

Dorset Historic Churches Trust

Conserving the past – enriching the future

2022 | Issue 17

ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW

Thank you – again!

Ride+Stride has been an annual event in Dorset since 1991, so this year it will celebrate its 21st birthday. It is a testament to the resilience and determination of our Riders, Striders and Parish Organisers that, in the two years of the Covid pandemic, record sums of money have been raised. This year the total has reached £107,000.

However, nationally, the figures for Ride+Stride 2021 are mixed. Having read reports from other county trusts, it seems clear that it is our network of Deanery Area Representatives and Parish Organisers that underlies the success of the event in Dorset. Good weather on the day is also helpful!

Riders and Striders from 165 parishes took part. 24 parishes raised over £1,000 and a further 52 parishes raised over £500. You probably don't have to be reminded that Ride+Stride is the Trust's principal fundraiser, and enables it to distribute grants in excess of £100,000 a year, helping to repair and conserve Dorset's churches, chapels and meeting houses. What is more, due to your efforts, the Trust was able to continue awarding grants in 2020 and 2021 and continues to do so with no diminution. Elsewhere in this report you will be able to see details of grants awarded in 2021. So a huge thank you to all of you.

Grateful thanks are also due to Anna Butler, the Trust's Ride+Stride Administrator, who is well known to Parish Organisers. It is her calm efficiency which underpins our annual efforts.

We review the paperwork for Ride+Stride on an annual basis, in order to take account of developments in digital technology, as people become more comfortable with its use. In 2021 approximately one third of the sponsorship was raised on the dedicated DHCT JustGiving page and we will continue to promote its use. It was an invaluable way of raising money when direct contact with sponsors was necessarily limited. This online giving platform also collects the Gift Aid which cuts down on paperwork. However paper will always be important and the paper trail provided by the Remittance Advice Form is vital to the accounting exercise. Similarly, Parish Organisers will always receive a paper copy of the Organiser's Pack. Once the paperwork is completed for this year in May, additional copies of all the documents will be available to download and print. For this go to www.dhct.org.uk and click on Ride+Stride on the menu bar at the top of the page.

The challenge of raising money for the repair and conservation of Dorset churches will always be with us and we need to protect these buildings for the benefit of all. They are an inherent part of the county's architectural heritage and spirit. The Chairman in his report last year, invited anyone who might be interested in becoming a Parish Organiser to get in touch. I repeat the invitation here particularly if you live in a parish



which is currently not represented by a Parish Organiser, because they have retired or moved away. There are more than 375 churches in Dorset, of which 165 took part, so the opportunity for volunteering is there. You can contact the relevant Deanery Area Representative for your parish (contact details are on the back of this report), who will be happy to familiarise you with the role. This role is not overly onerous but it is vital. It involves recruiting Riders and Striders from June onwards and then making sure that the relevant returns are received by the Treasurer by the end of October.

Philippa Francis

Ride+Stride 2022 takes place on Saturday 10th September

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Chairman's Report for 2021

2021 was a year of renewal for the Trust after the tight control of activity during the height of the pandemic. Though our essential activities of fundraising and grant awards continued, our group activities with our Friends were necessarily curtailed. Despite that, the record results of our fundraising Ride+Stride event in September 2020 and the achievements during Ride+Stride in 2021 which nearly equalled that record, were nothing short of remarkable and a testament to the high regard in which our Dorset communities hold our beautiful architectural gems – Dorset's historic churches.

Over this past year, while learning to live with Covid-19, we have carried out the first tentative steps to regain a semblance of normality across the Trust. We held our first church crawl and lecture lunch since 2019 and the level of support for each clearly indicated the desire of our many Friends to re-engage with their Trust, enriching their lives in the process. After such a challenging and testing time for so many, the enthusiasm to return safely to these activities was palpable!

The challenges of 2020 have, despite the restrictions on our lives, given us the time to streamline how the Trust operates, enabling us more efficiently to seize future opportunities. 2021 has seen that process continue. Our governance processes, grant award assessments and the rapid application of funds to areas of need, have been given the necessary attention.

I strongly believe that the impact of the pandemic upon us and on the communities in which we live has reawakened the knowledge that the parish or village church is much more than a place of worship. It is increasingly recognised as an important part of community, especially in the smaller villages in Dorset. Our church buildings are an architectural testament to the imagination and sense of place of previous generations and it is given to us, as the Dorset Historic Churches Trust, to protect, preserve and sustain that heritage for the benefit of future generations in an increasingly secular, materialistic and commoditised society.

Living in a county as beautiful as Dorset we can be forgiven for failing to notice those architectural gems in our midst as we drive, cycle or walk the combs, hills and lanes of our local countryside. Virtually every town, village and community has one - our long heritage reflected in our historic churches, a chronicle of the history of Dorset's communities. Whether a member of the Christian church or not, close examination of the architecture these churches offer cannot fail to impress.

I make no apologies for once again emphasising the community aspects of the church as a building and my desire to make them an asset to the communities in which we live. Of course we can do this by adding additional facilities to the building - where finances permit - to encourage younger families and visitors to linger and enjoy all that our churches have to offer, whether spiritual,

cultural, architectural or historic. We can however do more by asking our communities to have a clear view of what they want their church to be - to have a strategy and long term plan for the enhancement and sustainment of their church, to make it the focal point it once was and deserves to be again.

This is where the Dorset Historic Churches Trust plays a major part, fundraising through its annual Ride+Stride event to enable the churches to be kept in a sound condition for communities and visitors to enjoy, whether as part of a congregation or simply as a source of historical and architectural interest.

The Trust is operated solely by volunteers with none more important than those who represent the Deanery areas in which the churches are located and who help organise the Ride+Stride event in the parishes. They are the heart of our Trust.

Our Deanery Area Representatives are the focus for advice on fundraising and for assisting churches in the applications for grants to provide the funds essential to the upkeep of our church buildings and the history of Dorset they encapsulate. Working with them are our Parish Organisers who provide the focus for the activity surrounding the annual Ride+Stride event at the local level.

I end my report to you with a call to arms. The Trust is seeking new members to join this army of volunteers. Whether your motivation is driven by Christian worship or a deep interest in the community and the history at its heart, it matters not. Enthusiasm for whatever reason is the essential ingredient! We have over 400 Friends and volunteers across the County but we should like more in order to sustain and protect what we do to keep the history of our amazing County alive and well. Please contact me or any of our Trustees to learn more.

I commend this Annual Report to you. It is but a snapshot of what we do but I know that you will find it helpful and informative.

John Stokoe CB CBE



Join the Friends of Dorset Historic Churches Trust

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

For more details or to obtain a leaflet, please contact:
susanmorgansmith@gmail.com
or postbox@mg1.dhct.org.uk

Details are also available on our website.

Pressing on regardless

A very dear friend of mine is likely to offer the drole response, “I’m pressing on regardless”, upon enquiry after his person. I wonder if he realises that I hear this in the context of Philippians 3:14.

