



About St Werburgh's

Although the church is of ancient foundation, the surviving structure dates to 1601 and later. The construction of a new church was necessary as frequent flooding caused much damage to the earlier building. The church was rebuilt and extended several times during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The Victorian church was designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield, whose alterations were implemented during the 1890s. It was re-oriented on a north-south axis, with the chancel of 1699 being incorporated as a transept and chapel. Blomfield also designed many of the new church furnishings, including the pulpit.

The main Victorian part of the church is now closed to the public. The Churches Conservation Trust has cared for the 17th-century chancel since 1989. This part of the church looks much as it would have done when the celebrated essayist and lexicographer Dr Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) married Elizabeth Porter here on 9th July 1735. The architecture reflects the Georgian taste for Classical features: the coffered ceiling, column capitals and reredos all hark back to the architecture of the ancient world.

There are many memorials in the church, ranging in date between 1780 and 1830. There are also several monuments commemorating the fallen of World War I and World War II. Some are dedicated to individuals, whilst others are collective memorials.

Today St Werburgh's serves as a reminder of the city's rich and important history.

A thousand years of English history awaits you

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

We've saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract more than a 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.



Access

Due to their age, historic church floors can be uneven and worn and lighting can be low level. Please take care, especially in wet weather when floors can be slippery.

Help us do more

To protect these churches, and others like them, we need your help. If you enjoy your visit please give generously or if you would like to become a CCT supporter and join in our exclusive 'behind-the-scenes' visits please go to our website.



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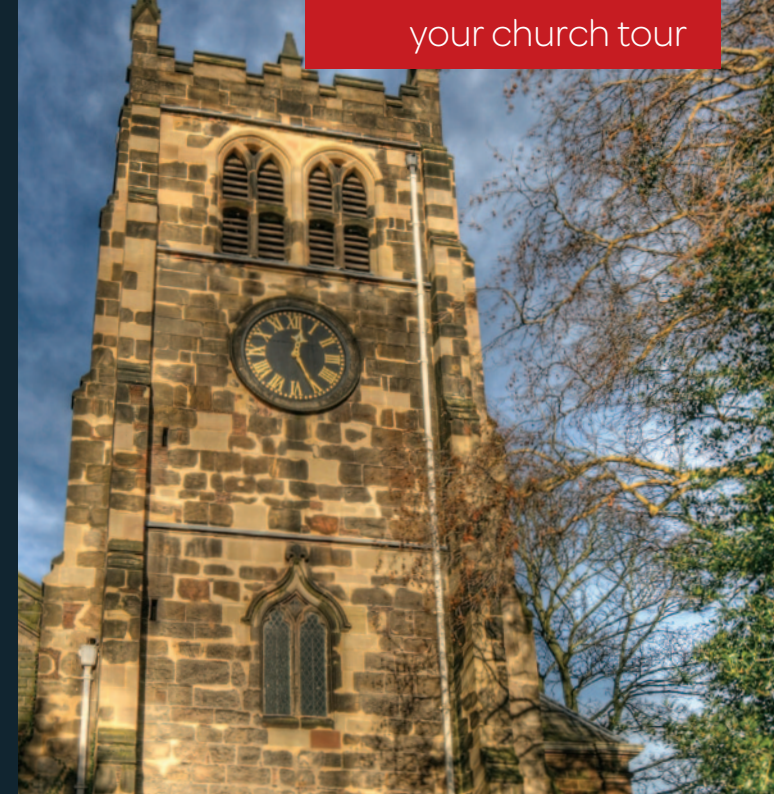
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your church tour



Church of St Werburgh

Derby



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The historic church of St Werburgh

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 The **oak choir** stalls date to the restoration of 1873. They were designed by H. I. Stevens and made by Mr Chapman of Norwich.
- 2 The wrought iron **chancel screen** was designed by Blomfield, in 1897. The screen is now set against the blocked west arch of the chancel wall, making it a decorative rather than a functional screen.
- 3 The handsome oak **vestry screen** dates to the early 18th century, although it has been restored since. Intriguingly, it does not appear on the church's plans from 1874, which may signify that it was not in place at this time and had been removed for some purpose.
- 4 The **oldest monument** predates the current church, dating from 1626 and commemorating Gervase Sleigh. The most **elaborate monument** is in memory of Sarah Winyates, who died in 1828. It cost £600, nearly £30,000 in today's money.
- 5 The **font cover** was made by a local smith, Robert Bakewell, in 1718. He was paid £12 for the work. The font itself is of an unknown date but may have been made during the 1873 restorations.
- 6 The wrought iron **pulpit** was designed in 1894 by Blomfield to match the iron font cover. An inscription on the pulpit reads 'In memory of William Grimwood-Taylor and Anne his wife'.
- 7 The **stained glass** in the chancel dates to around the time of the 1873 restoration and has been attributed to the Mayer firm of Munich, Germany. The two windows depict the Crucifixion and the Ascension.
- 8 The **reredos** is early Georgian, dating to 1708. It displays the Ten Commandments, the Creed and the Lord's Prayer, topped by a gilded royal arms. It was crafted by Thomas Trimmer, who was paid £8 3s. 4d. for the work.
- 9 The **floor tiles** were crafted by W. B. Simpson and Sons and were installed during the 1873 restoration.
- 10 After the Reformation it was customary to have the **royal arms** displayed somewhere in the church, usually in the chancel or above the chancel arch. Here they are the arms of Queen Anne (1702- 1714).

