



# SOMERSET CHURCHES TRUST

## 2016 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 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.**

By doing so 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 – THEY'RE FREE!**

**Generous donations are requested for tea, but book yourself in (preferably a week before) so that we have enough!**

**MARCH: Sat. 12th, 12 noon      PLAYFAIR PRIZE WINNERS**

A visit to the winner and one of the finalists of the Playfair Prize, led by Julian Orbach, chairman of judges, architectural historian and writer. Starting at **St Luke's, Wellsway, Bath, BS2 2BD**, finalist church, at **12 noon**. 12.30–2pm: *break for lunch and travelling*. **2pm: St Andrew's, Chew Magna, BS40 2RE**. Chiefly 15C with important monuments. Also visit to the adjacent late medieval Old School Room. **3pm: Holy Trinity, Norton Malreward, BS39 4EX**, winner of the £5,000 Playfair Prize. Tea at Norton Malreward – donations.

**Book with** Jane Venner-Pack, email: [janevp@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:janevp@globalnet.co.uk) Tel: 01761 463699.



*The refurbished Holy Trinity*



**APRIL: Sat. 9th, 2pm  
ANNUAL MEETING  
at Downside Abbey**

**Do take this opportunity** of a visit to the superb post-Reformation Downside Abbey, of cathedral proportions with a unique collection of furnishings and stained glass. Our meeting is at **Downside Abbey Visitor Centre, Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Radstock, BA3 4RH**. Dom Aidan Bellenger, a former Trustee, will give a talk 'Word and Stone' following the meeting, and a tour of the Abbey and tea will follow – donations for tea please.

**Booking essential** for catering purposes by **April 5th** with Hugh Playfair, Blackford House, Blackford, Yeovil BA22 7EE. Tel. 01963 440611.

**MAY: Sat. 14th, 12 noon**

**Tour on foot in Taunton**

Another visit led by Julian Orbach, architectural historian and writer, this time on foot to three Victorian churches and the Unitarian Chapel in Taunton. **11.45am:** meet at **St John the Evangelist, Park Street, TA1 4DG.** 1858-60, by GG Scott. *12.30–2pm: break for lunch.* **2pm:**



*Reyntiens window*

**Unitarian Chapel, Mary Street, TA1 4PE, 1721,** and its memorial garden; **2.45pm: St George's Roman Catholic Church, Billet Street, TA1 3NN** 1858-60, by Benjamin Bucknall with interesting glass and window 2009 by Patrick Reyntiens. **3.45pm: Holy Trinity, Trinity Street, TA1 3JG,** Richard Carver, built in white lias, 1840–42. Tea at Holy Trinity – donations.

**Book with** Jane Venner-Pack: email: janevp@globalnet.co.uk Tel: 01761 463699.

**JUNE: Sat. 18th, 2pm Hinton St. George, Lopen and Merriott**

Meet at 2pm at **St. George's, Church Street, Hinton St George, TA17 8SP** – Poulett family chapel and memorials. On to **All Saints, Church Street, Lopen, TA13 5JX** – Roman remains and Cardinal Wolsey association. Finish at **All Saints, Church St, Merriott, TA16 5PS** – Charles Rennie Mackintosh connection. Tea here at 4.30 pm – donations.

**Book with** Simon Colledge: Tel. 01460 75815. email: simoncolledge@hotmail.co.uk



*Poulett monument*

**JULY: Sat. 9th, 2pm Stained Glass Tour, North-east Somerset**

Meet at **St Thomas à Becket Church, Church Street, Widcombe, Bath BA2 6AZ** – interesting glass illustrating plants and flowers with no human figures by Lavers and Barraud. Visit the church of **The Blessed Virgin Mary, Claverton, Bath, BA2 7BG**, midway along the village, below the American Museum and off the A36 out of Bath. Splendid assortment of 20th century glass and 18th century mausoleum of Bath's Ralph Allen of Prior Park. Lastly to **Holy Trinity, Trinity Street, Frome, BA11 3DE** (access via parking area next to Trinity Hall off Goulds Ground, BA11 3DW) – outstanding William Morris/Burne-Jones glass. Tea here – donations.



*Holy Trinity, Frome*

**Book with** Hugh Playfair, Blackford House, Blackford, Yeovil BA22 7EE. Tel. 01963 440611.

**AUGUST: Sat. 13th, 2pm**

**Mid Somerset**

First of all we will visit the lovely little church of **St. Catherine, Swell Lane, Swell, Fivehead, TA3 6PZ**, tucked behind the manor house at Swell. It has a fine Norman doorway with much zigzag moulding and then, inside, just a nave and chancel with ceiled wagon roofs. The churchwarden will give us a talk about the church's history. There is parking close by to the church.



