

All Saints LITTLE BOOKHAM Church A HISTORY

The
Friends
of All Saints LITTLE BOOKHAM Church
and St Lawrence EFFINGHAM Church

supporting our community's heritage

ABOUT US

The Friends of All Saints LITTLE BOOKHAM Church and St Lawrence EFFINGHAM Church is a secular organisation dedicated to the preservation of our two historic church buildings.

Both have origins in the late 11th Century and are listed Grade II as being of architectural and historic interest.*

Both churches remain an active Anglican place of worship. As such responsibility for the maintenance of the buildings and churchyard rests with the Parochial Church Council (the PCC). The Friends maintain a close working relationship with the PCC to raise the funds necessary for a planned programme of works to preserve the fabric of these wonderful buildings, their fixtures, fittings and grounds.

Email
chairman.friends@icloud.com

Charity Reg No. 1048406

All Saints LITTLE BOOKHAM Church

Tucked away down a secluded lane adjacent to the Manor House School and across the road from the old Tithe Barn in Manor House Lane, in one of the smallest parishes in the country, being five miles long from north to south and about half-a-mile wide.

HOW LONG HAS A CHURCH BEEN HERE?

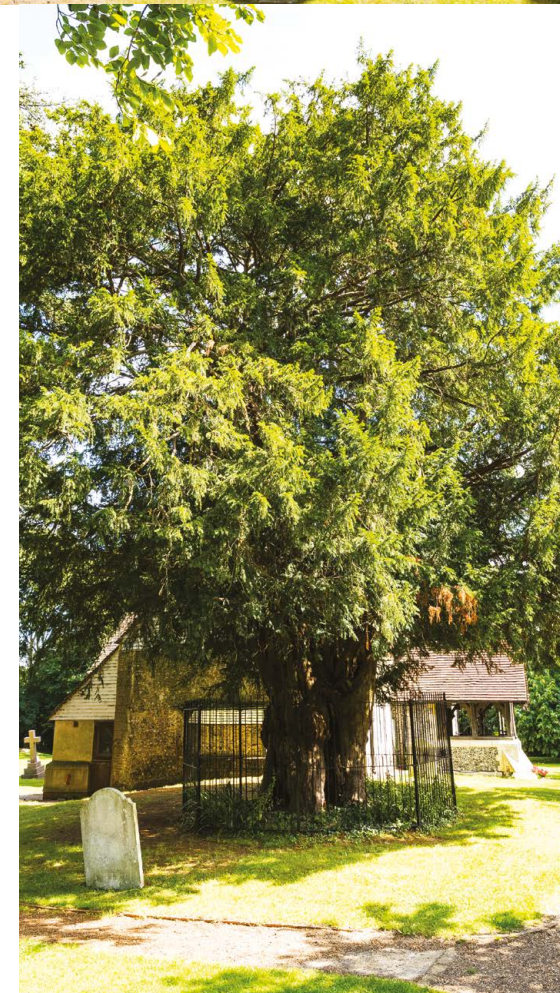
The Domesday Book of 1086 makes the first known distinction between the parishes of Great and Little Bookham. It records that Little Bookham Manor was held by Halsard of William de Braiose, Lord of Bramber, but makes no reference to there being a church here. It is probable that it was built about 1100, initially as a manorial chapel by the Halsard (=Hansard?) family. The last mention of the Hansard family as sub-tenant of the De Braiose family occurs in 1399 when Little (*Parva*) Bookham appears as Bookham Hansard. Eventually in 1490 Thomas, Earl of Surrey, a cousin of George de Braiose, received the reversion of Little Bookham Manor, who settled it for life on his second son, William, Lord Howard of Effingham (*died 1573*), the Lord Chamberlain. It passed out of the hands of the Howards of Effingham in 1634, and the reversion of the Manor was bought by Benjamin Maddox. It passed to the Pollen family through his granddaughter.

Since 8th June 1958 the benefice of Little Bookham has been held jointly with that of the neighbouring parish of Effingham, under the benefice of Keble College Oxford. On 22 June 1986 the church was dedicated to All Saints by the Bishop of Guildford, having previously been without a known dedication.



