

## **Excursion No 2 : Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 (Evening)**

### **THREE REMOTE MANORIAL CHURCHES**

Excursion Leader: Bob & Fi Medland  
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#### **Summary**

The leaders for the evening, Bob and Fiona Medland, This will be the third year running that we will be visiting three churches in north-east Somerset. As usual there is a theme and this year it is 'remote manorial churches'. Both Hardington and Hemington churches are located in tiny hamlets close to each other whilst Foxcote lies a couple of miles to the north.

**FOXCOTE.** St James the Less is a lovely little church which was rebuilt in 1721. It contains Georgian features in its Tuscan pillars, windows and pulpit with carving. There are several interesting monuments yielding information about local families and benefactors. Nothing is known about the earlier church except that an eminent historian referred to it as a 'humble pile'. There is a small tower with battlements, which Nicholas Pevsner thought was "more like a bell turret".

**HEMINGTON.** The Norman church underwent major renovation in the 14th, 15th, 17th and 19th centuries. The south aisle and nave are the oldest part dating from the 1340s. The tower, was built between 1480 and 1500. The 19th century work is attributed to the office of Sir George Gilbert Scott.

**HARDINGTON BAMPFYLDE.** Grade I listed, St Mary's adjoins a working farmyard. It has beautiful unspoilt Georgian furnishings and a wonderfully preserved Norman tower - one of the smallest complete church towers in England. Its tranquil setting belies a tragic history: the church and village became almost extinct during the Black Death of 1348. Serving such tiny numbers of parishioners, unsurprisingly this and nearby Hemington churches have become redundant and are now in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust.

A visit to Tuckers Grave pub on the way home is anticipated.

#### **Meeting time and place.**

Meet 18:30 at St James' the Less Church, Green Street, Foxcote, BA3 5YE. Car-parking is limited at all churches so please make arrangements for car-sharing if at all possible.

#### **Note**

Comfortable, suitable clothes and footwear should be worn, appropriate for a town walk and the prevailing weather conditions. Bring face masks for indoors

**Please remember that you are responsible for your own safety and by joining the BACAS excursion you do so at your own risk.**