



THE DORSET HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

(www.dhct.co.uk)

Eve Baker - R+S Administrator: evembaker.dhct@gmail.com

June 2026

Dear Rider or Strider

Ride+Stride – Saturday 12th September 2026

Thank you for considering taking part in this event. Last year Dorset Riders+Striders raised an amazing £100,000 plus around £12,000 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?

Church Representatives organise Ride+Stride in each church. There are many ways to take part. Traditionally people have walked or cycled between churches, however we want to be more inclusive and participants can travel however it suits them – walking, cycling, running, using an electric scooter or other motorised vehicle or even catching the bus! You plan a route around Dorset churches and chapels at any time between 10am and 6pm as an individual or as a group and collect sponsorship for taking part. There are no start or end points and no maximum or minimum distances required. We want as many people as possible to take part and enjoy the day out. The sponsorship money is paid to DHCT, who return half of the money to the nominated church or chapel by the end of the year.

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 – using Just Giving and/or a sponsorship form:

1. Use JustGiving.

Full instructions are on sheets N1/N2

Make your sponsors aware that, when they make their pledge, JustGiving asks for a donation. It is **not** necessary to do this and you can decline the request. The donation goes to JustGiving and not to DHCT!

- 2. Use the sponsorship form (H)** 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 sponsors to use cash and not to use a cheque. It costs 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 (H) and Records of Visits form (I). These can be obtained from your Church Representative or downloaded from the website www.dhct.org.uk

President: HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset: Mr Michael Dooley LVO
FRCOG Hon DSc
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

- ✓ **Get sponsored** – this could be for the number of churches visited, the distance travelled or just for taking part! Please ask your sponsors **not** to use cheques as they incur bank charges and reduce the value of the funds raised.
- ✓ 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. The website will have a list of churches that have said they will be open. Not every church will be listed and we cannot guarantee its accuracy, but we hope it will help.
- ✓ Consider having *WhatThreeWords* on your mobile phone
- ✓ Horse riders must hold their own Public Liability insurance. Plan a route that avoids roads if possible.

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 (L). We hope many churches will be open, but if not sign your own form at each church.

For your safety

- ✓ Please follow the Highway Code and Countryside code.
- ✓ Respect other people and other road users

After the event

- ✓ Give your Records of Visits form (I) and your Sponsorship forms (H) to your Church Representative.
- ✓ Tell them how much you raised through Just Giving and in cash.
- ✓ Collect your sponsorship money and give it to the Church Treasurer or the person collecting the money. No cheques, please.
- ✓ Pass any comments about the day to your Church Representative and they will pass them on to us.

Try and do this by the end of September as it will make your Church Representative's job much easier!

We hope you have an enjoyable day. Thank you for taking part.

Yours sincerely

Eve

R+S Administrator

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

Tel 1: 07964 475120 or Tel 2: 07791 980086 so the Trust can offer assistance.

These are printed on the Record of Visits sheet and are only useable on Saturday 12th September 2026

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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