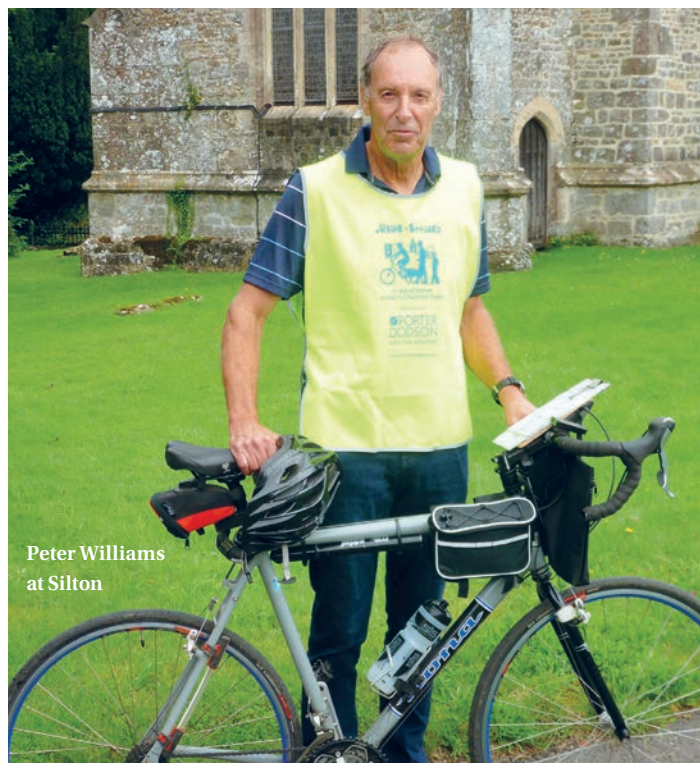


Dorset Historic Churches Trust

Conserving the past – enriching the future

2023 | Issue 18

ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW



Peter Williams
at Silton

Ride+Stride raised £87,000 in 2022. This means that DHCT's grant awards can continue at their current level of over £100,000 in 2023.

The day went well but was overshadowed by the death of Her Majesty The Queen on 8th September 2022. The Trustees took the view that fundraising for Dorset churches of all denominations would be an appropriate commemoration of Her Majesty's long life devoted to the service of the country and that Ride+Stride should go ahead.

Thank you to all those who took part enabling the work of the Trust to continue. The grants that the Trust can award have never been so important in getting church repair projects started.

In 2022, 147 parishes took part in Ride+Stride, with 17 raising over £1,000 and 52 raising £500 or over. Special mention should be made of St Mary, Sturminster Marshall, St Andrew, Fontmell Magna and St Nicholas, Silton, each of these parishes raising over £2,000 which was magnificent.

The Trustees have decided to award the 2022 Morshead Trophy to St Nicholas, Silton. Silton has not previously won the Trophy but have been consistently high performers raising over £1,000 annually in the six years to 2022 when they raised £2,005. Many congratulations to the team: Peter Williams (pictured left), David and Diana Masters and Mike and Michaela Metcalf. Sponsorship does not necessarily have to be raised by riding or striding. Parish Organisers are free to try other events such as coffee mornings, sponsored swims etc. This may suit participants who no longer wish to walk or cycle.

Ride+Stride has been an annual event since 1991. As most readers will know it is the Trust's principal source of income, funding the grants that are awarded. The Trust's ability to raise this money is heavily dependent on the work that is done by the Parish Organisers to encourage participation in Ride+Stride. This can be very straight forward as some parishes have loyal supporters who rise to the challenge year after year. In other cases a little more work is required.

Deanery Area Representatives are also important volunteers in the work carried out by the Trust. They are the contact point for Parish Organisers and also for a church that needs to apply for a grant. A DAR will guide them through the process having made an initial visit and can often provide help in advising about other possible sources of funding. A DHCT grant is often one of the very early building blocks on which other funding applications can be based.

Most people would acknowledge that parish churches are a very important part of the built landscape. They are often the dominant feature of a small town or village. In Dorset many are listed buildings and it is in the interests of all that they are kept in repair so that this heritage survives. How many times have you been given directions with the words 'if you have gone past the church you have gone too far' or 'it is second left after the church'? They are important landmarks. Many will be familiar with the discussions surrounding the use of churches for the wider community. There are some wonderful examples of this but sometimes this is not possible. Even so the fabric of a church which cannot diversify and find support from other activities will still need protection and repair.

If you are reading this it is not unreasonable to assume that you have an interest in protecting the county's churches. Would you like to take this interest further and volunteer either as a Parish Organiser or as a Deanery Area Representative? You can get in touch by contacting any of the Deanery Area Representatives listed on the back page of this Annual Report and Review. They will be able to give you more detail as to what is involved. It is not a requirement that you are a church-goer but rather that you have a keen interest in helping to 'conserve the past – enrich the future'.

Philippa Francis

Contents

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Chairman's Report..... | page 2 |
| Honorary Secretary's Report..... | page 3 |
| Grants Committee Report..... | pages 4-5 |
| Carved fragment from an Anglo-Saxon standing cross and the arrival of Christianity in Gillingham..... | pages 6-7 |
| The Labours of the Seasons..... | page 8 |
| Marketing and Communications Report 2022..... | page 9 |
| 2022 Church Crawls..... | page 10 |
| Friends of DHCT Annual Event 2022..... | page 11 |
| Ride+Stride 2022..... | page 12 |
| Morshead Trophy presentations 2019, 2020, 2021..... | page 13 |
| Ride+Stride Results 2022..... | pages 14-17 |
| Treasurer's Report..... | pages 18-19 |
| Directory 2023..... | page 20 |

Chairman's Report for 2022

Following our period of renewal for the Trust after the challenges presented by the Covid 19 pandemic, 2022 has seen us consolidate and focus hard on our core activity of preserving and sustaining Dorset's historic churches.

Wherever I go and whomever I meet, the message I receive is always the same - our churches are the gems of Dorset. Such messages give me faith and hope that our endeavours are appreciated and heading in the right direction!

I can assure you that we are far from complacent in meeting the challenges of those endeavours. In common with many charities across the country, we have to work hard to sustain and grow our volunteer base and fight for the funds we need to enable us to achieve our objectives. Our network of Friends across the county is strong but I am always seeking to expand that network. We are still looking for more Deanery Area Representatives to work with our churches to secure the grants they need to preserve our church buildings and enable them to serve their communities in so many different ways. Similarly, our need for Parish Organisers is equally important to bring our annual Ride+Stride fundraising event to fruition. As ever, I urge you to think about joining us in either of these roles or to convince others to help us. Without such support we could not carry out the work that we do.

The Trustees who run the Trust, all volunteers, work tirelessly to ensure that we run a lean organisation with carefully budgeted costs, regularly reviewed, so the maximum possible amount of money is spent on our churches. We have streamlined our operation to ensure that it is efficient and effective in supporting the Parishes and our Friends. Our approach is also reviewed regularly, to ensure that the way we work is alive to the changes in the way our Parishes across the Diocese are managed

and we keep in regular contact with members of the Clergy from the Bishop of Salisbury, through our two Archdeacons to our Parish Clergy. Our role may be purely architectural, historical and building focussed but the Clergy and the strategy of the Church authorities are an important guide for us.

We march on! Ride+Stride in 2022 may not have achieved the outstanding results realised in 2020 and 2021 but the amount of funds raised is still highly commendable, in line with earlier results and easily enables us to achieve our grant awards. This is thanks to the tremendous enthusiasm, commitment and dedication of communities across Dorset as they cycle, run or walk in support of their churches.

