

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, RAYNE – 2014 PROJECT – RE-ORDERING

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Parish:	Rayne
Dedication	Panfield and Rayne
Diocese:	Chelmsford
Address:	Shalford Road, Rayne
Grid ref:	TL7330922913
Local Planning Authority:	Braintree
County:	Essex
Statutory Listing of church:	Grade 1
Conservation Area:	Yes
Scheduled Monument:	1308377

History

The Church in the early years was linked to the Earls of Essex and the Capel family, at least one of whom was Rector of the Church. It is known that in 1199, whatever building had existed was replaced by a Norman Nave and Chancel, with the Tower added in 1510.

The Norman building became unsafe in the 1830's and was demolished, being replaced by the current Nave and part of the Chancel, the Chancel being extended in 1914. In 1913/4. The new Sanctuary and Vestries are all part of the current Church.

Documents show that the present Tower was constructed in 1510 but the next references skip 200 years to 1756 when the Rev John Powell found the church and rectory in ruin.

Inside the church pews were tumbling down and the pulpit was dangerous. The doors were hardly capable of shutting.

By the 1830's, the state of repair of the Church was extremely poor and late in the decade, the Nave and Chancel were demolished, being replaced in 1840/1 by the current Nave and most of the current Chancel. The architect for this work was Lewis Vulliamy and a complete specification is available.

Apart from the comprehensive details of the 1840 rebuilding, little is recorded about who carried out work in the Church.

The fine professional carvings in the Chancel and Sanctuary are Flemish, most dated 15th century, donated to the Church by the Rev Hutchinson in 1914. The comparatively rough Rood Screen was built in 1901 by Mr J Rudken, a local amateur craftsman and he also added the rail around the pulpit.

A number of the Victorian pews have been removed over several decades, in piecemeal fashion, as the congregation has sought to create space for more variety and flexibility in worship, more interaction, and more fellowship before, during and after worship.

Historical and architectural significance of each area within the church

AREA	SIGNIFICANCE
<p>TOWER</p>	<p>HIGH. Constructed in about 1510 by Sir William Capel, it is the oldest part of the Church still standing. The Tower arch to the nave may have been altered by the Victorians. However it appears intact, although painted over.</p> <p>The porch (and Nave) floor has been altered to insert sub-floor duct for heating and has a LOW significance.</p> <p>The proposed screen is to be sited at the LOW significance Nave arch adjoining the Tower arch to leave the latter intact & visible.</p>
<p>NAVE</p>	<p>LOW. The Nave is plain apart from the stained glass windows. There are few monuments, as this part of the Church was in disrepair and pulled down in the late 1830's, being rebuilt in 1840/1.</p> <p>It suffers from uneducated attempts to repair the damage caused by damp.</p> <p>CAPEL TOMB – reported to be within the floor of the Nave – there is no evidence and the site is unknown.</p> <p>ANGEL FIGURES – MEDIUM they had been dated as late 17th/early 18th century. The origin of the wooden angels is uncertain and it is reported that they were introduced recently from another church. It is possible but unlikely that they were at one time on the Capel tomb.</p> <p>The figures are easily removable and can be resited (see the proposals).</p> <p>PULPIT – MEDIUM. Carved oak on a stone base, dated 1867. In 1910, the Pulpit rail was added.</p> <p>FONT- HIGH of carved stone, dating to the 14th century but with restoration. The current position is a curious one and not likely to be the original.</p> <p>PEWS – LOW. The pews were installed in 1886. There is no record of their provenance but they are of a plain pine construction with no fine carving or other architectural merit.</p>

<p>CHANCEL</p>	<p>HIGH. Especially the ceiling/roof, and wall panelling and organ front.</p> <p>Most of the Chancel was built at the same time as the Nave in 1840/1. However, it was significantly improved in 1914 when about nine feet were added eastwards, at which time some fine Flemish carvings were added.</p> <p>ROOD SCREEN – LOW. An amateur addition to the church to commemorate the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. This is not up to the standard of the chancel and out of keeping with the quality of joinery there. There might have been no screen between 1845 and 1901.</p> <p>ORGAN – MEDIUM. Purchased 1867, believed to be from a church in Great Dunmow. The electric blower added in 1945 prior to an overhaul and addition of second keyboard in 1950.</p> <p>FLOOR – MEDIUM. Floor tiles and timber pew platforms (to be retained in the main beneath a proposed and reversible floor).</p>
<p>SANCTUARY</p>	<p>HIGH especially the ceiling/roof and East window. Added in 1914, in a medieval style. The Sanctuary reredos panels and contain fine Flemish style carvings and have been made demountable. The Reredos is in Triptych form and consists of fifteen carved oak panels, dated about 1640 although the framework is dated 1914, when the Sanctuary was extended.</p> <p>MEDIUM memorials and brasses and furniture.</p> <p>COMMUNION RAIL – MEDIUM. The Communion Rail was provided as part of the 1914 extension, and is of carved oak.</p>

Summary of principal features

The tower is the principal feature of All Saints, followed by the Chancel and Sanctuary. The Chancel rood screen is of low value and is the most visible element proposed for removal.

The Nave has little significance and is proposed for the most alteration – and even this will be at low level and affecting mainly floor and pews. The screen at the west end is proposed to stop draughts and to form a proper lobby and is to be carefully sited within the Nave arch rather than the Tower arch.