

# visiting

Churches, chapels, mosques, gurdwaras, synagogues and other faith sites are literally 'treasure houses' of history. They may contain ancient carvings both in stone and timber, traces of wall paintings, green men, wonderful roof bosses, gargoyles and dripstone heads, tombs and monuments, stained glass and more.

Very few ancient sites are built in the style of one architectural period, and their history can be traced through the jigsaw of architectural styles. Faith sites are the keepers of community heritage. Churchyards, in particular, are a veritable 'who's who' of the area. In addition, they are also keepers of traditions and rites that may have been practiced for generations.

There are around 10,000 faith sites of medieval origin in the UK. They were all built for the same purpose, but no two are the same. Each offers a new experience, and subsequent visits often reveal new secrets.

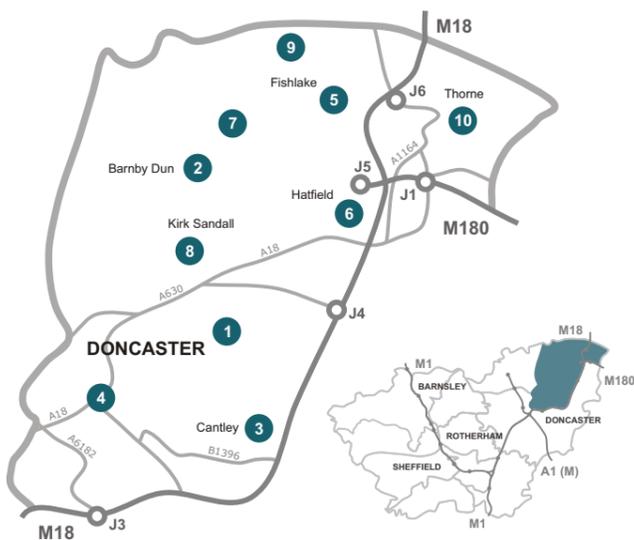
South Yorkshire has a wonderful heritage of faith buildings peppered across the countryside and nestling in our towns. They represent all architectural periods, from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They also encompass a myriad of social and cultural heritages.

This guide offers a selection of those in the rural north and town centre of Doncaster, and a taster of what each has to offer.

Get out there and explore. Enjoy your visit!



## EXPLORE town & peatland heritage



- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Armthorpe St Leonard & St Mary | 6 Hatfield St Lawrence   |
| 2 Barnby Dun St Peter            | 7 Kirk Bramwith St Mary  |
| 3 Cantley St Wilfrid             | 8 Kirk Sandall St Oswald |
| 4 Doncaster St James             | 9 Sykehouse Holy Trinity |
| 5 Fishlake St Cuthbert           | 10 Thome St Nicholas     |



HERITAGE INSPIRED is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. We are a unique project working with heritage faith sites across South Yorkshire to promote their social, architectural and cultural heritage.



## Doncaster's town & peatland heritage



HERITAGE INSPIRED: South Yorkshire's Faith Tourism Initiative



Discover timeless hidden promise in eastern Doncaster

## Doncaster's faith sites

This is one of a series of leaflets exploring the history and heritage of South Yorkshire's fine heritage faith sites.

For more information about the sites included in this leaflet please ring HERITAGE INSPIRED on **0845 6529634** or visit [www.heritageinspired.org.uk](http://www.heritageinspired.org.uk)

For more information about opening times, or to book a guided tour or school trip please ring the site on the number shown.

For more information about visiting other heritage sites in Doncaster please ring Doncaster TIC on **01302 734309** or visit [www.visitdoncaster.co.uk](http://www.visitdoncaster.co.uk) or [www.yorkshiresouth.com](http://www.yorkshiresouth.com)

For more information about public transport in South Yorkshire please ring the Traveline on **01709 515151**.

Please bear in mind that although this leaflet lists opening times for each site, they are all working buildings and may be closed on some days for special occasions. If you are really keen to visit a particular site please telephone in advance to make sure that it will be open.

Why not enjoy a short walk around this area. Our Four Waterway Walks leaflet explores five villages and churches, passing through lovely countryside and by historic waterways.

