



The Walk to Greensted Church

From Ongar station, the walk is approximately 3½ miles **each way**. Most of path is “across country” and so you need to be mindful of the weather conditions.

Turn left out of the station, walk up Station Approach and at the top turn right into the High Street and keep on the right hand side of the road. Walk down the High Street until you reach Budworth Hall which is at the junction with Banson's Lane. Turn right, walk along the road until you reach the footpath, keep walking straight until you reach a sign marked Essex Way. Walk all the way along the footpath until you reach the church.

Allow approx. one hour each way plus any time that you spend at the church

Greensted Church

St. Andrews Church, Greensted is the oldest wooden Church in the World, and the oldest ‘Stave Built’ timber building in Europe. The church represents some 1300 years of English history and Christian worship.

The 51 timber planks you see today date from about 1060, although excavations undertaken in the chancel in 1960 revealed the existence of two earlier timber structures dating from the 6th, and 7th centuries which is approximately when St. Cedd began his work of converting the Saxons to Christianity.

The church building shows a mixture of Saxon, Norman, Tudor and Victorian builders and includes a variety of extensions, repairs and restoration. In 1848/9 the church underwent severe restoration works, and in 1990 the church had to be stabilised. In 2005 the spire was completely re-shingled in Oak.

The body of Saint Edmund, King of East Anglia, who was England's first patron saint and martyred in 869AD (he was later replaced with St. George) rested in the church in 1013 on its way to Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk.

In 1837, following a public outcry against their harsh sentence of transportation to Australia, the ‘Tolpuddle Martyrs’ were returned to England and were given tenancies in Greensted and High Laver. In 1839 one of them James Brine married Elizabeth Standfield, the daughter of another of the martyrs at Greensted Church.