

Dorset Historic Churches Trust

Conserving the past – enriching the future

2017 | Issue 12

ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW

One size fits all?

Not where Dorset’s churches are concerned!

It goes without saying that DHCT’s first priority is to help churches to remain weather and waterproof. So, once we have dealt with roofs, downpipes and so on, we turn our attention to how best we can assist Dorset’s churches to face the future and in particular to grant-aid ‘facilities’ to enable PCCs to broaden the uses of their churches beyond Sunday services.

It is hard to imagine a more diverse inventory of churches than Dorset’s; big ones, little ones, new ones, old ones; big congregations, tiny congregations; rich ones, poor ones, town centre ones, isolated rural ones. And that is only the objective qualities!

It is not possible to generalise on Dorset’s churches. Comparison between, for example, Milton Abbey Church at one end of the scale, with St Catherine-by-the-Sea at the other end, is impossible. Both are enormously important, each for very different reasons. Neither of them bears much physical resemblance (for totally disparate reasons) to the average or ‘typical’ Dorset Church. Nor does a brand-new church such as Crossways.

Pevsner’s Architectural Guide (2016, ed Simon Bradley) suggests that a total of 3,765 Church of England churches were built or rebuilt between 1835 and 1875. This activity, in part, reflects the shifts in population (eg from rural to urban), liturgical changes in forms of service and of course the burgeoning Oxford Movement with the consequent distinction between ‘High’ and ‘Low’ church habits.

No two churches are identical; in the library at the National Trust’s Tyntesfield, (the former home of the munificent church-building Gibbs family), I was shown a mid-19th century book of Pugin’s church designs. Several pages had manuscript annotations, presumably by William Gibbs, where he saw a design he particularly liked. But we can be quite certain that, even if he had ordered up two churches from the same page, to be plonked down 100 miles apart, they would now be very different; the architects would have interpreted the designs differently, the building materials would have differed to reflect local geology and, most important of all, the respective congregations (never mind the rural/urban setting) would have stamped their mark differently on each. By now (150 years later) there might be commonality in, perhaps, both churches suffering from dwindling congregations, but the respective objectives of the two PCCs would be quite different and thus the projects submitted to charities such as DHCT for grant-aid would be very different.

Once you start to apply subjective judgements – Does this church have a future? Might it be improved by better heating/lighting? A servery? Flexible seating? Might planned housing next door increase the congregation? What chance of secular use as, for example, a parish hub/accommodation for social events? – the process of trying to generalise becomes ever more absurd.

According to the C of E’s ‘Church Buildings Review Group’ there are 15,700 C of E churches: it is salutary to remember that the challenges facing every one of those churches are similar, but no two are identical.

DHCT aims to help all of these widely disparate churches to achieve their (inevitably diverse) goals for the future. An impossible task, but a fascinating one!

Simon Pomeroy



The Bishop of Sherborne presents a cheque for £12,500 to The Revd Janet Smith, Vicar of St Mary the Virgin, Charminster



The Bishop of Salisbury presents a cheque for £9,500 to The Revd Sarah Hillman, Priest in charge of St Mary the Virgin, Puddletown

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Chairman's Report on 2016

2016 was yet another excellent year; we achieved our target of awarding grants totalling £100,000, the details of which are set out on page 5. Our *raison d'être* is to preserve Dorset's churches, prioritising our funds towards keeping churches weathertight. When funds permit, we grant-aid projects such as the provision of 'facilities' (WCs, serveries, flexible seating arrangements etc), in order to widen the uses to which churches may be put, on the basis that a busy church is likely to survive longer.

Sherborne Abbey started the year for us with a rousing celebration of their achievement in raising more than £2,500 (including donations) on Ride+Stride in 2015. Our longest-serving Vice-President, Sir Philip Williams (himself a regular participant in R+S) presented the Morshead trophy to the Sherborne Team. The occasion coincided (just) with Sir Philip's appointment as High Sheriff of Dorset and he took the opportunity to explain the significance, the history and his obligations in that ancient - and far from symbolic office.

During the summer, our Trustee, Susan Smith, an expert on stained glass, led no less than four 'church crawls' for our 'Friends'. As mentioned on page 8, these covered every corner of Dorset and she was ably supported by our Trustee, Dr Tim Connor, an acknowledged expert on monuments and church architecture. These crawls are very popular and the usual question as the Friends disperse is "when is the next one?"

During the year we suffered the sad loss of two Trustees. Anthony Yeatman, who died in August, had been a trustee for nearly 10 years. He loved Dorset's churches, and had wide financial and business experience. We benefitted enormously from his wise counsel.

James Sabben-Clare, who died very recently, contributed immeasurably to our business, most notably in editing and steering the production of our Annual Reports, which are so important in keeping the world outside informed of DHCT's activities. We are hugely grateful to these individuals, for their time and for their support.



The Sherborne Abbey team receives the Morshead trophy for 2016



Ride+Stride day, in September, threatened the most unpromising weather imaginable. Having offered half a dozen participants lifts in my car (bikes in a trailer behind), all but one of them peeped out at the rain and decided to stay close to home. I was left with one of our Vice-Presidents, Antony MacRow-Wood (Archdeacon of Dorset) as my only passenger. As we drove to Tarrant Gunville (an excellent starting point, leading to a free-wheel down the Tarrant valley) the wind got up and the rain intensified. Antony told me later that he "got wet and stayed wet", but he raised £279 for Milton Abbey. In itself, that was 'a first', since we have never before had a rider for that lovely abbey church.

My circuit on that day of our R+S territory took in a dozen churches in North and West Dorset; the weather improved (it could hardly have done otherwise!). Stewards in churches welcoming (st)riders, painted a gloomy picture of bedraggled cyclists heading for home, but the miserable conditions failed, overall, to dampen enthusiasm, and the £80,692 which we achieved (see page 17) exceeded our wildest dreams. I extend my heartfelt thanks to those riders, striders, sponsors and stewards who stayed the course and (mixing my metaphors) stuck to their guns or saddles and achieved such a magnificent outcome!

October was exceptionally busy; our annual 'Friends' Event took place in Milton Abbey. On a personal level, I was surprised how many of the 70 guests had never been to the Abbey before. It has been one of Dorset's best-kept secrets. It is of course not a run-of-the-mill parish church, more a 'Diocesan peculiar'. It now has an invigorated committee looking after it, substantial funds have been raised for repairs and for the 'Capability Brown' surroundings. We in DHCT look forward to a time when it becomes better known and more enjoyed.

Also in October I found myself representing DHCT at a series of church services and other (secular) events in churches. It is very heartening to see how a relatively small investment in church 'facilities', coupled with an energetic community (not necessarily all church-goers), can safeguard the future of a church.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the host of volunteers who are DHCT: it is invidious that I have mentioned any individuals here. Our Trustees, our Deanery Representatives, our Treasurer, our R+S Administrator, and our Webmaster work long hours for no pay (other than modest honoraria in three cases). They do this because they are public-spirited and because they love Dorset's churches. My heartfelt thanks go out to them all.

Simon Pomeroy

Marketing & Communications Committee Report

The role of the Marketing & Communications Committee is to publicise the existence and work of the Trust while not incurring any unnecessary advertising costs.

As in so many fields, the best recommendation comes by word of mouth from a trusted source and our Deanery Representatives tell us that the potential of the Trust to help a church starting a project is often spread this way. However the Committee is organised to provide a variety of outputs including routine press releases, an advertising campaign prior to our major fund-raiser Ride+Stride, the new website and its related Churches Directory and support to merchandising and the work of the Friends Secretary. In all this, we have again enjoyed the support of the marketing communications agency, McKenna Townsend, in Ringwood. We continue to be very grateful for the various ways in which they sustain the profile of the Trust, not least by designing and printing this Annual Report.

We received good coverage across the County for the presentation of the Morshead Trophy at Sherborne Abbey, several of the Church Crawls and the Friends Autumn gathering at Milton Abbey. Our Chairman has been heard by a surprising number of people in early morning interviews on Radio Solent. Perhaps most importantly, the grant-making work of the Trust has been recorded in news items on cheque presentations and the improvements to the churches that our grants have helped to fund.

