

Dorset Historic Churches Trust

Conserving the past – enriching the future

2021 | Issue 16

ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW



Stourton Caundle Velo Club en route for Ride+Stride.
Photo thanks to Kate Lear

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Thank you!

Ride+Stride 2020 was a remarkable event and confounded all our expectations. Thank you to all of you who took part and provided sponsorship. Thank you to Parish Organisers who dealt with the paperwork and organised rotas and refreshments. This is not to forget the Deanery Area Representatives who leapt to distributing the Organiser Packs, once the decision was taken in June 2020 to go ahead with Ride+Stride in September. All this in the midst of a pandemic. We were also fortunate to have another day of fine riding and striding weather.

The magnificent and generous response to Ride+Stride 2020 is aptly demonstrated by a few statistics. Thirty two parishes raised over £1000 compared with thirteen in 2019 and eighty churches raised over £500. Over one hundred and sixty parishes took part. Over £112,500 has been raised, an all time record by some distance - thank you.

Ride+Stride is the Trust's principal fundraiser and enables it to distribute grants in excess of £100,000 each year, helping to conserve Dorset's churches, chapels and meeting houses of all Christian denominations. Never have these grants been more needed at a time when most other fundraising has come to a halt.

Of course 2020 was not without its challenges which continue, not least because all the administration had to be dealt with 'remotely'. However this has resulted in some welcome developments. Nearly all parishes have provided us with BACS details so we were able to return 50% of the sponsorship to them electronically. Cheques require two signatures and postage! The use of JustGiving increased considerably which had the effect of reducing paperwork and the Gift Aid is calculated and collected automatically on this site.

The dedicated JustGiving Ride+Stride page was a success and we will improve this further ready for next year. Likewise, we will adjust the Remittance Advice forms to take account of the increased use of JustGiving. The Remittance Advice form is an important part of our accounting and identification process and needs to be returned even when all sponsorship has been given online. It enables us to attribute sponsorship to individual parishes and where possible this should be returned on time.

Philippa Francis

Ride+Stride 2021 to take place on Saturday 11th September

Why not join in this year? You will enjoy it!

To register as a participant or request a sponsorship form, contact your Ride+Stride parish organiser or visit www.dhct.org.uk and follow the links to Ride+Stride

Chairman's Report for 2020

It is fair to say that 2020 has been a most unusual year, a challenging and testing year for so many. A challenge for our country and for society, for our health services and care homes, for our university students and school children, for charities and for ourselves as individuals. But, in common with crises we have experienced in the past, the year has brought out the best in many people, renewed and strengthened the sense of community and neighbourliness as we all pulled together to resist the darkness created by the virus the nation is striving to overcome and defeat. The restrictions under which we live have also affected our churches and the desire or otherwise of congregations to return under the rules of social distancing and hygiene. Many churches reopened during the year but unfortunately many did not and still remain resolutely shut.

I believe however that the impact on the church has reawakened the perception that it is more than a place of worship. It is increasingly recognised as an important part of community, especially in the smaller villages in Dorset. Our church buildings are an architectural testament to the imagination and sense of place of previous generations; it is given to us, as the Dorset Historic Churches Trust, to protect, preserve and sustain that heritage for the benefit of future generations in an increasingly secular, materialistic and commoditised society. The church, as a focal point for a community, has for centuries, been a centre of worship, celebration and refuge in times of crisis. We have witnessed the latter as people turned to the church as a source of comfort and solace during some of the darker periods of the year.

I have sought increasingly to emphasise the community aspects of the church as a building, to make our beautiful historic churches across Dorset an asset to the community. Of course we can do this by adding additional facilities to the building - where finances permit - to encourage younger families and visitors to linger and enjoy all that our churches have to offer, whether spiritual, cultural, architectural or historic. We can however do more by asking our communities to have a clear view of what they want their church to be. If you like, to have a strategy and long term plan for the enhancement and sustainment of their church, to make it the focal point it once was and deserves to be again.

There was an interesting newspaper article a few months ago which suggested that churches should 'recapture their traditional role in the community' and 'not be left to collapse like medieval castles, to become picturesque ruins'. The article concluded by saying 'turning these buildings from a towering liability to a community asset should be a challenge to every town and village'. I strongly agree and those sentiments underline precisely what we, as your Trust, are set up to do on your behalf.

The challenges of 2020 have, despite the restrictions on our lives, given us the time to streamline how the Trust operates, enabling us more efficiently to seize future opportunities. Our

governance processes, grant award assessments and the rapid application of funds to areas of need have all served in this regard.

The use of technology in the right way in this era of Zoom, WhatsApp and messaging has streamlined our financial transactions and, following the considerable success of Ride+Stride last September, enabled us swiftly to return 50% of the money raised to our parish churches. Whilst this use of technology has been a boost to our activities, it still served to highlight the loneliness of the more elderly members of our communities who have missed the companionship of meeting physically with family and friends, rather than through a small screen subject to the vagaries of rural broadband connections.

I have made much comment on community. The opportunity to see community spirit in action was nowhere more evident than in the support shown for Ride+Stride. Earlier in 2020 we were entertaining thoughts that the event might not survive the restrictions under which we were living or at the very least proceed in a curtailed fashion. As it turned out, the response from our supporters across the county was magnificent and the funds we received for our historic churches exceeded all expectations. We owe our supporters a huge debt of thanks. We gained some valuable lessons in staging the event in the face of significant social problems, lessons which can but enhance our drive for sustainability.

Behind everything that we do is our network of Deanery Area Representatives, Parish Organisers and our Friends. This network is the envy of church trusts across the country and is fundamental to everything that we do. I know that the members of this group of kindred spirits take great pride in what they do and their work was undiminished by the threat from Covid-19. If you would like to be part of this highly valued network either as a Parish Organiser, or to work with our Deanery Area Representatives, I should be delighted to welcome you onto our team.

Whether galvanising support for Ride+Stride or growing the understanding of our work across Dorset's communities, the network is the backbone of our achievements. Achievements which are allowing us, after minimal running costs, to place every penny of money raised where it is most needed - in the preservation and sustainment of our many historic churches. These churches form the story of Dorset and we should all be proud of them.

I look forward to the day later this year when visitors will return safely to Dorset, to visit our churches, appreciate our communities and contribute to the wider economy of the county, playing their part in the work we do as your Trust.

I commend this Annual Report to you. It is but a snapshot of what we do but I know that you will find it helpful and informative. I am especially grateful to you for all that you do for the Trust, our churches and the communities they support.

John Stokoe CB CBE



Honorary Secretary's Report

Last year my report was all about big changes to the way we run the Trust. This year the focus has been on evolution while the new processes have bedded in. Some of these adjustments were planned but others have been thrust upon us by the pandemic. The most important change has been the move to on-line banking which has allowed far quicker payment of grants and much more rapid and easily traced receipts for R+S.

With the invaluable assistance of Adrian Pipe, who has helped with R+S over a number of years, we created an easily-used JustGiving page that encouraged many of our R+S sponsors to use it to great effect. The lockdown caused us to adopt Zoom for Trustee and Committee meetings. While these are now routine and an efficient use of our time, the dislocation has greatly increased the workload of a number of our Trustees, who give so much of their time to the upkeep of Dorset's churches. We look forward to returning to meeting in person if only because most of us have only met our two new Trustees, Canon Andrew Rowland and Roger Blaber, through a computer screen. We hope that they will enjoy meeting us! There have been changes that we nearly made but did not. After careful consideration of the fact that we have nearly all our fund-raising eggs in the R+S basket, we decided not to dilute our effort into running individual events. After even more deliberation, we decided not to cancel R+S 2020. Both judgements turned out to have been correct as you can read on other pages in the report. However, we did cancel the planning to celebrate our 60th birthday. I hope that a leaflet about our work, which was well-advanced, will still see the light of day.

Our other main effort has been adding to the already long list of Christian churches of all denominations in Dorset. The Deanery Area Representatives have been very active helping me to add about 50 more buildings making the total 375. This exercise has caused us to reflect on what makes a church "historic" and how widely we can extend that without overstressing our resources. This matter will be addressed by the Trustees during the year. We are also working out the implications of the changes to local authority boundaries since we were founded 61 years ago to cover the Administrative County of Dorset. Sadly, we have already concluded that the Christchurch Deanery, including the Priory, under our current Trust Deeds, is no longer eligible for grant aid from DHCT.

Finally, as reported elsewhere, we are much saddened by the passing of Ian Andrews, a long-serving Deanery Area Representative for Poole and great authority on all things about Poole. We have waved goodbye to two long-serving Trustees, Liz Ashmead, our Hon Treasurer for the past 10 years, and Canon Eric Woods, who has retired from many years as Rector of the Abbey at Sherborne. The pandemic has frustrated our aspiration to give them both a fitting farewell over lunch – one day we will. We should also record our thanks to Gerry Gerrard, who has been the DAR for half of the Dorchester Deanery Area for nearly 5 years, and to Barry Beesley, who has looked after the Christchurch Deanery Area since 2007.

