



Ride & Stride 2008 Results

£106,409 raised



**Friends of Essex Churches Trust
supporting churches in Essex and East London**

This year we raised £106,409. Another big thank you to all who took part: riders, walkers and stewards. This figure is up on last year, and is the sixth year in a row where the total amount raised has been above £100,000. This is an incredible record and is mainly thanks to you, the local representatives, who encourage so many to take part on the day.

You will see from the results that ten churches raised over £1,000 each. St Thomas, Brentwood continued their excellent results raising £2,344 and are this year's worthy "winners" once more. Congratulations! Congratulations also to the Song Cycle who raised £2,094 bringing their total, since they started the bike ride, up to a staggering £21,214. Amazing!

And well done to the scouts in the Brentwood area who organised their own sponsored cycle ride around the local churches raising over £1,000, half of which they donated to FOECT. Are there any more scout groups in the county that could follow this example?

My (car) ride

In order to get to as many churches as possible during the day, my husband and I decided to drive. Our focus was the Thurrock area. I am delighted to report that most of the churches we visited were open and I can particularly recommend for those thinking of visiting the area next year, starting at Bulphan St Mary where bacon rolls are on offer, and ending at Stifford St Mary where cream teas are sold. A stop at All Saints Church, East Horndon is also a must for those of you interested in local history and a chance to enjoy the wide views to the Thames. And good luck to the team at St Peter & Paul, Grays where there appeared to be much building work going on.

Bell Ringers

This year a group of bell ringers arranged for the bells to be rung at as many open towers as they could. A quarter peal (about 45 minutes of continuous ringing) was rung at St Leonard's Colchester during the morning and also at Layer-de-la-Haye in the afternoon. The bells were also rung at Harwich, Great Tey and Kirby-le-Soken during the day.

Request for Accommodation

The Redbridge branch of the London Cycling Campaign is a regular participant in the Ride & Stride. June Cocksedge is a member of the branch and still riding regularly at age 80. This year June and 20 other members stayed in Old Harwich and visited 17 churches in Essex. The group would like to visit the Colchester area in September 2009 and are looking for accommodation. If anyone has any suggestions please contact me.

Open Churches

You will probably have realised by now that we no longer compile an "open" churches list – the list is of churches/places of worship that may or may not be open on the day. I apologise for this but with over 1,000 churches/places of worship in Essex it has proved too difficult to contact every church and get the right information in time to print the main mailing in June. As a very rough guide, those churches marked *on the list (as having toilets) tend to be the churches that are open on the day. For those riders/striders who want more detailed information about the churches in a particular area, please ask them to contact me or the Area Organiser and we can put them in touch with relevant church organisers if we don't ourselves have the relevant information.

Tea & Cakes

If any church would like to publicise the fact that they offer refreshments on Ride & Stride day, or any other day of the year, please let me know. If there are enough of you, it may be worth starting up a list on the FOECT website. The number of visitors to your church may increase as a result. Just an idea!

Admin

Thank you to those church organisers for letting me know of any change in contact details. If we can avoid sending out unnecessary and misdirected mail it saves us costs. If there are any other contact changes – if, for example, you have received this communication in error – please let me or your Area Organiser know. Also, please could I remind you to ask your riders/walkers to return their sponsorship forms with any money they raise. We need the forms to claim gift aid. This year we were able to claim over £13,500 from the Inland Revenue in gift aid. The figure could have been more had all forms been returned.

Thank you again for all your support.

Best wishes.

Fiona Nelmes
County Organiser
Tel: 01245 380365
Email: fionanelmes@lineone.net

For photos of the 2008 Ride & Stride visit the
website: www.foect.org.uk

2009
Ride
& Stride
Saturday
12th
September

BARKING & DAGENHAM		AREA 1	£
Becontree West	St Cedd		273.00
Chadwell Heath	URC Mill Lane		80.00
Dagenham	St Thomas		408.00
Marks Gate	St Mark		100.00
			861.00

Becontree, St Thomas

At lunch time we stopped at a cafe for a bite to eat and chained our bikes together round a lamp post. After we had eaten we returned to the lamp post to continue our journey round sunny Barking and Dagenham but could not undo the lock on the chain. Finally we were given some oil to lubricate the lock by a lady from the cafe. A sigh of relief came from us all when the lock opened, and we continued our journey.

