



THE CHURCHES
CONSERVATION TRUST

Historic churches in
Somerset

discover the
rich
delights

take a closer look

Somerset's historic churches are among the most beautiful in the country. Many stand in pretty villages or quiet rural locations, the perfect picture of all things English.



But look closer and you'll see that Somerset churches have their own distinct character. There are churches of legend, those with features that rival grand cathedrals' and some so seemingly untouched by time it's as if they have been sleeping under a spell. The historic churches of Somerset are waiting to be discovered.

All the churches in this leaflet have been saved by The Churches Conservation Trust. The Trust is a charity that cares for more than 340 churches in England. This is one of 18 leaflets that highlight their history and treasures.

For more information on the other guides in this series, as well as interactive maps and downloadable information, see visitchurches.org.uk



spellbinding

visitors of all ages are enchanted by 'Rip Van Winkle's St James', Cameley



1

Cameley, St James

Somerset's
'Sleeping Beauty'

This beautiful hillside landmark, with an impressive 15th-century tower made of red sandstone, assaults the senses. The nave walls lean slightly outwards, the flagstone floor slopes gently downhill. The fabulous wall paintings are from the 12th to the 17th centuries. Poet John Betjeman described St James' as 'Rip Van Winkle's Church' – asleep for centuries and virtually untouched.

Cameley, Temple Cloud, Bristol BS39 5AH

→ 10m NE of Wells off A37

Nearest railway station: Keynsham (7.6 miles)

🕒 *Open daily from mid-April*



2

Hardington Bampfylde, St Mary

A lovely unspoiled
Georgian interior

This peaceful church in a working farmyard has beautiful Georgian furnishings and a wonderfully preserved Norman tower. Yet the tranquil atmosphere hides a tragic history: the church and village became almost extinct during the Black Death of 1348. The Bampfylde family restored village fortunes in the 15th century, and inside the church you can see Bampfylde memorials – as well as delightful box pews, pulpit and altar rails.

Pillar Lane, Hardington, Frome BA11 2RE

→ 3m NW of Frome off A362

Nearest railway station: Frome (4 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



3

Langport, All Saints

'Hunky Punks' and the best
stained glass in Somerset

All Saints, built mainly in the 15th and 16th centuries, stands on a hill near the river Parrett, overlooking the remains of a Benedictine abbey. Its bold, pinnacled west tower, covered with gargoyles known locally as 'Hunky Punks', is a local landmark. However, the church's special treasure is its east window, containing the largest collection of Medieval stained glass in Somerset. The saints are shown in gloriously coloured robes with both animated and serene expressions.

The Hill, Langport TA10 9PU

→ 14m E of Taunton and 4m NE of Somerton off A378

Nearest railway station: Bridgwater (9.5 miles)

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*



4

Stocklinch Ottersey, St Mary the Virgin

A legend of love for
a hilltop jewel

This beautiful hillside landmark made of golden Ham stone is an atmospheric gem. It stands close to an old water source, one of Somerset's many holy – or healing – wells. St Mary's is tied to its sister church in the village, St Mary Magdalene, with an old legend of two sisters who both fell in love with a vicar, each building a church for him. Highlights of the interior include a Norman font and wonderful tombs and monuments.

Owl Street Lane, Stocklinch Ottersey, Ilminster TA19 9JN

→ 2m NE of Ilminster off B3168

Nearest railway station: Crewkerne (6.5 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*

visitchurches.org.uk/daysout

Spend a day with us

More churches to enjoy

Each CCT church has been saved because it is special. We can't do justice to them all in one leaflet, so visit our website for more information on those only briefly described here.

Brockley, St Nicholas

5

A Medieval church with a graceful 15th-century tower and a pirate's gravestone in the churchyard. Inside, there are several memorials to the Pigott family – their pew even has a fireplace.

Brockley, Backwell BS48 3AX

→ 9m NE of Weston-Super-Mare and 3m S of Nailsea off A370

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Clapton-in-Gordano, St Michael

6

This Early English rural church high on a hill has far-reaching views. Inside, highlights include a 13th-century screen and an elaborate 1672 memorial, showing the kneeling figures of Edmund Wynter and his wife.

