

Dorset Historic Churches Trust

Conserving the past – enriching the future

2020 | Issue 15

ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW



Wall painting at Cranborne

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Palimpsest!

By the time this Annual Report is published, I will have retired as Vicar of Sherborne - or, to be more precise, since 2016 as Rector of the Sherborne Team Ministry.

After 27 years at the helm of Sherborne Abbey, it will be a huge wrench. But, just as it won't be the end of my personal story, so it will be very far from the end of the Abbey's story stretching back over thirteen centuries. Let me explain.

Towards the end of 2019 I had a letter published in *The Times*. I must admit that, when I write to the Editor, I usually have in mind that bottom right-hand page slot, the short and amusing letter. This time it was more serious.

It was in response to an erstwhile priest of the Church of England who now regularly snipes at the old lady from the sidelines. He was particularly complaining that the removal of pews from cathedrals and churches was a sign of desperation, a loss of faith, a reliance upon 'gimmicks'. I replied that no cathedral or church "can be preserved in aspic. Each is a palimpsest, subject to erasure and rewriting in every generation. This is what preserves the building from fossilisation. Sometimes it is right and appropriate to remove pews, sometimes not. As it happens, I am a fierce critic of those cathedrals that seem to want to sell their soul to become money-making theme parks. Recent ventures in helter-skelters, crazy golf and the rest drive me to despair."

My friends tell me that they had to resort to their dictionaries for 'palimpsest'. It is simply explained. In the days of parchment and vellum, such materials were too valuable to be discarded once they had served their purpose. Instead their surfaces would be scraped clean so that they could be reused. In the same way, all our historic churches have, over the centuries, been the subject

of both erasure and rewriting. Sometimes this has been done sensitively and well. Sometimes not. Sherborne Abbey was fortunate in its Victorian restorers. Other churches were treated more brutally.

So today we are the inheritors of these amazing historic places of worship, which of course we need to keep in good order. That can be a tall order in small communities with ancient, beautiful but expensive church buildings. But equally we must not be frightened of making these buildings fit for purpose for worship and community life in the early 21st century. I have been impressed by the willingness of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust to work alongside church communities, not just in preserving ancient fabric, but also in working on projects which include adapting buildings to include toilet or kitchen facilities.

Tradition runs like a stream through the historic churches of Dorset. The important thing is that it should not be dead and stultifying, but a living tradition. When I retire from Sherborne, I will have been but a small link in a long chain, and I hope to hand on a church full of life to those who come after me.

Our churches are not museums. They are – or should be – the homes of vibrant Christian communities. We should not be afraid of erasure and rewriting when it is necessary, but we also need to know how to conserve the best of the past. On this basis we go forward with great confidence – supported, so often, by the Dorset Historic Churches Trust.

And for that, thanks be to God.

The Revd Canon Eric Woods
DL

Rector of the Sherborne Team Benefice

Chairman's Report for 2019

I became Chairman of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust in March 2019 and, as a 'new boy', found myself learning and absorbing a great deal of knowledge about the Trust, its achievements, its hopes and aspirations. I quickly discovered that it is held in high regard by all those with whom it comes into contact, a situation founded on the hard work and commitment of its volunteer Trustee team. Trustees have a legal obligation to the Trust as a charitable business, so working with such a dedicated team is even more humbling.

As we know, the Trust exists to preserve, protect and sustain our historic churches in Dorset. Its focus is the church as an historic building, not the Christian worship which takes place within it: the Trust is not a religious organisation. Having said that, I recognise only too clearly the religious and community antecedents on which our churches were founded. For many centuries the churches were the focus of all community life in towns and villages across Dorset. Churches were centres of worship, celebration and refuge, and created that sense of community so important to a secure, sustainable and contented life. They brought a sense of well-being to both young and old.

That focus has however shifted in parallel with fractures in communities and the lives they sustained. Young people increasingly are moving away to the larger towns, principally for work but occasionally due to a local lack of facilities and social interaction. The elderly can feel isolated as social media across the internet and mobile networks replaces physical contact. Where only limited communication networks are available in remote areas, then that sense of isolation and loneliness increases.

I believe strongly that through the work of the Trust we can help restore some of that community focus. Loneliness is an unintended consequence of the technology on which the functioning of society today depends. By restoring community focus we hopefully can relieve some of that loneliness and

isolation, bringing people together in a place of which they can be proud. Our grants help turn our historic churches into places which are dry, warm and welcoming, whether that place serves the spiritual needs of the community or its social needs through diversity of use. A secondary effect is that our beautiful churches will attract increasing numbers of visitors, aiding the local economy and assisting our local business enterprises.



In this endeavour I must thank our wide network of Friends, our Area Representatives in each Deanery and the Parochial Church Councils which work with them. Through them we hopefully are increasing the awareness of the work we do across the wider Dorset Community and raising the profile of the improvements we can make to our church buildings.

Although this Report captures the work of the Trust in 2019, I must mention the terrible Covid-19 pandemic and the impact it is having on our lives, our families and our communities. Following Government guidelines and to keep everyone safe, we have cancelled most of our events for 2020. This year is our 60th year of providing support to our historic churches but unfortunately we are unable to meet and celebrate this occasion together. Celebrations have to be in spirit, not in body. I am confident that once we have this virus under control we will bounce back and continue to celebrate all that we do.

I commend this Annual Report to you, not only as a source of information on the work our committed and enthusiastic team does for you, but also as a reference to inform and communicate the value of the Trust to the County of Dorset.

John Stokoe CB CBE

Leave a bequest in your will

A gift in your will, should you wish to bequeath one, can help us to continue the vital work of protecting Dorset churches for the future. A bequest is an efficient way for many people to donate to the Trust more substantially than their current circumstance permit. A bequest is not liable to Inheritance Tax. You may wish to consider three common forms of legacy:

- **A legacy of money.** This is a gift of a specific amount. Inflation may erode its value but this can be avoided by making provision for the amount to be increased automatically over time, in line with the prices index.
- **A legacy of property.** It is possible to leave gifts in the form of land, shares, pictures and other valuables. The Trust would sell the asset at an appropriate time and apply the proceeds to its work.
- **A Residual legacy.** This is part or all of your Estate after all other legacies and obligations have been fulfilled.

If you decide to leave a legacy to the Trust you should seek professional legal advice. In the meantime, the Chairman or the Honorary Secretary would be pleased to take questions and to offer guidance on these matters. Their contact details are on the Trust's website and on the back page of this Report. The Trust's Registered Charity Numbers is 282790.

Thank you

Honorary Secretary's Report

Anyone looking at the Trust from the outside, will see business very much as usual, with Ride+Stride providing another bumper total for grants and the funds being promised to the most deserving churches.

However, behind the scenes, a number of the Trustees have been busy revising our policies and ensuring that the Trust's processes are fully transparent and compliant with the Charity Commission's regulations and guidelines.

We also recognised that the continuing work of the Trust was too dependent on a small number of key people – most of whom are volunteers. Accordingly, we have been strengthening our sub-committees and ensuring that the intricacies of running an organisation such as DHCT are well-understood by more than just those who have the primary responsibilities.

