



THE CHURCHES
CONSERVATION TRUST

Historic churches in
Yorkshire

meet the
great
survivors

follow in the footsteps of knights and nobles

There's a wealth of history and beauty waiting to be discovered in the historic churches of Yorkshire. Step through their doors and go back in time. Follow in the footsteps of knights, nobles, soldiers, fishermen and craftsmen through the centuries.



Whether deep in the Yorkshire Dales or in the heart of the historic city of York, each of these churches has something to enjoy, whether it is exquisite art, memorials of great battles or simply the opportunity to sit and reflect in a place of peace and beauty.

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



treasures revealed

the dazzling glass and unrivalled monuments of Medieval knights and ladies in fashionable dress at All Saints, Harewood, are richly rewarding



Fylingdales, St Stephen Old Church

North Yorkshire

1

A fishermen's church overlooking the sea

- Memorials and stories of a seafaring congregation
- Rare surviving 'maidens' garlands' that decorated coffins

Likened to an old mariner gazing out to sea, St Stephen's stands majestically on the hillside between Whitby and Ravenscar, overlooking Robin Hood's Bay. Built in 1821, the church resonates with the history of a resilient North Sea fishing community. Inside, painted box pews, a full-length gallery and a three-decker pulpit, designed for the preaching of the Word, have all survived.

Successful lifeboat rescue missions are listed and there is a touching display of rare 'maidens' garlands' – 'crowns' used in the funeral processions of young – and chaste – women. Outside, gravestones huddle tightly round the church walls. Some recall tragedies: strangers who drowned on the coast or locals whose lives were cruelly claimed by the sea.

Robin Hood's Bay, Whitby YO22 4PN

→ 5m SE of Whitby, follow B1447 to Robin Hood's Bay
Nearest railway station: Whitby (5 miles)

🕒 Open daily



Skelton-cum-Newby, Christ the Consoler

North Yorkshire

2

A church built with unpaid ransom money

- Kaleidoscopic interior of pattern, colour and light
- Designed by one of the greatest Victorian architects

Standing majestically in the parkland of Newby Hall, this Victorian church, with its colourful and vibrant interior, seems the very celebration of life – yet it stands as a testament to tragedy. It is a memorial to Frederick Vyner who, aged 23, was captured and murdered by brigands in Greece in 1870. His mother used the money collected for his ransom to commission British architect William Burges – celebrated for decorating Westminster Palace and rebuilding Cardiff Castle – to design this church in the grounds of her home at Newby Hall.

Pattern and colour are everywhere, with stained glass, fine marble and gilded mosaics filling the interior. Exquisite carvings bring stone and wood to life, while in the rose window, Christ the Consoler presides. The exterior with its fine stone spire is equally attractive. A little dog keeps the gargoyles company – a sweetly domestic touch in this magnificent monument to a lost son.

The best time to visit is on your way into Newby Hall.

Newby Hall Estate, Skelton-cum-Newby,

→ Skelton-on-Ure, Ripon HG4 5AE

4m SE of Ripon off B6265

Nearest railway station: Knaresborough (6.5 miles)

🕒 Open daily



best kept secrets

the intimate and characterful church of Holy Trinity Goodramgate, offers a unique and memorable experience in York



York, Holy Trinity Goodramgate

North Yorkshire

A glimpse of the Medieval world behind a busy street

- Magnificent 15th-century stained glass
- See the evolution of a church over seven centuries

Holy Trinity Goodramgate has the air of a hidden treasure. It stands on a little patch of green, tucked away behind one of York's busiest shopping streets. To visit, you pass through an 18th-century archway tacked on to buildings that served as artisans' workshops in the 14th century.

The church itself is full of character. The floors and arcades are charmingly uneven. Light filters through the windows, illuminating honey-coloured stone. On sunny days, the glass casts transient shafts of coloured light on the walls and Medieval faces, gloriously backlit, stare out from the windows. The building dates chiefly from the 15th century, but has features from its foundation in the 12th century right up to the 19th century.

Outdoor benches make the churchyard the perfect place for reflection, offering a welcome retreat from the hectic world outside.