2009 Ride & Stride Saturday 12th September

EPPING FOREST		AREA 2	£
Coopersale	St Alban		132.00
Epping	St John Baptist		231.85
Stapleford Abbotts	St Mary		110.00
Theydon Garnon	All Saints		195.00
			668.85

Area Organiser: Ray Clements

Tel: 01245 601298 Email: randbclements@blueyonder.co.uk

HARLOW		AREA 3	£
Bush End	St John Evangelist		155.00
Harlow	St Mary-at-Latton		305.00
Harlow	St Mary Magdalene		474.00
Hatfield Broad Oak	Our Lady of Lourds		200.00
Hatfield Broad Oak	St Mary		155.00
Hatfield Heath	Holy Trinity		100.00
Hatfield Heath	URC		170.00
Little Hallingbury	St Mary Virgin		832.50
Wimbish	All Saints		652.00
			3,043.50

Area Organiser: Edna Halls

Tel: 01279 718231 Email: edna.halls@virgin.net



HAVERING		AREA 4	£
Havering Atte Bower	St Johns		109.00
Hornchurch	Holy Cross		286.00
Messing	All Saints		463.85
North Ockendon	St Mary Magdalene		290.00
Romford	Trinity Methodist		424.00
Upminster	St Laurence		880.00
			2,452.85

Romford, Trinity Methodist

Our two cyclists visited 24 churches and chapels in Havering. Only three were opened and manned; one was open but there was a church service taking place; three had the signing-in-form but were closed.

Hornchurch, Holy Cross

We didn't get wet, we didn't have any casualties, nobody got a puncture and the sun came out after lunch. Hills! I thought Essex was flat. That part of the country isn't, but what goes up must come down, and somebody clocked up a top speed of 34 mph.

NEWHAM		AREA 5	£
Forest Gate	Emmanuel		840.50
			840.50

Area Organiser: Miss Philippa King

Tel: 020 7474 8243 Email: philippa.king@dsl.pipex.com

Why not join the Friends of Essex Churches Trust, for a small annual sum

Contact our membership secretary: Keith Gardner,
Pink Cottage, Curtis Mill Green, Stapleford Tawney, RM4 1RT keith@thegreenwood.me.uk

ONGAR	AREA 6	£
High Ongar	SS Mary/James	200.00
Magdelene Laver	St Mary Magdelene	1,880.00
Moreton	St Mary Virgin	500.00
Norton Mandeville	All Saints	150.00
Stanford Rivers	St Margarets	212.00
Stapleford Tawney	St Mary Virgin	789.00
Stondon Massey	SS Peter/Paul	152.20
		3,883.20



Norton Mandeville, All Saints

It was ideal cycling weather with the sun coming out during the morning. We cycled 42 miles through the lovely Essex countryside always on the little lanes going fast downhill, where at one stage Gavin [Knight] was moved to burst into song – a hymn of course, and slowly uphill with me eventually catching up with Gavin at the top. On one occasion I found him eating blackberries while waiting for me.

Of the 20 churches that we visited only 6 were manned which we found most disappointing. I did feel that as all these churches may at some time need to seek a grant from FOECT, that it would have been nice if more had put, for just one day, effort and enthusiasm into a scheme that does such wonderful work in helping to keep our lovely churches in good repair. (*Penny Aplin*)

Theydon Mount, St Michael

Yorke, aged 85, decided to stride across the fields along a fairly rough and uneven foot path with hedge roots and rabbit holes. So a good and younger friend, Anne, decided that for safety reasons she would accompany Yorke. Then Yorke's wife, not long out of hospital, decided that as it was such a beautiful day she would also walk with him. Finally, Rachel, Anne's daughter thought she would join in but riding on her horse. Oh! And the dog came too!

