



Helping Yorkshire's Historic Churches and Chapels
since 1988



St Mary, Lower Dunsforth
Awarded £7000 for steeple and other repairs

Annual Report



Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust - 2025

Our people



President

The Most Reverend & Right
Honourable Stephen Cottrell
Archbishop of York

Patron

Dr Terry Bramall CBE

Trustees

Tom Ramsden
Chairman (retired December)

Richard Bailey
Treasurer

Clive Lloyd

Moira Fulton (retired October)

Joel Brookfield

Kate Giles

Sylvia Johnson

Rory Wardroper
(retired October)

Michael Wildblood

Robert Beaumont
(retired March)

Ed Anderson

Administration

Treasurer:	Richard Bailey. T: 01904 643943, Email: treasurer@yhct.org.uk
Administrator and principal address:	Vanessa White. T: 07786 656883, Email: generalenquiries@yhct.org.uk
Grants Secretary:	Jonathan Stamp. T: 07876 420771, Email: yhctgrants@sky.com
Independent Examiner:	Sarah Wearing FCA, HPH Chartered Accountants, 30 Bootham, York YO30 7XZ
Investment Managers:	LGT Investment Management, Minerva House, East Parade, Leeds LS1 5PS
Bank:	Co-operative Bank, PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP
Solicitors:	Lupton Fawcett LLP, Stamford House, Piccadilly, York YO1 9PP
Website:	www.yhct.org.uk
Twitter:	@YHCT88

President's welcome



As I travel around the Diocese of York and the Northern Province, I am continually struck by the beauty and variety of church buildings of various centuries. We have a goodly heritage, not just in terms of their visual appeal, but also because of what they mean and what they enable us to do. These historic buildings speak to us of the faith of our forebears, and the tremendous investment they made in building places for worship. They are continual reminders to us of the presence of God in our communities, and the deep-rootedness of our cities, towns and parishes in the Christian life of our county. They are also wonderful resources, as places of welcome to which we can invite people, and to which people naturally gravitate. It is not only that many beyond our regular attenders come back each year for special services, but far more have a sense that this is 'their' church and have a sense of belonging. This belonging is accentuated when they come at times of joy, such as for baptism and for marriage, and at times of sorrow, to commend those who have died to the mercy of God, in the faith of the resurrection.

So it is once again a great joy to commend the Annual Report of the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust. Our ancient buildings are in need of constant support and upkeep, and in so many places this falls to a small number of church members with limited resources. The

generous support encouragement and assistance that YHCT provides is a real blessing, and I am continually grateful for their unfailing energies.



Stephen Cottrell,
Archbishop of York

Chairman's report



I am delighted to have taken over as Chair of the Trust on 1st January 2026. May I express my thanks to my predecessor Tom Ramsden for his many years of service.

I am very pleased to be able to draw your attention to a significant increase in the grants both paid and awarded to Yorkshire's Places of Worship. In 2020 this was about £100,000 and in 2025 it is around £190,000. The figures are approximate because of the time lag between grants awarded and grants claimed in any year. They are however significant in that they reflect the growing support for the work of the trust not only from legacies but from charitable trusts, individual donors, church members and of course the activities and membership of the Friends.

Sylvia Johnson, the Grants Committee Chair, has been successful in recruiting more volunteers to help with the work of the Committee. The members of the Committee visit all the churches applying for grants and they assess the quality of the applications. They can often provide valuable advice to refine the application and point churches in the direction of other potential sources of funding. We are grateful for all their hard work.

The costs of maintenance work have risen substantially since 2020 and the recent changes to the VAT regime will also add significantly to the pressures facing churches that need repairs. A major increase in funds will be required if we are to meet the growing demand.

Legacies and bequests are very important to the Trust. In 2025 they added a further £14,000 to the total available for grants. The trust has a sensible legacies policy which distributes all income received over the following years so that the wishes of all donors are respected. It also ensures that this income is evenly spread rather than all distributed in the year of receipt.

Continued...

