

## ***St Mary's South Stoneham.***

Surveyed January to March 2018 by members of Southampton Archaeology Society.

St Mary's, South Stoneham, is tucked away amongst the University of Southampton's halls of residence in Swaythling. It has medieval origins with a fine 12<sup>th</sup> century chancel arch, and a low tower of the late 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup> century. It contains a range of interesting monuments, including the tomb of Francis Dawtry, son of John Dawtry, the builder of Tudor House, and a large Baroque monument to Edward Dummer (d.1724), the builder of neighbouring South Stoneham House.

A small amount of early graffiti was found, with a noticeable grouping of concentric circles and crosses carved into the south side of the chancel arch. The earliest initials were found on the tomb of Francis Dawtry in the chancel: "IE", with the date 1632. In the lead lining of the Purbeck font basin, are the clearly chiselled initials "RH". This distinctive method of carving, with individual cuts made by a chisel or similar sharp tool, is known as "wriggle work" and is found on pewter and silver vessels of the late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting this is when RH made his (or her) mark.

A large amount of modern graffiti was found in the organ loft, on the organ casing itself and the surrounding pews. This was recorded, and a list of the names, initials and dates was given to the church wardens as a source of information for people researching family history and connections with the church.



*St. Mary's Church – chancel arch*



*Circles and crosses on the chancel arch*



*"RH" on font*





*"IE 1632"*

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