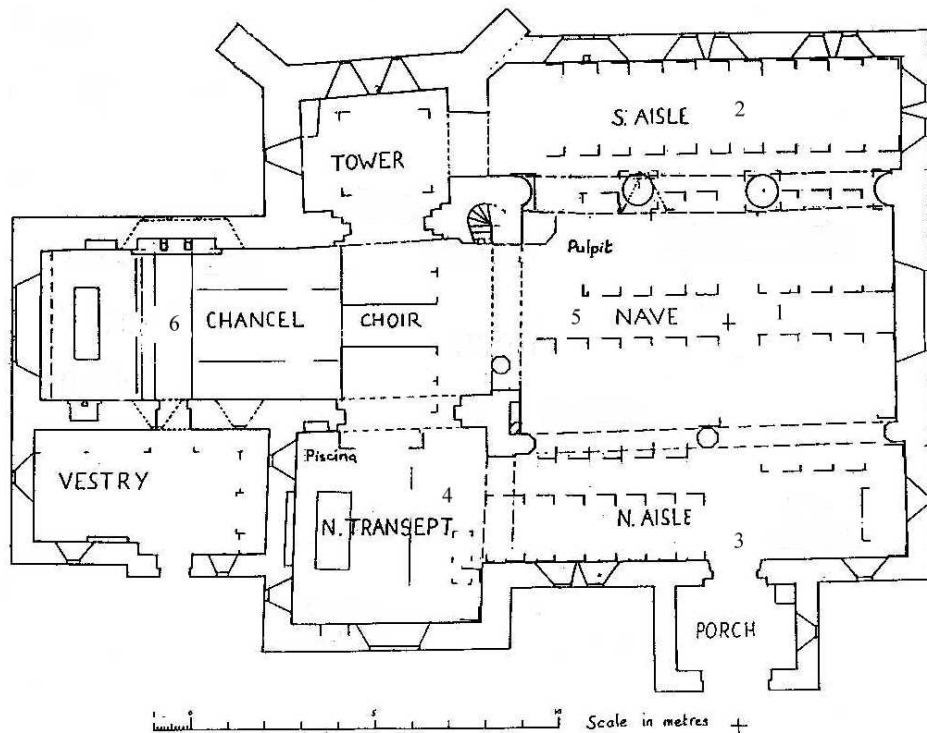


**WELCOME TO**  
**ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH**  
**FETCHAM**  
A SHORT WALK ROUND GUIDE



Ground Plan

**STAND** in the middle of the Nave **1** and face the Altar. You are now in the part of the Church where Christian worship has been offered for 10 centuries. To your right high in the wall you can see some of the oldest objects in the Church, Roman bricks used by the Saxons to form the top of a small window about 1000 years ago. Below the Saxon Window three fine Norman arches on heavy pillars with scalloped capitals were erected in about 1150 by cutting and underpinning the old Saxon wall when the church was enlarged by providing a south aisle. On the opposite side of the Nave two tall, graceful arches present a complete contrast. These were also built to replace a Saxon wall, probably about 1300 after construction of the present North Aisle.

**MOVE** through the Norman arcade to the South Aisle **2**. The Norman south aisle collapsed in the 18th century and the arcading was blocked up with windows between the pillars, as may be seen in the model of the church made in 1874 which sits on the cabinet in the back pew. This was made in 1874 before the South Aisle was rebuilt in 1877. Above the war memorial at the East end of the South Aisle see a coat of arms of Charles II. Painted in 1660 this hung above the Chance Arch until the restoration of the Chancel in 1872 when it was kept in the village school until the 1930's when it was hung in its present position. Before leaving the South Aisle look up at what would have been the outside of the Saxon window and see that there was no rebate for fixing a window frame. With no glass the Saxon church would have been very cold in winter.

**MOVE** across the Nave to the North Aisle **3**, built about 1250. The door surround is original but the porch and all the windows are much later. To the left of the door see Vernon Wildgoose's water colour of the Church. To the right of the door a print from Cracklow's book of 1823 shows the church at that time. Nearby is a memorial to Admiral Sir George Richards who joined the Navy at age 13. He became head of the Admiralty hydrographic department and a Fellow of the Royal Society. On retiring from the Navy he became managing director of a company which laid 76,000 miles of submarine cable under his direction.

