

There has been a place of Christian worship on this site overlooking the Letcombe Brook for well over 1300 years, although the present church was not founded until after the Norman Conquest. Wantage is chiefly famed as the birthplace of one of England's greatest kings, Alfred the Great. Though this is questionable it is not unreasonable to suggest that this most devout monarch may have worshipped in a previous church here.

The church has been subjected to its fair share of changes from the splendour of the medieval liturgy through the extremes of Puritanism and the apathy of the eighteenth-century, and finally the new life of the Catholic Revival of the nineteenth-century which has had such a profound effect on Wantage and its church. The town boasts many fine nineteenth-century buildings as well as one of the oldest orders of Women Religious in the Church of England.

This beautiful church contains many treasures, some of which are described overleaf. However, it is not simply a museum of the past but also the home of a very living community of people who by the daily pattern of worship and prayer, continue the work of the Church in Wantage. They welcome you today to this ancient place and pray that you may find the presence of God here.

General Information

The church is open daily from 10.00 am until 12.00 pm and occasionally at other times.

Services

Sunday:

8.00 am	Eucharist
10.30 am	Parish Eucharist with children's activities.
Afternoon	Choral Evensong as announced in the newsletter.

Weekday Eucharist:

Monday	9.30 am
Wednesday	at Holy Trinity
Friday	12.00 Noon
Saturday	at Holy Trinity

The Church of the Holy Trinity, Charlton has Eucharist at the following times:

Wednesday	7.00 pm
Saturday	5.00 pm
Sunday	9.15 am

Welcome to

The Church of SS Peter and Paul, Wantage



Parish Website: www.wantageparish.com

You are invited particularly to note:

The Nave has thirteenth-century arcades and pillars, and an unusual fifteenth century hammerbeam roof. Notice also the lively fifteenth-century corbels supporting it.

The Nave includes a fine 24 light brass chandelier, dating from 1711. There is another dating from 1709 in the Chancel.

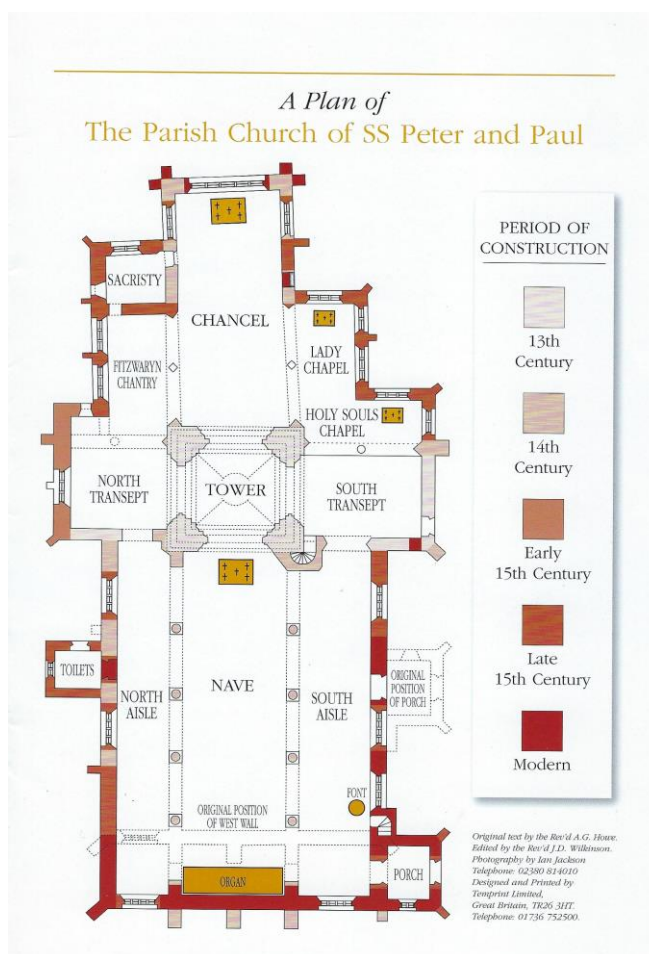
A skilful extension to the Nave by one bay to the west was carried out by the architect William Butterfield, completed in 1881. He rebuilt the existing fourteenth century west wall in its new location and moved the Porch as well.

A fine full-length brass dating from 1414 of Sir Ivo Fitzwaryn, the father-in-law of Sir Richard 'Dick' Whittington can be seen in the North Transept.

To the left hand side of the High Altar is a fine early fourteenth-century demi-brass figure of a priest; it is one of the oldest of its type in England.

There are eighteen, fifteenth century stalls in the Chancel. They have misericords and fine natural carving on the bench ends. They are the largest set in the old county of Berkshire.

A Visitors Guide



At the north side of the Chancel near the High Altar is the Fitzwaryn Tomb, the remains of a once-fine tomb to Sir William and Arnica Fitzwaryn, the parents of Ivo which dates from 1361.

The High Altar and chancel, were restored by the architect G. E. Street in 1857. The Wilmott memorial of 1666 is on the south side of the Chancel opposite the Fitzwaryn Tomb.

The Lady Chapel was restored in 1895 as a memorial to the Rev. William John Butler, Vicar of Wantage, from 1846 - 1881.

Over the south door is the earliest shape of window containing glass from another building, depicting St. Stephen and an unknown bishop.

The tower piers, are huge thirteenth century piers with crusaders' crosses scratched into their bases.

The organ, at the west end, was originally built by Allen of Bristol in 1860. It was moved, and substantially rebuilt in a new case by Kenneth Jones Pipe Organs Ltd. in 1997. The West Window, above, depicts the four Latin and four Greek- Doctors of the Church, a gift of the Rev. William John Butler in 1867-8.