Developments of this sort require an amount of extra work. In early 2019 Rob Fox, who had been our Hon Secretary for several years, indicated that his workload as the managing partner in Porter Dodson would not permit him to take on this change management too. I took over as Hon Secretary and would like to record my thanks for Rob's time in post and for agreeing to stay on as our legal adviser and sounding board.

By the time this report is published much of the change will have bedded in. The Governance Document is a compendium of our organisation and all its processes; it is available to all Trustees and Deanery Area Reps and we hope it will be especially useful to our two new DARs, Nick Williams in Wimborne and John Robinson in Christchurch and our latest joined Trustee, David Grant.

The newly refreshed website has also settled down and is much easier to keep up to date than formerly. We encourage everyone to visit the site for news and details of future events.

Jeremy Selfe

Marketing & Communications Committee Report

Having taken on this group from Jeremy Selfe, I am particularly pleased to say that we have been able to recruit a volunteer marketing professional to the committee.

Kate Cox runs the marketing at Sherborne School for Girls and not only knows how to write a press release, but also has useful contacts in the local press and radio. Both are very valuable to us and we are most grateful to Kate for giving us so much of her time.

This is important as one of the priorities for the Trust under John Stokoe's chairmanship is to get the vital work we do, as a major conservation charity in Dorset, better understood and appreciated by the general public. Blowing our own trumpet is not seen as being very British, but we need to emphasise through the media who we are and what we do.

Much of the coverage we gained this year centred on Ride+Stride. The event was a great success, but we do not take this achievement for granted. Attracting more riders and striders, and of course sponsors of their impressive efforts, will remain a continuing task if we are to maintain our record of grants to support vital church restoration projects all over Dorset.

Good public relations in these days obviously require, in addition to many other things, a good website. One of the jobs that Jeremy Selfe has taken on, since formally standing down as convenor of this group, has been to undertake a complete refreshment of the dhct.org.uk site. Visitors will not notice a great difference in the look of the site, but behind the scenes it is on a totally new platform and very much easier to operate – especially in terms of uploading new items and removing ones that are out of date. Andy Derrick of *clevertechsolutions* has been an essential guide throughout this project.

All the information on the site about the churches of the county is being updated by Tim Smith and a small team. This is a huge job, given the amount of information and the number of images involved, but again remaining up to date and accurate is very much part of our mission.

Keeping in touch with our supporters and Friends has been a big task as ever this year and the many efforts of Sue Smith as administrator, organiser, publisher and welcoming host at our winter and summer events through the year, have been essential to establishing and maintaining good communications between all parties.

While it has been rewarding to take a hand in this aspect of the Trust's work this year, it has also been a great pleasure to explore, talk and write about Dorset's beautiful and varied church buildings.

Tom Wickson



Dorset Historic Churches Trust

Conserving the past – enriching the future

To survive, a church building must be both valued by and useful to its community. There is no 'one size fits all' solution; every church and community will be different and local considerations will be paramount. However, new and different uses for buildings may need to be considered and new income streams developed to sit alongside the longstanding function of the building as a place for Christian worship.

Source: The Taylor Review: Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals (2017)

Grants Committee Report 2019

This year we received 16 applications for grants from churches of different sizes – at one extreme were tiny buildings like the Methodist chapel in Uploders (1827), and at the other, Wimborne Minster and Milton Abbey.

In every way, size matters. For the essential tasks of making the structure weatherproof, bills are bound to be far larger for the latter than for the former. As an essentially rural county, Dorset does not have many of the vast nineteenth century churches erected in the suburbs of major towns that, now shorn of their big congregations, present such problems for the remaining cluster of worshippers.

An interesting case is that of All Saints, Easton, Portland, which we visited in September 2016. This church was opened in 1917 but, like the huge Methodist chapel nearby, it shows nineteenth-century confidence in the continuance of a large congregation. The fine late gothic interior is impressive but, situated on that windy peninsular, the windows were weather-beaten almost to the point of collapse. We were happy to make one of our largest single grants to this well-loved church.

Another windswept church is St Peter's, Shaftesbury, one of the few churches to have been rescued from redundancy but which was once the principal town church outside the great monastery. The exterior stone work in the soft greensand has suffered from exposure and needed our help towards repair.



Remedial weatherproofing work underway at Burton Bradstock



Work in progress at the Methodist chapel, Uploders

Weatherproofing remains our principal responsibility. At Burton Bradstock, just behind the coast, the south transept window was causing real problems of spreading dampness and draughts. As is so often the case, once work commenced weaknesses in previous repairs such as gaps in the walling that had not been filled in were uncovered, and a good deal of repointing proved necessary. Again, our grant helps that lovely church to remain the heart of its community that its position suggests.

Weather has been the enemy at the church of the Assumption, Holnest, too. Stonework was eroded and repointing the masonry was an essential preventative to further penetration of damp, not to say water.

A year or two without having requests for help in the aftermath of the theft of lead from church roofs might have encouraged us to think that that plague had subsided, but in March Toller Porcorum suffered an extensive robbery, and of course further damage to the fabric from rainwater ingress. The scale of this crime is out of all proportion to the resources of a small parish, and it is to be hoped that the various other funding bodies will also respond generously.

So, for once, our funds were almost entirely directed towards their historic purpose, the maintenance of the fabric of our churches, while requests for help towards the modernisation of these buildings for the purposes of the present century, by the provision of facilities in the form of toilets and or a simple kitchen, have been less plentiful.

Tim Connor

Grants awarded in 2019 £106,500

Burton Bradstock – St Mary the Virgin

Repairs to the south transept window to prevent chronic leaking £10,000

Chickerell – St Mary the Virgin

Re-slating the nave roof £5,000

Corscombe – St Mary

Restoring plaster work following water ingress £5,000

Cranborne – St Mary and St Bartholomew

Help towards completing facilities £1,000

Durweston – St Nicholas

Repair to the roof £3,000

Holnest – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

For essential repairs to the church fabric and make the building watertight £10,000

Kingston – St James

Repair of the windows £3,000

Lytchett Matravers – St Mary the Virgin

Provide safer access to the tower by installing a welded aluminium ladder £1,000

Milton Abbey

Repair of the internal roofing £3,500

Pilsdon – St Mary

Repair to the mould problem on walls and ceiling £4,000

Portland – All Saints

Repair all window surrounds damaged by weathering £18,000

Shaftesbury – St Peter

Stone repairs £5,000

Toller Pocorum – St Andrew and St Peter

Help towards replacing stolen lead £12,000

Uploders Methodist Church

Remedial work to safeguard disabled access £2,000

Wimborne Minster – St Cuthberga

Towards renewal of lighting £12,000

Yetminster – St Andrew

Repairs to the tower £12,000



Revd. Belinda Marflitt at St Nicholas, Durweston, receives a cheque for £3,000 for repairs to the church roof

Friends Secretary's Report

We welcomed many new 'Friends' to the Trust in 2019 and the Church Crawls and social events were always well supported and enjoyed. Do introduce your own friends to the delights of DHCT and encourage them to support us by joining as 'Friends'.

To save administration costs, we prefer to contact members by email – providing information about Church Crawls and other social events. It would be hugely helpful if Friends could keep me up-to-date with full contact details, including email addresses. In line with the General Data Protection Act, this information is only used for providing members with information about the Trust's activities – data is never passed on to third parties.