I sense a real community drive to using our churches as key community assets, whether in Sherborne where I live, with the Abbey increasingly leaning towards our community, providing different amenities for all its members, young and old, or in smaller communities such as Silton, which has won the Morshead Trophy for this year. Creating in the church building a community focus has long been a passion of mine, especially where young people are involved and I am delighted to see that passion being realised.

My message to you is simple: keep going, think of us and be proud of the way our volunteers work for you across the beautiful County of Dorset.

John Stokoe CB CBE



St Andrew, Toller Porcorum, awarded £12,000

Honorary Secretary's Report

I recently looked back over my 12 years as a Trustee and noted how the Trust used to be run, very effectively, by the Chairman, the Honorary Treasurer and one or two other Trustees supporting the work of the Deanery Reps.

The growing realisation that every Trustee has a legal duty to know that the Trust is being run in full compliance with the Charity Commission's regulations, has encouraged us to evolve. We believe we now have an organisation where every Trustee has a much fuller knowledge of every aspect of our work and plays a key role in it. While some of our readers may be familiar with the organisation of the Trust as it is today, it is worth reprising the description. There are six main areas of activity: fundraising, 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. We have several gaps in our DAR organisation, which we urgently need to fill, but in the interim, cover for the organisation of R+S or the preparation of grant applications has been generously given by a neighbouring DAR or Trustee.

In order to keep the Trust delivering great results year after year, we must fill the gaps; we aspire to have two DARs per Deanery Area so that the work need never become a burden. Many small charities are run by retired people in their mid-60s who generously give their time but understandably do not want to be in harness for ever. We know that the prospect of being unable to give up a role once it has been taken on is big disincentive to volunteering. Accordingly, we ask people to commit only for a limited number of years, which may be extended if they wish.

We are 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

The collection and accurate accounting for over £87,000 in R+S sponsorship from over 160 churches funds our core business of grant making. Our bookkeeper, Becka Brierley, having last year mastered a new accounting package, has done wonders by refining her spreadsheets and using her acquired knowledge of R+S participants to ensure that all the numbers drop neatly into the end of year accounts. Anna Butler's spreadsheets of PO contacts along with the DARs' Toolkit on the non-public area of the website provide the other key source of management information available to the DARs.

Sadly, we have said goodbye to three Trustees: Nigel Thimbleby, a former Chairman, who stayed on until the 50th anniversary of his involvement with the Trust; Sue Smith, who has masterminded our Friends organisation and added so much to Crawls and Lecture Lunches and Dr Giles Sturdy, who provided wise counsel on the Grants Committee and was a committed DAR for Purbeck. We thank them for their years of contribution to the Trust.

One of the real pleasures of being Secretary is to receive messages of gratitude and admiration for what we do, including a number of letters of thanks for our grant aid. It is heart-warming to know that, across the County, there are churches whose roofs are sound again rather than being a source of worry to diminishing congregations. I will close by quoting from the message that accompanied a generous legacy (from Sir John James, a long term Friend of the Trust) "DHCT, which is about Dorset, churches and making a difference". If we ever think of changing our current strapline, this would be my first choice.

Jeremy Selfe

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 two or three 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.

Apart from visiting churches in need of a grant, the other main role of the DAR is to coordinate with the Parish Organisers for 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 fundraisers for the Trust. Without their efforts DHCT would not be able to support so many grant applications.

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

Please get in touch via the website www.dhct.org.uk

Grants Committee Report 2022

This year saw us emerge from Covid. In terms of the maintenance of churches this has meant that some of the grants we had previously made have needed to be extended because repairs have not been able to begin, but otherwise applications were made much the same, though slightly fewer than usual.

After our final meeting and before the end of the year, however, we received three urgent applications from churches who for one reason or another needed to carry out a necessary repair within a time frame dictated by other circumstances.

In one case it was the reasonable demands of a neighbouring property, in another it was the need to carry out recently discovered repairs while scaffolding, erected for another purpose, was still in place. In November part of the roof at Shillingstone collapsed. We can act fairly quickly if the need arises.

More than half the applications were concerned with roof repairs. I had the good fortune to see the progress of the roof at St Mary Magdalene, North Poorton, while visiting it on Ride+Stride in September. It is good to report also that the restoration of the collapsed plaster ceiling at Fifehead Magdalen (pictured), which has caused the church to be closed for a period, was completed this year. I was glad to see the little notice mentioning the Trust's involvement in the work at North Poorton, while no one crossing the bridge in Weymouth can miss the yellow DHCT notice showing that we have also played a part in the restoration of the Warrior window at Holy Trinity church there. Other work we have assisted in West Dorset includes repairs to the tower at Toller Porcorum.

In assessing each application, we take into account the full range of information summarised on the application form. Assuming the application is for work that we say we will assist, we look at other factors, including the statement of the 'entire resources' of the church. This can be a difficult issue for applicants to resolve; funds are said to be restricted for one purpose or another, or a church may own some land of great value which yields very little each year. The applications we have received over the last few years – and we have nothing else to go on – show the huge range of resources of churches that have sought our help, ranging from under £2,000 to well over half a million pounds.



The new floor taking shape at St Mary, Motcombe, awarded £9,000

Of course churches have very different sizes of congregations as well as very different demands on their resources, but the average 'entire resources' of the churches that apply to us appears to be a little over £40,000. In Powerstock's case I know that we are a bit over that sum this year because we could at last hold our village Fete, and next year we will fall below it again, because we hold the Fete every two years.

Dr Tim Connor



'During' image showing the extensive work at Fifehead Magdalen, awarded £5,000, with a £1,500 top up.



The beautiful new, finished ceiling at Fifehead Magdalen

Grants awarded in 2022

| | |
|---|---------|
| Buckland Ripers – St Nicholas | |
| Repairs to the roof | £5,000 |
| Motcombe – St Mary | |
| Replace old flooring with new stones | £9,000 |
| North Poorton – St Mary Magdalene | |
| Repairs to the roof | £8,000 |
| Sixpenny Handley – St Mary | |
| Repair roof and lead gulley | £6,000 |
| Broadwey – St Nicholas | |
| Repairs to bell tower and guttering | £10,000 |
| Fifehead Magdalen – St Mary Magdalene | |
| Further help replacing ceiling plaster | £1,500 |
| Lychett Minster | |
| Towards a project of facilities | £7,000 |
| Okeford Fitzpaine – St Andrew | |
| Towards a project of replacing flooring and moving the font | £6,000 |
| Radipole, St Aldhelm | |
| Towards roofing materials | £5,000 |
| Pimperne – St Peter | |
| Towards roof repairs | £9,000 |
| Worth Matravers – St Nicholas of Myra | |
| Towards a general repair project | £11,000 |
| Ashmore – St Nicholas | |
| Roof repairs | £12,000 |
| Chetnole – St Peter | |
| Repairs to leaking roof | £5,000 |
| Okeford Fitzpaine – St Andrew | |
| Towards repairs to unsafe electrics | £5,000 |
| Stock Gaylard – St Barnabas | |
| Replace all electrical cabling and lighting | £5,000 |
| Wimborne – St John | |
| Repairs and re roofing | £2,500 |
| Iwerne Minster – St Mary | |
| Emergency repairs to roof | £6,000 |
| Wareham – Lady St Mary | |
| Emergency drainage work | £6,000 |

Pressing on regardless

I mused whilst puffing hard, cycling around East Dorset with our Minster Ride+Stride team, that it wouldn't be long and I would be sitting down to pen this annual report. This has proved the case!

As I write in the depths of the January 2023 cold spell, with chilled fingers pressing all the right letters (but not necessarily in the right order), my major concern is for the fabric of our precious, historic church buildings, and their inevitable under-heating. Here at Wimborne we are 'investing' thousands in keeping a sensible but reduced level of heating running – albeit at major, and way over original, budget cost. The vastly increased energy costs have focussed our minds on the complex matter of investing in greener, low-carbon alternatives. Not a straightforward or inexpensive matter.