70 Goodramgate, York YO1 7LF

→ York city centre off Goodramgate

Nearest railway station: York (0.5 miles)

🕒 Open Tue-Sat, 10am-4pm; Sun-Mon, 12am-4pm



Wentworth, Holy Trinity Old Church

South Yorkshire

4

An old estate church rooted in village history

- Atmospheric part-ruin set in a Domesday village
- Memorials to the powerful Wentworth dynasty

This atmospheric, partly ruined building started life as a church in the 15th century but was converted to a mausoleum in 1877 after a new church was commissioned. Today, only the chancel and north chapel remain intact.

Wentworth is a must-see destination for all fans of Catherine Bailey, author of the historical novel *Black Diamonds*, which charts the rise and fall of the Wentworth Fitz-Williams.

In the chancel, brass and stone memorials and alabaster effigies from the 16th and 17th centuries trace the powerful Wentworth family, including the Earl of Strafford, a supporter of the Crown who was executed just before the Civil War, and Charles Watson-Wentworth, the 2nd Marquis of Rockingham, who helped to negotiate an end to the American War of Independence.

Wentworth estate workers and villagers rest in the churchyard, including the 17-year-old Chow Kwang Tseay from China, baptised John Dennis Blonde. He was thought to have been rescued from *HMS Blonde* and brought to Rotherham in 1847 as a 14-year-old.

Main Street, Wentworth, Rotherham S62 7TX

→ 5m NW of Rotherham on B6090

Nearest railway station: Elsecar (1.5 miles)

🕒 Open May to Sep, Sun and Bank Hols; at other times keyholder nearby



Harewood, All Saints

West Yorkshire

5

Rare and beautiful Medieval sculptures on the Harewood estate

- 15th-century church restored by famous Victorian architect
- Alabaster effigies, said to be the most beautiful in England

Nestling in the grounds of Harewood House, All Saints dates from the 15th century. It is remarkable for six pairs of effigies, dating from 1419 to 1510, commemorating the owners of Harewood Castle and the nearby Gawthorpe estate. They are some of the greatest surviving examples of alabaster carving – an art for which England was once famed throughout Europe – and offer a fascinating glimpse into the armour, robes, jewellery and headdresses of the day. The earliest depicts the fearless judge William Gascoigne in the robes of the Lord Chief Justice. The latest – of Edward Redman – is thought to be a true likeness of the man, rare in Medieval times.

The church was restored in 1862-63 by Sir George Gilbert Scott, designer of St Pancras Station and the Albert Memorial. The interior has an unadorned simplicity.

Harewood Park, Leeds LS17 9LG

→ 7m N of Leeds off A61 in grounds of Harewood House

Nearest railway station: Weeton (3 miles)

🕒 Open Apr to Oct, daily, 10am-6pm; at other times, call Harewood House on 0113 218 1010



Leeds, St John the Evangelist

West Yorkshire

Magnificent Jacobean carvings in a rare church from Charles I's reign

- *The oldest church in Leeds city centre*
- *Riotous carved furnishings from the 1630s*

St John's is a Jacobean marvel – its carved stone arches and buttermilk walls providing the backdrop for some of the most exuberant and fabulous wood carving in England. The screen is a riot of hearts, grotesque heads and animals, topped with a colourful gilded Royal Arms. Bright painted angels play instruments in the roof and look down on wonderful carved pews below.

The church was entirely funded by wealthy merchant and Royalist John Harrison, who also paid for the grammar school and almshouses nearby. Harrison's benevolent spirit still pervades the church – he is buried near the altar, and a series of stained glass windows depicts his good works. One shows an apocryphal tale in which Harrison presents King Charles, imprisoned in Leeds, with a tankard of gold coins disguised as a draught of ale.

The church now hosts regular events throughout the year – check the CCT website for details.

