



THE CHURCH TRAIL: ST ANDREW'S CHURCH



100022



Notable features

When it was first built, the church was in St Lawrence and Bonchurch but traces of this church have been covered by later work and so are difficult to see. It is possible that the north wall is still in its original position. The first development was the addition of the nave, next to the chancel was added, then in the Fifteenth Century the aisle. The stonework of St Andrew's is unusual because it is almost as big as the nave - usually they were smaller. The tower was added at the same time as the aisle.

Outside St Andrew's church is dotted with lichens, which are a wide variety of fungi that grow on rocks and cover some stones, which is a typical feature of the church. The stonework is typically Norman, being squat and solidly built.

Inside St Andrew's church is a fine example of a twelfth century church to explore because it contains the full complement of features to be found in twelfth century churches. Those who lavish care on it today have put markers on the walls to show how far the church extended at different dates helping bring its development to life.

The origins of the church

Chale appears in that amazingly detailed Norman investigation into how much tax everyone should pay, the Domesday book, published in 1086. Then it was called *Cela*, but has remained as *Chale* since the Twelfth Century. On 1st December 1114 a service was held for the dedication of a church on this site. Alweitus, priest of St Mary's Church in Carisbrooke, claimed that Chale was in his parish and so under his control. This was successfully challenged by Hugh de Vernum, Lord of the Manor of Chale.

So, for 900 years services have been held in St Andrew's and in those years the church has been extended many times, giving proof of the rising population of Chale. Its dedication to St Andrew has been explained in three ways. Firstly, St Andrew was a fisherman and fishing played an important part in this coastal community. Secondly, it could have been named after the man who paid to have it built. Another explanation is that the closest saint's day to that on which it was dedicated is St Andrew's. There is no evidence to give any of these explanations greater probability. The church has had many patrons over the years, some well known locally like the Worsleys and the Langfords.

The Victorian era

The building was remodelled in the Victorian era, which was a period of great change and remodelling that took place between 1837 and 1871.

It was at this time that the nave and aisle were made the same height and the chancel extended to the south wall.

The number of windows was increased and the area had risen and each contributed a stained glass window, each of which was a memorial.

Many of the fittings in the church are from the same period and are equally lavish, the pulpit being an especially fine example.

The clock was added in 1871, always the most expensive model made by Benson's of Bond Street in London.

A full guide to the history of the church is available for sale in the church shop.

After 1871

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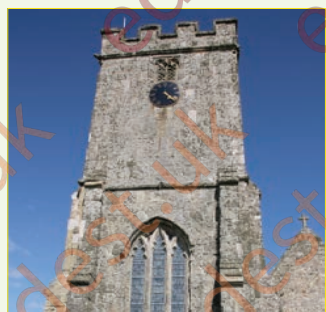
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Some of the interesting things to see at St Andrew's Church

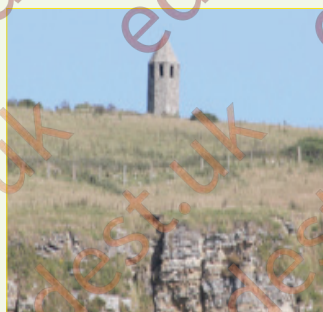
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Outside

Inside



The Tower



The Pepper Pot



Stoop



The Nave



Double Grave



The North Door



Piscina



Memorial in Latin

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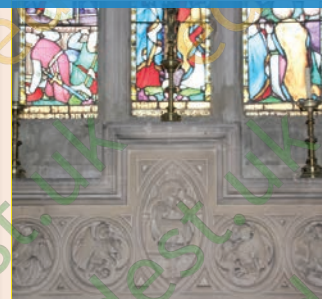
East Window



Grave with Barbola flowers



Birth of Christ



Stone Reredos



Table Tomb



Statue on a grave



Plain beamed roof



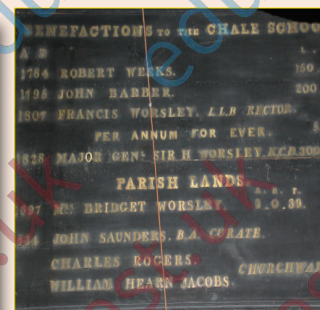
Pulpit



Cross with lichen



Gas Lamp



Bequest Board



Sanctuary Lamp