*St. Catherine, Swell*

Then on to **St Gregory, The Square, Stoke St Gregory, TA3 6BJ**, mainly perpendicular in style but with an earlier crossing and octagonal crossing tower. Again we hope that the churchwarden will tell us more about its history. Parking in the village around the church.

Then to the **Methodist Church in North Curry, TA3 6LY**. A simple red brick building erected in 1833 with school rooms added in 1900. A member of the congregation and village archivist will tell us about the history of Methodism in the area and the building of the church. There is parking close by in the village.

A short walk or drive brings us to our last stop, the church of **St Peter and St Paul, Church Road, North Curry, TA3 6LJ** at the north end of the village, where Dr. Robert Dunning, former Trustee of the Trust and Somerset archivist, will tell us about the church's history and architecture. Often referred to as the 'Cathedral of the Moors', this very substantial church has much perpendicular work but also material from various earlier phases including another early, octagonal crossing tower. Tea here – donations.

**Book with** Rob Harding, 120 Belmont Road, St Andrews, Bristol BS6 5AU. Tel: 0117 924 0333. Email: robhardingbristol@gmail.com



**SEPTEMBER: Sat. 10th, 10am–6pm**

**RIDE+STRIDE**

**RIDE+STRIDE NEEDS YOU!**

**This is our main fundraising event but over the last ten years the amount we raise has fallen year on year.** This means we have less money available to give as grants – the main reason we exist. We need your help to increase the amount we raise.

**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. 10th** or any day from **Sat. 3rd to Sun. 18th 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. Anyone can take part – maybe you belong to a cycling club, and you can all see how far you can go! Let us know what you are doing and we can put it on the website so that others may join in.

**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**

**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. 15th, 10.30am Celebrating the Perpendicular



*St Andrew, Brympton D'Evercy*

The first church is **St Andrew, Brympton House, Brympton D'Evercy, Odcombe, BA22 8TD**, described as 'the best of English house and church combinations'. It is Grade I listed, dates from the 13th Century and is recognised as 'one of the surprises of Somerset, unexpected and unforgettable.' Coffee here at 10.30am.

**St Bartholomew, Abbey Street, Crewkerne TA18 7HY** – an excellent example of the 'perpendicular style' with many unusual and individual features'. It, too, is Grade I listed and is a church full of vista and perspectives. The window tracery is among the most complex Perpendicular work of any church in England.

**The Minster – The Blessed Virgin Mary, Silver Street, Ilminster, TA19 0DU** – a 'minster in more than name'. Among the principal features are the Wadham tombs and of the Wadham Chapel in the North transept, Simon Jenkins notes '...which is of the richest Perpendicular, windows completely fill the wallspaces between panelled buttresses, creating what amounts to a glasshouse.' The church is also Grade I listed and dates from the second half of the 15th Century. Bring your own packed lunch or eat out.

**The Blessed Virgin Mary, Church Street, Isle Abbots, TA3 6RH** is regarded as the 'Monarch of the Somerset Levels'. Dating from 13th Century, this Grade I listed building it is described by Kenneth Wickham as '... the heart and core of so much beauty'. Tea here – donations.

**Book with** Philip Skelhorn, email: [pjskelhorn@gmail.com](mailto:pjskelhorn@gmail.com) Tel: 01963 220586.

## NOVEMBER: Fri. 11th, 7.30pm Talk, Wells Museum, BA5 2UE

**Talk by Dr Neil Rushton** about the work of the **Churches Conservation Trust in the West Region**. In 2014 Dr Rushton, as the CCT project manager, was the winner of the Cultural Heritage Champion Award at the Charity Staff & Volunteer Awards. Neil led a project called 'Hidden Somerset' in conjunction with Wessex Archaeology based on the church of St Andrew, Holcombe, involving training in techniques for historic surveying and community involvement.

**Booking essential.** Tickets, £5, include a glass of wine and nibbles. Write, enclosing SAE and cheque made out to Somerset Churches Trust to: Mrs Gill Hawkings, 3 Glastonbury Road, Wells BA5 1TW. Tel: 01749 672327. Email: [gillandchris@hawkings.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:gillandchris@hawkings.freeserve.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.*