

Dorset Historic Churches Trust

Conserving the past – enriching the future

2016 | Issue 11

ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW

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St Mary's, Winterbourne Whitchurch



St Andrew's,
Charmouth

Why Bother with Churches?

Simon Pomeroy

Our parish churches – 200 or more in Dorset alone, and 16,000 in England (per the Church Buildings Review Group), are generally considered to have three functions:

First, they are there for Christian worship, which includes christenings, marriages and funerals. Second, they provide a social hub in very many communities. Third, (most of them) through memorials and craftsmanship, are a repository of historic and artistic features of great importance.

But if the congregation withers and dies, and if there is, for example, no need for any social hub, what then? To destroy or abandon a building just because it is redundant or out-of-fashion may be seen as a form of iconoclasm worthy of Isis or Daesh. There must have been many voices raised, over the last thousand years, to the effect that the Parthenon or Stonehenge might be better razed to the ground, and their respective sites and building materials put to other, more contemporary uses.

There are several peculiarities about our English parish churches; before the Reformation more or less all high-status building projects were ecclesiastical. The castles which antedate the Reformation are either (like Corfe Castle) utilitarian rather than artistic, or like Windsor Castle, redeveloped to hide all but the basic design. Therefore any serious study of early English architecture, stone-masonry or building techniques has to start with the corpus of parish churches.

John Goodall, in his work *Parish Church Treasures, the Nation's Greatest Art Collection*, describes our churches as “the supreme repository of English vernacular art and memory”, treasures which are astonishing, not only for their quality and quantity, but also their diversity and interest. Taking into account the wealth of memorials in churches alone, no two churches are alike, let alone identical.

Because of the plethora of monuments and memorials (both inside, and out, in churchyards), our parish churches are an important step, indeed often the starting point, for an individual's search for details of his antecedents. This is apparent from the typical entries to be found in church visitors' books: eg “following up my great-grandparents, residents of this parish”. It could be argued that to allow deterioration or destruction of such monuments is a breach of faith with those who troubled to pay initially for the monuments.

By way of conclusion I think it is worth repeating the words of the Second Church Estates Commissioner, the Rt Hon Sir Tony Baldry MP. He wrote:

“For many people, the presence of a church in rural England is symbolic of the nation and of the rural way of life, and a source of comfort and support even for those who are not regular churchgoers. We should start with the very clear premise that the Church of England is a national church, and should therefore ensure a Christian presence in every community.”



Chairman's Report on 2015

Simon Pomeroy

2015 has been another cracking year for DHCT! Total funds raised in Ride+Stride were more than £83,978, a record, yet again (see page 13). And once more, during 2015, we were able to

award grants which totalled in excess of £100,000 to Dorset's churches.

Our People

I am supported by (i.e. the hard work is done by) a Trustee body comprising talented, enthusiastic and energetic men and women. They in turn are represented in every corner of the county by Deanery Representatives who form the link with every PCC. These DRs (as we abbreviate them) have two roles: in relation to our fund-raising, via Ride+Stride, they keep in touch with the army of Parish Organisers who encourage the riders, striders, and their sponsors who raise remarkable sums.

The second role of the DRs is to act as an early port-of-call for an incumbent or PCC chairman with a repair or reordering project in mind. At any one time, our DRs have a very good idea of DHCT's eligibility criteria, and how best to present the proposals, and what other sources of funding might be appropriate. We work closely with the Archdeacons, who provide, in this context, useful liaison with the Erskine-Muton Fund, whose grant-making operations overlap with those of DHCT.

We try not to be bureaucratic. All of our Trustees are unpaid, all of them have other calls on their time, and indeed our Treasurer has a full-time job as well as keeping our accounting records under control. Likewise our Ride+Stride Co-ordinator has a 'day-job' but manages to shift vast quantities of paper to ensure that Ride+Stride runs smoothly. But 'everyone can't do everything', and so we have three sub-committees of Trustees to focus on Grants, Finance, and Marketing & Communications respectively.

We receive marvellous support and encouragement from our clergy, including Bishops, Archdeacons and incumbents. They are unstinting in helping us to encourage parishes to enter for Ride+Stride.

Every charity has an obligation to 'get its message out', in order to attract both financial support and grant applications. Our marketing partner, McKenna Townsend has worked tirelessly to raise our profile and that of the churches which we have grant-aided; another important function is to tell the donors what their money is being spent on.

It is an honour and a privilege to work with all of these public-spirited individuals, and I thank them sincerely for the hours which they put in for the benefit of Dorset's Churches.

Our Churches

Various futile attempts have been made to count the number of Christian abbeys, priories, churches and chapels in Dorset. We are ecumenical, so if we include privately owned churches, school chapels, army and prison chapels, plus disused, closed or deconsecrated places of worship, the total would approach

300. We focus, however, on those places of worship (Anglican, Non-conformist and Roman Catholic) which are in current use, and the number is around 200.

Our ambition is to see all of these places in regular use for Christian worship, including baptisms, weddings and funerals. The vast majority of the projects which we grant-aid are repairs (such as keeping the building wind and water-tight). When funds allow, and when a good case is made, we help with lighting, heating and re-ordering to widen the uses to which a church can be put.

The Church of England is of course 'on the case'. The Bishop of Worcester's Church Building Review has identified the problems, and invites suggestions from the public as to how these might be overcome. We shall watch carefully to see how this matter might affect DHCT's approach.

We regret that, since the Oxford Movement of the 1840s, secular use of parish churches has declined. If churches had retained their role as village halls, then it would have been easier to justify the, in some cases colossal, expense which faces PCCs. It is our view that many churches could make minimal alterations (better heating and lighting, WCs, more flexible seating, catering facilities) which would enable them to revert to a community role. We know of village halls which originated as US Army huts in WW2, and which are fast approaching the end of their useful lives!

Our Supporters

In addition to the PCCs which support us, both by entering Ride+Stride, and by regular donations, there are some 230 Friends of Dorset Churches who send us regular donations. We are enormously grateful to our Friends, not only for their donations, but also for the moral support which their membership gives to DHCT. It is comforting for the Trustees to know that there is a substantial body of well-wishers and supporters 'out there'.

Our Friends (indeed anyone who gets to hear about these!) are invited to regular Church Crawls during the summer. These events involve a conducted tour of four or five churches, led by appropriate experts (Trustees of DHCT), with a break for a pub lunch. You can read more about the ones held in 2015 on page 7. They are usually fully booked (there is a limit to the number of individuals who can fit into our smaller churches). The usual question at the close of play is "when is the next one?!"

