

Days Out with a Religious Theme:

Holy Trinity Church, Much Wenlock

This outing is very do-able from Sedgley – **Much Wenlock** is about 40 minutes' trip away. It's a great place for short walks, or for mooching around in the shops. There are plenty of places to eat; parking isn't a problem – we parked in the Priory car park, which is £1 all day.

There has been a Christian presence on the site of the parish church for more than 1,300 years.



Martin outside Holy Trinity Church, Much Wenlock



St Milburga, granddaughter of King Penda built the Nun's Church on the site that later became Holy Trinity Parish Church.

St Milburga, granddaughter of Penda, King of Mercia was abbess of Wenlock Abbey, an Anglo-Saxon religious community with separate enclosures for monks and nuns. On this site around 680 AD she built the Nuns' Church, which after some rebuilding became the first **Holy Trinity Parish Church**. Of that church nothing now remains above ground, and you stand in the 12th century church built by the Cluniac monks of Wenlock Priory. Every generation has made some addition.



The altar at Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock.



The church was important enough to have three stone seats (sedilia) by the Altar.



The choir stalls at Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock.



'Blessed and Holy Three – Glorious Trinity' – a reference to the church's dedication embroidered on the cushion pads in the Choir Stalls.



'This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased, Hear Ye Him' - from Matthew 17:5. Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a high mountain where He is transfigured and the disciples see Him talking to Moses and Elijah. A stained window in the Lady Chapel at Holy Trinity Much Wenlock.



The nave has box pews.



Norman arches in the nave.



The founder of the modern Olympic Games, Dr William Penny Brookes 1809-1895 is remembered in a wall monument at Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock.



The beautiful Victorian Font was moved to this location in 1998 when the rear of the nave was repaved. The symbols are for Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; and items from the trial and crucifixion of Jesus.



The bell ringing platform in the 12th century West Tower.



The oak Brookes Room at the back of church is a meeting room, with toilet, baby changing and kitchen facilities.



4 Wilmore Street Much Wenlock, near Holy Trinity Church, was the lifelong home of Dr William Penny Brookes.



The beautiful church gardens containing the Garden of Remembrance, by Holy Trinity Much Wenlock.

One aspect to Much Wenlock that we had never explored before is the **Guildhall and Council Chamber Museum**. The ground floor of the Guildhall is a market, yet up the stairs is a council chamber from which the area was administered after the Dissolution of the monasteries. **Dr William Penny Brookes** paid for the fine oak panelling which was brought from houses in the area.



Seats in Much Wenlock Council Chamber. The large chair was occupied by the Bailiff (later called the Mayor), who led the Corporation, that consisted of burgesses (important people). The Guildhall assumed the role of civil authority after the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1540.

Martin and Magda Jones
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Information:

Holy Trinity Church Much Wenlock leaflet.