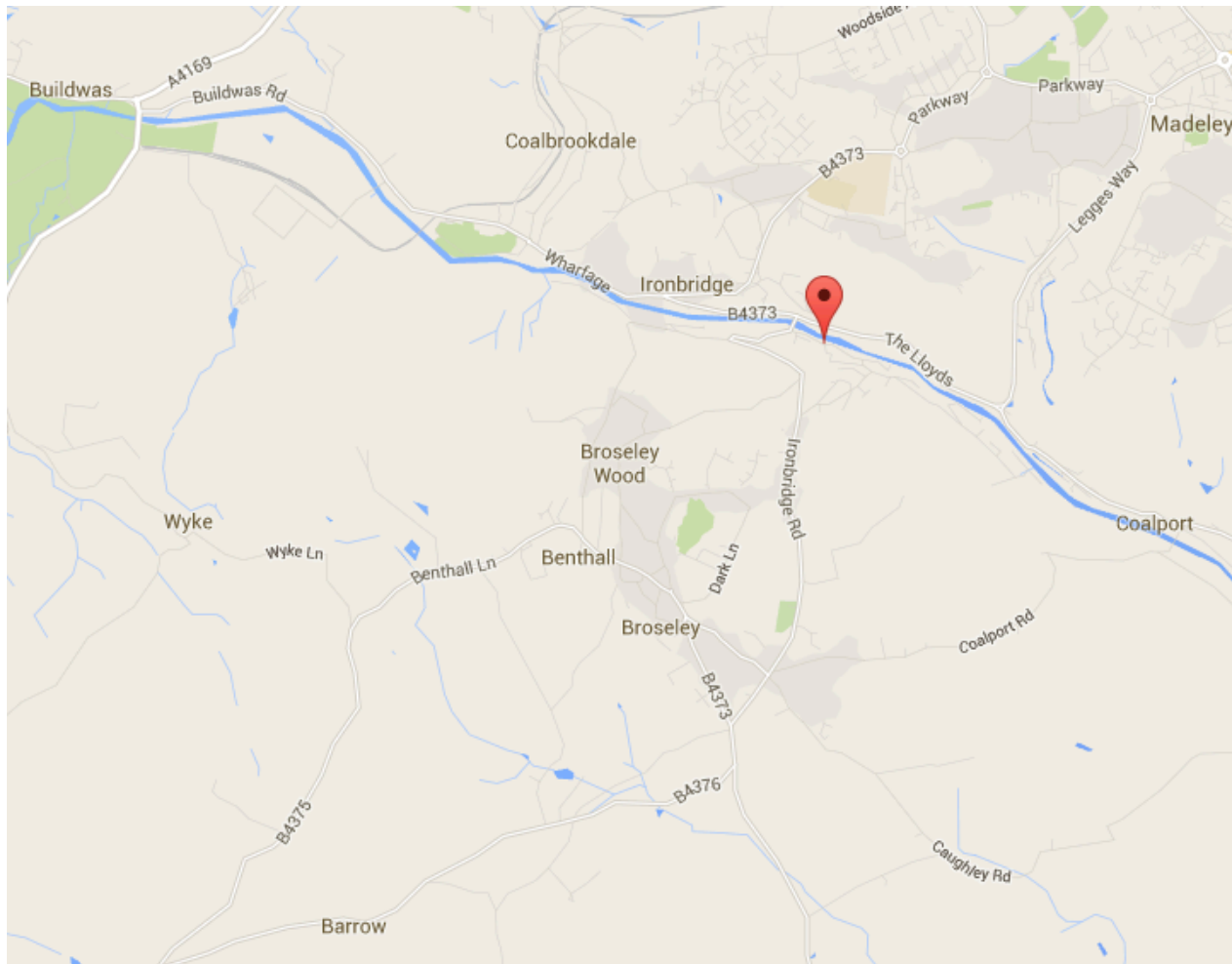


Ironbridge churches: Broseley, Jackfield and Barrow

This **'Day Out with a Religious Connection'** focuses upon a group of three churches in the **Ironbridge area** of Shropshire – Broseley, Jackfield and Barrow, all in the **Broseley Benefice**.



The pair of splendid lamps at the gates to the Parish Church of All Saints', Broseley, near Ironbridge. 1



The churches we chose to visit are within a few miles of the centre of Ironbridge. Jackfield is indicated by the red marker.

BROSELEY

Designed by H Eglinton and built by **William Exley**, a local brick and tile manufacturer in 1845, All Saints' Broseley replaced two previous churches on the site. It's the largest church in the area. There is a **George Frederick Bodley** reredos at the high altar. The west window was designed by **Charles Kempe** (alas it's presently hidden by the pipe organ). It has been described as 'the finest early Victorian church in Shropshire'.



