

A HISTORY OF ST ANDREW'S IN 100 OBJECTS



2.

The font

Date: 13th century

The font is the oldest object in the church. The church it originally belonged to has largely disappeared, though traces of it suggest that the building was as long as it is today but was cruciform (i.e. cross-shaped) with transepts much higher than the current north and south aisles.

The font has only been in this position since 1880; before then it was in the south aisle, close to the door. Fonts were usually placed near to the church entrance, as baptism (or 'christening' as it became popularly known) is the rite of entry into the Christian community. This, incidentally, suggests that the south door used to be the main entrance to the church; it originally had its own (older) porch.

Parents continue to bring their children for baptism at St Andrew's. In 2010 there were 25 children baptised. Increasingly we see adults coming for baptism too: at a recent Confirmation service, two adults were baptised before they were confirmed by the bishop alongside three others (who had been baptised as children).