



— Diocese of —  
**Hereford**

Proclaiming Christ + Growing Disciples



# The Works of Frederick Preedy

The Preedy Trail

[www.hereford.anglican.org](http://www.hereford.anglican.org)

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# Who is Frederick Preedy?



Frederick Preedy was an architect who redesigned many interiors of churches but was perhaps best known for his stained glass work. He is unique because he designed the windows and made his own glass.

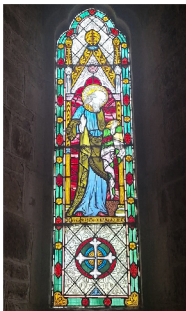
We are lucky in Hereford Diocese to have at least 15 churches with one or more windows that can be attributed to him.

In addition to these windows, Preedy was also responsible for 20 new church builds, 12 partial new builds, and 30 restorations nationwide. Several of the churches on our trails were either built or restored by Preedy.

## Stained Glass Windows

### Biblical Imagery

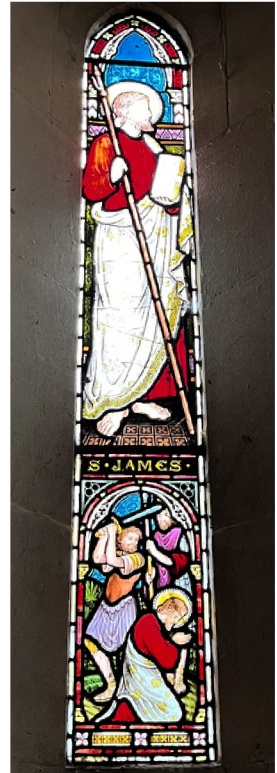
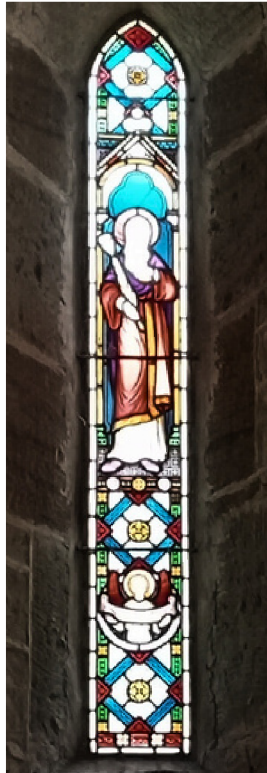
Perhaps unsurprisingly, these windows are full of biblical imagery (iconography). These range from well known biblical scenes such as the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ, the story of The Last Supper, and Joseph and his coat of many colours to the slightly less well known stories such as Christ healing the blind at Bethesda and Melchizedek blessing Abram. The windows in some of the churches also tell the stories of the saints to whom they are dedicated.



# Stained Glass Windows

## Saints' Lives

Most churches are dedicated to a patron saint. In the Hereford Diocese, there are 67 different patron saints of our churches. The most common of these are saints Mary, Michael, John the Baptist, and Andrew. Dedications to Michael are nearly always also dedicated to All Angels as well, due to Michael's position as an archangel. Where Preedy's windows depict an individual saint, it is to show key scenes of the saint's life.



Left to right the above windows depict scenes from the lives of St John the Baptist, St Edith, and St James. Edith is an unusual saint for churches to be dedicated to, and the scene depicted here is part of a larger window entirely dedicated to her life.

# Church Fittings

## Fonts, Pulpits, Decorations

As part of his restorations to various churches, Preedy also created fonts, pulpits, and other church decorations. The reredos (decoration behind the altar) at Storridge is a particularly grand example of his decorative work. As with his stained glass windows, the carvings on Preedy's fonts also represent scenes from the bible, usually including the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove.



# A Timeline

- 1820 - Born 2nd June in Offenham near Evesham, Worcestershire.
- 1840s - 1850s – There is debate in the world of architecture over whether stained glass should be designed by artists or architects.
- 1849 - Preedy set up his own architectural practice in Worcester.
- 1852 - Became an elected member of the Ecclesiological Society – this society was known for championing Gothic Architecture.
- 1853 - Preedy fell out with George Rogers, a stained glass painter from Worcester who had previously made the windows that Preedy designed. After this date Preedy began to make his own stained glass. Preedy is thought to be the only architect of his time who both designed and made his own stained glass. His stained glass windows are particularly prolific in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, and Norfolk.
- 1860 - Preedy moves his business to London.
- 1886 - Ill health forces him to retire. He was responsible for designing 240 windows, 20 new churches, 30 major church restorations, 6 new chancels, 6 new naves, and was involved in additions and alterations to numerous other churches. There may be more examples of his work to be rediscovered!
- 1898 - Died 28th March in Croydon. He is buried at Foxham, Wiltshire with his wife Mary.

# The Preedy Trail

## Preedy Churches in the Hereford Diocese

- Ashperton – St Bartholomew
- Canon Frome – St James
- Church Preen – St John the Baptist
- Claverley – All Saints
- Cradley – St James the Great
- Eaton-Under-Heywood – St Edith
- Habberley – St Mary
- How Caple – St Andrew with St Mary
- Ledbury – St Michael and All Angels
- Little Dewchurch – St David
- Mathon – St John the Baptist
- Storrige – St John the Evangelist
- Stretton Grandison – St Lawrence
- Upper Sapey – St Michael and All Angels
- Whitbourne – St John the Baptist

The majority of these churches are in Herefordshire, but four of them are in the north of the diocese in South Shropshire. It would be possible to visit all fifteen in one day, but this would likely be exhausting.

Therefore, we have curated smaller trails across the diocese to allow for easier and more enjoyable days out.

Scan the QR code below to access more details about the trail or pick up a leaflet in one of these churches

- Bromyard - St Peter's
- Ledbury - St Michael and All Angel's
- Much Wenlock - Holy Trinity
- Ross on Wye - St Mary the Virgin





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