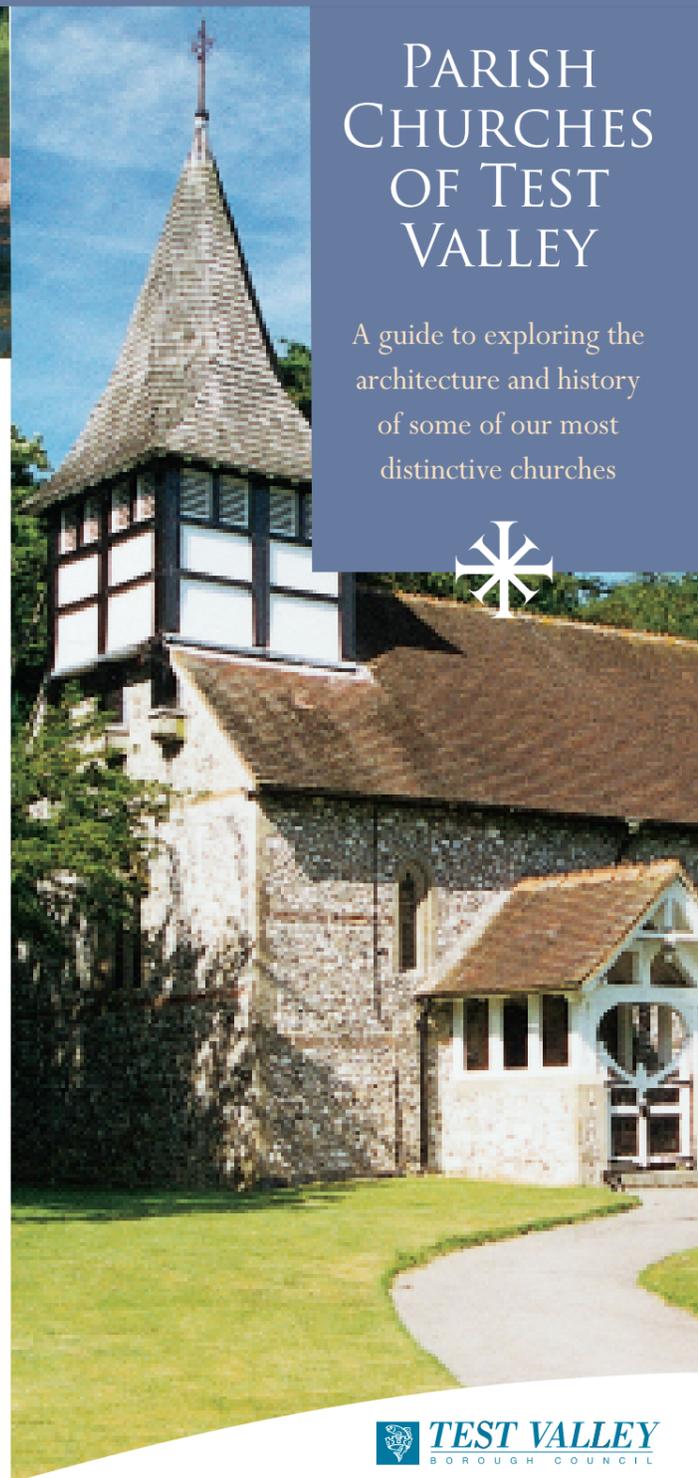


## TREASURES OF TEST VALLEY CHURCHES

### PARISH CHURCHES OF TEST VALLEY

A guide to exploring the architecture and history of some of our most distinctive churches



AS WELL AS BEAUTIFUL CHURCHES, TEST VALLEY HAS MANY OTHER HIDDEN GEMS TO EXPLORE.

Welcome to Test Valley, and prepare to be amazed by the stunning landscape and picturesque villages and markets that unfold before your eyes.

Covering some 250 square miles, Test Valley is renowned for its natural surroundings, ranging in the north from the North Wessex Downs Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty to the New Forest National Park in the south.

The River Test, one of England's greatest trout rivers, twists and turns its way through the green and tranquil valley with only the bustling market towns of Andover, Stockbridge and Romsey to disturb the peace and quiet. So come and discover this hidden gem in northwest Hampshire for yourself. You'll be glad that you did. Sponsored by the Council, our Tourist Information Centres offer a wide range of information to help you enjoy your stay in Test Valley. This leaflet has been put together by Test Valley Borough Council with Bryan Beggs, to share the uniqueness of our beautiful collection of churches, and other historic buildings. Together with the attractive villages and surrounding countryside, these are one of the Borough's greatest assets for visitors and residents alike.

