

# News & Annual Report 2025



Supporting Churches in Essex and East London



Chimney repairs at Rawreth, St Nicholas. © James Bettley

## Inside this newsletter



*John Vigar will give the Friends annual lecture on Thursday, 22nd May. See page 12.*

*Do bring a friend. The lecture is open to non-members.*

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# Chairman's message



**Martin Stuchfield**

The principal remit of the Trust is to award Repair and Improvement grants to Christian places of worship of all denominations in the historic county of Essex. Since the Covid-19 Pandemic the Trust has awarded £114,500 (2021), £178,500 (2022) and £202,000 (2023).

It is somewhat disappointing that this upward trajectory reversed in 2024 with a total of £159,000 awarded to twenty-one churches. This is rather surprising especially in the light of the funding provided by the Church of England and distributed by the Diocese of Chelmsford being heavily oversubscribed. Is this situation a reflection of the fact that the Friends of Essex Churches Trust needs to be better known?

The Trust made strong representations to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport urging an extension to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme that was set to end in March 2025. Thankfully the Scheme was extended (late in the day) but for one year only and capped at £23 million. Since the Scheme was launched in 2001 it has been extended by every ensuing Government providing grants covering the VAT on repairs costing more than £1,000. More than 5,000 churches received

assistance in 2024 with 94 per cent of grants under £25,000.

Fund-raising for repairs frequently takes “multiple years” with the current situation leaving those responsible for financing church buildings cautious about planning any repair work. If the Scheme is withdrawn then surely it cannot be reasonable or fair to levy a twenty per cent tax on repairing the nation's heritage.

It is highly appropriate that John Vigar (the well known ecclesiastical historian) has very kindly consented to give the Friends annual lecture that will take place after the AGM at Holy Trinity, Rayleigh on Thursday, 22nd May. Mr Vigar's lecture is aptly entitled *Exploring Essex Churches* and follows publication of his latest book entitled *Churches of Essex*.

I am delighted to report that Verity Barclay, who joined the Events Committee last year, has kindly agreed to take over the important role of Membership Secretary. The Trust owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Catherine Leeder who has served in this capacity since 2018.

I wish to thank our dedicated Trustees and the members of the Events and Grants Committees who willingly devote huge amounts of time to further the interests of our charity. The Trust needs to recruit more volunteers and I would urge you to give this earnest consideration. Please contact me for further details. Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to all our Friends whose support has never been more valued and needed.

**Martin Stuchfield**  
**Chairman – Friends of Essex Churches Trust**

# Events

It has been another busy year for the Events Committee, with over £22,000 raised for the Trust.

On 16th May we enjoyed *A Designer's Life* by Nicky Haslam at Layer Marney Tower (by kind permission of Nicholas and Sheila Charrington) generously sponsored by Reeman Dansie.

The AGM on 22nd May was held in Chelmsford Cathedral, where Emily Gee (Director of Cathedral and Church Buildings for the Church of England) delivered the Friends annual lecture. The guests thoroughly enjoyed the wine and canapés that were served.

On 4th June Christopher and Virginia Palmer-Tomkinson welcomed us to Little Bentley Hall where people were able to explore the stunning gardens and remarkable waterways. The delicious selection of tea and cakes were much enjoyed.

This year's Open Garden on 5th June promises to be very special and we hope to see you (see page 12 for further details).

The Essex Gift Fair on 15th October brought shoppers to our new venue at Chelmsford City Racecourse, sponsored by Birketts, Stonebond, and King & Co., who dressed the marquee in style, with support from Days Bakery, Fairfield Crisps and Frobishers Juice. The venue proved to be a great success, and we were delighted to achieve a record surplus of nearly £15,000. Thanks go to Natalie Rowe for her four years as the Fair Organiser, with the reins now handed over to Georgie Dwerryhouse. Plans are well



*Members of the Events Committee ready for action at the Open Garden event at Little Bentley Hall in June 2024. © Becky Willis*

underway for this year's Fair on 14th October, so please put the date in your diary.

