

## The walk

The six churches walk is a fascinating 10 mile circular route. Most of the route is along ancient footpaths and bridleways, which have been used for hundreds of years by local people and visitors alike. But some of the footpaths are alongside busy roads - please take extra care when walking near traffic.

This leaflet describes the anti-clockwise route, starting at Wath church. But, you can walk in either direction and start at any point.

The walk will take about 7 hours with good rests at each church. There are a couple of hills and valleys. Don't forget to dress for the British weather, and wear sturdy footwear, as it can be muddy in the fields at any time of year.

## Wentworth follies

Passing through the village of Wentworth you can take a detour to view Wentworth Woodhouse from the footpath. This country house, once home of the Earls Fitzwilliam has the longest frontage in England. Around the house are a number of follies.

### Keppel's Column

Built by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquess of Rockingham to commemorate the acquittal of Admiral Keppel, who was charged with cowardice in 1778. The 115 ft high column was designed by John Carr.

### Needle's Eye

Built by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquess of Rockingham. Believed to have been built to win a wager that a coach could be driven 'through the eye of a needle'. This slender stone pyramid was built on one of the main approaches to the Wentworth Woodhouse.

### Hooper Stand

This triangular tower is 100 ft high. It was built in 1747 by the 1<sup>st</sup> Marquess of Rockingham to commemorate the quelling of the Jacobite rebellion in 1745. Open Sundays in summer 2-5pm (ring Wentworth Estates on 01226 742041 for information).



Project Part-Financed by the European Union  
European Regional Development Fund



For more information about these or other heritage faith sites to visit in Rotherham, please ring HERITAGE INSPIRED on 0845 6529634 for visit [www.heritageinspired.org.uk](http://www.heritageinspired.org.uk)

For tourist information and bright ideas for other places to visit please ring Rotherham Visitor Centre on 01709 835905 or visit [www.visitrotherham.org](http://www.visitrotherham.org)

For information about visiting the Yorkshire South area visit [www.yorkshiresouth.com](http://www.yorkshiresouth.com)

## Travel information

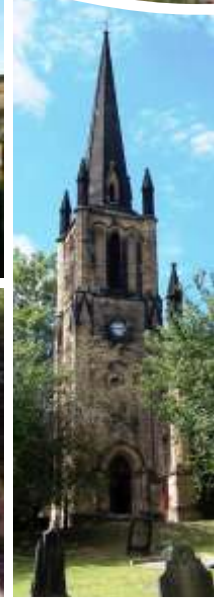
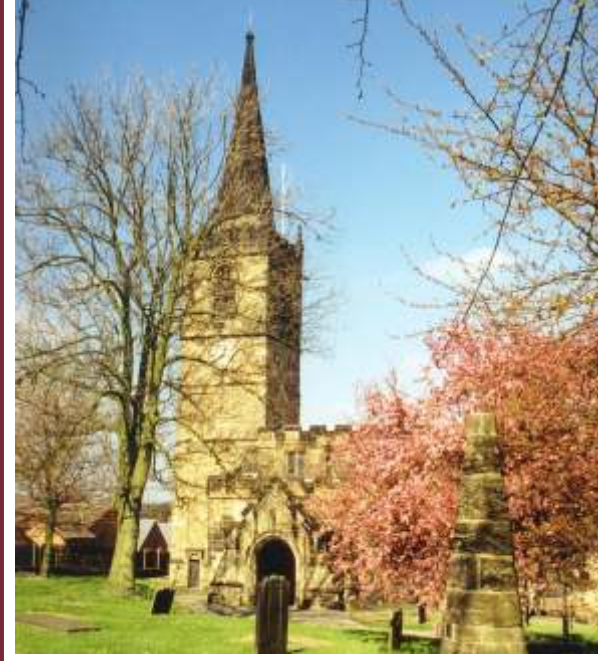
- If you are travelling by public transport ring Traveline on 01709 515151 to check times.
- There is a regular bus service to Wath. Trains run to Elsecar Station from where you can pick up the walk at the Church or Heritage Centre. Trains also run to Swinton Station from where there is a bus to Wath.
- If travelling by car, please respect the need for local people to park and attend church services. Parking near all the churches is limited. There is a car park next to Wath Church.
- For more information, Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 278 covers this area!

# Six Churches Walk

Discover industrial heritage in rural surroundings !

10 mile Circular route

by HERITAGE INSPIRED  
South Yorkshire's Faith Tourism Initiative



Heritage LOTTERY FUNDED

## wath-upon-dearne All saints

The first church was built in Saxon times and may have been built of timber. By the time the Normans arrived a small stone Saxon church stood on the site of what is now the nave. The Normans extended the church in about 1150 adding a north aisle and chancel.

The Lady Chapel was added around 1300. In the Lady Chapel is a row of five Norman carved stone heads, originally on the outside wall of the church.

All Saints has a wonderful collection of painted roof bosses in the Nave. As you leave the church notice the timber bar built into the wall to act as lock for the south door.



## West melton urc

West Melton United Reformed Church was formed in 1797.

The church itself was built in 1799. It is one of the few non-Anglican listed churches in Rotherham.



## brampton bierlow Christ church

The church was built in 1855 to accommodate the population increase due to the growth of mining. It is bright and spacious with a fine vaulted ceiling and gold-leaf roof bosses.

There are many angels in this church. They support the vaulted ceiling and the font. At the top of one of the columns is a carving of a cow's head.