The Test Valley Visitor Guide has everything you need to know.



## GERMAN, NETHERLANDS AND

## NORWEGIAN CHRISTIANITY BEGAN IN THE TEST VALLEY..

Christianity in both Germany and The Netherlands has its origins in Test Valley, in the village of Nursling... It was from the former Abbey here that the Saxon priest Wynfrith, who later became St. Boniface, set out in AD716 to convert his ancestors in Europe. His influence throughout Germany was very great and he was later the first 'patron saint' of both countries. In Andover in AD994, the Viking chieftain Olaf Trygvason was confirmed in the Christian faith by Bishop Alphege of Winchester. St. Olaf returned to Norway, was crowned King and began the conversion of his people to this new religion. Norwegian Christianity has its origins within Test Valley.



## STAINED GLASS

See in **Grateley**, the only existing fragment of the medieval stained glass, which was removed from Salisbury Cathedral in 1788. See the amazing collection of 16th and 17th century Flemish glass at **Rownhams**. See the whole spectrum of 19th century St Mary's **Andover**, and the only reflective, self-illuminating 21st century window in **Andover St. Michael's**. Engraved glass millennium windows can be seen at **Wherwell, Smanell** and **Hurstbourne Tarrant**.



Grateley Stained Glass

## WALL PAINTINGS

Don't miss the wonderful Saxon and Medieval examples at **Nether Wallop**, or particularly the outstanding 20th Century picture of St Peter at **East Tytherley**. There is this type of decoration from the 19th century at both **Stockbridge** and **Braishfield**. The 20th Century picture of St Peter at East Tytherley.



## FONTS

Fonts were the first items of religious importance in all Christian churches from the earliest times. Many suffered mutilation and destruction during the Reformation, but **Hurstbourne Tarrant** has the oldest from Saxon times! Among those churches with good Norman examples are, **Leckford, Linkenholt and Goodworth Clatford**. The largest and most elaborate is a 19th century one in **Amport**.

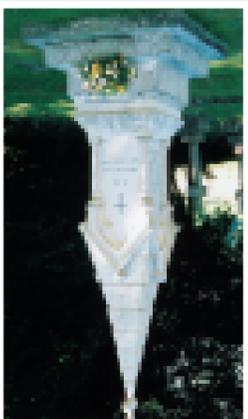


The font at Nether Wallop church

The Virgins Crowns at St Mary's Church, Abbott's Ann



The grave of Florence Nighthale at East Wellow,



Of course, visit the grave of **Florence Nighthale** at **East Wellow**, and **Romsey Abbey** for the tomb of Earl Mountbatten of Burma. Well-known medieval brasses of great importance are in **Kings Somborne** and **Thrxuton**. The Virgin Crowns of **Abbotts Ann** are the finest collection in the country. Elaborate marble tombs exist at **North Baddesley** and in the Chantry chapels at **Thrxuton**, and the wooden life-size Elizabethan effigies of Sir Richard and Lady Will in **Nursling**, are remarkable.

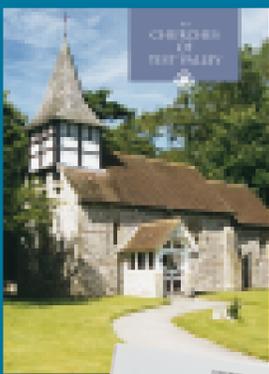
## EMBROIDERY AND NEEDLEWORK

After frontals and kneelers, marriage lists and door curtains all demonstrate this enduring art. Significant in all churches, those in **Kings Somborne, Broughton, Houghton** and **Stockbridge** are definitely worth seeing.



Embroidery at Broughton

## FURTHER INFORMATION



Most of the information in this leaflet is taken from the book 'THE CHURCHES OF TEST VALLEY' by Bryan and Diana Beggs. A second edition of this book will be available during 2010, and sold in aid of the Test Valley Arts Foundation price £15. Test Valley bookshops and Tourist Information Centres will have copies.



