



Churches  
Conservation  
Trust

Historic churches in  
Cornwall  
Devon  
Dorset

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



the patina  
of time

immerse yourself in serenely beautiful  
St Petrock, Parracombe



## Exeter, St Martin

Devon

1

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

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- *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.

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Cathedral Close, Exeter EX1 1EZ

→ Exeter City Centre

Nearest railway station: Exeter Central (5 min walk)

🕒 *Open daily*

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2

## Portland, St George

Dorset

**A church inspired by St Paul's Cathedral**

Vast and solitary, St George's is one of the most magnificent 18th-century churches in Dorset. It rises from the rocky, treeless and dramatic peninsula of Portland and is the masterwork of a local mason named Thomas Gilbert whose grandfather 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.

Reforme, Wide Street, Portland DT5 2JP  
Easton, Isle of Portland

→ Nearest railway station: Weymouth (4.5 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



3

## North Hill, St Torney

Cornwall

**One of the tallest towers in Cornwall**

St Torney's sits in the village of North Hill on the edge of Bodmin Moor, a familiar name for readers of Daphne Du Maurier's 1936 literary classic *Jamaica Inn*. The tall tower, richly decorated interior and impressive scale of the church speaks of the wealth and importance of North Hill in the past. See the beautiful wagon roof and majestic arcading, as well as impressive monuments, memorials and stained glass.

North Hill, Launceston, PL15 7PQ

→ 7m SW of Launceston near the eastern edge of Bodmin Moor

Nearest railway station: Liskeard (9 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



4

## St Anthony-in-Roseland, St Anthony

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*



5

## Parracombe, St Petrock

Devon

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

Photograph © Andy Marshall



6

## Torbryan, Holy Trinity

Devon

**Mighty Medieval church  
deep in the countryside**

The magnificent church of Holy Trinity seems very grand for its quiet rural setting, 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.

Torbryan Hill, Torbryan, Newton Abbot TQ12 5UR

→ 4m SW of Newton Abbot off A381

Nearest railway station: Totnes (4 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



7

## Satterleigh, St Peter

Devon

**A tiny rural gem**

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.

Satterleigh, Umberleigh EX37 9DJ

→ 4m SW of South Molton off B3226

Nearest railway station: Portsmouth Arms (3 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



Photograph © Andy Marshall



8

## Tarrant Crawford, St Mary the Virgin

Dorset

**Fabulous painted tales  
in a rural church**

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.

Tarrant Crawford, Blandford Forum DT11 9HU

→ 3m SE of Blandford off A350

Nearest railway station: Hamworthy (8 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*



9

## Whitcombe Church

Dorset

**A saint, a mermaid  
and a lost dedication**

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.

Whitcombe, Dorchester DT2 8NY

→ 2m SE of Dorchester on A352

Nearest railway station: Dorchester West (2 miles)

🕒 *Open daily*

Photograph © Ian Sumner



10

## 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)

🕒 *Open daily*



6

# 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

### Bradstone, St Nonna

11

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

🕒 *Open daily*

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### Luffincott, St James

12

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

🕒 *Open daily*

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### North Huish, St Mary

13

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

🕒 *Open daily*

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### Princetown, St Michael & All Angels

14

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

🕒 *Open daily*

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### Revelstoke, St Peter the Poor Fisherman

15

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

🕒 *Open daily*

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### West Ogwell Church

16

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

🕒 *Open daily*

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## Dorset

### Bothenhampton, Holy Trinity Old Church

17

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

🕒 *Open daily*

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### Nether Cerne, All Saints

18

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

🕒 *Open daily*

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### Osborne, St Cuthbert Old Chancel

19

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, Osborne, Sherborne DT9 4JY

→ 1m E of Sherborne on A30

🕒 *Open daily*

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## Stockwood, St Edwold

20

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

🕒 *Open daily*

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## Winterborne Came, St Peter

