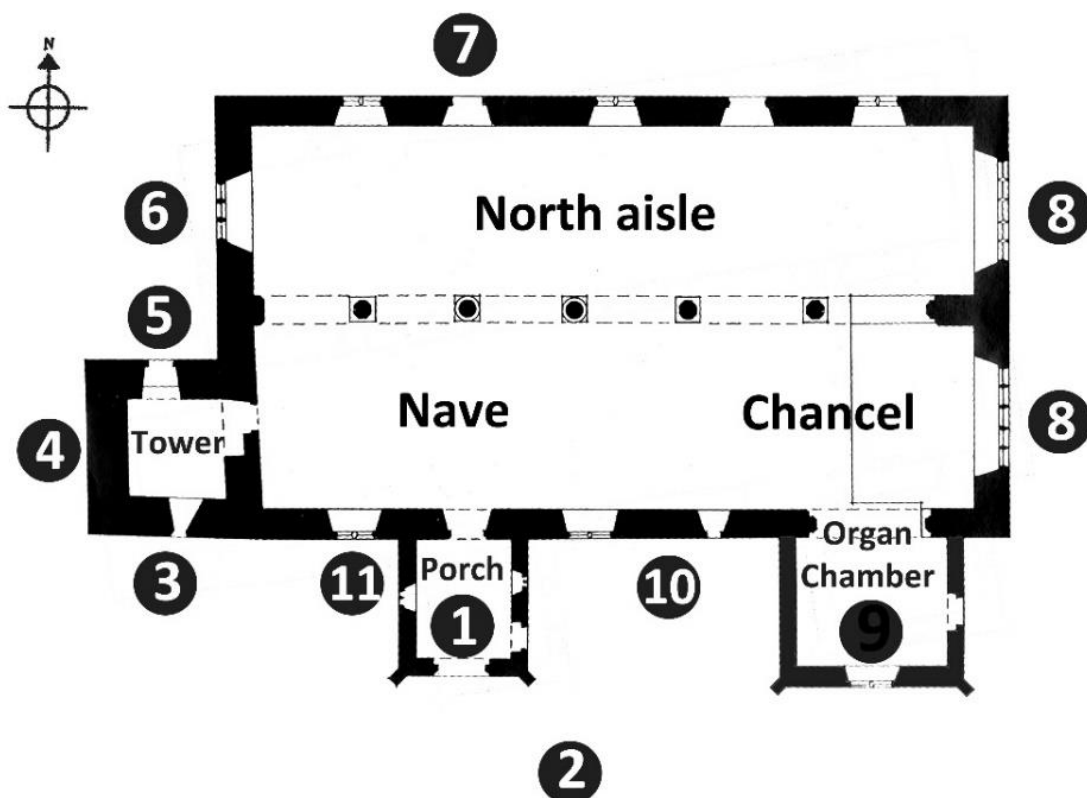


ST GILES GOODRICH - WEBSITE HERITAGE TRAIL - OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

PLAN OF HERITAGE TRAIL



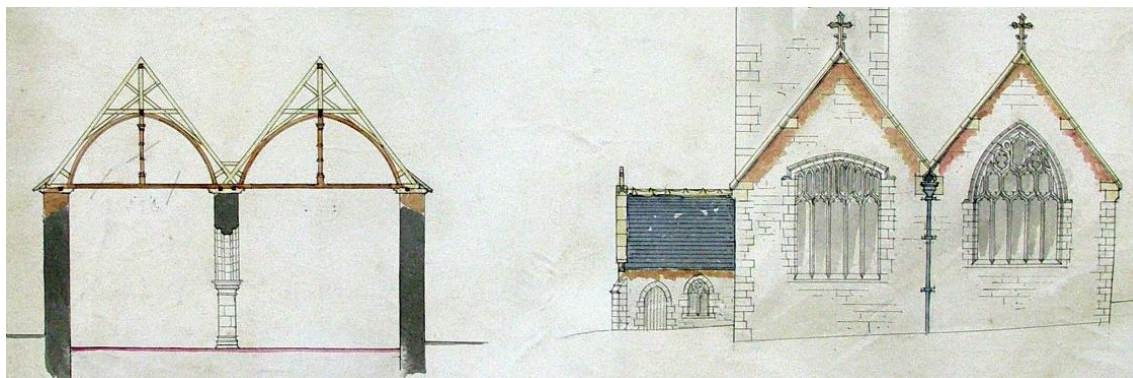
THE STONEWORK OF THE CHURCH

Most of the early stone is local sandstone or conglomerate, which varies in colour from yellow through red to grey. The early stonework, e.g. the tower, is made from good quality sandstone or conglomerate. Later alterations use poor reddish sandstone rubble, e.g. at (10) and (11), probably from the quarry in the field below the church to the east.