I am always open for ideas or suggestions for events or visits so please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sue Smith

susanmorgansmith@gmail.com

Salvete

We are pleased to welcome the following new Friends who joined during 2019:

Mr & Mrs David & Carolyn Adams

Mr & Mrs Nigel & Caroline Barnes

Mrs Jean Childs

Miss Angela Dudley

His Honour David & Clare Grant

Canon Green & Rev Raj-Sing

Mr Nicholas Head

Miss Sheila Houlston

Mr David Johnston

Mrs Susan Joyner

Mr & Mrs Anthony & Rita Kennett

Mrs Gabrielli Martelli

Mrs Jan Miller

Mrs Emma Newton

Dr G H Pettiford

Mr Michael Sadler

Mrs Pauline Stewart

Mrs Susan Taylor

Mr & Mrs Tim and Maureen Villiers

Mrs Jenny Wright

From the earliest eras of Western painting, artists have depicted plants and flowers in images that range from devotional depictions of saints and scenes from the Bible to secular history and mythology.

While pre-historic and Classical folk cultures and traditions assigned symbolic meanings to plants, which seem to have been used as metaphors for virtue and vice, these are generally no longer commonly understood.

The botanical symbolism we think of today has its origins in early modern literature and became more formal in the 15th and 16th centuries when artists became increasingly interested in the realistic depiction of objects from the natural world. Plants and flowers came to have symbolic meanings or associations that relate to the subject of the art work. Religious writings also provide a wealth of plant symbolism. An early example is from the work of The Venerable Bede, a Benedictine monk (c672-735) who likened the Virgin Mary to a white lily, the petals symbolizing her pure body and the golden anthers the radiance of her soul.

Thinking about examples of flower imagery we have seen recently, I was particularly struck by the simple beauty of a sunflower shining out of a stained glass window depicting the Adoration of the Magi in the church of St Andrew at Monkton Wyld (*below*), which we visited on a church crawl in the summer. The delicately painted window is dated 1875 and was made by Gower Street stained glass maker G. E. Cook, who is also renowned for his ceramic tiles.

The sunflower entered European gardens as an import from the New World in the early 16th century. By the second half of 19th century it was a favourite subject both with gardeners and with artists in the Impressionist circle. Around 1875 the sunflower became a universal icon for the Aesthetic Movement. Sunflowers also had a special significance for Van Gogh. He painted seven versions of them. Yellow, for him, was an emblem of happiness – in Dutch literature, the sunflower was a symbol of devotion and loyalty. In their various stages of decay, these flowers also remind us of the cycle of life and death. Other Impressionists such as Monet, Manet and Caillebotte and the pre-Raphaelites enjoyed the bright happy influence of the sunflower in their works of art.

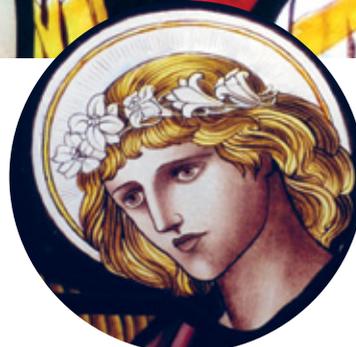


There are also many images of *Lilium Candidum* (the Madonna lily) in the stained glass windows of our village churches. Saint Bernard (1090-1153) described the Virgin Mary as 'the violet of humility, the lily of chastity, the rose of chastity'. A vase of lilies nearly always decorates the Virgin's chamber in Annunciation scenes, and sometimes a spray of lilies is carried in by the angel Gabriel.



The sunflower's name *Helianthus* comes from two Greek words 'helios' meaning sun and 'anthos' flower and it was named thus because of its tendency to turn itself to face the sun as it moves across the sky. In Greek myths Clytie, who adored Apollo, was turned into a flower when he rejected her love but she continued to watch him move across the sky in his chariot, like sunflowers in sunny climates today. Hence sunflowers symbolize adoration, loyalty, devotion and longevity.

I particularly like the way W G Taylor (1822-1897), who designed a window for Blandford St Mary church in 1888, has introduced the lilies as a chaplet of flowers worn by a rather chiselled angel Gabriel (*right*).

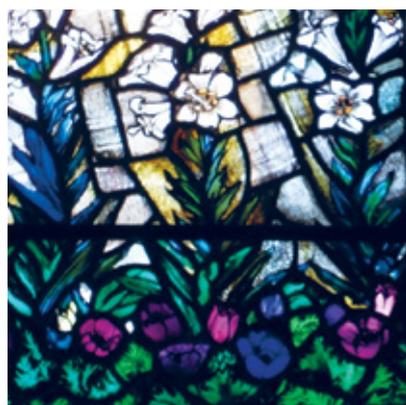


Lilies are illustrated on walls in Pompeii and the flowers were at that time sacred to several goddesses including Juno. Tradition tells us that Venus, the Roman goddess of beauty, was so jealous of the lily's white purity that she caused the pistil to grow from the flower's centre.



In a window at St Mary's church, Almer, a lily motif has been introduced to decorate the hem of a garment worn by 'Hope' in the 1920 memorial to Erle Baroness Dunsany made by James Powell & Sons (*above*).

A lily crucifix – placing the crucified Christ on a lily plant – was a particularly English image. The symbolism may have originated from the medieval belief that the Annunciation of Christ and his crucifixion occurred on the same day of the year, March 25. The 'Lily Crucifix' in the Clopton Chantry Chapel at Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford, Suffolk, is thought to date from around 1350; closer to home there is a late 15th century one in St Mary the Virgin, Westwood, Wiltshire. A rare modern lily crucifix by Hugh Easton (c1950) can be seen in Romsey Abbey, south nave aisle.

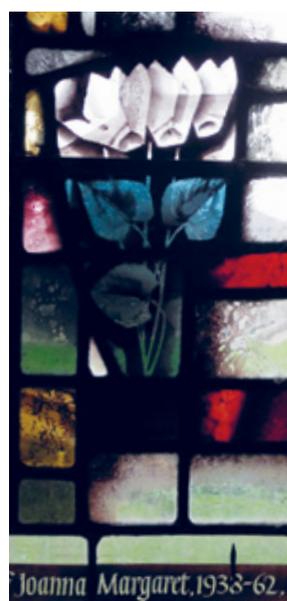


In the church of St Mary, Iwerne Minster, the east window, an Annunciation scene, by Christopher Whall, 1920, shows lilies growing tall and elegantly in a flower bed. They are planted together with jewel-coloured anemones.

Anemones in Christian symbolism are associated with the crucifixion. The flower's red colour is said to come from Christ's blood dripping down from the cross (*above left*).

In early times, lilies grew wild in Eastern Europe and were often found where there had been Roman encampments. Originally the bulbs were cultivated for food and juice. The roots were apparently used by Roman surgeons for the treatment of boils, burns, colic and pleurisy and the leaves to treat wounds.

In the church at Alton Pancras there is a modern window designed by Leonard Evetts (1964) which depicts cyclamen plants. Cyclamen derives its name from the Greek *kyklos* which means circle, because of the peculiar twisting growth of its stalk (*right*).



The Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder, who died in AD 79, described how cyclamen tubers and roots were used to poison fish. Although poisonous to humans, they can be used in an ointment to help heal snake bites! Thanks to its tuber, which allows it to withstand difficult growing conditions, the cyclamen is the flower of deep love. Perhaps because of their poisonous state their symbolic meaning is resignation/ departure so a perfect choice for a memorial window.