How are you? How are we? These seem to be the questions that this Annual Report attempts to address. We are indeed pressing on regardless, in fact we are minded to do all that we can to keep moving forwards in these continuing, most challenging of times. As I write there is hope for 2022, but 2021 did prove difficult, if not quite as arduous as 2020. Social events and meetings alike were again somewhat curtailed, and I realise that I have barely met any of my DHCT colleagues ‘face to face’ this past year. We have been Zooming to avoid meeting (from a health-safety perspective), but also with decarbonisation in mind.

The General Synod of The Church of England set the ambitious target of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. Less travel is less fuel – but how are we to gather in a carbon-friendly way if the local church is not maintained? If my last year’s report was titled, ‘No fossilisation...’ – this year’s could be, ‘No to fossilling’.

Our main fund-raising effort is, of course, Ride+Stride. Goodness! Whoever came up with the idea should be further praised for their ‘Green’ credentials. It is a measure of the way that our bicyclists are spoked that they have famously pressed on and won for all our historic church projects a considerable prize. Well done. You’ll never get to heaven in a fossil-fuelled car, because a fossil-fuelled car won’t get that far! (but a bicycle just might). Seriously, as we try to help keep the climate out and thus assist the local church to be weather-tight, we are all faced with the additional challenge of decarbonising our lives and churches – but that’s another hat I wear for the diocese.

Many of the things DHCT are involved in splendidly demonstrate the long-term commitment of our Trustees and Friends. We believe in the future, which we serve. We are not stuck in the past, we press on towards the final goal.

Just a final thought, some celebrated former CEO of Ford (or was it Chrysler?) said, “Running this business is like competing in a marathon, wherein the finishing tape is always around the next corner!” How are you? How are we? Pressing on regardless, and doing that together, as best we can. That about sums it up!

Bless us all.

Rev’d Canon Andrew Rowland

Honorary Secretary’s Report

As I see it, the role of the Secretary is to make sure that all areas of the Trust are able to operate effectively using accurate information and up-to-date processes. It is also essential that the Trust is compliant with the relevant Charity Commission regulations but is not burdened by them.

In that regard, 2021 has been a period of further consolidation, following the big changes of the past two years. There are six main areas of activity within the Trust – fund-raising chiefly through Ride+Stride, the awarding of Grants, Friends, Marketing & Communications, Deanery Area Representative (DAR) Coordination and finally Finance & Governance. Each is run by a small team of mostly Trustees with additional support where experience has shown it is necessary. This organisation has greatly increased the resilience of the Trust to run smoothly should a key member be away or unable to play their role. However, in order to keep the Trust delivering great results year after year, regular attention has to be given to succession planning to keep these small teams fully up to strength.

For several years now, a small team of Trustees, known as the Strategy Group, has met about twice a year to act as a Think Tank for the Trust. Back in November, we reviewed succession planning and also grant-making policy as well as a number of other topics. Small charities such as ours are normally run by retired people in their mid-60s who generously give their time but understandably do not want to be in harness for ever. This applies equally to Trustees, DARs or Parish Organisers. It is often not good enough to hope that someone leaving will find their successor and assume that he or she will be properly inducted. Once the Trustees have agreed the overall approach, we will be on the look-out for new volunteers at all levels. If, having read this, you would like to know more about how to get involved, please get in touch through the About Us page of the website www.dhct.org.uk

Although, in terms of its turnover the Trust is relatively small, the task of collecting and accurately accounting for over £90,000 in R+S sponsorship from over 160 churches, paying back the 50%, while also recovering the Gift Aid on most of the pledges, is an exacting task. This year Philippa Francis, the lead for R+S and Roger Blaber, our Honorary Treasurer, have been supported by our new Book-keeper, Rob Thomas and his daughter Becka. Their first year has been a great success and we look forward to them proposing further refinements in support of our main fund-raising day.

Over the year we have welcomed two new Trustees: Chris Waite, who also continues as one of the DARs for the Sherborne Deanery, and Nick Head, who has been a regular supporter of the Friends Church Crawls and has a wealth of relevant experience in the care of listed buildings. At the end of December, we said farewell to Andrew Boggis, who has given many years of devoted and effective service as a Trustee and DAR for the over churches in the Lyme Bay Deanery.

Jeremy Selfe

Grants Committee Report 2021

Just as last year, about two thirds of our grants went towards repair of roofs and towers.

Storms can bring unexpected damage; the plaster ceiling at Fifehead St Mary Magdalen fell down as a result of one such and the church had to be closed for a time. Unexpected problems can also be revealed in the process of careful repair. We made a grant in June 2019 to St Mary, Holnest to carry out essential repairs, but in the process of carrying these out further problems were discovered, to which we made a further grant this February. All is now complete, and the church looks in fine condition.



St John the Evangelist, Enmore Green

As I write the scaffold is being erected around most of St Peter & Paul, Blandford in the continuing and massive effort to restore that remarkable Georgian town church. We have given what we can, but the scale of the need there is of a completely different order from the needs of most of our churches. It is clear that in some cases the labour involved in raising money for necessary projects to preserve our buildings is enormous. One applicant has tried their luck with 50 grant-giving bodies, and of course the last eighteen months have been very disrupted.

One of the things one can't predict is when, during the year, churches will apply for our assistance. We aim to give away roughly equal amounts of money at each of our three meetings, but it so happened that this year, only three applicants approached us for our final October meeting. The result was that we have a little more to distribute in this coming year, so we look forward to more applications.



Cheque presentation at St Martin, Lillington



St Michael the Archangel, Lyme Regis

We took some time this year to clarify the list of concerns for which we will consider applications. Little has been changed, but it has allowed us to state ever more clearly that the main aim of our support is to help ensure that buildings are weather proof. Other matters, such as the recent interest in improving facilities inside the building, often in terms of installing a toilet or some sort of kitchenette, are secondary considerations.

The fate of parish churches in the coming years is less clear than it has been for centuries. By doing what we can to help the 'primary carers' ensure that the buildings themselves are structurally as sound as possible, we help to guarantee that these unique structures will survive the changes of the next generation.

Dr Tim Connor

Grants awarded in 2021

Affpuddle – St Laurence	
Repairs to tower and roof	£3,000
Batcombe – St Mary	
Roof repairs	£6,000
Blandford – St Peter and St Paul	
Repairs to roof	£10,000
Bridport – Unitarian Chapel in the Garden	
Repairs to exterior walls	£3,000
Cheselborne – St Martin	
Replace lead on roof	£5,000
Fifehead Magdalen – St Mary Magdalen	
Repairs to ceiling plaster	£5,000
Frome St Quinton – St Mary	
Roof repairs	£6,000
Holnest – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Repairs to roof and windows	£3,000
Langton Matravers – St George	
Repointing of the tower	£3,000
Milton Abbas – St James	
Re-roofing repairs	£4,000
Oborne – St Cuthbert	
Repairs to roof	£3,500
Shaftesbury – St James	
Restoration and repair of window and stonework	£1,000
Shapwick – St Bartholomew	
Install facilities	£6,000
Stourpaine – Holy Trinity	
Repairs to roof and masonry	£1,500
Tarrant Gunville – St Mary	
General exterior repairs	£3,000
West Lulworth– Holy Trinity	
Roof repairs	£5,000
Weymouth – Holy Trinity	
Repairs to Warrior window	£7,500
Witchampton – St Cuthberga and All Saints	
Bell tower roof repair	£4,000
Weymouth – St Paul	
Repairs to roof	£7,000
Worth Matravers – St Nicholas	
Replace roof tiles and re-pointing of walls	£6,000

Marketing & Communications Report 2021

This year has seen a welcome return to some of our traditional activities. It has been a pleasure to report on them in the local press who have been so supportive in covering our work.