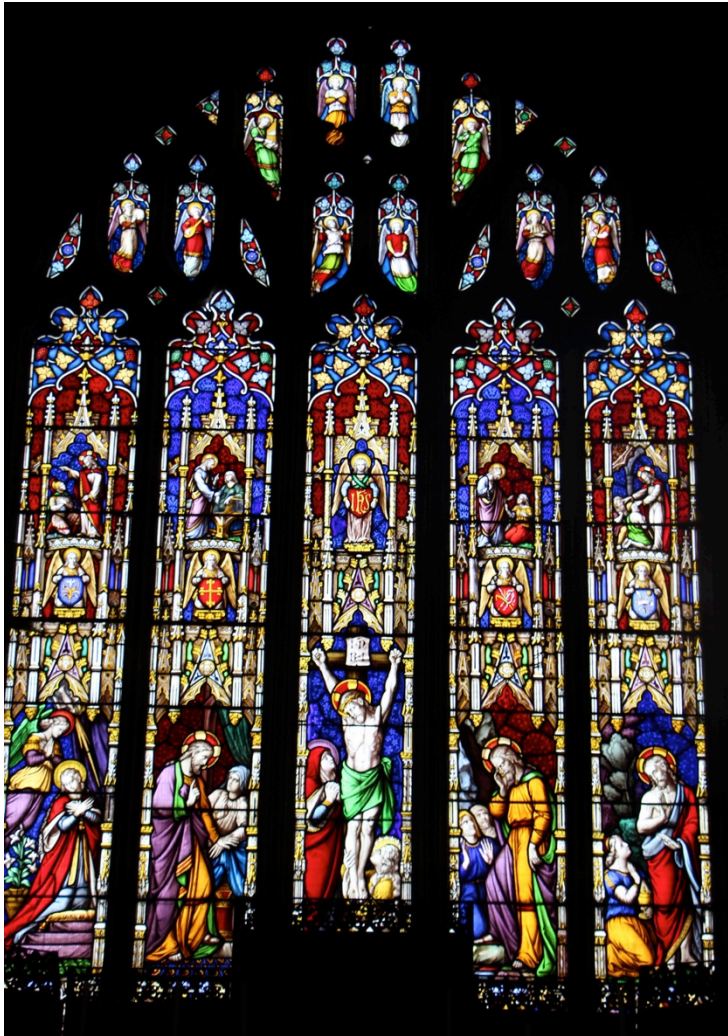
The tower at Broseley is 93ft high and visible from the Ironbridge Gorge.



The central nave is 46 ft high. Stone arched columns divide the central nave from the north and south aisles. Galleries over the aisles were removed in 1980.



The magnificent reredos at the high altar, Broseley, by George Frederick Bodley. It was originally at Eardisley, Herefordshire.



The East Window at Broseley, dated 1861, by William Warrington.



The immediate area around All Saints' Broseley is a public gardens – there is a very extensive churchyard.



Next door to All Saints' Church is Broseley Hall, the residence of Edward Blakeway (1718-1811) a coal, iron and ceramics entrepreneur.

JACKFIELD

St Mary the Virgin at Jackfield was erected in 1863. It was designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield and constructed of varied local brick. The floors contain excellent examples of local tiles and the sanctuary windows are claimed to be of the Pre-Raphaelite School.



St Mary the Virgin, Jackfield.



The nave and chancel at Jackfield. The chancel arch is made entirely from locally made bricks.



The triptych behind the altar is painted by local people onto tiles.



Locally made patterned tiles in the choir area of the chancel of Jackfield.



The apse, including altar and reredos at Jackfield. The five apse windows are from the school of the Pre-Raphaelites.



The Rose Window – this great round window is 15ft in diameter and has ten petals or compartments.

BARROW

The last stop on our outing to the Ironbridge area was the Grade I listed church of **St Giles, Barrow**. The chancel is Saxon and once formed a self-contained chapel. The nave is mid to late 11th century. There is an early 11th century tower in three stages, each smaller than that below. The brick south porch is dated 1705; the north transept was built in the 19th century. The church was restored in 1851–52 by **GE Street**. In 1894–95 **Ewan Christian** built the north chapel to replace a chapel dating from 1688, and also rebuilt the east wall of the chancel. It is thought that the little known Welsh **St Owain** is buried here. The church is located down a country lane off the main road.



