

All Saints Church

This was the script used by David Marsh for a Son et Lumiere presentation

Much of the stained glass in this church of All Saints was donated by the North family. The window that is highlighted, was erected in memory of Susan, Baroness North, in 1884. The singular pains in the window depict: Hannah at prayer before the Lord

Mary sitting at Jesus' feet to hear his word

Dorcas, a woman full of good works and deeds.

More Clayton & Bell made coloured windows within the Church were donated by Colonel John North the following year and portray the 12 Apostles.

Other windows, whilst of plain glass, are nonetheless are very attractive in their own architectural way.

All Saints is a 14th Century "Decorated" church. The term "Decorated" is a description of a gothic style of architecture. As you absorb the beauty of the church in a decent light, look out for ball flowers and natural looking foliage.

There is nothing left of an earlier building. Indeed, the Tower itself is relatively new in that it was rebuilt between April 1748, as depicted on a foundation stone, and finished in June 1749 the old tower believed to have been blown down shortly beforehand. William Hitchcox a stonemason from Ratley, was paid the princely sum of £150 for the work, and he originally crowned the tower with an octagon of stone, the squinches of which are still visible under the present roof, but apparently this crown blew down very soon after it was erected, much to the recorded delight of a certain Horace Walpole – no love lost in politics in those days either, it would seem.

There are five bells within the Tower, each with its own unique inscription. On one are the words "Cantate Domino Canticum Novum 1676"; on another "Henricus Bagley Me Fecit"; on a third "Henry Bagley made me"; the fourth appears to be donated by two churchwardens, since the inscription reads "Samuel Adlington and William Elles, Churchwardens"; and the fifth bell bears the inscription "That all may come and none may stay at home, I ring to sermon with a lusty bome".

In the Nave the Clerestory and the roof over the aisles were added in the 15th Century. A Clerestory is an upper storey pierced with windows to admit light.

The Gallery, where the organ now sits, was added in 1738. The Halmshaw & Sons instrument was installed 141 years later in 1879.

The Nave is the central and largest area of church. The "Box Pews", in which you are seated, were installed in 1738 after the Reverend Frances Wise, a Philologist (a type of linguist who studies written texts) and an Antiquary (a collector of ancient objects), found that the existing seating

arrangements were decaying and in a bad state of repair to a point where they could be considered unsound.