

The Bishop's Palace, Wells

Why not start your journey from the Bishop's Palace in Wells? The palace's story is over eight centuries old. 59 Bishops have led the Diocese from within its walls, from the dragon-slaying Bishop Jocelyn in 1206 to the current Bishop Peter Price. The medieval palace boasts extraordinary architecture, from the ruined great hall to Bishop Bekynton's well house, engineered to supply water from the well pools.

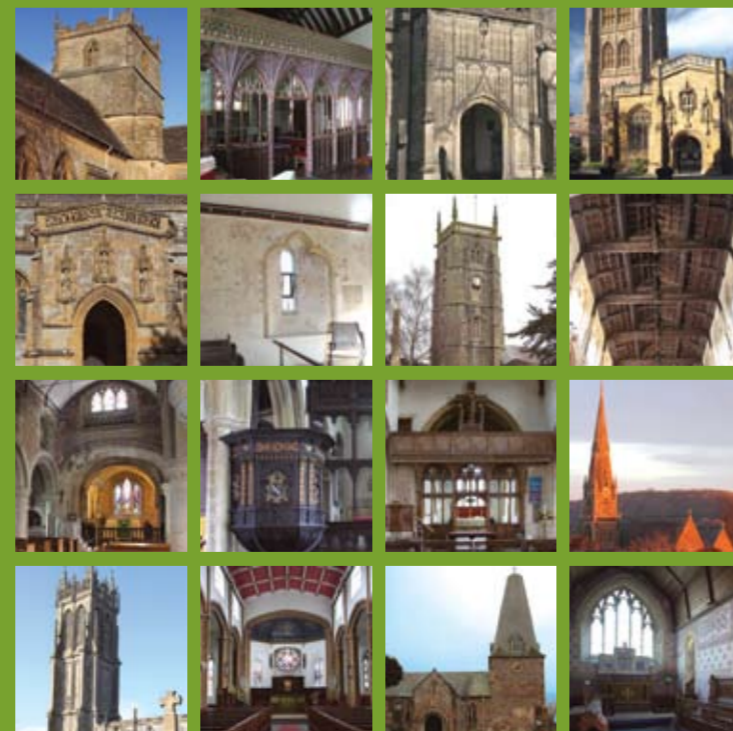
From May 2012 visitors will be able to experience a brand new exhibition showcasing the *Treasure of Bath & Wells*. This collaboration between the Palace and local churches from across the Diocese has uncovered fascinating objects and stories of local people – some outstanding, some unlucky, some legendary. Join us to celebrate all that is intriguing about our history and discover more of the Diocese and its people.



The Diocese of Bath & Wells

All churches featured in this guide are part of the Church of England Diocese of Bath & Wells. The Diocese serves 830,000 people across 496 parishes from Portishead to Chard, Exmoor to Frome and encompasses the historic cities of Bath and Wells. The aim of the Diocese is to resource and encourage confident Christian communities across Somerset. **Find out more at www.bathandwells.org.uk**

Discover Somerset Churches



We've listed our churches in three geographical areas – north, west and central - to help you plan your days out. Below are directions, opening times and highlights of what you'll find at each location. Note that postcodes for churches are not an exact science, those provided are the closest to the church.

North

1 Backwell, St Andrew:

Curious tower, 16th or 17th century or both, overlooks large village from wooded slopes. Remarkable vaulted chapel of Rodney family. **Opening Times:** 9 am – 4 pm. **Directions:** Centre of Backwell on A370 turn up the hill, the church is signposted. **Postcode:** BS48 1JJ

2 Banwell, St Andrew:

Norman font, but decorated 400 years later; rest including tall west tower perpendicular. Rare fragment of rood loft; rood screen 1522. **Opening Times:** 8.30 am – 4 pm most days. **Directions:** On the A371 towards Locking-junction with A368 turn right into Church Street. **Postcode:** BS29 5DX

3 Bath, St John's Hospital:

Chapel of hospital founded c 1180; present building replaced original in 1723, the first in classical style in Bath, by William Killigrew. **Opening Times:** Monday to Friday 9 am – 5 pm, Sunday 10 am – 1 pm. Closed on Saturdays. **Directions:** Centre of Bath, near the Cross Bath and new Bath Spa. **Postcode:** BA1 1SL

4 Bath, St Michael:

In medieval times just outside the city's north gate, G P Manners' building of 1835-7 succeeded one of 1742. Once galleried to seat 1,200. **Opening Times:** 10 am – 4 pm daily. **Directions:** Centre of Bath, between Broad Street and Walcot Street, opposite the Podium Shopping Centre /Post Office. **Postcode:** BA1 5LJ

