



In the SE and SW windows of the south aisle in the tracery lights are birds, painted in grey on green glass, known as grisaille (15th century) apparently based on a medieval pattern book now in Magdalen College, Cambridge. These beautiful windows are apparently unique, nothing similar being found in other English parish churches.

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- Helping to foster interest in our church and its heritage
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- Receiving information on future fabric projects for which funds will be raised
- Invited to the Friends annual AGM

Trustees and Committee

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Tim Hopwood
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The 13th century font

FRIENDS OF
St Mary's SALEHURST

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Type of membership (please tick)

Annual individual member £20

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Please send the completed form and cheque made payable to: 'Friends of St Mary the Virgin Church Salehurst' to: The Treasurer, Friends of St Mary's Salehurst, 41a High St, Robertsbridge TN32 5AL

In accordance with the data protection act, your data will be kept securely and not shared with third parties

FRIENDS OF
St Mary's SALEHURST

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Please set up the following Standing Order and debit my/our account accordingly

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The sum of £..... yearly

In words

Date of first payment

I am a taxpayer and wish all my donations to Friends of St Mary's to be treated as Gift Aid

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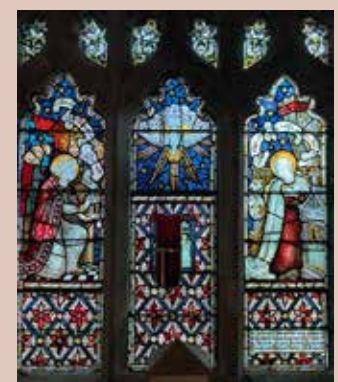
Some history

A church at Salehurst is mentioned in the Domesday Book and it is probable that the present church is built on the site of the Saxon church. It lies just across the Rother valley from the remains of Robertsbridge Abbey. The building of the present church was in two main phases, the first by Simon de Etchyngham, who came to England with William the Conqueror, in the period 1220-1250. In 1309, Sir William de Etchyngham gave the advowson of Salehurst church to the Abbey of Robertsbridge when further rebuilding took place. There is a peal of 8 bells mostly of 1771, the tenor bell having been recast in 2006.

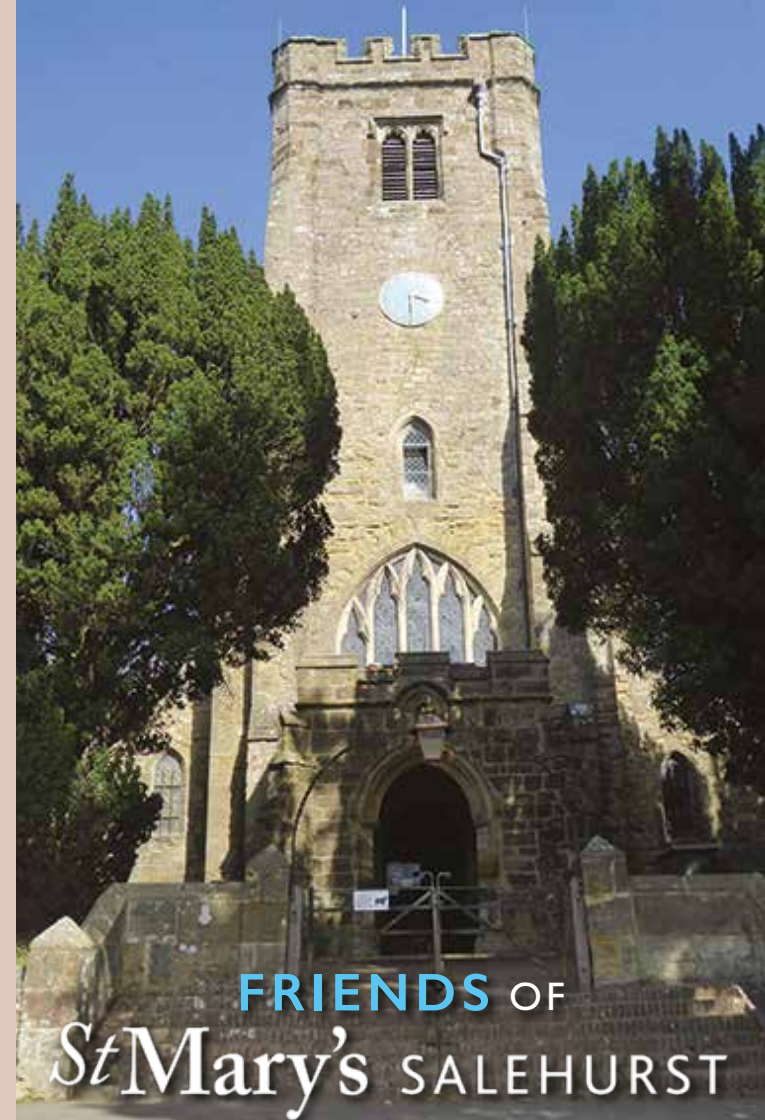
Entering the church through the main door one is in the base of the tower where the three great arches supporting the tower can be seen. Here is the 13th century font which is plain except for a circle of salamanders around the base. These animals were associated with the crusades and may have been the origin of the story that the font was given to Abbot William of Robertsbridge by King Richard I in gratitude for his part in freeing the king from imprisonment in Bavaria. It is now thought more probable that the font is a copy of one that stood in Battle Abbey.

The stone which forms the pedestal of the altar is thought to have been one of the altars of Robertsbridge Abbey and was recovered from a nearby house in 1900.

The window in the Lady Chapel at the end of the south aisle contains glass by the Pre-Raphaelite artist, Kempe (right) with his wheat sheaf signature.



The Kempe window



FRIENDS OF
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This beautiful medieval church, originally built by the Cistercian monks of Robertsbridge Abbey, is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and the present church is probably built on the site of the Saxon church. It stands on a slight hill overlooking the Rother Valley and a short distance from the village of Robertsbridge. The inside contains treasures including a 13th century font and a window containing glass designed by the Pre-Raphaelite artist, Kempe.