

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

The earliest parts of the building as we see it today, the tower and chancel, date back mainly to the 13th century, although there is evidence of an earlier church from some good Norman stonework included in the present walls. In the mid 14th century the chancel was extended and the tower was rebuilt. The diagonal French buttresses were probably added to the tower in the later 14th century to strengthen the structure for the addition of the spire which rises 91 feet [27.7m] from the ground. The aisles were widened, including interesting corbel figures and roof bosses, and the south porch added in the mid 15th century.

An outstanding feature and great ornament of the church is the 15th century nave roof. Four carved angels in feathered suits, missing their wings, alternate with four robed benefactors to decorate the hammer beams between the tie beams, each bearing a shield with painted coats of arms significant in the history of the building. The clerestory was added about the same time when the nave roof was raised, reusing the 14th century tie beams. Other 14th century woodwork includes four stalls in the chancel, two with misericords. There is also an iron-bound chest dated to about 1500.

The chancel and tower screens, the pulpit, and the pews in the south aisle are 16th century, originally from Jesus College chapel, taken by the then rector to Landbeach in the late 18th century. The east window with its jumble of images, was installed about the same time, possibly from Wimborne Minster, and includes the head of Lady Margaret Beaufort, the mother of Henry VII. There are medieval fragments in the windows of the south aisle and two windows made by the wife of the Victorian Rector. One commemorates the restoration carried out in 1878, which included building the vestry and organ chamber on the site of the former Lady Chapel that was demolished in 1787.

An illustrated guide to the history, features and decorations of the church is on sale in the church.