

Holy Trinity and St Andrew, Ashe

RG25 3AJ

This 19th century village church was designed by George Gilbert Scott replacing a much older building that was collapsing. The windows from the workshop of Charles Kempe are considered to be of national importance and Jane Austen visited Anne Lefroy here regularly – it was Anne who encouraged her to write. Robert Portal is buried here; his family produced English banknotes, but he is remembered for being one of the few survivors of the Charge of the Light Brigade.



The real treasure of this church can be found in a little cupboard by the rood screen. When the church was being rebuilt a robin shared the builders' sandwiches and eventually made a nest. The carpenters made this little cupboard and carved the

robin on its nest.

Hartley Wespall, St Mary RG27 0BB

From the road this seems like a typical Victorian church. Inside you find a 13th century gem, a memorial window to the first Archbishop of Australasia who was curate here in 1818 and two 15th century bells. But it is the West end exterior half timbering that everyone remembers.



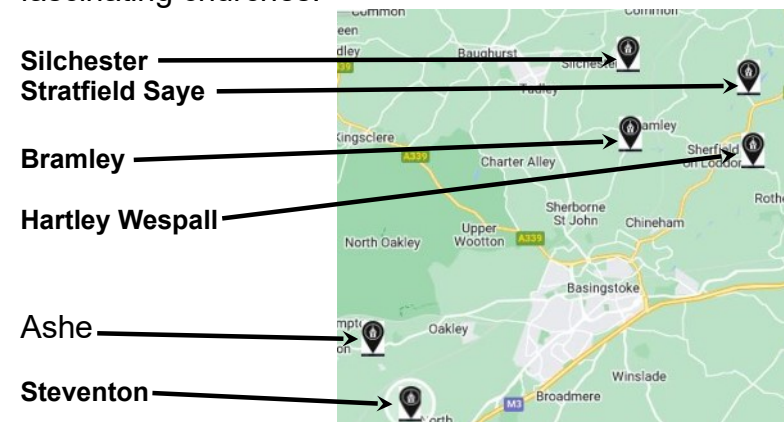
Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust **DAYS OUT:** **North of Basingstoke**

These brief notes are intended to whet your appetite for the unusual and quirky secrets hidden in our churches. We have in Hampshire and the Islands the oldest bell in the world still being rung, Handel's organ, myriads of TV and Film locations and many other lovely oddities.

And, yes, please do tell us if you discover something we haven't spotted.

Basingstoke "Extra"

What did the Romans ever do for us? Well, they built Silchester and if it was good enough for them, then it has become one of the most sought after parts of Hampshire with lovely villages and fascinating churches.



Copy link to get map: <https://tinyurl.com/2p86mnhz>

Stratfield Saye, St Mary RG27 2DA



This church is a fine example of Georgian architecture, both inside and out. It was built in 1758 to replace an old medieval chapel. It seems that the owner of Stratfield Saye House had built some stables and a Real Tennis

court near the old church and the noise of both balls and horses distracted worship. So an Act of Parliament was passed to enable him to demolish the church and build another one. At the time it was reviled as “a monster of ecclesiastical ugliness”.

Although the Duke of Wellington later bought the estate and worshipped here regularly, he was in fact buried in St Paul’s Cathedral.

St Mary the Virgin, Silchester RG7 2HH



A lovely 12th century church built within the walls of the old Roman town of Silchester, there are historic wall paintings and carved stones each with a story to tell. The Tudor rood screen carries symbols of Katharine of Aragon but was removed from the church at the Reformation. It was found in a local barn in 1865 and returned to its present location.

With pieces of Roman brick littering the area, some pieces were let into the west wall of the church. When the new church hall was added to the building in 2018, the opportunity was taken to follow the same principal (obviously with the proper permissions!)

St. James, Bramley RG26 5DQ

Extensive wall paintings were uncovered here in 1860, the most notable being the martyrdom of Thomas Becket; there is also a painting of St Christopher looking remarkably similar to Henry VIII



Sir Bernard Broccas was buried here with a fine monument from 1802

St Nicholas, Steventon RG25 3BE

Jane Austen was born in Steventon; her father George, and brothers James and Henry were all vicars of the parish, and Jane was baptized in St Nicholas.

Around the chancel arch are some fine William Morris decorations and medieval wall paintings.

