

# ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, HECKFIELD

Grade II\* listed (a building of "more than special interest")

**1 NORTH ENTRANCE** The main door dates from 1500. The North Porch replaced the South Porch in 1876/77.

**2 The TOWER** was built in 1500. The area of the tower was the site of a **MUSICIANS' GALLERY** accessed through the bell tower. There are five main **BELLS** in the Tower dating from c1350, 1440, 1618 (2 bells) and 1641. A sanctus bell was added in 1886. The combined weight of the bells is over 2.5 tonnes.

**3 Memorial** – **WILLIAM MILTON** died 1824. He was Vicar of St Michael's for 51 years, see Timeline 1773.

**4 WEST WINDOW** 1825 contains fragments of medieval glass from the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The (red and white) Tudor Rose in the centre of the window marks the marriage of Henry VII of Lancaster to Elizabeth of York that effectively ended the Wars of the Roses (1486).

**5 Memorials** – Sir Galbraith and Lady Frances **LOWRY COLE**. **General the Hon Sir Galbraith Lowry Cole** (1772-1842) served under the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsula War (1807-14), later becoming Governor of Mauritius and the Cape of Good Hope. He lived and died at Highfield Park. This memorial is now partially obscured by the kitchen

**6 The FONT** (1350) is made of Purbeck marble.

**7 Window** – **MARYS AT THE TOMB** (1878) showing the Virgin Mary (blue), Mary Magdalene (purple) and the Angel at the empty tomb after Jesus had risen from the dead.

By the entrance to church is the **GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE** donated by Archibald Arrol Stuart Black of Highfield Park in 1960 in memory of his wife Ethel Rose.

**25** The stone memorial tablet is dedicated to **NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN** who became Prime Minister in 1937. He was Prime Minister at the beginning of the Second World War but resigned in May 1940 in favour of Winston Churchill. He died in the following November, after a short illness, at Highfield Park next door to the church.

**8 Marble Tablet** **John Martineau** (1834-1910) who was credited with saving the 14<sup>th</sup> century font during the "Great Restoration" of 1876/77.

**9** Marble and brass monuments dedicated to the **CRESWELL** family. The brass plaque to **John Creswell** (died 1518) refers to him as "lord of this town". He was Lord of the Manor of Heckfield for 43 years. The large marble monument shows **Thomas Creswell** (died 1607) and his two wives, Alice and Jane.

**24 "THE CRUCIFIXION"** window (1899) showing Jesus on the Cross, the Virgin Mary left and John the Evangelist right. The figures were designed by George Parlbay.

**23 HARMONIUM** (North wall by step down from Vestry), made in Paris 1865; restored 2012.

**22** Brass memorial showing the figure of Elizabeth, the wife of **JOHN HALL** (died 1514) - **the oldest memorial in the church.**

**10 Window** (1885) depicting **FAITH** and **CHARITY** (Fides and Caritas) designed by **Edward Burne-Jones** and made by William Morris & Co - see Timeline 1884. The window is dedicated to **Mary Ann Marson** who lived at Highfield Park.

**11** Above pulpit - Funeral hatchment of **Robert Corham** of Holdshott House, died 1596. See Timeline 2014.

**21** Various Memorials (1818-1899) to the **SHAW LEFEVRE** family who lived at Heckfield Place. Between 1790 and 1860 they acquired 4,000 acres of land locally. **Charles Shaw-Lefevre** (1794-1888) was a Member of Parliament from 1830 and Speaker of the House of Commons 1839-57. He was created the first Viscount Eversley in 1857. On his death, he left no surviving male heir and the viscountcy died out. The Lectern - item 11 - is dedicated to him.

**12** Eagle **LECTERN** in memory of **Viscount Eversley** - see item 21.

**13** Window depicting **DAVID** and **JONATHAN** (1889). David, who defeated Goliath of the Philistines, was King of Judah and Israel from around 1000 to 961BC. His friend Jonathan was the son of his enemy and predecessor King Saul.

**14** Marble Monument - **HENRY TOMWORTHE** (died 1608), esquire from Aylewards, Mattingley.

**Principal Dimensions** Nave 59ft 6in x 23ft 6in; Tower 14ft 6in x 13ft 1in; Chancel and Sanctuary 29ft 0in x 14ft 10in; North Chapel 29ft 0in x 15ft 9in; North Aisle 7ft 8in wide.

