

WARWICKSHIRE & COVENTRY
HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

RIDE OR STRIDE THE STOUR VALLEY CIRCUIT



Join us on a tour round some of the churches of the Stour Valley, part of the annual sponsored cycle ride organised by our county Historic Churches Trust

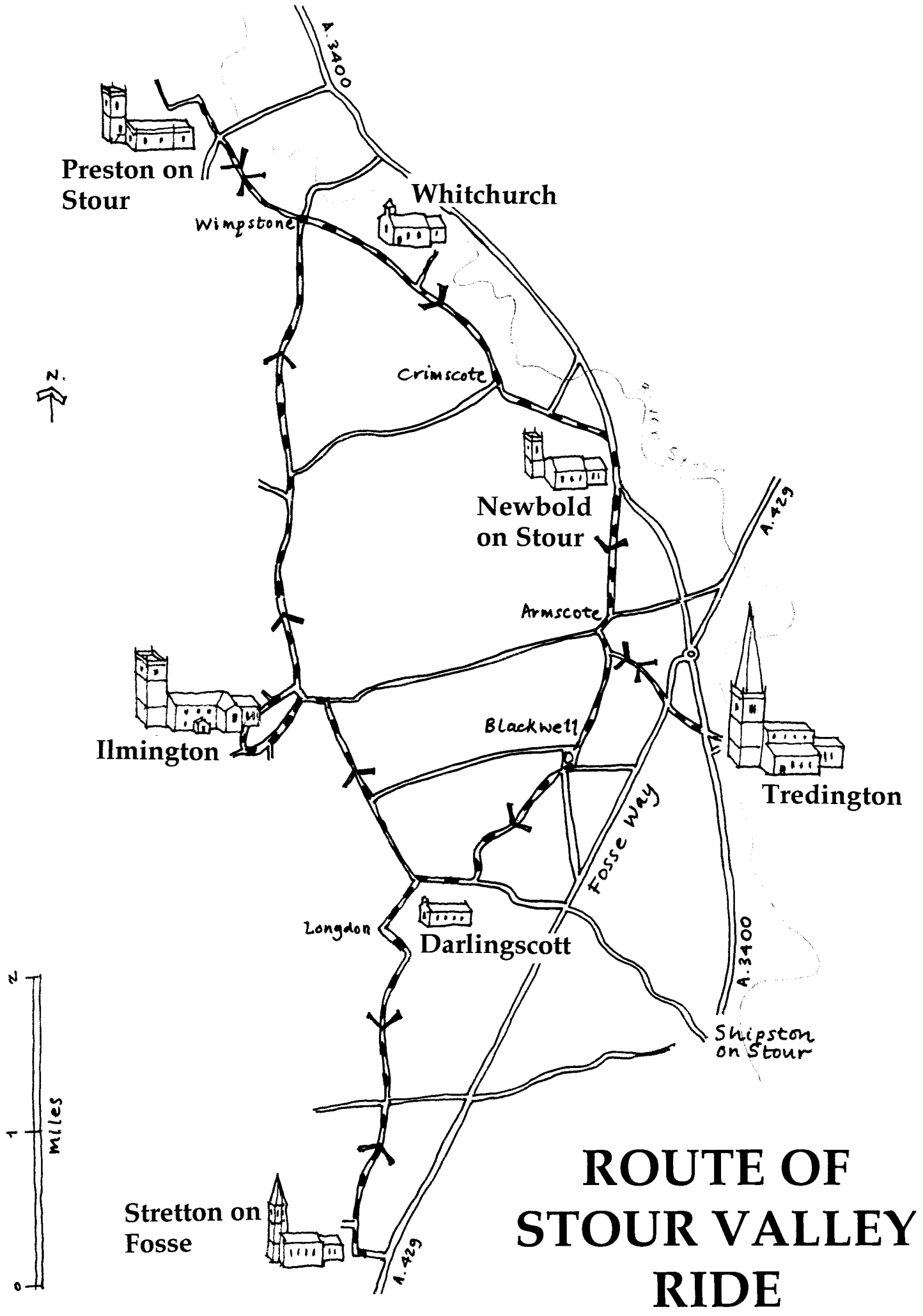
Half the money you raise will go to the church of your choice; the other half to the Trust to enable them to help others with repairs to churches within the county.

A recommended route, avoiding main roads where possible, is set out overleaf. Whilst the whole Ride is just under 20 miles in length, this can easily be adjusted by omitting some of the churches. The 1:50,000 OS map of the area will be useful (Landranger sheet 151). Refreshments can be found at pubs along the route at Ilmington, Newbold, Tredington and Armscote. Care is needed in crossing main roads and the safety recommendations on the sponsorship form should be followed.

Although you are free to travel at your own pace, it would be fun to start out as a group. The 'official start' will therefore be at Ilmington church at 10.00 am.

Sponsorship forms and other details are downloadable from the Divine Inspiration website (www.divine-inspiration.org.uk) or obtained from Joan Hughes (01608 682420).

ORGANISED WITH DIVINE INSPIRATION



ROUTE OF STOUR VALLEY RIDE

Notes on the churches (miles:)

Ilmington, St Mary: (start)

an impressive Norman church with much original work surviving and an early tower of interest. Bear and dog Tudor frieze in south transept; theatrical 18thC Gothic Sansom monument by porch; surprisingly modest assessment of Revd Golding's contribution to his parish duties on chancel wall-tablet; attractive textile wall-hanging of village scenes in nave.

Preston on Stour, St Mary: (4 miles)

an estate church for the Wests of Alscot Park. Mid 18thC substantial rebuild to a 15C tower. Very assured Gothic for this period of the revival, particularly the chancel; as much due to the antiquarianism of James West as to the employment of the Woodwards of Campden. Glazing is similarly adventurous. Good West family monuments, a tradition continued into the 20thC.

Whitchurch, St Mary (6 miles)

an isolated raised circular graveyard next to the river. Simple double cell building with turret. The Norman nave may originally have extended further west, and some puzzles like the earlier herringbone masonry in the north wall and the oddly placed Norman doorway with its lamb and flag motif. 15thC clergy tomb in chancel. Some attractive modern glass in nave windows.

Newbold on Stour, St David: (9 miles)

built in 1833 in restrained and attenuated Gothic. The corner siting of the tower is unusual; the spire was removed just after WW II.

Tredington, St Gregory: (11 miles)

a much older church than it at first appears. The internal masonry reveals Anglo-Danish detail, supporting a pre-conquest date, and providing evidence of an upper floor in the nave. 14thC chancel and tower, the latter supporting a distinguished 15thC spire, the chief beauty of an impressive church.

Darlingscott, St George: (14 miles)

of 1874 with bell turret. Simple, modest and neat. A chapel of ease for Tredington, with decorative roof slates.

Stretton on Fosse, St Peter: (15.5 miles)

1841, designed by Thomas Johnson and built in a single phase. Aisless nave with hammerbeam roof. Slightly peculiar octagonal tower with small spire.

Ilmington Finish (19.5 miles)

Safety & other information: see details on Sponsorship form.