

St. Peter and Paul Tring



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welcome

Welcome to the beautiful church of St. Peter and Paul in Tring. We hope you find it a prayerful, peaceful and interesting place.

Christians have been gathering here to worship God for over 800 years and this building is 600 years old. It has been adapted and extended over the years to meet the changing needs of the people who use it.

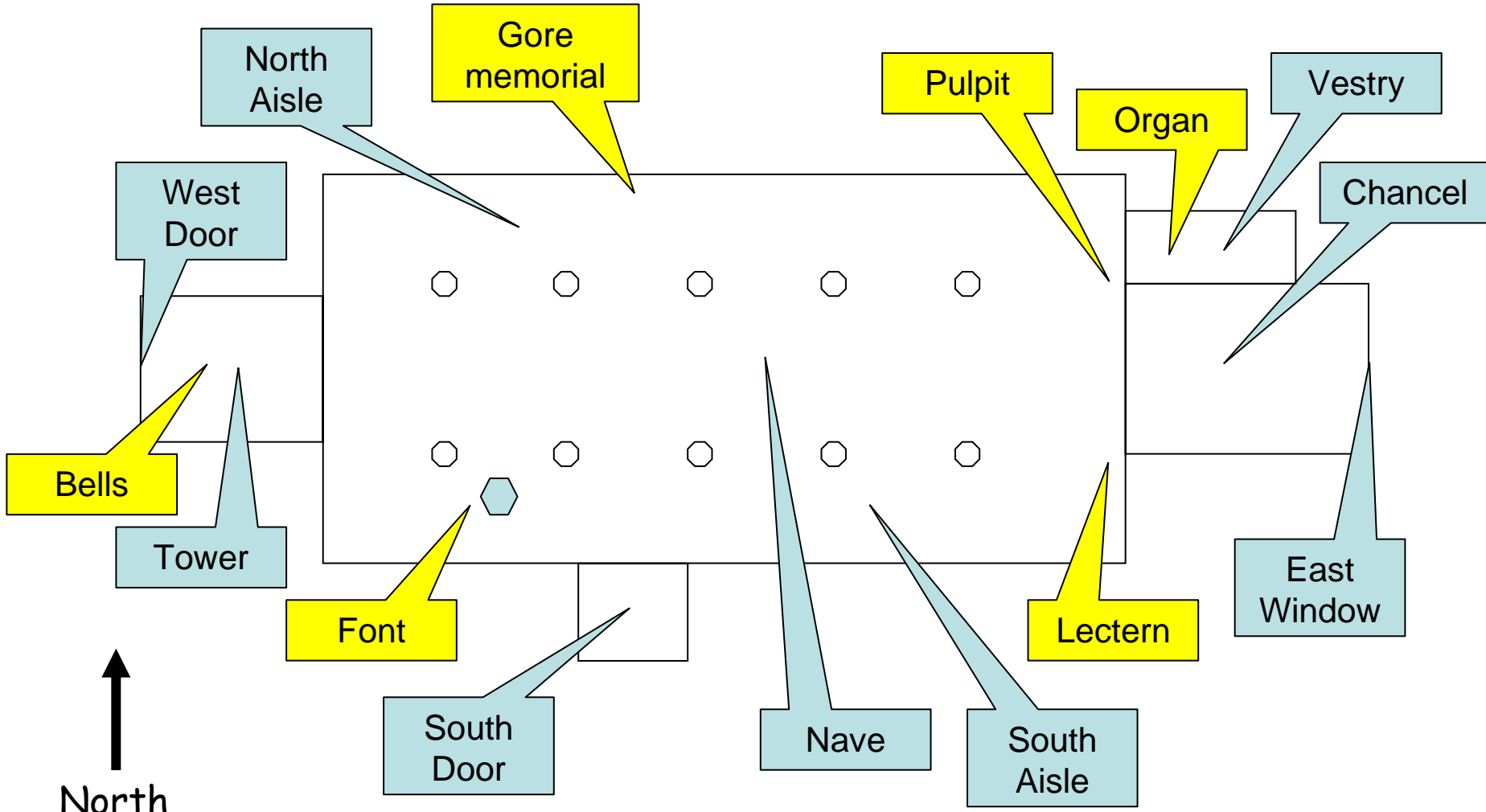
This guide will show you around the church and tell you about some of its interesting features. From the memorials to the flowers, this church has a wide range of intriguing aspects.

Please take a few moments to walk around the church, but also leave time to sit and appreciate the calming effect of this spiritual heritage.

Please leave this guide for the next visitor to use.



Plan of the church



A Short walk round

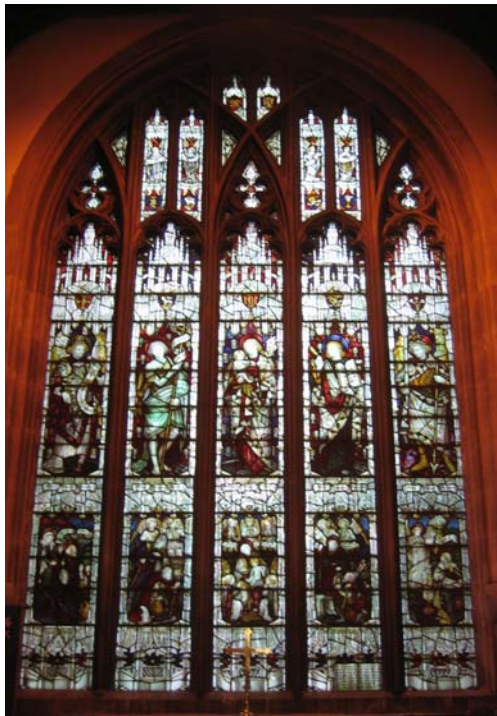
In case you only have a few minutes to spend, these pages give a quick summary of the church. You can find more detail on each aspect later in this guide.

This is the view East towards the chancel. Most of the church was updated to its current appearance in the 1880s.



