

Droxford Church & Trail

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www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk



St Mary & All Saints Droxford



St Wilfrid may have established a religious community at Droxford during his mission to the Meon Valley during the period 681 to 686, but the earliest record of a church here is in the Domesday Book of 1086, when it was valued at 20 shillings, and held by the Bishop of Winchester for the benefit of his monks.

The present church dates from about 1150, when it probably consisted of just a nave and chancel, possibly with an apse. Side aisles and chapels were added during the medieval period. The present tower is Tudor, believed to date from 1599.

This short guide describes some features of this historic Grade 1 listed building. When you have explored the church, and visited the café, why not try our heritage trail. This short circular walk is about a mile in length on footpaths, tracks and minor roads.

Starting at the south door of the church, the trail takes you down to the River Meon (10, where Isaak Walton would have fished after his daughter Anne married William Hawkins, who was rector from 1664 to 1691. You may be lucky enough to see the herons and kingfishers that frequent the water meadows.

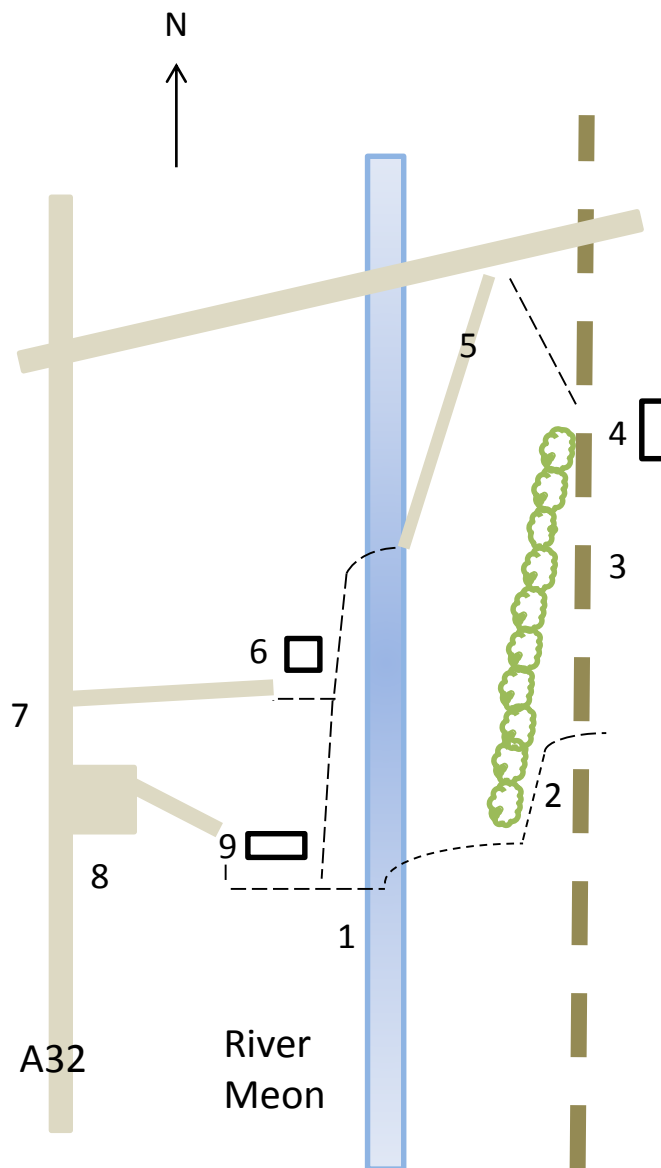
From the river the trail takes you up a short slope, passing the beech walk planted by a rector early in the 19th century, to the disused Meon Valley railway line, which is a popular route for walkers, cyclists and riders. A display board (2) marks the spot where Winston Churchill and other allied leaders were based in a railway carriage in June 1944, to be close to General Eisenhower and other military leaders nearby at Southwick during the invasion of Normandy.

A short distance further along the railway you will pass through the site (3) of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery dating from 450 – 600, which contained up to 300 graves.

Passing the former Droxford Station, which is now a private residence (4), the trail drops down to Mill Lane (5), which brings you back through the water meadows to the village, passing close by the Mill (6), and some timber-framed cottages.

