

The garden at the back of the church was created in 1987 as a memorial to the Revd William Gibb, Vicar of Scaynes Hill from 1971 -1985, who died in office. Cremated ashes of local people can be interred in the Memorial Garden.



*St Augustine and his Monks land in Kent; He preaches to King Aethelbert who lets them go on to Canterbury*

Also in the garden can be found a memorial fountain given by the family of Ron Buswell and a statue of the Madonna and Child originally carved in wood by Don Foster, then cast in bronze in 2003.

When the Revd Graham Mitchell arrived at St Augustine's in 1986 he took steps to beautify the furnishings of the church.



*Julian of Norwich and Josephine Butler*

In 1987 a group of parishioners started to embroider a set of hassocks (kneelers) for all the pews in the nave. Local buildings, village organisations, and parts of the chancel screen are all depicted, together with two snippets of hymn tunes and a map of New Zealand.

In 1990 St Augustine's Church celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of the parish of Scaynes Hill. Revd Graham Mitchell suggested that the occasion should be commemorated in some way and it was decided to create a tapestry to cover the whole of the blank east wall. It was an ambitious project but there were some skilled embroiderers in the congregation. The Parochial Church Council approved the plan and permission was gained from the Diocese of Chichester. The theme chosen was from St John's Gospel, "I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly". Polly Hope, an artist from London, was commissioned to paint the design which included the seven miracles described in the Gospel. A small group of dedicated stitchers and many visitors, worked for over seven years until the tapestry, in three panels and measuring 18 ft by 10 ft was completed in January 1999. The finished work was blessed by the Bishop of Chichester, with the Bishop of Horsham also present, in July 1999.

Above the Rydon memorial in the north aisle is a set of paintings illustrating the life of the church's patron saint, Augustine the first Archbishop of Canterbury, who landed in Kent in 597 AD. It was given as a memorial to William Boden by his family and was painted by Julia Rushbury from Lewes.

The two stained-glass windows in the north aisle were given by Joan Barlett and commemorate the four Bartlett sisters, Kate, Emma, Hazel and Joan. They were made by Rosalind Grimshaw of Bristol. They celebrate two women, one a saint from the 14th century and the other a campaigner from the 19th century. The left-hand window features Julian of Norwich, probably born around 1342. In 1373 she received a series of visions. She became an anchoress in a small room in St Julian's Church, Norwich and subsequently wrote a book, "The Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love".

The second window portrays Josephine Butler, a woman of great energy, who devoted herself to bringing care and support to women from the slums of Liverpool, Brussels and Paris. She was a devout Christian who fought against child prostitution and the exploitation of women. She was largely responsible for the repeal of the "Contagious Diseases Act" and was also involved in a campaign for the establishment of university education for women.

In 2022 it was discovered that almost the whole floor of the church needed to be replaced and after a successful fund-raising campaign the work was carried out the following year. The opportunity was taken to place time capsules under the new floor containing information about the church and life locally in the 21st century for future generations to discover. The Bishop of Horsham came to bless the new floor and, in her prayers, spoke of God's love and grace through the ages and today. She prayed that the witness of the church in Scaynes Hill would be enduring and that it would be faithful to its calling to be the light of Christ in this place.



## St Augustine's Church Scaynes Hill



St Augustine's Church, although not particularly old by English standards, is a Grade II listed building. This is unusual for a small Victorian church and a recognition of St Augustine's special historic interest.

In the early part of the nineteenth century Scaynes Hill was just a collection of farms on the edge of the parish of Lindfield. Several of the farmhouses are medieval but most of the cottages were built in the Victorian era. By the 1850s the population had grown to such an extent that the need for a school was apparent. In 1856 the Revd William Henry Stallard came to Lindfield as a curate. He wanted people to be able to worship in Scaynes Hill so he started to hold services at a farmhouse called Inces. He then proposed that a school church be built which would be used as a school during the week and for worship as a Chapel of Ease within the parish of Lindfield on Sundays. As a result of his fund-raising efforts the school church was built by public subscription in 1858. It consisted of the present nave but with narrower windows and probably separate entrance porches for boys and girls at the rear of the building.

The school grew quickly and the dual-purpose building must have been quite inconvenient. In 1879 the school moved to another building approximately 100 metres away - now Old School House - and the school church was used solely as a church. At this time the north aisle of the church was constructed, probably incorporating the entrance porches. It was supported by wooden pillars and the building was fitted up for worship.

