

Walking through the round arch, you can see the door on the north wall which was probably used by lay people in the Abbey's heyday. Walking on round the church, through the graveyard, you reach the site of the cloisters and chapter house, excavated in the 1930's. Beauchief Abbey Farm, on the footpath to the south of the church, probably has medieval foundations, now filled with concrete. It stands on the site of the Abbey's infirmary. The Abbey barns also date back to the medieval period, though most of what you can see is 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century. They probably mark the site of some of the Abbey's working buildings such as stables, the brewhouse and storage.

One final point: as you leave the Abbey site down Beauchief Abbey Lane, you are walking on a medieval causeway, where the sunken land on your right was a large pond, probably used by the Abbey for water power.

Nowadays the Abbey has a flourishing and increasing congregation. Our services are traditional, using the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. The Clergy are volunteers, as is the committee who run the church.

*We invite you to join us on a Sunday.*

*Service times from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 are:*

*Holy Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, at 11am*

*Evensong on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month, at 3pm*

*Matins on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, at 11am*

*These and additional services are posted on the notice board at the gate.*

For information on services, weddings, baptisms and funerals please contact Pam Hodgson on 0114 235 3263 or Richard Parry on 0114 250 8348.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit.  
Please sign the Visitor's Book before you leave.



Text: Linda Evans

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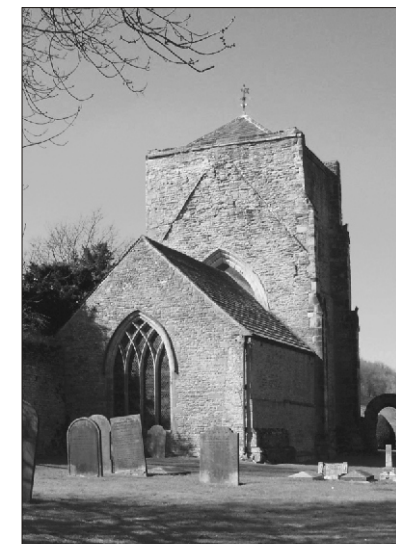


HERITAGE INSPIRED: South Yorkshire's Faith Tourism Initiative

# welcome to BEAUCHIEF ABBEY SHEFFIELD

Welcome to the Abbey Church of St Thomas the Martyr and the Virgin Mary.

Beauchief was a Premonstratensian Abbey, founded by a group of Canons from Welbeck, its mother house. The building of the Abbey began in 1176 and the official foundation was in 1183. The name Beauchief comes from the Norman for 'beautiful headland'; looking at the surroundings of the Abbey, you can see why.



The land given to the Canons was granted by Robert Fitzranulph, Lord of Alfreton, Marnham and Norton, to expiate his part in the murder of St Thomas a Becket. The park extended from Chancet Wood to Twentywell Lane and up to Greenhill. This area, 200-300 acres, is the present Liberty of Beauchief. The term 'liberty' means that it is not a parish, nor controlled by the Bishop of Sheffield.

