



BRACKNELL FOREST WARFIELD THE PARISH CHURCH OF St MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL



COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE

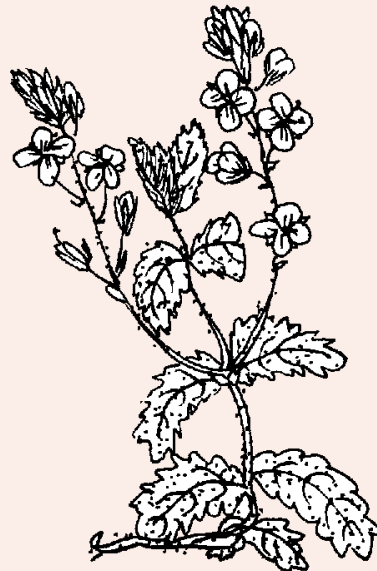
YOUR
LOCAL
HERITAGE

The large yew, standing near the west tower, is shown on early 20th century postcards as a young tree. The fine stand of trees along the west perimeter are limes but those along the east perimeter have gone.

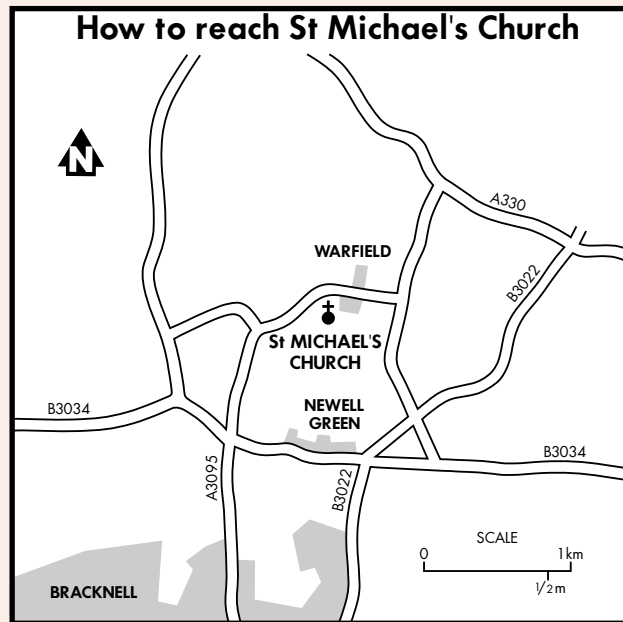
The lichens covering some of the headstones are a speciality of churchyards, some of which may be as old as the monuments themselves.



Lime Hawk-Moth



Germander Speedwell - Angel's Eyes



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Visiting St Michael's Church

You are very welcome to visit St Michael's Church. If you would like to go inside, please call at The Vicarage (next-door-but-one, to the east of the Church), telephone number 01344 882228.

If you would like to worship here, the main services are as follows:

9.30 and 11.15am	1st and 3rd Sundays 2nd and 5th Sundays 3rd Sunday	All Age Service Holy Communion Prayer and Teaching
6.30pm	1st and 4th Sundays 2nd, 3rd, 5th Sundays	Holy Communion Various evening services
8.30pm	3rd Sunday	Holy Communion

The youth worship group Eternity meets every other Friday, 7.30pm, at Garth Hill School, Wick Hill, and for all ages at Warfield Primary School. For details, please telephone The Vicarage.

Leaflets also available for The Parish Church of St Mary, Winkfield, and The Parish Church of All Saints, Binfield.

