

# Bike Ride News 2019

Last year the Bike Ride raised an amazing £91,423 so we would like to pass on an **enormous thank you** to everybody who took part either cycling, walking, driving or manning the churches. You make a great contribution to the church of your choice and to the Norfolk Churches Trust. However, if you are not a member of the Trust, I would like to encourage you to join. Friends have the benefit of being invited to some fascinating talks and events run by the Norfolk Churches Trust. If you'd like to find out more, go to Support Us at [norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk](http://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk).

This year will be the second year of posting out the Bike Ride paperwork. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the area organisers who have worked so hard to distribute packs in the past. Despite some teething problems last year, we believe that posting the packs will mean that we know when the packs will safely arrive in the parishes.

## Win £1,000 for your Church

This year we are offering a £1,000 prize for the most improved church. In other words the church which shows the most improvement in its Bike Ride fund raising compared to last year. This is an opportunity to make a substantial difference to your church's finances. See <http://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride/> for more details.

1. A few statistics, highlights and results of competitions from last year:
  - Paul Nicholls was the Winner of the **Prince of Wales Certificate** and raised £1,969
  - The top cyclists visited 55 churches. Their names will be on the **'Wall of Fame'** on the website
  - The top walker visited 55 churches and will also have his name on the **'Wall of Fame'**
  - Three People won prizes for their **photographs** and had their pictures published
  - Hempstead, All Saints, was top church this year, just beating Burnham Thorpe, All Saints
  - The number of churches which recorded visits by car increased again to 279
  - A number of churches report that the Bike Ride now raises more money than the village fete.
2. **IMPORTANT.** In response to your feedback requesting less paperwork we have removed some forms from the packs and put them on line. <http://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride/> Here you will also find the Church and Chapel Open List which we will keep updated.
3. Please see the website for details of the **Prince of Wales Certificate, featured routes** and **activity sheets**. Please send us any **photographs** you take during the day and we will send the three we like most £50 and hopefully have them printed in the Eastern Daily Press.  
For more details visit: <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 a very good 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 is going to be able to have people available to sign participants in and provide refreshments. We know from feedback that participants respond well to an open door, a cheery note and the 'Record of Participants' being left 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 which 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!