



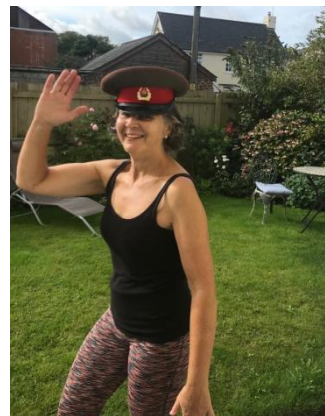
## A sample of Inspirational Adventures supporting Devon's churches in 2020

### *A tribute to the heart and soul of Devon*

Devon's wonderful Alice May created an updated incarnation of 'Alice in Wonderland' by taking inspiration from Captain Tom Moore and undertook "*A path well walked*" on behalf of Cheriton Fitzpaine church.

Alice & family have a very small garden and at the front of the house is a path, and 110 lengths of that path makes one mile and this is where Alice did her training - **7 miles each day or 770 lengths!**

**And on the day Alice delivered a fairytale which will inspire many others for years to come.** Not only did she 'travel' with fun and creativity, see the multitude of hats adorning not only her 'crown' but also the 'wall to the world', and delivered an amazing result. In the true spirit of all adventures, it had a very happy ending by securing **£5,226 in sponsorship...WOW!**



Her husband Patrick produced a video of her Adventures which was fun to share with all her supporters  
**And Alice has further assisted the DHCT by doing the 'voice over' on its new promotional video**  
**Designed to enhance the work of the trust in supporting Devon's churches!**



## Ermington Church - Rides, Strides and Teas!



### The Devon Historic Churches Day for Ermington Church

was happy and successful. Lovely weather, no rain and not too hot. 10 people met outside Ermington church and we walked the approx. 2 miles to Sheepham Mill. 28 people turned up for the picnic in our garden and it was a jolly occasion.

We provided the refreshments including quite a few bottles of chilled rose'.

10 then walked on to Modbury Church (steep hill but only a mile) and most walked back again to our house. The final few stayed for tea and swimming.

All donated at least £10 and also those who could not come gave a donation. A great friend, Margie Hawkins is a keen biker and bikes with a group. They are not church goers but travelled 15 miles and 5 churches. They gave £35. The final amount was £561



Mary Burnell-Nugent

## Our West Hill Wonders....



We wanted to say a special thank you to all who generously sponsored the Devon Historic Churches cycle ride. We had a wonderful day and thoroughly enjoyed our ride through the Otter Valley. We were blessed with lovely weather, glorious Devon scenery and Lesley's company as our pace setter.

We are delighted to have collected the amazing sum of £650, which will be shared equally between the DHCT and St Michael's.

The annual Ride and Stride is great fun and brings in much needed income for the Trust. It was sad that many churches were unable to take part in their usual activities this year, because of the pandemic.

We hope we will be able to cycle again next year and always hope more riders will join us. Thank you for your support and encouragement this year, we really appreciate it.



Sue and Richard Bonnie



## Hendrik 'electrifies' Harpford!



### Visiting Devon's churches in the time of Covid 19

*"It was a perfect day for cycling along the lanes in east Devon, and I had excellent travel companions. 35 miles in total from Harpford, taking in Talaton, Clyst St Lawrence, Whimble, West Hill, Ottery St Mary, Tipton St John, Venn Ottery, and Newton Poppleford.*

*Sadly only two churches out of these nine were open, due to covid restrictions. Whilst it was disappointing not to be able to visit the interiors of churches of course, many churches sit within their church yard on ancient sites at the heart of the community and have wonderful spirit of place."*

Hendrik Vollers

- £1,000 was raised – well done indeed!

## The ever energetic Jackie Edwards continues to amaze!

### 47 Kilometres to celebrate 47 years of DHCT giving!

Jackie challenged herself to cycle with a friend 47 kilometers from Kingsteignton to Moretonhampstead and returning to her beloved church of St Michael's.

