



About St Mary's

The name Stainburn was recorded as early as AD 972. Although no church is mentioned here in Domesday Book, it is possible there was a pre-Conquest church on this site. The re-use of building material points to an earlier structure: two weathered label-stops above the 17th-century triangular window to the right of the porch look Anglo-Saxon.

Use of the same type of rough moorland stone throughout successive building phases has preserved the integrity of the Norman nucleus. The square-headed window and the bellcote dates from the 17th century. The bellcote carries just one 14th-century bell with the inscription 'John is my name' in Latin. The porch, probably also a 17th-century addition, has carved letters on its exterior west wall, now almost obliterated. The square window west of the porch is of a slightly later date. In the south chancel wall is the original priest's door, now blocked. The vestry is Victorian, as is the stencilled fleur-de-lis decoration on the chancel wall.

The number of graves is a reminder that the church once served a populous area. The earliest gravestone is dated 1636.

The church was placed in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust in 1977.

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Access

Due to their age, historic church floors can be uneven and worn and lighting can be low level. Please take care, especially in wet weather when floors can be slippery.

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The Churches Conservation Trust
1 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9EE
Tel: 020 7213 0660

Registered Charity No: 258612

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Church of
St Mary

Stainburn



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The historic church of St Mary

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 The Norman **tub font** is the most significant fitting. It is carved with a continuous blank arcade of intersecting arches and small ornamental motifs, including human faces. The lid is probably 17th century.
- 2 The **pews** are of two designs: at the north-western end are three with turned finials, probably around 1630. The remainder, with roll-mouldings, have been dated to the 16th century.
- 3 **Norman arch and roof beams.** The king-post has marks that could indicate that a crucifix was formerly attached.
- 4 The now door-less **pulpit** cut down and rebuilt from a grander 18th-century design.
- 5 Original, deep-set Norman **splayed windows.** Splays are a typical feature of Norman architecture, the wider opening inside allowing light to flood into the room.
- 6 **Memorials:** an oval marble to Anne Ramshaw who died in 1798 'in whom were united the affectionate Wife, the tender Parent, the good Christian' and an octagonal tablet to Jane, wife of Daniel Foster of Otley, who died in 1809.
- 7 The Perpendicular **east window** contains glass by the Victorian stained glass artist H. G. Murray, owner of Belham & Co., London. A plaque on the north wall records that it was donated by the Reverend Walter Hall, vicar of Stainburn. The left-hand light has recently been restored.
- 8 A late 13th-century **stone slab** with carved cross, probably a grave cover or coffin lid.
- 9 A plain white **marble tablet** commemorating Thomas Sutton, born at Stainburn in 1780.
- 10 **Carving** on the eastern interior wall of the porch. The lettering is difficult to decipher and could either be graffiti or the remnants of a commemorative inscription.

