



A Visitors Guide to **St. James Without-the-Priory Gate**

St. James Without-the-Priory Gate Southwick

Foreword

Welcome to our Church - St. James Without-the-Priory Gate - so called because it was situated outside of the boundaries of the former Priory.

The Church is at the centre of the small, beautiful and historic Hampshire village of Southwick. The village lies within the valley north of Portsdown Hill that overlooks the City of Portsmouth with its long and proud connections with the Royal Navy.

We hope you will enjoy your visit and have time for some quiet reflection and prayer in these tranquil and pleasant surroundings, as people have for the past 1,000 years! But if you are reading this guide elsewhere, then we hope you will visit us soon!

St James is open every day for you to experience and enjoy this beautiful Church and you are very welcome to join us at our services on Sunday. You can visit our website to check the timetable of services and other church activities at:

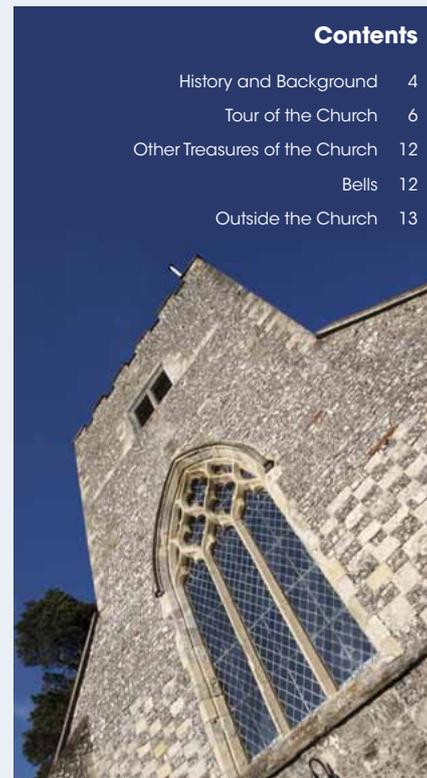
www.stjamesouthwick.org.uk

The purpose of this short guide is to tell you what we know about the history of the Church and its surroundings and point out items of interest you will see as you walk round.



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History and Background

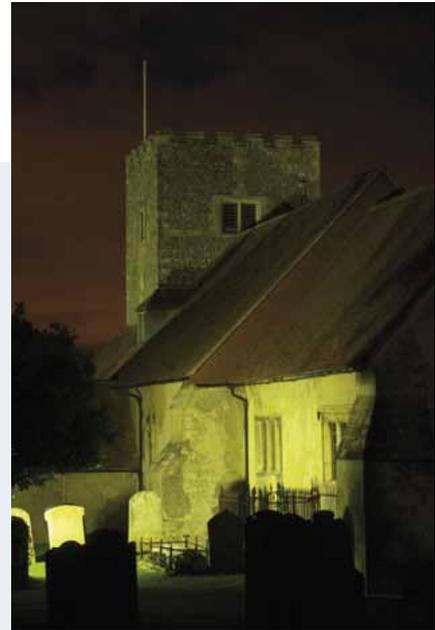
The Church is described as a "Peculiar". This means it is privately owned and exempt from the jurisdiction of the diocese in which it lies. The Chaplains of St. James, past and present, have been appointed by the incumbent Squire of the Southwick Estate who is officially the "Lay Prior, Ordinary, Patron and Rector of the Peculiar and Parish of Southwick". However, the Church adheres strictly to the doctrine and order of the Church of England. The Church is also responsible (since 1369) for the Christian Ministry at the equally beautiful and historic St. Nicholas Church at Boarhunt - for which there is a separate guide and details on our website.

A Priory was founded by Henry I at Portchester in 1133 and then re-established at Southwick during the period 1145-53. While it is not possible to give the exact date when the Parish Church of St. James was built, there was probably a chapel in existence before the Priory came to Southwick and possibly even before the Norman Conquest.

On 7th April 1538, at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry VIII, John Whyte, on the King's behalf, took the surrender of Southwick Priory from William Noxton and immediately took a personal interest in its lands. He was a retainer of St. Thomas Wriothesley, the Lord Chancellor and later the first Earl of Southampton and it was from Wriothesley that Whyte purchased the most valuable part of the Southwick estate in 1546. First he was granted possession of the Priory with all its rights, profits and appurtenances by Henry VIII on 15th March 1539. Before his purchase of the manor of Southwick, he was Crown Bailiff and Clerk of the market of Southwick, and also acted as Crown Escheator in Hampshire. It is thought he was trained in the law and appears to have acted as his own steward for Southwick and his other manors.

