



# WORCESTER HERITAGE WALK

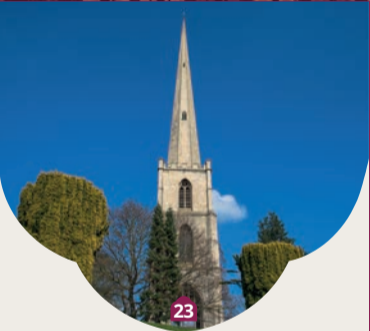
One place to start the circular Heritage Trail of Worcester is **The Guildhall 1**, a Queen Anne style historic building dating back to 1721, once home to the law courts and prison cells. The ornate façade of this Grade I listed building was designed by Thomas White, a pupil of Sir Christopher Wren.



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Bear left up Bridge Street, crossing the road at the pedestrian crossing into Deansway. On your right is **St Andrew's Spire 23**, known locally as The Glover's Needle because of its shape and Worcester's association with glove making; the medieval church was demolished in 1948/1949 as it was believed to be structurally unsound and a public garden was opened in 1953 to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

From here turn left up Copenhagen Street, where you pass the building on your left which housed the **City of Worcester Police Force 24** from 1862 to 1941 (see plaque) and then brings you back onto the High Street outside **The Guildhall 1**.



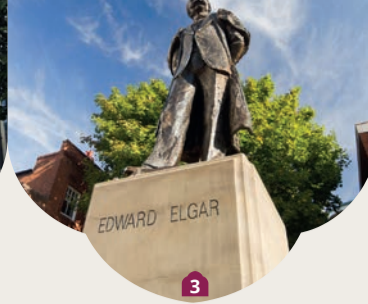
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Continue down the High Street passing **St Helen's Church 2** on the corner of Fish Street; this beautiful 15th Century building occupies the earliest site of Christian worship in Worcester.

A **statue to Sir Edward Elgar 3** (1857–1934), is situated at the end of the High Street. He is regarded as one of the world's greatest composers.

Cross the road to **Worcester Cathedral 4**; an inspirational site since the 7th Century, the final resting place of King John, two saints, a prince, a duke and a prime minister. Highlights in the Cathedral are the magnificent stained glass, 11th Century round chapter house and the beautiful Norman crypt.

On the left of the Cathedral, continue down the cobbled College Precinct, passing through the **Edgar Tower 5**, a 14th Century gatehouse, on your right, crossing College Green and going down the steps to take a look at **Flood Marks Wall 6**; this unassuming wall on the river path behind the Cathedral displays the severity of Worcester's floods since c1700.



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Turn left on Severn Way and walk along the river until you reach the Diglis House Hotel, turning left into Severn Street. The **Museum of Royal Worcester 7** on your right. Production of porcelain began in the City over 250 years ago.

Turn right down King Street and cross over the main road; this brings you onto Sidbury. Walk over the Worcester to Birmingham canal bridge with its Civil War pikes and helmets to **The Commandery 8**; this Grade II listed building has over 800 years of history and was the headquarters of the Royalists during the decisive final battle of the English Civil War.

Retrace your footsteps up Sidbury, turning right down Friar Street which, from the 13th Century until the Reformation, was dominated by a Franciscan friary and contains some of the most interesting medieval buildings in Worcester. **Tudor House 9** is a 16th Century close-studded timber-framed building, originally weavers' cottages. Continuing up Friar Street brings you to **Greyfriars 10**, a beautiful timber-framed merchant's house built in 1481 and saved from demolition in the 1940s.

## Contacts

### Greyfriars House and Gardens (National Trust)

✉ Friar Street, Worcester WR1 2LZ ☎ 01905 23571  
🌐 [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/greyfriars-house-and-garden](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/greyfriars-house-and-garden)

### Museum of Royal Worcester

✉ Severn Street, Worcester WR1 2ND ☎ 01905 21247  
🌐 [www.museumofroyalworchester.org](http://www.museumofroyalworchester.org)

### St Helen's Church on the High Street

✉ Fish Street, Worcester WR1 2HN ☎ 01905 734625  
🌐 [www.sthelensworchester.org.uk/](http://www.sthelensworchester.org.uk/)

### Old St Martin's Church in the Cornmarket

✉ The Cornmarket, Worcester WR1 2PL ☎ 01905 25952  
🌐 [www.stmartininthecornmarket.co.uk](http://www.stmartininthecornmarket.co.uk)

### St Swithun's Church

✉ Church Terrace, High Street, Worcester WR1 2RH ☎ 07919 564086  
🌐 [www.visitchurches.org.uk/visit/church-listing/st-swithun-worcester.html](http://www.visitchurches.org.uk/visit/church-listing/st-swithun-worcester.html)

### The Commandery

✉ Sidbury, Worcester WR1 2HU ☎ 01905 361821  
🌐 [www.museumsworcestershireshire.org.uk](http://www.museumsworcestershireshire.org.uk)

### The Guildhall

✉ High Street, Worcester WR1 2EY ☎ 01905 722308  
🌐 [www.worcesterguildhall.co.uk](http://www.worcesterguildhall.co.uk)

