

= St George 's Church , Trotton =

St. George 's Church is an Anglican church in Trotton , a village in the district of Chichester , one of seven local government districts in the English county of West Sussex . Most of the structure was built in the early 14th century . However , some parts date to around 1230 , and there is evidence suggesting an earlier church on the same site . In 1904 , a largely intact and unusually detailed painting was found on the west wall depicting the Last Judgment as described in Matthew 25 : 31 ? 46 .

The church is dedicated to St. George , patron saint of England . The rector of St George 's also oversees the parish of Rogate with Terwick , and most services are held at St. Bartholomew 's church in Rogate : just two services a month take place at Trotton . The church is also used once a month by the British Orthodox Church . The church is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade I listed building for its architectural and historical importance .

= = History = =

Historians have disagreed about its age , and the existence of an older church on the same site . The tower has been dated by its architecture to between 1230 and 1240 , but other historians question this date and suggest the tower and the body of the church both date to the 14th century . The porch appears to be a 17th century addition . There is a tomb of Margaret de Camois in the nave . It has been suggested that its location there , rather than the chancel as would be expected for the family of the lord of the manor ( which her surname suggests she was ) , may indicate that the church was built on the site of an earlier , smaller , church and the tomb was in the chancel of that church . Local historian Roger Chatterton @-@ Newman disagrees , saying there would be no need for a church on the site any earlier .

A comprehensive restoration was undertaken by Philip Mainwaring Johnston in 1904 . The work cost £ 700 ( £ 68 @, @ 000 as of 2016 ) , and a time capsule containing details of the builders , church officials and contemporary world events was buried at the end of the job .

= = Description and architecture = =

The church is situated in the village of Trotton , West Sussex , just off the A272 near the River Rother . It stands between the early 15th @-@ century bridge over the river and the 16th @-@ century manor house .

The church has a plain , simple Decorated @-@ style exterior , apart from the tower which is Early English style . The nave and chancel are in a single chamber , separated by a narrow step instead of a chancel arch . The tower stands at the western end of the church , and contains a ring of four bells hung for change ringing . The tenor ( largest ) bell dates from 1908 , the others from 1913 ; all were cast by John Taylor & Co . The church is built of rubble with ashlar dressings . The roof of the main body is tiled ; during the 14th century it had a thatched roof , but this was replaced in about 1400 . The tower roof is a shingled octagonal cap .

= = Wall paintings = =

In 1904 , the whitewash was removed from the west wall and a wall painting from the very early days of the church was discovered . This , in itself , is not remarkable . Plenty of early churches have wall paintings ; however , this one was unusually rich and detailed . In the centre is Jesus Christ , beneath him is Moses and on his right is the " Carnal Man " surrounded by the Seven Deadly Sins . On his left is the " Spiritual Man " surrounded by the Seven Acts of Mercy . These two characters are depicted on the opposite sides of Christ than is usual in such depictions of the Last Judgement . The red paintwork is mostly in good condition , although the Seven Deadly Sins have started to fade .

There are also paintings on the north and south walls depicting the Camoys family . Camoys was

the lord of the manor and it appears he had the church built primarily for his family . This would explain the unusual detail in the paintings . They were intended as rich decoration rather than simply for educating an illiterate congregation .

= = Tombs = =

A 9 @-@ foot ( 2 @.@ 7 m ) table @-@ tomb in the middle of the chancel contains the remains of Thomas de Camoys , 1st Baron Camoys ( died 1421 , although the inscription says 1419 ) and his wife , Elizabeth , daughter of Edmund Mortimer , 3rd Earl of March . Baron Camoys fought at the Battle of Agincourt , and his wife was the inspiration for the character of Gentle Kate in William Shakespeare 's play Henry IV . The sides of the brass memorial are decorated with quatrefoil- and shield @-@ shaped ornamentation , which enhance the comparatively plain figures . The baron and baroness are depicted holding hands and only slightly smaller than life @-@ size . Ian Nairn and Nikolaus Pevsner described the memorial as " one of the biggest , most ornate and best preserved brasses in England " .

The nave contains a leger slab with a brass of Margaret de Camois ( died 1310 ) . This is the oldest known brass of a woman in England . There used to be a 15th @-@ century niche @-@ tomb in the south wall , but it had been largely removed by 1780 . The table @-@ tomb of Sir Roger Lewknor ( died c . 1478 ) is in the northeast corner of the chancel . Its sides have festoon motifs and slender carved niches . In the southeast corner is the plastered tomb of Anthony Foster ( died 1643 ) .

= = The church today = =

St George 's Church was listed at Grade I on 18 June 1959 . Such buildings are defined as being of " exceptional interest " and greater than national importance . As of February 2001 , it was one of 80 Grade I listed buildings , and 3 @, @ 251 listed buildings of all grades , in the district of Chichester .

The present ecclesiastical parish of Trotton covers a large north ? south area of countryside , includes the village of Trotton and the hamlets of Chithurst and Ingrams Green , and is served by St Mary 's Church at Chithurst as well as St George 's . Both churches are in the Rural Deanery of Midhurst , one of eight deaneries in the Archdeaconry of Horsham in the Diocese of Chichester .

Eucharistic services are held on the second and fourth Sundays every month . The church is open during the day for visitors .