

# Enjoy Sussex . . . churches

## Appreciate the diverse collection of churches spanning the last 1,000 years

The rich heritage of Wealden District is displayed in the vast number of delightful churches. Often located in charming villages in the heart of the countryside, their spires and towers form a distinctive feature of the Sussex landscape.

### Alciston

Surrounded by a complete monastic farm comprising of a Baliff's house, Dovecot, fish ponds and an excellent 170ft Long Barn. Battle Abbey built these facilities between 1066 and 1536.

**Open: All day, every day**

**Tel: Church Warden 01323 870075**

**[www.berwickchurch.org.uk](http://www.berwickchurch.org.uk)**

### Alfriston

St Andrews is often called the 'Cathedral of the Downs'. This cruciform church has a single spire. Next to the church is a beautiful 14th Century Old Clergy House, now owned by the National Trust.

**Open: 9am-5pm**

**Tel: Rev Fox Wilson 01323 870376**

**[www.alfriston-churches.co.uk](http://www.alfriston-churches.co.uk)**

### Arlington

This ancient Saxon Church of St. Pancras was extended through the Norman period and 13th and 14th Centuries. Pieces of Roman building can be seen in the walls. The remains of a shrunken village are situated immediately to the west of the Church.

**Open: During daylight hours**

**Tel: Canon J Cotton 01323 870268**

### Berwick

The ancient Church of St Michael and All Angels dates back to doomsday. Of particular interest are the Bloomsbury

Murals painted by Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant during the Second World War.

**Open: All day, every day**

**Tel: Rev Smith 01323 870512**

**[www.berwickchurch.org.uk](http://www.berwickchurch.org.uk)**

### Chalvington Church

The parish existed in 1086 and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The church is tiny and very unusual being made of flints from the local South Downs, the church tower is wooden, and leans slightly due to the October hurricane of 1987.

**Tel: 01323 811642**

### Chiddingly

The Church has origins from the 11th and 12th Centuries, with a 15th Century 130 foot high stone spire. Famous for its Jefferay Monument – an important early 17th Century Calabaster memorial to the Jefferay family.

**Open: All year**

**Tel: Church Warden 01825 872017**

**[www.chiddinglychurch.org.uk](http://www.chiddinglychurch.org.uk)**

### Danehill

All Saints is a fine example of late Victorian Gothic design by C.F. Bodley. The Church is built of local sandstone and has many interesting features, including 15 Kemple windows and an oak screen veranda on which the organ sits.

**Open: 9am-4pm every day**

**Tel: Mr Derek Rawlings 01825 790417**



*Murals by Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant at Berwick*



*The 130 ft high spire at Chiddingly*



*Late Victorian Gothic design at Danehill*

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## East Dean

East Dean has an ancient downland church, almost entirely built of flint and its tower pre-dates the Norman conquest in 1066. Chancel and nave were completed by the end of the 14th Century and the pulpit is dated 1623. The church was extended in 1962 and a fine organ loft was added.

**Open daily**

**Tel: Churchwarden 01323 423311**

**[www.eastdeanvillage.org.uk](http://www.eastdeanvillage.org.uk)**

## East Hoathly

East Hoathly church contains a remarkable mosaic in pre-Raphaelite style filling the east wall. The doorway of the 500-year-old tower still shows a bullet mark dating from a feud between powerful local families.

**Open daily**

**Tel: Rev Phil Hodgins 01825 840270**

**[www.easthoathlychurch.org](http://www.easthoathlychurch.org)**

## Fairwarp

Built in 1881, this delightful rural church on Ashdown Forest is located near to the sites depicted in A. A. Milne's stories on Winnie-the-Pooh.

**Open: Guided tours by arrangement**

**Tel: Barrie Page 01825 712277**

**[www.christchurchfairwarp.org.uk](http://www.christchurchfairwarp.org.uk)**

## Fletching

St. Mary & St. Andrews has the 2nd best spire in the district. There is a unique brass glove memorial to local glover Peter Dansk, a Fletching man who took part in Jack Cades rebellion in 1456.

**Open: 9am-5pm**

**Tel: Canon Derek Whitehead**

**01825 790734**

## Friston

The Saxon/Norman church of St. Mary the Virgin contains a number of Tudor monuments to the Selwyn family

including several sad memorials to children who died at a young age.

**Open: 9am-5pm**

**Tel: Mrs Powell 01323 423182**

## Hartfield

This striking 13th Century Church of St. Mary's with its fine spire is a magnificent local landmark.

