

The Arts Society Worcester

Visit to The Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick and Lord Leycester Hospital

Date: Thursday, 19th October 2023



Collegiate Church of St Mary

St Mary's Collegiate Church dominates the overall view of the centre of Warwick with its imposing tower, rebuilt along with much of the church in 1704 by St William Wilson after the Great Fire of Warwick. There has been a church on the site since Saxon times, but the Saxon church was rebuilt by Roger de Newburgh in 1123.

However, the magnificent medieval Beauchamp Chapel escaped the devastating fire of 1694 and houses the tombs of past Earls of Warwick including Richard Beauchamp's tomb described in Simon Jenkin's book "England's 1000 Best Churches" as "one of the masterpieces of medieval art" and was awarded a 5 star rating.

St Mary's also contains The Chapel of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment and Field Marshall Viscount Montgomery's garter banner hangs outside the Chapel.

There is also the Norman Crypt dating back to 1123 AD and contains one of only 2 remaining ducking stools in England.



Lord Leycester Hospital

Following a £4.5m renovation in 2023, visitors can appreciate the beautiful buildings of the Lord Leycester, one of the most important and intact buildings of the medieval period in England.

The story begins in the 1300's when the Guilds of Warwick built these half-timbered buildings as the centre of their activity, a Guildhall for meetings, a Great Hall for entertaining and a

kitchen - all built around the Chapel of St James.

Move forward in time to the Elizabethan age, when the Queen's close friend, the dashing Robert Dudley Earl of Leycester was given the site by the Guildsmen to create a 'hospital' - a place of sanctuary, to take care of fallen and deserving warriors known as the Brethren and their appointed Master. Whilst maintaining this 450 year old tradition, the Lord Leycester Hospital has evolved into a modern charity - Warwick's answer to the Royal Hospital Chelsea except smaller and older, with the Brethren and Master still living within the walls today

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Visit to Church of St Mary, Warwick and Lord Leycester Hospital

Cost £47.00

09.15 Set off from Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Bilford Road, Worcester,
WR3 8DX (Cost of parking is currently free)

10.30 Arrive at Church of St Mary Warwick, 1.45 hour guided tour by Tim Clark Church Historian. Plenty of seats for sitting on during the tour as well as toilets on site. There are 6-7 steps to the Beauchamp chapel, and a few others within the Church.

12.15 We take a 5 minute walk to Lord Leycester Hospital Café.

12.30 Lunch at the Café at Lord Leycester Hospital. **Cost not included**
The menu is very varied offering lunches, sandwiches, or small snacks.

2.00 A 1.5hr guided tour of Lord Leycester Hospital by one of the Brethren

3.30 Refreshments in lord Leycester Hospital Café **Cost not included**

4.30 Set off back arriving at Perdiswell Leisure Centre by 5.30

We give priority for trips to the members of the Arts Society Worcester and their friends in the first instance. Thereafter we will open this trip to members from other societies from Friday 15th September 2023.

Booking Form for Trip to Warwick

Please return the booking form no later than Sunday 1st October 2023.to:
Visits Assistant. Jean Gammon, 56 Conference Way, Stourport, DY13 8DN
Mobile 07534 908829 Email: Jeangammon@gmail.com

Name/s.....

Tel Nos.....Mob No/s.....

Email.....

NB: The Arts Society requires a nominated contact in case of an emergency:

Name.....Tel No.....

Total number of tickets @ £47.00 required.....

Cheques made payable to The Art Society Worcester enclosed £.....

Forms will not be acknowledged, except if there is a problem.

A reminder will be sent two weeks before the visit.

Please note that we have carefully considered the question of payment by BACS for such trips, but payment continues to be by cheque only, not BACS. If a trip is cancelled then the cheques are destroyed and there is no need for a refund.

The committee regrets that no refunds can be made for cancellations received after Wednesday 27th September.

In accordance with our policy for fitness for trips and visits we need to inform you that this trip will involve a medium amount of walking during the guided tours and there are a few steps within the church. However seating is available in the Church. There will also be a 5 - 6 minute walk from the Church to the Hospital. Please take this into account when booking.

The Arts Society Worcester cannot be held responsible for any personal accident, loss, damage or theft of members' personal property. Members are covered against proven liability of Third Parties