

Ride & Stride Organiser

Mike Elliott

19/21 Main Street

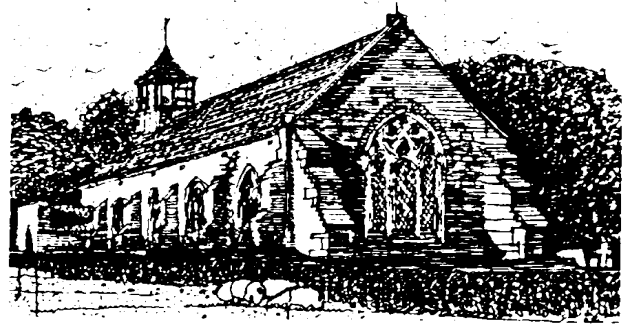
Keyworth

Nottingham

NG12 5AA

Tel: 0115 937 6506

E-mail: elliottnews@btconnect.com



Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust

www.nottshistoricchurchtrust.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

Members of around 240 Nottinghamshire churches and chapels are taking part in a sponsored ride and stride to raise cash for crumbling buildings of worship in the county.

Organisers of the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Ride and Stride, which takes place on Saturday, September 12, between 10am and 6pm, hope to beat last year's total of £20,000 raised by participants.

This year churches and chapels in Nottinghamshire of all denominations including Church of England, Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed Church and Catholic, have agreed to take part.

Each place of worship maps out its own route, taking in an average of five or six other churches and chapels, for sponsored riders and striders, while other participants can choose their own itinerary.

Many of the churches open on the day provide light refreshments and some hold open days.

The annual Ride and Stride takes place all over the country and raises well over £1.5m in total for the Trust each year, which provides cash to help repair churches built before 1939.

County organiser Mike Elliott, in charge of the event for the sixth year running, said: "Churches and chapels have teams ranging from just two or three to up to 20 people.

"The Ride and Stride is a very enjoyable event, which gives people the chance to meet with other churchgoers.

"And it also gives the opportunity for them to visit smaller places of worship which normally would not be open so often."

The Nottinghamshire organiser is also providing three prizes for those taking part in the event this year. A prize in the form of a cycle will be on offer this year for the church or chapel which has the most number of participants. A £100 cheque will be presented to the participant who writes the most entertaining story for publication in a future publication about their Ride and Stride 2009 day.

In an effort to encourage more visitors to those places of worship that receive fewer visitors, a points system is again used this year. It comprises of participants gaining points for every place of worship they visit and that has been short-listed for this initiative.

The rider or strider who collects the most number of points will receive a cheque for £50, which will be donated to the church or chapel of the winner's choice.

The event is open to everyone, including dog walkers, wheelchair users and car users, although the latter will not be able to qualify for the prizes.

More information about the event or how to participate can be obtained by contacting Mike Elliott on 0115 937 6506 or by emailing to elliottnews@btconnect.com Further information about the Nottinghamshire Historic Churches Trust can be found on www.nottshistoricchurchtrust.org.uk

Meanwhile a website – www.rideandstrideuk.org – has been set up by the National Churches Trust in an attempt to raise awareness and increase participation in the event.

Ends

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
SPONSORED RIDE & STRIDE
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2009
START: 10am FINISH: 6pm

Registered Charity No. 518335

Patrons:

Sir Andrew Buchanan Bt., Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire

The Rt. Revd. The Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham

The Rt. Revd. The Bishop of Nottingham

HH Judge Tony Mitchell