



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

89 Fleet Street · London EC4Y 1DH

Registered Charity No. 258612

PRICE: £1.00



CHURCH OF
ST MICHAEL AND
ALL ANGELS

BROWNSOVER
WARWICKSHIRE





THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION
TRUST WELCOMES YOU TO THE
CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL
AND ALL ANGELS
BROWNSOVER, WARWICKSHIRE

Many years ago Christians built and set apart this place for prayer. They made their church beautiful with their skill and craftsmanship. Here they have met for worship, for children to be baptised, for couples to be married and for the dead to be brought for burial. If you have time, enjoy the history, the peace and the holiness here. Please use the prayer card and, if you like it, you are welcome to take a folded copy with you.

Although services are no longer regularly held here, this church remains consecrated; inspiring, teaching and ministering through its beauty and atmosphere. It is one of 300 churches throughout England cared for by The Churches Conservation Trust. The Trust was created in 1969 and was, until 1994, known as the Redundant Churches Fund. Its object is to ensure that all these churches are kept in repair and cared for, in the interests of the Church and Nation, for present and future generations.

Please help us to care for this church. There is a box for donations or, if you prefer to send a gift, it will be gratefully received at the Trust's headquarters at 89 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DH (Registered Charity No. 258612).

We hope that you will enjoy your visit and be encouraged to see our other churches. Some are in towns; some in remote country districts. Some are easy and others hard to find but all are worth the effort.

Nearby is the Trust church of:

HOLDENBY, ALL SAINTS

6 miles north-west of Northampton off A50

UPTON, ST MICHAEL

2 miles west of Northampton on A45

WOLFHAMCOTE, ST PETER

4 miles west of Daventry off A425

CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

BROWNSOVER, WARWICKSHIRE

by CHRISTOPHER DALTON

BROWNSOVER CHURCH was originally established in the 12th century as a chapel-of-ease to Clifton upon Dunsmore. The place-name combines the personal name Bruno with 'over', a winding stream. The present building retains work from the early 13th and 14th centuries, including some of the windows and the chancel arch. It was largely rebuilt along conservative lines in 1876 at the behest of Allesley Boughton-Leigh of Brownsover Hall and reopened on 22nd July that year. The architect of both buildings was Sir George Gilbert Scott Senior. The Hall is now an hotel.



The church is small, well suited to the hamlet which Brownsover until recently was, and is built of local stone with tiled roofs and ornamental iron gutters and rainwater heads. These and the fine west door date from 1876. The bell above was cast by Hugh Watts of Leicester in 1636. Matthew Bloxam, the well-known 19th century ecclesiologist, was buried in the churchyard here in 1888.

Inside the church are a 13th-century font and some important woodwork. The pulpit with tester is of oak, doubtless Continental in origin and dating from the early 18th century. With the carved panelling adjoining, it was introduced into the church by Allesley Boughton-Leigh. Much of the screen, recently returned to its proper position in front of the chancel arch, dates from the 15th century. The organ by Bryceson is housed in part of the magnificent 17th-century case from St John's College Chapel, Cambridge (the rest can be seen in the old church at Bilton, Rugby), with some panelling added including a relief of the Nativity. The glass in the east window commemorates Laurence Sheriff, a lay rector of Brownsover, who founded Rugby School in the 16th century. The floor below was paved in 1876 with Godwin's patterned tiles.

Separated from the new Brownsover housing estate by the busy A426 road, St Michael's was designated pastorally redundant and placed in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust in 1987. Initial repairs were carried out under the supervision of Mr L.F. Cave of Leamington. Following his retirement, subsequent repairs have been directed by Mr William Hawkes of Stratford-upon-Avon.



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*Photographs by Christopher Dalton
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