There is a figure of a girl on the opposite side of the column, which is why together they are locally known as the cow and the milkmaid!



## ELSECAR HOLY TRINITY

Holy Trinity church opened in 1843, and has changed little. It is built in the Early English style, of sandstone and slate. It features an impressive tower and spire, which can be seen for miles. Holy Trinity is well known for its wonderful stained glass windows designed by William Morris.

### Elsecar Heritage Centre

This exciting history and craft centre is in the former ironworks and colliery workshop of the Earls Fitzwilliam. Open 10-5pm.



## wentworth OLD Holy trinity

Wentworth Old Church is believed to have medieval origins, with mouldings dating back to the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is home to an interesting collection of monuments to generations of the Wentworth and the Fitzwilliam families. The nave was taken down after the new church opened in 1877. The vault is accessed via a tunnel which leads from the church under the graveyard. The church is cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust.



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

## wentworth Holy trinity

The new church was commissioned in 1872 by the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl Fitzwilliam in memory of his parents.

It was built on a grand scale, the vast interior can comfortably seat over 300 people.

It has some wonderful stone valuting and a large stained glass window by Kempe.





**Key**

- walk route
- roads
- 🍷 refreshments
- ➔ waymarkers

## The six churches walk route ...

**8** Carry on the TPT past Elephant & Castle Pub. Go up the steps, over the road and continue to follow the trail to Cobcar Bridge. Leave the TPT and turn right into **ELSECAR** (walking past Reform Row 1837 on your right).

**6** Go past the Counting Houses on your left at Coley Lane. Pass Rainborough Lodge and on to Smithy Bridge Lane.

**7** At the Welcome to Rotherham sign bear right past a Weak Bridge sign, cross over a stream. At the next bridge turn left onto the towpath of the old canal, this is part of the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT).



**1** **WATH ALL SAINTS.** From the church, walk to Church Street. Turn right and right again into Thornhill Place. Notice the old Parish Lock-up. Continue round to Church Street. The ring of stones on your right is the village Pinfold (stray animal pen).



**2** Cross over Church Street and take the right-hand path over the field. Cross Brook Dyke via a metal bridge, keep to the left path. At the end of the wooden fence turn right up a stone chip path and through the gate into **BRAMPTON BIERLOW**.

**5** Continue towards the Cottage of Content. Cross straight over the crossroads. Continue on Elsecar Road. There is a good view of Hooper Stand from here.

**9** **ELSECAR HOLY TRINITY.** On leaving church return to the main road. Turn right past graveyard and continue down road for about 400 yards then cross road into Elsecar Heritage Centre (toilets & refreshments 9-5pm Mon-Sun).

**10** Leave by main entrance. Turn left onto Forge Lane continue straight ahead onto the 'Doorstep Walk' public footpath across fields to enter Kings Wood. Take left hand fork and follow green and white arrows up through the wood.



**3** Turn left onto Melton High Street. **WEST MELTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH** is 100yds on right. (Access to burial ground is to left of building and through gate at rear of church).

**4** Continue up the High Street for approx 300 yds. **BRAMPTON BIERLOW CHRIST CHURCH** is on your right.

**17** Enter the wood via the stile and keep to the right footpath uphill (tree roots take care) to **Hooper Stand** (open Sun & Bank Holidays in summer 2-5pm and worth a look).

**11** At the top of wood go left over the stile. Here you get your first view of the Wentworth Churches. Cross the field and follow the hedge up. Turn right over a stile following Rotherham Ring route. Walk diagonally down across the field to the bottom left hand corner and pick up a track between two hedges. Follow path round to the right onto a tarmac path and onto main road in **WENTWORTH**. Cross the road, turn left, follow footpath up to Main Street, cross over to Church Field Lane.

**12** **WENTWORTH OLD HOLY TRINITY** and **WENTWORTH HOLY TRINITY** further down the same track.



**13** On leaving the church EITHER carry straight down the drive and turn right to walk through Wentworth village OR turn right along path signposted access to Vicarage and take footpath to main road. Cross road and turn left. (War Memorial is on left).

**14** At T-junction, turn right along Cortworth Lane. Carry on past entrance to **Wentworth Woodhouse** (take a short walk down the path to view the house). Further along on the left you can see **Needles Eye** in the distance. Keep on the grass verge and walk past the end of Coley Lane.

**15** At the next bus stop cross the main road. Follow the public footpath up to Cortworth House. Carry on through the kissing gate (on your right) following the Rotherham Round walk through the fields onto Street Lane.

**16** Turn right towards **Hooper Stand**. Continue past the houses and turn left over the wall. Take the diagonal path across the field to the wood. There is a wonderful view from here, you can see **Keppel's Column** and into the Dearne Valley where you can see the route you have just come.

**18** On leaving Hooper Stand go through gate and onto the road. Turn right and follow the road past the Observatory on the left. At end of Lea Brook Lane turn left. Follow Hooper Field Road and continue on past Hooper Hall cottages on America Lane.

**19** Carefully cross main road, turn right then immediate left to take footpath through the hedge. Continue on footpath, as it curves to the left, go across the stile on your right and follow markers over the fields to another stile at the end.

**20** Follow the path up between the houses on to main road. The house facing you was built in 1690! Turn left and then right into Newhill Park. Cross field to the Payne Mausoleum. Exit the park onto Cemetery Road and turn left back down to **WATH ALL SAINTS**.

