

CHURCH NOTES: Chilham, St Mary



A picturesque village on a small hill with a square which has featured in many TV and film productions. To the south is the Jacobean Chilham Castle which replaced one of the early 12thC, standing on an outcrop above the River Stour. To the north is the church with its tall 16thC west tower leading to a clerestoried nave with aisles of the 15thC, earlier transepts and a Victorian chancel in which sits the 3.5 metre high column with attendant figures for Lady Digges, 1631-2 by Nicholas Stone.



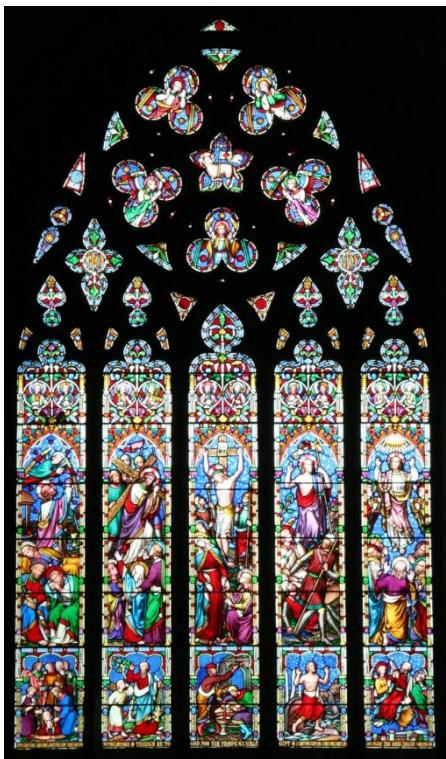
Arms of Roos of Hamlake



Arms of Ensinge

The early glass is on the **north side of the nave** in three windows. Rather fragmentary figures of 15thC saints, angels and heraldry in the canopies. In the middle window are Saints Leonard with crozier and chain, Clement and Gregory in papal crowns and fragments including an angel's wing and chain mail. The **eastermmost** of the three windows contains a fine figure of St Catherine, crowned and with her wheel. The glass can be dated from the heraldry; no later than 1461 and probably in the range 1420-50. Other fragments in the **west window of the south aisle, clerestory and window borders**. See C.R. Councer in *Archaeologia Cantiana* LVIII, 1946.

The rest of the glass is Victorian by the big firms, William Wailes of Newcastle, Heaton Butler and Bayne, Clayton and Bell, and Kempe.



The **East window** by **Wailes**, of 1864, is typological, i.e. the main panels sit on panels depicting Old Testament incidents which were thought to presage the New Testament events shown above: Jeremiah in the pit and Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane; Abraham taking Isaac for sacrifice and Jesus carrying his cross; Doors daubed with blood of the lamb at Passover and Christ Crucified; Jonah emerging from the Whale and Christ Resurrected; Assumption of Elijah to Heaven and Christ's Ascension.



Either side of the East window and on the north and south walls of the **chancel** are two windows to the **Harvey family** by **Clayton and Bell** of 1888, and four from 1914 to 1916 by **Kempe**, one in memory of a member of the Royal East Kent



Mounted Rifles attached to the Royal Flying Corps, demonstrating the rapid change in military technology but still with the same tragic outcome. There is also a **Kempe** window of 1906 in the **vestry**.



In the **south transept** is a window of c. 1881 with biblical scenes in vesicas (below left). In the **south aisle** is a two light **Presentation in the Temple** c. 1870 which, as John Newman in *Kent; North East and East* volume of Pevsner suggests, must be by **Heaton Butler and Bayne** (below middle). In the **west tower** is another window by **Wailes** depicting the **Annunciation, Nativity and the Baptism of Jesus** (below right).

