



## Alnwick Trail technology

Andrew Duff

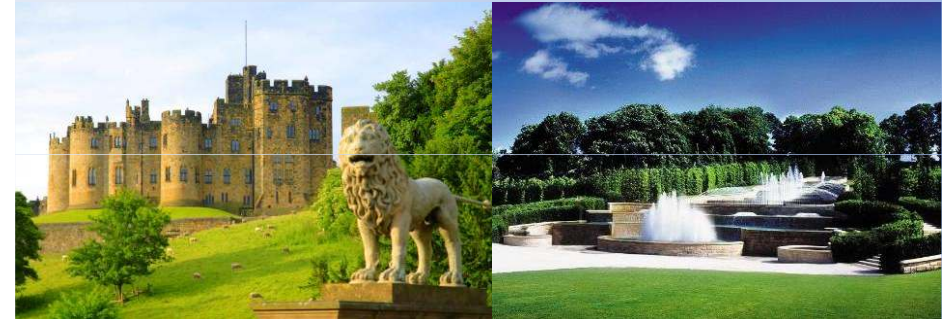


**The Churches Tourism Association**

*Welcoming visitors, telling our stories*

## Alnwick, Northumberland

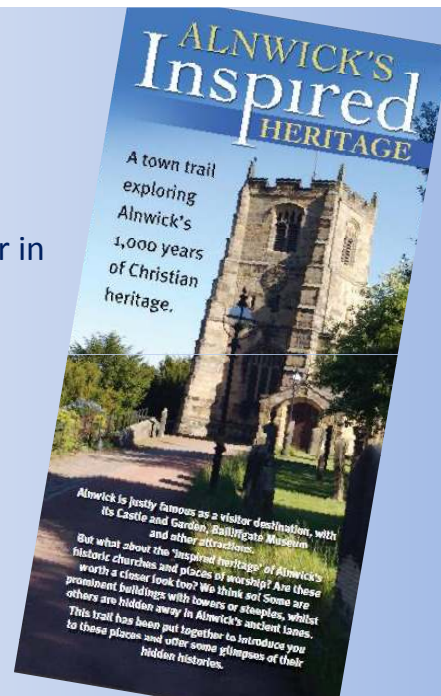
### Famed for its Castle and Gardens



...but what about the 'hidden heritage' of historic churches?

### Collaboration:

- Christians Together in Alnwick
- Civic Society



#### Medieval Foundations

Alnwick's Christian heritage is believed to go back as far as Saxon times – over 1,000 years – whilst recorded evidence covers more than 860 years. Earliest places of Christian heritage interest in and around Alnwick include:

**Alnwick Abbey** was an abbey of Premonstratensian Canons, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and St. James, founded in the year 1147. Only the defensive gateway tower remains.

The picturesque ruins of **Hulne Priory** are situated in Hulne Park, to the north-west of Alnwick. This was the parent house of the Carmelite Order in England, founded in 1240.

Some paths through the magnificent Hulne Park are open to walkers, but not dogs (check restrictions at the gate).

The remains of **St Leonard's Hospital Chapel** stand in a field to the north of Alnwick, a short way up the hill from the Lion Bridge. This was founded between 1193-1216 in memory of King Malcolm III of Scotland, mortally wounded nearby in the Battle of Alnwick in 1093.

**St Mary's Chantry House** in Walkergate dates from at least 1460. It provided accommodation for chantry chaplains attached to St Michael's Church, and served as a school until the early 19th century when it was destroyed and built on Pottergate. This ruin is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

#### Other Christian sites in Alnwick

No building to look at, but Quakers have a history in Alnwick. Earliest record of Quaker meetings here is from 1728, at which time they met in a house near Alnwick Abbey. In the early days, Quakers were persecuted, so met in private homes. Today Quakers meet on Sundays in the lounge of Anchor Housing in Church Lane, Baillifgate.

A simple building on Hotspur Street bears witness to the continuing work of the Salvation Army, with its emphasis on social action and fellowship. Percy Street Hall, near St Paul's Church, is used for community activities such as family fun 'Messy Church' activities and a playgroup.

