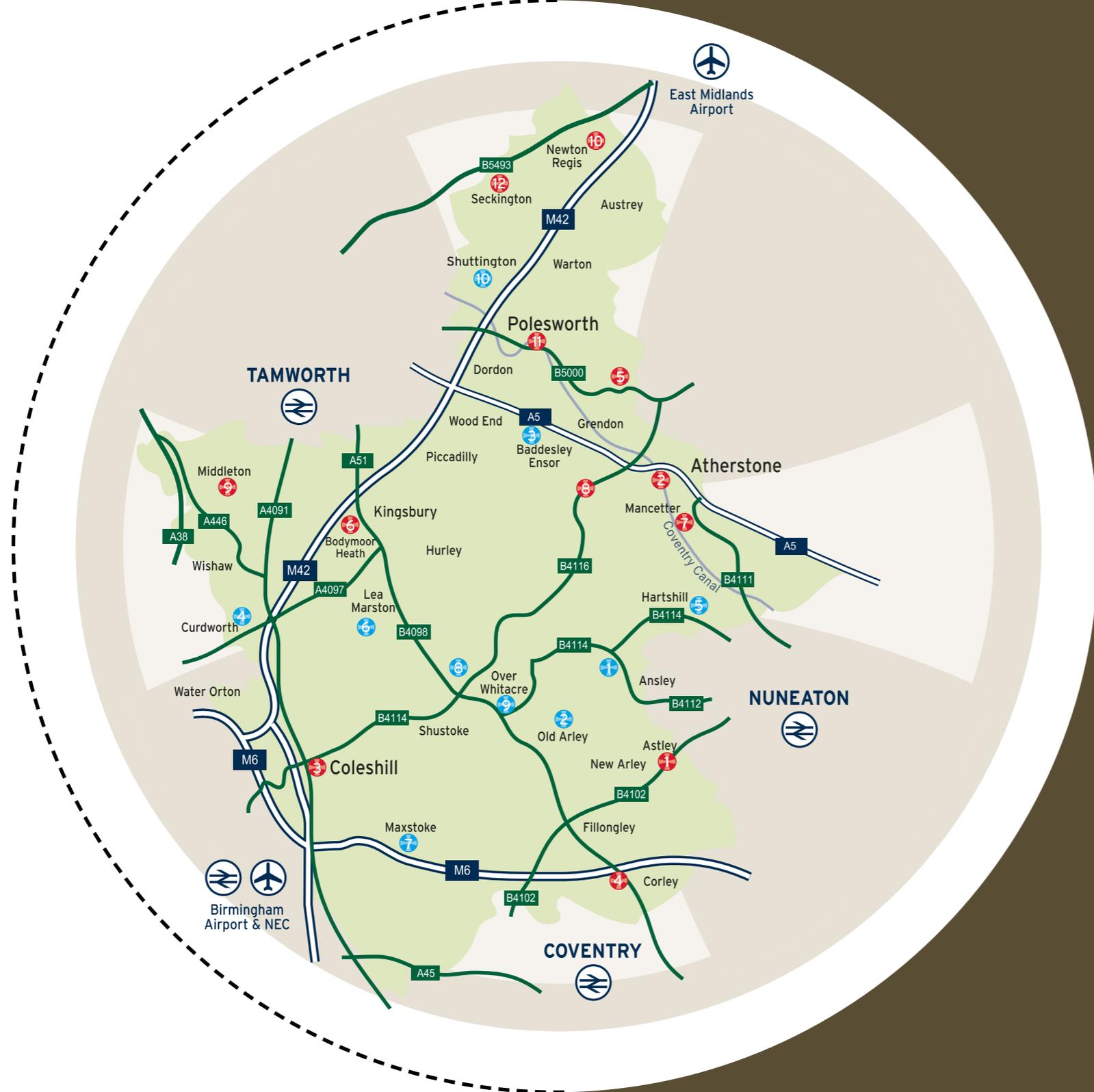


North  
Warwickshire  
Churches





## North Warwickshire Churches

### Churches Guide Introduction

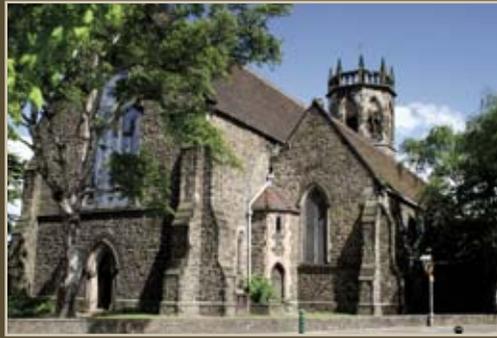
Churches are the great stone monuments that are a testament to people's faith in God. They are the realisation of the visions and inspiration of the people who built them and of those who worship within their sacred walls.

For churches are far more than bricks, stone and mortar, far more than fine examples of design and style. They are the focus of the landscape and the guardians of stories.

Stories of people, tales of good deeds, of intrigue, of rogues, of martyrs, of battles and conflict and many more.

This guide gives you clues to the stories that the churches in North Warwickshire hold within their walls.

To understand these stories you need to visit the churches and stand within their holy walls, breathing in the atmosphere of these sacred places that inspired the actions as told within these ancient tales.



## 1 Astley The Church of St Mary the Virgin

**The Flame, The Thief and Two English Queens**

Astley Church was once the size of a cathedral where religious scholars gathered for study in this quiet country community. Worshippers were guided through the depths of the Forest of Arden to this clearing by a flame lit in the spire. The church lies within the sight of an abandoned castle that was once the home to two English Queens. Later the church fell into disrepair following the actions of a thief and was restored to the presence we see in the landscape today. It holds within its walls the tales of these families through the architectural treasures that adorn the splendid interior.

**Address:** Nuthurst Lane, Astley, CV10 7QH  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open first Saturday of every month 10.30am - 2.00pm. Other times by arrangement - contact 024 7638 3010



## 2 Atherstone St Mary

**Norman Monks, The Battling Earl and the School**

The Normans came in conquest and saw victory. With this