In 1881 the Revd Frederic Willett inherited the Bedales estate from his aunt and came to live in Scaynes Hill. He took over the church as priest-in-charge, giving his services entirely gratuitously, and remained in post until his retirement in 1905. The Willett family history is rather interesting. Originally known by the name of Catt, the family fortunes were founded by William Catt, who operated the extremely profitable tide-mills at Bishopstone near Seaford. When William Catt died in 1853 his eldest daughter inherited a fortune. She was unmarried and made it a condition that if the family wished to inherit from her they had to change their name to Willett, her mother's maiden name. Most of the family did so but to retain a connection with the past included a cat in their coat of arms.

It was through the Revd Willett's efforts that the church was enlarged to its present size. In 1888 a new chancel, tower and baptistery were added. The decoration of the chancel was carried out by C.E.Kempe of Old Place Lindfield. There was no east window but the wall above the altar was richly patterned. A chancel screen (not the present one) not only beautified the church but strengthened the structure. A vestry and organ chamber were also built. In about 1898 Arthur Hope Rydon, a London solicitor, property owner and keen sportsman, bought a substantial amount of land in Scaynes Hill from the Revd Willett and built a residence known as Awbrook. He was a great benefactor of the church and used his wood-carving skills to beautify the interior of the building.

*Details of the Carving on the Chancel Screen*



Starting in 1908 improvements were made to the chancel. Mr Rydon carved the beautiful chancel screen with quatrefoils filled with flowers and plants and laid the black and white marble flooring in the sanctuary. A new organ was

also installed. The carved pulpit and a new reredos to replace Kempe's original design (not the present one) followed.

In 1913 major structural repairs to the church were carried out. The stone arcade between the side-aisle and the nave replaced the original wooden arches and the roof was strengthened with steel tying rods. The south wall was rebuilt and the windows in the nave widened. New stained glass was installed in the tower window.

The panelling at the west end of the church and around the font is also the work of Mr Rydon, put in in 1919 in thanksgiving for the survival of his son, a pilot in the Royal Flying Corps during the Great War. Mr Rydon's own memorial can be seen on the wall at the end of the north aisle.

The stained-glass windows in the chancel and sanctuary are memorials to members of the Willett family. The 1903 Boer War Memorial Window, executed by C.E.Kempe, was installed to celebrate the safe return of the Revd Willett's son, Frederic Wilfrid Bignell Willett and his friend Cecil Shaw. The stained-glass window in the sanctuary is in memory of Captain Ronald Willett who died at Hazebrook in France in the Second World War.

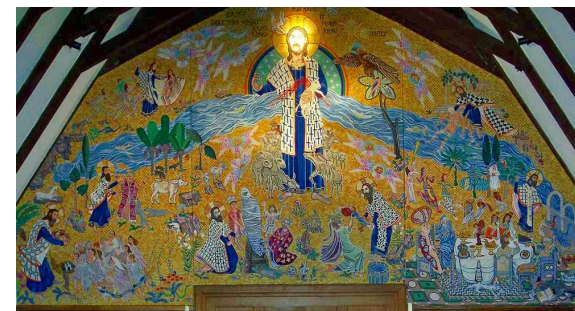
The present altar was given in 1950 as a memorial to the Revd Frederic Willett, who died in 1938 aged one hundred, and the altar rails were given in memory of his son, Frederic Wilfrid Bignell Willett, who served as churchwarden at St Augustine's for twenty years. The present reredos, which replaced Mr Rydon's, is the memorial to the men of Scaynes Hill who died in the Second World War.



St Augustine's Church remained in the parish of Lindfield until 1930 when sufficient funds were found to enable Scaynes Hill to become a separate parish. This was largely through the generosity of Arthur Hope Rydon who gave the sum of £2000 to endow a living. The money was invested by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and produced a Vicar's stipend of £153-13s-4d per annum.

In 1958 to mark the centenary of the building of the church a large flat-roofed vestry extension was built. This was later demolished when the church annexe was constructed. The new annexe, completed in 2012, comprises a main hall, meeting rooms, kitchen and toilets. It provides modern facilities for social events, meetings and group activities.

Moving outside, the Calvary cross in the front garden is a memorial to the men of Scaynes Hill who died in the Great War. The Roll of Honour inside the church, carved by Mr Rydon, lists all those who served along with the names of the fallen.



*Whole Tapestry*



*Feeding of the Five Thousand*



*The Wedding Feast at Cana*