

# Dorset Historic Churches Trust

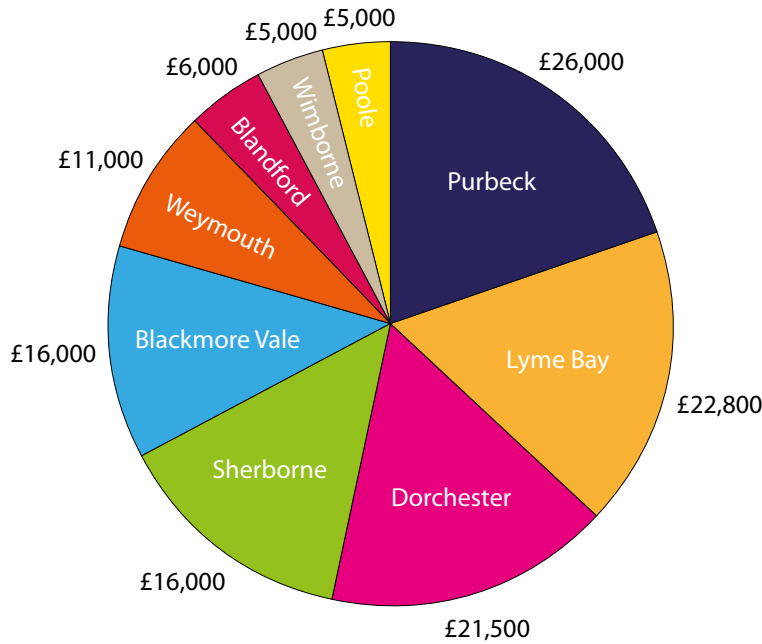
*Conserving the past – enriching the future*

**2025** | ISSUE 20

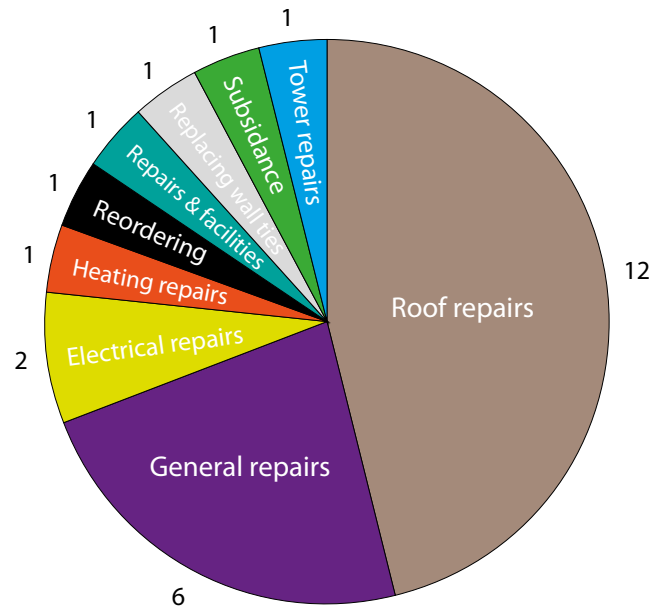
## ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW

### 2024 at a Glance

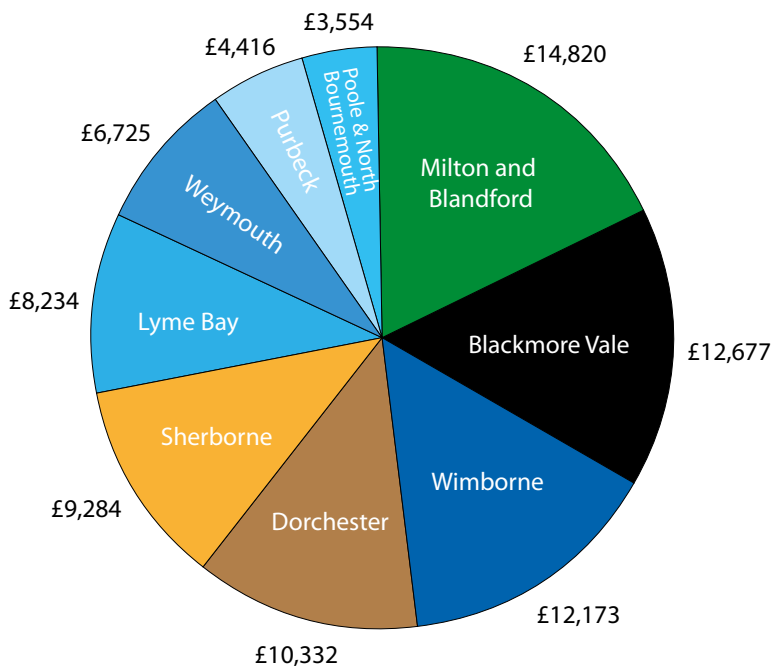
#### Grants by Area



#### Number of Grants per Type of Work



#### Ride+Stride Results by Area



*Note: Figures may not align exactly, as payments continue to come in after the official closing date.*

#### Contents

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 2024 at a Glance.....                              | page 1      |
| Chairman's Report.....                             | page 2      |
| Honorary Secretary's Notes.....                    | page 3      |
| Why Preserve Historic Churches? .....              | pages 3-4   |
| A Fresh Pair of Eyes & CVC Ride+Stride .....       | page 5      |
| Events at Okeford Fitzpaine .....                  | page 6      |
| Grants Committee Report .....                      | pages 6-7   |
| Blandford Forum – St Peter and St Paul Church..... | page 7      |
| Building up the Temple.....                        | page 8      |
| Morshead Trophy Award 2023 .....                   | pages 8-9   |
| DHCT Website.....                                  | page 9      |
| Valete & Friends of DHCT .....                     | page 10     |
| Ride+Stride Results.....                           | pages 11-14 |
| Donations and Legacies.....                        | page 14     |
| Treasurer's Report .....                           | pages 14-15 |
| Recruitment and Appointment of New Trustees.....   | page 15     |
| Directory .....                                    | page 16     |

## Chairman's Report 2024

2024 was a busy and productive year for DHCT. It received more applications than in either of the previous two years, perhaps reflecting circumstances where various projects had been put on hold during the years of the pandemic but have now been put into operation. As a result, DHCT made more grants in 2024 than in the previous years. All of this highlights the key role carried out by DHCT's Deanery Area Representatives (the "DARs") who do so much to assist with the process of making applications.

In this secular age, it is reasonable to ask whether it is in the public interest to spend money, time and resource in preserving churches, which are often used to a lesser extent than in previous times. Many an architect or heating engineer will have observed that churches are inherently difficult buildings to heat, and it can generally be a challenge to keep them in good repair. In addition, there has been a significant increase in building and associated costs during the past few years. Against that background, there was widespread concern when the Chancellor did not refer to the Listed Places of Worship Scheme (LPOWS) in the recent budget. LPOWS is the scheme which enables churches and other places of worship to reclaim the VAT element of the costs incurred when carrying out works of repair and restoration. It had never been made a permanent scheme, but instead had been renewed annually; hence the concern when no reference was made to renewing it in the budget. I corresponded with the four Dorset MPs to ask them to make representations to DCMS to commit to renewing the scheme. There is also the current Spending Review of all government departments which is due to report later this year. It is therefore good news that the Heritage Minister has just confirmed (as per the DCMS press release dated 22 January 2025) that the scheme will be renewed in 2025/26, although there will now be a limit of £25,000 which an applicant can claim during the year. This suggests that, while VAT can be reclaimed on projects costing up to £125,000, it cannot be reclaimed on any further costs. That is nevertheless a better outcome than might have been the case.

