

Welcome to
St. Andrew's Church

The Parish Church of
Sherborne St. John
Hampshire

In the Diocese of Winchester

St. Andrew's Church welcomes you as a worshipper or as a visitor, and we hope these notes will help your appreciation and enjoyment of this beautiful old building.

In it you will find a heritage of the past; the centre of our Christian worship today; and a noble legacy for the future.

In an area noted for its country churches we are humbly grateful for a parish church which we believe to be "second to none".



NOTES ON THE VILLAGE OF SHERBORNE ST. JOHN

Roman remains have been found in the Village, but the name "Sherborne" comes from the Saxon for "clear stream", of which there are several. The Manor was held by the powerful de Port family after the Norman Conquest of 1066, and later passed to the St. John family.

The Vyne and Beaurepaire estates have both long connections with the Village and the Church. The Vyne passed through several owners until it came to Bernard Brocas who bequeathed £700 in 1395 to build the Brocas Chapel. In 1497 the Vyne was owned by William, 1st Lord Sandys who was Lord Chamberlain to King Henry VIII in 1526.

In 1650 the Vyne estate was bought by Chaloner Chute, Speaker in the Parliament of Richard Cromwell, and it remained in the family until the death of Sir Charles Chute, Bart., in 1956. He left the Vyne, suitably endowed, to the National Trust. Splendidly restored, it is now open to the Public.

Beaurepaire, beyond the Vyne, was acquired by Bernard Brocas (grandfather of the one who built the Chapel) in 1353 and the family continued there until 1883. The house was substantially destroyed by fire in 1952 and the estate is now owned by Lord Sherfield.

The Parish of Sherborne St. John has not grown greatly and its population is not much more than a thousand. It still contains half a dozen farms, though many now work in Basingstoke, Aldermaston, or commute to London.

The Village has a pleasant pub and several old and handsome houses and cottages. There is a Chapel of the Plymouth Brethren at the west end of the Village. The Primary School is next to the Church and there has always been a close connection between the two.

*DIXON & SON — Bakers and Grocers
Dixon's Corner, Aldermaston Road,
Sherborne St. John.
Tel: Basingstoke 850-003*



*THE WINE SHOP — Off Licence
Wide Selection of Wines & Spirits
at Dixon's Corner, Aldermaston Road*

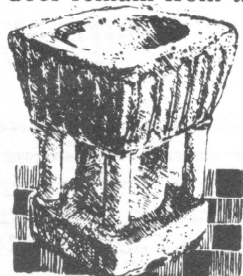


*"THE MUSTARD POT" — Furniture and Antiques
Aldermaston Road, West End
Sherborne St. John
Susan Chapman, Proprietor
Tel: Tadley 3355*

A TOUR OF THE CHURCH

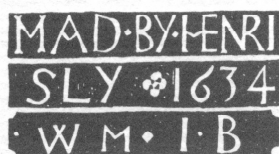
THE NAVE was first built in 1150, but only the west wall, the south wall and south door remain from this date.

THE FONT is thought to be the original placed here in 1150. The font cover is from about 1700 and probably used to have a pulley to raise and lower it.



THE CHANCEL (Choir) was added in 1300 and about 1340 the North, South and East windows replaced the original lancet windows. Note the finely carved bosses on the ceiling.

THE PULPIT is a gem of which its maker was justly proud! It is unusual to find a pulpit autographed, but here we read:



The initials are presumably those of the donors.

THE MEMORIALS in the Nave are interesting. To the left of the door that to George Beverly states, "Erected in the 29th. yeare of King Charles ye 2nd. A.D. 1678" — loyally taking the year of Charles I's execution and ignoring the years of Cromwell's Commonwealth! At the back the brass memorial to the charity of Thomas Sympson (still received annually) does the same (1674).

Here, too, is the scroll to mark the Golden Anniversary of the incumbency of the Rev. Devereux Chute, Rector for 61 years, from 1865-1926.

At the foot of the Chancel steps are three tombstones. Nearest the pulpit is that of Ezekiel Lyon, Vicar 1699-1732. Next to him one hopes the parents of three year old Isabella Martelli were comforted by her inscription which ends "Look upwards and your child you'll see / Fixt in her blest abode / And who than would not childless be / to give a child to God" (17??).

In the Chancel the memorial to Chaloner W. Chute "from his sorrowing cottagers" bespeaks another age. Also of the last century are the four Hatchments, all of the Chute family. These coats-of-arms were carried at the funeral and were then hung in the Church "temporarily".

In the Sanctuary is the memorial of 1635 to Richard Atkins, who married into the Sandys family, then owners of the Vyne. It is made of alabaster.

Also in the Sanctuary is the Glastonbury chair with a scene from "The Flight into Egypt" which was given by Devereux Chute. The reredos of the Last Supper, made of glass mosaic was put there in 1886.

