



THE CHURCHES
CONSERVATION TRUST

Historic churches in
Norfolk

delight in the
treasures
of the past

visitchurches.org.uk/daysout

Medieval delights

Explore Norfolk's historic churches and be transported back to a time when this was one of the most prosperous and populated counties of England.



Medieval Norfolk had a greater concentration of churches than anywhere else in Europe. Each of the survivors is special.

Seek out stone angels or look for the little monsters hatched by Medieval minds. Or spring forward in time to a Victorian Gothic fantasy or a Classical temple designed by Robert Adam.

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



amazing
grace

light fills graceful St Nicholas' Chapel, Kings Lynn, illuminating glorious glass and angels playing celestial instruments



King's Lynn, St Nicholas' Chapel

1

Nine centuries of treasures in the largest chapel in England

- Beautiful Medieval porch, superb carvings and monuments
- Fabulous memorials
- Spire designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott

From the tip of its 19th-century spire to its Norman foundations, everything about this town-centre church is dazzling. Light floods from its magnificent windows into the interior. The vividly coloured picture panels to the east depict 32 scenes from the life of Jesus.

Monuments from the 17th and 18th centuries, some with startlingly life-like painted figures, celebrate Lynn's seamen, merchants, mayors and shopkeepers. Among these monuments is a marble urn designed by famous Scottish architect, Robert Adam.

The carved woodwork was of such quality that some of it is now in the V&A Museum, but in the Medieval stalls you can still see a collection of creatures that make the green man look tame. Up in the 15th-century wooden roof, carved angels with outstretched wings sing and play musical instruments. One holds a recorder – the earliest ever portrayal of the instrument in church carving.

St Ann's Street, King's Lynn PE30 1QS

→ Nearest railway station: King's Lynn (short walk)

🕒 *Open mid Jun to end Sep: Tue and Sat, 10.30am-4.30pm; at other times, key available from Tudor Rose Hotel (opposite chapel) or True's Yard Museum*



Norwich, St John Maddermarket

2

A 500-year old city church with a rich collection of furnishings

- Glorious Victorian stained glass
- An interior flooded with light
- A plaque to William Kemp, who once danced from London to Norwich in nine days

The handsome flint tower of St John's rises above Maddermarket in the city centre. The present church was built in the 15th century when Norwich was one of the wealthiest cities of Europe. It survived a gas explosion in 1876 during a choir practice that stunned the rector, singed the choirboys and shattered windows and furniture. Today's sumptuous stained glass windows are Victorian and 20th-century replacements.

The church's square interior is filled with marvellous monuments, from elegant plaques to detailed little figures in Tudor dress. All around are rich furnishings – part of an interesting and eccentric collection assembled by William Busby, rector from 1898 to 1923. He sought out, or commissioned, a whole variety of items to beautify his church, including the magnificent Georgian canopy over the high altar and the altar screen in the Lady Chapel.

Maddermarket, Norwich NR2 1DS

→ Central Norwich, off Pottergate

Nearest railway station: Norwich (short walk)

🕒 *See website for opening times*



3

Barton Bendish, St Mary

A tiny thatched church with Medieval paintings and Norman carving

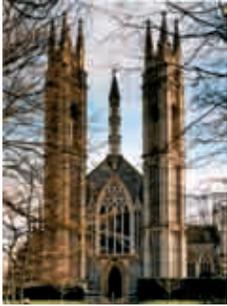
St Mary's is idyllic. Rising from a tall-grassed churchyard, it has aged walls, the colour of pale honey, under a mellow thatched roof. The west door – one of the finest Norman doorways in England – was taken from a neighbouring church, now demolished. The rustic interior has wonderful pews, one dated 1637. Look for the carved communion table from 1633 and the strange 14th-century painting thought to be of St Catherine.

