

The Chandelier



Dating from 1777 this two tier brass chandelier hangs in the chancel and was made in Bridgwater. It holds 16 candles and is still used at Christmas Carol Services.

The Village Cross

Nestled in the front of the churchyard, this 15th century stone cross once sat at the heart of the village. It was moved to its current location in 1887.



The Organ



The Organ was installed in 1889 by W. F. Stoneham, purchased second-hand. It is a reconstruction of an 1855 William Hill and Sons Organ. The Organ is still in use to this day.

The Chest



This wooden chest was presented to the church by the Mothers' Union in 1923, in celebration of 600 years of Meare Church.

The Bells



This church has a ring of 6 bells, cast in the 18th century. They were restored in 2006. The bells of the church are rung by hand and still ring for weddings and special occasions.

700 YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP

For 700 years the church has served at the heart of the village. For 700 years the people of Meare and Westhay have been diligent stewards of this inheritance. As we look forward to the years ahead we are seeking the funds for the upkeep of the building. Please consider whether you are able to make a donation towards the ongoing stewardship of this ancient place. It is our wish to keep serving the people of Meare and Westhay for many years to come and with your help this will be possible.



St Mary's Church, Meare

1323-2023

Celebrating 700 years at
the heart of the village

700 YEARS OF MEARE CHURCH

The Church of The Blessed Virgin Mary and All Saints dates from 1323 and was originally in the keeping of the Abbey in Glastonbury. The building was consecrated by John Droxford, Bishop of Bath & Wells. The current Nave was rebuilt in 1470 by Abbot John Selwood and the project was completed by Abbot Richard Beere.

Today the parish is part of the Benefice of Glastonbury and Meare, and it continues to hold regular worship.

SAINT BEON OF MEARE

It is believed that the current church sits on the site of the hermitage of a local saint of the Anglo-Saxon era, Saint Beon or Beonna. Little is known about St Beon as his legend became confused with that of St Benignus of Armagh, an original follower of St Patrick. As a result of the confusion, a cult of devotion grew around the saint in Meare.

In 1091 St Beon's remains, then thought to be the remains of St Benignus, were translated from Meare to the Abbey in Glastonbury.

The Church of Saint Benedict in Glastonbury, dating from the 11th century, was originally dedicated to Saint Benignus due to his remains resting there before arriving at the Abbey during the translation.

700 YEARS OF TREASURES

The church has many artifacts and the building boasts a range of architectural features. Here are some of the most notable treasures from across the years.

This recess houses a shell shaped stone basin dating from 13th century. Most likely an original feature, it may have been used as a 'lavabo' a place for the washing of the priests hands.

The Piscina



The Font



Dating from the early 14th century, the octagonal font is similar to other fonts in the county from this time period. The font is still in use to this day for the baptising of new Christians.

The Door



The moulded doorway, now reset in the South Porch dates back to the original 14th century Nave. The door is said to have the most 'florid iron work in the county'. Its design is similar to that of the Sharpham Park Estate, an ancient estate owned by the Abbot of Glastonbury until the dissolution in 1539.

The Poor Box

This 15th century Alms Box is for the giving of money to the poor of the village. Its wooden stand is from the 16th century and unrelated to the box itself.



The Nave Roof



The Nave Roof was rebuilt along with the rest of the Nave beginning in 1470. The carpenter is identified by a shield in the South Aisle which bares the words, 'John Jacman made ye rof'.

Ledgerstones

Ledgerstones take their name from the old English verb 'to lie down'. They were popular burial monuments among the middle classes and were prominent in churches between the late 17th century and late 18th century.

The stone in this picture dates from 1676 and marks the grave of Mr Thomas Rowley.