Chairman's report

(continued)



In a change of policy, rather than focussing on a single Yorkshire Churches Day, we are now encouraging churches to open their doors and arrange special events for members of the public on days to suit them. We will support these whenever we can.

A new initiative for the coming year is a YHCT Classic Car Rally which we hope will raise significant funds for the Trust. It will take place on 17th October 2026 and I am most grateful to my colleagues on the organising group – Tom Ramsden, Jonathan Turner and Jonathan Sands - for all their hard work.

The Trustees are deeply grateful for the support given to the trust by all those passionate about the continuing development of Yorkshire's fine churches. Particular thanks are due to the trustees of The Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation and the Holy Rood Community Charity for their substantial contributions. We hope to continue the growth of support from church members and Friends and to maintain the excellent tours and zoom lectures so ably organised by Moira Fulton and Jane Crease. The work of the trust is so worthwhile, and I would like to extend my

grateful thanks to my fellow trustees and everyone who makes such an important contribution.



Ed Anderson
Chairman

Events



Friends of the Trust enjoyed a series of engaging and informative church tours over the past year, visiting historic religious buildings and heritage sites across North Yorkshire.

In April, trustees Moira and Jane led Friends on an unusual and fascinating tour in the Malton area. Unlike traditional church visits, many of the locations explored were the surviving remains of once significant buildings.



The tour began at St Mary's Church, Old Malton, built around 1150 and the sole surviving part of the vast church of the former Gilbertine Priory. Visitors enjoyed a guided tour of the church and the surviving monastic remains.

The group then moved on to the site of the Roman fort of Derwentio, where substantial earthworks still mark the ancient settlement. From there, Friends visited the site of an 11th-century castle that was destroyed by Robert the Bruce in 1322.

Continuing their journey through local history, the group passed the remains of the 1798 workhouse before reaching John Carr Bridge, which crosses the River Derwent. One of the bridge supports sits on a small island that once housed a leper colony established by Gilbertine monks.

The tour concluded at the Old Lodge Hotel, which stands on the site of the Norman castle's former gatehouse and incorporates remains of a demolished Jacobean mansion.

Continued...

In June, Friends visited three very different churches in the Scarborough area. The day began at St Martin's Church, Seamer, an impressive Norman church that stands prominently at the entrance to the village.

From there the group travelled to Wykeham to visit All Saints Church designed by William Butterfield between 1853 and 1854 and built on the site of a 14th-century chapel.

The final stop was St Matthew's Church, Hutton Buscel, a church of Norman origin that later received some alterations by Butterfield. The building is particularly notable for its fine collection of 18th-century monuments.



After a day exploring centuries of religious architecture and local history, the group ended the visit with well-earned refreshments at the Forge Valley Inn.



Friends also enjoyed an interesting lecture by Dr Adam White in November on the Tudor and Early Stuart Monuments of Westminster Abbey. This lecture concentrated on the monuments of the Early Modern Period, beginning with Henry VII and Elizabeth of York in the Henry VII Chapel and ending with the monuments of the Commonwealth period.

During the Autumn and Winter Friends were treated to a series of Zoom lectures on a fascinating range of subjects including a talk on Norman fonts in Yorkshire, medieval pilgrimages, the discovery and conservation of a near-complete scheme of mid-16th-century grotesque wall paintings uncovered

Continued...

in 2021 during the restoration of Calverley Old Hall, and the work of Gothic Revival architect John Loughborough Pearson, highlighting his early career in Yorkshire between 1843 and 1865, when he established his reputation through a series of church restorations and new designs across the region.

Many of these talks can be watched again via the Events page of the website yhct.org.uk

Yorkshire Churches Trust



Modern pilgrimage trails the highlight of Yorkshire Churches Day

One of the standout features of Yorkshire Churches Day 2025 was a series of specially designed 'pilgrimage trails, inviting visitors to explore places of worship on foot while discovering the rich heritage of Yorkshire's churches.