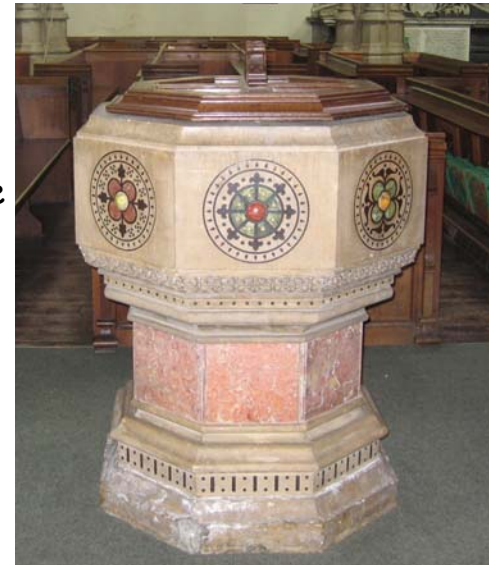
This shows the altar with the reredos behind it, as well as the East window which is a blaze of glory in the morning sun. The reredos shows gospel scenes, with the Crucifixion in the middle section.

Here is the window in the Lady Chapel, in the south aisle, dedicated to the memory of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The window shows the birth of Jesus in the lower half, with angels and saints in the top half.



This is the view towards the West end of the church. The screen which fills the tower arch is part of what was the chancel screen until 1987. The pictures are of Moses (on the left) and Aaron (on the right).

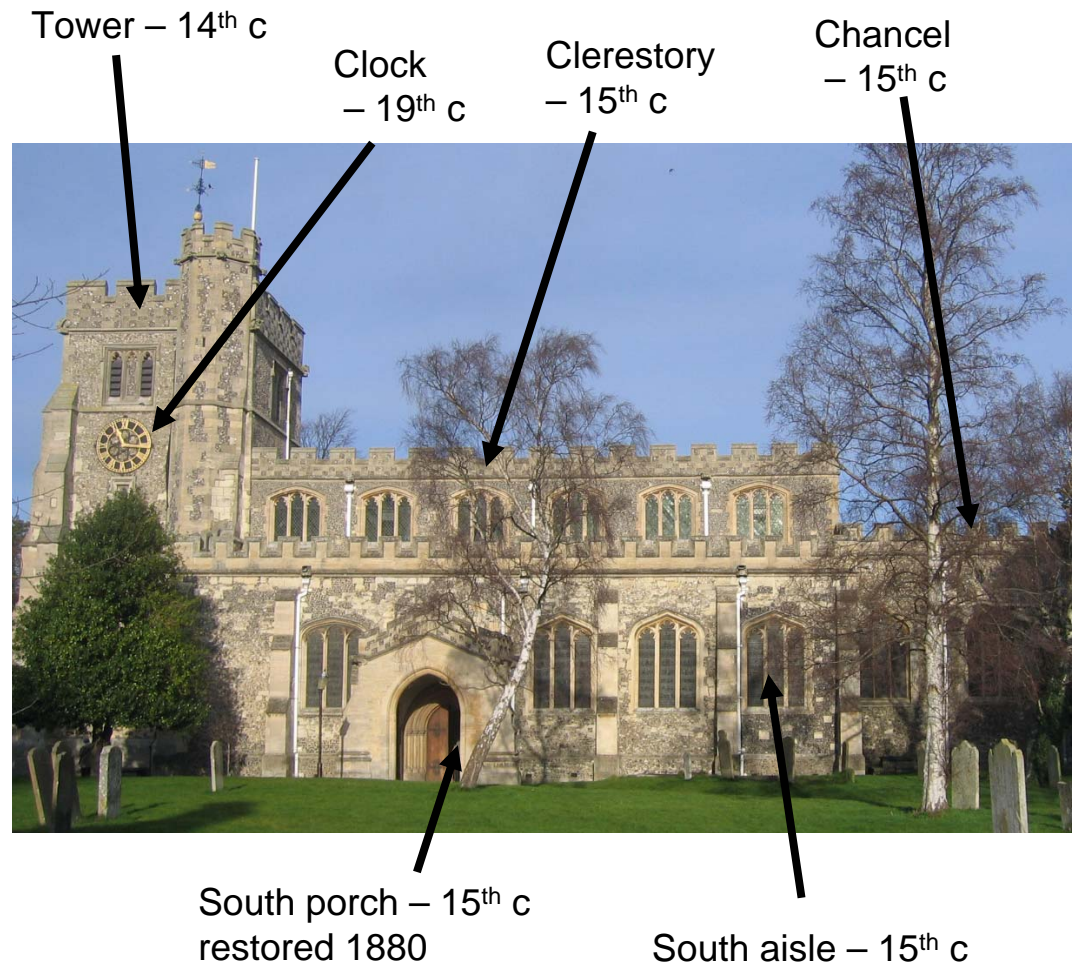
The Font now stands in the south aisle, in the middle of the reception area - quite appropriate really as well as more convenient than under the tower, where it used to be. It is made from Streetly Stone, with a marble inlay, and dates from 1852.



Our church through the ages

There are few traces of the original church built here around 1100 AD. The church was rebuilt in the 13th century and enlarged in the 14th century, when the tower was added. The current building dates largely from the 15th century, but was extensively restored in 1861 and 1882.

The church is built of rough flints and blocks of Totternhoe stone, some of which have been replaced by Ancaster stone.



More about...the nave

The Nave is the main part of the church where the people sit to participate in worship. It is mainly 15th century. The oak pews date from 1862 when the original boxes were replaced. The painting over the chancel arch is from 1899 and shows the crucifixion of Jesus.

The inscription in the painting reads: 'All the Angels of God adore you, Jesus the saviour of the world; born of a virgin, you reign in justice.'

If you look upwards you can see the oak roof, supported by 12 carvings, probably representing the 12 apostles plus St Paul and St Barnabas.

Until 1987 the nave was separated from the chancel by a carved oak screen; this has now been adapted and glazed to close the bottom of the tower.