A reason for the success of these events seems to be that no two churches are the same. Every church has a few astonishing features, and these can be pointed out by the experts. Each of us is reasonably familiar with our own parish church. The circumstances in which we visit other churches (e.g. weddings, funerals) are usually emotionally highly charged, and thus in the normal course of events we get little opportunity to see and understand these unique features. Church Crawls provide such an opportunity.

The recent successes of DHCT are entirely due to the efforts and the generosity of these groups referred to above. I speak for all of my fellow-Trustees in expressing our gratitude to every one of them.

Trust in Your Trustees

Hon Secretary's Report 2015

We continue to live in challenging times with constant changes in regulation, cyber crime, economic restriction and cold calls from anonymous people offering claims support. At the same time there is a huge increase in the number of charities being registered, and the generosity of individuals and business, to help good causes and others less fortunate, continues unabated.

As a group of individuals ultimately responsible for the collection and allocation of funds within Dorset Historic Churches Trust, the Trustees take their responsibilities extremely seriously. Of course we are regulated by The Charity Commission which, apart from regulation, offers useful guidance on how Trustees should conduct themselves. While that is an essential element of our management, we pride ourselves on our self-governance, diverse range of skills and experiences and external professional advisors and auditors.

As one might expect, the Trustees have taken advice where necessary on their own processes to safeguard funds and individuals, including data protection.

We strive constantly to balance the need for strong financial resilience and sufficient reserves with the needs of those churches within the geographical area of the Trust for financial support with their projects.

The vast majority of the funds generated for the Trust come from the annual Ride+Stride event in September, where riders and striders get sponsored for all kinds of methods of visiting churches in the County of Dorset. We are delighted that our Friends of the Trust also give donations and we receive legacies from time to time. Together with some other fund raising activities, we are able to generate a decent income to support the work of the Trust (see the accounts on page 15).

We have all heard of the horrid stories in the press of people being hounded for legacies or donations by cold calls, flyers and other means, most of which are legal and legitimate but some are not.

We believe strongly in word of mouth, the visibility of Ride+Stride, the work of our Friends, Deanery Representatives, some empathetic marketing (such as leaflets in churches) and our website to generate the income the Trust needs. We have been fortunate to receive some gifts, both in people's lifetimes but also by legacy to support the beautiful church buildings in this most wonderful of counties.

If you or someone you know would like to discuss making any sort of donation to the Trust, then we would love to hear from you; but you can rest assured that we will NOT be calling you.

If you would like to know any more about the regulation of Charities or Trustees, then may I suggest that you go to www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission.

Thank you for your support both past and present.

Robert Fox



St Nicholas, Silton



Join the Friends of Dorset Historic Churches Trust

- Receive details about special Friends' events
- Receive the DHCT Annual Report and newsletters

Individual membership costs £15 or £25 for a couple per annum

Ask for a leaflet or see our website for more details



St Edward the Martyr, Corfe Castle

Cheque presentation at Holy Trinity Church, Warmwell



Most of the grants made by the Trust during 2015 went towards general church maintenance of one sort and another. The usual culprits, rain and dry rot, took their toll, and the more modern requirements of church life, electrical wiring and the installation of a servery were also needed.

These are routine requests, and it is good that churchwardens and PCCs are appealing to the Trust for help in such matters; because of their prompt action in seeing to routine repair, bigger problems are avoided in the future.

A church's roof is obviously the most usual cause of worry, and two projects over the last eighteen months show what different challenges it can present.

Powerstock church was largely rebuilt in the mid nineteenth century and its roof – apart from the south aisle which had had to be replaced a couple of years before when its lead was stolen – had come to the end of its useful life. With the help of grants from the Trust, the Erskine Mouton Fund and the Churches Conservation Trust, the roof of nave, chancel and north aisle was renewed last spring, at a cost of just under £50,000.

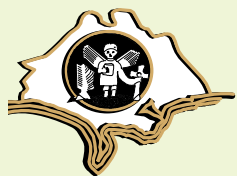
An entirely different scale of problem was encountered at Warmwell, where the need to repair the aisleless nave roof of the rather smaller building was estimated to cost £100,000.

The expense lay in the material involved. Powerstock's Welsh slates were mostly reusable, and in any case not expensive to replace; the roof at Warmwell, is covered with massive 'Purbeck' tiles, originally perhaps from the nearby quarries at Poxwell. This involved the complete stripping of the existing stone roof and, as the photographs show, the replacement of about 25% of the originals. Nowadays Purbeck tiles of the required colour and dimensions could only be sourced at the Landers quarry on Purbeck. As a result the church had to be closed for several months but the opportunity was taken to carry out a dendrochronological analysis of the roof timbers that support the heavy covering. They date from 1760-80.



When I visited the church last at the end of January 2016, the scaffolding was being cleared away, leaving the nave roof ready for several more centuries. Raising that great sum, in which the Trust's grant was a relatively small contribution, is a great tribute to those involved. Warmwell's chancel, by contrast, still looked in good shape. As a plaque inside recalls, this was erected "at the sole cost of the Revd. E. Pickard Cambridge and built by him with the assistance of his gardener Charles Bushrod and two parish masons in the year 1881". Those were the days!





Dorset Historic Churches Trust

Conserving the past – enriching the future

Grants awarded in 2015

Charmouth – St Andrew's	£2,000
Frome St Quinton – St Mary's	£4,500
Shipton Gorge – St Martin's	£3,750
Cranborne with Boveridge – St Mary and St Bartholomew	£6,000
Ferndown – St Mary's	£2,000
Hinton St Mary – St Peter	£2,000
Kinson – St Andrew's NCT partnership grant £5,000	£10,000
Leigh – St Andrew's	£1,500
Margaret Marsh – St Margaret	£4,000
Puddletown – St Mary the Virgin	£9,500
Stalbridge – St Mary's NCT partnership grant £2,500	£6,000
Silton – St. Nicholas	£500
Steeple – St Michael and All Angel's NCT partnership grant £5,000	£5,000
Stoke Abbott – St Mary's NCT partnership grant £2,500	£5,750
Blandford Forum – St Peter and St Paul	£7,000
Corfe Castle – St Edward the Martyr	£2,000
Compton Valance – St Thomas a Beckett	£2,000
Charmouth – St Andrew	£4,000
Motcombe – St Mary	£2,000
Powerstock – St Mary the Virgin NCT partnership grant £2,500	£4,500
Sturminster Newton – St Mary's	£8,000
West Stafford	£2,000
Winterborne Whitechurch – St Mary's NCT partnership grant £2,500	£1,500
Wootton Fitzpaine – St Paul's NCT partnership grant £2,500	£5,000

The National Churches Trust is the only national, non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting and promoting churches of all Christian denominations in the UK.



