

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.

2020 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

**Visitors are welcome to our Church Crawls on payment of £5,
but why not join for £20 and come to all of them?**

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

MARCH: SAT. 21st, 2pm

Start at **St Peter and St Paul, Dray Road, Odcombe BA22 8UG**. C13 in origin, today's church is mainly C15th with Victorian restoration and a north transept added in 1874. Unusual west door, 25 stained glass windows, and a wall plaque to Thomas Coryate, author of *Coryate's Crudities*. On to **St Catherine, Middle Street, Montacute TA15 6UU**, originally a burial chapel in the grounds of a Cluniac Priory, the present church dates from the C12th with 13th, 14th and C15th additions, heavily 'restored' in 1870. Old Norman door arch, memorials to the Phelips family, once owners of Montacute House. To the south of the church, the magnificent priory gatehouse, dovecote and fishpond can still be seen. Thence to **St Peter and St Paul, Church Lane, Chiselborough TA14 6TR**. C12th origins, C17th chancel, ham stone coursed rubble walls and welsh slate roof. Magnificent C13th spire over unusually positioned central tower dominates the area. Interior is lit by tall single windows. Stained glass shields in the west window to the Strangways (Earls of Ilchester) and Wyndham families, holders of the Manorial rights to Chiselborough at one time. Tea here – donations please.

SOUTH SOMERSET

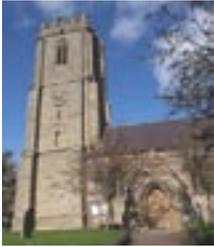


Book with Simon Colledge: E: simoncolledge@hotmail.co.uk, T: 01460 75815

APRIL: SAT. 25th, 2pm

ANNUAL MEETING

**at Somerset Heritage Centre, Brunel Way,
Norton Fitzwarren TA2 6SF**



Come and meet the people who run the Trust, and have your once a year chance to have your say!

After the Annual Meeting there will be a 15 mins. walk to the Grade II* **All Saints Church, Church Close, Norton Fitzwarren TA2 6QR**, led by Bob Croft. For those not able to walk there is on-street parking outside the Primary School at Blackdown View, TA2 6TB. Return to the Heritage Centre for tea – donations please.

Book with Bob Croft, E: info@swheritage.org.uk, T: 01823 278805

MAY: SAT. 16th, 1.30 for 1.45pm

HOW TO READ A CHURCH

This Crawl visits three spectacular churches and endeavours to explain the significance of church layout, the symbolism of the key scenes and the importance of the detail such as the use of colours and letters. Its purpose is to provide a guide to the history, meanings and messages of these beautiful buildings and the treasures they contain.

Start at St John the Baptist, Shop Lane, Pilton BA4 4BE. Grade I, C11th in origin, the present Norman and Medieval structure stands on the site of an earlier 'Wattle & Daub' church built by the early missionaries. Pilton is now almost 20 miles from the sea but sits on the edge of the Somerset Levels that was once a shallow tidal lake. According to legend, in the C1st it was a landing place known as Pooltown, where Joseph of Arimathea landed in Britain. Depart 2.45pm for **St Mary the Virgin, Church Street, Croscombe BA4 4DX.** Grade I, primarily from C15th and C16th with C19th restoration, the church is unusual in Somerset in having a spire, rising above a three-stage tower, supported by diagonal buttresses. The Jacobean interior woodwork including the pulpit and rood screen are of national renown. The pulpit is decorated with the arms of Arthur Lake who was the C17th Bishop of Bath and Wells. Depart 3.45pm for **St Peter, 7 Church View, North Wootton BA4 4AD.** A chapel existed in North Wootton in the C12 under the control of the church in Pilton. This small stone church, built in C14th and C15th with a Victorian restoration in C19th when the Chancel was rebuilt, is a Grade II* listed building. Of particular note are the Norman font, the C15th benches and a sundial over the porch dated 1767. Tea here – donations please.



Book with Philip Skelhorn, E: pjskelhorn@gmail.com, T: 01963 220586



JUNE: SAT. 6th, 2pm

WIVELISCOMBE

Start at **St Luke, Church Street, Langley Marsh TA4 2NB.** Parking at Langley is very restricted; park in the road and walk back to the church. We will then visit the **Congregational Church, Silver Street, Wiveliscombe TA4 2PA** at 2.45pm. Wiveliscombe car parking is available in two public car parks in North Street, TA4 2LJ and Croft Way, TA4 2JR. On to **St Andrew, Church Street, TA4 2LR** for 3.30pm. First documented in 1179, a new church was built during the reign of Bishop Ralph. In 1826 the pillars in the church were found to be out of perpendicular and the cracked tower oscillated when the bells were rung. A gothic style new design was built and consecrated in 1829, increasing the seating capacity by 558 to 1250. In 1914 the sanctuary was remodelled and the rose window installed. The oldest part of the church is the C12th Norman font, returned in 1924 from a garden, where it had been used for many years as an ornament. The Church Crypt was used in World War II for the storage of valuable Church furniture, ornaments and records from all over the country. Tea here – donations please.