Although Ride+Stride is a fixture in many diaries, we are always keen to engage the next generation of cyclists, walkers, horse riders and even swimmers in this essential event. McKenna Townsend made good use of the photographs taken in 2015 to publicise the event in July and August, resulting in a number of new participants. They also achieved very good coverage of our end-of-year press release which reported on the various ways in which our loyal riders and striders raised £80,000 in one day.

Having made the decision to renew the website on a largely self-help basis, it has taken rather longer than we had hoped, but it is now fully functional on a new platform which will be easy to maintain in the future. The Churches Directory is the only area that is still in the process of complete renewal. Nearly every church requires higher resolution images and a small team will be touring the County to take these photos during 2017. Correspondence and Christmas cards, which sold in large numbers prior to Christmas, can be ordered through the website, which also carries news of recent and future Crawls and our new venture for 2017, Lectures with Lunch.

While all this has been going on, the Committee has said farewell to three of its members who have stood down, largely due to failing health. I pay tribute to the contributions of James Sabben-Clare, Mike Crossley and Ian Andrews who brought wisdom and experience to our work. We have been joined by Tim Smith, who is leading the work on the Churches Directory, by Tom Wickson who now is the author of press releases and articles for the website and by Philip Corran, our new webmaster, who has managed the tricky technical aspects of the handover from the old site to the new.

After a year of much change and not a little challenge, we look forward to a year of building on our new foundations.

Jeremy Selfe

Honorary Secretary's Report

Keep fundraising regular

In a highly regulated world, the role of charities is under constant scrutiny and is the subject of much legal direction, as well as the expectation of high standards of propriety.

One need look no further than the Funding Regulator's 'Code of Fundraising Practice' which runs to nearly 70 pages of instruction on how to be compliant with all legal requirements surrounding the raising of vital funds for charities.

This Trust prides itself on the professionalism of its Trustees, its volunteers and associated professional advisers, but is not complacent. Recent cases involving very well-known charities who breached data and other legal requirements, demonstrate that severe sanctions are in place for those who fall foul of the law.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed and disheartened by the legislation, but if one takes the time to consider the intent and the tenet of this legal veneer, things become a bit more cheery! The Trustees take these matters seriously but work hard to hold the upkeep of historic churches in Dorset at the top of their agenda, as you can read about in this report.

Charities, like our Trust, cannot do the work they were formed to carry out without donations, legacies and gifts, as well as the help of volunteers and the wider support of the community. It is essential that this support continues to flourish within a well regulated charitable sector.

The Code of Practice has, for example, a detailed section on Wills and how charities may safely accept legacies when working within those rules. This is guidance which this Trust will follow.

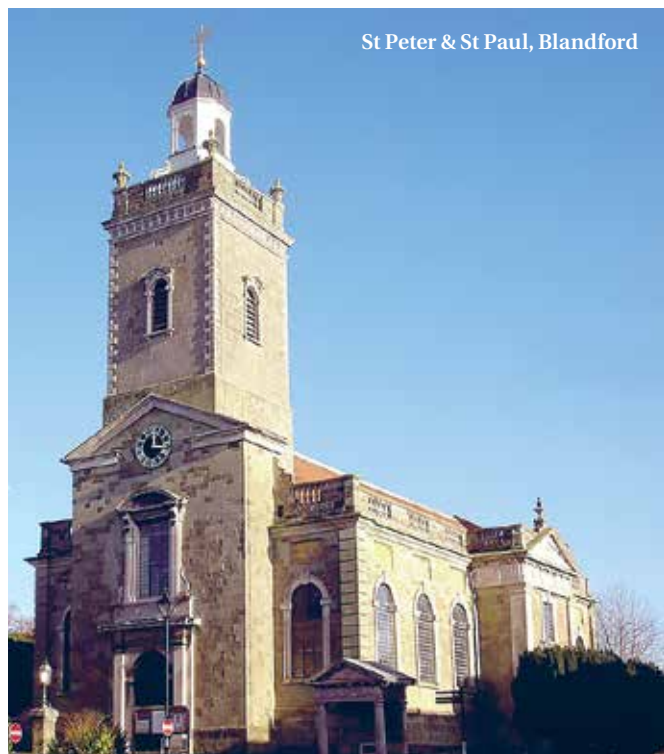
The point is that there is nothing to stop our major fundraising event, Ride+Stride, continuing to be the huge success that it is and we hope that gifts will continue to be made to the Trust outside that. Most importantly, we hope that you will enjoy taking part in fundraising and visiting the magnificent churches that the Trust continues to support in 2017 and beyond.

Do take time to visit some of these wonderful buildings this year!

Robert Fox

Grants Committee Report 2016

If a common focus of many of the Trust's grants during 2015 was helping parishes towards the setting up of kitchen and/or toilets, this year we have needed to respond to what must be our prime function: appeals for help towards making churches waterproof.



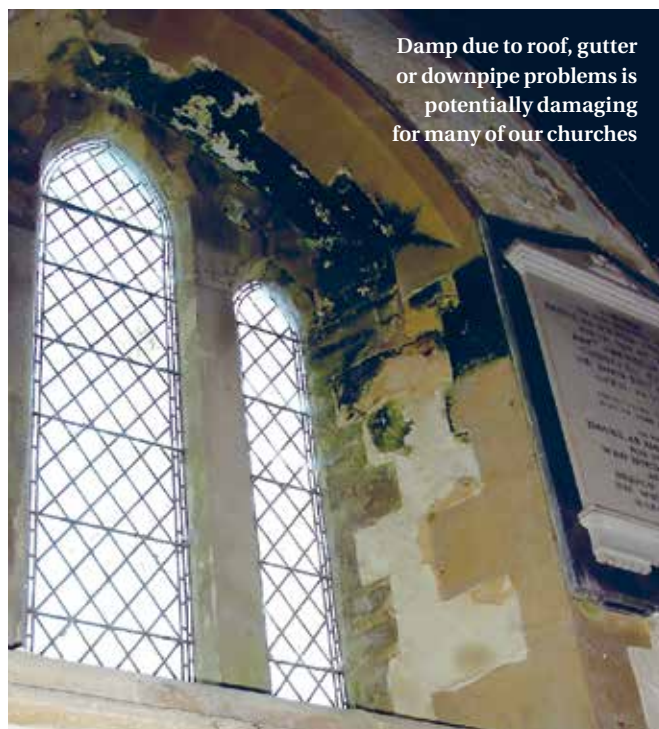
St Peter & St Paul, Blandford

Two major roof projects have been attended to this year. The exceptional Georgian church at Blandford is undergoing substantial renovation, most prominent in which has been the restoration of the cupola, to which the Trust contributed.

Dorset cannot boast of the splendid roofs of East Anglia and has little to match even the fine roof just beyond Yeovil at Somerton, but the roof at Bere Regis is, with its vividly painted apostles, a very interesting one and a substantial grant has been made towards its preservation.

We must be, more or less, at the end of the 'natural life' of many roofs in the churches transformed by the Victorians. Quinquennial reports must be picking up examples of pervasive damp in such buildings, exemplified by a church restored in 1876 by George Edmund Street, St Bartholomew's, Sutton Waldron. This is one of the best Victorian churches in the county and it has sprung a leak, so a small grant now may help fend off greater problems.

Making churches watertight is a basic requirement and while roofs themselves need periodic attention, it is equally necessary to attend to gutters and downpipes. Taking Friends round the various churches that we have visited this year gave one the chance to look at the gutters of several churches, in the course of which I remember thinking, as a fern or the omnipresent buddleia could be seen poking up from a hopper, 'Oh they'll soon be applying to us for help'. So it was a pleasure to be able to help Gussage All Saints in this matter.



Damp due to roof, gutter or downpipe problems is potentially damaging for many of our churches

The need for increased facilities in churches does however continue and four grants were made to churches towards the installation of a servery or toilets. Work has not begun on these projects, as parishes look around to find the last few hundred pounds and it remains to be seen, for example, whether the solutions to this difficult adaptation will be as ingenious and graceful as the new lighting system installed this year at Cranborne, to which the Trust gave a grant in 2015.

