

Saturday 12th September 2026

Hello,

On Saturday 12th September the Dorset Historic Churches Trust, (DHCT), will be playing its part in the annual national fund raising event known as **Ride+Stride** to raise funds to help towards the increasingly costly, but essential, work to maintain our rural churches of which there are just over 400 in Dorset.

Last year Riders & Striders from 156 churches in the county raised over £100,219. This fantastic sum allows the DHCT's grant scheme to continue at its current level of near £120,000 for 2025. The DHCT will use the money to support, through grants, essential repair and maintenance of churches in Dorset.

Our church has recently been fortunate to be awarded a grant of £6,000 towards the cost of repairs to the interior and exterior of the west wall so it really is a charity that has for the village positive results.

So what is involved?

The idea is quite simple: by foot, bike, horse or whatever form of transport suits, you set out to visit as many of the churches in the Melbury Team group on Saturday 12th September as you can manage or you wish. As **Ride+Stride** is a charitable event to raise monies you it would be great to sign up as many of your family and friends to sponsor you, 50p or more, for each church you visit. There are fourteen churches in the Melbury Team plus six private chapels – the latter are in fact churches but privately owned rather than by the Church of England.

Included in this pack are two maps, courtesy of the OS, to help you plan your route plus accompanying sheets to identifying points of interest in the churches to look out for, a sheet to record which churches you visited, and all important sponsor sheet.

If you have a problem down loading, opening or printing off any of the sheets I'll arrange hard copies for you.

The sixteen churches in the Melbury Team area, some in villages others off the beaten track all dating back to at least the 12th/13thC, stand in our landscape as reminders of past communities and our connection through time. With your help these treasured buildings will continue to do so for future generations so please join in if you can.

Thank you for your support

Sean Lavan, Tailor's Cottage, Cattistock.

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PS: For further information about the excellent work of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust follow the link: www.dhct.org.uk

RIDE+STRIDE

SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2026

Melbury Team Churches

1. Cattistock
- 2 Chilfrome
- 3 Corscombe
- 4 East Chelborough
- 5 Evershot
- 6 Frome St Quintin
- 7 Frome Vauchurch
- 8 Halstock
- 9 Maiden Newton
- 10 Melbury Bubb
- 11 Melbury Osmond
- 12 Rampisham
- 13 West Chelborough
- 14 Wraxall

