



## About St Peter and St Paul

The church of St Peter and St Paul (known locally as 'the Saxon church' to distinguish it from the parish church in the village) dates from the period just prior to the Norman Conquest. Saxon work can still be seen in the walls of the nave and tower and almost the whole church retains its medieval structure.

It once stood at the heart of a village community established here on the banks of the Tillingbourne. However, in the 18th century two alterations to the landscape started the long process of change that eventually led to the church being closed. First, the village was moved a mile to the west by the landowner Captain Finch; later the road from Albury to Shere that ran past the church was diverted to the north, leaving it isolated in a newly formed private parkland setting.

Although it was to remain in use for a further 50 years its closure was inevitable, and this finally occurred in 1841 when the then landowner, Henry Drummond, built a replacement church in the new village. He then altered the old church to form a burial chapel for himself and his family using the architect Augustus Welby Pugin. The chancel, which was no longer required, was un-roofed and the church subsequently saw little alteration until it was finally declared redundant and vested in The Churches Conservation Trust in 1974.

The Trust cares for the church in partnership with The Friends of Albury Old Church and it is still used for occasional services. The church featured as one of the locations in the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral* in 1994.

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We've saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract almost 2 million visitors a year.

With our help and with your support they are kept open and in use – living once again at the heart of their communities.



### Access

Due to their age, historic church floors can be uneven and worn, and lighting can be low level. Please take care, especially in wet weather when floors can be slippery.

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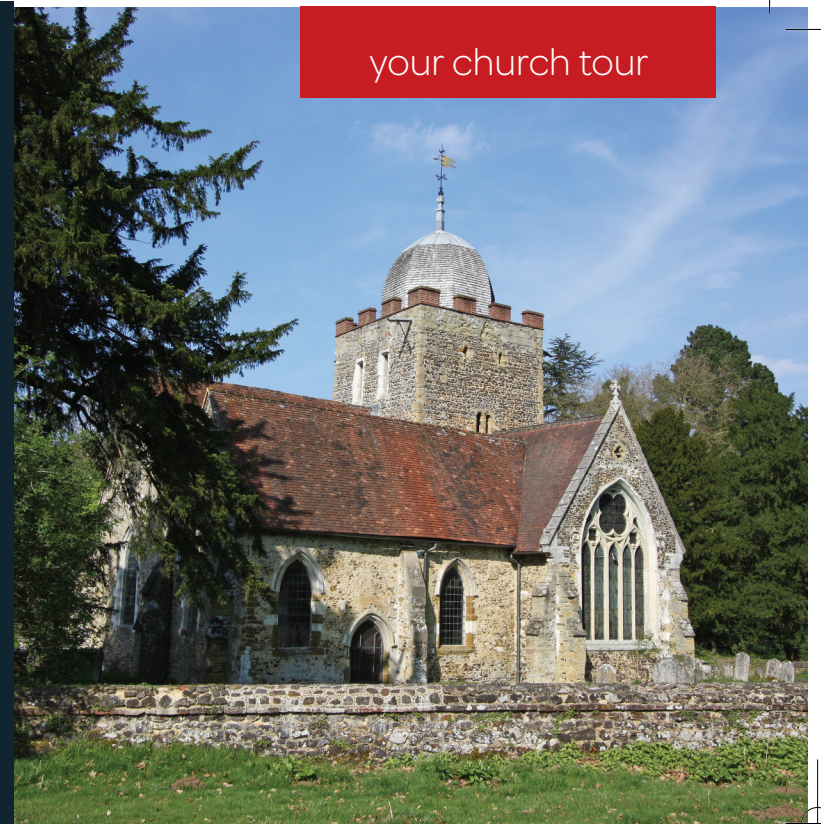
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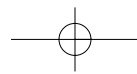
# Church of St Peter and St Paul

