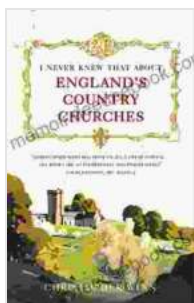


# Never Knew That: Uncovering the Hidden Gems of England's Country Churches

Nestled amidst rolling hills and verdant meadows, England's country churches stand as silent witnesses to centuries of history, faith, and local lore. Beyond their humble facades, these hidden gems conceal a wealth of intriguing stories, fascinating architectural details, and unexpected treasures that will captivate your imagination.



## I Never Knew That About England's Country Churches

by Christopher Winn

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 17194 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 368 pages
Paperback	: 192 pages
Item Weight	: 9.4 ounces
Dimensions	: 5.31 x 0.47 x 8.46 inches



## Hidden Paintings and Stained Glass

Many country churches boast hidden paintings or stained glass windows that have been concealed for centuries. In the village of Madingley, Cambridgeshire, the 14th-century church of St Mary's hides a remarkable set of medieval wall paintings depicting scenes from the Bible and the lives of saints. In the tranquil Cotswolds village of Bibury, the 17th-century St

Mary's Church features stunning stained glass windows crafted by renowned artist Sir Edward Burne-Jones, depicting scenes from the life of Christ.



### **Ancient Tombs and Effigies**

Country churches often house the tombs and effigies of notable historical figures and local dignitaries. Inside the grand St James' Church in Louth, Lincolnshire, visitors can marvel at the elaborate alabaster tomb of Sir John and Lady Monson, dating back to the 15th century. In the ancient village of Bakewell, Derbyshire, the 13th-century St Mary's Church contains the poignant effigy of Lady Alice de Fenwick, her hands folded in prayer and her face frozen in time.

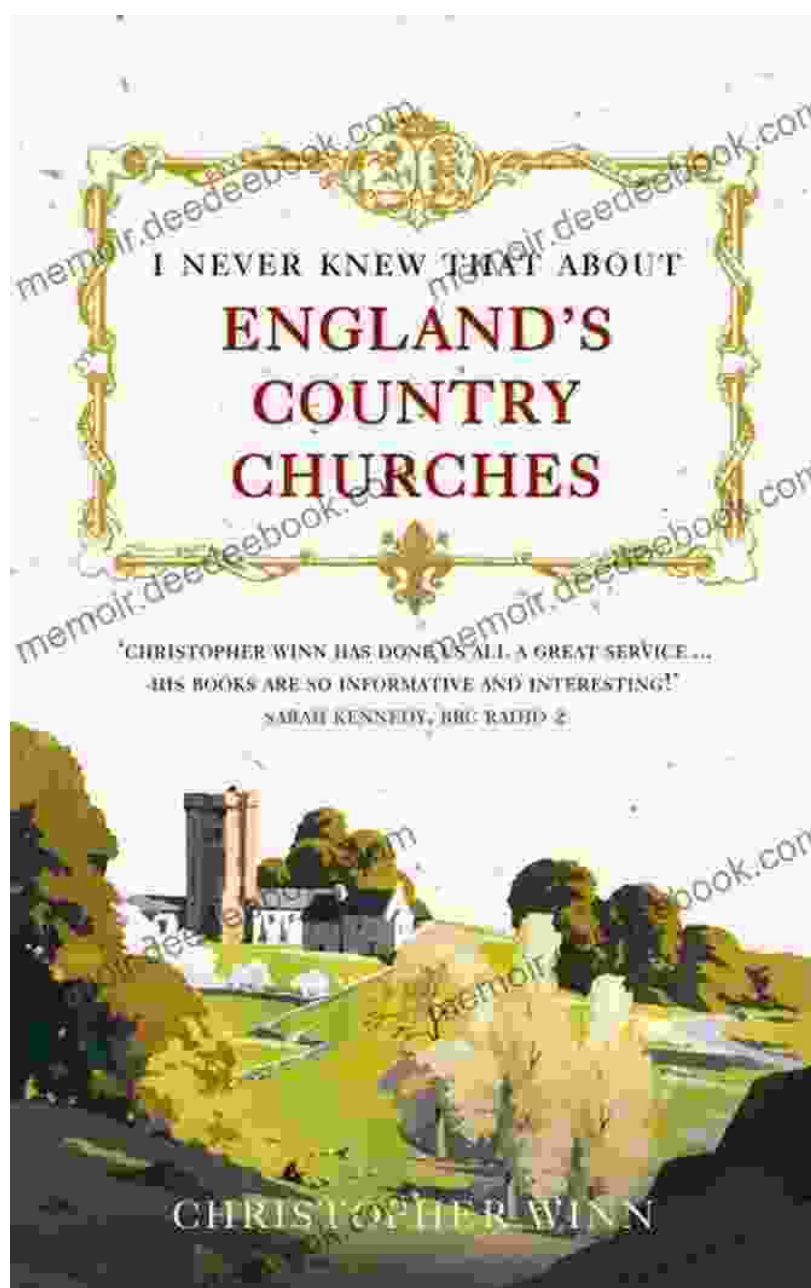


Witnessing the grandeur of the past in St James' Church, Louth

### **Unusual Monuments and Curiosities**

Some country churches are home to unusual monuments and curiosities that defy easy explanation. In the charming village of Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester, the 15th-century St Michael's Church houses a

mysterious stone carving known as the "Witch's Mark." Legend has it that the mark was carved by a witch to ward off evil spirits. In the remote village of Staunton Harold, Leicestershire, the 12th-century St Peter's Church features an enigmatic carved stone head known as the "Green Man," whose origins and significance remain unknown.



## Local Legends and Ghost Stories

Many country churches are steeped in local legends and ghost stories that have been passed down through generations. In the picturesque village of Haworth, Yorkshire, the 12th-century St Michael and All Angels Church is said to be haunted by the ghost of the Brontë sisters, who lived and wrote in the nearby parsonage. In the eerie ruins of Old Sarum Cathedral in Wiltshire, visitors may encounter the restless spirit of a medieval bishop who was murdered on the altar steps.

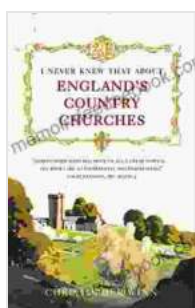


Venturing into the realm of the supernatural at St Michael and All Angels Church, Haworth

England's country churches invite us on a captivating journey through history, art, and the collective imagination. Beyond their unassuming exteriors, these hidden gems hold a wealth of surprises and untold stories

that will leave you spellbound. Whether you seek hidden paintings, ancient tombs, unusual monuments, or local legends, the country churches of England promise an unforgettable and enchanting experience.

So, embark on a pilgrimage to these rural sanctuaries and discover the secrets they hold. You will return forever changed, filled with a newfound appreciation for the rich heritage and captivating charm of England's country churches.



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