The website has also been well used, both as a place to record events and to read about them.

This publication remains one of our key methods of describing ourselves and publicising our successes to a wider audience. We are very much aware of the kind and generous interest in the Trust taken by many people throughout Dorset. We hope that our appreciation reaches them personally and through reading about how their time and money are turned into restoration projects in church buildings throughout the county.

The Chairman was able to mention us in a piece he did on local radio and this method of reaching out to local residents who may share our concern for the built heritage of the county, but who may not be aware of us, is very important.

We continue to debate the value of using social media. We are aware of the possible advantages of connecting with a wider audience online, but also conscious of the dangers of attracting unwelcome attention. We are discussing the value of Facebook (is it now Meta?), Twitter and so on, and researching how (and whether) they are used regularly by our constituency.

Watch for developments in this area, and if you have opinions or advice, do let me know. My contact details are on the back page of this Report as one of the Blackmore Vale Deanery Area Representatives.

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)

Church of St Mary, Bradford Peverell

There are two windows in the south wall of the chancel, each divided into two lancets containing oval inserts depicting medieval musicians. Although 19th Century evocations of such musicians, the instruments are fairly accurately represented, and would appear to date them to around 1500.

From left to right (i.e. east to west) the musicians, shown as angelic figures with golden wings, are playing a **lute**, a **portative organ**, a **psalter** and a **viola da braccio**.



The Lute

The lute is the backbone of Renaissance music and by the end of the 16th Century was a sophisticated instrument with multiple, paired strings ('courses') and generally a fretted finger-board.

Not unlike the modern acoustic guitar, the lute has a large, hollow body attached to a long neck, over which strings are tightly stretched to reverberate within the 'belly' when plucked. This example, however, appears to be an early lute – although the early instruments were more often played with quills rather than the fingers as in this window.

It has five 'courses' (i.e. either single or paired strings), the typical bent-back 'pegbox' (where the strings are secured and from which tuning takes place), and no frets on the neck or finger-board. The strings would have been of gut, generally from the small intestine of sheep. At the date of this sort of instrument, it would have been used extensively in ensemble playing, although its use as a solo instrument was also common. The rather wan-looking angelic fellow plucking the strings here seems to be diligently fitting in with the other three members of his group, rather than simply making a joyful noise.



The Portative Organ

Organs – rows of metal or wooden pipes set on a chest containing air under pressure (or 'wind' as it is known), and played from a keyboard – date back at least to Roman times.

Whilst larger, more fixed instruments gradually made their presence felt in big churches, the 'portative' variety became increasingly popular during the 14th and 15th Centuries. They are now believed to be revivals of similar instruments used by the Romans – an example was excavated at Pompeii in 1876. Unlike large organs, they do not have an actual 'chest' containing wind - the player operates small bellows at the back of the instrument with one hand, whilst playing the notes on the keyboard with the other.

The most famous player of this instrument, of course, was St Cecilia, a Roman martyr who died (depending on which legend you follow) around 230 AD. The various legends refer unanimously to her prodigious singing ability, but there is some doubt as to whether she actually ever played a portative organ. Be that as it may, she is now almost universally depicted in church iconography holding one of these instruments.

The player depicted in this window is probably one of the angelic group of musicians rather than the great Lady herself, but has the same entranced look one so often sees as the player caresses the tiny keyboard with the right hand and manipulates the bellows with the left.

Musicians depicted in the south chancel windows



Psaltery

Because of its shape, this particular psaltery was known as a 'pig's head' or 'pig's snout' psaltery (Italian *istrumento di porco*; German *Schweinekopff*). The instrument is a kind of zither (think Harry Lime Theme, from the film *The Third Man*), a simple, multi-string instrument where each string or 'course' only plays one note, plucked by a plectrum (some sort of quill). In this respect, it is a forerunner of the various more complex instruments that came in later years – the harpsichord in particular, which led on to the modern-day piano, although in the latter case the strings are struck rather than plucked.

The psaltery was in common use up to about 1500, being often referred to in lists of instrumentalists at events such as the Feast of Westminster in 1306, where the players included 'Gillotin le Sautreour' and 'Janyn le Sautreour qui est ove Mons. de Percy'.

Like most other medieval instruments, it was widely used as part of a band or ensemble but its use as a solo instrument was also common and is referred to in Chaucer's 'Miller's Tale':

*And al above ther lay a gay sautrie,
[On which he made a-nyghtes melodye]
So swetely that all the chambre rong:
And Angelus ad virginem he song.*

It was widely used in all musical settings throughout the 14th and 15th Centuries. The strings could be made of either metal or gut.



Medieval Viola, Fiddle or Vielle

The instrument depicted in this window would appear to be from the transitional period during which there were two clear streams of bowed string instrument emerging.

First, there were what we now call 'viols' in English. These were fretted instruments with several strings, generally played in the upright position ('da gamba' - on the leg) and occurring in various sizes according to pitch. Although these flourished in Renaissance times, they were latterly largely superseded by our modern violin family, the antecedents of which emerged at the same time as the viols. As with the modern violin family, these early instruments were played (except for the bass versions) 'on the arm' ('da braccio').

Different countries had different names. Confusingly, the same name sometimes might have different exact meanings, depending on the place and context. But we can fairly confidently regard this early violin-like instrument as a 'viola' (sub titled 'da braccio' - played on the arm) in the general Italian usage; also a fiddle (from the German *Fidel*) or a *vielle* in French.

Nick Head

Church pen and ink sketches

We have only lived in Dorset for about 18 months, having moved quickly between lockdowns in June 2020 from the heart of Birmingham, where James Brindley's Birmingham Canal (dating from 1769) was the lifeblood of the industrial revolution, enabling the expression 'Made in Birmingham'. It was also a stimulus for me to sketch industrial archaeology.

For over 30 years, our professional lives had been absorbed by the NHS and so escaping to Sherborne was a very pivotal moment. Having found again this magical town, my enthusiasm for black ink sketches was endorsed. We love walking through the numerous farms of Sherborne, the majority of which are exquisitely designed with rustic charm and set in compelling rural settings.

What has all this to do with Dorset churches? I have to date done about a dozen sketches of these local farms which have helped me 'get my eye back in'. As a teenager, I attended Foster's School, Sherborne for two years to complete my A-levels but really knew nothing about the town. However, having passed Art with Church Architecture at O-level only a few months earlier, I was stimulated to sketch Sherborne Abbey at the age of 16. Very recently, after a 60-year dormancy, I found this ancient sketch again, which fired my love of ecclesiastical architecture.

