



THE CHURCH TRAIL: ST PETER & ST PAUL



MOTTISTONE

100048



Notable

In recent times the church has been in the spotlight due to its connection with the Seely family. The role of Major General Seely's horse, Warrior, and film in 'War Horse'. More recently his great-granddaughter, Benedict Cumberbatch in the church on 14th February 2015 because Major General Seely owned Mottistone Manor and was the 1st Baron Mottistone.

Outside

The church is a beautiful example of a simple parish church. The ground in front of the church is a wide range of plants, flowers, butterflies and bush crickets. The purity of the air means that the lichens are particularly well covered with lichens of all colours.

Inside

Although the church has been altered on many occasions the gates on the porch were to stop livestock from entering the church during the service. The painting on the columns gives a sense of the church's history. It was in the porch that the church was decorated with murals and

The origins of the church

There are references to Mottistone in the Domesday Book, but in 1086 it was called 'Modrestone'. However, the Long Stone on the Down above Mottistone, is evidence that the area has been important since the Iron Age.

The first references to a church here are from the Twelfth Century when the manor opposite was in the hands of Brian de Insula. There is not much of the stonework from this church left, but what are now pillars in the centre of the church would have been the outer wall of that early church.

The Cheke family enlarged the church in the Fifteenth Century adding the nave and the side aisles. At the same time one of the stones that had formed part of the walls, was remodelled and became the churchyard cross.

In the decoration of the church was improved in the Seventeenth Century with the addition of the Chancel beam in 1628 and the wooden pulpit was added in 1664.

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The Victorian era and after

The Seely family built Mottistone estate in 1861. At the time the church was in a poor state of repair and so much work was being done to so many other churches on the island that Seely into action.

In the Nineteenth Century the church were more confident of the future being better so did not worship the church as they may do today. Thus many medieval features were not preserved. What we see is what is called 'high church' Victorian in style. This meant that many ideas from Catholic churches.

Also in 1862 a shipyard was built at Grange Chire. This was wrecked and made into the ceiling of the chancel.

In 1948 the 2nd Baron Mottistone added the parclose screen as a memorial to his father. It is to the left of the altar and around the top of the frame is an inscription in Latin detailing his father's piety, kindness and enjoyment of life.

Interesting features in Mottistone's church include:

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Outside



Churchyard Cross



The Lych-gate

Inside



Stoop



Cedar Roof from sunken ship



Decorated cornice

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Stone Steeple



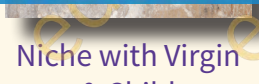
Lancet Windows



The North Door



A pottery head stone



Niche with Virgin & Child



Lost Window



Font



Pulpit



East Window



Nature Board



Plain Glass Window



St Peter & St Paul Window

