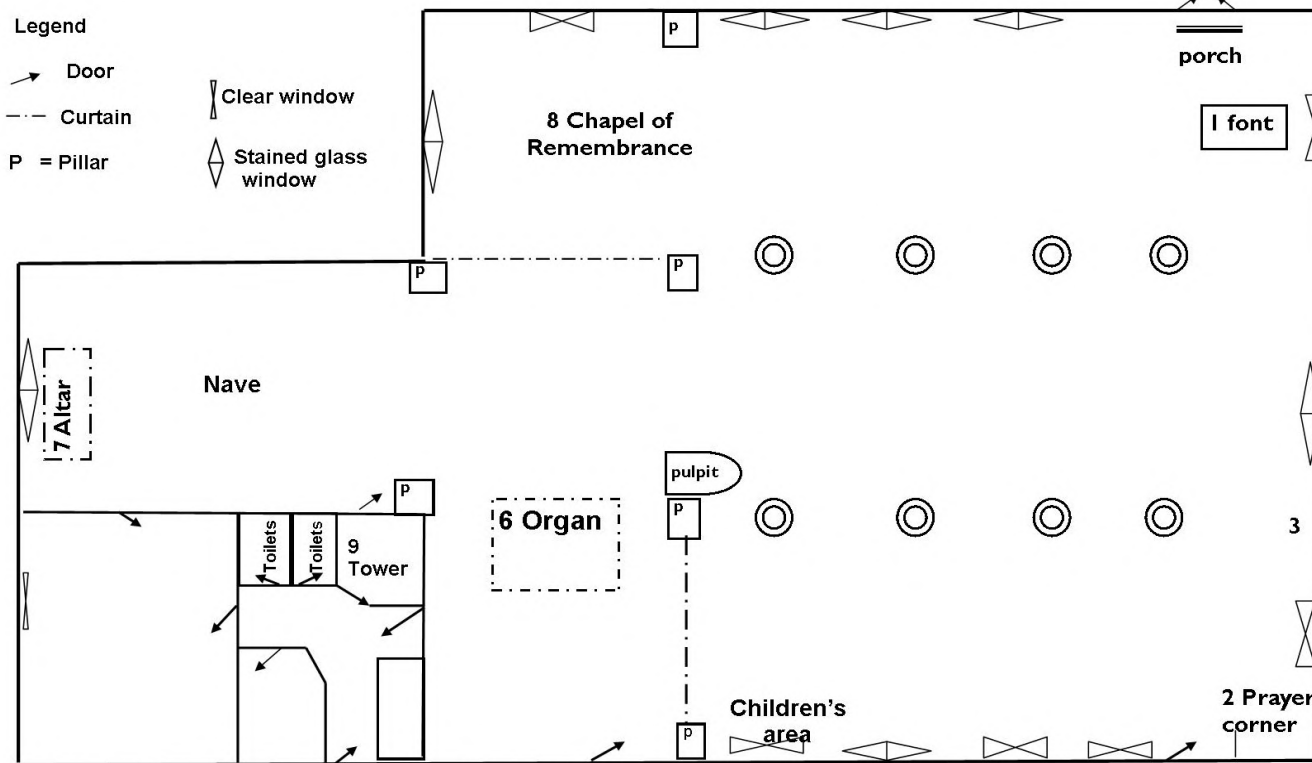
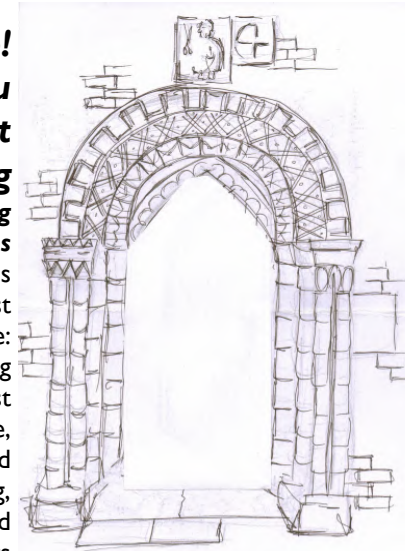


St. Peter's Church, Bromyard at your service



Welcome!
We hope you find your visit interesting
Something about ourselves
 St. Peter's is first and foremost ordinary people: ordinary people seeking to follow Jesus Christ. It's also our home, a much-loved and ancient building, serving Bromyard ...for over 1000 years



Our Services

Every Sunday at 10.30am: we meet together here to worship God

We aim to be relevant, child-friendly, friendly and meaningful. Try us out

There's a crèche for small children

a special group runs for young people twice a month

Traditional services: 9.00am fortnightly

Some of our activities

Home groups meet mid-week for fellowship, prayer and study

Youth Drop-In, Wednesdays at 7.00pm, in parish room

Helping Hands, a to-your-door food bank assisting those in urgent need

Visiting team: if you'd like a visit, please call us and we can arrange it

Find out more

Forthcoming events are listed on our website and in Off The Record

More information: please visit our website:

www.stpetersbromyard.org.uk, or contact the

Church Office, Food For All bookshop, 16 High Street, Bromyard, HR7 4AA, 01885 489226, email: office@stpetersbromyard.plus.com

As you walked around the church you may have noticed **recesses** in the walls. These all date from the 14th Century and may once have held coffins or effigies of important people. Similarly, on the exterior south wall there are another two recesses.

