



THE CHURCHES
CONSERVATION TRUST

Historic churches in
Northamptonshire
Warwickshire

delight in the
bright and
beautiful

a thousand years of history

Explore the historic churches of Northamptonshire and Warwickshire – bold, beautiful survivors of tumultuous times.



These buildings have survived centuries of change – scourges such as the Black Death and times when entire villages were moved at the will of an all-powerful lord. They all have beautiful treasures but, in many cases, it is the stories they tell that will stay with you.

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



be dazzled

spectacular Norman carvings of beasts and birds and dazzling mosaics adorn St Peter's, Northampton



Northampton, St Peter

Northamptonshire

A 900-year-old Norman church filled with glorious carved treasures

- *One of the finest churches in Northamptonshire*
- *Restored in 1850 by famous Victorian architect Sir George Gilbert Scott*

St Peter's stands in a pretty grassed churchyard in Northampton town centre, beside the buried remains of a Saxon palace. It can lay claim to being the most outstanding Norman church in the county. Inside, great Norman arches of plain and banded stone rise and flow with zigzag waves. They are supported by beautiful carved capitals, each overflowing with foliage, scrollwork, birds and beasts – look for the man being swallowed by (or emerging from) a monster. These carvings were plastered over in the 17th century and were carefully unpicked with a bone knife in the early 19th century by local antiquarian Anne Elizabeth Baker, a labour of love lasting 11 years.

Other highlights include a handsome brass lectern, carved wooden pews and monuments – including the bust of William Smith, the father of British geology. Outside, strange half-human faces glare out from under the eaves, together with cruder, timeworn figures.

Marefair, Northampton NN1 1SR

→ Northampton city centre, opposite station
Nearest railway station: Northampton (200 yds)

🕒 *Opening times: Mar-Oct, Wed-Sat 10am-4pm;
Nov-Feb, Wed-Sat, 11am-3pm*

1



Billesley, All Saints

Warwickshire

A light-filled gem with a Shakespeare connection

- *English Romanesque carvings and Georgian wall monuments*
- *Picture-perfect church with an attractive bell turret and elegant clear glass windows*

All Saints' rises from a lovely wooded churchyard in the hamlet of Billesley near Stratford-upon-Avon. From its approach through an avenue of limes, it looks like a Georgian country church – but its origins go back 1,000 years. The church served the thriving village of Billesley for centuries, but by 1428 only four parishioners were left, and the church's north aisle was demolished. Even so, it is said that All Saints' is where Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway in 1582.

In 1692, Bernard Whalley rebuilt the church as a fashionable classical addition to his Billesley estate. He installed a gallery for his staff, complete with a butler's boxed seat. Whalley's own pew had a fine classical fireplace. His body lies, with his wife Lucy's, in a sealed vault beneath the sanctuary floor.

Look for the spectacular 12th-century carvings in the vestry showing Christ holding hands with an unknown figure and a scene with animals, a soldier and wonderfully twisting foliage.

Billesley, Stratford-upon-Avon B49 6NF

→ 4m W of Stratford-upon-Avon off A46 (follow signs to Billesley Manor Hotel, adjacent)
Nearest railway stations: Wilmcote (2.5 miles) and Stratford-upon-Avon (4 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*

2



3

Aldwinckle, All Saints

Northamptonshire

**A Medieval wonder
in a pretty village**

This handsome square-towered church lies at the edge of the picturesque village of Aldwinckle near the river Nene. The elegant Medieval interior is almost cavernous in feel, with few furnishings – offering a rare chance to see a church up close. The 17th-century poet John Dryden was born nearby and baptized in the church – his grandfather was the rector. Look out for strange carved birds, beasts and other creatures on the exterior.

Thorpe Road, Aldwinckle, Kettering NN14 3EA

→ 12m NE of Kettering off A605

Nearest railway stations: Kettering (10 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



4

Wolfhamcote, St Peter

Warwickshire

**A church with a hard
shell and a soft heart**

This remote Medieval church sprawls across its rough-tufted churchyard, the sole survivor of the lost village of Wolfhamcote, now buried to the north. Its crooked windows, stout buttresses and multicoloured patchwork stone give it a tough, almost brutish appearance, but inside it is ordered and serene. Limewashed walls scatter the light from huge windows on oak benches and a beautifully carved 14th-century screen. The beamed roof of the chancel is a rustic marvel.

Wolfhamcote, Daventry CV23 8AR

→ 4m NW of Daventry off A425, signposted from Braunston, 2m NE of Flecknoe off A425

Nearest railway station: Long Buckby (7 miles)

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

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.

Northamptonshire

Blatherwycke, Holy Trinity

5

A lovely lakeside church that dates back to the 12th century, Holy Trinity has dazzling stained glass and several beautiful monuments, one with a bequest of a 'plum pudding on Christmas day' to six old, poor men in the parish.