Tim Connor



Join the Friends of Dorset Historic Churches Trust

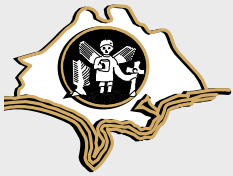
- Receive details about special Friends' events
- Receive the DHCT Annual Report and newsletters

**Individual membership costs
£15 or £25 for a couple per annum**

For more details or to obtain a leaflet, please contact:

Ms Susan Smith
Winterborne Cottage
Minchington
Dorset DT11 8DH
susan.smith310@tesco.net

Details are also available on our website
www.dhct.org.uk



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Grants awarded in 2016

Canford Magna (no known dedication)	£2,000
Gussage All Saints – All Saints	£1,255
Tarrant Keynston – All Saints	£5,000
Tolpuddle – St John the Evangelist	£10,000
Milborne St Andrew – St Andrew NCT partnership grant £2,500	£7,500
Milton Abbas – Milton Abbey	£10,000
Poole – St Dunstan	£1,000
Sutton Waldron – St Bartholomew	£1,800
Upwey – St Laurence	£12,000
Weymouth – St John NCT partnership grant £2,500	£5,000
Askerswell – St Michael and All Angels	£5,000
Bere Regis – St John the Baptist	£10,000
Blandford Forum – St Peter and St Paul NCT partnership grant £5,000	£6,500
Bothenhampton – Holy Trinity	£2,000
Charmouth – St Andrew	£1,000
Cranborne with Boveridge – St Mary and St Bartholomew	£5,000
Lillington – St Martin of Tours	£4,500
Kinson – St Andrew	£2,500
Littlebredy – St Michael and All Angels NCT partnership grant £2,500	£5,000
Milton Abbas – St James NCT partnership grant £2,500	£2,500

The National Churches Trust is the only national, non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting and promoting churches of all Christian denominations in the UK.

As a trusted partner of the National Churches Trust, DHCT have access to a number of additional grants for repair projects as part of the Partnership Grant Programme. The programme has provided over £1 million in grant funding towards repairs at churches and chapels over the last five years.



Dorset Historic Churches Trust notecards

£2.50 per pack of five

These attractive cards come in packs of five, featuring five different images from stained glass windows in each pack.

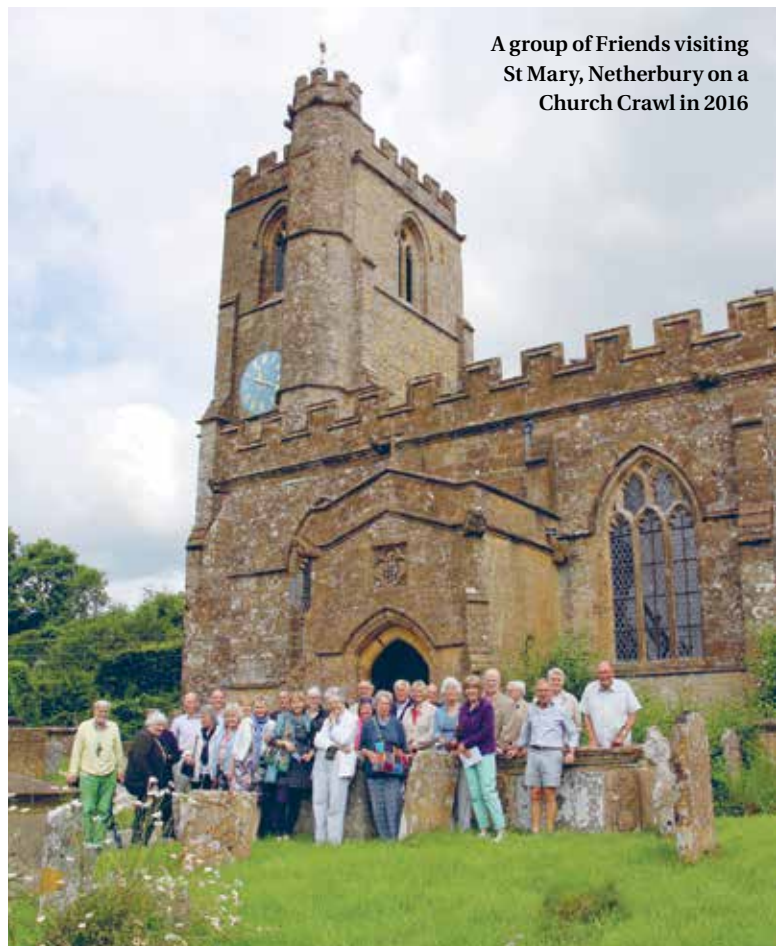
To purchase cards please apply to:

Ms Susan Smith
Winterborne Cottage
Minchington
Dorset DT11 8DH

susan.smith310@tesco.net

All the Trust's merchandise is available through the website, www.dhct.org.uk

Photography by Barry De Morgan
Printed by Purely Print



A group of Friends visiting St Mary, Netherbury on a Church Crawl in 2016

World War 1 memorial stained glass windows in Dorset churches

As quiet descended over the European battlefields in 1918 and survivors returned home, communities, congregations and families decided on ways to remember their dead and celebrate peace. Monuments, statues, obelisks were erected and many chose stained glass windows to commemorate loved ones lost in the conflict.

How do we feel in 2016 when we view a Great War memorial window in one of our beautiful Dorset churches? 2016 was, of course, the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

Many artists incorporated the romantic military imagery of soldier saints, St George and St Michael, in their memorial windows. Do these symbolic figures conjure up in our minds the unimaginable filthy daily endurance in the trenches that had been dug from the Belgian coast to the Swiss border – living knee deep in mud in the winter months – infested by rats, flies and lice? The endless marching of exhausted men from trench to working party to billet and back – the actual way of life they were facing at the time of death? Or do we find the images of soldiers in mud encrusted uniforms tell us more of what it was like?

And that night I'd been in trenches

Seeking out the sodden dead

And just dropping them in shell holes

With a service swiftly said

Revd G Studdert Kennedy from 'The Rough Rhymes'



The west window in St John the Baptist, Broadstone was designed by Martin Travers (1886-1948) in 1920. Travers was a conscientious objector to military service and worked as a driver in the Red Cross ambulance service during the war years.

This window combines the traditional saints of St John the Baptist, St Nicholas, St Martin with a soldier and a sailor in their uniforms kneeling on either side of a central Pieta figure. The Virgin Mary holding the body of her son Jesus Christ with the word DEAD just above her right shoulder is a stark image of grief.

Some memorial windows incorporate a portrait of the dead person; a window in All Saints Church, Piddletrenthide shows a remarkable likeness to Captain



Gerald Evelyn Gustavius Pollard of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers (above), who died in the Gallipoli landings on 25th April 1915.

Captain Pollard was a regular officer. He was born in 1889 and was commissioned into the Royal Munster Fusiliers on 28th May 1910 as a Second Lieutenant. He was promoted to Lieutenant on 14th September 1913 and was a temporary Captain at the time of the landings.

In order to get the troops ashore on the Gallipoli peninsula, the *River Clyde* – a large converted merchant ship – was run aground immediately below the Turkish fort at Sedd-el-Bahr with pontoons lashed one to another. The 2,000 troops she carried were ordered to storm ashore down gangplanks from doorways cut in her sides. As soon as the *River Clyde* grounded at 6.25am she came under heavy rifle and machine gun fire from the fort. She was also shelled by Turkish batteries. At about 8.00am Pollard was in one of the holds, presumably awaiting his turn at the gang-plank, when a shell burst in the hold and killed him. He was 25 years old and is commemorated on the Cape Helles Memorial to the Missing, as his body was never found. The 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers suffered over 600 casualties in the landings and eyewitness accounts describe how the sea below the fort was red with blood for 50 yards out from the shore.

Sir Thomas Evans Keith Lees, whose memorial window by Percy Buckman is in Lytchett Minster Church, died at sea on August 24th 1915 of wounds received in the British attack at Suvla, Gallipoli on 21st August 1915. He was 29 and served as a Lieutenant in the Dorset Yeomanry. In the battle the Yeomanry fought as infantry.

