

# Dorset Historic Churches Trust

*Conserving the past – enriching the future*

2019 | Issue 14

## ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW

### *Open to all – free to all*

When Frank Selwyn Bennett arrived as Dean of Chester in 1920, he discovered that the cathedral had become remote from the life of the city. To help change that, he immediately abolished charging for admission. He insisted that the cathedral must be open to all and free to all. And he believed passionately that there should be a ministry of welcome at the cathedral. He wrote: 'We need to get rid of the idea that the primary business of a cathedral staff is to act as policemen and showmen. The primary business is to help those who come, to feel and to profit by the religious impress of the place.'

It is both ironic and sad that many cathedrals have now reintroduced admission charges. Of course the entry fees are usually disguised as 'suggested donations' or some such, but with turnstiles and ticket counters – often manned by distinctly aggressive staff or volunteers – these supposedly voluntary payments feel anything but.

Philip Larkin, in his poem 'Churchgoing', tells of an awkward visit to an old church, and wonders why he bothered to stop and visit it at all. He goes on:

*Yet stop I did: in fact I often do,  
And always end much at a loss like this,  
Wondering what to look for; wondering, too,  
When churches fall completely out of use  
What we shall turn them into, if we  
shall keep  
A few cathedrals chronically on show,  
Their parchment, plate, and pyx in  
locked cases,  
And let the rest rent-free to rain and sheep.  
Shall we avoid them as unlucky places?*

The vast industry of relieving tourists of their money will, in the end, prove self-defeating if, when people look at our cathedrals, all they see are expensive tourist attractions. That is why it is so important that our churches do not follow suit. Provided (and it is an important proviso) that they are open to visitors, they can play a major role in helping people to see.

*The Revd Canon Eric Woods DL*

In an article published in The Times, Janet Martin Soskice insisted that 'looking' and 'seeing' are two completely different activities. And our churches, she complains, often only help visitors to 'look' rather than to 'see'. She recalls a pair of stunning frescoes in Verona. 'What did I find', she wrote, 'to help me understand them?' Just 'leaflets, [containing] the same indigestible art history as ever.'

The Dorset Historic Churches Trust can claim credit for having supported the care of the county's churches for nearly sixty years. You can read about the latest work which we have helped to fund later in this report. But in addition its energies are also directed into helping people to see, not least through the Friends' Association with its annual programme of lecture lunches and Church crawls, which help to draw out the Christian significance of the things upon which we often gaze uncomprehendingly.

Philip Larkin concluded his poem like this:

*For, though I've no idea  
What this accoutred frowsty barn  
is worth,  
It pleases me to stand in silence here;  
A serious house on serious earth it is,  
In whose blent air all our compulsions  
meet,  
Are recognised, and robed as destinies.  
And that much never can be obsolete,  
Since someone will forever be  
surprising  
A hunger in himself to be more serious,  
And gravitating with it to this ground,  
Which, he once heard, was proper to  
grow wise in....*

That is why the work of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust is so important, helping hard-pressed congregations of all denominations to repair and preserve these special buildings, as a proper ground 'to grow wise in'.



The beautiful shingled spire at Holy Trinity, Bradpole – now restored with the help of Dorset Historic Churches Trust

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## Chairman's Report on 2018

**I am sorry to be retiring from the role of Chairman of Trustees. I have very much enjoyed my time with Dorset Historic Churches Trust, having become a Trustee in 2002 and Chairman in 2011, eight years ago.**

I should here add that our trust deed carries the following words: "the chairman... shall serve... for a term of five years..." but no-one took much notice of that! I have enjoyed every moment of my involvement with the Trust; all my dealings with my fellow trustees have been fun, I have visited just about every church in Dorset, and have enormously enjoyed my contacts with the clergy, PCCs, and our brilliant multitude of Ride+Stride fund-raisers.

So it is a wrench to be going but, at 75, I am getting stale and the Chairman's role needs to be reinvigorated with new blood and new ideas. It is a particular pleasure to introduce to our 'Friends of Dorset Churches' and to all our other supporters my successor. Major-General John Stokoe CB CBE is uniquely qualified to take the chair, is well-known in Dorset and in the circles in which DHCT operates, and I have no doubt that he will lead us to higher things.

I am gratified that my time in DHCT has coincided with (and I take no credit for this), a business-like approach, careful compliance with charity regulation and a splendid increase in our fund-raising. 2018 has seen the sixth year in a row that more than £80,000 has been raised from Ride+Stride, our sponsored event in September of each year.

This very satisfactory record puts us among the 'heavy hitters' in the national league table of County Historic Churches trusts and reflects the grit and determination of our riders and striders, the enormous generosity of their sponsors, the affection in which Dorset's churches are held in their communities and not least, the unremitting hard

work of our Deanery Area Representatives and our R+S Administrator. In financial terms, the R+S income, together with subscriptions from the Friends of Dorset Churches and some cashing of investments, has enabled us to award grants to a level in excess of £100,000 in each of the last few years.

As is reasonably well-known, the first call on our grant-funds is to keep rain and wind out of Dorset's parish churches. Having dealt with that priority, our Grants Sub-Committee turns its attention to churches where a good case can be put forward to widen the use of the building to flexible non-worship uses, such as the installation of moveable seating, WCs, serveries and better heating.

I have no intention of mentioning by name my fellow trustees, but I am delighted that our new chairman will find (as I have hinted above) a very business-like structure in our administration. Trustees meet three times each year, and the most important activity in those meetings is to hear and approve the proposals for grant awards. Every trustee 'has a job to do' and, in addition to our Grants Sub-Committee, there are sub-committees of trustees meeting regularly to deal with, respectively Finance & Governance, Ride+Stride, our Friends of Dorset Churches, Public Relations and our network of Deanery Area Representatives. You will find elsewhere in this report the accounts of the activities of these sub-committees. I have the greatest admiration for each and all of these individuals for the diligence and enthusiasm which they bring to their particular roles.

May I close this, my last, Chairman's report by expressing my view that Dorset Historic Churches Trust is an enormously worthwhile charity and repeating that I have enjoyed every moment of my time on its affairs.

*Simon Pomeroy*



Simon Pomeroy (left) with John Stokoe CB CBE (right), the new Chairman of Dorset Historic Churches Trust

## John Stokoe CB CBE

I was approached last summer and asked if I would like to be considered as a future chairman of the Trust – I must confess that I had no idea what the Trust did!



Though my wife, Jenny and I, have lived in Dorset for nearly 20 years, we hadn't really been absorbed by the culture of Dorset or the numerous activities that marked out the

county as 'special'. I suppose that my 35-year Army career, with its constant nomadic lifestyle, meant that I never really grew too attached to any particular place, knowing that such attachment would only be temporary! If I had any attachment it was to my home county of Yorkshire.

When I accepted the opportunity to become your Chairman, a whole new world opened up. The Trust revealed itself as an integral and key part of the fabric of Dorset, preserving the history and future of its beautiful and ancient churches, served by a group of dedicated, knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteers, whether Trustees or Friends. There is no doubt, that without such commitment, the Trust would not have achieved such a strong reputation - a reputation which spreads far beyond the borders of Dorset – for the care it gives to our historic churches and the bedrock of fundraising and carefully considered grant awards it has put in place to guarantee their protection and their future as places of Christian worship. Indeed, such is the nature of these buildings, central as they are to the life of our villages and towns, that they attract people from all faiths or none. To be a part of this organisation is, for me, an honour and a privilege.

