



in aid of Historic Churches & Chapels

March 2018

Dear Church Representative,

The date for this year's Ride+Stride event is **Saturday 8th September 2018**.

The excellent news is that last year we raised overall a record amount of just over **£60,000**. We are very grateful for all the support which you have helped to organise together with your Area Coordinators.

As you know, these funds go towards helping to support many worthwhile improvement and renovation projects for our historic churches. But also, since half the sum you raise is returned to the church that your Riders and Striders choose, you have the funds for your own projects as well.

This year you may be interested in collaborating with other churches in your benefice or the vicinity. By linking together, you can suggest local tours and routes and can help some churches to avoid the disappointment of receiving no visitors. It is quite in order to travel by car and whether travelling by foot, bicycle or however, everyone says what *fun* it is.

The Ride+Stride event is an excellent way for the church to reach out to the wider community. We now have a colourful and eye-catching advertisement and we would urge you to spread them prominently as part of your work to encourage the wider community, as well as the church community to join in and to raise sponsorship funds.

On a more mundane but importantly practical note, we would ask you to try and check to ensure that the required information is clearly and legibly recorded on all the forms. Particularly on E2, the Sponsorship form, the details of the participant and email address should be clear. The information is required for legal and taxation reasons which are now being more stringently in the areas of data protection and gift aid.

Last year on Ride+Stride day over 400 churches opened in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight with over 350 people participating representing 136 churches or benefices. This year we hope that you might be able to encourage more people to join in, obtain sponsorship and at the same time have a thoroughly enjoyable time.

With Kind Regards,

Geoffrey & Christine Wort

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christine &amp; Geoffrey'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

# TOP TIPS for a successful **RIDE+STRIDES** day

Think **THREE LEGGED STOOL**: The key to success is **THREE** equally balanced **LEGS**

## **FIRST LEG – Churches Open & Welcoming**

**Arrange a rota** of meeters and greeters, take photos of R+Ss for local paper. **Welcome** visitors and, in between, be sponsored for an activity eg: reading the psalms, riding an exercise bike. **Refreshments**, ask parishioners to provide chocolate brownies, flap jacks and squash – always a hit with cyclists – and healthy options. Run a **R+S Cafe** a good reputation draws people to remote and hilly areas.

## **SECOND LEG - Participating Riders & Striders**

Offer **Prizes** for the most churches visited, longest distance cycled; local businesses like supporting local causes. **Encourage** participation; Sunday School groups in a safe areas, dog owners, horse riders and mobility scooter, car and bus users.

## **THIRD LEG – Getting Sponsorship and Advertising Extensively**

Activities need not be limited to just R+Sing, participants can sing, clean and garden etc. to raise money. **Team Sponsorship** is proving popular; suggest a group of walkers or cyclists give themselves a team name and set up a **Just Giving** page. Suggest that people make a **donation** for every church they visit rather than obtaining sponsorship. **ASK PEOPLE DIRECTLY** to take part, such as at school gates or when you see cyclists and walkers in your parish. We hear repeatedly that this is the single most successful way of finding keen participants, as well as sponsors to support R+S. **Above all PUBLICISE** well in advance and afterwards too!

## **AIDE-MEMOIRE OF CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Ensure** that the R+S event at the church has regard to **Child Protection** policies.

*Documentation used by the following:*

### **Church Representatives**

**Hants A/E1** - Information & Sponsorship  
**Hants B** - Church Registration  
**Hants I** - Church Rep's Return

### **Participants**

**Hants A/E1** - Information & Sponsorship  
**Hants C** - List of Registered churches  
**Hants D** - R+S Stickers  
**Hants E2** - List of Sponsors

### **At the Church**

**Hants F** - Poster  
**Hants G** - Register of Visitors  
**Hants H** - Welcome Card

*Note: many of these forms can be downloaded from our website*

*Programme*

**End of April** – submit the Church Registration and associated details either on-line or on Form B to your Area Coordinator.

**June & July** – Receive the forms A/E1, C, D, E2 from your Area Coordinator, distribute them to participants and encourage them to seek sponsorship and encourage others to become participants. Publicise R+S using poster Hants F, by entering the R+S date in the diary of church events and placing an article in the Parish magazine and/or website.

**August & September** – Arrange the rota of meeters & greeters and catering. Keep publicising where you can and working on the Top Tips above.

**On the Day** – At the church display the Welcome Card and R+S donation box prominently and make available the Register of Visitors for signing. Advise on changes to procedure during weddings.

**Mid September to mid October** – Collect sponsor money, entering details on the Church Rep's Return and sending it to the Area Coordinator with money and cheques **and** the List of Sponsors Form E2. See the form for details. Thank, via the news letter, all who have raised money, stewarded and sponsored and bring outstanding achievements or points of interest to the attention of your Area Coordinator.