Main Street, Blatherwycke, Stamford PE8 6YW

→ 9m SW of Stamford off A43

🕒 *Open daily*

Cranford, St Andrew

6

Sumptuous memorials to three hundred years of the Robinson family fill the south chapel of Medieval St Andrew's, which lies next to the Robinson seat of Cranford Hall.

Grafton Road, Cranford, Kettering NN14 4AQ

→ 4m E of Kettering, just off A14

🕒 *Open daily*

Deene, St Peter

7

This 13th-century estate church in Deene Park has many monuments to Brudenells, including one to James Brudenell, 7th Earl of Cardigan, who led the Charge of the Light Brigade.

Deene, Corby NN17 3EJ

→ 10m SW of Stamford off A43

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Furtho, St Bartholomew

8

Survivor of a lost Medieval village, this 900-year-old church stands by a circular dovecote in farm surroundings. Inside it is tranquil and atmospheric.

Furtho, Old Stratford, Milton Keynes MK19 6NR

→ 10m S of Northampton off A508

🕒 *Open daily*

Holdenby, All Saints

9

This 14th-century church is the last remnant of a village demolished to make way for a mansion for Elizabeth I's Lord Chancellor. Inside, it has painted texts, elegant memorials and an impressive 16th-century screen. It was restored in 1867 by Sir George Gilbert Scott.

Holdenby Road, Holdenby, Northampton NN6 8DJ

→ 6m NW of Northampton between A428 and A5199

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Preston Deanery, St Peter & St Paul

10

Wonderful 1,000-year-old carvings of a snake, fan-tailed birds and a strange animal adorn this simple church. Before restoration in 1620, the church's chancel was used as a dog kennel and its tower as a pigeon house!

Preston Deanery, Northampton NN7 2DX

→ 4m SE of Northampton off B526

🕒 *Open Mar-Oct, daily; at other times keyholder nearby*

Upton, St Michael

11

Relic of a deserted Medieval village, St Michael's has a rough stone interior and beautiful Victorian benches. Monuments include the life-sized figure of Puritan Richard Knightley, who died in 1615.

Upton Lane, Upton, Northampton NN5 4UX

→ 2m W of Northampton on A45

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Wakerley, St John the Baptist

12

This Medieval church, with its magnificent tower and spire, stands prominently on a hillside above the Welland Valley. Inside, it has a spectacular 12th-century chancel arch, which rests on some of the finest carved capitals in England.

Main Street, Wakerley, Stamford LE15 8PA

→ 7m SW of Stamford off A43

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Warwickshire

Avon Dassett, St John the Baptist

13

This Victorian church, built in 14th-century Gothic style, is set amongst the Dassett hills – a lovely place for a walk. The high-ceilinged interior is inspiring – and it contains an exquisite 13th-century figure of a deacon.

Avon Dassett, Southam CV47 2AH

→ 12m NW of Banbury off B4100, 4m S of M40 Junction 12

🕒 *Open Sat and Sun 10am-4pm; at other times keyholder nearby*

Brownsover, St Michael & All Angels

14

Beautiful woodwork fills this 12th-century church, which was almost entirely rebuilt by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1876. There is a lovely organ case, made in 1660 for St John's College, Cambridge.

Brownsover Lane, Brownsover, Rugby CV21 1HY

→ 1m N of Rugby and 2m S of M6 Junction 1 off A426

🕒 *Key available from Brownsover Hall Hotel*

Chadshunt, All Saints

15

A long, low, massive church in a flower-filled churchyard overlooking the Civil War battle site of Edge Hill. Inside, it is bright and light with gorgeous 16th-century Italian glass windows.