Ride+Stride in 2024 was blessed with fine weather on the traditional second Saturday in September. It raised a total of some £104,500 including Gift Aid Tax Relief which is another good result, and means that Ride +Stride continues to provide the majority of DHCT's annual income. Congratulations and thanks to all who contributed to that success, whether by participating actively themselves, or by sponsoring others. It is an excellent way to visit and explore various parts of Dorset, whether walking, running, jogging, cycling, riding on horseback, or by any other form of activity. In that context, it is apparent that where a church has someone present to welcome visitors during the day, and perhaps provide refreshment, it makes a significant difference to the overall success and enjoyment of the day. Thanks in advance



*David Grant at Purse Caundle.*

to anyone who might be able to assist in this way.

DHCT also received a number of bequests in 2024, which has provided a welcome additional source of funds. May I encourage all who have the well-being of DHCT in mind to consider making a bequest. It can be a tax-efficient process, and a donor can be reassured that the funds will be put to very good use.

DHCT has made grants of over £100,000 in each of the past three years. In 2024 the total amount of grants awarded came to £130,550; the figure for 2023 was £101,000; and for 2022 it was £119,000. The number of grants made of course depends on the number of applications being made. But on any view the level of grants remains substantial.

The Friends of DHCT remain hugely supportive, and the church crawls were well attended. Please encourage more to join.

As I said last year, church use is changing; but the buildings remain *in situ* and DHCT has a worthy role to play in keeping them in good repair. Thanks to all who have given generously of their time and effort in enabling the Trust to fulfil that role.

*David Grant*

## Honorary Secretary's Notes

Each year as Hon Sec, I have looked back over the past twelve months – and reflected on another successful season of fund-raising and grant making. I have also put out another request for a few remarkable people to volunteer to fill the small but significant gaps in our team of Deanery Area Reps. While both these points are still pertinent, in our 65th year my focus is on the reality that the Friends and supporters of the Trust and Dorset's churches, are, like most of those who sit on the benches in small rural churches, not “getting any younger”.

And yet, we know that the profile of those taking part in Ride+Stride is much wider. There is a healthy tradition of teenagers and young adults enjoying their part in our annual event. When my own sons rode along with me before they left home to start their careers, they did so because it was a great day out on their bikes and not because they were especially interested in the heritage or the architecture of the building that we briefly entered. In order to recruit a new generation of supporters from whom the future officers of the Trust may be drawn, we must engage the interest of younger people both to Ride+Stride and

become Friends of the Trust.

That is our challenge and, as I write, there are signs that the General Synod may be about to provide financial aid to rural churches, which will be great encouragement to people who love their church but only rarely use it. The key point to be made is that DHCT is a charity that exists to help communities sustain their church buildings for wider use and for the future. It is not a religious, Church of England, organisation. We are delighted to support churches of all denominations, and we do. Many of you will wonder why we do not have an Instagram or Facebook presence; we are mindful that such media have to be kept right up to date with new and interesting material and this calls for skills that we currently do not have freely available. However, we are working on how to provide a cost-effective media platform which we hope to launch later in the year. Our 65th provides an opportunity to make ourselves better known and better understood through a stronger presence in the various media.

*Jeremy Selfe*

## Why Preserve Historic Churches?

DHCT exists primarily to help preserve the heritage of the county. Three supporters with different viewpoints ponder the importance of this work.

### The long view – voices from the past

Archaeologists, like me, try to understand the past and to tell stories through surviving physical evidence, whether it's a prehistoric flint tool or a 20th century concrete pill-box. Ancient buildings tell such evocative stories, whether in a simple house with its echoes of past domesticity or in our glorious cathedrals and humble parish churches, testimonies at whatever scale to powerful beliefs.

This power to speak of the past is crucially important so we must value and preserve what we have left. These are the survivors of wars, religious schisms, vandalism, neglect and sometimes just a lack of appreciation of their value in telling the story of our collective past. We look back now with horror at the loss of so many of our historic buildings, some in the name of thoughtless ‘progress’ and we must not make the same mistakes. Restore, maintain, explain (this is vitally important if the past is to be valued as it should), and future generations, still be able to enjoy these ancient buildings, will thank us.

*Dr Julian Richards FSA*  
*Archaeologist*





## Preserve beauty – pass it on

The artist John Piper coined the phrase “pleasing decay” in 1948, in relation to the romance and charm of buildings which display their patina, and the scars of their age honestly. It is a phrase which has a similar meaning to ‘warts and all’, but which succinctly conveys our universal appreciation for historic beauty. But left unchecked, decay can threaten the beauty of, and even prevent the function of historic buildings. Conservation architects are tasked with responding to this decay, and our role is often described as one which seeks to control change; advocating for a stitch in time; a pre-emptive strategy to stave off what might be considered deleterious decay.

The role of conservators in the upkeep of historic buildings is therefore sometimes at odds with Piper’s concept of *pleasing decay*. This instigates a delicate balancing act of minimal intervention, which since the nineteenth century, has woven its way into our culture and our collective approach to caring for historic buildings. Compare the British approach to conservation with the Japanese’ periodic re-building of Shinto temples and the difference is obvious.

The ‘stitch-in-time’ approach is particularly apt in terms of the

care of historic buildings, because neglecting a defect such as a slipped slate, or a leaky gutter can lead to a disproportionate amount of consequential damage.

‘Timely stitching’ is simply good maintenance, and sensitive, pre-emptive repair. These are essential to ensuring the long-term survival of our built heritage. It is what we have learned and inherited from previous custodians, and what is now the time-proven approach to preserving built heritage whilst retaining the historic integrity that creates Piper’s pleasing beauty.



*Tom Griffin RIBA SCA AABC  
Associate Director,  
Benjamin and Beauchamp Architects*

## Communities matter

We recently faced a challenge when our village church roof collapsed, threatening the whole building.

We have a very small congregation, so we turned for help to the wider parish community – and within a year, the roof was back on! So it was to these local supporters that I posed the question: “Why Preserve Historic Churches?” and their answers are précised as follows:

**SPIRITUAL CENTRE:** A village church is the heart and soul of a village. It is more than a building.

**NEIGHBOURLY SUPPORT & WELL-BEING:** Apart from services and events, an open door makes it available to everyone – no fee; no appointment; no club membership. A place of solace, peace, calm, unity, of music, reflection and inspiration.

**HISTORY AND PERSPECTIVE:** Built by skilled craftsmen, their stones have seen many changes and social upheavals. Churches have been an integral part of our history and culture for a thousand years, and they contain a fascinating and irreplaceable



mix of cultural and architectural history, while also preserving a Christian message and heritage for future generations.

Congregations have dwindled in rural areas, but these beautiful buildings can still play a part in community life, offering spaces for entertainment and happiness, contemplation, and a connection with what has gone before.

*Ginette Boyd  
St Peter’s, Church Knowle*

## Ride+Stride 2025 takes place on Saturday 13th September

To register as a participant or request a sponsorship form,  
contact your Ride+Stride Church Representatives (formerly known as Parish Organisers)  
or visit [www.dhct.org.uk](http://www.dhct.org.uk) and follow the links to Ride+Stride

## A Fresh Pair of Eyes...

The challenging responsibility for leading the Ride+Stride event now lies with me – the latest member of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust and as such I would like to share with you some personal reflections and impressions of this amazing event and some thoughts about the future. Over the last 15 years I have participated in the Ride+Stride event as a rider, a strider, part of our Church's welcome team and a Parish Organiser. Despite this involvement I have probably failed to recognise the enormity of this annual event across our beautiful county of Dorset.