23 New Briggate, Leeds LS2 8JD

→ Mark Lane off New Briggate in central Leeds
Nearest railway station: Leeds (1 mile)

🕒 [See website for details](#)

6



2

testament to love

a mother's love for a lost son is celebrated in the richly extravagant interior of Christ the Consoler, Skelton-cum-Newby



7

Cowthorpe, St Michael

North Yorkshire

A Medieval church with beautiful heraldic glass

St Michael's is an impressive, imposing church. It was built by eminent lawyer Bryan Roucliff in 1458 and is full of treasures bestowed by the Roucliff family. In the chancel is an elaborate Easter Sepulchre, a canopied wooden chest used during Easter worship in Medieval parish churches. A monumental brass in the chancel has effigies of a man and woman, believed to be Roucliff and his wife. Soft light streams through the church's fine leaded windows enhancing the stone interior.

Oak Road, Cowthorpe, Wetherby LS22 5EZ

→ 3m N of Wetherby and E of A1

Nearest railway station: Cattal (2.5 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



8

South Cowton, St Mary

North Yorkshire

A finely crafted church built in warring times

St Mary's stands above the water meadows of South Cowton, with views of the neighbouring castle. Sir Richard Conyers, a supporter of the House of York, erected both buildings between 1450 and 1470 at the start of the Wars of the Roses. The handsome church, like the castle, is sturdy in character. Inside, craftsmanship is superb, especially the stained glass, wall painting, consecration crosses and roof. Effigies believed to be of Richard and his two wives lie in the chancel.

South Cowton, Northallerton DL7 0JB

→ 8m E of Richmond off B1263

Nearest railway station: Northallerton (8 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



9

Wensley, Holy Trinity

North Yorkshire

Intriguing glimpses of history in a beautiful parish church

Built on 8th-century Saxon foundations, this 13th-century church sits on the bank of the river Ure at the eastern end of picturesque Wensleydale. Inside, its rich history is all around, with good examples of Medieval wall paintings, fine Flemish brasses and a 15th-century reliquary which is claimed to have once held the relics of St Agatha. Sit and marvel at the sumptuous richness of the Scrope family pew (local landowners) and imagine life as the Lord or Lady of nearby Bolton Castle.

Low Lane, Wensley, Leyburn DL8 4HX

→ 2m S of Leyburn on A684

Nearest railway station: Northallerton (17 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



10

Whenby, St Martin

North Yorkshire

An old village church in a quiet rural setting

St Martin is set in a beautiful rural location – drifts of snowdrops clothe the nearby banks in early spring and sheep graze between the gravestones in summer. The church is equally attractive. It was built around 1400 – although some parts may be 200 years older. Inside, the church is simple and airy, with pale stone offset against limewashed walls. Among the most interesting features are 14 massive Medieval oak benches and a Jacobean screen, with original door latch and hinges.

Whenby, York YO61 4SE

→ 15m N of York off B1363 and 10m W of Malton

Nearest railway station: Malton (9.8 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*

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.

North Yorkshire

Allerton Mauleverer, St Martin

11

A neo-Norman church, dating from 1746, located in a parkland setting. Inside, there are several timber Medieval effigies – reputed to depict the Knights of Mauleverer, who founded an old church on this site.

Allerton Mauleverer, Allerton Park, Knaresborough HG5 0SE
→ 7m E of Harrogate, N of A59 and E of A1

🕒 *Open daily*

Birdforth, St Mary

12

A simple, unspoilt Norman or pre-Conquest church with Tudor alterations. It consists of a nave, chancel and bell-cote (a small belfry with a pointed roof).

Birdforth, Thirsk YO61 4NW
→ 5m SE of Thirsk on A19

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Coverham, Holy Trinity

13

A handsome stone church with a large churchyard, set in the beautiful Cover valley. The building is of 13th-century origin and has a calm, light interior.

Coverham, Leyburn DL8 4RN
→ 4m S of Leyburn off A6108

🕒 *Open daily*

East Heslerton, St Andrew

14

With wonderful views over the surrounding countryside, this village church, completed in 1877, boasts a striking 32-metre spire. The exuberant Victorian interior – designed as a complete, unified scheme – is particularly impressive.

East Heslerton, Malton YO17 8RN
→ 8m SW of Scarborough on A64

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Lead, St Mary

15

Rescued by walkers in 1931, St Mary's is known as the Ramblers' Church. It is next to the infamous Towton battlefield, where the bloodiest battle on English soil was fought, and you can find monuments to crusading knights in this tiny, 14th-century church.