The walking routes linked churches across the county, offering participants the chance to enjoy scenic landscapes alongside refreshments, exhibitions and displays hosted by the churches themselves. From peaceful walks across the picturesque East Moors to journeys through the historic landscapes of East Yorkshire, the trails highlighted the deep-rooted history and cultural significance of the region's religious buildings.

A particularly distinctive route was the Deserted Medieval Villages of East Yorkshire Walk, which guided visitors through ancient and semi-ruined sites which were home to communities for as long as six hundred years before being abandoned following the 1500s. Walkers visited churches in the long-abandoned villages of Wharram Percy, Cowlam, Cottam, and Langtoft. The churches in these settlements, many now partially ruined, once formed the centre of village life and stand today as reminders of communities that disappeared centuries ago.

Continued...

Another highlight was the Abbot's Way, a nine-mile circular walk linking churches across the countryside near Ripon. The route received a soft launch during Yorkshire Churches Day and proved popular with walkers eager to combine history, architecture and rural scenery. Starting and finishing in Sawley, the route passes through Winksley, Aldfield, and Studley Royal, taking in four rural churches in the Fountains Benefice.

Among them is the renowned St Mary's Church, Studley Royal, designed by Victorian architect William Burges and located close to the spectacular ruins of Fountains Abbey. The route also includes St Michael and All Angels Church, Sawley, St Cuthbert and St Oswald Church, Winksley, and St Lawrence Church, Aldfield. More details on this route can be found at: fountainsgroupofchurches.co.uk.

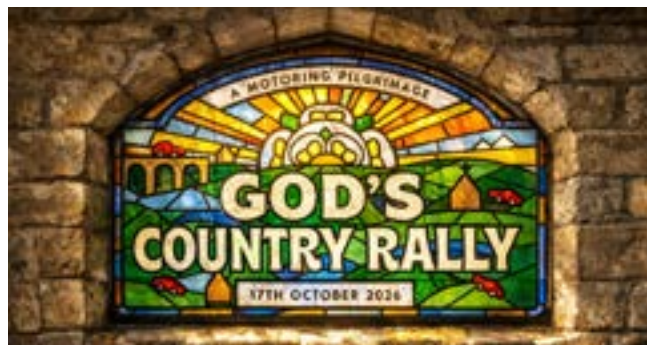
Dates for your diary



Saturday 17 October: God's Country Classic Car Rally *Classic Car Rally with a difference.*

Starting at one of four magnificent landmarks in the county entrants will then travel to Bowcliffe hall as the finish point. But here is the twist... each entrant will be asked to capture on camera as many places of worship and other historic points of interest as they can along their journey. And there will be prizes for the best photograph, the funniest photograph and the most photographs taken on route.

More information can be found at: yhct.org.uk/eventspage.



Case Studies



Sky's The Limit for St John's at Birkby

St John the Evangelist at Birkby has a magnificent tower, housing an octagonal spire that rises 220 feet, almost half the size of Blackpool Tower. However, the impressive height of the tower brings its own challenges, not least, keeping on top of the maintenance. The YHCT were delighted to award £5000 in April towards the cost of an internal spire ladder, to assist with high level access to address wear and tear and therefore preventing future structural deterioration.



"This funding from the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust will make all the difference to us being able to carry out essential maintenance work repairs. It will enable us to preserve the Victorian Heritage of a very deprived area and continue our ministry of serving the local community. On behalf of all who love and care for St John's, we are immensely grateful to the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust."
Peter Prasadam, churchwarden at St John's.

Case Studies

(continued)



Hornsea URC – Fit for the Future

The Grade II listed Hornsea United Reformed Church was built between 1872-4 in gothic style. An inspection of the roof unearthed failures of the pointing at the joints, allowing damp to get in. The church has played host to a number of concerts for the community and is used by local schools. The YHCT were delighted to award £5000 towards the repairs in April, which will help ensure the building's future and continue its work in the local community.