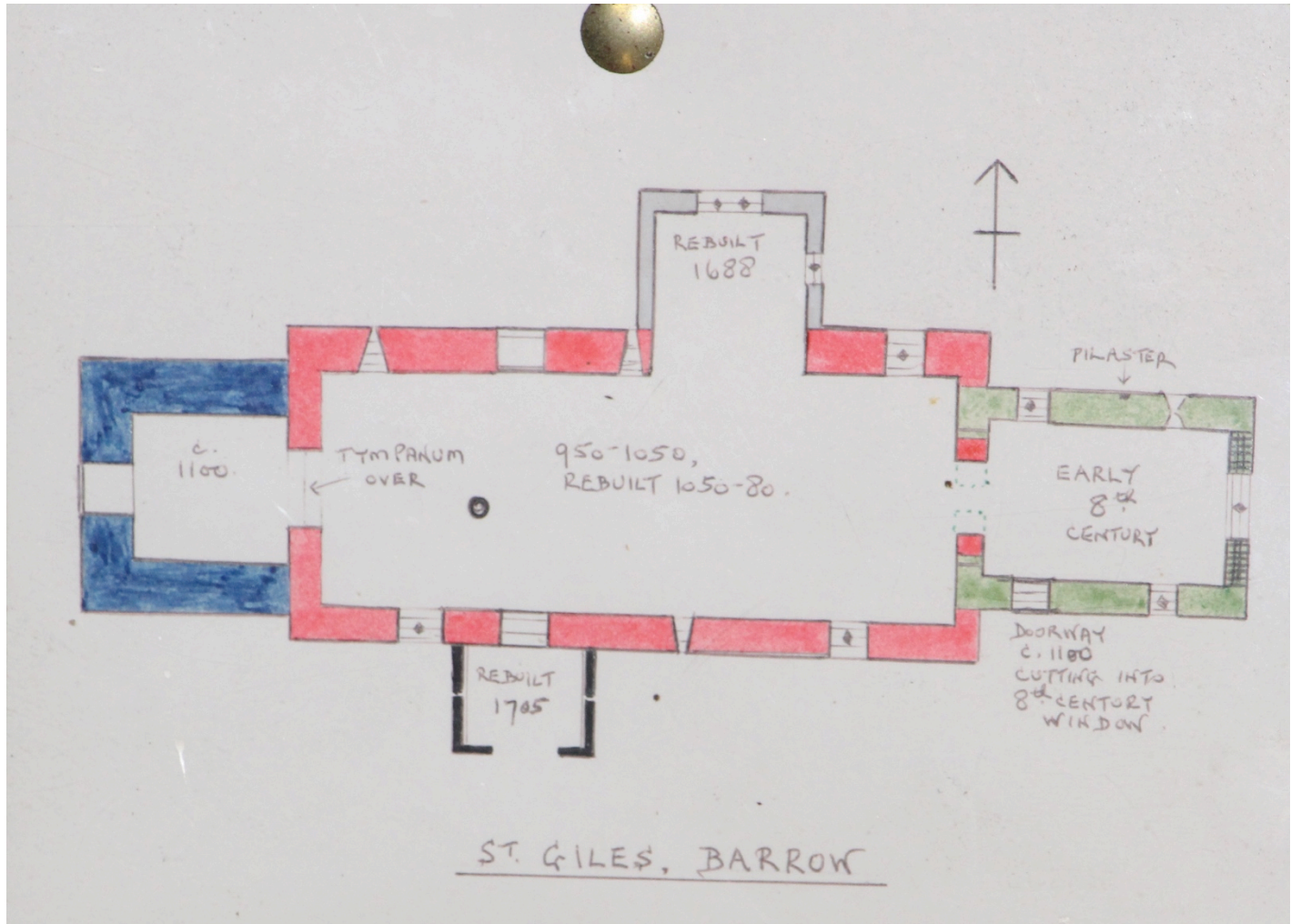
A sunny day - outside the church of St Giles, Barrow.



The brick south porch at St Giles, with pedestal structure at the entrance.



'Porthole' in the porch, similar to the one we encountered at St Peter's, Easthope.



A building plan of St Giles, showing the different stages of construction.



Alms box at Barrow, with metal security straps dated 1690 - now adapted to use for donations to the church.



The 11th century nave, leading to the early 8th century chancel at St Giles, Barrow.



The altar table at St Giles, Barrow, with beautiful post-Easter altar cloth.



Bell ringing chamber, with ladder leading to the bells at St Giles, Barrow.



Light streams into a high window within the bellringing chamber at St. Giles, Barrow.



Idyllic rural scene in the lane by St Giles, Barrow.

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Source materials for the article:

Church leaflet on All Saints' Broseley

Wikipedia entry for St Giles, Barrow - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Giles%27_Church,_Barrow

A Church Near You – St Giles, Barrow.