



About St Andrew's

Rollestone appears in Domesday Book as 'Winterbourne', but no church is mentioned. In the 13th century it became 'Rolveston', the tun or settlement belonging to Rolf, the manorial tenant.

The church is first recorded in 1291 but appears to have been built earlier that century. There is no record of its dedication to St Andrew before 1845. By the early 14th century the Knights Hospitallers were appointing the rector, and continued to do so until the dissolution of the monastic orders in the 16th century. A local legend that Henry VIII's third wife Jane Seymour was baptised here is a misapprehension, caused by the record of another Jane Seymour's baptism in 1637.

Few rectors ever lived here, the longest period of occupation being the 17th century. In the 19th century Rollestone was owned by the Revd Samuel Heathcote, who had much restoration done on the church. Quarrels over who should inherit the estate led to a Chancery lawsuit, and in 1902 the court ordered its sale, much of it being purchased by the Air and Defence Ministries. Rollestone became part of the civil parish of Shrewton in 1934, and the ecclesiastical parish was united with Maddington and Shrewton in 1970.

In 1992 St Andrew's was declared redundant and passed into the care of The Churches Conservation Trust. It remains a consecrated building, used for occasional services and other events.

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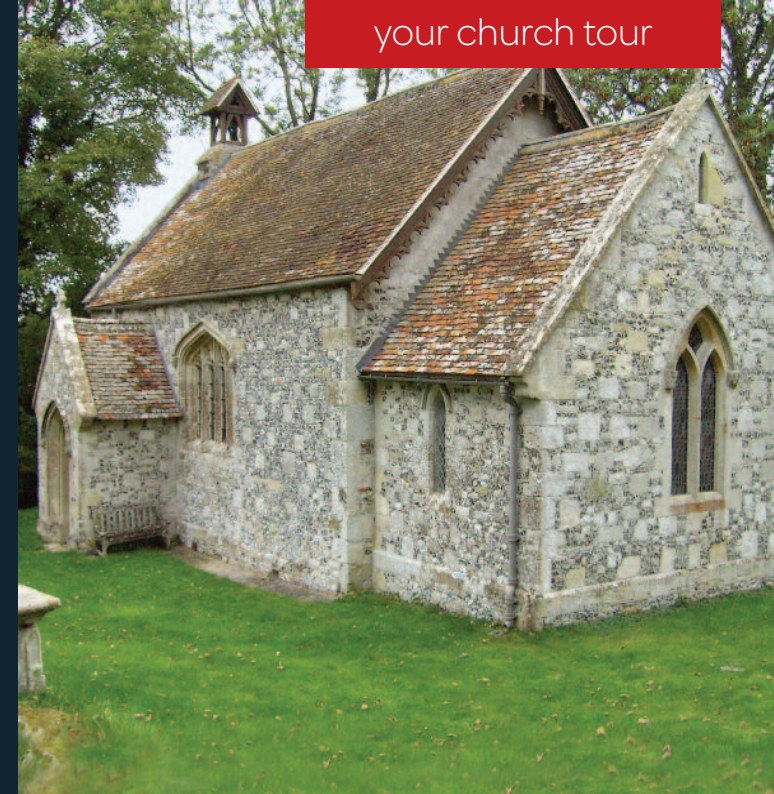


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Church of
St Andrew

Rollestone, Wiltshire



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1 The **font** stands immediately inside the door, symbolising the child's entrance to the Christian community through baptism. The font itself is 13th century while the cover was added in the 17th century.

2 The **windows** in the west wall are 14th century. There are two blocked openings in the wall above them, visible from outside, which are probably earlier in date. The stained glass is Georgian, showing an unidentified shield and crest, but appears to have been reset during the Victorian restoration of the church.

3 The single **bell** is 14th century.

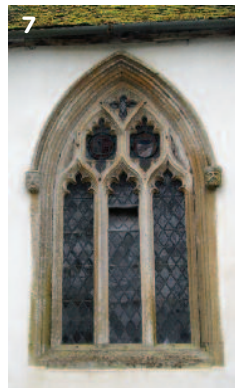


4 The **oak pew benches** came from the redundant church of Haydon, near Sherborne, Dorset, in 1981. They date from the early 17th century.

5 The **blocked north door** would have been used when the congregation was taking part in a procession through the church, which formed an important part of medieval worship.

6 The **war memorial tablet** records the deaths of Private Edward Nicholas Rose, who served with the Coldstream Guards and died aged 19 on 10 September 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres; and Private Frederick Mills who served with the Wiltshire Regiment (2nd Bn), and died aged 26 on 29 October 1916 of wounds or disease in Etaples Hospital.

7 The **north window** dates from around 1370 and is of high quality. It was probably paid for by a wealthy donor in return for prayers for his soul. The stained glass is also Georgian; one of the crests is upside down. The green rings are 19th century.



8 The **chancel arch** (which separates the nave where the congregation sit from the sacred area around the altar) dates from the restoration work of 1845. The two heads represent Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

9 The **window in the north wall** of the chancel is 13th century, although it has been reset. The **window in the south wall** is a Victorian imitation.

10 The **communion rails** are 18th century and made of oak, as is the **altar**, which is a 17th-century oak table. The panel between the legs at the front was added in the 19th century and features Alpha and Omega, symbolising that Christ is the beginning and end of all things.



14 On the south wall of the chancel there is a **memorial tablet** to the Revd William Westera Walsh, rector 1877–1922. A Latin inscription on the tablet states that this 'most estimable man had lived a life of faithfulness to God and to his own people'.

15 The large **window in the south wall** was installed in the 16th century.

16 The original doorway now forms the inner door inside the porch. The **mass dial** on the left-hand side of the door arch was a sun dial which provided a way of telling the time, so villagers would know when the mass would be celebrated.



17 The **porch** and the small **bell-cote** were added in the 1845 restoration.

18 All the windows were given new **external hoods** at this time, each featuring carved heads. This reflects the contemporary enthusiasm for medieval 'Gothic' architecture.

19 The **walls** are made of 'chequerboard' flints and stones, known as 'flushwork', although the north wall has been covered with render. This is very typical of this area and another example can be found at St Mary's, Maddington, near the centre of Shrewton village.

20 The **roof** dates from the 17th century.