

LEICESTERSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Registered Charity No.233476

www.lhct.org.uk



EDITOR: David Knowles DL

NEWS - SPRING 2019

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HAVING PASSED £1 MILLION RAISED FOR CHURCHES IN 2017, we have now raised over £1,060,000 since Ride+Stride LeicesterShire started in 1989! This includes £35,500 raised in 2018 – with a further gift aid receipt awaited. Half the money raised has already been paid to the churches and chapels nominated by participants, with the balance retained by the Trust for grants for essential repairs, restoration and community facilities, and roof alarms. As always, The Trustees are enormously grateful to all who take part, and to all their sponsors.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS to the highest fund-raisers who were:-

Arnesby St Peter's Sue Spriggs' £1,343 (2017:£1260.91) (Sue "still very wobbly after 2014 stroke" valiantly cycled 15.1 miles to ten churches with son, daughter in law and grandchildren aged 9 and 8), the Revd Canon Brian Davis for Gaulby Group of Churches £1,090 (Brian is our top clergy fund-raiser). Swithland St Leonard raised £928, led by the Revd Lisa Temperley Barnes, who also encouraged £750 to be raised for Woodhouse Eaves St Paul.

Altogether 299 people raised sponsorship – 50 welcomers, 146 cyclists, 92 walkers, 4 runners, 3 mobility scooters, and 4 static cyclists!

WE ARE PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL 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**

*The 2019 RIDE_STRIDE / OPEN CHURCHES' DAY will be on
SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER*

Saturday
29 June 2019
10.00-17.30 -
LEICS HISTORIC
CHURCHES TRUST

Tour

North

Leicestershire

Wymeswold,

St Mary

Prestwold

St Andrew

Loughborough

All Saints

Quorn

St Bartholomew

Woodhouse Eaves

St Paul

Roger Willson will lead the group, with his customary knowledge and enthusiasm.

£5 per head

Contact:

vicki.dolphin.lhct@gmail.com

welcome to people on the day, and the Trustees are very grateful to them.

FIRST TIME OPENER!

Delighted we are to thank Lynda Tuckwood and her friends at St Mary's Church, SIX HILLS (hidden close to the A46 just off the Loughborough to Melton road). Six visitors found it. For 2019 do make a bee-line for this little hidden gem and the most welcoming of welcomers!

WAS YOUR CHURCH OPEN AS PROMISED ? A worrying trend of Ride+Stride, is the increased number of complaints of churches which were not open, although they had registered to open, and were shown as such in the List of Open Churches. We know that non-opening in sometimes inevitable for unexpected reasons, but we have sympathy with participants who cycle and walk sometimes considerable distances only to find the church closed, and sometimes not even a Register of Visitors pinned up to sign.....

Margaret Issitt, Local Organiser and her four co-Welcomers enjoyed showing 17 visitors round their "lovely old church" of All Saints Peatling Magna.

The Revd David Harknett gave encouragement to his PCC to support R+S as Welcomers and six members, all in their 80s, responded. Our thanks to them and to David, who is seeking cyclists in all of his six villages, to join in Ride+Stride 2019.

We are still finding that churches and chapels in the Melton and Vale of Belvoir area lack support for Ride+Stride fund-raising and attract few visitors. It's such a beautiful, peaceful part of our county – why not make it the area for your riding and striding in 2019 as you raise money for your church. The wonderful flexibility of Ride+Stride means that you can do it anywhere that churches are OPEN (even if your own church is miles away!)

Roger Beeby, Leicester City Centre Central Baptist Local Organiser finds that Ride+Stride "correlates well with Heritage Open Days". Roger makes a valid point. Linking with HOD's on Ride+Stride day is another great way to attract visitors – heritageopendays.org.uk.

St Peter's Saxelbye stayed open for the whole day until 6pm and thus welcomed the visitor who arrived at 5.40pm. It is hugely appreciated by participants if churches are open for the full time from 10a.m. to 6p.m.!

Non-walking/cycling fund-raising occurred in several churches. For Christ Church, Clarendon Park, J M Parker devised a music quiz and entrants raised £70.

Rachel Parrish, All Saints Cadeby seeks ideas and wonders if you can answer her query: how do unmanned churches "sign" participants' sponsor forms? She is thinking of pre-signed stickers. Replies, please to rachelparrishpr@gmail.com

SUNDAY 23 JUNE
2019 BARKBY HALL
- GARDEN OPENING
IN AID OF THE LEICS
HISTORIC
CHURCHES TRUST
AND BARKBY ST
MARY PARISH
CHURCH

Details: lhct.org.uk
djpk34@hotmail.com

WELCOMERS have become an important group of Ride+Stride fund-raisers, alongside their wonderful

Woodhouse Eaves Methodist were disappointed to have only two visitors but felt it was "still worthwhile to open up the church".

Is this a growing trend sparked by Roy Webster at Whitwick Parish Church last year:

Exercise bike pedalling raised a £51.78 donation to LHCT from Orton on the Hill St Edith's.

Great also that in Bottesford St Mary's two sponsored exercise bike riders covered 123.5 kms!! They supported road cyclists in raising an excellent £363.

Roy repeated his 2017 success on turbo rollers – 30mls - £330 towards his church's total of £501.80.

