



But the church is also associated with travel, first as a stop-off for royalty with Henry V staying in the town before departing for Agincourt; and the doomed Charles I resting there while being moved to imprisonment in Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight. More recently many troops passed through Titchfield on their way to the D Day landings and the font carved in 1951 commemorates this.



## Stubbington, The Narnia Campanile

PO14 2DA

This took a bit of tracking down because no one can see it! It is in a bell ringer's bedroom and the bells are accessed – where else – than by walking through a built in wardrobe.

And I gather there is also a **Jack and Jill Campanile** in a children's playhouse somewhere in Gosport.



Hampshire and the Islands  
Historic Churches Trust  
**DAYS OUT:**  
*near Fareham*

These brief notes are intended to whet your appetite for the unusual and quirky secrets hidden in our churches. We have in Hampshire and the Islands the oldest bell in the world still being rung, Handel's organ, myriads of TV and Film locations and many other lovely oddities.

And, yes, please do tell us if you discover something we haven't spotted.

## Fareham & Gosport

With traffic rushing along the M27 and A27 between Southampton and Portsmouth, this largely residential area of Hampshire oddly ignores those two cities and looks north to Winchester and south to the Isle of Wight.



Copy link to get map: <https://tinyurl.com/mryrtazf>

## Holy Trinity, Gosport PO12 1HL

The rather austere brick façade of the west end holds two secrets: firstly the bricks are in fact “mathematical tiles” that fit together like a jig-saw; the second is “probably the most beautiful interior in the south of England”. The lovely white barrel ceiling is supported by 14 oak trees given in 1696 by the then Bishop of Winchester. These are encased by white Ionic columns but, at the base of each pillar, there is a little door to allow for a candle to be lit to smoke out any woodworm or death watch beetle!

However, it is the organ that is of world-wide interest: built in 1718 for the Duke of Chandos in Edgeware, Handel was his Director of Music and would have played it almost daily. With the death of the Duke, Holy Trinity paid £117 to purchase it in 1744; it was installed first of all in the West end gallery and now in the NE corner. It was the first organ in the world to enclose the Swell pipes in a box with sliding doors, thus changing the volume at the touch of a pedal.

## Boarhunt, St Nicholas PO17 6AS and St James PO17 6EB

This is a Saxon gem, but with limited opening times. Because it is owned by the Southwick Estate, it is technically a “Donative Lay Peculiar”.



The same applies to **St James-without-the-Priory-Gate** – two miles away in North Boarhunt and Grade 1 listed.



## Fareham, Holy Trinity PO16 0EL

Holy Trinity was built in 1833 to allow free entry to the residents of Fareham (at the time all the pews in St Peter and St Paul at the top of the town were “owned” by the gentry). Until the end of the First World War there was a large field attached to the church used for sport and circuses! This area was then sold for housing.

One of the main attractions of the church is its many stained glass windows.



## Titchfield, St Peter's PO14 4AG

This is probably the oldest church in Hampshire with Saxon stonework at the base of the tower and over the chancel arch. It is said to have been founded in 780 when St Wilfred came to the Meon Valley (see Days out near Petersfield, West Meon). With close links to Titchfield Abbey (now ruined but also well worth a visit PO15 5RA) it rapidly increased in size and influence.

After the Reformation in 1594, a massive marble and alabaster memorial was erected to the memory of the First Earl and Countess of Southampton together with their son and heir.