



## Update from Dr Kevin Bond, our Chairman



I am pleased to say that the arrangements for **this year's Ride + Stride on Saturday 9th September** are available on our website:

[Warwickshirechurches.org.uk](http://Warwickshirechurches.org.uk)

This is our major fundraiser for each year and entirely

dependent on all of us taking part and raising as much cash as we can. Of course, 50% of the cash raised goes straight back to the church that each rider/group rides for and the remainder is used to support those churches needing help each year.

We are strongly encouraging all churches in our diocese to take out **membership of our Trust** which is also then helpful for the support of all the churches in our diocese – a continuation of the principle of helping our fellow churches. Do please join our corporate membership for parish churches and also consider a personal membership. You will find more details at [www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/joinus.html](http://www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/joinus.html)

### Trustee update

We have lost two of our trustees to retirement, both conservation architects. Will Hawkes and Charles Brown have been absolutely key in helping parishes wishing to raise cash. Not only have they helped us prioritise but also have been very helpful with their advice to churchwardens seeking help in completing funding applications. We are very pleased to welcome both Steven Matthews and Graeme Beamish as new trustees. Both are current and experienced conservation architects which will ensure that we continue to have high-level professional input into our work.

We have also been joined by Jonathan Young as a trustee who brings very welcome strategic financing input at a time when churches are facing greater challenges in fundraising and also when national organisations are being increasingly challenged by demand for money exceeding supply. Maintaining our churches is becoming harder and new ways of funding need to be sought.

### Funding challenges

We are very grateful to The National Churches Trust for continuing their allocations for churches in each region where a local churches trust exists. Over the past three years this has provided in excess of £30,000 of support which would not otherwise have been available. With the funding we have been able to raise, this has helped us make a total of over £50,000 available to local Coventry and Warwickshire churches.

The National Lottery Fund has stated that it is closing its specific fund for churches and any application made will be assessed against all other bids for money. This is unfortunate, especially as it comes at a time when the amount of money available from all giving has been reduced because fewer people are playing the lottery. We also await the conclusion of a government-commissioned review of church and cathedral funding. I am afraid that more and more responsibility is being passed back to each church.

### Our plans for the future

Clearly, one key to the future of our fabulous buildings is to grow the use of them. Indeed, many grant-giving bodies require evidence of use prior to grant giving. More important than this is that we all willingly support a building/facility which we, or our family, use. Remember, our churches functioned for centuries as the local meeting place and, even now, an open church used for worship and for community has a central role in bringing together the whole community. This is quite apart from its vital function of serving as a resource centre for local history and ancestry tracing.

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### Support us through JustGiving

It's easy to set up your own JustGiving Fundraising page so that your friends and family can donate directly to Ride + Stride 2017.

Just go to [www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/wchct/rideandstride](http://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/wchct/rideandstride)



In recognising that we have to 'lift our game' as demand for money becomes greater, we are pleased to welcome Sarah Constable who is joining us on a part-time basis to help us bring our records up to date and to ensure that we use social media like [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to inform our local communities of opportunities and challenges. Using new forms of communication opens up many exciting new avenues and we would love to hear your ideas on ways to increase the reach of our messages. Sarah's contact details are [sarah.constable@inkwellmedia.co.uk](mailto:sarah.constable@inkwellmedia.co.uk) (Tel: 07971 554112).

### **Ride + Stride 2017**

**This year's Ride + Stride will take place on the 9th September** and updated forms are available from our website [www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/infoforms.html](http://www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/infoforms.html) as are a number of really good routes for cyclists, walkers and drivers to follow: [www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/ridestride.html](http://www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/ridestride.html) Have a great day out with friends and please follow our safety guidance. Some even ride their horses between churches, so inclusivity is the key. Having a great day out around our churches and raising money to keep them for us, and future generations, is a great way to spend a day with friends, family – and a picnic!

We are very deliberately focusing on sending out updates via email and will update our website regularly with information. If you haven't yet used the JustGiving payment scheme online [www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/wchct/rideandstride](http://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/wchct/rideandstride) then please do give it a try. If this doesn't work for you, then Godfrey, our treasurer, is happy to take your cheques as last year.

Do have a great summer and I look forward to seeing some of you around our churches this September, depending on the ride you choose.

Very kind regards,

**Kevin Bond**

### **WCHCT contact details**

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Visit [www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk](http://www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk)  
for more information

Registered Charity number 508352





**Our annual event, Ride + Stride is on Saturday 9th September 2017 from 10am to 6pm – we need your help!**

**Ride + Stride is a sponsored event. Riders and walkers travel between churches, chapels and meeting rooms in their local area – it's a great opportunity to appreciate their architecture. It's also a fun and enjoyable day out while raising funds to support their repair, restoration and improvement so that future generations can enjoy these historic treasures too.**

On Saturday September 9th a large number of churches in the county will open their doors to participants between 10am and 6pm. It's open to all ages – from babies to 90-year-olds!

**If you are a church – please sign up for Ride + Stride 2017**

We need churches, chapels and meeting houses to support our county's fundraising by signing up for this year's Ride + Stride using the forms on our website [www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/infoforms.html](http://www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/infoforms.html) You will be helping raise money for repairs and restoration projects throughout Warwickshire and Coventy. If you would like to get involved or discuss ideas then please contact [sarah.constable@inkwellmedia.co.uk](mailto:sarah.constable@inkwellmedia.co.uk)

**If you are a rider or strider – please take up the challenge on September 9th and join us!**

Contact your local church, chapel or meeting room and talk to them about their Ride + Stride event. It's a great day out and is the perfect opportunity to get some exercise outdoors and be together as a or group of friends. You can plan your day to suit you by choosing the churches you visit and organising your own sponsorship. Have a look at some

examples of walks in your area on our website [www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/localrides.html](http://www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/localrides.html)

Your choice of transport is up to you – by bike, horse, tractor or buggy – or any form of transport you choose! And of course, you can walk between churches of your choice.

**Taking part is easy:** fill in the forms on our website [www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/infoforms.html](http://www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk/infoforms.html) – and, if you wish, make collecting sponsorship money more simple by setting up your own fundraising page online at [www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/wchct/rideandstride](http://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/wchct/rideandstride)

***We look forward to seeing you on a wonderful and rewarding day.***



**WIN A PRIZE**



**THE CHURCH AWARD**

The Trustees will award £250 to the church with the highest sponsorship received.



**THE INDIVIDUAL AWARD**

The Trustees will award £100 to the church of the individual rider or strider with the highest sponsorship amount received.





## Grants to Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches 2015 to 2017

### 2015

St Peter's Kineton	£5000
St Peter's Grandborough	£3500
St Paul's Foleshill	£1750
7th Day Adventist Leamington Spa	£2000
St George Lower Brailes	£5000
All Saints Leamington Spa	£5000

### 2016

St John the Baptist Hilmorton – partnership	£2500
St John the Baptist Cherington with Stourton – partnership	£2500
St James the Great Snitterfield – partnership	£2500
St Michael's Budbrooke – partnership	£2500

### 2017

*NCTs in 2017 have not yet been granted*

St Nicholas Ancestor	£1000
St Marie's Rugby RC	£1000
St Lawrence Napton-on-the-Hill	£1000
St Michael & All Angels Stockton	£500



*St Peter's Grandborough*



*St George Lower Brailes*



*St John the Baptist Cherington*