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Bill Bryson reveals Alfriston church is one of his favourites



The bestselling author chose St Andrew's Church, in Alfriston, as one of his favourite churches in a top 14 list.

He said, "It is impossible to overstate the importance of churches to this country. Nothing else in the built environment has the emotional and spiritual resonance, the architectural distinction, the ancient, reassuring solidity of a parish church.

"To me, they are the physical embodiment of all that is best and most enduring in Britain.

"Alfriston is a famously lovely village in the heart of the South Downs National Park in Sussex, and the very neat and pretty church of St Andrew's overlooking the village green is a good part of what makes it so.

"Next door is the Old Clergy House, which has the distinction of being the first property bought and saved by the National Trust, way back in 1896."

The best-selling author of books on travel, the English language and science, revealed his 14 favourite churches for Explore Churches www.explorechurches.org the UK's new church tourism website.

Explore Churches makes it easy to discover beautiful and fascinating churches and has been developed by the National Churches Trust, the UK's church buildings support charity, of which Bill Bryson is a vice president.

The website brings churches to life by using high quality images and providing information about the history and architecture of individual buildings. To see Bill Bryson's full list, visit www.nationalchurchestrust.org/explore-churches/bill-bryson