uncover the stories of the past
bringing the past alive

Explore the historic churches of Devon, Dorset and Cornwall and discover a window to the past – one that brings alive intriguing stories and surprising connections.

Gravestones tell touching tales of love and devotion – or sometimes piracy and murder. Handsome memorials mark fortunes made and lives lost. Rustic hat pegs are a reminder of those who worked the land. You’ll find these churches at the end of wooded lanes, perched on cliff tops or in pretty valleys. Each one is special.

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
Exeter, St Martin
Devon

A thousand-year-old church in the middle of the city

- Dates from before the Norman Conquest
- Beautiful carved marble monuments dedicated to rich and worthy parishioners

St Martin’s props up a Medieval building on a corner of Exeter’s historic Cathedral Close. It is one of the oldest churches in the city, consecrated a year before the Norman Conquest, and was once one of six churches clustered in the cathedral’s shadow. Its tiny parish – smaller than the size of a football pitch – served the workers and traders who crowded into the three- and four-storey houses in the surrounding streets.

The church’s roughcast exterior of red volcanic stone – with bright, white Beer stone windows – gives it the air of a fancy gingerbread cake. Inside, it is simple and full of light. Look out for the communion rails with their closely set balusters designed, according to a 17th-century order from the Archbishop of Canterbury, to keep parishioners’ dogs from reaching the altar.

Cathedral Close, Exeter EX1 1EZ
→ Exeter City Centre
Nearest railway station: Exeter Central (5 min walk)

Open Mon-Fri, 9.30am-4.30pm and Sat, 10am-5pm

Portland, St George
Dorset

A church inspired by St Paul’s Cathedral on a dramatic peninsula

- Georgian church untouched by time
- Located on a peak on the picturesque South Coast

Vast and solitary, St George’s is one of the most magnificent 18th-century churches in Dorset. It rises from the rocky peninsula of Portland, the masterwork of a local mason named Thomas Gilbert who supplied the Portland stone used to build St Paul’s Cathedral. The interior is fabulously preserved with its lectern, pulpit, box pews and galleries all surviving. It is a ‘preacher’s church’ with all the seating facing the twin pulpits – one for reading ‘the Word’ (scripture), the other for lengthy sermons.

The sprawling churchyard is a treasure trove of fabulous headstones and memorials that tell tales of murder, piracy and adventure in a gloriously atmospheric setting. There are inscriptions to Mary Way and William Lano, who were shot and killed in 1803 by a press gang, and Joseph Trevitt, an assistant warden at Portland Prison who was murdered by a convict in 1869.

Reforne, Wide Street, Portland DT5 2JP
→ Easton, Isle of Portland
Nearest railway station: Weymouth (4.5 miles)

Open daily
St Anthony-in-Roseland, Cornwall
Medieval church next to a turreted ancestral home

Three centuries of monuments, dedicated to the local Spry family, grace this Medieval church on the picturesque Roseland peninsula. In summer, the churchyard is full of flowers, growing wildly over pretty headstones. The church owes its survival to a Victorian reverend, who rebuilt the chancel and the roofs and installed Minton floor tiles and stained glass.

St Anthony-in-Roseland, Portscatho, Truro TR2 3EZ
→ 20m SW of St Austell off A3078, opposite St Mawes and 4m S of Gerrans
Nearest railway station: Falmouth (2.7 miles)
Open daily

Parracombe, Devon
St Petrock

Legendary hilltop church with a perfect interior

Set in glorious countryside on the edge of Exmoor this hilltop church dates from Norman times, but it is the lovely Georgian interior with painted texts and wonderful furnishings that make it very special. St Petrock’s is believed to be the last church in Devon to use musicians to accompany the hymns – there is a hole in one of the pews for the bow of a bass viol. It was saved from demolition in 1879 by the poet and artist John Ruskin.

