

Trips Out with a Religious Connection:
Malvern and the surrounding area
Part 2 – Holy Trinity, Bosbury



Snowdrops in the churchyard at Holy Trinity Bosbury.

The next church on our Lenten visit to was to **Holy Trinity, Bosbury**, which again is in the **Diocese of Hereford**. Some of the earliest references to the church come from the time of Bishop William de Vere (1186-1200). It has a separate tower, built around 1230-1240, probably as a refuge against Welsh border raiders.



The tower at Holy Trinity, Bosbury.

A rood screen, separating chancel from nave and surmounted by a Crucifix (a “Rood”) became a common feature in the 14th and 15th centuries. Bosbury’s is of the late fifteenth century. It is a very fine example of fan vaulting in timber. It would have supported a Rood until the Reformation.



The rood screen with fan vaulted woodwork at Holy Trinity, Bosbury.

In 1502 the church was leased to Thomas Morton, Archdeacon of Hereford and to his brother Sir Rowland. The Morton Chantry chapel was formed in the south aisle of the church so that masses might be said in perpetuity for Sir Rowland's wife who died in 1528. It has perpendicular windows and rich fan vaulting.



Fan vaulting on the ceiling of the Morton Chantry Chapel.

John Harford (d 1559) and his son Richard (d 1578) were said to have 'enriched themselves dealing in church property'. They have rich memorials either side of the altar in the new Renaissance style.



The Harford memorials either side of the altar at Holy Trinity, Bosbury. John Harford's memorial, left, and Richard Harford's and his wife Martha's on the right.



The Victorian organ was built in 1871 by Speechly and Ingram of Hereford and improved by Ingram and Co of London in 1897.

The churchyard cross at Holy Trinity is of a type common in the 14th century – in the 15th century it marked the final stage of Holy Week processions. Local tradition says that in the 17th century Parliamentary soldiers were about to demolish it as a Popish symbol. They relented in response to the vicar's pleas but caused it to be inscribed 'Honor not the +' and on the reverse 'Honor God for Christ'.



A fourteenth century cross in the churchyard of Holy Trinity, Bosbury.



The ancient yew tree arch leading to the south porch.

Martin and Magda Jones

First version

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Sources:

Church website:

<http://www.bosbury-church.org/2bhistory.htm>

Leaflet:

A Guide for Visitors to The Church of Holy Trinity, Bosbury, Herefordshire