

## = All Saints Church , Patcham =

All Saints Church is the Anglican parish church of Patcham , an ancient Sussex village which is now part of the English city of Brighton and Hove . A place of worship has existed on the hilltop site for about 1 @, @ 000 years , but the present building has Norman internal features and a 13th @-@ century exterior . Several rounds of restoration in the Victorian era included some structural additions . A wide range of monuments and wall paintings survive inside , including one commemorating Richard Shelley ? owner of nearby Patcham Place and one of the most important noblemen in the early history of Brighton . The church , which is Grade II \* listed , continues to serve as the Anglican place of worship for residents of Patcham , which 20th @-@ century residential development has transformed from a vast rural parish into a large outer suburb of Brighton .

Patcham 's first church served a large rural area north of the fishing village of Brighthelmston ? the ancient predecessor of Brighton . A nucleated settlement developed around this building , which was reconstructed during the Norman era . A wide @-@ ranging series of alterations were carried out by Victorian church restorers to improve the building 's structural condition and provide more space to cater for the growing population . As Patcham developed into a suburb in the 20th century , more churches opened in the area and were administered from All Saints Church . The building 's plain exterior contrasts with its well @-@ preserved and , in parts , ancient interior whose features include wall paintings and stone memorials . The churchyard has a set of Grade II @-@ listed tombs .

## = = History = =

The Anglo @-@ Saxon Chronicle records that the area now covered by the county of Sussex was reached by Saxon forces in 477 . Within a few years , they controlled land along the English Channel coast as far as Pevensey . By the 10th century , the Kingdom of the South Saxons was fully established ; its boundaries match those of the present county . The area was divided into smaller administrative areas called hundreds . Patcham and its neighbouring village of Preston were part of Preston Hundred , one of four hundreds covering present @-@ day Brighton and Hove . The lowest administrative level was the parish , based around a church . The parish of Patcham was recorded ( under the name Piceham ) at the time of the Domesday survey in 1086 , by which time a church existed at the centre of a small village on a spur of land near the top of the South Downs . The parish , which covered 4 @, @ 325 acres ( 1 @, @ 750 ha ) , was unusually large , and its 11th @-@ century population of about 1 @, @ 750 was one of the largest for any Sussex parish . William de Warenne , 1st Earl of Surrey , who held most of the land in the local hundreds , owned the manor . The area around the church gradually became the centre of population within the parish , and a village developed on the hillside leading up to the church , east of the modern London Road .

The Saxon church was rebuilt in the 12th and 13th centuries , and the only feature which may survive from that era is a blocked doorway . It was reset in the north aisle when that was built in 1898 . The doorway has been described as " Norman or possibly earlier " , " pre- [ Norman ] Conquest " and " could be Saxon " by various sources . The Victoria County History of Sussex goes further by stating it was originally in the north wall of the nave , but identifies it as 12th @-@ century . The chancel arch , a " plain " structure , was inserted between the chancel and the nave in the 12th century , and the nave is of the same period . The 12th @-@ century chancel was added to in the following 200 years ; its Decorated Gothic windows are 14th @-@ century . Similar windows were inserted in the nave at the same time .

In the 13th century , a narrow tower was built at the west end , with thin lancet windows characteristic of the era . Its broach spire dates from the mid @-@ 19th century . The tower was given substantial diagonal buttresses with sandstone quoins . Also at this time , the exterior underwent complete restoration with some rebuilding work . The only other changes made before the 19th century was the addition of a porch at the south end and some buttresses on the south wall of the nave , both in the 16th or 17th century .

Having stood for more than 600 years with little alteration , the church was completely changed by

four reconstructions and restorations in a 74 @-@ year period in the 19th century . The last of these , in 1898 , was the most substantial : it added a north aisle , much larger and taller than the rest of the building , and a vestry . In the early 19th century , the building had been in better structural condition than many in Sussex ? a survey in 1825 by Sir Stephen Glynn of the Ecclesiological Society noted that it was " decently fitted up " ? but rebuilding ancient churches was fashionable in the Victorian era , and the condition of a surviving medieval corbel suggests that the exterior walls were in poor condition . The three earlier periods of restoration were 1824 ? 25 , 1856 and 1880 ? 83 . During the third of these , a 13th @-@ century wall painting of Christ in Judgement was discovered above the chancel arch , hidden under 30 layers of whitewash and the remains of two later paintings ; it may be one of the oldest such murals in England , but it was repainted after its rediscovery . In 1898 , at the same time as the north @-@ side extension , the outside walls of the west , east and south sides were coated with grey cement , probably to improve their structural condition ; although this has been described as " unsightly " and " kill [ ing ] the exterior stone dead " , one historian has argued that because many medieval churches were rendered in this way , rather than having uncovered flint walls , it gives the impression of what a typical church of that era may look like .

