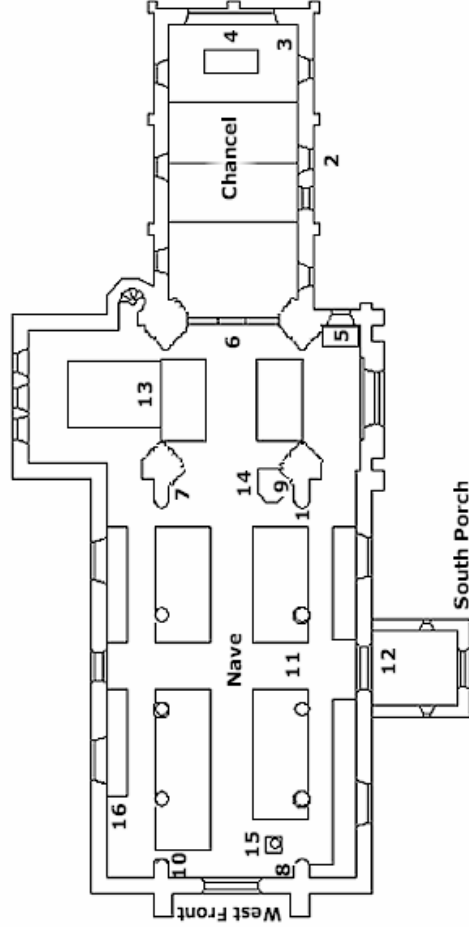


a lion (8), Luke by an ox (9) and John by an eagle (10). They are similar to the creatures described in the Book of Revelations as surrounding the Throne of God and became known as the “apocalyptic beasts”. Each figure holds a scroll which may have carried the name of the saint. Many of the other corbels are carved 13<sup>th</sup> century heads, probably of local people and benefactors, and interestingly they illustrate the headwear fashion of the time. The corbel nearest the south door is an upside-down male figure (11) with his head between his legs, poking out his tongue to ward off evil spirits.

Confusingly, the south door has two handles, the larger handle is known as a sanctuary ring (12). Fugitives could claim sanctuary by holding this ring; they then had the protection of the church for 40 days during which time they could choose to be either punished or banished from the realm.

The organ (13) was built and installed by W Nicholson of Worcester in 1873 and the rather incongruous pulpit (14) was installed in 1895. Also in 1895 the top of the font (15) was raised with a course of stone and the side panels were carved. This alteration makes the font difficult to date but it is likely to be the same date as the church. In the rear corner of the church (16) is a wooden-framed, flail-locking turret clock (early to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century), a medieval scratch or mass dial and the parish bier (1893).



Plan of St Mary's Church  
The numbers correspond to the reference numbers in the text

# A Short Guide to St Mary's Church Felmersham, Bedfordshire



St Mary's viewed from the South



Sanctuary Handle



Double Piscina



Angels on the medieval screen