



THE CHURCHES  
CONSERVATION TRUST

Historic churches in  
Herefordshire  
Worcestershire

experience  
amazing  
grace

[visitchurches.org.uk/daysout](http://visitchurches.org.uk/daysout)

# step into the past

Herefordshire and Worcestershire have a host of wonderful historic churches to explore and enjoy.



Stepping inside these churches is like stepping back in time. You can wander into a Georgian world of quiet, simple elegance, gaze at the riotous Medieval fantasy that is 18th-century Gothick, or sit in a rural Norman church that has survived for almost 1,000 years.

All the churches in this leaflet have been saved by The Churches Conservation Trust. The Trust is a charity that cares for more than 340 churches in England. This is one of 18 leaflets that highlight their history and treasures.

For more information on the other guides in this series, as well as interactive maps and downloadable information, see [visitchurches.org.uk](http://visitchurches.org.uk)



## the great and the good

get acquainted with the creators of exquisite  
St Mary Magdalene, Croome D'Abitot



## Croome D'Abitot, St Mary Magdalene

Worcestershire

**A masterpiece of architectural fantasy in a National Trust park**

- *Monuments by famous 17th- and 18th-century sculptors*
- *Beautiful example of Georgian 'Gothick' architecture*

The church of St Mary Magdalene was created by two of the great names of the 18th century – Robert Adam and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. It was commissioned by the 6th Earl of Coventry as part of the remodelling of the Croome Park estate and rises from glorious landscaped parkland – a great Gothick celebration.

Built by some of the finest craftsmen in England, every detail has been considered, from pretty plaster mouldings to handsome carved pews. Opulent monuments brought from the old church, long since demolished, show the former Barons and Earls of Coventry in their full glory. The earliest – in black and white marble – shows the 1st Lord, who died in 1639, reclining under a canopy. The monument to the 1st Earl, who died in 1699, is missing. The 2nd Earl disapproved of his father's second marriage, at an advanced age, to a servant, Elizabeth Graham – and the monument is now in the nearby church of St Mary's at Elmley Castle.

Croome Park, Worcester WR8 9DW

→ 4m W of Pershore off A38 and A4104, follow National Trust signs to Croome Park

Nearest railway station: Pershore (7 miles)

🕒 *Open when Croome Park is open. For detailed opening times see the National Trust website*



2

## Holme Lacy, St Cuthbert

Herefordshire

**Angels, a demon and knights in armour**

The wealthy Scudamore family were patrons of this secluded stone church for over 500 years and their monuments are a spectacular treasure. John Scudamore (d. 1571) lies by his wife on a tomb chest, decked out in full armour. James Scudamore (d. 1668) wears Roman costume in a great wedding cake of a wall monument. Medieval stall carvings show angels, men, a horned demon and a dog.

Church Road, Holme Lacy, Hereford HR2 6LX

→ 5m SE of Hereford off B4399 beyond

Holme Lacy House Hotel

Nearest railway station: Hereford (6 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



3

## Richard's Castle, St Bartholomew

Herefordshire

**A Medieval church and Knights Templar chapel**

This 12th-century church, set high above the village, is next to one of the earliest 'Marcher' castles built by Norman overlords to defend the Anglo-Welsh border. The detached bell tower, dating from around 1400, was probably part of the castle's defences. Inside, the church has hardly been touched since Georgian times. Visit on a clear day and enjoy amazing views all the way to the Black Mountains and the Malvern Hills.

Richard's Castle, Nr Ludlow SY8 4ET

→ 5m SW of Ludlow off B4361 at Richard's Castle

Nearest railway station: Ludlow (4 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*





4

### Lower Sapey, St Bartholomew Old Church

Worcestershire

**A Norman time capsule  
in a beautiful setting**

A winding lane leads up to remote St Bartholomew's, which sits on a steep bank above a picturesque stream. Its only companions are a scattering of stone and timber-framed houses. The wonderful oak porch, weathered to a beautiful silver grey, is covered by a great tangle of honeysuckle in summer. Inside, the church has a pleasing simplicity – the plain plastered walls bear traces of paintings from many centuries.

Lower Sapey, Worcester WR6 6HE

→ 16m NW of Worcester off B4204 in Clifton-upon-Teme, signposted from Hope Lane  
Nearest railway station: Worcester (10 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



5

### Worcester, St Swithun

Worcestershire

**A Georgian church  
for gentlefolk**

The town centre church of St Swithun is an elegant, perfectly preserved early Georgian gem. Inside, it is airy and open with box pews, a gallery and an attractive arched ceiling. The carved three-decker pulpit is a work of art, and the 1795 organ by the Gray Brothers is Grade I listed.

