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Featured website: Norfolk Churches/Suffolk Churches

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Featured website: Norfolk Churches/Suffolk Churches

Simon Knott runs the excellent Suffolk and Norfolk Churches sites. With the persistence of a true church crawler, he has visited, photographed, and researched 1,564 churches (at last count) in both counties as well as taking photographs of hundreds of churches in Cambridgeshire, Essex, Kent, and Lincolnshire. Here is what he says about the Suffolk site:

Welcome to the Suffolk churches website. This site is an independent guide to the Anglican, Catholic and non-conformist churches of the county of Suffolk, England. Actually, there's a bit more to it than that. This site is a journey, a travelogue. It is an act of art terrorism. This is churchcrawling as guerilla warfare. Or so they tell me. Between January 1998 and November 2003 I gradually made my way around this county, visiting all its Anglican and Catholic churches. Mostly, I cycled. Sometimes I walked, and I even went to some of them by car. It began as a kind of pilgrimage. On the way, the website took over, being featured on television and in the national press, and even becoming a BBC local radio series. In 2009 I started visiting them all again, this time taking in the non-conformist churches as well.

So, what will you find if you explore the site? Well, I've tried to describe each visit, partly as a way of keeping a record, partly as a way of documenting the county, and partly to enable you to experience something of the same thing yourself. I rarely phoned ahead, rarely said who I was, rarely made my intentions clear. The visit you will read about is pretty much the one you would make yourself. I took hundreds of thousands of photos, and many of them are here on the site. If you go to the main index, you'll find links to the individual churches. Read them in whatever order you like.

He has been in the vanguard of the movement to keep English parish churches unlocked and accessible. There is no question that his site has encouraged ever-larger numbers of travelers to visit these often remote sites of great beauty. His pithy descriptions and sensitive understanding of the art and architecture from the Middle Ages through the modern era is inspiring. Sites and references are interlinked and there are useful, illustrated essays on screens, wood carving, and more. Click on one of the churches listed in the index—it's likely that you'll linger on the site much longer than you intended to.

<http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/churchlists.htm>

<http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/mainpage.htm>

↓See screen shots below↓

