



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

A Very Different Bike 'n Hike 12th September 2020

The Beds. & Herts. Historic Churches Trust runs the *Bike 'n Hike* on the second Saturday of September each year to raise money both for the Trust and for the participating churches, with **half of the sponsorship money** going to each.

It is even more important than ever this year because churches have been closed for so long. Churches have lost income from services and other fundraising events and buildings deteriorate even when not in use.

The *Bike 'n Hike* is key to enabling the Trust to continue to give grants to churches and chapels for the care of their buildings, which are so important in the lives of our towns and villages. The Trust is non-denominational and the Bike 'n Hike is supported by many different denominations. Grants are available to any place of public Christian worship of whatever age. The church's share of the money raised can be used for any of the church's activities, not just building projects. It is open to everyone to take part, whether church-goer or not, bikers, hikers and other visitors, whether by car, mobility scooter or horse.

This year things will be different

The objective is still to visit as many churches and chapels as you can to obtain sponsorship for your efforts. However, because of the Covid-19 pandemic –

- **Assume that churches will not be open**
- **There will be no-one to welcome you**
- **There may be no refreshments**
- **Toilets are unlikely to be available**
- **There will be no Register of Visitors**
- **Please sign your own sponsor form**
- **Stay safe and enjoy the day**

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If you take selfies at churches to show where you have visited, upload the best onto our Facebook page accessed through www.b-n-h.co.uk/publicity.htm

After the event, everyone who has taken part should give the money raised to their Church Organiser, together with their sponsorship forms. The Church Organiser then submits them to the Treasurer using the remittance form which also asks for details needed by BHHCT to return the church's share of the money.

Sponsorship money can be gift-aided, which increases the amount by 25% courtesy of the tax man. This gift aid is kept by the Trust to add to the money available for grants.

The Trust uses JustGiving to make it even easier to collect sponsorship money. Any participant can create a page on JustGiving and use email or social media to encourage friends and relatives to sponsor their efforts.

Some larger companies run matched giving schemes. You may wish to check whether your employer will support your efforts.

There are electronic means to save handling cash – JustGiving, bank transfers from sponsors and to Church Organisers.

We encourage folk of all ages to take part but *please* be aware of personal safety and take appropriate care.

- **Follow Government guidance on Covid-19, extant at the time**
- **If you enter a church, touch as little as possible**
- **Take hand sanitiser**
- **Take your own refreshments**
- **Remember the Highway Code**
- **Use off road routes where possible**

If Government re-imposes restrictions, the event may need to be cancelled.

For up-to-date information, visit b-n-h.co.uk



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Historic Churches Trust
Saving the Past for the Future