[www.heritageinspired.org.uk](http://www.heritageinspired.org.uk)



### key to symbols

#### features

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| amazing architecture           | pre-Domesday church (pre 1066)   |
| glorious green men & gargoyles | magnificent memorials            |
| spectacular stained glass      | interesting churchyard           |
| link with famous people        | interpretation of site available |

#### opening times

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| open dawn-dusk every day | open at specified times / days              |
| keyholder notice         | will open/give tours for groups and schools |

#### accessibility

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| generally accessible to wheelchair users | not accessible to wheelchair users |
|--|------------------------------------|

Steps are a key feature of many churches. Where there are unavoidable steps to enter a church, it is listed as not accessible, although it may be accessible to someone with assistance.

#### facilities

- |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| parking at church or nearby      | accessible by public transport |
| refreshments at church or nearby | toilets at church or nearby    |

## GLOSSARY

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Aisle</b>           | A sideways extension of a nave, divided by an arcade of arches and columns.               |
| <b>Chancel</b>         | Area containing the sanctuary and altar.  |
| <b>Clerestory</b>      | Windows in the upper level of the nave wall.  |
| <b>Cruciform</b>       | Cross-shape, formed by the intersection of the nave, chancel and side transepts.          |
| <b>Early English</b>   | Architectural style of c1200-1290.  |
| <b>Font</b>            | Vessel used in baptism.   |
| <b>Gargoyle</b>        | A projecting gutterstone, often carved to depict a grotesque face, beast or figure.       |
| <b>Lancet</b>          | A tall narrow window with a pointed top.  |
| <b>Lectern</b>         | A reading desk on which the bible rests.  |
| <b>Mercy Seat</b>      | Small folding wooden ledge.   |
| <b>Norman</b>          | Architectural style of 1066-1200.   |
| <b>Nave</b>            | The main body of the church.  |
| <b>Pew</b>             | Long wooden bench.  |
| <b>Preaching Cross</b> | Used to mark a preaching place before a church was built.                                 |
| <b>Pulpit</b>          | A platform where the sermon is preached.  |
| <b>Reredos</b>         | A carved or painted screen behind an altar.   |
| <b>Rood Screen</b>     | Separates the nave from the chancel. Holds the Great Rood - an image of Christ crucified. |
| <b>Saxon</b>           | Architectural style of c500-1066  |
| <b>Tracery</b>         | Intersecting stone ribs, used to divide a stained glass window and support the glass.     |



## armthorpe st leonard & st mary



Welcome to our church. The church is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and a church has stood here for over 1,000 years. It became a parish in 1175.

There is a fine Romanesque arch leading into the chancel which has some Norman carved lattice work. There are also fine stain-glass windows, including the Miners Memorial window depicting the Markham Main colliery.

open / access:



address / contact:

Church Street, Armthorpe, DN3 3AD  
01302 831231



## doncaster st james



Welcome to St James @ the Interchange. It was built by the shareholders of Great Northern Railways, but the site is older - dating from the time of the crusades.

The building has a double nave with large pillars down the middle, as a reaction to the catholic revival of the time. The site was a leper hospital, built outside the town walls, around 1220. The buildings disappeared in the 17<sup>th</sup> century after their eventual closure. The current building was built by Gilbert Scott.

It is in Ancaster stone and originally catered to the spiritual needs of the men of the railway. The church has a magnificent east window and reredos. It also has mercy seats.

open / access:



address / contact:

St Sepulchre Gate West, Dn1 3AW  
01302 365544  
www.theinterchange.org.uk



## hatfield st Lawrence



open / access:



Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday 2:00pm - 4:00pm.

address / contact:

Station Road, Hatfield, DN7 6QE  
01302 840280  
www.hcol.co.uk

## kirk sandall st oswald



open / access:



address / contact:

Kirk Sandall Village, DN3 1RA  
07733108553  
www.visitchurches.org.uk



Step back in time with a visit to St Oswald's. It was consecrated after the stay of the body of St Oswald after his death in the 7<sup>th</sup> century.

The church is mainly Norman. It has fine 13<sup>th</sup> century arcades and a west window from the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. There are two beautifully carved screens dating from 1520.

The famous Rokeby Chapel was added in 1520. It contains the remains of an Archbishop of Dublin. The stained glass in the chapel includes rare panels from before the Reformation.

In the care of The Churches Conservation Trust.



## barnby dun st peter & st paul



open / access:



Saturday & Sunday 2:00pm - 4:00pm (May - September).

address / contact:

The Grove, Barnby Dun, DN3 1EB  
01302 882835  
www.barnbydunchurch.co.uk



Welcome to this lovely village church. It is mainly 14<sup>th</sup> century. The tower is 13<sup>th</sup> century with its gargoyles and figure heads. The north and south arcades are also late 13<sup>th</sup> century and have square headed windows. They are decorated with reticulated tracery and contains beautiful stained glass.