Patcham 's proximity to the ever @-@ growing resort of Brighton ? it is 2 miles ( 3 @.@ 2 km ) north of the Palace Pier on the English Channel coast ? encouraged suburban growth from the mid @-@ 19th century . From a low point of 286 in 1801 , the population of the village steadily rose and had nearly quadrupled by the time of the United Kingdom Census 1901 . Brighton Corporation ( the forerunners of the present city council ) built an estate of council housing in Moulsecoomb ( then still part of Patcham parish ) in the early 1920s , and on 1 April 1928 all but 152 acres ( 62 ha ) of the 4 @,@ 325 @-@ acre ( 1 @,@ 750 ha ) parish were annexed by Brighton to become part of the urban area , known at the time as Greater Brighton . Four large housing estates were built , and the population reached 5 @,@ 241 in 1930 and continued to rise thereafter . The opening of the north aisle improved capacity at a time when new houses were already surrounding the ancient village centre ; but as development spread to more distant parts of the parish , two more churches were opened ? both initially as chapels of ease to All Saints Church : a temporary building erected on the Braybon Avenue estate in south Patcham became the Church of Christ the King , which was replaced by a permanent brick @-@ built church in 1958 ; and in the same year , architect John Wells @-@ Thorpe designed and built the Church of the Ascension in Westdene , a newly developed suburb west of the London Road . The original temporary church at Braybon Avenue became a church hall for Christ the King 's congregation , and All Saints Church gained its own hall in 1937 when Mackie Hall was built on Mackie Avenue . It was closed in 1995 .

Another round of restoration took place in 1989 . The interior was redesigned , and a reredos was made out of old choir stalls which had been removed .

= = Memorials = =

The church contains several memorials , of which the oldest is a wall tablet commemorating Richard Shelley , one of the earliest owners of Patcham Place , who died in 1594 . Patcham Place has its origins in a 16th @-@ century manor house in an isolated position west of the London Road . Its first owner , William West , 1st Baron De La Warr , passed it to Richard Shelley ? son of Sir John Shelley of Michelgrove and a member of the family which later became the first Shelley Baronetcy . Shelley lived in Patcham from 1546 , and was an important figure in Brighton 's early history : in 1579 , he and three other local noblemen were appointed by the Privy Council to form a commission to record and regulate the " ancient customs " of the villagers and to mediate between the fishermen and the farmers , who often had conflicting needs . The commissioners produced a book , The Book of All The Auncient [ Ancient ] Customs heretofore used amonge the fishermen of the Toune of Brighthelmston , whose orders were enshrined in law . The memorial , of which only parts remain intact , is flanked by pilasters , the Shelley coat of arms and a naked grave @-@ digger on each side .

Elsewhere in the church , three generations of the Paine family are commemorated by tablets in the

chancel ; John Paine of the second generation rebuilt Patcham Place in 1764 . He was the uncle by marriage of Thomas Read Kemp , who developed Brighton 's high @-@ class Kemp Town estate in the 19th century . The Roe family and its descendants of Withdean are also represented . William Roe and his son William Thomas Roe were closely involved with the former Board of Customs ( now Her Majesty 's Customs and Excise ) ; William Roe was its chairman for 14 years . William Thomas Roe also served on The Board of Admiralty . His son , his daughter 's husband and their son also have their own memorials . The manor of Withdean Cayliffe , one of the manors within the parish of Patcham , passed through the family after William Roe acquired it in 1794 .

Outside , there are seven nearly identical chest @-@ tombs , all of which are several centuries old and appear to belong to members of the Scrase family . Together with two unrelated tombs nearby , which are 18th- or early 19th @-@ century , they were listed at Grade II by English Heritage on 26 August 1999 . On the north side of the churchyard , which is traditionally used for burials of criminals and those who committed suicide , a memorial survives to " a smuggler , unfortunately shot " .

= = Architecture and fittings = =

The plan of All Saints Church comprises a west tower with heavy buttresses and a broach spire , a three @-@ bay nave with a tall aisle on the north side ( described by one historian as " quite out of proportion to the rest of the building , particularly in height " ) , and a porch on the south wall , a chancel and a vestry . Although the north aisle of 1898 was flint @-@ built with courses of red brick , the rest of the church 's exterior was clad in cement at the same time . Before this , the outside walls had been entirely flint with stone dressings and sandstone quoins . Both sides of the nave are buttressed , as is the southwest corner of the tower . These buttresses may have been added in the 16th century . The roof of the tower , below the squat 19th @-@ century spire , is of slate ; the rest of the church has a tiled roof . The porch has a gabled roof above a 14th @-@ century archway . The tower contains three bells . One is dated 1639 , and another is known to have been repaired in 1724 . The chancel roof is panelled , while the nave roof has vertical queen @-@ post supports with ancient tie @-@ beams .

