



THE CHURCHES  
CONSERVATION TRUST



# CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

Waldershare, Kent



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by John Vigar (Regional Development Manager, The Churches Conservation Trust, ecclesiastical historian and broadcaster)

## HISTORY

Set in the corner of the landscaped parkland of Waldershare House, All Saints is the quintessential estate church, reflecting the owners of the estate in which it stands through its monuments and furnishings. Few individuals, other than the estate owners, are commemorated within its walls. Yet the church has also served as the place of worship for other, less prominent, local families – many of them yeoman farmers almost as long-established in the neighbourhood as the owners of the big house.

The earliest named person associated with the history of the church is John de Malmains, reputedly a standard bearer at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, who settled here and who also held land at Pluckley, Alkham and Stoke. There is still a house called Malmains in the parish. At a later date the estate descended to the Monins family, of which Sir William Monins was created Baronet in the 17th century. His daughter Susan married Peregrine Bertie, son of Montague, Earl of Lindsey. Susan and Peregrine are commemorated in the south chapel. After her death the estate was sold to the Furnese family of Sandwich, from whom the present owners, the Earls of Guilford, are descended. Katherine, granddaughter of Sir Robert Furnese, married in June 1751 (as his third wife) Francis North, who was shortly afterwards created 1st Earl of Guilford. Thus the Waldershare estates came to the North family.

Front cover: The chancel viewed from the west (Ian Sumner)

Left: A weeper at the foot of the Furnese memorial (Ian Sumner)



In 1851 the population of the parish was just 94, and 74 people attended the afternoon service in the church in March 1851, and it is probable that little had changed at All Saints for several generations. Holy Communion was celebrated six times a year and the daily offices read. It was not until the 1880s that the wave of restoration works sweeping across Kent's churches as a result of the Church Reform movement hit this insular community.

In 1884 a flagon dating from 1713, which was originally made for the church, was returned



from the parish of Wroxton in Oxfordshire. Wroxton Abbey was then the main family seat. In December the following year the 7th Earl of Guilford was killed in a riding accident and this seems to have stirred an interest in the state of Waldershare church, which appears to have then been in a rather poor condition. The architect to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, Ewan Christian, was brought in to restore the church and this was undertaken at a cost of £714.18s.6d, raised by subscription. The greatest benefactors, unsurprisingly, were the new Earl and Countess of Guilford who gave £250 and £100 respectively. Lord Guilford's contribution was restricted to work on the Furnese Chapel. Interestingly, Mr J K Monins gave £50 towards the work on the other chapel. As well as essential repairs to the chapels and chancel, Ewan Christian also extended the nave to the west and he introduced much of the character of the present building. The contractors were Messrs Adcock of Dover and the work took just two months.

All Saints was declared pastorally redundant in 1980 and passed to the care of the Earl of Guilford for preservation as a funerary chapel. However the church was already in a poor state of repair and this eventually led to its vesting in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust in 2005. Messrs Gregory of Wingham carried out initial repairs, partly financed by the Diocese of Canterbury, under the supervision of the architect Mr Robert George.

## EXTERIOR

The churchyard is entered via a lychgate, erected in 1920 as a memorial to the Revd Thomas Hart, Rector of the parish, who had died two years previously. The path through the churchyard forms part of the North Downs Way. Opposite the gate is the headstone to 14-year-old Arthur William Moore, killed on New Year's Eve 1936 at Tilmanstone Colliery – a reminder that this part of East Kent was home to extensive coalmines in the 20th century. Below the small east window is a 13th-century stone coffin lid, the earliest memorial to be seen here, carved with a floriated cross.

Outside the south chapel, next to the path, is a chest tomb marking the burial place of William Hull, a gardener on the estate, and next to it a headstone to a housekeeper – rare examples of memorials to servants being erected by a grateful employer.

To the south of the path, opposite the porch, is a headstone with an inscription recording the death of Greaves Walker (aged 7) caused by 'a gunshot wound inflicted by the culpable impudence of a youth' in 1855.