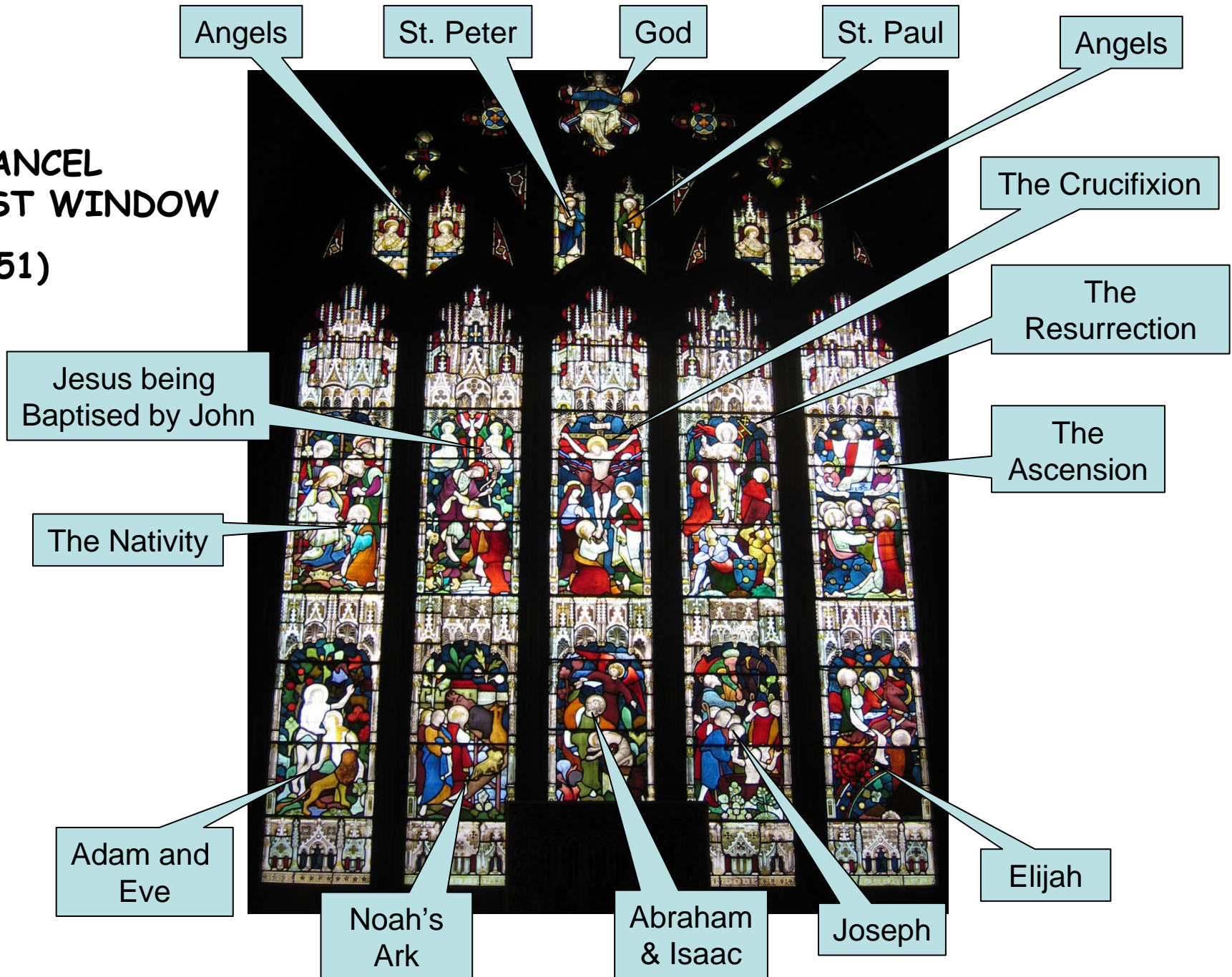
More about...the windows

We are blessed with some beautiful stained glass windows around the church. Most of them are from the late 19th century (the stonework dates from the 15th or 16th century). When you look at them remember that when they were installed there were few images, especially in colour - no TVs, laptops, mobiles, just the odd poor quality black and white photo. So these would have been quite unusual. Even today, with the sun behind them these windows still shine with the glory of God.

They are also full of symbols. The next few pages just list some of the main elements in the church, working clockwise from the main east window. The more you look at the windows, the more you will see in them.



**CHANCEL
EAST WINDOW
(1851)**



Angels

St. Peter

God

St. Paul

Angels

The Crucifixion

The Resurrection

The Ascension

Jesus being Baptised by John

The Nativity

Adam and Eve

Noah's Ark

Abraham & Isaac

Joseph

Elijah

**CHANCEL
SOUTH WINDOW
NUMBER ONE**



Jesus in Gethsemane

Sleeping Disciples in Gethsemane

Peter cutting off the ear of the guard

Judas getting money from the High Priests for betraying Jesus

Judas' betrayal of Jesus

**CHANCEL
SOUTH WINDOW
NUMBER TWO
(1890)**



St. Peter
Keeper of the keys of
the Kingdom of Heaven

Image of Lincoln
Cathedral

St. Hugh.
12th Century Bishop
of Lincoln.

The Venerable
Bede.
An 8th Century
Scholar & Saint



“Let us praise the King
and Creator of all.”

“Let us praise the King
of the Apostles.”