*"Owing to my calculations this should add up well to cycling 47 kilometres to coincide with the DHCT being 47 years old. I picked up a couple of duly printed T shirts and Sponsorship Money started to arrive, so my lovely friends must have faith in me!*

*Family members and some friends said they would cheer us on at different locations along the way so that photographs may be taken to record the event.*

*I know of other younger cycling enthusiasts will be capable of achieving this easily but I will be pleased to complete it as I am advancing in years now!!!!"*



And on crossing the 'finishing line' .....

*"I am so honoured and humbled to say that I have raised just over £1,000.00. People were amazing sponsoring me and supporting me along the way. One friend and a gentleman cyclist we met along the way kept me company. The weather was perfect and I know my dear Lord was with me. Blessings Jackie"*

## Perfect Pedal Power! The Rev.Helen Blaine raised £1,600



On 12<sup>th</sup> September Helen Blaine cycled around the four churches of the Winkleigh Mission Community and a further four churches: Dolton, Dowland, Iddesleigh and Monkokehampton as part of the Ride+Stride event. These churches had benefitted from grants from the DHCT.

**The bonus part** of this is that the Winkleigh Mission Community gets back half of the money raised, which was then divided up amongst the four parishes.

**The less bonus part** of this was that Helen had to cycle 25 miles, having only learned to ride a bike properly during lockdown! This is therefore more of a challenge than it might at first seem. She was however ably assisted by Alastair – chief coach, instructor, first-aider and very, very keen cyclist!

## Devon's Mother Church – Exeter Cathedral, inspires us all!

*'Ride and Stride is a great event! I've taken part more than a dozen times in different counties of England – and have always loved cycling, exploring, good company, and finding a great place to stop for lunch.'*



**Four riders from the cathedral clergy** – including the Dean – set out on bikes to take part in Ride and Stride. They visited many churches of different denominations along the way, and enjoyed a hot chocolate by the waterside in Topsham. We were blessed by good weather and great company.

**We are grateful to everyone who supported us** – and we made it back in time for the ordination service at the cathedral that afternoon.

**Well done to everyone involved in this year's Ride and Stride.**

Canon Chris Palmer, Canon Chancellor

## A Happy Day for Simon Williams and friends from Buckland Monachorum



**With the Lord firmly smiling upon us** in terms of weather in an otherwise indifferent week, five intrepid cyclists comprising Simon, Mark, John, Belinda and Elizabeth gathered outside St Andrews, Buckland Monachorum to attempt the ride part of the annual Ride and Stride. Numbers were modest, not least due to Government COVID restrictions, but the ride set off in good spirits. The route chosen was a 34 mile circuit over the challenging hills of Dartmoor and after the steep hill out, the first stop was St Peter's in Yelverton, where we were met with smiles and socially distanced encouragement. Off to St Paul's in Meavy next, passing small groups of happy walkers en route. Another steep climb from Meavy was rewarded with lovely views of Burrator Reservoir as we circumnavigated it, stopping at St Leonard's in Sheepstor on the way round.

**The climb to the highest point of the ride** followed, with the forbidding granite prison at Princetown flanked by the delightful church of St Michael's, no longer in regular use but well worth a visit. The long, sweeping drop down through Merrivale and Pork Hill to Tavistock was both visually spectacular and a road cyclists' delight of fast snaking curves all the way to Tavistock and St Eustachius. A wedding taking place there prevented closer scrutiny so it was on to visit our Roman Catholic cousins at the Church of Our Lady, originally CofE and built by the Duke of Bedford in the Italian style.

**The home leg began** via St Andrews in Whitchurch and via the beautiful Whitchurch down to Sampford Spiney, for the first of our two St Mary's in a row. From the first tree-covered rural idyll we cycled down and then up, for what seemed to be a very long time, to receive a very warm welcome at St Mary's Walkhampton. We kept our distance from the happy throng of different separate groups of walkers who were there in abundance, and enjoyed the largely downhill run to St John's in Horrabridge, the last church on our route. We were delighted to finish our circuit, having climbed some 3500 feet in our 34 miles and visited some absolutely wonderful and picturesque churches.