Jeremy Selfe

No fossilisation at DHCT

In preparing this article, as the 'new recruit', I have read Canon Eric Woods' previous articles. The mantle has been passed to me and thus I introduce myself, Andrew Rowland, Rector of Wimborne Minster and the Wimborne Villages since 2018 and Rural Dean of Wimborne since 2016.

I was honoured to be welcomed as a Canon of Salisbury in 2019 but curiously am still to be installed. Why? Because the cathedral organ, under restoration, was blocking my stall! The obstruction was duly cleared but then the pandemic caused further restriction. I write this tale with a wry smile because this very morning we have begun disassembly of the Minster organ and started storing pipes and parts everywhere. This is by way of a lengthy introduction that this clergyman is most thoroughly involved in the preservation and restoration of the fabric of our heritage. Canon Eric, in his final article, wrote of the need not to allow fossilisation within our churches. Whilst Grade 1 Listed buildings are seemingly sacrosanct, nevertheless there is the need to enable them to welcome the lively church of today as well as preserving the past. At Wimborne we are undoing some of the unsympathetic changes of the past, restoring Victorian erasures, removing 1950's floors and excising 1960's modernisations. Yes, the thoughtful care of our Historic Churches is something that I am engaged in, together with many of my colleagues.

In this most difficult of years, in which we sadly have lost many friends, but commendably kept the DHCT 'Ride+Stride' on the road, it is all the more important to keep our Dorset Churches in good repair and good heart! I pay tribute to my new colleagues at the Trust who have not been deflected, despite the restrictions of the times, from working collaboratively with our clients and consultants, to offer financial and practical help.

The fact remains that the future of our historic churches is under threat. A joint letter to The Times last October drew attention to The National Churches Trust publication of its report The House of Good, stating that church buildings across the UK contribute £12.4 billion a year to the economy and society by enabling the provision of food banks, mental health counselling, youth services and addiction support services. It continued, "however, the future of many churches, especially in deprived areas, is under threat due to crumbling roofs, deteriorating church halls, and inadequate kitchen and toilet facilities". Some of the most vulnerable and isolated people in our society rely on the services provided in church buildings for essential support and they will continue to do so as the Covid crisis persists.

A Culture Recovery Fund was announced by Government, but I have to say that even Wimborne's Greater Church has found the application process very demanding – and it is yet to be revealed if we shall be successful. At the same time the continuation of the VAT Rebate Scheme for Grade 1 Listed Places of Worship has been delayed – schemes underway might be subject to 20% VAT.

These are difficult times, but we are committed to working together to forge ahead. Never has the work of Dorset Historic Churches Trust been more important and we thank all who support us.

The Revd Canon Andrew Rowland

Grant for big development at Longburton Church

A major milestone in the development of St James' Church, Longburton was marked in October with the handing over of a cheque for £5,000 by DHCT Chairman, John Stokoe.

The congregation at this beautiful Grade 1 listed building needed to increase storage space and to add a toilet to become more convenient for Sunday services and for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

The inside of the church did not really provide space to achieve this, so in consultation with Historic England an existing store behind the church is being replaced with a completely new building.

At the same time access is being improved by upgrading all the church pathways for disabled use and repairing sections of the boundary wall.

The need to lay on new electricity and water supplies, together with drainage pipes, has added to the cost of this project which totals over £77,000. The DHCT's grant has been an encouraging step towards this total.

Alyson Edwards, who has been overseeing the development project, explained that the church needs to be open to all members of the community and this development will be vital in achieving their goal. "We are planning to re-open our Village Café this year, she added, "Covid permitting."

The Revd Lesley McCreadie, Team Vicar at Longburton, thanked John Stokoe, Chair of DHCT, who handed over the cheque. "We are very grateful for this important financial support for our development project," she said. "Despite this difficult year, we are looking forward with enthusiasm."

Tom Wickson



Photo: The Revd Lesley McCreadie receives a cheque for £5,000 from Chair of DHCT John Stokoe, with Alyson Edwards approving.

Morshead Trophy

The Morshead Trophy (named after Sir Owen Morshead, the Trust's founder) is awarded each year to the parish, which in the opinion of the Trustees, achieved the most impressive Ride+Stride results.

This is not necessarily the parish raising the most money. This year the Trophy has been awarded to All Saints, Hilton and Ansty which raised £2,837.11 only just topped by last year's winner St Mary's, Sturminster Marshall. All Saints, Hilton and Ansty has consistently raised significant totals despite being one of the smaller settlements in Dorset. Charles Hunter's Ride+Stride Log appears on page 12 of this Annual Report.

Sadly presentation of the Trophy to the 2019 winners was not possible and we are hoping, once regulations allow, to organise a combined presentation to both the 2019 and 2020 winners, at some time in 2021.

In difficult times it is heartwarming to see so much support for conserving and repairing our beautiful and historic churches. It is cheering that this support has been seen across the country.

Dorset Historic Churches Trust notecards

£2.50 per pack of five

These attractive cards come in packs of five, featuring five different images from stained glass windows in each pack. To purchase cards please apply to:

Ms Susan Smith

Winterborne Cottage, Minchington, Dorset, DT11 8DH
susanmorgansmith@gmail.com

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

Photography by Barry De Morgan. Printed by Purely Print



Grants awarded in 2020

Hawkchurch - St John the Baptist	
Towards facilities (disabled loo)	£5,000
Lillington - St Martin of Tours	
Towards repairs to the roof	£10,000
Loders - St Mary Magdalene	
Towards repairs to the bell frame	£1,000
Longburton - St James the Great	
Towards facilities and store room	£5,000
Lyme Regis R.C. - St Michael and St George	
Towards repairs to roof and gutters	£10,000
Preston - St Andrew	
Towards repairs to roof	£5,000
Sturminster Marshall - St Mary	
Towards repairs to tower and window	£7,000
West Orchard - St Luke	
Towards repairs to the roof	£1,500
Whitchurch Canoniconum - St Candida and Holy Cross	
Towards repairs to the tower	£5,000
Winterborne Kingston - St Nicholas	
Towards repairs to the roof	£3,000
Chilfrome - Holy Trinity	
Repointing and roof repairs	£3,000
North Poorton - St Mary Magdalene	
Roof guttering repairs	£1,000
Puddletown - St Mary the Virgin	
Towards general repairs	£7,000
Stoke Abbott - St Mary	
Towards modernised heating	£12,000
Bradpole - Holy Trinity	
Repairs to stained glass windows	£4,000
Enmore Green - St John the Evangelist	
Tower roof repairs	£3,500
Gussage St Michael - St Michael and All Angels	
Roof and tower repairs	£12,000
Over Compton - St Michael and All Angels	
Roof repairs	£2,500
Moreton - St Nicholas	
Re-decoration of interior	£1,000
Tarrant Hinton - St Mary	
Repair electrical wiring	£4,000
Wimborne St Giles - St Giles	
Roof repairs	£6,000
Wimborne (Newborough) - St John	
Relighting project	£4,500

Grants Committee Report 2020

The year of the shut churches

Whether or not the churches of Dorset could be visited by us, or by their congregations or even by the odd passer-by, the buildings had to stand up in the wind and weather. The Trust's principal responsibility is always to help keep them weatherproof and this has been our unhesitating objective throughout the year. We received 23 applications and felt able to help almost all of them this year, promising £113,000 to do so. Of these, 15 were concerned with water ingress in one form or another. At North Poorton what was called a 'secret gutter' was causing a trickle of damp into the chancel, at Bradpole the maintenance of exposed windows on the south side were a cause of concern. Towers present their own slightly different problems, but their flat roofs can be an open invitation for standing (leaking) water. The fine tower at Whitchurch Canoniconum, with its curious reliefs on the south side needed attention as did other towers at Sturminster Marshall and Gussage St Michael. We were glad to have the chance to help the Catholic church at Lyme Regis to maintain its roof and gutters; we aim to help churches of all denominations.

The process of Quinquennial Inspections proceed unperturbed by Covid and throws up problems of different sorts that we cannot ignore. Dampness of churches can lead to problems with electrical installations, such as we helped address at Tarrant Hinton. The lasting problem of the presence of asbestos in earlier 'improvements' to church heating led to a grant towards its removal at Stoke Abbott.

After the astonishing success of Ride+Stride in September, our anxieties in the previous months as to whether we should even hold the event at all may now seem timorous, but a decision had been taken in August to reduce substantially the amount to be distributed to applicants at our October meeting. The result was that one project that did not meet our tight objectives for the year was not given any help at all, but we hope that a renewed application may be put forward in the next months when things may be easier.

All churches will have suffered financially during the year: few collections, few fees from weddings, no fêtes and no visitors. We must do everything we can to help their continued existence in the ways that we uniquely can.

Dr Tim Connor



Dorset Historic Churches Trust

Conserving the past – enriching the future

To survive, a church building must be both valued by and useful to its community. There is no 'one size fits all' solution; every church and community will be different and local considerations will be paramount. However, new and different uses for buildings may need to be considered and new income streams developed to sit alongside the longstanding function of the building as a place for Christian worship.

