



WWI memorial funeral bier

## About Holy Cross

The beautiful Holy Cross church was built in the 12th century as part of the medieval village and manor of Burley.

In 1694 Daniel Finch, 2nd Earl of Nottingham and 4th Earl of Winchilsea, purchased the estate and began construction of the Palladian mansion of Burley on the Hill followed by the restoration of the church. Further restoration took place in the 1790s and in 1869 the ecclesiastical architect, J.L. Pearson, was commissioned by George Henry Finch to extensively restore the beauty of the medieval church.

Pearson added the magnificent Victorian Clayton & Bell window at the east end, plus the north porch and built a covered passageway between the church and house. The interior furnishings were installed, along with the reredos. The medieval features retained included the 12th century north arcade, the 15th century font and the west tower, although this was rebuilt in 1913 by Alan George Finch.

Amongst the artistic treasures contained in this church is the moving sculpture by Sir Francis Chantrey of Lady Charlotte Finch, governess to George III's children.

The tower houses a clock mechanism by Joseph Knibb, dated 1678, and a single bell made by Alexander Rigby in 1705.

The contrast between the symmetrical monumental design of the house and the modest vernacular church is a delight to the eye.

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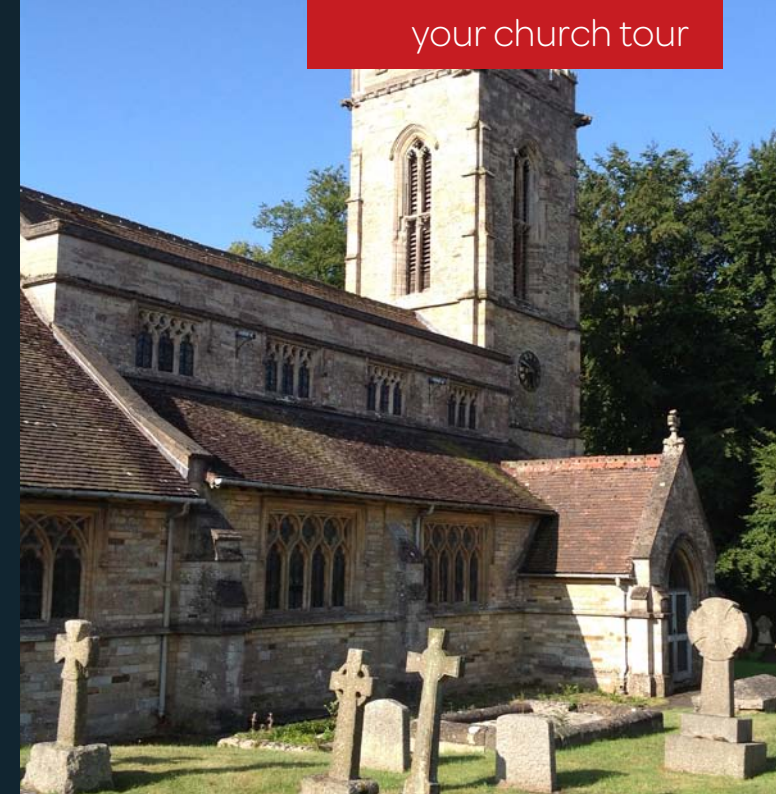
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# Church of Holy Cross

Burley, Rutland



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## Church of Holy Cross

### 10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 The octagonal **Font** dates from the 15th century and is decorated on seven sides with different tracery designs and a frieze of four-leaved flowers and heads. It stands on a plain base and has a wood and ironwork cover dating from the Victorian period.
- 2 The three-tiered **Tower** is the only part of the exterior to retain a medieval appearance and was rebuilt by Alan George Finch in 1913. The battlement parapet is decorated with flowers, animal heads and gargoyles. It has unusually tall belfry windows. The **Clock**, made in 1678 by Joseph Knibb, is a straightforward birdcage of wrought iron and one of the earliest to employ an anchor escapement. The single **Bell** was cast in 1705 by Alexander Rigby of Stamford.
- 3 The **Recumbent Knight and his Lady**, carved in alabaster, dates from the late 15th century or early 16th century. The effigies are believed to be Sir Thomas Sapcote, Lord of Burley Manor and his wife Joan.
- 4 The **WW1 Memorial Brass** commemorates the men of Burley Parish who died during WW1. The table under the Union flag and the funeral bier were presented to the church in remembrance of those killed in the war.
- 5 The **Lady Charlotte Finch** monument, dated 1820, is carved in marble by Sir Francis Chantrey. Lady Charlotte was the governess to the children of George III. Lady Charlotte is closely associated with the invention of wooden jigsaw puzzles.
- 6 The **Stained Glass Window** at the east end is by Clayton & Bell (c1870) and dedicated to George Finch, 9th Earl of Winchilsea and 4th Earl of Nottingham.
- 7 The **Reredos**, above the altar, is stone-carved with the figure of Christ and six Apostles in canopied niches. The reredos dates from the Victorian restoration of the church by J.L. Pearson c1869-70.
- 8 The **Organ** is Victorian and built by Nicholson c1870 with wooden casework by Pearson. The pipes are recorded as being coloured by the stained glass manufacturers, Clayton & Bell.
- 9 The **North Arcade**, with its three rounded Norman arches, dates from the late 12th century and is part of the original 12th century church.
- 10 The **Headstone**, in the churchyard, is of a stonemason who fell to his death in 1710 whilst working on the Winchilsea crest on the Burley Mansion House. The mason's brush, hammer and other tools of his trade are clearly visible.