**If you are thinking of joining us next year**, please do as you will not be disappointed. If the route seems a little challenging, then fear not - there was a short version of about half the distance. Either way, and even if you just chose to ride or stride between a couple of churches, you can be sure of a warm welcome and some stunning views.

Simon Williams



## The Posbury Wombles!



As part of the Devon Historic Churches Trust Annual Ride & Stride event, the members of St Luke's Church at Posbury wanted to do something a little different this year. On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, members of the committee along with children, grandchildren and dogs covered more than 6 miles of the lanes leading to Posbury **collecting litter** as they went! From Metford Bridge through Venny Tedburn and as far as Fordton Bridge, from Folly Moor through Uton and down to Culvery Cross, up to the top of Uton Steep and on to Posbury, as well as from Gunstone up to Blackdown cross and down to Posbury. Along the way they collected **17 sacks of litter**, which weighed in at over 50kg.

Everyone congregated at the church for a **quick Barbeque lunch**, before finishing off the day by trimming the inside of the church yard hedge.

Fiona Mortimer, chairman of the management committee said *"St Luke's is in such a lovely part of the countryside, we wanted to do our bit to try and make the journey to church even more spectacular, and we hope that the community will appreciate what we have done"*.

Ruth Vigers, treasurer, said *"We wanted to support DHCT because they have been extremely generous in helping St Luke's with grants in the past. Most recently they made a grant towards our renovations in 2017, which saw the church having extensive work to completely renew the floor and was interior redecoration, this was our way of giving back to the Trust as well as doing something for the environment"*.

Izzy Jones, aged 9, participated in the litter pick with her grandmother Julie Cole. They walked from Blackdown Cross down to Upper Upton Steep and then back up to the church. Izzy said *"I enjoyed taking part, but it was very tiring"*.



Christopher Maycock



Joab winning the DHCT cup for the second year running

Our 'Amazing Annie' organised a **knock-out Golf Competition** over 6 weeks, with prize giving held on **Saturday 5th September at a BBQ**.

*"11 year old Joab Atkins (handicap 27) beat Ajay Patel (handicap 12) 3 and 2 at Launceston Golf Course. Both Joab and Ajay played outstanding golf and in a true spirit of courtesy and appreciation of each players good shots. It was a wonderful final."*  
Annie Jefferies

Lamerton church raised £470.



## Valerie Jeffrey's vibrant video...

Featuring her **120+ mile journey** taking over 10 hours and visiting 25 churches in the Kenn Deanery and raised **£567** – 50% will go towards the new screen and projector she is hoping to purchase for Cofton church.

Visit the DHCT website Justgiving page to view the video.

## *Dedication to the churches, communities and businesses around Whimble!*

During September various members of the Mission Community in Whimble took part in the Ride+Stride event in aid of Devon Historic Churches Trust. A fantastic amount of money was raised. Read on for an account of their journeys.

**At 8am on Saturday 5th September** Becky Venton, Bruce Truscott, Phil Dominy and Maggie Spicer met in the 24/7 prayer space at the church in Whimble ahead of their cycle ride around the 4 churches in our current Mission Community and the 4 churches in the Clyst Mission Community. They were cycling both in aid of the Devon Historic Churches Trust and as part of the 24/7 prayer event. *“They wanted to thank God for the beauty of our area, to ask him to bless the businesses and communities they cycled past, and to pray for the future of the Mission Communities”*. The route was planned so that it would circle around the area, stopping to pray at each church and also at 'high points' such as Willow View Park and above Cotley Farm and at significant places like Clyst Vale Community College and at the bridges over the A30. They saw beautiful old stained glass windows in church buildings which have for centuries been places of communal worship, but in lockdown although 'closed' for services became community 'foodbanks' and quiet spaces. They cycled down beautiful wooded valleys and up many hills and through productive farmland and past local pubs (not stopping at the 5 Bells...they might not have continued up the bigger hill after it!!). Our proposed Mission Community also includes commercial areas, home to big multinationals and many smaller independent enterprises which are all trying to cope with Covid restrictions and stay viable. They really enjoyed cycling it together on a beautiful morning...Becky even sang for a bit! ...but for Maggie it was a symbolic linking together in prayer of the proposed Mission Community - to ask for God's blessing over it. In all they cycled 32 miles (almost 54 km)..and, thanks to everyone who sponsored, **raised £661 for DHCT**.