Albury, Surrey



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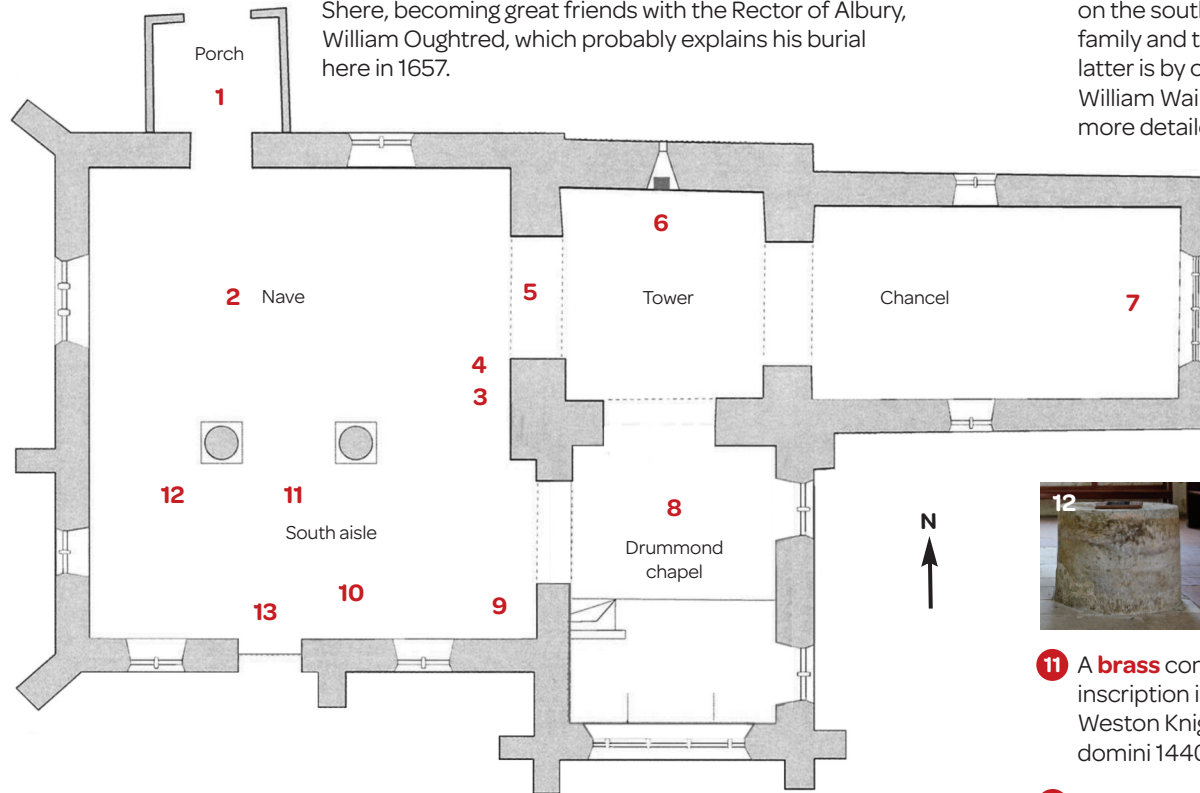
- 1 The church is entered through a late medieval **porch** although the door was inserted into the Saxon walls in the mid-13th century.
- 2 The nave and south aisle date from about AD 1300, although the north and west **walls** of the nave are predominantly of Saxon masonry.
- 3 To the right of the chancel arch is a fine 14th-century **niche** for an image or statue, probably of the Virgin Mary. It retains some of its original colouring.
- 4 A modern **tablet** recalls William Oughtred, the famous 17th-century mathematician who was rector of this church for over 50 years. His book *Clavis Mathematicae*, published in 1631, is the origin of the use of the 'x' symbol for multiplication.
- 5 Over the chancel arch is the **funeral hatchment** (shield of arms) of Louisa, Duchess of Northumberland, who died in 1890. The Albury Park Estate still forms part of the estates of the Duke of Northumberland, although the mansion house is now in separate ownership.



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- 7 The **chancel** was without a roof for a hundred years and the present roof was constructed in the late 20th century. In front of the altar is a **ledger slab** commemorating Henry Wicks. Born in 1580, he became Paymaster in the Office of Works, working for the Crown with such illustrious men as Inigo Jones. He quickly became a wealthy man with many properties in London and the south-east. With the declaration of the Commonwealth he moved to the nearby village of Shere, becoming great friends with the Rector of Albury, William Oughtred, which probably explains his burial here in 1657.

- 8 The **Drummond chapel** is, for many, the highlight of a visit here but, due to the fragile nature of the decoration, it is not normally possible to enter. It was this 13th-century south transept that Henry Drummond chose to refurbish as his family mausoleum. At the time Pugin was employed to decorate this chapel he had already had a prodigious output in his eight-year career and his reputation was high. Here he designed an image niche, an altar tomb on the south wall, memorials for Drummond and his family and the wall stencilling and stained glass. The latter is by one of his favourite manufacturers, William Wailes. A separate leaflet is available with a more detailed description of the work.



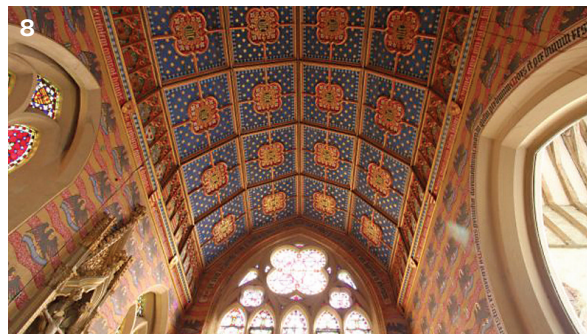
- 9 In the south wall is a 13th-century **piscina** for the priest to wash his fingers before Mass. It proves that there was an altar here in the medieval period and in the floor the tiled pavement on which that altar stood may still be seen.
- 10 This slightly tapering stone is the top of a **stone coffin** with an inscription around the edge in what is known as 'Lombardic Lettering'. It commemorates William Weston III, who built this aisle on to the church in the late 13th century.



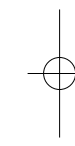
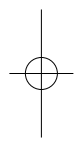
- 11 A **brass** commemorates John Weston. The inscription in Latin translates as 'Here lies John Weston Knight who died 23rd day of November anno domini 1440 on whose soul may God have mercy'.
- 12 The **font base**, suggested by some to be salvaged stone from Roman buildings on Farley Heath, has lost its bowl which was moved to the new church in 1841.
- 13 High on the south wall is an imposing 15th-century **wall painting** of St Christopher carrying the Christ Child. It faces the north door as medieval belief said that if you saw an image of this saint in the morning you would have a safe day. On your way to work you would have looked in through the (north) door and glimpsed this image.



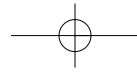
- 6 The **tower** was the chancel of the original Saxon church and the lower levels are predominantly of that date, although its pretty wooden cupola is early 19th century. The tower contains one bell, hung here by the Friends of Albury Church in 2008. The original bells had been moved to the new church in the village in 1841.



Photographs by Dr John Salmon



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