

## The walk

The five churches walk is a beautiful 10 mile circular route. Most of the route is along ancient footpaths and bridleways, which have been used for hundreds of years by local people and visitors alike. Stepping in their footsteps you will visit the picturesque villages of Wales, Harthill, Thorpe Salvin, South Anston and Todwick, and be able to appreciate some of Rotherham's finest church architecture.

This leaflet describes the clockwise route, starting at Todwick church. But, you can walk in either direction and start at any point. If you want to shorten the route, you can almost half it by taking the path along the Chesterfield Canal.

The walk will take about 6 hours with good rests at each church. Don't forget to dress for the British weather, and wear sturdy footwear, as it can be muddy in the fields at any time of year.

## Natural history

This route passes through many varied habitats.

Ash, oak, field maple, hawthorn, blackthorn, holly and dogwood trees can be found in the hedgerow along Walsaker Lane. Birds including jay, turtle dove, willow warbler, blackcap and even sparrowhawk live in Crow and Loscar Woods.

Reedmace, reed sweet-grass and branched bur-reed grow along the banks of the Chesterfield Canal, and provide resting places for damsel and dragonflies.

As the path from Todwick bears left, there is an area rich in flowers on your right. These include meadowsweet, and square-stemmed St John's wort. Butterflies are also common, including green-veined whites, small copper, small skipper and common blues.



For more information about these or other faith buildings to visit in Rotherham, please ring Rotherham Churches Tourism Initiative on 01709 720589, or visit [www.rcti.org.uk](http://www.rcti.org.uk)

For tourist information and bright ideas for other places to visit please ring Rotherham Visitor Centre on 01709 835905, or visit [www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk)

## Travel information

- If you are travelling by public transport ring Traveline on 01709 515151 to check times.
- There is a regular bus service to Wales. Trains run to Kiveton Stations from Rotherham and Sheffield (you can pick up the walk from the Chesterfield Canal Path).
- If travelling by car, please respect the need for local people to park and attend church services. Parking near all the churches is limited. There is a small car park at Todwick Church. For larger groups, there is parking at Wales Comprehensive School (except during school hours).
- For more information, Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 270 covers this area!

## St peter & st paul, todwick

The church at Todwick is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. Parts of the present church date back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century, including the red sandstone nave. The limestone chancel and porch were added in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and the eight-pinnaced tower was erected over a century after that. Inside the church you will find wonderful horse-box pews, carvings in the roof beams and behind the 17<sup>th</sup> century altar rails is a case containing the Todwick Bible, dated 1639.



## St james, south anston

There is evidence that the church existed as long ago as 1174. One aisle was added during the Decorated Period (1272-1377) and the second aisle, nave, tower and graceful spire were built during the Perpendicular Period (1377-1546). Towards the rear of the church is a 14<sup>th</sup> century tomb cover, bearing a figure (thought to be a man), a child and two angels.



## St peter, thorpe salvin

The chancel, tower arches and massive pillars are all part of the original building, dating from around 1130. The south doorway is elaborately decorated with carved capitals and, Norman round arches carved with 'lozenge and chevron'. It is protected by a half-timbered Tudor porch, a fine example of medieval craftsmanship.

The church contains a most remarkable font, beautifully carved with six bas-relief panels showing the four seasons, a baptism scene and what is thought to represent Aquarius. The detail is very fine.



# Five Churches Walk

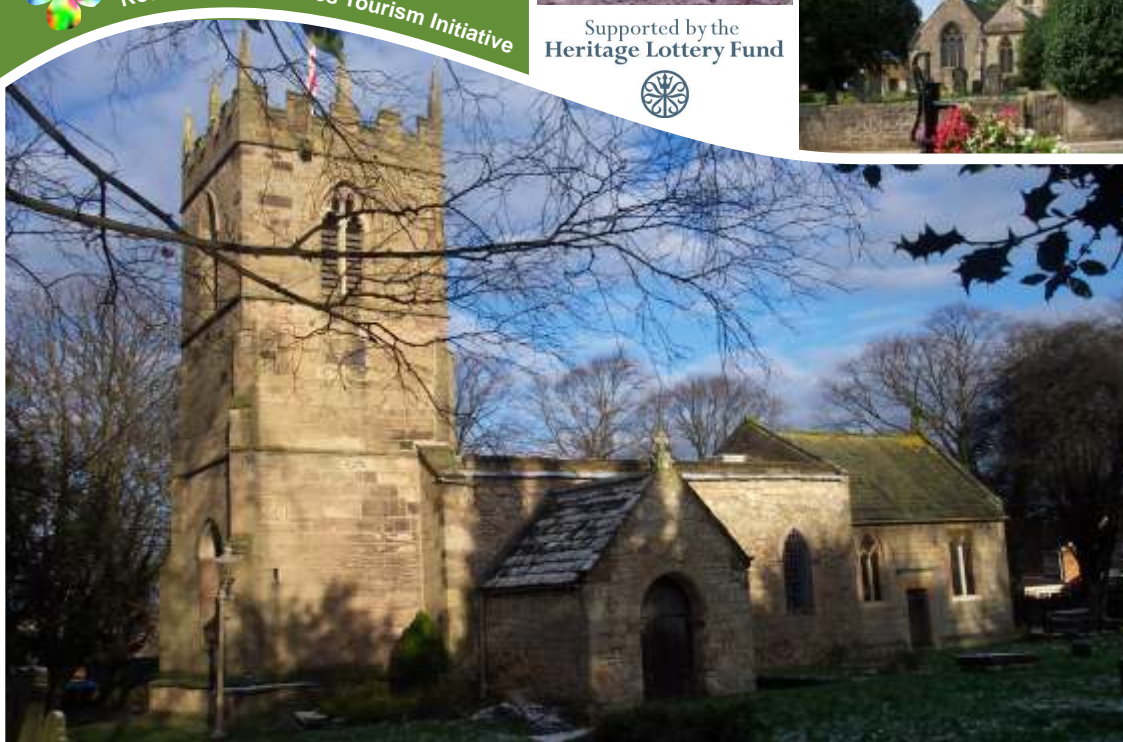
Discover the rural splendour of beautiful south Rotherham!