I have joined the Dorset Historic Churches Trust and would like to propose making pen and ink pictorial records of the many exquisite rural churches of the county, which would be available to members. Once completed, scanned and saved these sketches can be used in a variety of ways to earn for the parishes: notelets, thank you, get well and Christmas cards, etc. They can be packaged up into packs of five, 10 or a dozen, either all the same view or made into groups of more generic Dorset collections. They would be suitable to be enlarged to a variety of sizes, (A3, A4, A5), framed, put behind glass, be sold as presents or made into a Dorset Churches' calendar. I am sure there are many other uses.

If you like the idea of this project as a money-raising campaign for your church or community, or as a more generic money-raising for the county or have any other ideas that you would like to discuss with me, please make contact and we can explore the various possibilities. For me, the project is for pleasure with no charge for my time, materials and artwork.

Naturally, the costs of printing will fall to the individual communities, who should be able to recover these costs in sales. This is not an insurmountable logistical issue, and some may have ideas of the most economical source for printing. Some more focussed thoughts of the logistics will be necessary. In the meantime, I shall continue making the sketches for pleasure. Examples of my work can be seen alongside this short summary, on my website www.tedhiscock.com and on www.dhct.org.uk

Ted Hiscock

Coombe Farm, Sherborne

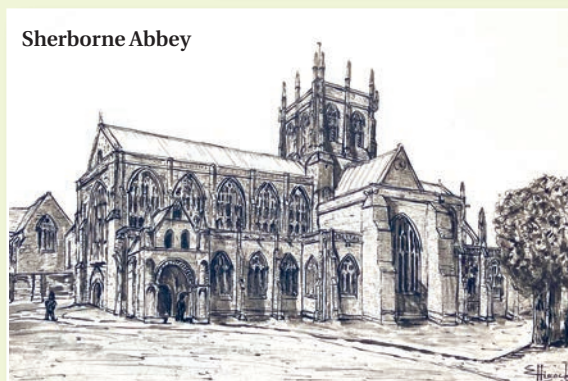


St. Nicholas Church, Sandford Orcas

St Nicholas Church,
Nether Compton



Sherborne Abbey



Winter lectures – Medieval Book of Hours

Because of the on-going pandemic, it was not possible to implement a 'season' of The Friends of Dorset Churches Winter Lectures. Indeed, there were finally only two gatherings of Friends during the year: the church crawl in September and this beautifully illustrated and engaging talk about Medieval books of 'hours' in November, given by Friends Secretary and tireless advocate of church decorative arts, Sue Smith.

It was with eager anticipation that a good turnout (40 on this occasion), gathered in the familiar surroundings of the Langton Arms at Tarrant Monkton. Over coffee, Friends were able to catch up with each other before settling down to this fascinating exploration of a major medieval art form about which most people know very little. And what a fascinating world it revealed; a world at once completely alien from our own, and yet obstinately familiar. As human beings we evidently don't change much in our essential nature with the passing centuries.

Sue's talk was a logical focussing inwards from her memorable talk on illuminated manuscripts during the last series of winter lectures. She began with a general introduction to these remarkable little volumes – some no larger in dimension than a postcard – and outlined the role they played in mainly ladies' lives as an aid to devotion and contemplation. Although inspired in their earliest forms by the Psalter, by the 12th Century these books would relate to the breviary setting out the pattern of the Divine Office as used throughout the day in the monastic establishments. They would act as an inspirational guide to the various 'offices' of the day and the observance of the church calendar. At their finest, these books were lavishly illustrated in vivid colours, using costly materials in both the construction of the book and rendering of the various images. At their most expressive, they must have been hugely expensive to produce, and were thus not for everyone.

Sue took us through many examples ranging in date from the 13th through to the 16th Centuries, and drawn from various European centres. It was fascinating to be taken closer and closer to various examples to examine the working of the artists producing the volumes. Their humanity – and the many similarities to ourselves and our small obsessions – shine through, and many of the tiny, less significant images of workmen, animals and buildings made the connection with these people seem touchingly direct.



As we have come to expect from Sue, she was able to breathe vivid life into all the images shown, for example, by explaining the complex symbolism involved in apparently everyday objects, animals and plants (particularly flowers). As with all ancient and particularly ecclesiastical art forms, knowledge of the complex sub-text is so important. Sue has a great gift in being able to convey the sometimes surprising meanings of images in a readily understood form.

Her deep love for this art form is infectious, and no doubt many will have gone away determined to look a little more into the rich history of these inspiring books. Sue had set out an impressive array of facsimile editions of books of hours (as well as other literature) which members were able to browse after the excellent lunch, and - who knows? – perhaps one or two went away to seek some of these out for their own libraries.

Nick Head

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.

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 Number is 282790.

We acknowledge with gratitude a legacy from the Estate of the late John Head.

Across the Somerset border

I imagine more than a few of you have church-crawled outside Dorset and perhaps much further afield than the Yeovil area.

Whilst recording stained glass in this part of Somerset, I discovered that its bumpy countryside has a wonderful group of neighbouring churches just waiting to have their doors opened to reveal their history, their treasures, their spiritual ambience and peace and for me their stained glass.

A good starting point is East Coker and adding to the links with T S Eliot, there is much to explore. Here I found an unusually designed window (1936) by Leonard Walker depicting Faith, Love and Hope, an appropriate theme to contemplate through these pandemic days. The three figures have been assembled with pieces of multi-shaded slab glass in a mosaic style, set against tinted backgrounds. The window commemorates the emigration of the Eliots to New England in the C17.



Fig. 1

But the window that caught my interest was that put together by Mollie Kettlewell in 1993; it comprises six roundels, each a memorial to local people and each designed by her tutees from the study courses she ran here (Fig 1). She and her husband Jasper created some unique windows, one of which is in St Michael's Church, Stour Provost in Dorset.



Fig. 2/ 1

Southwards from East Coker is the remote village of Pendomer, whose church is dedicated to St Roch, patron saint of dogs and who was, and perhaps still is, invoked against plagues. So a current pilgrimage to this church may be pertinent to meditate before the east



Fig. 2/ 2

window of 2003 with its brilliantly-coloured design of St Roch, complete with dog. Look for the innocent and quizzical faces of victims and paupers he is shown helping (Figs 2/1, 2/2). The designer was Stewart Bowman whose logo is the skeletal archer found in the bottom corner. Elsewhere, don't miss the fine effigy under a canopy and the tub font from Norman times. Another colourful window by Stewart, of St Christina and St Martin (2001), can be found nearby in West Coker church.



Fig. 3

Retrace the narrow lanes and turn west to Hardington Mandeville, where St Mary's church is largely built of local hamstone and from the churchyard a splendid vista over the village and beyond to Hamdon Hill may be enjoyed.

Mandeville is known for its bells and ringers, particularly the Rendell family to whom there are two memorial windows. The most notable, from 1888, to Edward and Elizabeth, shows Mary holding the Christ Child nonchalantly poised above an orange-coloured serpent; the adjacent light pictures King Alfred, once a patron of the parish (Fig 3). Its designer was Günther Anton of Stuttgart. Directly

opposite is a simple depiction of a baptism, remembering George Rendell.