An image of a thistle plant in a church window may remind us of the story of Adam and Eve and their expulsion from the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3:18; when Adam is cast out to cultivate the ground he is warned: "Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field."



Because of a thistle plant's many vicious prickles, symbolically it is connected with pain, sin and the Passion of Christ. A window in the church of St Mary at Tarrant Gunville (*above right*) has a strong purple thistle with a foxglove behind. There are over 200 types of thistle but the plant in this window is known as the Scottish Thistle. It became the emblem of Scotland in the 1200s.

Growing behind the thistle is a foxglove (*digitalis*). Foxgloves as a name makes little sense, as foxes do not wear gloves and there seems to be no particular reason for its name. An alternative vernacular name for foxglove was 'dead man's bells'. The monks who cared for the sick in the Middle Ages would hopefully have recognised the plant's potential danger as it is considered to be very poisonous. It was not until 18th century that its importance as a treatment for heart disease was discovered.

As we have become an increasingly urban people and severed our intimate links with the natural world, we have lost an instinctive appreciation of the beauty and meaning of flowers. A closer study of the artworks kept in our historic churches can help to reconnect us with the thought and feeling of earlier generations.

Susan Smith



Church Crawl September 2019

Our final Church Crawl of the season took place on 19th September and unusually had a Henry Haig theme. We had earlier marvelled at his large circular Creation Window at St Mary's, Swanage and so were looking forward to seeing more of his stained glass.

We set off towards Shaftesbury and our first visit was to St John the Baptist, Charlton, which was built in 1839 in the Romanesque style just before the Gothic revival. This church did not have any Henry Haig windows but had two by Alan Younger, a mid 20th century artist, and one by Geoffrey Webb who set up in 1914 in East Grinstead. The former has windows in several cathedrals including the Henry VII window in Westminster Abbey. The windows here depict Elizabeth of Hungary and the Madonna and Child. Geoffrey Webb's window combines plain and stained glass.

Our next port of call was St Mary's, Donhead St Mary, which needless to say was hidden away and difficult to find. This 13th century stone church with pointed Romanesque style arches and a vaulted porch does have a Henry Haig window. He was based in Dorset from the 1960s onwards and his window here represents Jerusalem. He used painted, stained and acid-etched antique glass enclosed in lead calmes. This was a traditional technique of window making chosen to complement traditional architecture. Also at this church were six windows by Clayton and Bell and another one by Geoffrey Webb so we had plenty of stained glass to take in and admire.

After a nice lunch at The Bennett Arms, Semley where we were able to sit outside on the green in the sunshine, we called at nearby St Leonard's Church which was built in 1870 by Thomas Henry Wyatt, Diocesan Surveyor and given to the village by the Marchioness of Westminster. Here we took in a really exquisite Henry Haig window which is a memorial to WPC Yvonne Fletcher, killed while on duty outside the Libyan Embassy in 1984, who lived in Semley. This window is notable for its flowing blues and greens depicting the natural world.

Our final visit was to the Roman Catholic church of The Most Holy Name and St Edward, King and Martyr, Shaftesbury, which was built in 1910 in the Gothic style and is notable for its three altars, one with a canopy over, a reredos with sculptures of five kings, including Edward, stone wall carvings of the stations of the cross and of course another Henry Haig window dating from 1997, depicting buildings and sky and heaven which made a striking design.

At the time of going to press, the national situation as regards the spread of the coronavirus has been deteriorating and everyone has been advised to avoid unnecessary social interaction.

We are very sorry to have had to cancel this year's Morshead Trophy presentation and the proposed 60th Anniversary event at Sherborne Abbey. We remain vigilant and will have to make a decision about the summer Church Crawls nearer the time but the May Crawl has had to be cancelled as well.

We hope to reschedule these events later in the year. Everyone much regrets this, but it is clearly the prudent decision to make.



Medieval stained glass detail in Bradford Peverell

Church Crawls 2020

Due to COVID-19, our Crawls have been postponed.

The following events were planned for the coming year.

Thursday 28th May – Meet at Bradford Peverell

Thursday 25th June – Sandford Orcas

Tuesday 14th July – Tincton

Thursday 24th September – Edmonsham

Information about all events will be placed on the Trust's website www.dhct.org.uk during the year or contact Sue Smith on 01725 552225 or susanmorgansmith@gmail.com

Numbers for Church Crawls are limited, so book in good time if you wish to join in and please do not just turn up.



Church Crawl June 2019

One way to look at the churches visited on this fascinating day, which started at Tollard Royal, is to consider how generations of church builders, wardens and priests have responded to the need to accommodate members of largely rural parishes.

At both Tollard itself and at St Laurence, Farnham, Dr Tim Connor, our resident architectural historian, was able to chart the sequence of extensions to the buildings at various points between the thirteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The question of offering more, and more free, seating to the larger rural populations of the whole period, especially to counter the rise of Methodism, clearly occupied minds at the time. At Farnham, nineteenth century fashions also saw the removal of a wooden gallery and the extension of the chancel in line with the thinking of the Oxford Movement.

Meanwhile at Sixpenny Handley, where we were warmly welcomed by the Canon Richard Hancock, almost the whole fourteenth century structure was swept away and replaced in about 1884 by the energetic George Crickmay. He evidently copied the original feel of the old church but created the much larger and more impressive structure we see today.

In contrast to these churches, we also visited two smaller and unextended buildings – Gussage St Andrew, where the beautiful and ghostly wall paintings were described by the hugely experienced conservator Ann Ballantyne, and St Rumbold, Pentridge, which remains as initially built by William Slater in 1855 following the early gothic style then becoming popular.

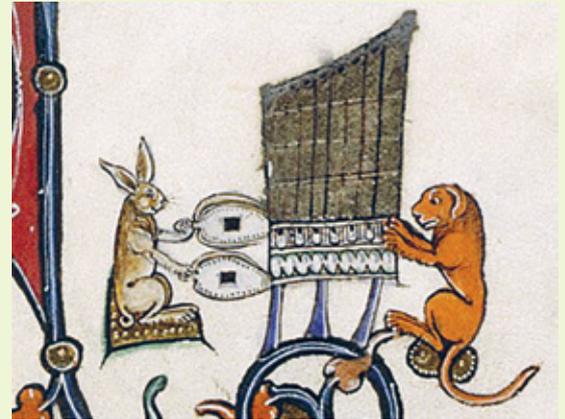
Among decorative features of the churches, Sue Smith was able to point out really beautiful glass by E W Horwood of London and Bertini of Milan at Tollard Royal, and work by James Powell and Sons of Whitefriars at Sixpenny Handley. The glass in Pentridge is by Clayton and Bell, depicting many figures in an impressive crucifixion scene. Other imposing works included the memorials to Sir William Payne and Augustus L-F Pitt Rivers at Tollard Royal, the Portland stone chest tombs at Pentridge and, especially, the newly re-discovered and re-installed reredos by Martin Travers at Sixpenny Handley.

Chairman John Stokoe had welcomed all to this wonderful day out and thanked Sue Smith who organised everything, especially a bring-and-share lunch at her home. Mercifully, in a week of heavy rain, we kept dry all day and even counted a few rays of sunshine.