As I embrace this responsibility, I will endeavour to build on the hard work of my predecessor, Simon Pomeroy, to ensure that the future of our historic churches remains assured and flourishing in the capable hands of all those who voluntarily give of their time to work so hard and tirelessly to realise the objectives and ambitions of the Trust.

## Marketing & Communications Committee Report

**Henry Ford and many after him have observed that half of all money spent on marketing is wasted; the way to success is to work out which half reaches its target audience.**

We know who our target audience is today and we believe that we are reaching them without having to spend very much money. However, increasingly they tell us that they are getting on in years. Our concern is to find a few of the younger generation in each of our mostly rural communities who really care about their church and are prepared to carry on the good work. The question is do we rely on word of mouth and the local paper, which have done us well for years, or do we spend money on a marketing campaign through crowded social media and the like. We have dipped our toes into the social media pond with a Twitter account for Ride+Stride. It looks good but we have yet to gain the following that will make a difference. We are grateful to marketing agency McKenna Townsend from Ringwood, who have supported the M&C Committee with traditional and 'new' media, not least by designing and printing this Annual Report.

The core work of the M&C Committee is to develop and spread brand recognition and ensure that an increasing number of people in Dorset know that we raise money for the fabric of our churches and grant aid repair work. We invested in more yellow roadside boards for R+S which our Deanery Area Representatives put up in August on key routes throughout the county. We have also increased the number of building site boards, announcing that maintenance work is part-funded by the Trust, and these provide an enduring message to passers-by that DHCT is active in their communities.

We received good coverage across the county for the presentation of the Morshead Trophy to St John, Seaborough and several of the Church Crawls and the Friends Autumn gathering at The Priory Church of Lady St Mary in Wareham. The all-important grant-making work of the Trust has been recorded in news items on cheque presentations and the improvements to the churches that our grants have helped to fund. Fortunately, we find that it is a cause to which the media warm naturally and we have had much success with articles in the local newspapers and magazines. Thus, we manage to publicise the existence and work of the Trust while not incurring any unnecessary advertising costs.

The Churches Directory on the website continues to be updated and now includes a number of striking images taken from a fully licensed drone owned by Richard Noble, who very generously offered to fly over churches which are surrounded by building or trees and are difficult to capture from the ground. Barry De Morgan, a former Trustee and Deanery Area Representative and an acknowledged expert on photography, drove Mr Noble and his drone to remote churches all over the County. Barry, who was the longest serving member of the M&C Committee, has provided beautiful images for our correspondence cards and much valuable advice over many years. He has stood down as a full-time member of the Trust but we hope that he will remain on call to offer wise counsel.

Our correspondence and Christmas cards are not only a useful source of additional revenue but are also advertisements for some fascinating features in our churches. They also remind the recipients of the work of the Trust each time they land on a breakfast table. In a new venture, we are planning to offer space on our website to advertise musical and other events being run in churches to raise funds for fabric repair and re-ordering. We hope that this connection will help to foster the overall aim, described earlier, of building a new younger constituency of supporters to carry Ride+Stride and other activities forward. Lastly, I have handed over the reins to Tom Wickson who has been writing reports and press releases for much of 2018 and is very well qualified to assume the most enjoyable role of lead for M&C in the Trust.

*Jeremy Selfe*

# Grants Committee Report 2018

This year saw the end of grants offered through our recommendation by the All Churches Trust (formerly the National Churches Trust).

It has not always been easy for us to work out which applications would be suitable to recommend for one of their grants, and recently we have attempted to compensate churches whose applications for such grants have not, in the end, been successful. From now on, therefore, churches looking for financial help need, in the first instance, to consider only the DHCT and the Erskine Muton Fund. The latter is administered by the diocese in Salisbury but concerned only with Dorset churches.

We really are an extraordinarily fortunate county in that not only are we, thanks to the exertions of Friends and many other supporters of Ride+Stride every September, so well supplied with money dedicated for the care of church buildings, but the Erskine Muton Fund is even better endowed and exists for the same purpose.

The year has seen the usual variety of projects brought to conclusion. One interesting case was the renewal of the uncommon shingled spire at Bradpole (erected 1863), picture on page 1 of this Report. Bradpole was a case, like that of nearby Bridport, where once work started, more remedial work and so more expenditure was discovered to be necessary, and both have rightly made a second application to us for further help.

Mapperton, Upwey, and Winterbourne Houghton have all found themselves in this situation this year. It is hardly surprising with these old complicated structures, that only when the wall covering, ceiling or floor is stripped away, that the true extent of their problems becomes apparent.

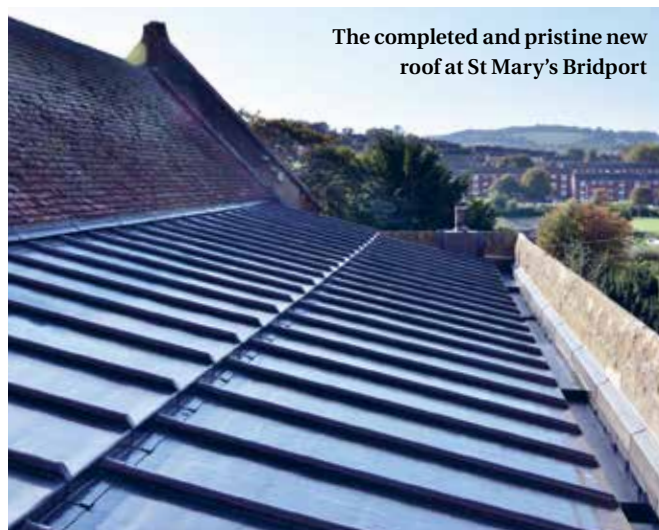


A big 'thank you' from the parish of St Mary's Bridport

Advice for the regular maintenance of churches always includes a sentence about clearing gutters and downpipes of congestion – these can quickly lead to damp coming through to the interior. It is also important to consider where water goes once it reaches the ground. Unless an efficient soakaway system exists, water will accumulate at the foundations, and in the long term this can cause even more damage. In the 1960s the north chapel at Tarrant Hinton was in danger of demolition because of problems of drainage. This year we made a grant to St Michael's, Owermoigne to ensure that this problem never arises.

The Trust's grants last for three years. If, for whatever reason, the work intended has not been carried out in that time, the grant usually lapses, and it is necessary for the church to apply to us again for a prolongation, or updating, of the grant. I say this because some nine grants made by us during 2016 will expire during 2019. We want the money to go towards ongoing projects of improvement, but need to be reassured that our money is not delayed in limbo, waiting for a project that has in fact been postponed or abandoned.

