



St. Michael and All Angels' Church

Shefford



www.sm3a.org.uk

Welcome to St. Michael and All Angels' Church

The people of St. Michael and All Angels' Church welcome you today.

We are pleased that you have come to visit the church which is open daily to welcome you as a visitor, worshipper or someone who would just like a quiet moment.

The church is Grade II listed and – though much altered over the centuries – has stood at the centre of Shefford sharing the joys and sorrows, the ups and downs, the hopes and the prayers of the townspeople for nearly eight centuries.

Today we still offer a warm, friendly welcome. We are alive, active, imaginative, hope-filled and mission-minded.

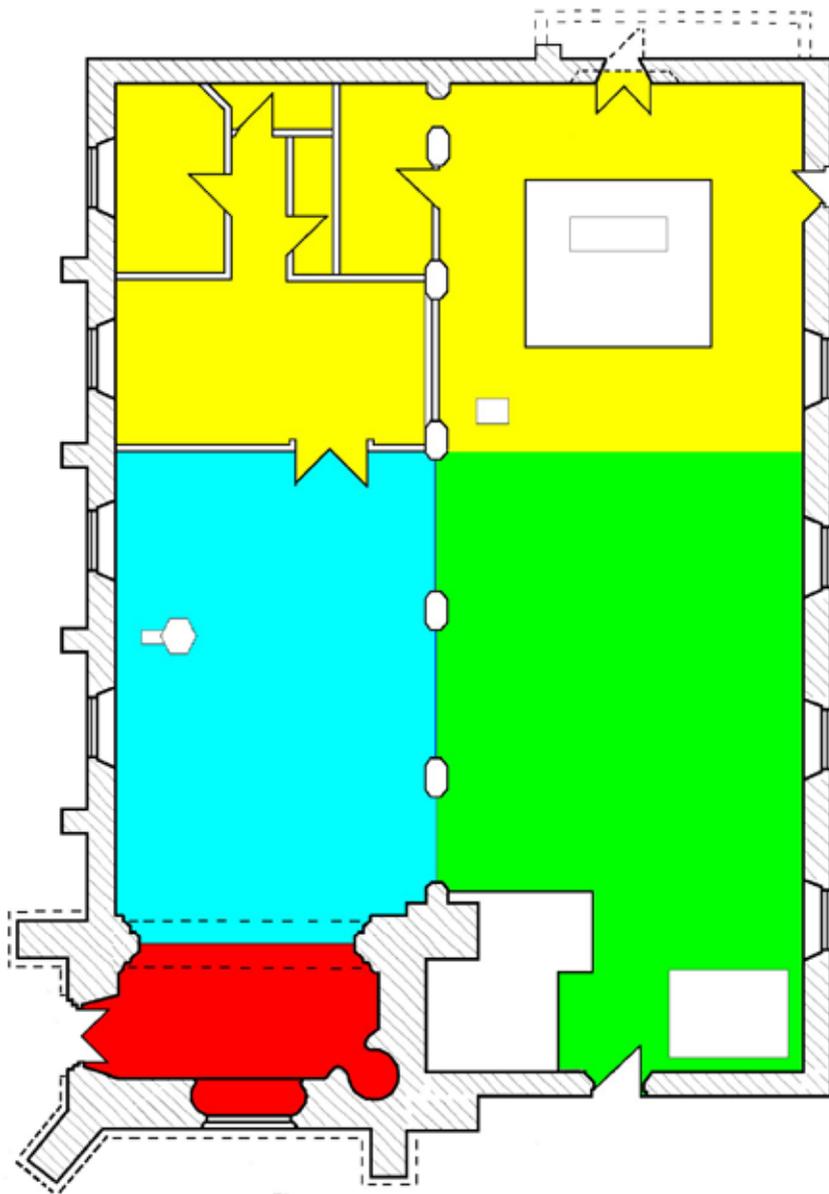
We aim for our church to be somewhere Jesus Christ is known and followed:

- Open to the Holy Spirit
- Open to change
- Open to everyone
- Open daily
- Moving out to witness, in love and service

Prayed in through the ages, we believe the church is a sacred place – and that the church and its grounds still provide a space to encounter God through Jesus Christ, and we pray that you will experience that today.

