

WILTSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Registered Charity 1075598



From Charles Graham, Ride+Stride Administrator

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Dear Parish Organiser,

I hope that you are ready to involve your church in this year's **Ride+Stride** on **September 14th**. Maybe you could suggest to your PCC, as some churches do, that the day could be a *special parish event*, with a picnic/barbecue, or tied in with Heritage Open Days? 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. Suggested trails can also be found at <http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/things-to-do/activities/cycling> and <http://www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk/churches>.

This year the event will be launched at 10.00 at St. Bartholomew's Church, Corsham, by the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire. Riders and Striders from the Corsham area might like to plan their route to start from there.

SPONSORSHIP

Each participant should be given a sponsorship form with the sheet of Instructions for Riders and Striders. Please ask them to read these instructions 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**, which enables sponsorship to be donated online, saving participants the hassle of collecting money. Participants can set up their own JustGiving page via <http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising-page/creation/?cid=126645&eid=5109189>.
- 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 me or download from the Ride+Stride page on the web-site (www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk).

PUBLICITY

- Please display the posters prominently, if possible 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 me 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). 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. 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

I 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, **14th September 2019**. 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 I 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 me 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 13th 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 me any photos or anecdotes that could 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 26th October**. Please do not send cash. Forms received after 26th 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 I hope will be able to find someone else.

REMINDER

Under the Data Protection Regulations I need your consent to hold your contact details. If you have not yet returned a consent form to me, please contact me (ctg100@hotmail.com or 01672 514301) and I will send you one.

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