This year's Christmas card, featuring the magnificent near life size crib scene in Thaxted Church, sold particularly well. If your church features a suitable image for a Christmas card do let us know.

Huge thanks go to everyone on the Events Committee for their hard work throughout the year: Verity Barclay, Georgie Dwerryhouse, Clare Ford, Rachel Grainger, Lance Lepper, Lucy Nicholls, Natalie Rowe, Jess Southwell, Catherine Sprott, Olly Surguy and Becky Willis. We bade farewell to Lucy O'Connor and welcomed Catherine Leeder on board. Thanks also to Martin Stuchfield and John Pickthorn for their support and encouragement.

Thank you so much for supporting us, and with lots coming up this year we look forward to seeing you. Details of all our events can be found on the website [www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk](http://www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk).

**Emma Brice**

**Chairman – Events Committee**

Email: [events@friendsofessexchurches.org.uk](mailto:events@friendsofessexchurches.org.uk)

# Grants

The Friends of Essex Churches made its first grants in 1952-3, with eight churches receiving £25 each – the equivalent today, according to the Bank of England's inflation calculator, of about £600. By 1961 the total amount of grants made was £1,525, with eighteen churches receiving the equivalent today of about £1,600 each. In 2024 our average grant for repairs was £7,125 and for improvements £9,000.

One church, Stebbing, St Mary the Virgin, can be found on all three lists, and the difference between £25 and £15,000 shows just how much has changed in the intervening years: not just the cost of labour and materials, but also improved standards of conservation repair and, particularly noticeable in the case of Stebbing, changes in the way church buildings are used. We now have different expectations in terms of comfort and the provision of what previous generations would have considered to be domestic facilities. In many cases the funds for this increasingly expensive work are having to be found by an ever-diminishing number of volunteers.

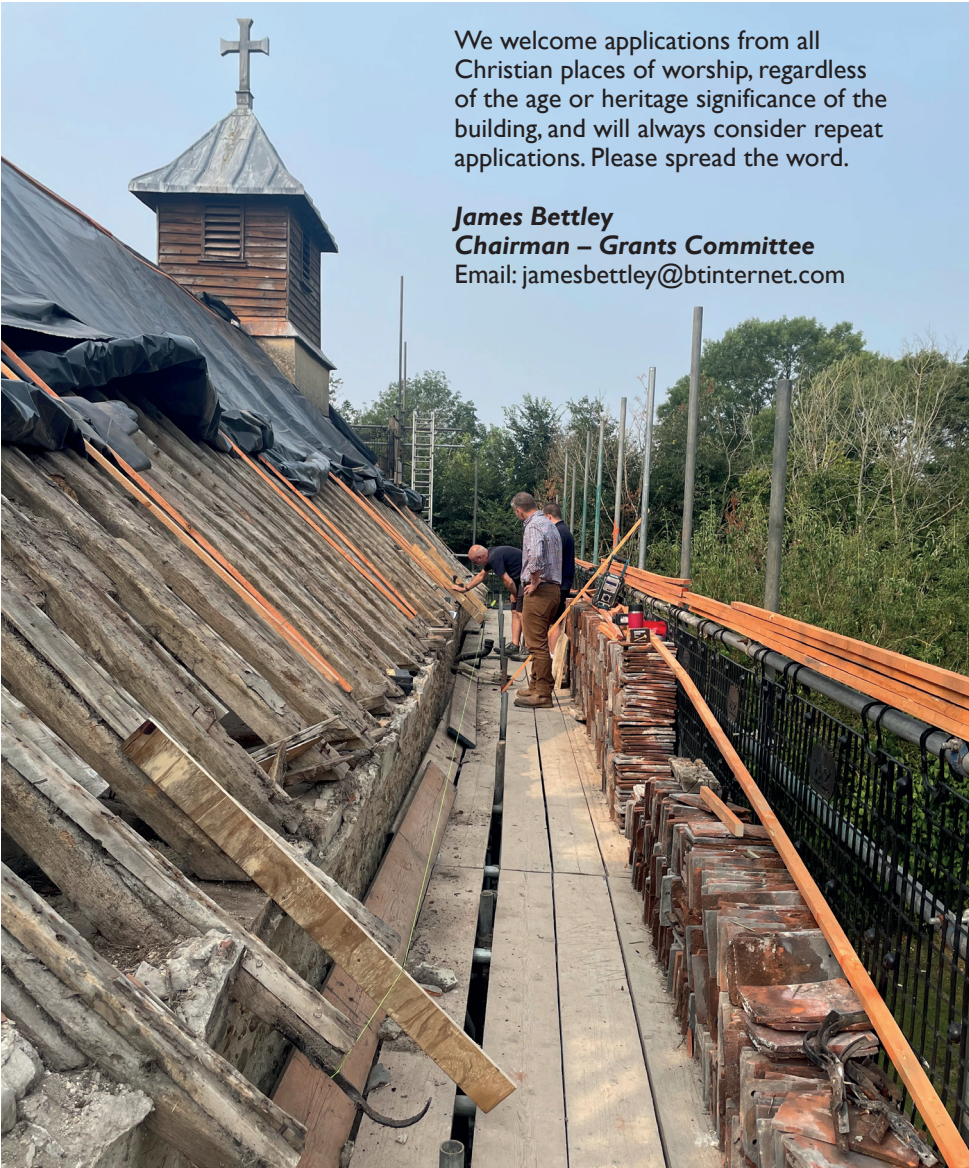
Support for parishes is now better than it has been for some years. The Diocese of Chelmsford employs a Church Building Support Officer who, together with the DAC Secretary and the Historic Buildings and Funding Advisor, can guide parishes through the process of managing projects and raising the necessary funds. The Church of England has also made two grant pots available to dioceses for dissemination to eligible churches, one for minor repairs and improvements to church buildings; the first round of funding in 2024 was heavily oversubscribed and it is to be hoped that this will demonstrate the very