*Tim Connor*



The completed and pristine new roof at St Mary's Bridport



## Join the Friends of Dorset Historic Churches Trust

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

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

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

Ms Susan Smith  
Winterborne Cottage  
Minchington  
Dorset DT11 8DH  
susanmorgansmith@gmail.com

Details are also available on our website

[www.dhct.org.uk](http://www.dhct.org.uk)

## Grants awarded in 2018

<b>Bridport – St Mary's</b>	
Additional grant for further help with repairs	£10,000
<b>Lytchett Matravers – St Mary the Virgin</b>	
Towards repairs to windows and walls	£4,000
<b>Mapperton – All Saints</b>	
Further help with repairs	£1,000
<b>Owermoigne – St Michael's</b>	
Towards repairs of drainage, walls and tower	£6,000
<b>Seaborough – St John</b>	
Towards window restoration and repointing and repairs of church walls	£6,000
<b>Silton – St Nicholas</b>	
Towards general repairs	£5,000
<b>Swyre – Holy Trinity</b>	
Towards general repairs	£4,000
<b>Winterborne Steepleton – St Michael</b>	
For help towards the ceiling	£3,000
<b>Bradpole – Holy Trinity</b>	
For help to repair of the spire	£5,000
<b>Catherton Leweston – St Mary</b>	
Repairs to platform for pew and roof work	£2,000
<b>Fifehead Magdalen – St Mary Magdalen</b>	
For help towards repair of the roof	£7,500
<b>Lyme Regis – St Michael</b>	
To help towards the tower repairs	£12,000
<b>Upwey – St Laurence</b>	
For further help towards facilities	£5,000
<b>Winterborne Houghton – St Andrew</b>	
For help towards new electrical heating	£11,000
<b>Iwerne Minster – St Mary</b>	
For help towards the stone floor project	£7,500
<b>Kingston Lacey – St Stephen</b>	
Towards replacing dangerous heating	£3,000
<b>Motcombe – St Mary</b>	
For help towards re-tiling and gutter repairs	£6,000
<b>Poyntington – All Saints</b>	
Towards repairs to the vestry roof stone tiles	£4,000
<b>Shaftesbury – St James</b>	
For help with replacing lighting	£2,000
<b>Sydling – St Nicholas</b>	
Installation of a new boiler	£2,000
<b>Tarrant Monkton – All Saints</b>	
Further help with repairs to the roof	£12,000
<b>West Lulworth – Holy Trinity</b>	
Replace timber spirelet and repair stone gutter and gable coping	£6,000
<b>Winterborne Stickland – St Mary</b>	
Replacing flawed electrics and heating.	£11,000

## Friends Secretary's Report

Each year brings new 'Friends' to the Trust – an encouraging sign but 'the more the merrier'. Do introduce your friends to the delights of DHCT.

To save administration costs, we prefer to contact members by email – providing information about the Church Crawls and other meetings. It would be hugely helpful if Friends could keep me up-to-date with full contact details, including emails.

In line with the General Data Protection Act, this information is only used for providing members with information about the Trust's activities – data is never passed on to third parties.

If you have any interesting articles for next year's Report, or ideas for visits or events in 2020 do not hesitate to contact me.

*Sue Smith*

susanmorgansmith@gmail.com

## Salvete

We are pleased to welcome the following new Friends who joined during 2018:

*Mr & Mrs John & Sally-Anne Barrett*

*Mr & Mrs Peter & Joan Blacklock*

*Mr Block*

*Miss Mary Bothamley*

*Dr Adam Coumbe*

*Mr Brian Cook*

*Miss Anne Cossins*

*Miss Jean Cram*

*Revd Wendy Fellingham*

*Mrs Virginia Hibbert*

*Dr Frances Hogwood*

*Ms Patricia Johnson*

*Ms Jan Moody*

*Mr & Mrs W Morris*

*Mr Peter Pagnamenta*

*Mr & Mrs Angus & Janet Purchase*

*Mr & Mrs J Senior*

*Mrs Pauline Stewart*

*Mr & Mrs John & Jenny Stokoe*

*Miss Ellen Tucker*

*Mr Chris Waite*

*Mr J Winter*

*Mr Richard Wyborn*

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.

If you decide to leave a legacy to help the Trust you should seek professional legal advice. The Registered Charity No. of DHCT is 282790.

## A Pride of Lions

For over a thousand years painted and stained glass has filled windows in our churches. They were filled with scenes from the Old and New Testaments, episodes from the lives of saints were depicted and heraldic arms of donors often appeared in windows. We are fortunate in Dorset still to be able to find surviving fragments of medieval glass which give us a small insight into the artistic skills of that period.

Having a particular theme when visiting churches (ie baskets, fish, dogs or hats) can be an entry point into an appreciation of stained glass windows which requires no great knowledge and can be fun just searching!

I have been on a lion hunt and I am particularly fascinated by the 'lion masks' that can often be seen in the small tracery lights high in the windows of our village churches.

The c15th century grotesque/lion mask in the north aisle of St James' church, Longburton, pictured here, has a muted palate of golden yellows from the silver stain used to colour the white glass. Silver stain was developed in Europe during the



late 13th century. It was applied with a brush to the back of a piece of glass and with different thickness of application and several firings a whole range of colour from pale lemon to deep gold would appear on the piece of glass. The Longburton lion has a fiendish expression created by an unknown glass painter; with pointed ears, a mane of fur indicated by painted lines and a grinning mouth of teeth with a long protruding tongue. To paint these details the artist used a mixture of finely ground glass, iron or copper oxide and a flux, applied to the glass and fired which then produced a brownish black vitreous paint.

The Longburton lion is clearly related to the slightly more sophisticated but damaged lion mask in the window of St Katherine's chapel in Sherborne Abbey. This fragment was placed in its present position by Mr Horace Wilkinson, following removal from its original position in the choir, during the restoration in 1856. The Sherborne lion has been cleaned and conserved but the pointed ears and shape of its nose indicate that they were both produced in a local workshop.

The lion, one of the most powerful animals, is laden with rich symbolic meanings that have developed over the centuries. A winged lion, sometimes holding a Bible in its paw, is the traditional symbol of St Mark, the evangelist.

There are many windows containing St Mark's symbol in Dorset.

In the Revelation Window, designed by Francis Skeat (1953), made by Goddard & Gibbs, at the east end of St Mary's church Swanage there is a particularly noble beast (pictured here).



Also, in St Mary's church, Swanage, in the south transept, is a rose window containing the lion emblem of the Royal British Legion. The window was made by James Clark & Eaton of Bristol and London in 1982. The Legion was founded in 1921 by veterans after World War 1 as an organisation for promoting welfare in ex-service personnel and, although the red poppy has become a more familiar trademark, the Legion badge still features the lion head.

The stunning west window in the tower of the Priory church of Lady St Mary, Wareham designed by Andrew Johnson, 2011, is a view over the rooftops of the town with showers of fish representing the two local rivers. The four emblems of the evangelists are placed one in each corner although the ferocious looking lion representing St Mark is quite difficult to see in the top right hand corner.



Traditionally the lion symbolises strength and courage and thus was adopted as the insignia of the Roman legions. In St Lawrence's church, Folke (left), a lion mask can be seen on the roman soldier's leg armour (greave) in the 1883 window by Heaton Butler and Bayne depicting the Risen Christ.

Coincidentally the lion is also considered to be an emblem of Christ's resurrection. In the 13th century, Bestiaries were popular richly illuminated volumes. They refer back to the work of Greek philosophers who documented the natural world. The volumes described various animals and the natural history of each beast was usually accompanied by a moral lesson and a mystic connection. The Bestiary relates how the lion's whelp is born dead, remains so until, on the third day, the father breathes on the cubs and they come to life, thereby pre-figuring the Resurrection of Christ.



Ever since 1164, when the lion was adopted as a device by Philip I of Flanders, the lion has figured prominently as an emblem in heraldry. It symbolises bravery, nobility, royalty and strength. The Arms of England, seen on flags and rugby shirts, bear

the three golden lions passant. The Reformation led to the destruction of much stained glass in churches and heraldic and family crests were considered a safer subject matter for windows in this period. In the north aisle of St Eustace church, Ibberton there are fragments of a beautiful 15th century oval Elizabethan coat of arms. The lion has a particularly splendid tail!

