



## Visit to Three Derbyshire Churches

Monday July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

We shall meet Pat McLaughlin, our guide, at St Giles Hartington and after enjoying some refreshments our tour of the church will begin.

St Giles straddles the mound on which it sits, its tower looking over rooftops. It dates back to about 1250AD and once was one of the largest parishes in England and is part of the Duchy of Lancaster. The entrance is an unusual double storied porch added in the Middle Ages. The church contains notable brasses, an 1859 memorial window and a reredos of Derbyshire Marble. An effigy of the Countess of Derby 1224 was discovered during the restoration in 1855. She appears to be in her coffin with only head and feet exposed.



High up in the Nave and South Transept is an arch through which the priest would climb and from the opening he would sing the gospel on festival days. The paintings on the south side of the Nave are 17<sup>th</sup> Century depicting biblical texts and Coats of Arms of James I and Charles II. The twelve panels depicting the Tribes of Israel in the South Transept date from 1700.

From Hartington we travel to All Saints Youlgreave.



The church dates from 1150 AD but there was probably an earlier Saxon church on the site. The interior has thick Norman pillars, a large Gothic Chancel and Tudor windows. The Chancel contains two interesting tombs, an effigy of a 13<sup>th</sup> Century Knight and a memorial to Thomas Cockayne, 1488.

Facing the entrance in the Nave is a small 12<sup>th</sup> century carved figure thought to represent a robed pilgrim carrying a staff and a pouch. There is also another small figure which looks older, probably Saxon, between stalks of foliage.

The carved Norman Font is of simple sandstone with a Salamander (symbol of Baptism) carved supporting an odd stoup or an extension of the bowl. The

Nave roof is 15<sup>th</sup> century and features decorative bosses of grotesque creatures. The painted East window is by Burne-Jones produced in the workshop of William Morris.

We then venture across the road to take lunch at the George Hotel, Youlgreave.

Our final church visit will be to All Saints, Ashover. Beautifully placed among the trees, it was built between 1350 and 1419. Ashover was mentioned in the Domesday Book as having a church, a priest and a mill.



Inside the church is a lead font, which is one of the few in England, dating from 1150 as the Romans worked the lead mines in the Ashover Valley. It is ornamented with twenty figures in pairs and apostles holding books. It was buried during the Civil War in a kitchen garden to avoid it being melted down for bullets. Beside the font is an old church warden's chest.

Behind the Font is the Belfry, the fifth bell bearing Napoleon's name. It broke when ringing news of Napoleon's abdication after his retreat from Moscow. Above the Pulpit are the remains of a stone stairway which gave access to the Rood Loft. A glazed Squint window is unusual as it is formed by pieces of stone, one of which is incised with a chalice.

Outside the church is a stone coffin 1200, which is a fine example of a stonemason's art, consisting of a cross, anchor, chain and shackles, rocks and a bosun's pipe all carved from a single piece of stone.

After some light refreshment we shall board the coach at 4.30pm to travel back to Sheffield.

The cost for the outing is £50, which covers coach travel, driver remuneration, payment for our guide, donations to each church, lunch and refreshments.

To apply for a place, please complete the booking form and return with a cheque made payable to SU3A Travel, together with a stamped addressed envelope to;

Valerie Wiley 112 Button Hill, Sheffield, S11 9HJ

Closing date for applications will be Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup>

*All pictures courtesy of Wikipedia*



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Name: ..... Su3a No: .....

Name: ..... Su3a No: .....

Address:.....

.....Post Code: .....

Email address:

.....

Mobile telephone number:

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Emergency Contact Name:

.....

Telephone: ..... Email:.....

Please reserve ..... places. I enclose a cheque for £..... (£50pp).  
Cheques must be made payable to **Sheffield u3a UK Travel**. This is non-refundable unless a new person can be found to take your place in the event of your cancellation.

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Please send this completed form together with your cheque and an S.A.E to  
**Valerie Wiley, 112 Button Hill, Sheffield, S11 9HJ.**  
**Closing date is 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**