

SOMERSET CHURCHES TRUST

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.

2019 EVENTS PROGRAMME

**JOIN US FOR A YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION OF ONLY
£20 for an individual, £30 for a family or small
church, £60 for a large church, £100 for corporations**

Membership Forms from: www.somersetchurchestrust.org

You will be helping us give grants to hard-pressed church congregations, who have the burden of funding repairs and improvements to their (often Listed) buildings.

This is not the responsibility of the Church Commissioners.

COME TO OUR EVENTS

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

MARCH: SAT. 23rd, 12.30pm

Somerset Churches of the 20thC

This Crawl endeavours to highlight, in the small geographical area of **Weston-super-Mare**, the development of churches across the denominations resulting from the changing circumstances of the 20thC.

All Saints, All Saints Road, BS23 2NL. Arrive 12.30 for 1pm. 'The finest church of entirely modern foundation in Somerset' (Sir John Betjeman, Poet Laureate). Opened 1902, it is one of Royal Academician, George Bodley's, last creations. Then to **Corpus Christi, 14 Ellenborough Park South, BS23 1XW.** The 'new church' of Corpus Christi was opened in 1929, exactly 100 years after the Catholic Emancipation Act. Catholic churches have a distinct character, in this case an Italianate appearance, internally driven largely by liturgical function. On to **Boulevard United Reformed, Waterloo Street, BS23 1LF.** Built 1959 to the design of Gordon W. Jackson, this is a post war replacement of the original urban Gothic church, destroyed by bombing in the 2nd World War. Lastly to **St Paul, Walliscote Road, BA23 1EF.** St Paul's post-War rebuild was perhaps the town's final architectural show of dominant ecclesiastical self-confidence, encompassing a variety of uses as well as showing external religiosity and is a very popular venue. Afternoon tea here – donations please.

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



APRIL: SAT. 27th, 2pm

**Annual Meeting
in St. Andrew's Church Hall, Stogursey, TA5 1TQ
FOLLOWED BY ...**

Tea – donations please. **3pm: Visit to St Andrew, Stogursey, TA5 1RG.** St Andrew is a big



complicated old church. The present church was built by one of William the Conqueror's henchmen, William de Falaise in the 1090s. It was given to the Benedictines of Lonlay, near to Falaise. That church comprised a nave that has since been replaced, the two transepts and a chancel. Both transepts and chancel ended in a triple apse arrangement. Of this original building we still have the crossing and transepts. The apses were demolished between 1175 and 1180 when the chancel was extended to form a choir and sanctuary for the monks. At the same time, the transepts were extended eastwards so that the new choir was flanked by two side aisles, separated by a 2 bay arcade. Thus we still have features from two distinct phases of Norman building. **3.45pm: Visit to Fairfield House, Stogursey, TA5 1PU,** home of one of our Patrons, Elizabeth, Lady Gass, DCVO.

Booking essential by Sat. 20th April with Bob Croft, email: bob.croft@swheritage.org.uk, tel: 01823 278805 (work).

MAY: SAT. 18th, 2pm

Start at **St Martin, Fivehead, TA3 6QE**, a Grade I Listed Building situated in the centre of the village of Fivehead. It is a typical mediaeval church of the Perpendicular period. Brasses c1550, wall mounted. Norman font with cable moulding. Chancel late C13th – rest mainly C15th. Parking on road in the village.

On to **All Saints, Curry Mallet, TA3 6SD.** William Mallet, Guarantor of the Magna Carta 1215. Two pre-Reformation bells. Figure of Rector Ralph Mighill, d. 1633, a Puritan. Tools of village craftsmen on wall.

Thence to **St John the Baptist, Hatch Beauchamp, TA3 6AA**, c1530. Chancel C14th. Burial place of Col. J. Chard, VC, RE, Battle of Rorke's Drift. Magnificent bench ends; mediaeval glass. Font C15th. A fitting church at which to finish. Tea here – donations please.

