

## EXTERIOR

- *The visible remains of the original Church, erected by Queen Ethelburga soon after she came here in 633, are to the east of the porch. The eastern apse where the altar stood, and the beginnings of the rectangular nave (the north wall of which is continued under the present porch) can be seen clearly. In shape and materials this obviously Saxon Church resembles others in Kent, e.g. St. Pancras at St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, and the Saxon remains at Reculver, all early seventh century. The massive stones revealed by excavations to the south-west of the tower seems to indicate that the original church extended westwards, probably before 840 when the Danes ravaged the Abbey.*
- *The Nave and Chancel of the present Church are late Saxon, but some regard the rudimentary string courses in the Chancel as evidence of Roman work. Perhaps the lower walls were originally part of the domestic buildings.*
- *An old Sundial or 'Mass Dial' will be found to the west of the Priest's door into the Chancel, about 5 feet from the ground. Such dials were made between 1350 and 1500.*
- *The Flying Buttress is thought to be of the time of Archbishop Peckham, about 1277. The diagonally placed buttress at the south-west corner of the nave was built before there was a tower at the west end.*
- *The tower has the arms of Cardinal Morton - 1490, and Archbishop Warham - 1527, on either side of the west door. In the north wall of the north aisle part of a buttress of an older tower can be traced; this can also be seen inside.*

## INTERIOR

- *The most ancient parts of the Church are the late Saxon Chancel and Nave. The north aisle and the tower are fifteenth century. Of the Saxon work, particularly noticeable are the round-headed windows, three of which are in the Chancel and one over the south door. These date from the time of Dunstan - about 965, after the Danish conquest. Many Roman tiles are used in the windows and elsewhere, presumably taken from buildings now destroyed. The present rough state of the walls is due to removal of the plaster in the nineteenth century 'restoration'.*
- *The reordering of the Chancel, by removal of the choir pews and pulpit and completing the tiling of the floor was finished in 2006. The opening of this area has enabled ease of access for the school children and space for Nativity plays, concerts etc.*
- *The recess on the South wall is by some considered to have housed the later shrine of St. Ethelburga. The relics were removed to Canterbury by Lanfranc in 1085. This now houses the Aumbry which was designed by Helen Burr and installed in 2006.*
- *The East Window dates from about 1511 - the glass from about 1859. The arms of Cardinal Bourchier (d.1486) in the small window over the south door, and the bishop's head in a south window of the Chancel are ancient.*
- *The distorted Chancel arch is possibly fourteenth century.*
- *The doorway in the north of the Chancel may have given access to a previous sacristy.*
- *The Tower contains a ring of eight bells. Of these the dates are 1631, 1727, 1759, 1785 (two), 1810 and 1904 (two - the gift of the then Rector, the Rev. R.D. Eves and his wife). The bells were tuned and re-hung in 2004.*
- *The alabaster Reredos, designed by the late Sir Ninian Comper, is a memorial erected by public subscription to Mr. John Howard of Sibton Park. The figures to the North are: The Holy Mother and Child, St. Ethelburga; and to the south, St. Paulinus (Ethelburga's Chaplain and the first Archbishop of York) and St. Dunstan.*

- *The oak pews were made of oak locally grown, and worked by Lyminge men, c.1904.*
- *The North Aisle may have been enlarged and converted from an earlier side chapel. The arcade between this aisle and the nave is fifteenth century.*
- *The font is placed on a fifteenth century base.*
- *The two funeral hatchments of the Honywood family of Sibton Park, which are fixed above the Chancel, are of the early eighteenth century.*
- *A vestry was added to the north wall during the incumbency of Gerald Arthur Lockett, and was dedicated by the Bishop of Dover on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1971.*

*The Church, however, is not a museum but a living witness to Christ.*

*The great history of this building and its continued life in passing ages and fashions serves as a reminder that the Christian Truth is indestructible.*

*Before you leave therefore please say a prayer for those who have worshipped in this church through the ages, for those who worship here now and for yourself.*

***May God bless you and keep you!***

*POINTS OF INTEREST  
in the Church of  
St. Mary & St. Ethelburga  
Lyminge, Kent.*



Ethelburga, daughter of King Ethelbert and Queen Bertha of Kent, married Edwin, King of Northumbria. By her influence he was converted and baptised at the place where York Minster now stands. But he was killed in battle against the heathen in 633, and Queen Ethelburga fled for safety to Kent. Her brother, now King Eadbald, gave her a royal property in Lyminge. Lyminge was a settlement in Roman times and the domestic buildings occupied by Queen Ethelburga may have been of Roman origin, being perhaps then only 250 years old. Here she founded a double minster or convent for men and women, becoming the first Abbess.

In 634 Northumbria was regained by Edwin's nephew Oswald, a Christian educated at Iona. He also died in battle with the heathen in 642 and is commemorated at St. Oswald's, Paddlesworth four miles away. Ethelburga died in 647, she was regarded as a Saint, and her remains placed in the northern porticus of her church made the place a pilgrimage shrine.

The Abbey was overrun by the Danes about 840, but existed later in the ninth century, without the nuns who remained in Canterbury. About 965 the monks also went to Canterbury, and Lyminge became an ordinary parish.