

ANCIENT IFIELD



Ifield was, until the arrival of the railways, a dispersed parish rather than a nucleated settlement though a small hamlet developed in the area of St Margaret's Church and part of a growing market town sat beside the London to Brighton route in the far eastern reaches of the parish.

The earliest parts of the current St Margaret's Church, the nave and chancel, were built in around 1200 with the north and south aisles being added during the 14th century and the tower in 1884. It is widely thought that the current stone building replaced a much earlier timber church that was built sometime between 900 and 1085. The Sussex Marble font within the church dates to the late C12; before construction of the current church. Based on it's girth, the large yew tree to the south east of the chancel is 1,000 - 1,100 years old, being possibly contemporary with the previous structure.

Within the church are two stone effigies of a knight and his lady. These are of Lord of the Manor John de Ifield (1265 -1343) and his wife Margery (1270 - 1347, often referred to as Lady Margaret).



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