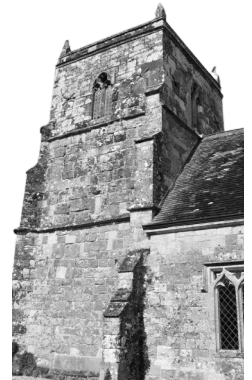


Sutton Mandeville All Saints Church Brief History

There are grounds for believing that a Saxon church existed on this site. Traces of a round Saxon graveyard have been found. The Norman tower, with belfry windows added by English builders, may earlier have been a watch tower. A new top was added in 1709 and repairs carried out in 1897.

The chancel arch is 13th century, with triple shafts and simply mould capitals. The church was repaired in 1850 and enlarged and rebuilt in 1862 by T. B. Miles of Shaftesbury.

The treble bell is 14th century casting, almost certainly from Salisbury foundry. The other two bells are dated 1615-1616. Unfortunately, the bells can now only be chimed as the tower is not strong enough to stand much vibration.



The first rector, 1130, was Albertus. Two other incumbents, on a long list near the belfry door, should be specially noted: Augustus Hayter, who successfully defied the infamous Judge Jeffreys in the reign of James II and continued as rector under William III; and John Wyndham, who was curate and rector here for sixty years in the 19th century.

The weathered grave stone standing near the belfry door is a 13th century relief representing the Virgin and Child with a figure below. Could it be Christ rising from the tomb.

One panel of the pulpit is Jacobean, the remainder being Victorian. Not on view are a churchwarden's chair dated 1611 and the Church silver which comprises a 1506 chalice, a 1646 paten of old Irish silver and a 1733 flagon.

In the churchyard is a splendid yew tree which was planted in 1780 and a rare sundial with a ball top set on a stone grave monument dated 1685.

Source: Sutton Mandeville All Saints