great need that there is for such grants and that the pots need to be not just replenished but augmented.

Also in 2024 the National Lottery Heritage Fund announced a new three-year initiative to increase funding for places of worship, recognising not just the heritage significance of church buildings but also their value as community buildings – something we have been promoting for years, and which lay behind the introduction of our grants for improvements in 2015. Less helpful has been the behaviour of the Government. We can give them two cheers for extending the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, which allows parishes to claim back the VAT on repairs to listed church buildings; but we withhold the third for extending the Scheme for just one year from March 2025, for capping it at £23m (down from £42m), and for not making the announcement until January, and above all for limiting the amount a Church can claim to £25,000. All this makes it very difficult for parishes to plan their repairs – a process which may take several years – and will make the task of fund-raising even more daunting than it is already. Any project costing more than £125,000 will become more expensive, which is disastrous for parishes (like Stebbing) that are already halfway through a project.

After last year's high of £202,000 the total amount of grants offered in 2024 fell back to £159,000, considerably less than we had earmarked from our funds. The number of applications made to the Diocese's Minor Repairs and Improvements Grants Fund shows that there are many parishes which need money but are not, for one reason or another, applying to us.





We welcome applications from all Christian places of worship, regardless of the age or heritage significance of the building, and will always consider repeat applications. Please spread the word.

**James Bettley**  
**Chairman – Grants Committee**  
Email: [jamesbettley@btinternet.com](mailto:jamesbettley@btinternet.com)

*Roof and timber repairs at Ovington, St Mary. © Kay Pilsbury Thomas Architects*

**Application forms for grants are available from John Bloomfield**  
Email: [john.bloomfield@btinternet.com](mailto:john.bloomfield@btinternet.com) or download from the website,  
[www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk](http://www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk).

