

WILTSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Registered Charity 1075598



From Ride+Stride Administrators

Mandy Dobson (Wilts North) & Charles Graham (Wilts South)

June 2017

Dear Parish Organiser,

We hope that you are ready to involve your church in this year's **Ride+Stride** on **September 9th**. Why not, as some churches do, suggest to your PCC that the day could be a *special parish event*, with a picnic/barbecue or lunch at a local hostelry? And it's a good opportunity to encourage families to enjoy a day out together. Participants may cycle, walk, ride a horse or a mobility scooter. They choose their own route and visit as many (or as few) churches as they wish. Suggestions for routes can also be found at <http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/things-to-do/activities/cycling> and <http://www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk/our-churches/>.

SPONSORSHIP

Each participant should be given a sponsorship form with the sheet of Notes for Riders and Striders. Please ask them to read these notes carefully. Please write your own name and address as Parish Organiser on the forms before handing them to participants.

- Sponsors may offer an amount per church visited or a total sum.
- Sponsors can also use **JustGiving**. Riders and Striders can set up their own JustGiving page by going to www.justgiving.com/wiltshirerideandstride and click on "Fundraise for us", then "Organised event".
- Half the money raised will be given to a church selected by the participant and the other half goes to the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, to be distributed in grants for the repair and maintenance of churches or chapels in the county.
- Please encourage participants to ask sponsors who pay tax to tick the **Gift Aid** box and write their name and address legibly. This enables the Trust to claim an extra 25 pence for every pound raised.
- Parents of under 18-year-olds must sign the parental consent box on the form. Children under 13 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- If you need more sponsorship forms, please contact one of us or download from the web-site.

PUBLICITY

- Please display the posters prominently, in your local area as well as in church. More are available if you need them.
- Try and get a paragraph about Ride+Stride into your parish magazine and/or web-site during the summer. Emphasise that it is an enjoyable day out, as well as a fund-raising activity. Let us know if you would like a copy of a suitable article.
- Encourage your incumbent to promote the event from the pulpit and in the PCC.

PTO

PRIZES

Wiltshire is one of the few counties to offer prizes for successful Riders and Striders. Thanks to the generosity of Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville, there are two trophies:

- The **Brooke Cup**, and **£500**, is awarded to the best all-round parish (calculated by multiplying the number of participants by the amount they raise), with runner-up prizes of £100 and £50.
- The **Junior Group Cup**, and **£100**, is awarded on the same basis to the parish with the most successful group of under-18-year-olds. Plus a runner-up prize of £50.
These are valuable bonuses and emphasise the potential benefit of encouraging larger numbers of people of all ages to take part in Ride+Stride.
- In addition there are **cash prizes** given to the best achieving cyclists and walkers from three different age-groups: 16 and under, over 16 and over 65.

CHURCH OPEN

We hope that you can arrange for your church to be open and, if possible, manned between 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. on the day of the Ride and Stride, **9th September 2017**. If you are unable to find stewards for the whole day, please ensure that there is a welcome notice with space for visitors to sign (you can download one from the Ride+Stride page at www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk), and perhaps a rubber stamp to certificate sponsorship forms. Light refreshments are appreciated by energetic cyclists and walkers.

CHURCH LISTS

The list of open churches included in this package is as accurate as we have been able to make it and can be given to participants with their sponsorship forms. A list of churches in the other half of the county can be obtained from us or the web-site, and neighbouring counties have churches listed on their Historic Churches Trust websites.

AFTER THE EVENT

- Collect the sponsorship forms and money, which participants are asked to give you by **Sunday 8th October**. Cheques should be made payable to Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and recorded on the Control Sheet. It is also useful if you could pass on to us any photos or anecdotes that can be used for future publicity.
- Anything you can do to ensure that sponsors who tick the Gift Aid box have written name, initials, address and post-code legibly is appreciated.
- Fill in all the required details on the Control Sheet and return it with the sponsorship forms and the money by **Saturday 21st October**. Please do not send cash. Forms received after 21st October will not qualify for a prize.
- Your parish's half share of the amount raised will be returned to you in November. The tax reclaimed through Gift Aid is retained by the Trust, to cover administration costs and to add to the fund available for grants.

Very many thanks for your help. Should you not now be able to act as the parish organiser, please pass this pack to your incumbent or churchwarden, who we hope will be able to find someone else.

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Enclosures: Posters/flyers
Sponsorship forms, with notes for Riders and Striders
Control sheet to list participants and amounts collected
Lists of churches that can be visited