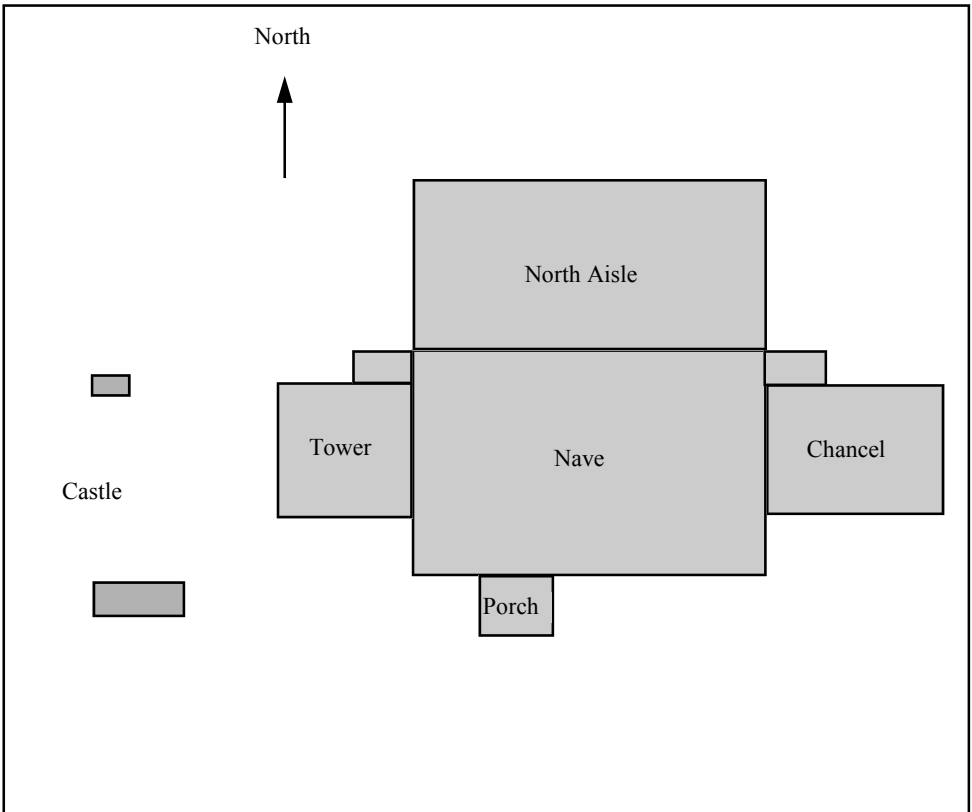


GUIDE AND SHORT HISTORY



**St. John the Baptist, Ruyton XI Towns
Shropshire**

PLAN OF CHURCH



Front page

Emblem of St. John the Baptist.

*The Church seen through
a 1,800 year old yew tree
Next to the Lych Gate*

Back page

Medieval 'devil' carving

THE CHANCEL



Reredos behind the altar

This is the oldest part of the Church and still retains its Norman arched side windows. Low down in the North wall there is a small wooden door, which could have been an opening into a hermit's chamber. Foundations suggesting this were discovered in 1868.

Also on the North wall is the memorial tablet to the children of the Revd. George Hunt all of whom died at an early age. The notable stained glass East window in the North Aisle also commemorates them.

The Reredos, the stone carving behind the altar, dates from 1892. It depicts St. John the Baptist, to whom the Church is dedicated, baptising our Lord. To their left is St. Andrew and St. Chad, the first Bishop of Lichfield and on their right St. John and St. Oswald, a Christian martyr, after whom the town of Oswestry is named.

In the South wall, behind the organ console, is the priest's doorway - this is no longer used.

THE NAVE



The Nave from the West

The curved arch doorway, through which you enter the Church, is 12th century and therefore dates from its earliest construction.

On the pillar nearest the tower, which separates the Nave from the North aisle, which was probably recycled from John le Strange's chapel, can be seen a medieval carving of a horned head, said to represent the Devil

Although all the pews date from the late 18th century, the front of that below the pulpit incorporates Jacobean panels.

On the South wall, near the font, is a wall mounted, oak, book cupboard which, in 1964, was given by Mrs. Bessie Davies in memory of her husband. Born during the reign of Queen Victoria, Mrs. Davies (1892-1995) lived through the reign of six monarchs. In 1988 she was presented with Maundy money by HM the Queen.

The organ, which was installed in the 1980s, came from a Church near Wolverhampton and replaced a smaller instrument which had been the organ of the Garrison Church at Park Hall, Oswestry.

THE NORTH AISLE



Hunt window

The East window, known as the Hunt Window, is a fine example of the art of stained glass making. Painted in Munich about 1855, it was erected by the Revd. George Hunt in memory of his children all of whom died during the years 1831-1832. The subject is Christ blessing little children and the figures of the two girls are reproduced from portraits of them. The water and trees represent nearby Boreatton Park, the family seat, and in the background are the Breidden Hills which can be seen from the Church.

To the right of the Hunt Window, leaning against the wall, is the top of a late 13th century stone coffin on which is carved a foliated cross. It was discovered when the Porch was being re-built in 1892.

THE TOWER



Bell Chamber

(Not accessible to the public)

This dates from the early 1400's and contains a spiral sandstone staircase.

The bell chamber has a ring of six bells, their dates and dedications are as follows:

No. 1 GOD SAVE THE CHURCH OUR QUEEN
AND REALM AND SEND US PEACE
IN CHRIST. AMEN 1868

No 2 REJOICE IN THE LORD 1868

No 3 GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO 1637

No 4 RICHARD PAINE RICHARD PAINE
WARDENS 1637

No 5 WILLIAM HOOD & THEO: POWELL
CH-WARDENS 1716 AR

No 6 WE PRAISE THEE O GOD

Bells 1 and 2 also carry the maker's name:

J TAYLOR & Co. LOUGHBOROUGH



The 121 year old clock

Below the bell chamber is the clock room in which is mounted a ten day clock. It was made in 1883 by Messrs Potts and Sons of Leeds, is still in full working order and, thanks to volunteers who wind its three cast iron weights up the tower every week, still gives the time of day. Its two faces point South and West.

THE CHURCHYARD



The Lych Gate, which stands at the East entrance to the Churchyard, dates from 1888 and was erected in memory of the Vicar's two sons who died in their early 20's, within a year of each other. The stone steps to the other Churchyard entrance, which is opposite the Church Porch to the South, started at the level of the original road through Ruyton before the present road was cut through the hill in the 1770's.

The earliest known gravestones, which are to be found below the East window, date from the 18th century and, on the Northeast corner of the Church, is the vault of the Kenyon family.

The main Churchyard is no longer used for burials but these are still carried out in the extension 'New Churchyard' which lies below the old North boundary wall.



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