Book with Simon Colledge: email simoncolledge@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01460 75815.

JUNE: SAT. 22nd, 2pm

Woodwork and Effigies in SW Somerset

With **Julian Gibbs** and **Lucy Wood.** Julian was Curator for the National Trust from 1979–2010. Member of Bath & Wells DAC. **Lucy's** career is in historic furniture. As Senior Curator of Furniture, she was responsible for the new Furniture Gallery at the V&A. Today, she is a freelance consultant in late 17th to early 19thC furniture.

Start at **SS Peter and Paul, Churchstanton, TA3 7QE.** 18thC box pews, gallery faced with 16thC bench ends, Jacobean pulpit, Norman font, 13thC arcade to the south aisle and striking stained glass from the 1930s.

On to **St Mary, Buckland St Mary, TA20 3SL.** Described by Pevsner as 'a noble incongruity' built in the 1850s by the then rector in memory of his wife who died in childbirth. No expense was spared in creating 'a lavish and ornate building' that includes a memorial to his wife showing her and her child bursting out of the tomb to resurrection.



Then to **St Andrew, Whitestaunton, TA20 3DL.** Chancel dating from the 13thC, nave and south porch from the 14thC, windows from the 15thC and west tower, delicately carved rood screen, south chapel and some bench ends from the 16thC. Restored 19thC, retained features include the south chapel, behind a carved stone screen. Chemical toilet outside.

Mid Somerset



Ending at about 5pm at **St Nicholas, Combe St Nicholas, TA20 3NE**. Light and airy in the absence of stained glass. Spacious nave, matching north and south aisles and a fabulous rood screen dating from 1480 with carved fan vaulting. Two fountains, one possibly Saxon, 17thC pulpit, etched glass and a monument noting its reconsecration in 1239 following rebuilding. Tea here – donations please. Total drive between churches: 12.3 miles.

Book with William Newsom, email william@williamnewsom.co.uk, tel 01963 441533.

JULY: SAT. 13th, 2pm

Mediaeval churches of the North Mendips

All three churches have received grants from SCT. There are a small number of steps to the churches. Our visit starts at the church of **St. James the Great, Winscombe, BS25 1BX**, where there is a large carpark. In a lovely, elevated location, the church has 12th- or 13thC origins but the present building dates from the 15thC. It was restored and a new chancel added in 1863. The rebuilding of the chancel was undertaken by William Burges. Of particular note is the stained glass – both a remarkable collection of mediaeval windows as well as more recent work by William Burges. We then drive to **St. Bartholomew, Ubley, BS40 6PJ**. Originally built in the 13thC. Although not pewed, the church has a number of interesting fixtures and fittings including a 13thC font. Our last stop is the church of **St. Michael the Archangel, Compton Martin**. Described by Pevsner as, ‘perhaps the best Norman parish church in Somerset’, it still has a Norman nave, chancel and north aisle and some very fine architectural decoration, as well as a twisted column and a very rare columbarium (a pigeon loft). Tea here – donations please.



Book with Rob Harding, email: robhardingbristol@gmail.com, tel: 0117 924 0333.

AUGUST: SAT. 17th, 2pm

Fine churches in NE Somerset

Tour led by Julian Orbach, such an expert in the field of historic buildings that he needs no introduction. He wrote the latest (2014) Pevsner Guide of *The Buildings of England* for Somerset South and West.

Start at **St Mary Magdalene, Great Elm BA11 3NZ**, a small village church built in the 12thC that has a wall with early Norman herringbone stone courses, saddleback west tower of c1240 and an Elizabethan gallery approached from an external staircase (both the latter quite unusual). Also 17thC box pews, 14thC porch, 18thC north transept and a Norman font. On to **St Mary, Orchardleigh BA11 2PH**, in a secluded spot on an island in a lake, with no electricity, on a former estate, now a golf course. It has 13thC origins but is mostly 18thC. There is a stone screen dated 1879, Jacobean pulpit, Norman font, Royal Arms and other hatchments. There is a tribute to poet Sir Henry Newbolt (1862–1938), who was inspired by the story of a faithful dog called Azor, to whom there is a monument. Then to **All Saints, Lullington BA11 2PG**, one of Robin Bush’s (author of *Somerset, The Complete Guide*) top churches in the county, notable in particular for its Norman north doorway and inside, its Norman tower arches. It also has a fantastic decorated font, elaborately carved stone capitals and ancient pulpit, 13thC south chapel and c1150 tapering tomb slab cover.