Günther Anton is much better known for his windows at East Chinnock, a couple of miles to the north-west on the A30. As an 18-year old in the German Luftwaffe, he was shot down over Southampton but survived and was imprisoned at Yeovil. In 1945 he was permitted to undertake farmwork in East Chinnock, eventually returning to Germany in 1948 to join his father in their stained glass enterprise. Partly to thank local people for their kindness and as an act of reconciliation, he glazed nine windows in the church between 1962 and 1988. They are a remarkable set and good examples of the uncluttered styles of German figure-glass in the post-war period. Illustrated is the Archangel Michael with weapon and a shadowy dragon beneath his feet (Fig 4 over).

A brief exploration of some 20th and 21st Century stained glass windows

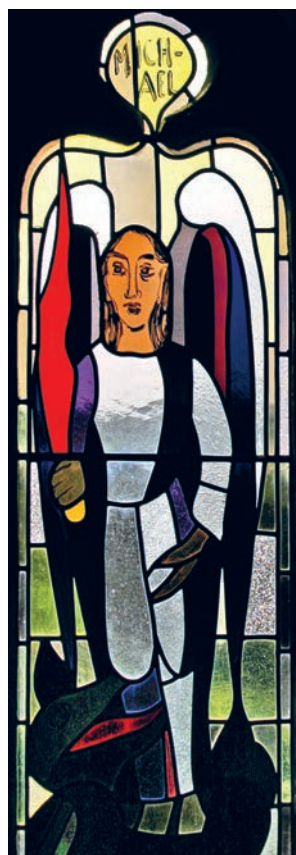


Fig. 4

Lastly, the hillcrest village church of St Peter and St Paul at Odcombe has a most impressive modern east window, the colours of which override the 20 or so traditional stained glass pictorials elsewhere. It is a highly symbolic design but one need not interpret its meanings too deeply to enjoy it as a feature of the church. The blending of the lazuline blues (for baptism) with the light brick reds (for the fires of the Holy Spirit) reminds one of Chagall's interweaving of colour (Fig 5).

The artist was Christine Arnatt and it was installed in 1971 in memory of Constance Padwick, a leading Christian missionary in the Middle East and a well-known writer on the Muslim world. She retired to Maiden Newton, Dorset in 1957 and later to Odcombe.

Also in the chancel is another modern window, also multicoloured, but by Geoffrey Robinson of Bristol. The theme is Christ's command to Peter 'Feed my Sheep', and was added in 1994, the gift of the Revd. Archie Dean and his wife on his retirement.

Odcombe is a delightful location to end this short trip around some of Somerset's intriguing village churches and their stained glass introductions of the current Elizabethan era.

Brian J Woodruffe



Fig. 5

Why volunteer to be a Deanery Area Representative or a Parish Organiser?

The Deanery Area Representatives (DARs) are the face of Dorset Historic Churches Trust and have an important role assisting churches in their area to obtain a grant. There is no qualification required other than an interest in, and the conservation of, our wonderful Dorset Churches.

So why not think about becoming a DAR? Not only do you get to see a significant number of churches, but there is the satisfaction of assisting equally dedicated people working towards ensuring the church building will endure for future generations and seeing a project successfully completed.

The role is not onerous and whilst it can sometimes be busy, there are also very quiet periods as it depends on what individual churches need. It is a great way to meet all sorts of like-minded people and to have an insight into different communities.

In addition to the work required in assisting a church to obtain a grant, DARs usually meet for a working lunch approximately three or four times a year. The object of the lunch is for the DARs to meet any new representatives or Trustees, keep up to date with policy and

relevant matters and enjoy a social get together. A successful training day was held outside in 2021 on a glorious July day which will now be repeated annually.

Apart from visiting churches in need of a grant, the other main role of the DAR is to coordinate with the Parish Organisers for the main fund raising event of Ride+Stride. DHCT is one of the best performing Trusts in respect of this event and this is mainly due to our wonderful Parish Organisers who are effectively the principal fund raisers for the Trust. Without their efforts DHCT would not be able to support so many grant applications.

If the role of a DAR doesn't appeal, then consider becoming a Parish Organiser

Parish Organisers are urgently needed in a number of parishes throughout Dorset. Although the Ride+Stride event supports participating churches as well as the Trust, it is not necessary to be a church member. Although organisational skills, enthusiasm and a competitive spirit help, some of our most successful Parish Organisers are simply keen walkers, cyclists and riders.

If you think you would like to join us, or would like more detailed information we would love to hear from you.

Contact your DAR (details on back page) or through the website postbox@mg1.dhct.org.uk

Ride+Stride 2021

Leigh Ride+Stride 2021

The art of a successful Ride+Stride involves sweet-talking money out of people and spotting where the hills go up and down!

Morag Orchard and I set off on our switch-back ride at 08:30 and caught the first churches unmanned. Leigh, Hermitage, Holnest and Glanvilles Wooton were having a lie-in. At Buckland Newton at 10:00 we were warmly greeted. From there to Pulham and beyond allows a good downhill free wheel.

Holwell is reached by a roller-coaster of hills and stunning countryside. Bishop's Caundle was silent. Caundle Marsh – alive and well, grass mown, artist painting and our Sherborne organiser, Chris Waite, checking on riders' health. Another downhill run and a slog up to Folke. The short-cut to Long Burton means walking, but saves 5 miles.

Sherborne Castle Gardens' cake and hot chocolate; Castleton, Cheap Street Methodist church and the glorious Abbey. Bradford Abbas – long tiring ride. Thornford, Beer Hackett and Yetminster lie on roughly the same contour. We met our intrepid walking team: Eddie Upton, Philippa Toulson and Joyce and Roger Dibble who were taking their cream tea among the Yetminster gravestones. Back on familiar territory we headed for Chetnole and Leigh. This year we cut out Melbury Bubb, Batcombe, The Friary and Hilfield but in 2022 we will cover them all – and the pub.

We covered 21 churches in 45 miles. We are grateful to the people of Leigh, and the generosity of Just Givers. They all contributed a sum of £2,483.87. Roll on Ride+Stride 2022.

Alaistair Cumming



Barney was the sponsored Strider for St Thomas Beckett, Lydlinch. He visited 14 churches and raised £350 – here he is, enjoying a well-earned rest for his tired paws!



The Morshead Trophy 2021 – St Andrew, Leigh

The Morshead Trophy (named after Sir Owen Morshead, the Trust's founder) is awarded each year to the church, which in the opinion of the Trustees, achieved the most impressive Ride+Stride results. This is not necessarily the church raising the most money.

The 2021 Trophy has been awarded to **St Andrew, Leigh**, in the Sherborne Deanery, raising £2483.81 which, this time, was also the largest total.

St Mary, Sturminster Marshall, winners in 2019, were close behind. The winners in 2020 were **All Saints, Hilton**. The pandemic meant that there have been no presentations in the last two years. Accordingly all three winners will have their own separate presentations this year to recognise their impressive efforts.

A full list of Ride+Stride 2021 results for Dorset can be seen on pages 14-17 of this Report.

