

**ST GILES PARISH CHURCH, STANTON ST QUINTON, WILTSHIRE:
STANDING BUILDING SURVEY ON MAIN DOORWAY
WITHIN THE SOUTH PORCH**



May 2019

CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
2.0	GEOLOGY.....	2
3.0	BRIEF CONTEXTUAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY.....	2
4.0	DESIGNATIONS	3
5.0	THE HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY.....	3
6.0	CONCLUDING COMMENTS	5
7.0	REFERENCES CONSULTED	5
8.0	COPYRIGHT.....	6
9.0	CLOSURE.....	6

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Dr George Nash was commissioned by the PCC to undertake an historic standing building survey on the southern porch doorway that provides the main access into the nave of the church at St Giles (**Plate 1**). The church stands within the eastern part of the village of Stanton St Quinton, Wiltshire (Grid Ref: NGR ST 905 758) (**Figure 1**).

The rationale of the project was to raise the height of the doorway by c. 0.20 – 0.25 m. The survey recorded and monitored the removal of historic masonry from the door casement that provides access between the porch and the nave. This phase of work applied guidelines set within Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (2017) and Cifa's Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (December 2014).

St Giles Parish Church, dating to the early 12th century, stands within the eastern part of Stanton St Quinton's historic core and has been designated a Grade I Listed Building (LB No. 1200437); the building and its setting therefore is considered to be of national importance. Despite a substantial late 19th century renovation programme many of the medieval and early post-medieval fixtures and fittings are retained including the door casement, door and its associated door furniture (**Plates 2 to 6**). All stages of the project were carried out in accordance with the requirements established within 'Management of Research Projects for the Historic Environment' (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015).

The contact for this project was Jeremy Chadburn of Chadburn Conservation Architect, Teylu, 53b Dunheved Road, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 9JF. Jeremy Chadburn provided an extensive brief for all elements of the project including detailed specifications of alterations to the door.

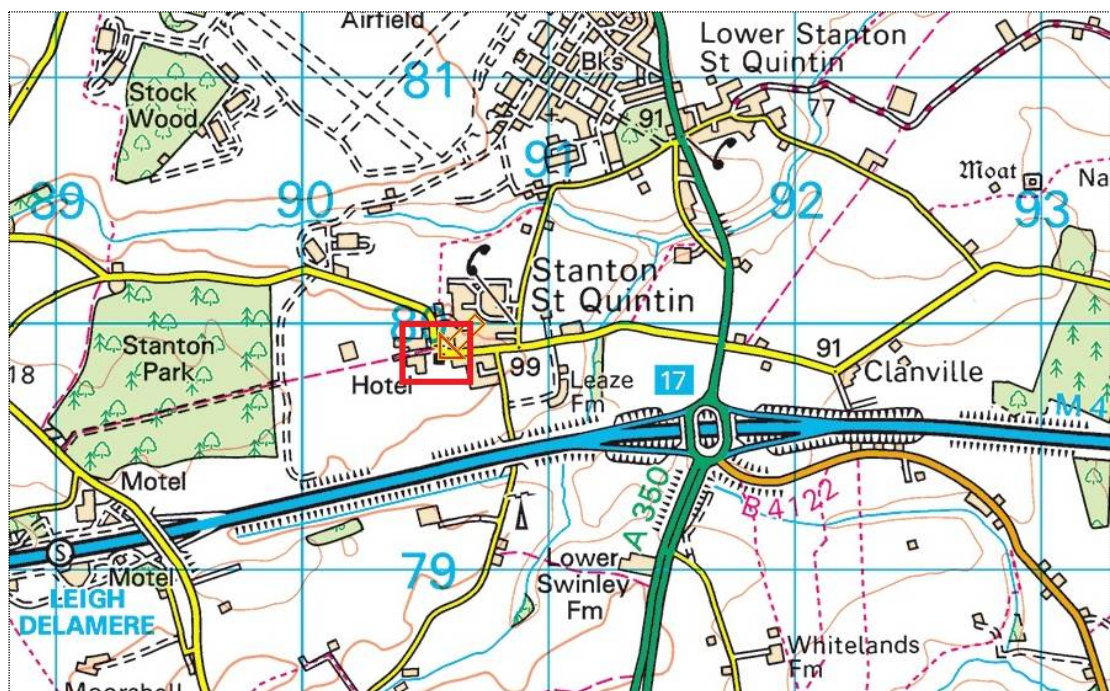


Figure 1. Site Location (area in red)

Dr George Nash is an archaeologist with over 35 years' experience within commercial and academic spheres. Dr Nash is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) and is also an affiliate member of the IHBC.

