



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

## Jools Holland's 'Historic Streets of Shrewsbury' walk

*Jools Holland said: 'This lovely circular walk will take in four amazing Shrewsbury churches (including the lovely St Mary's Church, cared for by CCT) and one Roman Catholic Cathedral.'*



With Shrewsbury Station behind you, turn left, and you will shortly arrive at the Castle, one of the principal fortresses of the Welsh Marches, established by Roger de Montgomery in c.1070.

You will enter the town via Castle Gates, which is dominated by the Castle on the left and Shrewsbury Library on the right. The library was formerly Shrewsbury School founded in 1552. You will see a statue of one famous old boy - the naturalist Charles Darwin - in front.

Walk along Castle Street, to the point where it bends left, then go down Pride Hill. Half way down, turn left into Butcher Row. Turn right down cobbled Fish Street, passing by Grope Lane on the right.

You will pass St Alkmund's Church on your right. The tower and spire (c.1472) is all that remains of the once sprawling Medieval church blown up and demolished after a panic, caused by the collapse of Old St Chad's nearby.

At the end of Fish Street, cross over the High Street, to Milk Street, then turn right into Princess Street, which is the close of Old St Chad's Church. Only the south Chapel c12th -13th remains of the Church, a cruciform building destroyed when the central tower collapsed in 1788.

Turn left when you reach College Hill. At the end of College Hill, turn left into Swan Hill, and then take the first right into Cross Hill. At the end of Cross Hill, turn left into St John's Hill.

If you wish to, at the end of the road, turn right onto St Chad's Terrace to see the new civic church of St Chad by George Stuart (built 1790-92).

Its striking location overlooks the Quarry, and it is one of the most important Georgian church buildings in Britain, with a circular nave 100 feet in diameter and a domed tower with portico.

Return along St Chad's Terrace to Murivance, which then becomes Town Walls, and keep walking until you reach the Roman Catholic Cathedral (built by Edward Pugin c1853-56). Although it lacks the tower and spire planned to rival its Anglican neighbours, it does have an excellent collection of early 20th-century glass by Margaret Rope.

From the cathedral walk along the Walls and along Beeches Lane to the foot of Wyle Cop. Turn left on to Wyle Cop, and at the top of the street, go right up Dogpole, to St Mary's Street and CCT's magnificent St Mary's Church!

To return to your starting point, walk to the east end of the church and turn left to Windsor Place. At the end of the road, turn right into Castle Street and walk back to the station

## Map