It is in this context that we at Dorset Historic Churches Trust are doing our part to help all to 'run the race' in maintaining roofs and gutters, windows et al. We are a team of enthusiastic and committed volunteers giving time and talents to this worthy cause.

We Trustees, together with all our Ride+Stride friends are puffing along the race of life, towards our final goal. It feels like an uphill stretch at present, but I believe that just around the corner is an easier stretch. Whatever, our efforts are completely worthwhile, and I thank and praise all who are supporting us. All teams need new 'runners and riders' and we are seeking to welcome new Trustees and supporters to help us along the Way of Christ. This could be a mission statement?

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

Psalm 27:4-9 (ESV)

Thank you for all you do as we seek after the Lord together.

Rev'd Canon Andrew Rowland

Join the Friends of Dorset Historic Churches Trust

Please support Dorset Church Buildings by joining the Friends of Dorset Historic Churches Trust. Individual yearly membership costs £20 or £30 for a couple.

For more details or to obtain a leaflet, please contact: friendsadmin@mg1.dhct.org.uk

Details are also available on our website.

Carved fragment from an Anglo-Saxon standing cross and the arrival of Christianity in Gillingham

In 2021 a carved fragment from the shaft of a late-8th or 9th century Anglo-Saxon standing cross was transferred on loan from St Mary's church in Gillingham to the town's museum. Not only is it an art historical gem, but it has the potential to provide quite a lot of information about the early church in Gillingham.

It first came to light in the early part of the twentieth century when it was embedded in the rear gable wall of the vicarage at Gillingham (opposite the church and now part of Rawson Court). But the cross is thought to have originally stood in the churchyard of St Mary's, perhaps even on the site of the church itself. Writers such as Bede (675–735 AD) and Hucbald (d. 778 AD) describe how crosses were erected under the patronage of the early church or by local estate owners (thegns) to mark places used for conversions, baptisms and services or places where healing or miracles occurred. As Christianity became more established crosses were replaced by church buildings.



The block from the Gillingham cross comes from the shaft of the cross as can be seen from a socket on the top which was made to fit the tenon of the stonework block above.



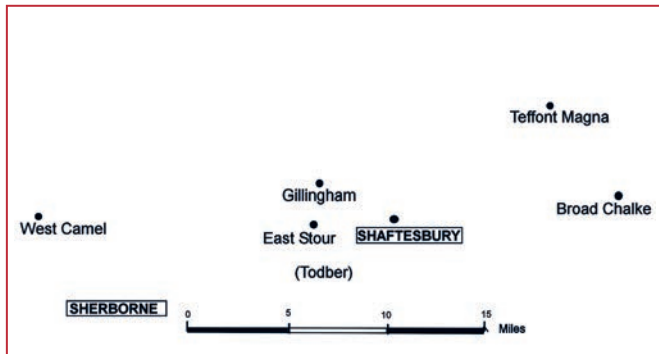
There are two commonly recurring decorative themes on Anglo-Saxon stone crosses – vine scrolls and interlace. The Gillingham fragment has examples of both.

The original front facing panel (above) is in poor condition but enough remains to identify an upward pointing berry bunch enclosed in the loop of a stem, and beside it a veined leaf. This is a detail that can also be seen on the better preserved cross fragment from East Stour (now in the British Museum) and the likelihood is that the panel as a whole would have been a vine scroll. It is thought the running plant scrolls with berry bunches take their meaning from the fruit of the vine as in St John 15, 1 – 5 'I am the vine; you are the branches..'

At some stage a sundial with a hole bored for the gnomon has been superimposed. This would have been a 'tidal' sundial divided into eight segments. The purpose was liturgical, the lines and sections marking the canonical hours such as Prime, Terce etc for the reciting of prayers and performing religious observances.

Also of note is the side panel with the non-geometrical, median incised interlace. It has long straight diagonals – incised to give the impression of two strands. The craftsmanship is of the highest order with confident, precise and delicate cutting which marks it out as being of outstanding regional, if not national importance. It has been suggested that interlace, with its unending strands, could be a symbol of eternal life.

The median incised, long diagonals in the non-geometric interlace on the Gillingham cross can also be found in broadly contemporary cross fragments from other find spots in the local area such as East Stour, Teffont Magna, West Camel and Broad Chalke, though in the latter the interlace is a more regular six strand plait. Similar median incised strands of deeply cut interlace are also to be seen on the fragments found at Shaftesbury (Holy Trinity, now in Dorchester Museum) and in the delicately carved knot of a possible cross fragment belonging to Shaftesbury Abbey Museum. This hints at a regional grouping.



For recently converted Saxons, the cross might well have held a deeper level of meaning. The pagan mindset was based on the superstitious veneration of objects in nature which were believed to possess mystical powers. It would have been an easy transition for local townsfolk to see the cross in much the same light, in other words as more than just a stone carving. They may have felt they were actually in the presence of a gateway to the miraculous; for them the symbol was the symbolised. This outlook is implicit in the verses inspired by the Old English poem *The Dream of the Rood* inscribed on the edges of the shaft on the broadly contemporary high cross at Ruthwell in the Kingdom of Northumbria, and in the writings of Bede. Hence the occasions where Bede endows crosses with powers of healing. It has much in common with the veneration of relics which continues to this day.

The likelihood is that the superimposition of a tidal sundial on the front panel took place in Gillingham as elsewhere in England in the ninth to tenth century as result of the Benedictine reforms. The Benedictine protocol, based on the writings of St Benedict of Nursia, sets out in chapters 8 – 19 very detailed and precise rules regarding religious observance at the canonical hours. The code was adopted by a synod at Winchester around 973 and set out in a document called the *Regularis Concordia*. The effects would have certainly been felt in this area. A king's charter of 998 required Wulfsgite the Bishop of Sherborne (992 – 1001) to carry out a rule of monks at Sherborne Abbey observing the rules of St Benedict. It is tempting to speculate the cross may well have served its purpose by this time and been replaced by the church in Gillingham that is mentioned in the *Domesday Book*.

The dating is supported archaeological and architectural evidence. The construction of stone built churches in England gained pace in the tenth century. In this area excavations have revealed a mid to late 10th century stone church at Trowbridge (Graham and Davies 1993, 144) and Cheddar – mid 10th century (Rahtz 1979, fig 13), whilst architectural features would date the church at



Bradford-on-Avon to around 1000 AD (Taylor 1973, 159), and St Martin's Church, Wareham to the early 11th century (HE Record 1003573). This gives rise to the speculation that the fabric of the church at Gillingham could have been what C. H. Mayo, (quoting Henry Deane in around 1837 – 8) wrote in his description of the forerunner of the present church – 'the antecedent nave, only 12 ft. wide (sic), was separated from the aisles by 'heavy Saxon or Norman arches only 11½ ft. in height, supported by large masses of stone which so shut out the aisles ...as to render them... of little use'. Deane would have based this on what he saw when the church was undergoing his structural alterations. This suggested to the author of the entry in RCHME that it would have resembled the chancel of the church at Canford (RCHME 1972, 27 – 33) which is pre-conquest.

Doubt has been cast on the stated width of 12 ft but it should be borne in mind that congregations stood throughout services at this time, as there was no seating. Furthermore, the width is not that different from that of St Laurence's Saxon Church at Bradford-on-Avon which is 13 ft 6 ins, nor at Trowbridge which is 16 ft 10 ins, nor Frosterley which is 11 ft 2" i.d. (Frodsham 2014). If the cross fragment had been embedded in this masonry, it might well have come to light in Henry Deane's restorations of 1838, thereafter to find a 'safe haven' in the wall of the vicarage rebuilt in 1883 – 4, which is where it first came to public attention.

