

St. Mary's Church, Bedingfield

This is a Grade 1 Listed Building dating back to the 13th Century. It has two Medieval doors and some of the back bench pews date back to that time. There is a large iron bound chest of great age.

The upper stage of the Tower, which houses a 15th Century bell, and the Porch were erected in the 14th Century.

The 8 bay double hammerbeam roof and some of the windows date from the 15th Century. The octagonal bowl of the font is from the same period but it stands in a much older square shaft.

The 17th Century saw the installation of 21 bench pews with poppy ends with the former 15th Century ends, mutilated in the time of Oliver Cromwell, reused on the wall ends of the pews.

Further bench pews, pulpit and lectern are dated as 19th Century.

The vestry was built in 1834.

The Porch was built by Peter de Bedingfield in 1371 but the windows became destroyed and were restored in 1951 by Thomas and Geraldine Morris.

The Clock on the outside of the Tower was given to the Parish in memory of the villagers who gave their lives for this Country in the 1914-18 World War.

The Bedingfield family, living at Flemings Hall from about 1371 - 1929, has provided many benefactors for this Church. This family name is well recorded in the "List of Rectors". The first Rector was John de Aldebergh in 1300 A.D. but a "Bedingfield" was appointed to that living on six occasions between then and 1833. There are no less than fifteen "Bedingfields" buried under the floors of the Porch and Chancel. Several windows have been installed in memory of various members of the Bedingfield family which since those days has spread throughout the World.