# 2024 grant offers in full

## Repairs

Beneficiary	Repairs	Amount
Barkingside, St Laurence	Roof repairs	£10,000
Basildon, Holy Cross	Plaster and associated repairs	£5,000
Borley, Dedication unknown	Tower repairs	£4,000
Debden, St Mary and All Saints	Roof repairs	£10,000
Foxearth, SS Peter and Paul	Stone replacement	£5,000
Great Bromley, St George	Masonry repairs	£9,000
Great Clacton, St John the Baptist	Stonework repairs	£5,000
Harlow, St Paul	Electrical repairs	£8,000
Latchingdon, Christ Church	Floor repairs	£10,000
Little Totham, All Saints	Porch, tower and door repairs	£5,000
Marks Tey, St Andrew	Tower repairs and shingle replacement	£10,000
Mistley, St Mary	Plaster repairs	£3,000
Rawreth, St Nicholas	Chimney repairs	£7,000
Stebbing, St Mary the Virgin	General repairs	£15,000
Stondon Massey, SS Peter and Paul	Ceiling plaster repairs	£3,000
Wickford, St Catherine	Subsidence and associated repairs	£5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£114,000</b>

## Improvements

Beneficiary	Improvements	Amount
Bardfield Saling or Little Saling, SS Peter and Paul	Hearing loop system	£1,500
Bradfield, St Lawrence	Tower access	£8,000
Elsenham, St Mary the Virgin	Provision of servery and lavatories	£12,000
Layer Marney, St Mary the Virgin	Improvements to facilities including disabled access	£11,000
Stapleford Abbots, St Mary the Virgin	Provision of servery	£12,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£45,000</b>
<b>COMBINED TOTAL</b>		<b>£159,000</b>



Provision of servery and lavatories at Little Leighs, St John the Evangelist. © James Bettley



# 2024 Ride+Stride

Weren't we lucky? What perfect weather we had for a cycle or stroll around the county!

A heartfelt thank you to all who participated in this fantastic day. Many of you made huge efforts with over 120 churches registering their opening times and facilities on our new webpage, allowing them to list activities taking place on Ride+Stride day. We had numerous appreciative comments from those who found this particularly helpful in planning their day.

Many more churches were open and delighted to share their wonderful buildings, both ancient and modern, with all sorts of visitors. The sponsored activities took many forms – one hardy soul cleaned the church windows on the day, The Song Cycle visited 21 churches and sang 13 motets and walked 9.6 miles in the City of London, and the St Laurence's Walkers (with Ruby the dog) from Upminster visited 20 London churches, never meeting the Song Cycle, though their paths crossed. One fine artist sent a hand-drawn map showing her journey around Elsenham, Henham and Thaxted. Those visiting Widford, St Mary were rewarded with cream teas.

Together we have raised over £31,000, a magnificent sum in these challenging times of rising living costs. Our beautiful churches need our support in so many different ways – please help us to continue to provide aid wherever possible so that this living heritage can thrive into the future, benefitting others as we have benefitted.



**Julia Abel Smith (President) presenting the Ride+Stride Fundraising Cup to a representative of Kelvedon, St Nicholas, at the AGM held at Chelmsford Cathedral.**

© James Bettley

If you have time and energy to spare and feel as passionate about Ride+Stride as I do, please contact me and join the team. We are looking for fresh and innovative ideas to keep pushing this great event in new directions.

Huge congratulations to this year's Ride+Stride fundraising cup winner – Leytonstone, St John the Baptist, for their truly outstanding effort of raising £2,736.13!

Please join us on Saturday, 13th September 2025 as we sally forth once again in very many imaginative ways for our annual Ride+Stride.

**Rachel Grainger**  
**Ride+Stride Organiser**

Email: [rideandstrideorganiser@friendsofessexchurches.org.uk](mailto:rideandstrideorganiser@friendsofessexchurches.org.uk)



# Study Days

Friends of the Trust visiting churches in north Essex enjoyed two splendid Study Days in 2024. John Vigar, a retired university lecturer who has been a professional ecclesiastical historian for over forty years, led both Study Days.