John Shephard

The Labours of the Seasons

Everyday life in medieval times, compared to the twenty first century, was hard work. 80-90% of the population were directly involved in agriculture. The working day was long and back-breaking. It was an accepted fact that the Fall from Grace in the Garden of Eden condemned Adam and Eve to a life of toil. The rhyme “when Adam delved and Eve span who was then the gentleman?” dates back to the Peasants Revolt of 1381 and a speech given by a priest named John Ball.

The term Labours of the Month refers to the cycle in medieval life dictated by the turn of the seasons and relevant artistic images that depicted the rural activities that commonly took place during the 12 months of the year. The time of the year determined what work was done, the length of the working day and what the population ate. From an even earlier period, Chedworth Roman villa has beautiful floor mosaics depicting representations of the seasons and these personifications and themes were adopted into Christian iconography. The Labours are frequently found as works of art. Examples include sculptural/painted schemes in churches and stained glass and in illuminated manuscripts especially in the calendars of late medieval Books of Hours.



Detail from The Luttrell Psalter, 1330

The mouldboard plough is pulled by a team of oxen. The ploughman is dressed for cold weather – hood and mittens. However, his costume is brightly coloured (artistic licence!) as a peasant would normally be dressed in homespun browns. The driver of the oxen – the fugator or ox-goader – stands to the left of the plough on the unbroken ground. It is also important to note that the ploughman did not own the land on which he worked – he was bound to plough and harrow the demesne of the local lord.



Folio 170v The Luttrell Psalter

A sower casts seed on the land while his dog leaps up to scare off a crow while a second crow audaciously steals seed from the sack. Folio 171r depicts the labourer harrowing to cover the seed before it is all stolen.

Nearly all Books of Hours begin with a section of calendar pages listing the saints' days and holidays throughout the year. In the 14th century there were repeated crop failures and cattle and oxen were ravaged by disease which meant depleted plough teams and a reduced ability to cultivate the land. In 1349-51 the Bubonic plague (Black Death) killed a third of the population. The Labours continued to depict an idealised view of medieval peasant life.

A typical scheme:

- January – Feasting
- February – Sitting by the fire
- March – Pruning or digging
- April – Planting, sowing seed
- May – Hawking/hunting and Courtly love
- June – Haymaking
- July – Wheat harvest
- August – Grain threshing
- September – Grape harvest
- October – Ploughing and sowing of winter crops
- November – Gathering acorns for pigs
- December – Killing pigs/cows

The plough is often depicted in the calendar pages. It was the single most important piece of machinery in the feudal economy.



The scene for November in the Très Riches Heures showing the acorn harvest was executed entirely by Jean Colombe after the death of the Duke in 1416. A herd of pigs are feeding in an oak wood (known as pannage). The swine herds are knocking down acorns with a stick for the pigs to eat. Pigs were a vital part of people's diets.

Martinmas was the traditional day for slaughtering and preserving the pigs by salting and smoking. The skin could be cured and even the blood was saved for black pudding.

Sue Smith

Marketing & Communications Report 2022

The post-Covid world has brought the return of many familiar ways of working for which we are most grateful. The ability to meet in person has aided internal communication considerably and has permitted us to celebrate the successes of three years' worth of worthy Morshead Trophy winners with real, face-to-face gatherings.

These in turn have been recorded in the local press, who remain pleasingly interested in our work to help maintain the beautiful churches of Dorset. Similarly, the efforts of so many people all over the county in raising money have been encouraged by being able to read about our plans in the public prints.

Our website remains a valuable start point for grant applicants and a source of information on all the work of the Trust. The Hon Sec works with Web Designer Andy Derrick to keep it up to date.

In common with many voluntary organisations across the country, we are always in need of new members, both as supporters and as those actively involved as Parish Organisers, Deanery Area Representatives and Trustees. One of the side effects of the pandemic and its associated lock-downs seems to have been a hesitancy for people to wish to venture forth and get involved.

We felt that it was worth taking newspaper advertisements in areas of the county where we feel we need strengthening to see if we could entice new people in. That does not seem to have been the case unfortunately, but perhaps if you are reading this you may feel moved to enquire how you could become more involved.

Another initiative promoted by the Chairman was to find a more stylish and permanent way to recognise the efforts of the annual winners of the Morshead Trophy. The trophy itself moves on to each new winner, yet it was felt that a permanent memento of the success should be given to each parish.

Some discussion of the style of the actual item suggested the idea that it should copy the feel of the original, while being smaller and economical enough to produce in numbers over the years.

The fact that there were three winning parishes to reward in the first year added impetus to the plan.

In due course, a number of English oak plaques were sourced at a local timber merchant and the final design created and carried out in consultation with Ade Signs in Gillingham.



Laser cutting enabled the lettering to be carried out smartly and effectively, while a photographic representation of the medal at the centre of the main trophy was created using a modern gel technique which gives a three-dimensional finish. The whole was then varnished to give a high gloss appearance. How these mementos are kept and displayed is for each parish to decide.

Tom Wickson



Simon Leach and Rosemary Redwood at Fifehead Magdalen. The yellow boards advertising that DHCT has grant-aided a restoration project have become a more frequent sight in the last few years and help to keep our name in the public mind.

Friends of DHCT Church Crawls 2022



Lunch stop at Maiden Newton

Toller Porcorum, Toller Fratrum, Maiden Newton and Frampton

26th May 2022

An exciting first outing of 2022 saw some 25 Friends of Dorset Churches explore four churches northwest of the county town, following the Rivers Hooke and Frome.

Toller Porcorum was described by our architectural historian, Dr Tim Connor, as in many ways a typical Dorset parish church. Never supported by a wealthy family, it has developed organically through many centuries, with the splendid 14th century tower being one of the earliest elements of the building.

Brian Woodruffe explained the stained glass to be seen – that in the chancel by the elusive late 19th century maker Charles Evans, and that in the nave by the better-documented Arthur Moore. A highlight, however, was the Millennium Window by John Hayward with its ingenious built-in sundial.

Toller Fratrum is small and the church very humble – yet is full of interest. We were welcomed by Roger Simpson, a member of the Trust that owns and runs the church. He and Tim Connor discussed the history of the building dating back to the Knight Hospitallers of St John who lived and worked in the area in the 11th century and gave the settlement its name.

At St Mary, Maiden Newton there was time for picnics to be consumed in the churchyard, which also provided the chance to study the outside of this complex structure which has its roots in the Norman period.

In many ways the most impressive church was kept till last. St Mary, Frampton may be a very Victorianised church, courtesy of a major make-over by Benjamin Ferrey, but the connection with the Browne and Sheridan families has provided a wealth of monuments and memorials – and the extravagant tower of 1704.



All Saints, Dorchester

Dorchester – 15th September, 2022

A collection of five varied churches, all within the boundary of the county town, provided a fascinating day out for over 30 Friends.

After arriving at St Mary the Virgin, Edward Road, crawlers were welcomed by the Chairman, John Stokoe. He thanked the parishioners of the church for their warm welcome and also congratulated Sue Bruce-Payne on her organisation of the day.

Dr Tim Connor opened his comments with an overview of the churches to be visited during the day, pointing out that St Mary's is the newest, dating from 1910. This large building is inspired by the Perpendicular gothic, though Charles Ponting the architect employed some Decorated detailing. Dr Connor added that the original design had a large western tower – which was never built and which is much missed in the external composition. We moved on to view the collection of town centre churches, firstly All Saints, which is now used by the Dorchester Museum as a store.

