

Pershore Civic Society Church Visit to Herefordshire – 16 July 2026

Members of Pershore Civic Society enjoyed a fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable summer excursion on Thursday 16 July 2026, travelling by Astons Coaches from Broad Street, Pershore, to explore a selection of some of Herefordshire's finest historic churches. Blessed with pleasant weather throughout the day, the visit combined outstanding architecture, local history and warm hospitality.

The tour was expertly led by Tim Bridges, whose extensive knowledge of Herefordshire's churches and architectural heritage brought each destination vividly to life. His engaging commentary, both during the coach journey and at each church, provided members with an appreciation of the history, craftsmanship and significance of these remarkable buildings.

The first visit was to **St James' Church, Cradley**, a striking medieval parish church renowned for its impressive timber-framed bell tower and beautiful interior. Tim explained the church's development over many centuries and highlighted a number of architectural features that reflected the changing styles and needs of successive generations of worshippers.

The group then travelled to **St Michael's Church, Castle Frome**, one of Herefordshire's most celebrated Norman churches. Members were particularly interested in its magnificent carved chancel arch and the remarkable survival of decorative Norman features that make the church an important example of twelfth-century craftsmanship.

The third stop was **St Michael and All Angels Church, Ledbury**, where members enjoyed time to explore the church before taking lunch in the attractive market town. The church's spacious interior, impressive monuments and long association with the history of Ledbury provided another opportunity to appreciate the county's rich ecclesiastical heritage. Following lunch, many members also took the opportunity to stroll through Ledbury's historic streets before rejoining the coach.

The afternoon continued with a visit to the delightful **St Andrew's Church, Pixley**, a peaceful rural church set within an attractive landscape. Its intimate character contrasted with the larger churches visited earlier in the day, demonstrating the diversity of Herefordshire's parish churches and the important role they continue to play within their local communities.

The final visit was to **St Bartholomew's Church, Much Marcle**, where the group received an exceptionally warm welcome from parishioners. Members were treated to a generous afternoon tea of homemade cakes and refreshments, providing the perfect conclusion to an enjoyable day. The hospitality shown by the congregation was greatly appreciated by everyone and reflected the strong sense of community that continues to flourish within rural parishes.

The Society extends its sincere thanks to Tim Bridges for sharing his expertise and enthusiasm throughout the day, to Astons Coaches for providing comfortable and efficient transport, and to the parishioners of St Bartholomew's Church for their generous welcome.

The excursion once again demonstrated the value of Pershore Civic Society's programme of visits, enabling members to discover outstanding examples of our region's architectural and ecclesiastical heritage while enjoying excellent company and friendship. It was a memorable day that will be remembered by all who took part.