victory the Abbey of Bec was given a grant of land here in Atherstone. A Friary was founded by the Augustians with a chapel for holy services. This chapel with its now octagonal bell tower was to be the place of communion for an Earl prior to his battle under the banner of a red rose. His victory saw him become the King of All England. His son was to later remove the friary, and so the chapel became a school. Discover these tales within these walls, effigies and windows.

**Address:** Market Square, Atherstone, CV9 1EX  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open during services on Sundays and Wednesdays. Tuesdays and Fridays (Market Days) 10.00am - noon. Other times by arrangement - contact 01827 713030



## 3 Coleshill The Church of St Peter & St Paul

**Crusaders, Plotters and the Medieval Preaching Stump**

Coleshill church is a giant in stone that watches over this ancient coaching town. It pays homage to crusaders and gunpowder plotters. The monumental treasures tell the stories of loyalty and treason, which saw the manor's ownership pass from one family to another. Find out about these heroic times within the walls and monuments and ask as to whether the vicar with too many fingers ever preached at the medieval preaching stump.

**Address:** Church Hill, Coleshill, B46 3AE  
**Opening Arrangements:** Easter to the end of September - Wednesdays and Saturdays 11.00am - 1.00pm. Other times by arrangement - contact 01675 462188

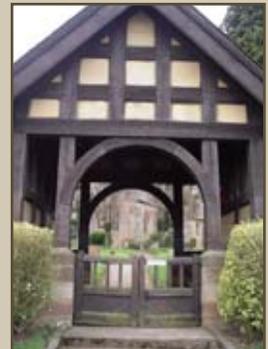


## 4 Corley Parish Church

**Ancient Moorland Sanctuary, Stonework Puzzles and a Rhyme**

The weather vane upon its brow guides the winds across the moor, for huddled on this hilly stance we find an ancient sanctuary that is Corley church. Here the Normans built their chapel in a landscape of woods and grass. Now we see a church of stone in many styles, some rough, some smooth does this suggest times of change? Enter through the lychgate to discover this treasure and the tale of the rector's son who turned his memories into verse.

