

# DEVON HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

*Dedicated to funding repairs and maintenance to places of Christian worship in the Diocese of Exeter and throughout Devon*

## NEWSLETTER

October 2023

*“Climb the Towers and Ring out the bells!” The second weekend in September is Devon Historic Churches Day (incorporating the Ride+Stride national event). What a busy weekend of fund-raising events and activities across the county! Folk in parishes from coast to countryside had been ringing bells, climbing church towers, baking cakes, cream teas, walking or cycling for miles, making crafts, launching teddy bears off church towers, arranging flowers, holding concerts, exhibiting paintings and church histories. What amazing people! A huge thank you to one and all for raising funds for DHCT and your own historic parish church buildings.*

*The support of so many parishes and individual supporters enables Devon Historic Churches Trust to continue providing grants to help Devon’s churches in their hour of need. As I write this on 14<sup>th</sup> September, the funds raised are already rolling into Devon Historic Church Trust’s bank account, and the Trustees are ready to distribute, by way of a grant, funds to those parishes where the historic church building is in need of some fabric repair, maintenance. Here are pictures, posters and anecdotes of some of the fund-raising events held in Devon parishes throughout September.*

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, as part of the annual Devon Historic Churches Day, Philip Stevens, Tower Captain of Kingskerswell Bell Ringers, invited visitors to visit the ringing chamber, see the bells and climb to the top of the tower. There were ringing demonstrations and a chance to ‘have a go’ as well. Personally, I was delighted at the opportunity to ‘have a go’ and enjoyed both the climb to the top of the tower on such a glorious day and then ‘ring’ one of the bells, under strict supervision of course!! Another ‘tick’ on my bucket list!! Thrilling.

Kingskerswell Bell Ringers then demonstrated their skills and the 8 bells rang out over the village, from the new ringing gallery that allows the bellringers to be seen on a mezzanine floor above the newly refurbished kitchen.



### VISIT ST MARY'S CHURCH KINGSKERSWELL

Open 10am to 4pm

- Guided tours
- Activities for children
- See the ringing chamber
- View the village from a different angle by climbing the tower
- Refreshments & cake stall



Views from the Tower. On the left, towards Quay and on the right towards Milber Church and the Moor.



## Kenn Deanery : Haldon Mission Community

The Haldon Mission Community was inspirational in their fund raising achievements over the weekend of 9-10 September in exceptionally hot weather. Sponsored 12 mile walk, 600 mile vintage car drive, mini craft fair, cake and coffee everywhere! Four of the eight parish communities took part and made Devon Historic Churches Day a truly fun event from coast to countryside. Thank you to all those amazing people, their supporters and those who donated. Here are some pictures of participants raising funds for St James the Less, Teignmouth East, St Mary's Ideford, St John's Bishopsteignton and St Michael's Teignmouth West.



Andy Harding, Treasurer for St James' Teignmouth East, in the company of Mark Green also from Haldon Mission Community, completed the 12 mile sponsored walk, visiting the 8 parishes, in the company of Malcolm and Clive from All Saints, Sidmouth, and Carl and Paul from Thornley House whose support vehicle saved the walkers a 12 mile return trip to Teignmouth. Andy said, "It was very much a team effort and we were plied with tea and cake at various events at churches across the Team."

Read more about the Renovate and Reorder plans for Teignmouth East Church of St James at Andy's Just Giving page: [Andrew Harding is fundraising for Devon Historic Churches Trust \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/DevonHistoricChurchesTrust)



At St John's Bishopsteignton a DHCT Coffee Morning was held. At St Michael's Teignmouth East everyone was invited to a mini craft fair. Visitors were welcomed to the wonderful church to see the beautiful stained glass windows, browse the craft fair and gift stalls, then visit the pop-up café for tea, coffee and homemade cakes.



Janet and David Aylmore have been fund raising for DHCT for many years. This year Janet ran a stall for DHCT at Ideford Village Fete while David set off from Poole in Dorset on 15 September in his 1934 Austin 7 to drive to Minehead following as closely as possible the route of the South West Coast Path. The trip is expected to be around 600 miles and take 6 or 7 days! He has already raised £165 in sponsorship and you can help raise that amount at his and Janet's Just Giving page:

[Janet Aylmore is fundraising for Devon Historic Churches Trust \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/DevonHistoricChurchesTrust) Thank you to every one who supported David Aylmore on his coastal drive to raise funds for the DHCT. Unfortunately due to the weather and upcoming appointments, he only managed to drive from Swanage to Modbury, but hopes to complete the journey to Minehead very soon - watch this space