Emerging from Mill Lane the houses on the main road (7) give a good impression of what the village looked like in Georgian times. Back in the village square (8) you can glimpse the Manor House, and the Village Hall, which was originally built in 1835 as Droxford National School.

The path back to the church gives a good view of the church tower (9), mainly built in the Tudor period.



7. The stained glass in the east window was installed in 1947 to replace Victorian glass damaged by a bomb blast in WWII.



8. The altar rails are Jacobean. The oak panelling was made early in the early 20th century in a matching style.



9. The pulpit is a 19th century copy of a 15th century design, given to Droxford in 1882 by the congregation of St Matthew's, Denmark Hill.



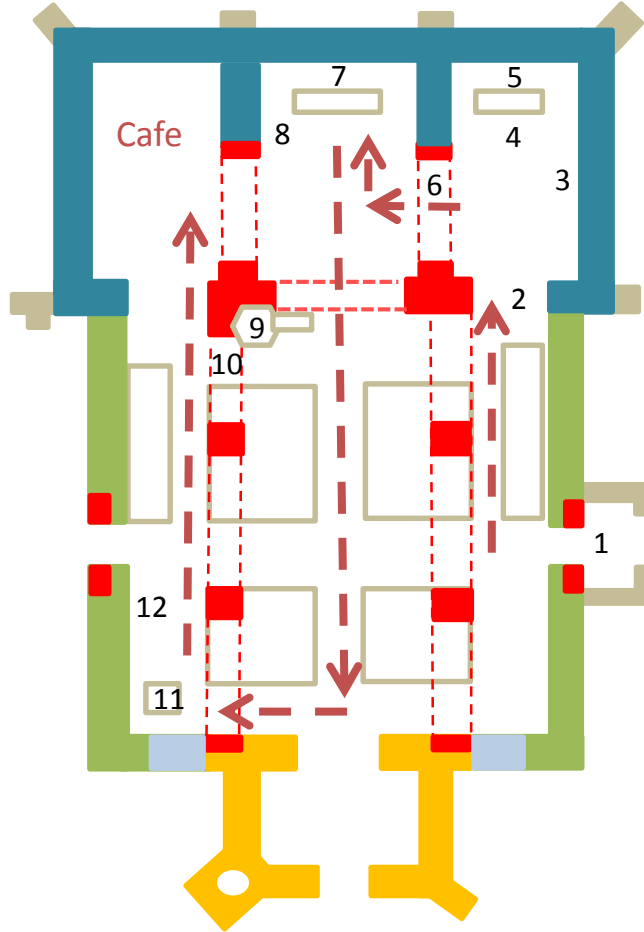
10. Above the pulpit is access to a medieval rood loft, which ran across the chancel arch, and carried a representation of the crucifixion.



11. The font is from the 20th century, but designed in a 12th century Norman style. Nearby are memorials to the Morley family, who lived at the Manor House.



12. The memorial to those from Droxford who gave their lives in 1914 – 1918 war stands to the left of the north door.



- Mid 12th century
- Late 12th or early 13th centuries
- Late 13th or early 14th centuries
- Late 15th or early 16th centuries
- Late 16th century



6. The arch between the Lady Chapel and the Chancel rests on two carved heads, which may date from the early 14th century.



5. St Wilfrid is depicted in the east window of the Lady Chapel with the builders of the present church, which is shown in the background.



4. The Lady Chapel was consecrated in 1316 by John de Drokensford, who was the son of a local squire, and by that time had become Bishop of Bath & Wells.



3. A medieval piscina, used for washing communion vessels, was uncovered in the Lady Chapel early during restoration in 1903.



2. The oak screen at the entrance to the Lady Chapel was designed by Sir Charles Nicholson when he was working on designs for Portsmouth Cathedral in 1935.



1. The south doorway has elaborate Norman carvings, with zig-zags, chevrons, and spiral mouldings.

The pillars of the nave and chancel were part of the walls of the original Norman church. The chancel arch has distinctive zigzag carving.



The altar rails are Jacobean. The oak panelling was made early in the early 20th century in a matching style.



