

YOU RAISED £46,700 in 2010, only £300 less than in 2009, and the 3rd highest total in Leicestershire's 21 years of running the event. As always the money was shared between the participating churches' general funds and the Trust's fund for repair grants. 397 churches/chapels registered to open, a few more than in 2009

CONGRATULATIONS!

Highest individual fund-raiser was SUE SPRIGGS' (Arnesby St Peter) with £1,224 from touring 59 churches. She was 2nd last year with £1,170, but has topped the pole several times. 2nd was Ian Smith (Ashby Magna St Mary) - £1,032, However, Paul Dean from Leicester St James the Greater just beat Sue in the number of churches visited - 60!

**WELCOMERS'-RECORDERS'-
STEWARDS' SPONSORSHIP IS
ALWAYS ANOTHER OPTION FOR
PARTICIPANTS.**

THEY RAISED £1955

The top seven were:

**Quorn St Bartholomew -
(Anglican/Methodist) £235.80**

Blaby All Saints £169

Ashby Parva St Peter £158

Wistow St Wistan £123

Desford Free Church £116

Snaresstone St Bartholomew £101

Loughborough All Saints

with Holy Trinity £100

**Local Organisers are
encouraged to promote
this potentially important area
of fund-raising.**

**Leicestershire REGISTERED CHARITY
233476**

Historic Churches Trust

**County Co-ordinator RIDE+STRIDE
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The 2010 event saw increased support from the NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST (NCT) in commissioning the London -based international public relations experts Brunswick Media.

The new, modern logo has been embraced by most Counties, realising that national branding is important for wide public recognition of the event. Brunswick achieved considerable national press coverage, principally through a wide range of magazines across all ages and interests. Support from event Patron, cycling TV personality, Jon Snow continues. The NCT has commissioned Brunswick again for 2011 and its staff are working with the RIDE+STRIDE National Committee, on which serves Leicestershire's RIDE+STRIDE Co-ordinator David Knowles.

PLEASE HELP US!

Because of the NCT & Brunswick support and their requests for statistical information it is all the more important that we receive by 31 October all Registers of Visitors with figures for cyclists, walkers and welcomers, and the money raised, but please send in Registers first if collection of sponsor money is delayed.

5yr old Oliver from Gamby St Helen's raised £66 in his church's £403.

Benjy, Polly Taylor's dog raised £285 for Leicester St James the Greater. We are not told whether Benjy cycled or walked around his eight churches.

"Filled rolls at Stoney Stanton were brilliant" reported R+S stalwart Chris Hossack of Evington St Mary's.

**RIDE+STRIDE 2011
Saturday SEPTEMBER 10
30th Year Nationally**

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Last year we reported long-standing RIDE+STRIDER, Canon Brian Davis's retirement. We are delighted that his commitment to R+S has continued. This year he encouraged the churches in Billesdon, Foxton, Gumley, Hallaton, Laughton and Slawston, where he takes services, to sponsor him. Well done, Brian.

Mrs Kind (South Wigston Methodist), walking with four friends, suggested "having a word with the Almighty not to send the pouring rain next year" after getting soaked in the City. County-wise the weather was better, with sunshine in parts.

East Norton, All Saints was well-described as "a fantastic church" by Phil Shepher d (Slawston All Saints), and Neal & Elaine Priestley (Leicester Narborough Road Methodist) "had a lovely day inside churches we haven't been in before". They suggest a map showing the locations of City churches, a sensible suggestion that will be considered against practicability and cost.

Eight walkers from Mother of God Church, Leicester who raised £100 "were made very welcome everywhere. Thanks to all involved".

The Revd Javid Iqbal lead a party of nine from Thurmaston St Michael & All Angels.

The County Co-ordinator and Area Co-ordinators are really grateful for all the messages of appreciation for the organisation of RIDE+STRIDE, and delighted to read of welcoming churches, nice refreshments and the happy fellowship encountered on the day. Sheila Roberts' (Leicester St John, Clarendon Park) commented "Hoping the next R+S will be as successful"..... "even more so", we say !!

Copt Oak Churchwarden, Les Gammon congratulated all who made it up the Charnwood Forest hills to St Peter's. "After two years of no visitors, we had 12. Thanks especially to Simon Wagstaff and his seven (inexperienced) cyclists who arrived with sore bottoms and aching legs....but they did have a nice meal at the Copt Oak Inn!!

What a joy to receive Megan Rabbett's letter. Megan walked with her daughter for Market Harborough St Dionysius. Previously cycling in East Sussex, this was Megan's 16th year having visited 256 churches, cycled or walked 355 miles and raised £1,256. Her wish: "I hope I can go on a bit longer. I do enjoy it"...and so say all of us! Well done and thank you, Megan.

Chris Stephens MBE, Custodian for the Churches' Conservation Trust worked hard to ensure that the churches of Leicester, All Saints, Highcross Street, St Michael's Stretton en le Field and St Mary's Garthorpe were set up to receive visitors, and "will happily do the same next year". We are grateful to Chris for his diligent attention to these churches, closed for worship, and his co-operation with RIDE+STRIDE

Sometimes we hear of the less than best planning for RIDE+STRIDE and OPEN DAY. We know that some of the publicity material is not used until the day and thus items like the pre-event yellow stickers (now withdrawn) are of little to no value. This year a long-time organiser failed to act, passing the publicity on only within a week of the event. One or two hastily cajoled welcomers could only open the church, which normally receives quite a number of visitors, for three hours. We can only urge church officials to check for receipt in late July of the publicity pack and take steps to promote and organise what continues to be the City and County's ONLY significant fundraiser of its kind. Without RIDE+STRIDE, how would we raise over £40,000 a year for sharing between your church's general fund and the grant scheme of the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust?

**PLEASE DO SHARE THIS
NEWSHEET WITH OTHER
MEMBERS OF YOUR CHURCH**