

St Catherines Chapel

Set high on a hilltop overlooking Chesil Beach and the Isle of Portland, this barrel-vaulted 14th century chapel was built by the monks of the nearby Abbotsbury Abbey as a place of pilgrimage and retreat.

St Catherine is the patron saint of spinsters and virgins, particularly those in search of husbands, and until the late 19th century the chapel had a local tradition where young women of Abbotsbury would 'wish', which involved using the niches provided (one for a knee and two other two holes for the hands) in the east jamb of the south doorway to 'post' prayers and make a wish to the saint asking for her help and aid. A traditional prayer used here says:

A husband, St Catherine,
A handsome one, St Catherine,
A rich one, St Catherine,
A nice one, St Catherine,
And soon, St Catherine.

St Nicholas Church

St Nicholas was built as the Parish Church of Abbotsbury, alongside the Abbey Church of St Peter, in the late 14th or early 15th century. The oldest parts of the building are the tower and the north wall. Early in the 16th century the double arcade was built, and the south aisle was added

The Tower contains six bells, dating from 1636 to 1773; the bells were rehung in 1897.

The Porch is part of the original building and it contains an effigy, in Purbeck marble, of one of the early abbots.

The Organ was built by JW Walker & Sons and was dedicated on the 29th September 1886.

Abbotsbury Abbey

Dedicated to Saint Peter, was a Benedictine monastery in the village of Abbotsbury in Dorset, England. The Abbey was founded in the 11th century by King Cnut's thegn (meaning servant or retainer) Orc and his wife Tola, who handsomely endowed the monastery with lands in the area. The Abbey prospered and became a local centre of power, controlling eight manor houses and villages. During the later Middle Ages, the Abbey suffered much misfortune. In the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, the last abbot surrendered the abbey and the site was given to Sir Giles Strangways.

Today, the Abbey's remains, and those of the nearby St Catherine's Chapel, are in the guardianship of English Heritage.

Strangways Village Hall

Originally a schoolhouse built by the Earl of Ilchester in 1858.

The one-time school became Strangways Hall in 1985 and was given to the village in return for an annual rent of a bouquet of flowers and the condition that the Strangways name be remembered in the Hall's title. As a hall, it has become popular with many village groups (and several from further afield) as well as home to Chesil Bank Pre-School.

FURTHER INFORMATION For the village history, architecture, events and longer walks please visit www.abbotsbury.co.uk

A TOUR OF THE VILLAGE

PARKING

The village car park is situated in Rodden Row adjacent to the Swan Inn on the main Jurassic Heritage Coast Road running between Weymouth and Bridport.

EXPLORING THE VILLAGE

Walk One: Walking out of the car park by the main entrance takes you back into Rodden Row where you will find John Meaker's art studio, the Abbotsbury Fishing Tackle shop and Danel's designer wood work gallery.

Abbotsbury has one main street: Market Street begins at the junction between Church Street and Rodden Row (the tight corner!) and becomes West Street about midway through the village. In Market Street you will find the Abbotsbury Tearooms, Market House and the Bride Valley Farm shop selling local produce, cross the road to Town Farm House Airbnb.

Rounding the corner takes you into West Street with Chapel Lane, a turning on the left alongside the Post Office. This leads up the hill to St. Catherine's Chapel on the Jurassic Coast Path. There are superb panoramic views from the chapel and it is also possible to walk on from here down to the Swannery or to continue on the Jurassic Coast Path.

Chapel lane at the foot of Chapel Hill branches westwards to the Abbotsbury playground and onwards down to Chesil Beach. From the beach you can walk back to the village past the SubTropical Gardens.

If you prefer to continue along West Street you will find Chesil House self-catering apartments, Muddy Patches, Quintessential B&B and Cowards Lake Farmhouse B&B all on your left.

Retracing your steps now back to the centre of the village on the left of the village hall is Back Street where you will find The Old Schoolhouse Tearooms and the Helen Millard Glass Studio. A right-hand turn into Rosemary Lane past East Farm B&B will take you back opposite to the car park. The Swan Inn and Swan Lodge B&B are just to your left.

Walk Two: The lane on the south west corner of the car park heads to the Abbey Guest House, the remains of the abbey buildings and to the Tithe Barn with its pond and the resident swans, ducks, moorhens and coots. This lane also exits into St Nicholas Churchyard and thence to Church Street, past Number Five B&B and back to the junction of Rodden Row and Market Street.