Ride+Stride 2022 takes place on Saturday 10th 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

Ride+Stride to Langham

A small but hardy band from Gillingham made the very pleasant walk for the 2021 Ride+Stride to the beautiful thatched St George's Church at Langham.

While there is some debate about how many thatched churches there are in the country, we are pretty certain this is the only one in Dorset. It is in fact a memorial to three members of the Manger family killed in the First World War.

It is a beautiful, restful and quite remote place, reached by a single-track road. The building with its soft curves and gentle roof line seems to emerge from the land itself. It is looked after by the Manger Family Trust and is Listed Grade II.

The church was built at the instigation of Alfred Manger, who lived at nearby Stock Hill House. He wanted to build a church for his estate workers and other local people, because the distance to St Mary's Gillingham was inconveniently long. Sadly however, he died in 1917 and then his wife passed away in 1919. They were buried in a field near the house, and the church built over them in 1921 to designs by Charles Ponting.

By then, the loss of three other family members who all served during the Great War suggested dedication to the warrior Saint George, and making the building a memorial to their memory.

Riding+Striding from Gillingham, St George's made a very pleasant half-way refreshment stop for the energetic participants in the event. Good walking weather helped the cheerful and happy mood of the trip which resulted in an impressive contribution of £920 to the Dorset R+S 2021 funds.



St George, Langham



Picnic at Lodors



Nina Crane – Ride+Stride 2021

Ride+Stride 2021 took place on Saturday, 11th September and the weather was perfect for a good day's cycling.

We met at Witchampton, adjacent to the church of St Mary and St Cuthberga. As is usual we were generously welcomed with refreshments.

We planned a route taking in the Crichels, the Gussages, Wimborne St Giles, Horton, Hinton Martell and Chalbury. We appreciated the quiet roads and the notable absence of

traffic. Moor Crichel didn't have a church so we pressed on to Long Crichel and the church of St Mary. The church is now redundant but is supported by the Friends of Friendless Churches who contribute to preserving this lovely-looking building. A very helpful and knowledgeable lady showed us round and pointed out interesting features.

After a quick look round the church at Gussage All Saints, we carried on to Wimborne St Giles, on a lovely sunny country road overlooking farm fields. The church here was certainly the grandest on our ride, the benefactors being the Ashley Coopers, the family name of the Earl of Shaftesbury.

Turning for home, we called at the church of St Wolfrida, Horton which had been almost totally rebuilt in 1722. From there we rode up the hill to Chalbury Common. All Saints is a delightful little Georgian church with box pews and altar rails preserved by the DHCT as a tribute to Sir Owen Morshead, its first Chairman. One could imagine this church in a scene from a Thomas Hardy novel. We had next planned to visit Hinton Martell but somehow missed the turning and so we found ourselves on the road back to Witchampton where we went back to the church to take photographs and have more refreshment before driving home.

All in all we were very pleased with our new route which we hope to do again this year. Tom and I were thrilled to raise the grand total of over £700 and our very grateful thanks go to all those who sponsored us so generously in aid of the lovely historic churches to be found in the county.

Ride+Stride Results 2021

Parish	Church	Deanery Area	Ride+Stride Total
Leigh	St Andrew	Sherborne	£2,483.81
Sturminster Marshall	St Mary	Wimborne	£2,227.28
Fontmell Magna	St Andrew	Milton & Blandford	£1,925.44
Sherborne	Abbey Church of St Mary	Sherborne	£1,627.00
Ashmore	St Nicholas	Milton & Blandford	£1,545.00
Whitchurch Canoniconum	St Candida and Holy Cross	Lyme Bay	£1,480.08
Wareham	Lady St Mary	Purbeck	£1,449.30
Silton	St Nicholas	Blackmore Vale	£1,435.00
Sandford Orcas	St Nicholas	Sherborne	£1,393.45
Milton Abbas	St James	Milton & Blandford	£1,359.88
Piddlehinton	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester	£1,314.71
Over Compton	St Michael	Sherborne	£1,304.00
Oborne	St Cuthbert	Sherborne	£1,250.00
Wimborne Newborough St John	St John	Wimborne	£1,218.72
Wyke Regis	All Saints	Weymouth	£1,188.98
Spetisbury	St John the Baptist	Milton & Blandford	£1,135.00
Iwerne Minster	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	£1,115.00
Stourton Caundle	St Peter	Blackmore Vale	£1,114.80
Tarrant Rushton	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	£1,110.00
Sturminster Newton	St Mary	Blackmore Vale	£1,100.00
Littlebredy	St Michael and All Angels	Lyme Bay	£1,047.69
Yetminster	St Andrew	Sherborne	£1,023.65
Godmanstone	Holy Trinity	Dorchester	£1,020.00
Hilton	All Saints	Dorchester	£955.20
Tarrant Hinton	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	£955.00
Corfe Castle	St Edward the Martyr	Purbeck	£949.40
Chaldon Herring	St Nicholas	Purbeck	£932.00
Gillingham	St Mary the Virgin	Blackmore Vale	£920.00
Chettle	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	£917.00
Dewlish	All Saints	Dorchester	£880.00
Evershot	St Osmund	Sherborne	£880.00
Affpuddle	St Laurence	Purbeck	£870.00
Chetnole	St Peter	Sherborne	£869.69
Tolpuddle	St John the Evangelist	Dorchester	£857.31
Melbury Osmond/Sampford	St Osmund/St Mary	Sherborne	£855.00
Winterborne Houghton	St Andrew	Milton & Blandford	£848.00
Colehill	St Michael and All Angels	Wimborne	£843.54
Stourpaine	Holy Trinity	Milton & Blandford	£837.28
Shipton Gorge	St Martin	Lyme Bay	£827.53
West Lulworth	Holy Trinity	Purbeck	£821.80