5 Bath, St Saviour:

A fine suburban church of 1829-32 with fan-vaulted chancel of 1882, all in Somerset Gothic style. Rich reredos of 1886. **Opening Times:** Tuesday & Wednesday 9.15 – 11.30 am; Friday 9.15 – 12 noon; Sunday 9 am – 12.30 pm and 6 pm- 8 pm. **Directions:** East side of Bath off London Road in Larkhall area. **Postcode:** BA1 6LX

6 Bath, Widcombe, St Thomas a Beckett:

A country church beside its manor house, the oldest church in the city; the donor, Prior Cantlow, in glass dated 1492. **Opening Times:** May until September Sunday afternoons 2.30 and 5.30 pm. **Directions:** South of the city, church between Widcombe Hill and Prior Park Road. **Postcode:** BA2 6AZ

7 Brockley, St Nicholas:

Norman and 15th century, restored in 1820s and 1842 to feel inside rather like a college chapel. Snug family pew, all almost hidden by yews. **Opening Times:** Keyholder nearby; information at the church. **Directions:** Turn off the A370 on the Weston side of the farm shop. **Postcode:** BS48 3AX

8 Cameley, St James:

A wonderful survival, examples of wall painting matching the church's history, untouched country furnishings including two galleries. **Opening Times:** Daily from mid-April during daylight hours. **Directions:** Ten miles NE of Wells, off the A37, along Cameley Road. **Postcode:** BS39 5AH



10 Chew Magna, St Andrew

9 Charlcombe, St Mary:

Small, Norman nave and chancel and picturesque bell turret/tower. Monuments, including Sarah, sister of Henry Fielding. **Opening Times:** 10 am – 4 pm daily. **Directions:** From city centre take Lansdown Road left at St Stephen's Church. Three quarters of a mile opposite south end of Kingswood School grounds/north end of Royal High School, right into Charlcombe Lane, left after a quarter of a mile continuing on Charlcombe Lane. Opposite converted stables on the right turn left into Church Drive, up the hill to the church. **Postcode:** BA1 5TP

10 Chew Magna, St Andrew:

Mostly 15th century, almost square in plan, tall tower of 1541. Curious 14th century effigy, fine screen; adjoining church house, still in use. **Opening Times:** 9 am – 5 pm daily. **Directions:** Just off the centre of the village in the High Street. **Postcode:** BS40 8RE

11 Clapton in Gordano, St Michael:

Hidden beside the M5 near its medieval manor house, with traces of 12th, 13th and 15th century work with rare early benches. **Opening Times:** Normally locked, but keyholder



12 Compton Martin, St Michael:

Norman columns remind visitors of Durham; but would they notice that the chancel roof was once used as a pigeon loft? **Opening Times:** Dawn to dusk. **Directions:** Above the A368, opposite the duck pond. **Postcode:** BS40 6JQ



17 Yatton, St Mary

13 Congresbury, St Andrew:

13th century, remodelled in the 15th. Elegant spire, wooden screen. Vicarage adjoining partly of 1460s. Crosses in churchyard and village. **Opening Times:** 9 am – 5 pm daily (open later in the summer months). **Directions:** On A370 in the village of Congresbury. **Postcode:** BS49 5DX

14 Freshford, St Peter:

Presiding over picturesque village by river. 15th century tower. Monuments recording some amazing people with local connections. **Opening Times:** Usually open by 9.00 am and closed around 4.30 pm. **Directions:** Located in the centre of the village. **Postcode:** BA2 7WB

15 Tickenham, St Quiricus and St Julietta:

Nestling beside Tickenham Court. Mostly Norman extended early 13th century. Later windows including 15th century glass. **Opening Times:** Sunday afternoons in June, July and August 2 – 5 pm. **Directions:** Right at Washing Pound Lane, head through village. Church Lane is at the end and the church is on the right. **Postcode:** BS21 6SD

16 Wraxall, All Saints:

Perpendicular outside, Norman inside and a fine tomb of Sir Edmund and Lady Gorges, she was great aunt of Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard. **Opening Times:** During daylight hours (usually 8.30 am – 5.00 pm). **Directions:** Past Tyntesfield (on the right) and Battle Axe pub (on the left), turn right into Wraxall Hill. **Postcode:** BS48 1NA

