



EACR - Northern District Master's Outing Saturday 03/Aug/2024

Towers	Ringling Time	Bells	Toilet	Tower / Groundfloor Ring	Postcode
1 St Albans - St Stephens	09:30 - 10:30	6	Yes	Ground	AL1 2PT
2 St Albans - Cathedral	11:00 - 12:00	12	Yes	Tower	AL1 1BY
<i>Own Arrangements;</i>	<i>12:30 - 14:00</i>				
3 St Albans - St Michael	14:00 - 15:15	8	No	Tower	AL3 4SJ
4 St Albans - St Peter's	15:45 - 17:00	10	Yes	Tower	AL1 3HF

Notes:

The cost payable is £6.00 for the day, as this will be used for the various tower donations.

If you wish to sign up for this outing, please reply to me, Simon Ward (n-district-master@eacr.org.uk) or Tim Peckham (n-district-secretary@eacr.org.uk)

Transportation will have to be self arranged! - I highly recommend car sharing as parking in St Albans centre on a Saturday may well be restricted!

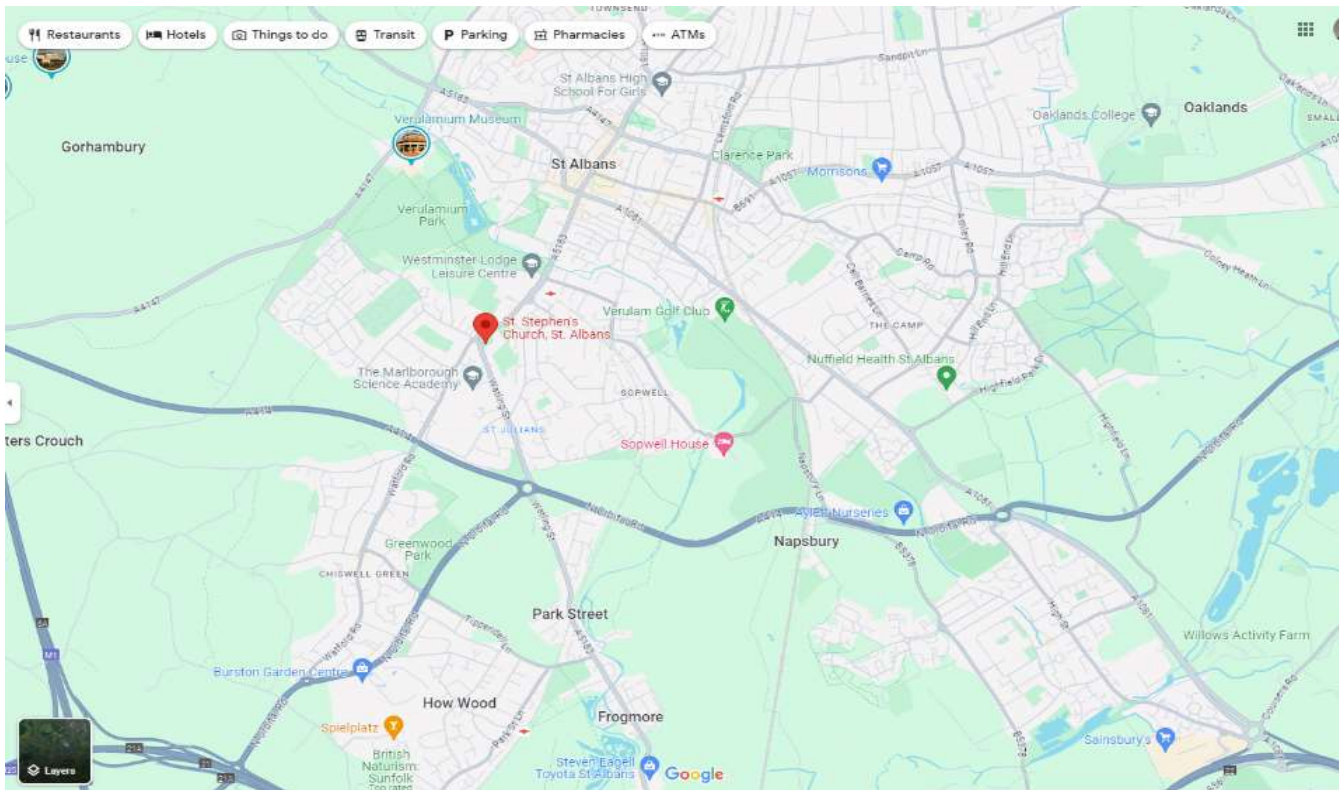
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St Stephens - St Albans

Ringling Time	09:30 - 10:30
Distance from Previous	Start
Postcode	AL1 2PT



Bell		Weight	
Treble	1957	3-1-20	F#
2	1957	4-0-13	E
3	1957	4-3-9	D
4	1957	4-3-27	C#
5	1957	6-3-8	B
Tenor	1957	8-2-4	A



St Stephens - St Albans

History

St Albans is blessed with three late Saxon churches. One of these ancient buildings is St Stephens, located on the old Roman road of Watling Street on the southern edge of the city. St Stephens was founded in AD 948 by Ulsinus, the 6th Abbot of St Albans Abbey.

Possibly the only remnant of that Saxon building is a small single lancet window near the modern parish centre, which adjoins the church's west end. The window has been dated to around AD 950.

That early church was a very simple building consisting of two rectangular cells, with no tower, measuring just 38 feet long and 34 feet wide in total.

The Saxon building was enlarged by the Normans in the early 12th century and was consecrated in the presence of Gilbert, Bishop of Limerick from 1106 – 1138. It was enlarged again around 1170 with the addition of a north aisle. A south aisle and lady chapel were built in the 13th century during the rule of Abbot William of Trumpington.