Area Organiser: Barbara Williams

Tel: 01277 364237 Email: williamsthelimes@btinternet.com

REDBRIDGE	AREA 7	£
Barkingside	St George	121.00
Great Ilford	St Andrew	50.00
Great Ilford	St Mary	145.00
Seven Kings	St John	235.00
Thorrington	St Mary	110.00
Wansted	St Gabriels	918.00
		1,579.00

Wansted, St Gabriel

Each year our St Gabriel cyclist (now 80 years old) is accompanied by several cycling friends – this year there were 20 – and aims to visit churches in a different area of the diocese. This year, 2008, we set out from Harwich and did a circular route on the south bank of the River Stour, visiting 16 churches. All of great historic interest, lovingly tended, and offering welcome refreshments. An enjoyable and worthwhile day.

WALTHAM FOREST	AREA 8	£
Leyton	Emmanuel	477.50
Leytonstone	St John Baptist	194.00
Leytonstone	St Margarets	492.00
		1,163.50

Leytonstone, St Margaret

It was lovely when my son and I bumped into another parish on the bike ride.

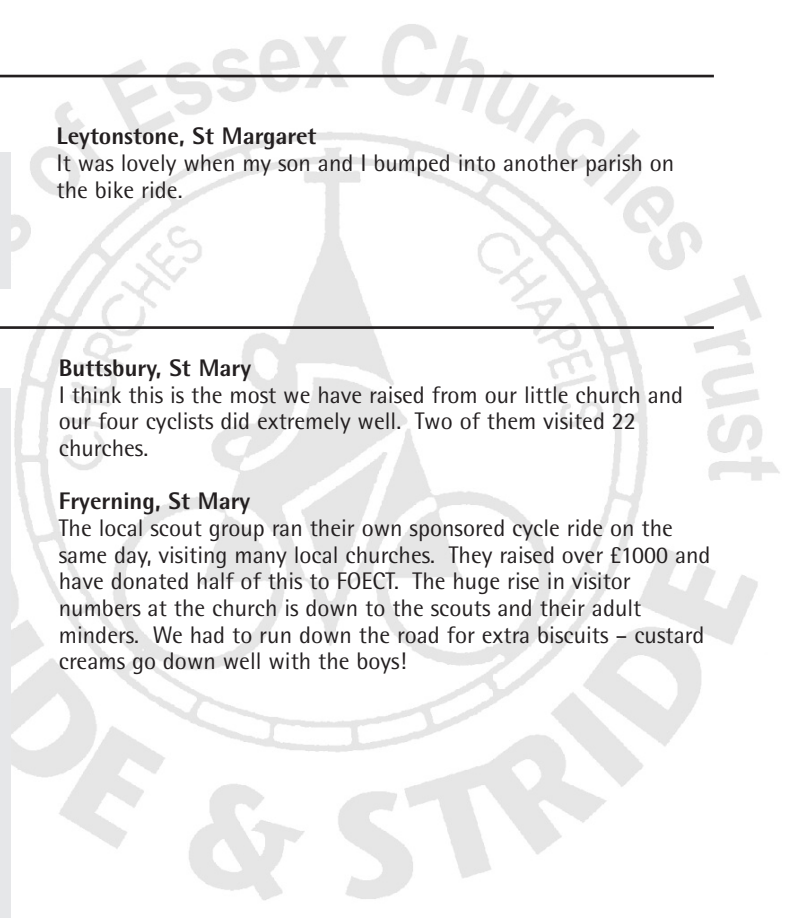
BRENTWOOD	AREA 9	£
Bentley Common	St Paul	280.00
Brentwood	St George the Martyr	166.00
Brentwood	St Thomas	2,399.50
Brentwood	URC	155.00
Buttsbury	St Mary	254.90
Fryerning	St Mary Virgin	2,012.55
Hutton	All Saints/St Peter	787.00
Ingatestone	SS John/Erconwald	261.00
Ingatestone	SS Mary & Edmund	289.00
Ingatestone	URC	125.00
Ingrave	St Nicholas	227.00
Kelvedon Hatch	St Nicholas	2,133.10
Little Warley	St Peter	20.00
Mountnessing	St Giles	200.00
Navestock	St Thomas	413.50
Shenfield	St Mary Virgin	966.00
West Hordon	St Francis	100.00
		10,789.55

Buttsbury, St Mary

I think this is the most we have raised from our little church and our four cyclists did extremely well. Two of them visited 22 churches.

