



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
HISTORIC
CHURCHES
TRUST



Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust -Ride and Stride

<https://bucks-historic-churches.org/>

ridestride@bucks-historic-churches.org.

Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust (BHCT) was founded in 1957 by the then Lord Lieutenant, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, and the Bishop of Buckingham, the Right Reverend Robert Milton Hay.

With funds raised since then from the people of Buckinghamshire, the Trust has given grants of over £1,000,000 towards the repair and restoration of over 300 churches of all denominations in the County and continues to do so, at the rate of some £60,000 each year.

The Ride and Stride event every September (except last year for obvious reasons) is a way for members of our congregations to raise sponsor money which goes towards the maintenance of historic churches in Bucks. People cycle/ride/even go on horseback to visit churches, seeking sponsorship for doing so, often specified as so much for each church visited. The money raised is then split between a church of each rider's nomination and the Trust.

For many years David Rafferty of St Michael's and All Angela, Amersham has been the organiser for the Amersham Deanery. He intends to retire from this role in 2022 and has asked the Deanery to identify one (or two) people who would shadow him in 2021 with a view to succeeding in 2022.

Expressions of interest please to our deanery Hon Sec. stmarys.amersham@btconnect.com

We are asking all our churches to consider whether they have someone in their congregation who could carry out the role. It doesn't need to be a keen cyclist or walker, just a person, or persons, who care about our church buildings and understand how important it is to raise funds for their maintenance - and, indeed, survival!

Joanna Barclay, coordinator for the Buckingham Archdeaconry, has provided the following description of what the role entails and a timeline of tasks – it is not onerous.

Approximate timetable

Spring: Deanery Organisers' Meeting. First form sent out to churches.

Mid-end May: Chase forms. Collate information and inform Administrator

June: Send out publicity (expenses paid)

Late June/early July: Send out/email remaining documents with covering letter

Mid September – end October: Collect all forms and monies. Forward to Treasurer

Ride + Stride Deanery Organiser Role

The Deanery Organiser (DO) works the Parish Organisers (PO) who are responsible for one or more churches in the Deanery. These churches generally have a history of collaboration with Ride + Stride so they already understand what is required. Some are more proactive than others! DOs are an important, on-the-ground link to the people in the parishes.

We are moving to managing R+S digitally as much as possible but we like to allow for those who prefer paper communications, so both forms of communication are used. Form A is sent out in the spring. This asks for confirmation that the church will be open (Covid 19 allowing), and whether refreshments and a loo will be available. A response is requested by May, to allow for a list of the participating churches to be prepared. Reminders are often required.

All information needs to be forwarded to the R+S Administrator. A list is put on the website. We ask that POs to give information on any other events or weddings which may coincide with R+S.

In May/June any publicity material should be sent out when it comes available to the admin staff, with a covering note encouraging POs to use the material.

Forms which cover sponsorship, visitor registers and the form to accompany the return of sponsorship monies and donations can then be either sent out by post or the participants can be directed to the website to download such forms.

About a month after the R+S day, the DO should have received the appropriate forms and monies and have forwarded them to the Treasurer.

DOs submit their own expenses to the Treasurer.

DOs report the final return of monies raised to the County Organiser.

A meeting in the spring is held as an opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss issues.