Their objective was the Turkish trenches in an area known as Scimitar Hill. Although they took and held the enemy's forward trenches, they were unable to advance further and were ordered to retire to their own positions. Of the 300 men from the Regiment who attacked, casualties amounted to 7 officers and 182 other ranks. Sir Thomas Lees is also commemorated on the Dorset Yeomanry Memorial in Sherborne Abbey.

Lieutenant Leonard John Hooper (Jack) served with the 5th Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment. He had been in Gallipoli and survived the Suvla battle on 21st August 1915. After the evacuation of the troops from Gallipoli at the end of 1915, 5th Dorsets went to France and were heavily engaged in the Battle of the Somme.

On 26th September 1916 a major attack was launched on the German held positions round the village of Thiepval. The 5th Dorsets were in support of an attack on Mouquet Farm, an enemy strong point. As they advanced over open ground, they were caught by a heavy German barrage and dozens of men went down. Despite this, they gained Mouquet Farm but failed to dislodge the Germans from other positions. It became a very confused battle but, by late afternoon on 27th September the enemy trenches were taken.

The 5th Dorsets had gone into the battle roughly 600-strong and nearly two thirds of these became casualties. Jack Hooper, aged 21, was one of eight officers killed on 26th September and he is buried in the Pozieres War Cemetery.

The east window in St Thomas a Becket church, Lydlinch, honours his memory and he is also commemorated on the Sherborne School memorial. Jack was one of three brothers who all served on the western front. His two brothers, Aubrey and Douglas were both awarded a Military Cross and both survived the war. A memorial service was held in the church this year on the 100th anniversary of his death.



The west window in the tower of St Nicholas, Child Okeford (above) was designed by Henry T Bosdet (1856-1934) and dedicated by the Bishop of Salisbury on 6th November 1919. It is in memory of Henry Raymond Syndercombe Bower, Lieutenant 1st Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment.

Lt Bower was killed in northern France on 20th December 1914 aged 20, whilst helping a wounded soldier to shelter from no man's land. The richly coloured window depicts Christian saints and knightly virtues of Duty, Obedience, Magnanimity and Love and the Caritas (Love or Charity) and represents those acts of individual humanity which transcended the military conflict.



In the memorial window at St Mary, Tarrant Gunville, War in Heaven is depicted with a rider on a white horse, as described in Revelations 19.11 (above).

This image also reminds us of the role that horses played in WW1; by 1917 Britain had over a million horses and mules in service. They were needed to transport weapons and supplies and to carry the dying and wounded to hospital. Harsh conditions, especially during winter, resulted in heavy losses. It is estimated that, over the course of the war, Britain lost over 484,000 horses; one horse for every two men.

Susan Smith

Notable WW1 memorial windows in Dorset

- Alton Pancras – N Wilkinson
- Athelhampton – Sir Ninian Comper
- Broadstone – Martin Travers
- Childe Okeford – H T Bosdet
- Langton Matravers – Morris (Westminster)
- Lillington – Ward & Hughes
- Lydlinch
- Lytchett Minster – Percy Buckman
- Melbury Abbas – Heaton Butler & Bayne
- Osborne – Christopher Webb
- Piddletrentide – Clayton & Bell
- Portland – All Saints – Clayton & Bell
- Shillingstone – Lowndes
- Sturminster Newton – Geoffrey Webb
- Tarrant Gunville – James Powell & Sons
- Trent – A K Nicholson
- St Andrew's, Richmond Hill – Clayton & Bell



Church Crawls in 2016

We held four very enjoyable Church Crawls during 2016. Each day was well supported by a happy group of Friends and we explored a fascinating variety of churches of differing denominations. In each church Dr Tim Connor delighted the group with his interesting accounts of the history and architecture of the buildings and their contents.

There was a tremendous contrast in ecclesiastical styles on our first Church crawl in May in the Parkstone area – from the modern architecture and stunningly bright lumps of ‘Dalle de Vere’ glass in St Joseph and St Walburga’s Church. (‘Dalle de Verre’ or ‘concrete glass’ where, instead of malleable lead liquid concrete was poured around coloured glass blocks) to the subtle subdued Prior’s Patented Early English slab glass windows in St Dunstons (previously St Osmund’s). This was the last major work (1913-16) of Edward Prior, who was called in to complete the church originally started by G A B Livesey 1904/5. We were accorded a very warm welcome from Father Chrysostom who leads the Antiochian Orthodox church in this beautiful neo-byzantine/Arts & Crafts building. We enjoyed the details of the hand made brickwork from Wareham, their red and yellow terracotta dressings and the winged angels that now watch over the shimmering orthodox icons.

After lunch we visited the large stone parish church of St Peter’s which is packed full of interesting features. We finished the tour at St John the Baptist, Broadstone, built in 1888 by W J Fletcher.

In June we negotiated the Dorset lanes and assembled at St Nicholas, Ashmore. We admired the hunting scenes based on Psalm 42 carved by John Skeaping RA in 1933 and the delicate window engraved by Simon Whistler in 1988 in memory of Denis Howard.



We wriggled round the roads to St Mary, Chettle where, in this treasured village church, I was particularly struck by the simple lines creating the poignant expression on the face of Mary Magdalen kneeling at the foot of the cross in the east window.

Thence on to the tiny chapel at Gussage St Andrew with a Norman nave and evocative medieval wall paintings on the north wall that were uncovered in 1951 and sympathetically restored in the 1960s. Lunch was arranged in Sue Smith’s garden and we then visited St Mary at Tarrant Hinton with its early renaissance Easter sepulchre carrying the initials of Thomas Weaver, rector from 1514-36. After visiting St Mary, Tarrant Gunville we finished the crawl with a tomb-top tea in the sunlit churchyard.



July found the Friends gathering at the hilltop church of St Mary the Virgin, Netherbury. The group then moved on to St Mary’s, Beaminster and our visit coincided with the weekly village coffee morning in the spacious interior. We enjoyed the fine stained glass and David Bruce-Payne delighted everyone by playing the organ.

After visiting the medieval chapel at Mapperton, lunch was enjoyed at the café in the grounds of the manor house. Then on we drove through beautiful countryside to St Mary Magdalen at North Poorton. The church was built by Hicks 1861-2; a few ruins of the original church can be seen on the edge of the churchyard. We inspected the lovely interior with its beautifully carved leaf corbels and the turret with its spire.

The last church of the day was St Mary, Powerstock. The Tom Denny stained glass and the stunning Norman chancel arch wowed us all. Tim Connor kindly opened his house and garden to us for a delicious tea – thank you Tim.



We visited Portland for our final crawl in September. We met at St Andrew’s (The Avalanche Memorial church), which features memorials to those drowned in September 1877 when the SS Avalanche and the SS Forest collided off Portland Bill during stormy conditions. The Easton Methodist church is a stunning building with beautiful features, including the magnificent

organ, the Portland stone reredos depicting The Last Supper and the art nouveau style stained glass.



We had a delicious lunch in the White Stones Café and this was followed by a visit to All Saints Church, built during the First World War by Crickmay & Son. The wonderful oak pews and stalls in the choir were carved by Somerset craftsmen. The details depict the Creation and there is a delightful collection of different animals, birds and plants. On the chancel roof is a hand painted panel showing the 12 signs of the Zodiac.

We finished our crawl at St George, Reforne where the imposing 18th century church is now looked after by the Churches Conservation Trust. Not only is the church itself fascinating with an 'in house' museum but the large graveyard surrounding the church contains a wealth of tomb stones, giving a great social history of life on Portland in the 18th century. A cup of tea in the church completed the Church Crawls for 2016.

Susan Smith



Viewing the tower at St Mary, Beaminster

Church Crawls for 2017

The following Crawls are planned for 2017 – full details available on the website or from Sue Smith (susan.smith310@tesco.net)

Wednesday May 10th – meet at Affpuddle

Thursday June 8th – meet at Hinton St Mary

Wednesday July 5th – meet at Litton Cheney

Thursday 14th September – meet at Witchampton

We meet at 10.30am, visit four or five churches and usually have a pub lunch in the middle of the day and a cup of tea before we disperse in the afternoon around 4.30pm.



