



What do you know of the Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust?

We are a charity formed in 1988 to support historic churches within Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and Channel Islands with grants to help maintain and repair their buildings. We can award grants to churches of any Christian denomination, but they must be members of "Churches Together in England". In this way we help to support our ancient building heritage and the local communities they serve.



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WHO DO WE SUPPORT?

Since foundation we have helped 319 churches scattered throughout our Trust's region contributing 1 million pounds to essential repairs and refurbishment, where churches have struggled to find enough financial support to carry out the necessary works.

We have been donated over 1.1 million pounds in a large part by the incredible support of local church communities taking part in the National Ride and Stride day (R&S), held on the second Saturday in September. We are also fortunate to have benefitted from some significant legacies.

We aim to spend the majority of our annual income each year through our grant giving; our expenses are minimal because we are all volunteers.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

From this year the cost of church repairs are likely to increase even further due to Government changes to the Listed Places of Worship scheme, its replacement – the Places of Worship Renewal fund – is widely predicted to be inadequate.

This change means listed churches will now have to pay VAT on repairs (prior to this year they could claim VAT back); there is some provision by the government to offset this but for many churches it will increase the need to raise further funds. It is a competitive grant rather than an automatic refund and churches will likely need to prove their repairs are urgent and provide high community value.

We reached our zenith of R&S donations in 2022 but since then our income has fallen. We are not sure why, but since 2019 the number of churches taking part in R&S has fallen each year from 136 in 2019 to 70 in 2025, although the total donation per sponsored church has remained unchanged.



**SPONSORSHIP
MONEY IS
DIVIDED
EQUALLY
BETWEEN OUR
CHARITY AND
THE CHURCH
ORGANISING
THE EVENT – A
WIN/WIN FOR
EVERYONE.**



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In the past Ride and Stride has involved groups or individuals from a church getting sponsored to cycle or walk to as many churches as possible. However it has become a misnomer; sponsorship of any challenge on that day is perfectly permissible. Other examples are vintage car rallies and church bell ringing. Anyone can take part - you just need a modicum of imagination! Sponsorship money is divided equally between our charity and the church organising the event – a win/win for everyone.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are passionate about our ancient church heritage – we want to continue to give grants to churches in need, but to do this we need you to support our sponsorship campaign.

We will be sending out further information about Ride and Stride nearer to the September event and encouraging churches of every denomination to take part.

We also need more help to support our voluntary team, especially anyone with social media/communication skills – and of course a love of our ancient church buildings!

Dr Tim Goulder
Chairman