



THE DORSET HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

([www.dhct.org.uk](http://www.dhct.org.uk))

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Dear Rider or Strider

**Dorset Historic Churches Trust Ride+Stride – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Thank you for considering taking part in Ride+Stride this year. If you are a seasoned participant much of this letter will be familiar. If you are new to R+S, welcome! As the Administrator, I hope that it will contain all you need to decide to take part.

This letter is to help you to raise sponsorship, plan your day and to keep safe when out on the roads, lanes and tracks.

R+S is a national event which takes place every year on the second Saturday in September to raise money for the maintenance of our treasured churches across the whole country. Last year Dorset's Riders and Striders raised almost £81,000 in sponsorship. This magnificent effort shows that R+S in Dorset is a real success story, which is going from strength to strength. As a thank you for supporting the work of the Trust, DHCT will return half your money to the parish or other registered charity which you nominate.

There are two ways to obtain sponsorship. You can ask sponsors to fill out the sponsorship form in your pack. If you find it difficult to ask people to sponsor you, why not get someone to help? Please ask anyone who is UK taxpayer to make a Gift Aid declaration on the form, which allows the Trust to reclaim a further 25%. Secondly, you can be sponsored on line via JustGiving [www.justgiving.com/dhct](http://www.justgiving.com/dhct) (details of how to do this are at the end of this letter). We have also provided some slips to hand out to help donors make their pledge.

As the day – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September – draws closer, there are a few more things to think about. Will you be teaming up with one or two friends, which we really recommend as it is much more fun to share the experiences? We suggest that you sit down with a map and plan your route. The list of participating churches will help you. How far do you want to go? There are no set routes but we do advise that you think carefully about keeping safe and avoiding traffic or other hazards as far as possible. Then make sure that your bike is in good repair and that you have a few tools and perhaps a spare inner tube. The event is covered by Public Liability insurance from Ecclesiastical Insurance Group but you must hold your own cover if you are riding a horse. If you cannot ride or stride on 9<sup>th</sup> September, you can choose another date. Insurance cover will be in place from the Sunday before to the Friday after 9<sup>th</sup> September.

On the day, check the weather and take suitable clothing. If you have a yellow R+S tee-shirt, please wear it to improve your visibility and to advertise the event. Most of the churches in

Dorset will be open and in many cases attended by volunteers from 10am. Make sure that they sign your record form. If a church is unattended, please put your name on its Register of Visitors and mark up your own Sponsorship Form. Then move on to the next church. The event closes at 6pm.

We are always interested in the stories of the day especially if they are accompanied by a photograph. We will also be running a competition for the best photographs taken in 2017. Get a friend to take a picture of you and your group outside a church and send it to me at [anna-butler@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anna-butler@hotmail.co.uk).

After it is all over, please lose no time in collecting up the cash pledges and returning them to the Parish Organiser. If you can do this by the end of September, it will really make their life so much easier. Thank you very much. Have a safe and enjoyable day. Here are some reminders about keeping safe. Our website has links to the Highway Code [www.dhct.org.uk](http://www.dhct.org.uk)

#### **Cyclists:**

- Plan your route off a map to avoid or minimise time at danger points
- Check the weather forecast and adjust your start time, route and clothing accordingly
- Wear a helmet and a DHCT tee-shirt or something hi-vis
- Take a mobile phone and a map; both are vital if you have to call for assistance
- If in a group, comply with your leader's instructions, keep together but do not obstruct the highway to vehicle users. Do not ride side by side in traffic.
- Remember that audio headsets reduce your ability to hear traffic approaching from behind you.

#### **Walkers**

- As above, but remember to walk facing on-coming traffic wherever it is feasible
- Listen carefully for traffic, especially if you have to walk in the road on a bend and be ready to get off the carriageway
- If in a group of more than 2 or 3, consider splitting into sub-groups separated by 25-50m

#### **Horse riders**

- As above but plan a route that avoid roads as far as possible

#### **Insurance**

- Horse riders must hold their own public liability insurance

**JustGiving** Ask your sponsor to go to [www.justgiving.com/dhct](http://www.justgiving.com/dhct). In the top right corner of the screen, click on **Donate** and follow the links. In the 'Leave a message' box, they should enter the name of the person and the name of the church they are supporting. This is needed to ensure that 50% of their donation will go to that church.

Alternatively, you can set up your own JustGiving webpage. Click on **fundraise for us** and follow the links. This will then take you through the process. Don't forget to name your nominated church. If you set up your own page, you will be able to use this medium to contact your friends through e-mail, Facebook, etc as well setting up an automatic thank you to acknowledge their donation. If you are not sure about setting up a page, guidance notes can be found on the DHCT website ([www.dhct.org.uk](http://www.dhct.org.uk)).

**DISCLAIMER** It is a condition of entry that, save to the extent required by law, the Trustees of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust accept no liability in respect of injury sustained by any participant in Ride + Stride.

Anna Butler  
R+S Administrator