

We hope you enjoy looking round our church.

St Wystan's has been a place of worship since 653 AD when Elflada, the new bride of Paeda, son of King Penda of Mercia, introduced Christianity to his father's kingdom at Repton. Nikolaus Pevsner described the Anglo-Saxon parts of St Wystan's parish church as "one of the most precious survivals of Anglo-Saxon architecture in England". But while cherishing our past, we look to the future; recent years have seen major work to conserve the building and improve facilities. Recent developments include a new kitchen, toilets, storage areas and facilities for the disabled. These have enabled St Wystan's to create more opportunities to link with the community through social events and Messy Church for families.

Please remember as you look round, that St Wystan's is a living church where we worship and have baptisms, weddings and funerals. It is also used for many community activities, including lunches, concerts and a biennial Christmas Tree Festival.

Churchyard

In the churchyard you will find a quiet garden with the opportunity to find peace and enjoy contemplation. There is an information leaflet in the porch.

At the bottom of the churchyard near the Old Trent there are war graves. Here, a small area is dedicated to 16 young men who lost their lives during World War II. Many were pilots in the Royal Air Force stationed at Burnaston Aerodrome, where now the Toyota factory stands.

CB Fry, the great cricketer and sportsman, is buried on the north side of the church.

More information can be found at the church website:
reptonchurch.uk

leaflets in the church and porch, and

St Wystan's Church Repton.

A Guide and History by Dr. H.M. Taylor CBE TD (1989)
on sale in the church

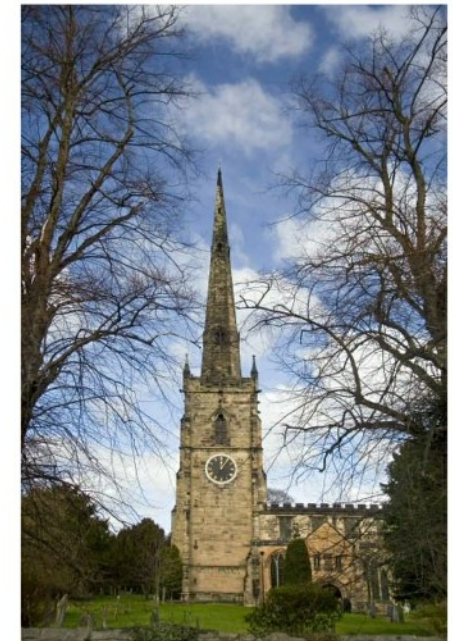


St Wystan

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Go into God's world in the assurance of his presence, the knowledge of his goodness and the certainty of his love.

Church Guide



**St Wystan's Parish Church
Repton**

**Benefice of Foremark & Repton with Newton Solney
Diocese of Derby**

St Wystan's Church

1. Nave.

In the 14th century the nave was rebuilt with four western arches on each side built on hexagonal piers. At this time, the Anglo-Saxon walls of the eastern part of the nave still stood intact. This area of the church provided a place of peace and safety for pilgrims and the space and height gave glory to God.

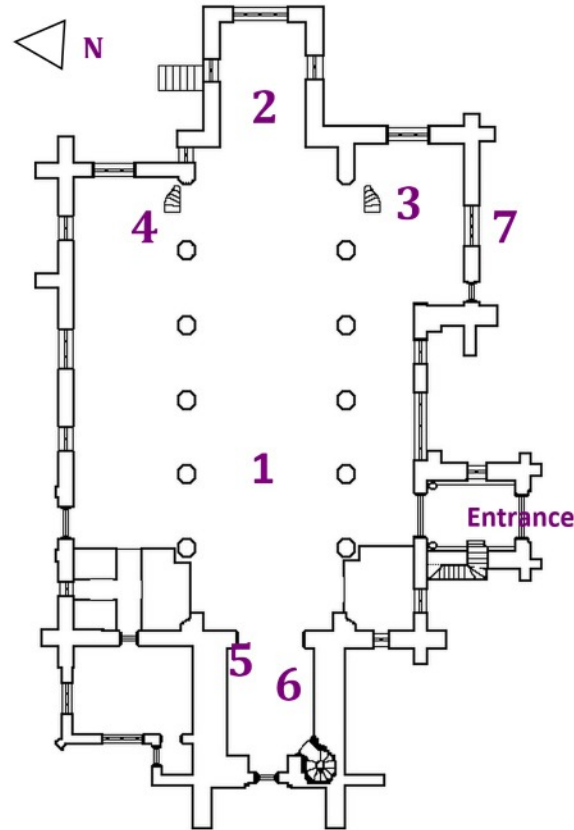
2. Chancel.

Before his death in 840 AD, King Wiglaf made the crypt more ornate to prepare it for his own burial, and the chancel above dates from the same period. Although the windows and chancel arch have changed over the centuries, the walls today are much as they were when the Vikings arrived in 873.

High above the chancel is an upper chamber with its modern doorway above the chancel arch. This doorway is set into what was originally a wide opening to a rood-loft where relics might have been kept and from where they would have been displayed on feast days. Steps, originally from outside the church, led up to the doorway which can be seen high in the south-east corner of the south wall of the nave. From there, stone steps, projecting from the chancel wall, would have led to a gallery and elevated platform. The modern oak door is the present means of access to a little chamber above the sanctuary.

3. Organ.

The present 21-stop organ, built in 1998 by Peter Collins, stands against the east wall of the south transept. The oak case was inspired by the oldest known in Britain, the sixteenth-century case at Old Radnor in Wales. With its flowing and fretted pipeshades, it comes from the pen of Nicholas Plumley after an idea by Peter Collins. A separate information leaflet is available.



4. Crypt.

The Crypt was built in the early 8th Century over a spring and may have originally been a baptistery. It was later converted into a mausoleum, perhaps to receive the body of King Æthelbald, and became the final resting place of Mercian Kings. King Æthelbald (ob. 757) and King Wiglaf (ob. 840) were both interred there, as well as Wiglaf's grandson Wystan, murdered in 849. Following Wystan's death, his shrine became a place of pilgrimage. Passages were cut from the north-west and south-west corners of the crypt to manage the flow of pilgrims. Sir John Betjeman described it as "holy air encased in stone". A separate information leaflet is available.

5. Tower and Spire.

The perpendicular style of the windows and plinth of the tower are evidence that the tower and spire were built in the 15th century. The slender spire rises to 212 feet. The belfry has a vaulted roof, which has been pierced to allow the bells to be rung from the floor level.

6. Bells.

In about 1896, F. C. Hipkins M.A., an assistant master at Repton School, wrote an essay on "Repton's Merry Bells. "Barrow's big boulders, Repton's merry bells, Foremark's cracked pancheons, and Newton's egg shells". The first two bells date from the 1490s and the final two that make up the peal of 8 bells which still summon the faithful today were cast in 1935. A separate information leaflet is available.

7. Windows.

A small piece at the top centre of the eastern-most window in the north wall of the north aisle is thought to be mediaeval. Otherwise, the stained glass windows are mainly by Dudley Forsyth and James Powell & Sons in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