**MOVE** from the North Aisle to the Lady Chapel in the North Transept **4**, built about 1220. The dog-toothed altar recess and two lancet windows are original. The North window is a very early example of 14th century tracery. Originally, like most of the early building the altar recess was painted.

During redecoration in 1857 some mediaeval paintings, which would have been painted over after the Reformation were exposed. A full size copy was made before they were destroyed. The copy survives at the Surrey History Centre in Woking.

**MOVE** back to centre of the Nave and stand near the pulpit **5**. To the left as you face the altar is a niche used by our flower arrangers for their displays; This is the remains of an altar recess. If you imagine a similar altar recess on the other side of the chancel arch you will see that the original chancel arch can only have been about 5 to 6 feet wide. In 1535 we know that there were altars to St. Katherine and St. Blaise which must have occupied the recesses. Just inside the chancel arch is the ancient stone font of 1632. Details of the first baptism in this font are recorded nearby. Before the Victorian font (now removed) was given to the church in 1868 the ancient font stood beside the octagonal pillar of the North Arcade, it was then given to the Wantage Sisters but returned in 1983 when St. Mary's Home, Alton was closed.

We still had a pewter basin made for this font in 1685 but it was no longer watertight. A new pewter basin donated in 1996 bears the date 1685 to record the link with the earlier basin. The 1685 basin, two pewter plates of the same date, and a fine Communion Cup and Paten of 1636 may all be seen on display in the Treasury at Guildford Cathedral. Another notice behind the stone font lists Rectors from 1216; the early D'Abernon Rectors would have been members of the Norman family which received the Manor of Stoke D'Abernon not long after the Conquest and acquired Fetcham later.

To the right of the Chancel Arch can be seen the remains of stairs which gave access, above the pulpit, to a Rood Screen; this would have supported a Crucifix above the small chancel arch in the 15th and early 16th centuries. Beside the stairs is a magnificent Parish Map by Betty Eldridge which gives information about other historic buildings in Fetcham. Beyond, under the Tower, is a beautiful organ by Father Willis the leading organ maker of the Victorian period. Much admired it is unaltered except for an electric pump instead of manual and electric light instead of candles. There is no record when it was bought or by whom, but it appears to have been installed in 1863.

The base of the Tower dates from about 1180 and includes original Norman lancet windows. The top was built, or re-built, in the 17th or 18th century and a clock installed in 1760. In the belfry are 3 bells dated 1588, 1613 and 1665

**MOVE** through the choir stalls to the Chancel **6**. Built about 1220 but much restored in 1872, the lancet windows in the North wall are from 1220, the East window is 15th century perpendicular style and the South window is 17th century Gothic survival or early Renaissance. The glass in the south window dating from 1838 is the oldest in the church adding much colour to the Chancel on a sunny morning.

To the left of the Altar is an ancient Aumbrey. Above it is a memorial to Henry Rous, owner of Polesden Lacey, who died in 1631; a skeleton and hour glass are carved at the bottom of this memorial.

Opposite on the South wall is a memorial of the same date to Henry Vincent; hands folded above his prayer book, who lived to be 80. He was younger brother of the first Vincent of Stoke D'Abernon who inherited both manors from the D'Abernon family by marriage. On the wall below is an ancient Piscina and nearby a three seated sedilia provided in mediaeval times for use by the Priest, Deacon and Sub-deacon.

The glass in the East window above the Altar was given in memory of Sir Edward Graham Moon, Rector for 45 years. His father Sir Francis Graham Moon, like his son rests in the churchyard; the 1872 restoration of the Chancel was in his memory. Lord Mayor of London in 1854 he was a print seller and publisher of prints and pictures by famous artists of his day. To the Moon family and the Hankey family who lived at Fetcham Park House we owe the major restoration of the building in the late 19th century.

For ten centuries prayers have been offered by Christian people in this place, and Fetcham people come here to worship, to have their children baptized, to be joined together in Christian Marriage, and finally to be laid to rest in the churchyard. Before you leave may we ask you to join your prayers with theirs. Thank God for this lovely church and for those who over the years have entered into this heritage and who in our own day worship here, and finally pray for yourself and your own needs.