

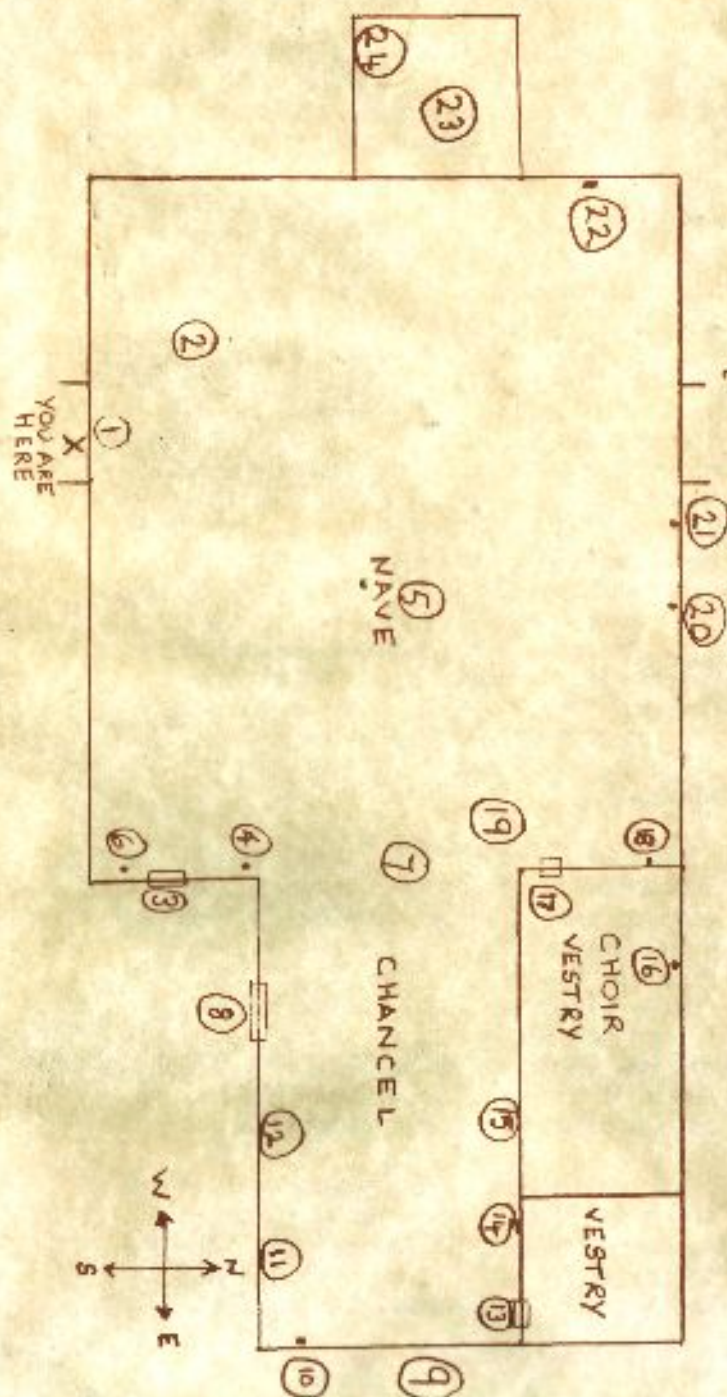
The organ was installed during the 1874 restoration and is now operated by electricity, although the old pump handle is still attached. Look up to the left of the west wall and you will see a blocked doorway, which would have been the entrance to the upper rood loft.(17) This loft would have housed musical instruments and been a stage for plays, and was destroyed by the Puritans in the 17th century.

As you enter the north aisle of the Nave there is a niche on the right-hand side containing the lower part of an oak statue. The statue may have been of St. James.(18) Notice the richly carved wooden pulpit to your left.(19)

On the north wall is a Memorial to the people of the Parish who served in the Second World War.(20) To the right of the north door you will see a board(21) listing the Rectors. Notice the name Henry Upton, the priest of the brass. William of Wareham was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in 1504, and officiated at the Coronation of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon in 1509. At the west end you will see a board listing charities left for the benefit of the villagers of Great Horwood and Singleborough.(22) Some of these still exist today.

Return to the Nave and look towards the tower room which is quite markedly off-centre. Look up and notice the Gothic arches of the Nave, and the wooden floor of the ringing chamber.(23) The six bells were rehung in 1874 and again in the 1950's. The Belltower(24) itself dates from the 15th century, although the parapet at the top is modern. This handsome tower dominates the village.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to St. James'.