**Address:** Tamworth Road, Corley, CV7 8BB  
**Opening Arrangements:** Church open for services Sunday, Monday and Wednesday. Other times by arrangement - contact 01676 540579





## 5 Grendon All Saints

**The Lost Manor House and the Scandal of the Eloping Lady**

Grendon church stands alone as a monument to a lost time, when the land was owned by the Lords of the Manor, who commanded power over the landscape and the people who lived, worked and worshipped within it. The church lies on the edge of a great park that once housed a now lost manor house. It is here that generations of the Chetwynd family were raised, and it is their story that the church tells, through the monuments and decoration in its vast interior. Stories that tell of family unity and of the scandal of the eloping Victorian lady.

**Address:** Atherstone Road, Grendon, CV9 3DP  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open by arrangement - contact 01827 715327



## 6 Kingsbury St Peter and St Paul

**Tales of Lost Treasures and Dante's Inferno**

Kingsbury church with all its splendour that we see today, has a finer, glorious past that boasted a beauty of images finely painted and crafted in glass. Alas this is all but gone. This raises the question as to why? Was it the Tudor Lawmakers who missed Middleton, but found Kingsbury? Or was it the riotous behaviour of the children who attended school in the chapel? Enter these doors to find out the answers, and learn of how Dante's Inferno was made available to the English.

**Address:** Church Lane, Kingsbury, B78 2LR  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open by arrangement - contact 01827 874252



## 7 Mancetter St Peter

**Glory in Glass, Books in Chains and Martyrs of Unswerving Faith**

Upon the green, aside the manor between the almshouses, snugly sits Mancetter church. Built upon this site of a Roman military fort. This jewel of stone mounted with glorious tinted glass of saintly imagery and the Tree of Jesse, holds within its care a library of books locked up in chains. Find out about these tales of unswerving faith and martyrdom. Enter these holy walls and seek out these treasures, and feel the aura of peace, which holds the memories of more turbulent days, when beliefs were questioned and the faithful persecuted.

**Address:** The Green, Mancetter, CV9 1NL  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open by arrangement - contact 01827 713266

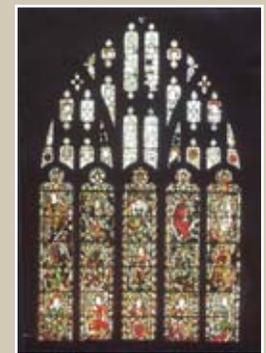


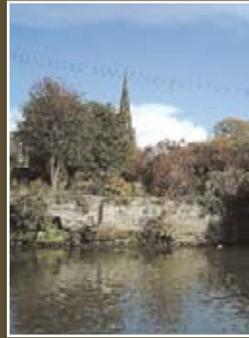
## 8 Merevale St Mary (The Church of Our Lady)

**The Abbey Ruins, Ancient Glass, and the Victorian Gate**

Unlatch the gate and wander on through to Merevale Church, The Church of our Lady, or "the chapel outside the gate". The proportions differ from those normally seen reflecting the style of Abbey Gate chapels that have nearly all gone. See the fine windows of the monk's magnificent "Tree of Jesse" and Victorian memorial glass in this rare and unusual church. Then return through the Victorian gatehouse built in the style of the erstwhile Abbey.