2024 was another bumper year for DHCT Ride+Stride raising £95,000, with 150 Churches participating and many many people riding and striding and visiting churches both locally and more distant. A further £9,000 in Gift Aid made a total of £104,500.

So who are these gallant people who are prepared to give up their day crossing Dorset to visit many beautiful historic churches and some that are a little newer? Lots of them have been participating for many years, some of whom tell of taking their children and now their grandchildren and others were enjoying the day for the first time. Walkers, cyclists and those on horseback and of course the dog walkers could be spotted exploring Dorset on a solo challenge or as part of a group.

It was good to see some younger people taking part alongside those with more life experience. The youngest person whose age was recorded was Alice who was 2 years and 7 months – we hope to see her and the other children for many more years!

Clearly, some people set themselves a personal challenge with at least ten people visiting between 20 and 43 churches, others seemed motivated by the distance they travelled or the length of their day. However, many more took a more leisurely approach, in the beautiful September sunshine. It doesn't matter what motivates you - it's being sponsored and taking part that counts!

Despite the mass of yellow signs, not everyone is aware of what this event is. Are there social walking or cycling groups, newcomers to our towns and villages or those that have lived here for years who might like to take part? What about users of mobility scooters or wheelchairs? Could schools and playgroups encourage their

pupils to cycle or scoot to or even around their nearest church? Our challenge is seek out these people and engage with them by improving the marketing and prominence of the Ride+Stride event.

Stories tell of the warm welcome many churches provide, where the best cakes can be found and also more disappointingly where a church is closed. The three most visited churches were St Mary's at Tarrant Crawford, All Saints at Tarrant Keyneston and St Mary's Sturminster Marshall all receiving over 50 visitors. One town church reported that they were open all day, with volunteers in the church and refreshments available but disappointingly only received one visitor. A challenge for us in 2025, is to encourage more churches to be open and riders and striders to visit churches where hospitality is offered.

The Ride+Stride event works well for many people and many churches, but we need to be aware of those that are not able to participate in a traditional way, perhaps because of a remote location or being near a busy road. Imaginative alternatives must be encouraged. One church had a static bicycle in the church. Why not invite people to Ride+Stride to an event such as a coffee morning or tour of the bell tower? Fund raising is a constant challenge for many churches, but this is a great opportunity to have 50% of the sponsorship money raised by each church returned to their church accounts. The more money raised – the bigger the reward.

Building stronger communications and feedback with all our DARs, Church Representatives and participants is very important. We need to use a variety of approaches to celebrate success and recognise the efforts of all and not just the church which raises the most money. Modern use of social media must be a way forward for us – building a media presence and regular communications. Are there any of our supporters who could help in any way? If you could, we would love to hear from you.

So, don't forget to put the date for R+S 2025 in your diary – Saturday 13 September 2025. I look forward to working with you to secure a strong and successful Ride+Stride to help preserve Dorset's historic churches.

*Liz Jones*

## Ride+Stride – Caundle Vélo Club (CVC)

The Caundle Vélo Club (CVC) was founded by two Stourton Caundle villagers in 2011. It has since evolved into a regional club with over 40 cyclists drawn from around the Blackmore Vale and Sherborne. We treasure the spread of Dorset's ancient churches as bastions of our historical and cultural heritage, so members started participating in fund raising rides for DHCT's "Ride+Stride" charity event in our very first year in September 2012, when four of us established the trend by cycling to 16 local churches.

Today, CVC members are scattered around the region in local towns and villages meaning that funds are raised not only for St.

Peter's, Purse Caundle, which is our starting point, but also for numerous other churches around North and West Dorset. CVC rides on Mondays and Fridays cover extensive distances so as hungry cyclists we relish the homemade cakes generously supplied by our churches on Ride+Stride Saturday each September. In combination with DHCT in the past 13 years, CVC participants have raised some £10k for Dorset's parish churches which are always in need of funds to preserve their iconic status for us and those who follow us. With this in mind, CVC members will remain staunch advocates of DHCT's annual Ride+Stride events in future years.

*Tom Eden (for CVC)*



## Events at Okeford Fitzpaine

**As local organiser, this year I broke with tradition and organised a second event day on the Saturday following Ride+Stride. It enabled me to help man our church for R+S for 13 visitors between 10 and 6pm.**

Our day's events began in the afternoon with Teas'neathTrees in the churchyard where the sun shone and warmed guests served at flower bedecked tables, having chosen their cake, tea and chat partners. The afternoon moved seamlessly into our evening concert held in St Andrew's. In the flexible seating space, curved to face the evening sun through the south windows, our guest, Bonny Sartin, former member and founder of The Yetties, entertained us with



his songs, poems, stories and audience participation. Both church path and building were illuminated by candlelight, which was commented on by those who missed a lovely concert and the hot sausage pies and cakes, mulled cider and wine served in the interval when raffle tickets reaped some generous prizes.

Though numbers were less than hoped for, we raised a great sum which we have shared with DHCT as our thank you to the grants already made to help us restore the building and make it useable throughout the week and for years ahead for this ever changing community that is OkefordFitz. None of it could have happened without a small band of willing and generous hands.

*Dilys Gartside  
Parish Organiser, Okeford Fitzpaine*



## Grants Committee, 2024

**As we move towards the celebration of our 65th anniversary, the last few years have confronted us with novel conditions. Repairs to churches have become much more expensive, and the weather in which our churches stand has become more testing, not least for those buildings which last received substantial overhaul from the hands of the Victorians.**

There was a time when a grant of just £50 could be offered to Bradford Abbas; in 1959 £30 went to Burstock and £20 to Compton Abbas; as late as 1964 Child Okeford received £50. Last year we made £130,550 available to twenty six churches.

At the same time as costs increase, global warming, resulting in vivid storms and torrential rain, has had a dire effect on church roofs and the rash of lead thefts over the last few years has ensured that the effects of bad weather are all the more damaging.

Against this story of increasing threat to our buildings must be placed the extraordinary success of the Trust in raising money with which to respond to it. Ride+Stride has yielded consistently impressive results for a small and fairly lightly-populated county that puts it among the top five 'earners' nationwide, and we are deeply grateful to those who have left the Trust bequests which enhance our ability to respond to the current cost of repairs.

In addition to our own efforts, the Diocese manages the Erskine

Muton Fund, itself the result of a major bequest, so that the churches of Dorset ought to be among the most cared for of English rural churches, just as long as there are people in the parishes able and willing to put in the considerable effort to master the bureaucratic niceties of filling in the relevant applications.

During 2024 we received applications from 27 churches and were able to assist 26 of them. Much does depend on the clarity of the application, and our central concern is often directed to the total resources of the parish. A few parishes have resources of over £1m, another appears to have resources of £1,300. The average is about £50,000. Any parish that has resources substantially larger than that sum will need to explain how much of their resources they intend to commit to a project before they should ask for our help but, in proportion, we hope to assist all.

Predictably therefore, 63% of our grants went to roof repairs, at Ibberton, Shillingstone and Allington among ten others. At St Eustace, Ibberton the situation is grave for subsidence is gradually detaching the tower from the rest of the building.

After a very cold service this morning in our church, one wishes churches could also be a wee bit warmer but that can't be anyone's priority while roofs leak.

