

The Archaeology of Post-Medieval Religion

Tour itineraries

Friday 12th September, 11.30-5.30

Coach tour of churches and chapels north of Norwich

Departure and drop-off point: The Maids Head Hotel, Tombland, Norwich

Lunch: Delegates are advised to bring a packed lunch to eat on the coach. A tea and lavatory stop will be made at Reepham between around 2.10pm - 4.00pm.

ITINERARY (times are necessarily somewhat approximate):

11.30: Depart from the Maids Head Hotel, Norwich

12.10: first stop: Oulton Chapel (45 minutes)

Independent meeting house, built 1727. Red brick with distinctive paired Dutch gables, and pantile roof; interior with original eighteenth-century gallery with its box pews, other late nineteenth-century pews and pulpit. A charming survival of a modest, rural dissenting chapel on a 'domestic' scale. Maintained by Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust.

13.15: second stop: St Michael the Archangel, Booton (45 minutes)

A remarkable, eccentric late Victorian church. The medieval church was rebuilt by the Reverend Whitwell Elwin (a descendent of Pocahontas) between 1876 and 1900, drawing on elements copied from gothic churches across the country. The slender, diagonally-set twin west towers soar upwards cross the wide East Anglian landscape framing a central 'oriental' minaret; pinnacles surmount the buttresses and inside, dramatic wooden angels hold up the roof (carved by James Minns, a well-known master carver). *"You may love the church; you may be outraged by it, but you cannot remain unmoved by such an exuberant oddity."* Maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust.

14.10: third stop: Reepham (1 hour 45 minutes)

Reepham is well-known in Norfolk for having three churches in its one churchyard; All Saints Hackford was destroyed in c.1540; St Mary Reepham and St Michael Whitwell remain. Both are fine medieval parish churches, with many post-medieval fixtures and monuments. Reepham itself is an attractive market town with many fine, mainly eighteenth-century, buildings.

16.15: fourth stop: St Mary's, Bylaugh (45 minutes)

St Mary's is a pretty, well preserved 'estate church' almost wholly rebuilt by the local squire Sir John Lombe in 1809-1810. The exterior of this church is a strange mix of the original medieval fabric, and nineteenth century additions and rebuilding (the shallow transepts and octagonal turrets contrasting with the projecting classical cornice and brackets). Inside, however, is a perfect survival of a pre-Ecclesiological church interior, with box pews, three-decker pulpit and heated squire's pew, all fitted out for the small community of a single great estate.

17.30: return to the Maids Head Hotel, Norwich

See <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/mainpage.htm> for further information on these sites.

Friday 12th September, 2.00-4.00
'Norwich Dissenters': a Walking Tour

By Ian Knight Smith of the Norwich Blue Badge Guides
(an alternative to the Coach tour of Norfolk churches)

Starting point: 2.00pm The Octagon Chapel, Colegate (a group will be leaving the Maids Head Hotel at 1.45 in order to meet the start of the tour at 2.00)

End point: c.4.00pm United Reform Church, Princes Street (from here it is a short walk back to the Maids Head Hotel)

ITINERARY

1. The Octagon Chapel, Colegate

Presbyterian, later Unitarian. Built in 1754-56 by the well-known Norwich architect Thomas Ivory, it's beautifully proportioned octagonal design inspired Nonconformist architecture across the country. John Wesley famously called it "the most elegant meeting house in all Europe", although also wondered "How can it be thought that the old coarse gospel should find admission here". The interior has Corinthian columns supporting the domed ceiling and internal gallery.

2. The Old Meeting House, Colegate

Congregational. One of the finest early nonconformist meeting houses in England, built in 1693, on a site tucked away down a lane behind the street frontage. The architecture however is anything but retiring; the main front with its paired doorways is divided into five bays by full-height pilasters of rubbed brick with stone Corinthian capitals and a deep projecting modillion eaves cornice. Internal gallery with bolection moulded panels, supported on Doric columns with an Ionic upper order supporting the plaster ceiling; mid nineteenth-century pulpit and seating.

3. Walk along Colegate and cross the river to St Andrews Plain.

4. St Andrew's Halls and Blackfriars

The Halls are the only surviving late-medieval Friary complex in England still in use, in this case having been converted into a common hall for the city in 1540, a function they still serve. The cloisters were home to several early Independent congregations in the mid seventeenth century, and the chancel was given to the immigrant Dutch church – who formed one-third of the city's population in the late sixteenth century.

5. St Andrew's Church

One of the finest late medieval parish churches in the city, substantially rebuilt in perpendicular style in the fifteenth century. In the sixteenth century this was a hotbed of radical Puritan preaching, under the influence of John More ('the Apostle of Norwich'). As a wealthy civic church there are many fine monuments to citizens and gentry, including splendid late sixteenth-century Renaissance mural monuments to the Suckling family.

6. Friend's Meeting House, Upper Goat Lane

One of two Quaker meeting houses in the city, the current building replaced a late seventeenth-century structure in 1826. grey brick with stone dressings, and a central neoclassical porch. The building was the place of worship for several of the city's prominent Quaker families, including the Gurneys, and Elizabeth Fry, the prison reformer.

7. Walk to the Guildhall

Early fifteenth-century town hall in the great marketplace, the largest and most impressive medieval civic building in England outside London, where several early Protestant preachers and separatist groups were imprisoned.

8. Walk to Tombland

Past St Mary the Less church, home to the Walloon congregation, to Tombland, the original Saxon marketplace of Norwich; nearby Bishopsgate was the location of the first Methodist chapel in the city.