Margaret Knapton from Hornsea United Reformed Church said: *"This funding from the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust will make all the difference to us being able to carry out the necessary maintenance work repairs and continue with our mission of being an open and accessible church. On behalf of all who love and care for the church, I am immensely grateful to the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust."*

Case Studies

(continued)



St Martin's Bulmer – History Restored

The YHCT were delighted to award £9000 in April to St Martin's in Bulmer towards repairs to the 14th century tower, to keep it watertight. This Grade I listed church has great historical significance, housing the head of a Saxon wheel-cross and an effigy of John de Bulmer, who died in the 1270s. His descendent Sir John Bulmer, and his wife, were involved in the Pilgrimage of Grace. The church receives many visitors coming to nearby Castle Howard and the members of the community are setting up a local history group to research and deliver an in-church 'Info point/touchscreen' themed around the history of Bulmer.



Rev Douglas Robertson, from St Martin's said: *"This funding from the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust will make all the difference to us being able to carry out the necessary maintenance work. Fixing the tower preserves not only the heritage of this important building but ensures that the community and congregation can also continue to use this building to the benefit of all."*

Acknowledgements



We remain indebted to our many Friends who continue to support the Trust and we were delighted to be joined by so many of them at the events we held throughout the year.

We are especially grateful to the donors who generously support the Trust, including those listed below:

The Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation, Holy Rood Community Trust, and the Ilkley Charitable Trust.

We are grateful to the following Churches and PCCs who have supported the Trust:

All Saints Kirk Deighton	St Austin Church Wakefield	St Mary Church Embsay
All Saints Northallerton	St Cuthbert Church Sessay	St Mary Church Quernhow
All Saints Pavement York	St Edith Bishop Wilton	St Mary PCC Gate Helmsley
All Saints Settrington & Scagglethorpe	St Germain Winestead	St Mary' Sand Hutton
All Saints South Cave	St Giles Burnby	St Matthews Chapel Allerton
All Saints South Kirby	St Giles Lockton	St Matthew Sheffield
Barwick in Elmet Methodist	St Helen Skipwith	St Matthew Wilsden
Bethel Independent Methodist Chapel	St Hilda Bilsdale	St Michael East Ardsley
Burythorpe PCC	St James the Great Woodall & Waterloo	St Michael Skidby
Central Methodist Church York	St John Minskip	St Nicholas Bawtry
Christ Church Appleton-le-Moors	St John the Divine Menston	St Nicholas Beverley
Christ Church PCC Upper Armley	St John Church Allerston	St Nicholas Stillington
Diocese of Leeds (Catholic)	St John Church Goole	St Oswald Church Leathley
Doncaster Minster	St John Sharow	St Oswald Fulford
Gomersal Methodist	St Laurence Atwick	St Oswald Thornton in Lonsdale
Harswell PCC	St Laurence Kirby Misperton	St Oswald Oswaldkirk
Holy Trinity Church Low Moor	St Lawrence Siggleshorne	St Patrick Huddersfield
Holy Trinity Stonegrave Minster	St Lawrence York	St Paul King Cross
Hornsea URC	St Margaret Brotton	St Saviour Auckley
PCC of Honley with Brockholes	St Margaret Horsforth	St Stephen Church Lindley
Saltburn PCC	St Martin Bulmer	St Swithin Sproatley
Settle PCC	St Martin Scarborough	St Thomas Scotton
St Andrew Aysgarth	St Martin Yapham cum Meltonby	Westborough Methodist Church
St Andrew URC Sheffield	St Mary Magdalen Whitgift	Wilberfoss PCC

Ways to help the Trust



Please become a Friend of the Trust (for less than £1 per week) and help secure the future of Yorkshire's places of worship. You will be joining a group of likeminded people, greatly committed to preserving and maintaining places of worship and help us make a vital difference to their future.

Subscription Rates

Details of current subscription rates can be found below. Please make sure your payment and / or standing order is up to date and being paid into:

Bank Name	Sort code	Account number
Co-operative Bank	08 92 99	65846678

Types of membership (per year)

Membership type	Value
Individual	£35
Joint (two people living at the same address)	£45
Church membership	£50
Business supporter	£100

Do please let us know if your contact details change, so we can continue to keep in touch.

