

The Church Today

All Saints is a lively and active church – The congregation are active participants in the service of the church to the community.

The Lychgate

This impressive entrance to the churchyard was constructed by Percy Pout a local craftsman in 1924. It was dedicated in memory of W Harrington and N Scryngour. The design is a copy of one at St Martin's Church Canterbury.



Mission Statement

*We are called to be a diverse community of faith;
Thankfully worshipping God;
Joyfully witnessing to His Love
In Jesus Christ and
Through the Holy Spirit,
Serving the people of Whitstable.*



**ALL SAINTS
WHITSTABLE**

**A BRIEF
HISTORY**



The History of All Saints



There has been a Church on this site for at least 800 years, initially consisting of a Chancel and Nave.

In the early 13th century a new Church was built in the same simple form, the early English style of Gothic Architecture, and a tower was added. The North Aisle and the North Porch were added in the 15th century. In 1846 when the fabric became unsafe the Church was almost rebuilt with the Chancel enlarged and a Vestry added.

In 1962 the design was completed by the addition of

a South Aisle and West Porch. The south wall of the Nave was taken down and rebuilt to form the wall of this new aisle still retaining the original stained glass windows. Arches and pillars were constructed to reflect those of the early 15th century on the north side of the Nave.

The Nave

At the east end of the Nave Aisle there is a stone slab, from which the brass has been removed, in which the outline of a Chalice is clearly visible, showing that it was the tomb of a Priest. Only two other similar examples exist both of them in North Kent. The tomb is unique, in that it has no projection, representing a wafer in the bowl, but depicts the chalice only.

On the south wall of the nave is the oldest brass in the Church, a Memorial Tablet to Thomas Brede, who died in 1444.



Altar Frontal

The artist Polly Hope was commissioned to make the frontal in 1984. It depicts four of the visions from The Book of Revelation. It has been exhibited in the Cathedrals of Canterbury, York and St. Paul's.

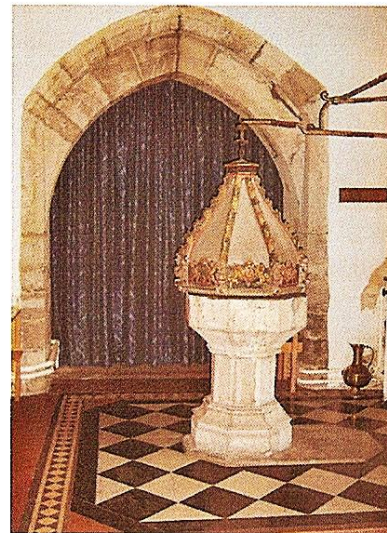


The Chancel

The Chancel Arch was built in 1876 during the major renovations, it replaced a Rood Screen which was removed in the 17th century. In 1908 a stained glass window was placed in the chancel in memory of Mr Gilbert Saunders - lay reader and churchwarden responsible for the money raising and for overseeing the rebuilding work in 1876.

One of the Sanctuary lamps is 17th Century Italian work the others are later replacements following a theft.

The Font



The octagonal font dates from the 13th Century. The beautiful font cover was thought to belong to the Tudor period, although it is now believed that it may be medieval with Tudor decorations. Its original colours have recently been restored by experts from Canterbury Cathedral. On each of its eight sides is a coat of arms, six of them the royal arms of the Tudor period and the other two the arms of Thomas Smythe and of the Manwood family.



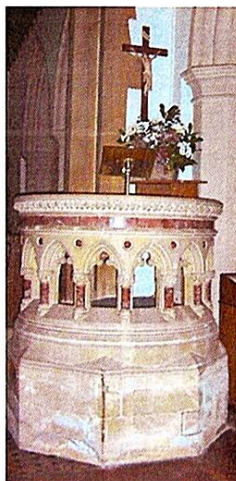
The Lectern

This is made of oak, beautifully carved and taken from the original medieval roof timbers which were removed at a time of major repair work between 1846 and 1876. It was carved and presented to the church by the clerk of works.

The Pulpit

This was given by the Rev. MacDonald Maugham, Vicar from 1871 to 1898 and uncle of Somerset Maugham, in memory of his first wife.

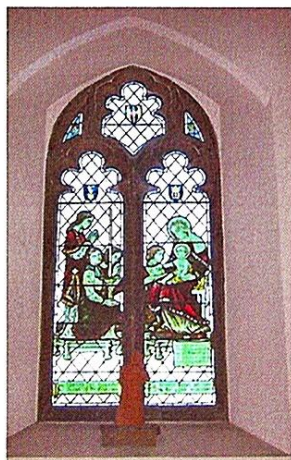
Below the pulpit is a Book of Remembrance, containing the names of those whose ashes are interred in the Garden of Remembrance in the Churchyard.