Lead, Saxton, Tadcaster LS24 9QN
→ 5m S of Tadcaster off B1217

🕒 *Open daily*



9

Roecliffe, St Mary

16

Set near a beautiful village green, this unusual barrel-vaulted neo-Norman church has many interesting furnishings, including a Jacobean pulpit, a 17th-century communion table and a vestry door from York Minster.

Roecliffe, Ripon YO51 9LZ
→ 1m W of Boroughbridge off A1 and 5m SE of Ripon

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Skelton-in-Cleveland, All Saints Old Church

17

A secluded Georgian church, set in parkland with views to Skelton Castle. Pirates' graves with skull-and-crossbone motifs mingle with wild cherry and garlic in the churchyard.

Church Lane, Skelton-in-Cleveland,
Saltburn-by-the-Sea TS12 2HQ
→ 10m E of Middlesborough off A173 and
3m NE of Guisborough

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Stainburn, St Mary

This enchanting Norman church, with a stone roof and grey sandstone walls, has fine views over Wharfedale. It contains many original Norman features including a splendid chancel arch and a well-carved font.

Stainburn, Harrogate LS21 2LW
→ 6m SW of Harrogate off B6161

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Stanwick, St John the Baptist

This Early English church built on a pre-Roman site in an area of great natural beauty has the best collection of Anglo-Saxon grave markers in North Yorkshire.

Stanwick, Richmond DL11 7RT
→ 7m N of Richmond off B6274

🕒 *Open daily*

Wintringham, St Peter

This beautiful and peaceful church, with an elegant spire, was built from the Norman period to the 15th century. It is full of interesting furnishings, including Jacobean bench pews, Medieval carvings and stained glass. Look carefully and you might also find green men, mythical beasts and sword markings.

Church Lane, Wintringham, Malton YO17 8HU
→ 11m E of Malton off A64

🕒 *Open daily*

York, Old St Lawrence's Tower

The only surviving remnant of a Medieval church, this impressive tower has a Norman doorway, with carvings of foliage and grotesque faces. An attractive parapet was added to the top of the tower in the 15th century.

Hull Road, York YO10 3BN
→ In the churchyard of the Victorian church of St Lawrence off Lawrence Street

🕒 *Tower only, no visitor access to interior*

South Yorkshire

Cadeby, St John the Evangelist

Designed by renowned Victorian architect George Gilbert Scott in the Early English style, this church – built in 1856 – has original furniture, detailed carving and painted decoration on the roof.

Cadeby, Doncaster DN5 7SW
→ 5m SW of Doncaster off A6023

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

18

19

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21

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visitchurches.org.uk/joinus

Become a supporter

Edlington, St Peter

This lovely church from the late 12th century contains several masterpieces of Norman carving – including a chancel arch decorated with several rows of chevrons.

Old Edlington, Doncaster DN12 1PZ
→ 4m W of Doncaster on B6376

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Kirk Sandall, St Oswald

A church of great charm, built mainly in Norman times, although Saxon construction is also evident. The Rokeby chapel is a 16th-century addition – here the body of William Rokeby, once a rector at St Oswald's, is interred in a marble tomb.

Kirk Sandall Old Village, Doncaster DN3 1RA
→ 3m NE of Doncaster and W of A18

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Throapham, St John the Baptist

This church dates from the 13th century – the tower, windows and font, however, are from the 15th century. Its great treasure is a beautifully carved stone coffin lid from 1300.

St John's Road, Throapham, Laughton, Sheffield S25 1YL
→ 6m SE of Rotherham and N of B6463

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

West Yorkshire

Copley, St Stephen

Sited attractively on a wooded hillside above the Calder Valley, this neo-Gothic church was built in 1861-65 for woollen mill workers. There is a noteworthy sequence of stained glass in the apse.

North Dean Road, Copley, Halifax HX4 8QA
→ 1m S of Halifax off A6026

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Haley Hill, Halifax, All Souls

This Halifax landmark is one of the most magnificent buildings designed by architect George Gilbert Scott. Completed in 1859, it has a 72-metre-high spire and dazzling stained glass created by Victorian master craftsmen.

