

## About St Andrew's

Wroxeter (*Viroconium*) was one of the largest towns of Roman Britain and covered an area way beyond the present village boundaries. With the decline of the town after the Romans left Britain in the 5th century, its ruined buildings became a quarry for stone; indeed much Roman masonry is incorporated in the church and churchyard.

The building history of the church is complicated. A church with four priests is mentioned in Domesday Book (1086), though it must have existed some time before then. It was greatly extended in the late 12th century and a chantry chapel added to the original south aisle. The tower was built in stages from the 15th century and incorporates carvings probably taken from nearby Haughmond Abbey on its dissolution in 1539. Further additions to the structure were made between the 16th and early 18th centuries, but in 1763 the original south aisle and porch were demolished and the present south wall and vestry built. The present porch dates to 1870.

St Andrew's is a large church and the parish was unable to maintain it. Consequently it was closed in 1980, being placed in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust in 1987 following repairs by English Heritage and excavations by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit.

## A thousand years of English history awaits you

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk.

We've saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract more than 1.5 million visitors a year. With our help and with your support they are kept open and in use – living once again at the heart of their communities.



### Access

Due to their age, historic church floors can be uneven and worn, and lighting can be low level. Please take care, especially in wet weather when floors can be slippery.

### Help us do more

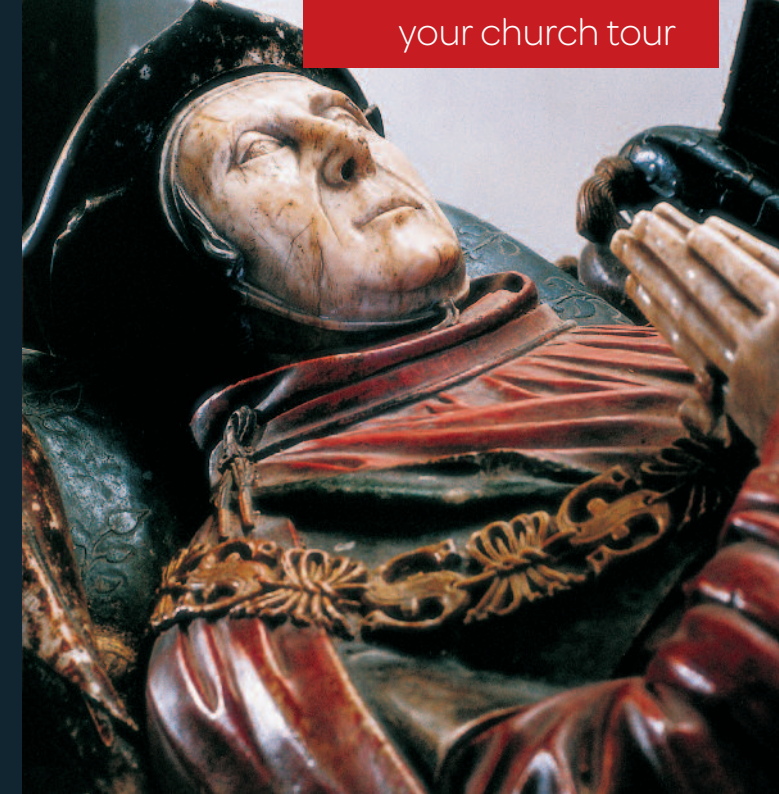
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THE CHURCHES  
CONSERVATION TRUST

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## Church of St Andrew

Wroxeter, Shropshire



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- 1 The **royal arms**, dated 1765 (George III).
- 2 **Benefactions board**, recording gifts made to the church from 1773–1837.
- 3 **West gallery** of 1772, altered c.1870, and **organ** of 1849 by C Brindley, much altered.
- 4 **Tower arch**, probably 12th century, with carved capitals at the top of the piers.
- 5 The enormous **font** is probably the base of a Roman column.

- 6 **Cupboard**, made from pieces of Jacobean and other panelling.
- 7 **Parish chest**, 14th century; it would originally have contained parish records and the plate used for Communion services.

- 8 **Stained glass** by Morris & Co. (1902), depicting Saints Andrew (patron of the church) and George. Other windows on this wall contain fragments of 15th-century glass.

- 9 Three **brass monuments** of 1627, 1735 and 1743. The earliest commemorates Thomas Alcock who founded a grammar school in Wroxeter.

- 10 Former **reredos**, with the Creed, Ten Commandments and Lord's Prayer, 18th century.

- 11 **Pulpit**, Jacobean with carved panels.

- 12 **Reading Desk**, Jacobean with carved panels.

- 13 The oak **box pews** are Jacobean, as is the **panelling**. There are 10 legible **ledger stones** in the floor dating from 1684 to 1857.

