

Trips Out with a Religious Connection:
Great Malvern and the surrounding area, Diocese of Worcester
PART 1: Cradley, Herefordshire



Martin outside Great Malvern Priory, February 2018. When we visited in October 2017 we were so impressed with the Priory and the town, that we vowed to return.

Here's a brief account of our latest trip around the Diocese - more detail will follow later. We repeated the idea of a '**Lenten Journey**' - which we first undertook in 2017 - in order to connect with fellow churches in parts of the Diocese of Worcester (and also some in Hereford Diocese) that are not readily accessible on a day trip. This time we broke our stay into a two-day visit, staying in Great Malvern overnight.

Our first visit was to the beautiful St James's Church in the village of Cradley, Herefordshire, which is 4 miles northwest of Great Malvern.



St James's Church, Cradley, Herefordshire.

The chancel was added by **Sir George Gilbert Scott** in 1868. Pevsner also mentions a mediaeval lychgate, a font dated 1722, and the remains of a previous carved font incorporated into a doorway in the tower. Carved stones in the fabric of the church have been identified as dating from the Saxon period.



The medieval lych gate at St James the Great in Cradley.



Very few parish churches boast Georgian fonts. This one at St James the Great, Cradley, was built in 1771 and bears the name of its benefactor, Rev Thomas Bisse, who was one of the founders of the famous Three Choirs Festival.

When we arrived at Cradley church we were greeted by one of their church volunteers, who showed us round and invited us to stay for a **Lenten Lunch** with other parishioners. We received a very warm welcome and enjoyed their home made soup, bread and cheese.



The Lenten lunch we shared with parishioners at St James the Great, Cradley.



During the lunch, Magda and I enjoyed talking to parishioners about their church.



The beautiful stained glass window at St James the Great, Cradley, featuring St Francis of Assisi.

Martin and Magda Jones

Version 1

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