2.0 GEOLOGY

Based on the British Geological Survey (BGS), the solid geology comprises the following rock unit: Forest Marble Formation (FMB) - a mudstone of the mid Jurassic era (MDST). The superficial geology includes derivative mudstone soils. Excavation of the soils during the watching brief revealed a limestone-rich stony A- and B- horizon soil matrix.

The topography in and around this part of the village is considered to be slightly undulating to flat with a mean height value of around 100m AOD. Not surprisingly, the height of the churchyard stands around c. 1.25m above the level of the road immediately north.

3.0 BRIEF CONTEXTUAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY¹

A church on the site is known to have existed by the early 12th century and the lower sections of the tower and the nave date around 1125. Incorporated into the exterior western [gable] elevation is a 12th century sculpture of an enthroned Christ with a dragon at his feet. In addition, above the 12th century archway in the porch is an effigy of St. Christopher which dates from the Perpendicular period (12th to 16th century). Around AD 1200 an aisle was added and the small vestry with a porch doorway. During the 13th century the chancel was probably rebuilt while a west window and two north windows were inserted in the nave during the 15th century.

The church is dedicated to St. Giles who was reputedly an abbot in 7th century Provence (SE France). St Giles was of royal descent but became a hermit. The first documentary evidence for the use of this dedication is 1763; however, it is more than likely that the use of this dedication occurs sometime before the 16th century.

St Giles Church dates to around the 12th century; however, little or none of its original fabric is visible. Documentary evidence claims that a priest was installed in 1312. Various building phases occur between the 14th and 19th centuries. Based on documentary evidence most incumbent priests during the 16th century were absentees, resulting in the church being served by a curate. However, this changed when from the mid-16th century most rectors resided in the village.

Similar to most English churches during the 19th century, St Giles' Church underwent a major restoration in 1851, the cost of which was £490 (Architect: J. H. Hakewill). The restoration included the rebuilding of the aisle and porch. Battlements were also added to the tower and the west window and pews dating from 1739 were replaced. It is probable that the gallery was also removed during the same restoration. Later work to the interior of the church was undertaken in 1883 with the installation of heating.

The most notable change to the church occurs in 1888-9 when the chancel was rebuilt using the Perpendicular [Gothic] style; the architect was C.E. Ponting. The rebuilding programme

¹ For a full architectural description, See Appendix 1

included the retention of the original Perpendicular chancel arch (which provided access between the *new* chancel and the nave). The arch and surrounding masonry would have originally served as the eastern gable end to the medieval church.

Other notable changes to the church fabric include the shortening of the chancel by 1.8m during the late 18th/early 19th centuries and the upper section of the tower being rebuilt in the Neo-gothic style.

In the late 18th or early 19th century the chancel was said to have been shortened by 1.9m and in 1826 the top of the tower was rebuilt in revivalist neo-Norman style. In 1827-28 the length of the nave was increased by c. 3m and the western galley replaced.

Despite the predictable Victorian 'restoration' of the internal walling, much of the medieval and early post-medieval fabric has been retained including the porch door casement, door and its associated door furniture (**Plates 2 to 6**).

4.0 DESIGNATIONS

The church has been designated a Grade II* Listed Building and is therefore statutory-protected and considered a building/structure of 'exceptional interest'. In addition, the building and the surrounding churchyard precinct falls within an historic settlement. Within the northern and southern sections of the churchyard are a series of 18th and early 19th century chest tombs that are also Listed, along with the lych-gate.

5.0 THE HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

Based on the history and development of the building, plus its statutory designation, it has been deemed necessary by the architect Jeremy Chadburn that a Level 2 historic building survey be undertaken for the porch door. Using Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings (A guide to good recording practice)* A Level 2 is:

...a **descriptive record**, made in similar circumstances to Level 1 but when more information is needed. It may be made of a building which is judged not to require a more detailed record, or it may serve to gather data for a wider project. Both the exterior and interior of the building will be seen, described and photographed. The examination of the building will produce an analysis of its development and use, and the record will include the conclusions reached, but it will not discuss in detail the evidence on which this analysis is based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive and may be tailored to the scope of a wider project.