Marketing & Communications Committee Report

All organisations depending on public support engage in a ceaseless battle to remain in the public eye, and DHCT is no exception. In some cases, word of the Trust and what it can do for your church is passed from person to person or similarly spread by our representatives in the nine Deaneries in Dorset. But the Trust also uses the full spectrum of media outlets to back up the efforts of these trusted contacts.

People often turn to our well-stocked website, set up many years ago, which is now regularly updated with News and also guidance on how to apply for grant aid. The News section contains many of the Press Releases which have been generated by our excellent marketing communications agency, McKenna Townsend in Ringwood, about whom I wrote last year. We continue to be very grateful for the various ways in which they sustain the profile of the Trust.

Among the eye-catching events during the year are the big cheque presentations when a church celebrates the completion of repairs which the Trust has helped to fund. McKenna Townsend dispatches a photographer to record the event, to make a record of the new work for our archives and to prepare a Press Release for the media. These releases are taken up widely across the County by the print media. McKenna Townsend also has good links to the broadcast media and we were delighted when James Burford, one of the reporters from BBC Radio Solent, joined us on a Church Crawl. During the morning he recorded the impressions of Friends of the Trust and Trustees, which were featured in a special broadcast item.

The Friends of Dorset Churches are in many ways the Trust's best ambassadors and we know that they are indefatigable correspondents. So the M&C Committee has published two sets of folded cards depicting a high quality image of stained glass from one of our churches and with sufficient space for a short letter. The packs of five cards are on sale in churches and through the website. Each time one is sent, it helps to spread the word about the Trust and raises money which can later be used for grant aid.

Of course, our chief fund raising effort is Ride+Stride and the M&C Committee works closely with McKenna Townsend to involve as many churches and participants as possible. Last year we bought 25 coloured poster boards which were displayed outside selected churches and alongside major routes through the County to striking effect. We have heard that they worked well and, as they are reusable, we will add to the stock this year.

So looking ahead into 2016: earlier we referred to the now quite elderly website. Our efforts to revamp it, using in-house resources to keep the costs to a minimum, have resulted in slow progress; but we are determined to complete the work this year so that DHCT can boast a sparkling shop-window to draw people in to learn more of the work of the Trust.

Jeremy Selfe

The Stained Glass of St Mary's Church, Sturminster Newton



St Mary's Church is a treasure house of stained glass, particularly for admirers of the Arts & Crafts Movement.

Generally dating from the mid 1880s, the term Arts & Crafts refers to a set of principles and attitudes on the part of the artist or craftsman, rather than an artistic style. It started with ideas put forward by John Ruskin in his book *Stones of Venice*, first published 1851-1853, and was nurtured to its fruition by William Morris.

The philosophy behind the Arts & Crafts movement was a belief that the Industrial Revolution had made man less creative as nearly all craft skills had been removed from manufacturing processes. William Morris produced hand-crafted goods and his writings inspired many to view him as the Father of the Movement.

Mary Lowndes (1856-1929) moved with her family to Sturminster Newton in 1862 where her father was Vicar. Mary was the first British woman to work in stained glass, devoting her life to it; and she was also a dedicated feminist.

There are two of her windows in St Mary's. Her first ever stained glass window can be seen in the west wall of the tower. The window depicts the Nativity (see illustration above). It is designed in a conventional style, following her training with Henry Holliday, and is in memory of her mother, Elizabeth.

The second window, made six years later in 1901 in partnership with Isobel L Gloag, is in the south chapel, and represents the Resurrection. It is dedicated to the memory of her father, Canon Richard Lowndes. This window shows a great development in style following her involvement in the Arts & Crafts movement, particularly with influence from Christopher Whall. Christopher also worked at the glass painting studio at Southwark Street, London, and he is recognised as the leading stained glass artist of the Arts & Crafts movement.

The stunning jewel like window (dated 1921) in the nave south aisle is by Harry Clarke (1889-1931), the famous stained glass artist and book illustrator from Dublin. Harry Clarke left school when he was 14 after his mother died, and he began to work in the family stained glass business. He attended evening classes at Dublin School of Art before winning a scholarship in 1910 which meant he could attend as a full-time student. He won the National Gold Medal Competition in three consecutive years. The window depicts the Madonna and Child in the centre light (see illustration right), with the 13th century queen, St Elizabeth of Hungary, on her right and the 3rd century Syrian virgin martyr St Barbara on her left. Harry Clarke used his wife Margaret as the model for St Barbara.



Two of the notecards now being sold by DHCT feature details from this window.



The window opposite Harry Clarke's, on the north side of the nave, has a spider's web in the bottom left corner, and below it the letters MCMXI (see illustration left). This is the 'Maker's Mark' for Geoffrey Webb (1879-1954) and gives the date the window was installed (1911 in Roman numerals). Geoffrey Fuller Webb was the nephew of architect Sir Aston Webb (architect of the eastern façade of Buckingham Palace and the Cromwell Road frontage of the V&A Museum). Geoffrey's brother Christopher Webb (1886-1966), who also designed stained glass windows, was articled to Sir Ninian Comper. It is interesting to see Comper's influence on Geoffrey. Although not his pupil or assistant, he worked in Comper's style, particularly in the choice of coloured glass with the dominant 'Comper' blue.

Susan Smith



The 2015 Church Crawls

The Church Crawls in 2015 were very well supported and Friends were rewarded by visits to interesting and beautiful churches with many ancient works of art.

The visit to the parish church of St Andrew at Trent in the north of Dorset gave us the opportunity to admire a fine set of bench ends and also access to the north chapel, which is normally locked. There we were enabled to get a closer look at the vividly coloured stained glass window by Archibald K. Nicholson (1871-1937) in memory of Sir Henry Rawlinson (1864-1925), commander of the British Fourth Army at the Battle of the Somme (see illustration below).