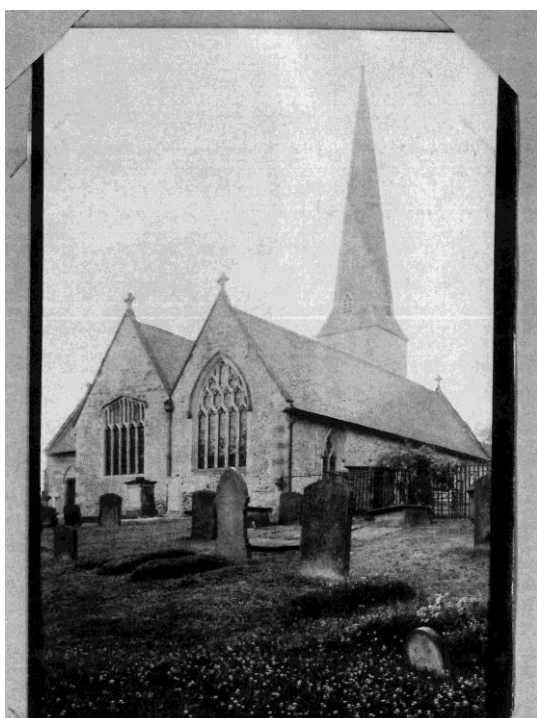
The stone has been surveyed as part of the Hereford & Worcester Earth Heritage Trust building stone project. The link to the results is

<http://www.buildingstones.org.uk/search/nprn/site7094>.

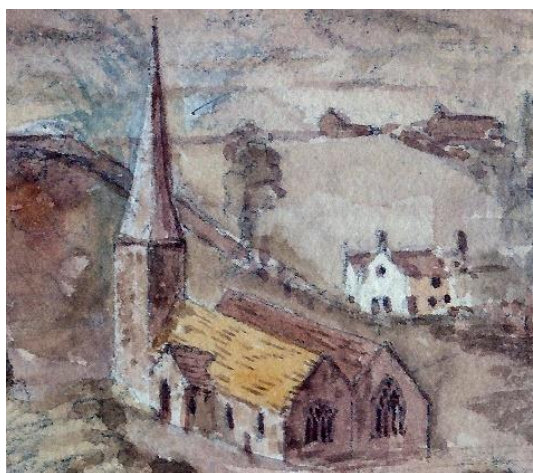
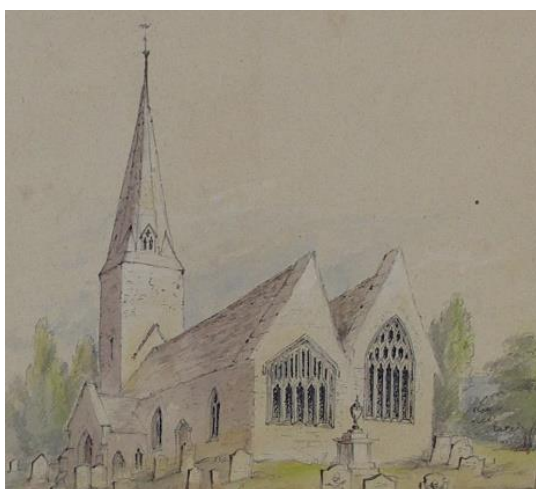
THE ROOFS



The two separate roofs were rebuilt in the 1870s restoration and are now of equal height, as per J P Seddon's plan above. Any original timbers seem to have been lost.



This view of the east end of the church was taken by the Royal Commission surveyors in 1927. The view is much the same as today except iron railings can still be seen around the graves - they were not removed until WWII.



Earlier paintings (see right above for 1849) show a scar on the eastern tower wall so the southern roof was originally higher. The view above right is unclear but almost suggests the roof was thatched, as does the view shown in item (3), the Tower and Spire. Possibly at that time it was covered in plants growing on the mossy stone roof tiles.