A Level 2 record typically comprises:

- Drawn record— sometimes item 1 or 2
- Photography – items 1, 2 and 4
- Written record – items 1-3 and 6

THE BUILDING SURVEY

The historic building survey was undertaken in early April 2019 whilst building work was ongoing inside and outside the church. The building survey concentrated on the door access within the southern porch (**Figure 2**). Remediation to the door casement included the careful dismantling of the upper section of the door casement (and the removal of the door) and rebuilding the casement with an additional stone course, thus raising the casement arch by c. 0.20-0.25 cm. The raising of the upper casement would allow the incorporation of a raised floor for disabled access. Prior to any remedial work on the door casement, the door casement, the door and the associated door furniture was recorded using a Level 2 survey (see section 5.1 above).

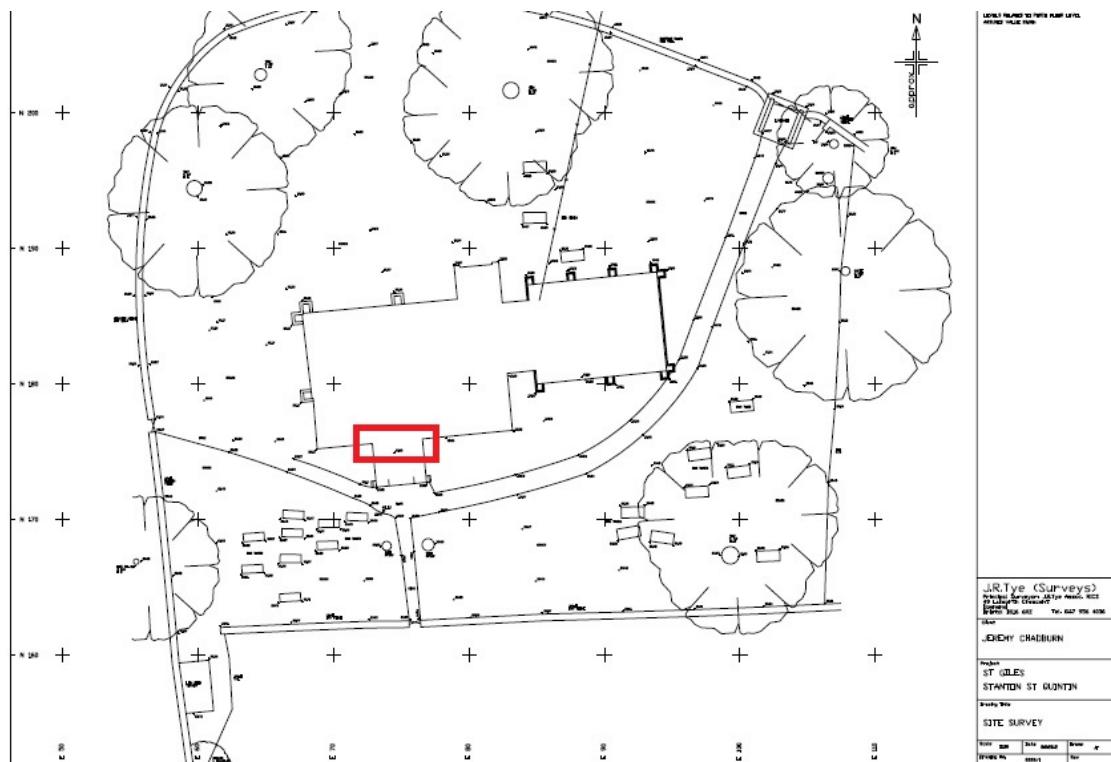


Figure 2. Plan of the church and churchyard showing the area of study (in red)

Based on observations by the author of this report, sections of the door casement appear to have been incorporated into the 19th century restoration. Much of the porch-side masonry including the arch are of relatively recent construction (**Plates 2 and 4**). However, the columns and pediments on which the arch rests upon are contemporary with the original construction of the door opening and the southern elevation (**Plates 5 to 10**). The timber-slatted door retains its original door furniture (**Plates 11 to 13**). The removal of the arch and exposure of the rubble-constructed walls surrounding the door casement reveal a number of hidden features including the wall construction and the uncovering of a squared arch, probably 15th century (or earlier) in date (**Plates 14 to 17**).