Elworth Farmhouse self-catering cottage can be reached driving eastward from Rodden Row for 1.5 miles and turning right at Elworth corner. Gorwell Farm self-catering accommodation and Barn are a 2.0 mile drive inland from Back Street.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The X53 Jurassic Coast Bus stops in the centre of the village by Strangways Village Hall/ Ilchester Arms Hotel or by the Swan Inn. Please visit www.firstgroup.com for their timetable. Nearest Railway stations are Dorchester South, Dorchester West and Weymouth.



A Village to Explore

ABBOTSBURY

on Dorset's

Jurassic Coast

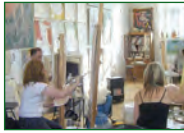
2021



www.abbotsbury.co.uk



2 HELEN MILLARD COME GLASS – A collection of handcrafted, handblown pieces by world renowned Helen Millard, inspired by her love of nature. Plus a variety of other visual artists' work for sale in this charming old chapel. Tel: 07597 338953. www.helenmillard.co.uk



6 ABBOTSBURY STUDIO – ...is a Teaching Studio and a Gallery for Painting and Drawing, running courses and classes. A resource encouraging dialogue between Artists. Welcoming novices and all comers to drop in and pay on the day. Tel: 07816 850107. www.abbotbsburystudio.co.uk



10 DANSEL GALLERY – ...specialise in selling contemporary woodwork, handmade by designer craftsmen in the UK. A wide range of work is available from bowls to furniture. Customer car park. Tel: 01305 871515. www.danselgallery.co.uk.



9 ABBOTSBURY FISHING TACKLE – We are able to supply rods and reels, fresh and frozen baits, lead weights, hooks, lures, traces and much more! Open six days a week including weekends. Tel: 01305 871199.



13 THE BRIDE VALLEY FARM SHOP – ...sells fresh local meat and dairy products. Beef from our own longhorn herd. Cream, cheese, eggs, lamb and pork from neighbouring farms. Tel: 01305 871235. www.dorsetlonghorn.co.uk



1 THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE TEAROOMS AND GARDEN – Serving morning coffee, light lunches throughout the day, delicious cream teas, cake stand teas and a gluten free menu. Cakes, scones and gluten free items all freshly made on the premises. Dog friendly, groups welcome. Tel: 01305 871808.



5 THE SWAN INN – A warm and friendly establishment offering exceptional value for money. Large choice of bar meals. Sunday roast. Enjoy indoor skittles in the family room or enjoy a drink in the cosy bar. Tel: 01305 871249.



11 ABBOTSBURY TEAROOMS – In the heart of the village, traditional and historic licensed Tea Rooms with attractive Tea Gardens serving morning coffees, light lunches, delicious Dorset cream teas & High teas. Groups & special events catered for. Tel: 01305 871757. www.abbotbsbury-tearooms.co.uk



3 EAST FARM HOUSE – Charming period farmhouse with en-suite facilities in all rooms. All the rustic charm of a 17th Century Dorset Longhouse. Tel: 01305 871363. www.eastfarmhouse.co.uk



4 SWAN LODGE – Situated in Rodden Row. All rooms en-suite and are fully equipped with beverage facilities and colour TV. Car parking. Open all year and popular with Jurassic Coast walkers. Tel: 01305 871249.

- Arts and crafts
- Shops
- Where to eat
- Accommodation - B&B
- Accommodation - self catering
- Other businesses
- T** Toilets
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Footpath
- B** Bus Stop



7 ABBEY HOUSE – Award winning licensed guest house set in beautiful gardens overlooking the historic Tithe-barn. Accommodation open all year. Serving lunches from March to October. Tel: 01305 871330. www.theabbeyhouse.co.uk



8 NUMBER FIVE B&B – 18th century stone cottage situated in the heart of Abbotsbury, off the main road so very quiet and peaceful. A comfortable double bedroom overlooked by our beautiful church. Free WiFi and private parking. Well behaved dogs by arrangement. Tel: 01305 871882 / 07887 981850.



11 ABBOTSBURY TEAROOMS B&B – Set in the heart of the village. Three very comfortable en-suite double bedrooms, all with TV and tea and coffee making facilities. The premises are licensed. Wi-Fi available. Tel: 01305 871757. www.abbotbsbury-tearooms.co.uk



14 TOWN FARMHOUSE – B&B in a large old house. One double bedded room, other with twin singles. Private bathroom, simple breakfast, free parking. Bookings: Email thcbar1@gmail.com or via airbnb: www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/2404112 www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/1576625