17 Yatton, St Mary:

Truncated spire visible for miles across. Very fine south porch. Newton family tombs and SS Peter and Paul from Bath Abbey organ. **Opening Times:** Mornings between 9 and 11.30 am, except Bank Holidays. **Directions:** Approach Yatton on the B3133 from Congresbury or Clevedon and proceed up Church Road (opposite Well Lane). **Postcode:** BS49 4HH

West

18 Alcombe, St Michael:

An exquisite carved saint through medieval arch of original porch. Much newer church with Arts and Crafts chancel and hall. Good modern re-ordering. **Opening Times:** 9 am – 4 pm each day except Sunday when the church is open from 9 am – midday. **Directions:** Pass West Somerset Community College on the right, left turn into Church Street, church is straight ahead. **Postcode:** TA24 6BL

19 Bridgwater, St Mary:

Largely the 15th century product of prosperous merchants of Somerset's largest port. Fine mayoral pew and altar painting given by local MP. **Opening Times:** Thursday 9.30 am – 1.30 pm; 1st Tuesday in the month 10.30 am – 12.30 pm; 1st Saturday in the month 10.30 – 12 noon. **Directions:** Follow the signs to the town centre when the church is conspicuous beside Prezzo and the covered market. **Postcode:** TA6 3EQ

20 Brushford, St Nicholas:

On slope at end of village on edge of former village green. North chapel, the work of Lutyens of 1926, holds the monument to Aubrey Herbert. **Opening Times:** Open from 9 am to dusk daily. **Directions:** Take the B3222 off the A396 through Exebridge. Third turning left at the Carnarvon Garage into New Road. Church is on the right after half a mile. **Postcode:** TA22 9AP



21 Carhampton, St John the Baptist:

Even without its rood, the screen is magnificent, its colour glowing. The name recalls a Welsh missionary saint, Carantoc. **Opening Times:** Normally open from early morning to around 4 pm. **Directions:** On the A39 in the centre of Carhampton village opposite the Butchers Arms pub. **Postcode:** TA24 6LX

22 Crewkerne, St Bartholomew:

Large building overlooking town, expensively rebuilt in late 15th century with a west front recalling Hampton Court and Windsor. **Opening Times:** Daylight hours. **Directions:** On A30 from the East along East Street. Turn right at roundabout onto A356/B3165 then first left into Abbey Street. **Postcode:** TA18 7JA

23 Crowcombe, Holy Ghost:

Ornate red sandstone opposite church house (c 1520). Fine bench ends, one 1534. Ornate wrought-iron chandelier of 1974. **Opening Times:** Every day during daylight hours, closing around sunset. **Directions:** Church is towards the southern end of village. **Postcode:** TA4 4AP

24 Curry Rivel, St Andrew:

Musicians on porch indicate gallery in room above. 13th century monuments in north chapel. Brackets for hats under seats. **Opening Times:** Daylight hours. **Directions:** Beside village green. **Postcode:** TA10 OHQ

25 Dulverton, All Saints:

Churchyard above town covered in flowers in Spring. 13th century tower, the rest a replacement of a crumbling building in 1852-5. **Opening Times:** From 7 am to 5 pm daily. **Directions:** Take the B3222 off the A396 into the centre of Dulverton. Church stands in Bank Square on a slight hill. **Postcode:** TA22 9DW

26 Dunster, St George:

Church uneasily shared with monks until Dissolution. Tower built 1443, fine screen of 15th century. Nearby medieval barn and dovecot. **Opening Times:** 9 am – 5 pm daily. **Directions:** In the middle of the village. **Postcode:** TA24 6SH

27 Exford, St Mary Magdalene:

On top of hill above village commanding inspiring, dramatic views of this area of outstanding natural beauty at the heart of Exmoor National Park. **Opening Times:** Open during the hours of daylight, between 10 am and 4 pm. **Directions:** Up Church Hill on the B3224 on left at the brow of the hill. **Postcode:** TA24 7LT

28 Goathurst, St Edward:

Halswell and Tynte families worshipped here and lie here still. Painted panels from former gallery under tower. **Opening Times:** Daily, generally 8.30 am – 6.30 pm, dependent on hours of daylight. **Directions:** Church close to the junction of the roads from Bridgwater and North Petherton. **Postcode:** TA5 2DF

29 Minehead, St Michael:

High above town and port on slope of North Hill with commanding tower. Medieval illuminated missal belonging to rich former vicar. **Opening Times:** 10 am – 4 pm daily. **Directions:** From town centre up North Hill and around hairpin bend at War Memorial. **Postcode:** TA24 5JW

