

Trips out with a religious connection

The churches of central Evesham: Part 1 - All Saints'.



Left: The clock tower of the former St Mary's Abbey, Evesham. Centre: All Saints' Church with the Abbey Clock Tower in the distance. Right: St Lawrence's Church.

We chose a beautiful sunny day in late May to visit the centre of Evesham; the trip took about an hour and a quarter from Sedgley. The churches of central Evesham are accessed via a very attractive market square.



Market Square, Evesham

At the top of the square is a very strange and convoluted artwork - a representation of the legend surrounding the origins of the town. It depicts the swineherd **Eof** (or Eoves) on his knees covering his face at the apparition of the Virgin Mary, whose face is emerging from a canopy of trees. [The full legend on which the artwork is based can be found here.](#)



Two aspects of the Eof sculpture in Evesham's Market Square.

From the market square, visitors pass through an archway, which is attached to a very attractive 15th century half timbered building.

The gateway is said to have been constructed by **Abbot Reginald** between 1130 and 1140. The house used to be the vicarage, but is now used for other church purposes.



Abbot Reginald's gateway and Church House.



All Saints' Church, Evesham.

All Saints' church was originally built in the 12th century as a chapel for the monks of Evesham Abbey. The original Norman building was completely rebuilt in the 15th century to create an excellent example of Perpendicular Gothic style. The most impressive feature is the 16th century chantry chapel, built to house the tomb of Abbot Lichfield, the last Abbot of Evesham.



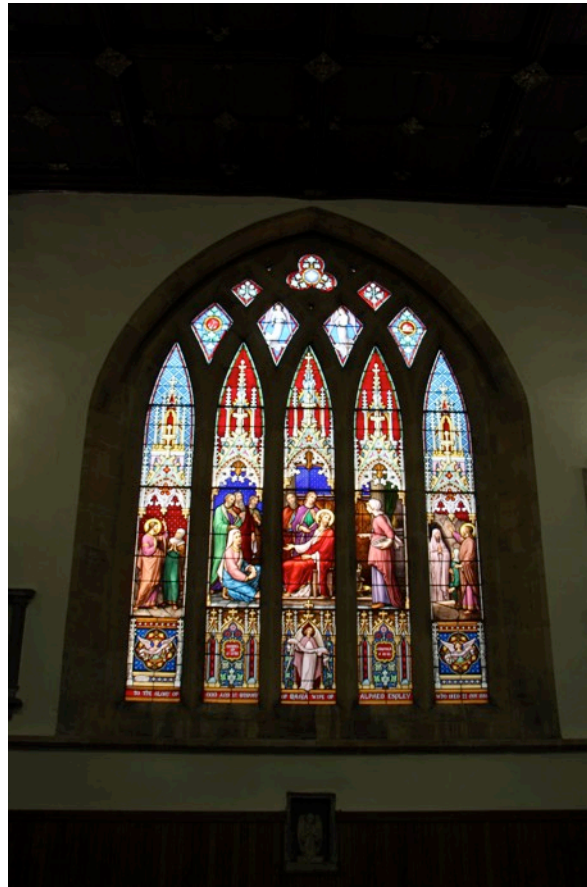
The nave, rood screen and chancel of All Saints' Church, Evesham.

The church was heavily restored by architect **Frederick Preedy in 1874**. Preedy was known for his church restorations, and especially for his stained glass designs. At All Saints' he designed 8 stained glass windows, the reredos, and the pulpit.



The altar table and reredos at All Saints', Evesham. The reredos is by Frederick Preedy.

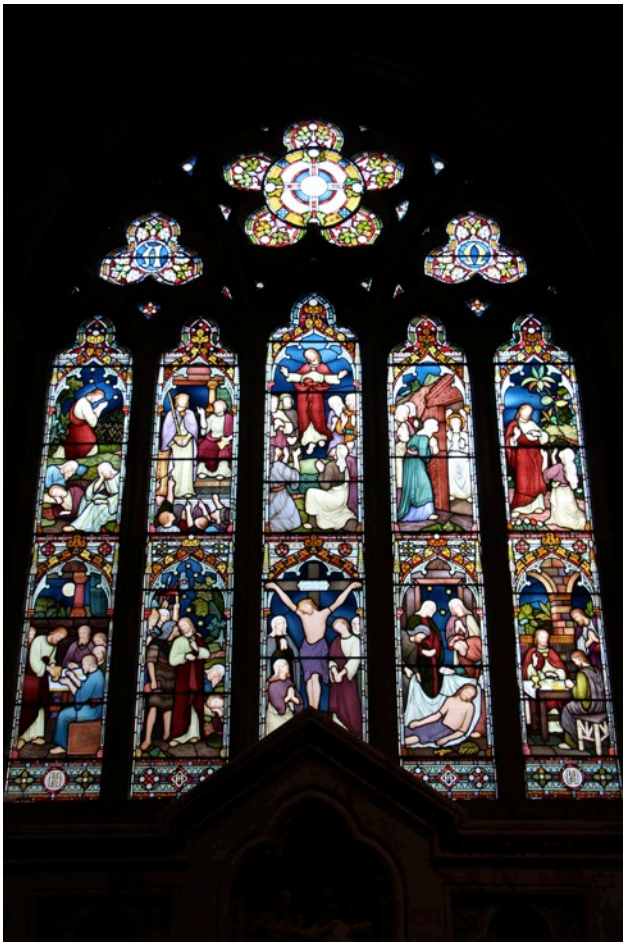
Stained glass at All Saints' Church, Evesham:



Left: The five-light south transept window depicting Enoch (who "walked with God"), Aaron (offering Bull), Moses, Joshua, and Elijah (and the fiery chariot). The glass was designed by Henry Holiday for Powell & Sons, 1882-3. Right: a five-light window by Capronnier, 1882, depicting Jesus with Mary & Martha - in memory of Maria Epsley, d. 1881.



