

Historic island churches open for you to visit

The Isle of Wight is full of church buildings with unique characters. From **September 11-20**, you can visit 30 of them as part of the Heritage Open Days programme - including these ten:

1

ST SWITHUN'S, THORLEY
This grade II listed Victorian building was built in a 13th century Gothic manner and includes a 17th century altar table and two remarkable 13th century bells hung in an open tower.



2

ST GEORGE'S, ARRETON
This grade I listed church is widely regarded as one of the island's oldest parish churches, with origins reaching back to the late Saxon period. Notable are its distinctive west tower, 13th century chancel and south chapel. And its Burma Star window was unveiled in 1992.



4

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, YAVERLAND
This church was built around 1150 and retains much of its Norman character, with additions from the 13th and 15th centuries. Among its features are the stone-carved Norman south doorway and chancel arch.



5

ST LAWRENCE OLD CHURCH
Originally 12th century, this is a simple two-cell structure – a nave with a west bellcote and a chancel added in 1842 – and for many years held the distinction of being the smallest parish church in England.



3

ST EDMUND'S, WOOTTON
This church was originally built in 1087 as a chapel for the nearby manor house. It is notable for its fine Norman south doorway and later medieval windows.

6

ST MARY'S, BROOK
The original 13th century church was badly damaged by fire in 1863, so it was rebuilt in Early English style, with some medieval survivals. The tower was heightened in 1889, and much of its Victorian interior remains intact.



7

ST BONIFACE OLD CHURCH, BONCHURCH
One of the oldest surviving churches on the island, the building dates from the Norman period, with nave and chancel originating in the 11th to 13th centuries. It is notable for its simple medieval character, bellcote and ancient churchyard.



9

ALL SAINTS, FRESHWATER
This 10th century church has chapels named after local Norman landholding families. It has six bells in its tower and the largest churchyard on the island - more than 5.5 acres.



8

ST PETER'S, SHORWELL
This grade I listed parish church has 12th century origins, with surviving early fabric including the north chapel, and later medieval additions from the 13th to 15th century. Notable features include its fine 15th century wall painting of St Christopher, its stone pulpit, historic roof timbers and brasses and monuments.



10

ST ANDREW'S, CHALE
This is one of the oldest parish churches on the island, dedicated on 1st December 1194. The present building is largely medieval, with the nave, aisles, chancel and south chapel mainly dating from the 14th century - with Victorian alterations.

For details of churches across our diocese that you can visit, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org/heritageopendays