The Spring Study Day on 8th May commenced at Pleshey, Holy Trinity. Frederic Chancellor reconstructed most of the present building in 1868. However, two important indents were rescued from the medieval building. The earliest formerly contained brasses to Humfrey Stafford, K.G., 1st Duke of Buckingham, 1460, and his wife. The second, is an unusual composition

depicting John Holland, Duke of Exeter, in armour, 1447, that is separated with a column from John Burniby, a priest, 1500, with a chalice above his head. Two fine 18th century monuments commemorate Sir William Jolliff and his nephew Samuel Tufnell of Langleys at Great Waltham. Both are probably the work of Henry Cheere. Next to Felsted, Holy Cross, a church that was heavily restored in 1874-5 by Henry Woodyer and again in 1914-15 by F.W. Chancellor (usually known as Wykeham Chancellor and son of Frederic). Notwithstanding, the crowning glory is the sumptuous monument to Richard, 1st Lord Rich, 1567 (founder of the neighbouring



*Little Dunmow, St Mary the Virgin.* © James Bettley

public school) and his son Robert, 1581. This is located in the Rich Chapel and is attributed to the notable sculptor, Epiphanius Evesham. Two splendid 15th century brasses remain in the chancel. That depicting Cristine, wife of John Bray, 1420, is arguably the most graceful brass to be found in Essex.

Following lunch the collegiate church at Little Dunmow, St Mary the Virgin (tucked away at the end of a cul-de-sac) was visited. The south or Lady Chapel (now used as the parish church) is all that remains of the 12th century priory of Augustinian Canons. The interior is spectacular (despite a restoration by Chancellor that took place in 1872-3) with a stunning arcade of five bays on the north side dated c.1200. Abutting the north wall at the west end are the high quality alabaster effigies of Walter Fitzwalter (owner of Pentlow Hall), 1432, and his wife Elizabeth, 1464, on a tomb-chest adorned with shields. Finally the church at Rayne, All Saints (with its magnificent west tower constructed of Tudor brickwork by Sir William Capel during the early 16th century) was visited. The remainder of the building was built in 1839-41 and restored in 1867. The finest heraldic brass in Essex (containing six shields and three lozenges) commemorating Lady Katherine Capell, 1572, was viewed while a fine tea was enjoyed in highly convivial surroundings. It was a joy to witness the transformation that this church has undergone, not least to learn that free lunches are provided to primary school age children every school holiday.

The Autumn Study Day on 5th October focused on four churches located in the

North Hinckford Benefice (the largest in the Diocese covering one hundred square miles) located in the far north of the county on the border with Suffolk. The day began at Borley where Michael Stebbing and his team provided light refreshments and a warm welcome.

The chief glory of the church is the 16th century monument depicting Edward and Frances Waldegrave on a tomb-chest under a six poster. From Borley the short distance was travelled to Foxearth, SS Peter and Paul, occupying an isolated position on the edge of the village and far from easy to access. Despite the difficulties the group was rewarded with a striking interior influenced by Rev John Foster, the High Church rector from 1845-92. The richly decorated chancel walls and floor tiles are magnificent. Even the organ located under the tower arch at the west end is highly decorated. It is very gratifying that the Trust awarded a grant in



Rayne, All Saints. © James Bettley

March 2024 for stone replacement repairs to the east window and gable. Sadly the building requires extensive restoration.

Pentlow, St Gregory and St George (located in the grounds of Pentlow Hall and the most northerly of the six round tower churches in Essex) was visited immediately after lunch. On arrival visitors noticed the first mausoleum to be constructed in the county since 1890 sited adjacent to the north churchyard wall. The Norman church, replete with apse, contains a fine font. The square base with crude decoration is Norman surmounted with an ornate 15th century canopied cover. The grand monument to Judge George Kempe, 1606, his son John, 1609, and his wife Elinore occupies a position on a tomb-chest in the north-east corner of the north chapel that was added to the chancel in c.1600. A hatchment installed in 2017 is probably the most recent to be erected in an English church.



*John Vigar imparting his knowledge at Borley with the Waldegrave monument prominent.* © James Bettley

*Hatchment installed in 2017 and probably the most recent to be erected in an English church at Pentlow, St Gregory and St George.*

© Martin Stuchfield



Finally the day concluded with a visit to Belchamp St Paul, St Andrew, situated to the north of the village and adjacent to Paul's Hall. The manor was granted to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral in 930. The church was rebuilt after the visitation in 1458 and completed by 1490. Fine misericord stalls, with wonderful carved seated figures dating from c.1500, adorn the chancel and create a collegiate atmosphere. The remaining portions of two 16th century brasses have been removed from their original slabs and set into a new slab that now lies in the centre of the chancel; probably when the church was restored in 1873. It is obvious that the surviving plates (eleven in number) were refixed with no regard to their respective relationships to one another and arranged solely in order that they might form, as a whole, a neat and symmetrical design! Both brasses were originally on altar-tombs that stood on the north side of the chancel. Tea ended a most interesting day.