Fryerning, St Mary

The local scout group ran their own sponsored cycle ride on the same day, visiting many local churches. They raised over £1000 and have donated half of this to FOECT. The huge rise in visitor numbers at the church is down to the scouts and their adult minders. We had to run down the road for extra biscuits – custard creams go down well with the boys!



BASILDON	AREA 10	£
Billericay	St John Outwood/C	323.00
Bowers Gifford	St Margaret	104.00
Ramsden Bellhouse	Baptist	100.00
Ramsden Bellhouse	St Mary Virgin	454.50
		981.50

Bowers Gifford, St Margaret

As usual we picked blackberries on the way back to St Margarets. Many thanks to the friends of St Mary's South Benfleet for a reviving coffee and the use of their loo!

Area Organiser: Mrs Beryl Clements

Tel: 01245 601298 Email: randbclements@blueyonder.co.uk

CHELMSFORD NORTH	AREA 11a	£
Broomfield	SS Mary/Leonard	283.00
Broomfield	Methodist	235.00
Chelmsford	All Saints	360.00
Chelmsford	Cathedral	729.00
Chelmsford	St Andrew	287.75
Chelmsford	URC	65.80
Great Leighs	St Mary	300.00
Great Waltham/ Ford End	SS Mary/Lawrence/John	657.00
Highwood	St Paul	260.00
Little Leighs	St John	750.00
Little Waltham	St Martin	556.00
Little Waltham	URC	522.00
Pleshey	Holy Trinity	743.00
Roxwell	St Michael/All Saints	210.00
Springfield	All Saints	550.00
Writtle	All Saints	394.00
		6,902.55

Roxwell, St Michael

The money was raised by a 4 year old visiting 7 churches in Braintree where she lives for the church in Roxwell where she was baptised. She travelled most of the way on her bike with stabilisers (accompanied of course).

Area Organiser: Mr Ian Dudley

Tel: 01245 476820 Email: iangdudley@lineone.net

CHELMSFORD SOUTH	AREA 11b	£
Boreham	St Andrew	400.00
Danbury	St John Baptist	340.00
East Hanningfield	All Saints	350.00
Howe Green	URC	5.00
Little Baddow	St Mary Virgin	653.00
Little Baddow	URC	120.00
Moulsham	St John Baptist	240.00
Moulsham Lodge	Methodist	50.00
Moulsham Lodge	St Luke	262.00
Sandon	St Andrew	634.00
South Hanningfield	St Peter	277.00
Stock	All Saints	20.00
Stock	Our Lady/St Joseph	20.00
West Hanningfield	SS Mary/Edward	328.70
Widford	St Mary/Holy Spirit	212.30
Woodham Ferrers	Congregational	126.65
		4,038.65

Stock, All Saints

Unfortunately we had no participants from All Saints, but our 41 visitors broke all previous records, and the weather was ideal. The "sitters" all said they had greatly enjoyed chatting to everybody.

Danbury, St John

Wow! What a fantastic day! Sunshine all the way, no wind, and every church except one of the ten in Maldon open. Lovely to get to Tollesbury and then turn for home via the peaceful church at Tolleshunt Knights, where there was a great welcome from the community at the Orthodox Monestary who care for this gem of a church, and well worth the extra half a mile of pedalling.

Boreham, St Andrew

St Andrews was manned from 10am – 6pm and several times during the late afternoon it was suggested that we could possibly lock the church and go home, but then along came another cyclist who said "do not close, we have just met so and so and they are coming to Boreham"! So we remained open. It was a wonderful day in every aspect: weather, friendship with other churches and renewing old acquaintances from previous years.