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Cafe

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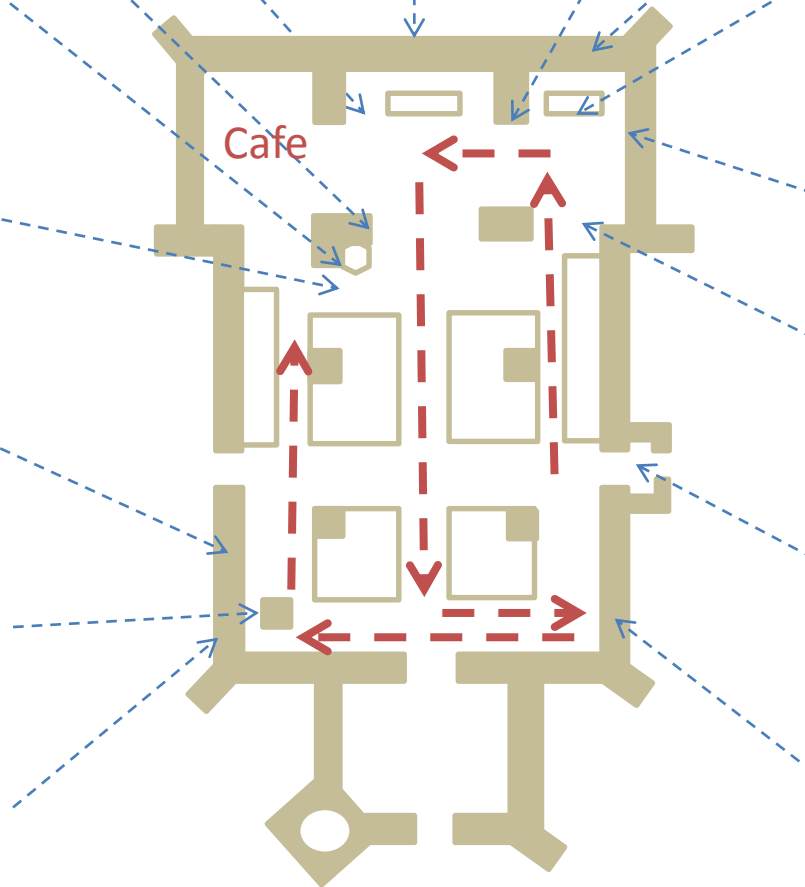
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The stained glass window in the north west corner was designed in 1982 by Carl Edwards of the Fulham Glass House, and depicts the Creation.



The stained glass window in the south west corner of the church was designed by Vanessa Cutler, and installed to mark the Millennium in 2000.



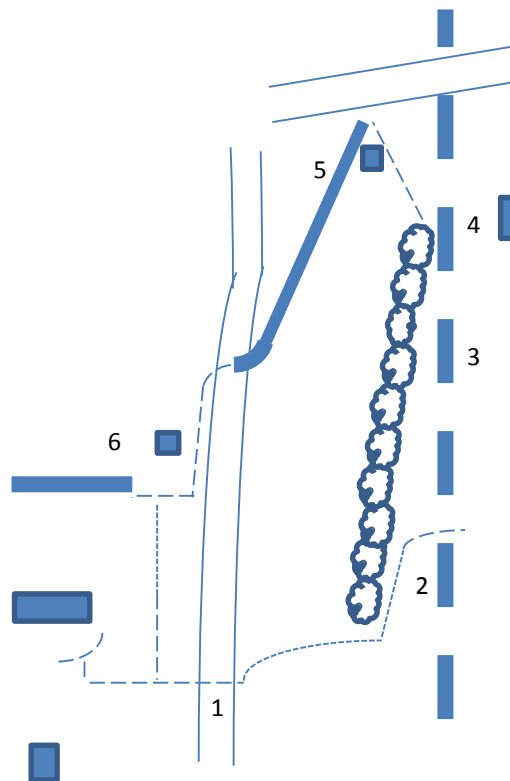
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When you have explored the church, and visited the café, why not try our heritage trail. This short circular walk is about a mile in length on footpaths, tracks and minor roads.

Starting at the south door of the church, the trail takes you down to the River Meon (1), where Isaak Walton would have fished after his daughter Anne married William Hawkins, who was rector from 1664 to 1691. You may be lucky enough to see the herons and kingfishers that frequent the water meadows.

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A free guide to the Droxford Heritage Trail is available by the south door, or in the Heritage Café.