The dates for the 2016 Church crawls are :

**Wednesday 11th May, Thursday 9th June,
Wednesday 6th July and Thursday 8th September**

The unique and exceptionally fine east window at Trent is made up of fragments of 16th/17th century European glass. These had been collected by the Reverend W. H. Turner and arranged by Nicholson c.1925. It is worth taking a pair of binoculars on our church crawls so that these and other details of the many fine artefacts can be fully appreciated.



One of the 16th century bench ends at Trent depicts St John the Evangelist blessing a poisoned chalice given him by a pagan priest at Ephesus; the poison is usually represented by a dragon, but in this instance it looks more like a duckling (see illustration left). The same image can be seen in the stained glass in one of the chancel windows where the dragon is clearly depicted as described in the 13th century Golden Legend.

The visit to Trent was complemented by a delicious lunch at the Rose and Crown.

We spent another day visiting churches in the Gillingham area, starting at Fifehead Magdalen where there is a rare stained glass window by Percy Buckman. Buckman lived in Bradford Abbas as a child and was educated at Sherborne School. He is best known for his Victorian landscapes and portrait miniatures. One of the new series of notecards now on sale is a detail of one of his stained glass windows at Lytchett Minster church.

We usually visit four or five churches on a Crawl day. Dr Tim Connor brings each church to life with his fascinating talks, recounting the history and describing the architecture of the building; and Sue Smith talks about the stained glass windows, their makers, symbolism and style. There is a small charge for each day, usually £10, which covers the cost of our pre-booked lunch at a local inn, and we generally finish with a tea.

Booking with Sue Smith is necessary so we can pre-order the lunch. Do join us this year for some lovely summer visits to other fascinating Dorset churches.

Susan Smith

Like the anxious management committee of an agricultural show, DHCT awaits the weather forecasts for Ride+Stride day with trepidation! Too bright and hot, and the beach beckons; too damp and cold, the armchair likewise!



The weather on 12 September 2015 couldn't have been better for our purposes. The 'proof of the pudding' is the £83,978 (our best ever!) raised by sponsorship of our loyal riders and striders.

We are hugely grateful to all concerned: Anna Butler, our Ride+Stride administrator, who collates and packs the hundredweights of forms; the Parish Organisers, who have the thankless task of reminding the participants that R+S day is imminent; the participants themselves as they check the tyres of their bikes, or dubbin their walking boots, before taking the sponsorship forms round to their friends; the sponsors – many astonishingly generous contributions, and thousands of very welcome fivers, tenners and twenties.

But it's not over until the participants have been round again to report their achievements to their sponsors and collect their cash. Then the blizzard of paper hits the desk of our treasurer Liz Ashmead, and for three months her life is taken over by reconciling cash/cheques with sponsorship forms and sending back 50% to the PCC treasurers. The 'League Table' on pages 10-13 speaks for itself, but the detailed letters sent in to us with the cheques and cash make marvellous reading – a selection is quoted across these pages.

These written endorsements reinforce our belief that Ride+Stride is a thoroughly enjoyable community activity. Particularly eye-catching were two accounts of riders on horseback.

"thank you for organising such a wonderful event. I have taken part, with my wife and daughter many years running"

Tilly Williams...

My name is Tilly and I'm 13. I decided to take part in the 2015 Ride+Stride on Mystery as I thought it would be nice to ride across the countryside whilst raising money. We were going to attempt four or five churches; but Mystery is 30 years old (even though she neither looks nor acts like it!), so I have to sometimes remind myself of this, and not push her too hard. Also my Mum, Dad and my Nan's dog Bramble were coming along too on foot and they didn't fancy feet full of blisters!



It turned out to be really sunny and warm and we set off from Mystery's field in Evershot and followed the bridle path through Melbury Park. We had never ridden this way before, so it was a great experience for both Mystery and me, going through rivers and under a very small tunnel in Melbury Osmond, ending up at the Church where we all stopped for a well earned drink of water.

We made our way back to Evershot and diverted to St Osmond's church to sign the book, before putting Mystery back for a gratefully received bowl of carrots and apples. We all had a great afternoon, covered a 6½ mile round trip and raised over £100 in the process. Bramble also slept very well that night too!

"another enjoyable ride as usual, peppered with pleasant conversations in the churches we visited"

Allan and Harriet Ryan – the Rector of Winterborne Stickland and his wife

It seemed like a good idea at the time – after all, for the last 13 years, members of our congregations had walked the Valley walk between our six benefice churches (all listed with the Dorset Historic Churches Trust) – so why not a horse ride? Clergy used to ride between churches to take services. Just think how John Wesley used to ride around the countryside. Then there is steeple chasing, which originated from racing between the visible church steeples.

Ride+Stride 2016 takes place on Saturday 10 September

Ride+Stride is a lovely occasion, and raises wonderful sums for Dorset's Churches.

If you haven't tried it, why not join in this year? You will enjoy it!

2015 Ride+Stride was a perfect opportunity for the Rector and me to visit each of the six listed benefice churches and raise money for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust. And why not add in Milton Abbey and St Catherine's Chapel as they are almost within the parishes?

Our horses, Fryso and Edel, are Dutch Friesians who came from Holland in April 2014. We have been getting them used to the undulating North Dorset countryside and we considered them now fit enough to tackle the 15 mile round trip for the Ride+Stride 2015. The question was – were we?

We planned the route using bridleways as much as possible, but we were grateful to two local landowners who unlocked gates or allowed us to ride along private drives.

We intended to ride to Milton Abbas on Friday, rest the horses in a friend's paddock and set off early on Saturday. Of course, the horses had other ideas and when we brought them in from the field on Friday afternoon, Edel had lost a shoe. Where were we going to find a farrier at this short notice? What a wonderful community the rural population is! Several phone calls between farriers and it was arranged that Andrew would call by at the end of the day. He refused a fee for refitting the shoe, despite coming out of his way (so we added it to our sponsor money). But our ride to Milton Abbas would not start until the morning, adding an extra uphill mile and a half to the ride.



Our ride took us down the street of pretty thatched cottages in Milton Abbas, where the church of St James is situated. We then set off through the woods to St Catherine's Chapel, built during the Norman era, and it was unlocked for the Ride+Stride! It is set high above

Milton Abbey and there is a splendid view to Milton Abbey itself. Having sought permission from the Headmaster and the Bursar, we were able to ride through the school grounds and make our way round to the Abbey.

We had to arrive at St Mary's, Winterborne Whitechurch, before the end of their coffee morning as it was the grand reopening of the newly refurbished parish room and the Rector really needed to be there.

