

BREDON

Here Lies my Heart

17 miles south of Worcester, 3 miles northeast of Tewkesbury, just north of B4080
Map Reference: O.S. map 150 (1: 50,000): 920370



The tall and graceful spire draws you to Bredon's Norman Church of St Giles and once there, there is much to see, not least the splendidly ornate Jacobean memorial to Sir Giles Reed, '*a worthy Squire ... hardie, and wise, and just ...*' who died in 1611. But nearby lies the tomb of an 'unknown warrior', a Crusader. Beneath his shield, his hands hold his heart, sent home from the Holy Land where this knight died, probably about 1290. It was often a Knight's wish that, should he die when far from home, his heart should be returned to his family or place of birth for burial. Such memorials, when one finds them, which is not often, are generally smaller (the one at Castle Frome in Herefordshire is only a few inches high) One cannot help but wonder who this man was, what he was like and if his family felt that his sacrifice was a worthy one.