

St Peter's church, Bishop's Waltham

Historical graffiti survey report



Dates of surveys: 24th February, 27th March, 27th April, 29th May and 29th June 2026

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Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project

<http://www.hantsfieldclub.org.uk/medieval-graffiti/index.html>

Introduction to the survey

This survey builds on the work of Tony Kippenberger, one of the founder members of the Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project, who carried out an extensive photographic survey of the church. He generously shared his photographs with us, so that they could be used as a basis for this fuller interpretive report. He also hosted a comprehensive tour of the church for our team in October 2025, explaining its history, pointing out the main areas of graffiti and discussing his findings with us. He also shared his research on the Free Grammar School, which was founded by Bishop George Morley in 1679 and situated in the Upper Vestry.

The HMGP survey then took place over 5 visits in 2026.

St Peter's church, Bishop's Waltham: a brief description

Detailed descriptions of the church building can be found in various sources. Our main sources are Bullen et al (2010), the church guidebook, and the Victoria County History entry. The church is a Grade II* Listed structure. It was founded in the early 12th century by Henry of Blois and has undergone many alterations. It now consists of a chancel, a nave of four bays with aisles, a south porch and southwest tower. At the west end of the north aisle is a vestry with gallery over, the location of the Grammar School, and there is a large gallery, the Faculty Gallery, in the west bay of the nave.

Fixtures and fittings include many monuments and memorials in the nave and chancel, an ornate Jacobean pulpit and an early weathered font. Housed in the tower is the impressive fourteenth-century iron clock, which was brought into the church from the palace, during the Civil War. The clock is kept in working condition and undergoes regular maintenance. Its pendulum is the second heaviest in the world and the clock weights are wound every three days.

Graffiti survey methodology

The survey group consisted of volunteers from the Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project. Although a full photographic survey had been carried out previously by Tony Kippenberger, we decided to begin again, using our own record sheets, so that results would be consistent with other HMGP surveys. The team scanned the building to locate the graffiti, using a raking light source in the interior, and ambient daylight on the exterior. Each mark or set of marks was photographed with a digital camera or iPad. Sometimes multiple images were taken using different angles of light source. A photographic scale was included in each image. The location and type of graffiti were recorded on record sheets. Images were later transferred to a computer where further enhanced identifications were made, and this detail was collated with the original field data and compared with Tony's findings.

The survey includes other unofficial marks made during construction.

The importance of recording graffiti before it is lost is exemplified by comparing images from our two surveys. In the 10 years that have elapsed, a stone over the

doorway into the clock chamber in the tower has crumbled away, with the loss of most of the graffiti initials IM (Figs 1 & 2). Stone surfaces carrying traces of graffiti were noticed spalling away on the exterior of the tower. Also, pews with Victorian names and initials left as graffiti, recorded in the 2016 survey, have since been removed.



Figs 1 and 2. Clock chamber doorway arch. Graffiti initials IM in 2016 and 2026 showing significant loss

Graffiti summary and discussion

The graffiti findings are arranged by location. Of particular significance are the names and initials, some dated, which have been left by parishioners and other visitors over the centuries. There is a significant amount of 18th century graffiti on the woodwork in the Faculty Gallery. Much of this woodwork is reused and it is likely some originated from and is associated with the Grammar School which was in the adjacent vestry gallery (see Kippenberger reference below).

Many more recent names have been left in the tower, particularly on the wooden clock cupboard. Some are from families whose names appear on local memorials and in documentary sources. Initials and names are also found on the south porch and on the church exterior.

All the names found, with dates if present, are collated into tables in an Appendix at the end of this report. Additional information from ongoing research by Karen Parker and Penny Copeland is included.

All this data is a huge asset for local and family research and is a significant historical resource for Bishop's Waltham.

The south porch

The oak door

The guidebook dates the oak door to 1613 because of the carved date on the inner cross bar (Fig 3). This inscription is very worn now and almost illegible.



Fig 3. South porch door. Weathered date 1613 on crossbar

People have carved single and paired initials into the door, including HV (Fig 4). There are 2 compass-drawn circles (Fig 5) which may have had an apotropaic or protective function, as circles were associated with magic and witchcraft, and banned, along with “sorcery... and such like crafts” in an Elizabethan injunction of 1559 (Marsh, 1998).



Fig 4. South porch. Oak door. Initials HV



Fig 5. South porch. Oak door. Compass-drawn circles.

The south porch and doorway are the main entrance to the church. These areas in churches are usually rich in graffiti as those entering recorded their presence or left symbols of personal devotion. Here, though, we found only two possible religious

inscriptions, and both are modern: a cross (Fig 6), and the word CROSS with a cross shape superimposed on the central O (Fig 7).



Fig 6. South inner doorway. Modern cross

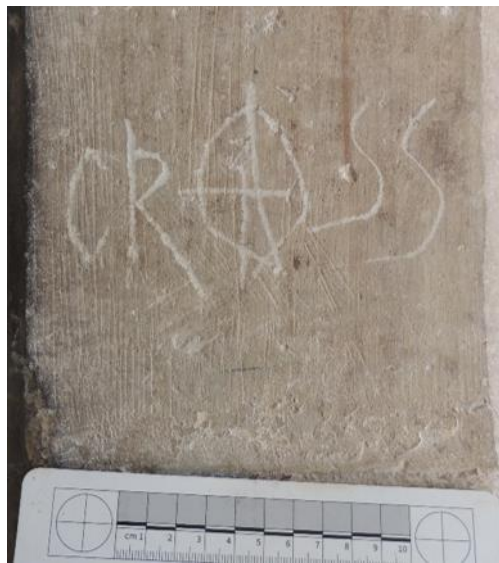


Fig 7. South inner doorway. Modern text. CROSS

Most of the graffiti here consists of single and paired initials, the earliest dated pair, IW 1695, is on the west jamb of the inner doorway. The letter W is repeated above this with another possible date or letters (Fig 8). We were particularly pleased to record this letter W because it is the basis of the HMGP logo which Tony designed for us. On the block below is the name P Hill in similar style script (Fig 9).

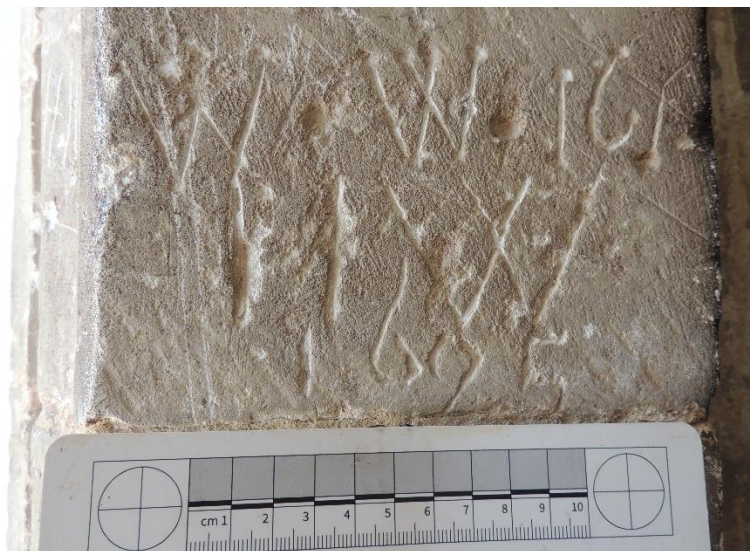


Fig 8. South porch. Inner doorway. West side. IW 1695



Fig 9. South inner doorway. West side. P. Hill



Fig 10. West of outer south doorway. 1766

On the outer wall, west of the doorway, are more graffiti traces, now very weathered, including another early date, 1766 (Fig 10).

There are pairs and single initials which stylistically date to the 18th and 19th centuries, but most graffiti inscriptions in the porch are 20th century (Fig 11), and record (young?) peoples' presence, eg Jem and Lou on 24/5/99 at 5pm (Fig 12).