Church Street, Worcester WR1 2RH

→ Worcester city centre, off High Street

Nearest railway station: Worcester Foregate St (300 yds)

🕒 *Open 1 May to 31 Oct: Fri 11am-3pm and Sat 11am-4pm;  
at other times key available from the Tourist Information  
Centre in the Guildhall*

visitchurches.org.uk/daysout

Spend a day with us

## More churches to enjoy

Each CCT church has been saved because it is special. We can't do justice to them all in one leaflet, so visit our website for more information on those only briefly described here.

### Herefordshire

#### Moreton Jeffries Church

6

A long, low Medieval church, with an attractive wooden bell turret, set in a pretty field. Inside there is an elaborately carved Jacobean pulpit, complete with sounding board and reading desk. The church's dedication is lost in time.

Moreton Jeffries, Nr Hereford HR1 3QY

→ 9m NE of Hereford off A465 between Burley Gate and Stoke Lacy

🕒 *Open daily*

#### Llanrothal, St John the Baptist

7

This remote whitewashed church on the Welsh border lies in an idyllic valley setting by the river Monnow. Rescued from ruin in 1921, it has a beautiful rustic Medieval interior.

Llanrothal, Monmouth NP25 5QJ

→ 5m NW of Monmouth and 18m S of Hereford off A466 near Welsh Newton

🕒 *Open daily*

#### Michaelchurch, St Michael

8

Said to have been founded in 1056, this lovely church hugs the side of a remote valley. A Roman altar is built into a blocked doorway and 13th-century painting decorates the walls.

Michaelchurch, Ross-on-Wye HR2 8LD

→ 6m W of Ross-on-Wye off A4137/B4521

🕒 *Open daily*

#### Stretford, St Cosmas & St Damian

9

This Medieval farmyard church has two massive 16th-century timber screens, 600-year-old tomb figures and a shrine for offerings to the Saints Cosmas and Damian, the patron saints of doctors.

Stretford, Leominster HR6 9DG

→ 4m SW of Leominster off A44 and A4110

🕒 *Open daily*

### Wormsley, St Mary

A Norman church with ancient origins in a beautiful rural setting. The pretty churchyard has the 19th-century table tombs of horticulturalist Thomas Andrew Knight and his classical scholar brother, Richard.

Wormsley, Hereford HR4 8LY

→ 8m NW of Hereford and 3m SE of Weobley off A480/A4110, on private road 100yds past Herefordshire Golf Club

🕒 *Open daily*

### Yatton Chapel

A tiny gem of a church, built by the Normans shortly after the Conquest, lies down a lane by a farm deep in the countryside. Its crumbling plaster walls and simple earth floor are enchanting.

How Caple, Hereford HR1 4TD

→ 5m N of Ross-on-Wye off B4244/A449 at Chapel Farm

🕒 *Open daily*

### Yazor, St Mary the Virgin

A Victorian church with a needle-sharp spire overlooking the Wye Valley. The dark and atmospheric interior includes colourful painting and wonderful woodcarving.

Yazor, Hereford HR4 7BA

→ 7m NW of Hereford on A480

🕒 *Open daily*



16

visitchurches.org.uk/joinus

Become a supporter

## Worcestershire

### Churchill, St Michael

A tiny, atmospheric, 14th-century village church with 17th-century furnishings, grimly beautiful monuments and strange stonecarvings on the north window sill.

Edwards Lane, Churchill, Worcester WR7 4QE

→ 7m E of Worcester off A442

🕒 *Open daily*

### Evesham, St Lawrence

A large, imposing church rebuilt on Norman foundations in the 16th century. It was rescued from ruin in 1836, and has stained glass by many major artists of the past 150 years.

Market Place, Evesham WR11 4BG

→ Evesham town centre

🕒 *Open daily: summer 9.30am-4.30pm; winter 9.30am-3.30pm*

### Pendock Old Church

This Norman church stands beside the ghost of the old Medieval village and manor it once served. Sir Edward Elgar may have played the lovely Georgian organ inside.

Sledge Green GL19 4QL

→ Off M50, 5m W of Tewkesbury, signposted from A438 at Sledge Green

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

### Spetchley, All Saints

A simple 700-year-old church next to Spetchley Park. Spectacular monuments to the local Berkeley family feature life-size figures in glorious 17th-century costume.