Clevedon Lane, Clapton-in-Gordano, Bristol BS20 7RH

→ 12m NE of Weston-Super-Mare and 2m S of Portishead off M5, Junction 19

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Elworthy, St Martin of Tours

7

This 13th-century church has a distinctive battlemented tower with an unusual external staircase. Inside, there is lovely 15th-century stained glass and a beautifully restored Jacobean screen.

Silverdown Hill, Elworthy, Taunton TA4 3PY

→ 13m NW of Taunton and 5m N of Wiveliscombe off B3224

🕒 *Open daily*

Emborough, The Blessed Virgin Mary

8

Beautiful Georgian rebuilding of a Saxon church on a Mendip ridge. The prominent tower has a 13th-century base and rises to an elegant parapet with pinnacles at the corner.

Chapel Hill, Emborough, Wells BA3 4SG

→ 5m NE of Wells off B3139

🕒 *Open daily*

Holcombe, St Andrew Old Church

9

Reached down a farm track and across fields, this Norman church is set against tall trees with the great Abbey of Downside towering beyond. Inside the church discover a treasure trove of Georgian furnishings.

Holcombe, Radstock BA3 5ES

→ 17m NE of Wells and 2m SE of Midsomer Norton off A367

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Northover, St Andrew

10

A simple Medieval church with a handsome square tower, next to a farmyard. St Andrew's may lie on the site of a Saxon chapel – and possibly a pre-Christian temple.

Roman Road, Northover, Ilchester, Yeovil BA22 8JR

→ 5m N of Yeovil on B3151

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Otterhampton, All Saints

11

A small 14th-century church by a farm above the Parrett estuary. Lovely furnishings include a Norman font with a Jacobean cover, a 16th-century screen and 17th-century communion rails.

Otterhampton, Bridgwater TA5 2PT

→ 5m NW of Bridgwater off A39

🕒 *Open 15 Apr to 30 Sept*

Pensford, St Thomas à Becket Tower

12

A handsome 14th-century tower – the rest of the church has been converted to a home. It is wonderfully located in a pretty village – the river Chew runs around it and 19th-century railway viaduct arches soar up behind it.

Old Road, Pensford, Bristol BS39 4BB

→ 7m S of Bristol off A37

🕒 *Access to tower only, no visitor access to interior*

Puxton, The Holy Saviour

13

A wonderful Medieval church with a leaning tower on the Somerset Levels. Its light, rustic, interior features ledger stones – engraved stones covering old tombs – set in the flagged floor.

Puxton Road, Hewish, Weston-Super-Mare BS24 6TF

→ 6m E of Weston-Super-Mare off A370

🕒 *Open daily*

visitchurches.org.uk/joinus

Become a supporter

13



simple delights

light-filled Holy Saviour's, Puxton, is a delightful survivor from Medieval times

Seavington, St Mary

14

A pretty little village church made of Ham stone with a battlemented tower. The oldest feature is a circular Norman font. Traces of Medieval wall paintings have recently been discovered.

Church Lane, Seavington, Ilminster TA19 0QP

→ 3m E of Ilminster off A303

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Sutton Mallet Church

15

In Medieval times, this church was a landmark for travellers crossing the lonely and potentially treacherous wilds of Sedgemoor. Rebuilt in 1827, its interior is beautifully preserved and furnished with a lovely Georgian pulpit and box pews.

Sutton Mallet, Bridgwater TA7 9AT

→ 3m E of Bridgwater off A39

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Thurlbear, St Thomas

16

A 12th-century church, with two exceptional honey-coloured Norman arcades in the nave and a splendid 15th-century tower adorned with dramatic gargoyles. The church has a ring of four 15th-century bells from the Exeter foundry.

Thurlbear, Taunton TA3 5BW

→ 3m SE of Taunton off A358

🕒 *Keyholder nearby*

Uphill, St Nicholas

17

A solitary, partially ruined Norman church, dramatically located on a hilltop. The steep climb to the church is rewarded with views over the marshes and the Bristol Channel. Look out for grimacing gargoyles and scratch sundials.

