

Welcome to St Mary's Church, Frittenden.

A church in Frittenden was first recorded in the 'White Book' which listed churches under the tenure of St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury and beyond, circa 1200.



St Mary's c1830

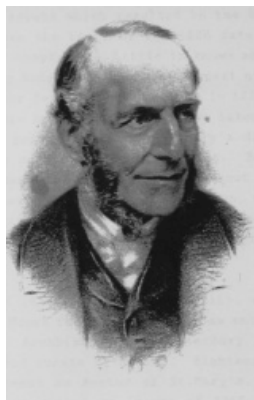
However, recent archaeological research indicates that the medieval church stood on the site of a Saxo-Norman church (see orange outline opposite).

The medieval church was largely rebuilt by R C Hussey between 1846 and 1848, but some elements of the medieval church (the nave and the base of the Tower) were retained. It is this building in which you are standing. The finials on the Spire were removed in the 1930s.

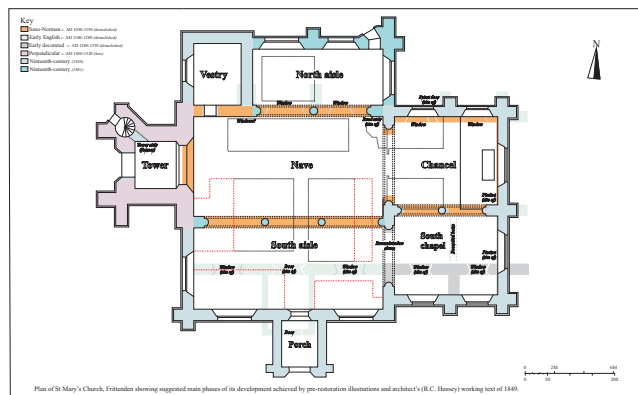


St Mary's before 1917

Edward Moore, the grandson of an Archbishop of Canterbury, used the funds from his marriage settlement granted by his marriage to Lady Harriet to fund the rebuilding of the church, and he added the North Aisle in 1861. He also created an estate based on the former rectory, now Frittenden House, and established the village schools.



Tour the church clockwise starting in the South Aisle.



The stained glass windows in the South Aisle were restored in 2018 by Nick Easthope (Folkestone).



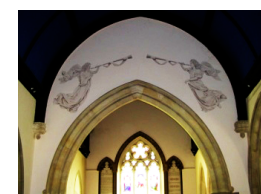
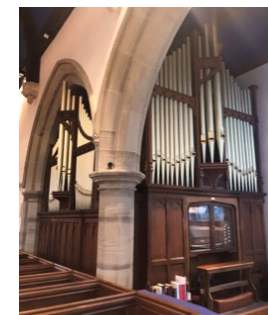
The octagonal stone Font at the base of the Tower has a two-tier wooden cover, now very fragile, considered by Igglesden to be one of the most elegant and artistic in Kent. It has an iron and brass font crane. Note the decorative moulding of the Tower arch.

Between the Font and the door to the Vestry is an oak cabinet containing 25 Poppies. These are from the Tower of London Display 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' by Paul Cummins and Tom Piper to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. The 25 poppies represent the Frittenden men who died in that conflict. They are grouped to show the number who fell in each year. Among them was Rupert Inglis, Rector of Frittenden who volunteered in 1915 at the age of 52 to serve. He was killed while ministering to the wounded during the Battle of the Somme in September 1916.



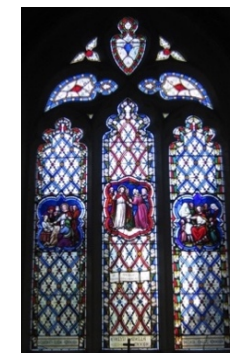
He is the oldest serviceman recorded on the Thiepval Memorial in France. There is a memorial to him in the Chancel, erected by his wife, and the lych gate was erected in his memory by public subscription.

The Organ was built in 1907 by Messrs Peter Conacher & Co (Huddersfield) at a cost of £510. A particularly fine example for a village church, it was originally sited in the South Aisle adjacent to the Chancel. It was reconditioned by Peter Wells & Alistair Curtis (Benenden) and moved to its present position as part of the 2015-18 renovation of the church by WW Martin (Ramsgate) which created the new kitchen and upper meeting room.