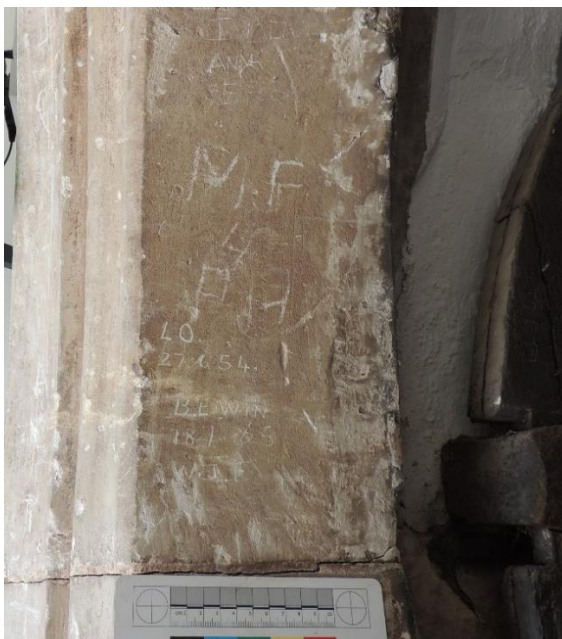


Fig 11. South porch. 20th century dates and initials

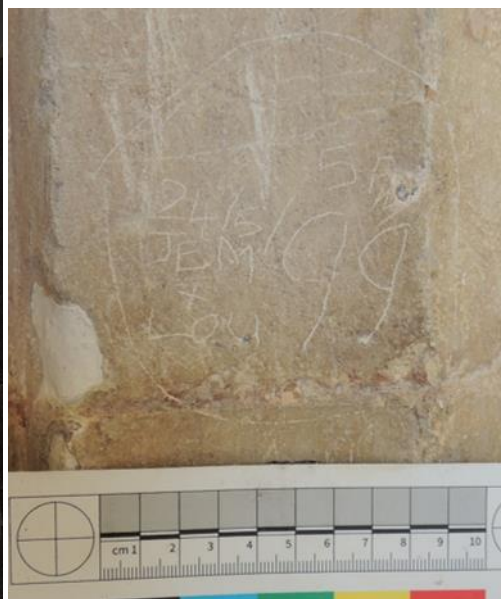


Fig 12. South porch. Jem + Lou. 24/5/99. 5pm

The stories behind the making of graffiti are usually unknown, but on our visit on 24 February 2026 our attention was drawn to three Latin crosses. These had been made with a silver marker pen. One was on the donations box, one on the porch door and one on a door handle (Figs 13 & 14). They had been drawn by a man, dressed as a Crusader, some 10 days previously. He had also stolen the church's bible and damaged the local school building and had since been arrested. The graffiti was left *in situ* as evidence but was construed as vandalism and will be removed.



Figs 13 & 14. Modern graffiti crosses interpreted as vandalism

The tower

The tower roof

The only graffiti found here are some boxed initials, PL, by the side of the turret doorway opening. An inscription found on roof lead was brought to our attention after our survey and is included at the end of the report (Fig 92).

Bell chamber

No graffiti was seen in the bell chamber, although some names are written in pencil on the wooden board or newel post at the top of the tower staircase. These include A. Pearce 1912 and A. Kirby 1934, who might have been the same A. Kirby from local firm Belton & Hall who “fixed the light” in 1950 (see Fig 23).

The clock chamber

There is graffiti on the stonework in the chamber, including IW with the date 1788 (Fig 15) in the northeast corner, on the east wall above the drain channel.



Fig 15. Clock chamber. Northeast corner. IW 1788

Two of the blocks on the north side of the east window have lines incised into them but their meaning is unknown.



Fig 16 Clock chamber doorway

There is a lot of graffiti around the doorway into the chamber (Fig 16). There are initials on the arch over the door, including PR and the damaged IM shown in Figs 1 & 2. There is a clear date, 1561 (Fig 17) although the style of the numbers, and the fact that the tower was rebuilt later than this, strongly suggests this is a later inscription. On the northwest door jamb are some horizontal lines and shapes, which Tony Kippenberger suggested could represent a shield (Fig 18). The name F. Locke occurs, dated 1948 (Fig 19), and on the stairwell side of the door jamb are the names H Knight and S Hale, both dated 1928. An incomplete name in cursive script, V. Richd, occurs on the opposite jamb (Fig 20).



Fig 17. Clock chamber door arch. 1567



Fig 18. Clock chamber, northwest door jamb. Possible shield



Fig 19. Clock chamber door jamb. F Locke 1948



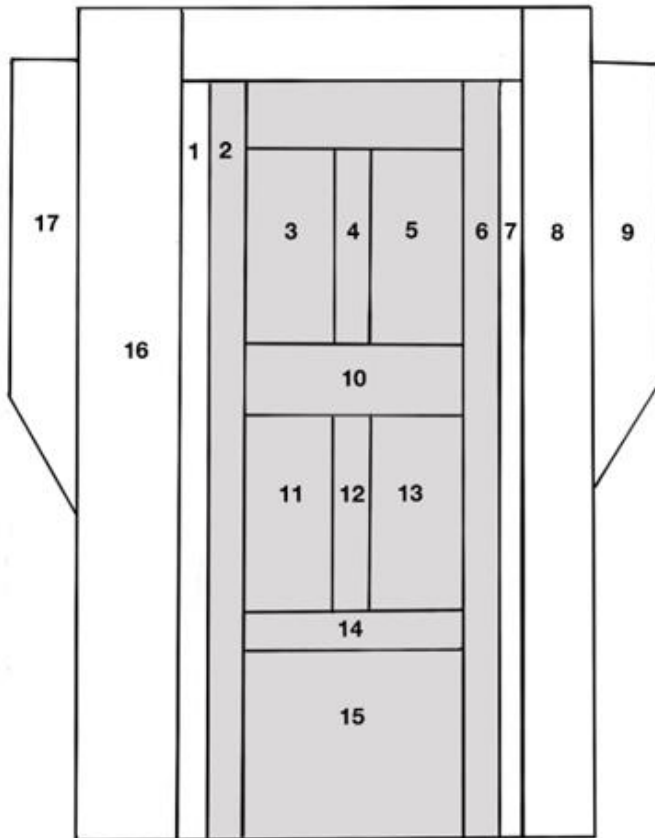
Fig 20. Clock chamber door jamb. V Richd

The clock cupboard

The wooden cupboard which contains the clock mechanism is covered in graffiti. The front door and surrounding framework are shown below in a plan with the panels numbered.

St. Peter, Bishop's Waltham - Clock Chamber
North facing elevation of clock cupboard

■ - clock cupboard door



People left graffiti here to record their presence as bell ringers, workmen or church visitors and there are references to events which took place in the church and were felt worthy of mention. There are two records of visits by organists, ie George Henry Prestlewaithe from Westend parish church on January 18th, 1891 (Fig 21) and Dr. Newel, from Rochester Cathedral, who played the organ for one hour on June 7th, 1923.

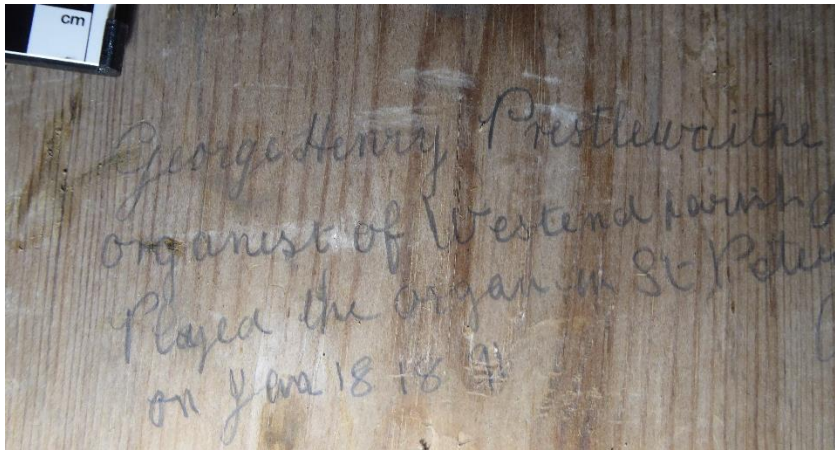


Fig 21. Clock cupboard, panel 3. Visit from George Henry Prestlewaithe, organist from Westend parish church, 1891

J. Jolliffe notes that the bells were recast and rehung in 1902, and that the last peal rung before they were taken down was for the marriage of King George V and Queen Mary (Fig 22). This is probably James Jolliffe, who was a butcher in the High Street.

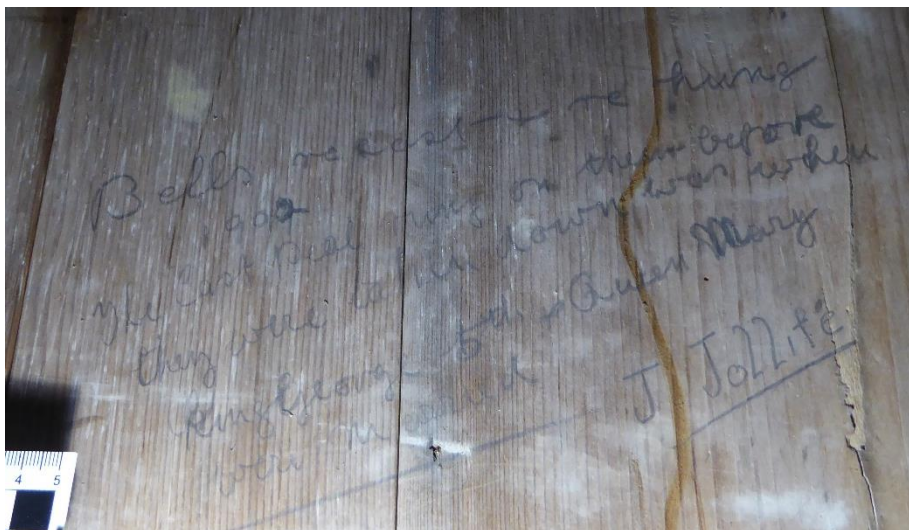


Fig 22. Clock cupboard, panels 4 & 5. Bells recast and rehung in 1902.