The beautiful organ of Easton Methodist Church, Portland

Organs we have seen and heard

On our church crawls this year, we have heard a few of the organs (only if we had permission or we could find the hidden key) played mainly by David Bruce-Payne.

The saddest organ was lying disused in St Dunstan's Church, Poole. Now that the church is used by the Orthodox community there is no call for organ music, so this grand Compton instrument has been taken apart and simply gathers dust. It awaits a collector and restorer with a cool ¼ million pounds to remove and find a new home for what is a famous and important piece of musical history. In its heyday recitals were played by Percy Whitlock to be broadcast on the BBC.

One of the most pleasant surprises of the year was the organ in Portland's Easton Methodist Church – a vast building in need of much restoring. Heavily decorated pipes are enclosed in ornate woodwork. It was difficult to find a plaque with the name of the organ builder, but the overall sound was impressive.

Bradford Abbas had previously been included in a church crawl, and David was invited back there to accompany singers who were supporting our Treasurer, Liz Ashmead, to help her raise funds for a bereaved parents room at Bristol hospital in memory of her granddaughter who died earlier this year. The Fauré Requiem was a fitting piece of music for this occasion.

Lastly, David had the chance to play the organ in Milton Abbey for our Friends Annual Meeting. The large organ offered him a good range of musical colour and it sounded well in the generous acoustic of the building.

Sue Bruce-Payne



The Wandering Winds

A musical duo, known as *The Wandering Winds*, took part in a concert tour around a number of landmark Dorset churches last summer.

Their goal was to raise money to support historic places of worship all over Dorset and the money they raised was donated to DCHT. Katy Ashman plays the flute and Miles Nipper the bassoon. They performed in 17 different venues across the county, covering a distance of approximately 50 miles. Their journey started at St Mary's Church, Holnest at 9.00am and the final performance, in Bradford Abbas, ended at around 7pm.

Katy and Miles are both interested in local history and chose to weave anecdotes and stories related to each particular church into their performances. The Trust is very happy to report that this unique event by The Wandering Winds raised £1,600.

Obituaries

Anthony Yeatman DL

It is with much sadness that we must record the death of Anthony, who was a Trustee and wise chairman of our Finance Committee for many years. He used his enviable network of friends and contacts across the county to spread the word about the Trust and its work for Dorset's churches. Anthony also encouraged many new members to join, as Friends or Deanery Representatives or as Trustees.

James Sabben-Clare

It is with great sadness that we must also mark the death of another of our distinguished Trustees. James served for many years as the Deanery Representative for Purbeck. He brought wisdom and scholarship to our meetings and his lecture to a Friends gathering in St Georges, Fordington, which was prepared with very little notice, was a masterpiece. During his three years as editor of this Annual Report, he combined charm and authority to deliver a highly valued product. Both at Winchester and in his very busy retirement he lived the Wykehamist motto 'Manners Makyth Man'.

Church buildings are the flagships of the spirit

I recently spent a day in the beautiful setting of Milton Abbey.

The Abbey church was the host for a meeting of the Friends of Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT) and the school next door kindly provided us with lunch. There were some stimulating talks about the abbey and its history and a splendid musical interlude.

DHCT is a registered charity which is dedicated to the preservation of Christian churches and chapels of all denominations in the administrative County of Dorset.

There is one important provision: they must all be open for public worship. It is a strange irony that there is more money available from statutory agencies for the upkeep of redundant churches than there is for living ones.

So where does the funding for maintaining Dorset's – and England's – wonderful churches and chapels come from? By pure coincidence, I was sent last week a report about just that subject. There was also a video, in which members of the public were asked who they thought paid for the maintenance and repair of these churches.

Some thought the Government (wrong). Some thought local authorities (wrong). One thought the Queen (bizarre). Only one or two got the answer right – the money comes from the worshipping congregation, and anything it can raise from the local community.

There can sometimes be a bit of help from the Heritage Lottery Fund, though the cathedrals get the largest share of that.

In other words, the biggest and most beautiful part of the nation's architectural heritage is maintained by a small minority of people who attend church regularly, on behalf of those who attend church rarely (if at all) – but who would complain very loudly indeed if their local church closed or simply fell down through lack of care.

Perhaps some of you reading this wouldn't care if your local church fell down. It's only there for those who want to use it for worship. If they can't afford the bills, let it be demolished and the site become a car park or a supermarket. Simple – and horribly depressing.

The victory of the philistines. But most atheists I know are extremely sensitive to the beauty and atmosphere of our historic churches. Though they may not believe in God, they recognise the astonishing energies they find in church buildings and want to preserve them for the future as flagships of the spirit.

That's where charities such as DHCT and its counterpart, the Somerset Churches Trust, come in. They receive donations from people of all faiths and none, who simply want to keep these wonderful buildings in good order and open for worship, weddings, funerals and the rest.

At the DHCT (I must declare an interest – I am a Trustee) we make grants totalling £100,000 every year. There are other charities with deeper pockets. Most of our income comes from the popular Ride +Stride sponsored event every September.

If you are interested, just Google your relevant trust, and support it if you can.

Canon Eric Woods, Vicar of Sherborne



2016 Friends of Dorset Historic Churches Trust event at Milton Abbey

The 26th October 2016 dawned cloudy, cool and dry. Although the rain of a couple of days earlier had made things a little wet underfoot in the wide outdoors, it certainly did not dampen the enthusiasm of DHCT Friends and Trustees for the main DHCT Friends' event of 2016, a visit to Milton Abbey.

68 Friends, guests and Trustees gathered inside the West door of the Abbey whilst David Bruce-Payne played the organ as a welcome at the start of a most enjoyable and instructive day.

Simon Pomeroy, the Trust Chairman, formally introduced the day. Following this, The Reverend Helier Exon, the very active Abbey historian, enthralled the assembled Friends with the history of the Abbey. King Athelstan founded a canonical college in 933AD before a Benedictine monastery was established in 964. The Norman church was totally destroyed by fire in 1309. The present Abbey buildings date from the early 14th century and took over 100 years to complete. Even so, the absence of a full West end in proportion with the rest of the building makes one wonder the reason. After the Dissolution in 1539, with the Monastery and Abbey passing into private hands, the Tregonwell, Damer and Hambro families all had a significant impact on the buildings and landscape helped by Capability Brown for outside work and for interior work by, for instance, Augustus Pugin with his magnificent South window.

A light buffet lunch in the Abbot's Hall in the school buildings was followed, back in the Abbey, by a musical interlude. The Inominata Consort, a noted Recorder group, entertained us with pieces from Sammartini, Corelli, Purcell and Vivaldi. Then followed a performance by a guest Violin and Piano duo of pieces by Mozart, Elgar and Kreisler. A much enjoyed hour of high-class music.

Dr Tim Connor, drawing on his great knowledge of historical architecture and with his inimitable ability to tell a story, added to what Helier Exon had said earlier. Friends then toured the Abbey, marvelling at the Pugin window and the 15th century reredos. They were also able to see the extent of the maintenance and repair work that is currently in train and which has been enabled by grants from DHCT and Heritage Lottery Funds.

Finally, the hardiest 40 Friends then made their way by car and a 500m walk to St Catherine's chapel to enjoy a candle-lit tea time cuppa with cakes and flapjacks and the stunning view from the chapel down through the woods towards the Abbey. It was a fine end to a most enjoyable day.

Mike Warren



Ride+Stride is a national sponsored event in which people walk, cycle or horse ride between churches, whilst exploring our wonderful Dorset countryside.

Every year since 1991 the Dorset Historic Churches Trust has organised its sponsored Ride+Stride, the receipts from which represent its main source of income, enabling it to assist churches and chapels of all Christian denominations in meeting the increasing costs of maintenance, restoration and improvement of facilities.

The money raised (more than £80,000 in 2016) will be used to help conserve Dorset's churches, chapels and meeting houses and keep them active and at the heart of their communities for the use of future generations. Half the money raised is returned directly to the nominated church and the other half is used to fund the grants programme.