30 Minehead, St Andrew:

Impressive if unusual work of G E Street for expanding Victorian seaside resort, paid



34 Porlock, St Dubricius



43 Westonzoyland, St Mary

for through a lawyer's bequest. Ingenious rooms added 2004. Kempe glass. **Opening Times:** 10 am – 4 pm daily. **Directions:** In the centre of the town at the junction of Friday Street, The Avenue and Park Street in Wellington Square. **Postcode:** TA24 5LJ

31 Minehead, St Peter:

On the Quay. A 17th century salt store converted a century ago; an evocative reminder of Minehead's long trading history and of the heroism of sea-faring folk. **Opening Times:** 10 am – 4 pm daily. **Directions:** On the harbour next to The Old Ship Aground tavern. **Postcode:** TA24 5UL



32 North Curry, St Peter and St Paul:

On spur commanding moors; churchyard colourful in Spring. 17th century altar frontal, massive central tower. **Opening Times:** During daylight hours. **Directions:** South of the A361 between West and East Lyng. **Postcode:** TA3 6LY

33 Old Cleeve, St Andrew:

View from the pulpit the best in the Diocese. German name of donor of lectern, by Ramsden and Carr in 1911, partially erased in 1914. **Opening Times:** Summer – 8.30 am – 6 pm; winter 8.30 – dusk. **Directions:** North of A39 between Washford and Carhampton, signs to Old Cleeve. **Postcode:** TA24 6HJ

34 Porlock, St Dubricius:

Patron saint from Wales in middle of village once a port. Unusual shingled spire and fine tomb of John Harington and his wife c 1460. **Opening Times:** Open during daylight hours. **Directions:** In the middle of the village. **Postcode:** TA24 8QJ

9.30 am – 3.00 pm, summer 9.30 am – 4.00 pm. Sunday services 8.00 am, 10.00 am and 6.30 pm.

Directions: Taunton town centre at the bottom of Hammet Street. **Postcode:** TA1 1SA

41 Watchet, St Decuman:

Welsh saint. Safe site above port away from former position on crumbling cliff. Monuments to Wyndhams of Orchard Wyndham. **Opening Times:** Daily during daylight hours. **Directions:** A39 between Wilton and Minehead, take the B3191. Church is opposite Parsonage Farm. **Postcode:** TA23 0HR

42 Wellington, St John the Baptist:

A good example of modern re-ordering of furnishings. Imposing tomb of judge who condemned Sir Walter Raleigh. **Opening Times:** From 8.30am to 4pm. **Directions:** In the town opposite St John's Primary School. **Postcode:** TA21 8RF

43 Westonzoyland, St Mary:

The riches of Glastonbury abbey and the local meadows produced what in 1685 was a prison for followers of the Duke of Monmouth. **Opening Times:** 9 am – 4 pm daily. **Directions:** Three miles east of Bridgwater on A372. **Postcode:** TA7 0EP



44 Wiveliscombe, St Andrew:

Unique creation of Richard Carver 1829. Unused burial vaults used to house art works from London and elsewhere during World War II. **Opening Times:** Open every day from around 9.00 am – 5 pm. **Directions:** On B3227 Taunton/Bampton Road, on east side of town, 100 yards from traffic lights. **Postcode:** TA4 2LR

Central

45 Axbridge, St John the Baptist:

Formidable if picturesque setting above market place. Superb nave ceiling of 1636 and rare altar frontal of 1720. **Opening Times:** Daily from 10 am – 4 pm. **Directions:** Near the town square. **Postcode:** BS26 2AP

46 Bruton, St Mary:

Maybe founded by St Aldhelm, near former abbey site. Rare crypt and N tower. 18th century chancel decorations also rare in diocese. **Opening Times:** 9 am – 6 pm (or dusk if earlier). **Directions:** Follow one-way system through Bruton. **Postcode:** BA10 0EF

47 Cheddar, St Andrew:

Fine tall tower, much of church 14th century. Good stained glass and a memorial brass to Sir Thomas Cheddar of the 15th century. **Opening Times:** Open during daylight hours. **Directions:** Off the A371 on the south east



51 Glastonbury, St John the Baptist

side of Cheddar to Wells road. Sign-posted from the Market Cross. **Postcode:** BS27 3RF

48 Croscombe, St Mary:

Distinguished Jacobean interior to equally distinguished structure of 15th century which includes a former treasury paid for by parishioners. **Opening Times:** Every morning and afternoon. **Directions:** The church is in the middle of the village. **Postcode:** BA5 3QS