In 1739 1500 (sandstone) tiles from Treworgan in Llangarron were used on the roof and it cost 1s to clean up the churchyard after the tilers. There are odd mentions of roof repairs until the 1870s.

2. THE CHURCH YARD CROSS



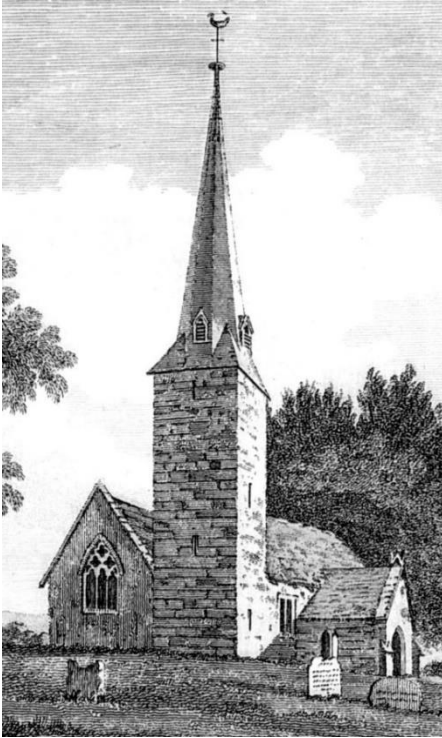
The earliest known representation of the cross is in an etching of the church published by Richard Godfrey in 1782 (left). Only two steps to the base are visible in the etching, though there are actually three old steps; these show the same evidence of wear and do not seem to have been moved. The current top step looks newer, possibly added to hold the shaft more firmly when the cross was restored for the coronation of Edward VII in 1911, according to the plaque on the step.

When the Historic Monuments surveyors visited the church in 1927 their handwritten notes said that above the square-stepped base there was a short length of square shaft with stop chamfered angles. The printed version of the survey says that the shaft was octagonal with initials T. W., W. B. 1691.

The initials TW and WB and the date 1691 cannot now be found, but Thomas Weare and William Boughan were churchwardens in 1691. The 1782 etching is interesting in that it shows rather more at the top of the shaft than is now there, though not a cross. It is quite possible that the cross was vandalised during the Civil War, as possession of Goodrich castle changed hand several times. Richard Tyler, constable of the castle during the Civil War, lived near the church.

The handwritten version of the 1927 survey said that a 'modern' (i.e. post 1720) sundial had been put on top of the shaft, the printed version just 'a sundial'. This is octagonal, missing its gnomon which may have been pulled out as the brass is split.

3. THE TOWER AND SPIRE



This engraving of the west view of the church was published in 1782 by Richard Godfrey. Although it's not obvious from the engraving, the tower lies completely to the west of the main body of the church.

It is about 4.80m square externally, 2.75m square internally and is 14th-century, according to the 1927 RCHME report. At the base of the tower is a larger supporting stone plinth. Small windows on the west and south sides light the four internal floors.

There is no evidence whether this is the original form of the tower. However, on the west face the stone courses get narrower with height and then large stones are used again. This could just reflect one of the tower repair episodes mentioned below.

On the south wall of the tower, is a square sundial dated 1820. In 1820 William Barrow was paid 2 shillings for repairing the 'dial' which was presumably then dated. This sundial was originally located on the face of the porch - it is shown there in the 1927 photos and earlier drawings.



West window



South window



East window



North window

The lower window on the south wall of the tower has been enlarged. There are a number of reports of work on the spire in the churchwardens' accounts and in the newspapers.

Apparently in the ninth century Pope Nicholas I decreed that every church should be topped with a cock-shaped wind vane as a reminder of the biblical prophecy referencing Peter's betrayal of Jesus. The weather vane at the top of Goodrich church spire is in the form of a cockerel. It is made of iron and is about 75cm from its beak to the end of its tail feathers.



The spire is tall, built of stone and of a *broach* form i.e. it starts on a square base but is carried up as an octagon and has pyramidal roofs at each corner which cover the top of the tower completely. It is surmounted by a gilded weathercock. The spire has dormer windows with remains of trefoil tops on each of the four compass points, regarded as original by the RCHME surveyors. The engraving shows the south and west of these windows, which already had louvres right across, but the eastern window has still a middle mullion with two sets of louvres. It is possible to see from the others that the stone has been cut away. Two of the carved trefoil heads are made from much paler stone; the drip moulding over the west window is relatively new. The louvres appear to be made of slate slabs, apart from two which look almost like wood.

