



The High Altar

During Shakespeare's years, there were no longer any stone altars in the church and the chancel was not used during regular services.

However, with the Victorian desire to 'Glorify God's worship' many churches were totally reordered. Whilst heating pipes were being laid and the organ relocated, an 11th century 'mensa' was discovered buried under the floor of the Becket Chapel. A mensa is the top layer of a high altar, and this one dated to early 11th century (older than the church!) and was probably the altar stone used in the Becket Chapel, and buried to safeguard it from destruction during the Reformation.

So the Victorians built a completely new high altar, which we see and use today, incorporating the original 'mensa' (one of the oldest in the country).

There is no charge for your visit

Please help us to keep the church open by donating at our contactless points or donation boxes

Thank you

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