## Ilseington Parish Church in the Ashburton and Moor Mission Community



### Teddy Tower Day!

**ST MICHAEL'S, ILSEINGTON**  
**SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER**

Family service at 10:30am  
'The Lord is a Strong Tower'

We will be making a harnesses for our teddies during the service.  
Immediately followed by  
**Teddy Tower Day - send your teddies down from the tower on a zipline!**





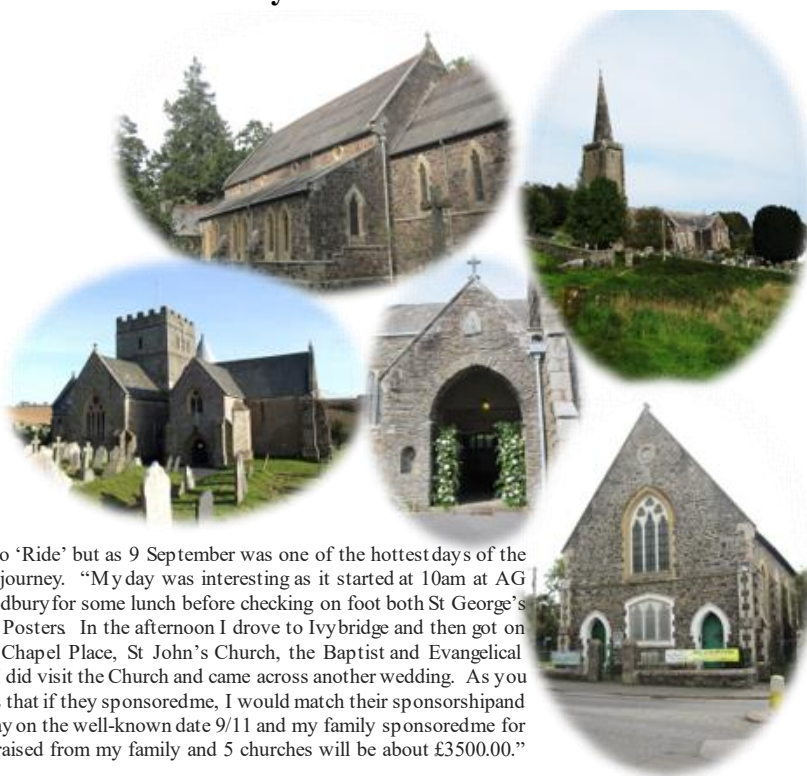
## Modbury Mission Community

**THE ANNUAL DEVON HISTORIC CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE**  
**SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER**

David Scott will be taking part and is looking for sponsorship from all the 5 mission churches

Matched funding is being offered for any donations from Modbury Mission Community

Many of our churches have gained grants from DHCT in the past. Sponsor David & help maintain Devon's heritage, keeping our church buildings open for Christian witness



David Scott, our Woodleigh Deanery Representative, had intended to 'Ride' but as 9 September was one of the hottest days of the summer he decided to STRIDE. This is what he told us about his journey. "My day was interesting as it started at 10am at AG church as I was singing at a wedding! After this I drove back to Modbury for some lunch before checking on foot both St George's Church and St Monica's RC Chapel – where I had placed Welcome Posters. In the afternoon I drove to Ivybridge and then got on Shanky's pony visiting St Austin's Priory, the Methodist Church, Chapel Place, St John's Church, the Baptist and Evangelical Churches before returning to my car and drove to Ermington, where I did visit the Church and came across another wedding. As you know I had mentioned to my Modbury Mission Community churches that if they sponsored me, I would match their sponsorship and so any money would come back to their Church. Also I had a birthday on the well-known date 9/11 and my family sponsored me for £210.00. I am still collecting but I am hopeful that my total money raised from my family and 5 churches will be about £3500.00." David, that is fantastic! Thank you so much.

## Forder Valley Mission Community Histories and Heritage

**DEVON HISTORIC CHURCHES**  
**Fun Day**

St Edward's Church, Eggbuckland will be open from 10 am until 4 pm on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2023, Refreshments being served, and historical exhibits displayed.

In aid of the **DEVON HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**

At Eggbuckland with Estover Parish Church in the Forder Valley Mission Community, Pat Whatty had provided plenty of historical documents and photos. These were laminated and placed around the Church. Reverend Ann had printed interesting articles and placed them against the pulpit and the chancel screen giving the historical context. Large posters, printed by Julian, brought to life the history of the 14th century tower and the bells. Visitors were fascinated by the records & pictures of Eggbuckland pre and post World War II. Throughout the day Vicky provided refreshments giving visitors a traditional St Edward's welcome. John and Sue were on hand to take visitors around the Churchyard and a Nature Trail.