**Address:** Merevale Lane, Merevale, CV9 2LA  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open by arrangement - contact 01827 874252





## 9 Middleton St John the Baptist

**Un-lost Treasures, the Naturalist, Sense and Sensibility**

A church of un-lost treasures, it boasts of paintings and rood screens, that were so often lost when the churches were ransacked under Tudor laws. Is there a tale here as to why they survived? Did the lawmakers miss this church that nestles quietly in the village? A church that saw a naturalist's family as the great and the good, whose name was preserved in the words of a novel. The family monuments provide a focal point within these walls of prayer and worship.

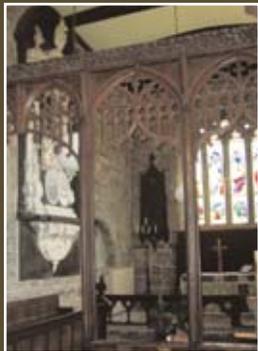
**Address:** Middleton Village, B78 2AN  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open daily 9.00am - 5.00pm

## 10 Newton Regis St Mary the Virgin

**Church of Kings, Cathedral Builders and Prehistoric Pavements**

Newton Regis church watches over this quiet, picturesque village, with its cottages and duck pond. An idyllic spot for this a silent house of worship that holds the tales of Kings after whom the village took its royal name. There are stories of worthy families who helped to build cathedrals and close by is "the rock" that has seen time pass from pre-history. What tales could it tell, if it could but speak?

**Address:** Main Road, Newton Regis, B79 ONG  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open by arrangement - contact 01827 839022



## 11 Polesworth The Abbey Church of St Editha

**Saxon Nuns, Ancient Walls and Writers**

Through the Abbey Gateway into Polesworth Abbey there is an ever-present aura of holiness and peace. This is a sacred place, where Saxon nuns established an Abbey. The ancient Cloister walls and peaceful garden are there for you to see. There are tales of change, of conflict as well as peace. This is a place, on the banks of the River Anker, where scholars and poets were inspired to write.

**Address:** High Street, Polesworth, B78 2AE  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open daily for morning and evening prayer (8.30am & 6.00pm) and Sundays for Holy Communion (10.00am). The Abbey, Refectory and Sensory Gardens open Tuesday - Sunday 10.00am - noon and 2.00pm - 4.00pm. For further information - contact 01827 892340



## 12 Seckington All Saints

**A Castle Mound, A King's Murder and the American President**

Seckington church is a giant in the landscape that watches over the village, farms and the remains of a castle. However this peaceful place has not always been so. For it is where Saxon royal blood was spilt. Was it his successor or some treacherous deed that resulted in the king's death? These holy walls also hold the tale of an American President's family who lived and worshiped here in unsettled times.

**Address:** Church Lane, Seckington, B79 OLD  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open by arrangement - contact 01827 839022



## 1 Ansley

### St Laurence

**Lady Godiva, the Poet Laureate and the Hermitage**

**Address:** Church End, Ansley  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open by arrangement - contact 024 7639 9070



## 2 Arley

### St Wilfrid

**The Northumbrian Saint, Archers Marks and Local Coal**

**Address:** Rectory Road, Old Arley  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open by arrangement - contact 024 7639 9070



## 3 Baddesley Ensor

### St Nicholas

**Victorian Renewal, a Mining Disaster and a Martyred Bishop**

**Address:** Hill Top, Baddesley Ensor  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open by arrangement - contact 01827 715327



## 4 Curdworth

### St Nicholas & Peter Ad Vincula

**Saxon Imagery, Civil War Secrets and Dr Johnson's Grandparents**

**Address:** Glebe Fields (off Coleshill Road), Curdworth  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open daily 9.00am - 5.00pm

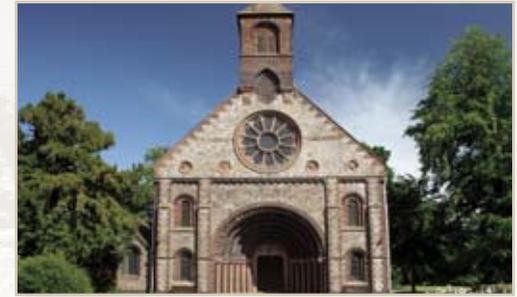


## 5 Hartshill

### Holy Trinity

**A Colossal Doorway, the Expressionist Architect and Merevale Oak**

**Address:** Church Road, Hartshill  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open by arrangement - contact 024 7639 2266



