



CORNWALL HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

President: The Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall

Vice President: The Bishop of Truro

Honorary Life President: The Right Hon Viscount Falmouth

Ride, Stride or Sail to Save Cornwall's Churches

8 June — Cornwall Historic Churches Trust (CHCT) is relaunching Ride • Stride • Sail in Cornwall, inviting people across the county to enjoy the outdoors, visit Cornwall's historic churches and raise funds to help keep them in good repair.

Ride • Stride • Sail is a sponsored walk, bike ride, horse ride — or even a sail between Cornwall's churches on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September 2026. Participants can choose which churches to travel between, creating a route that suits their interests, time and fitness. There are no fixed start or finish points and no minimum distance — it is designed to be flexible, inclusive and fun. The event directly supports Cornish churches: 50% of sponsorship goes straight back to the participant's chosen church, with the remaining 50% supporting CHCT's county-wide grants programme for repairs and maintenance. The Church that raises the most will keep all the money raised and receive a Challenge Trophy, sponsored by Tanner Phoenix/CCF in recognition of their efforts.

Ride • Stride • Sail is part of a proven national initiative delivered locally by county Historic Churches Trusts — in Dorset, for example, the annual event raises in excess of £100,000 — and Cornwall is unique in including the sailing element, reflecting the county's coastline, harbours and maritime heritage.

Cecilia Bisson, Chair of Cornwall Historic Churches Trust, said: "It has been many years since we held Ride and Stride as a fundraiser in Cornwall, and I am delighted to relaunch it with the exciting extra Sail element. Cornwall has an extraordinary wealth of historic churches, and many have been the centre of their communities for centuries — including some with foundations as early as the 6th century that are still in use today, such as St Petroc's in Bodmin or St Senara's Church in Zennor. Churches continue to sit at the heart of community life, bringing people together for all kinds of local activity, regardless of faith. Ride • Stride • Sail is not about religion; it is about preserving the fabric of our communities and the buildings that tell Cornwall's story, regardless of faith — and raising much-needed funds for urgent repairs."

Also new for 2026, CHCT is launching the St Piran's Challenge — a relay-style running competition for clubs. We will be inviting running clubs from across the county to take part, adding a team element and friendly competition to help raise even more for Cornwall's churches.

Participants can take part between 10am and 6pm on either day — or both — and full details, including how to register and fundraise, are available at: <https://www.chct.info/ride-stride-sail/>

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For more information, please telephone Stephen Sobey on 07836631776 or email : rss@chct.info