The Church was restored by John Whyte during the 1560s. The earliest legible entry in the Church Register is dated 15th February 1586.

It is recorded that King Charles I was worshipping in the Church in 1628 as a friend and guest of the Squire, Sir Daniel Norton, when the news of the assassination of the Duke of Buckingham in Portsmouth High Street was brought to him. Later, the Squire's heir, Colonel Richard Norton, who served with Cromwell in the Civil War (the "Idle Dick Norton" of history), was one of the signatories of the death warrant of Charles I.



HIGH STREET SOUTH AND VILLAGE GREEN

St. James Without-the-Priory Gate, Southwick



SOUTHWICK ESTATE OFFICE

In John Whyte's time, some of the former Priory buildings were transformed into an important country house. The house, however, was burnt in 1750 and replaced by a house on a new site in the early 1800s. In about 1838 this second house was also gutted by fire and, by 1841, it had been restored and extended to include a second floor, and became the Southwick House we see today.

A little over 100 years later, in 1943, Southwick House was commandeered from the Squire and was used for planning the 'D' Day landings. It had been chosen by the Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir William James, who had often been pheasant shooting at the Southwick Estate.

After the 2nd World War, the Navy stayed in residence as the nearby HMS Dryad was being used for training in navigation, aircraft direction and general maritime warfare. In recent years 'Southwick Park' (as it is now named) has been the joint service training school for military policemen and women.

St. James Without-the-Priory Gate, Southwick



THE D-DAY MEMORIAL HALL



ARMED FORCES DAY



ARMED FORCES DAY

Tour of the Church

The different architectural styles show that the Church has been restored and extended on a number of occasions but it largely retains its unspoilt and pre-Georgian interior. Tablets dated 1555 and 1566 respectively, were set above the east window and into the external south gable wall of the chancel, when the Church was restored by John Whyte. It is believed the Church was repaired in 1842 and, more recently, restoration of the bell tower took place in 1982. In 1999, the Church was closed for several months (services being conducted in the village hall) when extensive works were necessary both inside to the walls and ceiling, and externally.

As you enter the Church through its 14th century west doorway and pass under the gallery, your eye will be drawn to the beautiful altar piece in front of the main east window. You will notice there is a simple crossbeam, with a framed copy of the Lord's Creed attached to it (believed to be Elizabethan), separating the coved ceiling of the chancel from that of the nave. To your left you will see a north aisle leading to the Lady Chapel. As you pass around the Church you will see a number of grave stones from the churchyard that were used as flooring, possibly when the Church was restored by John Whyte.

Turn to your left to follow this guide which will first take you along the north aisle before returning through the chancel and nave back to the gallery.

Immediately on your left, on the west wall, you will see a framed ROLL OF HONOUR commemorating those from the villages of Boarhunt and Southwick who served during the 1914-1918 war. The names marked with an asterisk signify those who lost their lives and they are further commemorated in the war memorial on the north wall of the church.



ROLL OF HONOUR



CHURCH ORGAN

The WINDOWS, beside and behind the organ and along the north wall, are all of the Tudor period.

Ahead of you is the CHURCH ORGAN. Dated 1984, it was a gift from Mrs. Eva Borthwick-Norton. The organ is by J.W. Walker & Sons Pipe Organ Builders and Tuners By Appointment to Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II. The firm, located in Brandon, Suffolk, was originally founded by Joseph William Walker in Soho in 1832.

Behind the organ is a memorial tablet to SOLOMON FERRIS formerly of the Parish. He was Captain of HMS *Hercule* and died on his ship, aged 34, on 27th May 1803 in Port Royal Harbour, Jamaica after only 2 days illness. The memorial is also to his wife, Esther, who died in 1849, aged 85. She is recorded in the 1841 census living in West Street, Southwick.

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Notice the ARCADING of three arches along the north aisle and the OCTAGONAL PIERS with simple capitals of late Tudor Gothic style. These were brought here from the former Priory buildings.

Opposite on the north wall is the Southwick and Boarhunt WAR MEMORIAL naming those who gave their lives during the two World Wars. The two brass plaques are mounted on marble. The wooden brackets each side support red and white ensigns on the left, and the Union and RAF flags on the right. More information about those who died can be found at the following website:

www.roll-of-honour.com/Hampshire/Southwick.html

Each side of the war memorial are brass plaques commemorating the passing of other service men from the village: Rear Admiral Frederick Buckley, CB, who died aged 65 in May 1952 and also his wife, Eva; Flying Officer Stanley Crook, RAF, only 22 when he died in 1958; and Lieutenant David Mudford a Royal Navy Fighter Pilot, just 23 at his death in 1950.