The private burial plot of the Earls of Guilford stands within iron railings in the north-west corner of the churchyard, which is not in the care of the Trust. This is maintained as a wildlife habitat.

That there was a church here during the 12th century is not in doubt, as the surviving south chancel window (now in an internal wall) shows.

The Norman church must have been similar to other local churches of the same period, consisting of just a nave and chancel, built of local flint rubble and lightly protected from the external elements with a coating of lime rendering. Although the present nave south wall is of a later date, the proportions of stone to







mortar to render give it an appearance that is probably not far removed from that of the original church.

Following the Reformation two private burial chapels were added to the Norman chancel – the south (Monins) chapel in 1697 and the north (Furnese) chapel in 1712. These are both built of bricks made on the estate.

The south chapel uses English bond in its construction where the courses alternate between headers and stretchers, but by this date its use was seen as increasingly old-fashioned in Kent, and by the time the north chapel was constructed the up-to-date Flemish Bond, which uses headers and stretchers on the same course, was employed instead.

## INTERIOR

### NAVE

The nave is considerably longer than the Norman original, and the medieval holy water stoup halfway along the south side marks the east side of the former main door. During repairs in 2004 the western extent of the medieval masonry was revealed, although it is now plastered over again.

The nave roof is Victorian although its design had to be altered as part of the repair work in 2005, when the original diagonal cross-boarding was replaced with more conventional horizontal boarding. The pews were introduced as part of Christian's restoration and he also installed the present Porret's stove at the east end.

The glass in the nave windows is all of a later date. The two-light west window is an early-20th-century memorial to the Revd Walter Hamilton (d.1902), rector from 1856–98, during whose incumbency the church was restored.

The two-light window in the north wall of the nave 'It is well with the child' is a posthumous memorial to Dudley Francis, Lord North, infant son of the 7th Earl who died aged just one day on 4 May 1875. It is probably by the firm of O'Connor and Taylor.

The two-light window in the south wall of the nave, by Powell of Whitefriars, shows the Ascension and commemorates Georgiana, widow of the 7th Earl of Guilford, who died on 13 May 1931.

On the north wall is a war memorial which carries the names of 11 men of the parish killed in two World Wars, including Francis George, Lord North, heir of the 8th Earl.

The chancel arch bears the inscription

*We have thought of thy loving kindness O God in the midst of Thy Temple. Alleluia.*

Next to it is a brass and copper inscription to the 7th Earl of Guilford, who was killed in a riding accident whilst out hunting in 1885. It was made by the firm of Hart, Son and Peard.

The floor of the nave contains two ledger slabs. The westernmost commemorates a late-17th-century incumbent, whilst that nearest the chancel step commemorates a late-18th-century incumbent, Robert Green.

Behind the pulpit is the remains of a 13th-century piscina in its original position, indicating that there was an altar here in pre-Reformation days.

### CHANCEL

The oak stalls were part of Christian's alterations. Between them, set into the floor, are two black ledger slabs which were reset here to save them from being covered over by the new stalls. One is to Sir William Monins, the 1st Baronet (d.1642), and the other to his wife Jane (d.1639). She was born Jane Twysden at Roydon in West Kent, her brother being commemorated in the church of St Michael, East Peckham, which is also in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust.



*Below: The east window by Oldaker of Epsom (Ian Sumner)*

*Right: Interior looking east (Ian Sumner)*



Her maternal grandfather was the famous Kent poet, Sir Thomas Wyatt the Younger.

In the south wall of the sanctuary is a perfectly preserved Norman window, showing that this was originally an external wall. Christian rediscovered it when he moved the large mural monument now in the south chapel, and subsequently had it reopened. The east window, depicting the Good Shepherd, is a memorial to the 7th Earl of Guilford designed by F A Oldaker of Epsom. It was installed by the East Kent Hunt as part of a commemorative scheme which included the painted panels on either side representing the Four Evangelists. The alabaster and mosaic reredos was a gift of the Vicar in 1887. It was made by Dyke and Son of Highgate Road, London N1 to the designs of Ewan Christian. The wooden altar with its later panels of musical angels was a gift of Mrs Naunton.

