

St Mary's: A History of Change

The building we know has evolved over a 1000+ year period. This display gives a very brief overview showing some key stages and how previous generations have adapted the building to their needs. It was never intended to be a monument but a reflection of the worshipping community within it. Significant change has occurred even in recent times as can be seen from the picture from 1977.

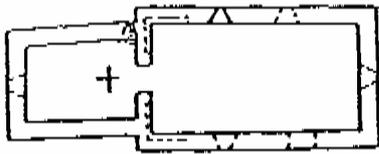


Fig 1. Circa 1000: The start. The cross is the presumed altar position. Note the narrow chancel arch.

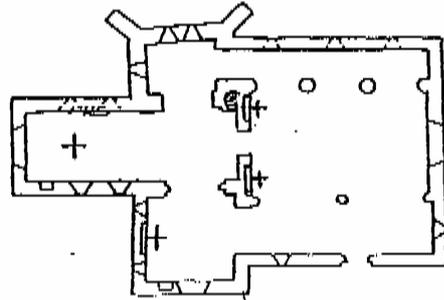


Fig 2. Circa 1300 - 1500: By the 13th century the floor plan we recognise with the exception of the vestry had been created. Note the two altars either side of the narrow chancel arch. We believe the arch was widened in the 17th century.

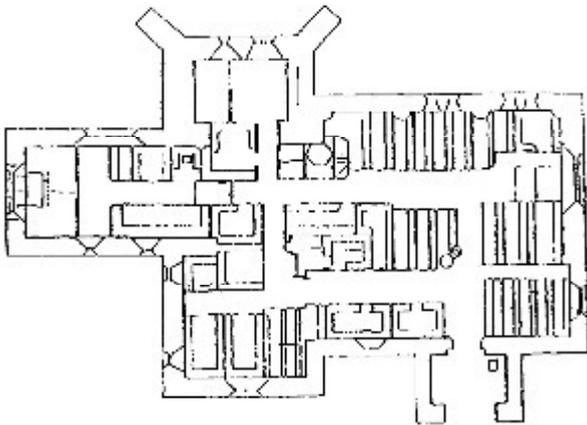


Fig 3. Up to 1857. Note the very different use of space with pews filling the Lady Chapel and part of the Chancel. The South Aisle does not exist at this point as it had collapsed. The font is next to the central pillar. The vestry is in the tower.

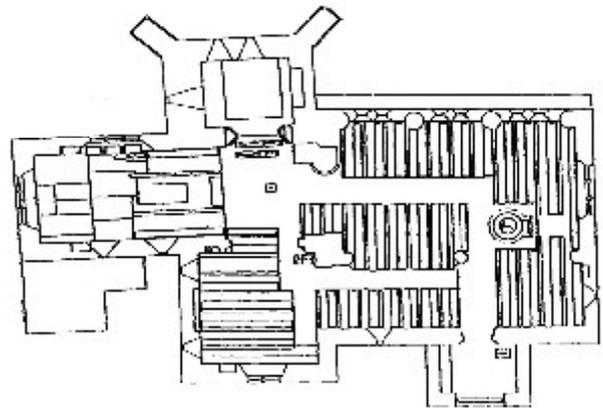


Fig 4. Circa 1872. Note how the internal layout has changed again. The 1632 font has been removed and a new one added. A stone pulpit is added. Note the high density of pews.

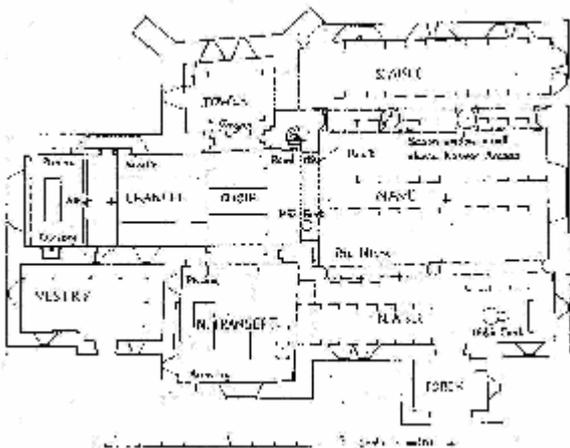


Fig 5. 20th century. The South Aisle has been rebuilt. The vestry has been built and the pew arrangement we know has been introduced. The Willis organ is installed. The Lady Chapel has been returned to that function. The 1632 font has been reinstalled.



Fig 6. 1977: This was how the chancel looked in 1977 just before redecoration and reordering. The Victorian screen was removed, the wall decoration was painted over. The pews at the very front of the church were removed. The stone pulpit was replaced with the current one. Choir stalls were introduced into the lower chancel and the 1632 font was reinstalled.

For more historical information please refer to the history documents on the St Mary's web site