Crawlers dispersed for lunch, but reconvened for a look inside Holy Trinity, built for the army garrison, a role not required after 1975. The building is very lucky, however, to be taken on by the Roman Catholic church who evidently look after it well.

St Peter's, now the central Anglican church in Dorchester, was re-modelled by the Dorset architect John Hicks and his office boy, one Thomas Hardy, in 1859. Plenty remains to be studied from earlier buildings, including the Romanesque doorway from the main street, but the chief interest inside may be in two impressive monuments.

A pleasant walk took visitors to St Edward, Fordington. This church also shows many developments over the last 200 years. The original building is clearly Norman, but it has been much extended eastwards. Dr Connor drew special attention to the extraordinary and fascinating tympanum over the south door depicting a scene of crusading knights who are rather reminiscent of images in the Bayeux Tapestry.

Donations and Legacies 2022

Sir John James KCVO CBE

We are most grateful for the legacies which we receive each year. The late Sir John James, formerly of Church Knowle on the Purbecks, made a generous bequest to DHCT because "it stands for Dorset, its beautiful churches and making a difference". These few words skilfully encapsulate why so many of us support the Trust and its work.

We acknowledge with thanks a number of gifts made during the year, including:

Pitt Rivers Charitable Trust

Society of Dorset Men

Estate of the late Sir John James KCVO CBE

The church tent at the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show

Estate of the late Mrs Ann Ridout

Sherborne Faith in Action

PCC of St Aldhelm

Leaving 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 Number is 282790.

Thank you

DHCT Annual Event 2022

Sherborne Abbey

12th October 2022

In another very welcome return to normality, over 40 Friends of Dorset Historic Churches Trust gathered at Sherborne Abbey on Wednesday 12th October for a chance to be entertained by a short organ recital and to delve in depth into the history of this iconic Dorset building.

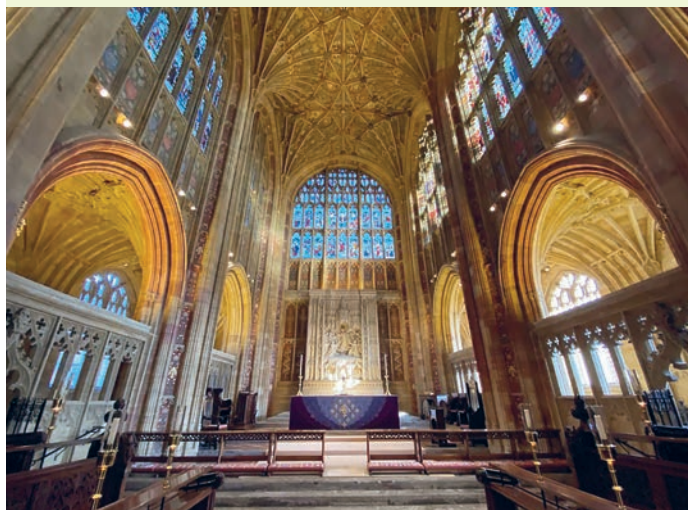
The vicar, The Revd Martin Lee, started proceedings by saying a service of Holy Communion which a few members attended before the formal welcome to all from Mr Lee and John Stokoe, Chair of the Trust.

The Director of Music at the Abbey, Jamie Henderson, then dived into a 20 minute recital, designed to show off the various tones and styles of the Abbey organ. Works by Karg-Elert, Stanford and Vaughan Williams featured, and a little JS Bach was essential before a final Fanfare by Percy Whitlock showed off the main and west end instruments and the impressive antiphonal effects that can be achieved between them.

The heart of the morning was in talks by two of the Abbey's amazingly well-informed guides. Jennifer Huitson presented a sweep through 1,300 years of the history of the building from the foundation of the Saxon building in 705, through its life as a Benedictine monastery from 998 and then its uses as a parish church since the Reformation.

Michael Keatinge then focused on more recent developments, describing particularly the way the building was financially supported in the nineteenth century by the Digby family, especially George Digby Wingfield Digby.

A splendid buffet lunch was served in the Digby Memorial Hall by Dorset Delights catering, after which Friends were able to return to the Abbey for more informal explorations. Guides were positioned round the building, ready to talk about whatever they were asked. Areas of the building not usually open were accessible and many interesting conversations ensued before visitors made their ways home.



Ride+Stride 2022



The Stourton Caundle Velo Club was founded by Tom Eden twelve years ago and has been raising money for Ride+Stride for most of that time. Sarah Howes reports that this year they set out from Purse Caundle and covered 50 miles, visiting 25 churches. She adds that they really enjoy having churches open and finding a welcome party on hand. (photo: Kate Cox)



Cerne Abbas Riders and Striders.

A full list of Ride+Stride 2022 results for Dorset can be seen on pages 14-17 of this Report.



Nina Crane and Graham Luker cycled for Ride+Stride from Lower Parkstone via Morden and Wimborne, covering 32 miles and visiting 10 churches. They are pictured here at St Stephen, Pamphill, taking a well-earned rest. They are very grateful to generous donors.

Ride+Stride 2023 takes place on Saturday 9th September

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

Morshead Trophy Presentations for 2019, 2020 and 2021

As we emerge from the limitations of the Covid pandemic, the Dorset Historic Churches Trust has been able to catch up with recognising the last three years of huge fundraising efforts in the annual Ride+Stride for church buildings.

Each year, the parish which in the opinion of the Trustees has made the most impressive contribution to the event is awarded The Morshead Trophy, which commemorates the founder of the Trust in 1960, Sir Owen Morshead.

The winner for 2019 was Sturminster Marshall. 16 riders from the village raised £1,841, putting them in the exclusive club of parishes raising over £1,000. At a presentation in The Old School in Sturminster Marshall on 27th April, 2022, Chairman of the Trust, John Stokoe thanked all the active riders and striders who had taken part in the event and said how good it was to recognise their achievement despite the Covid-enforced delay.

2020 winner was the parish of Hilton and Ansty who raised an amazing £2,873.11 – an impressive result from a relatively small community. Their presentation was made at All Saints Church on 20th April 2022 by the Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset, Mr Angus Campbell. He congratulated the effort of those involved and added how impressed he was that large and small parishes can all take part in the Ride+Stride event. Organiser Charles Hunter said that the village was honoured to be presented with the 2020 trophy. He added, “For the riders the event is pure pleasure; a great day out of exercise and the pleasure of seeing the most beautiful Dorset churches.”

The most recent winner is the village of Leigh, from where a team cycled 45 miles, visited 21 churches and raised £2,439. At a ceremony on 24th April, 2022, at St Andrew’s Church, in the presence of Chris Loder MP, Alastair Cumming from Leigh was presented with the trophy by Sir Philip Williams, Vice-President of the Trust. Sir Philip congratulated the whole Leigh team and spoke briefly on three themes: thank you, congratulations and the importance of volunteers. Trust Chairman, John Stokoe, explained that everyone is a winner in the Ride+Stride, as half of the money raised for grant-making is returned immediately to each parish for its own use.

The overall proceeds of the Ride+Stride were £88,000 in 2019, a record-breaking £113,000 in the locked-down year of 2020 and over £107,000 in 2021. DHCT is a volunteer-led charity, which allows all the funds to be used for the repair of churches of all denominations in the county of Dorset.



DHCT Chair John Stokoe presents the trophy at Sturminster Marshall to Liz Jones with the team of Riders and Striders.



Presentation outside St Andrew’s Church, Leigh. Left to right: John Stokoe (Chair of DHCT), Morag Orchard, Sir Philip Williams (Vice-President of DHCT), Alastair Cumming (holding the Morshead Trophy), Chris Loder MP (long-time supporter of Ride+Stride), Roger Dibble, Joyce Dibble (with Dolly) and Kim Mitchell (from Hermitage).