Behind the altar is a carved stone reredos and the sanctuary floor is beautiful Victorian tiles. The church also contains some interesting memorials and the churchyard has old graves with interesting inscriptions.

## fishlake st cuthbert



Discover the ancient church of St Cuthbert's, at the south edge of the lovely village of Fishlake. St Cuthbert's is a very large church, for what was an inland port. The landing is known as 'Cuthbert's Haven' in memory of the spot where St Cuthbert's body was landed in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Tradition has it that the remains of St Cuthbert rested in Fishlake during the Viking invasions.

The church boasts 'the most lavishly decorated Norman doorway in Yorkshire' (Pevsner), which dates from 1170. It is richly adorned with sculpture, including people and animals.

Most of the present church dates from 1351.

Inside there is much to discover. The rood screen dates from about 1500 and the priest's stall and front choir stall are dated 1616. The east window tracery and glass was designed to reflect the surrounding country side. There are many fascinating things to discover at St Cuthbert's, and the village is a lovely starting point for walkers.

open / access:



address / contact:

Church Lane, Fishlake, DN7 5JW  
01302 841396  
www.benefice-of-fishlake-sykehouse-kirkbramwith-fenwick-moss.co.uk



## kirk bramwith st mary



Set alongside the River Dun navigation the tiny village and church of St Mary is lovely to visit. St Mary's was started in 1120 and remains an original Norman church. The tower is late 13<sup>th</sup>/early 14<sup>th</sup> century. Its single bell was made in 1350 and is believed to be the oldest bell in the Diocese.

The main doorway is Norman and the font is believed to be Saxon. The church has fine stained glass windows, one dedicated to George III and Queen Anne, installed after victories in North Africa during World War II. Most of the furniture was made by the internationally famous craftsman Robert Thompson of Kilburn, North Yorkshire. His work includes the pulpit, lectern, hymn boards, main door and all the pews. His trademark mouse can be found around the church.

The churchyard is covered by a blanket of snowdrops in February.

address / contact:

Kirk Bramwith, DN7 5SW  
01302 350715  
www.benefice-of-fishlake-sykehouse-kirkbramwith-fenwick-moss.co.uk

open / access:



## sykehouse holy trinity



Holy Trinity is a lovely country brick built church.

The present church was built between 1850 and 1886. It is in the style of the 13<sup>th</sup> century church and retains the tower of 1724 with a belfry and slated spire. The church is delightful to look around and retains many interesting features including a portion of medieval glass in the south wall near to the pulpit and the medieval font. The churchyard contains the remains of a preaching cross.

open / access:



address / contact:

Broad Lane, Sykehouse, DN14 9AU  
01302 841396  
www.benefice-of-fishlake-sykehouse-kirkbramwith-fenwick-moss.co.uk



## cantley st wilfrid



'Wilcuma' - a welcome extended since Saxon times. Parts of the church are 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> century, with the west tower being 14<sup>th</sup> century. Magnificent restorations were carried out in 1874 by George Gilbert Scott and in 1894 by Sir John Ninian Comper.

St Wilfrid's is considered to have one of the finest examples of the early work of Sir Ninian Comper. He recreated the atmosphere of an English medieval parish church with rich decoration, rood screens, reredos and other furnishings. There are also examples of Early English and medieval decoration and a number of statues. The oldest part of the church is the dog tooth moulding on the south door, similar to the west door of Lincoln Cathedral.

open / access:



Open Wednesday 10:00am - 12:00pm.



address / contact:

Church Lane, Cantley, DN4 6QR  
01302 535967  
www.stwilfridscantley.co.uk



## thorne st nicholas



St Nicholas has been at the centre of the community for around 1000 years. The church dates mainly from the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

There are many things to see in this beautiful church including a medieval clerestory and font and a 17<sup>th</sup> century Royal Coat of Arms. See the spectacular stained glass and the splendid rood screen.

The chancel has traces of Norman windows. The south porch is an ornate piece of 15<sup>th</sup> century work and a rare stone coffin can be seen.

The town's bailey castle dates from before 1100. The outline of the motte is clearly visible.

open / access:



address / contact:

Stonegate, Thorne, DN8 5NF