Boughton Long Road, Barton Bendish,
Downham Market PE33 9DN

→ 6m E of Downham Market, off A122

Nearest railway station: Downham Market (6 miles)

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*



4

Bopton, St Michael the Archangel

A breathtaking church created by a Victorian eccentric

This amazingly decorative church was the creation of one man, eccentric clergyman Reverend Whitwell Elwin. A friend of Charles Darwin, Elwin not only raised the funds for the building, he also designed it. Borrowing a doorway style here, a window there, but with twin towers and a central pinnacle drawn purely from his imagination, he created a masterpiece. Inside, he filled his fairytale creation with angels – they appear carved on the roof beams and in the stained glass windows.

Bopton, Norwich NR10 4NZ

→ 12m NW of Norwich off B1145,

SE of Reepham and SW of Cawston

Nearest railway station: Norwich (11 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



5

Gunton, St Andrew

A rare temple-style church by Robert Adam

St Andrew's is an 18th-century church in the form of a Classical temple, tucked away in the landscaped parkland of Gunton Hall. It was designed by the leading Scottish architect of the 18th century, Robert Adam, whose designs were influential across the world. It is Adam's only complete church in England. The interior of this neoclassical gem has a clean, calm simplicity, but with the richness of decorative moulding on the ceiling and elegant dark wood furnishings.

Gunton, Norwich NR11 7HJ

→ 5m S of Cromer and 5m N of Aylsham, E of A140

Nearest railway station: Gunton Road (4 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



6

Hales, St Margaret

Almost perfect Norman church lost in time

St Margaret's, with its round tower and thatched roof, is a church from another time, standing in an isolated setting as if still in its 12th-century Norman world. The carved doorway is breathtaking, while inside the church is simple and rustic. Faded Medieval faces painted on the walls peer out from across the centuries – look for St Christopher carrying Christ. The 500-year-old font is carved with angels, lions and roses – and there are memorials in the brick floor.

Church Lane, Hales, Norwich NR14 6QL

→ 12m SE of Norwich and E of A146

Nearest railway station: Reedham (4 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*

visitchurches.org.uk/daysout

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7

Little Witchingham, St Faith

Traces of stunning Medieval art

Step inside St Faith's and your view of the Medieval world changes. Stencilled vines laden with grapes spiral over arches edged with deep red. Wall panels show scenes from the Bible – some ghostly, others brilliant depending on the ageing of the pigment. This is an authentic Medieval church – a riot of colour and pattern, with picture stories that could be read by a largely illiterate congregation. The south wall is bare. The Black Death of 1348 could have put an end to the painters' ambitions.

Little Witchingham, Norwich NR9 5PA

→ 9m NW of Norwich, 3m S of Reepham and N of A1067

Nearest railway station: Norwich (10 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



8

North Barningham, St Peter

A light-filled church with a mystery motif

The powder pink of St Peter's plaster walls is a backdrop to beautiful monuments in this remote 15th-century Norfolk church. White marble likenesses from the noble Palgrave family are full of character, as are the medieval figures in the brasses set in the floor. An enigmatic 'rose window' design lies in the floor of the centre aisle, illuminated by the east window. Nobody knows when it was created, nor what it conceals.

North Barningham, Norwich NR11 7LB

→ 5m S of Sheringham between Baconsthorpe and Gresham, and N of Barningham Hall

Nearest railway station: Sheringham (5 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



