

## Ride and Stride for London Churches Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2011

For over thirty years the Heritage of London Trust (HOLT) has been working with churches all over London to restore their historic fabric. HOLT runs a small grants scheme which has helped churches undertake restoration programmes. Our grants scheme has benefitted churches in every London Borough and although we can help any historic building which is in community use, churches have always predominated – this is mainly because London’s churches provide so many vital social services to local communities, from crèches to homeless shelters and . We have disbursed over £2.5 million over the years to over 400 restoration projects across London.



Last year the Trust was invited by the National Churches Trust to host a “Ride and Stride” in London. Ride and Stride is a national event where people can raise sponsorship money by visiting as many churches as they can on a single day, typically by cycling or walking. Although this is a popular annual event in the rest of the country, it had never been held in London.

*Detail of stained glass window at  
All Hallows by the Tower*

HOLT was happy to take part, as London has no special day when we can all celebrate the wonderful diversity of the Capital’s churches and the enormous contribution that they make to our daily lives. Here is a chance for everyone to support them, learn about their cultural history and the valuable work they do to support Londoners, no matter what their faith.

This year the London Ride and Stride will take place on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July. We will be focussing on four main areas within the Dioceses of London and Southwark – Westminster, Harrow, South-East London and Tower Hamlets & Hackney. A wealth of history and artworks await to be discovered – like St Lawrence Little Stanmore, rebuilt under the patronage of James Brydges, Duke of Chandos with interior wood carving attributed to Grinling Gibbons, or St Anne Limehouse, one of Hawksmoor’s masterpieces. There will also be a number of London’s Victorian cemeteries open, like Nunhead Cemetery, offering elegant avenues of limes and exquisite examples of the stone sculpture.

There is still time to get involved. There are three ways your church can participate: by encouraging your congregation to gather sponsors and participate in the Ride and Stride, by opening your church on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, or by advertising the event in your local community. You can also pre-register your church for next year's event (date to be confirmed).

Because London is so spread out, you can walk, take the tube or bus, or get on a Boris bike in order to "Ride & Stride" between churches. Any money raised in sponsorship will be split 50:50 between the churches and the Heritage of London Trust – HOLT will disperse any money raised into grants to London's churches.

*St John on Bethnal Green, designed by  
Sir John Soane*



If you would like your church or your congregation to join this event do please get in touch with the Trust on [info@heritageoflondon.com](mailto:info@heritageoflondon.com). Further information on the event is available on our website [www.heritageoflondon.com](http://www.heritageoflondon.com) and sponsor forms can be downloaded from [www.rideandstrideuk/2010/07/london](http://www.rideandstrideuk/2010/07/london)

This is a wonderful chance for a family day out where you can also raise money for your local church. So, please come one and all, get on your Boris bikes and discover the rich history of London's historic churches.

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**RIDE+STRIDE**