We finish at about 5pm at **St George, Beckington BA11 6TD**, with a 12thC west tower, lofty nave with clerestory and north and south aisles. There are several notable military memorials (1780, 1856, 1922 and 1940) as well as a 1485 brass of two figures, and three stone effigies dating from 1360–1400, and a monument to Samuel Daniel (died 1619), Poet Laureate. Tea

here – donations please. Total drive between churches: 10.8 miles.

Book with William Newsom, email william@williamnewsom.co.uk, tel: 01963 441533.

**CYCLE, WALK, RIDE A HORSE OR DRIVE
on SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2019**



Please support our biggest annual fundraiser. Raise money for the Trust and help us continue giving grants to churches, chapels and meeting houses in Somerset, and also support your own church, chapel or charity. Make this our biggest event to date.

- Visit as few, or as many, of Somerset's many wonderful places of worship as you like.
- Take part on **Saturday 14th September**, or on any day from **7th to 21st September**.
- Make up your own route, or download a walk or cycle route from our website.
- Cycle, walk, drive a car or mobility scooter, or ride a horse*, with friends and family.
- Not keen on cycling or walking, Make **September 14th** an **Open Day** or **Activity Day**. Hold a coffee morning, cream tea, treasure hunt, quiz evening or concert.
- Can you help promote R+S to churches in your local area? Please call Michael Auton.
- Nominate a church, chapel, or charity to receive 50% of the money you raise through sponsorship, or donate it all to the Trust.
- Please help the Trust to continue giving grants to churches, chapels and meeting houses in Somerset.

**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.*

**Full details, and all the forms you need, will be on our website:
www.somersetchurchestrust.org**

Further information about Ride+Stride from: Michael Auton, tel: 07862 253514, email: michaelautonconsultancy@gmail.com. He is waiting to hear from you!!

OCTOBER: FRIDAY 11th, 2pm

Fine textiles in Bath churches

Three contrasting places of worship with notable textiles. Meet at **St John's Roman Catholic Church, South Parade, Bath BA2 4AF** (public car parks nearby), an 1861 neo-Gothic city church with 15thC vestments still in use. On to **St Mary, Bathwick, Darlington St, BA2 4EB** (on-site parking available), a Somerset Gothic church which has a Willis organ, and again fine vestments. Finally to the **University of Bath Chaplaincy**, next to the University library, **Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY** (car parks on campus) – a modern chaplaincy which has an elegant triptych based on a triquetra symbol. Tea here – donations please.



Book with Tony Davies, email: tony@anthonydavies.demon.co.uk, tel: 01225 336124.

NOVEMBER: FRIDAY 1st, 7.30pm

Autumn Talk

Monuments and Effigies of Somerset

at Wells Museum Lecture Hall, 8 Cathedral Green, Wells BA5 2UE

This talk is by **Dr. Tim Connor**, an architectural historian who focuses on buildings and church monuments in Dorset and Somerset, and is hugely respected in this field. His study of early chest tombs in West Dorset and South Somerset appeared in 2014. He is a Trustee of St Andrew's Conservation Trust as well as holding other related appointments.

Booking essential by 25 October. Tickets £5.00, to include a glass of wine – additional donations very welcome. **Write, enclosing SAE and cheque** made out to Somerset Churches Trust, to: William Newsom, Corton Ridge, Weston Bampfylde, Yeovil BA22 7HT, email: william@williamnewsom.co.uk, tel: 01963 441533.