Spetchley, Worcester WR5 1RS

→ 3m E of Worcester on A44, follow signs to Spetchley Park Gardens

🕒 *Open 23 Mar to 30 Sep: Wed to Sun & Bank Holiday Mon 11am-6pm; Oct: Sat and Sun 11am-4pm; at other times keyholder nearby*

### Strensham, St John the Baptist

This handsome square-towered church has a dazzling interior, with a Norman tub font, 16th-century pews, a spectacular screen with painted panels and four centuries of family monuments.

Church Road, Stensham, Pershore WR8 9LW

→ 6m SW of Pershore near Strensham services southbound M5, follow signs to Strensham from A4104

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

10

13

14

15

16

17

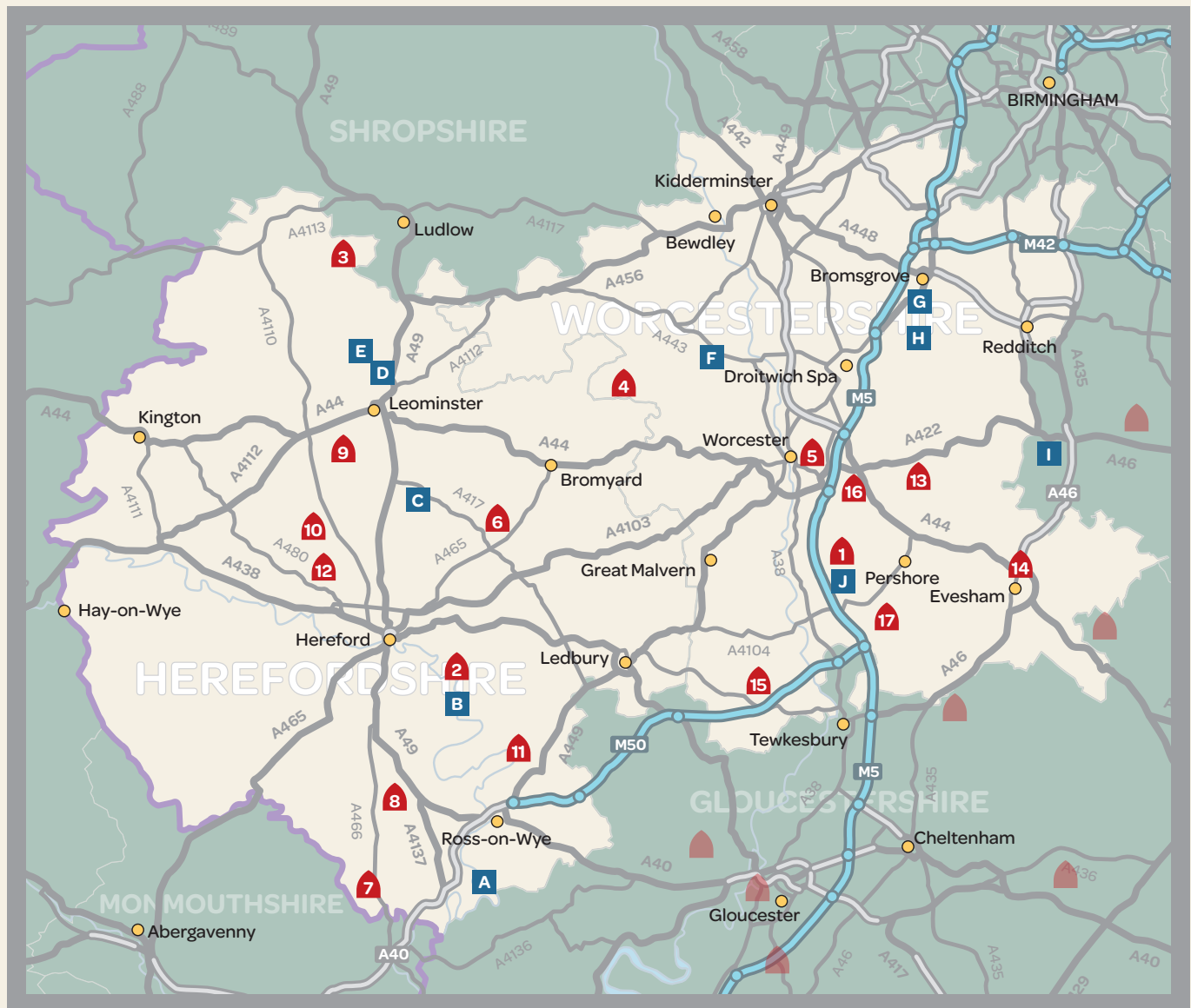
# Finding our churches

The map opposite shows the location of each of our churches in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, together with other nearby attractions and CCT churches in adjoining counties.

