

WELCOME

We hope that you will enjoy your visit to this beautiful church.

There is a timed push-button visitors' switch under the staircase to the belfry, which will turn on the lights in the chancel.

Sir John Betjeman, in his *Guide to English Parish Churches*, called it a 'Tractarian Work of Art'. In the Surrey volume of the Penguin 'Buildings of England' series, the authors wrote that it was 'worth a very special look to see how good and how free from period associations a Victorian country church could be, when the architect took pains over it'.

Pevsner described the church as 'another village church with one of the best high Victorian interiors in the country, combined with an austere closely reasoned exterior' and 'impressive, with a complete mid-Victorian scheme of decoration which is worth careful preservation – an ornamental effect as rich as anything that Art Nouveau produced'.

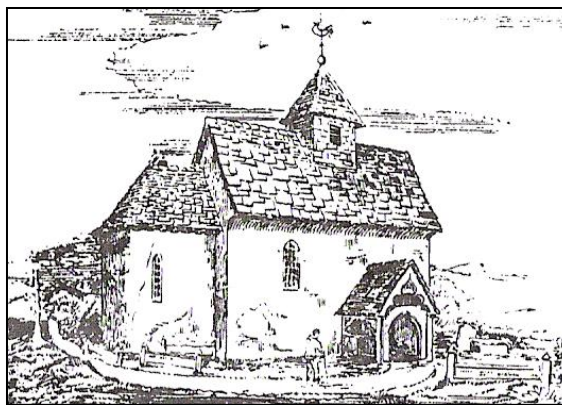


THE CHURCH REBUILDING

By the time Canon Vernon Musgrave became Rector of Hascombe in 1862 the old church was in a lamentable state of decay. He said the churchyard was 'dark and gloomy, abounding in tall weeds and rank grass, with high mounds of graves piled up and carelessly kept'. The church had 'great gaping cracks and rents in the walls, and windows robbed of glass, filled up with bricks and mortar'.

It was decided that entire rebuilding was the only solution. Henry Woodyer, a pupil of Butterfield, was appointed architect. Demolition began in June 1863 and while the new church was being built on the old site (at a cost of £3,100) services were held in The White Horse. The new church was consecrated in June 1864. 'The day was made one of general rejoicing in the parish and all the men were entertained at dinner in the afternoon'.

THE OLD CHURCH



Church of St. Peter, Hascombe Circa A.D. 1860

Formerly, Hascombe was in the Diocese of Winchester. The records of the See and of the Cathedral of Winchester were destroyed in the 16th century, so that the early history of the Church is difficult to trace. It is believed that the old church was built around A.D. 1220; the first official mention occurs in a list of churches in the Deanery of Guildford, *circa* 1283, where it is described as 'Ecclesia de Escumbe. 'John' the first known Rector of Hascombe, died in 1316.

THE PRESENT CHURCH

Henry Woodyer designed the present church in the general style of the 13th century. It is built of Bargate stone, quarried within the parish, with a shingled bellcote. The plan is simple; nave, chancel (or apse) and separately-roofed lady chapel. This simple plan sets off, to best advantage, the rich and intricate decoration on the windows, walls and roof, the gilding and dark colours being further enhanced by the modern lighting.

Much of the oak timber in the present porch came from the old porch. The massive mid-Victorian lock on the door was made to fit the ancient key with which the Rectors of Hascombe have, for centuries, been inducted.

THE NAVE

As you enter the church you will see, to the left, the spiral staircase leading to the belfry which houses a peal of five bells. These bells are exceptionally light and have an excellent tone. They are rung regularly. To the right is the font of Purbeck marble, given by a Rector of Hascombe in 1690.

At the back of the nave is an interesting 18th century stone tablet in memory of William Diddlefold.

The stained glass windows by Hardman Powell commemorate some of the events in the life of our Patron Saint – St. Peter. Around the walls are the 'one hundred and fifty and three' fishes of the post-Resurrection miracle, all caught in a net which is being dragged in by the six disciples – shown on the east wall – whilst St. Peter 'girt in his fisher's garment' is seen casting himself into the sea (St. John, Chapter 21).

Salvaged from the old church, the chancel screen was painted and surmounted by a cross.

The pulpit's panels show our Lord and the two greatest preachers in scripture – Noah and St. John the Baptist – with St. Peter standing between them.



THE LADY CHAPEL

On the south wall, not part of Woodyer's original design a small chapel with its own entrance was added. This was for the private use of the Godman family of Park Hatch, who paid for the building and its furnishing.

The east window of the lady chapel, by Clayton and Bell, and the lancet window, by Hardman Powell commemorate members of the Godman family. The conversion into a lady chapel, in memory of Joseph Godman, took place in 1936.

The Blessed Sacrament is permanently reserved here.

THE CHANCEL

Restored and painted in 1898 the beautiful oak screen is about 500 years old.

Above the lettering on the exterior of the chancel arch is a picture of the Last Judgement, our Lord in Glory flanked by the twelve apostles. On the inside of this arch is a picture of our Lord, calling into being, the nine orders of blessed spirits.

The stained glass windows, the splays surrounding them and the spandrels above them, portray biblical scenes involving angels. In the windows and splays, they are scenes in the life of our Lord. The lovely central window shows our Lord on the cross with St. Mary and St. John standing by. In the spandrels, the episodes start on the north side with the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden and continue with Old Testament stories until the last small spandril on the south side shows the Archangel Gabriel appearing to Zaccharias – the end of the Old Covenant and the beginning of the New.

The subject of the reredos comes from the Book of Revelation – the Adoration of the Lamb. To connect Hascombe with the nineteen churches of the then Rural Deanery, are the patron saints of their churches, who frame the reredos as in a picture.

The roof rafters are cusped and gilded to provide a continuous interplay of highlights and represent the ribs of an upturned boat.

The Victorian two manual organ, made by Messrs. Brindley of Sheffield, was installed in 1869.

THE CHURCH SERVICES

Services are held on Sundays at 10.00 a.m. Most Sundays this is the Common Worship form of Holy Communion, but on the second Sunday of the month, there is a service of Holy Communion at 8.00 a.m. (Book of Common Prayer, 1662) with a less formal Family Service at 10.00 a.m. Evensong is held on the third Sunday of the month, at 6.00 p.m. in the winter and 6.30 p.m. in the summer. You will always be very welcome to join us for any of our services.



Canon Vernon Musgrave

Hascombe owes a great debt to Canon Vernon Musgrave who was Rector of the Parish from 1862 to 1906 and was, in consequence, the last incumbent of the old church and the inspiration behind the building and decoration of the present one. He wrote a little book (from which the material of this leaflet is derived) 'first for the parishioners, who already for the most part, take pride and interest in the Church . . . and secondly as a guide to strangers visiting the church of St. Peter at Hascombe, that they need not ask questions of accidental persons and be imperfectly answered'.

Church of St. Peter Hascombe