Close by is THE FONT. This has an early 12th century bowl which is large and octagonal being of sufficient size for the "dipping" of infants as was the practice of those days. There are pairs of pointed arched panels on each face of the bowl which is mounted on a later octagonal pedestal and square base.

"Of your charite pray for the soule of Anne Whyte late the wyfe of John Whyte of Suthwyke, Esquier, sometime the wyfe of Antony Pounce of Drayton Esquier and one of the daughters of Lewes Wýngfield Esquier, which Anne departed this world the XIII day of November."

Near to the font, and on the other side of the aisle, high on the wall at the junction with the Lady Chapel, is a fine PAIR OF CAPITALS with foliage ornamentation, which may be from the Priory or could be a remnant from the original church before it was extended to include the north aisle. These give an impression of the style and decoration, and the size of the piers that would have been at the Priory.

Next to the window is a fine example of a HATCHMENT – a large, usually diamond-shaped (as this one) tablet with a deceased person(s)' armorial bearings. This oil painting is said to represent in light and dark colourings, life and death. It commemorates the passing of Mary Anne Thistlethwayte, wife of the former Squire, Thomas Thistlethwayte, who died aged 46 in 1821. It bears the arms of the Thistlethwaytes.

Higher on the wall there is a memorial tablet to one RICHARD FIELD who died in 1754 and "lies nearby".

Beneath the next window is a brass plaque with an engraving showing the details that were discovered on the back during restoration in 1983. The plaque commemorates the life of ANNE WHYTE, the second wife of John Whyte. Sadly, the date of her death is missing from the plaque but is believed to be 1557. It reads:



WAR MEMORIAL



THE FONT



HATCHMENT



CAPITALS WITH FOLIAGE ORNAMENTATION



EDWARD WYNN



MEDIEVAL PELICAN MOTIF



Further along the wall, there is a memorial plaque to EDWARD WYNN who died in 1748. For some 25 years he was a servant to Richard Norton, Master of Southwick, and was clearly well respected by the Squire. There is also a small tablet beneath bearing the name J. Stubington - James Stubington was a parish clerk in Bishops Waltham for 34 years and also a mason of some distinction who carved tombstones.

There is a sad memorial plaque to 3 year old JEFFERY DARNLEY BORTHWICK, who died in 1884 and was the son of Lt. Col. Alexander Borthwick and his wife Katherine (nee Thistlethwayte).

The 3-light WINDOW in the east wall of the Lady Chapel dates from the Tudor period and you can see fragments of stained glass which came from the former Priory. The lower fragment shows a pelican which is an ancient Christian symbol. According to legend, a mother pelican drew blood from her chest to feed her chicks in a time of famine. In Christianity, this symbolises the sacrifice of Christ who gave his blood to save others.

In the Lady Chapel arch is the TOMB OF JOHN WHYTE and his first wife, Katherine. The tomb chest bears the brasses of the couple and their children. When the brasses were removed for repair in 1982, it was discovered that this impressive monument is made up of three separate elements, three tombs in one. The altar tomb base dates from the late 15th century. The slab, complete with brasses, is an example of Reformation spoil. The canopy was added when the church was restored by John Whyte, but the figures holding heraldic shields are part of the original installation. The weathered stonework of the north panel of the tomb shows that at some time it had stood in the open, probably at the Priory.



TOMB OF JOHN WHYTE

Whyte had converted the Priory buildings into a small mansion and Katherine died there in 1548. He died in 1567, only a year after the restoration of the Church. It seems likely that the tomb was taken to the Church at that time. The figures on the brasses date from c 1520. Extra daughters were added and shields, and a new marginal inscription by a London brass workshop which produced some 60 or so monuments from 1548 until later in the 16th century.

Moving through the archway, you will see the beautiful REREDOS or ALTAR PIECE which is an early 18th century painting by an Italian artist in a style at one time common enough in well-appointed churches, but now only occasionally seen. Each side of the painting of cherubs and a dove are two pilasters and, above, there is a balustrade between pedestals and small urns. The reredos is topped with golden cherubs and garlands and much of it is painted to simulate marble. Notice also the dark panelling which lines the sanctuary each side of, and beneath, the reredos.

The EAST WINDOW, behind the altar, is a restored three-light Perpendicular window of the 15th century.

The ALTAR TABLE dates from the Elizabethan period. The massive brass altar CANDLESTICKS were a gift from Richard Norton, the Master of Southwick in the early 17th century and a descendant of John Whyte in the female line. They are each engraved with:

"Ecclesiae Southwick in com Southton Ricardus Norton Patronus D.D.D."

