



## ABOUT THE TRAIL

This is a self-guided driving trail. To enhance your enjoyment look at the church websites listed.



Areas of Natural Beauty/South Downs National Park



This trail starts at **St Michael's Church, School Road, Amberley BN18 9NA** and goes to Pulborough – Billingshurst - West Chiltington – Thakeham – Storrington

Car parking can often be found near the church or in the village. See church websites for details



**Dogs:** Please keep dogs on leads and clean mess up. Please respect the privacy of local residents.

Research by:  
**Blue Badge Tourist Guide Richard Shenton**  
[www.southeastbestguides.org](http://www.southeastbestguides.org)  
**Storrington Heritage Trails Group**  
[www.storrington.org.uk](http://www.storrington.org.uk)

## FIND OUT MORE:

To learn more about the heritage of the wider district and discover additional trails, please visit [www.horshammuseum.org](http://www.horshammuseum.org)

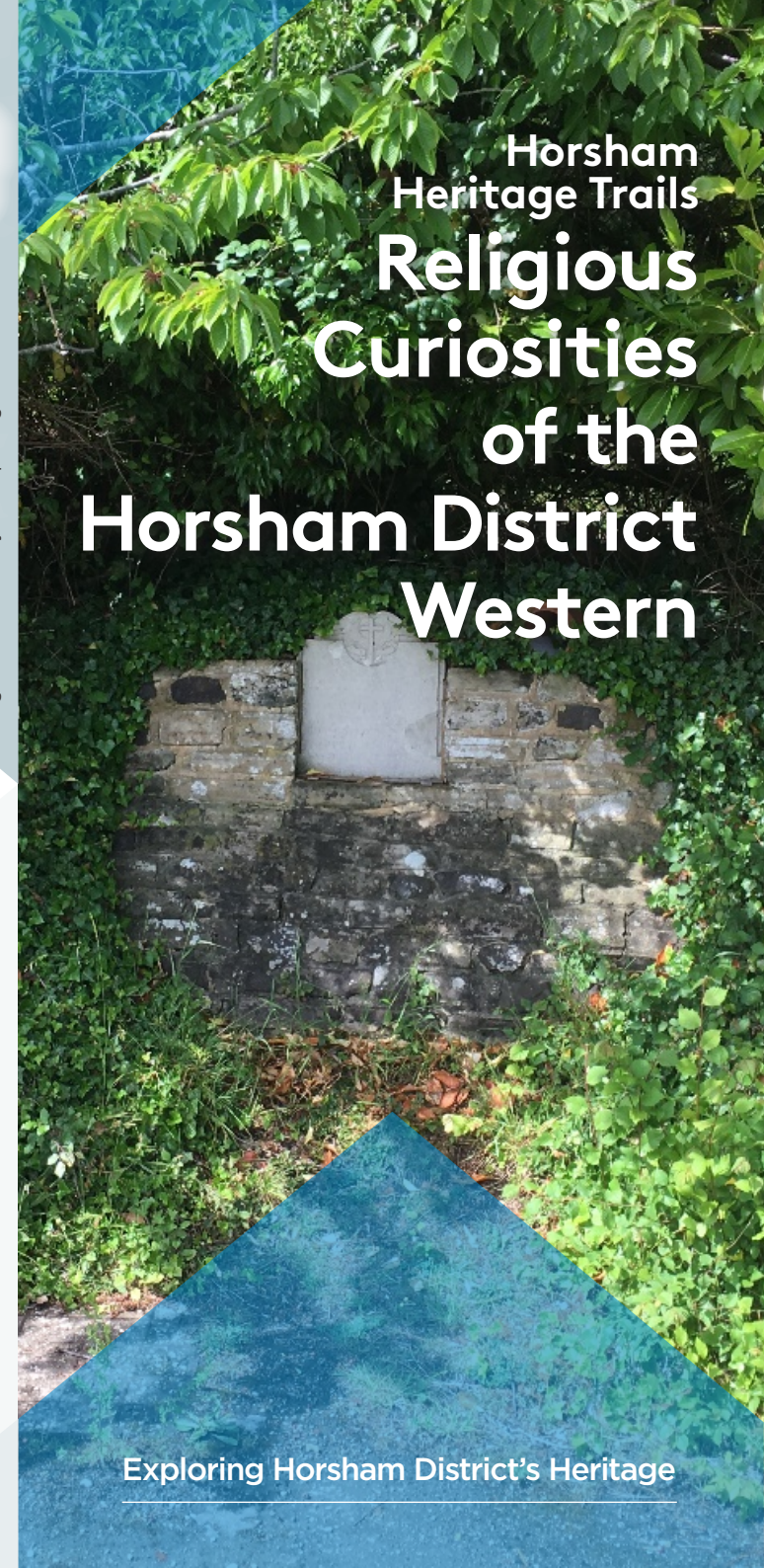
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# Horsham Heritage Trails Religious Curiosities of the Horsham District Western

