

Route 3: Eden Church Trail

The Eden Valley, in the footsteps of Lady Anne Clifford

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From Penrith travel to:

Brougham (15): Brougham Castle was built, like many early buildings, with those materials which were most readily available. Here, this included discarded Roman burial tombstones (see introduction).

Morland (16): The 11th century Saxon tower at Morland has the distinction of being the oldest used building in the



county. Originally a lookout refuge against intruders, it has walls five feet thick and a ladder made from a single oak tree in 1673 - purchased for 10/4d (52p).

Crosby Ravensworth (17): The Reverend Sydney Swann was an eccentric English clergyman. Resident here at the start of this Century, he experimented with cars and bicycles and spent much of this time in the vicarage stable, building aeroplanes. He made some of the earliest flights in the county from nearby fields and even gained a place in the 1909 Daily Mail challenge at Aintree Racecourse. How much time was spent tending to parishioners is unknown, but his energy and enthusiasm are well illustrated by a 300 mile bicycle ride to Euston in 1902. It took him less than 23 hours!

Ravenstonedale (18): This village boasts a beautiful Church, dedicated to one of the Saints who first preached the Gospel in the area. Walking into St Oswald's is like stepping back to the Georgian age; the Church has hardly changed since those times.

Easily missed, but of great importance, is the site of a medieval monastic community. The Gilbertines were a rare example of men and women living together in a mixed religious community.

Mallerstang (19): The tiny Anglican Church, long a place of worship for the dale, (reputedly founded in 1311) and refurbished by Lady Anne Clifford) welcomes residents and visitors to its twice monthly services.

Note the 13th Century bell, kneelers of local scenes and the churchyard memorial to those who died during the construction of the Settle to Carlisle Railway and were buried here.

Kirkby Stephen (20): Unusually, this ancient Anglican Church is without any dedication to a patron saint. The building is shared with the Roman Catholics. Norse legend was Christianised when the famous 8th century "Loki Stone" was brought into Church; it depicts the devil in chains, and is the only such stone to have survived in Britain, and one of only two in Europe. The entrance to the church, called The Cloisters, illustrates Christian Charity for it was built to protect the people of the town against the weather.

Appleby (21): The Lady Anne Clifford Trail available from Eden's Tourist Information Centres or our website, offers a fascinating insight into one of Westmorland's most famous Christian ladies. At 60 years of age, during the Civil War in 1649, she came north to spend 26 years renovating castles and churches. Keen to give



away wealth, she built St Anne's Hospital with its chapel in 1651. Close to the castle, it still houses a community of ladies in retirement.

Lady Anne lies buried in the Church of St Lawrence at the bottom of the main street. Here you can see the oldest church organ in the country, with casing dating from 1547.

Dufton (22): Eden's only canonised martyr was born here in 1543. St John Boste was educated at Appleby Grammar School, and took Anglican Orders at Queen's College, Oxford, returning to be the first head of his old school. He later trained for Roman Catholic Orders in Douai, France, and then came back to Protestant England to preach and celebrate the Mass in private houses. Persecuted and imprisoned in the Tower of London, he was finally hung, drawn and quartered at Durham in 1594.

Ninekirks (23): The mile walk across the fields to the Church is highly recommended. Built on the site of a Roman civil settlement which has now gone, the isolated Church, unchanged since Lady Anne Clifford refurbished it, nestles next to the River Eamon. Here, it is believed the 5th century Scottish Saint, Ninian, spent many years in prayer. To get there, follow the signpost on the A66 (northside), four miles east of Penrith.

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