



# Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

## BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

### Letter to our Church Organisers

Dear Organiser,

**Thank you** for helping the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust by organising the Bike 'n Hike for your church.

I am writing **to explain the changes** we are making to the Bike 'n Hike for this year's event, changes needed because we don't have enough Area Organisers to continue as before. However, the basis of the event is still the same – and it is still an opportunity to raise funds for your church as well as the Trust.

Some documentation will now only be available online. We will not be producing sponsorship packs so sponsor forms and the list of churches will now be on our website, [www.bedshertshct.org.uk](http://www.bedshertshct.org.uk). Also on the website will be copies of the poster in both portrait and landscape form for you to use on screens in church or on social media.

We will still print posters for you to put up in church and beyond, plus the register of visitors, remittance form and the ever-popular badges. These will be delivered to you in the normal way.

It is important to publicise the event as widely as possible. Many people who are not churchgoers like walking and cycling and may like to take part to support your church or chapel. The posters have a QR code and website link for information and documents.

Remember that each participant or team chooses their own route, sufficiently challenging to merit sponsorship but something they feel able to do. The sooner they seek sponsors, the more money they are likely to raise!

JustGiving is available as a way to collect sponsorship and maybe reach a wider circle of friends and family. There is a link on our website or simply search for the Trust on the JustGiving website. Make sure that anyone who takes part for your church puts the name of your church in the 'my story' part of their fundraising page so that the Trust knows which church will receive half of the sponsorship money. And, of course, asking sponsors to gift aid where possible makes a real difference.

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There are now two ways to send sponsorship money to the Trust. Cheques should be made payable to the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust and can be submitted, with a remittance form and sponsor forms, to the Bike 'n Hike Treasurer, whose details are on the form. The form also asks for the details needed for BHHCT to be able to return your church's share of the sponsor money.

You can now also make a bank transfer but please contact the Treasurer to get your church's unique code number to ensure that we can identify your payment on our bank statement. You should still send in a remittance form and the sponsor forms so that we can claim the gift aid.

It is really appreciated if your church can be open on the day and great if there are people around. The day provides an opportunity to do jobs around the church like cleaning the brass or tidying the churchyard or you could combine a BBQ or afternoon tea with the event – another way of raising some money for your church

**Church Organisers are fundamental to the Bike 'n Hike's success** and the Trust is very appreciative of the work which you do.

If you have any queries, please email [bikenhike@bedshertshct.org.uk](mailto:bikenhike@bedshertshct.org.uk).

Sincerely,

*Madeline*

Madeline Russell  
Chairman and Trustee, Bike 'n Hike

PS The Trust's objective is to raise funds and make grants for the repair of churches and chapels open for public Christian worship, of any denomination and any age. It also promotes interest in our heritage of fine, religious buildings.

So, finally, when the time comes that **your church needs a grant**, the Grants Secretary can be contacted at [grants@bedshertshct.org.uk](mailto:grants@bedshertshct.org.uk).