Source: The Taylor Review: Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals (2017)

Modern stained glass in Normandy and Brittany churches

Many of you may have seen the remarkable east windows in Salisbury Cathedral by the international designer Gabriel Loire of Chartres. A few years ago I thought it was time to visit his home area and see what else he had produced, and to explore churches across Normandy and Brittany. What we found was both shocking and astounding.

Chartres cathedral's windows were an inspiration for Loire but there is little of his work in the city itself apart from two modest designs in the cathedral crypt. But he was extensively involved in the replacement of windows in churches damaged or destroyed during the June 1944 invasion.

Over 350 churches in Normandy alone had to be rebuilt or restored so the opportunities for stained glass makers was unprecedented. Gabriel Loire's workshop produced glass for nearly 100 churches or chapelles, and assisted other artists/designers too. One of his early designs was in Sainte-Mere-Eglise, the first village to be liberated just inland from Utah Beach. St Mary forms the central focus surrounded by descending paratroopers (Fig 1). He followed this up some 25 years later with a second window of less dramatic design financed by American veterans.



Fig.1

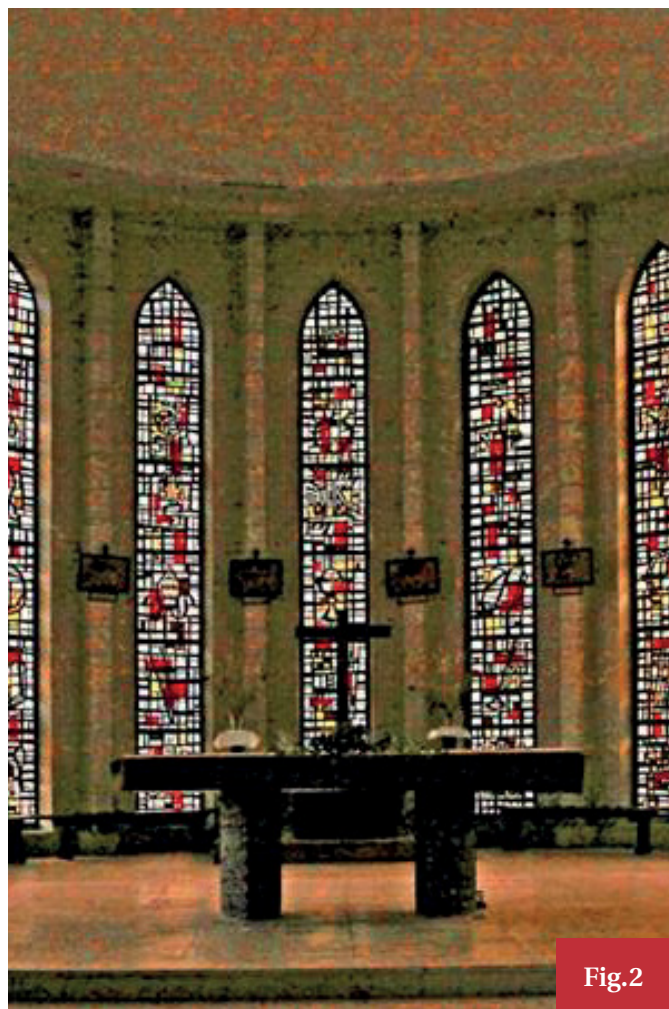


Fig.2

A further aspect of these reconstruction projects was that many churches employed just one designer for their new windows, a trend which can give some continuity to the overall displays. Loire, for instance, installed 52 panels in Notre-Dame-de-Voeu, Cherbourg, where the chancel lights present a life-history of Mary from birth to coronation; on a similar theme Jacques Le Chevalier completed 22 richly-coloured windows in Notre-Dame which overlooks the port in Granville; and in 1958 at Sainteny near Carentan, Maurice Rocher re-glazed the whole church which included a 13-light apse of abstract design (Fig.2). Gabriel Loire too was a master in the deployment of the slab dalle-de-verre pieces; these he used in the lovely Romanesque church in Domfront, and in the enchanting Oblats chapel in the pilgrimage centre of Pontmain in Mayenne where the east wall holds a breathtaking depiction of Christ in Majesty (Fig 3). Here Loire had the architect build the wall to fit his design, and his nave windows of saints are conic in shape and rise from ground level. Innovative, imaginative and ingenious!

Abstract patterns are quite common too. Some can be muted in impact, others can bend your mind in puzzlement: there is clearly some symbolism in the window by Max Ingrand at Notre Dame in Saint Lo*. Alpha -Omega at the bottom and one can imagine a figure with a cloak and three floating potatoes above. Max Ingrand is an artist I have come to admire from his huge works in the cathedral at St Malo. But if you really like abstract pictures then we must travel west towards Concarneau in Brittany, and to the small chapel of Sainte-Marie-Madeleine at Penmarch. In 1981 this building was transformed by the addition of six windows by Jean Bazaine all celebrating the life of Mary Magdalene. One, the meeting of Christ and Mary after his resurrection, often titled 'Noli me tangere', uses different colour-mixes for the figures but retains the long leaf panes throughout. And there is no detail of their faces because this would be guesswork.

In Brittany there is one artist whose figure-work is distinctive and frequently makes you smile. Hubert de Sainte-Marie had his workshop in Quimper and rarely veered from the way he depicted people, or little people to be nearer the truth. Sometimes there can be dozens in one light, and in one window in Treguier cathedral there are more than 60 – kings, church servants, Breton folk, and they are all different. A section from this window is shown in Fig.4. HSM also designed three windows in Saint-Pierre church on Mont St Michel. One of these shows the martyrdom of Saint Peter, hanging upside down by a thread which is about to be severed by two of his little people! Here too are four figurative windows by the artist Philippe Lejeune from 1962; his figures are rather angular and the settings are very geometric but not overpowering in this small church. Lejeune was a highly honoured painter who founded a school of art in Etampes and produced designs for stained glass in many churches in the region.

If I were to recommend one church to visit for modern glass it would be Notre-Dame in the town of Saint-Lo, department capital of the Manche. The town was almost totally destroyed in 1944 including Notre-Dame, a fine example of flamboyant Gothic. Now rebuilt, apart from its north tower, the church has a stunning display of modern glass in some 30 windows. 15 are by Max Ingrand (1908-1969), the brilliant designer of figurative, scenic and abstract works, which include the largest stained glass window in Europe (1046 sq.metres) at Yvetot near Rouen. His work is complemented by Jean-Paul Froidevaux, another master of stained glass techniques. What really appealed to me here were the designs in the flamboyant traceries: just one example by Froidevaux of the burning Saint-Lo (Fig 5). A good web-site to view all the windows in this church, and others mentioned above, is www.mesvitrauxfavoris.fr/ by Denis Krieger.

Much of what I have written would have been included in the lunch-talk planned for February 2020 and I hope that this brief review has revealed what a remarkable transformation many churches have undergone in Normandy and Brittany in the post-war period. On our visits it was quite shocking to realise the scale of damage that had occurred but out of it has come some thrilling revelations in the world of modern stained glass.

