

The Lantern of Kent



God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. God make the doorway of this house the gateway to your eternal kingdom. Amen.

Stone Parish Church

Church Road, Stone, Greenhithe,
Kent, DA9 9BE
www.stmarystone.org

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St Mary the Virgin, Stone



**Seven Things
to See on a
Short Visit**



**"Kent's most
beautiful church"**

St Mary the Virgin, Stone – a thirteenth century masterpiece



1 East Window

This magnificent stained glass window was created in 1860 by William Wailes of Newcastle to tell the story of Christ's passion and resurrection, in small pictures reading from bottom to top. At the bottom of the lowest diamond in the central panel, under the figure of Christ carrying his cross, a small blue stone has been painted to honour the name of the parish.

2 Lumbarde Brass

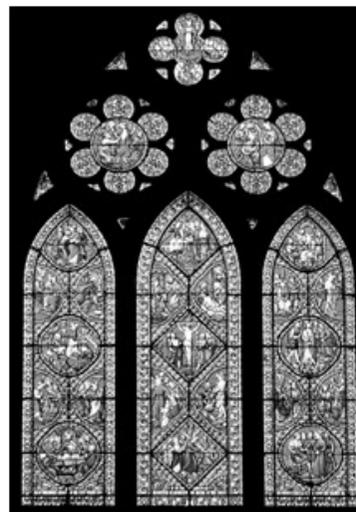
In the floor to the right of the high altar, the small brass of a priest in vestments commemorates John Lumbarde, former rector of this church who died on 12th March 1408.

3 Dragon chasing its tail

In the finely carved spandrels of the chancel wall arcades, look for the dragon chasing its tail. Some see the serpent as a symbol of wisdom or immortality. Others have viewed it as a symbol of sin, in which case this dragon eating its own tail warns us that evil will destroy us too if we let it.

4 Sculpture Niche

On the south wall of the nave, this niche was created in 1860 to display certain pieces of carved stonework discovered in the course of restoration. One block seems to depict the resurrection of the dead.



5 Wall Paintings

On the north wall of the nave are remains of three large wall paintings from the thirteenth century depicting the Virgin and Child and the Martyrdom of Thomas Becket.

6 Ypres Cross

Carved from the wood of Ypres Cathedral this simple cross was made by a parishioner and presented as a memorial of the Great War.

7 Wiltshire Tomb

Sir John Wiltshire was Sheriff of Kent under Henry VII and Henry VIII and Comptroller of Calais. He lived in Stone Place House and played host to Cardinal Wolsey and later Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. He died in 1526 and the chapel that houses his tomb was built according to his will for mass to be said for the repose of his soul. The organ was installed here in 1870 and was built by Henry Willis.