Presentation at Hilton Church. Left to right: Hal Cazalet, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset Angus Campbell, Charles Hunter and Neil Richardson.

Ride+Stride Results 2022

| Parish | Church | Deanery Area | Ride+Stride Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Sturminster Marshall | St Mary | Wimborne | £2,816.00 |
| Fontmell Magna | St Andrew | Milton & Blandford | £2,205.00 |
| Silton | St Nicholas | Blackmore Vale | £2,055.00 |
| Piddlehinton | St Mary the Virgin | Dorchester | £1,602.00 |
| Littlebredy | St Michael and All Angels | Lyme Bay | £1,340.00 |
| Sherborne | Abbey Church of St Mary | Sherborne | £1,234.84 |
| Wyke Regis | All Saints | Weymouth | £1,208.00 |
| Dewlish | All Saints | Dorchester | £1,200.00 |
| Leigh | St Andrew | Sherborne | £1,180.00 |
| Over Compton | St Michael | Sherborne | £1,155.00 |
| West Lulworth | Holy Trinity | Purbeck | £1,139.00 |
| Iwerne Minster | St Mary | Milton & Blandford | £1,100.00 |
| Cerne Abbas | St Mary | Dorchester | £1,062.00 |
| Wimborne Newborough St John | St John | Wimborne | £1,028.50 |
| Witchampton | St Mary, St Cuthberga and All Saints | Wimborne | £1,027.00 |
| Corscombe | St Mary | Sherborne | £1,025.00 |
| Tarrant Rushton | St Mary | Milton & Blandford | £1,000.00 |
| Spetisbury | St John the Baptist | Milton & Blandford | £998.50 |
| Stourton Caundle | St Peter | Blackmore Vale | £960.00 |
| Godmanstone | Holy Trinity | Dorchester | £960.00 |
| Tolpuddle | St John the Evangelist | Dorchester | £868.00 |
| Evershot | St Osmund | Sherborne | £835.00 |
| Crossways | St Aldhelm | Dorchester | £825.00 |
| Dorchester RC | Holy Trinity | Dorchester | £822.20 |
| Whitchurch Canoniconum | St Candida and Holy Cross | Lyme Bay | £811.00 |
| Corfe Castle | St Edward the Martyr | Purbeck | £800.00 |
| Wimborne Minster | St Cuthberga | Wimborne | £797.00 |
| Sixpenny Handley | St Mary | Milton & Blandford | £785.00 |
| West Knighton | St Peter | Dorchester | £783.00 |
| Ashmore | St Nicholas | Milton & Blandford | £780.00 |
| Worth Matravers | St Nicholas | Purbeck | £778.00 |
| Melbury Osmond | St Osmund | Sherborne | £766.25 |
| Oborne | St Cuthbert | Sherborne | £755.00 |
| Purse Caundle | St Peter | Blackmore Vale | £740.00 |
| Yetminster | St Andrew | Sherborne | £710.00 |
| Owermoigne | St Michael | Dorchester | £670.00 |
| Winterborne Houghton | St Andrew | Milton & Blandford | £663.00 |
| Litton Cheney | St Mary | Lyme Bay | £662.00 |

| Parish | Church | Deanery Area | Ride+Stride Total |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Bradpole | Holy Trinity | Lyme Bay | £655.00 |
| Wimborne St Giles | St Giles | Wimborne | £645.00 |
| Fifehead Magdalen | St Mary Magdalene | Blackmore Vale | £620.00 |
| Dorchester | St Peter | Dorchester | £615.00 |
| Canford Cliffs | Church of the Transfiguration | Poole & North Bournemouth | £600.00 |
| Canford Magna | Parish Church | Wimborne | £600.00 |
| Radipole | St Ann | Weymouth | £595.00 |
| Long Bredy | St Peter | Lyme Bay | £575.00 |
| Affpuddle | St Laurence | Purbeck | £555.00 |
| Lytchett Minster | Lytchett Minster | Poole & North Bournemouth | £548.00 |
| Cattistock | St Peter and St Paul | Sherborne | £536.00 |
| Stourpaine | Holy Trinity | Milton & Blandford | £520.00 |
| Wool | Holy Rood | Purbeck | £515.00 |
| Hazelbury Bryan | St Mary and St James | Blackmore Vale | £510.00 |
| Stoke Abbott | St Mary | Lyme Bay | £510.00 |
| Burton Bradstock | St Mary | Lyme Bay | £510.00 |
| Hilton | All Saints | Dorchester | £505.00 |
| Alton Pancras | St Pancras | Dorchester | £500.00 |
| Winterborne St Martin | St Martin | Dorchester | £495.00 |
| Tarrant Gunville | St Mary | Milton & Blandford | £490.00 |
| Tarrant Hinton | St Mary | Milton & Blandford | £485.00 |
| Fleet | Holy Trinity | Weymouth | £481.00 |
| Upwey | St Laurence | Weymouth | £480.50 |
| Puddletown | St Mary The Virgin | Dorchester | £480.00 |
| Beer Hackett | St Michael | Sherborne | £465.00 |
| Kington Magna | All Saints | Blackmore Vale | £460.00 |
| Church Knowle | St Peter | Purbeck | £460.00 |
| Chetnole | St Peter | Sherborne | £460.00 |
| Colehill | St Michael and All Angels | Wimborne | £455.00 |
| Bridport | St Mary | Lyme Bay | £448.00 |
| Chaldon Herring | St Nicholas | Purbeck | £440.00 |
| Buckland Newton | Holy Rood | Dorchester | £437.00 |
| Farnham | St Laurence | Milton & Blandford | £415.00 |
| Poole URC | Skinner Street | Poole & North Bournemouth | £410.00 |
| Langton Long | All Saints | Milton & Blandford | £405.00 |
| Bothenhampton | Holy Trinity | Lyme Bay | £400.00 |
| Blandford Forum | St Peter and St Paul | Milton & Blandford | £400.00 |
| Steeple | St Michael and All Saints | Purbeck | £400.00 |
| Chettle | St Mary | Milton & Blandford | £380.00 |

| Parish | Church | Deanery Area | Ride+Stride Total |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Gillingham RC | St Benedict | Blackmore Vale | £372.00 |
| Alderholt | St James | Wimborne | £370.00 |
| Cranborne | St Mary and St Bartholomew | Wimborne | £365.00 |
| Warmwell | Holy Trinity | Dorchester | £360.00 |
| Winterborne Kingston | St Nicholas | Milton & Blandford | £359.00 |
| Hooke | St Giles | Lyme Bay | £355.00 |
| Dorchester UC | | Dorchester | £333.60 |
| Thornford | St Mary Magdalene | Sherborne | £330.00 |
| Motcombe | St Mary | Blackmore Vale | £320.00 |
| Winfrith Newburgh | St Christopher | Purbeck | £320.00 |
| Shapwick | St Bartholomew | Wimborne | £315.00 |
| Parkstone | St Peter | Poole & North Bournemouth | £310.00 |
| Lilliput | Holy Angels | Poole & North Bournemouth | £306.00 |
| Buckhorn Weston | St John the Baptist | Blackmore Vale | £301.00 |
| Gillingham | St Mary the Virgin | Blackmore Vale | £300.00 |
| Charlton Marshall | St Mary the Virgin | Milton & Blandford | £300.00 |
| Marnhull | St Gregory | Blackmore Vale | £285.00 |
| Loders | St Mary Magdalene | Lyme Bay | £285.00 |
| Charminster | St Mary the Virgin | Dorchester | £280.00 |
| Walditch | St Mary | Lyme Bay | £280.00 |
| Longburton | St James | Sherborne | £270.00 |
| Preston | St Andrew | Weymouth | £255.00 |
| Wyke Regis | St Edmund | Weymouth | £252.00 |
| Uploders | Methodist Chapel | Lyme Bay | £251.00 |
| Melbury Abbas | St Thomas | Blackmore Vale | £250.00 |
| Enmore Green | St John the Evangelist | Blackmore Vale | £250.00 |
| West Chelborough | St Andrew | Sherborne | £250.00 |
| Ibberton | St Eustace | Blackmore Vale | £240.00 |
| Branksome Park | All Saints | Poole & North Bournemouth | £240.00 |
| Sydling St Nicholas | St Nicholas | Dorchester | £220.00 |
| Shillingstone | Holy Rood | Blackmore Vale | £215.00 |
| Radipole | St Mary | Weymouth | £215.00 |
| Chideock RC | Our Lady Queen of Martyrs and St Ignatius | Lyme Bay | £210.00 |
| Milton Abbas | St James | Milton & Blandford | £205.00 |
| Lydlinch | St Thomas Beckett | Blackmore Vale | £200.00 |
| Piddletrenthide | All Saints | Dorchester | £200.00 |
| Askerswell | St Michael | Lyme Bay | £200.00 |
| Powerstock | St Mary the Virgin | Lyme Bay | £200.00 |
| Bere Regis | St John the Baptist | Purbeck | £200.00 |
| East Lulworth | St Andrew | Purbeck | £200.00 |