*Tim Connor*

## Grants Awarded 2024

|   |         |   |              |
|---|---------|---|--------------|
| <b>Beer Hackett – St Michael</b><br>Towards general repairs                   | £5,000  | <b>Melbury Abbas – St Thomas</b><br>Roof repairs                            | £6,000       |
| <b>Church Knowle – St Peter</b><br>Towards roof repairs                       | £12,000 | <b>Radipole – St Anne</b><br>Heating repairs                                | £1,000       |
| <b>Okeford Fitzpaine – St Andrew</b><br>Towards reordering                    | £5,000  | <b>Salway Ash – Holy Trinity</b><br>Roof repairs                            | £7,000       |
| <b>Owermoigne – St Michael</b><br>Towards quinquennial repairs and facilities | £8,000  | <b>Shillingstone – Holy Rood</b><br>Further roof repairs                    | £4,000       |
| <b>Stoke Abbott – St Mary</b><br>Towards roof repairs                         | £5,000  | <b>Tolpuddle – St John the Evangelist</b><br>General repairs                | £6,000       |
| <b>Weymouth – Holy Trinity</b><br>Towards electrical repairs                  | £5,000  | <b>Allington – St Swithun</b><br>Towards work on phase 1A                   | £12,000      |
| <b>Worth Matravers – St Nicholas of Myra</b><br>Towards roof repairs          | £5,000  | <b>Caundle Marsh – St Peter &amp; St Paul</b><br>Towards electrical repairs | £750         |
| <b>Wraxall – St Mary</b><br>Towards roof repairs                              | £2,500  | <b>Cheselbourne – St Martin</b><br>For internal repairs                     | £2,500       |
| <b>Alderholt – St James</b><br>General repairs                                | £5,000  | <b>Chickerell – Christian Worship</b><br>Replacing wall ties                | £5,000       |
| <b>Fontmell Magna – St Andrew</b><br>Roof repairs                             | £6,000  | <b>Church Knowle – St Peter</b><br>For internal repairs to roof             | Up to £4,000 |
| <b>Ibberton – St Eustace</b><br>Repair subsidence                             | £5,000  | <b>Powerstock – St Mary</b><br>Towards repairs to guttering                 | £3,300       |
| <b>Kinson – St Andrew</b><br>Roof and rainwater repairs                       | £5,000  | <b>Sydling – St Nicholas</b><br>Towards general repairs                     | £5,000       |
| <b>Loders – St Mary Magdalene</b><br>Bell Frame repairs                       | £500    | <b>Wareham – St Martin</b><br>Repairs to roof                               | £5,000       |

## Annual Event: Blandford Forum – St Peter and St Paul Church 9th October 2024



*Inside the roof.*

At the Friends of Dorset Historic Churches Trust Annual Event for this year, we were able to admire the fantastic work being carried out to repair this impressive Georgian church in the centre of Blandford.

There were two authoritative presentations, by Tim Connor and by Judith Ford, a splendid lunch in the Parish Room (catered by Dorset Delights), a very moving cello recital by Emily BurrIDGE and, of course, the chance to study the building inside and out, downstairs and up.

Over 40 members of the Friends had been welcomed to this most enjoyable day by DHCT Honorary Secretary Jeremy Selfe and by the leader of the restoration committee, the irrepressible Sara Loch.



*Judith Ford.*



## Building up the Temple

**At Sunday School, decades ago, I remember singing a chorus that was quite fun. We were divided into boys and girls. Facing each other we sung, “Building up the temple. Building up the temple. Who will build the temple of the Lord? Boys won’t you help us? Girls won’t you help us? Building up the temple of the Lord! Of course, the boys and girls both tried to outdo each other in volume and exuberance as the chorus repeated.**

Last Sunday at Evensong, (Feast of Candlemas) I found myself preaching on the subject of *The Temple of the Lord*. The readings were Haggai 2:1-9 & John 2:18-22. The first temple was built by Solomon in 974 BC. This was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587. By 520 BC the Minor Prophets (Haggai, Zechariah, Ezra & Nehemiah) record the great efforts, and many controversies of the rebuilding of the Jerusalem temple. There were arguments between the traditionalists and the modernists representing the authorities and the locals (yes, I am paraphrasing). It all seems very familiar.

Here at Wimborne Minster, I find myself heading a team managing a 1,200-900-year-old Grade 1 Listed ‘temple’ and enmeshed in the controversies of our day. If that wasn’t enough, I have six other wonderful churches, two of which need works to remedy the effects of past beetle infestation.

At a recent meeting I was bemoaning all our challenges to a

senior diocesan colleague and was pleased? to learn that there is a dawning realisation at higher levels that we face a great dilemma with respect to the CofE’s 2030 Carbon Zero target. How can we possibly affix modern forms of electric radiant heating into our ancient buildings? How can we house Heat Pumps and dig underfloor etc. to the satisfaction of all our numerous overseeing planning authorities? There are several national initiatives, but it all feels very uneasy and challenging at present.

Jesus, standing in Herod’s much later 19 BC rebuild, talked about destroying the temple, but he was referring to his own body, not the building – which ultimately could never be destroyed but raised.

Building up the Temple, or at least keeping it habitable remains a top priority, because our churches remain focal points for worship. The Jerusalem Temple was such a place, and we all have an interest in our own temples. The Dorset Historic Churches Trust exists to be the *boys and girls that help you*. Our temples are the places where people meet, and their care (places and people) are the mission.

“Take courage all you people of the land, for I am with you’, says the Lord” said Haggai. So are we!

*Rev’d Canon Andrew Rowland  
Rector of Wimborne*

## Morshead Trophy Award 2023 Fontmell Magna Parish – the Historic Church Fundraiser of the Year

**Dorset Historic Churches Trust is delighted to award the Morshead Trophy for the best fundraising parish of the year to St Andrew’s Church, Fontmell Magna. They raised over £2,500 in the Ride+Stride sponsored event in 2023.**

The trophy was presented by the Chairman of the Trust, David Grant, to the parish organiser, David Fangen, in a ceremony in St Andrew’s Church in the presence of the churchwarden, Robert Wellen, and other parishioners.

Mr Grant congratulated all those involved in the fundraising event for the Trust which took place on the second Saturday in September, as it does each year. “A village of Fontmell’s size,” he commented, “has really punched above its weight to raise as much as it has.”

Mr Fangen responded that it is a pleasure to be able to achieve this much for such a good cause. “We enjoy the riding and striding and feel we are making a contribution to the cause in this way,” he added.

Parish teams in all parts of the county took part in the event and raised a grand total of £104,500 including Gift Aid in the event. The cash raised is awarded in grants to churches all over Dorset which are in need of help with restoration or building work. As each church must raise its own funds, these grants can be decisive in getting repairs carried out.



*David Fangen and David Grant.*

The event was held in the church and was attended by members and supporters from many parts of Dorset who were able to participate in refreshments kindly prepared by congregation members.

The Ride+Stride will take place on Saturday 13th September this year. To get involved seek your Church Representative or visit [dhct.org.uk](http://dhct.org.uk) and follow the links to Ride+Stride.



## Morshead Trophy Winners 2023 – St Andrew, Fontmell Magna

**David Fangen, the Parish Organiser at Fontmell Magna, explains his involvement with the Ride+Stride and describes how they are such successful fund-raisers.**

For me it all started in 2012 with encouragement from Canon Dick Remi Jones, who from 2000 had arranged for Riders and Striders from St Andrew's to take part in Ride+Stride, a countrywide event on the same day in September, raising funds for the preservation of the church fabric and for general use to help meet expenses for running the church. The Rector and Rural Dean at that time was Simon Everett, another inspirational clergyman and keen cyclist.

I set off by bicycle with Barry Roberts, the Churchwarden at the time, to visit some 16 churches and chapels – a journey of some 30 miles. Churches seemed to open at around 10am, so as we set off at 8am a number were not open yet, but gradually as time passed beyond 10, refreshments became available which helped us return to Fontmell at around midday.