To register as a participant or request a sponsorship form, contact your Ride+Stride organiser or email ride+stride@dhct.org.uk



The 2016 Riders+Striders of Hinton St Mary

Alan Neades' Ride+Stride (aged 73^{3/4})

Piddlehinton

2016 was my sixth Ride+Stride. The appointed day arrived and the rain fell in torrents and continued until after 1pm. Shoes became waterlogged before I reached my first church and there was lots of standing water, which meant passing cars provided an impromptu shower. I suppose my 'breathable' waterproof cycling jacket did its job, but when at about 3pm and 50 miles in, the sun put in a brief appearance, I took it off only to find my vest was soaked - with sweat!

Nevertheless a good day – 40 churches visited and just shy of 70 miles covered. Great hospitality and welcome from many churches. I am sure the hills get steeper, especially Ridgeway and the one out of Cerne Abbas. An enormous 'thank you' to all my sponsors and supporters.



A Christchurch Perspective

Christchurch Deanery has some unusual features compared to the general run of Deaneries in Dorset.

In the first instance, it comes within the Diocese of Winchester rather than that of Salisbury, with five parishes in Dorset and twelve in Hampshire. It is at the extreme eastern edge of Dorset, tucked away behind the Unitary Authority of Bournemouth and the River Stour. However, we do feel very much part of the area covered by the Dorset Historic Churches Trust and enjoy coming under their umbrella.

We are looking anxiously at the proposals to re-organise Councils throughout the county – it looks as though nine authorities will be reduced to three. Christchurch is one of the smallest Councils so will be bound to come in for change. We do hope that, whatever happens, we will remain within the county of Dorset and of course will be anxious to continue as members of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust.

We always enjoy the Ride+Stride event but, with wet weather, our Riders+Striders did not go the rounds on the same day – hence no photograph this year.

Barry Beasley



The damp, but not defeated, 2016 Riders+Striders of West Lulworth

Instead of Riding or Striding, the vicar of St Nicholas' church, Ashmore did 60 lengths of the Clayesmore School pool!



The Revd Eve Pegler (left) and Head Teacher, Sarah Bullmore, lead the party over the Lodden bridge

pace, proved an ideal length even for little legs, and neatly fitted in between the service and a picnic which some supporters had brought with them. Thanks are due to Head Teacher, Sarah Bullmore, and Gillingham's Pioneer Minister, The Revd Eve Pegler, who developed this plan. They are already thinking of ways to further improve the Ride+Stride event next year.

On the day before, St Mary's Church's monthly pop-up café 'Lovely Cakes' had defied the rain to hold a successful morning and lunch-time session. Takings at this event are always split between the church and a local charity, and this month further R+S funds were generated by the less than totally strenuous activity of enjoying homemade soup, sandwiches and cakes in the warmth and shelter of Gillingham's Vicarage School Room.

The Trust is always seeking different ways to get as wide a range of participants as possible involved in its fund-raising and work, and it is hoped that these initiatives will continue to grow in future years.

Tom Wickson

Ride+Stride 2016 from Gillingham – more of a toddle – with cake!

A joint project between St Mary's Church, Gillingham and its primary school saw 18 DHCT supporters take a gentle toddle beside the water-lilled River Lodden on the Sunday of the Ride+Stride weekend.

The parish service to celebrate Education Sunday had just taken place in the school hall and straight afterwards the intrepid band set off on a short stroll, suited to a very mixed-age party. The youngest toddler was just 3 – not yet old enough to start school – and the oldest a couple who happened to be celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary that day.

Deciding to try out this new venture on the Sunday proved especially lucky as the sun shone brightly, in contrast to the weather on Saturday, which had been very wet, especially in the morning. The 30-minute stroll, taken at a gentle

Ride+Stride 2017 takes place on Saturday 9 September

If you haven't tried it, why not join in this year? You will enjoy it!

Ride+Stride and PCC donations 2016

Parish	Church	Donations from PCC	Ride+Stride	Total
Sherborne Abbey	St Mary	£400	£1,735	£2,135
Fontmell Magna	St Andrew		£2,121	£2,121
Christchurch	The Priory Church of The Holy Trinity		£2,021	£2,021
Hilton	All Saints		£1,803	£1,803
Winfrith Newburgh	St Christopher		£1,606	£1,606
Chideock	St Giles		£1,530	£1,530
Tarrant Gunville	St Mary	£50	£1,288	£1,338
Lytchett Minster		£538.75	£748	£1,287
Motcombe	St Mary		£1,282	£1,282
Piddlehinton	St Mary the Virgin	£50	£1,154	£1,204
Dewlish	All Saints		£1,156	£1,156
Yetminster	St Andrew		£1,132	£1,132
Whitchurch Canonorum	St Candida and Holy Cross	£10	£1,083	£1,093
Tolpuddle	St John the Evangelist		£1,079	£1,079
Bere Regis	St John the Baptist	£25	£1,000	£1,025
Sturminster Newton	St Mary		£1,000	£1,000
Steeple with Tyneham	St Michael and All Angels	£315	£666	£981
Chettle	St Mary		£950	£950
Iwerne Minster	St Mary		£885	£885
Silton	St Nicholas		£882	£882
Ashmore	St Nicholas		£874	£874
Godmanstone	Holy Trinity	£200	£650	£850
Oborne	St Cuthbert		£830	£830
Lydlinch	St Thomas a Beckett		£758	£758
Leigh	St Andrew		£717	£717
Over with Nether Compton	St Michael and St Nicholas		£701	£701
Bloxworth	St Andrews		£664	£664
Hazelbury Bryan with Stoke Wake	St Mary and St James	£20	£637	£657
Burton Bradstock with Chilcombe	St Mary		£642	£642
Spetisbury	St John the Baptist		£610	£610
Owermoigne	St Michael		£608	£608
Blandford RC	Our Lady of Lourdes and St Cecila		£592	£592
Charminster	St Mary the Virgin		£587	£587
Winterborne Houghton	St Andrew		£565	£565
Little Bredy	St Michael and All Angels		£545	£545
Sydling St Nicholas	St Nicholas	£120	£408	£528
Tarrant Hinton	St Mary		£522	£522
Bridport	St Mary	£100	£420	£520
Alton Pancras	St Pancras		£510	£510
Bradpole	Holy Trinity		£505	£505
Blandford Forum	St Peter and St Paul		£497	£497
Longburton	St James		£485	£485
Radipole	St Ann and St Aldhelm		£481	£481
Sutton Waldron	St Bartholomew		£472	£472
Canford Magna	Dedication unknown	£170	£302	£472

Parish	Church	Donations from PCC	Ride+Stride	Total
Sixpenny Handley	St Mary		£471	£471
Warmwell	Holy Trinity		£462	£462
Portesham	St Peter		£460	£460
West Lulworth	Holy Trinity		£459	£459
Buckland Newton	Holy Rood		£438	£438
Cranborne	St Mary and St Bartholomew	£430		£430
Wimborne Minster	St Cuthberga		£ 430	£430
Puddletown	St Mary the Virgin		£427	£427
Portland	St John the Baptist		£421	£421
Horton and Chalbury	All Saints		£420	£420
Dorchester	St Peter, Holy Trinity and All Saints		£418	£418
Dorchester RC	Holy Trinity		£416	£416
West Stafford	St Andrew	£100	£315	£415
Winterbourne Steepleton	St Michael		£405	£405
Long Bredy	St Peter		£395	£395
Shaftesbury	St James		£390	£390
Weymouth Holy Trinity	Holy Trinity		£385	£385
Stourton Caundle	St Peter		£380	£380
Crossways	Woodsford and St Aldhelms Church		£380	£380
Milborne St Andrew	St Andrew		£378	£378
Wool	Holy Rood		£377	£377
Evershot	St Osmund		£369	£369
Shaftesbury	St Peters		£367	£367
Powerstock	St Mary	£100	£260	£360
Chideock	Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs		£357	£357
Fifehead Magdalen	St Mary Magdalene		£350	£350
Kington Magna	All Saints		£350	£350
Corfe Castle	St Edward the Martyr	£50	£300	£350
Upwey	St Laurence		£340	£340
Puncknowle	St Mary the Blessed Virgin		£336	£336
Shapwick	St Bartholomew		£330	£330
West Knighton	St Peter		£328	£328
Uploders	Uploders Methodist Church		£325	£325
Hooke	St Giles		£320	£320
Litton Cheney	St Mary		£320	£320
Cerne Abbas	St Mary		£319	£319
West Parley	All Saints		£316	£316
Sturminster Marshall	St Mary		£315	£315
Cattistock	St Peter and St Paul	£50	£265	£315
Marnhull	Our Lady and St Benedict		£312	£312
Shipton Gorge	St Martin		£300	£300
Worth Matravers	St Nicholas		£300	£300
Church Knowle	St Peter	£200	£100	£300
Poole	Church of the Transfiguration		£297	£297
Chetnole	St Peter		£294	£294
Pimperne	St Peter		£293	£293
Colehill	St Michael and All Angels		£291	£291