**20** Original **PIPE ORGAN** 1882, replaced in the late 1990s by an electronic organ near the lectern.

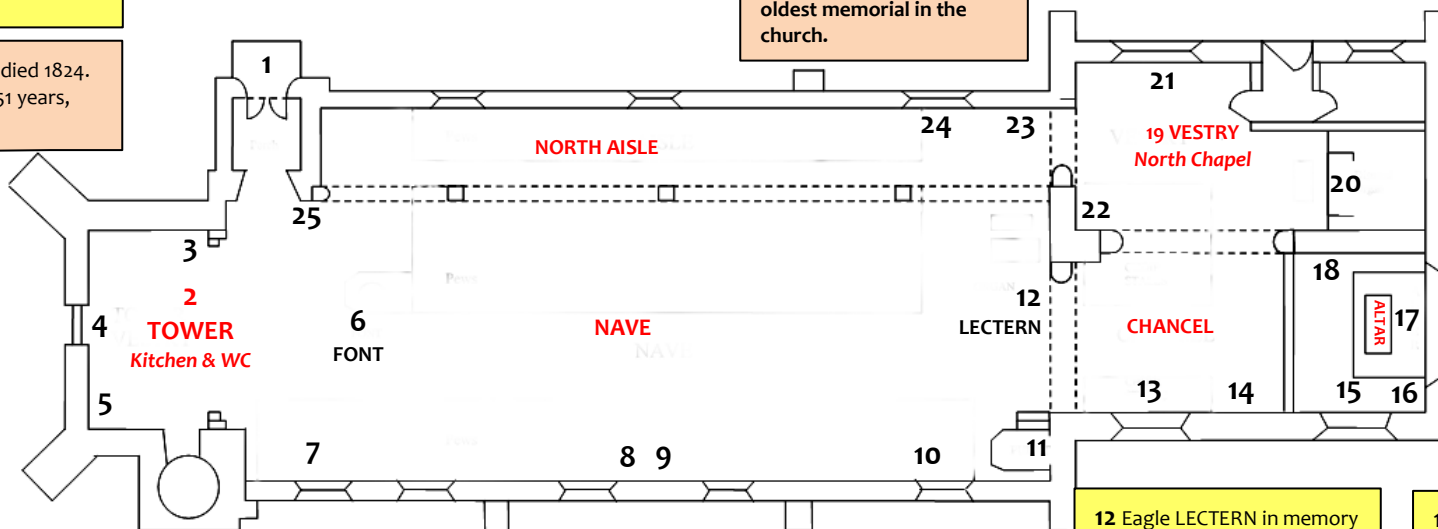
**19** The **VESTRY** (North Chapel, c1500) is a surviving part of the 16<sup>th</sup> century church.

**18** The marble monument is dedicated to **WILLIAM HUMFRY** who died in 1608. The inscription leaves a space for his wife Prudence's death but it is left blank as she remarried 15 months later.

**17** East Window **OUR LORD IN MAJESTY** (1887). The central figure, Jesus, is surrounded by his disciples and the Virgin Mary. The stone window tracery dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

**16** The **PISCINA** dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The piscina is a shallow basin with a drainage hole for washing communion vessels. It is set in a recessed arch in the wall.

**15** Window (1884) depicting the archangel **MICHAEL** slaying the dragon (Satan) from the *Book of Revelation* chapter 12 and weighing souls in the Last Judgement. St Michael's feast day is 29<sup>th</sup> September.



## TIMELINE continued

**1534** The **Act of Supremacy** establishes Henry VIII as head of the English church. England moves towards Protestantism.

**1551** **William Greet** becomes vicar. As a result of the Reformation, priests are allowed to marry, so Greet duly weds Elizabeth Gedge on 10 Jan 1553. However, Mary Tudor becomes queen on 19 July in the same year. As a Catholic, she re-introduces the “no marriage” rule for priests and Greet is evicted, only to be restored when the Protestant Elizabeth succeeds as queen in 1560. He continues as vicar until 1601.

**1618-41** **Three more bells** are installed, making the five main bells present in the tower today. The combined weight of the bells is 2.5 tonnes.

**1773** **William Milton** is appointed Vicar of Heckfield, a post he holds for 51 years until his death in 1824. He is a Fellow of New College, Oxford. He invents a device to stop wheels falling off stage coaches and helps to plan Bristol Docks. His daughter marries Thomas Trollope; their son is Anthony, the famous novelist.

**1781** The first **Parish Workhouse** in Heckfield is built. The Old Church House, commonly known as the Five Bells Beer House, is acquired for the purpose.

