

Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, Warblington, Hampshire.

All photos are described viewed clockwise from top left.

This church is set in a peaceful rural location about a mile south-east of Havant and near to the ruins of the medieval castle. It stands within a few hundred yards of the inlet which separates that part of the coast from Hayling Island.

Sandwiched between nave and chancel is a pre-conquest tower measuring some nine feet square. Originally a west tower the ground story was swept away when medieval archways were inserted at ground level opening up and linking later nave to chancel. The top story is a later medieval addition. The interesting features are the north and south late Anglo-Saxon doorways viewed externally between 'troughs' in the aisle roofs. These doorways are built with rough rubble jambs cut straight through the wall.



Another (third) doorway may be viewed internally opening westwards into the medieval nave, but the jambs have been heavily reworked, perhaps in Victorian times. It may well be that these doorways opened on to a timber gallery running round the three sides of the tower (in a similar manner to the tower at Deerhurst St. Mary). Some Roman bricks are incorporated into the jambs.

1. The tower seen from the south.
2. A closer view of the south doorway.
3. The north doorway.