Parish	Church	Donations from PCC	Ride+Stride	Total
Milton-on-Stour	St Simon and St Jude		£283	£283
Dorchester	St Mary the Virgin	£213	£70	£283
Chaldon Herring	St Nicholas		£282	£282
Buckhorn Weston	St John the Baptist		£280	£280
Weymouth	St Mary		£280	£280
Milton Abbey	Milton Abbey		£279	£279
Trent	St Andrew		£273	£273
Affpuddle with Turnerspuddle	St Laurence		£270	£270
Parkstone St Peter	St Peter		£270	£270
Winterborne Clenston	St Nicholas		£262	£262
Fifehead Neville	All Saints		£260	£260
Blandford	Blandford Methodist		£252	£252
Tollard Royal	St Peter Ad Vincula		£250	£250
Gussage All Saints	All Saints		£241	£241
Dorchester UC	United Church		£237	£237
Bradford Peverell	Church of the Assumption	£3	£224	£227
Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity	£25	£200	£225
Dorchester	Baptist Church		£222	£222
Osmington	St Osmund		£220	£220
Parkstone	St Luke		£220	£220
Charlton Marshall	St Mary the Virgin		£215	£215
Shillingstone (or Shilling Okeford)	Holy Rood		£210	£210
Margarets Marsh	St Margaret		£205	£205
Lilliput	The Holy Angels		£205	£205
Walditch (Bridport)	St Mary		£200	£200
Winterborne Zelston	St Mary		£200	£200
Purse Caundle	St Peter		£200	£200
West Stour	St Mary		£200	£200
Wareham	Methodist		£200	£200
Beaminster	St Mary of the Annunciation		£200	£200
Farnham	St Laurence	£200		£200
Swyre	Holy Trinity		£190	£190
Swanage Herston	St Mark		£190	£190
Stourpaine	Holy Trinity		£183	£183
Langton Matravers	St George		£180	£180
Preston with Sutton Poyntz	St Andrew		£180	£180
Bradford Abbas with Clifton Maybank	St Mary the Virgin		£180	£180
Hinton St Mary	St Peter		£177	£177
Batcombe	St Mary Magdalene	£100	£75	£175
Poole	Skinner Street		£174	£174
Marnhull	St Gregory		£170	£170
Lyme Regis	St Michael and All Angels		£170	£170
Winterborne Whitechurch	St Mary		£155	£155
Symondsburry	St John the Baptist		£152	£152
Milton Abbas	St James		£150	£150
Toller Porcorum	St Andrew and St Peter	£50	£100	£150
Gillingham	St Mary the Virgin		£149	£149

Parish	Church	Donations from PCC	Ride+Stride	Total
Winterborne Monkton	St Simon and St Jude		£145	£145
Abbotsbury	St Nicholas		£145	£145
Parkstone	St Clement		£140	£140
Dorchester	St George		£135	£135
Broadmayne	St Martin		£135	£135
East Lulworth	St Andrew		£134	£134
Winterborne Kingston	St Nicholas		£132	£132
Okeford Fitzpaine	St Andrew		£130	£130
North Poorton	Dedication unknown	£70	£50	£120
Loders	St Mary Magdalene		£115	£115
Southbourne	St Katharine		£110	£110
South Perrott and Chedington	St Mary		£110	£110
Tarrant Keynston with Tarrant Crawford	All Saints		£109	£109
Tincleton	St John the Evangelist		£100	£100
Tarrant Rushton with Tarrant Rawston	St Mary		£100	£100
East Stour	Christ Church		£100	£100
Lillington	St Martin		£100	£100
Oakdale	St George		£100	£100
Richmond Hill	St Andrews URC	£100		£100
Wootton Fitzpaine	St Paul	£100		£100
Hamworthy	St Michael		£82	£82
Durweston	St Nicholas		£75	£75
Pulham	St Thomas a Beckett		£75	£75
Blandford St Mary	St Mary		£70	£70
Frome St Quintin	St Mary	£40	£30	£70
Gussage St Michael	St Michael		£50	£50
Glanvilles Wootton	St Mary the Virgin	£50		£50
Halstock	St Mary	£50		£50
Chilfrome	Holy Trinity	£50		£50
Charmouth	St Andrew	£50		£50
Mosterton	St Mary		£45	£45
Salway Ash	Holy Trinity		£43	£43
Verwood	St Michael and All Angels		£40	£40
Stinsford	St Michael	£40		£40
Seaborough	St John	£40		£40
Tarrant Monkton	All Saints		£25	£25
Woolland	Dedication unknown	£25		£25
Nether Cerne	All Saints	£21.62		£22
Swanage	St Marys		£20	£20
East Chelborough	St James		£10	£10
Swanage	All Saints		£10	£10
Totals		£4,156	£68,129	£72,285
Just Giving anonymous			£460	
Received last year R+S			£1,504	
Gift Aid received in 2016			£702	
Gift Aid received in 2017			£9,897	
Total			£80,692	

Treasurer's Report

Ride+Stride

Despite awful weather in the morning, the total raised for 2016 Ride+Stride was £80,692 (2015 £83,978).

This figure includes £9,897 of Gift Aid, received after the end of the year and therefore not included in the receipts and payment account for 2016 – the receipts and payment account total being £70,795: (ie £80,692-£9,897).

This, once again, is an outstanding achievement. To have raised so much money from one event held on one day is testimony to many people's hard work, both in organising and competing in the event. Letters received together with the money show how much pleasure participation in the event gives to people and the immense satisfaction that many feel at completing the event and in raising money both for the Trust and for their local church. It is a lot of work to collate the results but is definitely worth it to be able to report such an encouraging total which will enable the Trust to continue to help the churches of Dorset. The Morshead Trophy has been awarded to Chideock for their excellent result by a relatively small parish. In all 170 churches took part making the average raised by each church £475. Donations are mainly in the region of £5-£10 so the results represents contributions from many sponsors.

Thanks are due to many – for all those who participated – for all the generous sponsors and to all those who have helped in the organisation without which such a splendid total would not be possible. The administration needed to run and record such an event is considerable and I would like to thank all the parish organisers for getting the paperwork to me mostly on time and mostly in a reasonable state!

Grants 2016

£100k of grants have been awarded during the year to 20 churches. £83k of grants were paid in the year and this combined with the 50% return to the churches from Ride+Stride means that £116k has been returned to parishes during 2016. Not all the parishes request 50% of their monies to be returned which is why in the accounts the figure exceeds 50% of the monies raised.

From this it can be seen that Ride+Stride continues to be by far the biggest source of income for the Trust. Income from Friends is continuing to rise and thanks are due to Trustee, Susan Smith, for her tireless work in encouraging this rise and for staging very interesting events throughout the year for Friends and others. Wandering Winds, a band of talented musicians, did a series of concerts in 2016 throughout the county and raised over £1,600 for the Trust. Sales of notecards with their wonderful photography have proved popular.

Expenditure in 2016

This has remained in line with 2015 at £133k. A new website was commissioned and implemented in 2016, explaining the increase in this category.

Conclusion

It has been another very good year for the Trust – thank you to all for making this possible and we look forward to another excellent year in 2017. If you enjoyed your Ride+Stride participation despite the weather's best attempts to deter, please encourage others to join the fun in 2017. The aim is to achieve £85k.