All Souls Road, Haley Hill, Halifax HX3 6DR
→ Off A647 Haley Hill

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

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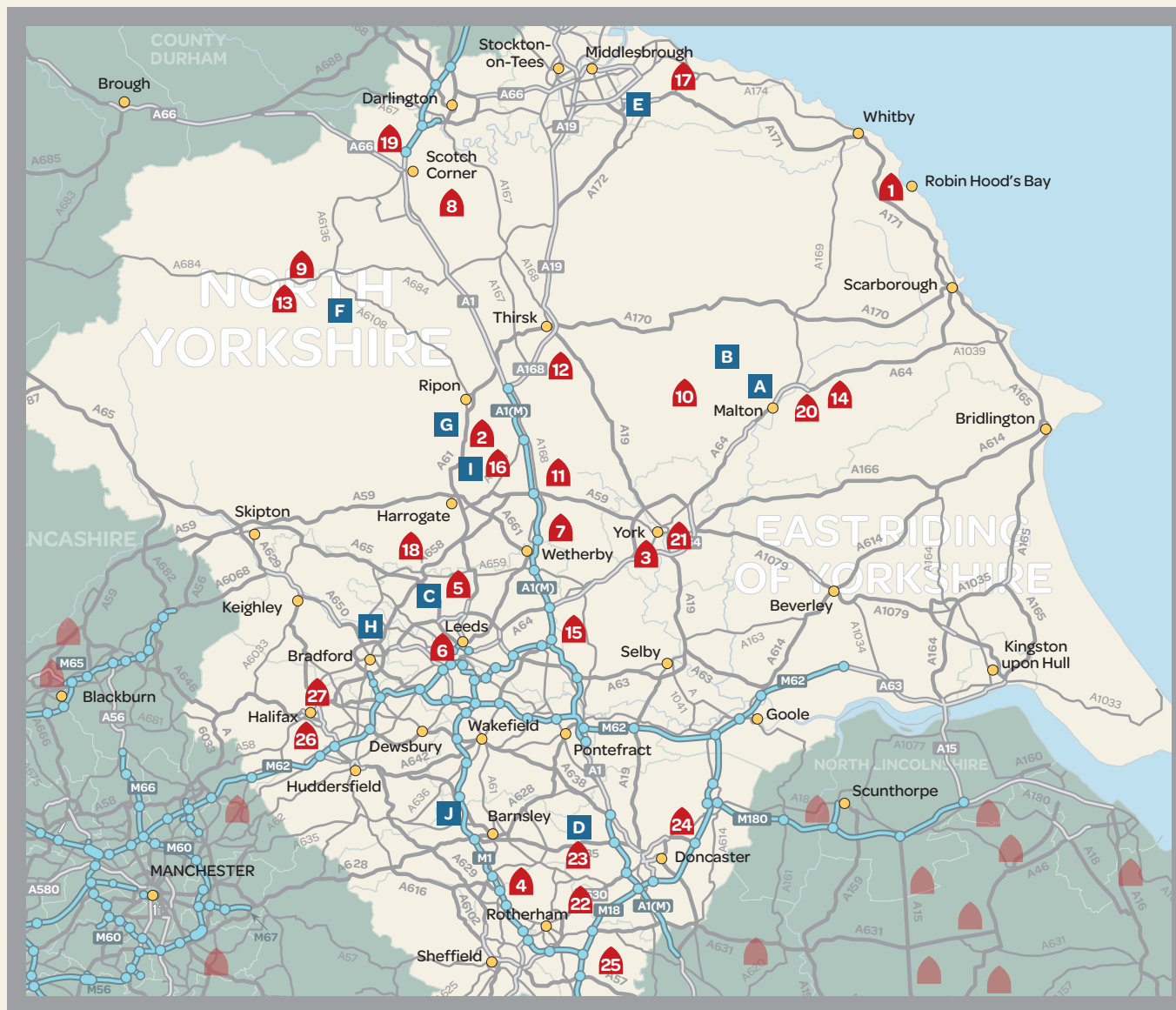
Finding our churches

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

Our website, visitchurches.org.uk, has much more detailed information to help you plan your trip.