Workmen G Doyle and A Kirby from the local firm Belton and Hall Ltd recorded that "We fixed the lights in this place on May 24th 1950" (Fig 23). Was this the same A Kirby who left his name in the church sixteen years earlier?

Plumber DC Skinner recorded his visit on 16.5.1989.

James Padbury who was a clockmaker in the town and looked after the church clock also left his name. He died in 1898 and is buried in the churchyard.

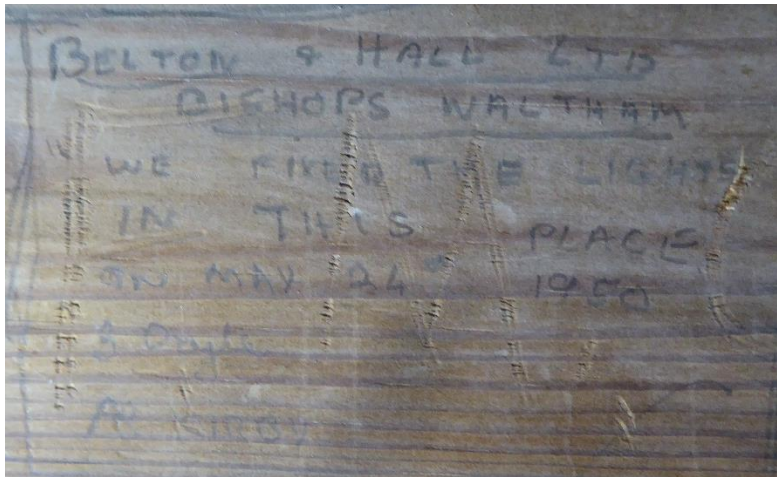


Fig 23. Clock cupboard, panel 10. Belton & Hall fixed the lights 1950

A group of names with Southampton addresses suggests an organised visit here in August 1910 (Fig 24). The names include some of the few examples we find written by women eg Mrs Reynolds from Burgess Street and Louisa Painter from Eastleigh.

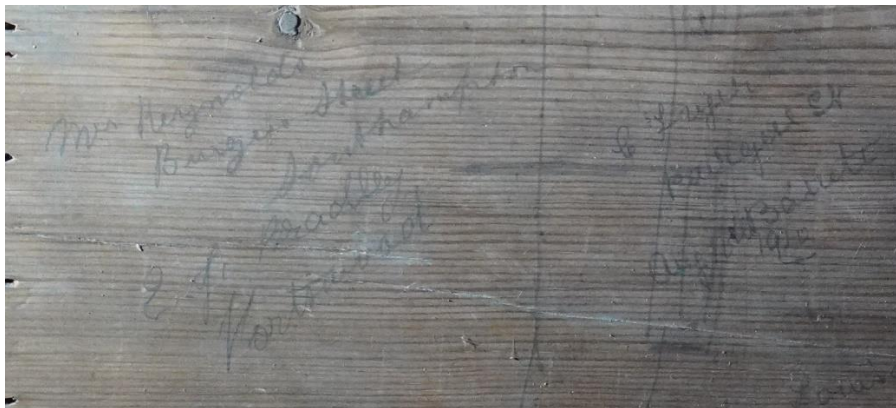


Fig 24. Clock cupboard, panel 10. Visit by Mrs Reynolds, Southampton.

Bell ringers were responsible for much of the graffiti here. There are lists of people titled *Ringers* 1923-24 and 1927-28 (Fig 25), and earlier lists dated 1862 - 64 which we think are also of ringers. These names are listed in the Appendix at the end of this report.

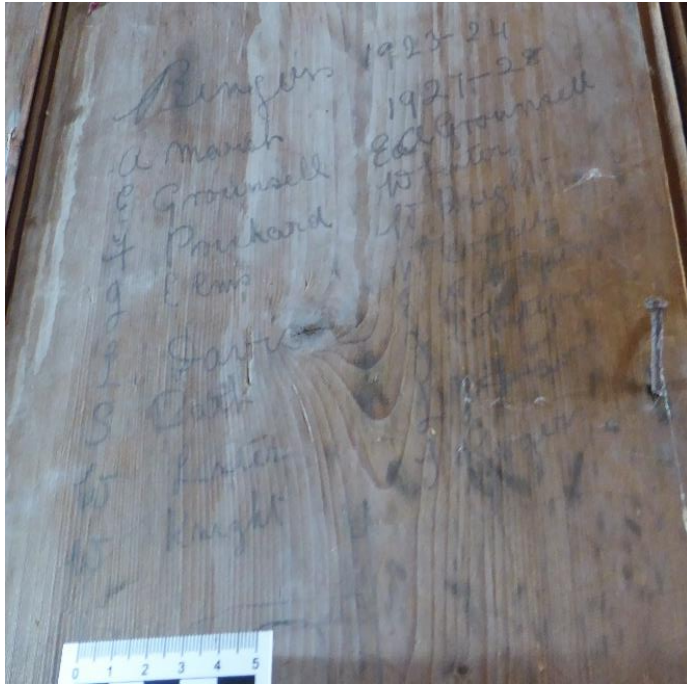


Fig 25. Clock cupboard, panel 8. List of bell ringers 1923-24

There are also joking references to the Three Bears, accompanied by three stick figures, a rather stern question “Eternity. Where will you spend it?”, instructions connected with the clock maintenance and calculations, in pencil.

The timber used for the cupboard was obviously reused, and there is a tantalizing fragment of earlier graffiti scratched into the edge of panel 9. It is part of a compass-drawn six-petalled rosette or daisy wheel (Fig 26). This shape is commonly found in post-Reformation buildings, often round openings such as doorways and windows. It is thought to have had an apotropaic function, made to protect the building and its inhabitants from evil.

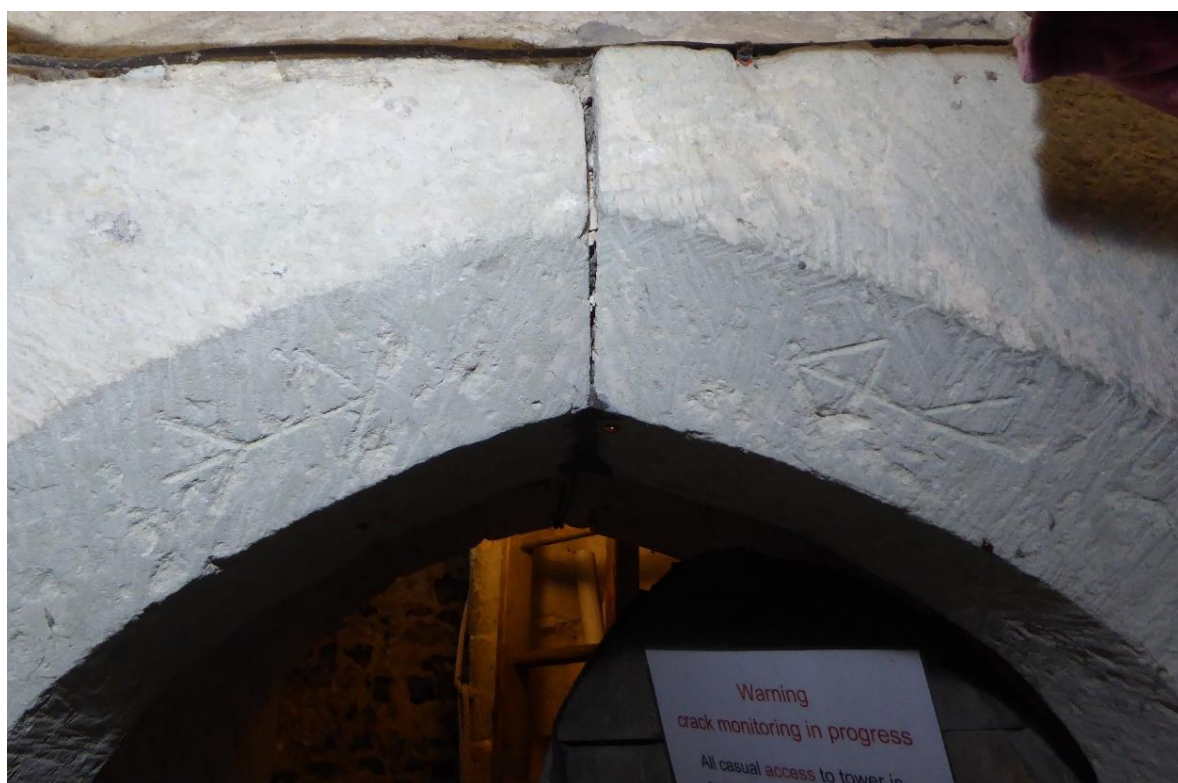


Fig 26. Clock cupboard, panel 9. Reused panel bearing compass-drawn pattern

The ringing chamber (ground floor of tower)

The walls of the ringing chamber are covered with memorials recording peals that were rung here, and the names of the ringers. More names and initials, presumably of ringers, are found as graffiti in the chamber, mainly on the door into the south aisle and on and around the door to the staircase. The names are listed in the Appendix at the end of this report. On the tower door, two names dated 1905 have been written in pencil on a cross bar and initials include HA and GM 1967. There are single and pairs of initials incised into the southeast door jamb, including IC, WS and FL. Some of these are very worn, suggesting an early date.