Left: Osborn window





14th/15th Century	Oblong tower and small chapel (blue)
1808	Church enlarged, including the construction of a firehouse on the north side
1822	Extensive remodelling including the addition of a south aisle
1850	Enlarged to the east
1862	First organ installed
1901	Gallery removed
1902	Original organ removed
1903	Granted Parish status
1907	New roof, new floor, new seating, new sanctuary furnishings
1933	Brick arcade covering/replacing the iron columns
1993	Screen moved to current position and organ positioned at west end of south aisle to facilitate: more open, usable performance space, Meeting Room and facilities
1995	Current organ installed
2005	Children's play area installed
2019	Restoration and repair of the tower, new lighting and glass entrance
2019	Bench outside donated and installed by Royal British Legion



As you enter the Church you are beneath the Tower.

The Tower Door can be seen to the right of the War Memorial. This gives access to the belfry and tower roof via a narrow winding staircase.

The archway leading to the body of the church is the only remaining stonework visible from the original chapel. On the sides of the West window you can see changes in the appearance of the walls indicating where the gallery used to be.

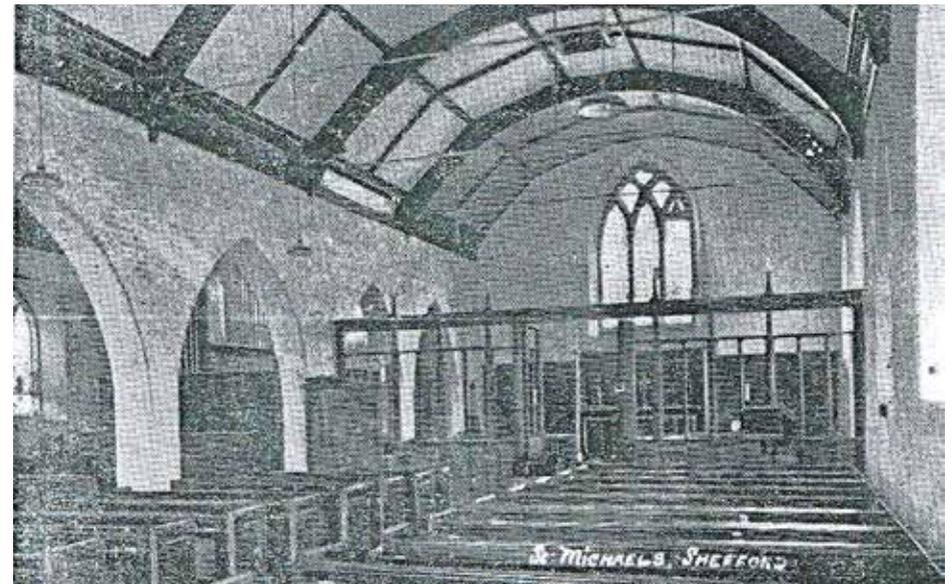
The tower dates from the 14th/15th Century and is the oldest preserved building in Shefford. Built as a 'chapel of ease' to Campton it did not become

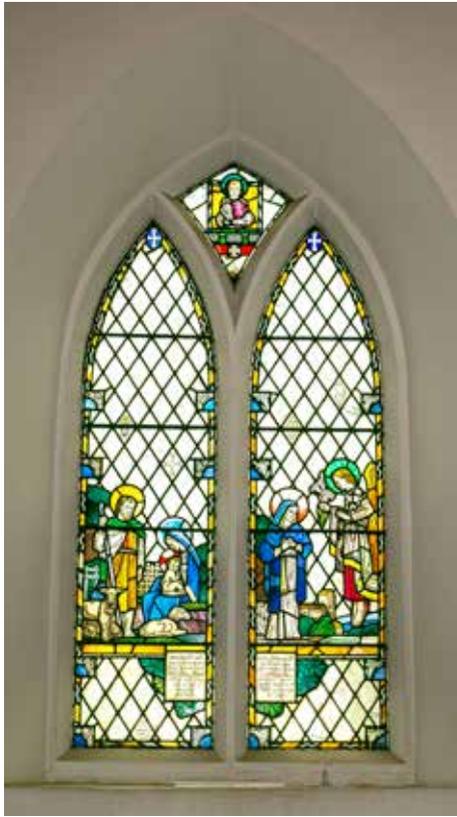
the Parish Church of St. Michael and All Angels until 1903. The name probably an association with the Michaelmas Charter Fair established in 1312.

You are probably standing on the original position of the font and directly above you is the bell and clock mechanism. The clock is circa 1750-1800 birdcage, downward, two train clock. The bell dates from 1808, replacing an earlier one, and is inscribed:

WILLIAM : GREEN CHURCHWARDEN

It is weighted 5-1-17





The building has undergone many extensions and modifications but has retained a very simple style. Two naves are unusual in English church architecture and the pink ceiling is a nod to St. Michael's supposed pink wings.