CHANCEL
SOUTH WINDOW
NUMBER THREE
(1890)



St Alban

St Paul

St Stephen

“A good soldier
of Jesus”

“Ready to
be offered”

“Faithful
until death”



**SOUTH AISLE
EAST WINDOW
'Lady Chapel'
(1890)**



Archangel Gabriel

John the Baptist

Mary with Jesus

Elizabeth and Mary

Shepherds

Mary with Jesus

Wise men

Archangel Michael

John the Apostle

Mary's assumption into heaven

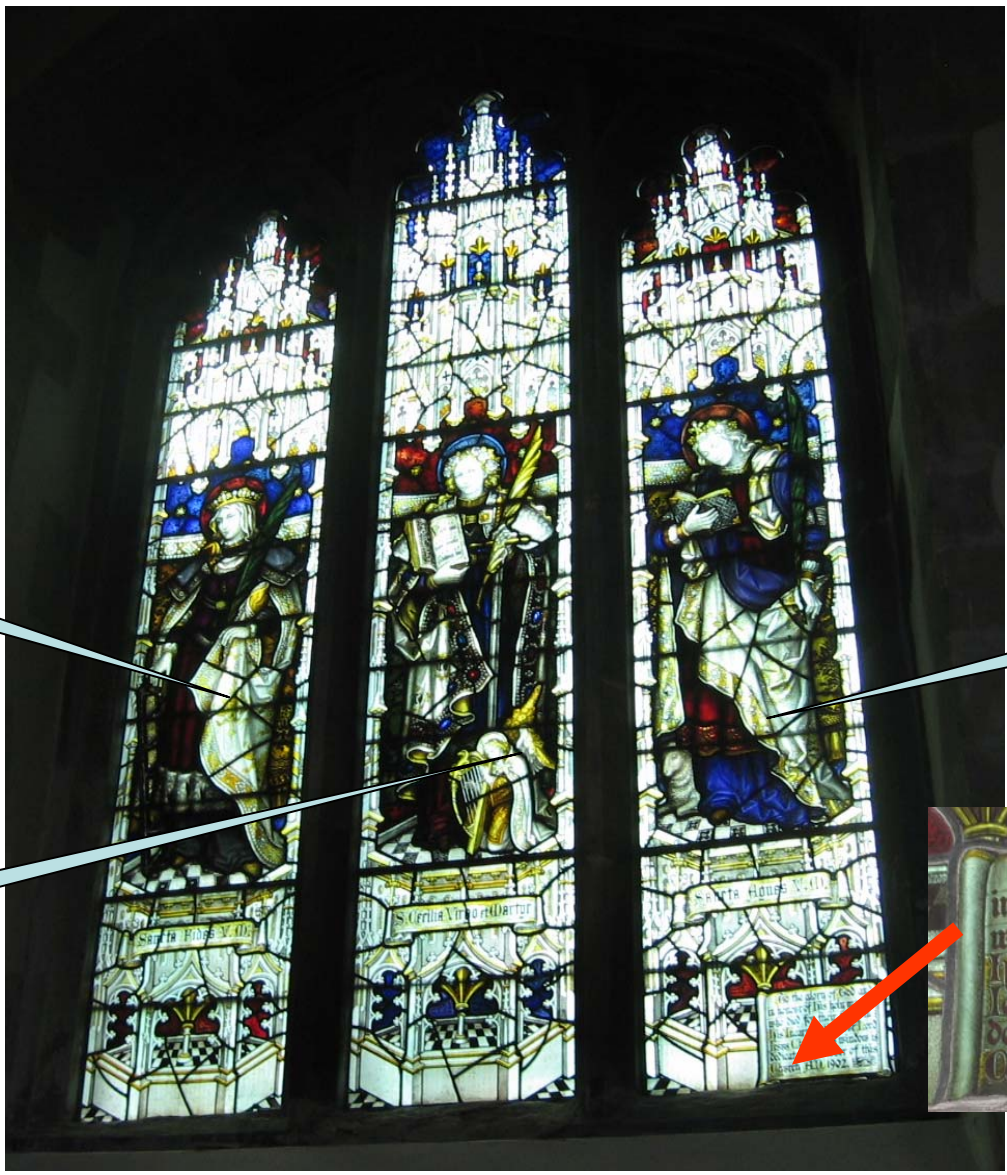
Go the honorr and glory of God and in memory of two brothers who served Him in this parish for many years this window witnessing to the faith of the Church in the Incarnation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is dedicated by members of their family and many friends. John Brown born Dec: 3rd 1795 died Oct: 23rd 1890 William Brown born Mar: 7th 1814 died June 5th 1890