9

Wiggshall, St Mary the Virgin

Carved saints and a broken heart

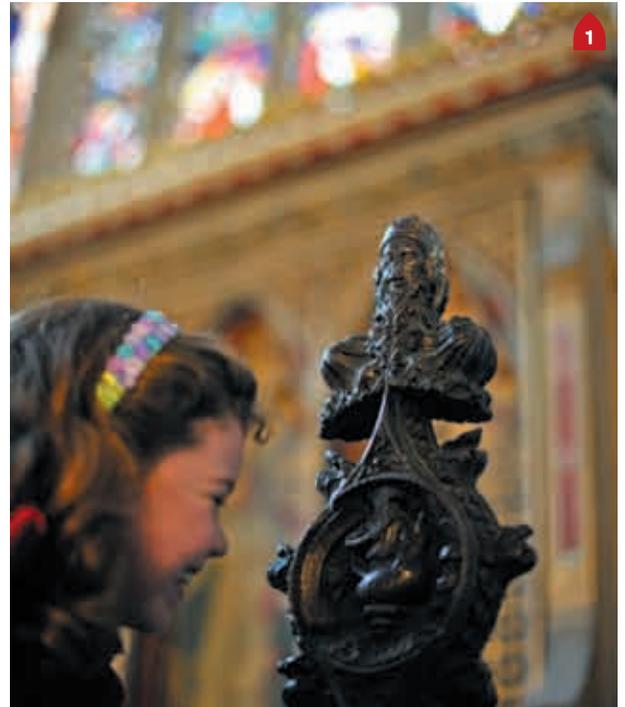
St Mary's stands in a watery landscape by the River Ouse. Green stained glass casts light on row upon row of carved benches, featuring lively little wooden saints and figures in amazingly detailed dress. Saints feature too, in brilliant coloured panels on the Medieval screen, and there are life-size marbles of local nobles. In the south chapel, a brass the shape of a heart commemorates Sir Robert Kervile who died abroad. His wife sent a monk to retrieve his heart, and it lies buried here.

Church Road, Wiggshall, King's Lynn PE34 3EJ

→ 5m S of King's Lynn off A47 or A10

Nearest railway station: King's Lynn (5 miles)

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*



1

visitchurches.org.uk/joinus

Become a supporter

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.

Brandiston, St Nicholas

10

Delightful, secluded flint church of Norman origins, with a distinctive short round tower. Large clear glass windows illuminate extravagantly carved benches in this church, which has lain almost untouched for over a century.

Brandiston, Norwich NR10 4PJ

→ 11m NW of Norwich, 5m SW of Aylsham and W of B1149

🕒 *Open daily*

Buckenham, St Nicholas

11

This impressive church, with its rare 13th-century octagonal tower, sits peacefully surrounded by trees and fields. Its interior feels lost in time, with beautiful stone carving and lovely Victorian glass.

School Road, Buckenham, Norwich NR13 4HN

→ 7m E of Norwich and S of A47

🕒 *Open daily*

Coston, St Michael

12

A secluded, atmospheric church, almost unchanged for 700 years. Inside, clear glass windows shine soft light on the mottled plaster walls and rustic furnishings.

Church Lane, Coston, Norwich NR9 4DT

→ 12m W of Norwich and N of B1108 to Hingham

🕒 *Open summer weekends; at other times keyholder nearby*

East Bradenham, St Mary

13

A bold, buttressed flint-and-stone Medieval church in a grassy churchyard. It is simply furnished and gloriously lit, with several lovely memorials to local people.

Church Street, East Bradenham, Thetford IP25 7QL

→ 5m SW of East Dereham off A1075

🕒 *Open summer weekends; at other times keyholder nearby*

East Ruston, St Mary

14

A vast, airy 14th-century church, overlooking a sweeping landscape between the Broads and the sea. Its great treasure is a spectacular 15th-century chancel screen with sumptuous painted figures.

Norwich NR12 9HN

→ 2m N of Stalham off B1159 on road to Happisburgh

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Feltwell, St Nicholas

15

A strangely beautiful Domesday church, with a tranquil interior and a colourful history. The west tower collapsed in 1898, leaving the church looking like a meeting house. Three clappers remain from the tower bells.

Hythe Road, Feltwell, Thetford IP26 4AE

→ 5m NW of Brandon and 12m SE of Downham Market on B1112

🕒 *Open daily*

Frenze, St Andrew

16

This simple church, dating back to the 13th century, sits prettily in a farmyard setting. Inside, it has beautiful brasses, showing men and women in Medieval dress, and centuries-old pews with lovely carvings – including two little monkeys.