**Open: Usually open and there will be someone to welcome you, however if travelling a long distance please telephone or email first.**

**Tel: Christopher Butler 01892 770583**

**[www.hartfieldchurch.org](http://www.hartfieldchurch.org)**

## Hellingly

Towering over its surroundings, the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul is built high on a circular Saxon mound. It is now held up by Victorian brick walls and has a fine roof.

**Open: All day, every day**

**Tel: Rev Chalvin 01323 843346**

## Herstmonceux



The early table tombs are of particular interest in the All Saints church of Herstmonceux. Wakes were actually held with people sitting around the tombs! There are also brasses and a memorial to the Fiennes family of Castle inside the church.

**Open: All day, every day**

**Tel: Rev Sue Marshall 01323 833124**

## Jevington

St Andrew's Church, set within the South Downs, contains medieval architecture with interesting features. The Saxon tower, built of flint and local sandstone, dates from 900AD.

**Open: 9am-5pm daily**

**Tel: Rector 01323 423266**

**[www.jevingtonchurch.co.uk](http://www.jevingtonchurch.co.uk)**



*The impressive spire of St Mary & St Andrew at Fletching*



*15th Century church of St. Duncan's in Mayfield*



*The magnificent spire of St. Mary's, Hartfield*



*The ancient downland church of East Dean*

# Enjoy Sussex . . . churches

## Lullington

The Church of the Good Shepherd is arguably the smallest church in England. Originally part of a larger building which was destroyed by fire, the present church was rebuilt from the original chancel.

**Open: Daily until dusk**

**Tel: 01323 870376**

**www.alfriston-churches.co.uk**

## Mayfield

St. Dunstan's is located next to the remains of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Palace in the attractive village of Mayfield. The present church was built between 1410 and 1420.

**Open: 9am-5pm daily**

**Tel: Fr Nigel Prior 01435 873484**

## Rotherfield

Founded in 792AD, St Denys' Church is one of the oldest in Sussex. The present sandstone church dates from 1060, with later additions including a 15th Century tower and porch. The Nevill Chapel has medieval wall-paintings, a Tudor fireplace and Easter sepulchre. The east window is by Burne-Jones. There is a 1500 year old yew tree in the churchyard. Tours can be booked.

**Opening Hours: 9am-5pm**

**Tel: Church Warden 01892 852391**

## Wadhurst

Showing a strong link to the ancient Wealden Iron Industry, St. Peter & St. Paul's Church has the largest collection of iron memorial tablets in the country.

**Open: 8am-5pm daily**

**Tel: Rev Jeremy James 01892 782083**

## Warbleton

This fine medieval church has an excellent 18th Century squires pew, which was erected in 1772 on pillars to sit above the rest of the church.

**Tel: Rev Geoffrey France**

**01435 830421**

## West Dean

This ancient parish church, dating from around 1200 has a Norman Tower Arch at the West end, a medieval font and small window of Saxon origin.

**Opening Hours: Daily until dusk**

**Tel: Parish Administrator**

**01323 870376**

**www.alfriston-churches.co.uk**

## Westham

This Norman church dates back to approximately 1080. Some medieval stained glass can still be seen in certain parts of the windows.

**Open: Saturdays between 10am-1pm and as advertised**

**Tel: Rev G J Barrett 01323 762294**

## Wilmington

This 12th Century Priory church of St. Mary & St. Peter stands close to the remains of the Priory for which it was originally built. The giant yew tree in the churchyard is said to be over 1600 years old!

**Open: During daylight hours**

**Tel: Canon J Cotton 01323 870268**

## Withyham

Rebuilt around 1665 following a lightning strike which destroyed the original church, St. Michael and All Angels has several fine tombs of the Sackville family.

**Open: Summer between 10am-4pm daily**

**Tel: Ian Watson, Church Warden 01892 661596**

**www.withyham.org.uk**



*The Church of the Good Shepherd at Lullington*



*The ancient parish church of West Dean*



*St Denys' in Rotherfield is one of the oldest churches in Sussex*

Compiled by the Economic Development and Tourism Team, Wealden District Council  
Tel: 01892 602884/6/7  
[www.wealden.gov.uk](http://www.wealden.gov.uk)

Please note that whilst every care has been taken in compiling this list with current details at time of printing no responsibility can be accepted for any inaccuracies, nor does inclusion imply recommendation by Wealden District Council.