

7. St Peter's Chapel, Owlswick

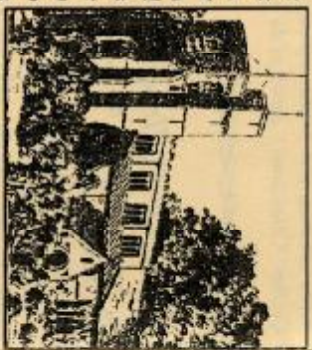
The medieval church of St Peter's in Owlswick was destroyed during the Civil War. In 1866, the Owlswick School Chapel was built on a new site, and used as a schoolroom during the week and a church on Sundays. By 1900, the school had closed, and instead of wooden benches there are now pews and attractive embroidered kneelers.



St Peter's Chapel is a haven of peace in a quiet rural setting. Details of kneelers are displayed on the noticeboard.

8. St Dunstan's, Monks Risborough

The land of the parish of Monks Risborough was given to the monks of Canterbury in the 10th century, and the church dedicated to St Dunstan, the Archbishop. The present church was built between 1150 and 1470, and is structurally undisturbed since then.



Interior features of interest include a 12th century font in the 'Ayckesbury' style, attractive 14th century floor tiles, the 15th century screen dividing the nave and chancel, which has paintings of prophets on the panels, and a 19th century memorial window to Bishop Wilberforce. Look out for references to St Dunstan. There is a carving of tongs in the porch (he was also a metalworker), as well as modern sculpture and some stained glass.

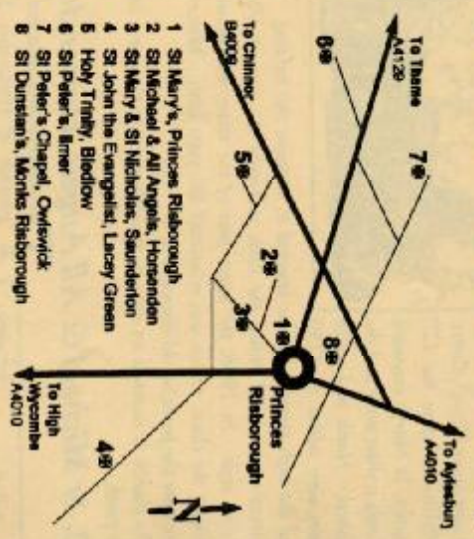
The church is tucked away off Burton Lane, but is well worth searching out.

Open most days; if locked details of kneelers are on the church noticeboard.

The Churches

- 1 St Mary's with its elegant spire, is only a short walk from the Market Square in Princes Risborough.
- 2 St Michael & All Angels is approximately 1 mile from Princes Risborough and is situated adjacent to the grounds of Horsenden Manor.
- 3 St Mary & St Nicholas Church, next to the Cherry Tree Nursing Home in Saunderton, is about a mile from Princes Risborough.
- 4 St John the Evangelist in Lacey Green, with its painted chancel ceiling, is some 3 miles south-east of Princes Risborough.
- 5 Holy Trinity is a splendid medieval church situated at Church End in the centre of Bleddow Village - about 2½ miles from the centre of Princes Risborough.
- 6 St Peter's in the village of Ilmer, is in the Victorian Gothic style although originally appropriated by nuns in 1230. Approximately 3 miles from Princes Risborough.
- 7 St Peter's Chapel in the hamlet of Owlswick, was built near the site of the medieval church destroyed in the Civil War. Some 2½ miles north-west of Princes Risborough.
- 8 St Dunstan's Church in Monks Risborough, when built in the 10th century, was dedicated to St Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury. About 1 mile from Princes Risborough centre.

Church Trail around Princes Risborough



- 1 St Mary's, Princes Risborough
- 2 St Michael & All Angels, Horsenden
- 3 St Mary & St Nicholas, Saunderton
- 4 St John the Evangelist, Lacey Green
- 5 Holy Trinity, Bleddow
- 6 St Peter's, Ilmer
- 7 St Peter's Chapel, Owlswick
- 8 St Dunstan's, Monks Risborough

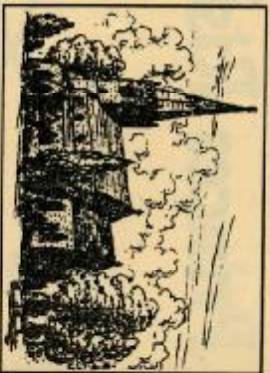
All of the churches described in this leaflet are in the care of the Church of England Risborough Team Ministry. We hope that you will enjoy visiting them. The churches exist to serve the spiritual needs of today's generation, but we have tried to preserve their ancient charm. There are fascinating medieval features in many of the churches and all are well worth visiting.

As you travel from church to church, you are joining with countless pilgrims of yesterday in discovering special places made sacred by hundreds of years of prayer and worship.