There are a number of entries in the churchwardens' accounts which show that work on the spire was fairly frequent and expensive. The Goodman family of masons from Mordiford and Lydney twice worked on the spire. They had developed a method of ascending a spire by hammering staples into the joints in the stone, thus avoiding the expense of scaffolding. In 1791 the churchwarden's accounts showed that they had paid out for nails for a scaffold, carriage of the scaffold poles and repair of the church ladders. Some lead work was being done, presumably on the roof, and so no doubt the opportunity was taken to re-gild the weather cock, which cost £1 1s, about £115 today. A Goodman's bill of £32 was paid later in the year. In 1808 Mr Goodman was paid £21 for 'taking down and re-building the spire'.

In January 1809 a bill for £2.4s.6d from Rudge for a new weathercock was paid, so the re-gilding had been a waste of time. It seems likely that this is the weathercock now on the spire. When the top of the spire had to be repaired in 2001 the opportunity was taken to renovate then photograph it. In August 1843 the *Hereford Times* carried an advert for contractors and masons to take down and rebuild the spire after it had been struck by lightning and a portion thrown down.

4. THE STEPS ON THE WEST OF THE TOWER



The lower window on the west wall of the tower has been enlarged and converted to a doorway to the bellringers' chamber. The stone steps leading to the door and the iron handrail were installed soon after November 1845, when Sir Samuel Meyrick wrote to a friend about it. Access to the floors inside is by ladder. A steep ascent leads to the bell chamber itself from the ringers' chamber. A full description of the bells can be found in the Heritage Trail for inside the church.

The handrail and steps have been repaired as part of the 2017 Heritage Lottery- funded project.

5. THE NORTH TOWER DOOR



Before 1845 access to the tower from the outside was by this very sturdy door. The door is possibly mid 17th-century by the style of the hinges (below). It has an ogee shape door head.



Inside the base of the tower a large arch, now filled in except for a much smaller arched door, used to lead into the church from the west. This arch could not have been inserted after the tower was built so was probably the old entrance to the nave of the church.

6. THE WEST WINDOW

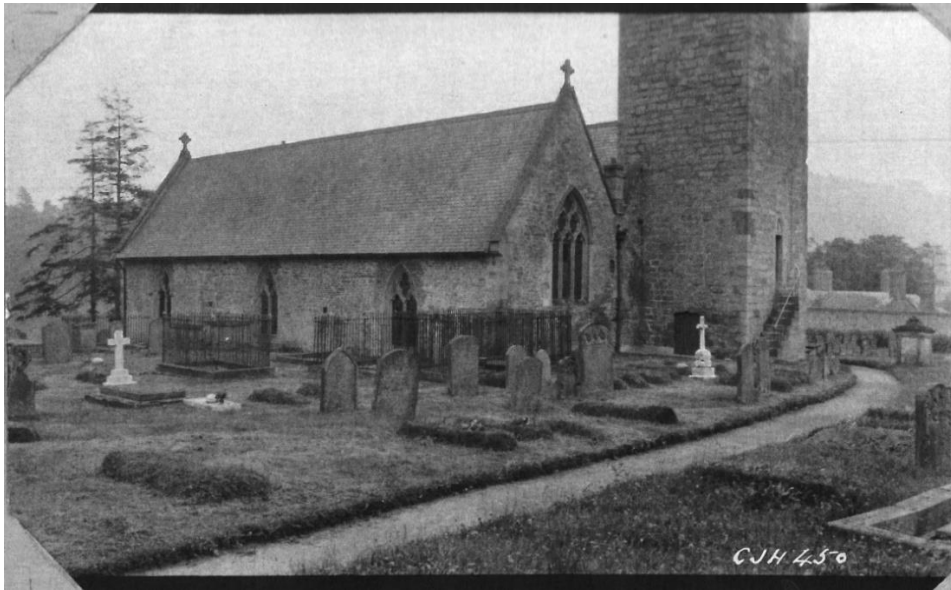


To the north of the tower is a large window with plain glass. It was described by the RCHME surveyor as 'a late 14th-century window with three ogee trefoiled lights and geometrical tracery in a two-centred head; moulded label with two head stops (Bishops); moulded external and hollow-chamfered internal jambs.'