A striking memorial window in All Saints church, Dewlish, erected in the late 19th century, commemorates General Chatham Horace Churchill who served as a young man in the Battle of Waterloo (1815) and also served later in India. The window has many fine examples of the heraldic lion (*above*).



In the church of St Simon and St Jude, Winterborne Monkton, (*above*), there is a memorial window dedicated to Raymond Williams who died in India in 1936. It depicts St George killing a fierce green dragon; his strength and courage is emphasised by the lion head affixed to the top of his staff.

In St Andrew's church, Fontmell Magna there is a window designed by E J Dilworth (1969). It features Saints Nicholas, George and Dorcas. In the bottom of the right hand light is a circular panel showing a child standing alongside a lion and a lamb.



Although a well known and loved phrase, 'The Lamb will lie down with the lion' does not actually appear in the Bible, but is an adaptation of Isaiah 11.6 'The wolf will dwell with the lamb', the image of a lamb snuggled up to a powerful lion does however convey a strong message of loving one's neighbour! According to a sermon by St Augustine (5th century AD) (Sermon 375A) the lion is a symbol of Christ resurrected (as mentioned above) and the lamb represents Christ's sacrifice.

The final window I would recommend for lion hunters is the east window in Lytchett Minster church made by Heaton Butler & Bayne, 1898. It is a Te Deum in honour of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. In the bottom left corner is a fine, realistic lion crouching at the feet of St Mark.

The pride of lions that stalks through Dorset windows, apart from being beautiful and playful works of art, illustrate the power of the glass worker's creations to educate and inform. This power may have had its origins in the unlettered times of the Middle Ages, but still works its charms today.

*Susan Smith*





## Summer Church Crawls 2018

Church crawls are a summer essential for many members of the Friends. The four events, which are arranged every year, take us to many corners of the county to visit fascinating churches and to enjoy sociable times with people who share enthusiasm for art, architecture and history.

The first gathering of 2018 was in Piddletrenthide, where Revd James Hicks was vicar in the nineteenth century. His brother, the influential architect John Hicks, who employed Thomas Hardy, more or less rebuilt this church. We moved on to the less ambitious but less altered St Mary's church at Piddlehinton, where lunch was also arranged at The Thimble. Alton Pancras, with its top-class stained glass, and Buckland Newton completed the day.

In June, we crawled in the Kimmeridge area, taking in a couple of fascinating private chapels. We started at Steeple before going on to Creech Grange and to Church Knowle, where the New Inn also provided lunch. After skirting the Lulworth ranges, we visited St Andrew East Lulworth and then the Roman Catholic chapel at Lulworth Castle.

The July crawl took us east to the Wimborne area where we met at the splendid church rooms at St Michael and All Angels, Colehill, for coffee before looking at the absorbingly interesting church. We moved on to Hampreston, to Canford Magna and then to St Stephen, Kingston Lacey, where on this occasion we enjoyed a self-help lunch at Pamphill Village Hall. The final visit of the afternoon was to rural and beautiful Shapwick.

We miss out the holiday month of August, so it was in September that we gathered in the Longburton area, starting at Longburton itself, then walking or driving round to Folke before lunch at the Rose and Crown. The chapel of the Holy Trinity at Leweston was another private building specially opened to us and we concluded the day at Lillington.

A great deal of thought goes into planning our itineraries and arranging coffee, lunch and tea en route by our organiser, Sue Smith. Sue also talks on the stained glass of the churches, while the architecture and history is explained by Dr Tim Connor, our most erudite and entertaining professor.

The great popularity of these events tells of the interest they hold for members as well as the remarkable range of the extraordinary church buildings of this lovely county.



## Church Crawls 2019

The following events are planned for the coming year. Occasionally there may have to be minor changes to venues or dates, so please check with Sue Smith or [dhct.org.uk](http://dhct.org.uk) before sallying forth!

We meet at 10.30am, visit four or five churches and enjoy a pub lunch in the middle of the day. We usually finish the afternoon session with a 'tomb top' tea, before going our separate ways at about 4.30pm.

### Tuesday 14th May

– Meet at Whitchurch Canicorum (DT6 6RQ)

### Wednesday 12th June

– Tollard Royal (SP5 5PP)

### Tuesday 16th July

– Radipole (DT3 5EW)

### Thursday 19th September

– Charlton (SP7 9LZ)

Contact Sue Smith on 01725 552225 or [susanmorgansmith@gmail.com](mailto:susanmorgansmith@gmail.com) for further details.

Information about all events will be placed on the Trust's website throughout the year. Numbers for Church Crawls are limited, so please book in good time if you wish to join in.







## Embracing the new Drone photography of Dorset's Historic Churches

**For many decades the benefits of aerial photography have been recognised but it has been an expensive undertaking. With the advent of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as 'drones', this has changed.**

Dorset Historic Churches Trust has received expert help in this field from Richard Noble, a retired police officer with three years' drone flying experience, training and qualifications. Richard offered his services to the Trust and so far has photographed 27 churches, one example being Up Cerne, as shown in the picture above. Not only are these photographs used on the website, but also for other Trust publications.

With the advent of this new way of viewing a church building, the Trust is now able to provide individual church management teams with very useful aerial over-views of their property that can be used for maintenance and planning. For example, one recent occasion of drone photography coincided with a church visit by a surveyor carrying out the required Quinquennial church building inspection. At his request, he was assisted with the difficult task of inspecting an inaccessible area high up in the roof.

Should any church require similar help they should contact their DHCT Deanery Area Representatives who may be able to arrange appointments, if all the flying rules and regulations allow!

*Barry De Morgan*

## Exploring Dorset Barrel Organs

**By a strange coincidence, both the June and September church crawls this year introduced visitors to curious barrel organs, which are still in regular use in Dorset churches.**

Our first visit on the trip to the Kimmeridge area in June was to St Michael and All Angels, Steeple.

After a welcome coffee, we were shown the unusual barrel organ. Sue Lewis, who is the organist for the benefice, was on hand to explain its workings and to give a demonstration with one or two folk helping out.



The pipes, stops, bellows and mechanism were all working well. The original pipes were all given to Church Knowle church many years ago though no one is aware of the reason for this – so new pipes needed to be put into this organ as replacements. There is no keyboard. The mechanism involves a barrel with complicated staple look-alikes pinned around it and placed into the correct position to create a tune. As the barrel rotates, little pegs are lifted by the staples and, as long as the bellows are pumped up to provide air, a hymn sounds, complete with harmonies. The system is not unlike that of a musical box.

There were numerous hymns on offer and the speed the handle is turned dictates the speed of the hymn. The player can pull out different stops to make different sounds. This system is nowadays complemented by CDs, which accompany congregations when there is no organist available.

We saw a similar barrel organ on our final 2018 crawl at St Martin of Tours church, Lillington. This is also a rare instrument. The main difference between this one and the one seen in June is that you could lift the barrel up and out of the way to reveal a standard keyboard underneath. The church purchased this interesting instrument in 1996 from Bernard Bibby of Winchester. The barrel has a repertoire of ten tunes and especially noteworthy is an extraordinary harmonisation of The Old Hundredth.

