

The porch was built c.1340 and altered in the 16th century.

South door On the west jamb is a well cut merchant's mark between the initials W S. A few other faint marks can be detected.



Label stops of carved heads are to be seen on the end of the window mouldings. Those on several of the windows of the south aisle are of particular interest.



Parish registers and documents Two plans of burials in the churchyard, a full list of monumental inscriptions in the church compiled by the Essex Society for Family History and copies of the parish registers are all available on request from the office at the adjacent Fordham Hall.

Patricia Lewis March 2008
Illustrations by John Kay

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The walls are mainly of flint and rubble construction with some Roman tiles, 14th century and Tudor brick. The dressings are of Barnack and soft limestone.

The roofs of the chancel, nave and porch are tiled with lead flats behind the parapets of the tower and Aisles.

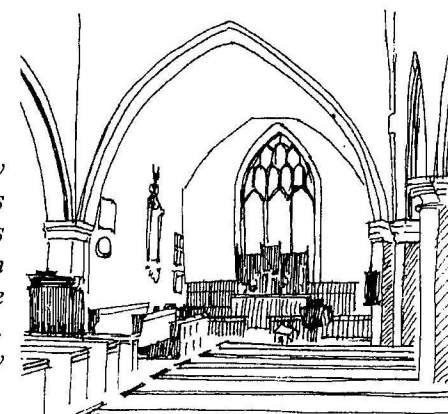
The original spire, a known landmark fell down in 1796 damaging the west side of the tower.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH FORDHAM

A brief guide

Welcome to All Saints church. One of my favourite features is the memorial to Moses Dodd. In his long ministry he is described as 'testifying repentance towards God and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ'. This same good news continues to draw people today. I hope you enjoy your visit, and I warmly invite you to join us on Sunday.

Mike Neville, Rector



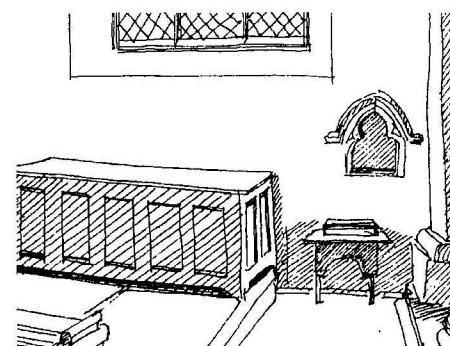
Dates The first record of the church in Fordham is 1087 when it was recorded as a gift from William the Conqueror to the Abbey of Bec in Normandy. The nave probably dates from this time.

The church was largely rebuilt in the early 14th century at the time when Decorated was evolving into the Perpendicular style. The aisles were constructed, the porch and the tower built and the chancel rebuilt. In 1549 the walls were whitened and some stained glass removed. A restoration was completed in 1861 when the windows were re-glazed, the floor tiled and the pews replaced. None of the doors are original.

Rood loft and beam An inventory of 1548 mentions a rood loft in the church. This was above a rood screen which enclosed the chancel. The rood loft gallery passed before the rood beam supporting the figures of Christ on the Cross, with St. John and the Virgin Mary on either side. It enabled candles on the beam to be lit or replaced and the rood to be cleaned. Access may have been by ladder. All this would have been dismantled very soon after the inventory.

Piscinae Three are present in Fordham Church. A piscina is a small basin and drain usually built into the wall on the south side of an altar to enable unwanted holy water to be emptied onto consecrated ground outside. Their presence in the North and South

aisles indicate earlier side chapels in these aisles.



Burials inside the church Three members of the Creffield family are buried inside. These include Alice, died 1522, who left her girdle of silver gilt to be made into a chalice for the church. Location unknown. There is a reference to a vault in the chancel.

You are invited to walk round the church following the plan set out over the page.

Covering the west window of the north aisle is a former **chancel screen**. Taken down in the mid 1960s it now surrounds the heating system. The screen was given in memory of Herbert Lilley, Rector 1914-1936.

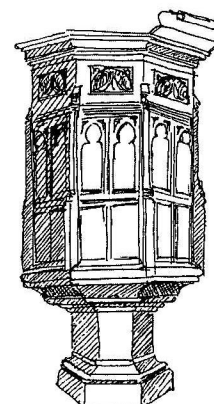
The carved stone font was given by Mr. Lufkin in November 1861.



The tower has a 14th century arch made in the original Norman wall of the nave. The origin of the protruding rough stone built into the base of the wall is unknown and open to speculation. The tower has three stages: a kitchen, service area and disabled toilet, a store room above and last stage contains two bells, one of 1637, cast, in a foundry by the Miles Graye family of Colchester." The other cast in 1723 by John Damion. Only one bell is now used.

On the left of the south door is a wooden table, considered by Canon Hugh Barber (Rector of Fordham, 1963-1982), to be the Reformation **Communion Table** which replaced the altar during the reign of Edward VI. The table was placed in the nave and the communicants gathered round.

The **Royal Coat of Arms** over the North Door is Hanoverian 1816-1837. Cast in the foundry of Joseph Wallis, Colchester, it was refurbished in 1960 by Edgar Walker RA. of Valley Cottage, Fordham. At the east end of the north aisle the oak carved vestment chest has the initials I.A. and E.M. 1706. Next to this is a piscina of the 15th Century.



The 19th century **pulpit** contains small panels of carving let in at the top, dating from 17th century. In 1628, Rector Robert Cotton a Puritan recorded in the parish register, "John Potter and his adherents climbed into the church through a window above the bells, dismantled the pulpit and desk and dragged the pulpit to the back of the church" This was a protest against Puritanism.

The **communion table** in the chancel was given in memory of George Pitt, late of the Imperial Indian Army, who died in 1905. The adjacent panelling was given in memory of Isabella Gurney, died 1935.

The **communion rails** are Georgian of the 18th century.

Monumental inscriptions

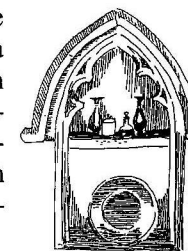
Moses Dodd M.A. Rector 1804- 1838 who re-established the Sunday School, laid the foundation of the National School that was opened in 1849 and rebuilt the Old Rectory in Plummers Rd, Fordham in 1810.

M.W.M. Dunn M.A. Rector 1897-1914, conducted the 24 choirs of The Fordham and District Choirs Association and compiled a tune to the hymn 'Hark the Sound of Holy Voices'.

William Harvey Herring, Rector 1839-1868 whose family, on his wife's death provided money to build the Village Hall.

A marble memorial to **John, the son of John Pulley** Rector 1689-1730, contains a bust and shows a man-of-war on a stormy sea. He was the Captain of a naval vessel and died of smallpox.

The **chancel** was built c.1330. In the south wall there is a piscina of the 14th century with a credence shelf for vessels and a mid-14th century Priest's doorway.



John Owen M.A. Pastor of Fordham 1643-1645 later became chaplain to Oliver Cromwell and is buried in Bunhill Fields, London. A framed typescript on his life hangs on the south wall of the south aisle.

The **organ** was provided in 1893, the maker was the famous Henry Willis, known as "Father Willis" who built organs for Alexandra Palace, the Albert Hall and Windsor Castle.

