

THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ALBURY

- CHANCEL:** The earliest part of the present building is the chancel, dating from the 13th century but evidence that an earlier church stood here is to be seen in the base of a 12th century font (now at the east end of the south aisle). The narrow lancet type windows as well as the low side window are typical of this period.
- NAVE:** In 1360 the nave, aisles and chancel arch were rebuilt as we see today. It is interesting to note that the three tie beams and kingposts date from this period and are still in very good condition. In the early 18th century the church was filled with box pews and a large gallery in the south aisle: these were removed when the building was restored in 1855. In the early years of the 20th century, the lovely oak panels in the chancel, the high oak alter, the organ case and vestry were given by the late Maurice Glynn of Albury Hall.
- SCREEN:** About 1400 the screen was placed in position with its rood staircase (now blocked up). The original rood was removed, most probably in Cromwellian days. Some years ago, the screen was cleaned and stripped of old grey paint, which had covered it for many years. In 1961 the top of the screen was carefully restored. The cost of the work being defrayed by Sir Francis Glynn, K.C.M.G.
- The tower was built in the 15th century and the south porch added in the same period. In 1965 the tower needed very extensive repair. The work cost some thousands of pounds.
- MEMORIALS:** The tomb at the east end of the north side aisle is believed to be in memory of Sir Walter de la Lee, who died in 1396, and his wife Margaret.
- Two brass roundels on the wall of the south aisle bear the arms of the Barlee and Pateshull family. These are dated in the 15th century.
- The brass on the floor by the pulpit commemorates another of the Barlee family, who died in 1457.
- A brass on the north wall is in memory of Anne Gunter, 1585. On the south aisle wall there is a brass of Thomas and Dorothy Leventhorpe, 1588 and there is a small brass in the centre aisle to John Scroggs of Patmore Hall, 1592.
- PULPIT:** There are eight shields of arms of the Leventhorpe family in inlay or painted, six on the sides and two inside the pulpit.

CHEST: There is a fine example of an ancient parish chest in the north aisle, which dates from about 1540-50.

In 1538, Thomas Cromwell Earl of Essex, ordered that registers of baptisms, marriages and burials were to be kept by parishes. At first not many parishes obeyed the new law and in the first year of the reign of Elizabeth the First, more stringent regulations were made. It is at the 1538 date that the Albury registers begin. This iron bound oak chest with four locks was used to keep these parish records.

BELLS: Until about 1800 there were four bells in the tower but about this time one bell was badly cracked and removed. During extensive repairs to the tower in the 1960's the three remaining bells had to be removed as the wooden frame was in bad condition. Two ancient bells were bought from the parish of Wyddial through the generosity of an Albury parishioner and a further bell was hung so we now have six bells.