Brian Woodruffe

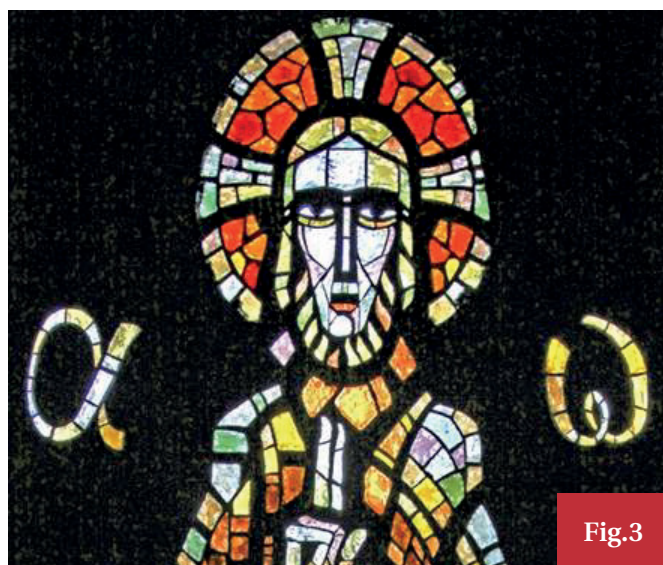


Fig.3

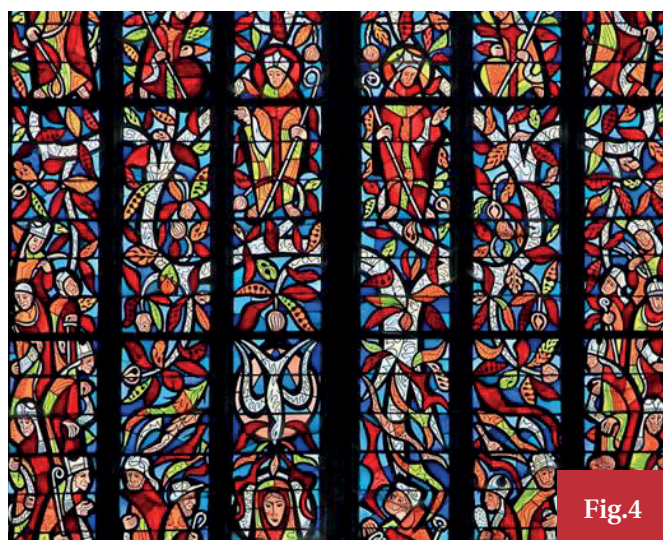


Fig.4

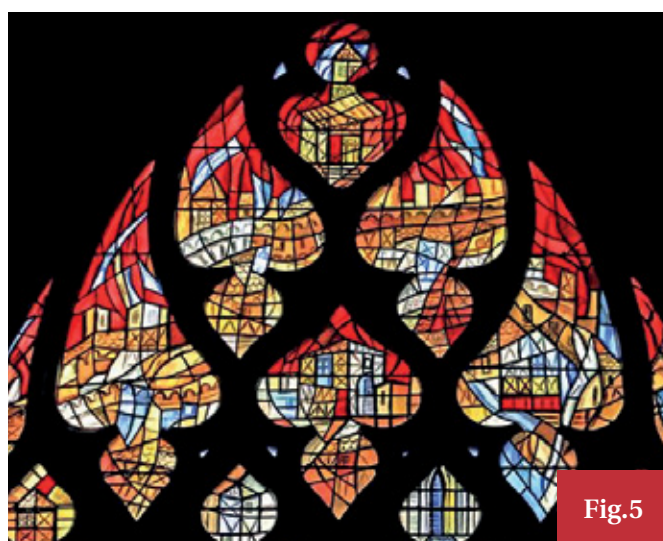


Fig.5

* Due to lack of space the image of Max Ingrand's window is only available on the DHCT website. Full size versions of all the images in this article are also available there.

Winter Lectures: Illuminated Manuscripts

The 2020 season of Friends of DHCT Winter Lectures opened with a copiously illustrated and highly informative talk about medieval illuminated manuscripts by Friends Secretary and expert on decorative arts, Sue Smith.

As usual, members – over 50 on this occasion – gathered at the Langton Arms, Tarrant Monkton, where a delicious lunch was served after the lecture. Having braved road closures, floods and the council recycling lorry, we were welcomed by Trustee Steven Norman who emphasised that Sue's credentials as a speaker are well known.

She started her talk by giving an introductory review of the variety of medieval illustrated manuscripts and of the technology of writing from cylinder seals, clay/wood/wax tablets and papyrus scrolls right down to the use of animal skins to make books.

The process of preparing skins to make parchment was described, as was the use of goose or swan flight feathers to make quills. A little knife was important to sharpen pens and to remove mistakes, while ink was made from lampblack or oak galls, as well as many other rich and rare components.

Describing the Sherborne Missal, currently held in the British Library, as an example of this kind of artwork, Sue explained that this is chiefly a service book for the Mass, though it contains much more information, including a calendar. Much of the interest in the book to modern viewers is in the illustrations used to decorate it, the vignettes round the borders and the capital letters, the images of creatures particularly birds and ecclesiastical characters of the Sherborne of the day, and the representations of stunning architectural features.

The lecture gave a wonderful impression of the book and the skills employed to create it. Listeners also learned a good deal about the medieval world from which this treasure came.

Lunch provided a great opportunity for further discussion and looking through a small library of books which had been brought to provide references for the talk.



Folio 369

The skylark – famous for soaring singing into the heavens is placed alongside a tiny vignette of the Ascension in which the prints of Christ's feet remain upon the rocks.

Winter Lectures: Medieval Architecture in Dorset Churches

Ever a serious but entertaining lecturer, Tim Connor opened his comments with an explanation of his terms of reference.

Although at the end of the seventeenth century “gothic” was a term of abuse, he commented that the style had dominated church building from the late Norman to the Tudor periods and was set for a great return in the nineteenth century.

The lecture then fell into two sections. First a full room enjoyed a masterly sweep through the different periods into which Gothic architecture is often divided – Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular. Each period was richly illustrated with images of churches round the county. It was noted that Dorset is richly supplied with Perpendicular buildings, though has many fewer Decorated ones.

To put this into context, the second part of the lecture pondered upon what architecture actually is. Dr Connor proposed three possible answers. First, it must be to do with structure. It must strive for something remarkable, while maintaining physical integrity. Second, scale is an important element.

This obviously interrelates with structure, but the architect or mason must make decisions based upon the best understanding of the materials being used. Last, and perhaps most importantly from the human perspective, architecture is about the relationship of forms. The play of light on the outside of structures and the opening of cross-vistas inside a building are a key concern of builders.

In Friends' Summer Church Crawls we often wonder about the Victorian work on the palimpsest of Dorset churches. While Dr Connor pointed out that the nineteenth century was the first to look back with favour on Gothic buildings, it also worked to strict rules of taste – believing that Decorated Gothic was the purest, the perfect period of architecture.

The chairman of the Trust, John Stokoe, who had welcomed everyone at the start of the event, thanked Dr Connor and organiser, Sue Smith. Discussion continued over an excellent lunch provided by the staff at the Langton Arms.

Details of future events may be had from Sue Smith: susanmorgansmith@gmail.com

Organs in village churches

You will have noticed in every church we visit, there is an organ of some description. Some are large and imposing, with superb, ornamented cases displaying a brilliant array of pipes; others are more modest; some are even tucked away and hard to find. But in each church, this machine represents a significant investment for that congregation at the time of its installation. Most of them have given well over 100 years' service, with varying degrees of maintenance and rebuilding work over the years.

Organs were not really common in small parish churches. In Thomas Hardy's *Under the Greenwood Tree*, we see a country parish church at Christmas with no organ and a very low-church liturgy. Although published in 1872, it harks back to earlier days when church music was provided by bands of musicians, and large organs were scarce. The rough villagers all gathered with their assorted voices and instruments to provide music for the service from a gallery at the west end of the church. (Not only was there no organ at this service, there seemed to be very little decorum or sense of religious propriety in the musicians' gallery). Of course, the story does revolve around the desire of the new vicar to abolish the band and replace them with a lady organist - some resonance with our own times in reverse, perhaps? Plus ça change.

During the 19th Century, as a result of the revivalism of the Oxford Movement (among other things), many churches were energetically 'restored'. The interiors were often re-ordered in the more traditional or 'catholic' form we now see them. Regular benches were installed, rood screens sometimes re-introduced, and where space allowed, choir stalls were introduced within the chancel area. Even modest churches found themselves with surpliced choirs, facing each other in stalls across the chancel. West gallery bands largely disappeared. And the organ came into its own, now being in the form we see many of them still today, generally installed in the chancel area to support the music provided by the choir.

And so, every Dorset church has its organ, most often situated on the north side of the chancel. The north is chosen, incidentally, to protect the instrument from the variations in temperature likely to be found in the roof space on the south side, facing into the sun. (In some churches, organs were installed on the west galleries - indeed in Thomas Hardy's church at Stinsford, a gallery has been re-installed, now with a handsome organ.) Now, sadly, some of the organs in Dorset's parish churches are in a poor state of repair, and face an uncertain future.

This uncertainty comes from a number of causes. It is no secret that church attendance is at an all-time low. Funds to maintain these buildings are scarce, and necessarily applied to the most pressing needs. Choirs are also something of a rarity now; few aspire to the heights of those surpliced groups of men and boys who would regularly sing every Sunday 100 years ago. Even with the funds to maintain the instruments,

there is a question mark over the skilled craftsmen required for this work: tuners are now becoming scarce in rural areas; the large organ building companies have reduced in numbers, and waiting times for organ-building work are sometimes long.

Of course, over-arching all these factors is the change that has occurred in theological and liturgical tastes and practices. Thriving churches in larger centres now routinely have amplified bands and serve up a musical menu of the more 'pop' persuasion. Complex choir-and-organ music - and even four-square hymns - are sometimes becoming a thing of the past.

Whilst church music - and organ playing in particular - have never been in better health in the cathedrals and colleges, fewer young people in rural areas are likely to be drawn into this arena. Sterling work has been done in the Salisbury Diocese with the 'Pipe-Up' scheme, providing tuition to school children. But these efforts are few, and there just are not enough suitable, well-maintained organs in churches with the sympathetic liturgical style to support a sustainable school of organ playing for young people. You will have noticed that most of the people you have heard playing the organs of Dorset have distinctly greying hair!

Quo vadis? Do spare a thought for these instruments. Some of them are absolute gems, many are in happy continuous use. Where there is the fortunate coincidence of an energetic vicar and a gifted player, great things can be done. If church stewardship is genuinely about the long term, investment in these instruments is eminently worthwhile. They are not just lovely artefacts. Along with the architecture, windows, furnishings and memorials, they are part of the rich history of these buildings. At their best, they give these ancient places a voice which can be truly thrilling and uplifting.

