

CVG Virtual Visits 2020: Visit 7, Wymondham and Edmondthorpe (Leics)

We're going back in the Rutland direction with our next trip, unspectacular countryside but nicely rural and surprisingly remote. It's an area that I know quite well having lived in the area from the age of 10 until I went to university.

Our first church is at **Wymondham** but before that perhaps we could meet at Wymondham Mill where we can see and clamber up a real old windmill and start our day out with a coffee, see <http://wymondhamwindmill.co.uk/>

I remember Wymondham church as we attended services there in the brief time my family lived in the village when my father was working at RAF Cottesmore. I don't remember much but especially remember the post mistress singing a fine version of Mary's Boy Child at the annual carol service, which must have been in 1957. It's quite a big church with transepts and a fine east window, tall Perpendicular clerestory windows and several mysteries. What for example is the significance and age of the blocked doorway above the tower arch and also what is the story behind the man's head with a lizard crawling across it?



Lots more photos and information at:

<https://www.leicestershirechurches.co.uk/wymondham-church-st-peter/>

<http://churchcrawling.moonfruit.com/wymondham-leics/4593564351>

Edmondthorpe is a hamlet just a couple of miles south of Wymondham. Its church, now redundant, is under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust and it's another unsung gem with particularly fine monuments and a related spooky tale which is explained in the Church Crawling note below. And we are blessed with many photos and so much online information we might just give the church a miss when we get round to visiting as we'll have seen it all before we get there! Info and pics at:

<http://churchcrawling.moonfruit.com/edmondthorpe/4593630308>

<https://www.leicestershirechurches.co.uk/edmondthorpe-church-st-michael/>

<http://edmondthorpe.le14.co.uk/photos/church/>

Next to the church are the ruinous remains of the once fine Edmondthorpe Hall, requisitioned during WWII and burned down in 1942. Used to house prisoners of war but see the spooky story above as there were rumours of a connection. I still remember wandering around the ruins as a teenager. We're probably not allowed access now because of health and safety. I am assuming of course that it still hasn't been restored or suffered further major collapse as I've not been there since about 1961 or thereabouts. A photo of the Hall in its heyday can be seen at:

http://www.lostheritage.org.uk/houses/lh_leicestershire_edmondthorpehall_info_gallery.html

On our next virtual trip in about two weeks time I'll cover Ashwell, Market Overton and Buckminster.