

The complex of buildings that includes St Mary's Church and the Chapel of Rest in the village of Wreay is a unique artistic and historical site created in the 1830s and 40s under the personal direction of a local patron, Sarah Losh. Using local labour she created a highly original work - the product of her exuberant imagination.

This guide will take you on a trail between St Mary's Church and the Sarah Losh Heritage Centre set within the Chapel of Rest and introduce you to the history of the village and Sarah Losh's wider legacy.



St Mary's Church was built between 1840 and 1842. Sarah based the design of her church on the northern Italian basilica churches she had seen on her grand tour of Europe. This simple building form was at odds with the prevailing English Gothic style. Sarah used local labour, including the stonemason William Hindson and his sons. The church is full of symbolic ornament and carvings which refer to death and rebirth, drawing upon Christian, pagan and personal references.

The Chapel of Rest is considered to be a 'trial run' for the main church building. In 1835 the ruins of the ancient church of St Piran in Cornwall were uncovered from shifting sands. The discovery caused a national sensation and clearly appealed to Sarah's interest in history. She built the small mortuary chapel as an 'exact copy' of St Piran's.



The Sarah Losh Heritage Centre is within the refurbished Chapel of Rest. Here you will learn much more about local history, the 12 Men of Wreay, Sarah Losh and her family, St Mary's Church and Sarah's other creations. Suitable for all ages, the exhibition is open from 10am to 4pm each day, free of charge. The Centre is available to rent for workshops, exhibitions, concerts etc. Please contact The Friends.

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Wreay was formed to encourage interest in St Mary's and the Losh family as well as raise money for the care and preservation of the buildings. There is an annual Friends Open Day in September with visiting speakers and musicians. A free newsletter, 'Pinecone', is issued to all Friends twice a year. If you are interested in becoming a Friend then please contact:

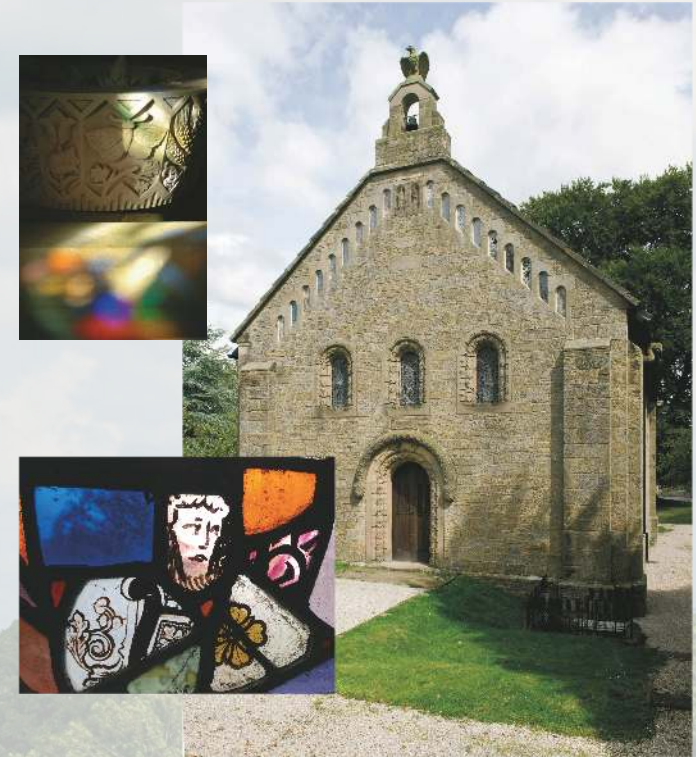
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**THE FRIENDS OF
ST MARY'S CHURCH, WREAY**

The Sarah Losh Heritage Trail



Be inspired!

**Explore the unique and fascinating
history of the village of Wreay and
discover the legacy of Sarah Losh**

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, WREAY

1. The Losh Cemetery. In the early 1840's Sarah walled in the Losh family graves to separate them from parishioners' tombstones, later removed from the church grounds in 1956. Sarah and Katharine are buried in the same grave at the south east corner. On its stone slab is carved *In vitae divisae, in morte conjunctae* – parted in life, in death united.

2. The Mausoleum. Around 1845 Sarah built the Mausoleum as a crude stone box – Druidic, semi-Celtic, Cyclopean, archaic. It contains the marble statue of Katharine by David Dunbar based on an 1817 sketch by Sarah of her sister sitting by the bay of Naples. Katharine looks down at a pinecone in her hand. The Mausoleum is only opened for guided tours.