The church organ

The earliest known organs were very crude, portable instruments with notes so large that they were played by hitting the keys with the fist.

It is unlikely that the result would be either glorious or fast. The noise was fearful, but they were designed to cover the screams of those being fed to the lions in Roman times!



Details from the Gorleston Psalter 1310-1324

Moving on to the 19th century, we find that the development of the church organ had produced a completely different machine. The gallery instrumentalists of Hardy's era were slowly replaced by either a harmonium or a mechanical organ that would be pumped (by a separate, fit person) to allow air into each pipe when the note was depressed by the player.

By the mid 20th century, invention had produced some wonderful organs mainly in the large cathedrals here and abroad. The blower was replaced by electricity. There would be several keyboards (manuals) layered one on top of the other using separate sounds (stops).

These fantastic instruments can now have their individual stops digitally copied to be put onto a disc that can be inserted into a small organ, so instead of pulling out stops, the player pushes a light on a panel and a rich sound is heard.

The upkeep of a church organ can be one of the largest expenses on the church accounts. Organs can be prone to stuck notes (cyphers) which cause huge embarrassment to players. They also require tuning twice a year. Furthermore, the blowers, which are usually difficult to reach, need to be serviced regularly.

Each organ tuner must be welcomed and looked after, as there are fewer of them and even less to replace those that want to retire. Several tuners in Dorset work well into their eighties climbing in and out of the mechanical parts and tuning each pipe.

Sue Bruce-Payne



When is a buttress not a buttress?

Some years ago, when conservation work reached the north side of the Quire Aisle at Christchurch Priory, it was noticed that one of the flying buttresses was hanging from the wall it was supposed to be supporting.

There was also an outward bulge in the wall from which the flying buttress was springing. It seemed possible that the buttresses at the base were not providing the support they were designed to do!

The area around one of the buttresses was opened up and the problem soon revealed. It was without any foundations below ground level and apart from its own weight, not giving any support to the wall it was intended to keep in place.

A solution had to be found to prevent further bulging of the wall and to consolidate the flying buttresses above.

It was agreed to go for the least intrusive method, to respect the surrounding archaeology. This was to drive in reinforced concrete piles approximately 20cm in diameter placed on each side of the buttress that would go down to something over two metres in depth so that they reached the river gravel layer that underlies the Priory site.

Reinforced concrete beams could then be cast beneath the buttresses, located on the piles to support them. The piling was completed for two buttresses in two days after which the supporting beams were cast.

No more movement of wall or flying buttress has been detected since and it is to be hoped that the underpinning will hold long into the future. I just wonder how many other buttresses there are without foundations.

Barry Beesley



The detached flying buttress



The void beneath buttress



Ready for casting the reinforced supporting beam





Join the Friends of Dorset Historic Churches Trust

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

Individual membership costs £20 or £30 for a couple per annum

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

Ms Susan Smith
Winterborne Cottage
Minchington
Dorset DT11 8DH

susanmorgansmith@gmail.com

Details are also available on our website

www.dhct.org.uk



Friends Annual Event 2019

For this year's Friends event we spent a most interesting and enjoyable day visiting Cranborne Manor Garden Centre, where we started with a lovely lunch in the Garden Room and then walked to the nearby Church of St Mary and St Bartholomew.

By then it was raining but we did not allow that to dampen our spirits. In the church Dr Tim Connor enlightened us on its history and architecture. Built of Purbeck stone and dating from the 14th century, it was restored in Victorian times. The historic tower built in 1440 was paid for by Richard, Duke of York and bears his coat of arms. The Cecil family of Cranborne Manor paid for the restoration of the nave and the chancel was rebuilt in 1869.

There was plenty to see in the church and the modern lighting was very effective in showing off the wall paintings depicting the seven deadly sins and the painting of Christ and the twelve apostles above the chancel arch. Also on the walls were ornate memorials to local families including the Stillingfleets. Edward Stillingfleet, who was born in 1635, became Bishop of Worcester and is commemorated in the great west window. Other windows of note are the east window above the altar by the artist Alan Younger and a window in the south aisle in memory of John Tregonwell, who retired to a farm on the coast where a small stream runs into the sea. From that small beginning grew the modern town of Bournemouth.

As is usual at these Friends events there is a musical interlude and this year Janet Coles and Laura Manning played a variety of pieces for cello and piano by, among others, Vivaldi and Saint-Saëns, which were much enjoyed by all.

Sue Smith then gave us an interesting talk on the stained glass, after which we returned to the Garden Room for tea and a talk with slides by Tony Bates entitled The Living Churchyard Project, in which he showed us how churchyards can become havens for wildlife and pollinating insects with careful planting and grass cutting.

We ended the day having a look round the garden centre shop which was full of lovely things to tempt us to buy. Once again huge thanks to those who organised the day, especially Mike Warren and Sue Smith, who always welcome us so warmly, and Tim Connor, who never fails to entertain and amuse us.



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

susanmorgansmith@gmail.com

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

Photography by Barry De Morgan. Printed by Purely Print

Ride+Stride 2019

Ride+Stride is a national sponsored event in which people walk, cycle or horse ride between churches whilst exploring our wonderful Dorset countryside and its 300 plus beautiful churches. Dorset Historic Churches Trust has organised its sponsored Ride+Stride every year since 1991.

2019 was the seventh year in a row that more than £80,000 has been raised – the total was £84,632, which is a great result. Ride+Stride is the principal source of income from which the Trust aims to distribute more than £125,000 in grants each year. These grants help to conserve Dorset's churches, chapels and meeting houses of all Christian denominations, which are such an important part of our national heritage.

In the context of declining congregation numbers, the fate of these beautiful and historic buildings is the responsibility of all of us. Churches are often the most attractive buildings in our communities and contribute massively to the aesthetics of our towns and villages. They are an important sign of continuity and place.

Therefore a huge thank you is due to those of you who yet again participated in Ride+Stride – there are many who do this tirelessly year after year, and also to those who participated for the first time. Your generous sponsors are also owed a debt of gratitude. On page 5 of this Annual Report you can see a list of all the churches which were awarded grants this year.

In times where funding for church repair and conservation is severely constrained, you should know how much your efforts are appreciated and how important they are. Hopefully participation in Ride+Stride also provides an enjoyable day out especially when the weather was as good as it was in 2019!



Lulworth and Winfrith Primary School complete Ride+Stride for the 5th year running



Members of the Sturminster Marshall R+S team

A full list of Ride+Stride 2019 results for Dorset can be seen on pages 14-17 of this Report.

The Morshead Trophy – St Mary's, Sturminster Marshall

The Morshead Trophy (named after Sir Owen Morshead, the Trust's founder) is awarded each year to the parish, which in the opinion of the trustees, achieved the most impressive Ride+Stride results.

This is not necessarily the parish raising the most money. This year the Trophy has been awarded to St Mary's, Sturminster Marshall which raised £1841. This was a true community effort with 16 Riders and Striders. St Mary's has not previously won the Trophy. They are part of the exclusive club raising over £1000.

