

Holy Cross

Architectural History



1085	About this date a Norman Church, built by Edward of Salisbury, Sheriff of Wiltshire, stood on this site.
1200	The church was re-constructed with a short chancel. The Hagioscope or Squint (not for lepers), together with the Pillars and Capitals of the Chancel Arch, dates from this period.
1400	The church was again re-built, this time with a long chancel and a short Tower.
1825	A new chancel was built by Col. Wroughton "in a substantial and handsome manner.
1876	On April 11th, the church was gutted by fire, the walls and tower alone remaining. Rebuilding took place the same year.

Features of Interest

The Initials "A.G. I.E. 1718" over the main porch, stand for Anthony Gammon and John Edmonds, the Churchwardens.

The Chancel Arch Pillars have water holding bases.

These were tried between the years 1190 and 1220 (thus dating the church) as an experiment to see if the water would have any interesting side effects. The idea was abandoned because the dust accumulated and made the water dirty.

The Jacobean Fruit Trencher (commonly called the "Wooden Patan") which is let into the South wall of the Sanctuary, dates from about 1610, It bears the following inscription:

"Though hungrie meals bee put in pot
Yet conscience cleares keepe without spot.
Do the keepe the corpse in quiet rest
That bee that thousands hath in chest"

The tomb of the Berwick Family, in the North wall of the Chancel survived the firm (cf. Patronage), as did the memorial on the West wall of the North aisle. This is to Jane Brooke, her mother Ursula and aunt Janet Packer (cf. Church Plate)

Source: Wilcot Holy Cross Church