9 The bells

In 1472 the Bishop of Hereford granted forgiveness for sins provided the sinner repented and made payment to help restore the church and belfry at Bromyard after it was damaged by lightning. Repairs were carried out and in 1553 five "great bells whereof the least is 32 inches the second 35 inches the third 40 inches the fourth is 45 inches

and the fifth is 50 inches broad at the mouth" were listed in the inventory. Today there are eight bells which are rung regularly by volunteer ringers and visiting teams throughout the year.

More information about St Peter's Church can be found at the Local History Society, Sherford Street, Bromyard and in various books, some of which are available from the local bookshop, the local History Society or at the town library.

And you can keep in touch with us through our website at: www.stpetersbromyard.org.uk

We hope you enjoy your visit and feel most welcome. Join us for a walk around and find out more...

A Little History...

Bromyard was once an important ecclesiastical centre, with St Peter's founded on the site of an earlier Anglo-Saxon church. Early records show there was a minster on the site around 840AD. However few traces of this remain: notably a carving of St Peter holding the keys to heaven and a consecration stone in a circle, above the south door through which you will have entered the church. Both of these are thought to have come from the earlier Saxon church. Otherwise the building you see today dates back to the late 12th Century.

Our Church records are some of the earliest in the country and were started in 1538 at the instigation of King Henry VIII. The churchyard was closed in 1915 since when burials have been in the town cemetery.

The main entrance, the south door, is of Norman origin, as is the door opposite, on the north wall, best appreciated from the outside.

I Font and West Window

Near to the south door, the font is Norman and believed to have been installed when the present church was built.

Moving towards the centre of the church (the nave), look left. In the recently repaired west wall there was originally a doorway in the centre with a musicians' gallery over it. In its place today is a stained glass window dedicated to St Cecilia, the patron saint of music. This is known as The Musicians' Window and is full of famous local people.

2 The Avenbury Knight

Continue forward towards the north aisle which was added early in the 13th century. In the corner you will find the Avenbury Knight, a 13th century stone effigy originally from St Mary's Church at Avenbury, a hamlet one mile to the south of Bromyard. St Mary's is one of the oldest churches in England but it was closed in 1931 and is now a partial ruin.

Nearby is the **Bromyard Bushel**. This cast iron bowl was made in 1670 for measuring grain. Once used as a water butt in a private garden, it was next employed as a fireside log basket and finally donated to the church in 1936.

3 On this part of the West Wall you will see a copy of **Deacon's Synchronological Chart**, a pictorial and written description of universal history with maps of the world's great empires drawn by Professor Edward Hull and first published in 1890. About seven metres long, the chart depicts the biblical history of mankind from Adam and Eve through to Queen Victoria.

4 North Transept

Turn right and go down the north aisle and through the red curtains. Facing you is the oldest window in the church (pre-1300), although the stained glass itself is from the late 1800s. The window is dedicated to the Rev'd. William Cooke, vicar of St Peter's between 1834 and 1855, and depicts Christ's command to "Feed my Sheep", his promise "I go to prepare a place for you" and the proclamation "He is Risen".

Retrace your steps into the nave and turn left, passing the pulpit. Bromyard church had, at one time, a three deck pulpit. The present **pulpit** was made in about 1883 using wood from the original.

5 Chancel

Turn left into the long Chancel. This was extended in the 14th Century.

6 Organ

The Organ was built by J W Walker in 1839. It originally comprised 16 stops and two manuals and was located in a raised gallery at the west end, since demolished. It was moved to its present location in 1875 when two extra stops were added. Further modifications have taken place and in 1978 a new console, a swell mixture and great trumpet were added. It has recently been completely restored, thanks to the generosity of many townspeople.

7 At the east end, the **High Altar** fittings cover and conceal a fine wooden Communion Table made in the 16th Century, moved from Hereford Cathedral around 1805.

8 Chapel of Remembrance

Head back towards the nave and turn left into the side chapel. This is often called 'The Lady Chapel' but as it has never been dedicated to the Virgin Mary that description is incorrect.

At the end of the chapel is Bromyard's town's official War Memorial inscribed with the names of local soldiers who were killed in the between 1914 and 1919. The chapel was completed as you see it today and dedicated on 10th August 1919, just eight months after The Armistice. The *Bromyard News and Record* reported the service as follows:

A Word Picture:

"We gave our lives that this dear earth might be a sweeter and happier world; give yours to the consummation of our sacrifice. Give freely and joyously (as we gave ourselves) of your love and time and thought. Cherish and protect our loved ones, our wives, our sisters and our little ones. They are a precious legacy we bequeath you. Do your share as we did ours and our souls shall rest in everlasting peace. We look to you: do not forget."