The fine twisted COMMUNION RAILS are Jacobean.





You will see there are three plaques set above the window on the south side of the sanctuary. One shows the CREST OF THE NORTON FAMILY - a Moor's head garlanded, the next the ARMS OF THE NORTONS, and the third is a lion.

The three-light WINDOW here is the one that is dated 1566 on the external wall and there is a matching window a little further along this south wall. Much of the south wall is medieval and the moulded stonework was recovered from the Priory.

Next see the large BOX PEWS. The larger pew is the Squire's pew and the divided box pew on the other side was, in former days, reserved for the ladies of Southwick House. At one time, all of the pews in the nave were matching box pews of this 17th century pattern. The Church was described as "one of the best examples of an unrestored Church in the South of England". Sadly, in 1955 it was necessary, due to woodworm attack, to replace all the pews in the nave with those we see today that were made by the craftsmen of the Southwick Estate.

It is worth noting the colourful KNEELERS in the Church. These have been made and donated by many church supporters: both individuals and local organisations. Some are in memory of a loved one, others completed as a hobby. One of particular interest is the Girl Guide kneeler and it is well travelled! Whilst being made, a few stitches were added at a time by different Girl Guide groups across the world! There is a special label on the rear of the kneeler which explains this.



PLAQUES OF THE NORTON FAMILY

You will see along the south wall numerous MEMORIAL PLAQUES of the Thistlethwayte and Borthwick Norton families. The earliest is in memory of the passing of Thomas Thistlethwayte in 1850, his wife Mary Anne in 1821, his brother Alexander, just 21 in 1801, and their sister Elizabeth in 1837.



Above this is a detailed account of the fate of poor young Arthur Henry Thistlethwayte. A Lieutenant with the Scots Fusilier Guards, he was one of the Ensigns guarding the colours at the battle of Alma. Under attack by the Russian cavalry intent on seizing the colours, the Ensigns bravely beat them off and were all recommended for bravery awards. Arthur also served with distinction at Inkerman and the Siege of Sebastopol but died in 1854, aged only 22, having "succumbed to fatigue and dysentery and fever". His battle wounds sustained at Alma are likely to have also contributed to his death.

The latest plaque is in memory of Seymour Evelyn Thistlethwayte, 1931-2004.

The THREE DECKER PULPIT has 17th century panelled patternwork in the two lower tiers, and the upper part, a half octagon with three tiers of panelling, is Elizabethan dating from the original restoration of the Church.

Notice the recess behind the pulpit framed by moulded stonework which forms a flat arch, probably from the Priory, which contains a small reset two-light cinquefoiled window. To the right is another two-light window, this with trefoiled ornamentation.



We now come back to see the GALLERY. It has the same style of 17th century panelling as was seen on the lower decks of the pulpit. It is supported by four twisted wooden columns.

On the front of the gallery you will see two boards each commemorating a benefactor who left money for the poor of the Parish. In 1559 Mrs. Honor Wayte left 20 shillings a year and in 1834 John Soaper, a surgeon, left the interest on £400.

The three-light reticulated WEST WINDOW below the tower has simple geometric quatrefoil tracery suggesting it is from the earlier Decorated period rather than Perpendicular.

Before leaving the Church, notice the two BRASS CHANDELIERS each holding 8 candles which are still lit on special occasions.



There is a sad plaque above the pulpit which commemorates the passing of no less than four sons of Lieutenant General The Honourable Sir Hercules Pakenham KCB (the father-in-law of Thomas Thistlethwayte) and his wife The Honourable Emily Pakenham, all of whom died serving their country.

You will next see the door leading to the VESTRY (which is kept locked). This was once used as a south facing porch and entrance – see below about its hidden treasure!

Other treasures of the church

There are other treasures in the Church which are generally not on public display.

Inside the Vestry, which was a former south porch, are very good examples of 13th century arcading in Purbeck marble. The shaft rings, a feature of early English columns, again reveal something of what the former Priory buildings must have been like.

The Communion Plate consists of a fine silver-gilt set of six pieces each engraved with the inscription: Sanctissimo Jesu et Ecclesiae Patronum D.D.D. and the Norton Coat of Arms. The date is 1691 and the maker is thought to be Benjamin Bathurst. The original altar plate is now at Winchester Cathedral.

The Chalice in regular use is 15th century gilt and of German origin.

Dating from the Georgian period are vestments, the Church Warden's staff, and a pair of silver water and wine jugs which are still used once a year at Christmas.



