

Nearby places to visit

The Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft
Belton Road
Sandtoft
DN8 5SX
☎ 01724 711391
✉ trolleybusmuseum@sandtoft.org.uk
🌐 www.sandtoft.org.uk

The Old Smithy and Heritage Centre
High Street
Owston Ferry
☎ 01427 728325
✉ davewilliams24@tiscali.co.uk

Stonecrop Herbs
East Lound
Haxey
DN9 2LR
☎ 01427 753355
Open by appointment

Skyers Farm Riding School
Carrside
Epworth
DN9 1DX
☎ 01427 874962
✉ A-Oliver1@btinternet.com
🌐 www.skyersfarm-ridingschool.co.uk

St Oswald's Church
Church Street
Crowle
DN17 4LE
☎ 01724 710973

How to get here



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Getting here is easy...

By Road - the M180 runs through the centre of the area, giving direct access to the national motorway network. It is an easy drive to north Lincolnshire from Hull, Lincoln, Leeds, Doncaster, York and Sheffield all under an hour.

By Rail - connections from Scunthorpe and Crowle give easy access to the East Coast Mainline at Doncaster. Call enquiries on 08457 484950 for more information.

By Bus - local and express services run throughout the area. For more details call Traveline on 08712 002233 or visit www.traveline.info



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Epworth

And The Isle of Axholme



Welcome to Epworth

Come and discover the rich culture and heritage of this charming market town. Epworth is nestled at the centre of the Isle of Axholme, once a unique island. The area was drained by a Dutch engineer Vermuyden and has now become popular as a visitor destination.

With so much to do there is no excuse not to visit Epworth. From hours spent browsing the independent shops and boutiques searching for that special gift to finding plants for the garden.

Epworth is most famous as the birthplace of John and Charles Wesley, the founders of World Methodism. Take time to follow the Wesley Trail around the town and let it take you on a voyage of discovery.

Take time to visit Epworth Old Rectory and learn about the bustling lives of the Wesley family then head over to St Andrew's, a beautiful recently refurbished 12th century church. Not to be missed along the trail is the stunning Wesley Memorial Methodist Church and many other reminders of the town's most famous sons.

One day is simply not enough time to discover all that Epworth has to offer.

For more information on great days out and places to stay in the area call our dedicated tourist information centres on 01652 657053 (Brigg) and 01652 631500 (Barton)



Speciality Shopping

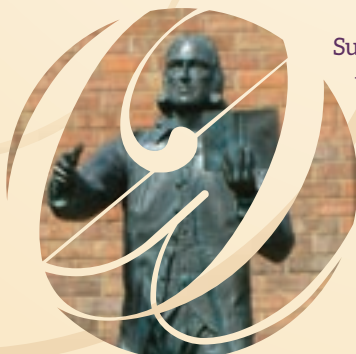
Why not take a walk around the historic streets of Epworth and discover the great shopping opportunities the town has to offer? Epworth's friendly and welcoming shopkeepers are always happy to help you find that perfect gift, or even a treat for yourself.

With a wide selection of independent shops selling everything from stylish clothes to tasty deli treats, Epworth has so much to discover.

The colourful displays in the local florists are welcome reminders of Epworth's agricultural links, whilst the local garden centre has everything you need to satisfy your green fingers.

Once you've shopped till you've dropped and are in need of some energy why not stop for a bite to eat in one of Epworth's finest tearooms or cafés. There is a great choice to get your taste buds tingling.

Surrounded by the impressive sights of the town's Dutch influenced architecture and grand churches, shopping in Epworth is an experience you'll want to repeat again and again.



The Isle of Axholme

Why not pay a visit to this fascinating corner of North Lincolnshire and discover all the secrets it has to offer?

Every year on the twelfth night of Christmas the residents of Haxey and the surrounding villages take part in one of Britain's oldest and strangest traditions, the Haxey Hood. Watch as hundreds of people tussle as they re-enact the legend of Lady Mowbray's lost hood with the brightly dressed 'Fool' at their head.

Once upon a time it would have far easier to fish the Isle than to farm it, that was until Dutch engineer Vermuyden drained the land and created some of the most fertile land in Britain. Take a walk into the countryside around the Isle and you can still see strip farming taking place. Don't miss the annual Festival of the Plough, step back in time and experience the sight of traditional horse drawn ploughs and vintage tractors as well as live music and family fun.

Finally not to be missed is the charming market town of Crowle with the ancient Crowle Stone in St Oswald's Church. Visit Owston Ferry Smithy and Heritage Centre, then explore the Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft which is home to the world's largest collection of trolleybuses.



The Wesley Trail

The perfect way to see the best of Epworth's Wesleyan heritage is to put on your walking shoes and explore the town's Wesley Trail. Follow the trail boards as they take you back in time and discover how this once quiet town has shaped world religion as well as shedding light on other stories from Epworth's fascinating history.

