



## The Stour Valley Local Ride

**Join us on a Local Ride round some of the churches of the Stour Valley, a part of the annual sponsored cycle ride or walk organised by our county's Historic Churches Trust.**

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.

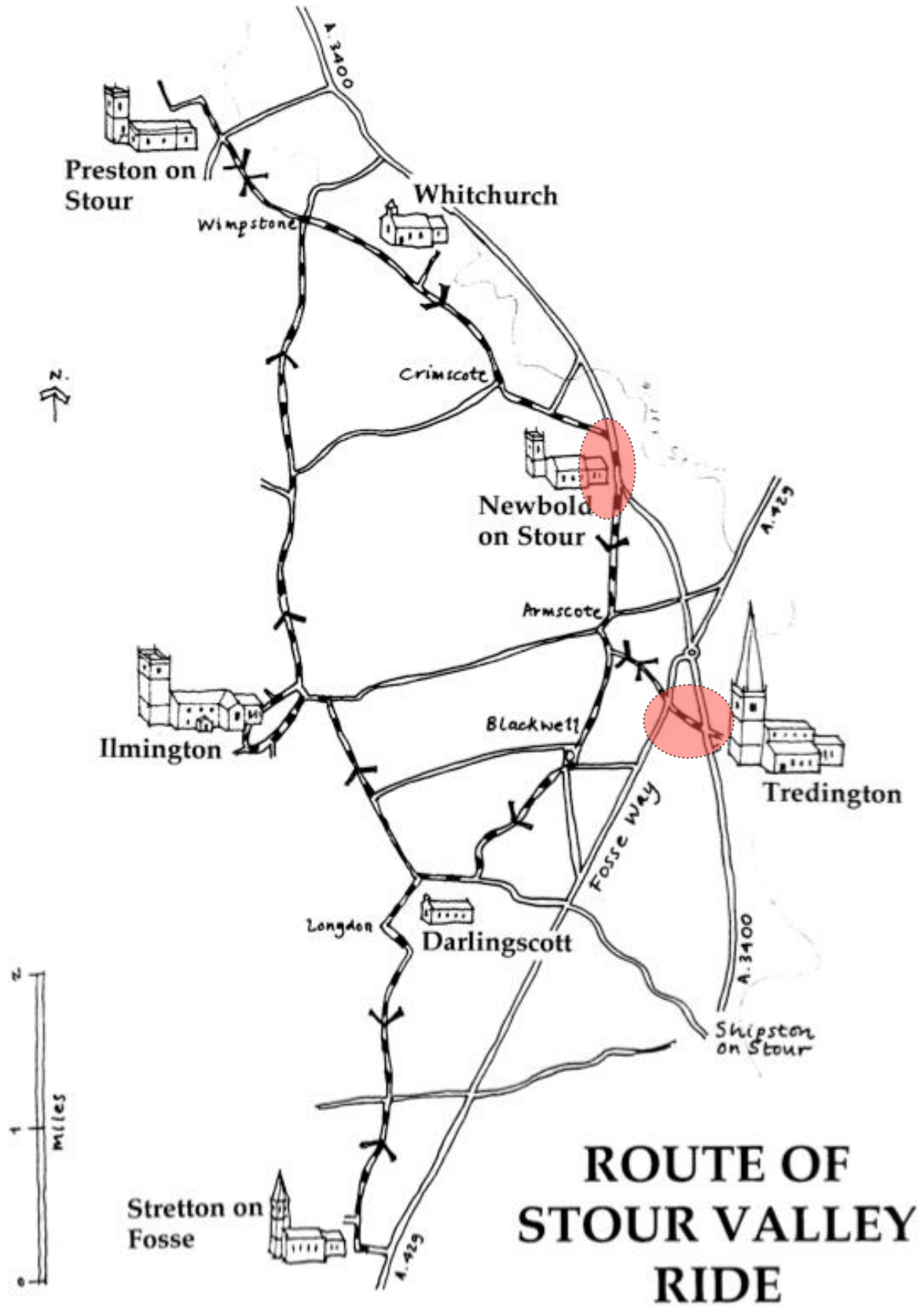
A recommended route, avoiding main roads where possible, is set out in this leaflet. Whilst the whole Ride is just under 20 miles in length, this can easily be adjusted by omitting some of the churches. The 1: 50,000 OS map of the area will be useful (Landranger sheet 151). Refreshments can be found at pubs along the route at Ilmington, Newbold, Tredington and Armscote.


Although you are free to travel at your own pace, it would be fun to start out as a group. The 'start' will therefore be at Ilmington church at 10.00 am.

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.

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](http://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](mailto:Claire@everythingbutthetea.com)



 Main roads & crossings (heavier traffic)

Notes on the churches

(miles:)

**Ilmington, St Mary:**

(start)

an impressive Norman church with much original work surviving and an early tower of interest. Bear and dog Tudor frieze in south transept; theatrical 18thC Gothic Sansom monument by porch; surprisingly modest assessment of Revd Golding's contribution to his parish duties on chancel wall-tablet; attractive textile wall-hanging of village scenes in nave.

**Preston on Stour, St Mary:**

(4 miles)

an estate church for the Wests of Alscot Park. Mid 18thC substantial rebuild to a 15C tower. Very assured Gothic for this period of the revival, particularly the chancel; as much due to the antiquarianism of James West as to the employment of the Woodwards of Campden. Glazing is similarly adventurous. Good West family monuments, a tradition continued into the 20thC.

**Whitchurch, St Mary**

(6 miles)

an isolated raised circular graveyard next to the river. Simple double cell building with turret. The Norman nave may originally have extended further west, and some puzzles like the earlier herringbone masonry in the north wall and the oddly placed Norman doorway with its lamb and flag motif. 15thC clergy tomb in chancel. Some attractive modern glass in nave windows.

**Newbold on Stour, St David:**

(9 miles)

built in 1833 in restrained and attenuated Gothic. The corner siting of the tower is unusual; the spire was removed just after WW II.

**Tredington, St Gregory:**

(11 miles)

a much older church than it at first appears. The internal masonry reveals Anglo-Danish detail, supporting a pre-conquest date, and providing evidence of an upper floor in the nave. 14thC chancel and tower, the latter supporting a distinguished 15thC spire, the chief beauty of an impressive church.

**Darlingscott, St George:**

(14 miles)

of 1874 with bell turret. Simple, modest and neat. A chapel of ease for Tredington, with decorative roof slates.

**Stretton on Fosse, St Peter:**

(15.5 miles)

1841, designed by Thomas Johnson and built in a single phase. Aisless nave with hammerbeam roof. Slightly peculiar octagonal tower with small spire.

Ilmington Finish

(19.5 miles)

**Safety & other information:** see details on Sponsorship form.