Area Organiser: Mr Roy Radford

Tel: 01245 256274 Email: roy@radford.fsworld.co.uk

MALDON & DENGIE	AREA 12	£
Althorne	St Andrews	180.00
Burnham-on-Crouch	St Mary Virgin	134.50
Heybridge	St Andrew	54.00
Heybridge	Christian Outreach	92.00
Heybridge Basin	St George	145.00
Maldon	All Saints/St Peter	254.00
Maldon	Assumption of our Lady	227.00
Maldon	Friends Meeting	141.50
Maldon	Methodist	120.00
Maldon	URC	248.00
Mundon	St Mary	231.00
Purleigh	All Saints	345.00
Southminster	St Leonards	67.00
Steeple	St Lawrence/All Saints	150.00
Tillingham	St Nicholas	335.50
Woodham Mortimer	St Margaret	120.00
Woodham Walter	St Michael	300.00
		3,144.50

Althorne, St Andrew

Only had 8 visitors sadly and three of them live in the village. Stewards had a good time chatting and eating up all the biscuits. It's a grand event, keep up the good work, our churches need you.

Southminster, St Leonards

Numbers for Dengie seem to be down in attendance. None came from outside our area which is unusual. Hope for better attendance next year.

Area Organiser: Mr Peter Manley

Tel: 01621 742947

Email: peterb.manley@btinternet.com

HADLEIGH	AREA 13	£
Eastwood	St Lawrence/All Saints	265.00
Hadleigh	St James the Less	165.50
Leigh-on-sea	Highlands Methodist	29.00
Leigh-on-Sea	St Aidan	352.50
Leigh-on-Sea	St James the Great	350.00
South Benfleet	St Mary	840.00
		2,002.00

Area Organiser: Mr Alan Kipps
Tel: 01702 556600 Email: agkipps@hotmail.com

SOUTHEND	AREA 14	£
Southchurch	Holy Trinity	67.00
Southend-on-Sea	Salvation Army	600.00
South Shoebury	St Andrew/St Peter	1,060.80
Thorpe Bay	St Augustine	187.00
Westcliff-on-Sea	St Alban	125.00
Westcliff-on-Sea	St Andrew/St Peter	225.50
Westcliff-on-Sea	St Peter	450.00
		2,715.30

Westcliff, St Peter

Thank goodness people taking part had beautiful weather. Disappointingly there were only 13 visitors this year, two of whom were St Peters people and, I might add, two of our eldest. I'm happy that everyone sponsored them very well and plus a little cake sale, we have managed to collect a sizeable sum. I wish we could attract some younger folk.

Area Organiser: Don Woracker
Tel: 01702 203027 Email: donworacker@hotmail.com

THURROCK	AREA 15	£
Aveley	St Michael	366.00
Bellhus Park	All Saints	130.00
Bulphan	St Mary Virgin	546.50
Corringham	SS Mary/John	668.40
East Tilbury	St Catherine	150.00
Fobbing	St Michael	150.00
Grays/Thurrock	Team Ministry	162.00
Hordon-on-the-Hill	SS Peter/Paul	175.00
North Stifford	St Mary Virgin	192.00
South Ockendon	St Nicholas	71.50
Stanford-le-Hope	St Margaret	250.00
		2,861.40

Aveley, St Michael

This year we strode as well as ride, with riders ages ranging from 8 to 50'ish, with one 6 year old on her scooter from Aveley to South Ockendon. Three striders walked the same distance as the bikers, approximately 25 miles, consisting of two over 60 and one young lad Thomas who did the course on bendy stilts. We all had a great time and were warmly welcomed at all participating churches.

Area Organiser: Mr Peter Craggs
Tel: 01375 675671 Email: craggpeter@hotmail.com

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ROCHFORD	AREA 16	£
Ashingdon	St Andrew	802.09
Hockley	Emmanuel	139.50
Hockley	SS Peter/Paul	219.00
Paglesham	St Peter	90.00
Rawreth	St Nicholas	50.00
Rayleigh	Christchurch URC	275.80
Rayleigh	Holy Trinity	600.00
Rayleigh	St Michael/All Angels	187.00
Rettendon	All Saints	759.00
Rochford	St Andrew	216.50
South Fambridge	All Saints	170.00
Stambridge	St Mary/All Saints	167.00
		3,675.89

Rayleigh, Christ Church URC

On a fine sunny morning, our walkers visited Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, URC and Salvation Army places of worship in Hadleigh and Leigh-on-Sea, starting at St James the Less, Hadleigh, where we saw the wall painting of St Thomas a Becket, and ending at St Clement's Leigh (where memorials commemorate, among others, Leigh men who were masters of Trinity House). From Leigh we all caught the bus (using our bus passes - we were aged 60-85) back to Hadleigh, where some of us caught a further bus home.