### Tudor House Museum

✉ Friar Street, Worcester WR1 2NA ☎ 01905 612309  
🌐 [www.tudorhouse.org.uk](http://www.tudorhouse.org.uk)

### Worcester Cathedral

✉ College Yard, Worcester WR1 2LA ☎ 01905 732900  
🌐 [www.worcestercathedral.co.uk](http://www.worcestercathedral.co.uk)

## Out of the City Centre

### George Marshall Medical Museum

✉ Charles Hastings Education Centre, Charles Hastings Way, Worcester WR5 1DD ☎ 01905 760738 🌐 [www.medicalmuseum.org.uk](http://www.medicalmuseum.org.uk)

### Worcestershire Museum of Freemasonry

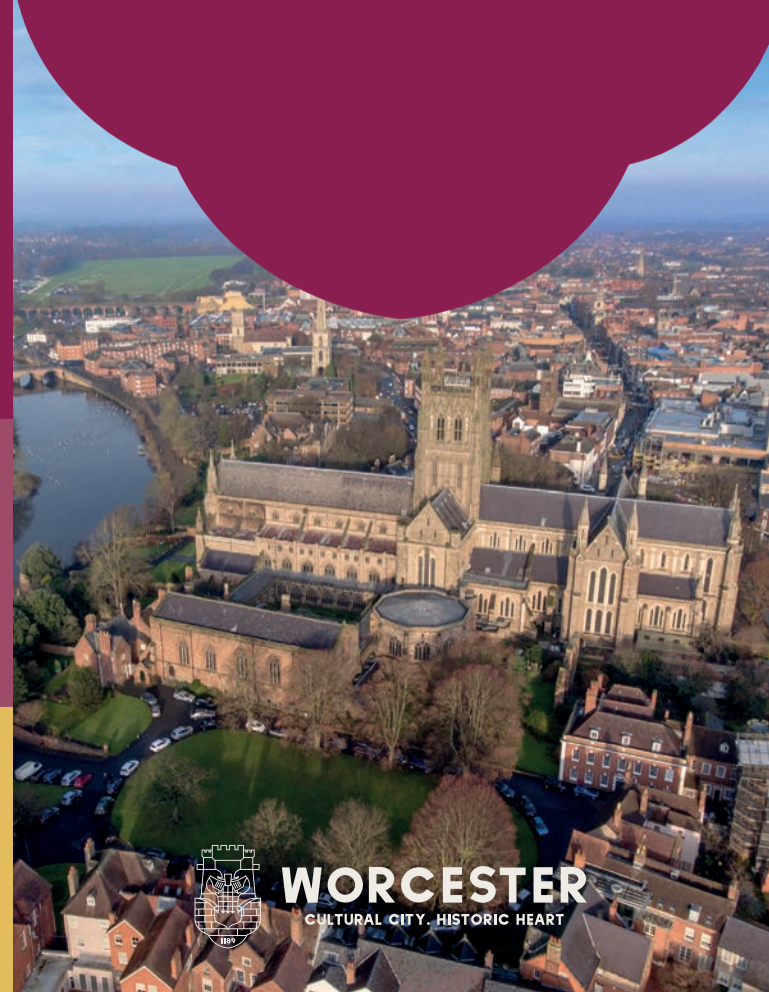
✉ Rainbow Hill, Worcester WR3 8LX ☎ 01905 24971  
🌐 [www.worcestermasoniccentre.co.uk/](http://www.worcestermasoniccentre.co.uk/)

## Worcester Tourist Information Centre

✉ **The Guildhall, High Street, Worcester WR1 2EY**  
☎ **01905 726311**  
✉ [tourism@worcester.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@worcester.gov.uk)  
🌐 [www.visitworcester.co.uk](http://www.visitworcester.co.uk)



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Friar Street becomes New Street, where on your right you will see a plaque showing the site of Worcester's **first Methodist Chapel** **11** (1772). Further up, also on your right, is **King Charles House** **12** dating from 1577 and from where King Charles II escaped in 1651.

