

The first Rector of Hartley Wespall, Edmund de Bedwyn, was appointed in 1286. It is thought that the oldest parts of the church date from about 1330, including the massive beams which form the timber frame of the building. The church was largely rebuilt in 1868 by the then Rector, the Reverend J. C. Keate, with George Gilbert Scott as the architect. It was then that the Bell Tower was moved from the west end of the church (as shown in the etching drawn by Sarah Keate, the Rector's daughter, on 8th May 1868, the first day of the demolition of the original Tower) to the north side of the church.



1 FONT



Water is put into the font. There are **14** arches around the column of the font and its base has **10** sides. The font is near the entrance to the church emphasising the Christian belief that those being baptised are at the start of their spiritual journey through life as members of the Christian Church. Water that has been blessed (holy water) is put into the font when an infant or adult is baptised to signify the washing away of sins. As part of the ceremony the sign of the cross is traced by the Vicar (Priest) on the forehead of the child or adult with water from the font. There is another font (moved from Stratfield Turgis when that church was closed) just outside the south door.

2 ROOF BEAMS

There are **3** main cross-beams supporting the roof of the church and they are made from **oak** wood.

3 ROOD SCREEN CROSS

An **eagle** is shown in the lowest medallion. Also attached to the cross is the figure of **Christ crucified**. The four medallions contain the symbols of the four writers of the gospels of the New Testament (the Evangelists), namely a winged man (St Matthew), a winged lion (St Mark), a winged ox or bull (St Luke) and an eagle (St John). The figure of Christ was "placed upon the cross by the Parishioners in honour of our Redeemer and in Proud and Reverent Memory of Capt. Richard S Durnford, 9th Batt KRRC, of Capt. Robert C Durnford, DSO, 4th Hampshire Regt. and Rifleman Thomas Elliott, 12th Batt. KRRC who were killed in the Great War" (see plaque by the Lectern which, with the figure of Christ, is effectively the village War Memorial and see also the separate memorial to the Durnford brothers on the south wall of the Chancel and 9 below which refers to Thomas Elliott).



4 PULPIT AND LECTERN

The pulpit is so high above the people attending the church (the congregation) **so that the preacher can be seen and heard easily**. The book which is read out from the lectern is **The Holy Bible**. The Bible on the lectern is inscribed on its cover – "In the service of God in the Parish Church of Hartley Wespall these Books are humbly offered by Margaretta Brown, A.D. 1844". The words shown on the front of the Lectern will vary according to the church's seasonal calendar but will include, amongst others, those for feast days, **Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Pentecost** and **Trinity**.



5 CHANCEL ARCHES

Under the largest arch is a **grave** or **tomb**. The grave is that of the Rev John Keate, DD, (1773-1852) Canon of Windsor. He was headmaster of Eton College from 1809 until 1834 and Rector of Hartley Wespall from 1824 until 1848. On his death, Old Etonians rebuilt the Chancel as his memorial. In the smallest arch is a piscina, a basin used for washing sacred vessels, and in the middle arch is a sedile, a seat for clergy.



6 ALTAR

The colour of the main cloth is **white** (or **white and gold**), or **green**. A **Cross** stands on the altar. The seasons of the Church using different colours for the priest's vestments, altar frontals and namely white for festivals, Christmas, Easter and Patronal Saints' Advent (the four weeks before Christmas) and Lent (the forty days for Pentecost (also called Whitsun) and other martyrs and green for all other periods (known as Ordinary Time).

purple, or **red** or **year** are marked by other hangings, days, **purple** for before Easter, **red**

7 REREDOS

The reredos was installed in 1894 and on it are shown **5** roses and **6** Fleur-de-llys. The animal shown in the top central panel is a lamb with a **flag**. This panel shows in heraldic form the idea that Jesus the son of God is the lamb of God (Agnus Dei). The "flagpole" is tipped with a cross.

8 EAST WINDOW

The right-hand panel shows the **Birth of Jesus**. The left-hand panel shows the Annunciation when the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to Jesus and the central panel shows the Crucifixion of Jesus.