### Useful Contacts

All the churches identified on this leaflet are normally open every day. Where restrictions apply, an **R** is indicated at the end of the church description. Where an **L** is shown, this indicates the church may be locked. The Tourist Offices in Romsey and Andover hold an up to date list of ALL churches and can offer contact telephone numbers, to ensure visitors are made welcome to any of them.

**Romsey** Tourist Office 01794 512987  
**Andover** Tourist Office 01264 324320



# THE CHURCHES OF TEST VALLEY



## HURSTBOURNE TARRANT ▶

ST. PETER SP11 0AA

From its vantage point overlooking the Bourne Valley this church has seen nearly a thousand years pass. All centuries have left their mark... the Norman door arch and nave columns... the medieval wall paintings, with their 'dire warning'... its shingled tower and spire supported by the massive trunks of English oak forming the bell-ringing chamber... the Victorian chancel and the engraved glass of the Millennium window... all in harmonious relationship.



## ◀ ANDOVER

ST. MARY SP10 1DP

This is the latest of several churches on the site; it is a beautiful Victorian gothic building, given to the town in 1840 by Dr. Goddard, a former headmaster of Winchester College. The conversion of Norway to Christianity began here in 994, when Olaf the Viking chieftain was confirmed in the Christian faith by Alphege, Bishop of Winchester. Its stained glass windows are an excellent example of the art from 1840 to the present day. **R**



## ◀ ABBOTTS ANN

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN  
SP11 7NR

The influence of Sir Christopher Wren can clearly be seen in the design of this church built in 1716, which was given to the village by Thomas Pitt, ancestor of two renowned Prime Ministers, William Pitt Earl of Chatham, and his son, William Pitt the Younger. It is an excellent example of the 'new age' of church building begun in the 18th century, with box pews, altar, pulpit and font all 'of their time'.

## ▲ ENHAM ALAMEIN

ST. GEORGE SP11 6HN

Enham village became Enham Alamein in 1945, when the Egyptian government gave £225,000 to Britain in gratitude for the victory at the Battle of El Alamein in October 1942. A special service is held here every year on the Sunday nearest the date of the battle. Stained glass windows show the badges of The Mediterranean Fleet, The Western Desert Air Force and The Eighth Army, and other formations which took part. **R**

## ▶ LONGPARISH

ST. NICHOLAS SO20 6EX

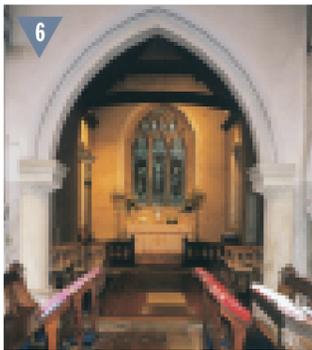
The Test Way Footpath can be taken right through the churchyard, where walkers often pause to look inside the church. A Victorian porch hides the Norman doorway on which is displayed a text from the 'foundation book' of the very first London Hospital [St. Bartholomew's] dated 1135. The memorial window to Major Lanoe George Hawker V.C. of No. 6 Squadron. R.F.C. contains a detailed scene of a First World War aerodrome in France.



## ▶ NETHER WALLOP

ST. ANDREW SO20 8ET

Built by Earl Godwin of Wessex in 1016, this church is famous for its Saxon wall-painting of 'Christ in Majesty', rediscovered in 1930... it is not complete, yet is of high quality and great importance to students of art history, as are the other paintings of later centuries. The fine chancel was built by the Normans, who 'drove through' the Saxon east end to create it. The memorial brass of Mary Gore, Prioress of Amesbury Abbey dated 1436 is in the centre of the nave, and some of the ancient pews have to be among the oldest in the land.



## ◀ STOCKBRIDGE

ST. PETER SO20 6EX

'New' St. Peter's church was built in 1866 by John Colson of Winchester and stands proudly welcoming worshippers, ramblers and visitors in the centre of the High Street. Only the chancel of 'old' St. Peter's remains in its original position at the east end of this small town. A very old depiction of the crucifixion in stone, of possible Saxon origin, and only about twelve inches tall, is in the Lady Chapel. The varieties of subjects shown in the kneelers are much admired.

## ▶ MOTTISFONT

ST. ANDREW SO51 0LN

'O pastoral heart of England... like a psalm of green days telling with a quiet beat...' of course these words were not written to be expressive of the very amazing clock dated 1640-1670, the restored workings of which exist dramatically within the nave of this church, but we claim a little artistic licence here. To travellers on the Test Way Footpath, which goes through the churchyard, it would seem that this is a Norman church without much exterior alteration. Only within can the full glory of the 15th century glass be truly appreciated.



