



The Stratford-upon-Avon/Shakespeare **Local Ride**

A 40-mile route, beginning and ending in Stratford, taking in many churches with Shakespeare associations.

The money you collect from your sponsors is divided equally between the church nominated by yourself and the County Trust, who are then able to make grants to needy churches. Where we can recover Gift Aid, we will retain the full amount of this, enabling us to increase our grant giving further.

The route offers several opportunities to cut back to Stratford for those wishing to shorten the overall distance, shown in more detail on OS Landranger Map151. A more detailed version of the route can be seen on http://gb.mapometer.com/en/cycling/route_195292.html.

There are many pubs and tearooms along the route and some churches may supply light refreshments. But make sure you have some water with you.

Safety is vitally important on the Ride. This year we have included a Risk Assessment on the website, and we would ask you to read carefully this document and the text of the blue Sponsorship form before you set out and to follow the advice given. This is of particular importance if you are travelling in a group or have younger children in your party. Whilst the suggested route follows minor roads where possible, we have marked main road crossings on the attached map and extra care should be taken there. To cross the A46 near Snitterfield, use the designated cycle path and crossing: the traffic is fast-moving but you should not have to wait long (typically less than a minute) for a safe gap to appear.

The majority of the churches on this route are usually open for the Ride & Stride event. However, a list of open churches will be available on our website www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk, where you will also find the necessary Sponsorship Forms and other information about the Ride.

Contact: Claire Ragg, Ride coordinator claire@everythingbutthetea.com

Notes on churches:

Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon: where Shakespeare and his family were baptised and where he is buried

Guild Chapel, Stratford-upon-Avon, adjoining Shakespeare's old school and a building he would have known well

Loxley, St Nicholas church: largely rebuilt in the 1740s-1750s but with some older features

Charlecote, St Leonard's Church – Re-built in 1851-3, but with some fine tombs. One is of Sir Thomas Lucy, the owner of Charlecote Park in Shakespeare's day, where Shakespeare allegedly poached deer

Hampton Lucy, St Peter's Church – a fine Victorian church, much of it built, 1822-6, with final additions made in 1856

Snitterfield, St James's Church – a medieval church where Shakespeare's grandfather, Richard Shakespeare, and his father, John, worshipped.

Bearley, St Mary's Church – extensively restored in recent years but retaining a few old features

Wootton Wawen, St Peter's Church – the only church in Warwickshire with substantial remains dating back to Anglo-Saxon times

Great Alne, St Mary Magdalene's Church – a humble church, mainly of 1837, tucked away at the end of a track

Aston Cantlow, St John's Church – a medieval church where Shakespeare's mother, Mary Arden, would have worshipped as a child, together with her family.

Wilmcote, St Andrew's Church – a Victorian church built in 1841 now serving the village where Shakespeare's grand-father, Robert Arden, had his farm.

Billesley, All Saints Church – largely re-fashioned in about 1700 but where Shakespeare's grand-daughter Elizabeth married John Barnard.

Temple Grafton, St Andrew's Church – rebuilt in 1875 on the site of a church where Shakespeare is thought to have married Ann Hathaway

Binton, St Peter's Church – built 1875-6, now famous for its west window commemorating Scott's Antarctic Expedition (Scott had married the rector's daughter)

Welford, St Peter's Church – a fine medieval church with Norman features

Welford, Methodist Chapel - converted in 1913 from an early 19th century barn

Weston-on-Avon, All Saints Church - Monuments to members of the Greville family of Milcote remind us that this is where the murderer, Lodowick Greville, worshipped. His son Edward became lord of the manor of Stratford and would have been well known to Shakespeare.

<Optional diversion: **Clifford Chambers, St Helen's church** – Members of Shakespeare's family lived in Clifford. Good Norman work and 17th C monument to the Rainsfords. >

To hire a bike for the day, contact: www.stratfordbikere.com (tel: 07711 776340)