Some notable R+S achievements from around the county

- Reuben Moss of **St Peter's, West Knighton** visited 56 churches
- Justin Chapman of **Sherborne** rode 70 miles including 40 churches
- Richard Benjamin of **St Giles, Chideock** cycled to 52 churches over two days
- Alan Neades, a long term participant for **St Mary the Virgin, Piddlehinton** included 43 churches in his day of cycling
- Bob Croom, another Ride+Stride veteran of **St John the Baptist, Bere Regis** took in 41 churches
- Adam White for **All Saint's, Dewlish** cycled to 39 churches
- Justin and Sophie Langham and Max Maul cycled together for **Hilton** and **Ansty**, starting at Hazelbury Bryan and finishing at Corfe Castle at 6pm, having visited 22 churches
- **Wimborne Minster** participants included Megan the dog and her walkers and 12 members of the Minster Choir
- Lucy and Hattie Panter (age 6) from **Tarrant Rushton with Rawston** visited 11 churches and Hattie is already planning her route for 2020
- Gail Nuttall of the **United Reformed Church, Poole** attracted sponsors by doing a mini triathlon combining swimming, walking and cycling

There were many outstanding contributions to Ride+Stride in 2019 so apologies if your church is not mentioned. If you will be taking part this year please send in your stories and photographs and we will endeavour to include them here in 2021!

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions, Ride+Stride 2020 may take place on Saturday 12 September

Why not join in this year? You will enjoy it!

To register as a participant or request a sponsorship form, contact your Ride+Stride parish organiser or visit www.dhct.org.uk and follow the links to Ride+Stride



John Floyd of Kington Magna set out on his faithful horse Oscar and visited 10 churches through the day. This was the fourth year that John taken part in Ride+Stride and he raised nearly £300.



St Mary's, Gillingham, ran a pop-up café for Ride+Stride in the Vicarage school room again last year. Open for morning coffee and lunches, volunteers were kepy busy wth a steady flow of supporters and passers-by, who enjoyed Fair Trade tea and coffee with homemade cakes, quiche and sausage rolls. Funds were boosted with the sale of jams and marmalade by Mrs Pat Seymour-Cooke. The event raised over £300.



Peter Williams, churchwarden at **St Nicholas, Silton**, and his son Tom cycled 65 miles, visiting 42 churches. Between them they raised over £550.

Ride+Stride and PCC donations 2019

Parish	Church	Deanery Area	PD	R+S	Total
Sherborne Abbey	St Mary	Sherborne	660	3,102	3,762
Christchurch	The Priory Church of The Holy Trinity			2,018	2,018
Sturminster Marshall	St Mary	Wimborne		1,841	1,841
Melbury Osmond	St Osmund	Sherborne		1,631	1,631
Dorchester RC	Holy Trinity	Dorchester		1,536	1,536
Silton	St Nicholas	Blackmore Vale	365	1,160	1,525
Fontmell Magna	St Andrew	Milton & Blandford	100	1,405	1,505
Leigh	St Andrew	Sherborne		1,450	1,450
Sturminster Newton	St Mary	Blackmore Vale		1,300	1,300
Piddlehinton	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester		1,254	1,254
Puddletown	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester		1,142	1,142
Hilton and Ansty	All Saints	Dorchester		1,082	1,082
Dewlish	All Saints	Dorchester		1,030	1,030
Bradpole	Holy Trinity	Lyme Bay	278	740	1,018
Ashmore	St Nicholas	Milton & Blandford		1,010	1,010
Chideock	St Giles	Lyme Bay		1,010	1,010
Wimborne Minster	St Cuthberga	Wimborne		916	916
Over with Nether Compton	St Michael	Sherborne		880	880
Melbury Abbas	St Thomas	Blackmore Vale		849	849
Powerstock	St Mary	Lyme Bay		835	835
Iwerne Minster	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		815	815
Tarrant Gunville	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	50	759	809
Upwey	St Laurence	Weymouth	390	401	792
Little Bredy	St Michael and All Angels	Lyme Bay		790	790
Chettle	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		750	750
Whitchurch Canonicorum	St Candida and Holy Cross	Lyme Bay	10	734	744
Alton Pancras	St Pancras	Dorchester		741	741
Winfrith Newburgh	St Christopher	Purbeck		731	731
Bere Regis	St John the Baptist	Purbeck		725	725
Stourton Caundle	St Peter	Blackmore Vale		725	725
Godmanstone	Holy Trinity	Dorchester	100	620	720
Winterborne Houghton	St Andrew	Milton & Blandford		717	717
Purse Caundle	St Peter	Blackmore Vale	361	346	707
Tarrant Rushton with Tarrant Rawston	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		681	681
Lytchett Minster		Poole		670	670
Canford Cliffs and Sandbanks	Church of the Transfiguration	Poole		660	660
Motcombe	St Mary	Blackmore Vale		650	650
Hooke	St Giles	Lyme Bay		648	648
Dorchester	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester	500	130	630
Litton Cheney	St Mary	Lyme Bay		625	625
Evershot	St Osmund	Sherborne		600	600
Wareham	Priory Church of Lady St Mary	Purbeck		600	600
Tolpuddle	St John the Evangelist	Dorchester		594	594
West Knighton	St Peter	Dorchester		590	590
Osborne	St Cuthbert	Sherborne		590	590
Chaldon Herring	St Nicholas	Purbeck		589	589

PD = Parish donations

R+S= Ride+Stride

Parish	Church	Deanery Area	PD	R+S	Total
Spetisbury	St John the Baptist	Milton & Blandford		572	572
Frampton	St Mary	Dorchester		571	571
Dorchester	Baptist Church	Dorchester		557	557
Dorchester	St Peter, Holy Trinity and All Saints	Dorchester		550	550
Long Bredy	St Peter	Lyme Bay		540	540
Tarrant Hinton	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		539	539
Marnhull	St Mary	Blackmore Vale		533	533
Corfe Castle	St Edward the Martyr	Purbeck		529	529
Canford Magna	Dedication unknown	Wimborne		528	528
Blandford	St Peter and St Paul	Milton & Blandford		521	521
Hazelbury Bryan with Stoke Wake	St Mary and St James	Blackmore Vale	20	485	505
Radipole	St Ann and St Aldhelm	Weymouth		500	500
Crossways with Woodsford	St Aldhelm and St John the Baptist	Dorchester		490	490
Sixpenny Handley	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		480	480
Kington Magna	All Saints	Blackmore Vale		475	475
Mappowder	St Peter & St Paul	Blackmore Vale		468	468
Sydling St Nicholas	St Nicholas	Dorchester	120	345	465
Fifehead Magdalen	St Mary Magdalene	Blackmore Vale		425	425
Bridport	St Mary	Lyme Bay		420	420
Yetminster	St Andrew	Sherborne		417	417
Wool	Holy Rood	Purbeck		410	410
Longburton	St James	Sherborne		410	410
Warmwell	Holy Trinity	Dorchester		385	385
Blandford RC	Our Lady of Lourdes and St Cecilia	Milton & Blandford		384	384
Weymouth	Holy Trinity	Weymouth		382	382
The Winterbournes		Dorchester		375	375
Corscombe	St Mary	Sherborne	374		374
Farnham	St Laurence	Milton & Blandford		369	369
Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity	Lyme Bay	29	332	361
Broadwindsor	St Mary	Lyme Bay		356	356
	Anonymous		25	329	354
Burton Bradstock with Chilcombe	St Mary	Lyme Bay		351	351
Swyre	Holy Trinity	Lyme Bay		350	350
Portland	St John the Baptist	Weymouth		343	343
Uploders	Uploders Methodist Church	Lyme Bay		340	340
Langton Matravers	St George	Purbeck		333	333
Chideock RC	Our Lady , Queen of Martyrs	Lyme Bay		331	331
Stoke Abbott	St Mary	Lyme bAY		330	330
Owermoigne	St Michael	Dorchester		325	325
Poole URC	Skinner Street	Poole		325	325
Parkstone	St Peter	Poole		321	321
West Lulworth	Holy Trinity	Purbeck		321	321
Colehill	St Michael and All Angels	Wimborne		311	311
Osmington	St Osmund	Weymouth		310	310
Buckhorn Weston	St John the Baptist	Blackmore Vale		306	306
Fordington	St George	Dorchester		305	305
Langton Long	All Saints	Milton & Blandford		300	300