The archway over the tower door has two striking masons' assembly marks carved into the stone surfaces, in the form of arrows pointing inwards, presumably to indicate their orientation when the arch was being built (Figs 27 - 29).



Figs 27 – 29. Ringing chamber doorway to staircase. Masons' marking out symbols

On the south wall is a stone memorial which seems to have had names added at different times and has also attracted graffiti. The lower part of the block is covered by wooden panelling which obscures some of the text (Fig 30).

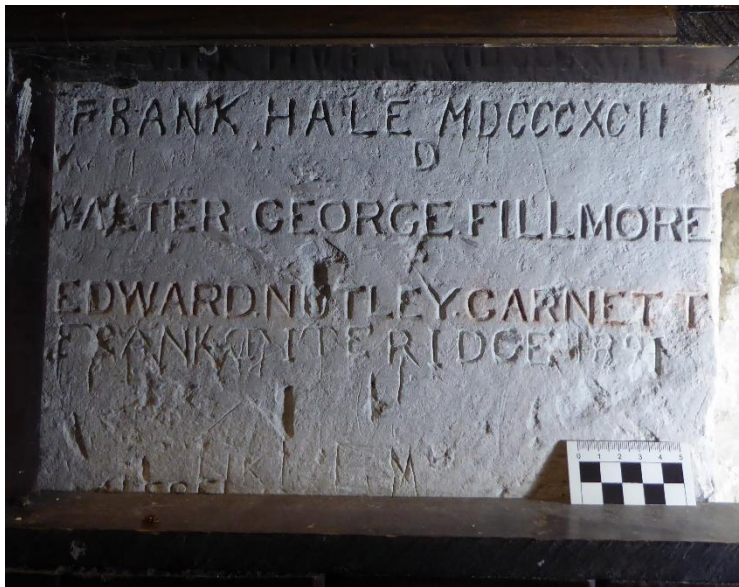


Fig 30. Ringing chamber, south wall. Ringers' memorial

In the southeast corner of the chamber is a wooden cupboard and door opening into the space where the weights from the clock descend (Figs 31 & 33). The inaccessible location proved a challenge to our survey team (Fig 32) but the graffiti here is well preserved and includes boxed dated initials from the 18th century: IC 1760 and II 1748 (Fig 35) and boxed initials HM on the block at right angles (Fig 34).



Figs 31 & 32. Ringing chamber. Cupboard opening into space for clock weights. HMGP surveyors at work



Fig 33. Southeast corner of tower where clock weights hang. Fig 34. Clock weights space. Graffiti initials on east face



Fig 35. Clock weights space. Initials including IC 1760 and II 1748 on south face

There is more recent graffiti on the wooden panelling around the chamber, including ME 1933 on the north side of the cupboard and rows of tally marks on a panel on the north wall (Fig 36).



Fig 36. Ringing chamber panelling. Tally marks



Fig 37. Ringing chamber. Main door, with numbered panels

The main door into the chamber from the south aisle (Fig 37) incorporates some reused pieces of timber. The lower edge panel (panel 24) contains traces of the date 1767 and part of an inscription (Fig 38, at 90° angle to show date). The north edge (panel 5) also has lettering carved into it (Fig 39).



Figs 38 & 39. Ringing chamber. Main door. Reused timbers, door panels 24 and 5, with partial date 1767 and lettering

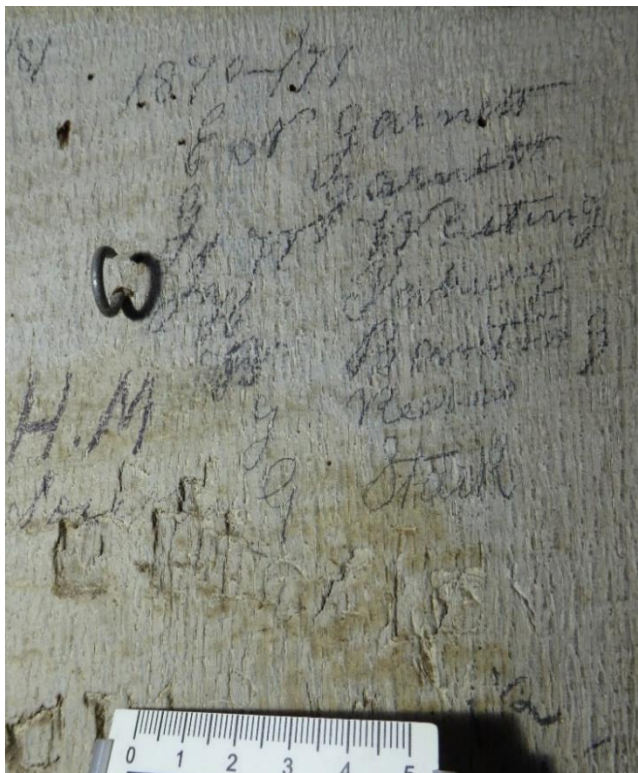


Fig 40. Ringing chamber. Main door. Top panels (panels 5-8) with graffiti

There are many names and initials carved into the wooden panels (Fig 40) including John Cook Nov 25 1807 within a heart shape and James Pink 1809 within a rectangular shape just below (Fig 41).



Fig 41. Ringing chamber. main door, panel 8. John Cook and James Pink



There is a list of names dated 1870/1, presumably bell ringers (Fig 42), headed up by E N Garnett, who is probably the Edward Nutley Garnett recorded on the stone slab on the south wall (Fig 30). Under his name is that of his son, G. (George) Garnett. George was a prominent local resident whose life and achievements are recorded by Kippenberger (2023).

Fig 42. Ringing chamber. Main door, panel 7.
List of bell ringers 1870-71

The purchase of new bell ropes is recorded on May 24th, 1881, and again on December 23, 1889 (in time for Christmas?) in blue ink at the top of the door.

There is graffiti carved into the stone jambs of this door, including initials and a compass-drawn circle.

The nave



Significant restoration, particularly in the nineteenth century, means that painted and plastered surfaces which might have carried graffiti have been scoured away, and very little remains in the main body of the church. There are some possible masons' marks on one of the pillars, N1, the most westerly one in the north aisle. Hard to distinguish among all the other scratches and dressing marks on the stone are simple geometric shapes, finely carved, which could be the original masons' marks. The shapes include a "butterfly" mark – two triangles with their points touching (Fig 43) – and a possible 5-sided star or pentagram (Fig 44).