**David Loynes, PCC Treasurer, told us that the church community will be holding a Harvest Lunch on Thursday October 5th at 1pm in the Church Hall. To raise additional funds for DHCT.**

Well done St Edward's Team for adapting our DHCT Illustration (by ..... ) to create such an eye-catching poster for your 'Fun Day' event.

There were also exhibits on show at Holy Trinity Church, Drewsteigton. The exhibits gave an insight into some of the history of the beautiful historic building. Visitors were invited to view and read about the Royal Coat of Arms of Elizabeth I and see the amazing collection of over 130 kneelers. "Stand in front of our beautiful carved altar which is a replica of the one in Tokyo Cathedral."



St Michael's Parish Church at Kingsteigton was open all day to visitors who were invited to climb the church tower, enjoy tea, coffee and cake whilst viewing a display of church magazines covering the past 75 years.



Here are a few of the amazing people across the county who are raising funds through Just Giving. Just search 'Devon Historic Churches Trust' at <https://www.justgiving.com> to see what they have been doing



Well done St James Church Team at Jacobstowe for a colourful, bright and cheerful poster Every one was welcome to the 'Cream Tea' even with the option of cream or jam on top!!



The Team gathers at the start of their sponsored walk from Ermington Church to Ugborough Church.



Alice May organised another "St Matthew's Trot around the Clock 2023". Alice says, "The relayers did well to stay up and awake during the wee small hours – maybe the starry, starry night helped." £850 raised. Wow! Thank you Alice, walkers, scooters, runners and all the support crew.



At St Michael and All Angels, Wembworthy, the Churchwardens, Chris Rogers and Rob Perry, organised a choice of sponsored walks or cycle rides through the lanes, woodland and public footpaths. The community plans to replace the bell frame and install toilets, the cost going well beyond their current resources. Help them reach their target at [Chris Rogers is fundraising for Devon Historic Churches Trust \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com)

If there were a prize for the most 'active' fund raising Deanery, then Kenn Deanery would be the clear winner! Jennifer Rowland, Kenn Deanery Representative not only encouraged nine parish churches in the Kenn Deanery to take an active part in DHCT Fun Day (Ride & Stride) but she also organised, with her Powderham Church Team a programme of music, poetry, speakers, an art exhibition and cream teas over two weekends (four days) Here is her report to the PCC and DHCT Trustees before she headed to Australia with her husband to visit their grand-children. Thank you Jennifer for your many years of volunteering for Devon Historic Churches Trust.

Devon Historic Churches Trust Fun Day took place on Saturday September 9th at St Clement's Powderham as we have done over the last 10 years, we combined our activities with the National Heritage Open Days Scheme, and opened our doors over the weekends of the 9th & 10th, 16th & 17 September. We had Musical Interludes with Francis Lee and Darcey Mortimer, an Art Exhibition and Meet the Artist, Ray Balkwill, over both weekends Ray is allowing us to use his painting of Powderham Church for a greetings card, which is excellent news!

On the 9th Sept, Charlie Courtenay gave a well-received talk on 'The Courtenays and the Church', which was both interesting and informative. This talk was very well attended with a rush on the cream teas afterwards! A warm and sunny day.

On Sat 16th Sept. Paul Jesson, Olivier Award winner and Associate Actor with the RSC, and Powderham resident, gave a wonderful poetry recital entitled 'A Life in Verse' which was also well attended. A very wet weekend as on Sunday 17th, Powderham village was flooded causing the road to be closed which meant that Angus Ramsay, the guest organist, could not reach us. Thankfully, Darcey, lives in the village so she could come and played well. Ray Balkwill was also unable to reach us. 16 brave souls did manage to visit us in the early afternoon.

Jennifer Rowland, Kenn Deanery Representative



The next Newsletter will report on some of the grants that DHCT has distributed in 2023 and the parish churches that have benefitted from the funds raised and donations. Please do send to the Editor news of your church project and pictures of the celebrations on project completion. This is an exciting time to support DHCT as the Trustees prepare to design a new website. Some of our Trustees are also Deanery Representatives and Assessors of grant bids and would be happy to talk to you if you would like to know more about these roles. We have vacancies for DRs in Aylesbeare, Cadbury, Hartland, Ivybridge, Plymouth, Tiverton & Cullompton, Torrington and Totnes. Please contact Deanery Representative and Newsletter Editor : Mrs Lee Ann Martin : Tel/text: 07552302293 or Email: [underhayes01@outlook.com](mailto:underhayes01@outlook.com) **THANK YOU TO ALL DHCT FUN DAY SUPPORTERS.**