The original church was a small, simple building comprising the nave from the tower to the chancel. The only surviving features of this are the north and west walls. In or about 1160 the chancel and a south aisle were added. In the 13th century the south wall of the nave was replaced by arcading, and the side aisle rebuilt. However, by the latter half of the 15th century the south aisle had been removed, and the arcading filled with material from the south wall. A scratch dial, that would originally have been on the south wall of the church can now be seen in the top left-hand reveal of the second window from the east end of the nave. The remains of the arcading can still be seen both inside and outside the church.

It is estimated that the population of Little Bookham in 1086 was between 40 and 50 persons, and the Manor being entirely agricultural, it is unlikely that the population would have increased to any extent; in fact, it probably declined, which may account for the removal of the extra space provided by the south aisle.



Rear view of All Saints LITTLE BOOKHAM Church 
Over 1,000 year-old yew tree 



NEW ADDITIONS

As they did in many other parts of the country, the Victorians made alterations to the church. The East window of the chancel is a modern insertion of 13th century design; the organ chamber incorporating 503 pipes and the porch were added in 1901, and a two-roomed vestry was added at the same time. This unfortunately was not under-pinned and in the late 1990s began to fall away from the church. In 2001/2 a new vestry was built, and was dedicated by the Bishop of Dorking in January 2003. This two-storey structure comprises a clergy vestry and meeting room, and also contains a disabled access and toilet, flower-arranging area and catering facilities such as a refrigerator and microwave oven.

WHAT IS THERE TO SEE?

The church contains probably the finest collection of hatchments in Surrey, displaying the armorial bearings of the past Lords of the Manor. A hatchment was hung outside the residence of the Lord of the Manor on death, carried in the funeral procession and subsequently hung in the church. Four of the five hatchments on the west wall relate to the Pollen family. The hatchments are described on the west wall within the church.

The western-most window in the north wall appears to be the only original surviving window. It is typically early 12th century with deeply splayed round-headed reveals and a sloping cill. At the south east of the chancel is an unusual piscina with two drains, probably of 13th century, over which is a 15th century cinquefoiled head. The font is believed to be of early Norman origin and may be contemporary with the founding of the church.

- ⬆ Hatchments, armorial bearings of past Lords of the Manor
- ⬅ Looking down the aisle towards the west wall



The circular lead-lined stone tub has been plastered and painted and reinforced in more recent times with wrought iron work.

There is also a Commonwealth War Graves Commission grave in the churchyard from the First World War of Captain Thomas Helme of the London Regiment.

Close to the entrance to the church stands a yew tree believed to be the oldest tree in the area. There is a certificate inside the church signed in 1988 by the Archbishop of Canterbury and others on behalf of the Conservation Foundation (Yew Tree Campaign) stating that the tree is 1300 years old. This would date it to the time when the parish was probably first formed. To celebrate the Millennium a new yew tree was planted by the MP for Mole Valley, Sir Paul Beresford, close to the northern boundary of the churchyard, which it is hoped will still be growing there in the year 3000.

Outside the east end of the church stands the Cooté Manningham Tomb – a chest tomb, inscribed:

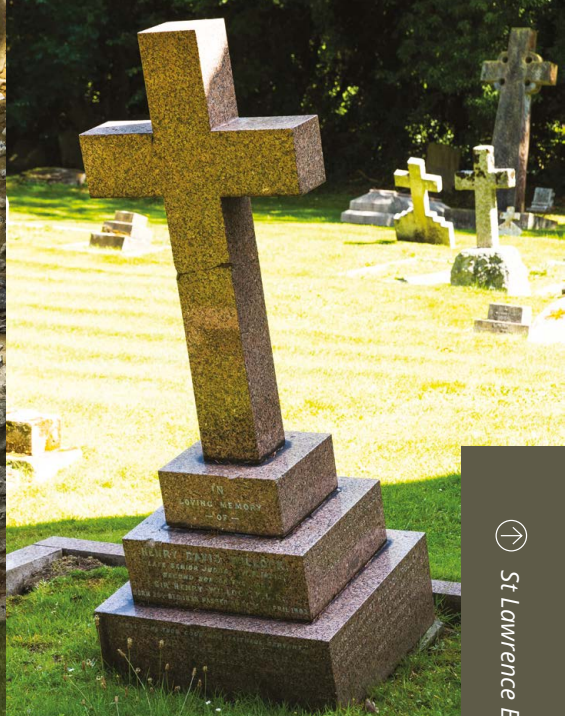
"In this vault are deposited the remains of Major General Cooté Manningham, Equerry to the King and Colonel of the 95th or Rifle Regiment of Foot. He died at Maidstone on the 26th day of August 1809 in the 44th year of his age, an early victim to the fatigues of the campaign in Spain."