49 Dinder, St Michael:

At the end of the estate village beside Dinder House. Norman dragons preserved by rebuilders of chancel. Amazing Renaissance pulpit of 1621 with Trinity symbols. **Opening Times:** Every morning and afternoon. **Directions:** The church is in the middle of the village. **Postcode:** BA5 3PQ

50 Frome, St John the Baptist:

Founded by St Waldheim and later a rich minster. Most traces destroyed in restoration but former chantry chapels survive. **Opening Times:** Monday – Saturday 9.30 am – 3.30 pm. **Directions:** On the east side of Bath Street, halfway up the hill. **Postcode:** BA11 1PL

51 Glastonbury, St John the Baptist:

Graceful tower replaced a central one that collapsed. Embroidered vestments probably from nearby abbey. **Opening Times:** Open 10.30 am – 12.30 pm and 2 pm – 4 pm most days. Refreshments are available on Tuesday mornings. **Directions:** In the middle of the High Street. **Postcode:** BA6 9DR

52 Hornblotton, St Peter:

Worth every effort to find. A late Victorian gem of 1872-4 by the architect Sir Thomas Jackson. Rich red and white painted sgraffito work. **Opening Times:** Every day. **Directions:** Right off A37 2 miles north of Lydford Cross Keys. Left in the village by post box - signs to the church. **Postcode:** BA4 6SF

53 Ilchester, St Mary Major:

So named when Ilchester had five other churches, a chapel, hospital and friary. South aisle of 1879-80 on site of a long forgotten aisle. **Opening Times:** 10 am – 5 pm (or dusk if earlier). **Directions:** From A303 take A37 towards Yeovil, first left off the first roundabout. Church Street is 200 yards ahead. **Postcode:** BA22 8LJ

54 Langport, All Saints:

Church of borough, rarely used. Tower has Beaufort badge of Henry VII, Henry VIII and Lady Margaret. Joseph of Arimathea in east window.

Opening Times: Normally locked but keyholder opposite; keys also available from Tourist Information Centre.

Directions: From Langport's main street on the A378, towards Huish Episcopi. **Postcode:** TA10 9PU



55 Martock, All Saints:

Ornate late-medieval building with fine nave roof dated 1513 found in 1960s on point of collapse. Traces of earlier church in south wall. **Opening Times:** Daylight hours. **Directions:** Turn off the A303 signposted Martock on the B3165. Church is on the left as you approach the centre of the town. **Postcode:** TA12 6JL

56 Milborne Port, St John the Evangelist:

Are the details on the south walls Saxon or Norman? A big church for a fascinating small town on the county boundary. **Opening Times:** Open from 9 am – 4 pm, during wintertime and 9 am until about 6 pm in summertime. **Directions:** From Sherborne come through the Crackmore cutting, past the petrol station and take the second right down Bathwell Lane. **Postcode:** DT9 5AN

57 North Wootton, St Peter:

Hidden village. Norman font with 18th century cover perhaps adapted from the pedestal of a tea table. Screen under tower made by lady craftsmen in 1904. **Opening Times:** Open every morning and afternoon. **Directions:** Church is on the west side of the village, next to the village hall and the village green. **Postcode:** BA4 4AD

58 Norton St Philip, St Philip:

Unusual tower of 17th century, perhaps paid for by local businessman, Jeffrey Flower. Meeting room won national award.



52 Hornblotton, St Peter

Opening Times: Open daylight hours.

Directions: In Vicarage Lane, last left hand turn off the A366 heading out of Norton St Philip towards Midsomer Norton. **Postcode:** BA2 7LT

59 Pilton, St John the Baptist:

Below medieval barn and not far from Glastonbury Festival site. Clerestories but no aisles. Simple medieval screens once forming chapels. Remains of medieval embroidery. **Opening Times:** Open every morning and afternoon. **Directions:** At the west end of the village. **Postcode:** BA4 4BE

60 Rodney Stoke, St Leonard:

Rodney family monuments 1471-1657 and 17th century furniture. Was the roodloft used as a family pew? Early carving in churchyard. **Opening Times:** Most of the day. **Directions:** A371 from Wells pass camping site turn left into Millway. At the T junction turn left into Honeyhurst Lane. **Postcode:** BS27 3UN