The nave and chancel are separated by an ancient chancel arch which has recesses for a reredos on each side . These may be contemporary with the 12th @-@ century structure . Above the chancel arch are the remains of a 13th @-@ century wall painting showing Christ in Judgement . It has been dated to c . 1230 , and depicts the ascension to Heaven of the dead and the weighing of their souls by Jesus Christ , who is flanked by the Virgin Mary and John the Baptist . The fresco was in fragmentary condition when it was discovered in the 1880s , and has been redrawn . Other paintings may have existed elsewhere on the walls , but none are visible now .

There are lancet windows in the north and south walls and on the tower , some with stone tracery ( including the east window in the main body of the church ) . The chancel and nave windows are 14th @-@ century and in the Decorated Gothic style common at the time , while the tower windows and bell @-@ openings are smaller and in the Early English style popular in the 13th century , when the tower was built . The largest window , which sits under a hoodmould , is in the east end of the chancel ; it is a three @-@ light lancet with prominent tracery in the curvilinear / reticulated style . The window dates from the 14th century , which may make it the same age as a small window next to the porch , which has twin lights with foliated heads set below a quatrefoil in an ogive arch . Both windows also have scrollwork drip @-@ moulds . Most other windows are plain trefoil @-@ headed single lancets .

The blocked doorway in the modern north aisle is the oldest surviving part of the church . Its lintel is 10 inches ( 25 cm ) thick and sits below 11 voussoirs , each about 8 inches ( 20 cm ) across . Below the lintel , the former opening is 6 @-@ 8 feet ( 2 @-@ 1 m ) high and 2 @-@ 75 feet ( 0 @-@ 84 m ) wide ; gradual settling into the ground has masked its original 7 @-@ 5 @-@ foot ( 2 @-@ 3 m ) height . The jambs are made up of five stones of equal height , but the uppermost is wider because it served as an impost . Inside the church , the jambs and arch are visible , but there is no lintel .

The wall of the chancel retains a trefoil @-@ arched piscina added during the 14th @-@ century restoration work . The font ? a " rather florid circular " example ? dates from 1864 , and the church

possesses Eucharistic objects dating from the 16th and 17th centuries , such as a chalice of 1568 and a paten dating from 1666 . The west wall has a wide range of old carved prayer and commandment boards , which are a common feature of Sussex churches . Ancient examples of graffiti , consisting of etched crosses and dates , also survives inside ; such " curious carvings " are also common in Sussex .

= = Current status = =

All Saints Church was listed at Grade II \* on 13 October 1952 . Worship at All Saints is in the Open Evangelical style . There is a Sunday school and regular youth group .

All Saints is the church in the Benefice of Patcham All Saints , which also incorporates the Church of the Ascension in Westdene , a postwar suburb west of Patcham . This is a modern building of brick and glass , designed in 1958 by architect John Wells @-@ Thorpe . The ecclesiastical parish of All Saints covers the north of Brighton and its rural hinterland , incorporating Withdean , Westdene , Patcham , Hollingbury , part of Preston ( as far south as Preston Park railway station ) , and the scattered residential buildings north of the A27 Brighton Bypass and south of Pyecombe .

Following a review by the Diocese of Chichester in 2005 , parts of the west side of the parish were transferred to the Church of the Good Shepherd on Dyke Road in Brighton , and at the south end another section was ceded to St John the Evangelist 's Church in Preston Village . At the same time the decision was taken to close the Church of Christ the King ( which had been the parish church of South Patcham ) and divide its parish between All Saints and St John the Evangelist 's churches . All Saints Church therefore received the congregation from the northern part of the Church of Christ the King 's parish . The diocese declared the Church of Christ the King redundant from 1 December 2006 , but from 20 July 2007 it was in use again as a place of worship . In that year , two displaced congregations whose churches had been demolished joined to form a new church community , which bought the building and renamed it the Fountain Centre . The Elim Balfour Road Church in Preston Village , a Pentecostal church , was demolished in 2007 , and the Immanuel Community Church had been using the former St Augustine 's Church building near Preston Park since the destruction by fire of their church in Hanover in 2003 .