Liz Ashmead

Receipts in the year ended 31 December 2016:

	2016	2015
Ride+Stride	£70,795	£83,978
Sale of investments	-	£50,000
Income from investments	£16,101	£19,427
Friends, individuals and Trusts	£12,988	£10,044
Gift Aid previous year	-	£9,166
Parochial Church Councils	£4,156	£4,366
Talks, Crawls and concerts	£2,187	-
Calendar and notecard sales	£1,830	£1,425
Friends' event	£944	£844
District Council	£100	£100
Total	£109,101	£179,350

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2016

	2016	2015
Cash funds	£91,947	£115,860
Investment Assets		
Church of England Central Board of Finance		
– fixed interest securities fund	£31,197	£29,576
– investment fund	£383,145	£346,772
Charities Official Investment Fund	£106,357	£97,062
	£520,699	£473,410
Current Assets – Gift Aid 2016	£9,897	-
Total assets	£622,543	£589,270
Liabilities		
Grants awarded but not yet drawn down	(£130,805)	(£118,750)
Total assets less liabilities	£491,738	£470,520

The financial information on this and the following page is extracted from the Trust's Annual Accounts on which the Independent Examiner has expressed an unqualified opinion. Copies of the accounts may be obtained from the Hon. Treasurer.

Receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016

	2016	2015
Receipts		
Voluntary income		
Friends, individuals and trusts	£12,988	£10,044
Parochial Church Councils	£4,156	£4,366
District Council	£100	£100
	£17,244	£14,510
Activities for generating funds		
Ride+Stride	£70,795	£83,978
Gift Aid previous year	–	£9,166
Talks, crawls and concerts	£2,187	–
Friends' event	£944	£844
Sale of books and notecards	£1,830	£1,425
	£75,756	£95,413
Investment income		
Income from investments	£16,101	£19,427
	£16,101	£19,427
Asset and investment sales		
Sales of investments	–	£50,000
	–	£50,000
Total Receipts	£109,101	£179,350
Payments		
Ride & Stride		
50% return to churches	£33,491	£35,667
Honoraria	£1,400	£1,400
Printing	£2,553	£1,883
T-shirts	£311	£565
Administration	£1,117	£647
	£38,871	£40,162
Friends, calendars and books		
Brochures, publicity and Friends' annual event	£1,237	£1,428
Printing of notecards	£881	–
	£2,118	£1,428
Grants		
Grants paid in year net of any write backs	£82,500	£85,750
	£82,500	£85,750
Support costs		
Annual Report	£1,721	£1,611
Postage, stationery and travel	£367	£545
Marketing and website	£5,037	£1,246
Insurance	£829	£791
Bank charges	£496	£540
	£8,451	£4,733
Governance		
Independent examiner's fees	£1,074	£1,086
	£1,074	£1,086
Total payments	£133,014	£133,159
Net movement in cash funds	(£23,913)	£46,191
Cash funds last year end	£115,860	£69,669
Cash funds this year end	£91,947	£115,860

Salvete

We are pleased to welcome the following new Friends who joined during 2016:

J Allinson-James

Revd and Mrs Bassett

Mrs S Collins

Nina Crane

Mr F Hugh Eveleigh

Mrs P Francis

Mr D Gerrard

Mr & Mrs J Pearson

Mrs J Plante Cleall

Mr & Mrs M Rathbone

Mr and Mrs E Stevens

Mr & Mrs R Sutcliffe

Mr I Woosey

Valete

Mike Crossley

Mike became a Trustee and our Webmaster after a career in business IT. He set about designing a new website for the Trust, which would be both attractive to use and easy to operate and maintain.

Sadly he stood down last autumn due to ill health while the work was still in progress. The new website, which was launched recently, owes much to his vision and hard work.

We also record our gratitude to Ursula Pomeroy, Derek Cope and Louise Haywood who have served the Trust with distinction over a number of years as Deanery Representatives for Dorchester, Weymouth and Purbeck respectively.

Please remember Dorset Historic Churches Trust in your will

A gift in your will can help us to continue the vital work of protecting Dorset churches for the future.

If you decide to leave a legacy to help the Trust you should seek professional legal advice.

The Registered Charity number of the DHCT is 282790.

Directory 2017

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The Lord Digby
The Archdeacon of Sherborne
The Archdeacon of Dorset
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M W Warren
The Reverend Canon E J Woods DL

Hon. Secretary: R C M Fox
Porter Dobson LLP
The Close, Church Path
Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1HH
T: 01935 424581 E: robert.fox@porterdobson.co.uk

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs E M Ashmead
The Old Forge, Frome St Quintin,
Dorchester DT2 0HG
T: 07854 312707 E: lizashmead@btinternet.com

Hon. Webmaster: P Corran E: philjcorran@gmail.com

Grants Secretary: Mrs S Bruce-Payne
3 Beech Road, Weymouth DT3 5NP
T: 01305 816178
E: s.brucepayne@btopenworld.com

Hon. Secretary to the Friends of Dorset Churches:
Ms S Smith
Winterborne Cottage,
Minchington DT11 8DH
T: 01725 552225 E: susan.smith310@tesco.net

Ride+Stride Administration: Mrs Anna Butler
3 Talbothays Cottages, West Stafford,
Dorchester DT2 8AL
T: 01305 260004 E: anna-butler@hotmail.co.uk

Registered Office: 53 High Street West, Dorchester DT1 1UX

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc
1 – 2 High Street West, Dorchester DT1 1UG

Independent Examiners: PKF Francis Clark
Chartered Accountants
Towngate House, 2 – 8 Parkstone Road,
Poole BH15 2PW

Marketing Consultants: McKenna Townsend, Bridge House,
Pullman Way, Ringwood, Hants BH24 1EX

Deanery Area Representatives
(through whom all applications for grants and loans should be made)

Blackmore Vale: Mrs Sally-Anne Barrett, The Old Rectory
Stock Gaylard, Sturminster Newton DT10 2BG
T: 01963 23375 E: sabrectory@gmail.com
T J Wickson, 2 Mill Race, Gillingham SP8 4DW
T: 01747 833663 E: thomaswickson2@gmail.com

Christchurch: B Beesley, 24 Aston Mead, St Catherine's Hill,
Christchurch BH23 2SR
T: 01202 268332 E: margbar58@ntlworld.com

Dorchester: Mrs P Francis, Tolpuddle Manor, Tolpuddle
Nr Dorchester DT2 7EW
T: 01305 848295
E: francis@tolpuddlemanor.co.uk
Gp Capt D W Gerrard, Down House, Roman Hill
Broadmayne, Dorchester DT2 8LY
T: 01305 852320 E: ggerrard99@gmail.com

Lyme Bay: A G Boggis, Church Cottages, Hooke
Beaminstor DT8 3PA
T: 01308 861176 E: aboggis@googlemail.com

Milton and Blandford: B W De Morgan, Langham House
81 Salisbury Street, Blandford Forum DT11 7PY
T: 01258 456002 E: barrydemorgan@gmail.com
M J Rose, Nutford Barn, Nutford
Blandford DT11 0QJ
T: 01258 453325 E: mjrlldr@waitrose.com
J T Smith, 5 South Farm Close
Tarrant Hinton, Blandford DT11 8JY
T: 01258 830680 E: tim.smith@dhct.org.uk

Poole: Ian Andrews, 103 Orchard Avenue
Parkstone, Poole BH14 8AH
T: 01202 740781 E: ikda@ikda.demon.co.uk
Stuart Turvey, 12 Dolphin Court, 15 The Avenue,
Branksome Park, Poole BH13 6HB
T: 01202 540755 E: stuart.turvey@gmail.com

Purbeck: G P Sturdy MBE DL, Trigon House, Trigon
Wareham BH20 7DP
T: 01929 552097 E: gpsturdy@freeuk.com

Sherborne: Robert Sharpe, 30 Gainsborough Drive
Sherborne DT9 6DR
T: 01935 813842 E: robgillsharpe@hotmail.com

Weymouth: G W Pritchard, 10 Whitecross Drive
Weymouth DT4 9PA
T: 01305 777238
E: geoffrey.pritchard@btopenworld.com

Wimborne: A P Cosgrove, Anvil House, High St, Shapwick
Blandford Forum DT11 9JT
T: 01258 858876 E: alancosgrove@btopenworld.com