Uphill Way, Uphill, Weston-Super-Mare BS23 4TH

→ 1m S of Weston-Super-Mare off A370

🕒 *Open late May Bank Holiday to end Sep; at other times keyholder nearby*

Upton, St James Tower

18

The tower is all that remains of this 14th-century church in Exmoor National Park. The body of the old church was pulled down, leaving a striking local landmark.

Taunton TA4 2JG

→ 16m W of Taunton and 5m N of Bampton off B3190

🕒 *Access to tower only, no visitor access to interior*

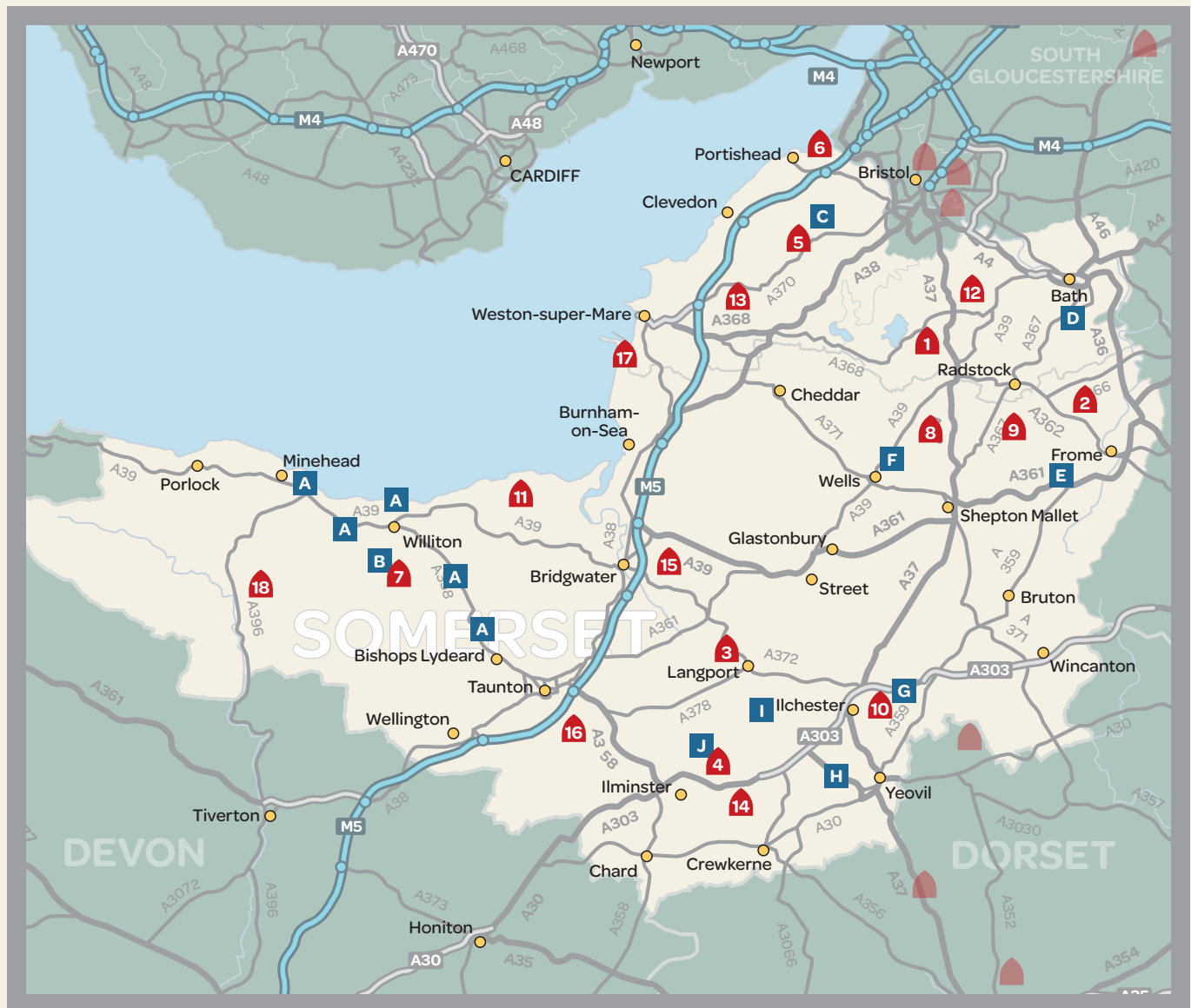
Finding our churches

The map opposite shows the location of each of our churches in Somerset, together with other nearby attractions and CCT churches in adjoining counties.

Our website, visitchurches.org.uk, has much more detailed information to help you plan your trip.





	Ordnance Survey ref
1 Cameley, St James (cover image)	ST 610 576
2 Hardington Bampfylde, St Mary	ST 743 526
3 Langport, All Saints	ST 423 267
4 Stocklinch Ottersey, St Mary the Virgin	ST 388 172
5 Brockley, St Nicholas	ST 466 670
6 Clapton-in-Gordano, St Michael	ST 468 736
7 Elworthy, St Martin of Tours	ST 082 352
8 Emborough, The Blessed Virgin Mary	ST 612 513
9 Holcombe, St Andrew Old Church	ST 669 507
10 Northover, St Andrew	ST 524 232
11 Otterhampton, All Saints	ST 247 432
12 Pensford, St Thomas à Becket Tower	ST 618 637
13 Puxton, The Holy Saviour	ST 407 633
14 Seavington, St Mary	ST 403 149
15 Sutton Mallet Church	ST 373 369
16 Thurlbear, St Thomas	ST 265 211
17 Uphill, St Nicholas	ST 316 584
18 Upton, St James Tower	SS 982 295




 CCT churches in neighbouring counties.
For details, go to visitchurches.org.uk or see the relevant county guide.



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey © on behalf of The Controller of HMSO © Crown Copyright 2012

Other local heritage attractions

- A** West Somerset steam railway (Minehead – Bishops Lydeard)
- B** Cleve Abbey 
- C** Tyntesfield – Victorian house, gardens 
- D** Prior Park Landscape Garden 
- E** Nunney Castle 
- F** Wells – Bishops Palace, gardens