Frenze Hall Lane, Frenze, Diss IP21 4EZ

→ 1m NE of Diss off A1066

🕒 *Open daily*

Heckingham, St Gregory

17

This lovely thatched Norman church stands on a tufted grass hillock dotted with headstones. Inside the porch, the stone doorway has a dazzling mass of Norman carving.

Norton Road, Heckingham, Norwich NR14 6QT

→ 12m SE of Norwich and 1m E of Loddon off B1136

🕒 *Open daily*

Hellington, St John the Baptist

18

A rural gem, with a Norman round tower and an unusually elegant 13th-century porch. Inside, evocative little stone heads peer out from the carved stone arches.

Hellington Hill, Hellington, Norwich NR14 7BS

→ 6m SE of Norwich off A146

🕒 *Open daily*

Hockwold, St Peter

19

Tall, light and full of carved wooden angels, St Peter's is a Medieval delight. Beautiful monuments are mounted on the walls, and the churchyard is a oasis of wildlife.

Station Road, Hockwold, Thetford IP26 4HZ

→ 4m NW of Brandon and 13m SE of Downham Market on B1112

🕒 *Open most days; at other times keyholder nearby*

Islington, St Mary

A romantic and partially ruined 14th-century church in farmland. The buttressed and battlemented tower retains two bells and within the chancel are monuments to the Bagge family.

Islington Green, Tilney, King's Lynn PE34 4SB

→ 3m SW of King's Lynn off A47

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Moulton, St Mary

An isolated church in meadows beside a farm, with an attractive Norman round tower. Inside, St Mary's boasts a series of beautiful Medieval wall paintings, elegantly rendered in shades of grey and ochre.

Reedham Road, Moulton, Norwich NR13 3NW

→ 12m E of Norwich and 3m S of Acle

🕒 *Open daily*

Norwich, St Augustine

This Medieval city church, which sits next to 17th-century almshouses to the north of the city, has a rare 17th-century brick tower and kaleidoscopically bright Victorian windows.

St Augustine's Street, Norwich NR3 3BY

→ Just N of Inner Ring Road where it joins the A140 to Cromer

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Norwich, St Laurence

A vast, handsome Medieval city church and prominent Norwich landmark, St Laurence's has some exquisite Edwardian paintings of saints and angels on panels near the altar.

St Benedict's Street, Norwich NR2 3PE

→ Off B1108 Earlham Road, Norwich city centre

🕒 *Keyholder nearby – see website for details*

Shimpling, St George

A stunningly beautiful, perfectly proportioned Medieval church, standing proudly in fields. It has a Norman round tower with an octagonal upper stage and distinguished Medieval stained glass.

Diss IP21 4UF

→ 4m NE of Diss off A140

🕒 *Open on some weekends throughout the year (see website for details); at other times keyholder nearby*

20

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24

Thurgarton, All Saints

This towerless, thatched church is beautifully set amongst trees in open country. It has spectacular Medieval carved benches featuring a dragon, a creeping hunter, fighting dogs, an elephant and musicians.

Norwich NR11 7HT

→ 17m N of Norwich, 6m S of Cromer and W of A140

🕒 *Open daily*

Walpole, St Andrew

A worn but handsome marshland church with a lovely brick-and-stone tower and a lofty interior. It has elaborately carved bench ends and sumptuous 20th-century stained glass.

Kirk Road, Walpole St Andrew, King's Lynn PE14 7LL

→ 8m W of King's Lynn off A17

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

West Harling, All Saints

A tall-towered church, set in fields at the edge of a forest. Inside, enchanting Victorian glass scatters light across warm oak benches, brasses and monuments.

West Harling, Thetford NR16 2SE

→ 6m E of Thetford, N of A1066

🕒 *Open at weekends; at other times keyholder nearby*

West Walton, St Mary Bell Tower

A bold, soaring bulk of a tower built around 1240 in four stages, each more ornamented than the last. It features five bells and an arched passageway through to the church of St Mary.

