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July 2020

Dear Rider or Strider

Ride+Stride – Saturday 12th September 2020

Thank you for considering taking part in Ride+Stride this year. If you are a seasoned participant much of this letter will be familiar. If you are new to R+S, welcome! The decision to go ahead with Ride+Stride was taken by the Trustees on 23rd June and we are very grateful for your commitment to raising funds for both the Trust and your own church or charity this year.

COVID-19

Subject to restrictions that may still be in place on 12th September 2020, the information given may have to take account of the following, and adaptations made accordingly.

- Churches may not be open
- Refreshments and WCs may not be available
- Riders and Striders may have to self-record their efforts completing their own Record of Visits
- To facilitate social distancing, Riders and Striders are asked, where possible, to seek sponsorship through JustGiving or other on-line channels for donations. See below for new and full instructions.

This letter is to help you to raise sponsorship, plan your day and keep safe when out on the roads, lanes and tracks. R+S is a national event which takes place every year on the second Saturday in September to raise money for the maintenance of our treasured churches across the whole country. Last year Dorset's Riders and Striders raised a record £84,632 in sponsorship. This magnificent effort shows that R+S in Dorset is a real success story, which has been going from strength to strength. As a thank you for supporting the work of the Trust, DHCT will return half your sponsor money to the church or other registered charity which you nominate.

We are encouraging the use of on-line communications to obtain sponsorship. Please use your existing JustGiving account or open one by going to www.justgiving.com and following the prompts. Once logged-in, select Start fund-raising, for a Charity and type Dorset Historic in the search bar, then scroll down to find and click on **R+S 2020**. When prompted to fill in your Fund-raising "web address", type in the name of your village or town followed by the name of the church you are riding for with **no spaces** between the letters. Finally type in your initials – this is to distinguish your web address from another rider in case two or more are riding for the same church. (If you have chosen an alternative charity, please enter its name and Registered Charity number in the web address). You may then send this whole web address as a link to potential sponsors. You can also edit your page by clicking on the button at the top left of the page to upload a photo of your church and other details including your target for R+S 2020. We recommend that you include the name of your village or town and the name of your church in your Story in case of a difficulty in allocating your sponsorship correctly. Please do not access JustGiving through the DHCT website as it is not possible to link sponsorship correctly to your chosen church; the JG page on the website is for donations and fund-raising events not associated with R+S 2020. You can also follow us on Twitter – our account is @Ride+Stride4dorset.

As the day – Saturday 12th September – draws closer, there are a few more things to think about. Will you be teaming up with one or two friends if this is permitted? We really recommend this as it is much more fun to share the

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In association with The National Churches Trust

experiences, but please remember that this might not be possible in September. We suggest that you sit down with a map and plan your route. There is a list of churches on the website, but an Ordnance Survey map and local knowledge will help. How far do you want to go? There are no set routes but we do advise that you think carefully about keeping safe and avoiding traffic or other hazards as far as possible. Then make sure that your bike is in good repair and that you have a few tools and perhaps a spare inner tube. The event is covered by Public Liability insurance, but you must hold your own cover if you are riding a horse. If you cannot ride or stride on 12th September, you can choose another date. Insurance cover will be in place from the Sunday before to the Friday after 12th September.

On the day, check the weather and take suitable clothing. If you have a yellow R+S tee-shirt or tabard, please wear it to improve your safety and to advertise the event. Leave details of your route and when you expect to start and finish with someone responsible. In previous years, many of the churches in Dorset have been open and attended by volunteers from 10am. However, this may not be the case in 2020. If necessary, mark up your own Record of Church Visits Form. Then move on to the next church. The event closes at 6pm.

We are always interested in the stories of the day especially if they are accompanied by a photograph. Get a friend to take a picture of you and your group outside a church and send it to me at anna-butler@hotmail.co.uk.

After it is all over, please lose no time in collecting up the cash pledges (if you have been able to collect cash) and returning them to the Parish Organiser. If you can do this by the end of September, it will really make their life so much easier. Thank you very much. Have a safe and enjoyable day. Here are some reminders about keeping safe. Our website has links to the Highway Code www.dhct.org.uk

Cyclists:

- Plan your route off a map to avoid or minimise time at danger points
- Check the weather forecast and adjust your start time, route and clothing accordingly
- Wear a helmet and a DHCT tee-shirt or tabard, or something hi-vis
- Take a mobile phone and a map; both are vital if you have to call for assistance
- If in a group, if this is permissible, comply with your leader's instructions, keep together but do not obstruct the highway to vehicle users. Do not ride side by side in traffic.
- Remember that audio headsets reduce your ability to hear traffic approaching from behind you.
- Leave details of your start time, planned route and expected finish times with a responsible person.

Walkers

- As above, but remember to walk facing on-coming traffic wherever it is feasible
- Listen carefully for traffic, especially if you have to walk in the road on a bend and be ready to get off the carriageway
- If in a group of more than 2 or 3, consider splitting into sub-groups separated by 25-50m

Horse riders

- As above but plan a route that avoids roads as far as possible

Insurance

- Horse riders must to hold their own public liability insurance

Please Note: If you are involved in an incident to which the emergency services have been called, please also phone **07507 640122** so that the Trust can offer assistance. This number is only useable on Saturday 12th September 2020

DISCLAIMER It is a condition of entry that, save to the extent required by law, the Trustees of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust accept no liability in respect of injury sustained by any participant in Ride + Stride.

Anna Butler R+S Administrator