

= All Saints ' Church , Shuart =

All Saints ' Church , Shuart / ʃuːərt / , in the north @-@ west of the Isle of Thanet , Kent , in the south @-@ east of England , was established in the Anglo @-@ Saxon period as a chapel of ease for the parish of St Mary 's Church , Reculver , which was centred on the north @-@ eastern corner of mainland Kent , adjacent to the island . The Isle of Thanet was then separated from the mainland by the sea , which formed a strait known as the Wantsum Channel . The last church on the site was demolished by the early 17th century , and there is nothing remaining above ground to show that a church once stood there .

The area of the Isle of Thanet where All Saints ' Church stood had been settled since the Bronze Age , and land in the west of the Isle of Thanet was given to Reculver in the 7th century . All Saints ' Church remained a chapel of ease for the parish of Reculver until the early 14th century , when the parish was broken up to form separate parishes for Herne and St Nicholas @-@ at @-@ Wade . The area served by All Saints ' was merged with that of St Nicholas @-@ at @-@ Wade , which became the centre of a new parish with All Saints ' as its chapel . The churches of All Saints and St Nicholas continued to have a junior relationship with the parish of Reculver , making annual payments to the church there .

All Saints ' originally consisted of a nave and chancel , to which a sanctuary was added in the first building phase . The church was extended on three occasions between the 10th and 14th centuries ? a period of population growth ? to include an aisled nave , a western tower and a northern chapel ; its windows featured stained glass . The church was abandoned in the 15th century , presumably because the parish could no longer support two churches . It was demolished , and virtually all of its masonry removed , some of which may have been used in improvements to the church of St Nicholas . The settlement of Shuart remained as an area of local administration into the 17th century , but it is now regarded as a deserted medieval village . There were no visible remains of All Saints ' Church by 1723 , although land there remained as glebe belonging to the parish of St Nicholas . The site of All Saints ' Church was excavated by archaeologists between 1978 and 1979 . The main structure had been robbed of its materials leaving only the foundations , from which the archaeologists were able to interpret the history of the building 's construction and its form . Among the foundations were discovered numerous stone carvings , floor tiles , remnants of stained glass , and several disturbed graves .

= = Origin = =

The place @-@ name " Shuart " is from the Anglo @-@ Saxon language and means a skirted , or cut @-@ off , piece of land . The earliest evidence of human settlement at Shuart dates to the Bronze Age ; a rectangular Bronze Age enclosure lies a little to the north of the site of All Saints ' Church , and a collection of objects from that period , known as the " Shuart Hoard " , was found south @-@ west of the site in the 1980s . Occupation continued through the Iron Age and Roman period . Structures , pottery and glass dating to these times have been found nearby , as well as human burials and cremations .

The site 's history in the Anglo @-@ Saxon period begins with the division of the Isle of Thanet into eastern and western parts during the 7th century . The division is attributed in medieval sources to the route taken by a tame female deer that was set free to run across the island by Æbbe , founder and first abbess of the double monastery at Minster @-@ in @-@ Thanet , thereby marking out its endowment . The route was circuitous , beginning on the north side of the island at Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea and ending on the south side at Sheriff 's Court , halfway between Minster @-@ in @-@ Thanet and Monkton , which are about 1 @-@ 75 miles (3 km) apart . While land to the east of this route was given to Æbbe for her monastery , which was in existence by 678 , land to the west , described broadly as Westanea , or " the western part of the island " , was given to the monastery at Reculver by King Hlothhere of Kent in 679 . This division of the island is apparent in Domesday Book , which was compiled in 1086 , and remained an important feature in the early 15th century , when it was included prominently in a map of the island drawn up by Thomas Elmham . According to

Edward Hasted the division was still marked in 1800 by " a bank , or lynch , which goes quite across the island , and is commonly called St. Mildred 's lynch . "

The monastery at Reculver had been established in 669 , and developed as the centre of a " large estate , a manor and a parish " . By the early 9th century it had become " extremely wealthy " , but it then came under the control of the archbishops of Canterbury . By the 10th century the church and its estate appear to have fallen into royal hands , since King Eadred of England gave them in 949 to Christ Church , Canterbury , now known as Canterbury Cathedral . The Anglo @-@ Saxon charter recording the gift shows that the Reculver estate still included land in the west of the Isle of Thanet at that time . Two slightly earlier charters give a more complicated picture : in 943 , King Edmund I of England gave land at St Nicholas @-@ at @-@ Wade to a layman , and in the next year he gave the same layman land at Monkton , by means of a charter recording that land to the west and north of Monkton ? evidently at Sarre ? was nonetheless still regarded as belonging to Reculver , rather than to either the archbishop or the king . However , while King Edmund I 's mother Eadgifu gave lands in Kent , including Monkton , to Christ Church in 961 , all of the documents recording these transactions entered the Christ Church archive ; and , if the land that Christ Church acquired on the Isle of Thanet in the 10th century was the same as the " Liberty " shown on Thomas Elmham 's map from the early 15th century , then the site of All Saints ' Church , Shuart , must have been included . Neither Shuart nor St Nicholas @-@ at @-@ Wade are mentioned by name in Domesday Book ; but they may have been included in the entry for Reculver , which was then recorded as a hundred in its own right , and was held entirely by the archbishop of Canterbury , but for a portion held from him by a tenant . An analysis of the archbishop 's holdings in Domesday Book concludes that All Saints ' was among them .

