

# St Mary's Church, Guildford

## A brief history

St. Mary's is the oldest church in Guildford and dates from Saxon times. The present church was probably built in stone around 950. The tower is the earliest part. The rest of the church was added in stages over the next three hundred years. The nave walls with the north door are the latest part, built about 1250. There were major changes inside in Georgian times but this was all swept away by Victorian work in 1863. There are later medieval windows, but all the glass is Victorian apart from two First World War memorial windows and a modern window of 2003. There are two small brasses of about 1500. Fragments of medieval wall-paintings of about 1200 survive, and a tiny piece of late Saxon wall-painting, recently exposed. The nave aisles have interesting carved corbels. The main attraction is the medieval architecture and the unusual layout of the church on several levels of the hill-side.