Barry and I reprised the route over a couple of years and when Barry stopped cycling, I hitched up with Roy King for a year and now set off on the same route alone. I visit churches and chapels from East Stour, Margaret Marsh, Stour Row, Todber, Marnhull,

Hinton St Mary, Sturminster Newton, Hamoon, Shillingstone, Childe Okeford, Stroton, Iwerne Minster, Sutton Waldron and back to Fontmell.

Robert Wellen, our intrepid Churchwarden, strode over the five churches in our Benefice of Ashmore, Shroton, Iwerne Minster, Sutton Waldron and back to Fontmell.

In 2012, St Andrew's won the Morshead Trophy awarded to the church that makes the most impressive contribution to the Ride+Stride, which we won again this year for our effort in September 2023 when we raised £2,580, of which 50% is returned to us, much to the joy and delight of our Hon Treasurer.

For the record, we have raised since 2012 over £20,000, and in 2024 £2,417. We have sponsorship forms in the Fontmell Inn, the Village Shop and the church, so thanks to all who have generously donated to our noble cause. Thanks also to those parish members for meeting and greeting over 30 visitors to St Andrew's when the Morshead presentation was made in May.

Thanks to all, for without volunteers and donors none of this grand day could take place.

## DHCT Website

**The Trust's website contains a huge amount of useful information about our activities and about churches in the county generally.**

Its address [dhct.org.uk](http://dhct.org.uk) is increasingly the place to find out about grants and who to contact to apply for one, as well as how to get involved in the Ride+Stride, how to join the Friends and take part in their activities.

Clicking on each picture takes you to a different section of the site where information is to be found and questions answered.

For instance, all the latest news about Ride+Stride is here, together with the forms which are needed to record involvement. The Grants section links to the application form and records the grants awarded in recent times.

It is also possible to keep up with the latest activities of the Friends and read about planned and recent church Crawls and lecture lunches.

One of the most interesting sections is the "Our Churches" list. This aims to record every historic church in Dorset, but we have found that this is more complicated to achieve than might at first

appear. There is basic information about each building and links to Google Maps to show exactly where the church is to be found. Do take a look at this information and write to [Postbox@mg1.dhct.org.uk](mailto:Postbox@mg1.dhct.org.uk) if you spot any inaccuracies or missing information.

Keeping the website up to date is a major job and thanks are due to the Hon Sec and our web manager Andy Derrick for the time and work they put in.



### Nigel Thimbleby

Last year we recorded the retirement of Nigel after 50 years as a Trustee and past Chairman. This year it is with sadness that we must record that he has died. Charminster church was packed with many perched on the gravestones outside for his memorial service at which Canon Eric Woods, a former Trustee, gave the tribute. The Trust was delighted that the offertory as we left the church amounted to over £1000 for the work of the Trust.

### Philippa Francis

We have also said farewell to an immensely hard-working and effective Trustee and Deanery Area Rep for the Dorchester Deanery, who has died after an illness. As a practising lawyer, Philippa knew that, when it comes to success in raising Lottery funding for her own church in Tolpuddle or master-minding Ride + Stride each year, the devil is in the detail. She was always fully prepared for Trustees meetings and regularly offered advice or an opinion that moved the debate to the correct answer. During the uncertainty of the early months of Covid, she hosted meetings of the Strategy Group in her beautiful garden with every aspect of social distancing observed while we decided whether we should go ahead with Ride + Stride. Happily we did.



## Friends of DHCT 2024

**The Friends enjoyed a busy year of activities and meetings.**

The summer Church Crawls are always popular and there were four this year.

On the first Crawl on Thursday 9 May Dr Tim Connor led us around four churches in the Frome valley: **Broadmayne** St Martin's, **Winterborne Came** St Peter (which now belongs to Churches Conservation Trust), **Stinsford** St Michael (burial site of Thomas Hardy and many of his family plus Cecil Day-Lewis) and **West Stafford** St Andrew.

The second Crawl, on Wednesday 5 June, took us to **Studland** St Nicholas, **Corfe** St Edward the Martyr and **Wareham** St Martins.

On Thursday 11 July we visited **Lower Blandford** St Mary, the **Portman Chapel** at Bryanston **Stourpaine** Holy Trinity and **Durweston** St Nicholas.

We do not arrange Crawls in the holiday month of August, but the last outing of the year on Wednesday 11 September took us to four churches near the A350: **Shroton** (Iwerne Courtney)

**St Mary, Iwerne Minster** **St Mary, Sutton Waldron** **St Bartholomew**, and **Fontmell Magna** **St Andrew**.

### Lecture Lunches

Two lecture lunches took place this year, both at the Langton Arms, Tarrant Monkton, where excellent hot lunches are served.

### Discovering the Natural World in Stained Glass

**13 March by Sue Smith** – Over 40 members of the Friends of DHCT welcomed well-known decorative arts lecturer Sue Smith to talk about the presentation of the natural world in stained glass.

### Baptisteries and Fonts

**Thursday 18 April by Dr Tim Connor** – Again a full house assembled for the illustrated talk by Dr Connor, who went right back to Roman times before discussing surviving fonts, which are often the oldest part of a church.

## Ride+Stride Results 2024

| Parish                      | Church                             | Deanery Area              | Ride+Stride Total |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Sturminster Marshall        | St Mary                            | Wimborne                  | £4,913.00         |
| Fontmell Magna              | St Andrew                          | Milton & Blandford        | £2,367.00         |
| Stourpaine                  | Holy Trinity                       | Milton & Blandford        | £2,281.85         |
| Upwey                       | St Laurence                        | Weymouth                  | £2,238.00         |
| Wyke Regis                  | All Saints                         | Weymouth                  | £2,004.96         |
| Burton Bradstock            | St Mary                            | Lyme Bay                  | £1,942.00         |
| Silton                      | St Nicholas                        | Blackmore Vale            | £1,910.00         |
| Piddlehinton                | St Mary the Virgin                 | Dorchester                | £1,680.00         |
| Sherborne                   | Abbey Church of St Mary            | Sherborne                 | £1,531.57         |
| Ashmore                     | St Nicholas                        | Milton & Blandford        | £1,485.00         |
| Tolpuddle                   | St John the Evangelist             | Dorchester                | £1,467.00         |
| Spetisbury                  | St John the Baptist                | Milton & Blandford        | £1,425.00         |
| Leigh                       | St Andrew                          | Sherborne                 | £1,366.50         |
| Purse Caundle               | St Peter                           | Blackmore Vale            | £1,330.00         |
| Branksome                   | St Aldhelm                         | Poole & North Bournemouth | £1,275.00         |
| Whitchurch Canonichorum     | St Candida and Holy Cross          | Lyme Bay                  | £1,210.00         |
| Winterborne Houghton        | St Andrew                          | Milton & Blandford        | £1,207.00         |
| Over Compton                | St Michael                         | Sherborne                 | £1,205.00         |
| Frome St Quintin            | St Mary                            | Sherborne                 | £1,120.00         |
| Melbury Abbas               | St Thomas                          | Blackmore Vale            | £1,105.00         |
| Dewlish                     | All Saints                         | Dorchester                | £1,080.00         |
| Melbury Osmond              | St Osmond                          | Sherborne                 | £1,007.60         |
| Tarrant Gunville            | St Mary                            | Milton & Blandford        | £980.00           |
| Chideock                    | St Giles                           | Lyme Bay                  | £955.00           |
| Colehill                    | St Michael and All Angels          | Wimborne                  | £931.00           |
| Litton Cheney               | St Mary                            | Lyme Bay                  | £885.00           |
| Iwerne Minster              | St Mary                            | Milton & Blandford        | £815.00           |
| Witchampton                 | St Mary, St Cuthburga & All Saints | Wimborne                  | £812.00           |
| Evershot                    | St Osmund                          | Sherborne                 | £807.00           |
| Wimborne Newborough St John | St John                            | Wimborne                  | £802.00           |
| Radipole                    | St Aldhelm                         | Weymouth                  | £800.00           |
| Crossways                   | St Aldhelm                         | Dorchester                | £777.52           |
| Wimborne Minster            | St Cuthberga                       | Wimborne                  | £777.00           |
| Sixpenny Handley            | St Mary                            | Milton & Blandford        | £770.00           |
| Motcombe                    | St Mary                            | Blackmore Vale            | £766.00           |
| Godmanstone                 | Holy Trinity                       | Dorchester                | £750.00           |
| Corfe Castle                | St Edmund the Martyr               | Purbeck                   | £750.00           |
| Wool                        | Holy Rood                          | Purbeck                   | £750.00           |
| Hazelbury Bryan             | St Mary and St James               | Blackmore Vale            | £725.00           |
| Dorchester                  | St Peter                           | Dorchester                | £715.00           |