**SOUTH AISLE
SOUTH WINDOW
NUMBER ONE
(1902)**

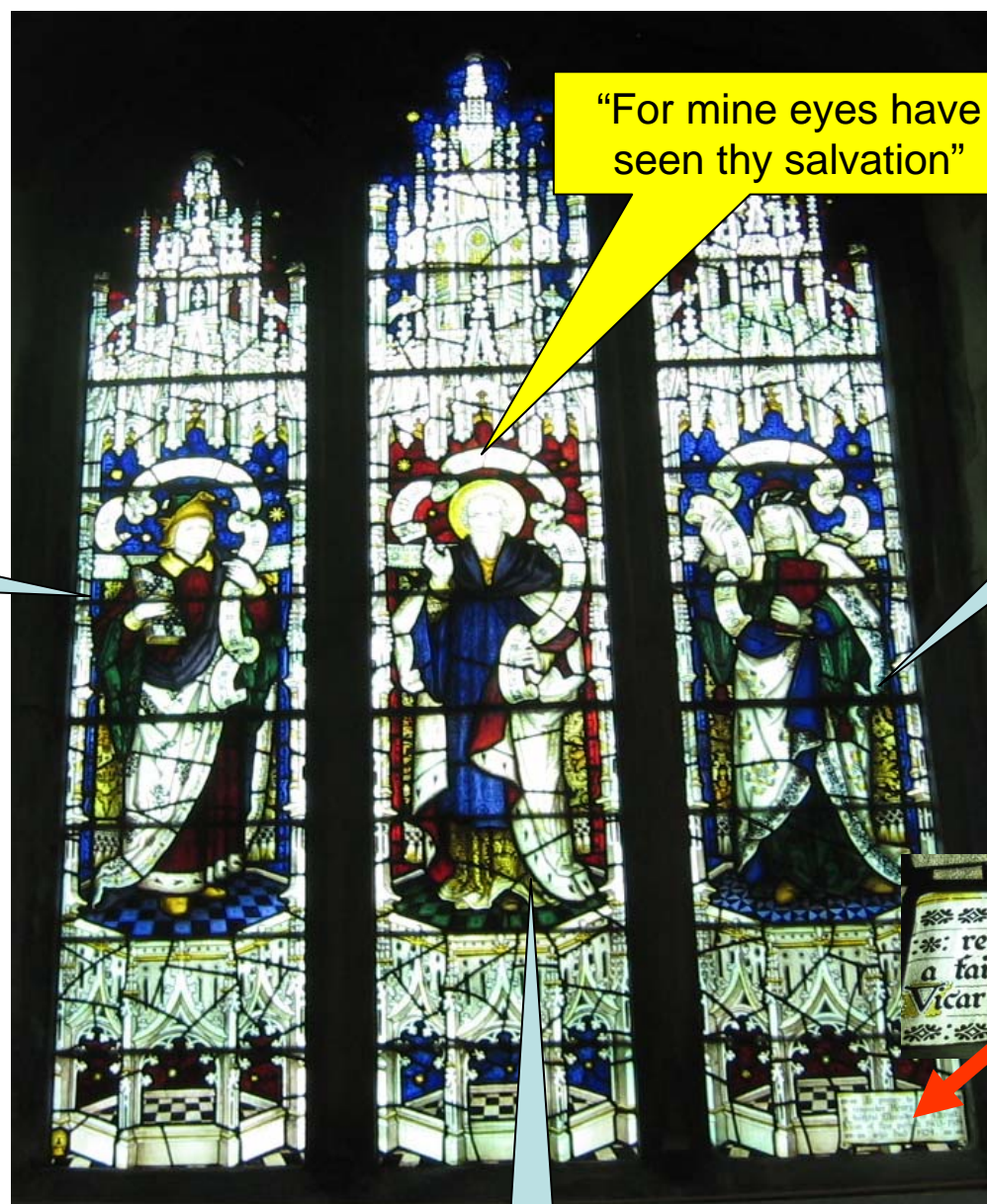
St Fides

St Cecilia

St Agnes



SOUTH AISLE
SOUTH WINDOW
NUMBER TWO



Prophet
Micah

"For mine eyes have
seen thy salvation"

Prophet
Malachi

Simeon

In prayer to God
remember Henry Francis
a faithful Minister of Christ
Vicar of this parish 1903-1919
who died 1924.



**SOUTH AISLE
SOUTH WINDOW
NUMBER THREE
(1897)**



Prophetess
Deborah

Queen Esther

King David

In honor of God, and of His Servants,
Deborah, David, and Esther, who wrought
deliverance for Israel in the days of the
Judges and Kings, and of the Captivity;
and in thankfulness for blessings vouchsafed
to this Church and Nation during the long
reign of our Sovereign Lady, Queen Victoria,
this window is dedicated, A.D. 1897.

In honor of God, and of His Servants,
Deborah, David, and Esther, who wrought
deliverance for Israel in the days of the
Judges and Kings, and of the Captivity;
and in thankfulness for blessings vouchsafed
to this Church and Nation during the long
reign of our Sovereign Lady, Queen Victoria,
this window is dedicated, A.D. 1897.

SOUTH AISLE
SOUTH WINDOW
NUMBER FOUR
(1902)

Faith



Hope

Charity

For the glory of God, and in loving memory
of Lucia Josephine, 7th daughter of
Eben Pike, of Besborough, County Cork,
who died April 23rd 1897, this window
is dedicated by her husband, John Wilson
(Master, of Hastoe in this Parish, &c