School Road, West Walton, Wisbech PE14 7ET

→ 2m N of Wisbech off A47

🕒 *Tower only, no visitor access to interior*

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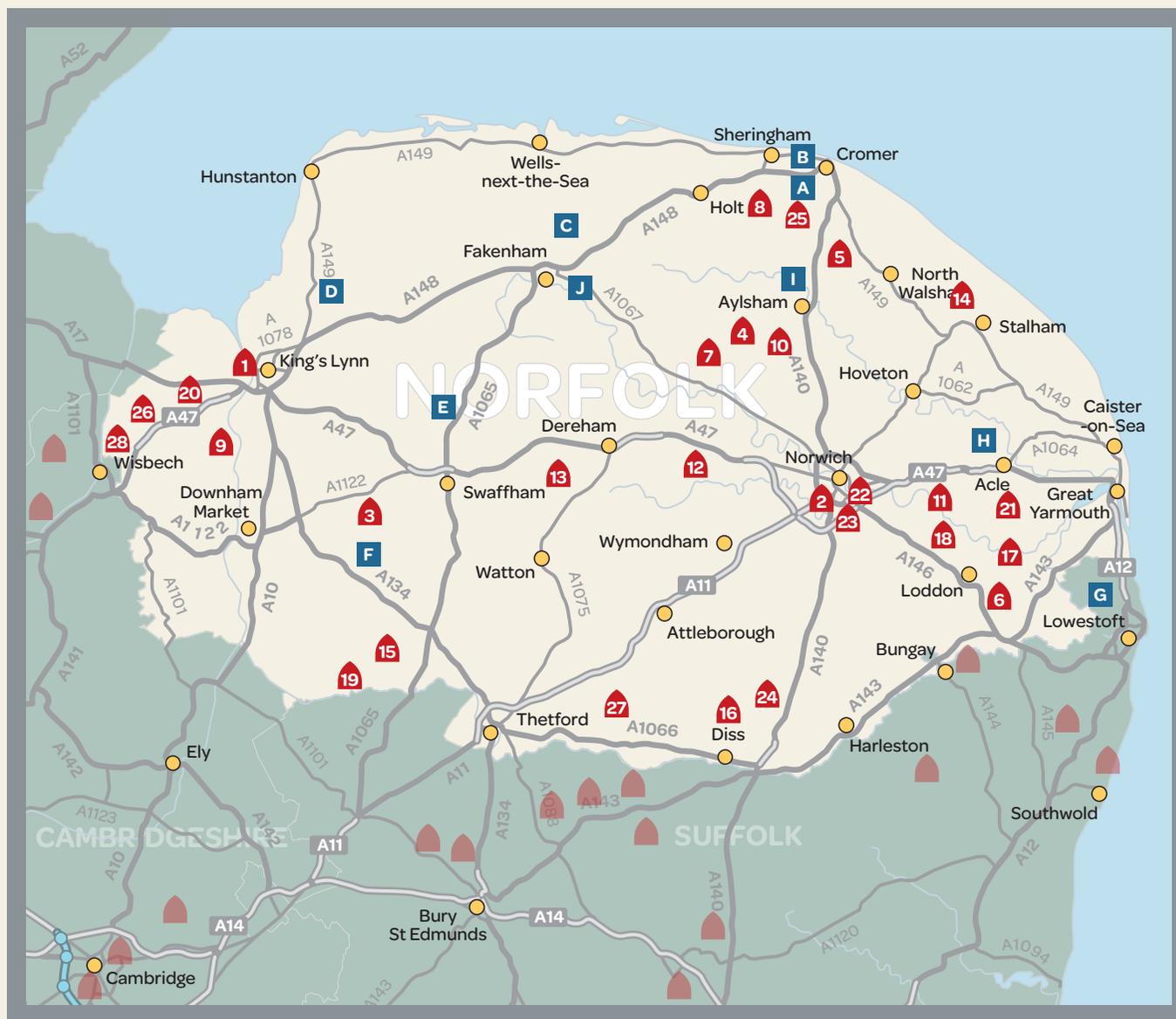
Finding our churches

The map opposite shows the location of each of our churches in Norfolk, 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.