Still a champion for Ride+Stride, our County Churches Conservation Trust Voluntary Officer Chris Stephens MBE welcomed 36 visitors to All Saints, Highcross Street in the City, and two visitors signed in at ancient St Michael's Stretton en le Field. Based at All Saints, Highcross Street is the War Memorials Conservation Project led by Chris Stephens and Well worth a visit.

WHY NOT PLAN your 2019 Ride+Stride day to visit several churches in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust - fascinating Withcote Chapel, Freeby (recently extensively renovated by the CCT), Allexton, Beeby, Garthorpe and majestic Stapleford.

Delighted that members of various Christian communities and denominations tour round on Ride+Stride day. Two Moravians signed in at Uppingham Rd Methodist.

Merely, leaving a visitors' register to sign in an unlit church, and no personal welcomer, was a shame in the view of a participant in the NW area.

Good to have support from Leicester's Great Meeting (Unitarian Church). Patrick Timperley was their sole participant and enjoyed the day so much that he will be back in 2019! Thank you Patrick.

A comment on the Register at St Denys, Stanton Wyville reminded us of the welcome light refreshments offered free at most churches: "Thank you for chocolate biscuits!"

For over 15 years walkers from Mother of God R.C. Church at New Parks, Leicester have supported R+S. Currently led by Edward Cook, by 2018 they had covered the County with bus/walk routes "visiting interesting churches and meeting lovely people". As age takes its toll and makes sponsored activity more difficult, Edward commends their bus/walk approach to others. This year's day out covered Leicester Narborough, Whetstone, Cosby, Lutterworth, Blaby.

Messy Church youngsters walked from St Mary Magdalene Waltham on the Wolds to Stonesby Methodist Chapel prompting £135 of donations.

Note received from a participant, "Thank you for letting me sleep overnight in the church porch when I couldn't get to a campsite."

Vic Allsop, long-time Local Organiser for Hoby All Saints and Methodist Churches reported, "Lowest number of visitors to date, but we achieved a lot of cleaning and tidying in church." He suggests set routes for groups in different parts of the County to make it more rewarding for welcomers opening churches. *(This idea has been suggested before but we need a volunteer to organise and trial it – could you volunteer to do this for us?).*

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. The tree was decorated and set up by David and Pauline Knowles.

St Mary's Wymeswold raised £361.90 from a children's "teddies on a zip wire" from the tower, with tea and cakes. No R+S sponsorship, but an ingenious way to raise money for your church on Open Churches Day!

The sale of Rearsby Convent was imminent by the time of the 2018 Ride+Stride so the nuns could not join in. We are indebted to them for their kind support over many years and wish the community well.

AGAIN 13 Churches in Loughborough (more than any in any Leics town in our 29 years of Leics R+S opened. They covered Methodist(2), Salvation Army, URC, RC(2), Baptist, Anglican(5), and Elim/Open Heaven traditions.

A report from Thorpe Acre All Saints mentioned a sponsored cyclist in his 80s still taking part by riding on a tandem. Congratulations!

Susan Lee, Local Organiser for St Michael & All Angels Broughton Astley tells of Isaac aged 2.5 years "Rider/Strider in training" walking with Mum and Dad to three churches in Cosby. His Mum and Dad (Jess and Tom) then jogged ten miles to eleven churches, whilst their church colleagues, Janet Orton and Brian Woodcock, walked 18 miles to 17 churches. Their total of £826 in sponsorship was very well deserved!

£200 at 90! Local Organiser, David Warner, Newbold Verdon St James is surely this year's hero. Having finally decided that he didn't feel up to cycling up hills he walked an eight miles' circuit of our City's Churches. He didn't think that was too bad. We think it excellent, especially when he beat his 2017 sponsorship. Brilliant, David. Thank you.

LONG TIME R+S supporters, Friar Lane & Braunstone Baptist Church had WALKERS out for the first time – nine of them. All told, 24 walkers and cyclists – a record! One cycling group toured 19 City churches and rang the bells at St Nicholas, the other to Measham visiting 20 churches over 51 miles. A wonderful £544.50 was raised!

Finally – 2018 was David Knowles's last year co-ordinating LeicesterShire Ride+Stride, having taken over the role in 2005. During David's time, R+S has raised an amazing £588,000 for our churches and chapels in – more than half the £1,060,000 raised since 1989! **THANK YOU DAVID for all your wonderful commitment and hard work!**

We are currently seeking someone, or a group of people, to take over from David – helping to run and promote R+S in LeicesterShire, and also to bring new skills and ideas to the event, particularly expertise in social media.

If you are able to help, please contact Janet Arthur – chairman@lhct.org.uk

Ride+Stride 2019 is on Saturday 14th September

Half the money raised by Ride+Stride goes to the LEICESTERSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST to award grants for repairs and improvements to churches and chapels in the County and City.

Opening your church or chapel for Ride+Stride and/or raising sponsorship is key to the Trust's ability to award grants for much needed church projects!

Our GRANTS SECRETARY is Vicki Dolphin vicki.dolphin.lhct@gmail.com And our CHAIR is Janet Arthur chairman@lhct.org.uk

Registered Charity No.233476
LHCT/Ride+Stride website
www.lhct.org.uk

Editors

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Spring 2019