



### **Ride+Stride - A Mission Opportunity**

The Archdeacons of Wiltshire and Sarum have written to their parishes inviting them once again to take part in Ride+Stride.

This year Ride+Stride takes place on Saturday 14th September and churches are being asked to put it on the Agenda for the next PCC meeting.

Archdeacons Alan and Sue's letter reminds us that Ride+Stride is the annual sponsored cycle ride, walk or horse ride, where 50% of the money raised benefits your own chosen church, and 50% goes to the Historic Churches Trust in your county.

While the letter is to Wiltshire Churches, Ride+Stride also takes place in Dorset on the same day.

The Trusts provide funds to help parishes keep their churches weatherproof, warm and available for worship and wider public use. In recent years, it has helped with grants for the addition of kitchens and loos to increase the usability of buildings which have traditionally only been used on Sundays.

Most of the Trusts' income comes from the annual sponsored Ride and Stride event.

Last year, the Dorset Trust awarded grants totalling £105,000 to 19 churches, while the Wiltshire Trust gave grants totalling £74,000 to 40 churches.

It is also an ideal mission opportunity, with a chance to reach non-churchgoers in your community.

Those taking part get to explore beautiful countryside and historic churches as either an individual or as a group and all ages can take part.

There are no set routes and people can do as few or as many churches as they like and can be sponsored for the number of churches visited, or with a lump sum.

Churches can get involved by:

- Identifying someone in the parish who would be willing to undertake the small amount of admin involved.
- Making sure the event is well publicised around your community.
- Ensuring that 14 September is in the church diary and that the church will be open on that day (10am to 6pm).

A registration form has been sent out which allows your Parish Organiser to receive sponsorship forms, publicity materials etc.

For more information contact [Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust](#) or [Dorset Historic Churches Trust](#).