Tewkesbury Abby

Tewkesbury Abby in [Gloucestershire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gloucestershire), is a [parish church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_England_parish_church) and a former [Benedictine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benedictine) [monastery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monastery). It is one of the nicest pieces of [Norman architecture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_architecture) in Britain, and has probably the largest Romanesque crossing tower in Europe. The building as we see it today was started in the early 12th century. It was supposed to be used as a [sanctuary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanctuary) in the [Wars of the Roses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wars_of_the_Roses) but after the [Battle of Tewkesbury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Tewkesbury) in the [Wars of the Roses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wars_of_the_Roses) on 4 May 1471, some of the defeated Lancastrians found [sanctuary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanctuary) in the abbey but The victorious Yorkists, led by King [Edward IV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_IV_of_England), forced their way into the abbey and it resulted in bloodshed causing the building to be closed for a month until it could be purified and re-consecrated.

After the [end of the Monasteries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dissolution_of_the_Monasteries) it became the parish church for the town. The church and churchyard within the abbey precincts includes tombs and memorials to many of the high class people of the area at this time.

The church is one of the finest [Norman buildings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanesque_architecture) in England. Its huge [crossing tower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crossing_tower) has been said to be "probably the largest and finest [Romanesque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanesque_architecture) tower in England"

The Abbey's 17th-century [organ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pipe_organ) also known as the Milton Organ was originally made for [Magdalen College in Oxford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magdalen_College,_Oxford). After the [English Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Civil_War) it was removed to the [chapel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapel) of [Hampton Court Palace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hampton_Court_Palace), where the poet Milton may have played it, It came to Tewkesbury in 1737. Since then, it has undergone several major rebuilds. A description of the organ can be found on the [National Pipe Organ Register](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Pipe_Organ_Register). The bells at the Abbey where repaired and updated in 1962 and the [ring](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ring_of_bells) is now made up of twelve bells … very interesting, back then horse and carriage was a popular way of transport it must have been very difficult for them to keep moving the bell up and down the tower and to deliver it back and forth! It must of needed some strong horse power!

**Prisoner of War Camp 1009, Northway, Ashchurch**

Ashchurch is a village in the [Tewkesbury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tewkesbury_(district)) district, it is roughly 2 miles east of Tewkesbury. During the WWII Ashchurch had a prisoner of war camp for Germans, It was known as a German Working Camp.

The site measured 300m long by 185m wide. It was situated on the grounds of what was once part of the Northway House Estate, in Ashchurch , Tewkesbury. The POW camp had a wire fence surrounding it and guard towers. It was thought to be a collection of nineteen huts, in dormitory style each had electricity and stove heating with a capacity of 800 men! It must of took some resources to get that all delivered and set up! Most of the prisoners were German captured in France and Germany after D-Day. This camp closed in 1947 and remained largely empty until it was created into a housing estate.

A prisoner of war is a person, [combatant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combatant) or a [non-combatant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-combatant), who is held captive by a militant power during or just after a war or armed combat. The earliest record of a "prisoner of war" dates back to 1660!!

They hold prisoners of war in custody for a range of reasons, such as isolating them from enemy combatants still in the field, demonstrating military victory, punishing them, prosecuting them for [war crimes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_crime), exploiting them for their labour, recruiting or even [conscripting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conscription) them as their own combatants, collecting military and political intelligence from them, or [indoctrinating](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indoctrination) them in new political or religious beliefs.

POW have got rights that should be obeyed Under the [Third Geneva Convention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Geneva_Convention), they must be ….

Treated humanely with respect for their persons and their honour

Able to inform their next of kin and the [International Committee of the Red Cross](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Committee_of_the_Red_Cross) of their capture

Allowed to communicate regularly with relatives and receive packages

Given adequate food, clothing, housing, and medical attention

Paid for work done and not forced to do work that is dangerous, unhealthy, or degrading

Released quickly after conflicts end

Not compelled to give any information except for name, age, rank, and service number

If wounded or sick on the battlefield, the prisoner will receive help from the [International Committee of the Red Cross](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Committee_of_the_Red_Cross).

When a country is responsible for breaches of prisoner of war rights, those accountable will be punished accordingly, During the WWII the people responsible for this most of them were executed or sentenced to life in prison for their crimes depending on what they did.

Tewkesbury Rivers

There are two rivers that cross in Tewkesbury, the river Avon and the river Severn. The Avon goes from Tewkesbury up to Stratford-Upon-Avon which is 45 miles long! The river is one of the most picturesque cruising grounds in Britain. It has low banks which makes the view of the countryside easy to admire as you slowly drift down the river, the river flows through the Vale of Evesham and north Cotswolds also passing through historic towns and quaint villages.

The Severn river is the longest river in Britain, It flows through Shropshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire and then enters the Bristol Channel.

The Severn starts at Gloucester the boats can travel 47 miles upstream past Tewkesbury, Upton and Worcester and on towards Stourport and Bewdley, with plenty of pubs along with way to stop at for food and drink! Tewkesbury rivers are a popular place for Holidays on a boat and are the perfect way to relax and enjoy the scenery. Hiring a canal boat or river boat or taking a river cruise all offer great opportunities to explore the Rivers Avon and Severn.

