

Buckland St Mary

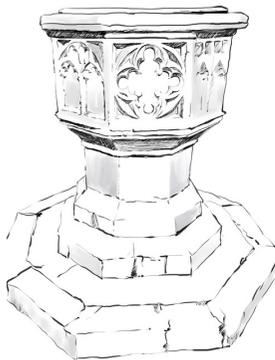
PEOPLE OF BUCKLAND VISITOR TRAIL

There has been a place of worship on this site since at least the 10th century, when this part of the Thames Valley was a wealthy and strategically important part of the newly formed Kingdom of England. Ever since then this building has borne witness to nationally important historical figures and events, but also to generations of villagers whose lives left few other traces in the historical record. This trail celebrates the contributions of all people - great and small - to our fascinating building.

1) The **south door** has been the entrance for worshippers since the 11th century. Look at and feel the boards for the marks left by the carpenter's adze 900 years ago as he worked the roughly split oak. The ironwork is also medieval, made by the village blacksmith.

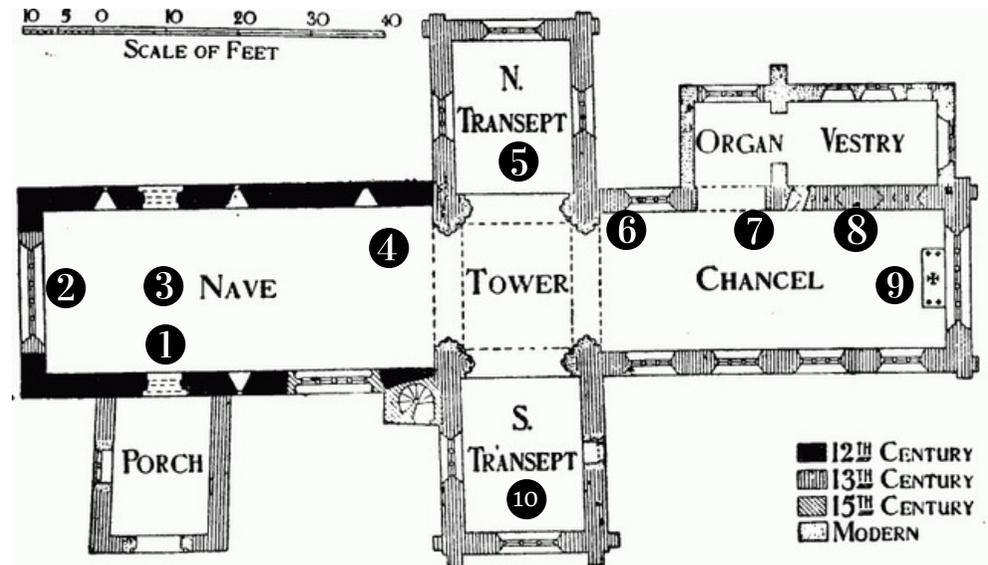
2) The **war memorial** is on the west wall of the nave. It is made out of the old Victorian reredos. Many family names appear several times, showing the devastating impact the wars had on our village.

3) The **font** is near the main door to symbolise how baptism is the entrance into the worshipping community. Babies born in our parish have been baptised in this font for 600 years.



4) The first **pews** at the east end of the nave, in front of the pulpit, are surviving examples of box pews. These pews were common in the 18th century, and had doors and panelling to keep out draughts. They would have been allocated to families or individuals and passed down to their descendants for several generations.