PD = Parish donations
R+S= Ride+Stride

Parish	Church	Deanery Area	PD	R+S	Total
Pimperne	St Peter	Milton & Blandford		300	300
Buckland Newton	Holy Rood	Dorchester		298	298
Kingston	St James	Purbeck		295	295
Tollard Royal	St Peter Ad Vincula	Milton & Blandford		290	290
Affpuddle with Turnerspudde	St Laurence	Purbeck		285	285
West Parley	All Saints	Wimborne		285	285
Church Knowle	St Peter	Purbeck	100	185	285
Lytchett Matravers	St Mary	Poole		281	281
Steeple	St Michael and All Angels	Purbeck	50	220	270
Milborne St Andrew	St Andrew	Dorchester		260	260
West Stour	St Mary	Blackmore Vale		250	250
Chetnole with Stockwood	St Peter	Sherborne		250	250
Stourpaine	Holy Trinity	Milton & Blandford		230	230
Walditch	St Mary	Lyme Bay		230	230
Portesham	St Peter	Weymouth		222	222
Bradford Abbas with Clifton Maybank	St Mary the Virgin	Sherborne		220	220
Worth Matravers	St Nicholas	Purbeck		215	215
Charlton Marshall	St Mary the Virgin	Milton & Blandford		215	215
West Stafford	St Andrew	Dorchester		209	209
Cattistock	St Peter and St Paul	Sherborne		209	209
Swanage	St Mark	Purbeck		206	206
Askerswell	St Michael	Lyme Bay		200	200
Catherston Leweston	St Mary	Lyme Bay		200	200
Lyme Regis	St Michael and All Angels	Lyme Bay		200	200
South Perrott and Chedington	St Mary	Lyme Bay		200	200
Shaftesbury	St Peter	Blackmore Vale		193	193
Alderholt	St James	Wimborne		190	190
Blandford St Mary	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		187	187
Dorchester	United Church	Dorchester		180	180
Gussage All Saints	All Saints	Milton & Blandford		180	180
Marnhull	St Gregory	Blackmore Vale		176	176
Gillingham	St Mary the Virgin	Blackmore Vale		170	170
Frome St Quintin	St Mary the Virgin	Sherborne	40	120	160
Lilliput	The Holy Angels	Poole		159	159
Sutton Waldron	St Bartholomew	Milton & Blandford		155	155
Lydlinch	St Thomas a Beckett	Blackmore Vale		150	150
Okeford Fitzpaine	St Andrew	Blackmore Vale		147	147
Hinton St Mary	St Peter	Blackmore Vale		143	143
Southbourne	St Katharine	Bournemouth		140	140
Abbotsbury	St Nicholas	Weymouth		140	140
Wareham	Methodist Church	Purbeck		139	139
Parkstone	St Luke	Poole and N Bournemouth		138	138
Blackdown	Parish Church	Lyme Bay		125	125
Melcombe Horsey	St Andrew	Dorchester		123	123
Puncknowle	St Mary the Blessed Virgin	Lyme Bay		120	120
Stour Provost	St Michael and All Angels	Blackmore Vale		120	120
Shillingstone	Holy Rood	Blackmore Vale		118	118

PD = Parish donations
R+S= Ride+Stride

Parish	Church	Deanery Area	PD	R+S	Total
Bradford Peverell	Church of the Assumption	Dorchester	3	115	118
Mosterton	St Mary	Lyme Bay		115	115
Shaftesbury	St James	Blackmore Vale		115	115
Winterborne Whitechurch	St Mary	Milton & Blandford		115	115
Cranborne	St Mary and St Bartholomew	Wimborne		109	109
Moreton	St Nicholas	Dorchester	15	90	105
Milton-on-Stour	St Simon and St Jude	Blackmore Vale		100	100
Milton Abbey		Milton & Blandford		100	100
Durweston	St Nicholas	Milton & Blandford		100	100
Blandford	Methodist Church	Milton & Blandford		100	100
Horton & Chalbury	All Saints	Wimborne		100	100
Tinleton	St John the Evangelist	Dorchester		100	100
Blackdown	Parish Church	Lyme Bay		100	100
Lillington	St Martin	Sherborne		100	100
Wootton Fitzpaine	Wootton Fitzpaine Church	Lyme Bay	100		100
East Lulworth	St Andrew	Purbeck		91	91
Drimpton	St Mary	Lyme Bay		80	80
Toller Porcorum	St Peter and St Andrew	Lyme Bay	50	30	80
North Poorton	St Mary Magdalene	Lyme Bay	70		70
Verwood	St Michael	Wimborne		68	68
Thornford	St Mary Magdalene	Sherborne		65	65
Cheselbourne	St Martin	Dorchester		62	62
Batcombe	St Mary Magdalene	Sherborne		60	60
Gussage St Michael	St Michael	Milton & Blandford		50	50
Burstock	St Andrew	Lyme Bay		50	50
Holwell	St Laurence	Sherborne	50		50
Steeple	St Michael and All Angels	Purbeck	50		50
Chilfrome	Holy Trinity	Sherborne	50		50
Glanvilles Wooton	St Mary the Virgin	Sherborne	50		50
Seaborough	St John	Lyme Bay	50		50
East Chelborough	St James	Sherborne		40	40
Preston with Sutton Poyntz	St Andrew	Weymouth		40	40
Loders	St Mary Magdalene	Lyme Bay		30	30
Tarrant Keynston with T'rant Crawford	All Saints	Milton & Blandford		28	28
Kingston Lacy	St Stephen			26	26
Winterbourne Kingston	St Nicholas	Purbeck		25	25
Margaret Marsh	St Margaret	Blackmore Vale		25	25
Swanage	Methodist Church	Purbeck		12	12

	Parish donations	Ride + Stride	Total
	£4,059	£73,058	£77,118
Gift Aid		£11,574	£11,574
Overall Total	£4,059	£84,632	£88,692

PD = Parish donations
R+S= Ride+Stride

Treasurer's Report

In these uncertain times, 2019 feels like a distant and rather vague memory. As we discussed these accounts in committee earlier this year, we had no inkling that we would be in lockdown by the end of March and that the future for this year would be so uncertain.