The fine Baroque altar rails are probably late 17th century in origin, although much improved by Christian.

Christian also designed the wooden screens to the side chapels. In 1899 the lower panels were glazed to protect the choir from draughts, and in 1903 a wooden glazed frame was placed on the top of each to seal the chapels completely. As part of the 2005 repairs the screens were returned to their original unglazed form.







*The south wall of the chancel showing the Norman window (Ian Sumner)*

#### SOUTH CHAPEL

The 17th-century chest tomb of Peregrine and Susan Bertie was made during his lifetime as the inscription on its south side records that it was 'intended' to contain his remains.

The monument was erected by the grieving husband and is a true display of love – their clasped hands rare on a monument of this date.

The inscriptions read:

#### SOUTH SIDE

*In this vault is intended to Lye ye Honble Peregrine Bertie  
Second son to Montague Earl of Lindsey Lord Great Chamberlaine  
Of England, Who was Volunteer at the Famous siege of Arras in ye year 1654 Under  
Marshall Turen, and afterwards a Captn, of a Troop of Horse in the Earl of Oxfords  
Regiment when King Charles the 2<sup>ND</sup> was restored.*

*His Father Montague attended King Charles ye 1st in all his troubles  
and in his Imprisonment in the Isle of Wight, and at last was one of ye four Lords who  
Were loyall not only unto but after death by attending his sacred Majestye to his Grave  
and giving him Christian Burrial at Windsor after his  
Barbarous and horrid Murder.*



*The 17th-century Bertie memorial in the south chapel (Ian Sumner)*

On the south wall is a fine architectural tablet which was originally situated to the south of the main altar. Its removal by Christian revealed the blocked-up Norman window. The monument

dates from about 1642 and commemorates Sir Edward Monins (d.1602), Sir William Monins, 1st Baronet (d.1642), Elizabeth Monins (d.1624) and William Monins (d.1647).

#### NORTH SIDE

*In this vault lyes interred the body of the Honble Susan Bertie  
Fourth daughter and one of the coheirs of Sir Edward Monins of Waldershare In the  
county of Kent Baronett, by Elizabeth his wife Daughter  
Of Sir Thomas Styles of Wateringbury in the same countye Baronett and wife to the  
Honourable Peregrine Bertie second son to Montague Earle of Lindsay, Lord Great  
Chamberlaine of England. She had one daughter, Bridget, Elizabeth and Mary Of which  
Elizabeth dyed in her life time. She departed this life at Rochester The 30<sup>th</sup> of December  
in the year 1697.*

*This Monument was erected by the Honble Peregrine  
Bertie as his lasting Testimony of his true affection to his  
Dear and beloved wife desiring that when God shall  
Please to summons him hence his body may be here  
Deposited by her.*



*The 18th-century Furnese memorial in the north chapel from the south-east (Ian Sumner)*

#### NORTH CHAPEL

This chapel was built in 1712 for the huge monument it contains. Originally the windows were of a secular design, but Lord Guilford's generosity during Christian's restoration allowed them to be rebuilt in Gothic form.

By far the most impressive monument in the church, and one of the finest in England, this commemorates Sir Henry Furnese. It is signed on the plinth in the south-eastern corner by the sculptor Thomas Green (1659–c.1730) whose studio was at that time based in Camberwell. His family had been long associated with stone carving in their native Lincolnshire, although he was the only family member to become nationally famous. Redgrave church in Suffolk, which is also cared for by The Churches Conservation Trust, contains a monument to Lord Justice Holt, also designed by Green and dating from about five years later than this one.

The monument here is designed in three tiers. The lower shows four seated figures on lovely Baroque chairs of the period. The centre tier holds the shield of arms, with four putti. The upper tier comprises an urn with gilded flames, although it is hard to see in such a confined space.

