

Pitton

Brief History of St. Peter



12th – 14th centuries Nearly 900 years ago, not long after the building of the first Salisbury Cathedral at Old Sarum, a church was built non this site at Pitton. But of that Norman period all that remains are the south doorway and Font.

Although the building was originally Norman, it would seem that work was carried on into the Early English period, for the lower part of the Porch, with its interesting 3-part arch, is 13th century work in the lancet windows in the Chancel.

From the 14th century, the West window provides an example of unspoiled stone tracery; and the section of a capital from the pillar, now placed above the pulpit, is probably of this period.

16th century In the North wall of the Chancel, a small memorial brass records the death of Edward Zouche in 1580. His family, originally from Ashby-de-la-Zouche, owned the Manor at Pitton, which had previously belonged to the Monastery of Ivychurch at Alderbury.

19th Century In 1878 restoration work was carried out. Galleries which had been added in 1797 were removed, together with the North wall of the church. In its place was built the North aisle and a Vestry. The interior was completely refurnished, and a Bell Tower was added to the porch. The weather vane, made in 1801 by a local blacksmith, Moses Webb, which was on the original church, was now placed on the new Tower. The church reopened on the 3rd of July 1880 by the Bishop of Salisbury.

The East Window In the year, 1880, the stained glass window at the East end was given by Sir Frederick Bathurst in memory of his daughter Evelyn who had married Lord Methuen in beautiful harmony with the church, it was designed by a well known stained glass artist of the period, Charles Eamer Kempe (1837-1907), and is particularly fine example of his earlier work. The Crucifixion, with St. Mary and St. John on either side, is placed against the background of a vine (which lives to give its life blood), with a 3-fold scroll "Jesus of the True Vine". Above is a chalice, and beneath is portrayed a pelican wounding herself with her beak to feed her young with her blood – a symbol representing the atoning work of Jesus giving his life for others, especially as mediated through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.



Source: St. Peter's Church