses, generally in a Tudor style. He was 'one of the best employed and best liked architects of his day: genial and popular', and his pleasant countenance and winning manners gained him many clients who became friends. He had a keen sense of humour and was a good mimic, and enjoyed music - he had a good baritone voice. On holiday he would often be found sketching or painting in water colours.



Grazeley Holy Trinity



Bisham All Saints

Ann Ferrey died in 1870, and Benjamin re-married in 1872 to Emily Hopkinson. Despite a stroke in 1877 he continued working, with the aid of his son Edmund, who took over the practice on Benjamin Ferrey's death in 1880.

Benjamin Ferrey's work in Berkshire includes:

New churches at **Cranbourne St Peter** (1848-50, with later additions by T H Rushforth); **Grazeley Holy Trinity** (1845-9: church, now redundant, and parsonage); and **Twyford St Mary** (1847, with later additions by B E Ferrey and S S Stallwood) All three were in an Ecclesiological style, comprising nave and lower chancel, the exterior walls faced with flint with Bath stone dressings, with a western bell-gable. In addition, **Bisham All Saints** was partly rebuilt and the chancel extended (1849) and new south arcade and roofs (1856) - the north aisle was added by R W Drew in 1877-8; and **Wickham St Swithun** was wholly rebuilt (1845-9) except for the Saxon lower part of the tower.

Church restorations at **Binfield All Saints** (restored and a north aisle added 1848-9, further alterations 1858-9); **Brightwell St Agatha** (repairs and re-seating 1859-61, with T H Rushforth); **Cookham Holy Trinity** (restoration and re-seating 1859-61); **Hurst St Nicholas** (repairs, add vestry 1855); and **Reading St Lawrence** (restoration of chancel 1847).



Wickham St Swithun

His main secular work was the Schools at Wargrave (1862); he also designed a new grandstand with dining rooms etc at Ascot racecourse.

Just outside the county, Benjamin Ferrey restored and enlarged **Henley St Mary** (1852-4), built a new church and parsonage of **Henley Holy Trinity** (1846-8, in the parish of Rotherfield Greys), restored **Harpsden St Margaret** (chancel 1848, nave 1852-3), built a new schoolroom at Henley Grammar School and a new elementary school for the town.

Front cover : Renewing the shingles on the spire at Sandhurst