| Parish             | Church                        | Deanery Area              | Ride+Stride<br>Total |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Chettle            | St Mary                       | Milton & Blandford        | £700.00              |
| Chetnole           | St Peter                      | Sherborne                 | £693.00              |
| Puddletown         | St Mary the Virgin            | Dorchester                | £687.00              |
| Church Knowle      | St Peter                      | Purbeck                   | £665.00              |
| Cranborne          | St Mary and St Bartholomew    | Wimborne                  | £655.00              |
| Littlebredy        | St Michael & All Angels       | Lyme Bay                  | £650.00              |
| Yetminster         | St Andrew                     | Sherborne                 | £649.08              |
| Fifehead Magdalen  | St Mary Magdalene             | Blackmore Vale            | £635.00              |
| Chaldon Herring    | St Nicholas                   | Purbeck                   | £635.00              |
| Poole URC          | Skinner Street                | Poole & North Bournemouth | £627.00              |
| Canford Cliffs     | Church of the Transfiguration | Poole & North Bournemouth | £615.00              |
| Shaftesbury        | St Peter                      | Blackmore Vale            | £600.00              |
| Affpuddle          | St Laurence                   | Purbeck                   | £600.00              |
| Weymouth           | Holy Trinity                  | Weymouth                  | £572.50              |
| Canford Magna      | Parish Church                 | Wimborne                  | £568.00              |
| Lytchett Minster   | Lytchett Minster              | Poole & North Bournemouth | £562.00              |
| Edmonsham          | St Nicholas                   | Wimborne                  | £552.00              |
| West Parley        | St Marks                      | Wimborne                  | £545.00              |
| Sturminster Newton | St Mary                       | Blackmore Vale            | £505.00              |
| Bridport           | St Mary                       | Lyme Bay                  | £503.00              |
| Bradpole           | Holy Trinity                  | Lyme Bay                  | £502.00              |
| Charminster        | St Mary the Virgin            | Dorchester                | £490.00              |
| Wimborne St Giles  | St Giles                      | Wimborne                  | £490.00              |
| Buckland Newton    | Holy Rood                     | Dorchester                | £489.00              |
| Hinton St Mary     | St Peter                      | Blackmore Vale            | £470.00              |
| Hilton             | All Saints                    | Dorchester                | £459.54              |
| Dorchester RC      | Holy Trinity                  | Dorchester                | £459.02              |
| Kington Magna      | All Saints                    | Blackmore Vale            | £450.00              |
| Gillingham         | St Mary the Virgin            | Blackmore Vale            | £440.00              |
| Enmore Green       | St John the Evangelist        | Blackmore Vale            | £440.00              |
| Gillingham RC      | St Benedict                   | Blackmore Vale            | £434.00              |
| Lydlinch           | St Thomas Becket              | Blackmore Vale            | £430.00              |
| Marnhull           | St Gregory                    | Blackmore Vale            | £425.35              |
| Tarrant Monkton    | All Saints                    | Milton & Blandford        | £395.00              |
| Worth Matravers    | St Aldhelm                    | Purbeck                   | £385.00              |
| Tarrant Hinton     | St Mary                       | Milton & Blandford        | £375.00              |
| Steeple            | St Michael and All Angels     | Purbeck                   | £371.00              |
| Chalbury           | St Wolfrida                   | Wimborne                  | £328.00              |
| Stinsford          | St Michael                    | Dorchester                | £327.00              |
| Langton Long       | All Saints                    | Milton & Blandford        | £320.00              |
| Dorchester UC      |                               | Dorchester                | £319.00              |

| Parish                  | Church                                    | Deanery Area              | Ride+Stride<br>Total |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Cattistock              | St Peter and St Paul                      | Sherborne                 | £319.00              |
| Swyre                   | Holy Trinity                              | Lyme Bay                  | £310.00              |
| Alderholt               | St James                                  | Wimborne                  | £310.00              |
| Buckhorn Weston         | St John the Baptist                       | Blackmore Vale            | £305.00              |
| Puncknowle              | St Mary the Blessed Virgin                | Lyme Bay                  | £305.00              |
| Okeford Fitzpaine       | St Andrew                                 | Blackmore Vale            | £300.00              |
| Woodlands               | Church of the Ascension                   | Wimborne                  | £280.00              |
| Allington               | St Swithun                                | Lyme Bay                  | £277.00              |
| Parkstone               | St Clement                                | Poole & North Bournemouth | £275.00              |
| Portland                | St John the Baptist                       | Weymouth                  | £275.00              |
| Charlton Marshall       | St Mary the Virgin                        | Milton & Blandford        | £270.00              |
| Milborne St Andrew      | St Andrew                                 | Dorchester                | £260.00              |
| Sutton Waldron          | St Bartholomew                            | Milton & Blandford        | £255.00              |
| Caundle Marsh           | St Peter and St Paul                      | Sherborne                 | £255.00              |
| Broadway                | St Nicholas                               | Weymouth                  | £255.00              |
| Wyke Regis              | St Edmund                                 | Weymouth                  | £250.00              |
| Ibberton                | St Eustace                                | Blackmore Vale            | £240.00              |
| Shaftesbury             | St James                                  | Blackmore Vale            | £240.00              |
| Blandford RC            | Our Lady of Lourdes & St Cecilia          | Milton & Blandford        | £240.00              |
| Marnhull RC             | Our Lady                                  | Blackmore Vale            | £235.00              |
| Walditch                | St Mary                                   | Lyme Bay                  | £235.00              |
| Radipole                | St Mary                                   | Weymouth                  | £230.00              |
| Tollard Royal           | St Peter ad Vincula                       | Milton & Blandford        | £220.00              |
| Gussage All Saints      | All Saints                                | Milton & Blandford        | £220.00              |
| Lytchett Matravers      | St Mary The Virgin                        | Purbeck                   | £210.00              |
| Batcombe                | St Mary Magdalene                         | Sherborne                 | £210.00              |
| Parkstone               | St Peter                                  | Poole & North Bournemouth | £200.00              |
| Shillingstone           | Holy Rood                                 | Blackmore Vale            | £195.00              |
| Tincleton               | St John the Evangelist                    | Dorchester                | £195.00              |
| Hooke                   | St Giles                                  | Lyme Bay                  | £180.00              |
| Chideock RC             | Our Lady Queen of Martyrs and St Ignatius | Lyme Bay                  | £180.00              |
| Winterborne Kingston    | St Nicholas                               | Milton & Blandford        | £170.00              |
| Dorchester              | St Mary the Virgin                        | Dorchester                | £130.00              |
| Kingston Lacy           | St Stephen                                | Wimborne                  | £125.00              |
| Winterborne Whitechurch | St Mary                                   | Milton & Blandford        | £115.00              |
| Farnham                 | St Laurence                               | Milton & Blandford        | £110.00              |
| Child Okeford           | St Nicholas                               | Blackmore Vale            | £105.00              |
| Mappowder               | St Peter and St Paul                      | Blackmore Vale            | £100.00              |
| Lyme Regis              | St Michael the Archangel                  | Lyme Bay                  | £100.00              |
| Gussage St Michael      | St Michael                                | Milton & Blandford        | £100.00              |
| Thornsford              | St Mary Magdalene                         | Sherborne                 | £100.00              |