Parish	Church	Deanery Area	Ride+Stride Total
Tarrant Gunville	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	£804.52
Bradpole	Holy Trinity	Lyme Bay	£800.00
Powerstock	St Mary the Virgin	Lyme Bay	£770.00
Alton Pancras	St Pancras	Dorchester	£765.00
Winfrith Newburgh	St Christopher	Purbeck	£757.00
West Knighton	St Peter	Dorchester	£756.00
Radipole	St Ann	Weymouth	£735.34
Puddletown	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester	£715.00
Canford Cliffs	Church of the Transfiguration	Poole & North Bournemouth	£705.00
Hazelbury Bryan	St Mary and St James	Blackmore Vale	£697.41
Winterborne St Martin	St Martin	Dorchester	£687.11
Cranborne	St Mary and St Bartholomew	Wimborne	£675.39
Kington Magna	All Saints	Blackmore Vale	£660.00
Dorchester RC	Holy Trinity	Dorchester	£655.00
Dorchester	St Peter	Dorchester	£652.42
Kimmeridge	St Nicholas of Myra	Purbeck	£639.30
Sydling St Nicholas	St Nicholas	Dorchester	£635.97
Steeple	St Michael and All Angels	Purbeck	£628.84
Fordington	St George	Dorchester	£628.17
Uploders	Methodist Chapel	Lyme Bay	£623.73
Crossways	St Aldhelm	Dorchester	£620.00
Gussage All Saints	All Saints	Milton & Blandford	£601.26
Long Bredy	St Peter	Lyme Bay	£600.00
Bere Regis	St John the Baptist	Purbeck	£600.00
Blandford Forum	St Peter and St Paul	Milton & Blandford	£593.15
Winterborne Kingston	St Nicholas	Milton & Blandford	£587.60
Canford Magna	Parish Church	Wimborne	£586.54
Wimborne St Giles	St Giles	Wimborne	£575.00
Blandford RC	Our Lady of Lourdes & St Cecilia	Milton & Blandford	£572.79
Upwey	St Laurence	Weymouth	£555.00
Fifehead Magdalen	St Mary Magdalene	Blackmore Vale	£542.05
Purse Caundle	St Peter	Blackmore Vale	£535.14
Wool	Holy Rood	Purbeck	£535.00
Litton Cheney	St Mary	Lyme Bay	£505.00
Owermoigne	St Michael	Dorchester	£500.00
Maiden Newton	St Mary	Sherborne	£466.68
Burton Bradstock	St Mary	Lyme Bay	£465.00
Stour Vale	Benefice	Blackmore Vale	£465.00
Lytchett Matravers	St Mary the Virgin	Poole & North Bournemouth	£459.52
Motcombe	St Mary	Blackmore Vale	£440.00
Witchampton	St Mary, St Cuthberga and All Saints	Wimborne	£437.50

Parish	Church	Deanery Area	Ride+Stride Total
Church Knowle	St Peter	Purbeck	£435.80
Weymouth	Holy Trinity	Weymouth	£430.00
Melbury Abbas	St Thomas	Blackmore Vale	£425.38
Dorchester	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester	£425.00
Walditch	St Mary	Lyme Bay	£425.00
Charlton Marshall	St Mary the Virgin	Milton & Blandford	£406.33
Loders	St Mary Magdalene	Lyme Bay	£405.00
Pimperne	St Peter	Milton & Blandford	£391.90
Hooke	St Giles	Lyme Bay	£381.19
Stoke Abbott	St Mary	Lyme Bay	£376.85
Frome St Quintin	St Mary	Sherborne	£360.00
Charminster	St Mary the Virgin	Dorchester	£359.00
Sixpenny Handley	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	£355.00
Lydlinch	St Thomas Beckett	Blackmore Vale	£350.00
Milborne St Andrew	St Andrew	Dorchester	£350.00
Farnham	St Laurence	Milton & Blandford	£350.00
Warmwell	Holy Trinity	Dorchester	£343.19
Wyke Regis	St Edmund	Weymouth	£321.34
Chideock	St Giles	Lyme Bay	£320.00
Alderholt	St James	Wimborne	£320.00
Longburton	St James	Sherborne	£313.00
Broadwindsor	St John the Baptist	Lyme Bay	£305.00
Preston	St Andrew	Weymouth	£300.00
Parkstone	St Peter	Poole & North Bournemouth	£294.76
Shillingstone	Holy Rood	Blackmore Vale	£277.18
Buckhorn Weston	St John the Baptist	Blackmore Vale	£265.00
Swyre	Holy Trinity	Lyme Bay	£258.00
Buckland Newton	Holy Rood	Dorchester	£255.00
Tincleton	St John the Evangelist	Dorchester	£235.00
Dorchester UC		Dorchester	£235.00
Askerswell	St Michael	Lyme Bay	£235.00
Chideock RC	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs and St Ignatius	Lyme Bay	£230.00
Tollard Royal	St Peter ad Vincula	Milton & Blandford	£228.07
Bradford Peverell	St Mary	Dorchester	£225.56
Lyme Regis	St Michael the Archangel	Lyme Bay	£220.00
Branksome Park	All Saints	Poole & North Bournemouth	£220.00
Okeford Fitzpaine	St Andrew	Blackmore Vale	£216.00
Shapwick	St Bartholomew	Wimborne	£215.00
Gussage St Michael	St Michael	Milton & Blandford	£210.00
Radipole	St Mary	Weymouth	£209.00
Sutton Waldron	St Bartholomew	Milton & Blandford	£200.00

Parish	Church	Deanery Area	Ride+Stride Total
Lilliput	Holy Angels	Poole & North Bournemouth	£200.00
Swanage	St Mary the Virgin	Purbeck	£200.00
Stinsford	St Michael	Dorchester	£189.22
Beaminster RC	St John	Lyme Bay	£184.59
Marnhull	St Gregory	Blackmore Vale	£170.00
Langton Long	All Saints	Milton & Blandford	£169.61
Parkstone	St Clement	Poole & North Bournemouth	£160.86
Mappowder	St Peter and St Paul	Blackmore Vale	£156.50
Glanvilles Wootton	St Mary the Virgin	Sherborne	£155.00
Hinton St Mary	St Peter	Blackmore Vale	£148.00
Verwood	St Michael and All Angels	Wimborne	£130.00
Mapperton	All Saints	Lyme Bay	£127.05
Shaftesbury	St James	Blackmore Vale	£122.00
Moreton	St Nicholas	Dorchester	£120.00
Drimpton	St Mary	Lyme Bay	£115.00
Catherston Leweston	St Mary	Lyme Bay	£115.00
Cheselbourne	St Martin	Dorchester	£110.00
Thornford	St Mary Magdalene	Sherborne	£110.00
Stour Provost	St Mary and All Angels	Blackmore Vale	£100.00
Fifehead Neville	All Saints	Blackmore Vale	£100.00
Shaftesbury	St Peter	Blackmore Vale	£100.00
Compton Valence	St Thomas Beckett	Dorchester	£100.00
Corscombe	St Mary	Sherborne	£100.00
Batcombe	St Mary Magdalene	Sherborne	£100.00
Buckland Ripers	St Nicholas	Weymouth	£100.00
Worth Matravers	St Nicholas	Purbeck	£97.90
Milton on Stour	St Simon and St Jude	Blackmore Vale	£90.00
East Lulworth	St Andrew	Purbeck	£80.00
Winterborne Whitechurch	St Mary	Milton & Blandford	£76.87
Tarrant Keynston	All Saints	Milton & Blandford	£70.00
Edmondsham	St Nicholas	Wimborne	£66.00
Cattistock	St Peter and St Paul	Sherborne	£58.84
Enmore Green	St John the Evangelist	Blackmore Vale	£50.00
Piddletrenthide	All Saints	Dorchester	£50.00
South Perrott	St Mary	Lyme Bay	£50.00
Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity	Lyme Bay	£50.00
Beer Hackett	St Michael	Sherborne	£48.85
Margaret Marsh	St Margaret	Blackmore Vale	£30.00
East Chelborough	St James	Sherborne	£30.00
Tarrant Monkton	All Saints	Milton & Blandford	£20.00

Treasurer's Report

As my predecessor Liz Ashmead observed in last year's report, new treasurers are often beguiled with assurances that the job is relatively straightforward and won't take up too much time. The reality, as Liz indicated and I can now attest, is often quite different. Getting to grips with the Trust's finances and the processing of the Ride+Stride fund raising has been a steep learning curve for me and for the new book-keeping team who have been working alongside me. In that respect Becka Brierly, assisted by her father Rob, have been invaluable in setting up a completely new accounting system and developing spreadsheets to record and report Ride+Stride results by Parish and Deanery area.

