

A Timeline in History

The Church of St. Mary, St. Katherine and All Saints at Edington

10th Century - In 986 King Edgar granted land in Edington to the Convent of St. Mary at Romsey, Hampshire

11th Century - This land is recorded in the Domesday Survey 1086.

12th Century - Nothing is known of the first church on the site. A late Norman base can be seen below the present floor level at the west end of the south aisle; the fourteenth century pier is superimposed upon it.

13th Century - During this century, and until the middle of the next, the Abbess of Romsey continued to appoint the Rector of Edington. There was a Prebendal Stall of Edington in Romsey Abbey until the Dissolution.

14th Century - William of Edington, builder of the present Church, was born in Edington at the beginning of the century. He was Bishop of Winchester 1345-1366 and Treasurer and Chancellor of England in the reign of Edward III. He was made the first Prelate of the Order of the Garter, and he officiated at the marriage of the Black Prince and the "Fair Maid of Kent." In 1352, by arrangement with the Convent of Romsey, he began to rebuild the Church as a chantry, to be served by three priests. Soon after, at the request of the Black Prince, he changed his plans so as to include an Augustinian Monastery of Bonhommes. The only other monastery of this Order in England was at Ashridge, Buckinghamshire. The rebuilt church was consecrated by Robert Wyville, Bishop of Salisbury in 1361. The Church is transitional perpendicular, one of the earliest examples of the style in England, and the structure remains almost unaltered.

The wealth of detail of this period will repay careful study. To it belong - the stone carvings in the Chancel, the grotesque figures supporting brackets, the remains of the sedilia and the two canopies flanking the east window. This window suggests that the much larger west window in Winchester Cathedral, is also the work of William of Edington. Similar masons' marks can be seen too in Edington and Winchester.

The Nave at present is comparatively plain, but must once have been more colourful, for traces of decoration remain on a capital of the south arcade. Some ancient glass survives in the triforium, the north Transept, and the north Aisle, etc.

Also noteworthy are - the Cheney tomb with its minute chantry; the 23 consecration crosses, some inside some outside the Church; the north door, which would have been the monks' entrance and finally the gargoyles on the exterior of the east end.

15th Century - During Jack Cade's Rebellion that followed the "Hundred Years' War" William Ayscough, Bishop of Salisbury, took refuge at Edington. But a mob broke into the Church, dragged him from the High Altar and murdered him outside. He was buried at Edington, but the site of the grave is forgotten.

The south porch with parvise, was built at the beginning of this century. The oak door to its staircase is probably original.

In the south transept is the canopied tomb of an unknown ecclesiastic, showing some of the original colouring. The feet of the effigy rest in a tun with the initials J. B. In the carvings are the rebuses showing

the tun with a leaf springing from it, evidently a play on his name. Baytun, Beckington, or Bulkington, have been suggested.

16th Century - The monastery was suppressed in 1539, its assets being valued at £393 8s 11d. Paul Bush, the last Rector, became the first Bishop of Bristol, the other eleven monks and novices were pensioned.

The site of the monastery was granted to Thomas Seymour who married Catherine Parr, the widow of Henry VIII and after his execution it passed to the Marquis of Winchester.

The fine carved oak pulpitum between the Tower crossing and the Chancel is provisionally assigned to the time of Henry VII. Of the monastery buildings nothing now remains, nor is their exact position known.

17th Century - There is a tradition that George Herbert, the poet, married Jane Danvers in this church. The bride's home was Bayton House to the east of Edington.

Sir Edward Lewis, of the Van, County Glamorgan, and his wife, a grand-daughter of the then Duke of Norfolk, had their home close by the Church, and the four ornamental niches on the outer wall of the north transept show that this part of the present churchyard was included in their garden. Their imposing tomb is in the Chancel against the south wall.

Of the 17th century, are the ceilings of the nave, tower and north transept, with pink plaster ribs. In the north transept the plaster is worked into two formal vases of tulips with the date 1663.

The pulpit and font cover of Jacobean so is the reredos in the north transept, though its origin is uncertain.

The curious and rather formidable altar rails in the chancel date most probably from the reforms of Archbishop Laud when it was ordered 'Dogs and curs' be kept from the altar.

The oldest bell in the tower, the treble, was cast in 1640.

18th Century - The plaster ceiling of the Chancel dates from late this century.

19th Century - The pews and church doors were made at the restoration of the church begun in 1889. The tomb on the north wall of the Chancel is Chantry's work.

20th Century - To this century belong the Chancel Altar, the arrangement of the nave Altar, and the War Memorial in the south transept.