The bishops' heads are carved as one with the lower part of the hood moulding (see below). Some of the diamond-shaped panes are tinged yellow or green, but this also applies to the window of the 1870s organ chamber so they are not necessarily old.



7. THE NORTH WALL OF THE CHURCH



The earliest view of the north wall of the church found so far dates from 1927 when the Historic Monuments surveyors visited. It shows the graves with railings before these were taken away in WWII; the only one which retains its originals being that of Sir Samuel Meyrick of Goodrich Court, by the good offices of the vicar. It had a new slab cut in the 1940s, funded by The Meyrick Society.



Between the rightmost two windows in the north wall is a blocked up doorway (left). It is directly opposite the main entrance door to the church and is clearly old. A new step and cill was made for it in 1739, but permission was granted in the 1870s to block it.

There is a large blocked window between the two current leftmost (eastern) windows (left below). Strangely, it has been filled with large better quality sandstone blocks rather than the rubble of the rest of the wall.

The easternmost window shows disturbance about its head. To the left of the window a delicate piece of window moulding has been built into the wall (below right). Above it the stones in the wall are of the same quality and type as those of the tower. Could these be the only remnants of the vanished north chapel?



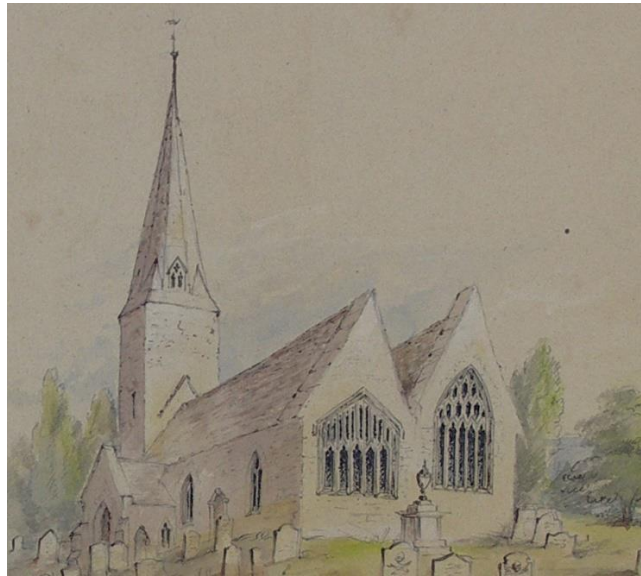
8. THE EAST WALL - NORTH WINDOW



There is some doubt about the age of this window, as the Historic Monuments surveyors called it 'modern', i.e. post 1715, in 1927. However, when seen up close some of the stonework tracery appears older. The lights which hold 15th-century armorial glass seem to be unchanged in shape from the early glass. There have been repairs which may have deceived the surveyor, and the addition of two 'medieval' heads at the ends of the arch above the window. They were not there in 1849 when Charles Walker painted the church, so presumably were added in the 1870s, as was the cross on the apex of this roof. They are not carved as one with the hood mouldings as in the west window.