| Parish             | Church               | Deanery Area   | Ride+Stride Total |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Buckland Ripers    | St Nicholas          | Weymouth       | £100.00           |
| Wimborne RC        | St Catherine's       | Wimborne       | £85.00            |
| Milton on Stour    | St Simon and St Jude | Blackmore Vale | £77.00            |
| Margaret Marsh     | St Margaret          | Blackmore Vale | £65.00            |
| Stourton Caundle   | St Peter             | Blackmore Vale | £60.00            |
| Compton Abbas      | St Mary the Virgin   | Blackmore Vale | £60.00            |
| West Lulworth      | Holy Trinity         | Purbeck        | £50.00            |
| Dorchester Baptist | Dortford Centre      | Dorchester     | £47.50            |
| West Orchard       | St Luke              | Blackmore Vale | £30.00            |
| Pulham             | St Thomas Becket     | Sherborne      | £21.00            |

## Donations and Legacies

We acknowledge with thanks a number of gifts made during the year, including:

- Marilyn and Robin Sadler
- Mrs C J Walker
- Rita Kennett
- Graham Faren
- Jeremy Short
- In memory of Philippa Francis
- Winfrith Community Foods
- Canford Magna PCC
- R E Wiliams
- Camilla Cully
- Mr A Phillips
- North Porton PCC
- Preston and Sutton Poyntz PCC
- Sherborne Abbey Faith in Action
- Wyke Regis PCC
- The Church Tent at the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show
- In memory of Nigel Thimbleby

## Treasurer's Report

**I am pleased to present the accompanying accounts for 2024 which show that the Trust continues to thrive and to perform its primary function of providing grants to help preserve Dorset's historic churches.**

Ride+Stride continues to be a significant source of income with c £95,000 raised overall, somewhat ahead of last year and providing a welcome boost to our funds of £51,000 after the 50% return to participating parishes that request it. A claim for £9,300 of Gift Aid has been made after the year end which will further augment the funds raised to £104,500.

We have been fortunate this year to be the beneficiary of some particularly generous donations and bequests totaling £60,000, with more than half coming from one individual legacy. The generosity of donors and those who remember us in their wills will always be a valuable contribution to our funds.

Just under £114,000 in grants were paid out during the year to

provide funds to our churches towards essential repairs. Further grants of £158,000 are awaiting to be drawn once the works have been completed.

Overall, the value of investments and deposits with our Fund Managers, CCLA Investment Management Ltd stands at £615,000. Our aim continues to be to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk.

The costs of running the Trust have remained broadly the same.

Finally, I continue to be grateful for the invaluable assistance given by our bookkeeper Becka Brierly, who maintains our financial records and provides comprehensive data and analysis of the Ride+Stride results.

*Roger Blaber*  
*Honorary Treasurer*



## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 December 2024

| Receipts                                | 2024            | 2023             |
|---|-----------------|------------------|
|   | £               | £                |
| <b>Voluntary Income</b>                 |                 |                  |
| Donations and Legacies                  | 50,427          | 23,378           |
| Friends, Individuals and Trusts         | 8,480           | 7,735            |
| Parochial Church Councils               | 730             | 1,053            |
|   | <b>£59,637</b>  | <b>£32,166</b>   |
| <b>Activities for generating funds</b>  |                 |                  |
| Ride+Stride previous year               | 1,223           | 580              |
| Ride+Stride current year                | 95,212          | 90,360           |
| Gift Aid                                | 9,999           | 8,096            |
| Friends Events                          | 2,899           | 2,025            |
| Sale of notecards                       | 310             | 199              |
|   | <b>£109,643</b> | <b>£101,260</b>  |
| <b>Investment Income</b>                | <b>£11,410</b>  | <b>£9,625</b>    |
| <b>Bank Interest</b>                    | <b>£7,845</b>   | <b>£5,475</b>    |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                   | <b>£188,535</b> | <b>£148,526</b>  |
| <b>Payments</b>                         |                 |                  |
| <b>Ride+Stride</b>                      |                 |                  |
| 50% return to churches                  | 41,055          | 39,336           |
| Honoraria                               | 1,800           | 1,800            |
| Brochures and Publicity                 | 1,888           | 2,096            |
| Printing and postage                    | 356             | 518              |
| Bookkeeping                             | 663             | 1,200            |
| Administration                          | –               |                  |
|   | <b>£45,762</b>  | <b>£44,950</b>   |
| <b>Grants</b>                           | <b>£113,722</b> | <b>£104,000</b>  |
| <b>Support Costs</b>                    |                 |                  |
| Annual Report                           | 1,359           | 3,465            |
| Postage, stationery and travel          | 528             | 670              |
| Marketing and Website                   | 438             | 159              |
| Insurance                               | 450             | 450              |
| Just Giving Fees                        | 515             | 562              |
| Bookkeeping                             | 343             | 635              |
| Meetings                                | 942             | 326              |
| Bank Charges                            | 795             | 377              |
|   | <b>£5,370</b>   | <b>£6,644</b>    |
| <b>Governance</b>                       |                 |                  |
| Independent Examiner                    | 1,674           | 1,607            |
| <b>Total Payments</b>                   | <b>£166,528</b> | <b>£157,201</b>  |
| <b>Net Movement in Cash Funds</b>       | <b>£22,007</b>  | <b>(£8,675)</b>  |
| <b>Sale and Purchase of Investments</b> | <b>£60,000</b>  | <b>(£84,000)</b> |
| <b>Overall Movement in Cash Funds</b>   | <b>£82,007</b>  | <b>(£92,675)</b> |
| <b>Cash Funds Last Year End</b>         | <b>£211,216</b> | <b>£303,891</b>  |
| <b>Cash Funds This Year End</b>         | <b>£293,223</b> | <b>£211,216</b>  |