Thanks are due to John Vigar and the incumbents and churchwardens of all the churches visited.

**Martin Stuchfield**

# Upcoming events

## **WEDNESDAY, 7TH MAY – *Spring Study Day***

Our next study day, led by John Vigar, will visit the churches at Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall, Cressing, Rivenhall and Stisted. Tickets are £15.00 for members and £20.00 for non-members. Payment is preferred via BACS using reference “Spring Study Day” (sort code: 20-19-95, account no.: 60427888) or enclose a cheque made payable to Friends of Essex Churches Events Committee and send to: Martin Stuchfield, Pentlow Hall, Pentlow, Essex CO10 7SP. Email: [martinstuchfield@pentlowhall](mailto:martinstuchfield@pentlowhall). Please see website for booking form.

## **THURSDAY, 22ND MAY – *Spring Meeting including AGM and Lecture***

Our Lecturer for 2025 will be John Vigar who has worked as a professional ecclesiastical historian for over 45 years. He is the author of eighteen books, several hundred church guidebooks, and frequently appears in the broadcast media. The lecture will be entitled *Exploring Essex Churches*. Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 8BB at 8.15p.m., following the Annual General Meeting at 7.00p.m. and refreshments from 7.30p.m. Open to members and non-members; admission free. Please email [jeppickthorn@gmail.com](mailto:jeppickthorn@gmail.com) for further information; it would help us to know if you are planning to attend so that it is possible to gauge numbers for refreshments.

## **TUESDAY, 5TH JUNE – *Garden Visit***

2.00pm–5.00pm. Stunning private garden in the Halstead area not normally open to the public. Tickets £15.00 for members and £20.00 for non-members. For tickets email: [garden@friendsofessexchurches.org.uk](mailto:garden@friendsofessexchurches.org.uk) or contact Clare Ford. Tel: 07526 520383.

## **SATURDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER – *Ride+Stride***

9.00a.m.–5.00p.m. Take part in our sponsored cycle ride and walk. Visit unique churches, have fun with the family, enjoy some gentle exercise, and have a great day out in aid of a good cause. Download sponsorship and other forms from [www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride](http://www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride) and create your own fundraising page on [www.justgiving.com/foect](http://www.justgiving.com/foect).

## **WEDNESDAY, 8TH OCTOBER – *Autumn Study Day***

Details to be confirmed but it is planned to visit the churches at Hawkwell, Hockley, Rayleigh and Rochford.

## **TUESDAY, 14TH OCTOBER – *Gift Fair***

The Essex Gift Fair in The Summer Marquee at Chelmsford City Racecourse, CM3 1QP is the perfect place to meet friends and start your Christmas shopping. 10.00a.m.–3.00p.m. Light lunches will be available, and new for this year, creative demonstrations. Advance tickets will be available from [TicketSource.co.uk](http://TicketSource.co.uk).

Find full and updated details of events on [www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/events](http://www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/events).



# Membership

I wish to express gratitude to Catherine Leeder, my predecessor, who has served as Membership Secretary since 2018. I was appointed to the Events Committee last year and look forward to being responsible for the Trust's subscriptions.

I am pleased to report that income from donations and subscriptions for the year increased to £28,413 (2023: £22,629) with tax reclaimed on gift-aid flat at £2,258 (2023: £2,366).

I realise that many of you will have paid your subscription by Standing Order. Others may have paid by BACS or sent a cheque. For everyone else, now is the best time to renew. We do not routinely acknowledge subscriptions but please accept our thanks now.