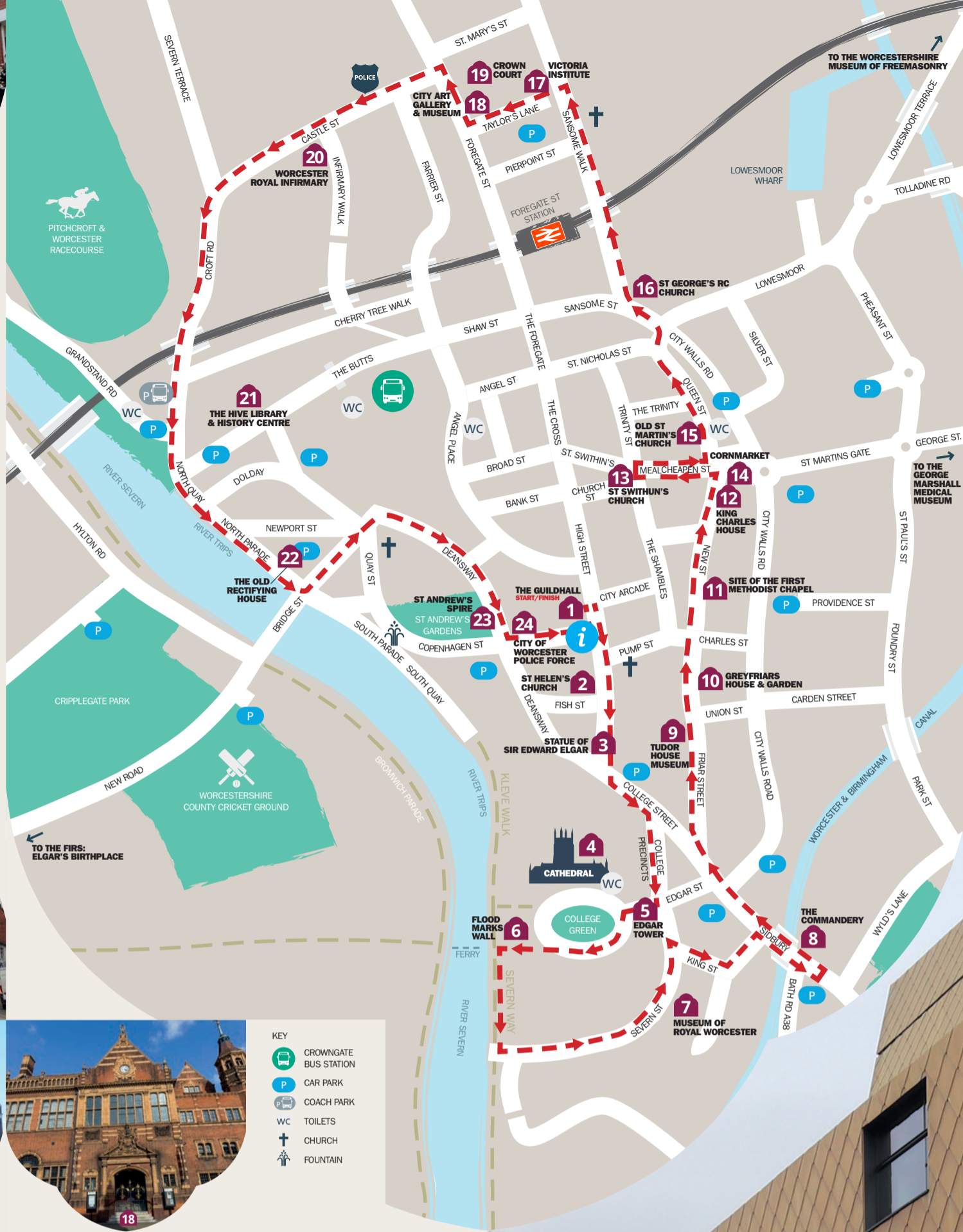
Take a detour left up Mealcheapen Street to **St Swithun's Church** **13** a Grade I listed Georgian church noted for its 18th Century organ. Returning to the **Cornmarket** **14**, taking a few moments to admire the small statues of famous people connected to Worcester such as Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway, Vesta Tilley and Cromwell, before turning left to Queen Street where **Old St Martin's Church** **15** is on your left; a Georgian church built in the 1770s, designed by the architect Anthony Keck.

At the end of Queen Street cross over St Nicholas Street and turn right, following the path around the corner into Sansome Street. **St George's RC Church** **16** is on your right; this Baroque style church, built in 1829, is a Grade II listed building and was where Edward Elgar was organist from 1885.



Continue up Sansome Walk and turn left down Taylor's Lane, on your right is the **Victoria Institute** **17**, which was founded to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee. The first building was a public hall and reading room, with accommodation for a caretaker, the total cost of which, £1,050, was raised by public subscription. **Worcester Art Gallery and Museum** **18** fronts Foregate Street and was founded in 1833 by members of the Worcestershire Natural History Society.

Turning right on Foregate Street will bring you to the **Crown Court** **19**; this Grade II listed building has a marble statue of Queen Victoria erected in 1887 to mark her Golden Jubilee. It was designed by local boy and sculptor, Thomas Brock (1847–1922), who was educated in Worcester and apprenticed to Worcester Royal Porcelain Works before leaving, aged 19, for London; he also designed the Victoria statue in front of Buckingham Palace.



Cross the road and bear left down Castle Street to the site of **Worcester Royal Infirmary** **20**; the original two storey building was built in 1771, at a cost of £6,085 and accommodated 48 beds.

Follow the road round into Croft Road, under the railway arches; glancing to your left you will see the large gold coloured building which is **The Hive** **21** opened by Her Majesty the Queen in 2012. It is Europe's first fully integrated university and public library, housing over a quarter of a million books and 12 miles of archive collections.

Continue along this road, which becomes North Parade to **The Old Rectifying House** **22**; its name comes from the fact that the rear of the building was part of the Williams distillery, rectifying (or rectification) refers to the purification of spirits to produce a high concentration of alcohol.