Book with Bob Croft, E: info@swheritage.org.uk, T: 01823 278805

JULY: SAT. 25th, 2pm

ISLE OF WEDMORE

Before the first church visit it is suggested you arrive earlier and visit **Ashton Windmill, Notting Hill Way, Chapel Allerton, BS28 4QF**, very close to the first church, and the last surviving windmill in the South West.

Start at **Chapel Allerton, Front Street, BS26 2PQ**. Parking limited on verge opposite. Originally site of Norman church with font from that period. Also C13th lancet windows remain. Current main interest is Victorian rebuilding circa 1860 by C E Giles including reredos and intricately carved font and pulpit. On to **Holy Trinity, Church Road, Blackford BS28 4NR**. Parking limited in lower section of pub car park and in Church Road. Rare octagonal Chapel style church with cupola, by Richard Carver 1823. Originally three galleries of which only west remains. Chancel extended in 1921. Refurbished over past 20 years. Thence to **St Mary, Church Street, Wedmore BS28 4AA**. Parking limited near church but available in signed public car park 5 mins walk. Church Grade I, grand mainly perpendicular but with earlier works (south door). Norman font, wall painting circa 1520, C17th pulpit, and magnificent brass candelabra all make this a dramatic visit. Tea here – donations please.



Book with David Sisson, E: davidsisson@hotmail.com, T: 01934 713617

AUGUST: SAT. 15th, 2pm

3 GRADE I CHURCHES SOUTH OF BATH

Led by eminent architectural historian Andrew Foyle, author of Pevsner's *Buildings of England* Guides series: Bristol (City Guide, 2004) and Somerset North and Bristol (2011). Author, teacher of art history and architecture and lecturer to university audiences, The Georgian Group and the Victorian Society.

Start at **St Peter, Skinners Hill, Camerton BA2 0PU**. Car park off approach road to church. Described by Arthur Mee (in *The King's England, Somerset*) as 'a truly noble village church, spacious and light', it has 'medieval fancies creeping over the 13thC porch and 15thC tower', including a rhinoceros, a baby pig and an elephant. Particularly notable is the north chapel of the Carew family dated 1638 with 'an impressive collection' (Pevsner) of tombs and effigies. Many of the fittings date from the church's enlargement in 1891–2. On to **St Luke and St Andrew, 8 Summerlea, Priston BA2 9EF**. A small village church, but with 'a noble dignity'. Norman origins with Norman tower arches (altered in 1860–1), a remarkable Norman door and Norman sculptures including a rare crouching lion, cats with sharp ears and creatures with goggle eyes. Above the tower is one of the largest and most impressive cockerels one can find anywhere. However, Pevsner is critical of the restoration



in 1860–1. Also note some bright recent stained glass. Thence to **St Julian, High Street, Wellow BA2 8QE**, one of the most impressive village churches in the county, said to date from 1372, sympathetically restored and enlarged in 1889–90. Robust, ashlar faced west tower. Inside, the main feature is the rood screen and rood figures by Caroe (1950–52), gaily painted and gilded with delicate tracery. Many old bench ends with poppyheads. Late C13th font with an eight-lobed bowl. Fascinating array of effigies, monuments and stone carved heads. Tea here – donations please.

Book with William Newsom, E: william@williamnewsom.co.uk, T: 01963 441533

SEPTEMBER: SAT. 12th, 10am–6pm

RIDE+STRIDE

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

This is our main fundraising event. There are many ways you can take part, on your own, with a group or as a church community.



More details will be on our website in due course but these are some activities you could take part in:

- Walk or cycle between churches and chapels on your own or with a group.
- Drive between churches
- Visit churches on horseback (subject to insurance)
- Make up your own route
- Follow one of our routes



Can't cycle or walk? Do something to raise money in your church instead:

- Play the Organ?
- Ring the Bells?
- Have a Treasure Hunt?
- Trips up the Tower?
- Coffee Morning?
- Cream Teas?
- Cake Sale, etc ...?



So ... Get sponsored or make a donation. Keep an eye on the website for details of a big event, or follow us on Twitter

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: SAT 10th, 2pm VILLAGE CHURCHES IN LOCKING DEANERY

Start at **St John, Churchill Green, Churchill, BS25 5QW**, (car park north of church), a Grade I listed church mainly dating from 1360, with ancient armour and monuments relating to famous predecessors of the Churchill family dynasty. Some pre-Reformation stained glass, originally from Wakefield Cathedral. On to **St Andrew, Church Street, Banwell, BS29 6EA**, also Grade I listed and dating from the C15th, and with pre-Reformation font, stone pulpit and an eminent rood screen dated 1522. The tall interior has a fine wagon-roof and much elegant stonework. We conclude the tour at **St Augustine, The Green, Locking, BS24 8DA**, a C14th Grade II* church with a very interesting square Norman font bearing carvings characteristic of Celtic art. We will be able to study the tower, built in 1380 and newly restored after huge fund-raising in 2018–19. Tea here – donations please.



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

NOVEMBER: THURS. 26th, 7 for 7.30pm

AUTUMN TALK

Romanesque Churches of Somerset

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

This talk is given by Jerry Sampson, church archaeologist, and archaeologist for Wells Cathedral. Tickets £10.00, including light refreshments; additional donations appreciated.

Please email somersetchurchestrust@gmail.com to book your place.