



Welcome

A short guide to the history of St Andrew's

You are standing by the south door in the **nave** the oldest part of the building dating from about 1120. If you step back into the **porch**, you will note the thickness of the walls and the inclusion of Roman bricks from an unknown local villa and a reddish brown material known as septaria - a mudstone dredged from the River Colne. The timber lintel through the Romanesque arch was dendro dated as being about 1120. It is thought the building maybe be on a Roman site.

It is believed that the porch dates from 1550. In the wall to the right of the church door is a recess known as a **holy water stoop**. Return into the building and proceed to the right.



On the south wall of the **nave** is the only remaining original window with later glass depicting St Andrew. When you walk through the arch you pass into the **Chancel** that traditionally was more reserved for the clergy. It is believed to have been built circa 1350. In the south wall is a **piscine** that was used for cleansing the chalice.



The large **east window** designed by George Daniels was installed in 1925. The subject is worship suggested by the Te Deum - part of the liturgy of the old Prayer Book. You will note the figure of Charles 1. On the floor in the far left corner is a ledger slab that



originally had a brass plaque indicating that it was in memory of Robert and Katerine de Teye who seem to have both died in October 1360 on the same day. They may have paid for the chancel.

In the centre of the Chancel is the **Altar** or **Holy Table** used for the sacrament of Holy Communion when we remember the Last Supper.

In the week we have a simple wooden **cross** on display. Christianity and the reason for this glorious building is based on the resurrection of Jesus after dying on the cross and the difference this has made to those in the past and to us today.

In the centre of the **Chancel** are 3 dark slabs covering the burial positions of former rector William Bree and his 2 wives. In his time the church was restored and a rectory built.

On the north wall near the Chancel arch is a small wooden door giving access to narrow stairs within the wall that originally led onto a stone **rood screen** that separated the 2 parts of the church. We do not know when this feature was lost.

The north door gives access to the Church Hall built in 1967/8 as a replacement for a hall demolished by the dualling of the A12 trunk road. The hall, incorporating toilets and a kitchen, is well used by the local community.

You are welcome to borrow any material from the bookcase on the north wall.

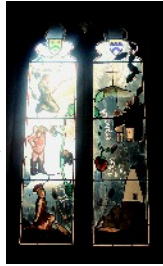
The **tower** has been built at various stages and is unusual in being half timbered. Access into the tower is through the locked door and a narrow staircase. Apparently there were originally three bells but now only one **bell** dated 1772, remains. The tower is 18m/60' tall.

The base of the tower dates from the early fifteenth century. A local legend is, that the top half of the tower had to be rebuilt after being used as gunnery practice by soldiers besieging Colchester (1648) in the Civil War. The truth of this has not been proven. Nevertheless it is a remarkable wooden structure with 250mm square and 9m long corner posts - an amazing engineering feat. The cladding boards are elm. The oak shingles to the **spire** were last replaced as a result of second war bomb blast damage.

In the tower there are plaques in memory of those who died in both World Wars. The notice boards give details of some of the organisations we support. The oak **chest** is early sixteenth century.

The settees have helped mothers with young children feel more relaxed and stay in services. They are also a favourite with the young teenagers at their meetings.

The **modern stained glass window** by Auravision, installed in celebration of the millennium, depicts scenes reflecting the history of the village over 2000 years. An explanatory leaflet should be visible to you. The scripture 'Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow' is from the Book of Hebrews.



The wooden **font** is very unusual, and it is reputed that there are only 3 in the country. It dates from the fifteenth century and carved figures in the panels were removed in the Cromwellian period. The font is used for baptisms, an important part of the initial welcome into the Christian life.



The building was re-ordered in **2006/7** returning it to a more simple space that honours its medieval origins. Several centuries would have passed before seating and pews were introduced.

During the work we learnt that the nave originally had a rounded **apse**



that at one stage the walls were painted a deep red colour, and we found the 1360 ledger slab.

The work greatly improved access by removing seven different floor levels, so we now have a very flexible building. The opportunity was also taken to install under floor heating and better lighting. The majority of the cost being raised by donations from Church members.

We do hope you have enjoyed your visit and please feel free to take away this leaflet as a memory of it.

Leaving the Church you will note the **war memorial** to the right of the path. This was



moved from near the shops several years ago. The large house to the right was the original Church Farm and the Rectory from 1952. The new Rectory is in the rear garden and was completed in 2012. The bricks came from Colliers Brickworks at the end of the lane.

Passing through the pathway arch you leave the original churchyard onto what was once Church Green. A new area of graveyard is being added to the left. Church Lane was previously further to the east and moved because of the railway around 1842.

Please free to walk around the grounds or to just sit and meditate either inside or on one of the benches in the churchyard. A Bible is available for you to use

If you would like further information on St Andrew's, take a newsletter or log onto www.marksteychurch.org.uk or contact our Rector Ian Scott-Thompson on 01206 215772



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