



# SOMERSET CHURCHES TRUST

## 2017 EVENTS PROGRAMME

*The Trust is a non-denominational charity giving grants for repairs and improvements to churches and chapels open for Christian worship in the historic county of Somerset, helping to keep them alive.*

**DO JOIN US – IT'S ONLY £20 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL,  
OR £30 FOR A FAMILY, PER YEAR.**

You will be helping us give grants to overburdened church congregations, who have to fund repairs and improvements to their buildings.

Membership Forms from: [www.somersetchurchestrust.org](http://www.somersetchurchestrust.org)

### COME TO OUR EVENTS THIS YEAR

**Please book in at least a week before so that there is enough tea!**

#### MARCH: SAT. 18th, 12 noon

South Somerset

Meet at the Grade 1 listed **St. Peter & St. Paul's Church, Crown Lane, South Petherton TA13 5DQ**, a cruciform layout with what is, allegedly, the highest central octagonal tower in England. On to **St. Martin's, Church Street, Kingsbury Episcopi TA12 6AU**, with a 99ft high west tower, before finishing at **All Saints', Church Street, Martock, TA12 6JL**, the second largest Parish church in the County. Tea here – donations, please.



*St. Peter & St. Paul, South Petherton*

**Book with** Jim Allwood, tel: 01935 825949, email: jim.allwood2013@gmail.com

#### APRIL: SAT. 8th, 2pm

#### ANNUAL MEETING

#### at **St Benedict's Church, Glastonbury BA6 9NB** and **TOUR OF GLASTONBURY ABBEY**

St Benedict's Church has recently been reordered, combining a well equipped multi-purpose facility for the community with an all-embracing place of prayer, worship and spiritual education.

Tea (donations please) will follow the meeting, after which we will have an introductory talk and then walk the short distance to



**GLASTONBURY ABBEY** for a conducted tour (no charge) devised especially for Somerset Churches Trust. Founded in the 7th century and enlarged in the 10th, the abbey was destroyed by a major fire in 1184, but subsequently rebuilt, and by the 14th century was one of the richest and most powerful in England, second only to Westminster Abbey.

**Booking essential by 1st April** with David Sisson, Providence House, Sexey's Road, Blackford, Wedmore BS28 4NA, tel: 01934 713617, email: david.sisson@tiscali.co.uk

**MAY: SAT. 20th, 2pm**



*St. Martin of Tours,  
West Coker*

**South Somerset**

Meet at **St. Martin of Tours, West Coker BA22 9BD** – bench ends, horn windows. On to **Blessed Virgin Mary, East Chinnock BA22 9DP** – modern glass of special interest, and then **Blessed Virgin Mary, Hardington Mandeville BA22 9PQ** – Norman font, and lovely location. Tea here – donations please.

**Book with** Simon Colledge: tel: 01460

75815, email [simoncolledge@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:simoncolledge@hotmail.co.uk)

**JUNE: THURS. 15th, 12 noon**

**Please note change of day to Thursday.** Tour of churches in Taunton area which have 20th century stained glass, led by Jill Wrightson. Meet at 12 noon **St. Mary, Stoke St. Mary, TA3 5BZ**, followed by lunch break. You could eat at The Half Moon pub in the village (01823 442271). 2pm **All Saints Trull, TA3 7JZ**. 3pm **St. Giles, Bradford on Tone, TA4 1HG**, and 4pm **St Michael Milverton, TA4 1LR**. Tea here – donations please.

**Book with** Gill Hawkings, tel: 01749 672327, email: [gillhawkings@gmail.com](mailto:gillhawkings@gmail.com)

**Taunton area**



*St. Mary, Stoke St. Mary*

**Book with** Gill Hawkings, tel: 01749 672327, email: [gillhawkings@gmail.com](mailto:gillhawkings@gmail.com)

**JULY: 8–9th Long Sutton Friends' Meeting House Tercentenary**



*Long Sutton Friends' Meeting  
House*

An invitation to join in the 300th Anniversary of the Religious Society of Friends' (Quakers) purpose built **Meeting House, Langport Road, Long Sutton, TA10 9NE**.

Speakers and subjects include: Julian Orbach on the architecture of the Meeting House and Court House, Jane Wilson on the Quaker Tapestry, Purplefield Productions on Educational Films 'that really can save lives', a play about Refugees by the Journeymen Theatre, and Richard Clark on Quaker Ceremonies. A book about the history and people who have kept the meeting alive for so long will be available to buy. Light refreshments will be available at The Meeting House and the Village Hall.

**No need to book.** For further information contact Veronica Watts, tel: 01458 274569, email. [vjwatts@btinternet.com](mailto:vjwatts@btinternet.com)

**JULY: WED. 26th, 6.15–8.15pm**

**Benedictine Tour of Bath Abbey**

**Please note change of day to Wednesday.**

**Bath Abbey, BA1 1LY**, was established as a Benedictine monastery in the 8th Century; the present mediæval building still echoes this Benedictine heritage. The tour, led by the Abbey's Interpretation Officer, Oliver Taylor, will use the architecture and archaeology of the building to take visitors on a journey from its Saxon beginnings to the dissolution, allowing visitors to step back in time and experi-



*Bath Abbey at night*

ence some of the sights, sounds, and smells of life in the Benedictine Abbey in Bath. Along the way, we will see some of the key moments from the Abbey's history and meet some important people from its past. Meet outside the main West Door of the Abbey (BA1 1LY).