The rails of the Sanctuary are late 17th C. and the panelling is also good. Much restoration work was done by Devereux Chute, partly under the direction of the architect St. Aubyn, and it was at this time that the Chancel was raised from being level with the Nave; nine layers of paint were removed from the pulpit; and new pews were provided so that the Vyne and Beaurepaire pews (one above the other) and the west gallery could be removed.

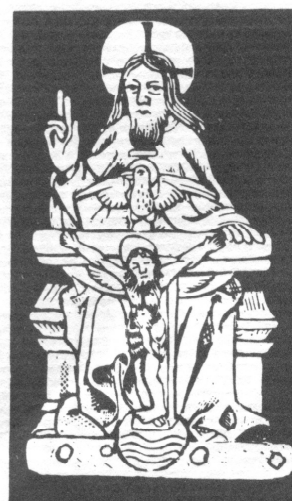
THE NORTH AISLE

This was built by Devereux Chute's father in 1854, mainly to provide needed employment, but not until 1884 was the archway built to connect the north aisle with the Brocas Chapel.

Here you will find the three volumes of Foxe's Book of Martyrs. These were given by William Jackman, vicar 1652-89. The three sided lectern on which they stand probably dates from that time. The books were rebound by Devereux Chute's sister. The Book of Martyrs was once to be found in all parish churches, and is basically an anti-Roman Catholic polemic, but few now survive in Churches.

The Royal COAT OF ARMS of Charles II, put up in the year of his return as King (1660) is also a rare survival of so early a date.

The ORGAN dates from 1888 and Mrs. Chute was the organist for 47 years. It first stood in the Chancel and was moved to its present position in 1928. It was completely rebuilt in 1972.



(Brass of the Holy Trinity)

THE BROCAS CHAPEL was built by the then owners of the Beaurepaire Estate as a family mausoleum in 1420, though its earliest brass is on the wall on the right, of Raulin and Margaret Brocas (1360). Other brasses are of Bernard Brocas, in armour with a skeleton and shroud (1488); John Brocas with his two wives, both named Anne (note the change in head-dress) of 1492; and William Brocas on the wall, 1540.



(Floor Tile)

The large tomb is of Ralph Pexall and his wife. He married Edith Brocas, the heiress to the estate, and they died c.1535. After a hundred years a Pexall heiress married a Brocas cousin, so the name came back to Beaurepaire, and we have the fulsome epitaphs to Thomas Brocas, his wife and daughters on the Chapel floor. We still use the silver wine flagon given by them in 1708.



(Tomb Monogram)



The helmet is English, made between 1560 & 1570. A companion was stolen a few years ago.

The glass in the Chapel is mixed, some rather poor dated 1638, but the coloured glass is Dutch of the early 16th C. and is the best of its kind in Hampshire.

The sculpture on the north wall is from an early Renaissance freize, but its origin is unknown.



The Chapel was re-roofed in 1969, when the Nave roof was also re-tiled.

THE TOWER

The Tower was built to the height of the Nave roof about 1250. It was raised to its present height to take the bells, and was restored by Elizabeth Chute in 1834, and the spire was added soon afterwards. The spire was repaired in 1885 and has been restored and covered with new copper sheeting in 1973.

There are six bells. Two are inscribed: "Prayse ye the Lord — Joseph Carter 1587"; One is undated; one is of 1602; the tenor (which weighs 11 cwt.) is inscribed "Henri Knight made this bell ano 1618"; and the treble bell was added in 1928. During the Civil War, when Old Basing was besieged by the Roundheads for three years, their six church bells were removed for safe-keeping. Sherborne St. John received two of the six. The tower of Basing Church was destroyed in the fighting and was not rebuilt for a hundred years — by which time no one thought of returning any bells, and they are here still.

The bells were re-hung in a steel frame in 1963.

THE OUTSIDE

As you leave, notice the Porch, built in 1533. The broken figures of the donor and his wife kneeling can be seen over the Church door. The inscription reads: "Of your cherete pray / For the soul of Iamys / Spier. Departed in / The yere of our / Lord. A. MDXXXI on / hos soul Iesu have marsi".

On the outside of the Porch (under the sundial) is another inscription, and here his name is written as James Spyre. They were careless about such matters in those days!

As you leave the Porch, look at the gravestone around the corner to your left, dated 1828. It reads in part: "George Hickson — He had lived above 20 years in the service of William Chute, Esq. as whipper-in and huntsman and continued after he died in the family as coachman. Respected while living and lamented when dead". Ambiguous, to say the least!

The fine **LYCH GATE** was built in honour of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. Lych gates were used for the saying of prayers when a coffin was brought into the graveyard.

Illustrations by Roderick Hoyle