



THE DORSET HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
(www.dhct.co.uk)

From: Anna Butler (R+S Administrator)
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June 2025

Dear Rider or Strider

Ride+Stride – Saturday 13th September 2025

Thank you for considering taking part in this event. Last year Dorset Riders+Striders raised an amazing £104,500, including £9,300 in Gift Aid. Half of the sponsorship funds were returned to the churches that requested it and the other half is already being used by DHCT to provide grants to maintain and repair historic churches across the county.

How does this work?

Traditionally, cyclists, walkers, runners, horse riders and motorised wheelchair users collect sponsorship to complete a route around Dorset churches at any time between 10am and 6pm, as a group or an individual. There are no start or end points and no maximum or minimum distance required. If you are doing an alternative activity, please use the parts of this letter that are relevant. Ask your Church Representative for more information if you are unsure.

Raising sponsorship

There are two ways in which you can raise sponsorship:

1. **Use JustGiving.** Be ready with your Story (why you are taking part) and a photo of the church (if possible), then navigate to DHCT's Ride + Stride 2025 campaign page on JustGiving:
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/dhctrideandstride2025> Follow the prompts to create your own URL (or link) for your page. Please use this format: village or town, church name/dedication, your initials and lastly the Church Reference Number – all without spaces
2. - as per this example: **WitneyStMaryABPL20** This will assist our book-keeper no end in keeping track of hundreds of payments. That said, not everyone finds creating their own link very easy. We suggest that you ask a youngster or go to the guide on our website.
3. **Use the sponsorship form (D)** in the traditional way. Sponsorship can be for the number of churches visited, miles travelled or just for taking part. Ask your sponsors to complete the Gift Aid information. Please encourage cash sponsors not to use a cheque. These cost the Trust to pay them in and this reduces the value of the funds. Cash or BACS are much preferred.

Planning the day

- ✓ You need a Sponsorship form (D) and Records of Visits form (E). These can be obtained from your Church Representative or downloaded from the website www.dhct.org.uk
- ✓ **Get sponsored** – this could be for the number of churches visited, the distance travelled or just for taking part!
- ✓ Decide on your route – how far do you want to go? Are you going alone or as a group? You can start and finish wherever you like. What about exploring a new part of Dorset? There are no set routes, but we want you to stay safe so perhaps avoid busy roads and other hazards.
- ✓ Consider having *what3words* on your mobile phone
- ✓ Horse riders must hold their own Public Liability insurance. Plan a route that avoids roads if possible.

President: HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset: Mr Michael Dooley LVO MMs
FRCOG
Registered Charity Number: 282790
Registered Office: Suite 1, Mey House, Bridport Road, Poundbury,
Dorchester, DT1 3QY

Chairman: His Honour D E B Grant
Website www.dhct.org.uk
In association with The National Churches Trust

On the day- between 10am and 6pm

- ✓ Make sure someone knows your route and the time you are expected home.
- ✓ Take a mobile phone in the unlikely event you need may need assistance and to take photographs of your exploits! We are always interested in stories and photographs from the day – please send these to Eve Baker – evembaker.dhct@gmail.com
- ✓ Check the weather and adjust your start and finish times, route and clothing accordingly. If you have an R+S tabard or any other reflective clothing, please wear it.
- ✓ Sign in at each church you visit and ask them to sign your Records of Visits sheet (E). We hope many churches will be open, but if not sign your own form at each church.

For your safety

- ✓ If in a group, comply with your leader's instructions. Keep together but do not obstruct the highway to vehicle users.
- ✓ Do not ride side by side in traffic.
- ✓ Walk facing oncoming traffic wherever it is feasible. If there is no pavement, be prepared to get off the road when traffic is approaching.
- ✓ Be aware that audio sets reduce your ability to hear traffic approaching you.
- ✓ If in a large group, consider splitting into smaller subgroups separated by 25-30 metres

After the event

- ✓ Put your Church Reference Number on your Sponsorship form. Your Church Representative will have this on their Remittance Form (K). This ensures your money is allocated to the correct church.
- ✓ Collect your sponsorship money and give it to your Church Representative, together with your Sponsorship form (D), even if all your sponsorship is with Just Giving and Record of Visits form (E). Please ask your sponsors not to use cheques as they incur bank charges and reduce the value of the funds raised. Try and do this by the end of September, it will make your Church Representative's job much easier!

Thank you very much for supporting this event. We hope you enjoy it. I will be stepping back from this role in June after 26 years as Administrator. It has been an enormous pleasure to be part of the Trust's main fund-raising event and I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting many of you over the years. Thank you for your enthusiasm which I hope will continue. My successor will be Eve Baker who will be in post from 1st June. Her contact information is: evembaker.dhct@gmail.com

Yours sincerely

Anna

R+S Administrator

The event is covered by Public Liability insurance, except for horse riders. If you cannot Ride or Stride on 13th September, insurance cover will be in place from Sunday 7th September until Friday 19th September.

Please note: We will have two emergency numbers to notify in case of a serious incident:

Tel 1: 07964475120 or Tel 2: 07791980086 so the Trust can offer assistance.

These are printed on the Record of Visits sheet and can be only useable on Saturday 13th September 2025

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

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