

Days Out with a Religious Connection. South Shropshire – Farlow, Nash and Boraston.

October is still a good month for touring churches. The weather, while quite cool, can still be bright, sunny and pleasant to walk around in if you pick the right day!

Using our copy of '**A Guide to Shropshire's Churches**' by Shropshire Churches Tourism Group, we chose to visit a group of churches in South Shropshire, in the area around Titterstone Clew.



St Giles, Farlow.

Alas our first choice, **Farlow**, proved abortive. The church was locked - although the Guide says that there are 'details of keyholders available' we found none and had to content ourselves with viewing the wonderful countryside from the churchyard.



A toposcope in the field by the churchyard, with a view of South Shropshire countryside in the distance.

According to 'British Listed Buildings', St Giles is a parish church of 1857-1858 by architect Robert Griffiths, incorporating the font and 12th century doorway from a former church.

The east window shows Christ flanked by Moses and Elijah, by Swaine Bourne, 1887. The west window shows Christ with St John, by Powell's, 1873.

Our next destination was Nash. In the Guide, Nash and Boraston are (rather confusingly) grouped together in their listings. Both churches are dedicated to St John the Baptist – yet they are two separate churches, in two discrete locations.



Sheep grazing in pasture by the car park at St John the Baptist, Nash.

The church of **St John the Baptist, Nash**, dates back to the early 14th century with Norman windows in the tower dating back to 1066 – 1154. The church was originally used as a chapel for the ease of Burford (ie built for those who could not easily reach the parish church at Burford), until in 1849 when it became a church in its own right. A north aisle was added to the building in 1865 after it became a church.



There is a most impressive lych gate leading to the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Nash.



Opposite the church at Nash is a private residence – according to a wall plaque it was formerly a Church of England School, dated 1846.



St John the Baptist, Nash.



Light from the stained glass window streams across the floor of the nave. A copper jug rests by the font.



The beautiful altar at St John the Baptist, Nash.



The rood screen and nave at St John the Baptist, Nash.



A hatchment, of which there are several at Nash. These bore the coat of arms of the deceased – they were carried in front of the coffin and then erected in the church after the funeral.



Decorative columns by the north aisle at Nash.



The wooden porch at St John the Baptist, Nash.

Our final church on this trip was the 'sister church' to Nash – **St John the Baptist at Boraston**. The church dates from the 13th century - it has some Norman (1066–1154) features, notably a blocked doorway. Between the years 1884 and 1887 it was renovated by architect Henry Curzon; he made changes to its exterior and enlarged it.



The outstandingly beautiful church and churchyard at St John the Baptist, Boraston.

Alas it was closed – but there were instructions on the church noticeboard that a key is available at a nearby house, so we walked down the road and fetched it.



We fetched the key to St John the Baptist, Boraston from a nearby house and let ourselves in.



The domed chancel at St John the Baptist, Boraston.



Christ sits in Majesty – with the angels of life and death beneath Him. Between them is a beautiful patterned golden cross.



Light streams in through the windows of the south aisle.



The wooden carved pulpit at St John the Baptist, Boraston.



The lectern at St John the Baptist, Boraston.



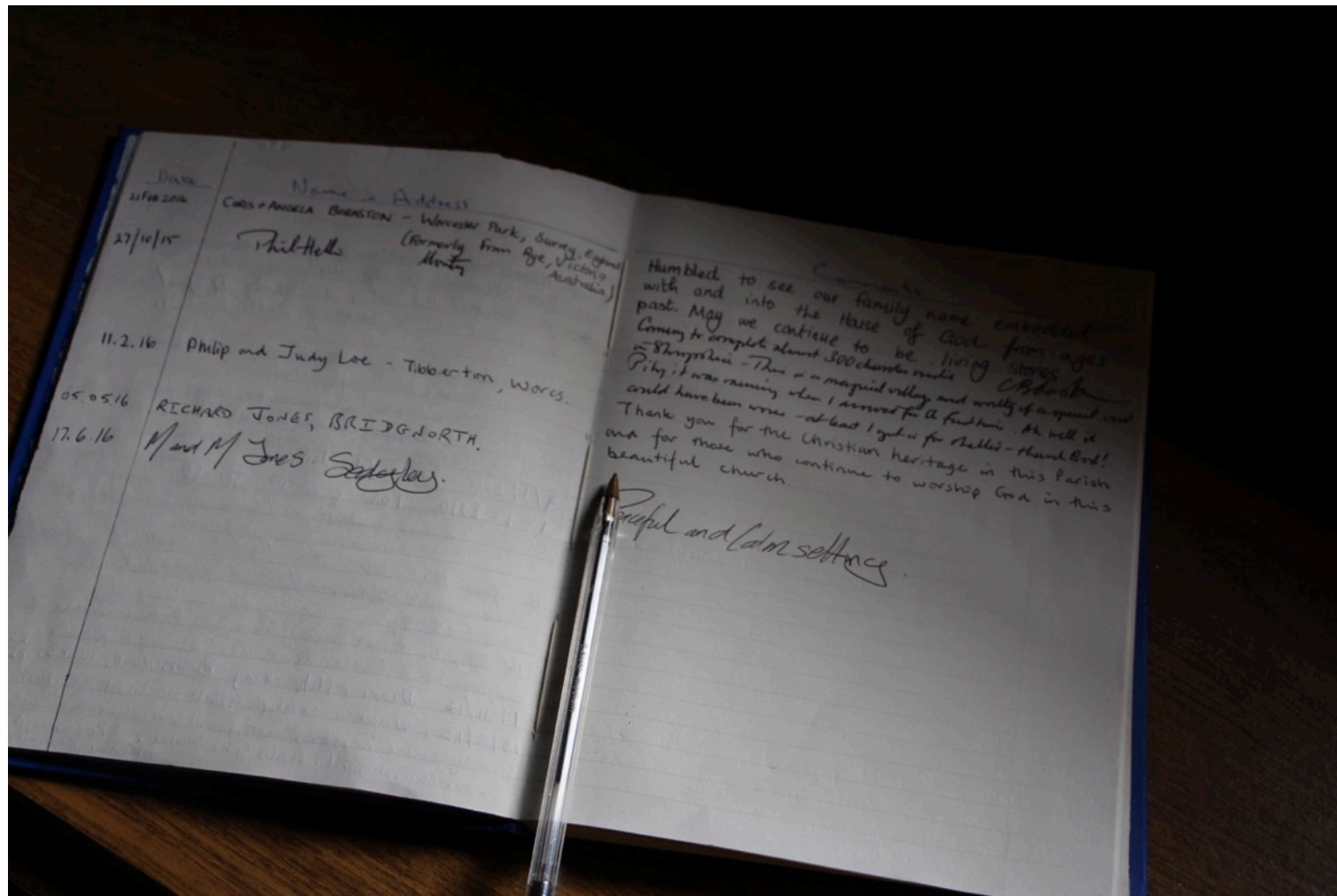
Elegant brass fittings on the rear doors of the nave.



One of the highlights of St John the Baptist, Boraston, is the wooden 'scaling' on the porch.



The tower at St John the Baptist, Boraston, clad with wooden slats.



We always try to leave a message in the visitors' book wherever we go.

On leaving Boraston we did try to visit the parish church of Burford St Mary. However without our OS map we struggled to find it and resolved to seek it out next time.

Martin and Magda Jones

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