

# LEICESTERSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Registered Charity No.233476 www.lhct.org.uk



County Co-ordinator David Knowles DL

NEWS - SPRING

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***Million pound fund-raising for churches achieved in 2017  
~£1,030,000 since Ride+Stride LeicesterShire started in 1989.***

The 2017 event's £38,800, was below 2016's £40,370 and annual income averaging £42,660 over the last ten years but the fund-raising is vital for essential maintenance and community facilities' grants to churches, chapels and meeting houses. The Trustees continue to be enormously grateful to all who take part, support those who do, and church Welcomers who are raising a total of around £2,400 each year.

*Highest fund-raisers were again Cosby St Michael & All Angels £1,530.10, Arnesby St Peter's Sue Spriggs' £1260.91 (Sue "still very wobbly after 2014 stroke" valiantly cycled 14.1 miles with son and seven year old grandson), the Revd Canon Brian Davis for Gaulby Group of Churches £1,090 (Brian is our top clergy supporter) and long-term achievers, Swithland St Leonard raised £928,*

2017 saw more participants than the previous year: welcomers 61 (55), cyclists 176 (160), walkers 93 (60), but one less scooterer-3. 333 in all against 280 (including a tricycle!) in 2016.

*Curiously, in 2017 online sponsorship, which had started to develop through JustGiving, was minimal. We are told that online giving produces more generous sponsorship, even from more elderly supporters, than from sponsor forms. Participants, including Welcomers, are encouraged to try it by creating their Ride+Stride page via our website lhct.org.uk - click on Ride+Stride.*

**2018 RIDE+STRIDE/OPEN CHURCHES' DAY SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER**

**OUR CONTINUED APPRECIATION is expressed to Andrew Granger & Co Land & Property Specialists and Diocesan Land Agents for financial sponsorship for the event in LeicesterShire and to the National Churches Trust for promotion in English Counties**

**2018 LEICS  
HISTORIC  
CHURCHES  
TRUST Tour  
Saturday 14 July  
10.00-17.30.**

**South-East  
Leicestershire**  
*subject to final  
confirmation*

St Wistan's church,  
Wistow  
Noseley Chapel  
*-by permission of  
Lord Hazlerigg*  
St Michael and All  
Angels Hallaton  
& own lunch  
*arrangements*  
St Mary the Virgin,  
Ashley  
St Peter and St Paul,  
Great Bowden

*Ex Loughborough  
Grammar  
School Historian  
Roger Willson will  
lead the group, with  
his customary  
knowledge and  
enthusiasm.*

£5 per head  
**Contact:** vicki.dolphin.lhct@gmail.com

BBC Leicester were delayed with publicity, Monica Winfield interviewing David Knowles live in the studio on R+S day morning, but at least that brought a

visitor to Leicester's St George's Serbian Church.

The 2017 public launch was held outside St Dionysius Parish Church, Market Harborough arranged by Ideal Marketing Co. PR agents for Andrew Granger & Co, Land and Property specialists, the main sponsors for Ride+Stride. We were pleased Grangers' Director, Mrs Jill Griffiths joined us. Harborough Mail, and Harborough radio station and Leicester Mercury covered the Launch. Loughborough Echo, Leicester Diocesan diomail service carried Ride+Stride articles.

**WELCOMERS have become an important group of Ride+Stride fundraisers and the Trustees are very grateful to them. Quorn St Bartholomew raised the highest amount £340, 2<sup>nd</sup> Burton Overy St Andrew £210, 3<sup>rd</sup> Blaby All Saints £175, then Scraftoft All Saints £155, Snarestone St Bartholomew £145, Whetstone URC & Wigston URC both £115 Ravenstone St Michael £100 and from churches £99 down to £1.**

**WAS YOUR CHURCH OPEN AS PROMISED ?**

**A worrying trend of Ride+Stride, is the increased number of complaints of churches which had registered to open, thus shown in the List of Open Churches, not opening. Understandably, there will be late and unexpected reasons for non-opening, but we have sympathy with participants who cycle and walk sometimes considerable distances to suffer frustration at not finding at least a Register of Visitors pinned up to sign..**

**An idea for your church?.....** Long-time supporters at Plungar St Helen overcame the problem of older participants giving up cycling by having two villagers cycling to support the £622 sponsorship raised by church members, a lower than usual return probably due to Local Organiser, 91 year old Joan Kirk unable to be so active now. Our thanks to her for years in the role. **Remember too that Welcomers can raise sponsor money**

**Roy Webster, Whitwick St John the Baptist was not to let recovery from surgery spoil his R+S day. Although prevented**

from his usual road cycling he took to a cycle mounted on turbo rollers in church, pedalling the equivalent of 25 miles with a little help from welcomers for his £350. Brilliant Roy! OTHER CHURCHES PLEASE NOTE that there are ways and means to raise funds even indoors!

Louise Edwards, Local Organiser, Leicester St Andrew Methodist and our Area Organiser for Greater Leicester was enjoying the City sunshine before the lunchtime deluge of rain drenched her. "Squelching" on foot for over five hours round 32 churches from Epworth Hall, via Braunstone, Narborough Road, City Centre, London Road to Knighton caused blisters but also a great £675. Louise and husband, Clive, who shared in the drenching, you are stars!

Flick Titley and granddaughter, Sophie, Knighton St Mary Magdelene, were again walking. Nearly eighteen years ago Flick was push-chairing Sophie round her usual City R+S route and they have been keen supporters ever since. Sophie is keen to more adventurous for 2018 by travelling to and from Market Harborough Good idea, Sophie!