Whilst Ride+Stride will always entail considerable administrative effort, the increasing use of JustGiving and paying monies direct to the Trust via BACS, helps us considerably in easing the workload.

The funds raised by Ride+Stride in 2021 of £98k is a commendable achievement by the participating individuals and parishes. Of this, £43k has been returned to the parishes. We expect to claim a further £9k of Gift Aid from HMRC in due course, which will bring the total raised to £107k, which is only just short of last year's exceptional figure. This is a testament to the efforts of those Riders and Striders without whom this event could not be the success it is. Alongside the valuable support of our Friends, Ride+Stride is key in enabling the Trust to raise the funds necessary to continue making grants to our churches.

This year we paid out £86k in grants. There are further grants of £136k approved and awaiting payment. This is somewhat less than we might usually have anticipated but it may well reflect reduced activity during the pandemic and a pent-up demand which will manifest itself in the months to come.

Cash reserves increased by £15k in 2021, mainly due to lower than anticipated grant payments referred to above. Costs of running the Trust have remained broadly the same and, whilst income from Friend's events have been unavoidably impacted by the pandemic, business as usual is expected to resume in 2022.

Cash reserves stand at a healthy £125k and our investments at the year-end were £568k. Whilst the value of our investments will have fallen somewhat since then, in line with global stock markets, we are nevertheless well placed to continue to provide the essential financial support towards maintaining Dorset's historic churches' structural integrity and preserving our rich heritage.

Roger Blaber

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.

Summary of receipts and expenditure for 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Receipts	£159,000	£143,000
Payments	£144,000	£174,000
Movement in Cash	£15,000	-£31,000

Cash increased by £15,000 in the year

This analysis of receipts and payments explains why

	2021	2020
	£	£
Receipts		
Donations	12,000	13,000
Ride+Stride	101,000	113,000
Events	1,000	2,000
Investment Income	15,000	15,000
Sales Of Investments	30,000	-
	£159,000	£143,000

Payments

Ride+Stride 50% Return	43,000	47,000
Ride+Stride Expenses	5,000	7,000
Friends Administraion	1,000	2,000
Grants	86,000	110,000
Support	8,000	7,000
Independent Examination	1,000	1,000
	£144,000	£174,000

Assets and Liabilities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash Funds		
Lloyds Bank	53,796	54,875
Nationwide	25,100	-
CBF Deposit Account	45,812	45,788
CAF	-	1,090
Gift Aid	-	8,292
	£124,708	£110,045

Investments

CBF Investment Fund	567,958	523,866
Total Assets	£692,666	£633,911
Grants Awarded		
Not Yet Drawn Down	-136,500	-140,500
Total Assets Less Liabilities	£556,166	£493,411

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Receipts		
Voluntary Income		
Friends, Individuals and Trusts	12,064	11,383
Parochial Church Councils	–	1,561
	£12,064	£12,944
Activities for generating funds		
Ride+Stride previous year	1,570	406
Ride+Stride current year	98,184	112,528
Gift Aid	1,240	–
Talks and Crawls	870	2,049
Sale of notecards	141	136
	£102,005	£115,119
Investment Income	£14,840	£14,898
Sale of Investments	£30,000	–
Total Receipts	£158,909	£142,961
Payments		
Ride+Stride		
50% return to churches	43,348	47,048
Honoraria	900	4,500
Printing and postage	1,238	1,332
Bookkeeping	1,445	–
Administration	1,800	1,127
	£48,731	£54,007
Friends		
Meals for lecture lunches	804	2,290
Grants	£85,658	£110,500
Support Costs		
Annual Report	2,533	2,408
Postage, stationery and travel	–	1,063
Marketing and website	736	1,124
Insurance	398	372
JustGiving fees	331	216
Bookkeeping	2,754	–
Meetings	291	–
Bank Charges	714	337
	£7,757	£5,520
Governance		
Independent Examiner	1,296	1,260
Total Payments	£144,246	£173,577
Net Movement in Cash Funds	£14,663	-£30,616
Cash Funds Last Year End	£110,045	£140,661
Cash Fund This Year End	£124,708	£110,045

Valete

Liz Ashmead

Steven Norman writes:

As everyone knows, the Charity Commission has heaped more and more onerous responsibilities on the trustees of charities. Liz ‘ticked all the boxes’ by being a qualified Chartered Accountant, living in the area close to a Dorset Historic Church, and being prepared to take it on.

The more burdens the DHCT trustees loaded onto her shoulders (eg the complexities of Gift-Aid), the more she cheerfully bore them. Apart from carrying all the responsibilities of Treasurer, she produced periodic accounts and attended trustees’ meetings. On top of all this, she was a keen horsewoman, and entered long-distance marathon rides, as well, of course regularly joining in Ride+Stride.

It couldn’t last: her cheerful confidence was spotted by Salisbury Diocese, which wanted her to join them as their Chief Accountant. Initially, she faithfully served DHCT as well as the diocese. Inevitably the greater task prevailed, and she asked to be relieved of her DHCT responsibilities.

Former Chairman of the Trust, Simon Pomeroy, adds his thoughts:

I have abiding memories of Liz Ashmead and her remarkable talents. It would be invidious to single out any of the others in ‘the team’, but I remember the many occasions when the word went round the trustee body, “Liz Ashmead is dealing with it”, and a palpable sigh of relief could be heard. Liz had established such smooth-running systems that she could control DHCT’s finances in spite of my woeful lack of computer skills. She never complained, she took on any task which arose, and she demonstrated an astonishing attention to detail in dealing with DHCT’s affairs. On top of all this, she never missed entering into Ride+Stride! Her contribution to DHCT was immense.

Rob Fox

When Rob Fox agreed to become our ‘in-house’ solicitor and a member of DHCT’s Trustee body in 2012, I was in awe. As an experienced lawyer in public practice, Rob has many calls upon his time, but he was always there to advise us; he used to attend our Trustees’ meetings (for several years as the Hon Sec) and never blinked at the queries raised, particularly those which concerned the ever-changing regulations to Charity Law and Data Protection.

We salute his expertise and we are eternally grateful for his wise counsel to us over many years. We should also not forget the many occasions on which his children entered Ride+Stride! Thank you Rob, and enjoy your retirement!

Andrew Boggis

We say farewell and thank you to Andrew Boggis who was the Lyme Bay Deanery Area Representative from 2012 to 2021 and a DHCT Trustee from 2012 until 2020. Andrew has been a great representative for the Trust and he has been particularly pleased that the Trust has supported, and had support from, the RC, Methodist, United and United Reform Churches in the Lyme Bay Area.

Directory 2022

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Examiners:	Towngate House, 2 – 8 Parkstone Road, Poole BH15 2PW

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(through whom all applications for grants should be made)

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