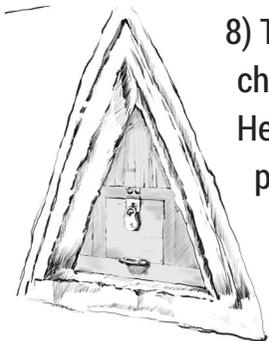
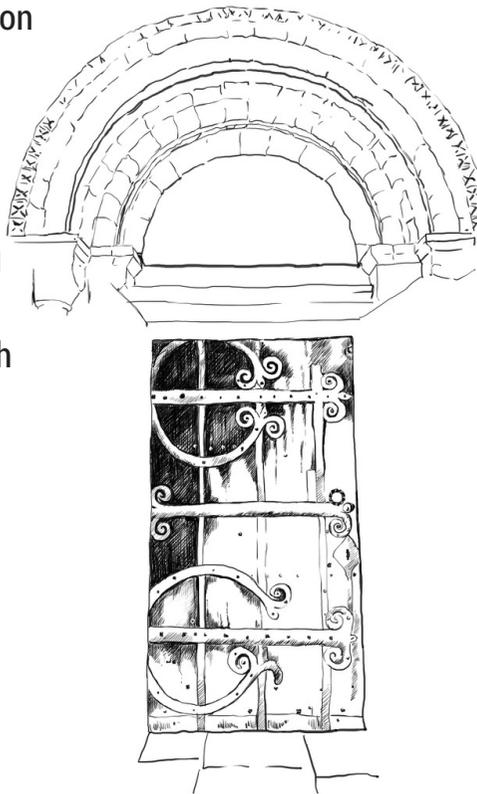
5) The **north transept** served as a mausoleum for the Yate and Throckmorton families of Buckland Manor. Three monuments commemorate John Yate (d. 1578) and his wife; Sir Edward Yate (d. 1645) and his wife; and Sir John Yate (d. 1658). Look up and you can see three hatchments representing Sir Robert Throckmorton (d. 1791), Sir John Courtenay Throckmorton (d. 1819) and Sir Charles Throckmorton (d. 1840). These were carried at their funerals before being mounted in the church.



6) The **Berrington Monument**. Joseph Berrington was a Catholic priest and chaplain to Sir John Courtenay Throckmorton. He co-founded the Catholic Committee and formed the Cisalpine Club in the 1790's aiming to support Catholic emancipation and disconnect Catholicism from a Jacobite cause which had made the Hanoverian monarchy consider British Catholics to be an existential threat. His personality and willingness to seek a resolution to the generations-old conflict between Anglicans and Catholics made him popular with both groups, hence his memorial in this Anglican church.



7) There are two medieval **tomb niches** in the chancel. The one on the north wall was used as an Easter Sepulchre - a place where the wine and bread of the Mass were laid on Good Friday to symbolise the placing of Christ's body into the tomb. For medieval people the bread and wine were literally Christ's body and blood, and therefore objects of real spiritual power - having your tomb slab used as the Sepulchre was a high honour accorded only to the extremely rich or the extremely pious. Both niches have carved heads to their hood molds.



8) The **triangular niche** on the north side of the chancel contains the heart of William Holcott. He was a Protestant preacher who took to the pulpit regularly in a damask gown and velvet bonnet. He died in 1575 and had requested that his heart be brought back to Buckland if he died away from the village.

9) The exquisite **East window** is by pre-Raphaelite artist Henry Holiday and is on theme of the Te Deum - Christ in Majesty ruling over Heaven and Earth. The top five lights represent Heaven and the bottom lights have beautifully painted figures representing the temporal realm. The window was installed in 1919 in memory of Captain Francis Maurilyan Butler of Carswell Manor. Captain Butler served with the Royal Field Artillery and was killed in action at the Battle of Passchendaele on 8 October 1917. His youngest son, Francis Charles, was a pilot officer in the RAF reserve during the Second World War. He was killed when his Wellington came down in the North Sea on 18 June 1940. After his death his mother, Josephine, sold Carswell Manor to St Hugh's Preparatory School, which remains there today.

10) The **south transept** was built around 1240 and used as a family chapel by the Holcotts, who were buried in a crypt beneath the floor. It was refurbished by railway director William West in 1892, as a memorial to his beloved wife, Clara Jane. A fantastic example of late Victorian decorative art by Henry Holiday.



We hope you enjoyed your visit to St Mary's!

Why not have a look at our other visitor trails, or at our website buckland-livinghistory.org.uk to find out more?