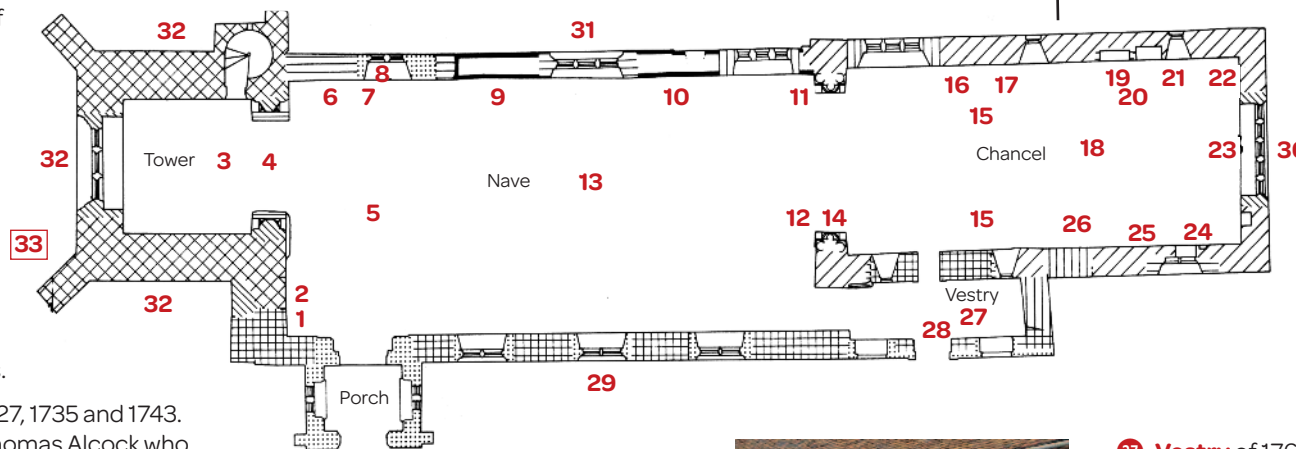
- 14 The **chancel arch** is 12th century but the base of the south pier contains part of a Saxon carved stone.

- 15 **Choir stalls**, incorporating Elizabethan or Jacobean panelling.

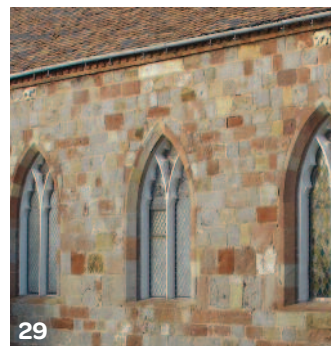


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- 16 **Hatchment** (diamond-shaped panel), probably for a member of the Jenkins family.
- 17 Six **wall monuments** to members of the Jenkins family of Charlton Hill, ranging in date from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries.
- 18 **Communion rail**, 1637.
- 19 **Recess**, probably for a tomb, with ballflower carving and large **aumbry** (cupboard) alongside, with traces of 14th-century wall painting of Christ in Majesty.



- 20 The first of three outstanding alabaster **tomb chests** all with original colouring. This one is of Sir Thomas (d.1555) and Mabel Bromley (cover). He was Chief Justice of England. Probably made by Richard Parker of Burton-on-Trent.



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- 21 **Wall monument** to Richard Newport (d.1716).
- 22 **Tomb chest** to John Berker (d.1618) and his wife Margaret (née Newport).
- 23 **East window** depicting the 12 apostles by E Baillie, 1860; the arms of the Newport family in the top central light are probably 17th century.
- 24 **Wall monument** to Francis Newport, 1st Earl of Bradford (d.1708) with cherubs and sarcophagus. Probably the work of Grinling Gibbons.



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- 25 **Tomb chest**: Sir Richard Newport (d.1570) and his wife Margaret (d.1578), daughter of Sir Thomas Bromley. His eight children are depicted on the sides of the tomb. Believed to have been made in the Royley workshop in Burton-on-Trent. There are six **ledger stones** in the chancel floor, dating from 1690–1734, commemorating other members of the family and four early 19th-century stones.

- 26 Blocked late 12th-century Norman decorated **doorway**.

- 27 **Vestry** of 1763, with remains of demolished medieval south aisle and chapel. In the floor are five 18th-century **ledger stones**.

- 28 **Hatchment** with motto *Deo Solo Confido*. Unidentified.

- 29 Part of a 9th-century Anglo-Saxon **cross shaft** with carvings of a dragon and foliage, built into the wall top. The carved panels of a beast and a bird nearby are probably part of the cross.

- 30 Remains of earlier Norman **window** replaced by a 15th-century Perpendicular one.

- 31 **Masonry** from the Roman town used in the north wall.

- 32 The **tower** incorporates sculpture, probably taken from nearby Haughmond Abbey.

- 33 The **gate piers** to the churchyard are reused Roman columns.



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