

Application for Membership

I should like to join the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

Title _____ Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

I enclose my cheque (made out to 'OHCT')
for £ _____ (minimum annual subscription £20)

I enclose a completed banker's order (see below)

Please tick appropriate box

Gift Aid Declaration

I should like the Trust to treat this subscription and any further donations as Gift Aid donations until further notice. *N.B. The donor must be paying income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Trust reclaims on each donation (currently 25p for every £1 donated) and must inform the Trust should this cease to be the case.*

Signed _____ Date _____

Banker's Order

This cancels any previous banker's order to Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust or Friends of Oxfordshire Churches.

To (name of bank) _____

Address _____

Account name _____

Sort code _____ Account No. _____

Please pay to Barclays Bank PLC, City Office, P. O. Box 333, Oxford OX1 3HS (sort code 20-65-18) for the credit of Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, Account No. 50712825

£ _____ (amount in words) _____

on the _____ day of _____ 20 _____

and on the same day in each following year until further notice/for a further _____ years (delete as applicable).

Signed _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Please return to the Hon. Membership Secretary, Simon Haviland, Peakes House, Stonesfield, Witney, Oxon OX29 8PY.

The Trust is a Charity approved by the Inland Revenue (Charity No 235644)

How to seek a grant for your church

Grants can be given to help repair or restore not only the fabric, but also items such as bells, clocks, organs, heating, lighting, wiring and drainage. The Trust does not contribute to general appeals, but in recent years it has been empowered to fund new work, such as security systems, kitchens and utility areas.

The Trust does not have sufficient funds to meet all a church's needs, but with grants of between £1000 and £20,000 it can help prime the pump and fund the balance between what a church can raise from its own efforts and grants from elsewhere. It can also advise on how to raise funds from these other sources.

Application Forms and Guidance Notes are available on our website: www.ohct.org.uk. They may also be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Martin Thompson, The Corner House, South Stoke, Reading RG8 0JS (tel. 01491 872248; email mythompson@btinternet.com), to whom any enquiries should be addressed.

The photographs in this leaflet were taken by Peter MacKinnon



St Helen, Abingdon

Forty-six years helping Oxfordshire's churches



St James, Claydon

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

What is the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust?

The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust was formed in 1964 to provide financial help for repairs to churches of all denominations in Oxfordshire and to encourage wider interest in them. Since the Trust was formed, £3 million has been given in grants to help churches with essential repairs and restoration work.



Monument to Mary Anne Boulton (d.1829) by Francis Chantrey, at St Michael, Great Tew. The elegant white marble figure in Grecian costume is half reclining and holding an open book.

Why are the county's churches so important?

Oxfordshire is exceptionally rich in fine medieval churches and, as the county of the Oxford Movement, some splendid Victorian ones, too. With their soaring spires, sturdy towers and splendid monuments, our churches rank among the nation's most impressive buildings. The human cycle of birth, marriage and death has been recorded in them down the centuries. Each declares a faith that has lasted two thousand years. Our churches provide a shelter where the visitor can pause for a moment of reflection and tranquillity, shielded from the outside world.

Who pays for their upkeep?

Few people realise that church congregations alone are responsible for maintaining these beautiful buildings. Grants are available from very few sources and only our finest churches receive help from the government through English Heritage or the Heritage Lottery Fund. Whatever churches mean to you, one fact cannot be altered: they must be preserved, for they cannot be replaced.



The stone-vaulted chancel in the small Norman church of St Peter, Cassington, dating from about 1123.

This is where the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust comes in

The Trust can give grants to hard-pressed congregations trying to raise funds to keep their churches in good repair. Many of our most precious churches are in very small communities, where fundraising can be particularly difficult. The Trust gives grants to churches and chapels regardless of denomination.

How you can help the Trust

The Trust needs your support. This can be through financial contributions, or by volunteering your time – perhaps both. The former can be achieved in several ways: by becoming a member (*see overleaf*), by making a one-off donation, by arranging with your bank to make regular payments or by making a bequest. Our website page 'Thinking of Posterity' has outline details of the various forms of legacy.

For more information about financial contributions, please contact the Hon. Treasurer, Bill Andrewes, Apple House, Combe, Oxford OX29 8NU (tel. 01993 891376; email billandrewes@yahoo.com).

You could also help us by undertaking to recruit more members from amongst your friends, by participating in the annual Ride and Stride fundraising event or otherwise assisting the Trust in the wide variety of tasks it undertakes.

If you would like further details, please contact your local Deanery Representative, whose name may be found on the 'Contacting the Trust' page of our website: www.ohct.org.uk.



Detail of a 15th-century stained glass window of St James the Great at St Laurence, Combe.