

Church of the Ascension, Bitterne Park

SO18 1HZ

This relatively modern church was given six bells from St Maurice's Church, Winchester in 1919. The ring was augmented over the years and now has 12 bells – the lightest ring of 12 anywhere in the world (Tenor 8 cwt).



Eastleigh, Bursledon and Chandler's Ford – some oddities

- St Paul's, Bursledon (SO31 8DU) was completed in early 2000 – we think this was the first church to be opened in the new millennium
- All Saints, Eastleigh (SO50 5NL) was built in 1910 with a generous donor stipulating that it should have a font suitable for total immersion at baptism. This was provided, but with no means of draining the water!
- St Martin in the Wood, Chandler's Ford (SO53 5AG) has a lovely cruciform East window with 153 pieces of glass (John 21:11)



..... but can you count them?



Hampshire and the Islands
Historic Churches Trust
DAYS OUT:
Around Southampton

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.

Southampton and Eastleigh

As a port city Southampton has attracted people from all round the world to settle for a few years and then move on. Equally the presence of manufacturing industry (Eastleigh Railway works and, until recently, the Ford Transit factory) have drawn residents from other parts of the UK.

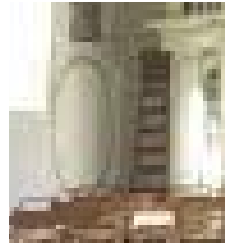


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St Julien, Winkle St, Southampton

SO14 2NY

As the chapel for the Hospital of St Julien (or “God’s House”) founded in 1187, this little church was used by French Pilgrims on their way to Canterbury, later being adopted by Huguenot and Walloon refugees. It contains the grave of Richard of Cambridge (executed in 1415) in the form of a Leper’s squint stoup.



The curious outline of a circular stone window in the south wall may be where coffins were ejected into the waters of the harbour during the 1665 plague. [Opening times limited]

St Mary, Southampton

SO14 1AQ



This City Centre church was heavily damaged during the Second World War but is now in constant use. A seafarer’s chapel (many sailors on the Titanic lived in nearby Freemantle), a stone reredos by Thomas Earp in a side chapel depicting one of the Magi as a woman, and a ring of bells that inspired Bing Crosby’s song and film “The Bells of St Mary’s”. St Mary’s choir football team eventually became Southampton Football Club – “The Saints”.

Jesus Chapel, Peartree SO19 7RT

This is the oldest Anglican Church anywhere in the world, having been consecrated in 1620 – the first to be built after the Reformation.

In the churchyard can be found the 1884 “grave” of the cabin boy Richard Parker, killed and eaten by his shipmates following the so-called “Custom of the Sea” when their yacht sank in the south Atlantic and they took to dinghy.

It is no coincidence that Yann Martell, in his 2001 novel “Life of Pi”, named tiger Richard Parker.



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the

St. Nicolas Church, North Stoneham SO50 9HT

St Nicolas is famous for its one-hand clock, dating from the early seventeenth century.

Within the church is a ledger stone dedicated to “The Guild of Slavonians” – a group of merchants who travelled to St Giles’ Fair in Winchester in 1491 (by then the biggest fair in Europe) but on their journey home were attacked by highwaymen. Two of them are buried in the vault and a memorial service is held every year. Sir Thomas Fleming, one of the lawyers who tried Guy Fawkes, and Lord Hawke, founder of the British Navy, are buried in the churchyard.

