



Anna Butler - R+S Administrator: 07766 976 902 anna-butler@hotmail.co.uk

June 2025

Dear Church Representative

Ride+Stride - 13th September 2025

Thank you for agreeing to be Church Representative (CR, formerly Parish Organiser) for this year's annual Dorset Ride+Stride. If you are no longer the Church Representative, please could you pass this on to your successor or the PCC Secretary and let me know so that I can change my records.

Last year, Dorset Riders and Striders raised an amazing £104,500, which included £9,300 in Gift Aid. Half of the sponsorship was 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 R+S work?

Traditionally, cyclists, walkers, runners, horse riders and motorised wheelchair users collect sponsorship to complete a route of your choice, around Dorset churches at any time between 10-6pm, as a group or an individual. There are no start or end points and no maximum or minimum distance required.

Your church may find conventional riding or striding difficult due to your location or the age profile of your community. If so, why not consider another event - anything that involves some physical activity that can be sponsored? For example, people could be sponsored to ride a static bicycle at your church, complete a sponsored swim or row, undertake a bell tower tour or ride or stride to an event such as a coffee morning? The possibilities are endless - be creative!

Everyone, not just the church community, is welcome to join in. Perhaps there is a walking or cycling group, local stables or fitness groups, a local toddler group, school or youth group that may be interested in taking part? Are there new residents in your area that may like to get involved? They just need to be made aware of this event and invited to join in.

Last year 150 Dorset churches raised sums ranging from a modest £21 up to £4,913. Sturminster Marshall was awarded the Morshead trophy for raising the most money and another 21 churches received a certificate for raising over £1000. Our challenge to you is to increase the amount your church raised last year.

R+S Day

Although Saturday 13th September is the main day for activities it is possible to complete these between Sunday 7th to Friday 19th September, during which time the DHCT Public Liability Insurance will be in effect.

Riders and Striders really appreciate being greeted at a church and offered refreshments. If your church is in a more isolated position just leave the signing in sheet, a drink and some biscuits.

Keeping in touch with your Riders and Striders prior to the event helps to motivate and encourage them. Do they know of others who might take part?

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

L - Letter to CRs

JustGiving and raising sponsorship

Participants should be encouraged to use JustGiving. The web address for this year's dedicated DHCT Ride+Stride 2025 page is now live at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/dhctrideonstride2025> . Riders should create their own URL (link) in the format: village or town, name of church, initials of rider and DHCT Church Reference Number – with no spaces – example **BridportMichaelJMLB17** This will make accounting much more straightforward. Riders and Striders are asked not to use an existing personal fundraising page link – it makes the accounting much more difficult.

Many sponsors will prefer to give a cash pledge on the Sponsorship form. The form can be left at the back of the church or in the bar of the local pub in the weeks before 13th September. A few people will want to pay by cheque; please explain that the process of paying in cheques at a branch of Lloyds many miles away is both costly (bank charges incurred for each cheque) and time-consuming for our small team. If a cheque must be used, it should be made out **with no spaces to DHCTR+S**. Your Church Treasurer should be able to help account the cash the sponsorship by paying into the church account, from where a BACS payment to DHCT is simply done.

This pack contains the Trust's Annual Report and the Ride+Stride documents you will need. Your Deanery Area Representative will be pleased to discuss ideas or answer questions. Please ask if you are not sure who this is. Good luck!

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

Your pack contains:

- A. Yellow poster – A4 to be completed with your contact information and placed in your church
- B. Poster - Yellow A5 three copies to be placed around your locality
- C. Letter to Riders and Striders (three copies)
- D. Sponsorship Form (three copies)
- E. Record of visits to Churches (three copies)
- F. Handout for potential participants (two copies) [editable version available on the website]
- G. Sample press release. Please amend to suit your needs and add your contact details [editable version available on the website]
- H. Register of visitors to Churches
- I. Apologies poster
- J. Financial Management Form (pink)
- K. Remittance Form (yellow). Your Church Reference is on this sheet

Most of these documents can be found on the DHCT website. www.dhct.org.uk

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

L - Letter to CRs

Church Representatives guide to running Ride+Stride

Preparation – this for a traditional R+S Day. Your event may need adjustments.

June

- Inform your church leadership of the date. Decide on your activity.

July

- Publish a press release in your Parish/ community magazine (G)
- Launch R+S with a small event or by email.
- Contact possible Riders and Striders, gain their support and make sure they have the paperwork – letter (C), sponsorship form (D) and Record of Visits to churches (E).
- Use handout to attract new participants (F)
- Organise a welcome team rota to sign forms. Plan refreshments

August

- Put up posters – yellow A4 (A) and A5 (B)

On the day

- Open church with welcomers if possible, from 10am-6pm with Register of Visitors form (H) and refreshments.
- Put up the apologies notice (I) if not open. A few refreshments would be welcome.

After the event

- Collect Sponsorship forms (D) and any sponsorship cash/cheques from participants. Ensure your Church Reference number is on each Sponsorship form.
- Collect Record of Visits forms (E) and retain them until Christmas incase of any queries.
- Complete the Financial Management form (J)
- Complete the Remittance form (K).
- Put the Sponsorship forms (D), the Financial Management form (J) and the Remittance form (K) and cheques into one envelope and post to the DHCT Hon Treasurer, by 31 October. Please have your envelope weighed at a Post Office to avoid the surcharge or – worse – the envelope going astray.
- Make one payment by BACS. Submissions after 31 October will be processed but your efforts may not be recorded in the Annual Report.
- Thank the participants and let them know the potential amount raised.
- Look out for your 50% share of monies raised which will be returned, by BACS, by mid-December so it can be included in this year's accounts!