

RUTLAND HISTORIC CHURCHES PRESERVATION TRUST

RUTLAND RIDE AND STRIDE. SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2023

BRIEF FOR CHURCH ORGANISERS

Firstly, the RHCPT Trustees would like to thank you for undertaking the task of Church Organiser and we would be grateful if you could also pass on our thanks to all the Participants and Church Recorders that you recruit.

As you already know, the object of our “Ride and Stride” event is to raise money for the repair and maintenance of Rutland churches and chapels, all of which we hope will be open on the day of the event, Saturday 9th September. The money so raised will go to the RHCPT but the Trust may grant up to half of this to the specific churches nominated by each participant.

We only do this every two years. We hope, therefore, that you will publicise and promote the event as much as possible in your locality and encourage as many cyclists, walkers and other participants to take part. In some parishes, a separate person probably a keen cyclist has volunteered to recruit riders and striders to participate. If you know of a suitable person, we would encourage you to consider doing this if that would make life easier! Every additional motivated participant means more money will be received to maintain our heritage. At the same time, it is a pleasurable and very social day out in the Rutland countryside.

We have updated our trust’s website www.rhcpt.co.uk and it contains full details of the day. It is designed to allow participants to print off for themselves the two forms they will need, the Record of Churches Visited and the Sponsors form. Increasingly, we are encouraging participants to bypass the Sponsors form approach and consider using JustGiving to collect sponsorship money. It is much easier and avoids the reluctance that many people have of asking their friends directly. Full details of how to do this are on the website. There is also a dedicated event website **www.RutlandRideAndStride.org.uk**. and a Facebook page Ride-and-Stride-Rutland. Some participants will of course prefer to be given the guidance notes for participants and two forms identified above so you should be ready to distribute these if necessary and they are attached to my covering letter.

The notes below provide full details to help you prepare for Ride and Stride. As the Special Trustee organising your group of parishes, I will of course provide any further information if you need it and my contact details are

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HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE 2023 “RIDE AND STRIDE”

1. ON RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER:

1. As soon as possible, gain the support of your own Chapel or Church PCC and ensure that your Church will be open on Saturday 9th September from 10.00am to 6.00pm. Then put together a rota of Recorders who will greet and sign participants' RECORD OF CHURCHES VISITED forms as they arrive. If there is a wedding or other event already planned for that day, please set up an alternative site nearby to receive participants. If you are unable to man your church all day, to ensure participants feel welcome, we will send you a WELCOME sheet to leave in your church for them to sign. It is not a control and we don't want it back.
2. Please try to get cyclists, walkers and recorders interested and committed to the event as far in advance as possible as people's diaries get busy. Please spread the word about Ride and Stride outside your church community. It is a local event to support historic buildings which are of great importance to many more people than those who actively worship there. Think of village friends, cycle groups, WI members, youth clubs, 'Next Door' etc. One idea is to contact couples who were married in your church since the last Ride+ Stride two years ago and encourage them to participate in the event.
3. We have produced centrally our usual advertising material and the WELCOME sheet which I will send to you as soon as possible. This will consist of the familiar yellow Ride and Stride posters to which you should please **add your own name and phone number** so that people know who to contact. Please display these in your church porch, the village hall, clubs and local shops. It would also be very helpful if you could arrange for the poster or other publicity to appear in your Parish Magazine or Newsletter and on the Village Website if you have one. If your village uses 'Next Door' you could post it on their platform. Best of all would be to repeat this regularly over the coming months.
4. I will also send to you information leaflets for people to take home and read. Please place these where you think people will notice them in churches, clubs, shops and other frequented places. If you need more of these and are unable to photocopy them yourself then please ask me, your district co-ordinator, for more.
5. Encourage people to look at our website www.RutlandRideAndStride.org.uk as this contains information on all the different categories. The categories are the same as in 2021, i.e. recording, riding bicycles or horses, walking, jogging etc and the not so mobile. Recognising that none of us are getting any younger, we are also encouraging people to use **electric bikes** if they have one and want to use it. No prizes will be given but it does make it easier to cope with Rutland's hills and valleys.
6. If possible, encourage people to use JustGiving to collect sponsorship. It is a much simpler process for all involved and GiftAid is automatically collected. We have a centralised website <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Rutland-ride-and-stride> which is available for everybody to use. Sponsors should add the name of the participant they are sponsoring. There is also a JustGiving QR code on the sponsor form.
7. Where participants collect sponsorship in the more traditional manner and they discuss it with you, remember that anybody donating by cheque should if appropriate sign the GiftAid declaration on the form because this is worth another 25% to us. This requires that sponsors provide their name address and postcode and tick the GiftAid box on the form they sign.

2. ON THE DAY (9 September):

REFRESHMENTS & SOCIAL AMENITIES: In 2021 **soft drinks and biscuits** were offered at most Churches and were gratefully received by thirsty cyclists and walkers. We do hope that this will again be possible. **Cake** is a real bonus! If you wish to encourage passers by to visit your church even if they are not participating in the event, you could put a sign up outside the church welcoming them inside to share these refreshments and you should feel free to encourage a donation to your church as a thank you.

Equally important is providing for those who may need a lavatory. If your church has one, do please advertise it!

SIGNPOSTING: If you know that your church is difficult to find, it would be helpful if you could devise some sort of simple signposting to help cyclists and walkers

3. POST EVENT:

Where Participants and Recorders are collecting sponsor money personally please ensure that you have the money no later than 12th October 2023. After checking that the money tallies with the amount shown on the sponsor form, please send the forms and the sponsorship money to me, your District Co-ordinator.

For those people who have raised sponsorship through JustGiving, their sponsorship money is collected automatically. They should still send their Churches Visited forms either to you or to us directly so that we can thank them.

Many people are happy to journey from church to church at a sedate pace. Others take the event as a challenge to visit as many churches as possible, and for them there are prizes as follows:

CYCLISTS: the DAVENPORT-HANDLEY CUP: for the cyclist visiting the greatest number of churches in Rutland.

SCROLLS: presented to any cyclist visiting 35 or more churches on the day.

Similarly for walkers who get to 15 or more churches.

WALKERS: there will be a prize to the most outstanding achievement by a walker.

This could be the largest amount of sponsorship raised, the greatest number of churches visited, or some novel aspect.