



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

89 Fleet Street · London EC4Y 1DH

Registered Charity No. 258612

PRICE: £1.00



YATTON CHAPEL
HEREFORDSHIRE





THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION
TRUST WELCOMES YOU TO
YATTON CHAPEL
HEREFORDSHIRE

Many years ago Christians built and set apart this place for prayer. They made their church beautiful with their skill and craftsmanship. Here they have met for worship, for children to be baptised, for couples to be married and for the dead to be brought for burial. If you have time, enjoy the history, the peace and the holiness here. Please use the prayer card and, if you like it, you are welcome to take a folded copy with you.

Although services are no longer regularly held here, this church remains consecrated; inspiring, teaching and ministering through its beauty and atmosphere. It is one of more than 300 churches throughout England cared for by The Churches Conservation Trust. The Trust was created in 1969 and was, until 1994, known as the Redundant Churches Fund. Its object is to ensure that all these churches are kept in repair and cared for, in the interests of the Church and Nation, for present and future generations.

Please help us to care for this church. There is a box for donations or, if you prefer to send a gift, it will be gratefully received at the Trust's headquarters at 89 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DH (Registered Charity No. 258612).

We hope that you will enjoy your visit and be encouraged to see our other churches. Some are in towns; some in remote country districts. Some are easy and others hard to find but all are worth the effort.

Nearby are the Trust churches of:

HOLME LACY, ST CUTHBERT
5 miles SE of Hereford off B4399

MICHAELCHURCH, ST MICHAEL
5 miles W of Ross-on-Wye off A4137

**LLANROTHAL, ST JOHN THE
BAPTIST**
5 miles NW of Monmouth off A466

PENDOCK, OLD CHURCH
5 miles W of Tewkesbury off A438

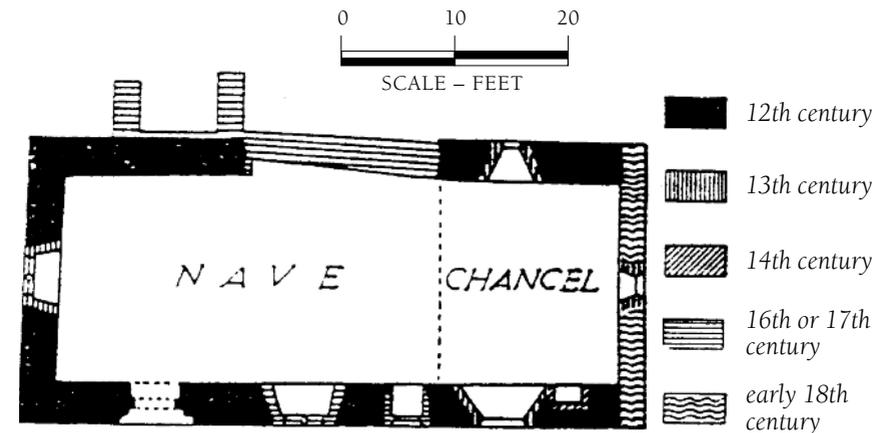
YATTON CHAPEL

HEREFORDSHIRE

by ANDREW PIKE

HISTORY

Yatton – the name means the place at the gate or pass – is first mentioned in Domesday Book. *Getune* was held by the king, although it is stated that the land and dues which came from the land at Yatton were being surreptitiously taken away from the king. It was classed as 'thaneland' (a thane was someone who held land from the king in exchange for performing military service) before 1066, and 'reeveland' (a reeve was the chief legal official of a district and appointed by the king) thereafter. Later owners were the Lacys, Bohuns, Mortimers and Seymours. In 1534 John Seymour sold Yatton to John Scudamore of Holme Lacy, Herefordshire. In 1820 it came into the possession of Mrs Mary Burr; it was sold in 1841 to Lord Ashburton and later to George Clive. Yatton has long been a chapelry and township within the parish of Much Marcle.



Plan of Yatton Chapel – reproduced by kind permission of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

The chapel dates from the 12th century. In 1841 a new church, more centrally sited in the community, was built, about three-quarters of a mile (1.2 km) to the east. The old chapel was then more or less abandoned and by the 1930s was in a poor state, with the roof covered in corrugated iron. It was officially declared redundant and vested in The Churches Conservation Trust in 1974.

DESCRIPTION

The chapel is built of local sandstone; the roof is covered with sandstone slates. It comprises a chancel and nave, with no division between them. The earliest identifiable feature is the elaborate south doorway, dated to the mid-12th century. It is typical Norman work, consisting of jambs of three orders, the two outer having attached shafts with scalloped capitals. The outer shafts include, on the east side, a beast's head. There is much spiral ornament. The tympanum contains a simple tree of life, with a moulded and pelleted border. It is possible that the doorway was formerly protected by a porch.