The Angels 'flying' above the Chancel arch were painted in 2010 by Penn Norris, son of a former Rector of Frittenden. His inspiration was the Bas Relief adjacent to the servery attributed to the German sculptor Ernest Rietschel.

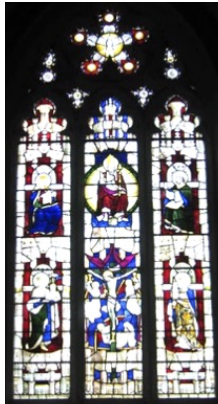
When the North Aisle was built in 1861 a new East Window, by the well-known stained glass artists T. Ward & H. Hughes (London), was created. This commemorated the three daughters of the Reverend Moore and Lady Harriet. Harriet Anne (aged 16) and Helen Mary (15 months) died of diphtheria within 6 weeks of each other in 1859. Evelyn never married and became a Lady in Waiting to Queen Victoria.



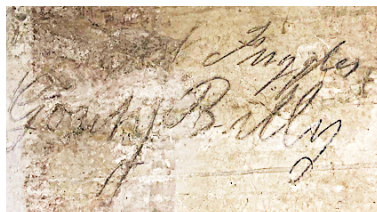
Some of the original memorials to earlier rectors, Robert Newton (1666-1725) and Henry Friend (1761-1805), were inserted into the North Chancel during the Victorian rebuilding.

The focal point of the church is a fine example of a decorated frontal and oak top altar table. This was presented to the church in 1925 in memory of Captain Moore of Comenden Manor. In the north wall of the Chancel adjacent to the altar is a trilobed piscina.

The present East window in the Sanctuary, by the renowned Bucknall & Comper partnership (London), was erected in 1891 by public subscription and by the surviving children to the memory of Edward and Lady Harriet Moore. The design represents life on earth as one of activity and suffering and, in heaven, of repose and reward.

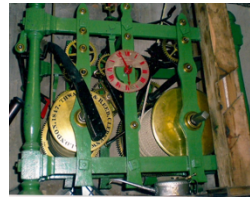


At the time of the rebuilding a man named Cornish had an accident which resulted in his hand being amputated. The stonemasons working in the church made a little coffin for the hand and placed it within the south pillar of the Chancel arch about six feet from the ground, facing the nave.



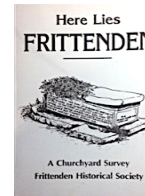
Adjacent to the radiator on the South wall is an example of Victorian graffiti. This was uncovered during the recent restoration as it had been hidden by wooden panelling. It is believed to be the work of two of the plasterers who would have worked on the church in 1846-8.

Frittenden has a long tradition of bell ringing with some notable records and personalities. In the 18th century St Mary's had a ring of four bells. These were recast into six bells, as noted by Edward Hasted in his history of Kent. Two bells were recast in 1803 and four in 1804 and the Church records show a payment in that year for six new bells from Thos. Mears (Whitechapel). The cost of £353-18-11 was partially offset by the old bells which were valued at £216-8-0. Two further bells, the tenor and the treble, were added in 1847, at the time of the rebuilding. These later bells have the inscription "Gloria in Excelsis Deo".



The church turret clock was made by Thwaites and Reed (Clerkenwell) and is dated 1847. It was restored by Mike Ashbee (Frittenden) in 2000.

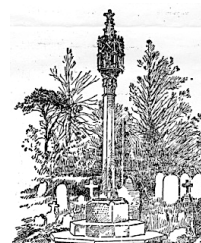
The churchyard was 'closed' in 1935. Memorials date back to the seventeenth century. A gazetteer of the memorials was published by Frittenden Historical Society in 1994.



The medieval cinquefoil window in the Sexton's Tool House was transferred from the church during the Victorian restoration.

By the main path is a memorial to Edward and Lady Harriet Moore designed by Ninian Comper in 1921.

For a more detailed guide to the church, access the intranet via your smartphone or tablet. Instructions are in the South Aisle.



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A Brief Introduction

