

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.

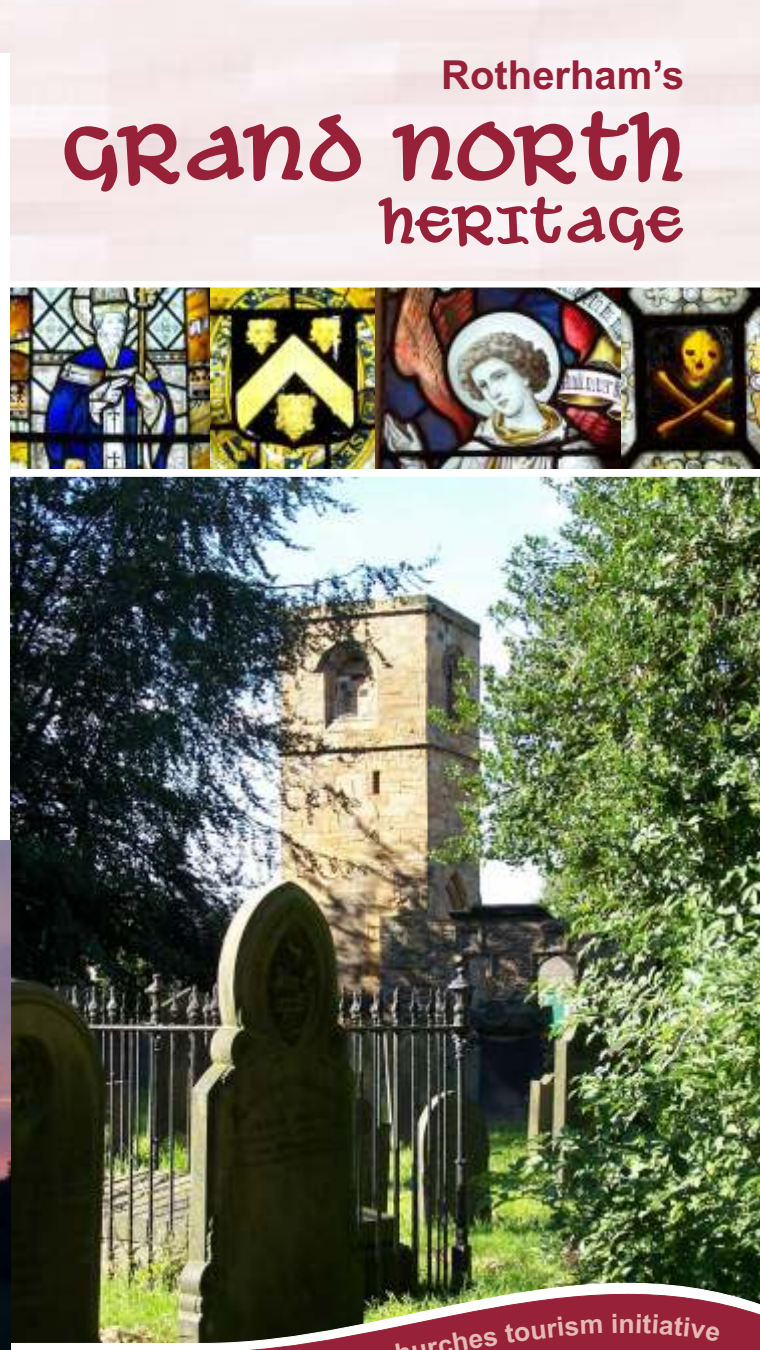
Rotherham is home to a wonderful variety of churches, from all architectural periods. This guide offers a selection of those in the grand north of the borough, and a taster of what each has to offer.

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

Enjoy your visit!