**Sue Ayres group of six** had a shaky start when their friend's car died as it arrived at their house and the AA was called. They planned to visit 9 churches starting at Whimble heading on to West Hill and finishing at Talaton. They had lots of fun, stopping at each church to look around the graveyards, picnicking at Feniton church and enjoying a pint at the Drewe Arms, Broadhembury. After four hours and lots of locked churches they headed for home - just in time to meet the breakdown service. In all they covered 27 miles and **raised £165**.

**'Team Turner' also rode on the 12th. Ralph**, who has just turned five, thought he would like to go, so big brother Jonah (8years), Mum and Gran joined him. They had a super time and the boys loved it. Granny had to call for a 'cookie break' at one stage as she was struggling to keep up with the little legs in front of her flying round so fast they were a blur. **Their efforts have raised £448**.

These are pictures of the four groups who cycled on behalf of St Mary's and obviously had great fun.



## **AND Julia Spruntulis 'sprinting' 75 miles!**



*“On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September I completed my target of 75 miles, 22 churches.*

*It was good to have a welcome from Whimble, Clyst st Lawrence and St Michael's at Mount Dinham with so very few open this year.”*

Julia Spruntulis

- Julia raised just over £1,000.....wonderful!!!

Photo of First and last churches!



## *The Modbury Marvels!*

The day started when David Scott, (The DHCT Representative for the Woodleigh Deanery) proceeded to put the necessary Welcome Posters outside the following churches:



St Monica's Church, Modbury



St George's Church, Modbury



St Andrew's Church, Aveton Gifford

Prior to the actual day David Scott had considered that with covid-19 pandemic and churches being closed for the majority of the week and considering that no sponsorship forms would be permitted in any churches, he decided to arrange for individuals from the 5 Modbury Mission Community churches to contact him and arrange sponsorship and resolve how to collect the donated funds, and he stated that **he would match any sponsorship money so that funds given would return back to the respective churches.**

At 10am David visited St Andrew's Church at AG, then both St Monica and St George's churches in Modbury before driving to Ermington to visit St Peter and St Paul, in

Ermington.

Then on to Ivybridge where the car was parked and the stride then took place, visiting the following Ivybridge churches:



St Austin's Priory



Methodist Church



Chapel Place



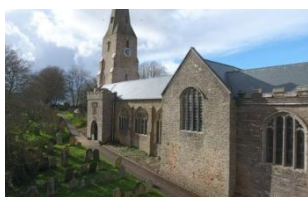
St John's Church



Baptist Church

All 5 of the Modbury Mission Community churches sponsored David Scott and the **final figure raised was £2,110. The stride day ended with a very enjoyable picnic lunch at Sheepham Mill,** after a kind invitation from Lady Mary Burnell-Nugent, who is the chair of the Devon Historic Churches Trust.

