

# Bike Ride News 2017

Last year the Bike Ride raised an amazing £100,261, so we would like to pass on a **huge thank you** to everybody who took part either cycling, walking, driving or manning the churches.

This year we wanted to raise the issue of lead theft, which has sadly seen a surge in rural churches seeking financial support. The money raised by the Bike Ride is helping the Norfolk Churches Trust to actively work in conjunction with other interested parties to provide advice and funding for churches with stolen lead roofs and to fit and maintain alarms to fight the continuing scourge of lead thefts. This is putting additional pressure on limited resources, so please help us to make this Bike Ride another hugely successful and important fund-raising event for your church as well as the Norfolk Churches Trust.

1. A few statistics, highlights and results of competitions from last year:

- The top fund-raiser and winner of the **Prince of Wales Certificate** raised £2,766.
- The top cyclist visited 64 churches and will have his name on the website '**Wall of Fame**'.
- The top walker visited 50 churches and will also have his name on the '**Wall of Fame**'.
- Two people won prizes for the **Photographic Competition** and had their photographs published in the EDP. This year **Brown & Co** are kindly sponsoring the competition.
- 18 out of 22 areas managed to increase their figures from last year – **a recent record**.
- Burnham Thorpe, All Saints regained top church from Hempstead, All Saints (£4,083 vs £3,666)
- The number of churches which recorded visits by car nearly doubled to 215.
- A couple of churches reported that the Bike Ride is now a bigger fund-raiser for their church than the village fete and required much less effort!

2. **IMPORTANT.** In response to the feedback forms, which have requested less paperwork in the packs, and the difficulty of keeping the 'List of Churches and Chapels Open' up to date, we have removed the following forms and they will be online at: <http://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride/>:

- List of Churches and Chapels Open
- Brief for Local Co-ordinators
- Feedback Form

Other forms have been changed, so please study them carefully.

3. Please see the website for details of the **Prince of Wales Certificate, Photographic Competition, featured routes and activity sheets**. We would like to thank **Brown & Co** for sponsoring the event this year. Go to: <http://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride/competitions/>

4. Please do sign up to the facebook page and twitter page. ([www.facebook.com/NorfolkChurchesTrust](http://www.facebook.com/NorfolkChurchesTrust) and [www.twitter.com/SaveOurChurches](http://www.twitter.com/SaveOurChurches)). We are now providing regular newsletters on the bike ride throughout the year.

5. We want to promote the Just Giving website [www.justgiving.com/norfolkchurchestrust](http://www.justgiving.com/norfolkchurchestrust) as an excellent way of raising sponsorship money from friends and family without having to ask them face to face, which lots of people find difficult. Just Giving also removes the difficulty of collecting the money afterwards and makes sure that any Gift Aid is collected.

6. We understand that not every church will be able to have people available to sign participants in and provide refreshments. As a minimum, please could churches have the door open or at least leave the 'Record of Participants' paperwork in a prominent place.

7. We are making a huge effort to promote the event with road signs, media, contacting organisations, schools etc., but nothing beats friends persuading more friends to take part and enjoy the day together!

Please could we also emphasise that the success of this event is largely down to lots of people making small contributions that add up to a large amount of money to help save our iconic and historic Norfolk Churches. Please keep up the good work and THANK YOU!