Please contact generalenquiries@yhct.org.uk.

Continued...

Ways to help the Trust

(continued)



A Gift in your Will

Many of us share a deep love and appreciation of the way places of worship shape and frame the landscape and the built environment. Across Yorkshire we are blessed with outstanding examples of the changing styles of ecclesiastic architecture. Their architectural dominance and spiritual resonance have shaped our great county, but too many are fighting a battle against the ravages of time and they need and deserve our help. Leaving a gift in your Will is a lasting way to continue supporting these places of worship beyond your lifetime and ensure they are kept alive for future generations to enjoy. Making a bequest is simple – it can be included in a new Will or added as a codicil to your existing Will. A bequest to a charity is free of inheritance tax.

Any legacies bequeathed will be spent directly on grants for places of worship, spread out over a suitable time frame depending on the size of the legacy.

Whatever your wishes, please get in touch with us today and see how your legacy can live on through the Trust.

yhct.org.uk/donate/#legacy

Gift Aid

If you pay income or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount YHCT can reclaim, the Trust will benefit by an additional 25p in the £1 on all monies paid. If we are able to apply Gift Aid to any donation you make, please be sure to let us know.

Grants Awarded 2025



In 2025 £192,213 was awarded to the following thirty nine places of worship:

Atwick, St Lawrence	Roof repairs	£7500	Anglican
Beighton, St Mary the Virgin	Tower repairs	£8000	Anglican
Birkby, St John the Evangelist	Tower access repairs	£5000	Anglican
Bulmer, St Martin	Tower repairs	£9000	Anglican
Burton in Lonsdale, All Saints	Window repairs	£5000	Anglican
Coneysthorpe Chapel	Roof repairs	£8000	Anglican
East Ardsley, St Michael	Roof repairs	£1000	Anglican
Gargrave, St Andrew	Roof repairs	£4000	Anglican
Great Ayton, Christ Church	Spire repairs	£8000	Anglican
Hardraw, St Mary & St John	Organ repairs	£2000	Anglican
Harrogate, St Robert	Roof repairs	£7500	Anglican
Hessle, All Saints	Tower repairs	£10,000	Anglican
Hornsea URC	Roof repairs	£6000	United Reformed Church
Hovingham, All Saints	Work to bells	£4187	Anglican
Huddersfield, St Patrick	Stonework repairs	£8000	Catholic
Kirby Misperton, St Laurence	Repairs to tower louvres	£5,526	Anglican
Kirk Deighton, All Saints	Roof repairs	£3000	Anglican
Kirk Sandall & Edenthorpe, Church of the Good Shepherd	Roof repairs	£6000	Anglican
Leeds, All Souls	Glass repairs	£5758	Anglican
Lower Dunsforth, St Mary	Steeple and other repairs	£7000	Anglican
Malton, St Leonard & St Mary	Investigation Grant	£1000	Anglican
Marske, St Mark	Tower repairs	£6000	Anglican
Middleton Tyas, St Michael & All Angels	Drainage Repairs	£5000	Anglican
Nunnington, All Saints & St James	Window repairs	£6000	Anglican
Preston under Scar, St Margaret	Bellcote repairs	£4000	Anglican
Queensbury, Holy Trinity	Investigation Grant	£1000	Anglican
Richmond Methodist Church	Re-pointing	£2000	Methodist
Scampston, St Martin	Internal repairs	£7000	Anglican
Sessay, St Cuthbert	Stonework repairs	£4000	Anglican
Sheffield, St Aidan & St Luke	High level external repairs	£10,000	Anglican
Sheffield, St Polycarp	Boundary wall repairs	£3500	Anglican

Continued...

