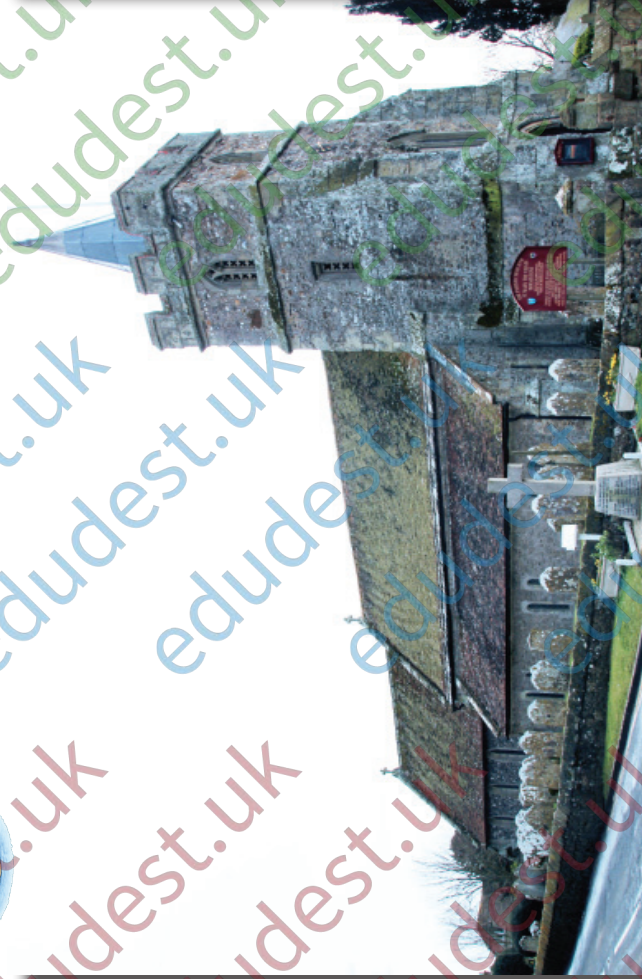




THE CHURCH TRAIL - CHURCH OF ST MARY



The origins of the church

In the Ninth-Century both Brightstone and Calbourne were part of the Saxon manor at Swainston. At that time, it was called *Egbert's-ton* because it has been given to the See of Winchester by Egbert, King of Wessex in 826.

The earliest part that can be seen today are the four pillars facing you as you enter St Mary's. These are all that remains of the church from 1190.

In the Thirteenth Century St. Mary's was extended with the addition of the chancel, in the following centuries it was widened. This is evidence of the prosperity of the area and its growing population.

Brightstone commands a clear view of the sea and so was able to send warnings to Portsmouth of the approach of enemy ships. For example, during the Hundred Years War in 1377 when the French attacked Carisbrooke and in 1588 the Spanish Armada was seen approaching England. Parish records from this time show that St. Mary's had a store of arrows, pikes for the defence of the island, and that the gun house was added to the north side of the tower.

Notable features

St. Mary's church is a very old building, and it has many interesting features. The church is made of stone and has a very high roof. The interior is very beautiful, with many stained glass windows and a very large organ. The church is a very important part of the community, and it is a very popular place to visit.

Outside

At St Mary's, there is a wide variety of gravestones and they are placed in far more regular patterns than they do at many other churches. Look for the ones connected with lives of the sea. You will also find yew trees, these are very long lived trees and a yew tree can live for centuries.

Inside

St. Mary's church is a very old building, and it has many interesting features. The church is made of stone and has a very high roof. The interior is very beautiful, with many stained glass windows and a very large organ. The church is a very important part of the community, and it is a very popular place to visit.

The Victorians

As might be expected, the Victorians brought many changes to the church. They added many new features, and they made the church more comfortable for the people. They also made the church more beautiful, with many new stained glass windows and a very large organ. The church is a very important part of the community, and it is a very popular place to visit.

Life and after

Increasing population of the village, the Nineteenth period in the life of St Mary's. Two of its Rectors, Wilberforce became Bishop of Oxford in 1845 and of Salisbury in 1869. Two hundred years earlier of Bath and Wells. This is why the local pub is called *The Three Bishops*.

The Rectors of Brightstone and Calbourne, William Fox arrived in 1862 and his interest in geology developed into a passion for fossils. At the time this was a very controversial issue because the Church at that time was very much concerned with the Bible. The Bible made a careful study of the events and people in the that God had created the Earth in 4004BC. The Bible therefore the suggestion that the Earth was older than not referred to in the Bible was religious dynamite. the South of the Island.

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What to look for at the Church of St Mary, Brighstone

100016

Outside



Decorative Encaustic Tiles

Inside



Decorative painted arch



Celtic Gravestones



Sun Dial



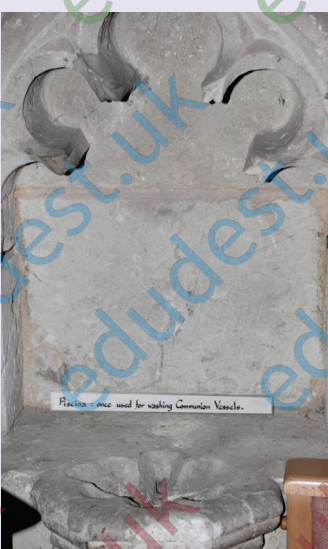
Candle Chandelier



Altar



Date Stone - 1190



Piscina



Painted Window



Lectern

