

The
Parish Church
of
All Saints'
Stuston



There has been a church here since Saxon times and it is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

1. The Tower

The round tower is believed by some to be Saxon, but recent experts think it may have been built in the 12th century. It has a later medieval octagonal belfry containing four bells. The oldest of these is inscribed 'John Draper made me 1627'. The tower is 54 feet tall.



2. The Nave

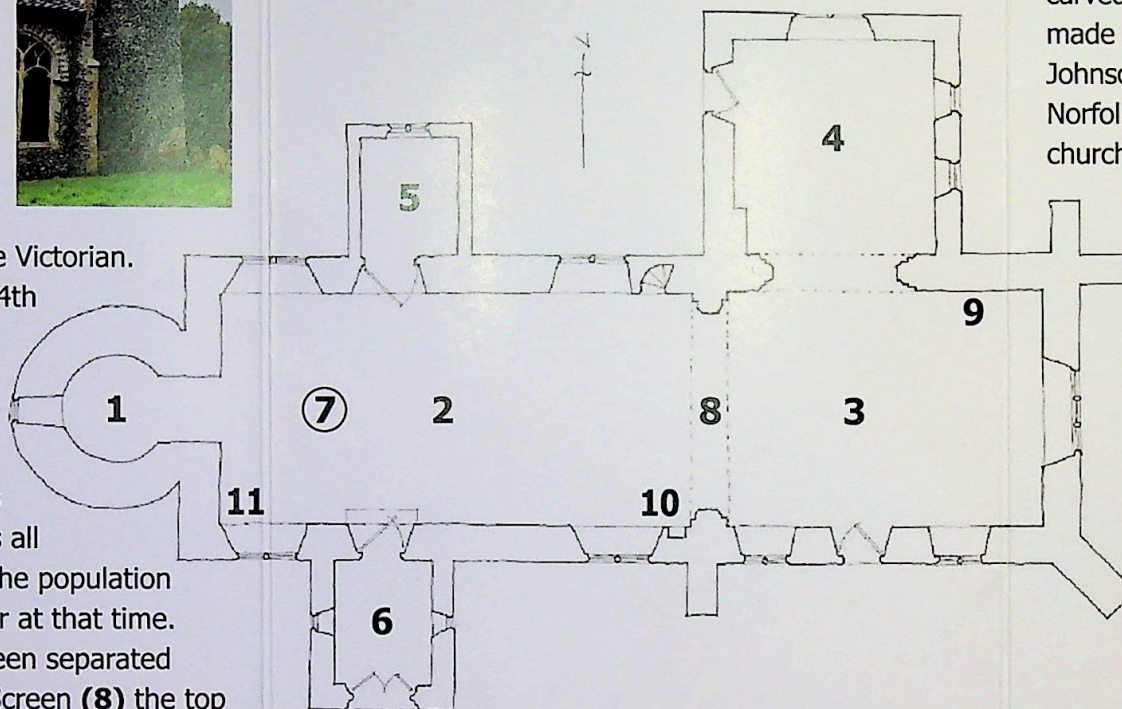
This is 14th century. The pews are Victorian. The Font (7) at the west end is 14th century. This is used for Baptisms (Christenings). On the north wall are two memorials for those who fought in the First World War. One of these commemorates those who died and the other lists all those who served and survived. The population of Stuston was about 200 or fewer at that time. The Nave would originally have been separated from the Chancel (3) by a Rood Screen (8) the top of which was reached by the spiral staircase still visible in the north wall.

It was called the Rood Screen because it would have had a large cross (or Rood) on the top. Rood Screens were mostly removed from churches following the Reformation in the 16th century.



3. The Chancel

The Chancel was largely rebuilt in 1861. Although the Rood Screen, which separated the priests from the congregation, has been removed, there is now a large Chancel Arch in its place. This yellow, red and black brick structure is thought to be the work of Thomas Jeckyll, the famous Arts and Crafts architect and designer. It is disliked by some experts but is nevertheless a striking feature of interest.