Tewkesbury is known for its flooding and have many procedures put in place to help when waters get high but in 2007 there was a flood that Tewkesbury will remember! the summer of 2007 was one of the wettest on record, On 20th July, two months' worth of rain fell in 14 hours, leading to mass flooding. Tewkesbury set up rest centres for food and drink, gave out sand bags, provided support, collected flood damaged goods, provided portaloos, help clear up and repair after the aftermath and help raise money for those effected. Tewkesbury also received help through donations and voluntary help at community facilities to help where they can. With flood water reaching over two metres in some places, over 1800 homes were flooded within the district. Electricity was lost to 48,000 homes across Gloucestershire for two days. Over half the homes in Gloucestershire and 7,500 businesses were without any mains water for up to 12 days - and 17 days for drinking water.

There was a lot of organising and delivering in this time such as 25,000 sand bags, drinking water and essential supplies to the residents of Tewkesbury, it is also a lot of couriering out of Tewkesbury for damaged goods from the flood with over 700 requests for flood damaged items to be removed! It was essential for deliveries to be urgent and same day couriers like us did there best to deliver to Tewkesbury and out of Tewkesbury to help all in need and get this lovely town back to normal.

**The Battle of Tewkesbury**

On 4th May 1471 was one of the most decisive encounters in the [Wars of the Roses](https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/The-Wars-of-the-Roses/). Following the Lancastrian army defeat at the [Battle of Barnet](https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryMagazine/DestinationsUK/The-Battle-of-Barnet/) the month before, the 6,000 strong Lancastrian army under the command of the Duke of Somerset were looking to cross the River Severn into Wales to join forces with Jasper Tudor. King Edward IV had heard their plans and set off with 5,000 Yorkists to stop and confront his enemy, the Lancastrians arrived at Tewkesbury on 3rd May but rather than risk getting caught attempting the difficult river crossing, Somerset chose to battle the Yorkists that where not far behind them! the following morning the Lancastrians took up a defensive position a mile south of the town. Because of to their position, the Yorkists found it difficult to power over gain control and where attacked with arrows and shot but eventually King Edward IV men managed to hold them and slowly beating the Lancastrians back along the river banks, causing the Lancastrian ranks to brake as they fled the field down to the river, an area still known today as the Bloody Meadow.

The Lancastrian Queen Margaret who was taking refuge nearby was captured and imprisoned and her husband King Henry VI was executed shortly afterwards. The battle was the end of the second part of the Wars of the Roses, Yorkist monarchs would rule England peacefully for the next fourteen years.

M5

The M5 is known for its congestion and struggle to keep up with the demand of traffic using the road. Our same day couriers Tewkesbury are always up to date on the traffic on this road they know the prime time to avoid to make sure our deliveries re made on time. Also the county council have been trying to do their part in making the road in certain areas less congested with much needed upgrades. The first 26 miles of the M5 motorway was built as a dual two-lane motorway, by [Worcestershire County Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worcestershire_County_Council). This section is from Junction 4 in the north to [trumpet junction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trumpet_interchange) with the [M50](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M50_motorway_(Great_Britain)) in the south it opened in July 1962.

The dual 2-lane motorway cost around £8 million to build. The Motorway was also built with a smaller width of 88 feet rather than 100 to reduce the loss of agricultural land, when it became necessary to widen the Worcestershire section of M5, it cost a whopping £123 million!The next upgrade was to then make a 3 lane and waswidened to a dual three-lane motorway in 1969 to try and help with the congestion and traffic.

As the M5 traffic increased in the 1980’s Junction 11, the main Gloucester & Cheltenham access became increasingly congested. To relieve Junction 11 of some of the traffic and avoid more congestion around both Cheltenham & Gloucester, the council added a new Junction … 11A, 3.5 miles south of Junction 11, it opened in the mid 1990’s. Many more parts of the M5 have been upgraded and some parts have 4 lanes! This road will always need upgrading to keep up with the demand of people commuting to and from work, deliveries and people going away.

It’s not just upgrades that happen on the M5 there are other unsettling thing happening such as In October 2009 some workmen where clearing some over grown bushes by the M5 at Junction 14 and discovered human [bones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bone) in a black [bin bag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bin_bag) in a bush! The police were called and realised it was a young female, A few days later the DNA came back and they found out it was the body of [Melanie Hall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder_of_Melanie_Hall), she had disappeared in June 1996 after a night out in [Bath](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bath,_Somerset), and who had been declared dead without a body in 2004. the police began a formal investigation into her murder but as of 2016 no one has been prosecuted in connection with this case.

Another unsettling tragedy happened On the evening of Friday 4 November 2011, seven people were killed and 51 people injured in a major crash involving over 50 vehicles which included cars, [vans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light_commercial_vehicle) and [large goods vehicles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Large_goods_vehicle) near Junction 25 in [West Monkton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Monkton), near [Taunton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taunton). Several vehicles were burnt in the fire which developed at the scene as the result of explosions, and the road surface was seriously damaged, not just by the fire and explosions, but also by fuel spillage. The cause of the crash, which took place in wet foggy conditions close to a [firework display](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fireworks), was investigated. One person was charged for breach under [health and safety laws](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_and_Safety_at_Work_etc._Act_1974) and found not guilty.