### Modbury Mission Community churches.



St George's Church  
Modbury



St Andrew's Church  
Aveton Gifford



St Lawrence Church  
Bigbury



St James (less) Church  
Kingston



All Hallows Church  
Ringmore

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### *Long standing loyal supporters at Moretonhampstead*



**Yippee – this year they raised £1,082.50 – absolutely brilliant and well done indeed!**

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## *Thorverton thrives!*

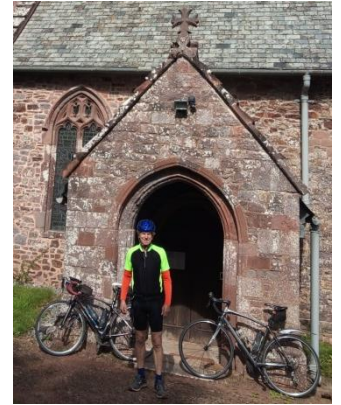
We wanted to make a special effort to support DHCT this year, partly in gratitude for previous help in maintaining our Grade 1 listed building.

A few parishioners were keen to cycle or walk around all the 9 churches of our Mission Community, the Netherexe Parishes, and several more happy to do shorter walks or rides around some of the churches. Many people were keen to participate but reluctant to seek sponsorship, so I agreed to manage the fund-raising online. We set up a Facebook page and posted photos of the participants visiting each of the churches. We shared these on local social media, and in our village magazine.

We set up an online giving campaign using our usual platform and asked for donations.

We raised £490. Do have a look at the Facebook page.

Royston Kershaw



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## *Val Hoare's Petal Pedal!*



Val cycled 220 miles around our beautiful county in support of *"the wonderful work of Devon Historic Churches Trust helping our heritage"* and raised £240.

Below is an account of her journey.....

*"I had an amazing training ride this week- making it up onto Dartmoor, as far as Dartmeet. I have decided to make that one of the rides I do in three weeks time as, despite the steepness of the hills, it was absolutely glorious. I pedalled past St. Raphael's Chapel at Hexworthy- a lovely place to visit when the snowdrops are in flower.*

*With only 2 days to go I thought a gentle days' training would be sensible today. So it was great to get an invitation to experience something different. After the short ride into town I spent 2 hours on the river paddling down and back again with my very patient son in his kayak. It was brilliant, even the ride home seemed a breeze.*

*In the last three days I have pedalled through some very typical Devon towns and villages- Blackawton, Slapton, Dartmouth, Ashprington, Ermington and South Brent to name but a few. Places that are a joy to live in, and all with one thing in common- beautiful parish churches that are an integral part of those communities.*

*Thank you for the support you are giving me and helping raise money for the Devon Historic Churches Trust which is there to help us all as we care for these gems in our midst."*

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## *Nil Desperandum* at Bideford church!

We received a lovely little memento of fundraising *'fun'* from St Mary's church Bideford:

*"At very short notice and with the onset of Covid 19 we had forgotten all about raising funds through coffee mornings, now forbidden, for Devon Historic Churches Trust. However, nil desperandum, I volunteered to endure a cycle ride to every church in our parish, even though many are closed (Covid19). At the age of 71 and not a very good cyclist it was quite an undertaking, especially as I had forgotten the Devon hills! Joined by one much younger and good rider for encouragement we raised very quickly at one church service £320!*



Ellie Doe

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## *Stockland's adventures through two Iron Age earthworks!*



**On a beautiful Saturday morning**, twenty two people, including four from Dalwood and three from Membury parishes, plus numerous dogs assembled at the fourteenth century Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Stockland to walk five and half miles around the roads, footpaths and green lanes of the parish on the Annual Devon Historic Churches Walk.

**After a photo session in the church grounds**, the walkers left at 10.15am past the Old Ale House, the ancient Clay Lane and headed for the Seven Mile Straight, an old ridge route. Then down to the Little

Castle, which is the smallest of the two Iron Age earthworks (400BC - 100BC) in Stockland parish, and is believed to be a univallate (uni = one, vallate = wall) earthwork then used as a seasonal livestock enclosure. The larger one at Broadhayes was a higher status settlement.

They then reached the church at 1pm where tea and cake was provided. After everyone had followed a one-way system and social distancing around the pews. The church had a major deep clean for the day by a band of willing helpers. The refreshments were taken outside as the weather was favourable.

