

## A Grand Day Out and the AGM!

**22 March 2018**

HCTG, Herefordshire Churches Tourism Group, has a great day planned for the day of the AGM. This will take place in Belmont Abbey at 10am and will be followed by a pre-booked coach trip to 3 of the amazing *Monastic Churches* in the County! Starting and ending in Ludlow the coach trip will cost **£25.00 per person** including a light lunch.

We start in the Benedictine Monastery at Belmont Abbey where we will take a look around the Augustus Pugin church, the man who designed the Houses of Parliament. It is one of only 2 Pugin buildings in the County. We will find out something about the daily life of the Monastery today too.

A short coach ride will take us to Dore Abbey which was originally built by the Cistercian Order of monks. The order was formed in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and was an attempt to get back to the original Benedictine way of life. Its name comes from Citeaux Abbey in France. Manual labour was a key change and the monks at Dore produced sheep that provided excellent quality wool. Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries put paid to the monastic settlement but we will find out more about how it survived until today.

After a brief stop for lunch we will head for another astounding building. If you have never been to Garway Church then prepare to be astonished by this Templar building. The **Knights Templar** was a Catholic military order recognised in 1139 by Papal Bull *Omne Datum Optimum*. The order was the wealthiest and most powerful, and grew rapidly in membership and power. Templar knights were the most skilled fighting units of the Crusades. Non-combatant members of the order managed a large economic infrastructure, the foundations of a banking system we would recognise today, and arguably forming the world's first multinational company. Readers of Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code* will recognise some of the symbols in this local church.

### **Itinerary for the Day**

08.55 Ludlow Park and Ride – Ludlow Eco Park

09.15 Leominster Broad Street Car Park

10.00 Belmont Abbey AGM and tour of Belmont Abbey

11.45 Dore Abbey

12.45 Woodlands Coffee Shop, Pontrilas for light lunch

14.15 St Michael's Church Garway (no toilet facilities)

15.30 Belmont Abbey

16.00 Leominster

16.30 Ludlow

### COACH Booking Form

Please return booking form and payment to HCTG Treasurer, Leintwardine House, Leintwardine, Craven Arms, SY7 OLB

<b>A Great Day Out and AGM 22 March 2018</b> <b>Closing date for booking Monday 12 March 2018</b>	
Name	
Contact email or telephone number	
Number of seats	
I/we will join the coach at	
Special dietary requirements. For example gluten free	
<p><b>Cost is £25.00 per person. Payment (please delete method not used) may be made by -</b></p> <p><b>Cheque payable to Herefordshire Churches Tourism Group</b></p> <p><b>Or</b></p> <p><b>On line banking credit to NatWest Sort Code 53-50-41</b>  <b>Account Number 55158684 with your name as reference</b></p> <p>Seat reservations will only be confirmed on receipt of payment.</p>	