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Exploring Horsham District's Heritage



# Religious Curiosities of the Horsham District

Since Christianity first came to our shores as long ago as 597AD, the English country church has been at the heart of rural life, and in Sussex we have many fine churches that have adapted through the ages, to show why this is the case. From the turbulent times of the 16th Century, when the Church of England broke away from the Church of Rome during the reign of King Henry VIII, to the present day,

Sussex has played host to various different faiths, which include the Church of England, The Church of Rome and The Non-Conformist Churches, as well as non Christian faiths. There is a well known saying amongst Sussex folk, that says "We will not be druv", meaning we will do things how we want to, and during the 17th and 18th centuries this was particularly so when a breakaway movement from the established church was formed. The Horsham district is proud to be the home of one of the best known of these break-away churches, with the formation of The Society of Friends, who are better known as the Quakers.

These trails have been designed to show what the district to the south of Horsham has to offer to those who have their own transport and an enquiring mind. The trail aims to tell the fascinating story of religion within the County, through the graves of people who have lived interesting lives, unusual architectural features, the Coats of Arms of well known Monarchs, and the actions taken by individual churchmen.

The areas covered are bordered by Cowfold, Billingshurst, Pulborough, Amberley, Storrington, Steyning and Henfield, with excursions to nearby places of interest. The trails have been designed with a circular tour in mind, and can be started and finished at any point. Visitors who are staying at the larger hotels in the area may find them of particular interest. Some of these places have



individual trails of their own, which visitors may find helpful to explain local history in more detail. The trails have been split into two halves, the Western Section and the Eastern Section. Access to churches cannot be guaranteed, but unless otherwise stated, access should be possible.



Exploring  
**Horsham  
District's  
Heritage**



# Religious Curiosities of the Horsham District - Western

## Exploring Horsham District's Heritage

### 1 St Michael's Church, School Road, Amberley BN18 9NA [www.amberleystmichael.org.uk](http://www.amberleystmichael.org.uk)

Adjacent to the grounds of Amberley Castle, yet approached from the village itself, St Michael's is a Grade 1 Listed church noted for its fine Norman architecture dating to the 12th century, which features rounded arches with dog tooth decoration on them. The churchyard offers fine views of the Castle as well as the surrounding areas. The village of Amberley was well known among local artists and two of them in particular have their memorials in the graveyard. There is a plaque on the wall near the Castle to the Author and Illustrator Arthur Rackham and on the other side of the graveyard, an impressive memorial to the artist Edward Stott RA, who lived in Amberley from 1889 – 1918.

### 2 St Botolphs Church, Hardham, A29 near Pulborough RH20 1LB [www.sussexparishchurches.org/church/hardham-st-botolph](http://www.sussexparishchurches.org/church/hardham-st-botolph)

A Grade 1 listed late Saxon / early Norman church that contains a near complete set of early wall paintings, that are thought to date to the 12th century. There are a number of churches in West Sussex that are thought to have been painted by the same group of travelling artists, who are known as the Lewes Group. The area around Hardham has several remains from the Roman occupation and some examples of Roman tiles can be seen on the outside walls.

### 3 Memorial to Rev William Masfield, Stopham Road, Pulborough RH20 1DS [www.gravelroots.net/stopham/memorial.html](http://www.gravelroots.net/stopham/memorial.html)

On October 6th 1940, the Rev William Masfield, who is thought to be related to the former Poet Laureate John Masfield, died here protecting a group of evacuee children from a German Air Raid. His memorial is set back in the road near the Garden Centre, along with a description of what happened that day.

### 4 The Blue Idol, Old House Lane, Coolham RH13 8QP Open as advertised. [www.blueidol.org](http://www.blueidol.org)

The original meeting place of the Society of Friends (The Quakers), and used by William Penn, who lived nearby, before going to America and founding the State of Pennsylvania. The building was originally a farmhouse and the name is thought to relate to the colour of a protective layer of limewash. In the early 20th century, one tenant farmer, kept a duck which was fed at the family dining table, having its own set place. It is reported to have quacked angrily when not enough food was given to it!