21

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

🕒 *Open daily May to Sep; at other times keyholder nearby*

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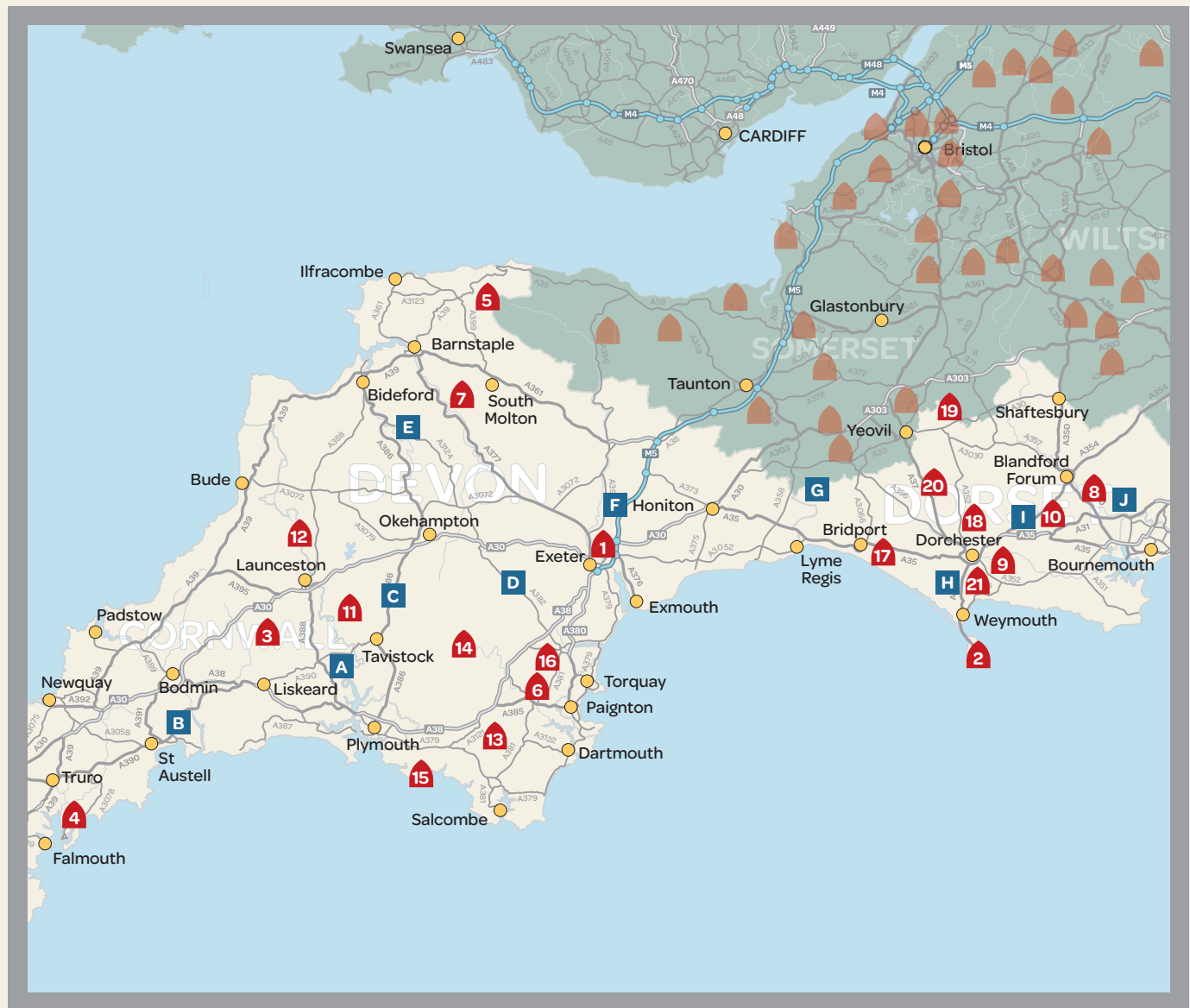
# Finding our churches

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](http://visitchurches.org.uk), has much more detailed information to help you plan your trip.





		Ordnance Survey ref
<b>1</b>	Exeter, St Martin	SX 922 926
<b>2</b>	Portland, St George	SY 686 720
<b>3</b>	North Hill, St Torney ( <i>cover image</i> )	SX 271 765
<b>4</b>	St Anthony-in-Roseland, St Anthony	SW 855 320
<b>5</b>	Parracombe, St Petrock	SS 675 449
<b>6</b>	Torbryan, Holy Trinity	SX 820 669
<b>7</b>	Satterleigh, St Peter	SS 667 225
<b>8</b>	Tarrant Crawford, St Mary the Virgin	ST 924 035
<b>9</b>	Whitcombe Church	SY 716 884
<b>10</b>	Winterborne Tomson, St Andrew	SY 885 974
<b>11</b>	Bradstone, St Nonna	SX 382 809
<b>12</b>	Luffincott, St James	SX 335 948
<b>13</b>	North Huish, St Mary	SX 712 566
<b>14</b>	Princetown, St Michael & All Angels	SX 587 737
<b>15</b>	Revelstoke, St Peter the Poor Fisherman	SX 564 465
<b>16</b>	West Ogwell Church	SX 819 700
<b>17</b>	Bothenhampton, Holy Trinity Old Church	SY 475 918
<b>18</b>	Nether Cerne, All Saints	SY 669 983
<b>19</b>	Osborne, St Cuthbert Old Chancel	ST 653 178
<b>20</b>	Stockwood, St Edwold	ST 590 069
<b>21</b>	Winterborne Came, St Peter	SY 705 884



 CCT churches in neighbouring counties.  
For details, go to [visitchurches.org.uk](http://visitchurches.org.uk) or see the relevant county guide.



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## Other local heritage attractions

- A** Cotehele House – gardens, quay 
- B** Eden Project
- C** Lydford Gorge – waterfalls, walks 
- D** Castle Drogo 
- E** Rosemoor Gardens – Royal Horticultural Society
- F** Killerton House and Gardens 

- G** Forde Abbey and Gardens
- H** Maiden Castle – Iron Age Hillfort 
- I** Athelhampton House and Garden
- J** Kingston Lacey – house garden, art collection 



[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)  
Telephone 0870 333 1181



# 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 350 beautiful buildings which attract almost 2 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](http://visitchurches.org.uk) for detailed directions, local maps, information on disability access and up to date opening times.

For other enquiries, call us on **0207 841 0400** (Monday – Friday, office hours), or email [enquiries@theccct.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@theccct.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.

 Closest station for each church is shown in the guide.

 For bus routes, see [traveline.org.uk](http://traveline.org.uk)

 Cyclists welcome! For cycle routes, go to [sustrans.org.uk](http://sustrans.org.uk)

## Help us save historic churches

Your support will directly help us look after the 356 historic churches in our care. If you enjoy your visit please leave a donation at the church, or go to [visitchurches.org.uk/donate.html](http://visitchurches.org.uk/donate.html) for details of how you can help.

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



**Churches  
Conservation  
Trust**

Churches Conservation Trust  
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