It is good to know that these unusual instruments have enthusiasts who give hours of time and expertise in keeping them in good working order.

*Sue Bruce-Payne*



## Friends Annual Event 2018

### Priory Church of Lady St Mary, Wareham

The Priory Church of Lady St Mary Church in Wareham provided a very welcoming venue for some 70 members and supporters at the Annual Event on 24th October 2018, organised by Trustee Mike Warren.

As ever our stained glass expert, Sue Smith, was on hand to explain the history and importance of the windows of the church, which are chiefly by Percy Bacon Brothers – though the spectacular 2011 west window by Andrew Johnson was beautifully illuminated by the October sun and provided a major focus of interest throughout the day.

The history of the church and the way that it fits into the story of Wareham and the adjoining pre-conquest Priory site were described by the ever-engaging architectural historian, Dr Tim Connor.

Members were also lucky enough to welcome again the leading expert on local building materials, Mr Treleven Haysom from Langton Matravers, who led a fascinating tour inside and outside the church, describing and explaining the different stones employed in the building, where they came from, how they had been quarried and how long they may have been in place.

To introduce further variety during the afternoon, members were entertained by two musical interludes, first by the impressive Keyworth Cello and Violin Duo and second by the 'resident' DHCT organist, David Bruce-Payne, who showed off the capabilities of the majestic three-manual organ in Lady St Mary.

A wonderfully generous lunch and tea were provided by a team from the parish, led by the Rector, Canon Simon Everett. Chairman Simon Pomeroy presided over events with characteristic geniality and members made their way home reflecting on a happy and successful close to the 2018 summer season.

**This year's Friends Event will be held in October – the venue will be announced later.**

## Church Crawls – a Friend's Eye View

When I heard friends of mine chatting enthusiastically about Church Crawls they had been on I became interested and decided to go on one myself to see what it was all about. I wasn't disappointed and found the whole experience entertaining, informative and uplifting.

The Crawls take place in the summer so the weather is usually fine and sunny, making a drive into the Dorset countryside to discover interesting churches in picturesque villages an appealing prospect.

A friendly welcome with a cup of coffee at the first venue makes a good start to the day and lunch in a village pub, garden or café provides an opportunity for refreshment and a chance to get to know fellow 'Crawlees'.

A lot of work obviously goes into the planning of these days out – finding churches with enough interesting history to talk about within reasonable proximity of each other and with suitable parking, checking out venues for lunch and contacting the right locals to let them know we are coming.

What I was impressed with on my first Crawl and indeed subsequent ones was how much I learnt about village history, the lord of the manor and his connection with the village church, church history and architecture and stained glass. Names come to mind such as Sir Philip Williams the owner of Bridehead at Little Bredy, the Pitt-Rivers at Hinton St Mary, the Martyns of Athelhampton House, Henry Stilwell of Steepleton Manor and Sir Ernest Debenham who made many gifts to the church of St Laurence at Affpuddle.

Thomas Wyatt is known for his restoration of Dorset churches and Thomas Denny for his stained glass windows which are noted for the distinctive way in which light and colour move across the surface. I learnt about corbels such as those at St Mary of the Annunciation in Beaminster and St Mary Magdalen at North Poorton, the many different artistic monuments both on the walls of churches and in churchyards such as those at All Saints, Dewlish, ancient wall paintings often only discovered when restoration takes place, notably those found at St Mary, Tarrant Crawford and box pews such as those at All Saints, Chalbury. In fact on these Crawls one finds out all manner of things such as buried in the churchyard at St Mary, Litton Cheney is Reynolds Stone, the artist, who designed the inside front cover of the passport!

It can be quite exciting visiting remote places deep in the countryside where one has never been before. I remember trying to find Stock Gaylard which we thought was a village but turned out to be a fine house with its own church in the grounds. Other times we decided to take scenic routes along very narrow roads. One that comes to mind is between Mapperton House and North Poorton via Loscombe – really quite hair raising negotiating all the corners! One of the most spectacular scenic routes we took was high up across Eggardon Hill, which offered outstanding views of the Dorset countryside.

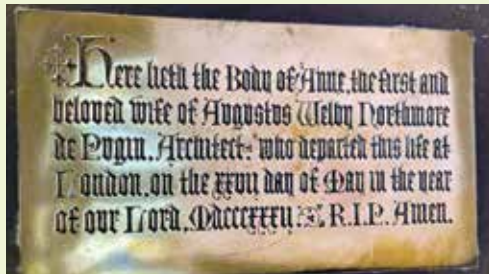
I am looking forward to going on more Church Crawls in 2019 and would definitely recommend them to other Friends of the DHCT.

*Nina Crane*

## A Christchurch Connection

In the summer of 1994 a wooden communion table from Christchurch Priory was loaned to the Victoria and Albert Museum for an exhibition entitled 'Pugin – A Gothic Passion'.

Augustus Welby Northmore de Pugin came to Christchurch in 1825 at the age of thirteen to convalesce from an illness and during his long stay started his love affair with the sea. He is quoted as saying 'There is nothing worth living for but Christian architecture and a boat'. Subsequently the owner of a schooner, he managed to bring over many interesting antiquities purchased in the old stores of Holland and Flanders.



At the age of nineteen Pugin married his first wife, the seventeen year old Anne Garnet who sadly died a few months later following the birth of their daughter Anne. She was brought to Christchurch Priory for burial and her memorial brass (picture left), designed by Pugin, is in the north quire aisle close to the crossing. He was to marry twice more with a further six children following.

At Christchurch he became a close friend of Benjamin Ferrey who had been one of his father's pupils, and later on, Architect to the Priory. When Ferrey took on looking after the Priory it was by all accounts in a very run-down condition and it was due to his work that much needed repairs were put in hand. The works

from his time have been the subject of much criticism over the years but were carried out in contrasting stonework so as not to be confused with the ancient material. The practice when undertaking conservation work now is to match the stonework but allow old roof lines and doorways to remain visible. Certainly in Ferrey's time the repairs were essential to keep the building intact. Funding for this major undertaking in the 1830s came from two hundred and twenty subscribers and The London Architectural Society.

Apart from the memorial brass the most tangible evidence of Pugin's attachment to Christchurch is the communion table (pictured right), mentioned at the start. It stands in a chapel on the east side of the north transept. The inscription reads 'This table was made and presented to this church by Augustus Welby Pugin AD 1831'.

Although Pugin was to move on to greater things, we like to think that his formative years at Christchurch were special to him.



### Dorset Historic Churches Trust notecards

£2.50 per pack of five

These attractive cards come in packs of five, featuring five different images from stained glass windows in each pack.

To purchase cards please apply to:

Ms Susan Smith  
Winterborne Cottage  
Minchington  
Dorset DT11 8DH  
susanmorgansmith@gmail.com

All the Trust's merchandise is available through the website, [www.dhct.org.uk](http://www.dhct.org.uk)

Photography by Barry De Morgan. Printed by Purely Print

## Winter Lectures

The success of these events, which were held at The Langton Arms, Tarrant Monkton, emphasises the desire of the Friends to keep in touch during the cold winter months.

In the first lecture in February, Dr Tim Connor described some of his research into the way the Reformation of the 16th century influenced the structure and decoration of English parish churches – especially those in Dorset. He kept his promise to talk more about art than theology and was particularly interesting in suggesting ways to read surviving church features in order to imagine what was lost during that turbulent period of history.

