

# VISITING CHURCHES

Churches and churchyards are literally 'treasure houses' of history, full of ancient carvings both in stone and timber, traces of wall paintings, green men, weird and wonderful roof bosses, gargoyles and dripstone heads, Royal coats of arms, funerary hatchments, tombs and monuments, stained glass windows, fonts, parish records, regimental flags, and so on.

The architecture of churches is fascinating. Very few ancient churches are built in the style of one architectural period, and their history can be traced through the jigsaw of architectural styles that can be 'read' to interpret the age of each part.

There are around 10,000 churches of medieval origin in the UK. They were all built for the same purpose, but no two are the same. Each church is new experience, and is often different at every visit.

Rotherham is home to a wonderful variety of churches, from all architectural periods. This guide offers a selection of those in the rural deep south of the borough, and a taster of what each has to offer.

You will find further information at each church in the form of leaflets, exhibitions and guidebooks.

Enjoy your visit!



## EXPLORE deep south heritage ...

- 1 Todwick St Peter & St Paul
- 2 Wales St John the Baptist
- 3 Harthill All Hallows
- 4 Thorpe Salvin St Peter
- 5 Anston St James
- 6 Dinnington St Leonard
- 7 Throapham St John the Baptist
- 8 Laughton All Saints
- 9 Maltby St Bartholomew
- 10 Maltby Roche Abbey
- 11 Firbeck St Martin
- 12 Letwell St Peter



Rotherham Churches Tourism Initiative is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. We work with partner buildings to promote their social, architectural and cultural heritage.



rotherham churches tourism initiative

Discover hidden treasures in beautiful rural Rotherham

# ROTHERHAM'S CHURCHES

This is one of a series of leaflets exploring the history and heritage of Rotherham's fine ecclesiastical buildings.

For more information about the churches included in this leaflet please ring RCTI on 01709 720589 or visit [www.rcti.org.uk](http://www.rcti.org.uk)

For more information about opening times, or to book a guided tour or school trip please ring the church you would like to visit on the number shown.

For more information about visiting other heritage sites in Rotherham please ring Rotherham Visitor Centre on 01709 835905 or visit [www.visitrotherham.org](http://www.visitrotherham.org)

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

## 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 <i>nave</i> , divided by an arcade of arches and columns.                      |
| <b>Boss</b>          | A carving at the junctions in a vaulted roof.  |
| <b>Chancel</b>       | Area containing the sanctuary and altar.   |
| <b>Clerestories</b>  | Windows in the upper level of the <i>nave</i> wall.  |
| <b>Decorated</b>     | Architectural style of c1290-1350.   |
| <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>Green Man</b>     | A head, wreathed in foliage, found in stonework and woodwork.  |
| <b>Lectern</b>       | A reading desk on which the bible rests.   |
| <b>Lych-Gate</b>     | Roofed gate at the churchyard entrance.  |
| <b>Norman</b>        | Architectural style of 1066-1200.  |
| <b>Misericord</b>    | A hinged seat used to rest on when standing.   |
| <b>Nave</b>          | The main body of the church.   |
| <b>Perpendicular</b> | Architectural style of c1350-1530.   |
| <b>Piscina</b>       | A shallow stone basin near the altar.  |
| <b>Poppy Heads</b>   | Ornaments carved on end of pews or benches.  |
| <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 <i>nave</i> from the <i>chancel</i> . Holds the Great Rood - an image of Christ crucified. |
| <b>Wall Painting</b> | Used in the middle ages to educate the illiterate congregation.  |