Church Lane, Parracombe, Barnstaple EX31 4RJ
→ 11m NE of Barnstaple off A39 and 4m SW of Lynton
Nearest railway station: Barnstaple (10.5 miles)
Open daily

timeless treasures
marvel at Medieval wall paintings that to this day have the power to inspire
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Torbryan, Holy Trinity</td>
<td>Devon</td>
<td>Mighty Medieval church deep in the countryside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The magnificent church of Holy Trinity seems very grand for its quiet rural setting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>with a superb soaring tower. It is a perfect example of the Gothic Perpendicular style, with a stunning Medieval interior and beautifully carved screen that spans the width of the church with its graceful arches. Below are painted panels of 40 saints – they were once whitewashed, perhaps to save them from the puritanical zeal of the Reformation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Torbryan Hill, Torbryan, Newton Abbot TQ12 5UR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>➔ 4m SW of Newton Abbot off A381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nearest railway station: Totnes (4 miles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Open daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Satterleigh, St Peter</td>
<td>Devon</td>
<td>A tiny rural gem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The church of St Peter lies deep in the country in the hills above the river Mole. A creaking Medieval door opens into a charming interior, with a panelled oak roof, carved pulpit, reading desk and beautiful painted texts. Above the pews, the 24 hat pegs are a reminder of the congregation’s size – the church holds no more than 40. On a sunny day, delicate windows scatter light on the rough, limewashed walls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Satterleigh, Umberleigh EX37 9DJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>➔ 4m SW of South Molton off B3226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nearest railway station: Portsmouth Arms (3 miles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Open daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tarrant Crawford, St Mary the Virgin</td>
<td>Dorset</td>
<td>Fabulous painted tales in a rural church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This church, which dates back to 12th century, is all that is left of a wealthy Cistercian nunnery – Tarrant Abbey. Today, the long, elegant interior has oak furnishings and a beautiful 16th-century wagon roof. Best of all, however, are the ghostly 14th-century paintings, made to instruct and inspire. There are depictions of Margaret of Antioch, a saint said to have been swallowed by a dragon, and three animated skeletons, who warn three princes of the emptiness of earthly rank and wealth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tarrant Crawford, Blandford Forum DT11 9HU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>➔ 3m SE of Blandford off A350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nearest railway station: Hamworthy (8 miles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Open daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Whitcombe Church</td>
<td>Dorset</td>
<td>A saint, a mermaid and a lost dedication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This lovely Medieval church looks like a vision from a Thomas Hardy novel. One of Hardy’s friends – the poet and scholar William Barnes – preached here and the church’s setting evokes the rustic atmosphere of old Dorset life. Yet in Barnes’ time the parishioners knew nothing of Whitcombe’s great treasure – the Medieval wall paintings that include an image of St Christopher and a mermaid combing her hair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Whitcombe, Dorchester DT2 8NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>➔ 2m SE of Dorchester on A352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nearest railway station: Dorchester West (2 miles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Open daily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Devon

9 Winterborne Tomson, St Andrew, Dorset
A Dorset gem saved by the ghost of Thomas Hardy

This tiny chapel, built of flint and stone, has barely been altered since it was built in Norman times. The inside is simple, bright and beautiful – with silvery grey, Georgian box pews. It is hard to believe that, less than 100 years ago, the church was home to the donkeys, dogs, pigs and hens of the neighbouring farm. The church escaped total ruin in 1931 only when The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings sold a collection of Thomas Hardy manuscripts to pay for the repairs.

Off Marsh Lane, Winterborne Tomson, Blandford Forum DT11 9HA
→ 8m W of Wimborne Minster off A31 at the end of a private road
Nearest railway station: Holton Heath (6 miles)

10 Bradstone, St Nonna
A handsome Medieval church by a manor and gatehouse in a picturesque, secluded setting. It was built in the 12th century, with the impressive square tower added in the 15th.

Bradstone, Tavistock PL19 0QS
→ 4m SE of Launceston off B3362

11 Luffincott, St James
This lonely Medieval church with lovely Georgian additions sits on the crest of a hill above the wooded Tamar Valley. The pretty churchyard has a cluster of impressive slate headstones.

Luffincott, Tetcott, Holsworthy EX22 6RB
→ 7m N of Launceston off A388

12 North Huish, St Mary
A beautiful 15th-century, stone-spired landmark in a fold in the hills just below Dartmoor. Inside, the furnishings are mostly Victorian, as are the memorials that line the church walls.

North Huish, South Brent, TQ10 9NQ
→ 8m SW of Totnes off B3210

13 Princetown, St Michael & All Angels
This simple, slender-towered Dartmoor church was built between 1812-14 by prisoners captured in the Napoleonic Wars with France and the War of 1812 with the United States and held at Dartmoor gaol.