### 5 The George and Dragon Pub, Dragons Green, Near Shipley RH13 8GE

[www.aahorsham.co.uk/content/georgeanddragon](http://www.aahorsham.co.uk/content/georgeanddragon)

Rather strangely there is a gravestone to the albino son of a former innkeeper, in the front garden. The actual grave is in Shipley churchyard. The gravestone was removed By Charlotte Budd, the mother of Walter Budd. Walter was described as being an albino and possibly as a result of this abnormality, was accused of committing a petty crime. The shame that ensued caused him to commit suicide in 1893. The gravestone is here following objections from the local vicar who did not want it in his churchyard.

### 6 St Mary the Virgin, 24 Church Close, Shipley RH13 8PJ [www.shipleyparishcouncil.org.uk/Shipley-PC/St\\_Mary\\_The\\_Virgin\\_Church\\_22999.aspx](http://www.shipleyparishcouncil.org.uk/Shipley-PC/St_Mary_The_Virgin_Church_22999.aspx)

Built on the site of an earlier church that was owned by an order of warrior monks known as the Knights Templar, around the time of the 12th century crusades. In the porch there is a lump of Ironstone, thought to have been used as a bollard to moor ships, when the River Adur was navigable up to Shipley. The grass in the churchyard is kept under control by sheep so that "they may safely graze". The composer of church music John Ireland (1879 – 1962), who lived in Rock Windmill at Washington, is buried here and has a plaque on a wall of the church in his honour.

### 7 St Mary's Church West Chiltington RH20 2J [www.stmaryswestchilt.co.uk/st-marys-tour](http://www.stmaryswestchilt.co.uk/st-marys-tour)

The walls of the church are decorated with good quality early wall paintings similar to those at Hardham. An unusual feature of the church is a "Squint" or viewing aperture which allowed anyone standing in the side aisle to watch the Sacraments being blessed at the altar. In the graveyard, there are the graves of two holders of the Victoria Cross, which are close together, from different wars. One of the holders, later became a priest after retiring from military service. On the outside wall of the churchyard adjacent to the village square, can be found the restored Stocks, where local miscreants were duly punished.

### 8 William Penn Stone, Penn Stone Way, Abingworth Meadows Estate, Thakeham RH20 3EQ

William Penn (1644 – 1718) founder of the State of Pennsylvania, lived in nearby Thakeham. He was a member of The Society of Friends (The Quakers) and an avid preacher who regularly preached to the people of Sussex. He gave his last sermon from the stone, before going out to the Colonies. A plaque attached to the stone commemorates the event.

### 9 St Peter's Church Parham, Parham House, Storrington RH20 4HS [www.britainexpress.com](http://www.britainexpress.com)

Situated in the grounds of Parham House and open to the public. Features include an open fireplace for the use of the Lord of the Manor, box pews, an interesting pulpit decorated with plaques brought back from the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, by a soldier who fought



in Palestine in WW1, and memorial plaques to the owners of Parham House.

### 10 The Pilgrims Way [www.britishpilgrimage.org/old-way](http://www.britishpilgrimage.org/old-way)

In the early days of pilgrimages to the shrine of St Thomas Becket at Canterbury, before the route from Winchester via the North Downs was established, pilgrims used to go from Southampton via Netley, Portsmouth, Chichester, Arundel, Bramber and onwards to Canterbury via Rye. This was known as The Old Way, which is now becoming popular with walkers. We can follow the line of it today between Amberley and Bramber, using the B2139.

Whilst not in the Horsham District, the following churches are of particular note and you may wish to visit them by car.

### 11 St Nicholas Church, London Road, Arundel BN18 9BZ [www.stnicholas-arundel.co.uk](http://www.stnicholas-arundel.co.uk)

A rare church, part Roman Catholic and part Church of England. The Chancel

belongs to the Dukes of Norfolk (Catholic) and is accessed via the Castle. The Nave is the Parish Church (C of E) and is accessed from London Road. The two halves are separated by a glass screen door

### 12 Arundel Cathedral BN18 9AY [www.arundelcathedral.uk](http://www.arundelcathedral.uk)

### 13 St Richard's Church Burton Park, Duncton, Nr Petworth GU28 0QU [www.barbsweb.co.uk/history/burton](http://www.barbsweb.co.uk/history/burton)

A Grade 1 Listed church that stands within the private Burton Park Estate, but is accessible via a public footpath. Inside the church on the south wall, can be seen the Royal Coat of Arms of King Charles I, dated 1636, which is quite possibly unique.

### 14 All Hallows Church Tillington Petworth GU28 0QU [www.allhallowsTillington.org](http://www.allhallowsTillington.org)

Has an unusual tower shaped like a Scottish Crown, and the Coat of Arms of King Charles II