The first of the windows depicts Gabriel being sent by God to Mary in the left-hand pane and the Shepherds visiting Jesus in the manger in the right.

This window was donated by members of the local Mothers' Union in 1934.

The second shows Jesus in the Temple in one pane and the baptism of Jesus in the other. This window was donated by the Children of the Catechism in 1931.

Both windows were designed by Warren Wilson (1924-1952)



TO THE GLORY OF GOD
 and in perpetual memory of the following
 men who died in the Great War 1914-1919.
 LET US NEVER FORGET

ALDRIDGE C.	DILLON H. E.
ALDRITT T.F.L.	GORE T.
ALLEN F. L.	GUDDIN F. C.
BEAUMONT C.	HANNELL A.
BILLINGHAM C.	HARVEY L.
BLAND B.W.	HEAD B.
BLAND F. J.	HEATHFIELD A.
BLAND S.	HEATHFIELD F.
BOUND E. D.	HUNT S. C.
BREED F.	IRELAND A. E.
BREED J.	LOCKEY C.
BRICE H.	LOCKEY P.
BUNKER C.	LODGE J. T. I.
BURNAGE R.	MABBOY D. E.
CARTER H.B.	ODELL H.
CARTER O.	OSBORNE W.
CHESHIRE C.	PETTIFER A.
CHESHIRE F.	PETTIFER G.
CHESHIRE W.W.	POULTER P.
CHURCH F. J.	PRINCE C.
COOPER J. J.	ROBERTS E.
CROSSLEY W.	STEVENS E.
CROWSLEY A.	STEVENS W.
CUFLEY T. E.	WAGSTAFF C.
DAWSON H.C.	WARD C. J.
DILLEY D.	WRIGHT S.

"THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE."



The Font

The present font's origins are not known but it is likely to have been installed in the late 1800's. It is known that there was a brick font in the chapel by 1708.

The brick arcade between the two naves was originally iron pillars – a style known as Railway Architecture.

The Chancel

This is the most sacred space within a church and houses the altar / table used to celebrate Holy Communion. At Holy Communion services, bread and wine are shared to remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples, to remember Jesus' body broken and his blood poured out on the cross, and as a promise of the heavenly banquet that God invites us all to share with him one day.

The screen which used to stand in front of the altar now forms a reredos (decorative wall) behind the altar.



The Lectern

In the Christian Church, the lectern is the stand on which the Bible rests and from which the 'lessons' (readings from Scripture) are read aloud during the service. Christians believe that the Bible is the Word of God and the carvings on this lectern – a lamp, anchor and sword – remind us of some of the things that the Bible says about the Word of God and how important it is;

'Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path.'

Psalm 119:105

'We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure...'

Hebrews 6:19

'Accept... the word of God as the sword which the Spirit gives you.'

Ephesians 6:17

East Window

The main window is the East window which depicts the story from the Gospel of Matthew of the Transfiguration and was given in memory of George Harold Strange who was vicar between 1920-1934. The window dates from 1937 and was also made by Warren Wilson.





The Osborn Window

The window in the south wall is dedicated to the memory of Sir George Osborn. The left-hand pane depicts Jesus praying and his sleeping disciples on the Mount of Olives. The right-hand pane depicts the crucifixion. The window is believed to be by Heaton, Butler and Bayne. (1862-1953)

The Lady Chapel

An area for quiet prayer and reflection. On the window sill is one of the carvings by Jack Guthrie – a local man.

The Organ

The organ came from St. Mark's in Hitchin in 1995. Built in 1939, it was the first organ built by Maurice Ivor Forsyth-Grant who was an apprentice electrical engineer in London, later founder of Racal, and built the organ as a hobby, using secondhand, mostly cinema organ parts. He went on to become a professional organ builder.

The Good Shepherd

Another of Jack's pieces. At his request it is on a low table, he was eager that visitors should be able to touch the carving. Jack Guthrie 1917-2015. Raised and educated locally Jack had a workshop near Shefford Mill; he was a talented craftsman.





 **St. Michael and All Angels Church**



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Acknowledgements and thanks to:

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karenbrammerphotography.smugmug.com

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vitraux.co.uk

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and all who have supported the Tower Restoration Project.

Please take a moment to sign our visitors book.



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