

All Saints' Braishfield - A Brief Chronology

- Designed by William Butterfield, built by Mr John Petty of Wellow, consecrated in March 1855
- 1899 a second hand organ was installed
- 1902 the original bell turret was replaced with a larger one, featuring a clock, to mark the coronation of Edward VII
- 1909 central heating replaced the single large black stove at the west end
- 1909 -10 John Travis, his son and grandson, local carpenters and joiners, covered the ceiling with match-boarding
- 1945 the roof was stripped and re-tiled
- 1946 electric lighting installed
- 1948 all windows (except East window) renewed as the lead had perished
- 1955 the present organ was dedicated on All Saints Day
- 1968 current light pendants installed
- 1988 new chancel and sanctuary lighting scheme and re-wiring
- 2006 the roof was re-tiled
- 2007 re-ordering of west end including raising the level of the floor, a new level entrance door (*dedicated in memory of Samuel Boothman, Rector 1946-1981*) and removal of some pews. The font was given an oak surround with up-lighters and the church was re-carpeted. Cupboards and bookshelves were built using the pew timber by a member of the congregation, Dr Peter Quarendon; he also moved the vestry screen in front of the organ pipes and re-built it so enlarging the vestry. He equipped the vestry with built in storage cupboards.
- 2014 A projection screen was installed on the south chancel wall.

An Introduction

All Saints' Church Braishfield, 3 miles north of Romsey, was financed by a group of Victorian benefactors particularly the Revd James Davies of Braishfield House (*incumbent of Baddesley and Chilworth*) and the Heathcotes of Hursley Park. They realised that the 3 mile journey to the parish church of St Mary, Michelmersh was too far for Braishfield parishioners. The famous architect William Butterfield was commissioned and All Saints was consecrated in 1855.

A letter by a lady who attended the consecration notes: it is '*a cheap Butterworth(sic) church red brick and tiles and brick floor, deal seats, wooden belfry but solid and very nice inside and I hope time will subdue the scarlet.*' We think it definitely has!

William Butterfield (1814 -1900) was a well known and prolific architect. Amongst his designs are several London churches, Keble College Oxford and Melbourne Cathedral, Australia. He also designed the original building at Winchester Hospital and the church at Pitt outside Winchester, now a residence. One feature of his style is his use of patterned brickwork, most noticeable on the exterior of the east and west walls.

All Saints' Braishfield has been part of the United Benefice of Braishfield which includes Farley Chamberlayne, Michelmersh and Timsbury since 1980. Awbridge was added to the benefice in 1998. The five parishes work together and share an incumbent.

Details of weekly services and current activities can be found on the Notice Sheets and Notice Boards. The church is cleaned, the flowers arranged, and the grass kept mown, by volunteers from the church and the village who freely give their time.

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into his house with praise." Psalm 100 v 4

Inscription above the south door

Welcome to All Saints' Church Braishfield



Mural on East wall A gift from Mr Joseph Pepper of Jermyn's House in 1909: originally this extended into the chancel with the Ten Commandments on the north side and the Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed on the south side.

Cross and Candlesticks the gift of Mr Griffiths of Woolley Green in 1905 while Mr Porter was Vicar but not used until the time of his successor in 1917. Mr Griffiths was the lesson-reader.

Prayer Desk Given in 2006 in memory of his parents and grandparents by Mr Malcolm Fiddes, one time choir member and churchwarden.

Communion Rail Kneelers Embroidered from the 1970s by Dr Tom Lalonde, a Romsey GP who lived in Braishfield. They record the names of past incumbents of the church.

Processional Cross donated by his parents in memory of the organist, Ronnie Paskins, who died in 1924 aged 20.

