

Sponsored BIKE 'N HIKE

Saturday 10th September 2011

On Saturday 10th October, Dad and I set off on our annual sponsored bike ride on behalf of the Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust. Once again we were quite lucky with the weather; although it was a bit breezy it was warm and dry.



Setting out

Dad had planned the route again this year and had decided that we should visit an area that we hadn't visited in past year, neither with me nor with Philip in previous years. So we set out towards some of the more rural churches to the west of Hitchin.

The start of our journey was over familiar ground; Great Wymondley, Little Wymondley and St. Ippolytts. From there however we headed towards Preston, a church built in the early years of the 20th century and featuring some fascinating stained-glass windows. From here Dad took us the wrong way to Kings Walden, where we had lunch.



Lunch

After our sandwiches, we retraced our tracks through Whitwell to Breachwood Green, which offers great opportunities for plane spotting as they skim over the rooftops on their way into Luton Airport. Sadly for the congregation at Breachwood Green we were the first visitors of the day, at about 1.30pm. We have to hope that some other people arrived after us. From there we continued on to Kings Walden and Offley, where Dad went wrong again and we ended up going up and down the road three times! We finally found the right track, which took us down a very steep and bumpy track through Charlton and back into Hitchin



Breachwood Green Church

Because of all the extra miles we cycled and the hills we went up we had run out of time to go round our usual churches in Hitchin, so my total visited for the day was only nine, but in doing that I cycled about 27 miles and raised £225, to be split between the Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust and St. Faiths. We would both like to thank everyone who welcomed us into their churches and plied us with drinks and biscuits, and everyone who sponsored me.

Alexander Goose