= = Church and community = =

A church dedicated to All Saints was established at Shuart some time between 679 and the 10th century . Although the status of the church at Reculver as mother church for the area dates from the 7th century , and may have led to the establishment of a church at Shuart then , this chapel might equally have been a development in response to acquisition of land in the area by Christ Church , Canterbury , in the mid @-@ 900s . Examination of the building 's archaeological remains has failed to provide a more precise date , but a church stood at Shuart for about 100 years or more before the establishment of a nearby church at St Nicholas @-@ at @-@ Wade , since the earliest church there was " almost certainly built in the late 11th century " .

= = = First church = = =

The original church of All Saints was a rectangular building aligned on an east @-@ west axis , measuring 52 @.@ 5 feet (16 m) by 15 @.@ 75 feet (5 m) . It consisted of a western nave and an eastern chancel , with a sanctuary added to the eastern end of the chancel in the first phase of building . The chancel was about 16 @.@ 4 feet (5 m) long , and the nave was small , taking up only about 9 @.@ 2 feet (3 m) of the building 's overall length . They were connected by a recessed passageway about 9 @.@ 8 feet (3 m) long but only about 8 @.@ 9 feet (3 m) across at its narrowest , the foundations for which suggest a heavy structure , perhaps including a vaulted ceiling . The size of the community this church was originally built to serve is unknown , although Domesday Book records the presence of 90 villeins and 25 bordars in the manor of Reculver in 1086 , which included land on the Isle of Thanet , but consisted mainly of land in mainland Kent . Those numbers can be multiplied four or five times to account for dependents , since they only represent adult male heads of households ; Domesday Book does not say where in the manor they lived .

= = = Expansion = = =

A second phase of building was undertaken between the 10th and 11th centuries , in which the

church was enlarged . The west wall was demolished , allowing the nave to be extended to the west by 16 @. @ 5 feet (5 m) , and the passageway between it and the chancel was opened out and replaced with a lighter chancel arch . A third phase followed in the 12th century , when the nave was rebuilt as a much larger structure with north and south aisles , each lined by four columns , and measuring about 30 feet (9 m) wide by 42 feet (13 m) long . A tower about 16 @. @ 2 feet (5 m) square was added to the western end of the church either at this time or in a fourth phase of building carried out in the 13th century . This fourth phase involved the installation of new windows featuring stained glass , especially at the eastern end of the nave , comparable to the grisaille glass still in the south transept of York Minster that dates from about 1240 . A chapel was also added to the north side of the church , measuring about 12 @. @ 5 feet (4 m) wide by 29 @. @ 4 feet (9 m) long , with an altar at its eastern end , and paved with tiles about 4 inches (10 cm) square . Flemish floor tiles were also installed in the church , probably in the 15th century .

The expansion of the church coincided with a period of growth in the population of Reculver parish as a whole , which approximately doubled from that of 1086 to more than 1 @, @ 000 people by the late 13th century . The first record explicitly to mention All Saints ' dates from 1284 , when the community it served complained to the archbishop of Canterbury that the vicar of Reculver had failed to provide a chaplain to celebrate daily mass . In 1296 the archbishop settled a dispute concerning a duty to pay for repairs to the church , specifying that this was owed by owners of property on and around part of " North Street " . In 1310 Archbishop Robert Winchelsey of Canterbury established St Nicholas @- @ at @- @ Wade as a parish , with All Saints ' Church as its chapel , served by a vicar and an assistant priest . According to the document by which that was done , the parish of Reculver had served more than 1 @, @ 000 parishioners in the time of Winchelsey 's predecessor , and this population was " continually increasing " , to the extent that a single vicar for the whole parish was inadequate . While Thanet was then still an island separated from the rest of Kent by the Wantsum Channel , the new arrangement was also prompted by the inconvenience posed by the distance between these chapels on the Isle of Thanet and their mother church at Reculver . However , the document specified that the vicar of St Nicholas @- @ at @- @ Wade with All Saints ' had to pay £ 3.3s.4d (£ 3 @. @ 17) annually to the vicar of Reculver " as a sign of subjection " . The vicar also had to go to Reculver " in procession " with his assistant priest and his parishioners every year on Whit Monday ? the eighth day after Easter ? as well as being present at Reculver for the Nativity of the Virgin Mary , the patron saint of Reculver , on 8 September . The visits to Reculver continued in the mid @- @ 16th century , when they were recorded by John Leland , and the parish of St Nicholas @- @ at @- @ Wade was still making annual payments to Reculver in the 19th century . Archbishop Winchelsey 's instructions also set out relative values for the parishes of Reculver and St Nicholas @- @ at @- @ Wade with All Saints ' , in allocating dues for taxes known as " clerical tenths " . Reculver was liable for 12s.1d (60.5p) , compared to St Nicholas @- @ at @- @ Wade with All Saints ' 11s.4d (57p) . The first vicar of St Nicholas @- @ at @- @ Wade with All Saints ' was named by Archbishop Winchelsey as Andrew de Grantesele .