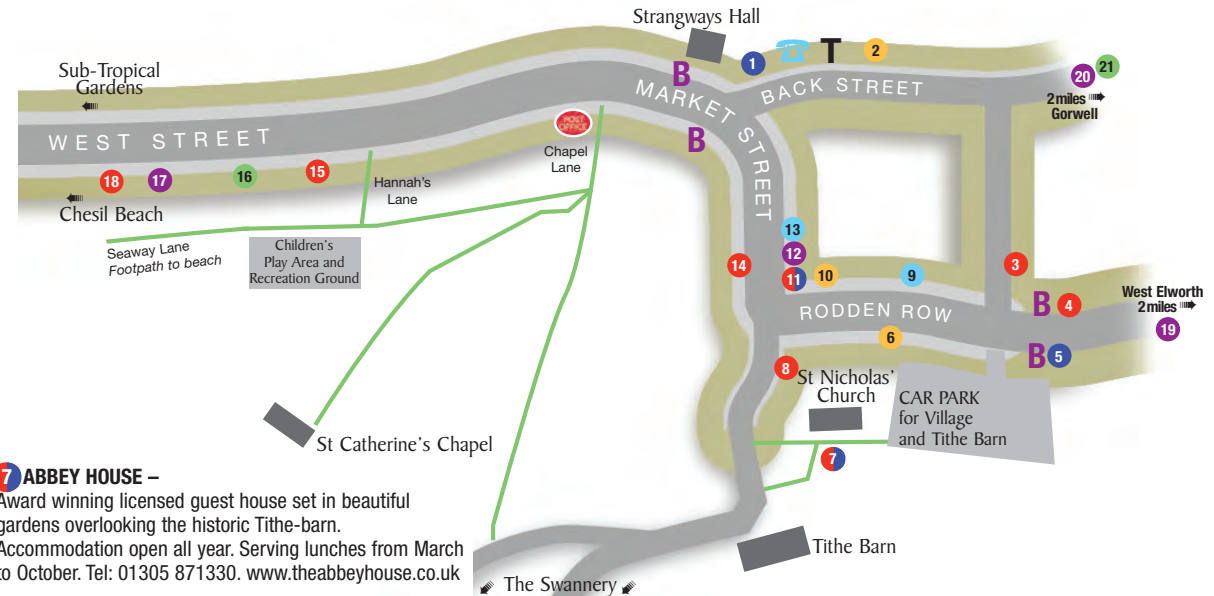
15 QUINTESSENTIAL B&B – Pretty en-suite bedrooms in listed stone house. Aga cooked breakfast. Woodburner. Iconic views. Parking. Warm welcome, clean rooms, good food and great service. See www.sawdays.co.uk. quintessentialdorsetbandb@gmail.com. Tel: 07967 886762.



18 COWARDS LAKE FARM HOUSE – Bed & Breakfast with private /en suite bathroom. TV, tea/coffee making facilities in bedrooms. Free Wi-Fi. Full English or Continental Breakfast. Sea views, off road parking. ★★★ & QiT Silver/Breakfast Award. Tel: 01305 871421. www.abbotbsbury.co.uk/wardslake



12 MARKET HOUSE – A tastefully updated and deceptively spacious period cottage with attractive original features set in the heart of the village. Sleeps 6 in 3 bedrooms. Free WiFi. Tel: 07818436637. www.abbotbsburyholidaycottage.com



17 CHESIL HOUSE APARTMENTS – Two, one bedroom, comfortable well equipped apartments, bordering the village cricket pitch with views of St Catherine's Chapel and Chesil Beach. Car parking. Tel: 01305 871324.



19 ELWORTH FARMHOUSE COTTAGE – Historic Grade II listed farmhouse offering an enchanting s/c cottage, situated in a farming hamlet near Abbotsbury village and Dorset coast path. Tel: 01305 871693. www.elworth-farmhouse.co.uk



20 GORWELL FARM – ★★★★★ Comfortable, well equipped spacious cottages in a beautiful wooded secret valley on our family farm close to Abbotsbury and Coastal Path. One cottage has level 2 accessibility. Tel: 01305 871401. www.gorwellfarm.co.uk



15 MUDDY PATCHES – ...Supplying and installing field shelters for all animals great and small. To the rear of our workshop, located on west street, we also stock a range of soils, plants and vegetables. We can also make pergolas, planters, log stores and potting sheds. Tel: 07913 966588.



21 GORWELL BARN – A 17th Century Barn for hire, with kitchen, toilets, underfloor heating, pretty surroundings and stunning views available to hire for weddings, events and other functions. Contact mary@gorwellfarm.co.uk or Tel: 01305 871401. www.gorwellbarn.co.uk

● ABBOTSBURY SOFTWARE – A high-tech software development company. Specialises in all aspects of computer technology, communications and databases. Tel: 07976 259325. www.abbotbsbury.com. tim.snape@mac.com