Thankfully the Trust has benefitted from the hard work and ingenuity of the Events Committee and from legacies received. The latter are obviously unpredictable but over the last ten years the Trust has received a staggering £450,000 from legacies. Please consider remembering us in your Will, as bequests to a registered charity are exempt from Inheritance Tax. You may not be aware that an estate can pay Inheritance Tax at a reduced rate of 36% if 10% or more is left to charity in a Will.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or questions relating to membership.

## Subscriptions and Gift Aid

Subscriptions are received throughout the year with Gift Aid claimed on a large percentage thereby benefiting the work of the Trust.

Gift Aid is claimed against UK taxpayers only and for every £1 claimed an extra 25 pence is reclaimed by the Trust. For example, a subscription of £20 means that £5 can be reclaimed.

If you, as a subscriber, are unsure whether or not Friends of Essex Churches is claiming Gift Aid against your subscription then please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Verity Barclay**  
**Membership Secretary**

Email: [membership@friendsofessexchurches.org.uk](mailto:membership@friendsofessexchurches.org.uk)

# Summarised accounts

## Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st December 2024

2023 £'000		2024 £'000
25.0	Donations and subscriptions	30.7
–	Legacies	1.0
36.0	Fundraising – Ride+Stride	32.2
26.3	– other events	33.0
14.7	Dividends and interest	16.1
<b>102.0</b>	<b>Total income</b>	<b>113.0</b>
(3.0)	Governance and support costs	3.4
(0.5)	Ride+Stride – fundraising expenses	–
(15.6)	– returned to churches	14.5
(8.9)	Other events – fundraising expenses	11.0
(1.6)	Promotion of public interest in churches	2.6
(186.0)	Grants for work payable to churches	153.5
<b>(215.6)</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>185.0</b>
(113.6)	Net (expenditure)	(72.0)
(4.6)	Unrealised (loss)/gain on investments	6.4
<b>(118.2)</b>	<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(65.6)</b>

## Summary balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

2023 £'000		2024 £'000
245.3	Investments – market value	251.7
201.4	Cash and deposits	128.3
<b>446.7</b>	<b>Total assets</b>	<b>380.0</b>
(136.0)	Undrawn allocated grants	(134.5)
(2.3)	Accruals	(2.6)
<b>308.4</b>	<b>Net assets Represented by</b>	<b>242.9</b>
308.4	General Fund (unrestricted)	242.9
<b>308.4</b>	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>242.9</b>

# Treasurer's report

The total funds of the Trust stand at £242,839 (2023: £308,477).

In 2024 a total of £155,000 (2023: £202,000) has been paid out in repair and improvement grants for the benefit of 18 different churches – quite a sum albeit lower than the previous year.

Thank you for being a member, attending

our events and participating in Ride+Stride – the churches that receive grants from the Trust are always most grateful.

For more details please see the summarised accounts on page 14.

**Jo Pimblett**  
**Treasurer**

Email: [treasurer@friendsofessexchurches.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@friendsofessexchurches.org.uk)

## Legacies

We are hugely grateful for the bequests we have received over recent years. They have enabled the Grants Committee to repair and restore on a much larger scale.

Please do remember The Friends of Essex Churches Trust in your Will – a great

cause with the added bonus that it can reduce your liability to Inheritance Tax.

Please contact the Treasurer if you would like advice on suitable wording: Jo Pimblett, Parsonage Bury, Henham, Bishops Stortford CM22 6AN. Email: [treasurer@friendsofessexchurches.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@friendsofessexchurches.org.uk)

## The Friends of Essex Churches Trust 2024-25

### Patrons

The Bishop of Brentwood  
The Bishop of Chelmsford  
HM Lord-Lieutenant of Essex

### President

Julia Abel Smith, DL

### Vice-Presidents

Dr James Bettley, JP, DL, FSA  
Rt Rev Thomas McMahan  
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### Executive Committee and Trustees

Martin Stuchfield, MBE, JP, DL, FSA (Chairman)  
Rachel Grainger (Vice-Chairman)  
John Pickthorn (Hon Secretary)  
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*Ceiling plaster repairs at Stondon Massey, SS Peter and Paul. © Robert Gay*



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