

Guided Tour around the Church



On the right-hand side, over the **Vestry Door**, is a portrait in oils of **James**, the only son of Ralph (the founder) and Sarah Bourne. This was painted in **1818** when the young man was 22 years old.



The wrought iron **candelabras** on the pew ends were put in when the church was built and were used for lighting until electricity was installed in 1937. These decorative lights come into use on special occasions.



Notice the **Box Pews**, complete with Roman Numerals, on the doors.



Look up at the nave arches and the angel corbels – one of which bears the record of the **Architect Mr Thomas Trubshaw** and the other gives record of the first Vicar, **Ralph Baker Bourne**, nephew of the Founder.

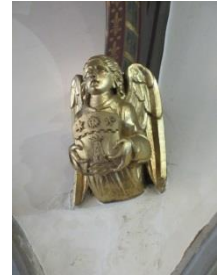


These are **carved stone heads** on each of the side window lancets, both interior and exterior; these are often thought to be representing the heads of the builders.





The Sanctuary – no Chancel – has a decorative ceiling and four gilded angel corbels, two of which bear the Bourne family crest and motto 'Haec omnia transeant' (all these things pass away). Below are memorials to members of the Bourne family, one of which on the north wall records that Sara Bourne (died 1833) wife of Ralph is interred in a vault beneath the Sanctuary.



The Altar, carved reredos, credence table and prie dieu were presented to the church by Mrs Sadler in memory of her husband John, formerly of Hilderstone Hall. The original altar (which had a painted triptych now discarded) was moved to the south aisle to form a side altar, in front of the originally the **Bourne family pew**.



The East Window – this is the most outstanding feature of the church and was put in place when the church was built but its value was unknown until 1973 when it was removed for cleaning and repair after being vandalised. It was then realised by experts



that the glass was not painted or stained but was, in fact, enamel on glass and was of a very high standard of workmanship and also very rare.



Executed by William Collins of London (glass enameller to Queen Victoria) and, as far as is known, only one of a possible two pieces of his

work that remain.



At the head of the north aisle is a **Small Altar** installed in 1927 in what was then the Vicarage Pew, in memory of the fallen in 1914-1918 War and incorporates a piece of stone from the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The altar was used on HMS Queen Mary 1914-1915 and HMS Highflyer 1915-1918. Over the altar are three flags, Union Jack, White & Red Ensigns – which have been used in these same ships.

The Font was relocated to the front of the church in 2019 to aid the *Access for All Project*. It has a ewer, which was presented to the Church in 1909, by a former Schoolmaster. The inscription translated reads '*To the greater glory of God and for the use of the church at Hilderstone. Given by GHE Hope 1909.*'



Now in the South aisle is a **Roll of Honour** from the First World War. Forty three names are recorded, out of which nine failed to return. One name from the 1939-45 War.

This was relocated in October 2018 and rededicated .the relocation was to aid the *Access for All Project*

Over the **Baptistry** there is a **Choir Gallery** with **Organ** and singers' seats.



Outside is the entrance to the vault containing the remains of the first vicar, Ralph Baker Bourne and his young daughter. Also can be see the graves of the earlier vicar of Christ Church Hilderstone.



Incumbents & Officiating Priests

Ralph Baker Bourne	1829-1860
Thomas Barge Jenkinson	1860-1863
Robert Smythe Hopkins	1863-1885
Joseph Thomas Meek	1885-1893
Thomas Barnes	1894-1925
W B Masefield	1926-1933
E Hart	1934-1940
G B J R Watson	1940-1950
E H Fernie	1950-1959
N Gledhill	1961-1980
H Myers	1982-1986
P D Brookes	1987-1995
M N Griffin	1996-1999
Peter Dakin	2001-2015
Marion Reynolds	2017-

The **Staffordshire Advertiser of 3rd August 1833** carried an account of the Dedication of the Church which concluded with the following words

'The inhabitants of Hilderstone and its vicinity, who were before well-nigh destitute of religious ordinances, are now blessed with a near access to them; and it may be hoped that the benefits resulting from a church being built in this place, will be experienced by everyone connected with it in each successive generation.'

Pause travellers, who have come from afar.
Give praise to Him who made all living things.
Remember in God's Temple who you are,
And kneel to pray before the King of Kings.'

Prepared RC August 2013
Revised RC May 2109