**1817** The **Duke of Wellington** becomes Lord of the Manor.

**1831** A **major restoration** is undertaken but the work is poorly executed.

**1862** **William Duncan Mackenzie Bathurst** is appointed vicar. He is only seen on Sundays, spending the rest of the week shut up in the vicarage with his bulldogs. On one occasion he sees off a tramp by threatening him with a pistol. He always preaches in a black gown and black gloves, which he never removes, even for baptisms. He is vicar until 1880.

**1863** **Mattingley** becomes a separate parish.

**1870s** The **church** is reported to be in poor condition.

**1876** The “**Great Restoration**” of the church by William Butterfield begins in May. It continues until March 1877 and costs £2,257.

### Principal Sources

*The History of a Hampshire Parish, Heckfield and Mattingley* by W.J. James □ *A History of the County of Hampshire, Volume 4*, Victoria County History edited by William Page (1911) □ *The Buildings of England, Hampshire: Winchester and the North* by Michael Bullen, John Crook, Rodney Hubback and Nikolaus Pevsner, 2010. © H.A. Heath, 2017



**1884** The “**Faith and Charity**” stained glass window (above) is installed. It was designed by the famous Pre-Raphaelite artist **Edward Burne-Jones** (1833-98) and made by **William Morris & Co.** The Charity cartoon was originally produced by Burne-Jones for a church in Calcutta in 1874. The designs have been used a number of times in other churches: *Charity* 10 times, and *Faith* 31 times (including Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford). Burne-Jones received £7 for the design of *Faith* in 1871. The model for *Faith* was **Maria Zambaco**, a wealthy Greek heiress with whom Burne-Jones had an affair. She died in 1914 and is buried in South Norwood Cemetery, London.

**1885** The churchyard is **closed to burials**. Land for the present churchyard is donated by the Duke of Wellington at the same time.

**1935** – Renovation work is carried out on the **tower**.

**1940** – The tower is used as an **observation point** to alert inhabitants to German invasion in the Second World War.

**1949** – Heckfield and Mattingley combine as a **joint parish** again.

**1974** – Heckfield and Mattingley combine with **Rotherwick** to form one parish.

**2008** – The parish and Hook combine to form the **Whitewater Benefice**.

**2012** – A kitchen and toilet are added to the **Tower** area. The 1865 **Harmonium** is restored to working order by Dr Richard Joyce and Terry Wheeler.

**2014** – Robert Corham’s **hatchment** is re-installed in the church after restoration (see plan item 11). The hatchment is possibly the oldest in England.

## Welcome to ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, HECKFIELD

**St Michael's Church** has stood on this site since at least 1203. There is evidence of an earlier church at Heckfield dating back to Saxon times.

Most of the **present building** dates from 1876-77 (the “Great Restoration”) and is Victorian Gothic in style. The tower dates from 1500 with some later restoration and the north chapel (the vestry) from the same date. The east window tracery is original and dates back to the 1400s. The stained glass windows are late 1800s with the exception of the west window where fragments of glass date from 1486.

Inside this leaflet you will find an **annotated plan** that will provide you with information about points of interest. Some other interesting facts are provided in the **timeline** below, continuing on the back page.



## TIMELINE FOR ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

**1086** – The **Domesday Book** refers to a church at Heckfield: a primitive building with a thatched roof. At that time, the Manor of “Effelle” (Heckfield) was held by Hugo de Port.

**1203** – The **de Port family** establish the present parish church of St Michael, appoint the vicar and build the vicarage. The church has a nave, chancel and north and south doors.

**c1350** – The **first bell** is installed.

**1348-50** – The **Black Death**. Only half the population of Heckfield survive.

**1350** – The **font** is installed. The font is still in place today.

**1379** – **New College, Oxford** is granted the right to appoint the vicar – a right shared to the present day.

**1440** – A **second bell** is added.

**c1485** – The chapel at **Mattingley** becomes part of the Heckfield Parish.

**1486** – Henry VII of Lancaster marries Elizabeth of York, effectively ending the **War of the Roses**. The event is commemorated in surviving fragments of glass in the west window.

**1400s** – A **new east window** is built in the chancel, a musicians' gallery is created in the tower and the chancel renovated.

**c1500** – A **new tower** is built (more or less the one seen today), together with a north chapel (now the vestry) and aisle. Roof tiles replace thatch.

**1518** – **John Creswell** dies. He is described as “lord of this town” on his monument.