- G** Fleet Air Museum – flying arm of the Royal Navy
- H** Montacute House – gardens, estate walks 
- I** Muchelney Abbey 
- J** Barrington Court Gardens 



Find out more

Our website has a host of additional information that will help you plan and enjoy your visit, including:

- Interactive maps
- Filterable lists of all our churches
- Up to date opening times
- Visitor comments
- Downloadable guides
- Image galleries
- Event listings

Go to visitchurches.org.uk to access all this and more.



Become a fan

 [facebook.com/ChurchesConservationTrust](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchesConservationTrust)

Follow us

 twitter.com/TheCCT

Welcome to a thousand years of English history

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.


Visiting information


Go to visitchurches.org.uk for detailed directions, local maps, information on disability access and up to date opening times.

For other enquiries, call us on **020 7213 0660** (Monday – Friday, office hours), or email welcome@tcct.org.uk

! Please take care when visiting our churches. Floors may be uneven/worn or slippery, and interior lighting may be low.


 Assistance dogs are welcome.

 For full disabled access information, see our website.

 Unsure about the 'keyholder nearby' access? You will find details at the church or call us in advance.

P Parking is available at most churches – see the website for more details.

 The closest station for each church is shown in the guide.

 For bus routes, see traveline.org.uk

 Cyclists welcome! For cycle routes, go to sustrans.org.uk

Help us save historic churches

The CCT needs to raise an additional £1.5million every year just to cover essential repairs. If you enjoy your visit please leave a donation at the church, or go to visitchurches.org.uk/donate for details of how you can help.



THE CHURCHES
CONSERVATION TRUST

visitchurches.org.uk

The Churches Conservation Trust
1 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9EE
Registered Charity No: 258612 © CCT 2011