Bells

In 1981, the former 16th century oak frame for four bells was removed from the tower and replaced with a new metal frame to support six bells. Removal of the frame was a difficult operation with the bells still in place. The bells had to be removed and then supported independently of the frame. Each timber then had to be lowered through the small trap door down to the gallery and on to the floor. The wooden frame was given to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Slindon, West Sussex, and they hold drawings of the bell frame at their Singleton Archive.

The condition of the four bells was then examined. Three were sent to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London to be tuned. The largest Tenor bell was found to be cracked and, from its metal, two smaller Treble bells were cast on 25th June 1981, at the Whitechapel Foundry. This peal, now of five bells, was hung with all new fittings and framework and dedicated on 1st November 1981 in memory of Hugh Frank Pakenham Borthwick-Norton who died in 1950.

The inscription on the old Tenor bell, "Serve the Lord" was inscribed on the two newly cast Trebles, and on one "We Trebles were made from the old Tenor cast by John Wallis AD 1600", together with the Whitechapel Bell Foundry and the year 1981 inscription.

Another Treble bell was cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry on 22nd June 1989 and also inscribed "Serve the Lord", and "In Memory of Eva Sardinia Borthwick-Norton 1891 - 1988, by public subscription", together with the Whitechapel Bell Foundry crest. This bell was hung and dedicated on 26th November 1989.

The tower was then complete with six bells which are summarised in the following table:

	WEIGHT	NOTE	DATE	FOUNDER	
Tenor	5-0-10	B	1623	John Higden Itinerant	A photograph of a large, dark metal bell hanging in a tower. The bell is supported by a metal frame and is surrounded by other parts of the tower's structure.
5th	4-1-20	C#	Mid 15th Century	John Study London	
4th	3-2-2	D#	1600	John Wallis Salisbury	
3rd	3-1-4	E	1981	Whitechapel	
2nd	3-0-4	F#	1981	Whitechapel	
Treble	2-2-20	G#	1989	Whitechapel	

Outside the Church



St. James Without-the-Priory Gate, Southwick

The Thistlethwayte Family Vault.

The chequerwork pattern of walling with stone and knapped flints around the window and doorway suggests the wall may have been refaced at some time as it appears to be of a later date than the 14th century doorway and window.

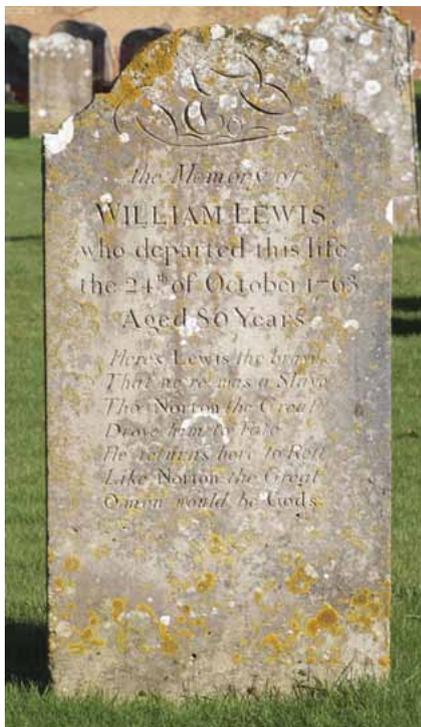
There is another small two-light trefoiled window which lights the stairway to the gallery.

The flag on the tower of the Church is the English Flag, the cross of St. George, and it bears the Arms of the Thistlethwayte family in the first quarter.

In the churchyard you will see the large stone on the south side which covers the entrance to the Thistlethwayte Family Vault.



Close by is the grave of William Lewis, a poacher at one time exiled from the village because of his deeds but magnanimously allowed back when he became ill and subsequently died. An intriguing inscription blames the Squire, Richard Norton, for Lewis's fate:



Here's Lewis the brave
That ne'er was a Slave
Tho Norton the Great
Drove him to Fate
He returns here to Rest
Like Norton the Great
O men would be Gods

As you walk beside the south wall of the Church, you will see the 1566 tablet to the right of the window.

At the back of the Church above the east window is the tablet dated 1555 commemorating John Whyte's restoration of the Church.



COMMEMORATES FIRST CHURCH EXTENSION IN 1555

Above the next window is another tablet with the Thistlethwayte family crest to record the restoration of the Church in 1999 and to celebrate the Millennium.



TABLET COMMEMORATING CHURCH RESTORATION IN 1999

Near the end of the churchyard on the south side is a yew tree believed to be well in excess of 1,000 years old!

St. James Without-the-Priory Gate, Southwick



For further information please visit www.stjamesouthwick.org.uk

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