

## CVG Virtual Visits 2020: Visit 8 (Ashwell, Market Overton and Buckminster)

This time we're back in Rutland to the sleepy village of **Ashwell**, about 3 miles north of Oakham. Before the war Arthur Mee said it "abounds in natural charm and has a fine old church with a pyramid cap peeping out of the trees...Green hedges and ivied stone walls line the roads." I guess it hasn't changed that much since. It was the next village to where I spent my teenage years but strangely I have few memories of it. Was it because it had no pub, in fact never had a pub, so couldn't be a complete English village to my adolescent mind? Notwithstanding that it had an old church, an ancient holy well, a rail station, and within its boundaries Ashwell Open Prison and the Cottesmore Hunt kennels. What more do you want from an English village? Oh well, there's no village green and I can't remember whether it had a cricket team or not, but the kennels and station are gone.

The church is mostly C14 with a usual extensive Victorian restoration (1851). One unusual feature is the wooden effigy of a knight dated to about 1320. Few wooden monuments have survived from this time though there is another one not far away in Tickencote church. In the graveyard there is a monument to a former rector the Rev. J W Adams, the first clergyman to receive the VC (1879). Photos and more information at:

<https://www.leicestershirechurches.co.uk/ashwell-church-st-mary/>

<https://www.britainexpress.com/attractions.htm?attraction=4502>

Lunch beckons and as there's no pub in Ashwell we'll have to go on to **Market Overton** to the old Black Bull, a typical Rutland village pub which I recall visiting one evening with my mother back in the 1970s, a very unusual event so it does stick in the mind. We must have gone out for a drive one summer's evening and stopped for a pint, well, I stopped for a pint, I should say. I hope it will still be open; otherwise we'll have to bring sandwiches and sit in the churchyard.

<http://www.theblackbullmarketoverton.co.uk/>

Market Overton church is close to the pub, built on the site of a Roman fort. It's another mainly C14 church but retains in its tower arch the only significant Saxon masonry in Rutland. It has an unusual ornate Norman font which Arthur Mee thinks might be partly Roman, Pevsner disagrees. More details and photos at

<https://www.britainexpress.com/attractions.htm?attraction=4516>

<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101073229-church-of-st-peter-and-st-paul-market-overton>

Our last church is at **Buckminster**. Mee says "High up in the Wolds it stands, one of the most charming places in (Leicestershire), its dignified Georgian hall and park, its cottages and its green, the tree lined roads and new plantations, all conspiring to make it a village of delight." Pevsner agrees calling the village "handsome". It's got an old pub too, though its gourmet prices might be at variance with the idea of a traditional village pub! The church is interesting with unusually positioned tower, C13 broach spire and chancel and plenty of fine C14 traceried windows. An unusual feature is the C15 (?) ornate stone stair to the tower and former rood loft. There is also a large mainly red brick mausoleum to the Dysart family of c.1875 in the churchyard. Photos and more information at

<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101061281-church-of-st-john-the-baptist-buckminster>

<https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo/buckminster-church-leicestershire-village.html>

Further church photos can always be found online by entering the name of the church + Images in Google. Be careful as there can be more than one village by the same name; there is an Ashwell, for example, in Hertfordshire which has a Jenkins starred church.