



# Dorset Historic Churches Trust

*Conserving the past – enriching the future*

## DHCT Church Crawl – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### Kimmeridge Area

The Friends of Dorset Churches' second Church Crawl of the 2018 season saw some 40 members gather at St Michael and All Angels, Steeple. Jeremy Selfe welcomed everyone on behalf of the Trustees before proceedings were inaugurated musically by the Steeple organist, Sue Lewis, who demonstrated the barrel organ in the church. This sweet-toned instrument, dating from 1853, was rescued from Tyneham Church when it was closed, and can be used to accompany services – as long as hymns it “knows” are called for.

Dr Tim Connor, as ever master of the architectural features of churches we visit, commented upon an originally thirteenth century church with surprisingly (and pleasingly) few nineteenth century additions. Sue Smith, our leader and glass expert, encouraged us to study the lovely east window by James Powell of the Whitefriars Company, and we were most fortunate to have present the churchwarden, Richard Bond, whose 3xgreat grandfather is memorialized in it. The story of the Lawrence family and the stars and stripes was also rehearsed.

Moving on over the hill to Creech Grange, we were able to investigate St John's Chapel, which was open and in use as a gallery for Dorset Arts Weeks. The chancel arch is the gem here, being the last surviving fragment of the monastery at East Holme. The Bond family brought it here in the 1740s to build a private chapel, now enlarged to the size seen today. There are further James Powell windows to see and a delightful east window by Willement.

Before a handsomely catered lunch at the New Inn, Church Knowle, we visited St Peter's Church, which has many features of interest. The painted chancel arch and screen arrangement is remarkable, as is the presence of galleries put in during the 1850s – a period when most churches were removing such features. There are two types of window to enjoy at St Peter's and Sue Smith pointed out the Heaton, Butler and Bayne work in the east end and the more modern windows by Marion Grant (1912-1988) in the nave and south transept.

After skirting the Lulworth ranges, where a small war seemed to be in progress, we re-convened at St Andrew's East Lulworth and began by admiring the impressive fifteenth century tower. The majority of what else is to see was designed by John Hicks 1863-4, so more in line with what one might expect of a nineteenth century idea of a fifteenth century church. The final building we looked at was the family Roman Catholic Chapel at Lulworth Castle, which had been generously opened to us by the Estate. The effect of light and colour in this delicate, neo-classical building was most impressive, though Dr Connor doubted that it had been designed specifically to look like a domestic building by emphasizing its suitability as a place of worship and its employment of many of the design concepts of buildings of its period. This visit made a most pleasing conclusion to a fulfilling day – following which the Castle tea room did brisk business.

*The next Crawl will take place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July, meeting at St Michael and All Angels, Colehill. If interested in booking a place, please email [susanmorgansmith@gmail.com](mailto:susanmorgansmith@gmail.com) or ring 01725 552225.*

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