



## About All Saints'

The church, also known as All Hallows, is one of five surviving medieval churches within the city. It once stood at the centre of a bustling community, fronting onto the old High Street, today High Cross Street, which was the location of a weekly market and a medieval cross. In 1418 the church saw the trial of Margery Kempe, who was accused and acquitted of heresy.

The main body of the church was constructed in phases during the 14th century. Surviving medieval features include the rood loft door, which would have allowed access to the rood loft. It is likely that this structure was removed during the Reformation. The contrasting red brick chancel was added in 1829 during a phase of restoration prompted by a visit in 1797 from the Archdeacon, who drew attention to the dangerous state of decay affecting the existing building.

Today, the church's surroundings are much changed. Church and churchyard are a striking contrast to the surrounding inner ring road, derelict and decaying 19th-century industrial buildings and ultra-modern architecture. The churchyard is home to many distinctive local shale gravestones and an impressive table tomb marks the grave of Alderman Gabriel Newton (d. 1762), a benefactor of All Saints' and founder of the Leicester Green Coat School.

The church was placed in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust in 1986.

## 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 a 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

To protect these churches, and others like them, we need your help. If you enjoy your visit please give generously or if you would like to become a CCT supporter and join in our exclusive 'behind-the-scenes' visits please go to our website.



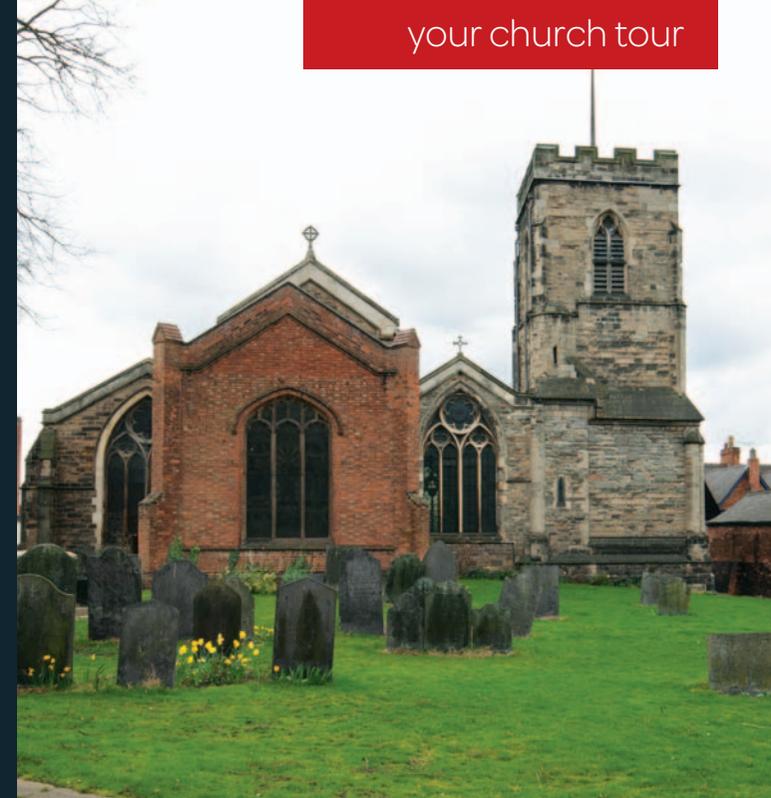
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[visitchurches.org.uk](http://visitchurches.org.uk)

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## Church of All Saints

Leicester



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# The historic church of All Saints

## 10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 The **stained glass windows** in All Saints' were installed during the 19th century by Heaton, Butler & Bayne, Clayton & Bell and Morris & Co. This window commemorates Alderman Gabriel Newton (1683-1762), founder of the charitable Green Coat School in Leicester. Newton is depicted as a choir boy alongside a bishop and a Green Coat student.
- 2 The **Mayor's chair**, sturdy and constructed from oak, survives from 1680. It is the only known example of its kind in Leicester.
- 3 This magnificent stone **font** dates from the 13th century. Its bowl is ornately carved with stiff-leaf foliage and trefoil decoration.
- 4 **Memorial** commemorating the parishioners who sacrificed their lives during World War One.
- 5 The **Victorian bier** remained in use until the church was decommissioned. It would have been used to transport the bodies of the deceased from around the parish.
- 6 The wooden **pulpit** was constructed during the 15th century. The original paintwork has recently been restored, evoking the vibrant decoration which would have filled the church during the medieval period.
- 7 Unlike the nave roof, which was replaced in 1855, the **aisle roofs** contain medieval timbers. Notice the moulded tie-beams, intricate carvings and kingposts.
- 8 These **corbels**, carved with typical medieval grotesque faces, date to the 15th century.
- 9 In the Middle Ages the priest would access the rood loft via a **doorway** set into the wall. The rood loft was used to access the Great Rood, which was a giant Crucifix, a focal point of worship.
- 10 The **parish clock** is one of the oldest in the country, thought to have been made in around 1620. The exterior design includes two striking jacks, which ring two of the clock's six bells every hour. An 1899 addition to the exterior of the clock is a painting of Father Time.