## 6 Lea Marston

### St John the Baptist

**The Remote Home of a Missionary, a Writer of Hymns and Gladstone's Visit**

**Address:** Church Lane, Lea Marston  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open by arrangement - contact 01675 481252



## 7 Maxstoke

### St Michael & All Angels

**The Priory, the Royal Navy Captain and his Wife, the Mormon Prophet**

**Address:** Maxstoke Village, Maxstoke  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open by arrangement - contact 01675 462188



## 8 Nether Whitacre

### St Giles

**Saxon Stones, Handel's Messiah and the Giant Redwood Tree**

**Address:** Tamworth-Coventry Road (A51), Nether Whitacre  
**Opening Arrangements:** Open daily dawn till dusk



## 9 Over Whitacre

### St Leonard

**A Tale of Two Churches, Wonderful Views  
and Iron Smelting**

**Address:** Nuneaton Road, Over Whitacre

**Opening Arrangements:** Open by  
arrangement - contact 01675 481252



## 10 Shuttington

### St Matthew

**The Petite Church on the Ridge,  
Spectacular Vista and the Priory**

**Address:** Church Lane, Shuttington

**Opening Arrangements:** Open by  
arrangement - contact 01827 839022



As you travel around North Warwickshire why not look out for some of the other fascinating churches and chapels dotted around the countryside;

Arley - Methodist Church & Community Centre  
**Rectory Road, Old Arley**

Atherstone - St Benedict  
**Owen Street, Atherstone**

Atherstone - Trinity Methodist URC  
**Coleshill Road, Atherstone**

Austrey - St Nicholas  
**Church Lane, Austrey**

Baddesley Ensor - Trinity Methodist URC  
**Keys Hill, Baddesley Ensor**

Baxterley - The Church  
**Baxterley**

Birchmoor - Mission Church  
**New Street, Birchmoor**

Caldecote - St Theobald & St Chad  
**Caldecote Village**

Coleshill - Sacred Heart & St Teresa  
**67 Coventry Road, Coleshill**

Dordon - St Leonard  
**Church Road, Dordon**

Fillongley - St Mary & All Saints  
**Tamworth Road, Fillongley**

Freasley - St Mary  
**Freasley**

Great Packington - St James  
**Packington Estate, Meriden**  
(access by prior arrangement only - contact the Estate Office on 01676 522020)

Grendon - Methodist Church  
**Boot Hill, Grendon**

Hartshill - Methodist Church  
**Grange Road, Hartshill**

Hurley - The Resurrection  
**Heanley Lane, Hurley**

New Arley - St Michael  
**Gun Hill, New Arley**

Polesworth - Congregational Chapel  
**High Street, Polesworth**

Polesworth - Baptist Church  
**The Gullet, Polesworth**

Ridge Lane - Methodist Church  
**Ridge Lane, Oldbury**

Shustoke - St Cuthbert  
**Church End, Shustoke**

Warton - Holy Trinity  
**Church Road, Warton**

Water Orton - SS Peter & Paul  
**New Road & Coleshill Road, Water Orton**

Wishaw - St Chad  
**The Gravel (off Church Lane and Ryefield Lane), Wishaw**

Wood End - St Michael & All Angels  
**Smith Street, Wood End**

## Public Transport

For information on public transport in North Warwickshire contact:

Warwickshire County Council

Website: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/publictransport](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/publictransport)

Telephone: 01926 412987

or Travel Line

Website: [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

Telephone: 0870 608 2 608

## Disclaimer

This leaflet features a selection of churches in North Warwickshire, which have been chosen due to their historical interest.

