



# Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

03 May 2020

Dear PCC Secretary or other Church representative

The Trustees and the Executive Committee are extremely grateful to you for supporting the important work of the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust over the years, and especially to those of you who have participated in the **Ride and Stride** in earlier years. It is a principal source of money to enable us to make grants and interest free loans as and when they are needed. As you know, the sums we are able to award are not large but they are often the key to obtaining larger amounts from major funders.

Owing to the situation with Covid-19 and the uncertainty of the future, preparations for Ride and Stride are being postponed, but the current plan is that Ride and Stride will still go ahead in some form or another on **Saturday 12th September**. We will keep you informed as and when we have more information.

We conducted a survey this year to try to better understand why participation in the event has fallen and how things could improve. I would like to thank all those who responded to the survey; it has given us a great deal to consider. We realise that there are a number of reasons that make participation difficult, particularly this year, but your support really can make a difference. This is not only an important fundraising event but also a key opportunity to raise the profile of churches and to remind people of the wider value of these buildings and the support needed. If you cannot open your church, simply displaying a poster and making the sign-up sheet available to participants can help.

In past years we have published a list of the churches in the county, but we have not been able to say which of these will be open. The survey highlighted this as an area of improvement, so in the future we will be inviting churches to tell us well in advance if they intend to be open on the day. We don't, however, feel it will be possible to do this this year.

This year we have again assembled a team consisting of the Revd Canon Annette Reed, Holly Isted (Ely Diocesan Church Buildings Support Officer), our Ride Treasurer, Secretary and myself, to monitor the situation, make preparations and support churches and individuals to take part where possible. We realise this is a very difficult time for churches and for fundraising, which is why we think it is important to continue the event in whatever way possible.

Yours sincerely

David Pritchard  
(Vice-Chair)

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust  
Chair of Trustees Sir Hugh Duberly KCVO CBE

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales No 287486  
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