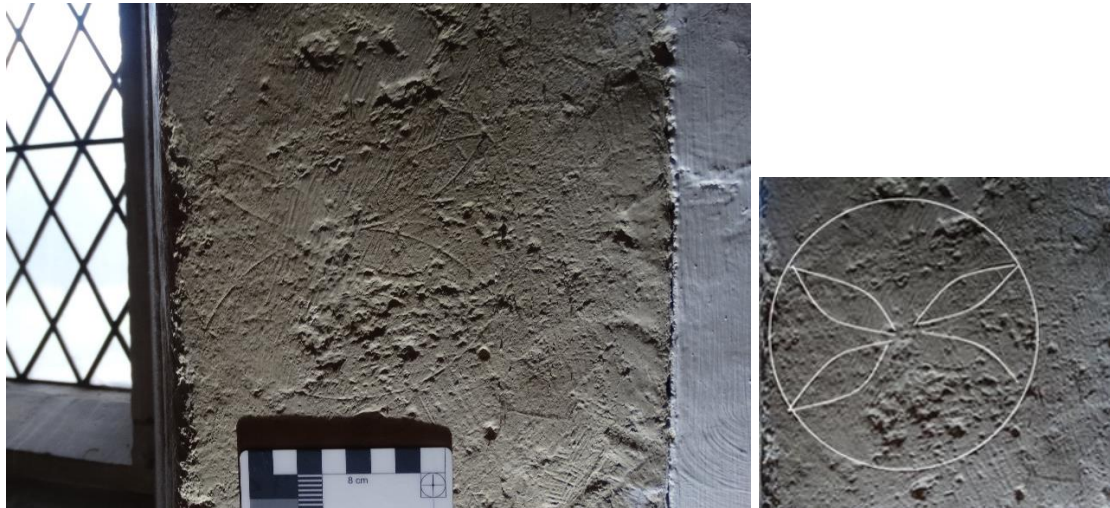


Fig 43. Nave, north aisle pillar N1. Mason's mark



Fig 44. Nave, north aisle pillar N1. Mason's mark, pentagram

On the west side of the most westerly window on the south aisle, on the second block up from the sill, is scratched an incomplete compass-drawn device, or “daisy wheel” (Figs 45 & 46). Such patterns usually consisted of six petals but this one only has four. They are thought to be apotropaic, made to protect buildings and their occupants from evil. They are often found in post-Reformation settings, around openings like windows and doors, where evil spirits might enter.



Figs 45 & 46. Nave, south aisle wall, west window. Compass-drawn “daisy wheel” symbol, as photographed and inked-in

To the north of the chancel arch, by the steps leading up to the pulpit, is a row of vertical lines, with some marks beneath, incised into the plaster (Fig 47), and another row of vertical lines on the stonework (Fig 48). Their meaning is unknown.



Fig 47. North of chancel arch. Marks on plaster next to pulpit steps



Fig 48. North of chancel arch. Vertical lines scratched into stonework next to pulpit steps

The chancel

The Anna Cruys memorial 1634



Fig 49. Chancel, north wall. Anna Cruys memorial



Fig 50. Anna Cruys memorial. Close up of scratched M shape graffiti

At the west end of the north wall of the chancel is a memorial for Anna Cruys, who died in 1634 at the age of twenty (Fig 49). The black marble tablet has graffiti scratched onto it, beneath the formal inscription. This is in the form of an M shape, made of two intersecting inverted Vs (Fig 50). This shape is thought to be apotropaic in function and derives from the pre-Reformation symbol of devotion to the Virgin Mary, sometimes known as a “Marian mark”. Post-Reformation (and we know this graffiti was made later than 1634) the symbol seems to have lost its religious significance and became more of a protective mark, often found on domestic buildings around windows and doorways.

The altar table



Fig 51. Chancel. Altar table



Fig 52. Chancel. Altar table. Initial R

The wooden table (Fig 51) is thought to be the original post-Reformation altar, which the church guidebook says was used as a school table in the Upper Vestry. There are two individual initials carved into the surface, R (Fig 52) and E, but much more graffiti might have been expected if it had been in the school, because contemporary school tables from Winchester College and St Mary Bourne church are covered in names and initials (Gould, 2025).

The pews



Fig 53. Nave pews. HMGP recording in progress

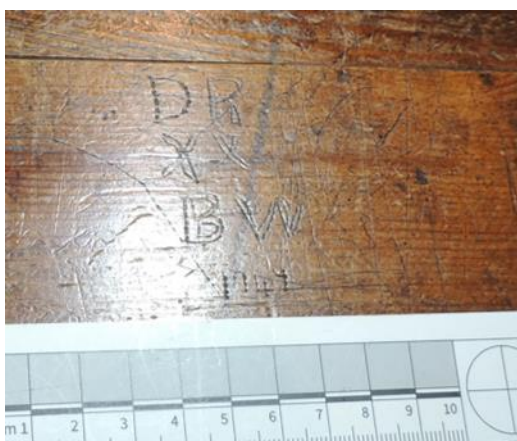
Tony Kippenberger recorded graffiti on church pews within the nave. However, many of these pews have since been disposed of, so we could not examine them and Tony's photographs are the only remaining record. Some inscriptions were names and dates, which might be of value to local historians.



Examples of names are A. Howe, A. Purnell (Fig 54) and C. Tilbury. Some names are associated with dates, eg L. Pyle 1898 (the earliest date seen) and W. Terry 1910. There are two lists of names which are hard to read but appear to have the same surname, ie Jolly and Nash.

Fig 54. Pew. A. Purnell

There are also stick figures, crosses, some compass-drawn circles and a small six-petalled rosette. A list has been made of the names and initials photographed by Tony and is included in **Appendix 2**.



Because we understand that more pews will be disposed of in the next phase of redevelopment, we examined the remaining pews (Fig 53). There is very little significant graffiti on these, perhaps the most interesting is the pencil depiction of a horse at the end of one. The graffiti is relatively recent, the earliest dated 1949 (Fig 55), and mostly consists of initials and classic comments such as "I woz ere" and "I Love U Becky".

Fig 55. Nave pew. DR xx BW 1949

The Faculty Gallery and Upper Vestry

A staircase at the west end of the north aisle leads to the Faculty Gallery and Upper Vestry. The Faculty Gallery contains a stunning range of graffiti, with many names and initials from the 18th century carved into the woodwork of the pews (Fig 56). The church guidebook tells us that in 1733 permission was given by Bishop Richard Willis to erect a gallery at the west end of the church, built at the expense of five parishioners who would each own a pew, with an additional three pews for the singers. The Upper Vestry housed the Free Grammar School founded by Bishop George Morley in 1679. At the time of our survey the Upper Vestry was being used for storage, so we could not carry out a full survey here. However, much of the woodwork in the Faculty Gallery was obviously reused, including floorboards, and the graffiti on these surfaces may well have originated in the school.



Fig 56. Faculty Gallery. Pews with graffiti

A plan of the pews in the Gallery has been made and is attached in the Appendix with a list of all the names and dated initials found there. Research into the names is still ongoing, but some initial findings are included.

There are layers of graffiti on these pews, the earliest dating to the 18th century. These include NB who left his initials three times in 1769 (Fig 57), WG in 1777 (Fig 58), and IA in 1795 (Fig 59). Where the woodwork has been painted, then stripped, the graffiti stands out due to the paint remaining in the incised lines. The names RH Lavington May 30 179(?) and T White are prominent for this reason (Figs 60 & 61).



Fig 57. Faculty Gallery. Pew 1 backrest. NB 1769



Fig 58. Faculty Gallery. Pew 1 end panel. WG 1777



Fig 59. Faculty Gallery. Pew 2. IA 1795



Fig 60. Faculty Gallery. Pew 2. RH Lavington May 30 179?



Fig 61. Faculty gallery. Pew 2. T. White



Fig 62. Faculty Gallery. Pew 4. I. Battershell

Another well-known local name is I. Battershell (Fig 62) and names from the 19th century include JH Charles 1834 (Fig 63). Kippenberger tells us that Henry Duke (Fig 64) and Edward Clark (Fig 65), were recorded in the 1841 census as attending the nearby Brook Street School. As this school was run by the Reverend Chard, Rector at St Peter's, his pupils would have certainly been regular church attendees, sitting in the front row of the Faculty Gallery.



Fig 63. Faculty Gallery. Pew 1. JH Charles 1834



Figs 64 & 65. Faculty Gallery. Pew 1. Hy.(Henry) Duke and E. Clark



20th century names include D Thomas July 11th, 1954 (Fig 66 pew 4).

Fig 66. Faculty Gallery. pew 4. D Thomas July 11th 1954



We found graffiti on all pew surfaces, including book slopes, seats (Fig 67) and pew ends (Fig 68).

Fig 67. Faculty Gallery. Pew 4 seat. Graffiti names and initials



Fig 68. Faculty Gallery. Pew 2. North end. Initials.

There is a plank reused as a floorboard behind pew 3 which is covered in names, initials and includes the date 1797 (Figs 69 & 70).



Fig 69. Faculty Gallery. Floorboard behind pew 3. Initials and date 1797



Fig 70. Faculty Gallery. Floorboard behind pew 3. Initials and name J Madden

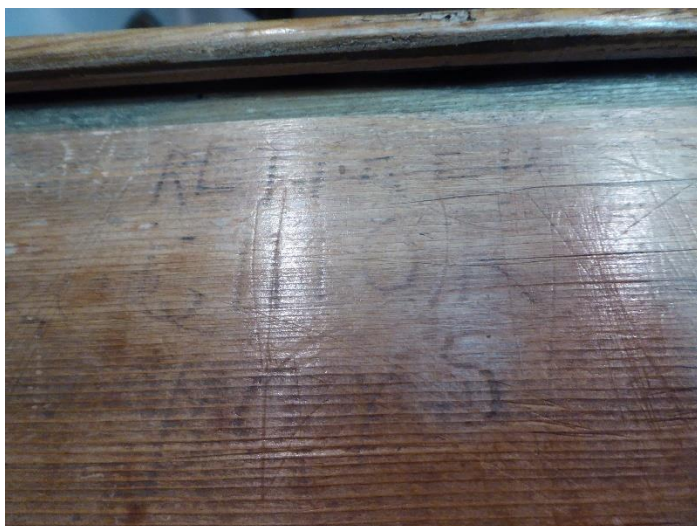


Fig 71. Faculty Gallery. Pew 2 book slope. Retired Choir boys.

