



## WELCOME TO SHOTESHAM ALL SAINTS

The date of the original church on this site is not known, but the building was rebuilt in 1000AD under the Saxon king Ethelred II, and rebuilt again about 1200AD by Robert de Vaux. Henry VIII had the church partially destroyed and burned. It was finally rebuilt about 1550AD.

Renovation of part of the church was undertaken at the end of the nineteenth century. This did not include the mediaeval tower, apart from a new ringing chamber, but provided new seating, a new communion table and credence table, new screens, pulpit and lectern. At the same time the five hundred– year old font was placed under the tower.

**Inside the church please notice:**

The Saxon Holy Water Stoup just inside the door.

The mediaeval wall paintings. One head was thought to be Edward II (the first Prince of Wales), but is probably of a later date and part of a mediaeval “morality picture” (in the midst of life we are in death). Other pictures show a person suffering in purgatory: St Michael crowned with a cross: the Crusader’s cross: part of the tree of life; and a Tudor painting which might be of the Virgin Mary, or possibly a generous benefactor of the church.

The recess above the pulpit held a perpetual light with a reflector behind. It was designed to throw light on the face of Christ on the Rood screen. The only other similar recess is to be found at Romsey Abbey near Winchester.

“Long may our beautiful churches stand as the fairest ornaments of the place, a testimony to the piety and generosity of Shotesham people, giving us all a striking call to do what we can in our own days for God’s honour, that we may, when the time comes, hand on our goodly heritage untarnished to those who are yet to come.”

(A Lionel Fellowes)

All Saints Church 19<sup>th</sup> century before Victorian renovation and additions

The narrow sanctuary rails are Laudian rails or “Dog rails” Archbishop Laud ordered the sanctuary of churches to be protected from farmers’ dogs!

The Chancel Screen was made by Howard of Norwich in 1866- the third screen- and is a replica of the original.

The reredos behind the communion table was carved by Milburn of York in 1899 It describes in stone the message of 1 Timothy Chapter 3 verse 16

The window opposite the main door replaced an ancient south door in 1899.

The emblems on the font represent The Trinity; the Holy Sacrament; the Passion; and the arms of Ely- to which the parish once belonged. Hinges of the original cover date from about 1200 when the Pope ordered all fonts to be covered to prevent the village women from stealing the holy water. The new cover depicting the Corporal Works of Mercy was done by Faithcraft.

The Banner Cupboard- for keeping the processional banner.

The tiles inside the door are from the twelfth century.

Our ring of five bells was completed in 1615 and includes two fine fifteenth century bells. They have long been reputed to be the finest toned ring of five in Norfolk. All bear Latin Inscriptions, dates or shields of makers. They are rung regularly from up in the tower, the ringing chamber being reached by a Victorian spiral staircase at the back of the church.

The heavy door to the north porch is made of knotless "Ely" oak. The parish was once under the jurisdiction of Ely. And its arms appear on the font. Oak was brought from the Baltic forests for Ely Cathedral in the early twelfth century- apparently Shotesham was given some of the left-overs!

The unusual Holy Water stoup in the porch was used by the priest coming to the "occasional" offices.

The "Marks" or "Votive Crosses" were made in the stonework by men who left the village to go on the Crusades.

The modern bas-relief of St Botolph- patron saint of agricultural workers- was done by John Ellis, a Hempnall farmer, in 1980.

Outside on the chancery roof a stone vulture with the keenest eyesight of all God's creatures, is watching for the Second coming of Christ. Under his feet are carved the words "Veni, Veni, Emmanuel"

The Sanctus or "Sacrings" bell was bought from the convent at Sebastopol in 1899 to replace the ancient bell lost at the Reformation

In the church yard are buried the mother of Sir Benjamin D'urban, after whom Durban in South Africa is named, together with her parents and two of her other children. At our sister church St. Mary, lie the D'oyley family, descendants of whom were associated with Gilbert and Sullivan.

Across the fields one can see St Mary's church and the ruins of St Martin's close by. Shotesham had four ancient churches (there is a small ruin of St Botolph's church still left) because there were four ancient manors. The Tudor Rectory next to All Saints' became the schoolhouse but is now a private residence.