10 mile  
Waymarked  
Circular route



Rotherham Churches Tourism Initiative

Supported by the  
Heritage Lottery Fund



## All hallows, harthill

The round arches of the north arcade indicate a Norman influence. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century considerable extensions were made, including the addition of the chancel, tower, north and south aisles and chapels. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the family of the Duke of Leeds used the north chapel as a mortuary chapel, and the Duke's gauntlets and Funeral Pall are on display. The north aisle and chapel were rebuilt in 1850, followed by the chancel in 1897. The main beams for the roof came from one large oak tree grown at Sutton-in-the-Forest near York.



## St john the baptist, wales

Around the outside of the church are large corner stones, called quoins. These show that the church dates right back to the 10th century. The fantastic Norman south door, with alternate bird and human head carvings is 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Around the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century several windows were reglazed with stained-glass. Traces of these panels are in the windows of the north wall of the Norman part of the church. The nave was added in 1897 with the sanctuary and chancel added in 1935.

## Key

- walk route
- footpaths
- roads
- - - railways
- refreshments
- waymarkers

## The five churches walk route ...

**19** Walking with the hedge and ditch on your left, follow the edge of the field. Take care as crops can hide uneven ground.

**21** Cross the stile and walk up Mill Fields. At the top turn left, then right onto Mill Hills. At the main road cross very carefully. Turn right and almost straight left onto a footpath into the churchyard and back to your starting point!

**20** Follow waymarkers carefully, through a gap in the hedge. Walk in a north-east direction across the field, towards **TODWICK**, and the nearest house on the horizon.

**18** After the railway bridge, cross the stile on your right into a field. Head across the field towards the end of the hedgerow, cross the bridge.

## Wales

**17** At the end of Storth Lane, turn left past Wales Comprehensive School on your right.

**16** When you leave the churchyard turn right and walk down Church Street. At Wales Road, cross very carefully, and take the path down the right hand side of the Lord Conyer's public house. Walk down Manor Road, and turn right onto Storth Lane.

**15** Walk uphill through a farmyard, and past the cemetery on your left. Follow Church Street to the church of **St John the Baptist** on your right.

**14** Turn right onto Walsaker Lane. Follow this, and then a surfaced track (Coalpit Lane) into **WALES**.

**13** After visiting the church turn right and carry on down Hard Lane. As you reach the end of the village, turn left through a stone wall onto a path between a fenced field and hedgerow. Cross the stone bridge across a stream, and carry on uphill along the bridleway.

**12** As you walk through the village you will pass the memorial dedicated to local people killed during the Great War. It sits on what is thought to be the old village cross base.

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**1** **St Peter & St Paul's Church, Todwick.** Turn right out of the car park and walk down the lane with the swings on your right.

**2** At the end of the path turn right and follow the wall until you reach **SOUTH ANSTON**. This wall was the boundary of the 600 acre Kiveton Park Estate, the Duke of Leeds' home in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

**3** At the end of Axle Lane turn left and walk 100 yards. Carefully cross the road, onto High Street. Go through the lychgate and up the hill through the churchyard to **St James' Church, South Anston**.

**4** Walk up the path towards the back of the churchyard, go between the houses, and turn left onto Hillcrest Drive.

**5** After leaving the estate, turn right onto a bridleway between a field and the back of a row of houses. Walk across the field and down to the **Chesterfield Canal**.

**6** Take care crossing the railway line and canal, and carry on up the hill.

**7** At the top of the hill, take time for a look back at the view. Turn left onto **Lady Field Road** and into **THORPE SALVIN**.

**8** On your left is the privately owned **Thorpe Salvin Hall** (not open to the public). Follow the road round to the village pump, and cross the road to the east gate of the churchyard and **St Peter's Church**.

## Thorpe Salvin

**9** Leave the churchyard by the main gate and turn right. Take care walking up Harthill Road as there is no footway. At the end of the hedgerow on your left, bear left onto the path going diagonally across the field, towards **Loscar Wood**.

**11** Follow the path through the woods, and along the edges of fields towards **HARTHILL**. After the last stile, cross the road and follow the stone path opposite. Take care down going down the stone steps. When you reach the main road turn right to **All Hallows Church**.

**10** Climb a couple of stone steps and walk along the edge of the wood. Staying on the path, turn left up **Packman Lane**. At the end of the path cross the road, and cross a stile into the field opposite. Walk along the field edge, crossing stiles, to **Crow Wood**.



Thorpe Salvin is a very pretty village, and worth a look around. It won 'Best Village' in 'Britain in Bloom' 2001