WEST DORSET DISTRICT

Ride + Stride

Dorset Historic Churches Trust

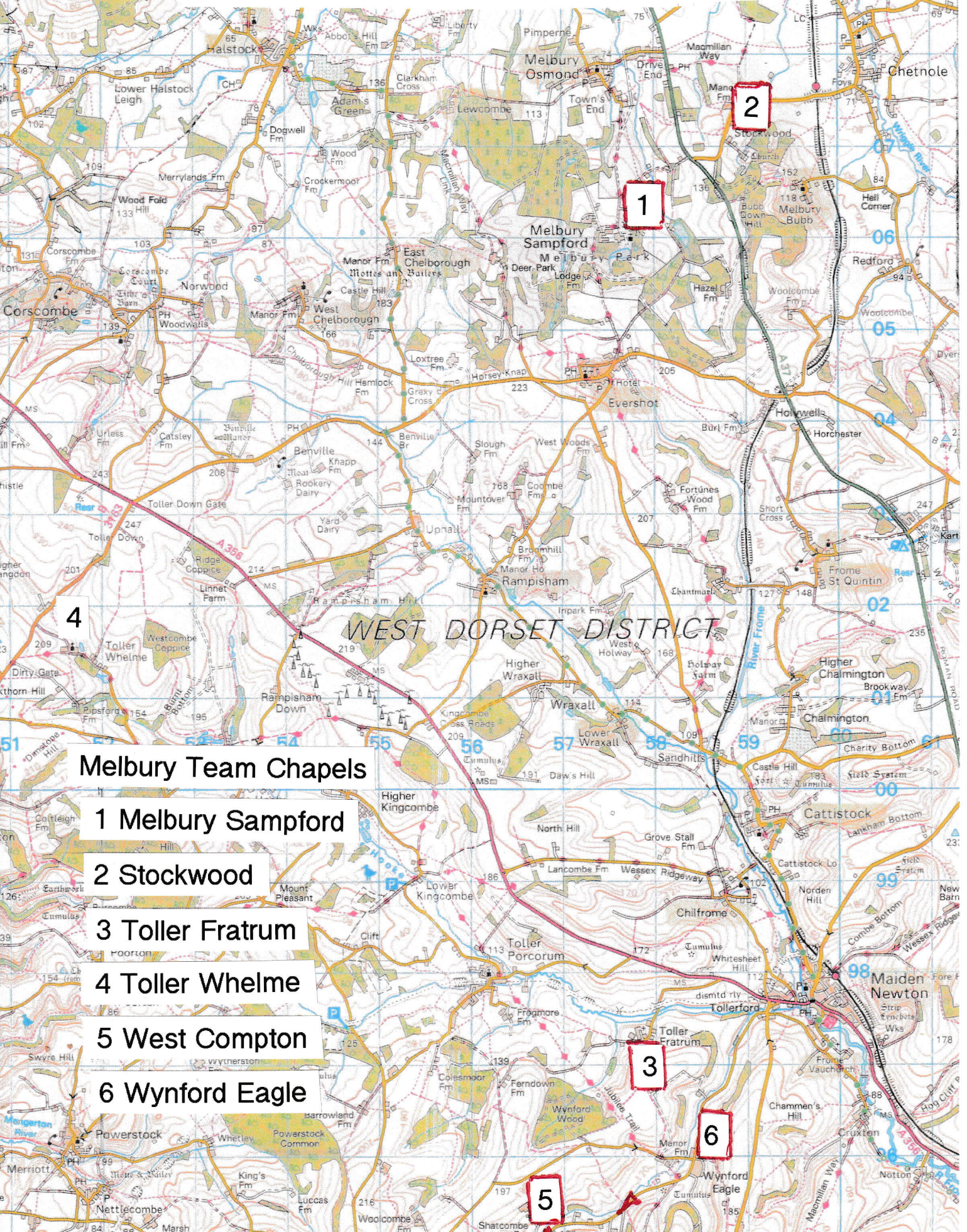
List of Melbury Team Churches

Map Ref	Location & Postcode	Dedication	There is much to discover in these churches, here are just a few items to start with:
1	Cattistock DT2 0JG	SS Peter & Paul	The baptistery. Dorset's finest example of late Victorian Gothic revival by Temple Moore
2	Chilfrome DT2 0HA	Holy Trinity	Slate floor slab in Chancel to a 17 th C rector called Clement – note the pun in the script.
3	Corscombe DT2 0NU	St Mary	The 15 th C North porch has some interesting Gargoyles
4	East Chelborough (or Lewcombe) DT2 0QB	St James	Tricky to find, this little church is actually on the Lewcombe Estate. Outsized circular window.
5	Evershot DT2 0JW	St Osmund	Floor brass to William Grey rector 1524-5
6	Frome St Quintin DT2 0HF	St Mary	12 th C Corbel carved with a muzzled bear's head on nave wall
7	Frome Vauchurch DT2 0Dy	St Francis	Jacobean pulpit and 'blind' Norman doorway.
8	Halstock BA22 9SG	St Juthware & St Mary	The nave was rebuilt in 1845/46 to a design by Augustus Pugin who, with Charles Barry, designed the Houses of Parliament
9	Maiden Newton DT2 0AA	St Mary	Original Norman wooden door in north wall. Claimed to be the oldest church door in the country.
10	Melbury Bubb DT2 0NQ	The Virgin Mary	Wonderful Saxon font formed from an upturned column base and part shaft hence the animal carvings are upside down.
11	Melbury Osmond DT2 0LZ	St Osmund	Thomas Hardy's parents were married in this church. A copy of their Marriage Certificate is displayed.
12	Rampisham DT2 0PT	St Michael & All Angels	The Chancel and stained glass east window are designs Augustus Pugin
13	West Chelborough DT2 0PY	St Andrew	Touching 17 th C monument to a lady, who died in childbirth, depicted holding a baby.
14	Wraxall DT2 0HL	St Mary	Lawrence box tomb, 1610, alongside the porch. The family built Wraxall Manor.