**NORTH AISLE
NORTH WINDOW
(1923)**

St Augustine

St Anselm

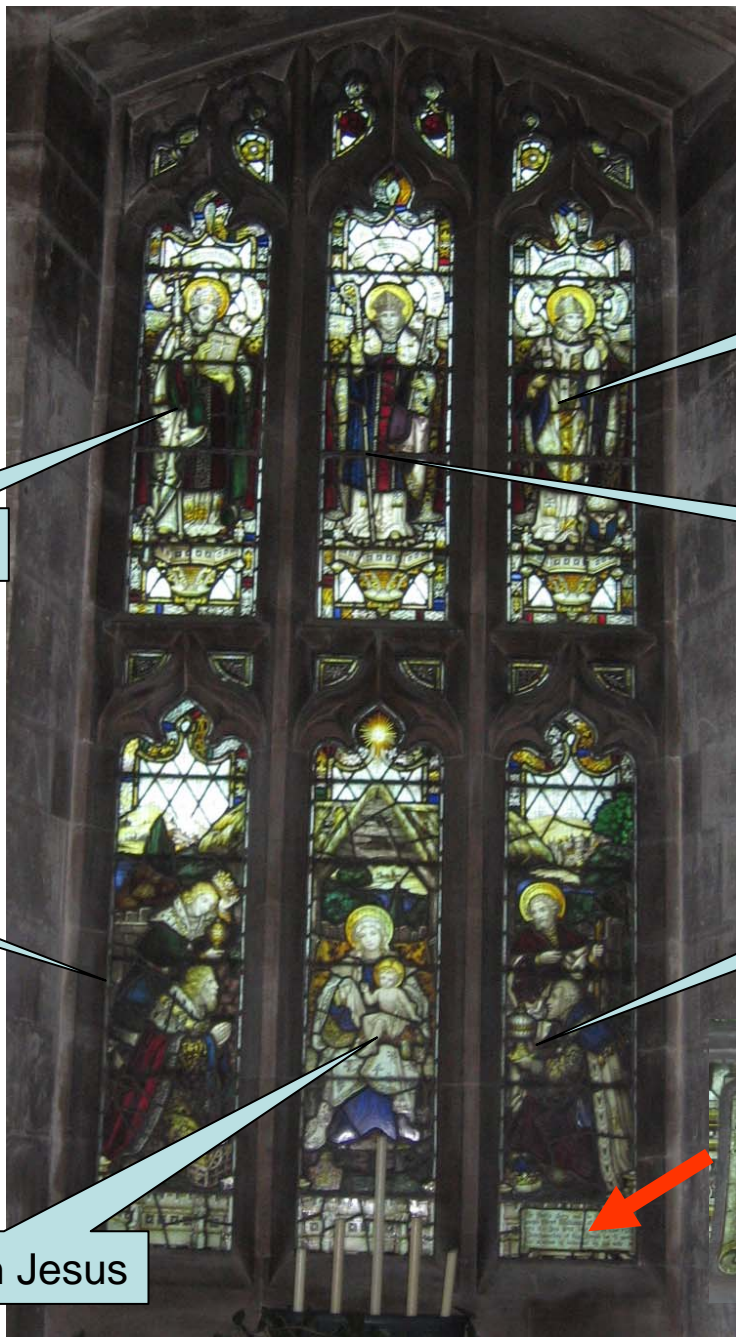
St Ambrose

Wise men

Joseph

Mary with Jesus

Go God's glory and to the memory of
Joseph Grosi Williams of Pendley Manor
born 16th June 1848, died 9th October 1923.
Churchwarden of this Parish for 41 years.
This window is dedicated by his wife. ✠



VESTRY
NORTH WINDOW
(1852)

St Peter



St John

St James



More about...the Corbels

You will need to look up in the nave of the church to see the Corbels. They are decorations in stone at the base of the pillars supporting the clerestory and roof of the church. St Peter and St Paul has six windows each side of the clerestory and so has seven pillars - fourteen in all - each with a corbel.

Each corbel has a different design, the significance of which is often rather unclear now.

The next pages identify each corbel, working clockwise round the church, starting from the east end of the south wall, i.e. just above the lectern.



More about...the Corbels

South side

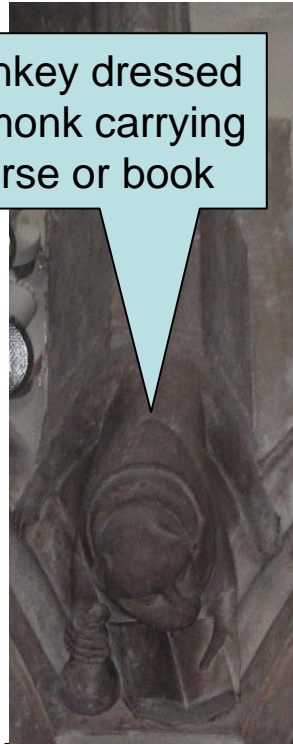
1

A fox carrying
a goose over
its back



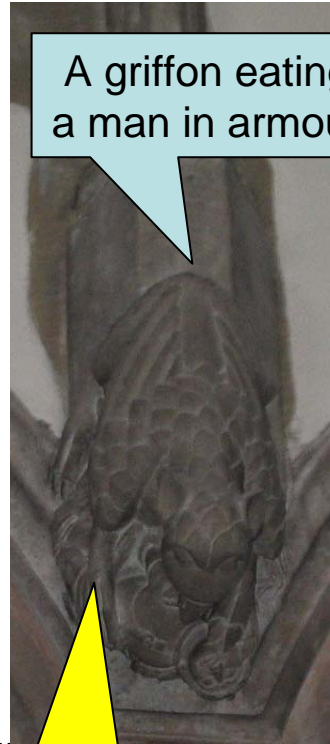
2

A monkey dressed
as a monk carrying
a purse or book



3

A griffon eating
a man in armour



4

A lion holding
a shield



the devil carrying
off a soul to hell?