The tomb was restored in 1933 when the superstructure was removed and taken to the Royal Green Jackets Regimental Museum in Winchester, where it now remains.



① Looking up the aisle towards the east wall

- ① Detail from altar and large window
- ② Wrought ironwork on font
- ③ Early 12th Century window



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St Lawrence EFFINGHAM Church

The dedication to St Lawrence is typical of many eleventh century churches and the church was probably built between 1086 and 1100, as there is no record of a church on the site before the Norman Conquest.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Lawrence was the principal deacon to Sixtus II, the pope martyred by the Romans in 258. Within days, Lawrence was also put to death and his symbol is a grid iron to show that he was roasted over a fire. He became the patron saint of almoners (*distributors of money to the needy*) because, when he was ordered to relinquish Church property and valuables, he pointed to a crowd of poor people and said: "Here are the treasures of the Church. They convert our alms to imperishable treasures for us".

The church was founded around 1100 by William de Dammartin, a Norman who held the manor of Effingham East Court from Richard de Clare or Richard of Tunbridge, a relative and one of the most important supporters of William the Conqueror. William de Dammartin gave the church, its advowson and tithes to Merton Priory, probably shortly before his death in the mid-1100s in return for a chantry or masses being sung for his soul.





The grant of the advowson was confirmed by the overlord, Gilbert de Clare in 1269 and in 1291 the church was valued by the Priory at £14 13s 4d.

The proportions of the nave are typical of the C12. The transept is of the Early English period, perhaps 1250-70, the two-light window in the north wall could be dated to 1340. The St Nicholas chapel was probably built about the same time, and the square-headed window in the chapel is of the C15.

By 1388, the chancel was in a very poor state, and William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, ordered the Prior of Merton to carry out repairs. Incidentally on the outside of the north wall, at the top corners of one of the windows, are carvings of two heads, the right hand of which is said to be that of an earlier Prior, William de Brokebourne, in office 1307-35.



Side view of St Lawrence EFFINGHAM Church 
Rear views of St Lawrence EFFINGHAM Church 



The most complete restoration took place in the late Victorian era when, apart from the erection of the present tower (*at least the fourth in the history of the church*), much stained glass was installed, the brass altar rail (*originally made for the British Embassy in Paris*) put in place, a new organ dedicated and a choir vestry built. Since then, in 1933, the plaster ceiling in the chapel was removed to reveal a medieval crown post roof of the early C14. In the 1960s, one hundred and sixty-six kneelers and choir stall covers were beautifully made in cross-stitch canvas work, and twenty years later, an aumbry for the chapel was donated. Coming right up to date, early in 2009, a small service area with a lavatory was installed within the footprint of the tower.

To illustrate the span of history covering this much-loved church, two names out of hundreds can be chosen.



First, Walter de Geddinges, Sheriff of Surrey in 1302 and 1307, whose stone coffin lid lies in the floor of the nave by the chancel steps (*although no one knows if he is actually buried there!*); and second, of the modern era, that of Sir Barnes Wallis, aeronautical engineer and inventor extraordinary (*the bouncing bomb, geodetic constructions, swing-wing aircraft, etc.*), secretary of the PCC for eight years and benefactor to the village. He is buried in the churchyard between the vestry and The Old Vicarage.

The history of a church as old as St Lawrence here in Effingham, cannot be written in just a few lines, but it is hoped that the above summary of how it has grown and changed over the centuries will be of interest.

