

## DUNSFOLD PARISH CHURCH

The church of St. Mary and all Saints, Dunsfold, stands on a small hill about half a mile from the village. The hill is possibly a burial mound and may have been a pre-Christian sacred site. Near the church is a 'holy well'.

The church is almost entirely late 13th century although an earlier church may have existed on the site. The first rector was appointed in 1294. Some of the interesting points to note in the church are as follows:

1. The walls were once covered with paintings and framed copies can be seen near the entrance. The walls were whitewashed by order of King Edward VI in the 16th century.
2. A few pieces of ancient glass can be seen in the window in the south wall of the nave.
3. The oak pews may be amongst the oldest in England.
4. The two transepts must both have been chapels, since each has a piscina.
5. The length of the chancel in relation to the nave is greater than in most small country churches. The chancel arch was raised in 1882.
6. The triple sedilia and double piscina in the chancel are very interesting. The sedilia were for the priest, deacon and sub-deacon at the Mass. The initials 'N' and 'W' are engraved on the heads of the columns, apparently by Nicholas Wildear, the Rector of Dunsfold from 1606 to 1633. He also carved his name 'Nick' underneath the old wooden altar table.
7. Next to the sedilia is the old priest's door, now blocked up.
8. The great cross beam in the roof of the chancel is part of the original structure.
9. The 14th century church door is made of oak with iron fittings cast locally. The key is 12.5 inches long and is one of the treasures of the church.
10. The porch roof still shows scroll paintings dating from about 1280.
11. The outer walls are of Bargate stone. The galleting was added in 1882 during the Victorian restoration. The roof of the church was once covered with Horsham slates.
12. A medieval stone altar, taken from the church at the time of the Reformation, now lies under the yew tree in the churchyard.
13. The yew tree may be as much as 1,000 years old.