= = = Decline = = =

Thomas Elmham 's map of the Isle of Thanet , drawn in the early 15th century , shows the church with its tower , but a map of 1596 , which shows churches " as they actually appeared " , shows a church without a tower . Examination of the church 's foundations indicates that it was probably a ruin by the middle of the 15th century and was demolished , but was replaced by a smaller structure , without a tower , up to 20 years later . It may be that material from All Saints ' Church was used in the construction of a new clerestory for the nave of St Nicholas ' church in the late 15th century , and the medieval baptismal font now in Reculver 's parish church of St Mary the Virgin at Hillborough probably came from All Saints ' . By 1630 there was no church : in that year , the vicar and churchwardens of St Nicholas @- @ at @- @ Wade reported the existence of glebe of 1 @. @ 5 acres (1 ha) called " Allhallows close , in part of which antiently stood the chapel of All Saints , or Alhallows " ; and , in 1723 , antiquarian John Lewis wrote that the church was " now so entirely

demolished , with all the fences around it , that there are no marks of either of them . "

The decline of All Saints ' Church and the community of Shuart may have begun with the Black Death of 1348 ? 9 . Further , this decline coincides with the closing of the adjacent Wantsum Channel . This channel had been a preferred route for sea @-@ borne trade between England and continental Europe in medieval times , probably providing " a large part of the early prosperity of Kent " , besides supporting a local industry collecting salt , but it was progressively blocked by silt . While tax records of the 15th century show that the inhabitants of Shuart had then included men of the Cinque Port of Dover , shipping through the Wantsum Channel had ceased by about the end of the 15th century , and the northern section adjacent to Shuart was merely a creek by the middle of the 16th century . The abandonment of the church presumably arose through the cost of keeping two churches ? All Saints and St Nicholas ? in what had become a " remote , rural parish " . Shuart continued to be represented in tax records in the 17th century : in 1624 it was assessed as a " vill " at the rate of £ 4.6s.4d (£ 4 @.@ 32) for the archaic taxes known as " fifteenths and tenths " ? this rate had been fixed in 1334 , and may be compared with the rate for St Nicholas @-@ at @-@ Wade of £ 10.7s (£ 10 @.@ 35) ? and Shuart appears as a borgh , or tithing , in records of the Hearth Tax for 1673 . However , the parish as a whole was in decline . In 1563 the parish of St Nicholas @-@ at @-@ Wade was the second smallest on the Isle of Thanet by number of households , having only 33 , and by 1800 there were " not ... near so many " . By 1723 the settlement of Shuart was a matter of historical record only ; John Lewis wrote then that " [it] seems as if anciently a Vill or Town belonged to [the chapel of All Saints] " , and the only building recorded by Lewis was a " good farm house " . The farmhouse was built in the late 17th century and still stands , but otherwise today Shuart is considered a deserted medieval village .

= = Excavation = =

The site of All Saints ' Church , Shuart , was recorded on Ordnance Survey maps in the 19th century , and was confirmed in the mid @-@ 20th century through aerial photography by Kenneth St Joseph . On the north side of a road between Shuart Farm and Nether Hale Farm , the site is on farmland now owned by St John 's College , Cambridge , and was excavated with the college 's permission by the Thanet Archaeological Unit between 1978 and 1979 .

The only surviving part of the main structure was its foundations of rammed chalk , which nonetheless allowed a construction history to be developed , but various elements of the structure were also found . These included mortar flooring , glazed floor tiles , green sandstone , Caen stone , Quarr stone from the Isle of Wight and stained glass . Among stone fragments were numerous carvings , including " two small delicately carved pieces of foliage which are certainly twelfth @-@ century work " . Fragments of mortar showing the imprint of barnacles were found among the rubble in the foundation trenches , indicating that some of the stone used in the structure had been fetched from the shoreline . A number of graves were also discovered , one of which had been covered by an unmarked stone , but they had been robbed and filled with rubble containing fragments of human bone . Two of the graves had been dug between the demolition of the church and the construction of a smaller , short @-@ lived replacement in the 15th century . While virtually all of the building 's structure had been robbed , presumably for use elsewhere , much of what remained had been destroyed by ploughing .