Whilst great care has been taken to ensure the information is correct, at the time of publication, responsibility cannot be accepted for inaccuracies or omissions.

The text contained in this leaflet is also available in large print.

## Photograph acknowledgments

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## Text acknowledgments

The information within this leaflet has been compiled by a dedicated team of local volunteers, and written by Malcolm Dewhirst.

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## Contact

For further information on this guide or any of the churches featured in it contact the Tourism Development Officer at North Warwickshire Borough Council on:

Telephone: 01827 719301

Email: [tourisminfo@northwarks.gov.uk](mailto:tourisminfo@northwarks.gov.uk)

Website: [www.northwarks.gov.uk](http://www.northwarks.gov.uk)

Address: The Council House, South Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 1BG

## Further Reading

If you have enjoyed reading this 'Guide to Churches in North Warwickshire' why not take a look at the 'Guide to Heritage in North Warwickshire'. To receive a copy contact the Tourism Development Officer.

And if you would like to know even more about the area's interesting history, look out for the North Arden Heritage Trail project, which is being launched in Summer 2006.

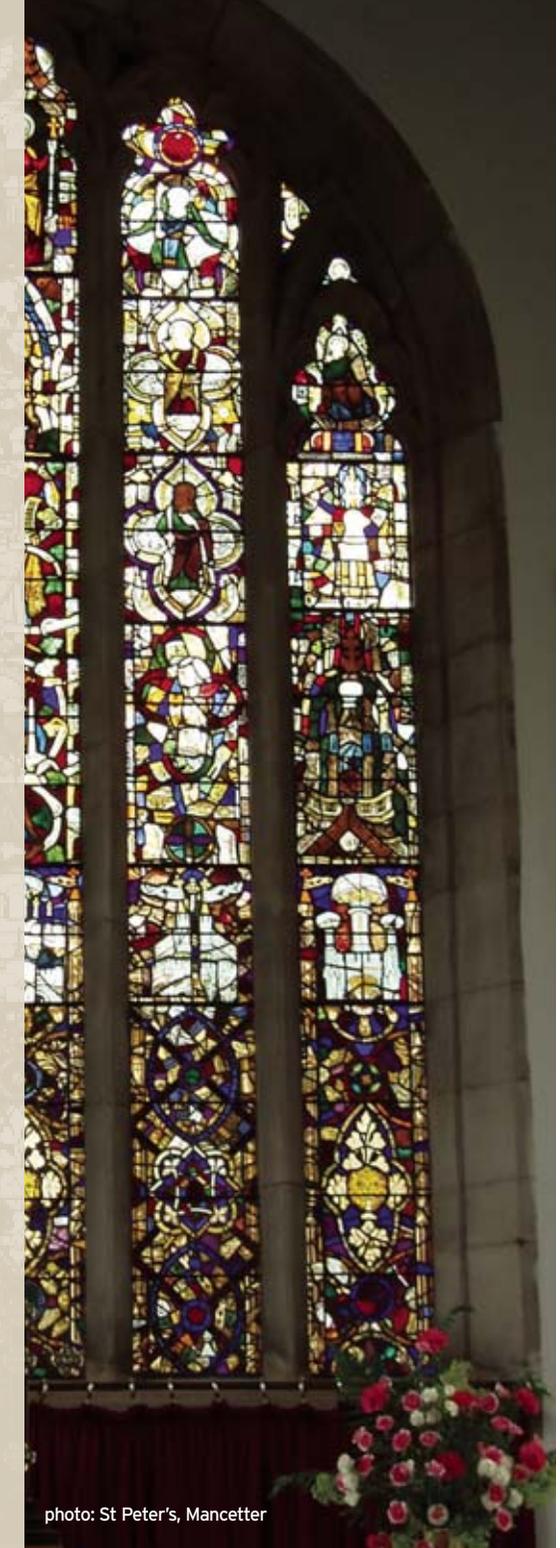


photo: St Peter's, Mancetter