DETAIL

The southern entrance leading from the porch to the nave is briefly described in the Listing Building inventory; however, no original date for its construction is given. Based on observations made by the author, the upper section of the stone casement is probably late 19th century date, coinciding with a major restoration project that occurred in 1888. It is possible that the porch-side arch may date to the restoration programme of 1827-28 when

the nave was enlarged. The render surrounding the casement shows clear evidence (either side) of the layering of paint (lime-wash) (**Plates 8 and 9**). The lower section of the door casement is considered much earlier. This assumption is based on the weathering and geology of the stone plinths, columns and pediments on which the arch rest upon. Another piece of evidence is the 16th/17th century style cross that is engraved on the lower section of the column on the western section of the casement (**Plate 10**).

Using Alcock and Hall's guide to 16th, 17th and 18th century [house] fixtures and fittings (1994), one can gauge an approximate date for the timber door (see **Plates 11 to 13**). The strap hinge, drop handle and the two lock plates indicate a probable mid-17th century date. Similar fitting exist on the nave-side of the door (**Plate 13**).

MONITORING

Construction work to initially remove the upper section of the casement revealed a large section of the walling that surrounds it. The arch (prior to removal) was supported by two adjustable acro-jacks (**Plate 15**). Removed was all plasterwork, loose stone (forming part of the casement construction) and the 19th century moulded arch (**Plate 16**). Following removal from the door casement, the arch sections were carefully laid in sequential order within the nave awaiting later reinsertion.

The nave-side door casement, which included a set of long and short quoins was rendered-over prior the remedial work (**Plate 13**). Only the upper section of the doorway was affected by the current work programme. Prior to the removal of render, the upper section of the nave-side door contained two diagonal moulded sections that converged centrally (**Plate 13**). This feature was considered by the author to be 19th century in date and replicates a 16th century 'Tudor' door opening style. Exposed, following the removal of lime-washed render around the door opening was the upper section of the east and west sections of the stone door casement (long and short quoins) and the exposure of a late-medieval squared arch, constructed in the Tudor style and supporting shoulder stone lintels either side (**Plate 14**). This unexpected feature showed signs of structural movement. Clearly visible was the keystone and the voussoir either side.

6.0 CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The doorway within the porch provides the main access into the church building (via the nave). Based on the Listing Building description the doorway (along with other features inside the church) date from the 12th century (see **Appendix 1**).

Based on the results of the historic building survey, the removal of render either side of the door casement revealed the remnants of an earlier door opening including the internal long and short quoins of the casement and a late medieval segmental arch, designed in the Tudor style.

7.0 REFERENCES CONSULTED

Alcock, N.W. & Hall, L., 1994. *Fixtures and Fittings in Dated Houses 1567-1763*. Practical Handbook in Archaeology 11. CBA Publications.

Andrews, W. (ed.), 1897. *Antiquities and Curiosities of the Church*, London: William Andrews & Co., pp. 229-36.

Historic England 2015. *Management of Research Projects for the Historic Environment*. London, Historic England.

Historic England, 2017. *Understanding Historic Building: A Guide to Good Practice*.

Pevsner, N., 1975. *Wiltshire*, London: Penguin, pp. 478-9.

8.0 COPYRIGHT

Dr George Nash will retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act of 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that Dr Nash hereby provides an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of such documents by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.

9.0 CLOSURE

This report has been prepared by Dr George Nash with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is for the exclusive use of the Client and the PCC for St Giles. No warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from the Client. Dr Nash disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.