More about...the Corbels

South side

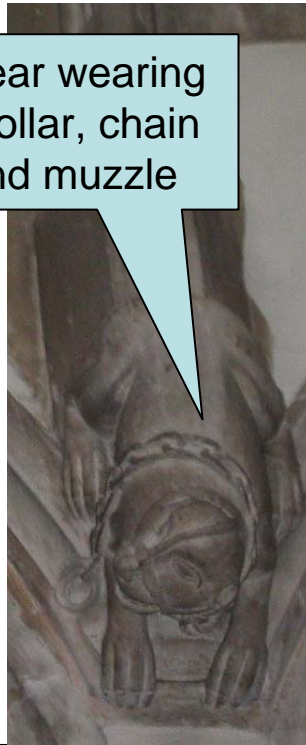
5

A wingless
dragon



6

A bear wearing
a collar, chain
and muzzle



7

A dog or wolf
fighting with
a dragon



More about...the Corbels

North side

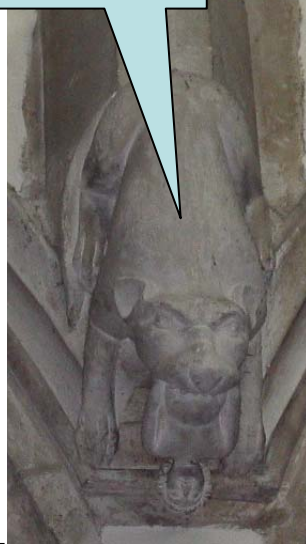
1

A monster with the top half of a woman and the rear of a dragon



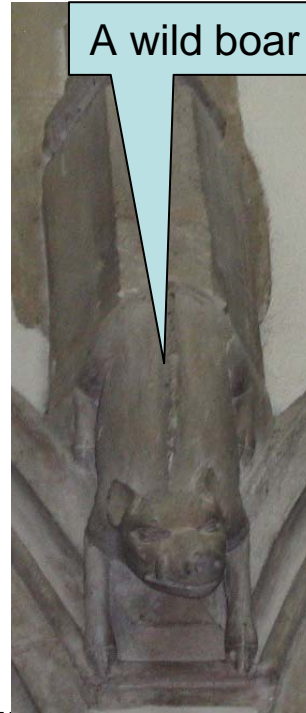
2

A beast swallowing a person



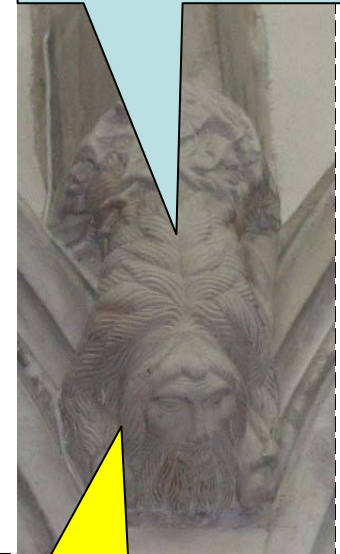
3

A wild boar



4

A wild man with long plaited hair wearing a vine trail



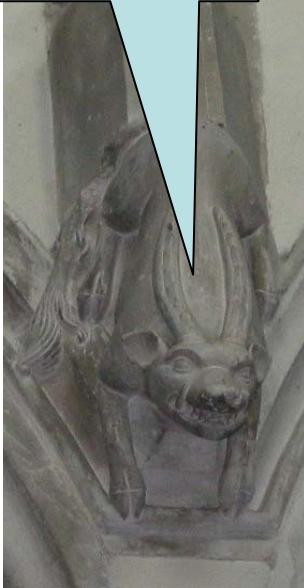
'natural man' cast off at baptism

More about...the Corbels

North side

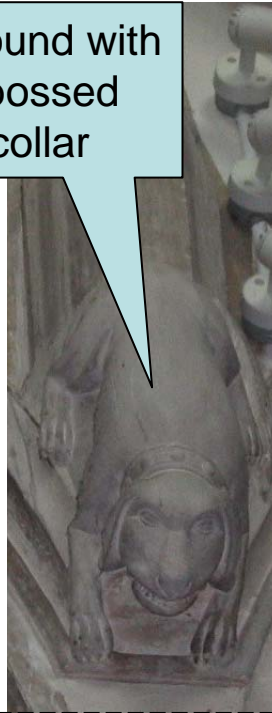
5

An antelope with tusks



6

A hound with a bossed collar



7

An angel carrying a heraldic shield

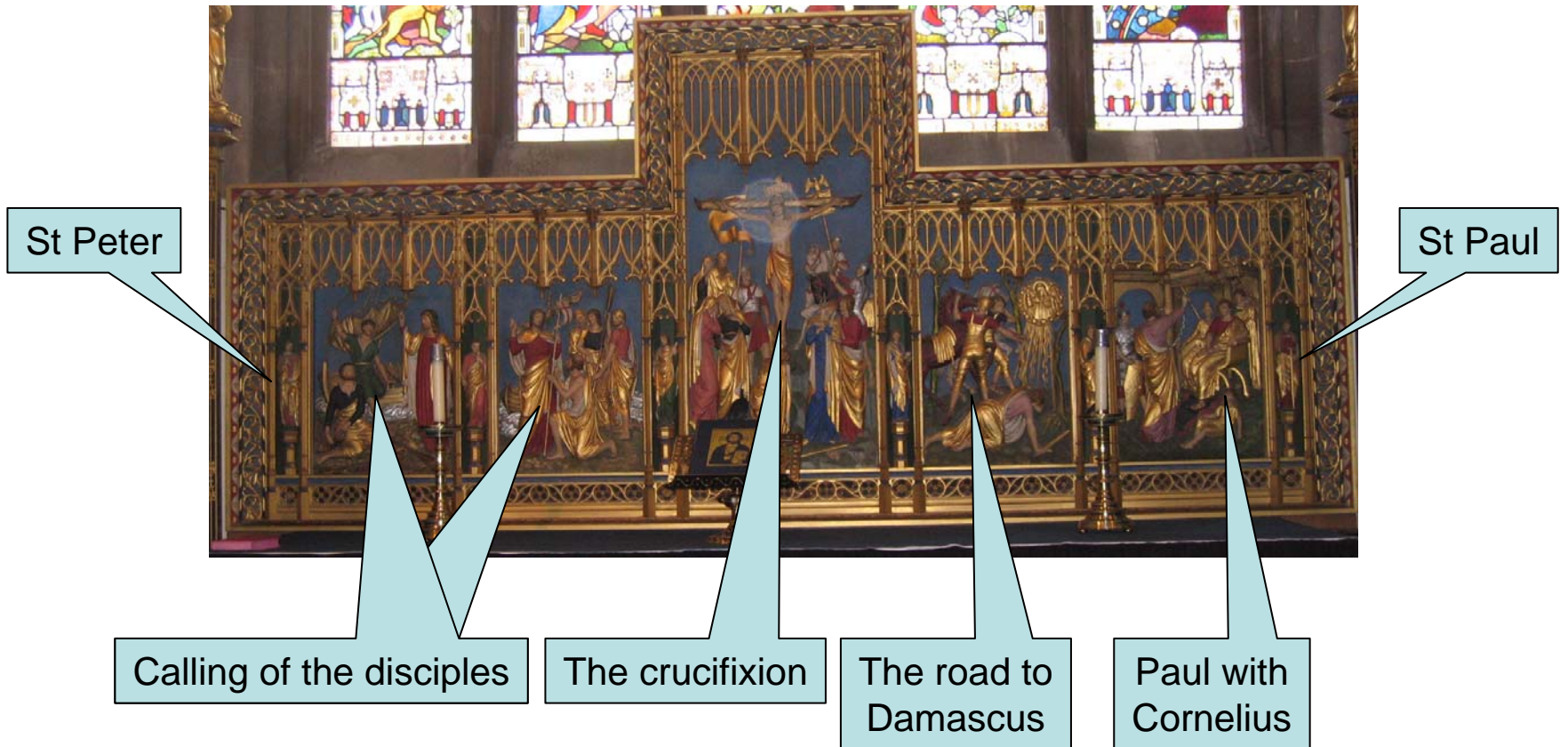


Corbel 8 is small, because of the door, which used to give access to the top of a screen between the nave and chancel



More about...the reredos

The Reredos - i.e. the display behind the altar - is a mere 80 years old. It depicts scenes and people from the New Testament.



