



THE CHURCH TRAIL: PARISH CHURCH,

100105



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Notable features

The Church of St. Lawrence was designed by architect whose style was Gothic Revival. It will have been one of the first buildings designed to suit the needs of a parish church because this was the only one of its kind in the island.

Outside

The east window is of the Twelfth Century, but since then the understanding of architecture has improved. The Gothic style was added to the west window by George V.

Inside

The Gothic style was added to the west window by George V. The church is a fine example of the Gothic Revival style. The east window is of the Twelfth Century, but since then the understanding of architecture has improved. The Gothic style was added to the west window by George V.

The origins of the church

The ancient church of St. Lawrence is on the other side of the main road and shows that the parish dates from the Middle Ages.

However, the population of St Lawrence had increased so much in the Nineteenth Century that it was necessary to build this new church.

At St. Boniface Church in Bonchurch 4 miles to the East the same solution was adopted.

Both villages had been influenced by Ventnor's rise as a health resort.

From 1881, William Spindler lived in St. Lawrence, he had made a vast fortune from the chemical industry in Berlin.

He aimed to build a new resort to rival Ventnor, which is why there are a lot of very large houses nearby, most of which are now in a sad state of repair.

The Victorian

The stained glass windows were originally in the chapel of the National Hospital in Ventnor which closed in 1964.

The discovery of antibiotics recovered in days not possible before. The building was knocked down in 1969, but the gardens have been preserved as a botanical Garden.

The stained glass windows were made by the world renowned Pre-Raphaelite artists, Ford Madox Brown, Edward Burne-Jones, William Morris and Sir William Reynolds-Stephens.

It is unusual to have stained glass windows in a parish church. The relocation of the stained glass to St Lawrence Parish was organised by Earl of Pembroke.

and supported by Earl of Pembroke, Nikolaus Pevsner and the Queen Mother among others.

A more detailed history of the church and its windows is available in the church.

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What to look for at the Parish Church of St Lawrence:

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Outside

Inside



The Carillon



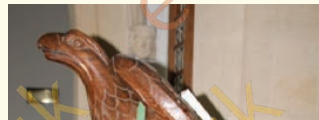
Buttresses



Stone carving



Beamed Ceiling



Eagle Lectern



Font



Rare round Gravestone



North Aisle



Birds eating corn



The care of the sick



The East Window



Plain Gravestone



The Sacred Lamb



Celtic Gravestone



Latin Cross



Mechanised bell ringer