Graffiti in churches is often blamed on “naughty choirboys”, so we were amused to find that some Retired Choir Boys had confessed to their crime by leaving their mark in pew 2 (Fig 71). In May 1985 Sep recorded that he “was ere in God’s name” (Fig 72).

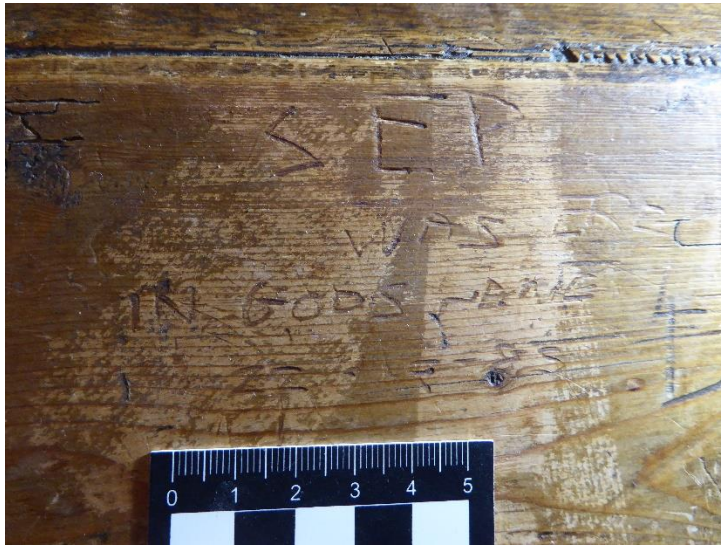


Fig 72. Faculty gallery. Pew 1. "Sep was ere"



Inside the entrance to the Gallery is some pencil graffiti on the wall, including a man's profile (Fig 73).

Note the modern fire extinguisher sign partly obscuring the graffiti.

Fig 73. Faculty Gallery. North wall. Pencil profile



Fig 74. Upper Vestry. Top of stairs.

The only graffiti found in the Upper Vestry is on the banister at the top of the stairs (Fig 74) which has initials carved into the wood: CB, WH and HP.

The earliest date associated with these upper areas is 1739, which is scratched into the doorpost on the right-hand side at the bottom of the stairs, and associated with two pairs of initials, CW and SO (Fig 75).



Fig 75. Doorpost at bottom of stairs to Faculty Gallery. 1739

The church exterior



Figs 76 & 77. South chancel doorway with incised cross on east jamb

The **south chancel doorway** (Fig 76) has a cross deeply incised into the east jamb (Fig 77). Most of the other stonework around the doorway has been replaced, probably in the 19th century, but the decision must have been taken to preserve this older piece of masonry, which is much yellower than the newer stones, to respect this devotional symbol.



Fig 78. South wall of nave. Pairs of initials

There are many occurrences of pairs of initials carved into the fabric of the exterior. There are clear examples on the **south wall of the nave** where paired initials RR and IP are found (Fig 78) on two adjacent blocks.

The **chancel north window** (Fig 79) has an interesting group of initials dating to the 18th century carved into its mouldings.



Fig 79. Chancel. North window



Fig 80. Chancel. North window. East side detail. DP 1776

On the east side is DP 1776 within a circular shape, linked to initials, B and TH, above (Figs 80,81,82). Next to this is a circular shape with initials below (Fig 83). There are more initials on the inner mouldings including another 18th century date, partly illegible (Fig 84). Unfortunately a modern sheet of Perspex obscures more of these (Fig 85).



Fig 81. Chancel. North window detail. DP 1776

Fig 82. Chancel. North window detail. B and TH



Fig 83. Chancel. North window detail. Circle and initials

Fig 84. Chancel. North window detail. WB with date above



Fig 85. Chancel. North window detail. Initials adjacent to Perspex screen

These marks are contemporary with the grammar school, but whether they were made by the pupils attending, we can only speculate. Could the TH in Fig 82 be Thomas Hart whose name and repeated initials are incised into the gallery rail of pew 1 in the Faculty Gallery (Figs 86 & 87)? There is also a suggestion that accommodation for the boarders may have been in a building which once adjoined the north aisle of the church, allowing them easier access to these elevated areas.



Figs 86 & 87. Faculty Gallery. Gallery rail, pew 1. T Hart and TH initials

There are two pairs of neatly carved initials, JT and DT on the **northwest corner buttress of the tower** (Fig 88) at a height which suggests this was done before or when the stone was inserted.



Fig 88. Tower. Northwest corner buttress. JT DT

There are three doorways on the west side of the church, where we would expect graffiti to be left by those entering the church. However, exposure to the elements has worn much away, and some of the stone surface around the tower doorway is spalling off with the loss of graffiti. However, Doris Williams' name written in pencil over the tower doorway on 14.8.1923 does survive. On the south jamb of this door is a curved pointed shape (Fig 89) whose meaning is unknown.



Fig 89. Tower doorway. South jamb. Curved shape



There are more initials around the main west door, including NI with a weathered date, probably 1875, on the north jamb (Fig 90).

Fig 90. Tower. West door, north jamb. NI 1895

The door to the Upper Vestry staircase (Fig 91) has traces of names and initials around it, which may date to the time of the Grammar School but unfortunately none of these are legible.

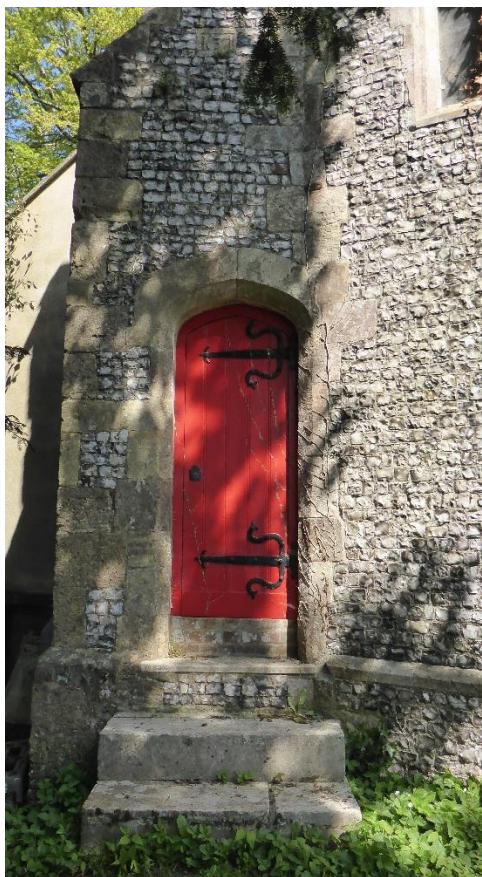


Fig 91. Tower. Door to Upper Vestry staircase and entrance to the Grammar School's classroom

Addendum – Roof lead

An additional piece of graffiti, previously recorded on the church roof lead, was drawn to our attention. It is dated February 21st, 1909, and made by B.Tilbury and H. Lacey (Fig 92).

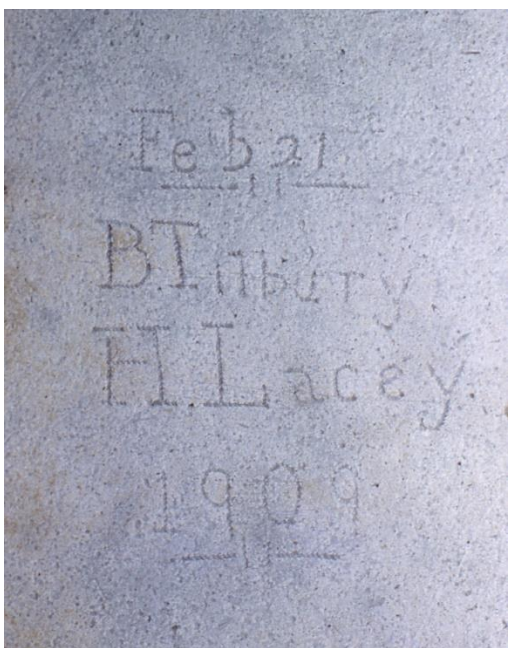


Fig 92. Church roof lead. Feb 21 1909 inscription

Acknowledgements

Tony Kippenberger is the instigator of this survey. We are grateful for the time he spent introducing the church to us and the guided tour he provided, and for generously sharing his archive of photographs. The photographs in Figs 45, 46, 75, 80, 81, 82, 85 and 92 are by him.