In March Sue Smith spoke on the meaning of symbols in church art. Copiously illustrated with images from Dorset and further afield, one of the key messages of this lecture was the importance of understanding the context of images. An example offered was that of owls, which have long been associated with wisdom, but are also associated in the Middle Ages with sloth, and occasionally with funeral rites.

Following each lecture, the team at the Langton Arms provides a delicious hot lunch which offers a good opportunity for further informal discussion and the chance to catch up with friends old and new in a convivial setting.



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

2018 has been another very successful year raising a magnificent total of £87,295. It may not be widely appreciated that Ride+Stride is the Trust's principle source of income and it is this funding that has enabled us to distribute £125,000 in grants this year. The grants help to conserve Dorset's churches, chapels and meeting houses of all Christian denominations which are such an important part of our national heritage.

A huge thank you is owed therefore to all who participated in Ride+Stride in 2018 and to all your generous sponsors. On page 5 of this Annual Report you can see a list of all the churches which were awarded grants this year. This has only been possible due to your remarkable efforts.

**There were many outstanding contributions to Ride+Stride in 2018 so apologies if your church is not mentioned.**

### **The Morshead Trophy – St Mary's, Chettle**

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

This is not necessarily the parish raising the most money. This year the trophy has been awarded to St Mary's, Chettle which raised £2,519.20. This also happens to be the highest raised and is all the more remarkable as it is a parish of 90 people.

In all there were 34 Chettle Riders + Striders, of whom 17 were children. Rosamond Sweet-Escott records that "early in the morning of 8th September there were noises of wheels being pumped up and cries of 'have you got my helmet' echoing round the village. Bacon butties and coffee were on offer at Chettle House and the group started to appear. A wonderful crowd gathered of all ages and the group were corralled towards the church for their setting-off photo. Some of the riders departed on their own itinerary but the majority stuck together and went off towards Farnham and down the Gussage valley. Fun was had by all and the date is in the diary for this year".

## Bradford Peverell Bell Ringers

Bradford Peverell bell ringers took part in the annual Ride+Stride event this year, but altered it slightly to suit their tastes, to Ride+Ring.

This also fitted in with the 'Ringing Remembers' recruitment drive to replace the 1400 bell ringers from the UK who died in the First World War with new recruits, who were then trained to ring on Remembrance Day 2018.

Four ringers decided that instead of simply cycling from one church to another, it would be more interesting to ring the bells of some of the churches we visited. They started at Sturminster Newton, where they rang six bells for about half an hour. At Shillingstone, they enjoyed a cup of tea and cake at the station cafe. The next church was Stourpaine, followed by Durweston, by which time the combination of cycling and ringing was beginning to take its toll.

The cycling ringers were supported by others who came along in their cars and some who were able to join in for part of the time. The whole day was a fantastic experience for those who hadn't been ringing for very long – trying out the bells at three different towers. It was such an enjoyable day that the group are planning to repeat it this year.

*Kate Forrester*



**St Mary's, Gillingham**, led by Mrs Eileen Piper, opened a pop-up café for the day in the Vicarage School Room.

Assisted by retired priest, The Revd. Jeffrey Hall, the head waiter, they served homemade cakes with coffee and tea and light lunches of sandwiches, quiches and salads. In addition, a St Mary's parishioner also cycled for the Trust.

## Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Dorchester

Holy Trinity Church, Dorchester welcomed over 50 Riders+Striders to the church, some of whom had travelled by train from Poole and the Purbecks, to try a change of scene.

Of the local Holy Trinity parishioners taking part, one lady managed to walk to all the Dorchester churches, whilst another two not only walked locally but ventured out to Stinsford and West Stafford.

Some decided to cycle round the local churches, embarking on a route which included Puddletown, Tincleton, Moreton, Bradford Peverell, Stratton, Frampton and Sydling St Nicholas. What a joy to see the enthusiasm of the Riders + Striders throughout the day and also to see their interest in the history of our church and the many others which they visited.

*Elizabeth Morris*

## Ride+Stride 2019 takes place on Saturday 14 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 organiser or email [ride+stride@dhct.org.uk](mailto:ride+stride@dhct.org.uk)

## Ride+Stride and PCC donations 2018

Parish	Church	Donations from PCC	Ride+Stride	Total
Chettle	St Mary		£2,519	£2,519
Sherborne Abbey	St Mary		£2,066	£2,066
Fontmell Magna	St Andrew	£100	£1,850	£1,950
Christchurch	The Priory Church of The Holy Trinity		£1,635	£1,635
Leigh	St Andrew		£1,465	£1,465
Little Bredy	St Michael and All Angels		£1,400	£1,400
Hilton and Ansty Church	All Saints		£1,346	£1,346
Ashmore	St Nicholas		£1,268	£1,268
Wareham	Priory Church of Lady St Mary		£1,257	£1,257
Piddlehinton	St Mary the Virgin		£1,246	£1,246
Silton	St Nicholas		£1,198	£1,198
Winfrith Newburgh	St Christopher		£1,165	£1,165
Dewlish	All Saints		£1,145	£1,145
Sturminster Newton	St Mary		£1,100	£1,100
Warmwell	Holy Trinity		£1,082	£1,082
Tarrant Gunville	St Mary	£50	£918	£968
Dorchester RC	Holy Trinity		£936	£936
Yetminster	St Andrew		£932	£932
Tolpuddle	St John the Evangelist		£913	£913
Wool	Holy Rood		£900	£900
Winterborne Houghton	St Andrew		£900	£900
Bradpole	Holy Trinity	£150	£745	£895
Iwerne Minster	St Mary		£890	£890
Bloxworth	St Andrew		£850	£850
Chideock	St Giles		£765	£765
Whitchurch Canonicorum	St Candida and Holy Cross	£10	£748	£758
Blandford St Mary	St Mary	£480	£270	£750
Lytchett Minster	Lytchett Minster		£728	£728
Corfe Castle	St Edward the Martyr	£50	£675	£725
Melbury Abbas	St Thomas		704	£704
Evershot	St Osmund		£700	£700
Godmanstone	Holy Trinity	£100	£570	£670
Crossways	Woodsford and St Aldhelms Church		£640	£640
Long Bredy	St Peter		£635	£635
Chaldon Herring	St Nicholas		£634	£634
Tarrant Hinton	St Mary		£632	£632
Weymouth Holy Trinity	Holy Trinity		£625	£625
Bridport	St Mary		£624	£624
Powerstock	St Mary	£100	£495	£595
Poyntington	All Saints		£586	£586
Litton Cheney	St Mary		£585	£585
Lytchett Matravers	St Mary		£584	£584
Oborne	St Cuthbert		£570	£570
Motcombe	St Mary		£569	£569
Alton Pancras	St Pancras		£567	£567
Burton Bradstock with Chilcombe	St Mary		£562	£562
Melbury Osmond with Melbury Sampford	St Osmund		£560	£560