#### Dissent and diversity

Also worth noting are the sites of former Dissenter's or non-conformist chapels (i.e., not part of the established church of England). These were built away from the main streets in the only available land amongst the maze of medieval back lanes off Market Street: the Sion Meeting House of 1850 in St Michael's Lane is now in business use, and the grand Clayport Presbyterian Church of 1846 with its eye-catching twin towers is now a single house.

We hope you have enjoyed this leaflet and a walk around Historic Alnwick. If you have access to the internet you can discover more about these stories and churches on the website:

[sites.google.com/site/inspiredalnwick](https://sites.google.com/site/inspiredalnwick)



## ALNWICK'S Inspired HERITAGE

A town trail exploring Alnwick's 1,000 years of Christian heritage.

Alnwick is justly famous as a visitor destination, with its Castle and Garden, Baillifgate Museum and other attractions.

But what about the 'Inspired Heritage' of Alnwick's historic churches and places of worship? Are these worth a closer look too? We think so! Some are prominent buildings with towers or steeples, whilst others are hidden away in Alnwick's ancient lanes. This trail has been put together to introduce you to these places and offer some glimpses of their hidden histories.

## Parish Church of St Michael

1,000 years of heritage, historic church of the Dukes of Northumberland.

One of England's thousand best churches, according to historian Simon Jenkins, it has stood on the promontory above old Goswongate since Norman times. It is a story that spans the history of Alnwick and the Dukes of Northumberland. Rebuilt in the mid-15th century in the Perpendicular style, points of interest include the ancient carved stone capital that commemorates Harry Hotspur, also medieval grave slabs, memorials, a remarkable collection of stained glass windows, and a 13th century font carved in Kilnsey blue limestone.

Open to visitors outside of service times on afternoons Monday - Saturday from May to October.

## Bailiffgate Museum

Formerly St Mary's Church - now Alnwick's town museum.

Standing on the site of earlier Catholic chapels, this was the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary until 1582. The museum is well worth a visit - and is an interesting example of adaptation, with the mezzanine floor suspended from supporting columns and barely touching the side walls. Original features include the oak roof with its gargoyles and inset stained glass windows, and memorial windows on the front facade. The organ has been restored and used for recitals. Open most days, entry charge, check for details - Telephone: 01666 606424.

## St James' Church Centre

The house of Alnwick's United Reformed Church.

Built in 1866 as a Presbyterian church by well known church architects Hicks and Charnwood in the revived free perpendicular style of the time. As part of a recent re-ordering of the interior of the church, the building has been split into two levels: the worship space is now located on the upper floor, and the ground floor now has a modern meeting hall, meeting room, kitchen and other facilities. George Trevelyan, a well known local architect, added an early Arts and Crafts church hall in 1904 which was recently converted into an award winning housing scheme.



## Alnwick Methodist Church

John Wesley's pulpit and over 150 years of Methodist heritage.

In 1786 John Wesley laid the foundation stone of this chapel - still in use today - in what is now, surprisingly, called Chapel Lane! The gallery was floored over by 1822, leaving the Chapel upstairs. Remodelled for its centenary in 1886 by F.R. Wilson, a well-regarded and prolific Northumberland architect, the original 1786 pulpit is still preserved in the corner of the upstairs Chapel - John Wesley preached from this for the last time on May 10th 1791, a few months before he died. There have been other Methodist sites in Alnwick: Bethel Chapel in St Michael's Lane and a chapel in Bondgate. Without where Robert Adam Court now stands.

## Alnwick Baptist Church

Unassuming but vital home of worship for about 180 years.

The Baptist Church occupies a corner site at the junction of two terraces, Lisburn Street and Upper Howick Street. This is a very neat and comfortable set of uniform townscape where church and houses are the same height, the same scale and the same materials. Built in the 1840s as a Presbyterian chapel, it is an exemplar of modesty and good townscape taste. The glazed entrance at one side gives a clue that this building has been sensitively adapted to meet the needs of a modern church.

## St Paul's Roman Catholic Church

A fine Victorian church in the Decorated Gothic style.