For more details of all the churches, and Ride+Stride, check out the Dorset Historic Churches Trust web site: www.dhct.org.uk

RIDE+STRIDE

SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2026



Melbury Team Chapels

1 Melbury Sampford

2 Stockwood

3 Toller Fratrum

4 Toller Whelme

5 West Compton

6 Wynford Eagle

Ride + Stride

Dorset Historic Churches Trust

The Melbury Team Chapels

The six chapels listed below are within the Melbury Team area and will be open on the Saturday for Ride+Stride. Unlike the main churches in the Melbury Team that have regular services these chapels only have occasional services. They are either privately owned or in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) and hence not normally open to visitors unless by prior arrangement. This is therefore a great opportunity to visit

Map Ref	Location & Postcode	Dedication	Small and often isolated as they may be there is still much to discover of interest in these chapels.
1	Melbury Sampford DT2 0LF Only to be approached on foot once entering the Estate.	St Mary	Private chapel on the Melbury Sampford Estate. Completed in 1440 it is rich in monuments. A good opportunity to visit this interesting church as it is only open to the public on 4 days in the years.
2	Stockwood DT2 0NG Next to the farm house at the end of a farm drive.	St Edwold	In the care of the Redundant Churches Fund it is noted as the smallest church in Dorset. Although a simple building its foundation dates back to around 870 AD. A charming little church.
3	Toller Fratrum DT2 0EW Close to the 16 th C Little Toller Farm house.	St Basil	A 19 th C rebuild but retains from earlier incarnations a wonderful 12 th C font and a mid-11 th C relief of Mary Magdalene washing the feet of Jesus.
4	Toller Whelme DT8 3NT	St John	Now in the care of CCT the chapel was built in the 19 th C for those who could not reach the parish church conveniently and is hence known as a Chapel of Ease.
5	West Compton DT2 0EY	St Michael	Privately owned, hidden away in the isolated hamlet of West Compton the present church is 19 th C Possibly a 12 th C foundation with the Parish registers starting in 1538.
6	Wynford Eagle DT2 0ER	St Lawrence	Entirely rebuilt in 1840 this little church retains elements of a much early structure. Look out for the 12 th C Tympanum with a carving of two winged monsters.

For more information about any of the chapels, or Ride+Stride, please check out the Dorset Historic Churches Trust web site: www.dhct.org.uk



Please Note:

R+S 2026 RECORD OF VISITS TO CHURCHES

Name:
Address:
Tel:
Name and address of Church or Chapel you choose to donate half your sponsorship money to.
Return this form and all the cash in one payment, please, by the end of September , to your Church Representative or nominated person.

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DORSET HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST – Annual Ride+Stride –**Saturday 12th September 2026, 10.00am – 6.00pm****Church Deanery
Number (eg MB10)**

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SPONSORSHIP FORM for

(Participant please complete with your name)

To Sponsors - Thank you for sponsoring this participant on 12th September 2026. Your money will be divided equally between the church or chapel nominated by the participant and the Dorset Historic Churches Trust, whose purpose is to help the preservation and repair of the churches and chapels in the county.

Data Protection: Please Note, this data will be retained by DHCT for up to six years in accordance with HMRC regulations and for this purpose only.

GIFT AID - THE TRUST BENEFITS EVEN MORE IF GIFT AID IS SELECTED. IT IS AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU. Please read the declaration before signing up for Gift Aid. DHCT is aware of its duty under GDPR 2018. Declaration by Sponsor: By indicating Yes in the box headed Gift Aid, I confirm that I am a UK Income or Capital Gains taxpayer. I have read this statement and want the charity or Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) named above to reclaim tax on the donation detailed below, given on the date shown. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax / or Capital Gains tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

First Name	Last Name	House name or number	Postcode	Gift Aid? Tick Y/N		Signature	TOTAL donation OR per church visited *
				Yes	No		
John <i>Example only</i>	Green	16 The Avenue, New Town,	DT19 4RS	✓			£1 per church
						SUB TOTAL	£

More copies of this form can be downloaded from the R+S pages of the DHCT website – dhct.org.uk - or photocopy locally. Please ensure each sponsor form shows the church's Deanery reference number