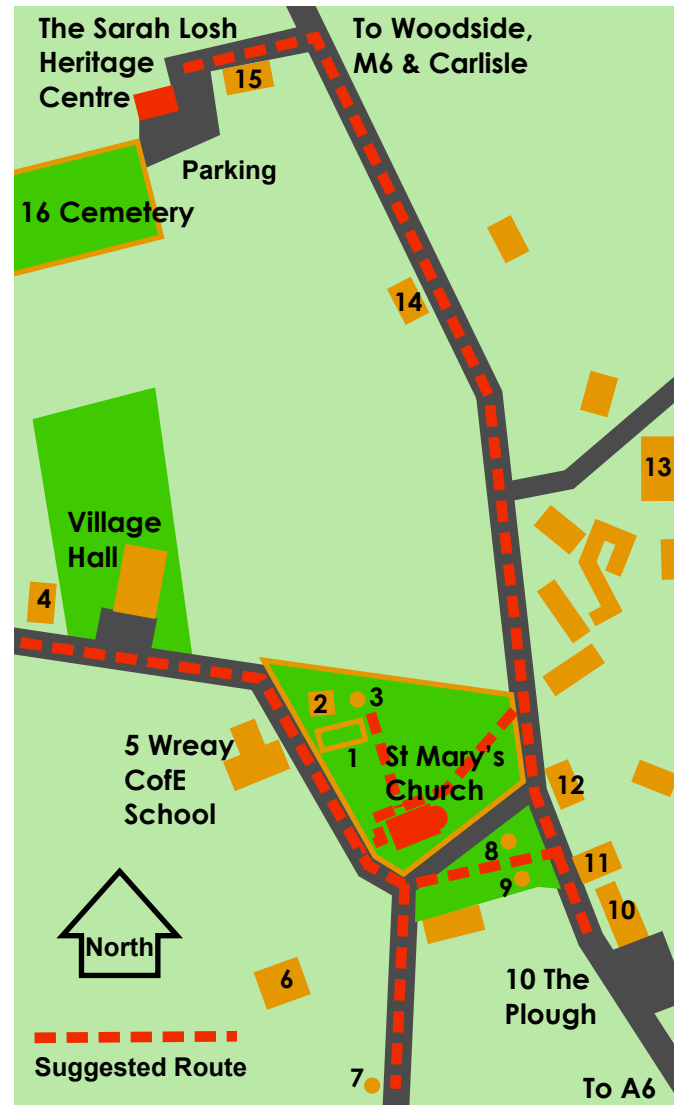
3. The Bewcastle Cross. Planned by Sarah and Katharine as a memorial to their parents this is a replica of the early Celtic cross at Bewcastle. In part it was an antiquarian exercise, exploring how the original had been carved and erected. On its base it reads in Latin – Two daughters proposed that this stone be set up: one, greatly sorrowing, performed it.

4. Pompeian Cottage. Built by Sarah to house the schoolmaster, this cottage is in the style of one that the sisters had seen when they visited Pompeii. Originally let at £5 per year, the property was given to the 12 Men of Wreay to maintain and manage and they continue to do so today.

5. Wreay CofE School. The Free School had been established by the 12 Men in the 17th century with lessons held in the church until around 1750 when a schoolhouse was built. Sarah noted, *'The old schoolhouse having become ruinous, my sister and I erected a new one, which was completed in 1830.'* Sarah's design had an elaborate chimney and mullioned windows and door surrounds imitating those at her home, Woodside.

6. The Vicarage. The vicar of Wreay lived here until the 1950's. Originally St Mary's did not have a vestry as the vicar would have robed at home and crossed the road to the church.

7. The Old Bell Gable. Never one to waste resources, Sarah placed the bell arch from the original church by a pond to *'remain as a relic of the former chapel.'*



Map of the Sarah Losh Heritage Trail
Please use footpaths wherever possible and take care when crossing or walking along roads.

8. The Millennium Pinecone. The Pinecone and the Information Centre were erected in 2000 by the people of Wreay to celebrate the new Millennium. The sculpture was conceived and designed by Ann & Craig Robinson and sculpted by Paul Grundy, stonemason of Sowerby Row.

9. The Village Pump. One can only imagine the activity and chatter around the pump in days before the surrounding houses had running water.

10. The Plough Inn. There has been a building on this site since 1664. This became the village pub in the 1800s. It was part of the State Management Scheme from 1916-1971. In 1934 it was sold to the Home Office after the death of Andrew Gibson who had owned the former Losh estate. The 12 Men of Wreay meet here annually on the Monday nearest to Candlemas. Their churchwarden pipes are on display in the lounge bar.

11. The Forge. Once a place of busy industry. The last blacksmith was James Bulman who was registered with the Worshipful Company of Farriers in 1920.

12. The Post Office. The site of the last village shop and Post Office run by the Sherrard family until the 1960's.

13. Wreay Syke. Built in the mid 1840's by William Septimus and Sarah Spencer Losh, both cousins of Sarah, it shows her influence with round-headed windows and Italianate terraced gardens.

14. The Dame School. One of Sarah's first building projects, it was built in the 1820's to take the girls of the village under the headship of Mrs Little. They previously had no school but were educated at home or in the church.

15. The Sexton's Cottage. This was built by Sarah in 1835 for the sexton who looked after the new public cemetery. Note the row of round-headed windows – Sarah's signature.

16. The Cemetery. After the Public Cemeteries Act of 1832, Sarah and Katharine donated land away from the church to avoid the threat of overcrowding and water pollution. There are as many unmarked graves here as there are headstones.