More about...the Monuments



The Gore memorial is the most imposing, if not overpowering feature to strike the visitor to the church. It commemorates Sir William Gore, who lived in Tring Park (now the Arts Educational School) before his death in 1707, as well as his wife Elizabeth. It is interesting to compare the nature of the tributes to them both in the panels beneath!

The memorial used to be in the chancel but was moved to its present position during the 1882 restoration of the church.

More about...the Monuments

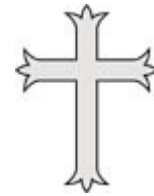


This memorial, adjacent to the large Gore memorial, and in coloured marble, is to John Gore, the grandson of Sir William Gore.



This monument, on the east wall of the north aisle, commemorates Edward Pope, who worked in Tring for 60 years in the 19th century as a doctor.

More about...the Monuments



A Cross
Fleurie

Just below the Gore memorial is a coffin slab, some 700 years old. It is decorated with a cross fleurie and two hinge-like scrolls. It was discovered when the foundations of the Chancel were being dug in the 15th century.

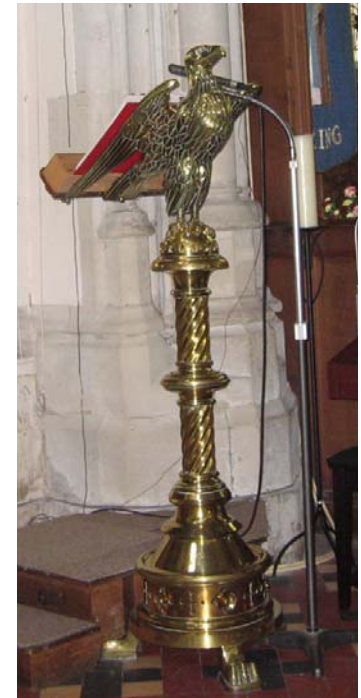
Not all of the monuments are grand and ancient. This one on the north wall recalls John and Kathleen Reader, faithful members of the church community until only a few years ago, still in living memory.



More about...the Pulpit and Lectern



The Pulpit was replaced in 1862, at the same time as the pews. It is made of oak and was a gift from the Students (i.e. the Fellows) of Christ Church, Oxford. It was designed by an architect called William Slater and carved by James Forsyth, both from London.



The lectern also dates from 1862.

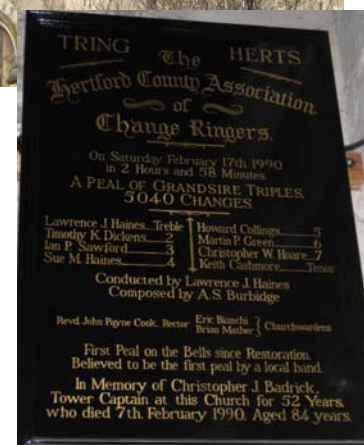
Making a noise...the Bells

Church bells have been calling the faithful to prayer, and marking notable dates, for many centuries. This church has 8 bells, dating from 1622, most recently restored in 1988. The bells are listed below.

<u>Bell</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Weight</u> ¹	<u>Weight</u> ²	<u>Note</u>
Treble	1882	5-3-19	300	Db
2	1882	6-1-15	324	C
3	1636	7-3-21	403	Bb
4	1752	9-1-21	480	Ab
5	1622	9-1-20	479	Gb
6	1624	11-1-21	581	F
7	1624	14-0-27	724	Eb
Tenor	1695	17-3-18	910	Db

1 Measured in hundredweights, quarters and pounds, the traditional Imperial measure

2. Measured in kilograms, the modern equivalent



Here are the inscriptions on the bells.

No 1 Treble:

'Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound' 'Gillett and Bland, Croydon 1882'

No 2:

'I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord' 'Gillett and Bland, Croydon 1882'

No 3:

'On part of this bell was given by Mani Men, 1636' i.e. many men contributed to the cost

No 4:

'Christopher Bewley and Edward Foster, Churchwardens 1752' 'Thomas Lester and Thos Pack of London fecit'

No 5:

'God save the King 1662'

No 6:

'Praise the Lord 1624'

No 7:

'Sonora-Sono-Meo-Sono-Deo 1624' i.e. 'with my sound I make loud sounds to God'

(5, 6 and 7 have a mark believed to represent Robert Oldfield.)

No 8 Tenor:

'Chandler made me 1695'



Further information can be found at www.tringbellringers.org.uk.

Making a noise...the organ



The organ is a fine instrument of good size and proportion to the building. It has a wide tonal variety and is capable of anything from the very quietest meditational music to leading the singing of a full church. The present instrument seems to have been originally installed around 1890 by Henry Jones & Son, South Kensington. The action and much of the pipework date from this time. In the post second world war years the organ fell into a state of disrepair and was, for a time, disused in favour of an early electronic instrument.

It was renovated, altered and brought back into use in 1952/3 by N.P. Mander. In 1985 it was rebuilt and enlarged (with nine new ranks) by Saxon Aldred and remains like this today.

Further information can be found at www.tringchurchmusic.org.uk/organ.

a living church

This is not just a beautiful old building, commemorating the past. It is a place where Christians come to learn, to pray, and even to have fun together.



Come and
see for
yourself!

where to find out more

Friends of Tring Church Heritage - <http://www.fotch.co.uk>

"Tring Church Heritage", the Official Heritage Book by the 'Friends', published in 2006

Tring and district Parish - <http://www.tringteamparish.org.uk>

"A short guide to the Parish Church", published in 1977

The Organ - www.tringchurchmusic.org.uk/organ.

The Bells - www.tringbellringers.org.uk

For more information about Christianity: www.christian.org.uk

And about the Church of England: www.cofe.anglican.org

This guide was assembled by Becky and John Whiteman, with help from Philip Lawrence and lots of others, and completed in February 2007. If you see a mistake, or can think of an improvement, please let us know: johnwhiteman@btinternet or 01442 826314