



Further information

More information on the history of our three churches may be found in the **Church Guides** which are available for sale in each church or from the Parish Office at the Church of the Good Shepherd (Tel. 01932 346345)



Wisley Church

Although Wisley is a separate community, it is part of the parish and worshippers from Pyrford and other areas regularly attend the services with those who live at Wisley.

The church is of the same mid-12th century date as St. Nicholas', Pyrford although considerably restored in 1872 and with new windows inserted in the nave and the east end during the first half of the 17th century. Its history is also quite different in that, during the Middle Ages, it came under a succession of Lords of the Manor of Wisley which changed hands several times and involved many lawsuits. On two occasions (1344/45 and 1370), the Black Prince, who owned a hunting lodge in Byfleet, was patron of the living, indicating that there must then have been a link between the Manor of Wisley and the Manor of Byfleet.



Interior features include a Georgian Royal Arms, a glass-holder next to the pulpit from Elizabethan times, a pew dated 1630 in the SW corner and a queen-post roof.

This place of worship has been affectionately called "The Church in the Farmyard" and it still retains its country atmosphere.

St Nicholas' Church

Set on a bluff above the water-meadows and within sight of Newark Priory, this charming and well-preserved Norman village church of the mid-12th century has come down to us as a complete building of one period i.e. without addition of aisles, chapels, and tower but with later roofs, vestry, bell-cote, porch, etc.

The circular churchyard is evidence of a pre-Christian burial-ground and the prehistoric standing stone - the Pyrford Stone, moved to the grass verge up the hill at the entrance to Pyrford Court, also suggests a sacred site in the area.



A delightfully unspoilt interior contains a double wall-painting (the earlier one only discovered during restoration of the later one dated at about 1200 so that only a little over 50 years separates the two), a Jacobean pulpit with sounding-board, bearing the date 1628 and the initials N.B., 14th century stained glass in the tracery of the east window representing the Trinity and an altar frontal, dedicated in 1969, in which figures in conical hats echo those in the earlier wall-painting. The roofs of the chancel and the nave were probably renewed in the 15th century.

Also from this period dates the beautiful north porch, built of an oak framework with plastered panels, now partly repaired in brickwork and with the original pierced bargeboards.

Church of the Good Shepherd

The Church of the Good Shepherd was built in 1963/64 to cater for the change in the character of Pyrford from a scattered and agricultural community to a largely residential area. This change had been foreseen as far back as 1938 when the land on which the church was built was purchased at a cost of only £300. After 1955 when part of Pyrford Woods had been felled for the construction of a large housing estate, the need for a new place of worship at a more convenient distance from the new homes became pressing and Bishop Sherwood Jones, who had retired here and had persistently urged that a new church be built, laid the foundation stone in June 1963 in his 91st year. The Sherwood-Jones room is named after him.

The building was designed by David Nye, ARIBA, to be lofty and filled with light, the construction being of laminated Canadian pine. Features of note are the chancel floor and the surround to the font, both made of Westmorland slate, the font itself made of Ancaster limestone and the south transept window made of antique glass.



This is a church which - with its modern image - responds well to the present-day needs of the area although the two Norman village churches continue to play a significant part in the worship of the parish, emphasising as they do its long history. The processional cross, made from a branch of the old yew in the churchyard of St. Nicholas by a medical student, who polished it with the wax of Pyrford bees, is a tangible reminder of the link between old and new.