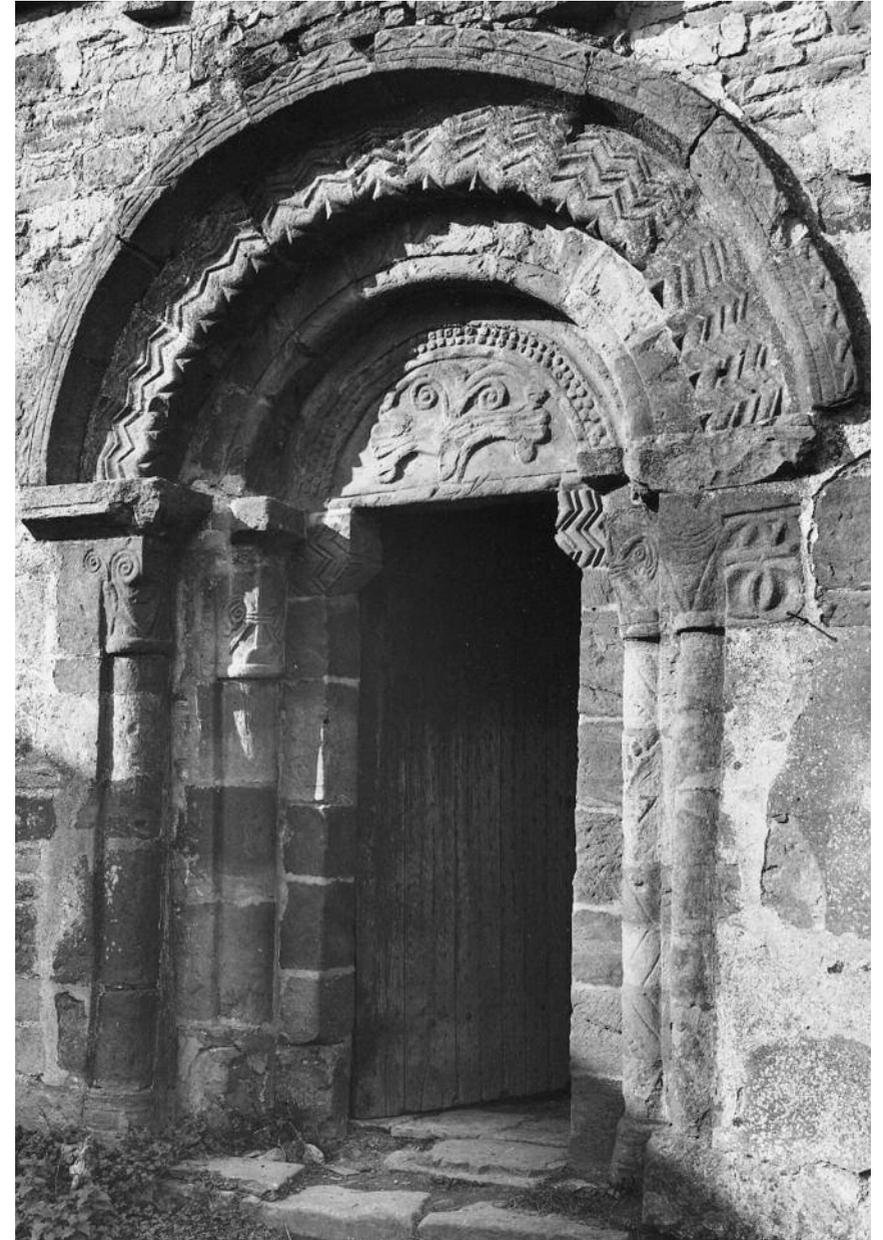
The north wall contains a 13th century pointed window, but there is evidence that much of this wall was rebuilt in the 16th or 17th century. The south wall contains three windows: the easternmost one is basically 13th century and was once of two lights, later made into a single one. The centre window is an altered 12th or 13th century feature and includes some reused spiral ornament, whilst the westernmost one is of two plain, square lights and probably of 16th century date.

The west wall contains a late 13th century window of two trefoiled lights. The east wall was rebuilt in 1704: the initials 'I.F.' and date '1704' can be seen just above the top window. The lower window is a reused 13th century one, with a single light; the upper window is similar but smaller.

The roofs are modern but include a moulded tie-beam near the east end, probably of early 17th century date. The wooden bell-turret above the west end of the nave is weatherboarded, with a pyramidal tile roof surmounted by a copper weathervane. In 1550 the chapel contained two bells, one

South doorway

(ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF ENGLAND)



14 inches and the other 15 inches wide 'at the mowthes'. There are no bells now, but there are still indications in the belfry as to where these two hung.

There are two fonts. The smaller damaged one has always been in the chapel and is probably 12th century, so contemporary with the earliest features of the building. The larger font was formerly in St Mary Magdalene's Church, Brobury, Herefordshire and is also of 12th century date. This was brought here when Brobury church was closed.

In the chancel is a piscina with moulded jambs and ogee head and a round drain, probably 14th century in date.

The north window contains pieces of stone window tracery, perhaps from one of the altered windows in the chapel.

The new church of All Saints, built in 1841 and enlarged in 1901–03, contains a rood-screen of 15th century origin, but much altered. It almost certainly came from the old chapel and was either a rood-screen or the support for a gallery at the west end. No other fittings seem to have been taken across to the new church.

Since its vesting in The Churches Conservation Trust, the building has been repaired and re-roofed under the direction of Michael Bartosch, architect, of Cheltenham.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Front cover: Exterior from the north-west (CHRISTOPHER DALTON)

Back cover: General view from the north (CHRISTOPHER DALTON)

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