Off Watery Lane, Chadshunt, Kineton CV35 0EH

→ 2m SW of M40 Junction 12, off Gaydon to Kineton road

🕒 *Open daily*

visitchurches.org.uk/joinus

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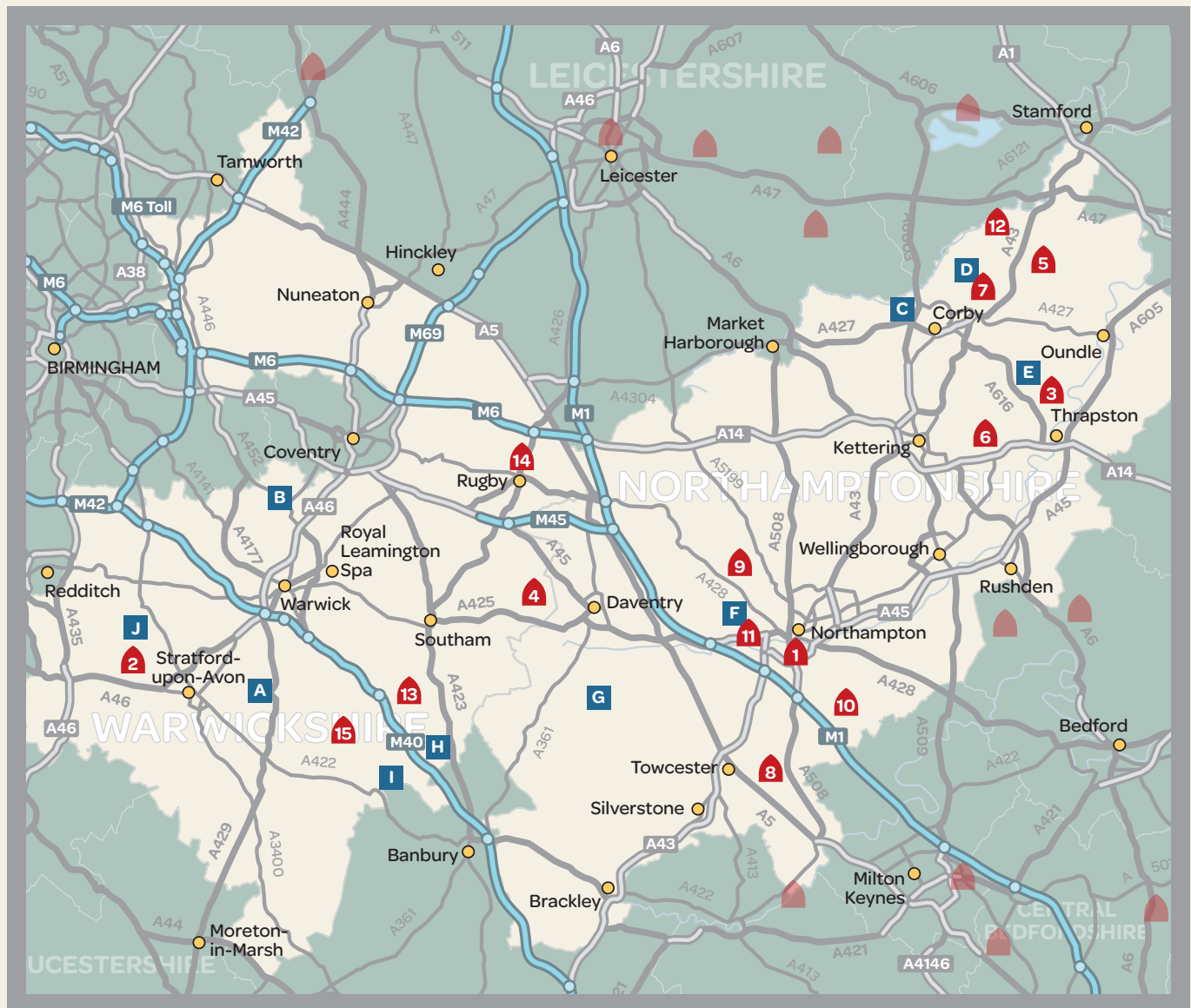
Finding our churches

The map opposite shows the location of each of our churches in Northamptonshire and Warwickshire, 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 Northampton, St Peter (cover image)	SP 74971 60377
	2 Billesley, All Saints	SP 148 568
	3 Aldwinckle, All Saints	TL 011 814
	4 Wolfhamcote, St Peter	SP 530 653
	5 Blatherwycke, Holy Trinity	SP 974 957
	6 Cranford, St Andrew	SP 925 773
	7 Deene, St Peter	SP 952 928
	8 Furtho, St Bartholomew	SP 773 431
	9 Holdenby, All Saints	SP 692 676
	10 Preston Deanery, St Peter & St Paul	SP 788 556
	11 Upton, St Michael	SP 717 603
	12 Wakerley, St John the Baptist	SP 956 992
	13 Avon Dassett, St John the Baptist	SP 410 502
	14 Brownsover, St Michael & All Angels	SP 508 774
	15 Chadshunt, All Saints	SP 349 531

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** Charlecote Park – house, gardens, deer park
- B** Kenilworth Castle – castle, Elizabethan garden
- C** Rockingham Castle – house, gardens
- D** Kirby Hall – house, gardens
- E** Lyveden New Bield – Elizabethan Lodge, garden, moat
- F** Althorp – house, gardens, exhibition

- G** Canons Ashby – house, gardens
- H** Farnborough Hall – house, gardens
- I** Upton House – house, gardens, art collection
- J** Mary Arden's Farm – one of the Shakespeare houses

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

Follow us

 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 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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The Churches Conservation Trust
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