Apart from Sir Henry Furnese, who had purchased the estate, the monument commemorates his son, Sir Robert Furnese and his three wives. Sir Robert died in 1733. His first wife, Anne Balam, died in 1713; his second wife was Arabella Watson and the monument also commemorates her son, Sir Henry Furnese, who died in Marseilles; his third wife was Anne Shirley, who long outlived him and died in 1779. She is buried in the Grosvenor Chapel in London.

The inscription reads:

#### SOUTH SIDE

*Under this monument lyes interr'd the body of Sr Henry Furnese Knight and Baronett & Alderman of ye City of London, Who was born in Sandwich, & having by ye Blessing of Providence, acquired A plentifull Estate, was an imitator of ye bounteous hand that gave it him by a truly noble disposition & by many liberal acts of Munificence.*

*Being early distinguished by ye Favour of our great Deliverer King William, he faithfully adherd to the cause of Liberty & ye Protestant Interest with a steady and indefatigable Zeal.*

*And as his native Generosity made every accession of wealth & honour sit gracefully upon him, so by an exemplary course of Liberality to ye indigent, bounty to friends, & publick services To his Country, he had ye happiness of enjoying, without envie, ye great & good of Character, of a charitable Christian, a noble Benefactor, & a firm patriot.*

*Leaving Issue by his first wife Anne daughter of Robt Brough Esq. one son Robert, who to ye memory of his much honoured Father erected this Monument.*

*And by his second wife Matilda widow of Anthony Balam Esq. & daughter of Sr Thomas Vernon one daughter Matilda, he departed this life November ye 30th 1712 Aged 54*

(added later:)

*Matilda Furnese was Married to Richard Edgcombe Esq Of Mount Edgcombe in the County of Devon.*



*An escutcheon on the Furnese memorial (Ian Sumner)*





The Furnese memorial from the north-east (Ian Sumner)

East Side

*Here also lies deposited  
In hope of a blessed Resurrection, the  
Mortal remains of the virtuous and much  
Lamented Lady Anne daughter of Anthony  
Balam Esq & Wife of Sir Robt. Furnese Barrt.  
Whose native good disposition, Religious  
Principles, unaffected Piety, & amiable  
Behaviour, had ye praises of every tongue  
& were equally engaging and inimitable.  
Having joyned, by her nuptials the two  
Families before united in a closer Union,  
She compleated her Parents hopes & her  
Consort's happiness by ye most endearing  
Filial duty, & conjugal affection.*

*But by ye too common Fate of ye eminently  
good being as mature in Virtues as tender  
in years she was cropt as a blooming flower  
& leaving Issue one Daughter Anne,  
& exchanging this Life for a better  
May the 29th 1713  
Aged 25*

North side

*Here lies Interred  
The Body of Sr Robert Furnese Bart.  
Heir to his Fathers virtues & Estate  
Who after Exerting in Several Parliaments  
Integrity Zeal & Spirit  
For the true Interest and Support  
Of our happy Constitution in Church & State  
was Elected Knight of the Shire for the County of Kent  
a publick Testimonial  
of the Trust and Confidence of his Countrymen  
whose Hearts & affections were naturally Engaged  
by his most affable Behaviour & Liberal Spirit.  
He was born 1 August 1687 & died 14 March 1733  
Deservedly Beloved & Lamented by His Family  
As a Husband & a father as a Master & a Friend  
His 1st Wife was Ann Balam by whom He had one Daughter  
Ann Married to John Lord Viscount St John  
His 2nd Wife was The Lady Arabella Watson  
By whom He Had Issue Henry & Katherine  
His 3rd Wife was The Lady Ann Shirley  
Daughter to Robert Earl of Ferrers who survived him  
By whom He had Issue Ann who died an Infant & Selina*

(added later:)

*Who married in 1755 Edward eldest Son of Sir Edward Dering Bart. And left a Son  
Edward, and a Daughter, Selina. Lady Ann Furnese, after passing very honourably a  
Widowhood of above 46 years died greatly respected February the 25<sup>th</sup> 1779 in the 72<sup>nd</sup> Year  
of her Age and was buried by her own desire, in Audley Chapel in the Parish of  
St Georges Hanover Square.*