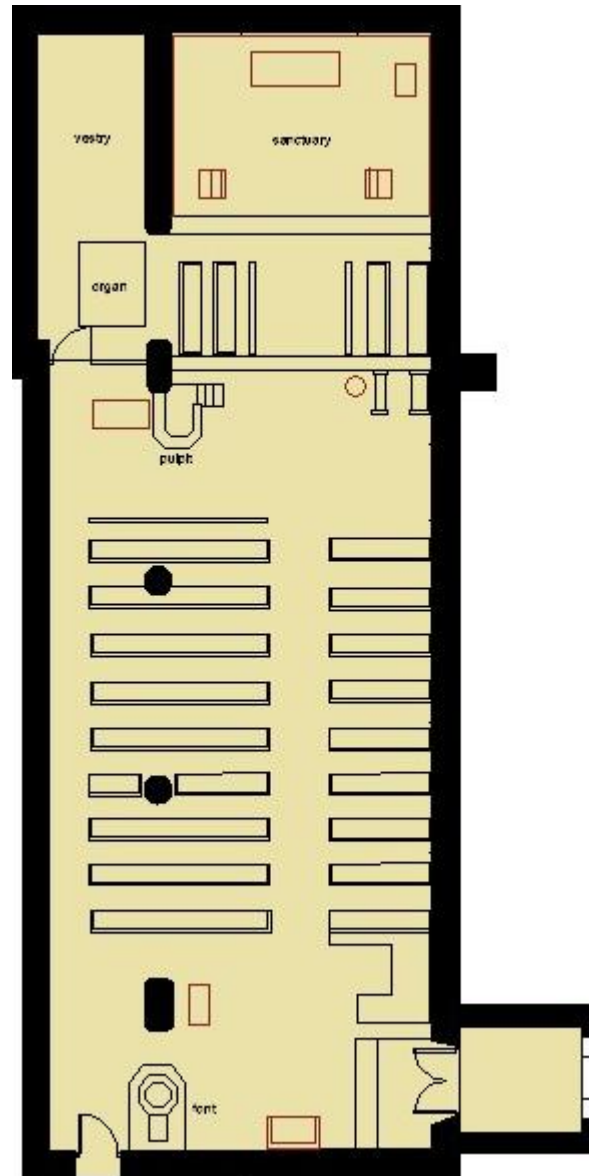
Organ Installed into this church in 1955, the organ came from Witham Priory, Somerset. Originally built by Mr Bryant of Frome and rebuilt in 1936 by Percy Daniels of Taunton, it was last refurbished in 1995 in memory of Mr Bill Parsons, churchwarden for many years.

Heating pipes These are the original pipes installed in May 1909, donated by Mr Joseph Pepper who was churchwarden at the time and had been an iron master in Leeds. The inside work cost £72.18s and the 'heating chamber' [Boiler House] £16.12s. It was converted from coke to oil in 1961. The family grave is to the east of the church porch.

North Aisle (see wall plaque) An addition to the original design, given by Revd James Davies in memory of his wife, Caroline, who died in 1853. James Davies also donated the land on which the church is built. It was left to him by his wife's father, William Jennings, in 1853.

Font Part of Butterfield's original design it incorporates the trademark trefoil pattern - seen also in the windows.

Inside the Church



The banners There is a set which covers the church's year: they remind us of the themes of each season. They were made by parishioners.

East Window A memorial to the Revd James Davies: 'chief promoter of this church and parsonage,' who died in 1873. The panelling below, which came from Romsey Abbey around 1909, covers original Butterfield tiling.

Credence Table 'In Memory of my husband William Thomas Parsons who died of wounds received in action in Carnoy France. July 23rd 1916.' William, a Gunner, was aged 21 when he died.

Litany Desk Given in memory of Private Charles Abraham by his parents and wife. He was killed in action at Bapaume, France, on 25th March 1918. He was a former choirboy.

Choir Stalls and Pulpit The pulpit, priest's desk and choir stalls are made of oak. They were the gift of Mrs Dodgson of Braishfield House in 1909, in memory of her husband Charles, at an estimated cost of £71. According to Mrs Suckling's "Bygone Hampshire" 'Mrs Dodgson skilfully executed most of the carving with her own hands.'

Lectern Given in memory of Revd John Durrant, Vicar 1861-1899, by the parishioners.

Pews by Mr Wheeler of Romsey. Until 1917 the pews on the south side were 'rented' and the brass 'forms' held the name cards. The full pew for 4 persons was £1, or 5s for each person if shared.

Bell Tower, Bells and Clock The three bells were presented by Miss Davies (daughter of Revd James Davies) when the church was built. The new turret (1902) and clock were a gift from Mrs Dodgson - the clock cost £60. Originally wound weekly by hand (having climbed the steep ladder to the belfry) an electric mechanism was given by Mr and Mrs T.I. Robinson of Braishfield Manor in the 1970's. Dr Albert Snow of Megana Way bequeathed money for the clock's maintenance (see plaque).