



St Peter, Dixon

It's not known exactly how long St Peter's Church has been sitting on the banks of the River Wye, but in AD 735 the Book of Llandaff refers to an old church on the site. It is believed to have been rebuilt in the 11<sup>th</sup> century by the Normans after being damaged by Welsh raiders – the perils of living in border country.

The simple white church has a close relationship with River Wye whose waters regularly flood down the aisle. The brass plates near the chancel arch record the height of the more memorable floods.

Inside the tower, there are four bells dating from 1420, 1674, 1682 and 1876.

In the porch, there is a relief of St. Peter's crucifixion. Opposite this you will find a list of all the vicars since 1257. Try and find 'William, an alien'.

The exposed herringbone stone wall in the north wall of the nave is thought to be of Saxon origin. Above it is a panel showing the Royal Arms of Queen Anne. On the south wall, you will see two 18<sup>th</sup> century tin panels with the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments. The reredos behind the altar was carved by Belgian refugees during WW1.

Do come and visit us!



St Swithin, Ganarew

St Swithin's Church stands on a pass between Monmouth and Whitchurch. The name Ganarew comes from the old Welsh Genau Rhiw, 'pass of the hill between two hills'. The church, in its grassy walled churchyard with a lych gate, is set in the most idyllic and picturesque landscape.

There is an iron age fort on the nearby Little Doward and the hill is associated with Vortigern, the last 'great leader' of Roman Britain. The Plague Cross standing at the junction of the old A40 highway indicates a far greater population in years gone by. In the churchyard there is also a Celtic preaching cross, with the cross unusually oriented east-west.

The present building, dedicated in 1849, designed by Mr Pritchard of Llandaff, appears to be built upon the same ground plan (if not on the same foundations) as the previous Saxon church. Entering through the south (main) door, the font which is older than the building, is immediately to the left. The atmosphere is very much one of peace and calm.

Ganarew has been a place of Christian worship for well over a millennium and with its connection with Vortigern and its beautiful setting and peaceful interior is well worth a visit.



St Dubricius, Whitchurch

Find this 13<sup>th</sup> century Grade 2\* listed church in an idyllic location on the banks of the Wye, with its own landing stage.

As you enter you will see a well-maintained interior, used frequently, for 21<sup>st</sup> century worship and community events. Learn about the legend of our patron saint whose mother escaped drowning and burning!

Look more closely at the Norman font and the Decorated style architecture. The Victorian Minton tiles depict "the Pelican in Her Piety". Like the pelican's chicks, the church has new life



following the latest devastating flood in 2020. Incredibly the tapestries of local life survived.

Outside there is a 15<sup>th</sup> century preaching cross, an unusual tulip tree and a fascinating Canadian

connection with the Simcoe/Gwillim family whose story began with their wedding in this church in 1750. The west side of the churchyard contains the Gwillim enclosure, a Grade 2 listed monument.

And much, much more! Follow the Trail and visit us by land or water - you will be pleased you came.

St Giles' Church is a Grade 2\* listed medieval sandstone building in an elevated position in the village and the churchyard contains 27 Grade 2 listed



St Giles, Goodrich

structures. There has been a church in Goodrich since about 1100 but the present building dates from the 1200s. In the course of the English Civil War, it is probable that the Parliamentary army destroyed anything in the church with which they disagreed, including the stained glass windows, a prayer cross and the altar. As with many of our churches, the Victorians carried out extensive alterations to the building in the 1870s.

One of the mysteries of the church are the two carved heads on the east wall to the right of the altar. The style dates them at about 1450 but who or what they represent remains a mystery.

There are several items of 17<sup>th</sup> century furniture, a chest used by Thomas Swift when vicar of Goodrich during the Civil War and the Moffatt chair dating from 1630-40. Thomas Swift's grandson, Jonathan, author of Gulliver's Travels, donated the silver chalice used by his grandfather to the church. The poet, William Wordsworth is reputed to have written one of his works whilst pausing in the churchyard on his walking tour of the Wye Valley.



St Michael & All Angels, Walford

St Michael and All Angels' Church is a beautiful 12<sup>th</sup> century church that has been sensitively transformed to encapsulate all that is good from the past with the needs of today's wider community.

As the oldest church in Herefordshire it has a long history of ministering to the needs of a small but steadily thriving village community. Before Norman times the mud and wattle building was dedicated to St. Leonard, a Saxon saint, but the name was changed at the restoration of the building in 1887.

The first structure of the church, built around 1100, was a simple rectangular building consisting of the present nave. From about 1230 - 1240 the north aisle was added together with the arcade of four pillars and arches. Soon afterwards the aisle was continued to form the north chapel.

By 1430 the church was in a sadly dilapidated condition. General repairs were undertaken and at the same time the south porch was constructed. In the sixteenth century a passage was also added connecting the tower to the main building through the north chapel. That concluded the work of the building as it now stands.

In October 2015 a Faculty was granted for internal re-ordering. This has allowed for the removal of the pews in the western half of the nave and installation of a kitchen and toilet as well as a raised open area at the rear of the nave.



St Mary the Virgin, Ross-on-Wye

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin stands proudly at the highest point in the centre of the town. Its 205 foot spire, the tallest in Herefordshire, can be seen from all directions, while the view from the adjacent Prospect Gardens looks over a horse-shoe bend in the River Wye to the rolling Herefordshire countryside and Welsh mountains beyond.

St Mary's serves a population of nearly 12,000 residents. It is open daily between 9am and 5pm. A welcomer may be there to greet you but if not, you are most welcome to look around. Free leaflets are available to guide you and information panels are located around the building.

The mix of ancient and modern enhances the beauty and within the ancient stone walls you will find a light and airy space surrounded by many interesting and historic features. You can trace over seven hundred years of history through lovely stained glass windows, fine alabaster monuments, the trees in church and a door leading nowhere. You can even venture on a hedgehog hunt.

As well as a range of regular services from Messy Church to Choral Evensong, the church is used for exhibitions, receptions, dances and concerts.