| Parish | Church | Deanery Area | Ride+Stride Total |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Frome St Quintin | St Mary | Sherborne | £200.00 |
| Chickerell | St Mary | Weymouth | £200.00 |
| Shaftesbury | St James | Blackmore Vale | £180.00 |
| Toller Porcorum | St Peter and St Andrew | Lyme Bay | £180.00 |
| Milborne St Andrew | St Andrew | Dorchester | £171.00 |
| Stour Provost | St Mary and all Angels | Blackmore Vale | £170.00 |
| Wareham | Lady St Mary | Purbeck | £170.00 |
| Hinton St Mary | St Peter | Blackmore Vale | £160.00 |
| Mappowder | St Peter and St Paul | Blackmore Vale | £158.00 |
| Bradford Peverell | St Mary | Dorchester | £150.00 |
| Catherston Leweston | St Mary | Lyme Bay | £150.00 |
| Okeford Fitzpaine | St Andrew | Blackmore Vale | £145.00 |
| Cheselbourne | St Martin | Dorchester | £140.00 |
| Gussage All Saints | All Saints | Milton & Blandford | £140.00 |
| Chalbury | All Saints | Wimborne | £138.50 |
| Dorchester | St Mary the Virgin | Dorchester | £130.00 |
| Dorchester Baptist | Dorford Centre | Dorchester | £130.00 |
| Salway Ash | Holy Trinity | Lyme Bay | £125.00 |
| Moreton | St Nicholas | Dorchester | £120.00 |
| Mosterton | St Mary | Lyme Bay | £110.00 |
| Winterborne Whitechurch | St Mary | Milton & Blandford | £110.00 |
| Swyre | Holy Trinity | Lyme Bay | £100.00 |
| Lyme Regis | St Michael the Archangel | Lyme Bay | £100.00 |
| Gussage St Michael | St Michael | Milton & Blandford | £100.00 |
| Batcombe | St Mary Magdalene | Sherborne | £100.00 |
| Kingston Lacy | St Stephen | Wimborne | £100.00 |
| Hawkchurch | St John the Baptist | Lyme Bay | £90.00 |
| West Parley | All Saints | Wimborne | £90.00 |
| Fifehead Neville | All Saints | Blackmore Vale | £80.00 |
| Blandford St Mary | St Mary | Milton & Blandford | £80.00 |
| Milton on Stour | St Simon and St Jude | Blackmore Vale | £70.00 |
| Tollard Royal | St Peter ad Vincula | Milton & Blandford | £70.00 |
| Allington | St Swithuns | Lyme Bay | £60.00 |
| Drimpton | St Mary | Lyme Bay | £58.00 |
| Swanage | Methodist Church | Purbeck | £42.00 |
| Tarrant Monkton | All Saints | Milton & Blandford | £40.00 |
| Parkstone | St Clement | Poole & North Bournemouth | £40.00 |
| East Chelborough | St James | Sherborne | £40.00 |
| Mapperton | All Saints | Lyme Bay | £32.41 |
| Bridport UC | | Lyme Bay | £10.00 |

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the accompanying accounts for 2022 which show that the Trust continues to thrive and to perform its primary function of providing grants to help preserve the structural integrity of Dorset's historic churches.

Ride+Stride remains our principal source of income, but we are also indebted to the financial support provided by the Friends and from donations and legacies.

Whilst the funds raised by Ride+Stride of £79,000 are slightly below the previous two record years, this sum nevertheless represents a considerable achievement on the part of the parishes and individual Riders and Striders. A further £8,000 of Gift Aid from HMRC has been received after the year end, bringing the total raised to a magnificent £87,000. After returning £36,000 in respect of those parishes benefiting from their 50% share of fundraising, the Trust has benefited from a net contribution to its funds of £51,000.

We paid out £103,000 in grants during the year and there are further grants of £146,000 which have been approved and are awaiting payment.

As of 31 December, the value of investments was £304,000 and cash balances had increased by £179,000 to £304,000. (That the two sums are nearly the same is entirely coincidental.) This was largely due to the sale of £210,000 of investments. During the year, a review of the Trust's investment strategy was undertaken, and the decision was taken to divest a tranche of assets from the CBF Investment Fund and to reinvest them in a selection of funds which are deemed to represent a lower risk profile in the current economic climate. Independent financial advice has been taken and most of the funds currently sitting in the CBF Deposit Account will be reinvested in 2023.

The costs of running the Trust have remained broadly the same and income from Friends' events has begun to recover post pandemic.

Lastly, I must acknowledge the invaluable assistance given by our bookkeeper Becka Brierley in maintaining our financial records and providing comprehensive data and analysis of the Ride+Stride results.

Roger Blaber



St Mary Magdalene, North Poorton, awarded £8,000.

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 2022

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| | £ | £ |
| Receipts | £331,000 | £159,000 |
| Payments | £152,000 | £144,000 |
| Movement in Cash | £179,000 | £15,000 |

Cash increased by £179,000 in the year

This analysis of receipts and payments explains why

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Receipts | | |
| Donations | 17,000 | 12,000 |
| Ride+Stride | 89,000 | 101,000 |
| Events | 2,000 | 1,000 |
| Bank Interest | 3,000 | - |
| Investment Income | 10,000 | 15,000 |
| Sales Of Investments | 210,000 | 30,000 |
| | £331,000 | £159,000 |

Payments

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ride+Stride 50% Return | 36,000 | 43,000 |
| Ride+Stride Expenses | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Friends Expenses | - | 1,000 |
| Grants | 103,000 | 86,000 |
| Support | 7,000 | 8,000 |
| Independent Examination | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| | £152,000 | £144,000 |

Assets and Liabilities

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Cash Funds | | |
| Lloyds Bank | 70,124 | 53,796 |
| Nationwide | 25,100 | 25,100 |
| CBF Deposit Account | 208,667 | 45,812 |
| | £303,891 | £124,708 |

Investments

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| CBF Investment Fund | £303,791 | £567,958 |
| Total Assets | £607,682 | £692,666 |
| Grants Awarded | | |
| Not Yet Drawn Down | -146,000 | -136,500 |
| Total Assets Less Liabilities | £461,682 | £556,166 |

