

WILTSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Registered Charity 1075598



From Fiona Draper, Ride+Stride Administrator

18 Light Close, Corsham, SN13 0DF Fiona@fionadraper.co.uk Tel. 07880 715551

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Dear Parish Organiser,

Ride+Stride, Saturday 12th September 2020

I am sorry this letter has come so late this year; it has been a difficult decision as to whether it would be appropriate to run Ride+Stride 2020, and it remains a possibility that it will need to be cancelled if government guidance or regulations change significantly before 12th September.

I hope it goes without saying that we expect all those involved in the event – riders and striders and church welcomers – to observe all applicable social distancing and hygiene regulations at all times.

As large group gatherings are currently not permitted, we recognise that it will be a very different event this year, with the emphasis on individuals, families or small groups enjoying a walk or cycle ride, rather than it being a bigger social event.

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>.

SPONSORSHIP

Each participant should be encouraged to download a sponsorship form and instructions from the website, www.wiltshirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk, or of course you may email them, or post them/links to them on your own church website. If you print the forms yourself to hand out, please ensure they are appropriately handled.

- 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 enhancement of churches or chapels in the county.
- Please encourage participants to ask sponsors who pay tax to agree to **Gift Aid** their donations, and to ensure that their name and address are recorded legibly. This enables the Trust to claim an extra 25 pence for every pound raised.
- Parents/guardians of under 18-year-olds must sign the parental consent box on the form. Children under 13 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

PUBLICITY

Please publicise the event in any way you can, e.g. through church newsletters or websites.

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?

We recognise that it will be difficult for many churches to be open this year, and we are not expecting stewards/welcomers to be on duty, though if you are able to provide a welcome in the churchyard that would be appreciated, with perhaps cold drinks and handwashing/sanitising facilities being available. We also recognise that churches are unlikely to be able to provide toilet facilities, and participants have been advised to plan their route accordingly.

Participants should not hand their sponsorship forms to welcomers to be initialled or stamped, though if you have a rubber stamp available, that can be used by the participant to certificate their own forms, providing they are able to sanitise their hands before and after using the stamp.

In the circumstances we will not be providing lists of open churches, though if any church wishes to inform us they are open and welcoming, we will be happy to publicise that on the WHCT website.

AFTER THE EVENT

- Collect the sponsorship forms and money, which participants are asked to give you by **Sunday 11th 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.
- Please do anything you can do to ensure that if sponsors have agreed to Gift Aid their sponsorship, their name, initials, address and post-code have been provided legibly.
- Fill in all the required details on the Control Sheet and return it with the sponsorship forms and the cheque(s) by **Saturday 24th October**. Please do not send cash. Forms received after that date may not be considered for a prize.
- Your parish's half share of the amount raised will be returned to you before the end of the year. 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. Let's hope we can plan for a much more joyful event next year!

Fiona Draper
R+S Administrator