

Ten Things to See in Lufton Church.



The Font, by the door as you come in, is the oldest item in the church. It is certainly Norman, and probably may be even older. It was obviously made for a previous church which stood on or near this site. It has been used for at least a thousand years, if not more. Think of all the babies, and adults, who have been Baptized here in that time!



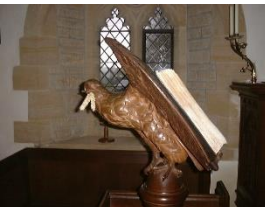
On the left of the Font you will see a grey stone on the floor with a cross on it. This is a leger stone, or grave marker. It dates from the 13th. century, so again is older than the present church. It was probably originally coffin-shaped, and has been cut down. There are two other leger stones, one on the other side of the font, and one at the end of the centre aisle, both also pre-dating the present church.



Holy Water Stoup, behind the door. This dates from the 14th. century, and would originally have been placed so that it could be used for the congregation to cross themselves with Holy Water as a sign of penitence as they entered the church. It was obviously always in this position, since it is carved from one large block of stone, and the outer edge is chamfered to form the arch of the door.



This cross marked the grave of Major Walker, who died of his wounds at Ypres, during the First World War. When a permanent head stone was erected over his grave, the cross was sent home to his widow. She had it erected in the church. Her second husband, Colonel Griffiths, was for many years Churchwarden here. (Lufton is a 'Thankful Village', meaning we had no casualties in the First World War, as Major Walker was not from Lufton.)



The Lectern arrived in the church in 1912, given in memory of Constance Batten. It was carved by Raymond Brothers, of Manor Road in Yeovil, who were also responsible for all the other very fine oak woodwork in the church, the pews, and the panelling around the altar, designed and fitted at the same time.



The Pulpit was given by Rev'd Henry Hawkins, a former Rector in 1901. A memorial tablet can be seen on the wall alongside. A complete list of Rectors of the parish, as far as they are known, can be seen framed next to the Font, by the door. The quality brass pulpit fittings, together with the candelabra on either side of the Chancel arch, (originally gasoliers from Lufton Manor) and the exceptionally fine chancel rails, were later gifts to the church, and together form a remarkable collection of Victorian brass-work.



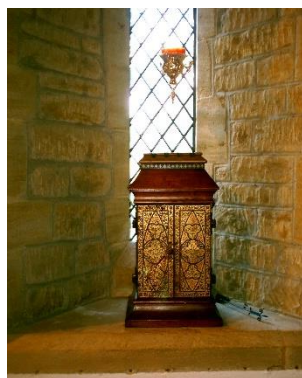
The organ was given in memory of past worshippers of the congregation. It was made in 1976 by August Späth, of Freiburger Orgelblau, and is one of only eleven such instruments in this country. It is an outstanding example of the neo-classical style of organ-building, designed particularly for music of the Baroque era. However, because of its beautiful voicing, it not only supports the congregational worship, but it has also proved remarkably versatile to accompany music making for concerts and recitals, which are occasionally held in the church during the summer.



The east window, containing the only stained glass in the church, was designed by 'Tower' Kemp, and arrived in 1912. The scene depicted is the visit of Jesus to the home of Martha and Mary. Mary, with her books, is sat at the feet of Jesus, while Martha, 'much encumbered with serving' has a salver and ewer. The text round Our Lord's head reads 'Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.' A text from Psalm 34, 'In Thy Presence is the fulness of Joy' is also displayed. The story can be found in Luke's gospel, chapter 10, verses 38 - 42.



Memorials in the chancel commemorate members of the Batten family, a prominent Yeovil family of lawyers. Of particular note is the tablet recording the Batten Trust, whereby a Preacher is awarded a guinea for preaching a sermon each year on the text 'O taste and see how good and gracious the Lord is. Blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.' A preacher is still invited in November each year to earn a guinea by preaching on this text.



The Tabernacle is where the Blessed Sacrament is Reserved. A small amount of the Bread and Wine from the monthly Communion Service is kept here, so that it can be used in case of emergency for Sick Communions. A light burns above the Tabernacle to remind us that Christ, the Light of the World, is perpetually and particularly present in the Sacrament. The Tabernacle itself is another fine late Victorian fitting; although in need of restoration, the quality of the gold-leaf and enamel work on the front doors can still be appreciated.

Outside in the Churchyard, are graves, notably of members of the Batten family, but also that of Henry Dickenson Owen Brown, a Rector still remembered, who is buried here with his wife, and the graves of members of our congregation. The standard lamp by the gate was installed in gratitude for the life of service of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Do take some time to walk round the church and admire the many heads carved at the ends of the window arches and the porch, and especially the fine carving of St. Peter and St. Paul, with the Archangel Gabriel, above the west window. There are fourteen yew trees and bushes in the churchyard, an indication of the thousand years and more that this has been a place of Christian worship.

Please feel free to take this short Guide away with you. A more detailed history can be found in the church, which you are also welcome to take away to keep as a memento of your visit.