PLATES



Plate 1. South porch dating to the 19th century abuts the medieval fabric of the southern elevation



Plate 2. General view of the gated door access into the nave from the porch entrance



Plate 3. General view of the door casement and door from the porch entrance



Plate 4. Detail of the dressed stone forming the arch



Plate 5. Upper section of a decorative moulded column flanking the western side of the door

Plate 6. Detail of the moulded column



Plate 7. Detail of the eastern moulded column



Plate 8. Flaking lime-wash from around the upper section of the door casement



Plate 9. Flaking lime-wash from around the eastern upper section of the door casement



Plate 10. 17th century style inscribed cross located on the lower section of the western casement



Plate 11. Mid-17th century strap hinge



Plate 12. Mid- to Late 17th century drop handle and lock-plates incorporated into the door



Plate 13. Reverse door face – image taken from the nave



Plate 14. Exposed perpendicular arch, exposed during render removal



Plate 15. Removed render exposing the rubble stonework, view from the porch



Plate 16. Removal of the arch from the porch-end elevation



Plate 17. Removal of render to expose rubble surface and perpendicular pseudo-four-centred arch

APPENDIX 1: Listing Description

Entry Name: Church of St Giles
Listing Date: 20 December 1960
Grade: II*
Source: Historic England
Source ID: 1200437
English Heritage Legacy ID: 316082
Location: Stanton St. Quintin, Wiltshire, SN14
County: Wiltshire
Civil Parish: Stanton St. Quintin
Traditional County: Wiltshire
Lieutenancy Area (Ceremonial County): Wiltshire
Church of England Parish: Stanton St Quintin
Church of England Diocese: Bristol

STANTON ST QUINTIN UPPER STANTON
ST 97 NW (south side)

8/252 Church of St Giles

Anglican parish church, C12 to C15, altered 1826, 1851 by J.H. Hakewill and with chancel of 1888 by C.E. Ponting. Rubble stone with stone slate roofs. Nave, south aisle, south porch, centre tower with small vestry to north and broad chancel. Nave has C19 two-light west window of 1851 over reset C12 carved figure of Christ enthroned with dragon beneath his feet. Clasp buttresses, 2-window north side 2-light and 3-light pointed C15 windows with hoodmoulds. Buttress between. Tower is plain rubble stone with neo-Norman bell-openings of 1851 (Pevsner) or 1826 (church guide), corbel-table and flat parapet. Attached to north is 'vestry' of uncertain date, north side has ashlar angle piers and corbel table, west end has small pellet-decorated roundel, east end C19 small 2-light. 1888 chancel is exceptionally ornate Perpendicular style, 3-bay with pinnacled buttresses and pierced parapet. Three 2-light flat-headed windows to north with drip-course stepped over. Lower drip-courses stepped down under the windows. Ashlar east end is more ornate with parapet stepped up to niche with carved Crucifixion, broad 5-light 4-centred east window with ogee finial and finials each side. Carved panels below lights. Carved stone to W. Whatly died 1695 built-in above plinth. Two-bay south side is similar to north, but wider left bay incorporates re-used medieval pointed doorway. South aisle appears all C19, with plain stepped lancets each end, coped gables and south side lancet, porch, paired-lancets and lancet. **Porch is apparently C19 but incorporates exceptional C12 outer doorway, round arched with chevron ornament and dog-tooth hood-mould. Carved head stops.** Heavily carved capitals with shafts entering open mouth. Nook shafts each side. St Christopher figure in niche, reset over entry. Pointed 2-chamfer inner doorway, oak plank door and wicket.

Interior: C15 arched-braced collar roof to nave and C19 roof to aisle. Fine 2-bay c1200 arcade with one round, one pointed arch, chevron-ornamented on north side with dog-tooth ornament to hoodmoulds and carved head stops. Circular centre pier and semi-circular responds with crocket caps, the centre cap also with carved heads. Bases raised on high broad pedestals. C12 broad east arch has chevron and pellet decorated arch with ornamented outer moulding. Column shafts and angle shafts with leaf-caps and volutes. Tower has north side doorway to 'vestry' and oak-lined double recess to right. Fine C14 pointed chancel arch with two deep wave mouldings. Chancel is broad with 3-bay roof on heavy corbels. Arch-braced collar trusses with pierced tracery above collars, decorated wall-plate. At south east angle is fine reused canopied piscina with carved heads under bowl and under canopy shafts. Fittings: in chancel carved plaques to Rev W. Charmbury died 1676 and Rev W. Twentyman died 1732. In nave, one north side c1900 stained glass window, ornate later C19 carved stone pulpit and in south aisle exceptional Romanesque font of c1200, circular on spurred square base. Two upper bands of scales, a moulding and lower band of large projecting circular knobs.

Listing NGR: ST9058079882