Grants Awarded 2025

(continued)

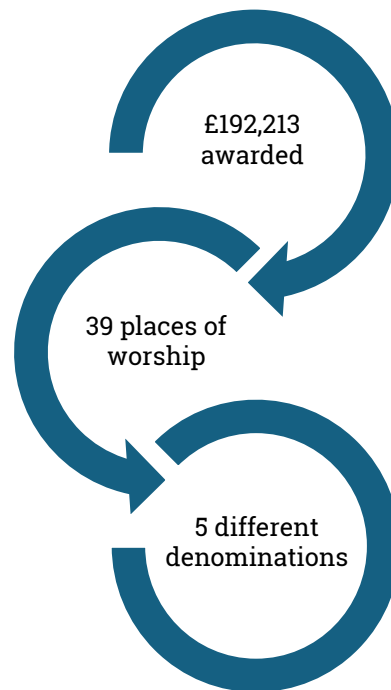


Skipton, St Stephen	Roof and masonry repairs	£5000	Catholic
Skipwith, St Helen	Roof repairs	£8000	Anglican
Thirsk, St Mary	Gutters and fall pipe repairs	£2000	Anglican
Walkley, Christ Church (AmiE)	Foyer repairs	£500	Anglican Mission in England
Wath, St Mary	Stonework repairs	£3000	Anglican
Whiston, St Mary Magdalene	Replacement rainwater goods	£5000	Anglican
York City Church	Ceiling repairs	£1000	New Frontiers Evangelical
York, St Lawrence	Roof and guttering repairs	£3000	Anglican



Thanks to your kindness, we've been able to future-proof our building, making it safer, more accessible, and more welcoming for all ages and all members of our community. This includes being able to fix a leaking roof, replace a damaged floor, install secure and accessible doors, remould a troublesome spire into a wonderful new cross on the front, and install new screens to help everyone engage"

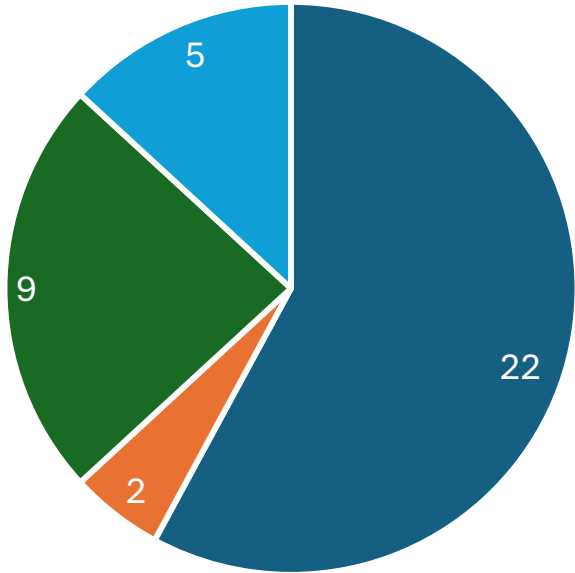
Tom Brown, Vicar of Kirk Sandall & Edenthorpe



Continued...

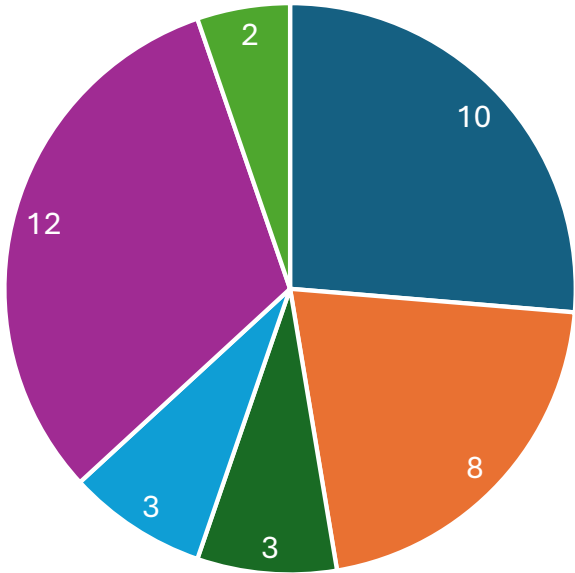
Grants Awarded 2025

(continued)



GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

- North Yorkshire
- East Yorkshire
- South Yorkshire
- West Yorkshire



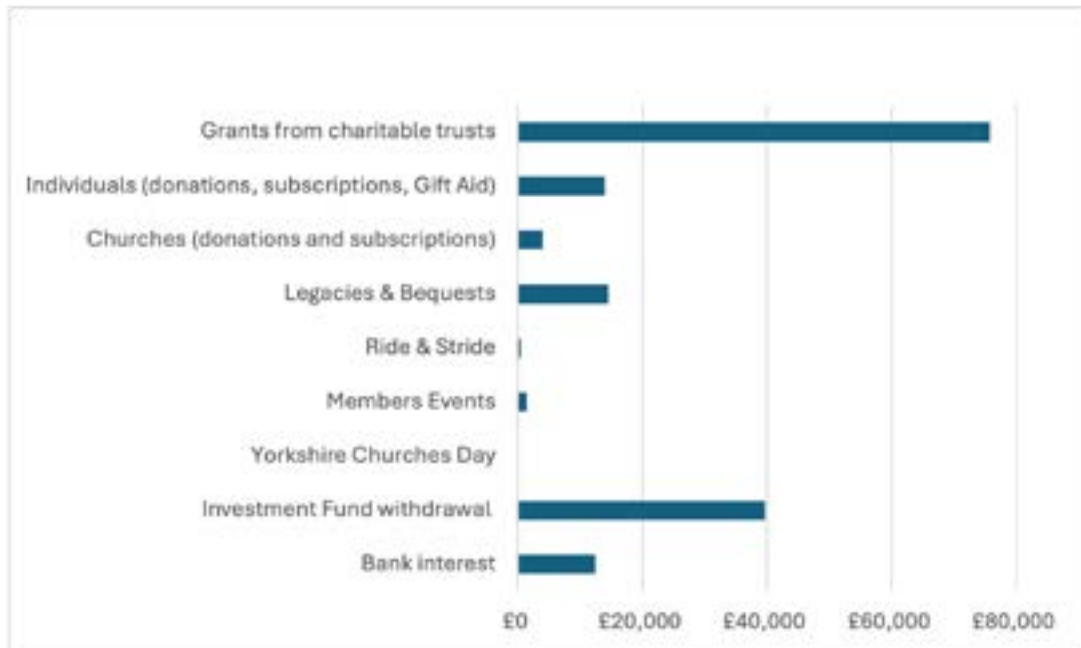
FUNDING TYPE

- Roof repairs
- Tower and spire repairs
- Window and glass repairs
- Stonework repairs
- General maintenance
- Investigation Grants