After a chat and a coffee, we headed off to St Nicholas at Winterborne Clenston, which was the local estate church and still holds regular monthly services. It is very pretty inside, with gold stars painted on the blue chancel ceiling.

"a great day... my Labrador enjoyed the exercise"

We then set off at a fast trot to Winterborne Stickland, where we stopped at the rectory for a quick bite and signed in at St Mary's, our village church. At this point we were feeling a bit sore! But we couldn't miss out St Mary's, Turnworth – after all, Thomas Hardy used to ride there (on a bicycle) from Dorchester – so we had another fast road trot in the other direction out of Winterborne Stickland.

Our last port of call was St. Andrew's Church in the small hamlet of Winterborne Houghton, but the horses were tired and we were tired, so it was a silent plod up and down the bridleway to Houghton. We reached our last church at 3.30pm and then it was a half mile ride to the stables, supper, cold shower and a rub down (for the horses!).

The Rev'd Joe Edwards' feat of 101 miles is not for the faint-hearted!

The forecast was promising: dry with sunny spells, but with the possibility of the wind gusting up to 20mph from the South West. After 25 years on an old, much loved and much travelled heavy steel bicycle, the prospect of a first big ride on a brand new, carbon model (weighing in at 8.5 lbs lighter) was enticing.

After a good breakfast it was out into the garage for a final application of oil to the chain and on with the lycra. At 9.50am it was time to head off: just 400 yards and the first church, St Mary's, Sturminster Marshall, was ticked off at 9.51; followed by St Bartholomew's, Shapwick, at 9.55 and then off into foreign parts, as the home benefice of the Bridge Parishes was left behind for Tarrant Crawford, Langton Long and then on into Blandford Forum.

The plan was to visit Blandford, Dorchester, Weymouth, Wareham and Wimborne, whilst including as many village churches as possible en route. The rain stayed away, the wind did not seem to get up until the corner was turned in Weymouth when it very kindly helped blow me back eastwards, and there were even occasional bursts of sunshine. At 5.40 it was back into the home benefice and the final church, St. Stephen's, Kingston Lacy, and then home.

Outstanding memories: churches of all styles and ages; generous hospitality; the leg work of DHCT volunteers; the incredulity of wedding guests I came across; the presence of so many much loved and much prayed in buildings at the heart of their communities; and, above all, a reminder of how fortunate we are to live in Dorset

For those who like statistics: 61 churches and chapels visited, 101 miles ridden, 3,648 feet of ascent, top speed 42.9 mph, 4,209 calories burnt and a total journey time of 8 hours 55 minutes. All in all a wonderful day that ended with curry with friends in Wells before returning home for a full Sunday roast!

"a splendid excuse to get on my bicycle and see parts of Dorset that I would not otherwise visit"

Ride+Stride and PCC results 2015

Parish	Church	Deanery	Donations from PCC	Ride+Stride	Total
Sherborne Abbey	St Mary	Sherborne	£400	£2,176	£2,576
Dewlish	All Saints	Dorchester		£2,111	£2,111
Fontmell Magna	St Andrew	Milton & Blandford	£100	£1,888	£1,988
Christchurch	The Priory Church of the Holy Trinity	Christchurch		£1,965	£1,965
Gillingham	St Mary the Virgin	Blackmore Vale	£984	£979	£1,963
Winfrith Newburgh	St Christopher	Purbeck		£1,579	£1,579
Chideock	St Giles	Lyme Bay		£1,550	£1,550
Tarrant Gunville	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	£50	£1,282	£1,332
Piddlehinton	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester		£1,241	£1,241
Chettle	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		£1,240	£1,240
Warmwell	Holy Trinity	Dorchester		£1,127	£1,127
Motcombe	St Mary	Blackmore Vale		£1,101	£1,101
Puddletown	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester		£1,056	£1,056
Symondsburry	St John the Baptist	Lyme Bay		£1,049	£1,049
Little Bredy	St Michael and All Angels	Lyme Bay		£1,040	£1,040
Iwerne Minster	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		£1,005	£1,005
Hilton	All Saints	Dorchester		£935	£935
Silton	St Nicholas	Blackmore Vale	£50	£857	£907
Steeple with Tyneham	St Michael and All Angels	Purbeck	£50	£845	£895
Lytchett Minster		Poole		£854	£854
Tolpuddle	St John the Evangelist	Dorchester		£846	£846
Melbury Abbas	St Thomas	Blackmore Vale		£810	£810
Sturminster Newton	St Mary	Blackmore Vale		£750	£750
Winterborne Houghton	St Andrew	Milton & Blandford		£731	£731
Powerstock	St Mary	Lyme Bay	£100	£628	£728
Oborne	St Cuthbert	Sherborne		£710	£710
Spetisbury	St John the Baptist	Milton & Blandford		£710	£710
Bloxworth	St Andrews	Milton & Blandford		£695	£695
Farnham	St Laurence	Milton & Blandford	£400	£285	£685
Yetminster	St Andrew	Sherborne		£661	£661
Shaftesbury	St James	Blackmore Vale		£654	£654
Hazelbury Bryan with Stoke Wake	St Mary and St James	Blackmore Vale	£20	£633	£653
Lydlinch	St Thomas a Beckett	Blackmore Vale	£70	£566	£636
Kington Magna	All Saints	Blackmore Vale		£632	£632
Charminster	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester		£611	£611
Sturminster Marshall	St Mary	Wimborne		£607	£607
Dorchester	St George	Dorchester		£600	£600
Hooke	St Giles	Lyme Bay		£600	£600
Wool	Holy Rood	Purbeck		£600	£600
Owermoigne	St Michael	Dorchester		£587	£587
Blandford Forum	Blandford RC	Blandford		£582	£582
Wareham	Lady St Mary	Purbeck	£15	£565	£580
Marshwood	St Mary	Lyme Bay	£200	£378	£578
Sydling St Nicholas	St Nicholas	Dorchester	£120	£456	£576
Burton Bradstock with Chilcombe	St Mary	Lyme Bay		£572	£572
Mappowder with Plush	St Peter and St Paul	Blackmore Vale		£542	£542