- 1 Brampton Christ Church
- 2 West Melton United Reformed Church
- 3 Wath All Saints
- 4 Swinton St Margaret
- 5 Wentworth Old Church
- 6 Wentworth Holy Trinity
- 7 Thorpe Hesley Holy Trinity
- 8 Greasbrough St Mary
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- 10 Hooton Robert St John the Baptist
- 11 Ravenfield St James



Rotherham's GRAND NORTH HERITAGE

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 the beautiful hidden legacy of Industrial 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

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

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

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Aisle | A sideways extension of a <i>nave</i> , divided by an arcade of arches and columns. |
| Boss | A carving at the junctions in a vaulted roof. |
| Chancel | Area containing the sanctuary and altar. |
| Clerestories | Windows in the upper level of the <i>nave</i> wall. |
| Decorated | Architectural style of c1290-1350. |
| Early English | Architectural style of c1200-1290. |
| Font | Vessel used in baptism. |
| Gargoyle | A projecting gutterstone, often carved to depict a grotesque face, beast or figure. |
| Green Man | A head, wreathed in foliage, found in stonework and woodwork. |
| Lectern | A reading desk on which the bible rests. |
| Lych-Gate | Roofed gate at the churchyard entrance. |
| Norman | Architectural style of 1066-1200. |
| Misericord | A hinged seat used to rest on when standing. |
| Nave | The main body of the church. |
| Perpendicular | Architectural style of c1350-1530. |
| Piscina | A shallow stone basin near the altar. |
| Poppy Heads | Ornaments carved on end of pews or benches. |
| Pulpit | A platform where the sermon is preached. |
| Reredos | A carved or painted screen behind an altar. |
| Rood Screen | Separates the <i>nave</i> from the <i>chancel</i> . Holds the Great Rood - an image of Christ crucified. |
| Wall Painting | Used in the middle ages to educate the illiterate congregation. |



BRAMPTON CHRIST CHURCH



Christ Church is a splendid Victorian church, built in 1855 to cater for a growing mining population. Built in the decorated style, the church windows all have delicate and unique tracery and beautiful stained glass, by Kempe and Whitefriars. The tower can be seen for miles.

Inside there is an intricately carved and painted oak rood screen, with the figures of Jesus, Mary and St John. The church is decorated with carvings of angels and other faces. One pillar has a carving of a cow's head peeking through foliage, with a milkmaid on the other side!



open / access:

Tues 11am - 1pm
Wed, Thurs 10am - 12pm



address / contact:

Melton High Street, West Melton
01709 873210

WEST MELTON URC CHURCH



The church was founded in 1796 and is an attractive Grade II listed building, situated in a semi-rural area. The building has some wonderful original Georgian features, including door columns and dentil moulding.

The church interior was based on the original puritan thinking and has little decoration. It has a large gallery and interesting pews and seats. The church also has a large churchyard (rare for a URC church), with many fine monuments and memorials.



open / access:



address / contact:

Melton High Street, West Melton
01226 771277
www.urcbarnsley.org.uk

WATH ALL SAINTS



All Saints is a spectacular village church, with much to see. There are visible remains of the Norman church, dating from around 1150, including the steep-pitch roofline. The Lady Chapel was added around 1300 and includes five original Norman carved stone heads.

Inside, the church is beautiful. All Saints has an impressive collection of painted roof bosses, dating back to the 16th century. They include faces resembling animals and humans, and many show a tongue sticking out.

There also many interesting monuments and memorials in the church and churchyard, including the top section of the original church spire!

open / access:



address / contact:

Church Street, Wath
01709 872299



WENTWORTH FOLLIES

In the lovely village of Wentworth you can also see Wentworth Woodhouse. This impressive country house, once home of the Earl Fitzwilliams, has the longest frontage in England.

Around the house are a number of 'follies', which can be seen from the road or footpaths.



SWINTON ST MARGARET



St Margaret's is a large Early-English style parish church, standing high on a hill above the village. The tower dates from 1817, although the rest of the church was rebuilt after a fire in 1897. Behind the church are the remains of the original Norman chapel.