Houghton on the Hill St Catherine's Matt, Jacob and Barbara Scase cycled a very creditable 42 churches route for their £350.

At 89yrs, we feel David Warner, Local Organiser Newbold Verdon St James deserved more than his £170 sponsor money for his 12 miles of cycling. Well done!

**LEICESTER CATHEDRAL WALKS ORGANISER, Mick McQuade again planned and led a City Churches walk in sunshine either side of the lunchtime deluge. County Co-ordinator David Knowles and his wife, Pauline joined the twelve strong group which visited St James St Stephen URC, Holy Cross, Bishop St Methodist, Charles St Baptist, St George Serbian, Great Meeting, St Margaret, All Saints, St Nicholas, St Mary de Castro and the Cathedral. Thanks, Mick.**

Ardent supporter, Liz Betts Witherley St Peter raised £330 and says, "as always a brilliant day out" She even managed to fit in a guided tour of Leicester Town Hall.

**Cosby St Michael & All Angels' Local Organiser Sue Lee wrote to say "No-one can get past Janet Orton on our reception without sponsoring her for R+S. She does a wonderful job raising money for our church. Together with her brother Brian, and son and daughter they have walked in all weathers for St Michael's. Janet raised £852 of Cosby's £1530.10 -top sponsorship total in the County this year.**

Ted Cook, Local Organiser Leicester Mother of God New Parks RC sent in his

walk/bus group's £150. Bus passes essential to the group which choose a different area each year. This time Market Harborough.

Ever optimistic about Ride+Stride our County Churches Conservation Trust Voluntary Officer Chris Stephens, MBE was pleased to see more visitors (42) at All Saints, Highcross Street in the City and four visitors at at Garthorpe. **WHY NOT PLAN your 2018 Ride+Strideday to visit fascinating Withcote Chapel Freeby (recently extensively renovated) or Stretton en le Field?**

Based at All Saints, Highcross Street is the War Memorials Conservation Project run by enthusiasts Chris Stephens and Dennis Kenyon. Sara and Tim O'Gorman donated half their sponsor money to the Project. The memorials' exhibition is well worth a visit.

**Delighted and thankful we were to have BISHOPS LODGE CHAPEL, Springfield Road, Leicester open again, after a lapse of several years, with Chaplain the Revd Rosie Woodall on hand to welcome the eleven visitors - hopefully more in the future.**

Sharing fund-raising events between their church and Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust were: Sharnford Methodists

(coffee morning £70), and first time R+S participants Loughborough Knighthorpe Methodists (coffee morning £74). Loughborough Good Shepherd also raised sponsorship for the first time.

Leicester Christ Church Clarendon Park shared £220 from a coffee morning between the Trust and their chosen charity, Action for Children.

*Humberstone St Mary's welcomed visitors to their exhibition on local historic churches*

**The Trust's retiring Vice-president, the Revd Peter Hancock in a message for our R+S website helpfully stressed the link between heritage and mission.**

*A visitor to All Saints Dunton Bassett found the church "beautiful" and was delighted to recognise the organ as built by Porrits of Leicester. As a result Claire Hurford enjoyed a short recital. Claire and R+S cycling husband John (Churchwarden) are our very long-time Area Organisers for SW Leics.*

**The Trust's decorated tree was one of nearly 120 installed at the Loughborough Parish Church of All Saints with Holy Trinity annual Christmas Tree Festival. The tree emphasised the link between Ride+Stride fund-raising and the grants to churches for repairs and community**

**facilities. Design and installation was again led by Eileen Hodgkinson, Sweptstone St Peter, our NW Leics Area Organiser**

*The monks at Mount St Bernard Abbey at Whitwick continue to support Ride+Stride. They also benefitted this year from two cyclists who directed half of their sponsorship to the Abbey*

**Good to see Wyfordby Church involved again after the risk of closure a few years ago.**

The Trustees are most grateful for a donation of £100 from The Hon Lady Brooks. Ann is a former Trustee of LHCT, churchwarden and for many years Ride+Stride Local Organiser for Wistow

2017 might be the final year for Rearsby Convent's opening for Ride+Stride, with a planning application pending for alternative use and then a sale. We are indebted to the nuns for their kindly support over many years and wish the community well.

**ARE YOU, or SOMEONE YOU KNOW, PREPARED TO BE INVOLVED IN HELPING TO RUN AND PROMOTE Ride+Stride IN LEICESTERSHIRE. THIS KEY FUND-RAISER FOR CHURCHES COULD BE ENHANCED WITH NEW SKILLS AND IDEAS. We need help with administration,**

**design, publicity social media, analysis, data protection & finance. WAITING TO HEAR OF YOUR INTEREST IS County Co-ordinator, David Knowles DL - 01509268354 djpk34@hotmail.com**

**A RECORD 13 Churches in Loughborough (more than any in any Leics town in our 28 years of Leics R+S opened. They covered Methodist(2), Salvation Army, URC, RC(2), Baptist, Anglican(5), and Elim/Open Heaven traditions.**

**A Garden Opening in aid of the Leics Historic Churches Trust and another Charity is intended for June 2019. Watch for details after January on lhct.org.uk**

**LEICESTERSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST** founded 1964 Half the money raised by Ride+Stride is awarded in repair and improvement grants to churches in the County and City. The Trust's ability to make grants is very much dependent on the raising of funds each year through its key event Ride+Stride

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***DLSpring 2018***