



THE CHURCH TRAIL - CHURCH OF ST BRIGHTSTONE

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Notable

The churchyard is always full of flowers almost all year. This means that there can be all sorts of different events in the church. For example, at Christmas there is a Christmas Tree Festival where everyone brings a tree that they have decorated.

Outside

There are different types of gravestones in the churchyard, but these are rows which is unusual. Look for the ones that are connected. Also the churchyard has lots of yew trees, which have been here for hundreds of years. That means there are lots of interesting things to find. In brightly coloured seats for the Sunday school pupils with an hour a day to learn. Imagine only being able to do to school for one hour a day and learning from a window with stained glass that tells a Bible story or a picture that anyone could read, pictures like these would have been.



The origins of the church

In the Ninth Century this part of the Island was given by the King to the Bishop of Winchester. This tells us it must have been rich and important.

We cannot see anything of St Mary's church from this time. The four pillars as you enter date from 1190. After this St Mary's was made longer and wider because it needed to hold more people.

The sea is clearly visible from the church so warnings of the enemies came from Brightstone in 1377 and 1588.

The Church of St Mary had a store of arrows and pikes to help defend the island. On the north side of the church there was a place to store the town cannon.

The Victor

Near to St Mary's church called the Three Bishops. It has this name because three of them were priests in Brightstone went on to become bishops so for three to achieve this from a country church is amazing.

Then in 1862 William Fawcett became the priest and he had an interest in dinosaurs. So for a priest to study things no one else does not mention dinosaurs. He was very risky because it suggested that the Bible does not tell the whole truth.

Lots of dinosaur fossils are still found on the south coast of the Island.

Can you find these features at Church of St Mary, Brightstone?

100516

Outside



Decorative Encaustic Tiles

Inside



Stained Glass Window



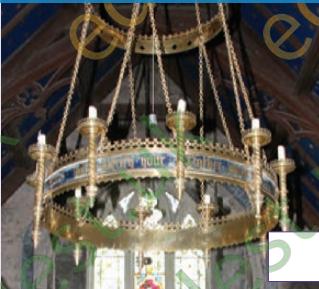
Decorative painted arch



Celtic Gravestones



Sun Dial



Candle Chandelier



Altar



Piscina



Painted Window



Lectern



Date Stone - 1190