

Northfield gets its name from the Anglo-Saxon words, 'Nord Feld' meaning an open space north of a settlement. For a long part of its history Northfield was a rural, farming community owned by the Lords of Dudley. The old village was located around the church. St Laurence Church is one of the oldest churches in Birmingham.

Overtime, industry developed with milling taking place in water mills on the river Rea and nail-making in the workshops of people's homes. The Birmingham to Gloucester Railway was built coming through the area and a station opened in 1870. This allowed people to make their home in Northfield and travel to work in Birmingham. The area was starting to change.

The Cadbury brothers sited their famous chocolate factory nearby at Bournville and, in 1905, Herbert Austin opened a car factory in Longbridge. Workers and their families need homes and new housing estates were built in and around Northfield. It became part of the city of Birmingham in 1911.

The narrow road next to the church was once 'two way' but as cars became more convenient and affordable a one-way system was created. Today, this is Northfield Conservation Area, a peaceful and fitting reminder of Old Northfield.

Northfield Revealed is a new community project for everyone to explore and enjoy the heritage of Northfield. There will be new information panels, heritage trails & activities for all. The project includes opportunities for local schoolchildren to learn about the vibrant area in which they live and an exciting community stitching project to create a 3D model of the Norman Arch.

The project will also see the construction of an internal glass porch at St Laurence to make the church warmer and more welcoming.



This interactive trail is for local people of all ages to use on a gentle walk from Northfield Library to St Laurence Church. Please Share! #NorthfieldRevealed



StLaurenceB31



StLaurenceChurchNorthfield



StLaurence Northfield

Find out more at [www.stlaurencenorthfield.org](http://www.stlaurencenorthfield.org)

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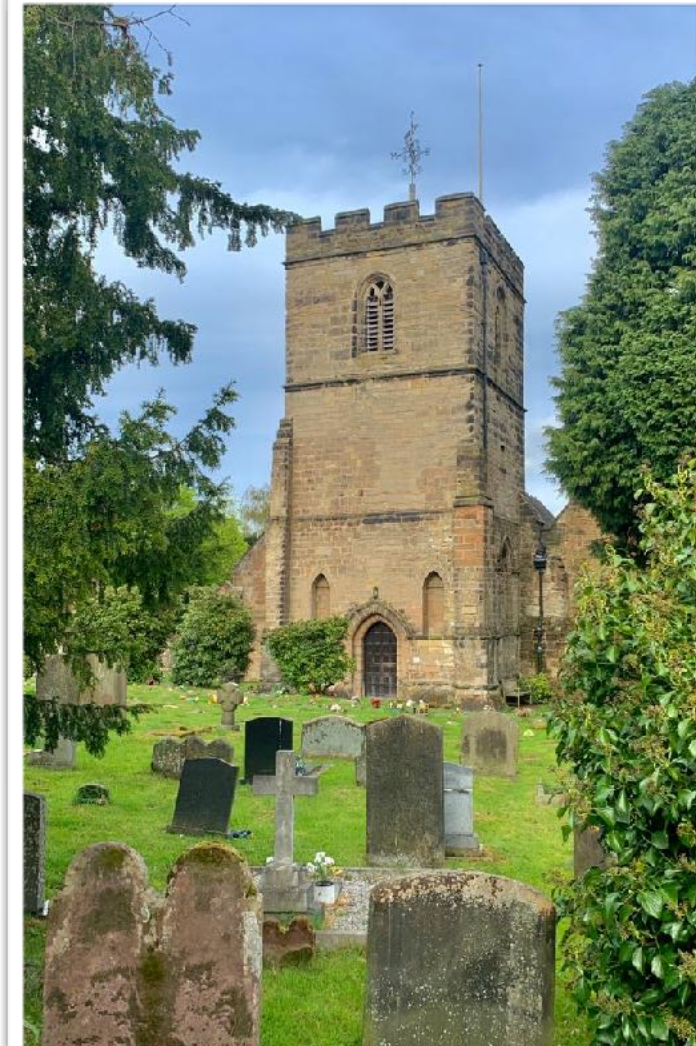


NORTHFIELD  
*Revealed*



# NORTHFIELD *Revealed*

Use this family trail to discover parts of Old Northfield village to reveal its rich, diverse and hidden heritage.



1. Northfield Library was rebuilt after a fire nearly destroyed it. Suffragettes set fire to the library to attract publicity for their campaign for women's right to vote. Look for the

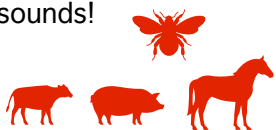
Birmingham Civic Society plaque. What year did the event take place?



2. The Pound is where stray animals were taken until their owners paid a fine and retrieved them. Bulls, cows, horses, hens, pigs, boars and even a swarm of bees were brought here!



Make some animal sounds!

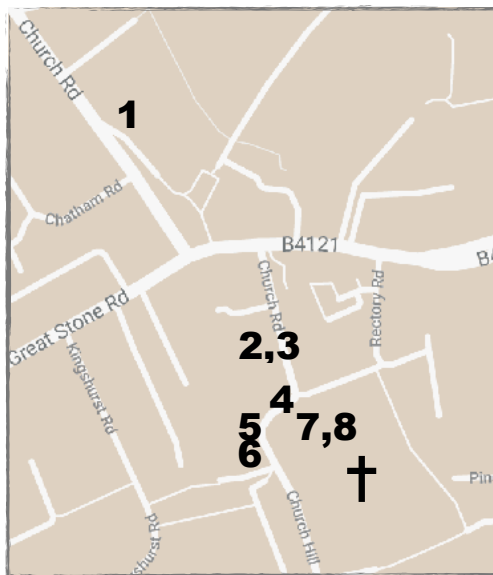


3. The Great Stone is a large boulder broken away from a larger mass of rock in Wales. It was carried here as part of the ice flow during the last Ice Age. It is known as a glacier erratic! It used to sit right outside the pub next door.

How far away is Wales?  
5 km?  
50 km?  
160 km?



8. Look for this old graffiti. (It's near the old arched doorway) There are two dates. What global event do you think the dates are marking?



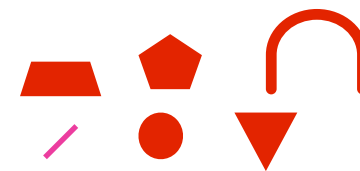
4. Over 600 years ago, The Great Stone Inn was once a grand home. Later on, it became an inn offering somewhere for travellers and their horses to sleep and eat.



Why do you think it got its name?

7. This doorway is on the church. Around 850 years old and dating from Norman times. It is the oldest bit of architecture in Birmingham!

Can you see the Norman beak heads? Name other shapes you see!



6. Carry on to the old school behind the hedge on Church Hill. There is a stone panel inscribed Northfield Schools A.D. MDCCCXXXVII.

What does the Roman numeral C stand for?



5. The old nailmakers' cottages near the church had a pig pen, a workshop, a brewhouse, a dovecote and an outdoor lavatory.

Can you spot the date and initials in the brickwork on the side wall?