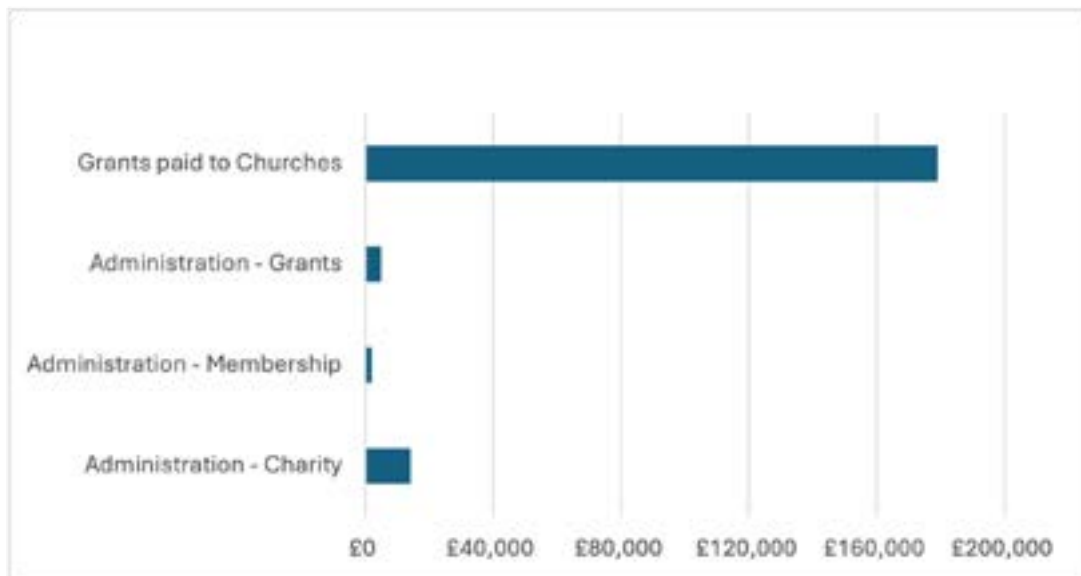
Income and Expenditure 2025



INCOME £162,551



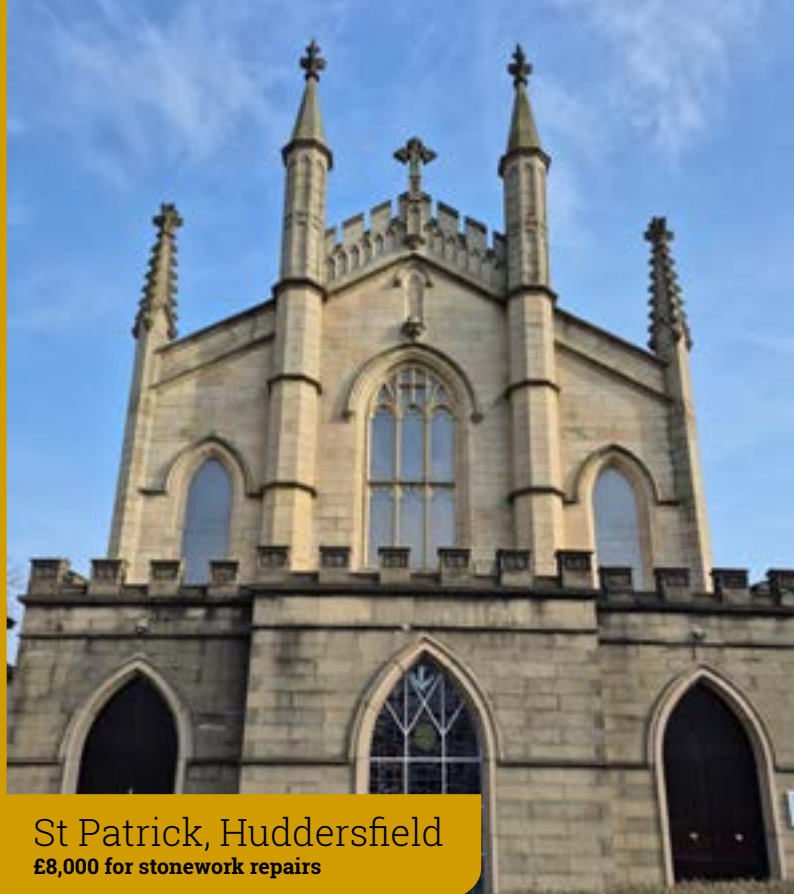
EXPENDITURE £199,950



A full copy of the accounts is available upon request,
please email: treasurer@yhct.org.uk



St John the Evangelist, Birkby
£5,000 for tower access repairs



St Patrick, Huddersfield
£8,000 for stonework repairs



We are very sincerely grateful to the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust for their generous support towards the essential works that need to be carried out at St Patrick's. This, along with our ongoing fundraising, has enabled us to begin the first phase of the external work that will begin to stabilise the stonework and ensure that St Patrick's continues to provide a welcome for so many people as well as being a hub from which our parishioners continue to reach out to the local community, especially to those most in need"

Canon Martin Kelly,
St Patrick's Catholic Church in Huddersfield



St Mary the Virgin, Beighton
£8,000 for tower repairs



All Saints and St James, Nunnington
£6,000 for window repairs