Discover St Andrew's Church hidden up the tree lined Church Walk and Vinegarth, the site of an ancient manor belonging to the powerful Mowbray family.

Why not pay a visit to Epworth Old Rectory, the childhood home of John and Charles Wesley and then take in the beautiful architecture and sights of the Wesley Memorial Church?

Take time to soak up the atmosphere in the Market Place. Here you will find the Market Cross where John Wesley delivered many of his rousing sermons. Only a few steps away you will find the statue erected in 2003 to celebrate the tercentenary of John's birth.

We recommend that you allow at least four hours for your visit to Epworth. That will give you plenty of time to explore the trail and enjoy tours of the churches and Epworth Old Rectory.

Wesley Memorial Methodist Church

As Epworth's most famous sons and founders of the worldwide Methodist movement, a spectacular memorial to John and Charles Wesley stands in the streets of their home town. Built in 1889 and set in beautiful formal gardens the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church is an inspiring reminder of the achievements of these remarkable men.

Come and see the unique chancel window where three colourful panels illustrate the story of Christ and his disciples. Above the panels you can find a portrait of John and his hymn writing brother Charles, both facing towards their childhood home, Epworth Old Rectory. Encircling the portrait are John's most famous words "the best of all is, God is with us".

Just across the road is another link to the town's strong spiritual heritage. Alexander Kilham was the son of an Epworth linen weaver and rose to found the Methodist New Connexion.

Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, High Street, Epworth DN9 1EP
☎ 01427 872319
✉ david.leese@tinyworld.co.uk
Open daily from 10am till 4pm.
An introductory talk on the church and town are available by prior booking.

St Andrew's Church

This beautiful grade 1 listed building dates from the 12th century and has very strong connections to the Wesley family.

For many years St Andrew's Church acted as the centre of faith for the Wesleys. Samuel Wesley was the rector of the church between 1695 and 1735, and was buried in the grounds near the south porch. When John was denied permission to preach in the church because of his innovative beliefs he did this from his father's tomb. Come and see the place where so many were inspired and where ideas were shared which formed the foundations for the worldwide Methodist movement.

Beside the church lies another secret from Epworth's mysterious past. Vinegarth was the site of an ancient manor house belonging to the powerful Mowbray family, a medieval dynasty that our present day royal family are descended from. Find the rearing lion of the Mowbray's crest in the North porch of the church.



St Andrew's Church has been through some extensive re-ordering work over the last few years and is now back open to the public and should not be missed when visiting Epworth.

St Andrews Church, Church Walk, Epworth DN9 1ES

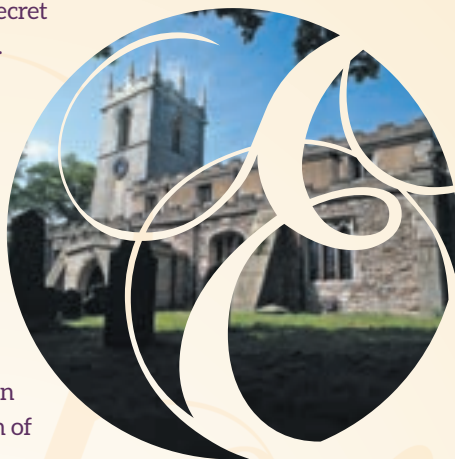
☎ 01427 872080

✉ melvynrose@tiscali.co.uk

🌐 www.standrewsepworth.co.uk

Open daily 2.30pm till 4.30pm.

Guided tours by prior appointment.



Epworth Old Rectory

Epworth Old Rectory was the busy home of the Rector Samuel Wesley, his wife Susanna and their ten children. The house was rebuilt in 1709 following the devastating fire from which the young John Wesley was rescued. As you take a tour you can see the restored 18th century fireplaces and impressive entrance hall, bedrooms, the study, nursery and the kitchens. The Fore kitchen may have been the site of Susanna Wesley's home-school for her children and her worship services which, it was reported, 200 people attended. This was the methodical inspiration which lay behind John Wesley's ministry.

Take a walk through the Rectory's peaceful Physic Garden to see many of the plants John used in his "Primitive Physic" or just take a moment to relax in this haven of tranquillity.

Special tours and events are held throughout the year, groups and schools are welcome. It is a grade 1 listed building, an accredited museum, funded and run by the Methodist Church. A development project "Welcome Home" is in progress to return the house to its early 18th century state. Discoveries such as early wallpaper and a concealed shoe have been made along the way.

Epworth Old Rectory, 1 Rectory Street,

Epworth DN9 1HX

☎ 01427 872268

✉ curator@epwortholdrectory.org.uk

🌐 www.epwortholdrectory.org.uk

Open from March to October, Tuesdays to Saturdays and Bank Holiday Mondays, please see website for more details.