Parish	Church	Donations from PCC	Ride+Stride	Total
Sturminster Marshall	St Mary		£551	£551
Affpuddle with Turnerspuddle	St Laurence		£550	£550
Radipole	St Ann and St Aldhelm		£550	£550
Fifehead Magdalen	St Mary Magdalene		£520	£520
Winterbourne Steepleton	St Michael		£520	£520
Hazelbury Bryan with Stoke Wake	St Mary and St James	£20	£500	£520
Spetisbury	St John the Baptist		£518	£518
Sydling St Nicholas	St Nicholas	£120	£397	£517
Kington Magna	All Saints		£500	£500
Frome St Quintin	St Mary	£40	£460	£500
Canford Magna	Dedication unknown		£489	£489
Puddletown	St Mary the Virgin		£486	£486
Owermoigne	St Michael		£485	£485
Winterborne Monkton	St Simon and St Jude		£478	£478
Wimborne Minster	St Cuthberga		£475	£475
West Stafford	St Andrew	£100	£363	£463
Dorchester	St Peter, Holy Trinity and All Saints		£451	£451
Upwey	St Laurence		£450	£450
Minterne Magna	St Andrew		£432	£432
Bothenhampton	Holy Trinity	£20	£410	£430
Uploders	Methodist Church	£25	£400	£425
Milton Abbey	Milton Abbey		£418	£418
Cattistock	St Peter and St Paul		£415	£415
West Lulworth	Holy Trinity		£410	£410
Hooke	St Giles		£400	£400
Charlton Marshall	St Mary the Virgin		£380	£380
Gillingham	St Mary the Virgin		£370	£370
Swanage	St Mary the Virgin		£358	£358
Longburton	St James		£353	£353
Portland	St John the Baptist		£351	£351
Dorchester	Baptist Church		£347	£347
Branksome Park	All Saints		£346	£346
Worth Matravers	St Nicholas		£340	£340
Sandford Orcas	St Nicholas		£340	£340
Lydlinch	St Thomas a Beckett		£337	£337
Shillingstone (or Shilling Okeford)	Holy Rood		£330	£330
Canford Cliffs and Sandbanks	Church of the Transfiguration		£330	£330
West Knighton	St Peter		£325	£325
Sixpenny Handley	St Mary		£315	£315
Broadmayne	St Martin		£310	£310
Shaftesbury	St James		£300	£300
Batcombe	St Mary Magdalene		£300	£300
Swyre	Holy Trinity		£292	£292
Parkstone	St Peter		£271	£271
Weymouth	St John		£265	£265
Stourpaine	Holy Trinity		£260	£260
Fifehead Neville	All Saints		£260	£260
Church Knowle	St Peter	£100	£160	£260

Parish	Church	Donations from PCC	Ride+Stride	Total
Okeford Fitzpaine	St Andrew		£259	£259
Thornford	St Mary Magdalene		£256	£256
Bradford Peverell	Church of the Assumption		£256	£256
Purse Caundle	St Peter		£255	£255
Folke	St Lawrence		£250	£250
Over with Nether Compton	St Michael		£250	£250
Walditch	St Mary		£250	£250
Bere Regis	St John the Baptist		£250	£250
Puncknowle	St Mary the Blessed Virgin		£250	£250
Tarrant Rushton with Tarrant Rawston	St Mary		£243	£243
Milborne St Andrew	St Andrew		£243	£243
Marnhull	St Gregory		£242	£242
Tollard Royal	St Peter Ad Vincula		£242	£242
Langton Matravers	St George		£240	£240
Chetnole	St Peter		£235	£235
Colehill	St Michael and All Angels		£235	£235
Bradford Abbas with Clifton Maybank	St Mary the Virgin		£230	£230
Charminster	St Mary the Virgin		£225	£225
Sutton Waldron	St Bartholomew		£225	£225
Preston with Sutton Poyntz	St Andrew	£200	£25	£225
Blandford Forum	St Peter and St Paul		£224	£224
Stourton Caundle	St Peter		£223	£223
Langton Herring	St Peter		£220	£220
Mappowder	St Peter & St Paul		£218	£218
West Stour	St Mary		£211	£211
Wareham	Methodist Church		£209	£209
Chideock RC	Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs		£208	£208
Winterborne Stickland	St Mary		£208	£208
Catherston Leweston	St Mary		£207	£207
Stock Gaylard	Kings Stag Memorial Chapel		£206	£206
Shaftesbury	St Peters		£205	£205
Stinsford	St Michael		£203	£203
Askerswell	St Michael		£200	£200
Poole URC	Skinner St		£200	£200
Marshwood	St Mary		£200	£200
Lyme Regis	St Michael and All Angels		£200	£200
Lilliput	The Holy Angels		£200	£200
Bridport	United Church		£195	£195
Langton Long	All Saints		£194	£194
Radipole and Melcombe Regis	St Ann		£191	£191
Tarrant Monkton	All Saints		£190	£190
Marnhull RC	Our Lady		£190	£190
Portesham	St Peter		£190	£190
Pimperne	St Peter		£190	£190
Winterborne Whitechurch	St Mary		£185	£185
Dorchester	United Church		£185	£185
West Parley	All Saints		£181	£181
Quintet Group			£180	£180
Farnham	St Laurence		£177	£177



Parish	Church	Donations from PCC	Ride+Stride	Total
Witchampton	St Mary		£172	£172
Hinton St Mary	St Peter		£170	£170
Abbotsbury	St Nicholas		£170	£170
Lillington	St Martin		£170	£170
Studland	St Nicholas		£165	£165
Milton Abbas	St James		£156	£156
Fordington	St George		£150	£150
Swanage Herston	St Mark		£140	£140
Buckhorn Weston	St John the Baptist		£138	£138
Parkstone	St Clement		£135	£135
Blandford	Methodist		£133	£133
Dorchester	St Mary the Virgin		£125	£125
Charmouth	St Andrew		£116	£116
Loders	St Mary Magdalene		£113	£113
Compton Valence	St Thomas Beckett		£100	£100
Tinleton	St John the Evangelist		£100	£100
South Perrott and Chedington	St Mary		£100	£100
Buckland Newton	Holy Rood		£100	£100
Ryme Intrinseca	St Hippolytus		£100	£100
Trent	St Andrew		£100	£100
Southbourne	St Katharine		£90	£90
Hengistbury	St Nicholas		£90	£90
Tarrant Keynston with Tarrant Crawford	All Saints		£90	£90
Glanvilles Wootton	St Mary the Virgin	£50	£40	£90
Drimpton	St Mary		£80	£80
East Lulworth	St Andrew		£76	£76
Beer Hackett	St Michael		£71	£71
Milton-on-Stour	St Simon and St Jude		£70	£70
N Poorton	St Mary Magdalene	£70		£70
Osmington	St Osmund		£65	£65
Pulham	St Thomas Beckett		£60	£60
Mapperton	All Saints		£60	£60
Blandford RC	Our Lady of Lourdes & St Cecilia		£60	£60
Dorchester	Baptist Church		£50	£50
Melcombe Horsey	St Andrew		£50	£50
Holwell	St Laurence	£50		£ 50
Halstock	St Juthware and St Mary	£50		£ 50
Chilfrome	Holy Trinity	£50		£50
Steeple	St Michael and All Angels	£50		£50
Toller Porcorum	St Peter and St Andrew	£50		£50
Swanage	All Saints		£48	£48
East Chelborough	St James		£30	£30
Woolland	Dedication unknown	£25		£25
Gussage All Saints	All Saints		£20	£20
Swanage	Methodist Church		£13	£13
Bradford Peverell	Church of the Assumption	£3		£3
Just Giving Gift Aid			£927	£927
Gift Aid on all other donations			£9,885	£9,885
<b>Total</b>		<b>£2,363</b>	<b>£87,295</b>	<b>£89,658</b>

# Treasurer's Report

## Ride+Stride

Every year I seem to write that it has been another record year for the Trust for Ride+Stride income – and this year is no exception.