9. United Reformed Church, Princes Street

Originally Congregational. The first chapel was built of grey brick in 1819 and parts of the side walls remain; the chapel was heightened and extended with a new frontage in 1868-9 by Edward Boardman; the frontage is of yellow brick with four giant pilasters and an elaborate pediment. Next door is a large school building of 1879-80.

Sunday 14th September

Guided tour of St John the Baptist Roman Catholic Cathedral 2.30pm

Start 2.30pm at St John's

Approximately one hour, with time for refreshments afterwards in the community hall.

4.00pm Guided tour of the tower (*finish at 5.00pm approx*)

The tower tour has c.270 steps, mostly spiral. Visitors need to be fairly fit, unafraid of heights and confined spaces

Norwich's 'other cathedral', and a worthy companion for her more venerable medieval sister. The church was commissioned by Henry Fitzalan Howard, 15th Duke of Norfolk (1847-1917); head of the premier Catholic family in England, as a parish church for the city of Norwich. It was intended to replace the small Catholic chapel in Maddermarket (now the Maddermarket theatre). The site was that of the old city goal, just outside the walls on the west of the city. It became the cathedral of the restored catholic diocese of East Anglia in 1976.

The church was constructed between 1882-1894 to designs by the architect George Gilbert Scott (son of the more famous gothic revival architect Sir George Gilbert Scott). It was felt that the one thing Norwich lacked was an outstanding example of Early English gothic, between the Norman Cathedral and perpendicular parish churches. St John's is a magnificent example of late Victorian gothic revival on an impressive scale, with many fine fixtures and fittings.

The tour of the tower provides an opportunity to see the roof spaces and other architectural elements close up, as well as magnificent views across the city (weather permitting!)

Other churches and chapels in Norwich to visit

Delegates not wanting to take the tour of the Roman Catholic cathedral may wish to take advantage of the city's **Heritage Open Days**, running concurrently with the conference. Over 100 properties will be open to the public free of charge, many of them not usually accessible, and many will have guided tours and events on throughout the weekend.

Full details and booking forms (for those venues requiring pre-booking) available at:

<http://www.heritagecity.org/hods/brouchure-and-booking-form.htm>

On Sunday afternoon, buildings delegates might be particularly interested in include those listed below. These are ONLY churches which are open on Sunday afternoon; there are many other types of building open across the city. See the Heritage Open Day brochure for full listings and a map.

In Norwich

The Great Hospital

Medieval hospital and church around a cloister, preserved by the city after the Reformation and still serving as a care-home. Many fine medieval and post-medieval features. **Booking necessary.** The parish church of St Helen (part of the original hospital building, with many interesting features) open Sunday 2.00-4.00

The Rosary Cemetery

Opened in 1821, England's first non-denominational burial ground, with many impressive monuments. **Booking necessary.**

All Saints Church, Westlegate

15th century church with many interesting features. Open Sunday 12.00-4.00

St Andrew's Church, St Andrew's Street

Large late medieval perpendicular church, with impressive post-medieval monuments. Open Sunday 10.30-4.00

St Augustine Church, Gildencroft

Late medieval church with 17th century brick tower, in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. Open Sunday 10.00-5.00

St Barnabas, Russell Street

A beautiful early 20th century church with war memorial and seven light east window. Open Sunday 12.00-4.00

St Etheldreda's Church, King Street

Medieval parish church with Norman features, in the care of the Norwich Historic Churches Trust. Open Sunday 10.30-5.00

St George Colegate

Large fifteenth-century perpendicular church, with many surviving Georgian fittings, including an impressive reredos, and monuments to mayors and citizens

St Giles-on-the-Hill

Large late medieval church with impressive hammer-beam roof. Open Sunday 10.00-2.00

St John Timberhill

Medieval parish church with Victorian 'Anglo-Catholic' interior. Open Sunday 7.30-5.00

St Gregory's Church, Pottergate

Medieval parish church, in the care of the Norwich Historic Churches Trust

St Lawrence, Pottergate

Medieval parish church with a light and expansive interior, on a steeply sloping site, in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. Open Sunday 10.00-4.00

St Margaret's, Pottergate

Medieval church with 14th century tower, in the care of the Norwich Historic Churches Trust. Open Sunday 11.00-4.00

St Mary Coslany

Medieval parish church with a round, Saxo-Norman tower. Open Sunday 10.00-4.00

St Mary the Less, Queen Street

Church made redundant at the Reformation and became the Flemish cloth hall. then given to the French-speaking Walloon community in 1637 (to 1832). Exhibition of 'famous Norwich Strangers'. Open Sunday 10.00-5.00

St Peter Hungate

Medieval parish church with transepts and roof paid for by the Paston family, was once a museum of church art but now rarely open to the public. Brass rubbing available. Open Sunday 10.00-4.00

St Simon and St Jude, Elm Hill

Medieval parish church (with inserted concrete mezzanine), several impressive sixteenth-century mural monuments. Open Sunday 2.00-4.00

St Stephen's, Rampant Horse Street

Large medieval church with a unique, richly patterned tower and impressive roof. Open Sunday 10.00-4.00

Trinity URC

Designed by Sir Bernard Feilden and opened in 1957, the first new church to be built in Norwich after WWII, and recently listed Grade II. Open Sunday 2.00-4.00

Outside the city

St Andrew, Eaton (south-west of city centre)

13th century thatched parish church, with striking modern extension. Open Sunday 9.00-4.00

St Peter and St Paul, East Harling (2 miles outside city centre)

Mid 15th century perpendicular church with tombs of the Lovell and Herling families and original stained glass. Open Sunday 12.00-4.00

St Mark's, Lakenham (south of city between inner and outer ring roads)

Built 1844, a Victorian church with a gallery, containing the striking Art Nouveau Bignold rood screen and some fine sculpted stations of the cross. Open Sunday 11.00-4.00