Nick Head



Valete Christchurch

This last year has certainly been one of changing fortunes and it has seen Christchurch removed from the Dorset administrative area and placed in a new Authority under Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.

The change was resisted by Christchurch residents but to no avail as this was pushed forward as a cost cutting exercise. Christchurch Deanery area is now seen as outside Dorset, and unlike Poole, which had always been part of Dorset, Christchurch was formerly in Hampshire. In addition, Christchurch lies within Winchester Diocese, as opposed to that of Salisbury, which covers most if not all of the Dorset churches.

The result is that Christchurch is sadly no longer in the care of Dorset Historic Churches Trust. I had predicted the possibility of this happening in the DHCT 2017 Annual Report and Review (page 13 'A Christchurch Perspective') and our fears have now been realised. Over the years our membership has been a happy one, for which we are thankful and I like to feel that it has been a time of mutual benefit. Certainly, working with members of the Trust has been a time of friendly cooperation. Christchurch Priory and other churches in the Deanery have benefited from generous grants in the past. A memorable project supported by DHCT involved repairs were made to the Priory Great Quire windows – pictured here when work was in progress. Major work planned for the near future is to repair and strengthen the ancient and valuable collection of misericords in the Great Quire, and will be supported this time by The Friends of The Priory Church.

Meanwhile, Christchurch Priory, like so many other churches are having to plan and work carefully around the Covid precautions, removing rows of seats and dividing the remaining rows with screens to allow more people to visit and worship in safety. The changes can be seen in the photograph.

Amazingly, Ride+Stride has done particularly well in this difficult year and by looking at the results it will be seen that Christchurch Deanery have again turned in a worthy contribution as they go on their way.

It is with sadness that we will no longer be under the care of DHCT, but in leaving, wish the Trust every success for the future and watch with interest their valuable work of preserving our heritage for future generations to enjoy.

Barry Beesley (formerly Christchurch Deanery Area Representative)



Leave a bequest in your will

A gift in your will, should you wish to bequeath one, can help us to continue the vital work of protecting Dorset churches for the future. A bequest is an efficient way for many people to donate to the Trust more substantially than their current circumstance permit. A bequest is not liable to Inheritance Tax. You may wish to consider three common forms of legacy:

- **A legacy of money.** This is a gift of a specific amount. Inflation may erode its value but this can be avoided by making provision for the amount to be increased automatically over time, in line with the prices index.
- **A legacy of property.** It is possible to leave gifts in the form of land, shares, pictures and other valuables. The Trust would sell the asset at an appropriate time and apply the proceeds to its work.
- **A Residual legacy.** This is part or all of your Estate after all other legacies and obligations have been fulfilled.

If you decide to leave a legacy to the Trust you should seek professional legal advice. In the meantime, the Chairman or the Honorary Secretary would be pleased to take questions and to offer guidance on these matters. Their contact details are on the Trust's website and on the back page of this Report. The Trust's Registered Charity Number is 282790.

Thank you

DAR and amazing artist



Janet, my wife, is naturally creative in many fields, not only painting and drawing, but also has sculpture, stained glass, decorative cake-making, upholstery, doll making and photography in her wide range of artistic interests.

At the other end of the scale, since my O-level art pass many moons ago, I'd never even considered picking up a pencil or brush.

Some ten years ago, Janet's parents were visiting us for the Easter break, so we took them to Upton House near Poole to see an Arts and Crafts exhibition. One of the exhibitors was a young lady demonstrating pencil portraiture, with examples of her students work on display. I suggested to my wife that she might consider doing this. Her reply was a classic one, along the lines of 'why on earth would I want to do that?'. To encourage her, I tentatively offered to accompany her to the evening classes for a few weeks so that we could enjoy the evenings together. After discussion with the tutor, we signed up for the forthcoming term of 'Beginners Portraits'.

This proved to be revelatory. We found Heather Lewis, the tutor, to be an amazing, inspirational artist and teacher. Thanks almost entirely to her, I surprised myself and managed to progress, along with all the other students, in a relatively short period of time to the point where I was able to enter my work in the group's exhibitions. I then continued, with confidence, becoming more adept at drawing other subjects, such as animals, buildings etc. not only in pencil but utilizing pen and ink and other media. All this, having got into drawing pretty much by accident!

The moral of the story is, I suppose, that, in Shakespeare's words, 'Lord, we know what we are, but we know not what we may become'. So, unless we try, we never know, what latent talent we possess! I hope that's a positive and encouraging note for everyone - at whatever age - in these challenging and difficult times!

Stuart Turvey

Marketing & Communications Committee Report

We are very grateful for the things that worked out well this year, despite the various difficulties encountered, and we still hope to learn from the assorted plans that unfortunately had to be shelved.

Chief among the successes, of course, was the Ride+Stride, as can be seen elsewhere in these pages. It was most encouraging to be able to tap into the great goodwill towards the Trust that exists throughout the county. Particularly valuable was the involvement of the MP for West Dorset, Chris Loder, who is a long-term supporter of our aims and objectives. His contribution allowed us to get good coverage in the press and to spread the news of the Trust and its work further and wider.

We similarly achieved some useful exposure in the 2021 Dorset Yearbook, published annually by the Society of Dorset Men. The article about our work in that publication had originally been planned to coincide with the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Trust. We had also hoped to produce a leaflet suggesting the most historically and architecturally distinguished churches to visit in the county – always a fertile debating subject. Sadly, with printers furloughed and visitor facilities shut, this was not possible.

A number of traditional media outlets also closed down during the lockdowns, but nevertheless we did achieve some press coverage of projects completed against the backdrop of assorted problems, which included social distancing and accomplishing Faculty permission for works at churches.

The website has continued to function smoothly this year under Jeremy Selfe's jurisdiction – and indeed has been of even greater importance while people have not been able to meet face to face. The ways in which trustees have managed to mobilise the power of data while working from home reflects a huge amount of learning by a core team of tech-savvy and determined people. As for many similar organisations throughout the world, years of progress has been achieved in months.

While the programme of summer church crawls, winter lectures and the annual event were not possible, the indefatigable Sue Smith kept the Friends in touch with a series of newsletters, chiefly featuring images of stained glass relevant to each season. These were much appreciated and proved beacons of light in several different ways, not least for those shielding at home and unable to get out and about.

In terms of personnel, I record with huge appreciation the work done on this committee by Tim Smith over a number of years. He remains an active Trustee in other fields. Kate Cox, meanwhile, found herself too busy in her full-time work to be able to contribute to our activities as she had hoped.

Tom Wickson

Hilton and Ansty: A Ride+Stride Log Book, 2020

A record of an exhausting but rewarding day riding and striding for Hilton and Ansty.

Hal Cazalet and Greg Knott, restricted by school commitments, managed in half a day to climb to the summit of Bulbarrow and visit the churches the other side: Woolland, Ibberton, Okeford Fitzpaine and more.

Neil Richardson and Charles Hunter, on the other hand, had all day, but avoided going right to the top of Bulbarrow. They started at All Saints Hilton at 9-ish in the morning, and climbed out of the Hilton valley to make a first stop at Mappowder.

Then on to Hazlebury Bryan, first the Methodist chapel then the Parish church.

From there to Woolland and Ibberton, the parish church and the tiny Methodist chapel.

Then Belchalwell, followed by Fifehead Neville, and on to Sturminster Newton, stopping at the parish church and Methodist chapel, before crossing the river to the cemetery chapel. This led back to ride the Trailway (not an ideal surface!) to jump off for Hammoon, Manston, and Childe Okeford (where we admired the steam traction engine rally and bought pies at the village shop). Next over the Stour again to Shillingstone.

Returning to the Trailway, we diverted to Stourpaine, back over the Stour to Durweston, through the grounds at Bryanston to its church, passing the Chaplain supervising games!

From there it was a relatively short hop to Blandford, the United Reformed, Catholic, Parish, Methodist and Evangelical churches made a great bag to collect.



Chris Loder MP and DHCT Chairman John Stokoe setting off the Ride+Stride from Sherborne Abbey.

The riverside path took us under the bypass to Langton Long, Tarrant Keyneston and Tarrant Crawford (which was full of Ride+Stride runners and walkers admiring the beautiful wall paintings).

Struggling up an incline we were shocked to be passed by a couple, one of whom was carrying a dog in a harness. They MUST have had an electric motor.

The next stop was Shapwick, then over the Stour to Sturminster Marshall.

As the day wore on, we braved the main A31 to Almer and Winterbourne Zelston where, in a tent by the stream, the kind parishioners had a tea party with cakes and a chat. The road led us to Winterborne Tomson's wonderful apsidal church, with its box pews and gallery, and to the deserted Winterborne Anderson.

Winterborne Kingston came quickly into view and we enjoyed a race to the finish at Winterborne Whitechurch before 6 pm at the Milton Arms...after an estimated 65 miles.

Then we got a lift up the hill again, home to Hilton.

Thanks to all for the greetings and refreshments given. It was good too to find so many churches open (and where, in deference to the virus, we used oceans of hand sanitizer!)