The North Aisle

The North Aisle was built in the first half of the 15th century. At this time the whole church would have been alive with colour and decoration. The new North Aisle had an altar dedicated to the Virgin Mary. At the east end there is still a small Lady Chapel with a statue of the Madonna and Child placed on a plinth below the stained glass window.

The stained glass window in the North Wall depicts at the top an oyster dredger - a reminder of the industry for which Whitstable is famous. The lower section depicts St Anne teaching the Blessed Virgin Mary to read.



St Christopher in the left hand section represents the hermit who kept the chapel in St Anne's Hermitage in the 'North Woods' of the great forest of Blean.

There are two stone tablets in the North Aisle, one lists the incumbents of All Saints since 1257, and the other bears the names of those from the parish who died in the 1939-1945 war. A Memorial Window commemorating parishioners who died in the 1914 - 1918 War is also situated on the north wall.



The Organ

The organ was built by Lewis around 1893. There have been several changes to it over the years to make it clearer and louder and it has been re-voiced to produce a Classical sound as opposed to the Romantic sound of other local organs. All Saints was one of the first churches to have a moveable console that allows the organ to be connected and played from any part of the church.

The South Aisle

Five hundred years after the building of the North Aisle the Church was no longer large enough to hold the congregation and it was decided to build a new South Aisle. This was completed in 1962 and was dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, that December.

Memorials

There are many memorials within the church including those of Wyn Ellis who founded the Almshouses in Whitstable. Near the font is a wooden memorial to John Bertram otherwise known as Uncle Dick creator of the early cartoon characters of Pip, Squeak and Wilfrid.

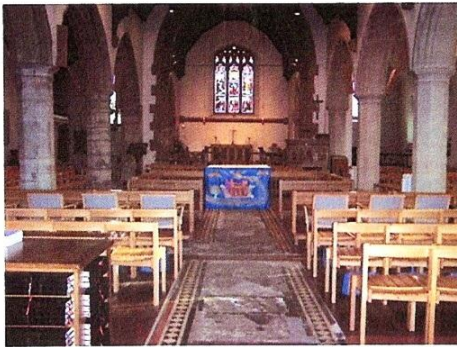
Plate

All the old plate was stolen in 1770. In 1783 Robert Knock, one of the Church Wardens, presented the church with a new set of communion plate including a chalice, paten, flagon and alms dish.

Registers

Early church registers are now kept in the Archives of Canterbury Cathedral. The earliest record is of a wedding in 1549.

The Re-ordering



As parish communion became the main act of worship on Sundays the original layout of the church began to cause difficulties. Those seated in the north and south aisles found it difficult to see the high altar. The process of re-ordering the church began in 1981 and was completed in 1986. Work on

removing the old pews and their platforms took place in 1984, the pews were replaced by chairs and a new central altar. The altar was donated by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral.

The West Porch

This large porch, which is part of the 1962 Extension, is an uncommon feature of a parish church.

The Church Bells

In 1730 the three old bells in the belfry became worn and dangerous. They were taken down and sent to Samuel Knight in Holborn who recast them into the six bells which are still in use today. One of the bells bears the inscription "S K made me in 1730."

The Tower

Built of rubble, stone and flints from the beach, many of them still showing evidence of water scouring, the old 13th Century tower still houses the bells. A peculiar feature is a buttress which projects into the interior of the Nave, not apparently

added to strengthen the tower, but part of the original structure, suggesting that at one time the tower was detached from the body of the Church. The tower has served through the centuries as a landmark for ships and a lookout post in time of war a purpose for which it was used in the Second World War by air raid observers. There is a small pointed early English window a little above ground level in the tower and a similar window facing south on the first stage.



Over the tower arch is a Memorial Hatchment to the memory of Edward Gonneston and members of his family. Edward Gonnestone was an incumbent At All Saints from 1611 to 1637.

The old oak staircase which leads up to the top of the tower was probably part of the original construction. The seven foot cross on the top of the tower is illuminated at night and can be seen from many parts of the area it is also a landmark for those at sea.

The Churchyard

The churchyard is the second largest in Kent and contains many old and beautiful memorials, including the Ellis family vault, now maintained by the Victorian Memorial Society. The churchyard is also a haven for wildlife and is carefully maintained to encourage the natural environment as well as its continued use as a place for burials.