9. THE EAST WALL - SOUTH WINDOW

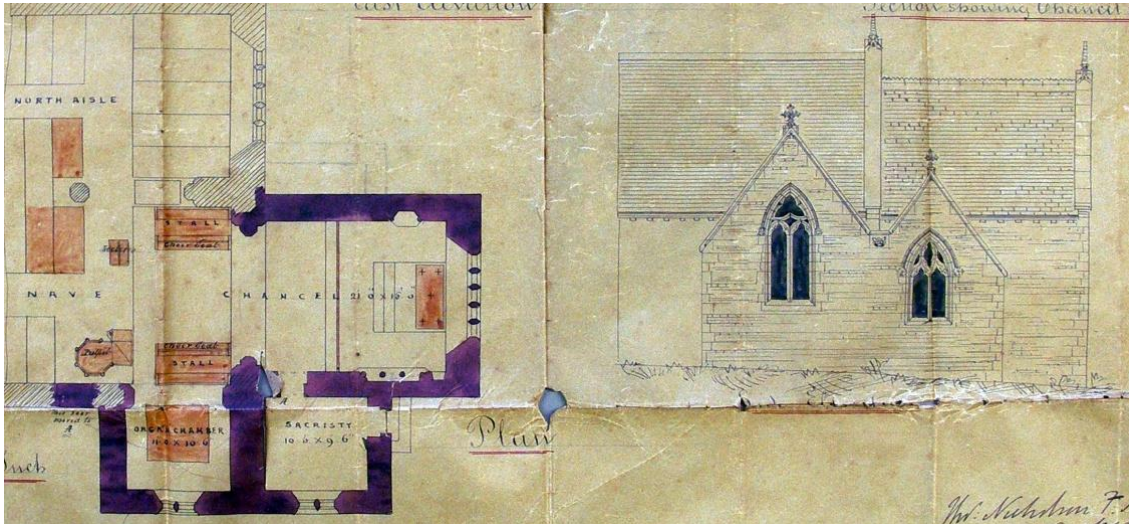


In 1927, this window was considered to be late 15th-century, though parts of the window had been restored. It is believed that all the medieval glass was replaced in 1879 to commemorate the vicar Henry Morgan who died in 1875. No record has been found of the earlier glass.

It's quite clear from the 1849 painting of the church by Charles Walker (above) that none of the main roofs had crosses on their apexes, so on what authority, if any, the 1870s church restorers 'replaced' them is unknown.

A full description of the glass in this window can be found in the 'Inside the church' Heritage Trail, as very little can be seen from the outside.

10. THE ORGAN CHAMBER

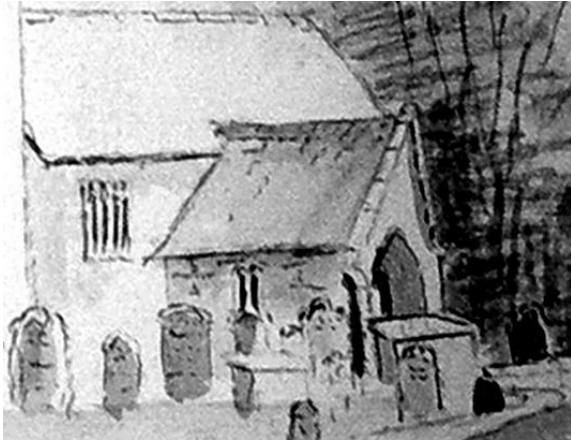


A plan was drawn up by Thomas Nicholson in 1876 to extend the chancel further to the east, shown in purple on the plan. This would have allowed both an organ chamber and a sacristy - a room for the priest to dress and where vestments were kept - to be fitted in on the south side. This was probably too expensive so the sacristy was abandoned; the chancel stayed the same but the organ chamber *was* built, see the south (left) and east faces below .



The organ chamber is connected to the church by a massive arch - so large perhaps the stones for the new chancel arch had already been made and had to be used. In the process it destroyed the original priest's entrance to the church and a window to the east. The priest now had to enter by the door on the east side of the organ chamber and squeeze past the organ into the church. This door is locked and probably hasn't been used for many years.

11. THE SOUTH WALL AND WINDOWS



There are two views of the church taken in 1783 and 1790 showing the window between the porch and the tower. Both show it as rectangular with, probably, stone tracery reminiscent of the east window over the altar. The 1849 picture above confirms that the windows were this shape but we can't see the one behind the porch. By the time of the picture below, painted before the 1870 restoration, all three south windows had been replaced. We can be pretty sure that the gothic windows on the north wall are exactly the same size as all those on the south presumably they were all done at the same time, almost from a kit.



In 1792 more than £66 was expended on works at the church, involving scaffolding and lead, the largest item being 'Goodman's bill' for £32 - though he was a steeple expert. Normal annual bills did not often exceed £20. However, a parish charity, Gardyner's, often supplied money to the church and its accounts from before the 1920s have not survived.

In the 1870s restoration an extra hood moulding terminating in a foliage ball was added to all the smaller windows except the two most westerly on the north wall. None of the pre-1870 depictions of the south wall are detailed enough to be absolutely sure that the windows were not all replaced in the 1870s but it seems unlikely.

Notice the door between the easternmost two windows. This was lost when the organ chamber was built. The majority of churches always had a separate entrance to the chancel for the priest and his acolytes; the entrance into the nave was for the parishioners. It seems probable that there is a door on the east side of the porch so that the priest could cross from the chancel door to conduct business such as marriages in the porch without going through the nave.