

www.ridestrideherefordshire.uk



info@ridestrideherefordshire.uk

Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust
Coppice Barn
Staplow
Ledbury
Herefordshire
HR8 1NP

10th. May 2017

Dear PCC member,

Ride & Stride **2017** will take place on Saturday 9th September. This year, Herefordshire is organising things slightly differently. We want to build on the fantastic base of existing involvement from hard-working parish organisers and stalwart supporters and encourage new people to take part. If this is your first communication from Hereford Ride & Stride and you would like to take part – welcome!

The aim

Ride & Stride is the main annual fundraising event for Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust (although by no means the only one.) The Trust awards grants totalling £80,000 each year to any Christian Church which requires help to maintain or improve the church building. Money raised by the Ride and Stride is divided equally between the local sponsored church and Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust which is also able to reclaim any Gift Aid. Ride and Stride is open to all participants – young and old. You can visit churches by cycle, by foot or by any means that you wish! Horses, wheelchairs, coracles and even vintage cars have been used and have been welcomed. We very much hope that you'll be able to help us by participating.

Different levels of involvement

Every church can take part in Ride & Stride and if your parish is able to find volunteers to stay in the open church building on the day to welcome participants as they visit, you'll be making an important (and much appreciated) contribution to the event.

We know that in recent years some churches have received no visitors, or very few, and it is hard to expect volunteers to spend hours in a church without greeting anyone. We would like to reverse this trend by engaging with social media and maybe suggesting routes that might involve appropriate refreshments! But manned or not, we do hope parishes ensure that their churches are at least open and accessible to visitors on the day and in future years we plan to establish different routes with featured churches.

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Different channels of communication

We need to reduce the cost of organising Ride & Stride and we need to simplify it. We have created a website, www.ridestrideherefordshire.uk, from which organisers can download useful documents like posters and signs, sponsorship forms and guidance and parish newsletter adverts, to print at home or incorporate into other publications. We will also provide simple directions to the event's own Just Giving page, enabling participants to sign up and get sponsored online.

We will **only** communicate with parish organisers (and participants directly) by email from now on unless otherwise requested. Please make sure that we have your email address. Any money saved on postage (expected to be many £100s) can go directly to the churches themselves, **where the Trust considers the money would be better spent.** To make this possible we need to make sure that our database is up-to-date. Could we therefore ask you to complete and return the attached form no later than 1st July 2017.

Thank you for your help and hard work with Ride & Stride over the years.

Yours sincerely,

David Furnival

Chairman, Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust

Your church – name and place	
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Your full name	
Your address (including postcode)	
Your telephone number(s)	
Your email (<i>legible please!</i>)	
Are you willing to be your parish's main point of contact for R&S?	Y/N
If not, do you know who might be willing?	
Will church be open on Saturday 9 September?	Y/N
Will church be manned?	Y/N
Is there a toilet in your church?	Y/N
Is there a pub or shop to buy food or drink nearby?	Y/N
Please estimate the number of people likely to visit	
Do you know of any other community event near you on that day?	
Are you able to download documents from the Herefordshire Ride & Stride website?	Y/N

Thank you. Other comments?

Please complete and return to: David Furnival, Coppice Barn, Staplow, Herefordshire, HR8 1NP