

## Rachel Patel's Ride and Stride History for Ideas/Inspiration

### Essex Ride and Stride — Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010

In 2010, after being inspired by another church member, I took up the challenge of cycling round the 40 churches that were participating in the Essex Ride and Stride and, in the process, raised money for the Friends of Essex Churches Trust and St Mary's Church. My route started at Margareting St Margaret, Church Lane, at 10am and ended at Doddinghurst St Margaret, Doddinghurst Road, around 6pm, and the full route was:

1. Margareting St Margaret, Church Lane
2. Fryerning St Mary, Blackmore Road
3. Ingatestone St Edmund, High Street\*
4. Ingatestone URC, High Street\*
5. Ingatestone Elim Pentecostal\*
6. Ingatestone Petre Almshouses Chapel, High Street
7. Ingatestone SS John & Erconwald, Roman Road\*
8. Buttsbury St Mary, Ingatestone Road
9. Mountnessing St Giles, Old Church Road
10. Hutton St Peter, Claughton Way\*
11. Hutton St Joseph, Highview Crescent
12. Hutton Free, Hanging Hill Lane
13. Hutton All Saints, Church Lane\*
14. Hutton & Shenfield URC & Baptist, Roundwood Avenue\*
15. Shenfield Quaker Meeting House, 49 Hutton Road\*
16. Shenfield St Mary, Hall Lane\*
17. Brentwood St George, Ongar Road\*
18. Brentwood St Thomas, St Thomas Road\*
19. Brentwood Cathedral, Ingrave Road\*
20. Brentwood School Chapel, Ingrave Road
21. Brentwood URC, New Road\*
22. Brentwood Baptist, Kings Road
23. Brentwood Methodist, Warley Hill\*
24. Warley Christ Church, Warley Hill
25. Warley Holy Cross, 135 Warley Hill
26. Warley Essex Regimental Chapel, Clive Road off Eagle Way
27. Ingrave St Stephen, St Stephen's Crescent\*
28. Ingrave St Nicholas, Brentwood Road\*
29. Herongate St Andrew Methodist
30. East Horndon All Saints (CCT off A128,N of A127)
31. West Horndon St Francis\*
32. Childerditch All Saints & St Faith
33. Lt Warley St Peter, Lt Warley Hall Lane
34. Great Warley St Mary (on B186 near A127)
35. South Weald St Peter
36. Bentley Common St Paul, Mores Lane\*
37. Navestock St Thomas\*
38. Kelvedon Hatch St Nicholas, Church Road\*
39. Doddinghurst All Saints w Farmlands Methodist, Church Lane\*
40. Doddinghurst St Margaret, Doddinghurst Road

\*Toilet available, or there was one nearby in a pub, community centre etc.

I thoroughly enjoyed seeing more of my local area (I only moved here in 2007) and raising money for St Mary's Church and other churches, plus completing the challenge felt like quite an achievement (especially as I rode solo because my co-rider brother had to drop out due to a last-minute work trip!).

### Essex Ride and Stride — Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012

In 2012, I decided to 'Ride and Stride' again, but this time I wanted to take part with my then 5-year-old son Zak. We decided that he would scoot (his cycling skills were still developing) and I would jog around 10 churches not too far from home.

We set off at 11.30am, after he'd already been to football, and visited the churches of Hutton (St Joseph's, St Peter's, Hutton Free Church and Hutton All Saints) followed by those in Shenfield (Hutton and Shenfield Union Church, Quaker Meeting House and St Mary's), finishing off with a few in Brentwood (Brentwood School Chapel, Brentwood Cathedral and St Thomas'). Zak's take on our challenge back then was:

"I liked it, even though we 'rided and strided' for 2 hours! I got lots of biscuits. I loved the bagpiper that we saw at a wedding at St Mary's Church — he had a sword. I really liked St Thomas' Church. The organ pipes were humongous! I liked the 'mini church' [chapel] in there too."

#### **Essex Ride and Stride — Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

We decided to take on the Ride and Stride again in 2014, despite moving house less than two weeks earlier, because we thought Ella, my youngest, now age 5, would like to join in the family fun for the first time, and it was actually very nice to escape the boxes/ unpacking for a while!

Zak, Ella and I started at Hutton All Saints at 12.25pm, me jogging and them scooting. It was not ideal starting so close to lunchtime, but we'd had to wait for Zak, nearly 8, to finish five football matches! However, despite our tired and hungry starting point, we arrived at St Thomas', Brentwood, 1 hour 45 minutes later having visited 10 churches in total, the other 8 being Hutton Free, St Joseph's, St Peter's, Hutton & Shenfield Union Church, Quaker Meeting House, St Mary's, Brentwood School Chapel and Brentwood Cathedral. We encountered reluctance from Ella at two points coinciding with hills — one going up to the Hutton & Shenfield Union Church and the other going from St Mary's up into Brentwood — but at no point did my little girl give up!

The churches serving biscuits were their favourites (St Mary's was the best, especially because it served homemade cake) and their hard work was rewarded with a café lunch. It really was a fun way to spend time with my kids, and we raised over £300, half of which went straight to St Mary's Church.

#### **Essex Ride and Stride — Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

In 2017, I decided to 'Ride and Stride' again, this time just with Zak, who was nearly 11. He was a more confident cyclist and up for a bigger challenge. The route we followed on a beautiful, sunny day was:

1. Margaretting St Margaret, Church Lane
2. Fryerning St Mary, Blackmore Road
3. Ingatestone St Edmund, High Street\*
4. Ingatestone URC, High Street\*
5. Ingatestone Elim Pentecostal\*
6. Ingatestone Petre Almshouses Chapel, High Street
7. Ingatestone SS John & Erconwald, Roman Road\*
8. Buttsbury St Mary, Ingatestone Road
9. Mountnessing St Giles, Old Church Road
10. Hutton St Peter, Claughton Way\*
11. Hutton St Joseph, Highview Crescent
12. Hutton Free, Hanging Hill Lane
13. Hutton All Saints, Church Lane\*
14. Hutton & Shenfield URC & Baptist, Roundwood Avenue\*
15. Shenfield Quaker Meeting House, 49 Hutton Road\*
16. Shenfield St Mary, Hall Lane\*
17. Brentwood School Chapel, Ingrave Road
18. Brentwood Cathedral, Ingrave Road\*
19. Brentwood St Thomas, St Thomas Road\*
20. Brentwood Baptist, Kings Road

We had a really fun day together and raised £340 for Essex churches, half of which went straight to St Mary's Church.