1. Tower (11th/12th c)
2. Nave (14th c)
3. Chancel (Greatly restored in 1861)
4. North Transept (1862)
5. Vestry (1865)
6. Porch (14th c)
7. Font (14th c)
8. Site of Rood Screen
9. Castleton Memorial (18th c)
10. Pulpit
11. Organ

The memorial to Sir John Castleton and his family is a very good example of 18th century marble work (9). The Castletons lived at Stuston Hall which was demolished in 1780. Only part of the moat remains. The monument was dismantled in 2008, restored and reinstated. Behind the monument was found the remains of a medieval wall painting. The carved wooden pulpit (10) was made by the Rev. J. Burnham Johnson, Rector of Welbourne in Norfolk and was placed in the church in 1862.

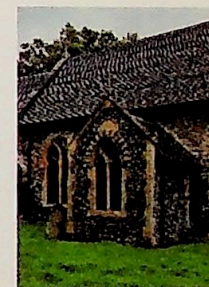


4. The North Transept

The present North Transept was built in 1862 on the site of an earlier side chapel that was demolished in the 17th century.

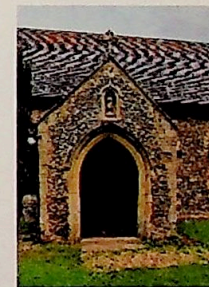
5. The Vestry

This was built in 1865 when the North Porch was demolished to make way for it. The medieval door to the old porch remains as does the main door to the church.



6. The South Porch

This is now the main access to the church and was built in the 14th century. On the right hand side of the entrance door is a Holy Water Stoop. Water, blessed by a priest, was left there for visitors to dip their fingers in before crossing themselves. This was a particularly common practice in medieval times.



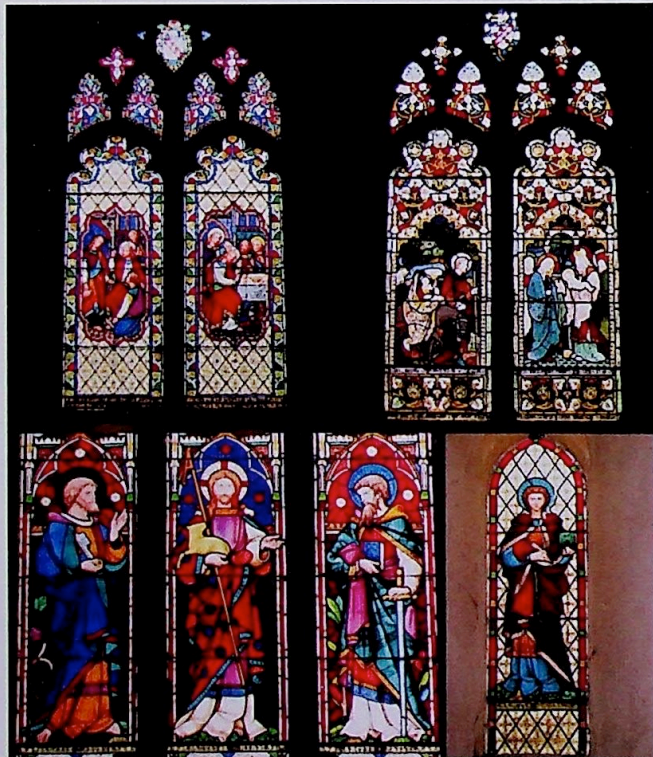
11. The Organ

This was built by Alfred Kirkland of London and installed in 1891. It was originally pumped using the handle which can still be seen. In 1959 the church was connected to mains electricity and an electric blower was fitted to the organ in 1961.



The Stained Glass Windows.

These are beautiful pieces of Victorian work. The east window and the nave windows are by Heaton, Butler and Baynes and were installed in the 1860s. The window in the tower was a gift from the makers.



1861 photograph taken from the north east before the Victorian restoration. It shows the North Porch which was replaced by the Vestry in 1865. Note also the absence of the North Transept that was built in 1862.



1861 photograph from the southwest. Note the thatched roof and the window in the west wall of the Nave. This gave light to the gallery at the west end of the church which was removed in 1861. The outline of this window can still be seen on the inside of the church. The thatch was replaced with the present Staffordshire Tiles.

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