Tavistock Road, Princetown, Yelverton PL20 6RE
→ 4m E of Tavistock, off B3557

Become a supporter

visitchurches.org.uk/joinus

Becoming a supporter gives you the chance to help us to protect your local church, and to access a range of benefits, including greater access to information about churches near you.
Revelstoke, St Peter the Poor Fisherman
A rugged remnant of a Medieval church on a cliff above Stoke Bay. The aisle and porch have carved wagon roofs. The rest of this atmospheric church is a picturesque ruin.

Stoke Beach, Noss Mayo, Plymouth PL8 1HE
→ 11m SE of Plymouth off B3186; access on foot only from Stoke Park visitors’ car park (steep descent to church); alternative access via coastal path

West Ogwell Church
The winding lane that leads to this Medieval church twists through the countryside, adding to a feeling of discovery when you arrive. The elegant interior is Georgian with an exposed barrel-vaulted ceiling.

West Ogwell, Newton Abbot TQ12 6EW
→ 2m SW of Newton Abbot off A381

Dorset
Bothenhampton, Holy Trinity Old Church
This Medieval parish church – consisting of a 13th-century chancel and a 15th-century tower – is beautifully located within a walled churchyard. Inside, there is an elegant, early Georgian reredos with oak altar rails.

Old Church Road, Bothenhampton, Bridport DT6 4BP
→ 1m S of Bridport off B3157

Nether Cerne, All Saints
A pastoral and picturesque riverside church by an old manor. Built primarily in the 13th century, All Saints has a stone tower topped with pinnacles and carved angel-gargoyles.

Nether Cerne, Dorchester DT2 7AJ
→ 5m N of Dorchester on A352

Oborne, St Cuthbert Old Chancel
A tiny and enchanting survival from a much larger building of 1553, St Cuthbert’s is built in golden stone. Inside there are Medieval tiles and lovely 17th-century furnishings.

London Road, Oborne, Sherborne DT9 4JY
→ 1m E of Sherborne on A30

Stockwood, St Edwold
One of England’s smallest churches, 15th-century St Edwold’s is not much bigger than a single-decker bus. It nestles in an idyllic wooded valley and is dedicated to a 9th-century hermit.

Stockwood, Evershot, Dorchester DT2 0NG
→ 7m S of Yeovil off A37

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.

Winterborne Came, Dorchester DT2 8NT
→ 2m SE of Dorchester off A352

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.

Winterborne Came, Dorchester DT2 8NT
→ 2m SE of Dorchester off A352

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.

Winterborne Came, Dorchester DT2 8NT
→ 2m SE of Dorchester off A352

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.

Winterborne Came, Dorchester DT2 8NT
→ 2m SE of Dorchester off A352

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.

Winterborne Came, Dorchester DT2 8NT
→ 2m SE of Dorchester off A352

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.

Winterborne Came, Dorchester DT2 8NT
→ 2m SE of Dorchester off A352

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.

Winterborne Came, Dorchester DT2 8NT
→ 2m SE of Dorchester off A352

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.

Winterborne Came, Dorchester DT2 8NT
→ 2m SE of Dorchester off A352

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.

Winterborne Came, Dorchester DT2 8NT
→ 2m SE of Dorchester off A352

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.

Winterborne Came, Dorchester DT2 8NT
→ 2m SE of Dorchester off A352

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.

Winterborne Came, Dorchester DT2 8NT
→ 2m SE of Dorchester off A352

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.

Winterborne Came, Dorchester DT2 8NT
→ 2m SE of Dorchester off A352

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.

Winterborne Came, Dorchester DT2 8NT
→ 2m SE of Dorchester off A352

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.

Winterborne Came, Dorchester DT2 8NT
→ 2m SE of Dorchester off A352

Winterborne Came, St Peter
An atmospheric country squire’s church, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. It has monuments to local families and memories of the celebrated Dorset rector-poet William Barnes, who lies buried in the churchyard.
Finding our churches

The map opposite shows the location of each of our churches in Cornwall, Devon and Dorset, 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.

Other local heritage attractions

- Cotehele House – gardens, quay
- Eden Project
- Lydford Gorge – waterfalls, walks
- Castle Drogo
- Rosemoor Gardens – Royal Horticultural Society
- Killerton House and Gardens
- Forde Abbey and Gardens
- Maiden Castle – Iron Age Hillfort
- Athelhampton House and Garden
- Kingston Lacey – house garden, art collection

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

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.

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.