A detail of the Furnese memorial (Ian Sumner)



*To the Memory of Lady Arabella Watson  
6th Daughter of Lewis Earl of Rockingham  
by Kath. Daughter of Geo. Earl of Feversham  
Born 15 March 1693 Married 8 July 1714  
Deceased 6 September 1727*

*Leaving a most amiable Example  
of unaffected Piety & Cheerfull Innocence  
of Benevolence & Complacency of Temper  
which added peculiar Grace & Lustre  
to all those virtues & Accomplishments  
whereby She was Eminently distinguished  
In every Station & Relation of Life  
Her Son Sr Henry Furnese Bart.  
a youth of Promising hope and Expectation  
Died on His Travells at Marseilles  
17 March 1735 Aged 19  
And lies Interred under this Monument  
Katherine Heiress to Sr Henry her Brother  
was Married on 10 Aprill 1736  
to Lewis Earl of Rockingham  
Son of Edward Lord Viscount Sondes  
& Grandson of Lewis Earl of Rockingham*

(added later:)

*Who died the 4th Day of December 1745.  
Her Ladyship was married on the 13th Day of June 1751 to  
Francis Lord North & Guilford, since Earl of Guilford,  
& having Eminently displayed all ye Virtues of her Parents  
departed this life Universally Lamented on ye 22nd Day of Dec. 1766  
In the 52nd year of Her Age, Leaving no Issue.  
She was by direction of her Will Interred at Wroxton in Oxfordshire.*



*Funerary helm in the south chapel  
(Ian Sumner)*



*Left: The Monins hatchment of 1678  
in the south chapel (Ian Sumner)*

*Below: The east end showing the  
medieval chancel flanked by brick  
chapels (Ian Sumner)*

The hatchments in the church are to:

Sir Thomas Monins, 3rd Baronet, who died  
20 January 1678 aged 73;

Francis, 6th Earl of Guilford, who died  
29 January 1861;

Dudley Francis, 7th Earl of Guilford, who died  
19 December 1885.

In the south chapel is a 17th-century funerary  
helm, whilst the north chapel contains a pair of  
18th-century helm wristlets.

The church and adjoining parkland have been  
the focus for many parochial events – for  
example the tea party for Queen Victoria's  
Golden Jubilee on 22 June 1887 which attracted  
298 people. Ten years later the Queen's  
Diamond Jubilee celebration was held in the  
Riding School when 273 people were present.

The Trust hopes you have enjoyed your visit to  
this historic church, and that this guide has  
helped to set it in the context of its surrounding  
ancient parkland and the families that have lived  
and worshipped here over the centuries.



# THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity that cares for and preserves English churches of historic, architectural or archaeological importance that are no longer needed for regular worship. It promotes public enjoyment of them and their use as an educational and community resource.

Whatever the condition of the church when the Trust takes it over its aims are, first and foremost, to put the building and its contents into a sound and secure condition as speedily as possible. Then the church is repaired so that it is welcoming to visitors and those who attend the public events or occasional services that may be held there (Trust churches are still consecrated). Our objective is to keep it intact for the benefit of present and future generations, for local people and visitors alike to behold and enjoy.

There are some 340 churches scattered widely through the length and breadth of England, in town and country, ranging from charmingly simple buildings in lovely settings to others of great richness and splendour; some are hard to find, all are worth the effort.

Many of the churches are open all year round, others have keyholders nearby; all are free. A notice regarding opening arrangements or keyholders will normally be found near the door. Otherwise, such information can be obtained direct from the Trust during office hours or [www.visitchurches.org.uk](http://www.visitchurches.org.uk).

Visitors are most welcome and we hope this guidebook will encourage you to explore these wonderful buildings.

**NEARBY IS THE TRUST CHURCH OF**  
St Mary the Virgin, Capel-le-Ferne  
2 miles NE of Folkestone off B2011

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*Right: The north chapel viewed from the chancel (Ian Sumner)*  
*Back cover: North chapel hatchment (Ian Sumner)*