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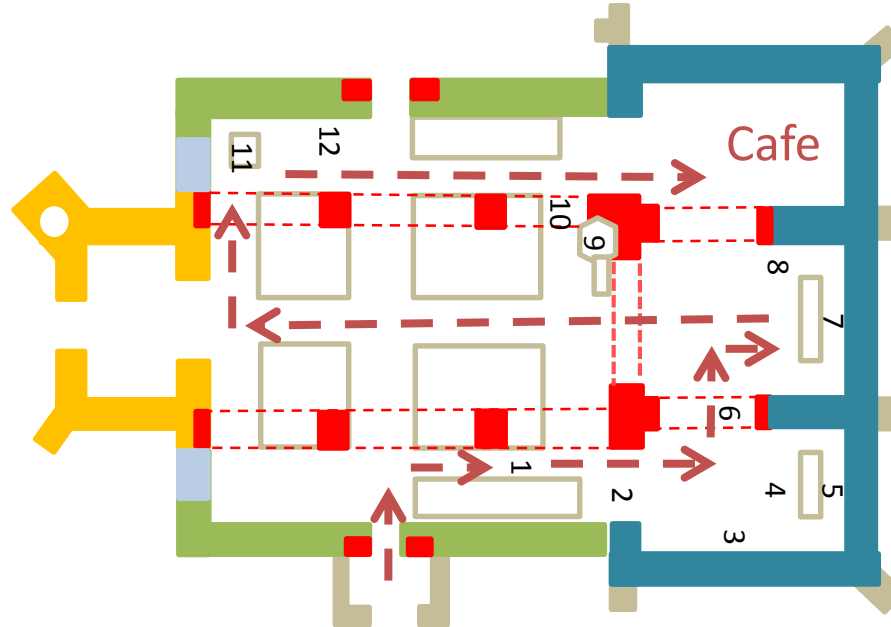
Mid 19th century

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11



10



9



8



7



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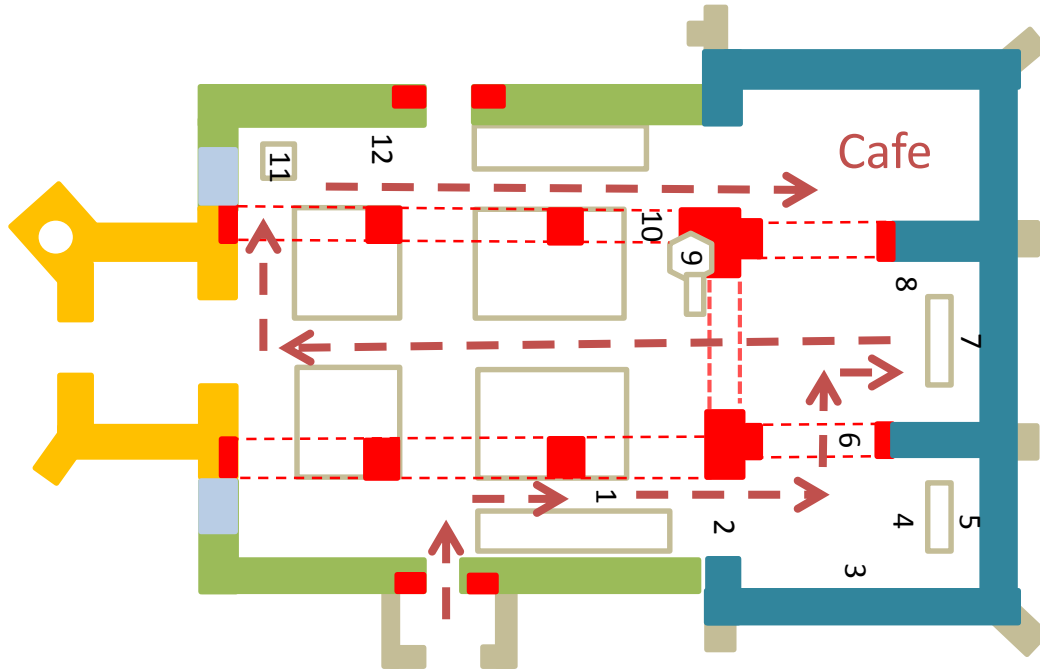
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4



1

2

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