

## Welcome to the Wayland Churches!

The Wayland Partnership would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome its visitors and residents alike to enjoy and explore our eighteen unique churches set in this beautiful and unspoilt part of Norfolk.

This area is blessed with some of the most flawless views of the Breckland countryside and within our charming villages lie these historical gems which, before the origination of the Church Tours project, were not recognised to their full potential.

The inspiration to make our churches more widely accessible came in 1999, and it later emerged that we were fortunate to have a dedicated community who were eager to research their village histories and who welcomed the opportunity to help maintain the future of their church by contributing their time to the project.



Having secured support from various funding streams, the hard work of researching, writing, editing and producing began in 2003, leading to the first launch on St. George's Day, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2004. It was over this weekend that our 96 page glossy guidebook, eighteen audio guide CD's and first live tours were introduced to the Wayland community to much high esteem.

The East of England  
Market Town Awards 2004



Since the launch, the Church Tours project has been greatly recognised on a national level, winning the East of England Market Town Overall Award and receiving a place in English Heritage's 'Heritage Counts' publication as an example of good practice.

The project will continue to grow in the years to come, and we particularly welcome visitors to take a tour, either independently or to join on one of our fascinating live tours, whilst staying in one of our impressive selection of hotels, B&B's or self catering options in the Wayland area.

*"Tourists love to discover places where the heritage is cherished and community life is thriving. Our parish churches are at the heart of all this..."* (The Rt. Revd. Graham James, Lord Bishop of Norwich).

The Wayland Partnership wishes to sincerely thank all those who contributed so much to the success of this project and those who will visit the churches as a result and thus help to secure their future.

## Where is Wayland?



Wayland lies at the heart of the county of Norfolk and is one of its best kept secrets! An ancient community whose name predates the Domesday book, Wayland comprises the Market Town of Watton and the villages of Ashill, Carbrooke, Caston, Great Cressingham, Great Hockham, Griston, Little Cressingham with Thrextton, Merton, Ovington, Saham Toney, Scoulton, Stow Bedon with Breckles, and Thompson.

### How to contact us

✉ The Events and Tourism Officer/ Support Officer  
The Wayland Partnership Development Trust  
High Street, Watton, Norfolk IP25 6AR  
☎ (01953) 883915 (01953) 884084  
contact@wayland.org.uk  
www.wayland.org.uk

### Office opening hours

Our office on High Street, Watton is open to the public all day  
from Monday-Thursday 9.00am-4.30pm  
and Fridays until 4.00pm

### NOTE TO VISITORS

Please remember that these churches continue to be places of worship and we would appreciate it if you act accordingly.

Every donation made from sales and tours is divided equally between each church in the project which is understandably only a small amount. The aim of the tours is to help the churches generate their own income so please give generously. Thank you.

Contact details of the key holders for churches that are regularly locked can be obtained from the Partnership Office. Please enquire for more information.



## IN NORFOLK'S Wayland BRECKLAND COUNTRYSIDE



## Explore our Heritage...



## Church Tours Options

Those who wish to take a tour of one or several of our eighteen churches are truly spoilt for choice! Below are the options available for independent or group tourists and visitors to the Wayland area...

1. Our 96 page illustrated guidebook entitled 'Unlocking our Histories: The Churches of Wayland' is ideal for individuals and couples who wish to explore the churches in their own time and pace and makes a perfect souvenir to take home! The guidebook contains beautiful photographs and illustrations by local artists and full accounts of the social, ecclesiastical and architectural history of these superb buildings, written by community volunteers. The book operates as a guide through number references that links each account with a locator map and offers a typical church plan layout to help direct you once inside a church. It is available to purchase from the Wayland Partnership Office and a reference copy can also be found in each church.

2. For families and larger groups, eighteen audio tours are available for hire which cover every church within the Wayland group. Written and narrated

by Tony Mallion of Radio Norfolk, each CD contains a guided description of the church and its contents, plus entertaining stories provided by local residents who feature on the recordings. Norwich actors and Radio Norfolk presenters also bring to life bygone characters who helped to shape the history of these churches.

3. Guided group tours run throughout the year, generally on the second Saturday of the month between April and October. Each tour operates from Wayland Community Car Park, Watton and it is essential to book in advance. The price of tours include day transportation, a pub lunch and a 10% church donation. They are accompanied by a tour leader, but visitors are greeted at each church by its own specialist and accredited guide/s.



For more information on any of these options, please contact the Partnership Office or complete and return the merchandise and tours booking form

## Locations of the Wayland Churches

**4 Holy Cross Church, Caston**  
'At the heart of a quintessential English scene on an ancient pilgrimage route'

**5 Holy Trinity Church, Great Hoekham**  
'With splendid ancient wall paintings in a church on the forest edge'

**6 St. Michael's Church, Great Cressingham**  
'Wonderful commemorative brasses and a family of Cornish carpenters who became wealthy lords of the manor'

**7 SS Peter and Paul Church, Griston**  
'A church which provided a place of sanctuary and prayer for American servicemen of all denominations in the Second World War'

**8 St. Mary's Church, Houghton-on-the-Hill**  
'Rescued from neglect and decay to reveal the most magnificent wall paintings in Norfolk'

**9 St. Andrew's Church, Little Cressingham**  
'A tower which burst in a storm. Associations with the Earls of Warwick and the 2nd Duke of Wellington'

**10 St. Peter's Church, Merton**  
'The church in the park - the church of the de Greys and their ancestors since the Norman Conquest'

**11 St. John the Evangelist, Ovington**  
'A simple country church with Norman features believed to have been built in 1095'

**12 St. George's Church, Saham Toney**  
'An imposing church with memorials to men who established early education in the village'

**13 Holy Trinity Church, Scoulton**  
'An apparently isolated church with an unexpectedly light interior which serves a scattered but lively community'

**14 St. Botolph's Church, Stow Bedon**  
'A remote little church set in the Breckland countryside - who would suspect that a former incumbent once enraged local Puritans?'

**15 St. Martin's Church, Thompson**  
'A Collegiate church, an interior largely unchanged since the 17th century and connections with the birth of American government'

**16 All Saints' Church, Threxton**  
'Saxon origins in a now almost deserted village and an 18th century rectory who gambled away a fortune and was deported to Tasmania'

**17 St. Mary's Church, Watton**  
'A beautifully cared for round-towered church. The only church in Norfolk wider than it is long'

**18 St. Nicholas' Church, Woodrising**  
'A hidden gem with an unusual thatched bell frame'