



THE CHURCH TRAIL: ALL SAINTS',



100036

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Notable features

You approach All Saints' church through a Lych gate, leading to the church yard for burial. When through the gate, the features of All Saints' Church, making it look more like a village church, pleasing appearance and are enlargements of those aisles built along with the tower in the Thirteenth Century.

Outside All Saints' church yard is almost covered in yew trees which are full of symbolism. Yew trees are very long lived trees and are seen as a symbol of immortality. The little red yew trees on the east side of the church are the graves of the Tennyson family, with a whole range of beautiful graves for people less well known.

Inside The aisles and the chantries make it possible to walk to the sides of the nave in the same way one can in our giant cathedrals. At the end of the south aisle near the chancel is a stone altar brass that is thought to depict one of the knights who went in the Crusades in the Twelfth Century.

The origins of the church

All Saints' Church was founded not long after Christ's death in the First Century.

At this time, Freshwater, like Bembridge in the East of the Isle of Wight, was a small settlement on the mainland and so it could have looked like what we see today.

There are some traces of this Saxon church at the top of the hill, but they have been the back wall of the first church. The existing church is a product of the assessment of how much tax everyone should pay. Domesday Book records that in the thirteenth century the church was built in every direction since then so that it can accommodate more people.

In the thousand years since then, All Saints Church has been built in every direction since then so that it can accommodate more people.

The Victorian period and after

In the Nineteenth Century the rising population on the Isle of Wight produced the need to extend All Saints' Church and what we see today is a product of the remodelling that was completed in 1874. It was done in the neo-Gothic style, the same style that can be seen in the churches that were built in Bonchurch and St Lawrence in almost the same year.

The Tennyson family lived a few miles away at Farringford and worshipped at All Saints' Church. As Poet Laureate, Alfred Tennyson was buried in Westminster Abbey, but there is a memorial to him in the south aisle. In the Twentieth Century a pipe organ was added and more recently, the west end of the church has been remodelled for activities outside the time of the church services. A more detailed history of All Saints' is available to buy as you enter the church.

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Some of the interesting features at All Saints' Church include:

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Outside



Lych Gate

Inside



Tennyson Memorial



Decorative Eagle Lectern



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Tennyson Family Grave



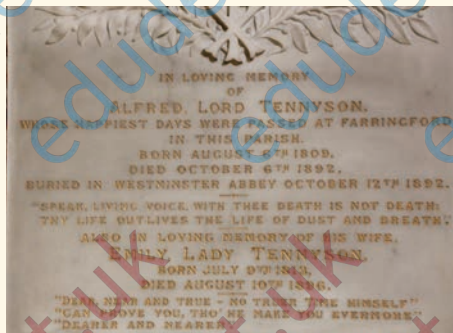
Churchyard Cross



Pulpit



Font



Tennyson Plaque