At the heart of Green Batt, Alnwick's splendid late Georgian early Victorian suburb, St Paul's stands surrounded by fine mature trees. Designed by the renowned architect Anthony Salvin, it opened for worship in 1846. The East Window is one of only three of its kind in Europe, designed and created in Munich in 1846. It depicts St Paul and St Barnabas preaching at Antioch. Originally an Anglican parish church, St Paul's has served as Alnwick's Roman Catholic Church since 1963. Points of interest include the Lady Altar and statue, the screen behind the altar depicting Northern saints, and the Stations of the Cross transferred from the former St Mary's Church, now Bailiffgate Museum.

## Project vision & concept

- Encourage visitors to explore more of Alnwick
- Reflect unity amongst the churches
- Story links the sites over a 1,000 year timeline
- Low cost model using volunteer effort
- Combine succinct, easy to use print with more extensive online content
- Linked via QR (Quick Response) codes
- Low maintenance



## Project process

- Research stories
- Draft trail - consult
- Live test – organised walk
- Google site with text, images, links etc
- Generate QR codes for each main site
- Embed codes in trail leaflet
- Final print and launch
- Feedback

## Setting up a Google site



SIGN UP

### Sites

Thinking of creating a website?

Google Sites is a free and easy way to create and share webpages. [Learn more.](#)

Create rich web pages easily

Collect all your info in one place

Control who can view and edit

New! Create a site from dozens of pre-built templates



Sign in

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Email

Password

Sign in

☒ Stay signed in

Can't access your account?

Sign in with a Google Apps Account



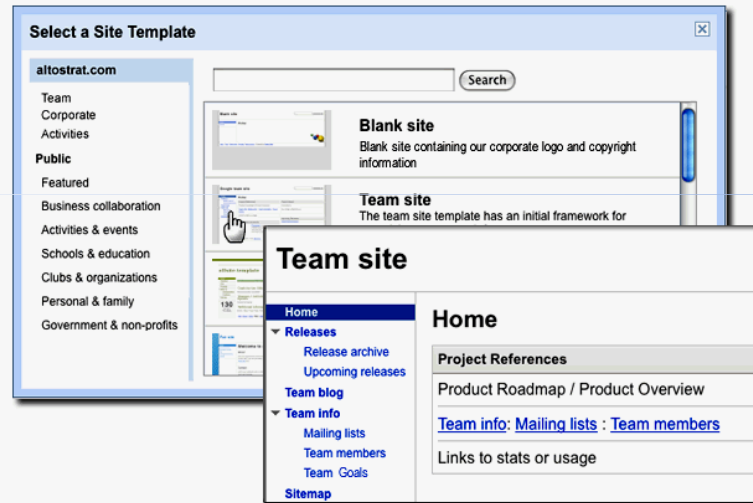
The Google Science Fair

An online science competition for curious young minds across the globe. All you need is a question. What's yours?



plates  
moving  
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Google provides a number of templates in a **public gallery**, while users in your domain can publish templates to your domain's **private gallery**. For example, a corporate manager might create a Product Rollout template for planning product launches, a teacher might share a template for posting course information, a school group could publish its Events template, and so on. The templates you publish appear in your private gallery where they're available to everyone in your domain.



## Inspired Alnwick

Welcome to Alnwick's Inspired Heritage!

- 1: Parish Church of St Michael
- 2: Baillifgate Museum
- 3: St James' Church Centre
- 4: Alnwick Methodist Church
- 5: Alnwick Baptist Church
- 6: St Paul's Roman Catholic Church
- 7: Quakers in Alnwick
- 8: Salvation Army

A 1,000 year Timeline  
Mediaeval foundations  
Non-conformist chapels  
Other sites near Alnwick  
Useful links & sources  
Sitemap

Alnwick's Inspired Christian Heritage is a joint initiative of Alnwick Civic Society and Christians Together in Alnwick.

103  
days since  
Alnwick International  
Music Festival starts

Page authors  
duffandrew  
July 4, 2012

### Welcome to Alnwick's Inspired Heritage!

#### A town trail spanning nearly 1,000 years of Christian heritage.

Alnwick is a great place to visit, with its Castle and Garden, Baillifgate Museum and other places of interest. But what of the 'inspired heritage' of Alnwick's historic churches and places of worship? Don't they deserve a mention too? We think so!