Parish	Church	Deanery	Donations from PCC	Ride+Stride	Total
Stourton Caundle	St Peter	Blackmore Vale		£488	£488
Lilliput	The Holy Angels	Poole		£469	£469
Buckhorn Weston	St John the Baptist	Blackmore Vale		£456	£456
West Lulworth	Holy Trinity	Purbeck		£455	£455
Bridport	St Mary	Lyme Bay	£150	£305	£455
Leigh	St Andrew	Sherborne		£450	£450
Sixpenny Handley	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		£450	£450
Milborne St Andrew	St Andrew	Dorchester		£447	£447
Tarrant Hinton	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		£440	£440
Shipton Gorge	St Martin	Lyme Bay		£440	£440
West Parley	All Saints	Wimborne		£440	£440
West Stafford	St Andrew	Dorchester	£100	£340	£440
Frome St Quintin	St Mary	Sherborne	£40	£390	£430
Wimborne Minster	St Cuthberga	Wimborne		£417	£417
Ashmore	St Nicholas	Milton & Blandford		£400	£400
Corfe Castle	St Edward the Martyr	Purbeck	£50	£350	£400
Minterne Magna	St Andrew	Dorchester		£400	£400
Bridport United Church	Bridport United Church	Bridport	£268	£125	£393
Weymouth	St Mary	Weymouth		£393	£393
Weymouth	St Paul	Weymouth		£391	£391
Dorchester	St Peter, Holy Trinity and All Saints	Dorchester		£372	£372
Winterborne Clenston	St Nicholas	Milton & Blandford		£371	£371
Cattistock	St Peter and St Paul	Sherborne		£365	£365
Shapwick	St Bartholomew	Wimborne		£357	£357
Upwey	St Laurence	Weymouth		£355	£355
Charlton Marshall	St Mary the Virgin	Milton & Blandford		£352	£352
Portland St John the Baptist	St John the Baptist	Weymouth		£352	£352
Blandford Forum	St Peter and St Paul	Milton & Blandford		£345	£345
Stratton	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester		£345	£345
East Lulworth	St Andrew	Purbeck		£343	£343
Beaminster	St Mary of the Annunciation	Lyme Bay		£340	£340
Canford Magna	Dedication unknown	Wimborne		£340	£340
Gussage All Saints	All Saints	Milton & Blandford		£336	£336
Evershot	St Osmund	Sherborne		£335	£335
Preston with Sutton Poyntz	St Andrew	Weymouth	£200	£135	£335
Athelhampton	St Edward	Dorchester		£334	£334
Sutton Waldron	St Bartholomew	Milton & Blandford		£333	£333
Poole	Church of the Transfiguration	Poole		£332	£332
Colehill	St Michael and All Angels	Wimborne		£330	£330
Bothenhampton (Bridport)	Holy Trinity	Lyme Bay		£327	£327
Alton Pancras	St Pancras	Dorchester	£30	£290	£320
Branksome Park All Saints	All Saints	Poole		£320	£320
Weymouth Holy Trinity	Holy Trinity	Weymouth		£319	£319
Kinson St Andrew	St Andrew	Poole		£316	£316
Uploders	Uploders Methodist Church	Lyme Bay	£25	£285	£310
Salway Ash	Holy Trinity	Lyme Bay		£309	£309
East Stour	Christ Church	Blackmore Vale		£308	£308

Parish	Church	Deanery	Donations from PCC	Ride+Stride	Total
	United Church	Dorchester		£307	£307
Puncknowle	St Mary the Blessed Virgin	Lyme Bay		£305	£305
Worth Matravers	St Nicholas	Purbeck		£303	£303
Chetnole	St Peter	Sherborne		£300	£300
Radipole and Melcombe Regis	St Ann and St Aldhelm	Weymouth		£300	£300
Wimborne	St John	Wimborne		£300	£300
Loders	St Mary Magdalene	Lyme Bay		£293	£293
Bradpole (Bridport)	Holy Trinity	Lyme Bay		£290	£290
Litton Cheney	St Mary	Lyme Bay		£280	£280
Swyre	Holy Trinity	Lyme Bay		£273	£273
Chideock	RC Church	Lyme Bay		£273	£273
Church Knowle	St Peter	Purbeck	£100	£160	£260
Corscombe	St Mary	Sherborne	£160	£100	£260
Skinner Street	Poole	Poole		£260	£260
Winterbourne Steepleton	St Michael	Dorchester		£260	£260
Affpuddle with Turnerspuddle	St Laurence	Purbeck		£255	£255
Chaldon Herring	St Nicholas	Purbeck		£250	£250
Fifehead Magdalen	St Mary Magdalene	Blackmore Vale		£250	£250
Godmanstone	Holy Trinity	Dorchester		£250	£250
Stalbridge	St Mary	Blackmore Vale		£250	£250
Bradford Peverell	Church of the Assumption	Dorchester	£3	£245	£248
Stock Gaylard	St Barnabas	Blackmore Vale		£243	£243
Langton Herring	St Peter	Weymouth		£240	£240
Blandford Forum	Blandford Methodist Church	Blandford		£233	£233
Oakdale	St George	Poole		£233	£233
Just Giving anonymous donations				£230	£230
Abbotsbury	St Nicholas	Weymouth		£228	£228
Buckland Newton	Holy Rood	Dorchester		£225	£225
West Knighton	St Peter	Dorchester		£225	£225
Winterborne Stickland	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		£225	£225
Langton Matravers	St George	Purbeck		£211	£211
Parkstone St Peter	St Peter	Poole		£207	£207
Margarets Marsh	St Margaret	Blackmore Vale		£205	£205
Stourpaine	Holy Trinity	Milton & Blandford		£205	£205
Winterborne Kingston	St Nicholas	Milton & Blandford		£205	£205
Boscombe	St Clement	Bournemouth		£204	£204
Dorchester	Baptist Church	Dorchester		£203	£203
Long Bredy	St Peter	Lyme Bay		£200	£200
Ryme Intrinseca	St Hippolytus	Sherborne		£200	£200
Stoke Abbott	St Mary	Lyme Bay	£200		£200
West Stour	St Mary	Blackmore Vale		£200	£200
Marnhull	Marnhull RC Church	Blackmore Vale		£197	£197
Shillingstone (or Shilling Okeford)	Holy Rood	Blackmore Vale		£190	£190
Toller Porcorum	St Andrew and St Peter	Lyme Bay	£50	£135	£185
Dorchester	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester		£180	£180
Glanvilles Wootton	St Mary the Virgin	Sherborne	£50	£130	£180
Winterbourne Abbas	St Mary	Dorchester		£175	£175
Bradford Abbas with Clifton Maybank	St Mary the Virgin	Sherborne		£172	£172