Area Organiser: Miss Erica Wyeth
Tel: 01702 545884

WITHAM	AREA 17	£
Easthorpe	St Mary	20.00
Feering	All Saints	359.00
Goldhanger	St Peter	319.00
Great Totham	St Peter	487.00
Hatfield Peverel	St Andrew	190.00
Inworth	All Saints	100.00
Kelvedon	St Mary Virgin	210.00
Kelvedon	URC	518.00
Layer Breton	St Mary Virgin	432.00
Layer Marney	St Mary	335.00
Little Totham	All Saints	84.00
Tiptree	St Luke	445.50
Tiptree	URC	30.00
Tollesbury	St Mary	39.10
Wickham Bishops	St Bartholomew	462.00
Witham	Holy Family/All Saints	913.60
Witham	St Nicholas	425.00
Witham	URC	57.00
		5,426.20



Layer Marney, St Mary

We had two horse riders and one horse and carriage participating.

Little Totham, All Saints & Goldhanger, St Peter

Goldhanger and Little Totham have a joint choir and we decided to walk across our benefice calling at each church for a song and a prayer. So some cycled and others walked (mainly across fields and with their dogs) from Goldhanger to Little Totham and thence to Great Totham, the other church in the benefice.

Tiptree, St Luke

Once again our tiny Tiptree whirlwind has ridden solo for us and raised £343.50. Wow!

Witham, St Nicholas

I met two gentlemen with their bikes
Just by the churchyard gate
"We are practising for the Sponsored Cycle Ride"
They were happy to relate.

They said they were in early middle age
Their cycling kept them fit
They were helping to raise funds for the church
They like to do their bit.

I thought this was a little risky
Their combined age was over 150!

They pedalled off down the path
Their hands raised in farewell
Their jaunty smiles belied their years
As they cycled towards Chipping Dell.
(Shirley Myatt)

Area Organiser: Mr John Bagley
Tel: 01206 330145 Email: thebagleys@talk21.com

HINKFORD	AREA 18	£
Alphamstone	St Barnabas	472.00
Bellchamp Otten	St Ethelbert	662.00
Bellchamp St Paul	St Andrew	152.00
Bellchamp Walter	St Mary	112.00
Bulmer	St Andrew	413.00
Colne Engaine	St Andrew	761.60
Earls Colne	St Andrew	150.00
Gestingthorpe	St Mary	155.00
Great Maplestead	St Giles	37.50
Greenstead Green	St James	237.00
Halstead	Methodist	209.00
Halstead	St Andrew	357.15
Halstead	URC	293.50
Helions Bumpstead	St Andrew	106.00
Little Maplestead	St John Baptist	40.00
Lyston		605.20
Middleton	All Saints	219.00
Pebmarsh	St John Baptist	15.00

Sible Heddingham	Baptist Fellowship	322.00
Steeple Bumpstead	St Mary	120.00
Tilbury Juxta	St Margaret	30.00
Toppersfield	St Margaret of Antioch	50.00
Twinstead	St John Evangelist	300.00
White Colne	St Andrew	50.00
Wickham St Paul	All Saints	136.40
		6,005.35

Earls Colne, St Andrew

Although we had perfect cycling weather, yet again there was a disappointingly low number of cyclists visiting not only our church but all the churches I called at in our area.

Bulmer, St Andrew

We enjoyed the wide variety of architecture and beauty of all the churches.

BRAINTREE	AREA 19	£
Black Notley	SS Peter/Paul	58.00
Bocking	St Mary Virgin	354.50
Bocking	St Peter	401.00
Bocking End	Congregational	235.00
Braintree	Baptist	426.00
Braintree	Christchurch	275.00
Rayne	All Saints	175.00
Wethersfield	Parish Church	406.00
		2,330.50

Rayne, All Saints

I got to visit 25 churches, and would have visited lots more if I had not spent so long chatting to those lovely people who "manned" their churches. A wonderful day out!

