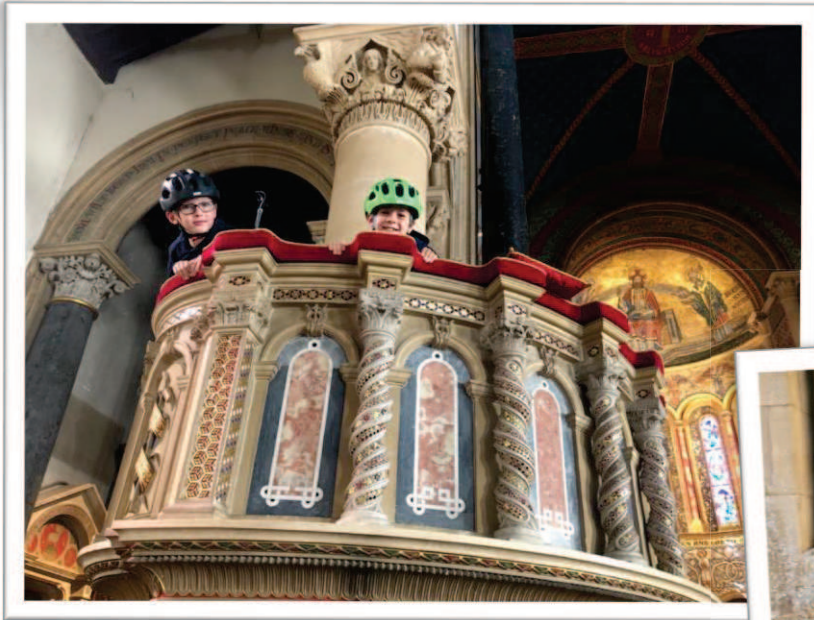


## Robert and William's Ride and Stride adventure on 14th September 2019

We cycled 26 miles to 8 different churches. It took us 6 hours! It felt like a million. Sometimes we did not want to do it because our legs got very tired and because we got hurt. The reason we carried on was mostly the jellybeans. They gave us loads of power! Also, if we gave up, we would have felt really bad of giving up. We would have let down St Thomas's and all the other churches.



The first church we stopped at was an Italianate church in Wilton. It was designed by a Russian person, and in Russia churches face south instead of east, because Jerusalem is south of Russia.



The road we cycled along was very busy at first, and then as we started getting deeper into the countryside, there was less congestion and bustle. The road ran between the river Wylde and the river Nile (or is that in Africa?). We saw olden day trains from the 1960's, and modern trains transporting people and things. We met some men waiting for the 1960's train to come so they could take a picture of it, because they didn't have anything better to do.

We saw a an enormous, fat, brown and white bull without horns, and we reckoned it had anger issues with red.





We rode as far as St. Mary's Church in Wyllye. Then we had lunch. One day the people in the house next door had wanted to bury their old, dead cat next to the churchyard wall, and then found a human skull with the other bones. This person was buried there because he had killed himself, and suicides were not allowed to be buried in the church gardens.



William: "On our way back I really hurt myself going down a hill when I suddenly used the wrong brake, which controlled the front wheel. It made my bike flip and I landed on my ribcage. It really hurt, and I really hurt my hands. We still had ten miles to go, so I kept going. I wanted to get home because my feet were aching, so we could have a nice rest."



Robert: "When we were cycling, I went too close to some blackberry bushes and got a thorn in my arm. It did not hurt apart from when it suddenly went into my arm and then the hurting stopped. We had to keep cycling to a safe place to stop and pull it out".



Finally, we got to St. Thomas's. They had two choices of cake. Fiona, our churchwarden, showed us an interesting thing about an old diagram of the church. It shows that there once were three fire engines in the corner of the church. Who knew!

Fiona did the ride with our mum and us to help us stay safe on the roads.

We have raised at least £1,104 pounds so far from our neighbours and the people at St. Thomas's.

Thank you to everyone who helped us raise this money to look after Wiltshire churches and St. Thomas's.

Robert and William