## Cash funds increased by £82,000 in the year This analysis of receipts and payments explains why

|                                      | 2024            | 2023            |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                      | £               | £               |
| <b>Net Receipts</b>                  |                 |                 |
| Donations and Legacies               | 60,000          | 32,000          |
| Ride+Stride                          | 51,000          | 46,000          |
| Gift Aid                             | 10,000          | 8,000           |
| Events                               | 3,000           | 2,000           |
| Bank Interest                        | 8,000           | 5,000           |
| Investment Income                    | 11,000          | 10,000          |
| Sale of Investments                  | 60,000          | –               |
|                                      | <b>£203,000</b> | <b>£103,000</b> |
| <b>Payments</b>                      |                 |                 |
| Support and Governance               | 7,000           | 8,000           |
| Grants                               | 114,000         | 104,000         |
| Purchase of Investments              |                 | 84,000          |
|                                      | <b>£121,000</b> | <b>£196,000</b> |
| <b>Assets and Liabilities</b>        | <b>2024</b>     | <b>2023</b>     |
|                                      | <b>£</b>        | <b>£</b>        |
| <b>Cash Funds</b>                    |                 |                 |
| Lloyds Bank                          | 51,310          | 56,382          |
| Nationwide                           | 100             | 25,100          |
| CBF Deposit Fund                     | 241,813         | 129,734         |
|                                      | <b>£293,223</b> | <b>£211,216</b> |
| <b>Investments</b>                   |                 |                 |
| CBF Investment Fund                  | 279,821         | 332,373         |
| COIF Charities Global Equities Fund  | 93,558          | 88,580          |
|                                      | <b>£373,379</b> | <b>£420,953</b> |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                  | <b>£666,602</b> | <b>£632,169</b> |
| Grants Awarded Not Yet Drawn Down    | <b>-158,328</b> | <b>-149,000</b> |
| <b>Total Assets Less Liabilities</b> | <b>£508,274</b> | <b>£483,169</b> |

## Recruitment and Appointment of New Trustees

People who are invited to join the Board of Trustees usually already have considerable knowledge of DHCT, often through their parishes. For their induction, in addition to briefing meetings with the Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Chair of the Finance Committee, new Trustees are given access to the necessary information to equip them to take on a given role including:

- Minutes of previous meetings
- Copies of the Trust's Accounts for the previous years
- Copies of past Annual Reports.

From time to time a review of Board performance is undertaken by the Chairman and members of the Board. Refreshment of the performance of the Board and its membership is essential. Each member takes on shared responsibility for a specific aspect of DHCT's work, for instance: Ride+Stride, Grants, Finance, the Friends organisation.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>President:</b>  | HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset<br>Mr Michael Dooley FRCOG, LVO   |
| <b>Vice-Presidents:</b>                                  | The Lord Bishop of Salisbury<br>The Bishop of Sherborne<br>The Archdeacon of Sherborne<br>Sir Philip Williams Bt.<br>G A L-F Pitt-Rivers OBE<br>Mrs V L-F Pitt-Rivers CVO<br>The Viscount Hood<br>Major-General J O C Alexander CB, OBE<br>R D Allan<br>P F Moule  |
| <b>Chairman:</b>   | His Honour D E B Grant   |
| <b>Trustees:</b>   | Mrs S-A Barrett<br>R B Blaber<br>Mrs S Bruce-Payne<br>Dr T P P Connor<br>Mrs S Diment<br>Sir Andrew Graham Bt. CB, CBE<br>His Honour D E B Grant<br>Mrs L Jones<br>S D Norman<br>Mrs D Priddy<br>The Reverend Canon A J W Rowland<br>J A M A Selfe<br>J T Smith<br>T Sweet-Escott<br>J Turnbull<br>M W M Warren<br>T J Wickson |
| <b>Hon. Secretary:</b>                                   | J A M A Selfe<br>The Dairy House, Chaldon Herring,<br>Dorchester DT2 8DN<br>T: 07791 980086 E: jeremyselfe@hotmail.com   |
| <b>Hon. Treasurer:</b>                                   | R B Blaber<br>Old Orchard, Angel Lane, Ferndown BH22 9DZ<br>T: 07834 945907 E: rogerbb123@gmail.com  |
| <b>Hon. Webmaster:</b>                                   | A Derrick<br>E: webadmin@mg1.dhct.org.uk   |
| <b>Grants Secretary:</b>                                 | Mrs S Diment<br>Well Cottage, Nettlecombe, Bridport DT6 3SP<br>T: 07977 568609 E: sue.diment@hotmail.com   |
| <b>Hon. Secretary to the Friends of Dorset Churches:</b> | J T Smith<br>5 South Farm Close, Tarrant Hinton,<br>Blandford DT11 8JY<br>T: 01258 830680 E: friendsadmin@mg1.dhct.org.uk  |
| <b>Ride+Stride Administration:</b>                       | Mrs A Butler (retired May 2025)<br>T: 07766 976902 E: anna-butler@hotmail.co.uk<br>Mrs Eve Baker (from 1 June 2025)<br>T: 07989 457585 E: evembaker.dhct@gmail.com   |
| <b>Registered Office:</b>                                | Suite 1, Mey House, Bridport Road,<br>Poundbury DT1 3QY  |

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Bankers:</b>                      | Lloyds Bank plc<br>1-2 High Street West, Dorchester DT1 1UG<br>(until June 2025)   |
| <b>Independent Examiners:</b>        | PKF Francis Clark, Chartered Accountants<br>Towngate House, 2-8 Parkstone Road,<br>Poole BH15 2PW  |
| <b>Deanery Area Representatives:</b> |  |
| <i>Blackmore Vale:</i>               | <i>South</i> – Mrs S-A Barrett, The Old Rectory,<br>Stock Gaylard, Sturminster Newton DT10 2BG<br>T: 01963 23375 E: sabrectory@gmail.com<br><br><i>North</i> – T J Wickson, 2 Mill Race<br>Gillingham SP8 4DW<br>T: 01747 833663 E: thomaswickson2@gmail.com   |
| <i>Dorchester:</i>                   | Vacant at the time of going to press   |
| <i>Lyme Bay:</i>                     | R Benjamin, Old Bakery, Main Street,<br>Chideock DT6 6JQ<br>T: 01297 489298 E: richard.benjamin@live.co.uk   |
| <i>Milton and Blandford:</i>         | <i>North</i> – J T Smith, 5 South Farm Close,<br>Tarrant Hinton, Blandford DT11 8JY<br>T: 01258 830680 E: tim.smith@mg1.dhct.org.uk<br><br><i>Centre</i> – Mrs D Priddy, Jestys, Spetisbury,<br>Blandford DT11 9DF<br>T: 01258 489822 E: messagedebpriddy@gmail.com<br><br><i>South</i> – M Trevett, Mill House, West Street,<br>Winterborne Stickland, Blandford DT11 0NT<br>T: 01258 881295 E: michael.trevett.2@gmail.com |
| <i>Poole and North Bournemouth:</i>  | S D Norman, Millmoor House, Kings Street,<br>Sturminster Marshall, Wimborne BH21 4BN<br>T: 07970 782396 E: sdnorman@btinternet.com   |
| <i>Purbeck:</i>                      | <i>West</i> – C Langham, Steeple Manor, Steeple,<br>Wareham BH20 5PN<br>T: 01929 480916 E: langham26@btinternet.com<br><br><i>East</i> – R Pink, St George's, 44 West Street,<br>Corfe Castle BH20 5HD<br>T: 07818 483590 E: barn.yard@btinternet.com  |
| <i>Sherborne:</i>                    | S Leavey OBE, 7 Hound Street,<br>Sherborne DT9 3AB<br>T: 01935 817033 E: s.leavey@btinternet.com<br><br>C Waite, Faber House, The Avenue,<br>Sherborne DT9 3AH<br>T: 07780 900418 E: chris.waite49@gmail.com   |
| <i>Weymouth:</i>                     | G W Pritchard, 10 Whitecross Drive,<br>Weymouth DT4 9PA<br>T: 01305 777238 E: geoffrey.pritchard@btopenworld.com   |
| <i>Wimborne:</i>                     | S D Norman, Millmoor House, Kings Street,<br>Sturminster Marshall, Wimborne BH21 4BN<br>T: 07970 782396 E: sdnorman@btinternet.com<br><br>N H Williams, 158 Church Street,<br>Sturminster Marshall, Wimborne BH21 4BU<br>T: 01258 857762 E: nick.williams.stur@gmail.com   |