61 Sutton Bingham, All Saints:

Hiding beyond reservoir. Late-Norman work with exquisite wall paintings of c 1300, not to be missed. **Opening Times:** Always open during daylight hours (timed lock in use). **Directions:** A37 south from Yeovil for one and a quarter miles, right for Sutton Bingham and cross the reservoir causeway. **Postcode:** BA22 9QP

62 Sutton Mallet:

Worth finding key. All but tower of 1829 by Richard Carver, but with three-decker pulpit, box pews for farmers and benches for labourers. **Opening Times:** Normally locked [keyholder nearby/information at the church]. **Directions:** Three miles east of Bridgwater, south of the A39 Bath Road. **Postcode:** TA7 9AT

63 Wedmore, St Mary Magdalene:

Large, probably by Wells cathedral masons c 1300, the Perpendicular. St Christopher painted above 17th century pulpit. **Opening Times:** From around 9.00 am – 6.00 pm daily. **Directions:** Top of Church Street and overlooks the centre of Wedmore. **Postcode:** BS28 4AB



48 Croscombe, St Mary

64 Wells, St Cuthbert:

Civic church of medieval Wells with many traces of medieval riches. A prison for Monmouth rebels awaiting trial before Judge Jeffreys in 1685. **Opening Times:** 9 am until dusk, daily. Refreshments 10 am – 12 noon daily; market day lunch Wednesdays 12 noon – 1.30 pm. **Directions:** Near city centre in St Cuthbert's Street. **Postcode:** BA5 2AW

65 Wells, St Thomas:

Designed for the east suburbs in Geometrical style by S S Teulon 1856. Exquisitely restored interior decoration. Spire an asset to streetscape. **Opening Times:** 8 am – 6 pm daily. **Directions:** From Wells follow B3139 - The Horringtons. Church is half a mile along St Thomas Street on the right. **Postcode:** BA5 2UZ

66 West Huntspill, St Peter and All Hallows:

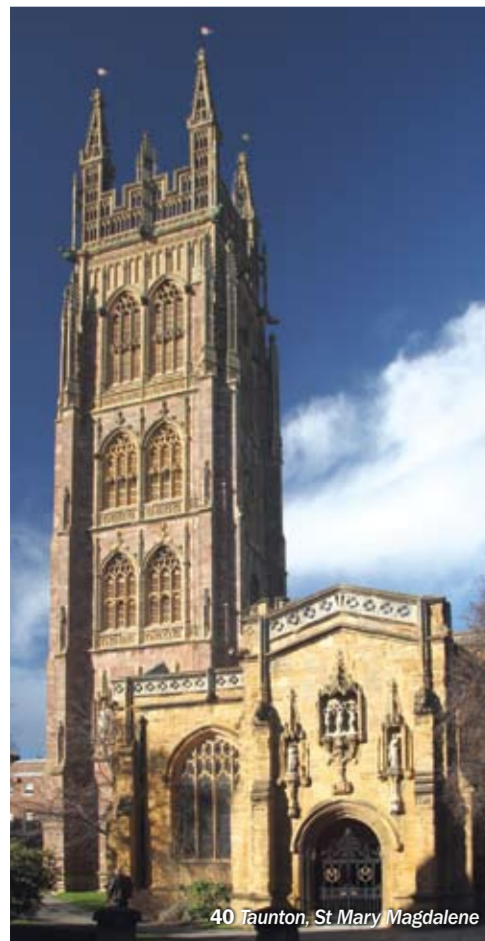
Large and spreading, like its parish across the moors. Churchyard gate made at Coalbrookdale in 1898. **Opening Times:** Daylight hours. **Directions:** At far end of village turn right just after the Crossways Inn into Church Road then second left. **Postcode:** TA9 3RN

67 Yeovil, St John the Baptist:

In town centre, begun by rector who died in 1382. Brass lectern of c 1450. Earlier church besieged by townsmen with bishop inside. **Opening Times:** Daily. **Directions:** Church is in the centre of the town near Marks and Spencer. **Postcode:** BA20 1HE

68 Yeovil, St Michael and All Angels:

1897. Attractive late-medieval style with Arts and Crafts touches. Kempe east window; memorials to founders, generous Cole family. Only church by local architect Nicholson Johnston. **Opening times:** Open to the public by arrangement contact: Revd James Baker (01935 475752). **Directions:** A30 towards Sherborne -St Michaels Avenue. The church is a quarter of a mile on the right hand side just past Penn Mill School. **Postcode:** BA21 4LD



40 Taunton, St Mary Magdalene



67 Yeovil, St John the Baptist