Parish	Church	Deanery	Donations from PCC	Ride+Stride	Total
Wareham	Methodist	Purbeck		£172	£172
Broadmayne	St Martin	Dorchester		£150	£150
Durweston and Bryanston	St Nicholas	Milton & Blandford		£146	£146
Purse Caundle	St Peter	Blackmore Vale		£145	£145
Dorchester RC	Holy Trinity	Dorchester		£144	£144
Frampton	St Mary	Dorchester		£135	£135
Lyme Regis	St Michael the Archangel	Lyme Bay		£135	£135
Lytchett Matravers	St Mary the Virgin	Milton & Blandford		£135	£135
Milton Abbas	St James	Milton & Blandford		£132	£132
Pimperne	St Peter	Milton & Blandford		£132	£132
Osmington	St Osmund	Weymouth		£120	£120
Tarrant Rushton with Tarrant Rawston	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		£120	£120
Parkstone	St Clements	Poole		£117	£117
Hilfield Friary	St Nicholas	Sherborne		£115	£115
Lillington	St Martin	Sherborne		£110	£110
North Poorton	Dedication unknown	Lyme Bay	£60	£45	£105
Blandford St Mary	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		£100	£100
South Perrott and Chedington	St Mary	Lyme Bay		£100	£100
Walditch (Bridport)	St Mary	Lyme Bay		£100	£100
Winterborne Whitechurch	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		£93	£93
Holnest	Church of the Assumption	Sherborne		£90	£90
Mosterton	St Mary	Lyme Bay		£90	£90
Southbourne	St Katherine			£90	£90
Milton-on-Stour	St Simon and St Jude	Blackmore Vale		£85	£85
Kimmeridge	St Nicholas of Myra	Purbeck		£75	£75
Pulham	St Thomas a Beckett	Sherborne		£60	£60
Wareham	Sandford St Martin	Purbeck		£60	£60
Charmouth	St Andrew	Lyme Bay		£54	£54
Chilfrome	Holy Trinity	Sherborne	£50	£0	£50
Compton Valence	St Thomas a Beckett	Dorchester		£50	£50
Halstock	St Mary	Sherborne	£50		£50
Hinton St Mary	St Peter	Blackmore Vale		£50	£50
Nether Compton	St Nicholas	Sherborne	£50		£50
Piddletrenthide	All Saints	Dorchester	£50		£50
Winterborne Zelston	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		£50	£50
Richmond Hill	United Reformed Church	Bournemouth	£45		£45
Batcombe	St Mary Magdalene	Sherborne		£40	£40
Seaborough	St John	Lyme Bay	£40		£40
Kingston	St James	Purbeck		£25	£25
Woolland	Dedication unknown	Blackmore Vale	£25		£25
Anon				£20	£20
Bere Regis	St John the Baptist	Purbeck		£20	£20
Winterborne Monkton	St Simon and St Jude	Dorchester		£20	£20
East Chelborough	St James	Sherborne		£10	£10
Tarrant Keynston with Tarrant Crawford	All Saints	Milton & Blandford		£10	£10
Whitchurch Canonicorum	St Candida	Lyme Bay	£10		£10
Gift Aid 2015				£11,428	£11,428
Totals			£4,365	£84,358	£88,723

Ride+Stride 2015

2014 could not be surpassed surely – but unbelievably 2015 Ride+Stride was another record breaking year.

The total raised was £83,978 – (2014 £82,295). 185 churches took part raising on average £454 per church. After the year end a further £380 was received making the overall total for Ride+Stride £84,358.

The Morshead Trophy has been awarded to Sherborne for a magnificent total raised of £2,176.

Thanks are due to many; for all those who participated; for all the generous sponsors and to all those who have helped in the organisation, without whom such a splendid total would not be possible.

The administration needed to run and record such an event is considerable and I would like to thank all the parish organisers for getting the paperwork to me, mostly on time and mostly in a reasonable state!

Accounts 31.12.2015

Due to changes in the Charity SORP the accounts are shown on a receipts and payments basis which has resulted in 2014 being restated on this basis – basically accruals and prepayments have been omitted so what is shown is actually what was received or paid out in the year.

Grants 2015

£100,500 of grants have been awarded during the year to 24 churches. £85,750 of grants were paid in the year and this combined with the 50% return to the churches as a result of Ride+Stride means that £121,417 has been returned to parishes during 2015.

Other income

Whilst Ride+Stride continues to be the biggest source of income for the Trust, there are significant other sources of income shown in the table below. Donations from friends and individuals are up on last year and many thanks to all of you who have contributed in this way.

Conclusion

It has been another very good year for the Trust – thank you to all for making this possible and we look forward to another record breaking year in 2016.

There are still a lot of churches that do not yet take part in Ride+Stride so we are very much hoping to encourage at least some of these to do so in 2016, which will further increase our ability to help maintain and sustain Dorset's lovely churches.

Total income raised for the Trust in 2015 is as follows:

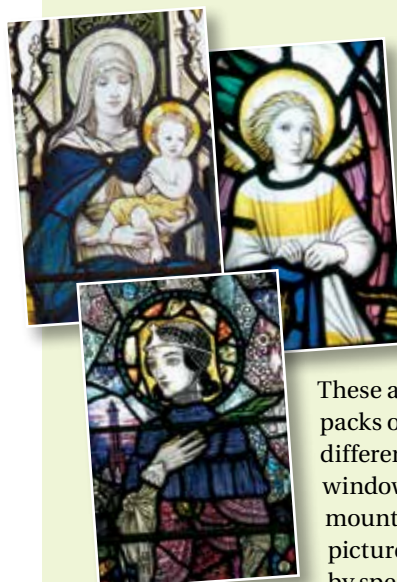
	2015	2014
Ride+Stride	£83,978	£82,295
Sale of investments	£50,000	–
Income from investments	£19,427	£19,514
Friends, individuals and Trusts	£10,044	£7,804
Gift Aid previous year	£9,166	–
Parochial Church Councils	£4,366	£4,125
Calendar, book and notecard sales	£1,425	£2,560
Friends' event	£844	£810
District Council	£100	£100
Bequest from Friend	–	£2,559
Talks, Crawls and concerts	–	£313
Sponsorship and donations towards events	–	£854
Loan repayments	–	£5,000
Total	£179,350	£125,934