	Ordnance Survey ref
1 King's Lynn, St Nicholas' Chapel (cover image)	TF 61845 20467
2 Norwich, St John Maddermarket	TG 229 087
3 Barton Bendish, St Mary	TF 709 054
4 Booton, St Michael the Archangel	TG 123 224
5 Gunton, St Andrew	TG 229 342
6 Hales, St Margaret	TM 384 962
7 Little Witchingham, St Faith	TG 115 203
8 North Barningham, St Peter	TG 151 372
9 Wiggenshall, St Mary the Virgin	TF 582 144
10 Brandiston, St Nicholas	TG 141 214
11 Buckenham, St Nicholas	TG 356 058
12 Coston, St Michael	TG 062 063
13 East Bradenham, St Mary	TF 931 084
14 East Ruston, St Mary	TG 364 287
15 Feltwell, St Nicholas	TL 712 909
16 Frenze, St Andrew	TM 136 804
17 Heckingham, St Gregory	TM 385 988
18 Hellington, St John the Baptist	TG 313 031
19 Hockwold, St Peter	TL 725 880
20 Islington, St Mary	TF 571 168
21 Moulton, St Mary	TG 403 067
22 Norwich, St Augustine	TG 228 095
23 Norwich, St Laurence	TG 22618 08800
24 Shimpling, St George	TM 156 826
25 Thurgarton, All Saints	TG 181 359
26 Walpole, St Andrew	TF 500 174
27 West Harling, All Saints	TL 973 852
28 West Walton, St Mary Bell Tower	TF 471 133

 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** Felbrigg Hall – garden, park 
- B** Priory Maze and gardens
- C** Walsingham Abbey
- D** Sandringham House – museum, gardens
- E** Castle Acre – castle, priory, bailey gate 
- F** Oxburgh Hall 

- G** Somerleyton Hall and gardens
- H** Fairhaven – woodland and water gardens
- I** Blickling Hall – garden, park 
- J** Pensthorpe nature reserve and garden



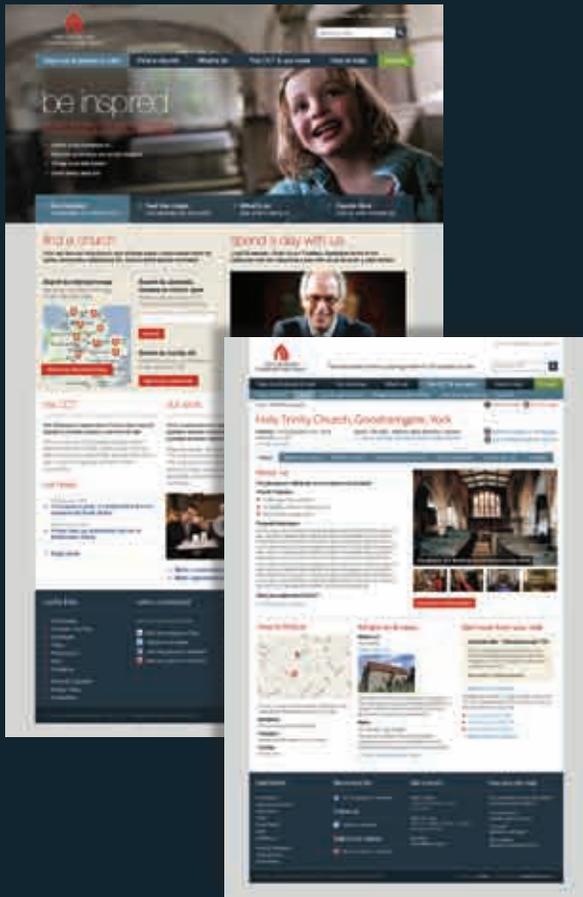
www.english-heritage.org.uk
Telephone 0870 333 1181

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.



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