



Annual UK Travel 3 - Churches Tour

14th July 2025

After the coach picks us up at 8.30am at Knowle Lane Ecclesall and the Interchange at 9.00am we travel to the first of our 3 churches where we are met by our guide for the day Pat McLaughlin

The first church is St Michael and All Angels at Skelbrooke. After enjoying refreshments our tour of the church will begin. The church sits behind a stone wall and access is gained by an attractive Lych gate. On entry to the church, and above the porch, is a stone medieval Coat of Arms. The church interior contains the remains of a rood loft staircase, a fine mosaic reredos featuring the four evangelists. Worth of note are the stained glass windows by Kempe. The Chantry Chapel has fine Victorian paintings.



The church suffered during the Reformation in 1549 and treasures were confiscated. A serious fire in 1870 destroyed the part of the building that was rebuilt with the original stone. It is situated in the ancient forest of Barnsdale, the haunt of Robin Hood.



From Skelbrooke we travel to the church of St Helen at Burghwallis. Whilst Pat is giving us his illustrated guide to the church we shall enjoy more refreshments. St Helens is a Grade 1 listed building dating back to Saxon times. Inside the porch is a Mass Dial dated 1190 used to show times of services. Above the church door there is a George III Coat of Arms to remind parishioners of the links between church and the State. There is a Norman doorway and a large amount of herringbone masonry on both sides of the Nave and the Chancel. The Tower is of 12th Century design. The interior is noted for its ancient rood screen decorated with grape pattern carving dated around 1280, a medieval reredos, a Norman font, which is still in use and displaying locks which prevented the stealing of Holy Water. By the porch is an ancient

Churchyard Cross which is a listed monument and a Mulberry tree planted by decree of the King in order to promote the silk industry.

We then travel to lunch at the Anne Arms Inn which is nearby.

After lunch we journey a short distance to St Mary Magdalene at Campsall. Founded in the 12th Century it occupies a dominant site in the village. Robin Hood and Maid Marian were supposedly married in the church. After enjoying another of Pat's illustrated guides we discover the interior for ourselves, namely the Norman doorway - the finest in Yorkshire - the 15th Century rood screen, the Jacobean Pulpit and the Bishops chair dated 1610. The Baptistry has a 700 year old vaulted ceiling with a priests room above accessed by a stone staircase. It contains a fire place and a window as the priest once lived



there. In the room, a carved stone was found that is of Norman origin. The Romanesque Tower has already been standing for four centuries when the bells rang out to celebrate the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. The 16th Century Parish Hutch was used to store the parish records. In the Lady Chapel the carved stone altar is a masterpiece by Pugin showing angels bearing shields upon which the instruments of Christs Passion are displayed.

After some more refreshments we board the coach at 4.30pm for the drive back to Sheffield.

The cost per person for this outing is £45 which covers coach travel, the driver's remuneration, payment for our guide, donations to each church, refreshments at each church and lunch.

To apply for a place on this outing please complete the booking form and return with a cheque made payable to **Sheffield u3a UK Travel** together with a self addressed envelope to **Valerie Wiley, 112 Button Hill, Sheffield, S11 9HJ.**

All pictures courtesy of the Church of England



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Name..... SU3a number.....

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Address:

.....Postcode.....

Tel..... Mobile.....

Email.....

Enclosed is my cheque for all venues for £45 pp made payable to **Sheffield u3a UK Travel Group.**

Please state any dietary requirements and food allergies:

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In case of an emergency contact details:

Name.....

Tel.....

Please return this completed form together with your cheque and a stamped self-addressed envelope to **Valerie Wiley, 112 Button Hill, Sheffield, S11 9HJ.** Closing date for applications will be **THURSDAY 19th JUNE.**

Preferred pick-up point: Knowle Lane Bus Stop () Sheffield Interchange stand E5 ()