Braintree, Christ Church

After having a new hip, I was only able to sit in the church, but enjoyed seeing and talking to all callers. Being a steward is far less strenuous than cycling!

Area Organiser: Ray Clements
Tel: 01245 601298 Email: randbclements@blueyonder.co.uk

COLCHESTER	AREA 20	£
Colchester	Christchurch CE	232.00
Colchester	Christchurch URC	145.00
Colchester	Salvation Army	64.00
Colchester	SSAndrew/Anne/Matthew	550.00
Colchester	St Botolph	239.00
Colchester	St James the Great	100.00
Colchester	St Peter	70.00
Colchester New Town	St Stephen	315.60
East Mersea	St Edmond	701.00
Great Wigborough	St Stephen	154.50
Lexdon	St Leonard	613.00
Little Wigborough	St Nicholas	87.50
Peldon	St Mary Virgin	110.00
Rowhedge	St Lawrence	573.40
Shrub End	All Saints/St Cedd	88.50
West Mersea	SS Peter/Paul	973.90
		5,017.40

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DEDHAM & TEY	AREA 22	£
Aldham	Parish Church	1,045.50
Boxted	St Peter	296.00
Coggeshall	St Peter	22.00
Eight Ash Green	Methodist	70.00
Elmstead Mariket	SS Anne/Lawrence	135.00
Great Horkesley	All Saints/St John	480.00
Great Tey	St Barnabas	215.00
Langham	St Mary Virgin	295.50
Little Horkesley	SS Peter/Paul	456.50
Little Tey	St James the Less	163.00
Marks Tey	St Andrew	10.00
Mount Bures	St John Baptist	118.00
Stanway	St Allbright	251.00
Wormingford	St Andrew	915.00
		4,472.50

Coggeshall, St Nicholas

Cyclists were very pleased to find us open and in fact we had some drivers and walkers as well. It was such a glorious afternoon. I was so pleased to be in the chapel.



Area Organiser: Miss Angela Green
Tel: 01206 211979

DUNMOW & STANSTED	AREA 23	£
Aythorpe Roding	St Mary Virgin	55.00
Barnston	Evangelical Mission	175.00
Barnston	St Andrew	336.00
Broxted	St Mary Virgin	470.00
Felsted	Crix Green Mission	25.00
Felsted	Holy Cross	74.50
Good Easter	St Andrew	225.00
Great Bardfield	St Mary Virgin	387.50
Great Canfield	St Mary Virgin	70.00
Great Dunmow	St Anne Line	435.00
Great Dunmow	St Mary Virgin	400.00
Great Dunmow	URC New Street	105.00
High Roding	All Saints	145.00
Lindsell	St Mary Virgin	470.00
Little Canfield	All Saints	70.00
Little(Bardfield)		
Saling	SS Peter/Paul	190.00
Little Dunmow	Priory Church	50.00
Margaret Roding	St Margaret	310.00
Stansted	St John	260.50
Stebbing	St Mary Virgin	1,430.20
Tilty	St Mary Virgin	73.00
		6,017.20

Great Dunmow, St Anne Line

Unfortunately James (aged 10) had a puncture but he nobley carried on visiting churches on his scooter. Lovely to see so many visitors this year – a lovely day altogether.

Stansted Mountfitchet, St Mary

Our "Church Open" board brings in passers-by – some on the way to or from Stansted Airport or, as one young couple said "we pass it every day on the way to work, and always wanted to find it open". A great opportunity for reminiscing about marriages, baptisms or even funerals. We saw our last visitors at about 6pm and finally locked doors at 7.15pm.

Stebbing, St Mary

This year we started selling the Ride & Stride earlier, before the schools broke up. We sent out a leaflet about the Ride & Stride through the village school. We had sponsorship forms at the school and in the village pub, and our own new style posters. Some suggestions for next year: circulate sponsorship forms to riding stables, tack shops, cycling clubs, cycle shops, rambler groups etc. with appropriate "home made" posters; promote the idea of riders and striders adopting a theme such as visiting all Norman churches in their area; challenge riders and striders to adopt a church to visit.