Penny Copeland has provided much valuable background to the history of the building and shared the results of her research into some of the names we found.

We are grateful to the Church Wardens, **Mandy Cawood and Liz Webb**, who ensured that the church would be open for our visits and were always there to welcome us.

Particular thanks go to **Paul Furmedge** who opened up the bell tower for us and patiently waited while we carried out our survey there and explained the workings of the clock to us.

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Survey archive

886 photographs and a 1.12 minute video were taken during the survey. All images and record sheets are held by the Hampshire Field Club Medieval Graffiti Project archive and are available on request. A copy of this report has been lodged with the Hampshire Historic Environment Record and with the church, and the report has been posted on the HFC website www.hantsfieldclub.org.uk.

Disclaimer

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part hereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project or assessment without the permission of the Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project or the church.

Karen Wardley**HMGP Co-ordinator****October 2026**

APPENDIX 1

St Peter's Bishops Waltham: Names left as graffiti by location with additional documentary research findings

Church tower

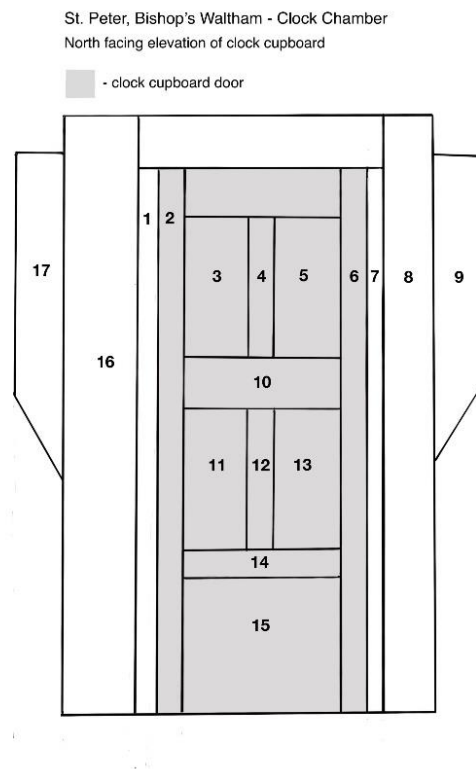
Top of tower stairs

Survey 24.02.2026

Photos 205 – 208. A. Kirby 1934, A. Pearce 1912, R. Somerville, A. Blaver and E. Grace are on the newel post at the top of the tower staircase.

Blaver family came to town in 1860s to help set up the terracotta works and lived at Red Lodge in Newtown. Reginald Somerville, b. 1907 was son of Labourer in St Peters Street

Clock cupboard.



Panels 4 & 5

Photo 72. Bells recast and rehung 1902. The last peal rung on these before they were taken down was when King George 5th & Queen Mary were married. J. Jolliffe

Photos 74 & 75 Dr Newel organist of Rochester cathedral played the organ in St Peters Bps Waltham on June 1/7? 1923 for 1 hour

Photos 85 & 85a George Henry Prestlewaithe organist of Westend parish church played the organ in St Peters, Bishops Waltham on Jan 18 1891

Panel 8 Photos 64, 65

Ringers 1923 – 24

A Marsh, E Grounsell, F Prichard, J Elms, L Davis, S Bath, W Lister, W Knight

Ringers 1927 -28

EA Grounsell, W Lister, W Knight, ? Hooper, G? W?... J. T...? L. ...? J Rogers

Panel 9 Photos 52, 53, 54, 55

1862 - 3

Michael Hale, George Russell, Charles Rooke, Thomas Edney, Wm Fillmore, Wm Gamblen, J Gamblen, E Garnett, G Cooper.

1862 - 4

Michael Hale, George Russell, Charles Rooke, Thomas Edney, Edward Garnett,M, William , Walter F...

Panel 10 Photos 101 – 103, 223

Belton & Hall Ltd, Bishops Waltham

We fixed the lights in this place on May 24th 1950.

G Doyle, A Kirby

Belton & Hall was High St shop selling electrical goods

Panels 4 & 5 Photos 78, 79, 80, 80a, 80b, 80c

Cyrill Whare 1906 left England for Australia in the year 1912

Clock cupboard		
Name	Graffiti date (and presumed age)	Additional information including monumental inscription date, <i>churchyard numbers</i> and documentary research from Karen Parker and Penny Moreland
S Bath	1923	
J Biddle	1906	
Diana Collier		
Harry Brown	Dec 18 th 1930	
Frank Collier	16.12.1963	
G Cooper	1862/3	
L Davis	1923/4 (Aged 18/19)	616. Leonard James Davis. D:30.1.1967 age 62
LJ Davis		No 1 Copper Mill, Bishop's Waltham
J Dayley		
G Doyle	1950 Fixed lights	1950 Belton & Hall Ltd
T Duffett	July 8 1900	
Thomas Edney	1862/3 (Aged 25/26)	213. In Memory of Thomas Edney died March 22 1872 age 35

J Elms	1923/4	
A Fergusson	Oct 29 th 1909	
Wm Fillmore	1862/3	Walter George Fillmore c1892
Wm Gamblen	1862/3	Gamblens/Gamblins are a huge family in the area
J Gamblen	1862/3	
E Garnett	1862/3 (<i>Aged 36/37</i>)	Edward Nutley Garnett 1892, died 1901. School board member 1878. 345: In Loving memory of Edward Nutley Garnett d. June 15 1901 in his 75 th year. Ann wife of above died March 19 1907 age 80 also Gertrude Ann their daughter d. March 14 1855 age 3yrs 6mths
E Grounsell	1923 & 1927 (<i>Aged 57 & 61</i>)	808: Ernest A Groundsell d. 6 June 1936 age 69 & Eliza his wife d. 17 October 1957 age 89. He was Solicitor's clerk and parish clerk. Lived at Albion cottage, Free Street.
Michael Hale	1862-4	Michael(cordwainer) was also brother to two prominent builders in the town
S. Hale	1928	Clock chamber door jamb. Likely from Hale family of builders who worked on church at times
E Hall	1909	
J Hampton	29 th July 1960	
HE Haylock	1908 and undated	
George Henry		
G Hooper	1927	
C Hopkins	(19)06	
B James		
J Jollife	1902	Ref to last peal of bells before rehung. James Jollife was butcher in High St.
A Kirby	1950 "Fixed lights"	1950 Belton & Hall Ltd. Name also appears at top of tower stairs, dated 1934
G Knight	April 30 th 1897	
H Knight	1928	Clock chamber door jamb
W Knight	1923 & 1927	
W Lister	1923 & 1927	
F. Locke	Jan 19 1942	F. Locke 1948 on clock chamber door jamb. Locke family ran the fish shop on the High St, and lived at Moysents on Bank Street
Edward Macklin	3.10.58	
A Marsh	1923	
Roger Matson	3.10.58	
J Mills		Grouped with W Richards and CR Purnell
F Ockenden		
James Padbury		The Padburys are a dynasty of clockmakers in BW starting in the 1700s, and they traditionally looked after the clocks of the town including the church clock. James had a shop on the High

		Street and was also a church warden. He died in 1898, buried in the churchyard.
Pearson	8 th July 1905 (?)	
F Pritchard	1923	
CR Purnell		Grouped with W Richards and J Mills
S Purrier	June 1913	
Jack Richard		
W Richards		Grouped with J Mills and CR Purnell. Likely to be from the Richards dynasty of Blacksmiths and metalworkers
J Rogers	1927	Rogers family ran a High St shop and carriage taxi.
Charles Rooke	1862-3	
George Russell	1862-4	
Miss (?) P Selwood		No 100 Shearer Road, Portsmouth
DC Skinner	16.5.1989	Plumber
E Street		
T Sullivan		
Cyrill Whare	1906, left for Australia 1912	

567: 'Frank G T Hale d. 5 February 1964 age 66'''

869: 'Frank Hale b. 2 November 1871, d. 10 January 1947 & his wife Edith Rose b. 6 November 1873 d. 8 August 1976 & in memory of Thomas Hale b. 15 February 1867 d. 29 December 1925 & his wife b. 11 December 1969 d. 19 May 1934'

There was also the following inscription : 813: '1762: stone erected by Parishionersgift of Burial Ground by George Garnett In Memory of his wife Mary Garnett d. 9 January 1924'

