



THE CHURCH TRAIL - ALL SAINTS



100041



Godshill Church is very old and very special. Godshill was one of the first places to have a church on the Isle of Wight. Edward the Confessor, this was from 1042 to 1066. Most of what we see today was started in the Fourteenth Century, more than 650 years ago. So Godshill church is older than many other churches. (The south east corner, the font and piscina and font are Saxon).

The legend of the building of Godshill Church
The legend is that men started to build the church on the hill. They went back next morning to start work again all the stones they had carried them back and began building the church. Again, they found the stones missing a second time. This happened a third time. This was taken as a sign that the name was Godshill.

A different interpretation of this story

Peter Hewitt was vicar of Godshill from 1965 to 1980. He wrote a book about this legend, firstly before 1066 the word 'Godshill' was written as 'Godeshill' and Christians were forbidden to worship them. Then secondly the Pope wanted Christians to build churches on top of the pagan temples to show that Christians were now in charge and the pagans were wrong. What do you think?

The origins of the church

The Church is nearly 1000 years old. In these years the building has been changed many times, so what we see today is not the original church. The earliest change has been that it has got larger, this was done because the population increased. But also things to be added to the church in their name. However the church has also changed because in 1000 years it has been built by many people. We can find in Godshill church features that cannot be seen in modern churches. We can explore the Church and find out more about it.

The shape of the church

Godshill church is the largest of the early churches on the Isle of Wight. It is 27m long and 18m wide. It is measured in feet and so it is 90 feet by 60 feet. It is in the shape of a cross. Most churches are this shape; it is to protect the church from the devil.

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Some of the more interesting features inside and outside the church:

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Pulpit



Jesus Mural



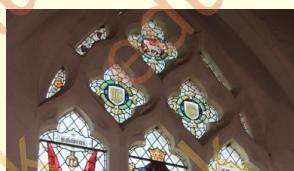
Misericord



Effigies



Font



Stained Glass Window



Rood Beam



Piscina



Hatchment

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Calvary Cross



Tower



Churchyard Cross



Buttress



Stoup



Table Tomb



Porch Bench



Mort Safe