**Generous sponsorship for the day amounted to £505**, which will be split 50:50 between the Devon Historic Churches Trust and Stockland Church.

Bryan and Rowena Drew

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## *The Tarka Trail and Botticelli's Birth of Venus – North Devon delights!*

**On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September three cyclists** took on the annual Ride+Stride in aid of DHCT which is a charity we have supported for many years: it has been very helpful to St James Church, Swimbridge and we shall be approaching the DHCT before long for some essential heritage work to our beautiful building. The riders were, together with myself, David Netherway and John Hayes (formerly very much of this parish, now a Landkey resident) and set out with a Mars bar apiece.

**This year's ride was, of course, unlike previous years.** Usually, we find at each church we visit that some kind soul has put out soft drinks and biscuits for the Ride & Striders. This time all the churches were locked. We started at St James and went first to St Paul, Landkey, then over to St John the Baptist church in Newport, followed by Holy Trinity church in Barnstaple, which now has climbing facilities in its renovated tower – apparently used, we've heard, by the Royal Marines for training. Then on to the Tarka Trail in glorious sunshine, heading for Chivenor to the thrilling calls of Curlews and Oystercatchers feeding on the Taw. We noticed how many more e-bikes there are compared to last year. It has made cycling so much easier and more fun for many, especially those well on in years – but of our three cyclists only one (Mark) was on an e-bike.



**We enjoyed a well-earned but socially distanced coffee** at the Waterside Cafe just off the Trail at Chivenor and made a point of visiting its toilet facilities which are decorated with Sando Botticelli's Renaissance masterpiece, the Birth of Venus – who says North Devon is a cultural desert? Feeling duly re-charged, we cycled on to our final church, St Michael's at the Royal Marines Base. We were only able to look at it from the Trail through the perimeter fence, of course. We clocked up 20 miles before we went our separate ways just after Rock Park.



**Thanks to generous sponsors we hope to raise £150** for this very good cause.

**We look forward to seeing a few more of you, perhaps on e-bikes, next year!**

Mark Haworth-Booth

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## *Galmpton & Hope Cove*

Rising to the challenge - and this year raised £1263.50!

They are always keen supporters.

Well done indeed!



## *Horrabridge at the heart*

of the West Dartmoor Mission Community

which includes Yelverton, Meavy, Sheepstor, Walkhampton and Sampford Spiney.

*"The day was a great success with over 30 people participating, perfect weather and great camaraderie. We are already planning to do it again next year. Many thanks for all you do for historic churches."*

They raised £650.

Elaine Hay, Treasurer, St John the Baptist Church, Horrabridge



## *Delicious Devon Cream Teas* in a Powderham village garden



*"Thank goodness it was a lovely sunny weekend.*

*We were busy both days with plenty of visitors.*

*We raised £170*

*Elodie, our 9 year old granddaughter named it **Le Petit Chien Café!**"*

Jennifer Rowland



## *In conclusion.....*

The amazing activities of those groups illustrated here are making a considerable contribution to the future of our glorious Christian architectural heritage – and are just an example of so many others who have supported the Devon Historic Churches Trust in these challenging times. How very, very fortunate the churches of Devon are to have their enthusiasm and energy!

**We offer them all our heartfelt thanks**

ALL contributions are very gratefully received and will be faithfully applied

**Please put Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in your diary**



**Devon Historic Churches Day**

**Including Ride+Stride**

and have even more fun fundraising for our churches!

**YOUR SUPPORT** is vital for the work of the **Devon Historic Churches Trust** so that it can continue giving our parish churches grants towards their essential fabric repairs and refurbishment **and enable them to serve their communities both now and in the future.**

**Please visit our website:**

***www.devonhistoricchurches.co.uk***

and view the **video** illustrating the work of the DHCT and how it supports our churches in Devon.