Area Organiser: Janet Hollis
Tel: 01279 812073

HARWICH	AREA 24	£
Ardleig	St Mary	160.00
Bradfield	St Lawrence	162.00
Dovercourt	All Saints	360.00
Dovercourt	Central Church	251.00
Great Bromley	St George the Martyr	200.00
Great Oakley	All Saints	53.00
Harwich	St Nicholas	411.60
Harwich and Dovercourt	Our Lady Queen of Heav	165.00
Lawford	St Mary	137.95
Manningtree	Methodist	273.02
Ramsey	Methodist	46.00
Ramsey/Little Oakley	St Michael/All Angels	474.20
Tendring	St Edmund	1,004.50
Wix	St Mary Virgin	228.00
Wrabness	All Saints	223.00
		4,149.27

Great Bromley, St George

Had to go a short route this year as had to be back for a wedding at St George at 2pm. Twenty one cyclists arrived at 2pm from London, disappointed they couldn't get in to see our hammer beam roof, instead formed an impromptu guard of honour and clapped the bride into church.

Great Oakley, All Saints

A good enjoyable ride. Weather was perfect. Once again just 8 year old Dale and myself, but we have to join in!

Wrabness, All Saints

On the same day some dedicated and energetic friends undertook church repairs and a mammoth clear up of the churchyard.

Area Organiser: Neil Stedman

Tel: 01255 425857 Email:ncstedman@talktalk.net



SAFFRON WALDEN	AREA 26	£
Berden	St Nicholas	550.00
Clavering	SS Mary/Clement	50.00
Debden	St Mary Virgin	172.00
Great Chesterford	All Saints	200.00
Great Chishill	St Swithun	25.00
Great Sampford	St Michael	377.60
Little Chisill	St Nicholas	25.00
Newport	St Mary Virgin	360.00
Quendon/Rickling	SS Simon/Jude/All Saints	45.00
Saffron Walden	St Mary Virgin	1,885.00
Saffron Walden	URC	130.00
Thaxted	Parish Church	346.00
Thaxted	URC	400.00
Ugley	St Peter	372.00
Wenden Lofts	Hamlet Church	85.00
Widdington	St Mary Virgin	325.00
		5,347.60

Debden, St Mary

We had a record number of people visiting our church and enjoying the refreshments. The weather was good and I saw lots of people participating this year.

Littlebury, Holy Trinity

We only had 8 visitors but as water, orange juice, biscuits and apples were provided we were considered to be the best stop on their journey.

Saffron Walden, St Mary

Steve and Matt Hasler cycled from Leigh on Sea, via Southend, Chelmsford and Thaxted to Saffron Walden visiting 52 churches and covering 63 miles. By 4pm "we were using our second sponsorship form and it looked like we'd only visited 6 churches when we signed in at St John's Thaxted. "You haven't come very far" was the welcome. We didn't have the heart, or the breath, to respond!"

Area Organiser: Mrs John Holley

Tel: 01371 830902

ST OSYTH	AREA 27	£
Brightlingsea	St James	25.00
Clacton-on-Sea	St James	275.00
Clacton-on-Sea	St Paul	350.00
Frinton-on-Sea	Parish Church	1,220.00
Great Bentley	St Mary	295.00
Great Clacton	St John	480.01
Great Holland	All Saints	129.00
Holland-on-Sea	Methodist	145.25
Kirby le Soken	St Michael	500.00
Little Clacton	St James	470.00
St Osyth	SS Peter/Paul	227.00
Thorpe-le-Soken	St Michael	10.00
Walton-on-the-Naze	Parish/All Saints	535.00
		4,661.26

Walton-on-the-Naze, All Saints

Five stalwart members and dog set off for a sponsored walk of six miles from the Parish church around the Naze – picnic en-route. The sun shone and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. Our church is having essential work (over £400,000 estimate) and FOECT are making a grant of £20,000 towards our under-pinning and we are extremely grateful.

St Osyth, St Peter

The day coincided with the Heritage Weekend in Colchester. By the time we had finished we had clocked 34 churches or historic buildings or boats. We could have ridden on an old bus, visited other buildings or watched performances outside the Castle. Altogether this was a most enjoyable day, giving us new insights into Colchester's liveliness and we thoroughly recommend others to try it.

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