



# Dorset Historic Churches Trust

*Conserving the past – enriching the future*

## PRESS RELEASE

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Dorset Historic Churches Trust

### **Morshead Trophy Presentation 2018 – Seaborough**

The tiny village of Seaborough, north of Beaminster, has outperformed a host of much larger villages and towns in the county to take this year's prestigious Morshead Trophy for the outstanding effort in raising £2700 in sponsorship in the Dorset Historic Churches Trust's annual Ride+Stride event.

At a ceremony held in St John's Church on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, The Rt Revd Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne and a Vice-President of DHCT, awarded the trophy to Steven Loveridge, whose herculean efforts did so much to raise the largest individual sum of money. Representatives of parishes from as far afield as Christchurch together with regular Ride + Stride participants, including a couple from Fifehead Magdalen, gathered to celebrate another notable success for DHCT.

Simon Pomeroy, Chairman of the Trust, announced that the September 2017 Ride+Stride raised over £86,000 to help with the restoration of historic places of worship in Dorset. He was very pleased to thank everyone involved in raising this record-breaking sum.

Mr Loveridge observed that he never thought he would win any kind of sporting trophy, but went on to thank all those who had sponsored him to cycle between 15 churches on the day of the event. St John's, Seaborough, has also been a recipient of a grant from the DHCT towards work on its leaky windows, which should help to keep the building warm and dry for decades to come.

Bishop Karen, speaking at the presentation, commented that churches in Dorset seem to be in better condition than they have been for centuries. "They are increasingly welcoming buildings," she added, "and being opened up to the communities they serve all over the county."

After the presentation in the church, a reception was generously hosted by Adam and Susanna Laurie at their lovely home locally.

**NOTE:** The Morshead Trophy is named after Sir Owen Morshead, founder of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust in 1960.



Photos supplied by Moonfleet Photography

Outside Seaborough Church:

Left to Right: **Andrew Boggis** (Trustee and Lyme Bay area representative), **Steven Loveridge**, The Rt Revd **Karen Gorham** (Bishop of Sherborne), The Revd Canon **David Baldwin** (Team Rector of Beaminster), **Simon Pomeroy** (Chairman of DHCT) and **Jeremy Selfe** (DHCT Trustee),

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#### **Editor's Notes:**

DHCT exists to grant-aid maintenance work (eg keeping out wind and rain) on Dorset's churches and chapels. In recent years, annual grants awarded have been around £100,000.

DHCT's principal source of funds is the annual sponsored "Ride+ Stride" round the churches & chapels of Dorset. In 2017, nearly 200 parishes took part, Ride+Stride raised £80,000.

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