

Crudwell Brief History of All Saints

HISTORICAL NOTES:

Crudwell was associated with Malmesbury Abbey continuously between 681 and 1539 and Crudwell, but not its church is mentioned in the Domesday Survey. In 1553 the Manor of Crudwell and other land was sold to John Lucas of Essex. The Lucas family had the patronage of the church and large leasehold rights and built a school in Crudwell. Between 1782 and 1839 the Lucas family sold the patronage to the Maskelyne family of Oaksey park and more recently it was purchased by the Anslow Sole family. Both families provided Rectors.

Until 1836 Crudwell, then in the Deanery of Malmesbury, transferred from Salisbury Diocese to the Bristol and Gloucester Diocese. It is now in the North Wiltshire Deanery of the Bristol Diocese.

BAPTISTRY:

The font a simple octagonal basin with a similar shaft of the kind made in the 14th and 15th Century. The south-west window is in memory of Maurice Maskelyne (1806-59) and his son William Vivash Maskelyne (1834-59)

TOWER:

The tower was started in the 14th and completed in the 15th century. The sawn off beam ends suggest that a musician's gallery originally ran across the west end of the church. The four-light west window. A later insertion, is in memory of William Maskelyne (1808-66) Rector of Crudwell. In the tower there are five bells: 1,3,4, and 5 – C & G Mears, Founders London, 1858 and 2 – the same, without date. The bells are now rung by levers (a Carillon)

NORTH AISLE:

Late 12th century. The mid-15th century Seven Sacraments window is in unusually good condition and represents Orders, Confirmation, Penance, Marriage and extreme Unction: Baptism and Eucharist are missing. Here is a good example of a hagioscope (squint).

NORTH CHAPEL:

This chapel dates from the early 14th century. The organ was built by W. Smerland of Bath in 1871. The aumbrey, an inlet in the wall used for keeping holy oils, no longer has its wooden door.

CHANCEL:

The 13th century piscina which was used in the past for washing the chalice, drains into the churchyard. The old chancel door here had deteriorated and a new oak chancel door has been made by a Malmesbury joiner, using the original iron fittings and lock. This was dedicated by the Rector, the Rev. Barry Raven on 1st July 2001.

NAVE:

The nave is high and narrow, the proportions of a Saxon church. Indicating a building of that period; a Saxon nave and sanctuary could easily be contained in the present nave. A roof line can be seen on the east face of the tower.

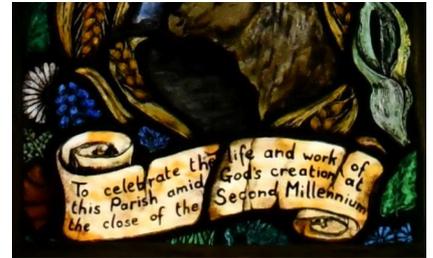
BENCHES:

When John Aubrey visited Crudwell church in 1670 he wrote "Here are the best and most substantial seats I know anywhere built by one Walton...". One of the surviving panels divides the south-east part of the nave from the south aisle altar. The panels shows the crowned arms of Henry VII (1485-1509) on a shield, incorrectly marshalled. The supporters are a white greyhound and a red dragon. A Tudor rose and a pomegranate

commemorate the marriage of the King's eldest son, Arthur to Katharine of Aragon in 1501. At the foot is the profile of a clean-shaven man with long hair and a brimmed hat surrounded by four entwined roses possibly a representation of Henry VII and his four children. Bench ends on the south side of the nave show carvings of roses and lilies, fruit motifs, a leaping stag, profile heads with forked beards, etc. On the north side there is a large Tudor rose, a winged dragon-like beast, an eagle and a large full faced head of a man with three curls on his forehead shoulder length hair and clean shaven face, possibly a portrait of the donor or builder, Walton.

SOUTH AISLE:

Late 14th or early 15th century. The central panel of the south window was donated as one of the Millennium Projects of the Parish of Crudwell to celebrate the second millennium. It was crafted by a Crudwell stained glass artist depicting village rural features, and installed by him in May 1999. On 14th May 2000 it was dedicated by Bishop Barry of Bristol. The door in the south wall leads to the parvis room over the porch.



PORCH:

15th Century. Here is a board recording all Rectors of the Parish from 1231.

LYCHGATE:

This is a First World War Memorial which was "unveiled" on All Saints Day, 1st November, 1920. It lists the names of those Crudwell men who were killed in the order in which they died. Fortunately. All 48 men and women of Crudwell who took part in the Second World War of 1939-45 returned safely and as a thank-offering contributed to the fine oak table just inside the church.

Source: Brief History Leaflet at Crudwell All Saints, published c2000