Looking up the aisle towards the chancel ⤴
Alabaster or light marble font ⤴

- ⤴ Angels mosaic dedicated to Caesar Czarnikow, Lord of the manor of Effingham East Court of Effingham Hill (now St Teresa's School) and his wife, Louisa
- ⤴ 1844 monument to Maria Paratt (daughter of Captain Hillebrand and Lucy Parratt of Effingham House) with a reclining effigy and mourning figure, by William Pistell



① The transept – St Nicholas Chapel

A FEW MORE DETAILS

The tower

The tower was erected in 1887 in memory of the Rev J Robinson by his nephew, John Teesdale, of The Lodge. He was one of two Church Wardens, (the other was Uriah Loxley) who with the Vicar, the Rev EF Bayly were responsible for the 1888 renovation. An 'unsightly' gallery was removed and 23 monuments from around the church were moved onto its walls. In 1890 a chiming clock with five bells was installed, which was replaced in 1934 by a modern mechanism whilst retaining the old face.

The nave

This is the oldest part of the church as the original church would have been a single cell structure. Only the north wall of flint and mortar is probably from the original building.

The chancel

Probably first built in the early 13th century and renovated in the late 14th at the demand of the Bishop of Winchester due to its poor condition, the chancel was again in a poor condition in 1888 when it was largely rebuilt and its roof raised, retaining the 14th century windows.

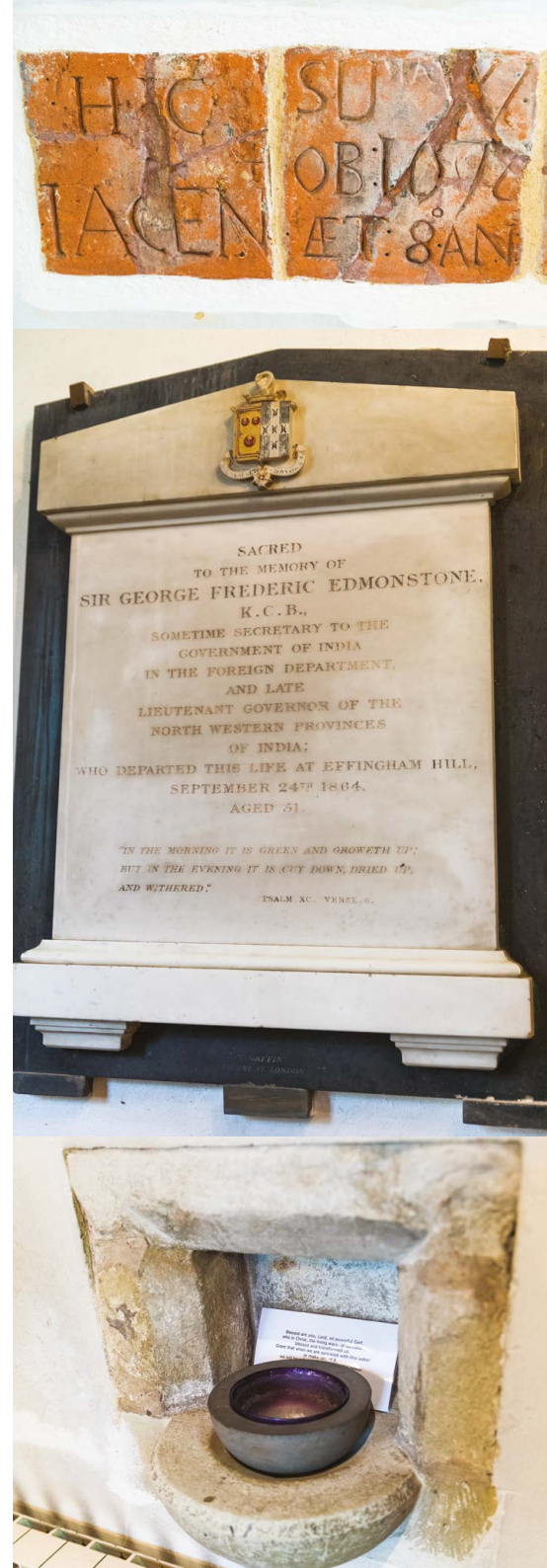
The transept – St Nicholas Chapel

Probably first built in the early 14th century it was renovated extensively in 1888 including totally rebuilding the south wall. In 1933 the plaster ceiling of the chapel was removed on the initiative of Sir Barnes Wallis revealing a medieval crown post roof of that period.

Detail of tiles that commemorate the children who died in infancy of the Reverend William Walker (vicar 1677 to 1696) ①

Memorial tablet ②

Stone holy water stoop or basin ③





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⬆ View of graveyard
⬆ Sir Barnes Wallis grave

Archibald Bogle grave ⬆