

Welcome to St Nicholas' Church, Worth

Feel free to use this quick guide while in the church but please leave it here. Thank You.



The 13th century font towards the back of the church which has a different carving on each face

This church has existed since 950 A.D., a fact verified by architects in the aftermath of a fire here in 1986. It is thought that St Nicholas' is the 11th oldest church in England and possibly the very oldest in continuous use.

Don't miss these highlights



The roof - made simpler and lighter following the fire which destroyed the 1870 Victorian structure

The south side-chapel with its 15th century roof - the oldest in the church



The 1610 gallery above the West Door – now bearing the organ and which once extended along the full length of the north side of the nave



A recess with a Tudor arch perhaps intended for clergy sedilia (stone seats)



The huge Saxon arches - the central arch is one of the largest Saxon arches in existence. Look for an area of stone that has been worn away by rope friction



The blocked-in lofty archways on the side walls of the nave (north and south) - used, if you believe the pervasive myth, for horsemen to ride into church, pray or bow to the altar and ride out of the opposite door without dismounting (an early holy drive-through!)

The north (left) side-chapel with:

- The ornate aumbry (cupboard) on the wall where the sacrament (bread and wine) may be kept
- The small stained glass window above the altar
- The oldest window in the church (12th century) bearing the arms of the de Warenne family



Worth Church was given to William de Warenne, either by William the Conqueror (his father-in-law) or as part of lands gifted to him when William II made him Earl of Surrey



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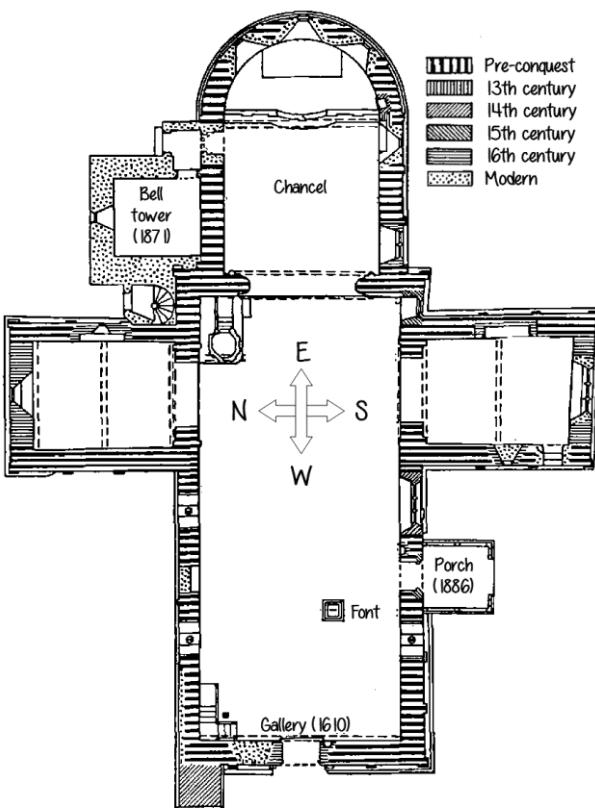


The window in the south wall of the chancel depicting two of the three theological virtues - Faith with a cross and Hope with an anchor (Charity is not shown)



In the south side-chapel, a chest, circa 1600, with a raised three-sided lid which, despite being made before tea was introduced to England, now stores the church's tea and coffee

We hope that you enjoy your visit and that you feel a part of the continuing fellowship of Christians who have worshipped and sought God's help here since the 10th century.



The 14th century west door by which you entered



The Saxon windows high up on the side walls of the nave (north and south) - rare in a church nave



The ledger stone on the floor in the north side-chapel for a former Rector who was awarded the Croix de Guerre

The remains of early painted decoration on the plaster around the lectern window

At the far eastern end, the 17th century communion rail, thought to be of German workmanship, which separates an area which would once have housed the High Altar

A piscina (a shallow basin for washing communion vessels) in the south (right) wall of the chancel which dates from at least the 15th century although its Decorated tracery means it is likely to be even earlier than that



The octagonal carved oak pulpit dating from 1577 whose five panels depict Jesus, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

The cross at the very far eastern end of the church which depicts Christ resurrected rather than Christ crucified



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