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2022

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Receipts | | |
| Voluntary Income | | |
| Donations and Legacies | 7,249 | – |
| Friends, Individuals and Trusts | 8,702 | 12,064 |
| Parochial Church Councils | 1,022 | – |
| | £16,973 | £12,064 |
| Activities for generating funds | | |
| Ride+Stride previous year | 1,456 | 1,570 |
| Ride+Stride current year | 78,911 | 98,184 |
| Gift Aid | 8,891 | 1,240 |
| Friends Events | 1,683 | 870 |
| Sale of notecards | 23 | 141 |
| | £90,964 | £102,005 |
| Investment Income | £10,494 | 14,840 |
| Bank Interest | £2,855 | – |
| Sale of Investments | £210,000 | £30,000 |
| Total Receipts | £331,286 | £158,909 |
| Payments | | |
| Ride+Stride | | |
| 50% return to churches | 36,042 | 43,348 |
| Honoraria | 1,350 | 900 |
| Printing and postage | 1,990 | 1,238 |
| Bookkeeping | 1,000 | 1,445 |
| Administration | 500 | 1,800 |
| | £40,882 | £48,731 |
| Friends | | |
| Meals for lecture lunches | 208 | 804 |
| Grants | £103,000 | £85,658 |
| Support Costs | | |
| Annual Report | 2,690 | 2,533 |
| Postage, stationery and travel | 527 | – |
| Marketing and website | 267 | 736 |
| Insurance | 450 | 398 |
| Just Giving Fees | 562 | 331 |
| Bookkeeping | 1502 | 2,754 |
| Meetings | 138 | 291 |
| Bank Charges | 420 | 714 |
| | £6,556 | £7,757 |
| Governance | | |
| Independent Examiner | 1457 | 1296 |
| Total Payments | £152,103 | £144,246 |
| Net Movement in Cash Funds | £179,183 | £14,663 |
| Cash Funds Last Year End | £124,708 | £110,045 |
| Cash Fund This Year End | £303,891 | £124,708 |

Valete

Dr Giles Sturdy MBE

When Giles Sturdy became a Trustee in 2017 he brought with him a wealth of knowledge of rural life, grant making and heritage. He was quickly invited to join the Grants Committee where his experience was found to be invaluable. He was also a most efficient Deanery Area Rep for Purbeck, an area which he knows intimately. He would visit every one of his 26 churches to deliver the R+S pack in person and also held a summer drinks party at his house for all his Parish Organisers, who thereby got to know each other and became more of a team.

Captain Nigel Thimbleby

At the Trustees' meeting on 9 March 2022, Nigel Thimbleby announced that, having been a Trustee for 50 years, it was time to step down. Nigel took over as Chairman from Anthony Pitt-Rivers in June 1997. It was shortly afterwards that the idea of a 'merit award' for the church that had made the "most praiseworthy contribution" to the Annual Cycle Ride was developed into the Morshead Trophy and Anna Butler was appointed to the role of Ride+Stride Administrator. Nigel's immense contribution to the welfare of churches cannot be overstated. His detailed knowledge of Dorset's churches is encyclopaedic and he loves them all. He was a fine judge of how best to raise funds for DHCT's work and how best to spend funds in the most effective way. He handed over to Maj Gen John Alexander and remained as the elder statesman of the Trust to subsequent Chairmen – Simon Pomeroy and John Stokoe.

Stuart Turvey

When Stuart's wife retired and they decided to spend more time abroad, he realised that he had been the DAR for Poole and North Bournemouth for 10 years and Parish Organiser for Holy Angels Lilliput for more than 20! He shared this remarkable tour of duty with Ian Andrews, whose death was recorded in the 2021 Annual Report. The Deanery area has 21 churches but the heavy urban traffic is probably the main reason why, despite Stuart's efforts over the years, only 9 take part in Ride+Stride. He successfully encouraged some of their riders to go out into rural Dorset to start their sponsored cycle ride along less tricky routes. Regrettably Stuart was not able to round off his distinguished tour by recruiting a successor so his Deanery area is being covered *pro tem* by one of the DARs for neighbouring Wimborne.

Sue Smith

Sue Smith, who retired in 2022, was involved in the work of the Trust for many years and was a Trustee from 2014. Though also known as an entertaining lecturer on decorative arts, she has perhaps been most valued as the Honorary Secretary of the Friends of Dorset Churches. She arranged the social aspects of our organisation, which have been enjoyed by so many, particularly including the summer church crawls during which she spoke with authority on stained glass. She also instigated the winter lectures which kept supporters in touch through the colder, darker months. In her role, Sue also edited this Annual Report and Review, keeping it a varied and interesting account of the Trust's annual activities and financial situation.

Directory 2023

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| President: | HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset |
| Vice-Presidents: | The Lord Bishop of Salisbury The Bishop of Sherborne The Archdeacon of Sherborne The Archdeacon of Dorset Sir Philip Williams Bt. G A L-F Pitt-Rivers OBE Mrs V L-F Pitt-Rivers CVO The Viscount Hood Major General J O C Alexander CB, OBE R D Allan P F Moule |
| Chairman: | J D Stokoe CB, CBE |
| Trustees: | Mrs S-A Barrett R B Blaber Mrs S Bruce-Payne Dr T P P Connor Mrs P S Francis His Honour D E B Grant N Head S D Norman The Reverend Canon A J W Rowland J A M A Selfe J T Smith J D Stokoe CB CBE C Waite M W M Warren T J Wickson |
| Hon. Secretary: | J A M A Selfe The Dairy House, Chaldon Herring, Dorchester DT2 8DN T: 01305 852138 E: jeremyselfe@hotmail.com |
| Hon. Treasurer: | R B Blaber Old Orchard, Angel Lane, Ferndown BH22 9DZ T: 07834 945907 E: rogerbb123@gmail.com |
| Hon. Webmaster: | A. Derrick E: webadmin@mg1.dhct.org.uk |
| Grants Secretary: | Mrs S Bruce-Payne 3 Beech Road, Weymouth DT3 5NP T: 01305 816178 E: s.brucepayne@btopenworld.com |
| Hon. Secretary to the Friends of Dorset Churches: | Mr J T Smith 5 South Farm Close, Tarrant Hinton Blandford DT11 8JY T: 01258 830680 E: friendsadmin@mg1.dhct.org.uk |
| Ride+Stride | Mrs A Butler |
| Administration: | T: 07766 976902 E: anna-butler@hotmail.co.uk |

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| Registered Office: | Suite 1, Mey House, Bridport Road Poundbury DT1 3QY |
| Bankers: | Lloyds Bank plc 1 – 2 High Street West, Dorchester DT1 1UG |
| Independent Examiners: | PKF Francis Clark, Chartered Accountants Towngate House, 2 – 8 Parkstone Road Poole BH15 2PW |
| Deanery Area Representatives: (through whom all applications for grants should be made) | |
| <i>Blackmore Vale:</i> | <i>South</i> – Mrs S-A Barrett, The Old Rectory, Stock Gaylard, Sturminster Newton DT10 2BG T: 01963 23375 E: sabrectory@gmail.com <i>North</i> – T J Wickson, 2 Mill Race, Gillingham SP8 4DW T: 01747 833663 E: thomaswickson2@gmail.com |
| <i>Dorchester:</i> | Mrs P S Francis, Tolpuddle Manor, Tolpuddle, Dorchester DT2 7EW T: 01305 848295 E: francis@tolpuddlemanor.co.uk |
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| <i>Milton and Blandford:</i> | <i>North</i> – J T Smith, 5 South Farm Close, Tarrant Hinton, Blandford DT11 8JY T: 01258 830680 E: tim.smith@mg1.dhct.org.uk <i>Centre</i> – Vacant at the time of going to press. <i>South</i> – Vacant at the time of going to press. |
| <i>Poole and North Bournemouth:</i> | Vacant at the time of going to press. |
| <i>Purbeck:</i> | Vacant at the time of going to press. |
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