



Dear Member

I am delighted to enclose our Annual Report for the year to June 2017, from which you will see that we have been busy!

We are very grateful for your continued support of the Trust – we rely on the contribution of members to enable us to make grants to churches and chapels across the historic county of Somerset.

Of course, as you will see, we have an active programme of themed visits aimed at giving members the opportunity to learn more about the Christian worshipping communities in our rural county.

It is fair to say that many churches and chapels face challenging times in terms of worshippers, volunteers and resources. In this regard, it is heartening to hear just how much your contribution to church and chapel projects is appreciated.

As you will see in the report, we are making a major contribution, in conjunction with Allchurches Trust, to dealing with the blight of lead theft. Lead theft is a heritage crime, where organised criminals attack churches, leading to hard-pressed PCCs having to raise funds to repair damage and put in alarm systems. Our contribution is to make grants so that churches and chapels can be proactive and install alarms.

We would like to bring news of this and other initiatives to your attention and our Secretary, Jim Allwood, would very much welcome individual email addresses so that we can contact you. Simply, please email Jim asking him to update our records: jim.allwood2013@gmail.com

In addition to the report I enclose our programme of events for 2018. Do join us for some if not all of these visits which have been put together to showcase the wide variety of churches and chapels in Somerset. Please feel free to bring along someone who may not know about us and introduce them to the Trust. I also enclose a copy of our new Membership Application Form to pass on to them or someone else you know who may like to join us – the more members we have the more we can give to churches. If you could leave some in your local churches, please email somersetchurchestrust@gmail.com

Finally, many members will know that our founder, Hugh Playfair, sadly died just before Christmas: appreciations appear in the Report. Your Trustees are quite clear that our rôle is to carry forward Hugh's vision of keeping Somerset's churches and chapels alive; with your continued support we will strive to do so.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Axel Palmer", written in a cursive style.

Dr Axel Palmer
Chairman, Somerset Churches Trust