Church Trail around Princes Risborough

1. St Mary's, Princes Risborough

Near the town centre, St Mary's high spire and steep roofs catch the eye as you leave the Market Square along Church Street. Established before the 12th century, St Mary's consisted of only a short nave and the chancel. North and south aisles were added in 1250 and the high round windows inserted to improve the lighting. Major restoration in 1868 raised the roofs to create the current Victorian Gothic style. In 1908, the upper part of the tower was rebuilt, but without the clock, which was reinstated 90 years later. Mature trees dominate the peaceful old churchyard.



The church is married on most days; daily opening times are listed in the porch.

2. St Michael & All Angels, Horsenden



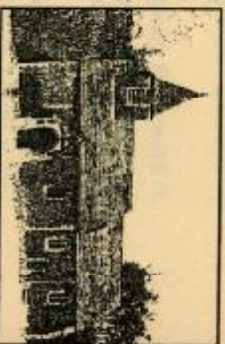
The church stands adjacent to the grounds of Horsenden Manor. There has been a church on this site since at least 1210 AD. The present church is part of a larger 15th century building. In 1765, the nave and west tower were demolished and the present tower was built; it contains a bell dated 1582. In the late 19th century, the chancel was extended 8ft to the east. Inside, note the 16th century screen, which is used to separate the chancel from the nave, and the patterned tiles on the floor, which were almost certainly made near Penn in the 14th century. Note also the Victorian tiles on either side of the altar; where an eagle has the head of a calf and vice versa. The stained glass in the south windows is by Westlake and is considered to be some of the best work of the period (1900).

Edward Stone, Rector from 1737, found that chewing willow bark helped his rheumatism, which he reported to the Royal Society in 1763. The active ingredient was later shown to be salicylic acid or aspirin. The keyholders are listed on the church noticeboard.

3. St Mary & St Nicholas, Saunderton

In earlier times, there were two manors and two churches in Saunderton. St Nicholas was allowed to fall into decay and was demolished in 1452 with the remaining church, St Mary, dating back to 1227, taking on the mantle of St Mary & St Nicholas. In 1886, as the outer walls were beginning to lean outwards, most of the building was taken down and rebuilt using, wherever possible, the original materials. It is for this reason the building has a Grade II* listing and you will find many old and interesting materials and fittings in the structure.

A water colour painting, dated 1860, hangs on the west wall, showing the church interior as it was with the 13th century 'Aylesbury' font, which is in use today. The medieval bell frame tower with cross braces is thought to be 15th century. The current bells were cast on site in the 17th century. The famous armorial picture is dedicated to King Charles (most likely the 2nd), but there is a possibility it could be the 1st. The original medieval painted floor tiles exist in the Sanctuary and Vestry.



Details of keyholder in the church porch.

4. St John the Evangelist, Lacey Green



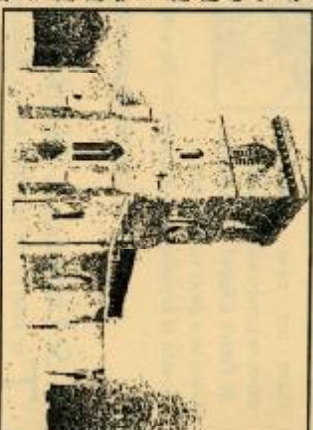
The church was built during the period 1823 to 1825 as a chapel of ease attached to the parish church of St Mary's, Princes Risborough, and was consecrated in July 1825 by the Bishop of Lincoln. The church was designed by John Norris FSA, of Hugghenden House, and constructed in traditional Chiltern flint. It was originally a simple cruciform building, consisting only of the present nave and two transepts. Extensive alterations took place in 1871, when the polygonal chancel was added. Features of the church are the armorial window in the north transept, the hammer beam roof of the nave, the painted chancel ceiling, the sanctuary floor tiles, the Santal Green organ, and the large Georgian windows. The parish of Lacey Green was formed in 1851 from part of the parish of Princes Risborough, and the church now serves the needs of a thriving village.

5. Holy Trinity, Bledlow

Church End in Bledlow is a conservation area with many interesting buildings. The church was built mainly during the 12th and 13th centuries, and remains largely unaltered. The prominent tower houses eight bells.

Enter through the south porch and the oldest working doors in Buckinghamshire, with strap hinges and a draw bar. Four steep steps descend to the nave, which is dominated by six massive pillars dating from 1200, each with a different foliage pattern at the top. Look out for the Norman font in the 'Aylesbury' style, and the recently conserved medieval wall paintings and 16th century texts.

The windows contain some good Victorian stained glass, and there is some attractive modern needlework.



This church is a gem and has featured in the television series 'Midsomer Murders' and the film 'The Four Feathers'. Open Saturday and Sunday afternoons from Easter to the end of October. Other times - details of the keyholders in the church porch.

6. St Peter's, Ilmer

Sited at the end of this caldese village, St Peter's is a small but interesting church, one of the oldest in the Diocese of Oxford. The original building was Norman. The mans of Studley appropriated it in 1230. During the next century it was rebuilt in the Perpendicular style. Major works were carried out on the church in 1860, and in 1968. In 1979, substantial repairs were made to the tower, including the rehangling of the unusual spire and the restoration of the three bells.



For access into the church, please telephone (01844) 273477.