Leisure Services
Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Time Square Market Street
Bracknell Berkshire RG12 1LR
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Printed by Bracknell Forest Borough Council's in-house Design and Print Services
First printed 2000 Printed on Recycled Paper
www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk text and illustration by Linda Carter

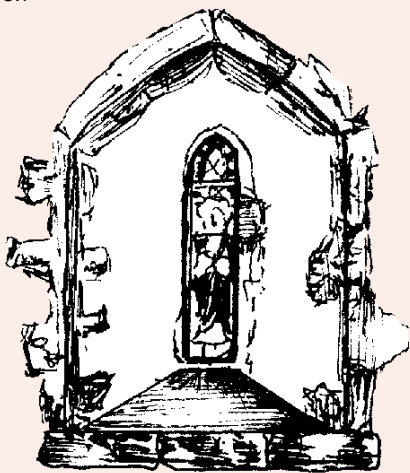
This leaflet is available in large print, braille, or on audio tape on request, please contact 01344 354124 for further details

WARFIELD

Warfield originated as a clearing in the forest. The place was attractive to Saxon settlers who gave the parish its name. Christianity came to Berkshire in the seventh century, and the tradition of Christian worship survived the pagan Danish invaders, giving an unbroken tradition to this day.

THE CHURCH OUTSIDE

Early records show that there was a chapel at Warfield in Saxon times, probably made from wood. In 1087 work began on the present Church, on the north side. The early masons used rubble for the walls, bonded together with lime mortar, and faced the outside with the local pebbly ironstone conglomerate. You can see where Victorian restoration work was done - the cut stone (ashlar) has sharp edges, replacing the eroded soft chalkstone. The Church was doubled in size in the 14th and 15th centuries by adding the south side in line with the tower.



Norman north window

The west tower is supposed to have been built in the 15th century but inside there is an unexplained Norman window. It was been restored several times, notably in 1913 when deep cracks appeared in the walls. The ring of ten bells dates from 1480 to 1968.

THE CHURCH INSIDE

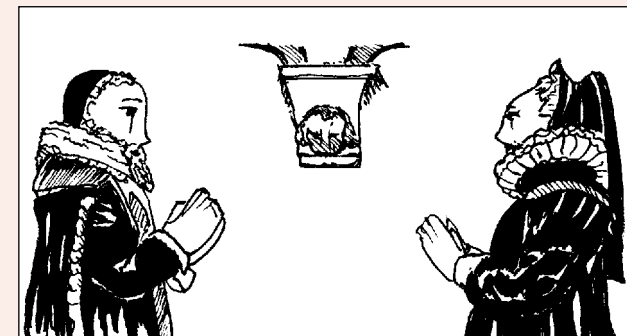
Walk through the chalkstone arch of the south door and you are in the people's part of the Church, the nave. It is lit by a 'whole history' of windows: the simple Norman slit, the Y tracery and the flatter topped 'Perpendicular' window along the north side. Massive octagonal chalkstone pillars help support the superb 15th century timber roof.

At the east end of the Church is the priest's chancel. Perhaps the Benedictine monks of Hurley Priory built this from 1330 to 1340. The beautiful east window, the seats (sedilia) and wash basin (piscina) are original but the rest is a Victorian reconstruction. When Henry VIII became Head of the Church in the 1530s many 'abominations' were removed, including the resting place for the cross over Easter (the Easter sepulchre) to the left of the altar. Fragments of Medieval glass can be found in the faces of the south transept window figures. The chest for alms and parish records, in the north doorway, dates from the time of Queen Elizabeth I.



Leaf carving on sedilia

There are many monuments from the 18th century, when classical arts were considered the height of good taste, and a very old alabaster monument to Thos. Williamson in the chancel, dated 1611.



Detail of the Thomas Williamson plaque

The Victorian period was a time of great personal giving and restoration work to the Church was extensive. It was carried out under the famous architect G.E. Street. He altered the interior by removing the box pews, galleries, cross-beam and plaster ceilings. All this was designed to simplify the nave and emphasise the beauty of the ornate furnishings of the chancel and its centrepiece, the altar.

THE CHURCHYARD AND WILDLIFE

St Michael's churchyard is a place for quiet contemplation with the old graves standing amongst the grassland and trees. More recent graves are in the burial ground across the road.

The churchyard supports over sixty plant species, some of which have a long association with churchyards, including: Cowslip (Keys of Heaven), Germander speedwell (Angel's eyes), Bird's-foot trefoil (God's thumb and finger), Cuckoo flower (Our Lady's smock) and Lady's bedstraw (Our Lady's bedstraw).