CJ Hunter



Sarah Mitchel (Corscombe Ride+Stride Organiser) and the Lampson family.

Valete: Gerry Gerrard

Gerry Gerrard is stepping down as Co-Deanery Area Representative for the Dorchester Area after five years. He will be very much missed. Gerry was very involved with the roof repair project at Holy Trinity, Warmwell. He has also been behind the campaign raising funds to install a stained glass memorial window in memory of those who served at RAF Warmwell between 1937 and 1946. This window will overlook the Commonwealth War Graves where some who served at RAF Warmwell are buried.

DHCT Cycle Ride

As soon as we heard that the annual sponsored cycle ride in aid of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust was definitely going ahead it was all systems go to try and get enough sponsors in the relatively short time we had before the day. A big thank you to all those who gave generously and half the money goes to the Transfig of course.

Graham, Tom and I decided to do the Tarrant Valley again as it is such an enjoyable ride along country lanes with relatively little traffic. We met up on a lovely sunny morning at Tarrant Keyneston where we left our cars (we had brought the bikes over in the cars) and called at All Saints Church in the village. There was no-one there to meet us so we filled in the form and moved on. In these days of Covid 19 with social distancing and using hand sanitizer becoming the norm we wondered if any of the churches we would be visiting would have anyone to welcome us with refreshments. We needn't have worried. At Tarrant Rushton and Tarrant Rawston there was tasty Dorset apple cake to help us on our way albeit carefully wrapped in cellophane paper. We were also welcomed by enthusiastic volunteers at Tarrant Monkton, a really lovely village with thatched cottages and locally well known pub and restaurant, the Langton Arms, and Tarrant Hinton with its beautiful church with the Easter sepulchre. At Tarrant Gunville we met Tim Smith who was driving around in a splendid red MG open top touring car to take photographs of the cyclists. We duly had ours taken outside the church so it may appear in the Annual Report!

After last year's wild goose chase round the perimeter of the Eastbury Estate trying to find the way to Chettle, this year, with the help of Tom's mobile phone technology, we found the correct turning which still led us somewhat off the beaten track and gave us a bumpy ride negotiating tree roots and stony paths. We were glad to arrive at the church where we had lunch in the picturesque, sunny churchyard overlooking the recently renovated Chettle House which stands in lovely grounds suitable for outdoor concerts. Although no-one was there a kind volunteer had left us some nice cake to go with our lunch.

After lunch we cycled on to Farnham where we had been on one of the hugely entertaining and informative church crawls organised by the Trust a few years ago so we knew where to find the church. Farnham is well known in the area for the Museum pub and restaurant. There was no-one to meet us and sign the form to say we had been so we went off in the direction of Minchington only to sail past the turning for the church which was not signposted. By then, having been on the road for most of the day, we thought we had better head for the Salisbury Road which would take us back into the Tarrant Valley and to our starting point. Unfortunately, it was not very enjoyable cycling along with cars passing by at break neck speed. We were thankful to get back to the country lanes again.

All in all we had a very enjoyable day in glorious weather which made for good cycling conditions – probably why we met quite a lot of other cyclists along the way also doing the sponsored ride. Once again, many thanks to all our sponsors who helped raise such a good sum of money towards a very worthy cause. We really do have some very fine churches in Dorset which deserve to be preserved for all to admire and take in their history.

Nina Crane



Other Ride+Stride stories from around the County

Henry George, aged 10, took part in his first ever charity event whilst staying with his grandparents. He joined his father and uncles cycling for **Hooke** and raised £402 on his JustGiving page.

Colin Taylor from the **Weymouth Deanery** cycled 81 kilometres, seeing 29 churches and raising £500, all of which went to the Trust.

The **Wimborne**, St John team team raised £1,396 and plan to use their share of the sponsorship towards the relighting project and the kitchen refurbishment at St John and the Church Centre.

Alan Neades, riding yet again for **St Mary**, Piddlehinton together with Reg Hanbury, who was walking, raised £1,484. Alan visited 34 churches and cycled over 62 miles.

Janet and Pelham Allen decided to take part in Ride+Stride 2020 to raise funds for **St Peter Eype** in the parish of Symondsburry because fundraising has been so restricted in the last year. They rode their new electric bikes and covered 14.5 miles visiting 12 churches on the way. £1,942 was raised for Symondsburry.

Ride+Stride and PCC donations 2020

Parish	Church	Deanery Area	R+S	PD	Total
Sturminster Marshall	St Mary	Wimborne	2,947.43		2,947.43
Hilton	All Saints	Dorchester	2,837.11		2,837.11
Symondsbury	St John the Baptist	Lyme Bay	1,942.29		1,942.29
Litton Cheney	St Mary	Lyme Bay	1,915.04		1,915.04
Whitchurch Canonorum	St Candida and Holy Cross	Lyme Bay	1,808.23	10.00	1,818.23
Bradpole	Holy Trinity	Lyme Bay	1,759.95		1,759.95
Tolpuddle	St John the Evangelist	Dorchester	1,734.24		1,734.24
Leigh	St Andrew	Sherborne	1,582.00		1,582.00
Christchurch Priory	Holy Trinity	Christchurch	1,560.00		1,560.00
Wareham	Lady St Mary	Purbeck	1,412.31	143.28	1,555.59
Sherborne	Abbey Church of St Mary	Sherborne	1,545.36		1,545.36
Spetisbury	St John the Baptist	Milton & Blandford	1,543.12		1,543.12
Piddlehinton	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester	1,484.66		1,484.66
Sturminster Newton	St Mary	Blackmore Vale	1,470.86		1,470.86
Chaldon Herring	St Nicholas	Purbeck	1,451.76		1,451.76
Melbury Osmond	St Osmund	Sherborne	1,535.00		1,535.00
Wimborne Newborough	St John	Wimborne	1,396.52		1,396.52
Ashmore	St Nicholas	Milton & Blandford	1,380.00		1,380.00
Winterbourne Kingston	St Nicholas	Milton & Blandford	1,379.16		1,379.16
Cranborne	St Mary and St Bartholomew	Wimborne	1,300.17		1,300.17
Chideock	St Giles	Lyme Bay	1,292.06		1,292.06
Over Compton	St Michael	Sherborne	1,262.00		1,262.00
Godmanstone	Holy Trinity	Dorchester	1,200.00	50.00	1,250.00
Affpuddle	St Laurence	Purbeck	1,245.00		1,245.00
Dorchester RC	Holy Trinity	Dorchester	1,226.00		1,226.00
Yetminster	St Andrew	Sherborne	1,223.87		1,223.87
Corscombe	St Mary	Sherborne	1,196.89		1,196.89
Fontmell Magna	St Andrew	Milton & Blandford	1,088.02		1,088.02
Silton	St Nicholas	Blackmore Vale	1,045.00		1,045.00
Iwerne Minster	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	1,033.47		1,033.47
Long Bredy	St Peter	Lyme Bay	1,030.00		1,030.00
Bloxworth	St Andrew	Milton & Blandford	1,003.27		1,003.27
Stourton Caundle	St Peter	Blackmore Vale	977.80		977.80
Tarrant Gunville	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	919.80	50.00	969.80
Little Bredy	St Michael and All Angels	Lyme Bay	960.00		960.00
Stock Gaylard	St Barnabas	Blackmore Vale	927.99		927.99
Burton Bradstock	St Mary	Lyme Bay	925.50		925.50
Corfe Castle	St Edward the Martyr	Purbeck	855.23	50.00	905.23
Stourpaine	Holy Trinity	Milton & Blandford	900.80		900.80
Stoke Abbott	St Mary	Lyme Bay	900.05		900.05
Chetnole	St Peter	Sherborne	874.71		874.71
East Stour	Christ Church	Blackmore Vale	849.54		849.54
Longburton	St James	Sherborne	830.40		830.40
Evershot	St Osmund	Sherborne	820.00		820.00
Fifehead Magdalen	St Mary Magdalene	Blackmore Vale	813.34		813.34

