



Discover Churches

Hidden Stories, Open Doors

This day Shrewsbury Abbey – Acton Burnall - Alberbury

Day One Lion Hotel and a short walk to Shrewsbury Abbey for a brief look before boarding the coach and heading off to Acton Burnell.

St Mary: built by Robert Burnell who became a very important man in his lifetime. He was Lord Chancellor of England and in 1283 after defeating the Welsh King Edward I and his court stayed for several weeks and a parliament met in Burnell's Great barn! Robert Burnell was very rich and so the church is a fine example of its time. It was built 1275 – 1280 Much of it today is as it was when built and there is lots to see, architecturally and the furnishings. The remains of the Parliament Barn is nearby as are the remains of a Castle built in from 1284 – 1286. St Mary's church is It is a medieval building which played an important role in the history of England.

LUNCH followed by a short drive to the other side of Shrewsbury and the village of Alberbury.

St Michael: A large church with origins dating back before the Norman Conquest of 1066 and served from the church at Pontesbury. By 1260 it stood alone. Like so many churches it has had changes and additions over the years but the tower, is original with an added section dating from around 1300. The South aisle known as the Loton Chapel was clearly built to accommodate the family at Loton Hall dates from the 1320s.

Alberbury Priory. As Alberbury became an important parish, so a Priory came into being and a building to house them built between 1221 and 1226. A considerable amount of this early building still survives in the nearby farmhouse and the chapel dedicated to St Stephen, and not part of the house is.

This is not generally open to the public

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Resilient Heritage Lottery funded Project. Sustainable Tourism for Sustainable Churches.



Day B Ludlow, Ludford and Bromfield

Late medieval day

Coach to Ludlow and make way to Ludlow Church, one of the gems of the County.

Ludlow St Laurence: the largest parish church in Shropshire with a 45 metre Tower tall enough to be seen from all the surrounding countryside. The building is stunning Like many churches it was added to and 'improved'.

The stone building is recorded in 1199 and records show many additions from there on in. The North N aisle was rebuilt in 1305 and stained glass is dated from about the same time. The 1400s give us plenty to look at too, heraldry, choir stalls and bells, the interior a good example of a late medieval building. The Palmers Guild provided a lot of the money. It is still a lively parish church. A E Housman is buried in the graveyard. The church is at the centre of town of architecture through the ages.

Ludford Church, St Giles is at the bottom of Ludlow near the river Teme and is a downhill walk from the town across a superb C15th stone bridge. This small church is Norman in feel and probably dates from about 1200. A beautiful window stands out as Early C14th. There are constant hints of possible earlier dates - was it built as a medieval chapel and remodelled - we do not know. There are monuments, Royal Arms.

Back up the A49, the north /South trunk road which bisects the County we find Bromfield Church. Dedicated to St Mary, this is an amazing site In the mid C11th this was a royal minster served by 12 canons, gradually replaced by monks, and by 1155 was a Benedictine Priory under Gloucester Abbey.

The building today contains part of this early one which predates the priory; the nave was always used by the local people as a parish church. A north aisle and hefty tower were added in the C13th but even before dissolution, the monastic part of the church had declined, and dissolution merely finished a situation begun by the monks themselves. A house was created from some of the remains of the monastic buildings by a man called Charles Foxe and he also paid to repair the parish church.

The church itself is well worth a visit with lots of medieval parts and places to discover as well as noting all the add ons since medieval times. The nave ceiling has to be seen to be believed – a painting of the trinity surrounded by lots of cherubs and Psalm 85. The surrounding buildings and parkland are very attractive.

The local estate is owned by the Earl of Plymouth.