## ◀ SHERFIELD ENGLISH

ST. LEONARD SO51 6FP

This is at least the 'third edition' of a church in this village, which takes its unusual name from Hugo D'Engley, Lord of the Manor in 1304. This St. Leonard's, was built by Lady Ashburton in memory of her daughter in 1904. The 'cottage garden' borders around the building show a similar care and attention to detail, to that which must have inspired the architect, Fred Bath of Salisbury. The beautiful Jacobean pulpit within the nave has carvings depicting Temperance, Justice and Love. **L**

## ▶ EAST WELLOW

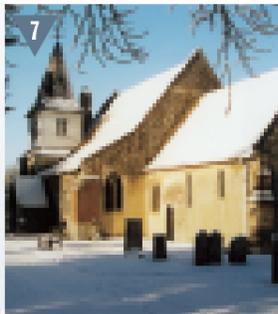
ST MARGARET SO51 6DR

Now forever associated with Florence Nightingale O.M., whose last resting place lies in this churchyard, St. Margaret's is a important shrine to her memory, and where a memorial service takes place every year in May. It is of 13th century date and has some marvellous wall decorations of that period. It is easy 'to want to extend one's stay... to sit for a while and forget the urgency of the world outside'.



*"A tapestry of life and experience, of art and architecture, of which we are the inheritors..."*

The Churches of Test Valley



## ◀ CHILBOLTON

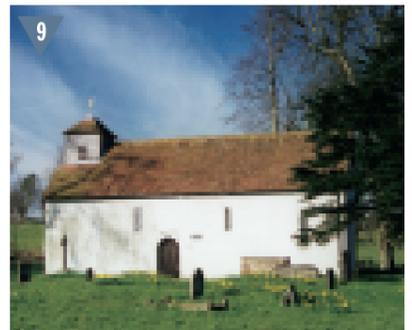
ST. MARY THE LESS  
SO20 6BG

The church and manor of Chilbolton have always been associated with Winchester Cathedral, to whom they were given by King Athelstan, grandson of Alfred the Great. On entering this church through curtains of heraldic pattern, you are immediately 'centre stage', and the suspended Millennium sculpture of 'The Risen Christ' by David Begbie cannot fail to catch your eye. The blending of architectural styles over the centuries is wonderful to behold.

## ▶ LITTLE SOMBORNE

ALL SAINTS SO20 6QT

Of all the churches of Saxon origin within Test Valley, this church is unique. Here the actual size of the tiny original building is clearly visible and the windows still have their original 1000 year old plaster spays. It was no doubt built in the reign of King Ethelred at a time of some prosperity when faith was restored after the first millennium. Within the churchyard is the grave of Sir Tommy Sopwith... 'Aviation Pioneer' is all it says... it is sufficient.



## ▶ ROMSEY

ST. MARY AND ST. ETHELFLEDA  
SO51 0QH

This is a wonderful example of Norman architecture of international standing, containing a wealth of artistic expression in all fields of human endeavour since its building in 1120-1180. Our gratitude goes to the townsfolk of Romsey, who at the time of the 'Dissolution of the Monasteries', managed to preserve it as their parish church, paying Henry VIII £100 for the privilege! The tomb of Earl Mountbatten of Burma lies in the south transept.

## ▶ NORTH BADDESLEY

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
SO52 9HU

A most interesting amalgam of building materials combine to produce a lovely little church, which can trace its roots to before the Domesday Book of 1086. It had close links with the Knights Hospitallers, whose priory was demolished 'next door'. Inside, the decoration of the roof beams is quite outstanding as is the roof of the chancel itself. It is full of 'treasures' too numerous to describe here, but will handsomely repay the time any visitor may spend. **L**



## ▶ NURSING

ST. BONIFACE SO16 0YB

This church is all that remains to remind us of Nursling Abbey, from where in the year 717 St. Boniface set out to convert his Saxon ancestors. Many German Christian visitors make their pilgrimage to this place to remind themselves of his evangelistic work there. In spite of the proximity of the M27, it has a lovely atmosphere and within the churchyard there is an interesting variety of different trees. **L**