

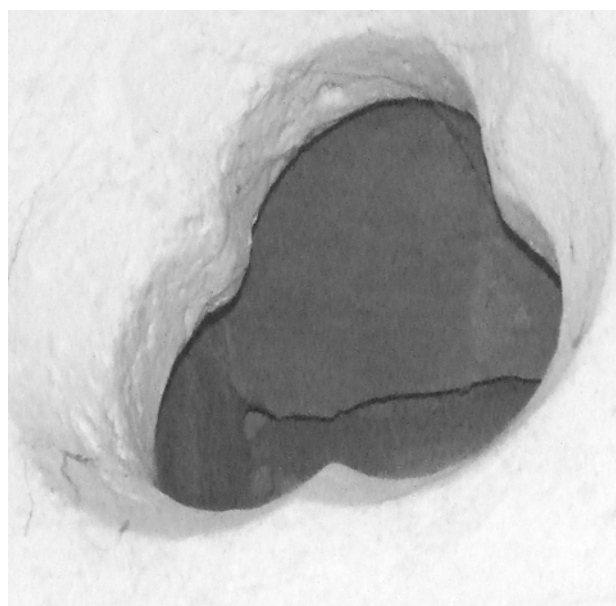
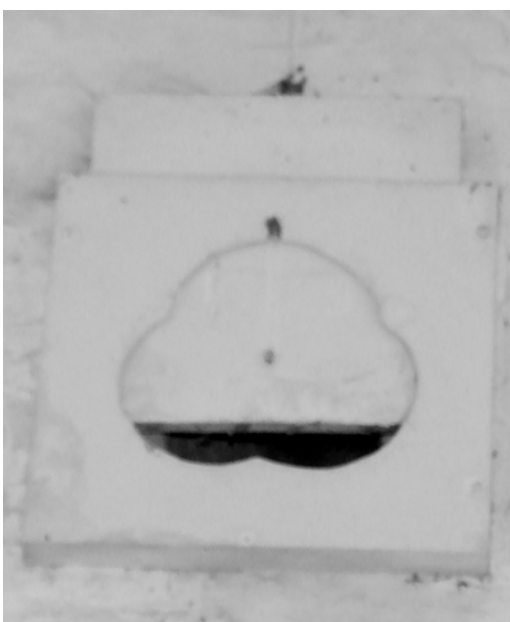
The Lady Chapel

It is quite unusual in a church of this size to have a Lady Chapel but this was another requirement of the Earl Beauchamp and possibly reflects his recognition that this chapel-of-ease would in time replace the old Norman church dedicated to St Mary.



Apart from its windows, single- or triple-light leaded glass mullioned windows set into deep cornices, the most obvious Arts and Crafts symbolism is the use of a moulded frieze around the tops of the walls. In different places the frieze shows fruits (apples and pears) and oak leaves interspersed with branches (cf Gimson friezes).

On the east wall, above the Altar Table, is a trefoil ventilation slot that passes through the wall to a cross on the outside wall. At some time in the past, a roughly constructed box has been installed above the vent to 'control' the amount of ventilation. The area within the wall provides a roost for our colony of long-eared bats. A similar trefoil on the West wall links into the Vestry. The internal ceiling is unique in that it consists of a slightly pointed concrete barrel vault that sits beneath the external roof structure.



The Altar Table top is a large block of stone that carries a consecration cross sitting on top of a rendered stone-built block within a frontal of carved oak. Note the trefoil carvings above the arched openings in the carved front. Trefoils have been used in church architecture for many centuries as symbolic representations of the Trinity.



A new altar frontal depicting wild daffodils has recently been commissioned to sit behind the original timber frontal.