PD = Parish donations | R+S= Ride+Stride

Parish	Church	Deanery Area	R+S	PD	Total
Winfrith Newburgh	St Christopher	Purbeck	810.00		810.00
Holworth	St Catherine by the Sea	Dorchester	807.38		807.38
Bridport	St Mary	Lyme Bay	796.28		796.28
Radipole	St Ann	Weymouth	794.21		794.21
Dewlish	All Saints	Dorchester	770.00		770.00
The Winterbornes		Dorchester	736.21		736.21
Witchampton	St Mary	Wimborne	725.43		725.43
Fordington	St George	Dorchester	718.00		718.00
Gussage All Saints	All Saints	Milton & Blandford	704.50		704.50
Preston	St Andrew	Weymouth	721.25		721.25
Uploders Methodist		Lyme Bay	670.00	25.00	695.00
Lytchett Minster		Poole	692.15		692.15
Alton Pancras	St Pancras	Dorchester	690.00		690.00
Canford Cliffs	Church of the Transfiguration	Poole	680.00		680.00
Dorchester	St Peter, Holy Trinity and All Saints	Dorchester	664.37		664.37
Tarrant Rushton	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	663.00		663.00
Winterborne Houghton	St Andrew	Milton & Blandford	652.00		652.00
Canford Magna	Parish Church	Wimborne	650.67		650.67
Powerstock	St Mary the Virgin	Lyme Bay	550.00	100.00	650.00
West Knighton	St Peter	Dorchester	636.00		636.00
Hazelbury Bryan with Stoke Wake	St Mary and St James	Blackmore Vale	635.00		635.00
Sandford Orcas	St Nicholas	Sherborne	630.00		630.00
Chettle	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	600.00		600.00
Charminster	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester	599.75		599.75
Blandford RC	Our Lady of Lourdes and St Cecilia	Milton & Blandford	587.13		587.13
Hooke	St Giles	Lyme Bay	585.48		585.48
Upwey	St Laurence	Weymouth	574.13		574.13
Bradford Abbas	St Mary the Virgin	Sherborne	555.00		555.00
Osborne	St Cuthbert	Sherborne	540.00		540.00
Kington Magna	All Saints	Blackmore Vale	525.00		525.00
Melbury Abbas	St Thomas	Blackmore Vale	514.46		514.46
Swanage	Herston St Mark	Purbeck	512.00		512.00
Milborne St Andrew	St Andrew	Dorchester	504.00		504.00
Beaminster	St Mary of the Annunciation	Lyme Bay	501.71		501.71
Weymouth	Sponsors of Colin Taylor	Weymouth	500.00		500.00
Wimborne St Giles	St Giles	Wimborne	395.00	95.00	490.00
Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity	Lyme Bay	485.76		485.76
Tarrant Hinton	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	485.00		485.00
Langton Matravers	St George	Purbeck	483.00		483.00
Puddletown	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester	482.00		482.00
Sixpenny Handley	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	480.00		480.00
Gussage St Michael	St Michael	Milton & Blandford	470.00		470.00
Shipton Gorge	St Martin	Lyme Bay	455.00		455.00
Shapwick	St Bartholomew	Wimborne	450.00		450.00
Owermoigne	St Michael	Dorchester	437.00		437.00
Langton Long	All Saints	Milton & Blandford	434.07		434.07
Warmwell	Holy Trinity	Dorchester	427.59		427.59
Motcombe	St Mary	Blackmore Vale	420.00		420.00

PD = Parish donations | R+S= Ride+Stride

Parish	Church	Deanery Area	R+S	PD	Total
Netherbury	St Mary	Lyme Bay	406.21		406.21
Parkstone	St Peter	Poole	403.52		403.52
Christchurch	Mudford All Saints	Christchurch	400.00		400.00
Loders	St Mary Magdalene	Lyme Bay	385.00		385.00
Steeple	St Michael and All Angels	Purbeck	330.00	50.00	380.00
Wimborne Minster	St Cuthberga	Wimborne	373.65		373.65
Blandford Forum	St Peter and St Paul	Milton & Blandford	364.49		364.49
Todber	St Andrew	Blackmore Vale	361.00		361.00
Sydling St Nicholas	St Nicholas	Dorchester	240.00	120.00	360.00
Lytchett Matravers	St Mary	Poole	357.58		357.58
Bere Regis	St John the Baptist	Purbeck	307.00		307.00
West Lulworth	Holy Trinity	Purbeck	305.00		305.00
Wool	Holy Rood	Purbeck	283.07		283.07
Dorchester	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester	270.00		270.00
West Stafford	St Andrew	Dorchester	169.54	100.00	269.54
Buckhorn Weston	St John the Baptist	Blackmore Vale	260.11		260.11
Broadwindsor	St John the Baptist	Lyme Bay	260.00		260.00
Mappowder	St Peter and St Paul	Blackmore Vale	252.00		252.00
Poole URC	Skinner Street	Poole	252.00		252.00
Tollard Royal	St Peter Ad Vincula	Milton & Blandford	250.57		250.57
Askerswell	St Michael	Lyme Bay	250.00		250.00
Bradford Peverell	St Mary	Dorchester	245.20	3.00	248.20
Shillingstone	Holy Rood	Blackmore Vale	242.72		242.72
Marnhull	St Gregory	Blackmore Vale	236.00		236.00
Anonymous			279.20		279.20
Okeford Fitzpaine	St Andrew	Blackmore Vale	221.98		221.98
North Poorton	St Mary Magdalene	Lyme Bay	150.00	70.00	220.00
Worth Matravers	St Nicholas	Purbeck	220.00		220.00
Alderholt	St James	Wimborne	217.00		217.00
Dorchester Baptist	Dorford Centre	Dorchester	211.00		211.00
Chideock RC	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs	Lyme Bay	210.00		210.00
Mapperton	All Saints	Lyme Bay	210.00		210.00
Thornford	St Mary Magdalene	Sherborne	210.00		210.00
Walditch	St Mary	Lyme Bay	210.00		210.00
Radipole	St Ann and St Aldhelm	Weymouth	202.25		202.25
Winterborne Whitechurch	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	200.32		200.32
Catherston Leweston	St Mary		200.00		200.00
Winterborne Zelston	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	200.00		200.00
Hawkchurch	St John the Baptist	Lyme Bay	195.00		195.00
Moreton	St Nicolas	Dorchester	188.30		188.30
Charlton Marshall	St Mary the Virgin	Milton & Blandford	180.00		180.00
Cattistock	St Peter and St Paul	Sherborne	175.00		175.00
Mosterton	St Mary	Lyme Bay	169.00		169.00
Lyme Regis	St Michael the Archangel	Lyme Bay	166.15		166.15
Verwood	St Michael & All Angels	Wimborne	165.41		165.41
Lilliput	Holy Angels	Poole	163.43		163.43
Dorchester UC		Dorchester	160.00		160.00
Shaftesbury	St James	Blackmore Vale	160.00		160.00

PD = Parish donations | R+S= Ride+Stride

Parish	Church	Deanery Area	R+S	PD	Total
Tincleton	St John the Evangelist	Dorchester	260.00		260.00
Blandford Methodist		Milton & Blandford	152.15		152.15
Drimpton	St Mary	Lyme Bay	152.00		152.00
West Parley	All Saints	Wimborne	150.52		150.52
Batcombe	St Mary Magdalene	Sherborne	100.00	50.00	150.00
Lydlinch	St Thomas Beckett	Blackmore Vale	150.00		150.00
Milton on Stour	St Simon and St Jude	Blackmore Vale	137.00		137.00
Church Knowle	St Peter	Purbeck	130.00		130.00
Toller Porcorum	St Peter and St Andrew	Lyme Bay	80.00	50.00	130.00
Colehill	St Michael and All Angels	Wimborne	115.00		115.00
Hinton St Mary	St Peter	Blackmore Vale	112.11		112.11
Swanage	All Saints	Purbeck	110.00		110.00
Swyre	Holy Trinity	Lyme Bay	110.00		110.00
Enmore Green	St John the Evangelist	Blackmore Vale	-	105.00	105.00
Horton with Chalbury	St Wolfrida and All Saints	Wimborne	102.00		102.00
Compton Valence	St Thomas Beckett	Dorchester	100.00		100.00
Marshwood	St Mary	Lyme Bay	100.00		100.00
Tarrant Keynston	All Saints	Milton & Blandford	95.00		95.00
Kingston	St James	Purbeck	90.00		90.00
Pimperne	St Peter	Milton & Blandford	77.57		77.57
Castleton	St Mary Magdalene	Sherborne	74.20		74.20
East Lulworth	St Andrew	Purbeck	70.00		70.00
Salway Ash	Holy Trinity	Lyme Bay	61.01		61.01
Sutton Waldron	St Bartholomew	Milton & Blandford	60.52		60.52
Blandford St Mary	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	60.00		60.00
Gillingham	St Mary the Virgin	Blackmore Vale	60.00		60.00
Parkstone	St Clement	Poole	60.00		60.00
Chilfrome	Holy Trinity	Sherborne	-	50.00	50.00
Glanvilles Wootton	St Mary the Virgin	Sherborne	-	50.00	50.00
Halstock	St Juthware and St Mary	Sherborne	-	50.00	50.00
Holwell	St Laurence	Sherborne	-	50.00	50.00
Portland	St John the Baptist	Weymouth	50.00		50.00
South Perrott	St Mary	Lyme Bay	50.00		50.00
Buckland Newton	Holy Rood	Dorchester	45.00		45.00
Edmondsham	St Nicholas	Wimborne	40.00		40.00
Frome St Quintin	St Mary	Sherborne	-	40.00	40.00
East Chelborough	St James	Sherborne	25.00		25.00
Woolland	Dedication unknown	Blackmore Vale	-	25.00	25.00
Durweston	St Nicolas	Milton & Blandford	20.00		20.00
Allington	St Swithun	Lyme Bay	10.00		10.00
	Ride+Stride	Parish donations		Total	
	£102,663.26	£1,336.28		£103,999.54	
Gift Aid	£9,864.64			£9,864.64	
Overall Total	£112,527.90	£1,336.28		£113,864.18	
Received after 31 Dec 20					
Purse Caundle	St Peter	Blackmore Vale	511.64		
Sutton Waldron	St Bartholomew	Milton and Blandford	200.00		
Crossways and Woodsford	St Aldhelm and St John the Baptist	Dorchester	440.00		

Treasurer's Report

This is my last year as Treasurer of Dorset Historic Churches Trust and what a year to finish on! In a year when even running Ride + Stride looked at times to be highly unlikely, the event broke all records. This is a tremendous achievement and thanks must go to so many people for making this happen. Specifically, I would like to thank Philippa Francis, Jeremy Selfe and Steven Norman as Trustees for all their help in getting to the final figures and to my colleague from a previous job, Adrian Pipe, for doing all the book-keeping for the event.