Visitors from elsewhere

Name	Address	Date
EJ Bradley	Portswood	Aug 1910
Daisy Cooper	Portsmouth	August 10 th 1910
Winifred Dayley	High St, Hambledon, Hants	
G Doyle	YHA, Swanmore	
C Fryer	Burgess Street, Bassett	Aug 1910
E. Locke	Burgess St, Bassett, Southampton	August 10 1910
Dr Newel	Rochester Cathedral organist	June 1923. Was he related to hairdresser on High St?
Louisa Painter	Eastleigh	August 1910
Gladys Poole	Hambledon, Hampshire	January 1891
George Henry Prestlewaithe	Westend parish church organist	Jan 18 1891
Mrs Reynolds	Burgess St, Southampton	Aug 1910
W Richards	London	1912?
Bessie Wheeler	Southampton	Aug 10 th 1910
Mrs & Miss Windabank	St Denys, Southampton	

Ringling chamber, ground floor of tower

Door to south aisle showing numbered panels

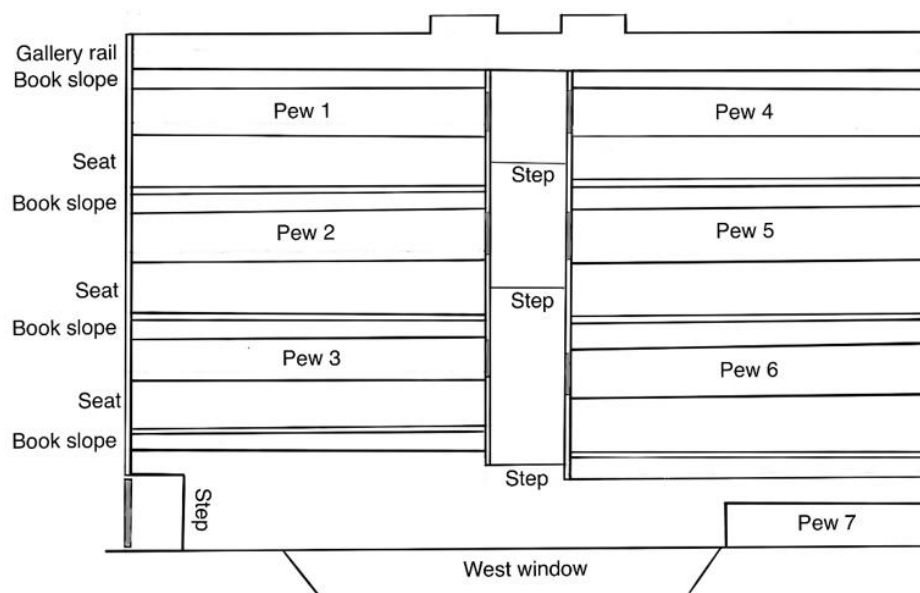


Name	Date	Location
John Cook	Nov 25 1807	In heart shape on door, panel 8.
WC Curtis		Door to south aisle, panel 11
H Darbury(?)	1870/1	List of ringers on door, panel 7
Frank ?lteridge	1891	Stone memorial south wall
Walter George Fillmore		Stone memorial south wall
Edward Nutley Garnett	1870/1	Stone memorial south wall and EN Garnett list of ringers 1870/1 on door, panel 7. Edward Nutley Garnett was the illegitimate son of a tanner's daughter - with little prospect. But he went to the new National School (in the churchyard) and, now able to read and write, became town crier (as well as hairdresser, bill poster and milkman) but significantly Sexton AND Parish Clerk! He served in that position for about 30 years.
G Garnett/George Garnett	1870/1	Son of Edward Nutley Garnett. List of ringers and repeated on door, panel 7 George Garnett gifted the right hand side of the churchyard in the early 1920s. There is a square

		stone erected by parishioners to commemorate the gift. George worked his way up from brickmaker's apprentice to be General Manager of the Clayland's brickworks (when bought out by Elliots). That was the huge brickmaking works that supplied bricks to Buckingham Palace, the Natural History Museum and even the Grand Hotel in Cairo and was the largest employer in town.
Frank Hale	MDCCCXCII (1892)	Stone memorial south wall
C Hawkins	1905	Door to staircase
FJ MacMahon	1905	Door to staircase
W Mears		Door to south aisle, panel 6
James Pink	1809	In box shape on door, panel 8. Pink is very old name in area, going back to 1758 Robert Pink in Dean
G Stark	1870/1	List of ringers on door, panel 7
R Swift	May 2 nd 1910	Door to south aisle, panel 6
W Veck		Door to south aisle, panel 7. Local family who had various businesses on the High Street including shoes, carpets and antiques
HM Whiting	1870/1	List of ringers on door, panel 7. The Whiting family had a chimney sweeping business in BW in the late 1800s, branching out into bricklayers

Faculty Gallery. Names and dated initials on pews and woodwork

St. Peter, Bishop's Waltham - Gallery above West end of Nave - not to scale



Name	Date	Pew	Research Notes from Penny Copeland et al
C.T. Alex		3	
I.A.	1795	2	
Henry Bailey		6	John Bailey was running dolphin Inn in 1852, but there was another who was a cordwainer in Upham
J. Barton		1	
I. Battershell		3	Battershells seem to be running the girls' school in St Peters Street in 1841
T/I (?) Beckett		1	
H. Binsted (?)		3	H. Binsted (Henry b. Southwick 1753 or John and Mary Binsted having kids in BW from their marriage in 1762, or Peter and Sarah Binsted also having kids in BW in the 1750s or a Hugh Binsted b. Droxford 1724, other Binsteds in Hambledon). Several other versions of it...
NB	1769	1 backrest	3 different sets
W. Cater		2	
JH Charles	1834	1	
E. Clark		1	Edward Clark - One of the most prosperous merchant families in Bishop's Waltham. Edward and Thomas attended Brook St School in 1841
L. Colton		3	
W. Crook		3	
H. Dale		1	
W. Daley		2	
E.M. Docker		2	

Hy. Duke		1	Henry Duke. Pupil at Brook St School in 1841
C. Etheridge	1907	3	Charles Etheridge (b.1895)? Part of a family of blacksmiths on Houchin and Brook Streets
P. Foley	18 th c?	2	
J. Gloy or Gloyne?	1811	3	J. Gloyne - Havant family of Samuel and Anna, James born 1798, John born 1800, ?Joseph Culliford born 1802
I Godrich		3	
W. Gover		1	
DG	1952	1	
W.G.	1777 or 1771	1 side panel	
Anna Haines	2011	1	
T. Hart		1	Thomas Hart was a freeholder in BW in 1713
Hawkins		1	
G. Hebden		3	
Howe		floorboard	
WRI	1794	2	
R H Lavington	May 30 179?0	2	R H Lavington May 30 [179?]: Likely to be Robert Hockley Lavington b. 1758 Twyford, d. 1814 Southwood Farm, Twyford. m. 1783 East Meon. Built Hockley Mill 1803. Also poss. Richard Hockley Lavington b. 1783 Twyford
T. Lawrence	1857?	3	
I. Madden		floorboard	
A W Matthews		2	
B Miles		1	
JM	28/5/86	3	
W.M.	1795	2	
E.N.	1881	2	
E Pitman		1	Pitman family are recorded from at least 1900 in BW
MP	Xmas 1983	2	
B Reed		1	
Bill Ricnar		3	
T. Russell		4	
W.R.	1794	2	
RJ Simmonds			Bishop's Waltham
G. Smith		3	
A. Swann x 2		3	A. Swann (? Arthur Swann 1796 Whitchurch)
D. Thomas	July 11 th 1954	4	
A. Tilbury	Illegible date	3 book slope	B. Tilbury on roof lead 1909 with H. Lacey Tilbury family known from 1871 (brewer in High St)
H. Upton	1799 (?)	floorboard	
T White	18 th c?	2	T. White (? Thomas, b. 1804 Yateley or 1807 Ropley. John White and wives Hannah and Sarah producing children in BW 1813 1817
C. Williams		5 book slope	

DM Williams	1923	1	
Thomas Williams	1781	2	

Other locations

South Porch.

P.Hill. West side of inner door arch. Probably 17th or 18th century

West doorway, exterior.

Doris Williams 14.8.1923

Chancel exterior, north window

DP 1776

Roof lead

Feb 21 1909

B. Tilbury

H. Lacey

APPENDIX 2

Names and dated initials recorded on nave pews by Tony Kippenberger in 2016

Name/initials	Date	Photo number
K. Askew		3534
WRA	1910	3541
A. Borne		3695
Henry Churcher		3577
E. Cooke		3565
Duke		3509
A. Howe		3615
HI	1910	3575/6
W. Millad		3542
D(?). Nash	1898	3568/9
J. Nash	1898	3565
List of Nash names		3572/3
A. Purnell		3515, 3518
WP	1910	3583
WR	1910	3575/6
W. Terry	1910	3595
B. Tilbury		3586
c. Tilbury		3551