The church has a soaring hammer beam roof above a tall clerestory and wide aisles. There is beautiful stained glass in traceried windows and in the nave are 'Stations of the Cross'.



open / access:



address / contact:

Church Street, Swinton

WENTWORTH OLD CHURCH



Believed to have early medieval origins, with mouldings dating back to the late 13th century, Wentworth Old Church fell into disuse after the new church opened.

The church is home to an impressive collection of elaborate 16th and 17th century monuments to the Wentworth family, including wonderful carved effigies. The churchyard contains many fascinating gravestones, dating back to the 17th century.

Wentworth Old Church is cared for by The Churches Conservation Trust and contains an interesting exhibition of local photographs and objects.

open / access:



address / contact:

Old Church Lane, Wentworth
01904 620749
www.visitchurches.org.uk

WENTWORTH HOLY TRINITY



The magnificent neo-gothic church of 1877, designed by JL Pearson, was built by the 6th Earl Fitzwilliam to replace the old church nearby. It is 120ft long and its spire reaches almost 200ft.

The church's outstanding features include a finely carved reredos, oak furnishings, attractive interesting memorials and fine stained glass. There is also an original Father Willis organ.

The churchyard contains some interesting gravestones and to the south lies the Fitzwilliam family private burial ground. The churchyard is surrounded by a Ha-ha to keep farm animals and deer out.



open / access:



address / contact:

Church Drive, Wentworth
01226 742274

GREASBROUGH ST MARY



open / access:



address / contact:

Church Lane, Greasbrough



The skyline of Greasbrough is dominated by the pinnacled tower of St Mary's. This fine Gothic-style church was built in 1826. Its huge windows, light stone construction and limed woodwork make it light and airy.

St Mary's contains some interesting features, including a Jacobean carved font cover, once belonging to Rotherham Minster.

HOOTON ROBERTS ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

This very pretty small church sits overlooking the hamlet of Hooton Roberts. It has strong links with the Wentworth estate and members of the family are buried in the church.

Parts of the original Norman church can still be seen, as can an ancient lancet window. The prominent tower is 15th century.

There is a rare example of 13th century stained glass, showing an Archbishop.

The church contains a large carved coffin lid from about 1200, and some interesting memorials.



open / access:



address / contact:

Doncaster Road, Hooton Roberts
01709 812665

THORPE HESLEY HOLY TRINITY

Holy Trinity is an impressive Victorian church, built between 1837 and 1839, on land given by Earl Fitzwilliam of Wentworth.

The church is spacious and wide. The windows are tall and light, with little stained glass. There is a fine oak reredos with carved panels showing the instruments of the Passion, and an unusual marble pulpit. The churchyard contains a fine listed war memorial.



open / access:



address / contact:

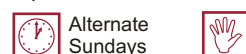
Sough Hall Avenue, Thorpe Hesley
0114 2463487
www.thorpeandscholes.org



THRYBERGH ST LEONARD



open / access:



address / contact:

Doncaster Road, Thrybergh
01709 851537

Parts of St Leonard's date back to 900 AD, including a blocked doorway in the south nave wall.

Much of the structure is Norman, with the tower and window arches dating from the 1400's.

The church contains many fine memorials, with wonderfully elaborate carving and decoration. They include an Elizabethan memorial to the Reresby family showing eight sons and ten daughters!

There is also some beautiful 14th century stained glass.

RAVENFIELD ST JAMES

Although not the first church on this site, St James' was designed by John Carr in 1756. It is a fine example of Georgian architecture, and still contains the original gallery from this period.

The church contains a fine collection of hatchments and memorials, with painted and carved images. The tower has an unusual spirelet and ogee arch windows, and houses a unique one-fingered clock.

The old churchyard around the church contains old pedestal tombs, table tombs and memorials, and an area kept aside for wildlife.



open / access:



address / contact:

Church Lane, Ravenfield
01709 812665