WELCOME TO ST. JAMES GREAT HORWOOD



This church was built in about 1340, although a place of worship is known to have existed on the site for at least 300 hundred years before that. The building erected around 1340 consisted of a narrow Nave, low Tower, Vestry and Choir. Later the North Chapel and two side Aisles were added to the Nave, and the Tower was raised to the height you see today.

In 1874, the church was completely restored under the guidance of Sir Gilbert Scott. At the same time the churchyard was enlarged considerably.

You are entering through the South Porch. The archway over the south door is the only remaining feature of the pre 1340 place of worship. It has been much restored.(1)

On the left you will see the octagonal font, dating from the 15th century.(2) You will notice seven of its sides have sunken panels with various designs. Its stem and base are modern.



Turn right to walk down the south aisle. The window before you still contains some original stained glass.(3) To the left of the window is a niche containing a Memorial Plaque commemorating the men of the Parish who died in the First World War including the Rev. John Chevallier who served as Rector at the time.(4) Beneath the Plaque are three shields, the largest of which depicts the Symbols of the Passion; Spear, Nails, Whip and Cross. When you look up at the roof of the Nave, you will see these shields echoed at the centre of every tie beam. The beams of the roof rest on carved corbels.(5)



To the right of the window at the end of the south aisle, is a stone bracket which may once have housed a statue.(6) You will also notice a piscina - the hollow in the wall where the priest washed his hands.

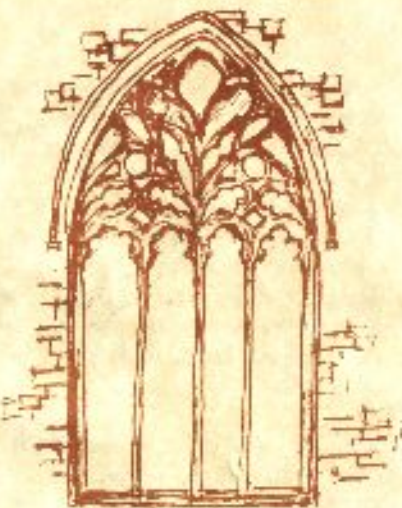
Turn left towards the Nave and you will see the rood screen dividing the nave from The Chancel.(7) It dates from the 15th century, but the modern wood of the canopy shows that it has been restored.

Turn right into the Chancel. Passing the doorway on your right,(8) you will approach the East Window in the Sanctuary, behind the Altar Table.(9) This magnificent window dates back to late 14th century. The stained glass by Burlison and Grylls was installed in 1886. At the very top of the window you will see The Lamb beneath which are two praising angels. Beneath decorative stained glass are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, with their Symbols. Four parables are depicted beneath the Evangelists; The Wise and Foolish Virgins, The Sower, The Prodigal Son and The Lost Sheep. Below, various events are depicted; The Baptism of Jesus, The Command "Suffer Little Children To Come Unto Me", The Last Supper and The Martyrdom of St. James, to whom this church is dedicated.

The mosaic reredos by James Powell and Son below is about 100 years old and shows some of the Apostles with their Symbols. From left to right you will see Peter (Keys of Heaven), Simon the Priest (Large Fishclub), Jude (Boat), Matthias (Sword and Bible), Mary, Jesus, John, Matthew (Book and Pen), Paul of Tarsus (Book of his Epistles), Andrew (Crosses on his robe) and James (Scroll).

Facing the East Window you will see a stone bracket on the right, which is supported by a head and shoulders.(10) To the right of this bracket, on the south wall, is another piscina.(11)

The flowing tracery windows that you see date back to the 14th century. The sill of the most eastern window has been lowered and forms an ascending range of three sedilia. These are seats for the priests carved in stone.(12)



Flowing tracery window

Across the window separating the sedilia is a much restored 14th century arcade.

The Vestry was altered during the 1874 restoration, and now has a single storey. The doorway(13) you see up on the north wall of the Sanctuary, presumably led to the first floor of the old vestry. On the same wall there is one of the church's two marble tablets, commemorating the Barker family.(14) Before leaving the Sanctuary look up at the wooden carved corbels, decorated with angels. Tucked away behind the choir stalls you will find a brass depicting the figure of a priest, Henry Upmore, (15) Rector who died in 1487. Lift the piece of carpet and the brass, now rather worn, is visible. It was placed in its present position during the restoration of 1874, probably in an attempt to preserve it. There is a framed translation of the inscription on the wall above.

The Choir Vestry (North Chapel) was added to the church towards the end of the 14th century, and for many years was used as the village school. This accounts for the initials carved on some of the pillars. On the north wall you will see the second marble memorial tablet commemorating the Barker family.(16)