**Booking essential by 20th June 2017** with Tony Davies, (who can also advise about parking and public transport), 52 Purlewent Drive, Weston, Bath BA1 4AZ, tel. 01225 336124, email: tony@anthonydavies.demon.co.uk **Numbers are limited.** Fee of £10 (cheques payable to Somerset Churches Trust) to include mediæval refreshments.



**SEPTEMBER: SAT. 9th, 10am–6pm**

**RIDE+STRIDE**

**BE A PART OF THIS GREAT EVENT WHICH TAKES PLACE  
ALL OVER THE COUNTRY!**

**It is very easy to take part**

Either on your own or as part of a group, all you have to do is get sponsored (or if you don't want to get sponsored, just make a donation) to cycle, walk, ride on horseback or drive\* to churches, chapels and meeting houses either on the main event day of **Sat. 9th** or any day from **Sat. 2nd to Sun. 17th Sept.** You can make up your own route with as few or as many churches as you like or see if a church near you already has a group taking part, and join in.

This year we are suggesting walking around one of our larger towns such as Bridgwater, Taunton, Weston-Super-Mare, Frome, Yeovil or Bath. They each have a number of fascinating churches and chapels of all denominations.

**In 2016 we raised considerably more than in 2015!**

Please help us to continue this trend to enable us to help more churches and chapels.

***Full details and all the forms you need will be on our website:  
[www.somersetchurchestrust.org](http://www.somersetchurchestrust.org)***

**For more information contact**

The Ride and Stride Administrator **Chris Hawkings**, Tel: **01749 672327**. Email: [chrishawkings@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chrishawkings@hotmail.co.uk)

**Create your own webpage**

Raise sponsorship online at

**<http://www.justgiving.com/somersetchurches>**

*\*If you are on horseback you must have your own insurance and if you are driving you must check with your motor insurer that you are covered for this event.*

**OCTOBER: SAT. 14th, 10.30am**

## **SOMERSET CHURCHES AFTER THE REFORMATION**



*Middle Lambrook URC  
Church*

Meet at **Middle Lambrook URC Chapel, Kingsbury Episcopi, TA13 5HE**. Grade II\*, a gem of a meeting house, est. 1674, the present building was erected between 1727 and 1729 for a Presbyterian society, later Congregational. The 18thC arrangement of the interior survives except for a slight reshuffling to accommodate the harmonium. The church is set in its own burial ground.

Then to **Stoke sub Hamdon URC Church, North Street, TA14 6QQ**. Grade II\*, and described as an 'essay in Gothic' by the architect R C Bennett, it is one of the best surviving examples of his work. Meetings began in the village in 1715 although this church opened for the Congregationalists on 6 September 1866. Lunch here – bring your own or visit the pub. On to the **Baptist Chapel, South Street, Montacute, TA15 6XD**. The Grade II Baptist chapel was erected in 1880 after years of using local houses or farm barns for worship. The building is in the Early Gothic style. Tea here – donations please.

Also view Montacute Priory and visit St Catherine's Church.

**Book with:** Philip Skelhorn, tel: 01963 220586, email: pjskelhorn@gmail.com .

### **NOVEMBER: FRI. 24th, 7.30pm TALK AND ORGAN RECITAL BISHOP'S PALACE CHAPEL, WELLS BA5 2PD**

**Talk by Ray Willis, Organist** at Yeovil Parish Church and the Bishop's Palace Chapel Wells, Musical Director to the Exeter University Choral Society, and one of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Advisory Committee Organ Advisors. Ray's career spans 45 years as a renowned keyboard and organ player, choir conductor and teacher. Ray will talk about the place of the organ in the development of the liturgy and illustrate this with various organ pieces.



*Bishop's Palace Chapel,  
Wells*

**Booking essential by 17th November.** Tickets, £5, include a glass of wine. Additional donations very welcome. Write, enclosing SAE and cheque made out to Somerset Churches Trust to: Chris Hawkings, 3 Glastonbury Road, Wells BA5 1TW. Tel: 01749 672327. Email: chrishawkings@hotmail.co.uk

## **SOMERSET CHURCHES TRUST**

Registered Charity No. 155840. Registered address: 14 Market Place, Wells BA5 2RE.

*For full information about our grants and membership please consult our website: [www.somersetchurchestrust.org](http://www.somersetchurchestrust.org)*

*Contact us via email: [somersetchurchestrust@gmail.com](mailto:somersetchurchestrust@gmail.com)*

*Or write to: Membership Secretary, SCT, 3 Glastonbury Road, Wells, Somerset BA5 1TW.*