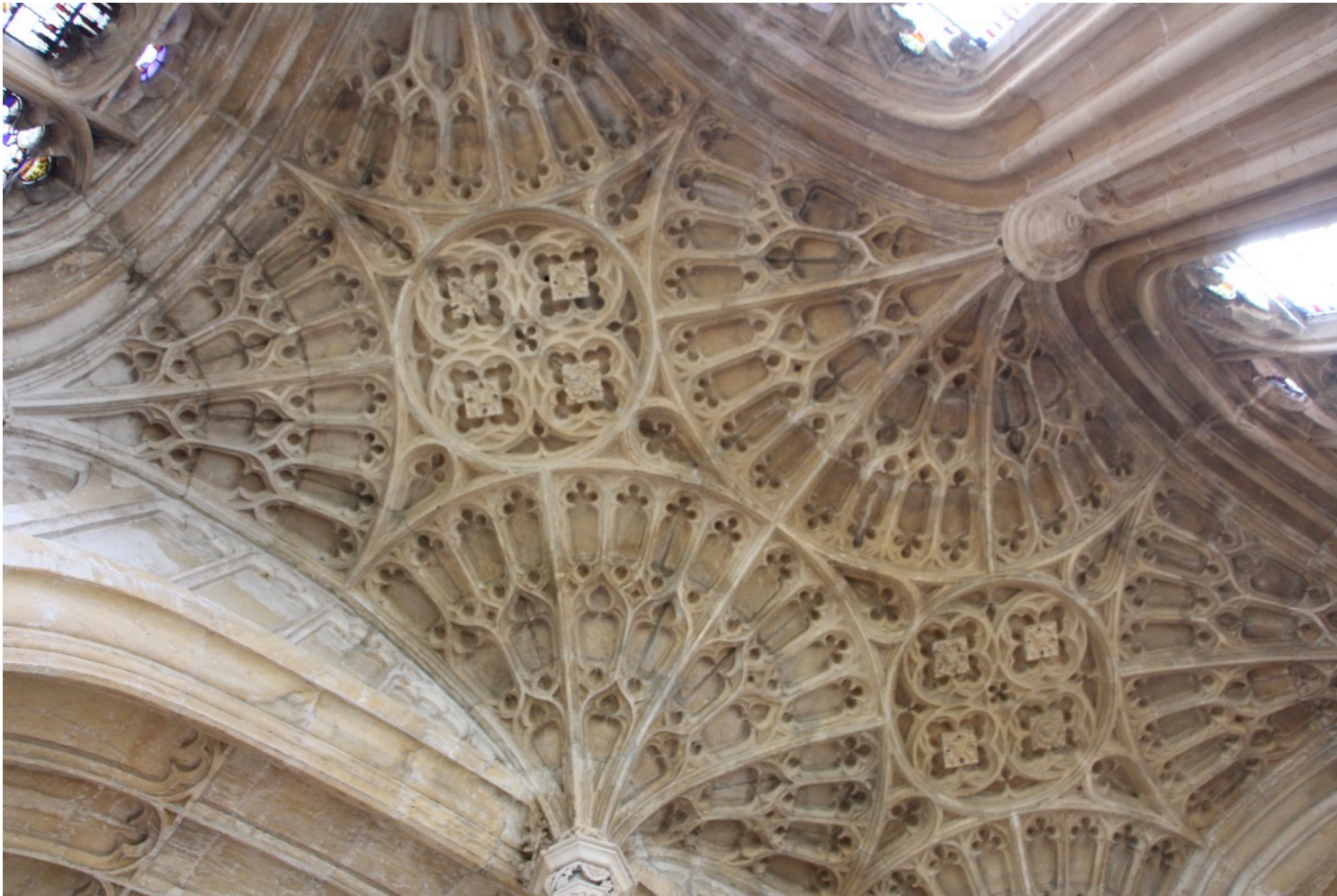
Left: Depicting St Columba, St Aidan, St Patrick, and St Cuthbert (with head of St Oswald) - glass by Shrigley & Hunt. Right: Andrew, Ruth and James the Great. Artist unknown.



The five-light East Window above the altar, with glass by Frederick Preedy, 1875, at All Saints', Evesham.
From top left: Agony in the Garden, Christ before Pilate, The Ascension, Three Marys and Angel at Tomb, also "Noli Me Tangere".
Bottom: Last Supper, Betrayal, The Crucifixion, The Entombment, and Supper at Emmaus.



19th century pulpit by Frederick Preedy.



Vaulted ceiling in the 16th century chantry chapel, built to house the tomb of Abbot Lichfield, the last Abbot of Evesham.



The altar and reredos in the Abbot Lichfield chantry chapel at All Saints' Evesham.

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Visited May 2018

Version 1

Sources of information:

[The Statue of EOf - Eves#DB9489](#)

[Abbot Reginald's Gateway#DB9F94](#)

[Evesham, All Saints Chur#DBA2ED](#)

[Stained glass window, Al#DBA805](#)

[East window, All Saints'#DBAC31](#)