Our website, [visitchurches.org.uk](http://visitchurches.org.uk), has much more detailed information to help you plan your trip.

		Ordnance Survey ref
<b>1</b>	<b>Croome D'Abitot, St Mary Magdalene</b> (cover image)	SO 886 450
<b>2</b>	<b>Holme Lacy, St Cuthbert</b>	SO 569 348
<b>3</b>	<b>Richard's Castle, St Bartholomew</b>	SO 484 703
<b>4</b>	<b>Lower Sapey, St Bartholomew Old Church</b>	SO 699 602
<b>5</b>	<b>Worcester, St Swithun</b>	SO 851 549
<b>6</b>	<b>Moreton Jeffries Church</b>	SO 603 485
<b>7</b>	<b>Llanrothal, St John the Baptist</b>	SO 489 169
<b>8</b>	<b>Michaelchurch, St Michael</b>	SO 522 255
<b>9</b>	<b>Stretford, St Cosmas &amp; St Damian</b>	SO 443 558
<b>10</b>	<b>Wormsley, St Mary</b>	SO 427 478
<b>11</b>	<b>Yatton Chapel</b>	SO 626 304
<b>12</b>	<b>Yazor, St Mary the Virgin</b>	SO 406 466
<b>13</b>	<b>Churchill, St Michael</b>	SO 923 535
<b>14</b>	<b>Evesham, St Lawrence</b>	SP 037 436
<b>15</b>	<b>Pendock Old Church</b>	SO 817 337
<b>16</b>	<b>Spetchley, All Saints</b>	SO 895 539
<b>17</b>	<b>Strensham, St John the Baptist</b>	SO 911 406

**CCT churches in neighbouring counties.**  
For details, go to [visitchurches.org.uk](http://visitchurches.org.uk) or see the relevant county guide.



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey © on behalf of The Controller of HMSO © Crown Copyright 2012

## Other local heritage attractions

- A** Goodrich Castle 🏰
- B** Shipley Estate Gardens
- C** Hampton Court Gardens
- D** Berrington Hall – house, garden 🏡
- E** Croft Castle – house, gardens, parkland 🏡
- F** Witley Court and gardens 🏡

- G** Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings
- H** Hanbury Hall – house, garden, park walks 🏡
- I** Ragley Hall – house, gardens, sculpture park 🏡
- J** Croome Park – house, landscape gardens 🏡



[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)  
Telephone 0870 333 1181

## Find out more

Our website has a host of additional information that will help you plan and enjoy your visit, including:

- Interactive maps
- Filterable lists of all our churches
- Up to date opening times
- Visitor comments
- Downloadable guides
- Image galleries
- Event listings

Go to [visitchurches.org.uk](http://visitchurches.org.uk) to access all this and more.



Become a fan

 [facebook.com/ChurchesConservationTrust](https://facebook.com/ChurchesConservationTrust)

Follow us

 [twitter.com/TheCCT](https://twitter.com/TheCCT)

## Welcome to a thousand years of English history

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk.

We've saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract more than 1.5 million visitors a year. With our help and with your support they are kept open and in use – living once again at the heart of their communities.


### Visiting information


Go to [visitchurches.org.uk](http://visitchurches.org.uk) for detailed directions, local maps, information on disability access and up to date opening times.

For other enquiries, call us on **020 7213 0660** (Monday – Friday, office hours), or email [welcome@tcct.org.uk](mailto:welcome@tcct.org.uk)

! Please take care when visiting our churches. Floors may be uneven/worn or slippery, and interior lighting may be low.


 Assistance dogs are welcome.

 For full disabled access information, see our website.

 Unsure about the 'keyholder nearby' access? You will find details at the church or call us in advance.

**P** Parking is available at most churches – see the website for more details.

 The closest station for each church is shown in the guide.

 For bus routes, see [traveline.org.uk](http://traveline.org.uk)

 Cyclists welcome! For cycle routes, go to [sustrans.org.uk](http://sustrans.org.uk)

### Help us save historic churches

The CCT needs to raise an additional £1.5million every year just to cover essential repairs. If you enjoy your visit please leave a donation at the church, or go to [visitchurches.org.uk/donate](http://visitchurches.org.uk/donate) for details of how you can help.



THE CHURCHES  
CONSERVATION TRUST

[visitchurches.org.uk](http://visitchurches.org.uk)

The Churches Conservation Trust  
1 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9EE  
Registered Charity No: 258612 © CCT 2011