

## WELCOME TO ALL SAINTS BIGHTON

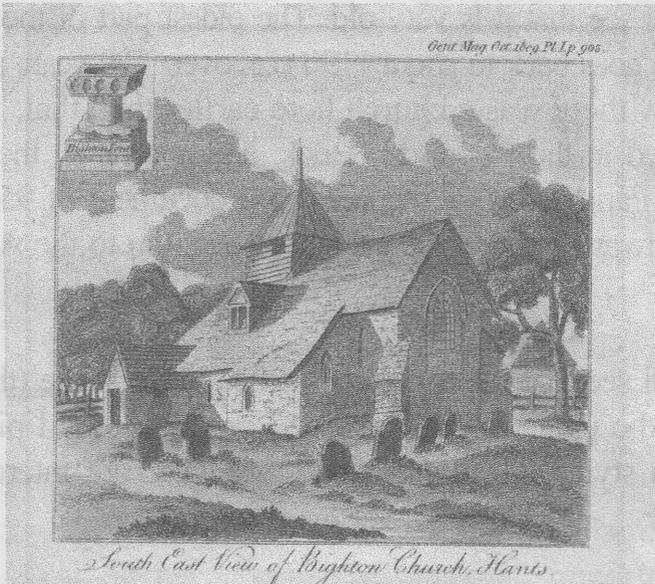
You will see that it is very old. The oldest part of the present structure goes back to about 1190 (i.e. over 800 years ago) but we know there was a church here earlier than that, for it is mentioned in the Doomsday Book, and apparently the Manor and the Parish are first recorded in a document of 959 when King Edward granted the Manor of Bighton to the Abbot of Hyde.

You will see that the two main arches in the Nave (the main part of the Church) are supported on slim, round pillars of Norman style, and that the two "capitals" are interestingly different.

Looking upwards, you will see the lovely ceilings, which are comparatively modern work, designed by Sir Ninian Comper in 1904, along with the medieval-looking Chancel Screen painted and gilded with great care and skill. All this work, so lovingly and generously done, was given in memory of members of the Christian family. The pulpit is much later, designed by Sebastian Comper, son of Sir Ninian, in 1960 in memory of Mr and Mrs Barton.

Look at the FONT. It is immensely old, carved out of a solid block of Purbeck marble. It may well be older than the Church. From the charming print we have dated 1809, you will see that the shape of the East Window was changed when the Victorian glass of the three Mary's was put in place.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BIGHTON ( print dated 1809)



**Collect of All Saints**

Almighty God,  
you have knit together your elect  
into one communion and fellowship  
in the mystical body of your Son.  
Give us grace so to follow your  
blessed saints in all virtuous  
and godly living,  
that we may come to those unspeakable  
joys which you have prepared for  
those who truly love you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

The little ORGAN has two manuals (keyboards) but no pedal board. It plays very sweetly, and we think is perhaps 200 years old

Near the organ, on the northwall, is the WAR MEMORIAL. Switch the light on above, and have a good look. A lady who was living at the Rectory carved it. It is most unusual to have such a record of all those who served in the "Great War." Count them, and see how many died. Mercifully very few.

On the other side of the Church is a little side Chapel with modern altar hangings, cross and candles and the altar rails, all given in memory of Mr and Mrs Nicoll, previously of Manor Farm.

You will see that the East Window here in the Chapel (of St Joan of Arc) is a memorial to the daughter of a former Rector, and there are two further memorial windows near the door.

There are a number of interesting memorials on the walls, and the main altar with the beautifully carved panelling and the marble floor of the sanctuary were given in memory of the Hanning Lee Family of Bighton Manor.

When the Church was redecorated internally in 1969, a very effective new indirect lighting system was given in memory of Michael McCowen of Bighton Manor who was drowned at sea in 1964.

Above the Arch near the font is a fine ROYAL ARMS, dated 1709 in the time of Queen Anne. Out of sight in the Tower are two bells, one little one irreverently nicknamed "the Chaser," and "Sancta Ann," a fine 5 cwt bell dating from about 1427. This bell had been silent for 25 years, but in 1987 we had it re-hung for stationary chiming, and so Sancta Ann is now to be heard every Sunday.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit. Before you leave say a prayer for the people here, for your own home and for peace in God's world. Outside, look again at the lovely tower with its upper stages of timber. We like to keep the grass well mown near the Church, but allow part to be a "conservation area," important for the survival of many small animals and over-wintering butterfly and moth eggs.

Our Churchwardens are

Robert Ellis and Mike Manley

The Parish is part of the Arle Valley Benefice . The priest in charge is Revd Julia Myles .

September 2017