This year we did more with JustGiving than before and also paid all the parishes by BACS rather than by cheque. The parish of Hilton is a worthy winner of the Morshead trophy for 2020 but all parishes did a magnificent job of raising funds.

The final total raised by Ride+Stride at the year end was £112,528 - outshining the previous year's total of £84,632 by £27,896. This enabled a return to parishes of £47,048 (2019 £35,531). Some parishes elect to donate 100% to the Trust. This excellent result meant that the Trust was able to increase grants to parishes from £86,500 in 2019 to £110,500 in 2020. In total then the Trust has returned £157,548 to parishes during 2020 as a result of its activities (2019 £122,031).

In respect of other figures in the accounts, receipts from PCCs dropped in 2020 reflecting the effects of Covid-19 on PCC finances. The various lockdowns meant that there was no Friends' event in 2020 although we were fortunate to be able to hold a much reduced programme of lunches.

Overall cash dropped in 2020 in accordance with our reserves policies - we paid out more than we received so that cash decreased by £30,616. However, the statement of Assets and Liabilities reveals that reserves have remained stable with the drop in cash being matched by increase in investments - a good result considering how the value of investments dropped in the first quarter of 2020.

So, it is time to say goodbye and thank you for all the help I have received over the years. When I took on the job, it was described as a simple task - it would not take very long. I am sure many treasurers have been recruited with the same words. The description was not entirely accurate. Accounting for Ride+Stride has involved many hours of work but it has all been worth it to help the Trust do such worthwhile work to help preserve the Churches of Dorset. I have been helped by so many lovely people along the way.

Liz Ashmead

Summary of receipts and expenditure for 2020

Summary	2020	2019
Receipts	£143,000	£202,000
Payments	£174,000	£137,000
Movement in cash	(£31,000)	£65,000

Cash reduced by £31,000 in the year – analysis of receipts and payments explains why.

Receipts	2020	2019
Donations	£13,000	£16,000
Ride+Stride	£113,000	£97,000
Events	£2,000	£3,000
Investment income	£15,000	£16,000
Sale of investment	-	£70,000
	£143,000	£202,000

Payments	2020	2019
Ride+Stride 50% return	£47,000	£36,000
Ride+Stride expenses	£7,000	£7,000
Friends administration	£2,000	£1,000
Grants	£110,000	£86,000
Support	£6,000	£6,000
Independent examination	£1,000	£1,000
	£173,000	£137,000

Assets and Liabilities	2020	2019
Cash funds		
Lloyds bank	£54,875	£95,065
CBF Deposit account	£45,788	£45,596
CAF	£1,090	-
Gift Aid included in bank balance	£8,292	-
	£110,045	£140,661
Investment Assets		
CBF Investment fund	£523,866	£490,029
Charities Official Investment Fund	-	-
	£523,866	£490,029
Total assets	£633,911	£630,690
Grants awarded but not yet drawn down	(£140,500)	(£140,600)
Total assets less liabilities	£493,411	£490,090

The financial information on this and the following page is extracted from the Trust's Annual Accounts on which the Independent Examiner has expressed an unqualified opinion. Copies of the accounts may be obtained from the Hon. Treasurer.

Receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

Receipts	2020	2019
Voluntary Income		
Friends, Individuals and trusts	£11,383	£11,531
Parochial Church Councils	£1,561	£4,059
Sponsorship	-	-
District Council	-	£100
	£12,944	£15,690
Activities for generating funds		
Ride+Stride previous year	£406	£3,320
Ride+Stride current year	£112,528	£84,632
Gift Aid (Friends) previous years	-	£9,977
Talks, crawls and concerts	£2,049	£772
Friends' event	-	£1,062
Sale of notecards	£136	£444
	£115,119	£100,207
Investment income		
Income from investments	£14,898	£15,769
	£14,898	£15,769
Asset and investment sales		
Sales of investments	-	£70,377
	-	£70,377
Total Receipts	£142,961	£202,043
Payments		
Ride+Stride		
50% return to churches	£47,048	£35,531
Honoraria	£4,500	£3,600
Printing and postage	£1,332	£2,887
Chairman's farewell party	-	£258
T-shirts	-	-
Administration	£1,127	£359
	£54,007	£42,635
Friends		
Brochures, publicity and Friends' annual event	-	£1,225
Friends leaflets	-	£415
Meals for lecture lunches	£2,290	-
	£2,290	£1,640
Grants		
Grants paid in the year net of any write backs	£110,500	£86,500
	£110,500	£86,500
Support costs		
Annual Report	£2,408	£2,566
Postage stationery and travel	£1,063	£642
Marketing and website	£1,124	£1,388
Insurance	£372	£387
Just Giving fees	£216	£216
Bank charges	£337	£573
	£5,520	£5,772
Governance		
Independent examiner's fees	£1,260	£1,200
	£1,260	£1,200
Total payments	£173,577	£137,747
Net movement in cash funds	(£30,616)	£64,296
Cash funds last year end	£140,661	£76,365
Cash funds this year end	£110,045	£140,661

In memoriam

Canon John Standen McDougal (1933-2020)

Former Farnham Rector John McDougal passed away on 8 May 2020 after battling with coronavirus, aged 86. John came to Farnham from Wadhurst in West Sussex with his wife Sue and two young children Anthony and Clare in 1970 and stayed for 16 years. He held the post of Rural Dean of Milton and Blandford between 1981 and 1986. He left to take up a post in Burton Bradstock and was made a Canon of Salisbury Cathedral before retiring to Chideok.

John was a staunch supporter of DHCT and for many years was the Lyme Bay DAR either cycling, or more recently walking to raise funds.

Jane Brochner (1934-2020)

One of Jane's great enjoyments was to be a Friend of DHCT. She rarely missed a Crawl or a Lecture. She was thrilled when one of the crawls visited Milborne St Andrew as she was the daughter of a previous Vicar and had happy memories of the church and vicarage life. Jane had a knack of enjoying life to the full. She attended Teacher Training College after which she worked in North London and then returned to Dorset to teach at Radipole School. She was a most loyal member of St Laurence Church, Upwey, singing in the choir right up to the end of her life.

Ian Andrews (1939 - 2021)

We are sad to report the passing of Ian Andrews, joint DHCT Deanery Area Representative with Stuart Turvey for the Poole and North Bournemouth area. He will be remembered for his caring, kind, generous and considerate nature. As well as his devotion to his family, he dedicated much of his life to Poole.

A solicitor by profession, he became CEO of Poole Borough and the youngest town clerk in the country when he was first appointed in 1974. As well as being an acknowledged expert on the history of Poole, he was a highly-regarded author, editor and publisher of many local interest books.

He will be sadly missed by his family, many friends and colleagues.

Cedric Nielsen (1933-2020)

Cedric was born in Torquay, his father having been brought from Denmark to establish a model farm on the Dartington Estate. He gained a Diploma in Agriculture and Dairying and was then called up to the RAF. After the war he joined the Ministry of Agriculture, eventually rising to become head of the Farm Waste Unit in Reading in 1980. He travelled the world lecturing and consulting with the UN and later the EEC. He retired in 1992 and bought a cottage in Painswick. He moved to Poole in 2008, immediately involving himself in local natural history and the church in Canford Cliffs. He was a staunch Friend of DHCT, his presence at events always lifting the spirits of all around him.

Join the Friends of Dorset Historic Churches Trust

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

Individual membership costs £20 or £30 for a couple per annum

For more details or to obtain a leaflet, please contact:

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Details are also available on our website www.dhct.org.uk

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The Bishop of Sherborne
The Archdeacon of Sherborne
The Archdeacon of Dorset
Sir Philip Williams Bt.
G A L-F Pitt-Rivers OBE
Mrs V L-F Pitt-Rivers CVO
The Viscount Hood
Major General J O C Alexander CB, OBE
R D Allan
P F Moule

Chairman: J D Stokoe CB, CBE

Trustees: Mrs S-A Barrett
R B Blaber
Mrs S Bruce-Payne
Dr T P P Connor
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The Reverend Canon A J W Rowland
J A M A Selfe
J T Smith
Ms S E Smith
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