The total received for the 2018 Ride+Stride is over £87k. By any standards that is a marvellous achievement and thank you to all those who make this happen year after year, with the total increasing year on year without fail.

Thanks are due to so many for organisation; marketing; supervising on the day and collating the results. Particular thanks are due to Anna Butler who each year organises the event with the minimum of fuss but with the greatest of expertise. However, it is the participants and the sponsors that are the key to the success so thank you to all who have contributed in any way. Without you there would be no Ride+Stride.

The small parish of Chettle has won the Morshead Trophy this year, with a magnificent total of £2,519.

## Receipts 2018

The apparent decrease in receipts for 2017 is deceptive: £3k of Ride+Stride monies arrived after the year end and £10k has been claimed in 2019 from HMRC – being the Gift Aid due on Ride+Stride receipts. There has been no legacy income in 2018 (2017: £10k). Donations from Friends and others has increased substantially in 2018, partly due to one very generous donation, but mostly made up of many smaller amounts for which we are immensely grateful.

## Payments and Grants 2018

More grant payments have been made this year: up £63k. Grants approved in 2018 are to 23 churches – total £135k. Total return to parishes this year is £156k in grants and £37k Ride+ Stride 50% return to churches – total £203k: £28k coming out of reserves. The rest of Ride+Stride expenditure is on printing and running costs of the event. Support costs are well controlled at 3.5% of receipts (2017 £3.6%).

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Investments have dropped this year but have staged a convincing recovery in January and February 2019. The market however remains volatile. Were all the outstanding grants to be demanded at once we would have to sell some investments to meet this cost. Recognising this, the Trustees have decided to sell some investments to ensure there is sufficient cash to cover all liabilities.

## Conclusion

You continue to amaze us every year in your determination to rise to the challenge of raising funds. We are immensely grateful. We receive many grateful letters from churches assisted with the daunting task of repair. Thank you!

Liz Ashmead



## Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2018

	2018	2017
<b>Cash funds</b>	<b>£76,365</b>	<b>£120,515</b>
<b>Investment Assets</b>		
Church of England Central Board of Finance		
– investment fund	£412,745	£420,042
Charities Official Investment Fund	£65,629	£116,218
	<b>£478,374</b>	<b>£536,260</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>£554,738</b>	<b>£656,775</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Grants awarded but not yet drawn down</b>	<b>(130,100)</b>	<b>(£152,030)</b>
<b>Total assets less liabilities</b>	<b>£424,640</b>	<b>£504,745</b>

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.

## Receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018	2017
<b>Receipts</b>		
Ride+Stride current year inc. Gift Aid	£74,120	£86,197
Ride+Stride previous year	£74	
Gift Aid previous year		£9,904
Legacy		£10,000
Friends, individuals and trusts	£16,172	£10,794
Parochial church councils	£2,363	£3,618
Sponsorship	£500	£992
Talks, crawls and concerts (net of meal payments)	£637	£836
Notecard sales	£397	£1,845
Friends' event	£1,080	£480
District council	£100	£100
Income from investments	£17,707	£18,385
Sales of investments	£50,000	£31,505
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£163,150</b>	<b>£174,656</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
<b>Ride &amp; Stride</b>		
50% return to churches	£35,835	£36,271
Honoraria	£1,700	£1,400
Printing and postage	£3,795	£2,943
T-shirts	£500	£992
Administration	£1,248	£1,458
	<b>£43,078</b>	<b>£43,064</b>
<b>Friends</b>		
Brochures, publicity and Friends' annual event	£1,261	£249
Printing of notecards		£2,535
	<b>£1,261</b>	<b>£2,784</b>
<b>Grants</b>		
Grants paid in year (net of any write backs)	£156,100	£92,775
	<b>£156,100</b>	<b>£92,775</b>
<b>Support costs</b>		
Annual Report	£2,455	£2,586
Postage, stationery and travel	£1,192	£421
Marketing and website	£987	£2,115
Insurance	£364	£843
Bank charges	£711	£390
	<b>£5,709</b>	<b>£6,355</b>
<b>Governance</b>		
Independent examiner's fees	£1,152	£1,110
	<b>£1,152</b>	<b>£1,110</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£207,300</b>	<b>£146,088</b>
<b>Net movement in cash funds</b>	<b>(£44,150)</b>	<b>£28,568</b>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>£120,515</b>	<b>£91,947</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>£76,365</b>	<b>£120,515</b>

## Valete

### Simon Pomeroy

**Simon Pomeroy stood down as our Chairman in February 2019 after 8 years in post.**

Building on the foundations created by his predecessors, Nigel Thimbleby and John Alexander, Simon soon put his charm, imagination and sheer hard work to good effect. He quickly established himself at the head of a team of enthusiastic Trustees and Deanery Area Representatives.

The figures speak for themselves: the money pledged for Ride+Stride has risen from a very respectable £50,000 in 2011 to an average of over £80,000 in the past 5 years. Grants have increased from £75,000 in 2011 to an annual average of £105,000 in the same period. The Friends of Dorset Churches have increased to over 325 and the Crawls and lecture lunches are always fully subscribed. While Simon would be the first to give credit for these excellent results to the team and rightly so, we all wanted to do that little bit more because we knew that Simon was doing the same.

Whether it was bringing his forensic accountant's eye to the income and expenditure sheets or posing a well-informed question on a Crawl to bring out a point or quietly engaging with a potential new Trustee, Simon added value at every level. As a Deputy Lord Lieutenant, he had a wide circle of friends and contacts throughout Dorset, many of whom were encouraged to spread the word about the work of the Trust.

He and his wife Ursula, who was a Deanery Area Representative for a number of years, welcomed Trustees and DARs to meetings around the dining room table at Duddle Farm and often extended their hospitality to a delicious lunch in the garden after a meeting. The sun always shone on those lunches as indeed it has done on DHCT for the past 8 years. He has left a first class legacy to his successor, John Stokoe.

### Robert Sharpe

**We sadly say goodbye and offer our grateful thanks to Robert Sharpe who is standing down as the Deanery Area Representative for Sherborne and surrounding parishes.**

Robert has thoroughly enjoyed his time with DHCT and has worked tirelessly to help various churches in his area with their projects and has also encouraged many to participate in the annual Ride+Stride.

### Michael Rose

**After ten years as the Deanery Area Representative, covering twenty churches in the western sector of the Milton and Blandford Deanery, including a number of years serving as a Trustee, Michael Rose retired at the beginning of the year.**

Michael has worked unstintingly in helping many of his churches apply successfully for grant aid and encouraging wider participation in the annual Ride+Stride event. Michael's enthusiastic involvement in all his activities will be very much missed

**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. DL  
G A L-F Pitt-Rivers OBE, DL  
Mrs V L-F Pitt-Rivers CVO DL  
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 E M Ashmead  
Mrs S A Barrett  
A G Boggis  
Mrs S Bruce-Payne  
Dr T P P Connor  
R C M Fox  
Mrs P Francis  
S D Norman  
J D Stokoe CB CBE  
J A M A Selfe  
J T Smith  
Ms S Smith  
Dr G P Sturdy MBE DL  
Captain N T L L Thimbleby  
M W M Warren  
T J Wickson  
The Reverend Canon E J Woods DL

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**Bankers:** Lloyds Bank plc  
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**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)

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