



PRESS RELEASE

From: Mrs Anna Turner – HM Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire

To:

Subject: Shropshire Day 2026

Each February, the ceremonial county of Shropshire celebrates Shropshire Day on 23rd February, which is the feast day of Saint Milburga, the county's patron saint.

This year a special event is being planned to mark the occasion – a three location Church of England service spanning the River Severn on **Sunday 22nd February 2026**.

Shropshire is part of both the Diocese of Lichfield (the Northern part of the county including Shrewsbury) and Diocese of Herefordshire (the southern part of the county), and this service is being arranged to celebrate both Dioceses' link to the county.

The afternoon of worship will commence at 2pm in St Mary the Virgin Church, Jackfield and then proceed with a walk of approximately 2.5 miles which starts in the Diocese of Hereford and the Telford and Wrekin Council area, cross the River Severn and concludes in the Diocese of Lichfield and the Shropshire Council area at the Church of St Mary, Sutton Maddock. The service will thus bring together all parts of the county.

The service will be led by The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield and The Rt Revd Richard Jackson, Bishop of Hereford, in the presence of Anna Turner, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire.

A new prayer has been drafted by the Revd. Preb. Chris Thorpe of St. Andrew's Church, Shifnal, and it is hoped that both Dioceses will encourage the use of the new collect in Sunday services.

Mrs. Turner said:

'I greatly value the links that Shropshire has with the two Dioceses which share our wonderful county, therefore I am delighted to be welcoming both Shropshire's Diocesan Bishops to celebrate Shropshire Day with a shared service.'

All are welcome to attend the special service – and dogs are welcome in both churches too!

For those wishing to omit the walk, it is expected that the final part of the service in Sutton Maddock will commence at approximately 4pm where additional parking will be provided.

END

For more Information – contact:
jo@shropshirelieutenancy.co.uk

St. Milburga

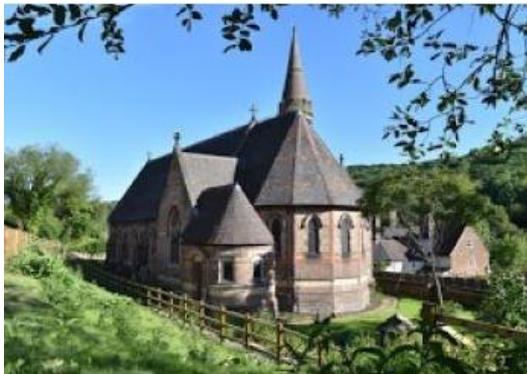
Milburga was a daughter of King Merewalh, whose kingdom covered parts of the Midlands including the modern counties of Shropshire and Herefordshire.

Milburga became a nun at the monastery of Much Wenlock, founded by her father and Archbishop Theodore of Canterbury, who eventually installed her as abbess. She was sought in marriage by a neighbouring prince, who was willing to use violence to compel her. She escaped across a river which then miraculously became so swollen that the prince was unable to ford it.

She was noted for her humility, her gift of healing and is said to have had a mysterious power over birds; they would avoid damaging the local crops when she asked them to.

She died on 23 February 727 and so 23 February, her feast day, is now celebrated as Shropshire Day.

St Mary the virgin Church, Church Rd, Jackfield, Telford TF8 7ND



St Mary's Church, Sutton Maddock, Shifnal TF11 9NQ

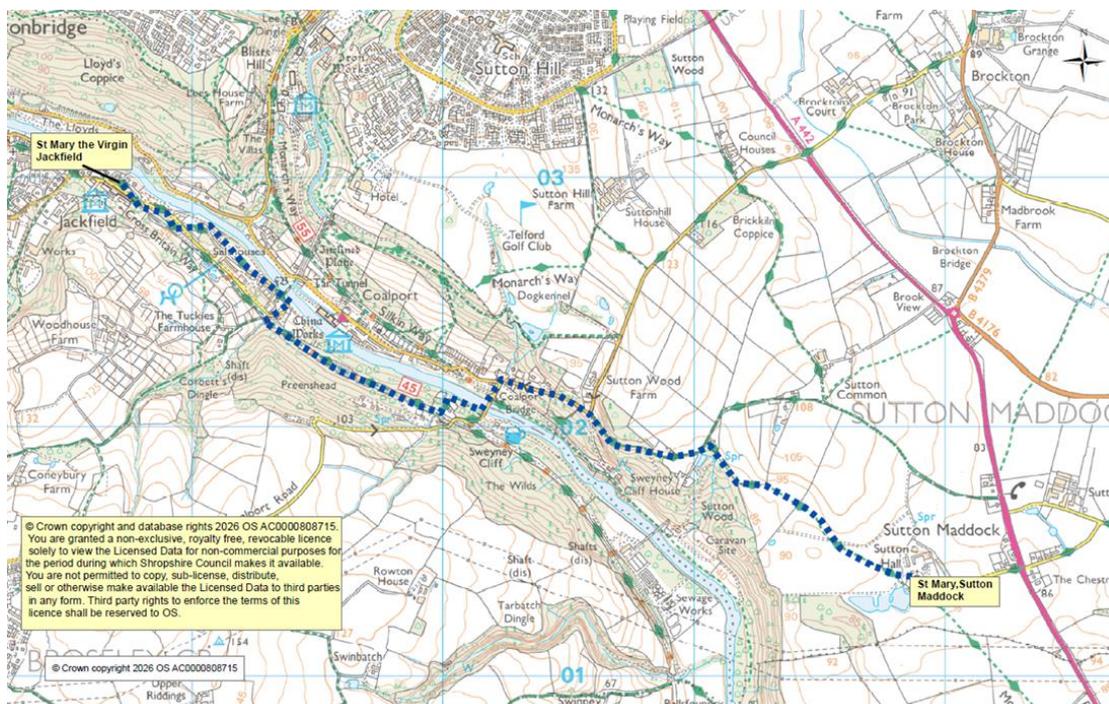


Collect for Shropshire:

Loving God

We give you thanks and praise for our county of Shropshire;
for its unique blend of stunning, peaceful landscapes,
its rich industrial heritage, and for its deep historical roots.
Help us to nurture and value all that is good,
to build up strong bonds of belonging in our towns and villages,
where people care for one another and for our environment.
Bless all who live and work here, and all who come to visit.
Help us to seek the common good in all we do,
that together we may build on the solid rock of your love,
made known to us through your Son, our saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Route:



Shropshire Day Service 22nd February 2026

Shropshire Council

Scale : 1:15,271