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
Cash funds	£115,860	£69,669
Investment Assets		
Church of England Central Board of Finance		
– deposit account	–	£10,000
– fixed interest securities fund	£29,576	£72,125
– investment fund	£346,772	£342,116
Charities Official Investment Fund	£97,062	£95,874
	£473,410	£520,115
Total assets	£589,270	£589,784
Liabilities		
Grants awarded but not yet drawn down	(£118,750)	(£104,000)
Total assets less liabilities	£470,520	£485,784

Receipts and payment accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
Receipts		
Voluntary income		
Bequest from Friends	–	£2,559
Friends, individuals and trusts	£10,044	£7,804
Parochial Church Councils	£4,366	£4,125
District Council	£100	£100
	£14,510	£14,588
Activities for generating funds		
Ride+Stride	£83,978	£82,295
Gift Aid previous year	£9,166	–
Talks, crawls and concerts	–	£313
Friends' event	£844	£810
Sponsorship and donations towards events	–	£854
Sale of calendars, books and notecards	£1,425	£2,560
	£95,413	£86,832
Investment income		
Income from investments	£19,427	£19,514
	£19,427	£19,514
Asset and investment sales		
Loan repayments	–	£5,000
Sales of investments	£50,000	–
	£50,000	£5,000
Total Receipts	£179,350	£125,934
Payments		
Ride & Stride		
50% return to churches	£35,667	£35,039
Honoraria	£1,400	£1,950
Printing	£1,883	£1,945
T-shirts	£565	£854
Administration	£647	£1,131
	£40,162	£40,919
Friends, calendars and books		
Brochures, publicity and Friends' annual event	£1,428	£3,156
Printing of calendars	–	£5,000
Printing of notecards	–	£1,002
	£1,428	£9,158
Grants		
Grants paid in year net of any write backs	£85,750	£67,226
	£85,750	£67,226
Support costs		
Annual Report	£1,611	£1,738
Postage, stationery and travel	£545	£703
Marketing and website	£1,246	£58
Insurance	£791	£265
Bank charges	£540	£525
	£4,733	£3,289
Governance		
Independent examiner's fees	£1,086	£1,050
	£1,086	£1,050
Total payments	£133,159	£121,642
Net movement in cash funds	£46,191	£4,292
Cash funds last year end	£69,669	£65,377
Cash funds this year end	£115,860	£69,669



Dorset Historic Churches Trust notecards

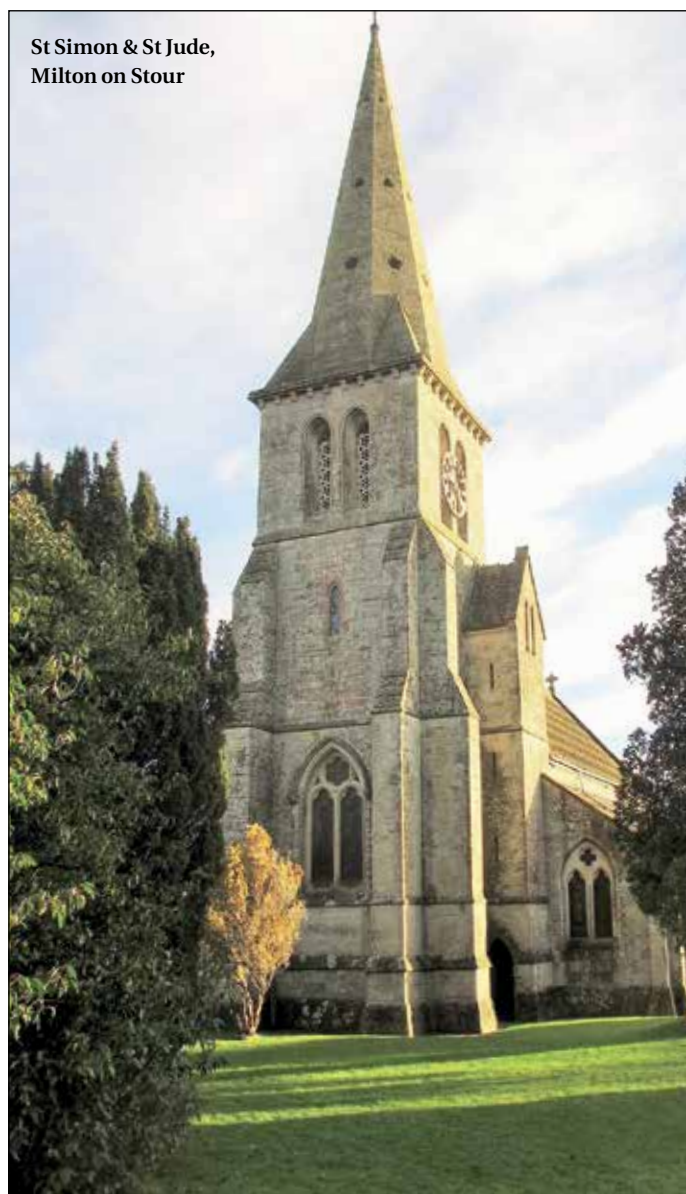
£2.50 per pack of five

These attractive cards come in packs of five, featuring five different images of stained glass windows in each pack. In addition, mounted or framed individual pictures up to size A4 are available by special order.

All the Trust's merchandise is available through the website, www.dhct.org.uk

Please note: The Trust's calendar is no longer produced.

St Simon & St Jude,
Milton on Stour



Directory 2016

President: HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset

Vice-Presidents: The Lord Bishop of Salisbury
The Lord Digby
The Archdeacon of Sherborne
The Archdeacon of Dorset
Sir Philip Williams Bt. DL
G A L-F Pitt-Rivers OBE, DL
The Bishop of Sherborne
The Viscount Hood
Major General JOC Alexander CB, OBE
R D Allan
Mrs V L-F Pitt-Rivers CVO
P F Moule

Chairman: S R V Pomeroy DL

Trustees: Mrs E M Ashmead
Mrs Sally-Anne Barrett
A G Boggis
Mrs S Bruce-Payne
Dr T P P Connor
M Crossley
B W De Morgan
R C M Fox
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S R V Pomeroy DL
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J P Sabben-Clare
Colonel J A M A Selfe
Colonel J T Smith
Ms S Smith
Captain N T L L Thimbleby
Colonel M Warren
The Reverend Canon E J Woods DL
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Chartered Accountants
Towngate House, 2 – 8 Parkstone Road,
Poole BH15 2PW

Marketing Consultants: McKenna Townsend, Bridge House,
Pullman Way, Ringwood, Hants BH24 1EX

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