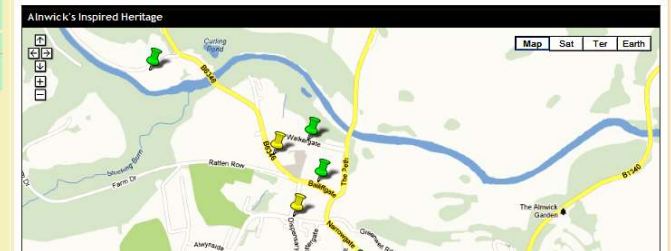
That's why we have done a little digging around, found some stories and information – plus some photos – to introduce you to these places and offer some glimpses of their hidden histories.

Some are prominent buildings with towers or steeples, whilst others are tucked away in side streets. So we have not just got a lot of Christian heritage in our town but much of it is of high historic and cultural value, reflecting so engagingly the wealth, schisms, aspirations and tastes of their period. They deserve to be better recognised and, above all, better understood, enjoyed and protected. So, why not take a little time to explore Alnwick's Inspired Heritage – before you head for one of the town's great little cafes to rest your feet!

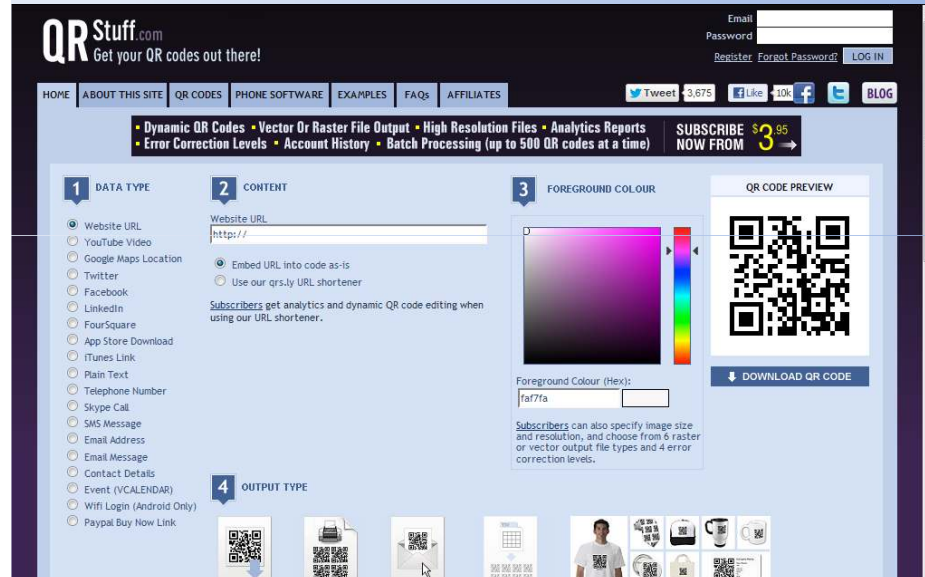
[Click here to download a copy of the trail leaflet.](#)

Please note that many of the buildings featured are not normally open to visitors outside of service times – check web pages for further details.

Text by David Lovie and Andrew Duff, with contributions from churches and other sources. Contents do not necessarily represent the views of any of these organisations or contributors. The site has been put together by [Andrew Duff](#), who is responsible for any errors.



## Working with QR codes



John Wesley's original 1786 pulpit is still preserved in the corner of the upstairs Chapel. It originally stood in an elevated position in the middle of the South Wall, and round pillars show the position and shape of the 1786 gallery that faced it. Wesley preached from this pulpit for the first time in May 1788, and for the last time on May 10th 1790, a few months before he died.

## Test out the walk with real people!



## Launch with a bit of a fanfare!



## Feedback and outcomes

- 2,000 leaflets produced **Total cost: £297**
- Popular according to the TIC
- Northumberland Tourism put PDF on website
- Stock mostly gone in one season
- Some have used it as a prayer-walk route
- Not clear how many use QR codes, but they've been a great talking point!
- Hope to do more with website



## Thank you

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