	Church Name	Ordnance Survey ref
1	Fylingdales, St Stephen Old Church	NZ 942 059
2	Skelton-cum-Newby, Christ the Consoler	SE 360 679
3	York, Holy Trinity Goodramgate	SE 605 522
4	Wentworth, Holy Trinity Old Church	SK 384 983
5	Harewood, All Saints (cover image)	SE 314 451
6	Leeds, St John the Evangelist	SE 302 338
7	Cowthorpe, St Michael	SE 427 427
8	South Cowton, St Mary	NZ 293 027
9	Wensley, Holy Trinity	SE 092 895
10	Whenby, St Martin	SE 631 699
11	Allerton Mauleverer, St Martin	SE 416 579
12	Birdforth, St Mary	SE 486 758
13	Coverham, Holy Trinity	SE 104 864
14	East Heselton, St Andrew	SE 926 766
15	Lead, St Mary	SE 464 369
16	Roecliffe, St Mary	SE 375 660
17	Skelton-in-Cleveland, All Saints Old Church	NZ 653 191
18	Stainburn, St Mary	SE 247 485
19	Stanwick, St John the Baptist	NZ 185 120
20	Wintringham, St Peter	SE 887 731
21	York, St Lawrence's Tower	SE 613 513
22	Cadeby, St John the Evangelist	SE 515 005
23	Edlington, St Peter	SK 533 973
24	Kirk Sandall, St Oswald	SE 609 081
25	Throapham, St John the Baptist	SK 523 876
26	Copley, St Stephen	SE 084 223
27	Haley Hill, Halifax, All Souls	SE 092 261
	CCT churches in neighbouring counties.	

For details, go to visitchurches.org.uk or see the relevant county guide.



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Other local heritage attractions

- A** Castle Howard – house, park, gardens
- B** Nunnington Hall – house, gardens
- C** Harewood House
- D** Brodsworth Hall and Gardens
- E** Ormesby Hall – house, gardens
- F** Forbidden Corner – fantasy gardens

- G** Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal water garden
- H** Salts Mill – galleries, Hockney collection
- I** Newby Hall
- J** Yorkshire Sculpture Park



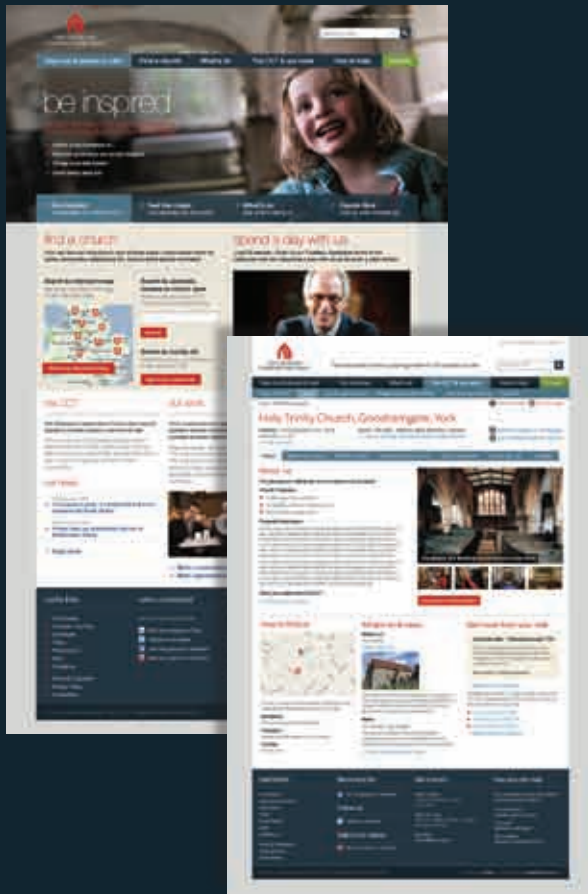
www.english-heritage.org.uk
Telephone 0870 333 1181

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 to access all this and more.



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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 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


! 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

 Cyclists welcome! For cycle routes, go to 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 for details of how you can help.



THE CHURCHES
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visitchurches.org.uk

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