However, look back we must and the Ride+Stride total of £84,632 was once again a magnificent achievement. Thank you to everybody who contributed to this, whether by physical activity or by donating time to organising this event, ensuring that once again significant money is raised for the Trust. Particular thanks are due to Anna Butler and Philippa Francis who control things with such efficiency and good humour.

From my own point of view, I would like to thank you all for good paperwork. 5 lever arch files were sent to Philippa for checking late last year. It is a lot of work but made easier when the forms are completed properly which in most cases they were. If Ride+Stride can go ahead later this year we are proposing moving to online banking for return of 50% payments and will be contacting organisers shortly to get bank details in preparation for this. The detailed results are shown on pages 14 to 17 of the report. Many congratulations to Sturminster Marshall for winning the Morshead Trophy and to Sherborne Abbey for once again topping the league table. A magnificent achievement.

Most importantly the success of Ride+Stride and the generosity of donors allowed the trust to return £122,000 to parishes in the year: £36,000 return of Ride+Stride monies and £86,000 by direct grants.

Receipts and expenditure for 2019

Summary	2019	2018
Receipts	£202,000	£163,000
Payments	£137,000	£207,000
Movement in cash	£65,000	(£44,000)

Cash improved by 109k in the year – analysis of receipts and payments explains why.

Receipts	2019	2018
Donations	£16,000	£19,000
Ride+Stride	£97,000	£74,000
Events	£3,000	£2,000
Investment income	£16,000	£18,000
Sale of investment	£70,000	£50,000
	£202,000	£163,000

- Small fall in receipts from Friends
- Investment income – small fall due to sale of investments in the year

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.

Payments	2019	2018
Ride+Stride 50% return	£36,000	£36,000
Ride+Stride expenses	£7,000	£7,000
Friends administration	£1,000	£1,000
Grants	£86,000	£156,000
Support	£6,000	£6,000
Independent examination	£1,000	£1,000
	£137,000	£207,000

From the above table, it can clearly be seen that there was a fall in grants paid to churches in 2019. Grants are paid as requested by parishes, but the decrease does reflect a drop in applications during the year. £106,500 of grants were awarded in the year compared to £135,000 in 2018. The DAC department at the Diocese was in a state of flux during 2019 due to staff changes and this has resulted in a delay to approval of faculty applications. Should the number of grant applications rise in 2020, the Trust should be able to liquidate investments in order to maintain adequate liquidity, but current circumstances are more likely to dampen demand until lockdown is released.

Assets and Liabilities	2019	2018
Cash funds		
Lloyds bank	£95,065	£31,110
CBF Deposit account	£45,596	£45,255
	£140,661	£76,365
Investment Assets		
CBF Investment fund	£490,029	£412,745
Charities Official Investment Fund	-	£65,629
	£490,029	£478,374
Total assets	£630,690	£554,740
Grants awarded but not yet drawn down	(£140,600)	(£130,100)
Total assets less liabilities	£490,090	£424,640

Reserves

The protection of reserves is clearly of vital importance now. At the year end the Trust had £130,000 in pure cash and £11,000 due back from HMRC in respect of Gift Aid which has now been received. This matches the £141,000 still to be paid out in grants promised to parishes for repairs to churches. The Trust held investments with CCLA valued at £490,000. The policy is to reduce reserves over 4-5 years to £300,000. The Trustees are of the opinion that the Trust can meet its current and forecast commitments albeit the run-down of reserves may be faster than envisaged if fund raising events are unable to be held.

Thank you to all of you who continue to support the Trust in so many ways.

Liz Ashmead

Receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019

Receipts	2019	2018
Voluntary Income		
Friends, Individuals and trusts	£11,531	£16,172
Parochial Church Councils	£4,059	£2,363
Sponsorship	-	£500
District Council	£100	£100
	£15,690	£19,135
Activities for generating funds		
Ride + Stride previous year	£3,320	£74
Ride + Stride current year	£84,632	£74,120
Gift Aid (Friends) previous years	£9,977	-
Talks, crawls and concerts net of meals payments	£772	£637
Friends' event	£1,062	£1,080
Sale of notecards	£444	£397
	£100,207	£76,308
Investment income		
Income from investments	£15,769	£17,707
	£15,769	£17,707
Asset and investment sales		
Sales of investments	£70,377	£50,000
	£70,377	£50,000
Total Receipts	£202,043	£163,150
Payments		
Ride+Stride		
50% return to churches	£35,531	£35,835
Honoraria	£3,600	£2,900
Printing and postage	£2,887	£3,795
Chairman's farewell party	£258	-
T-shirts	-	£500
Administration	£359	£48
	£42,635	£43,078
Friends		
Brochures, publicity and Friends' annual event	£1,225	£1,261
Friends leaflets	£415	-
	£1,640	£1,261
Grants		
Grants paid in the year net of any write backs	£86,500	£156,100
	£86,500	£156,100
Support costs		
Annual Report	£2,566	£2,455
Postage stationery and travel	£642	£1,192
Marketing and website	£1,388	£987
Insurance	£387	£364
Just Giving fees	£216	-
Bank charges	£573	£711
	£5,772	£5,709
Governance		
Independent examiner's fees	£1,200	£1,152
	£1,200	£1,152
Total payments	£137,747	£207,300
Net movement in cash funds	£64,296	(£44,150)
Cash funds last year end	£76,365	£120,515
Cash funds this year end	£140,661	£76,365



An early church crawl

Organised church crawls came into being during the nineteenth century as local archaeological societies arranged trips for their members.

On one such occasion the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society spent a day looking at several houses and churches in the Tarrant Valley, and being lectured to by the respective vicars. Before that, such visits were the hobby of a small group of enthusiasts, of whom the most notable was Sir Stephen Glynne, later to be the brother-in-law of the Prime Minister, Gladstone, who made meticulous notes of the several hundred churches he visited up and down England, many of which have been printed. In 1830 aged twenty three, for example, he visited Pimperne, employing the sort of terminology that was just then coming into general use, noting 'There is a curious Early English chancel arch, just emerging from Norman, and of pointed form and narrow, presenting towards the west a bold and deep outer moulding of chevrons'. That narrow chancel arch was moved aside in the restoration of 1870, and now fronts the north transept.

One of the earliest tours round Dorset was made a hundred years earlier. In 1736, Revd. Browne Willis, whose mother came from Blandford, was born in Dorset, but he spent his life on his father's estates in north Buckinghamshire, where his wealth allowed him to indulge his passionate antiquarian interests. As he wrote, returning 'into Dorsetshire in which county I had never been in for 24 or 25 years at the end of September, I took some short descriptions of the Fabricks of those churches in the parishes I travelled through.'

Willis was in touch with other local historians, including John Hutchins, the county historian, whose monument we saw in Wareham in 2018, and also the schoolmaster at Milton Abbas, who wrote a long letter to him describing the now-vanished wall paintings in the abbey. On the wall of the north transept, for example, behind Robert Adam's white marble monument of c. 1775 'upon ye wall were painted ye resurrection, & ascension by a masterly hand... There was enough remaining in my time to show ye goodness of ye paint, but tis now all whitewashed, not one line remains.'

There is one earlier crawl that I know of, which took place in the height of the Civil War, and was written by a Royalist soldier. Perhaps it may form some future note in the Newsletter.

Tim Connor

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