The nave roof was raised in the 15th century with clerestory windows inserted to bring more light into the interior. The chancel was enlarged and the timber framework of the chancel arch built.

Like so many medieval churches St Stephens was in poor condition by the middle of the 19th century. In 1840 decision was made to tear the church down and rebuild it in 'a more populous part of the parish'. Just a month later the decision was reversed and instead a chapel of ease was built on Park Street. The chapel became a full-fledged parish church in 1859 when the parish boundaries were redrawn.

St Stephens was restored in 1860 and as a result, most of the interior furnishings are Victorian.

Historically the bells of St Stephens were not rung to summon worshipers to services but were rung only on special occasions. Bell-ringers were hired for these special events and the income helped supplement the low wages of local workmen. Bell-ringing events included the Prince Regent's birthday in 1817 and Bonfire Night that same year.

The bells played a part in one of the strangest events in the church's long history. In 1300 Robert of Winchelsea, the Archbishop of Canterbury, visited St Albans Abbey. The Archbishop expected the bells of St Stephens to ring out as his entourage approached the southern outskirts of St Albans. The bells were silent, and the outraged Archbishop placed the church under an Interdict. The equally outraged Abbot of St Albans said that the church was under his jurisdiction, not the Archbishop's, and the Interdict was ignored.

The bells were recast several times. In 1892 the ring of 6 bells was increased by one, with another recast. The extra weight meant that the tower moved noticeably every time the bells were rung, causing the weathercock to go around in circles. Wisely, the bells were recast into a lighter ring in 1957.

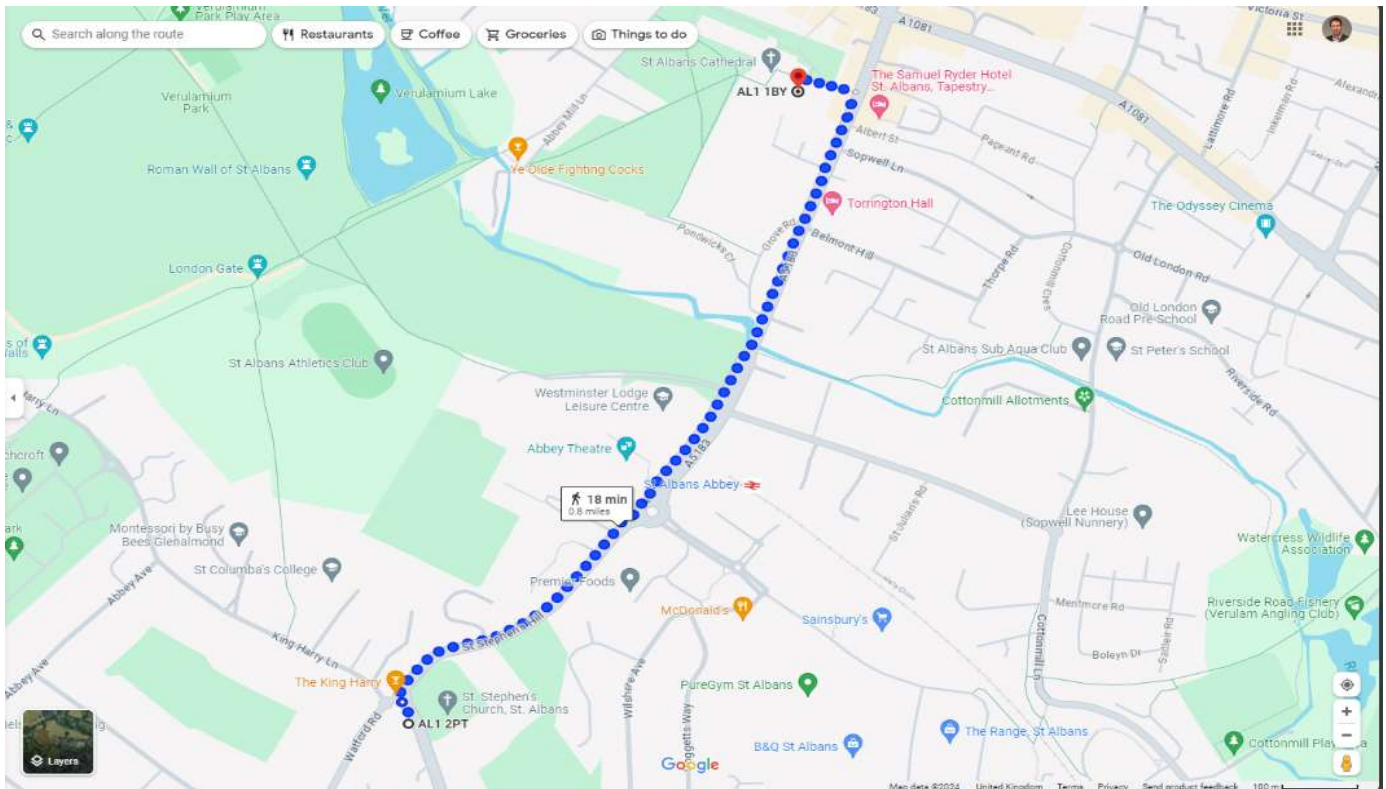
St Stephens is easy to reach on foot from central St Albans, which is just as well since parking is an issue. The most enjoyable way to reach the church is by following the footpath from Verulamium Park, through the Abbey View Golf Course, to Harry Lane, just a hundred yards from the church.

St Albans - Cathedral

Ringin Time	11:00 - 12:00
Distance from Previous	0.8Mile
Postcode	AL1 1BY



Bell		Weight	
Treble	2010	4-3-1	B
2	2010	5-0-2	A
3	2010	4-3-22	G#
4	2010	5-0-11	F#
5	2010	5-1-11	E
6	2010	5-2-11	D#
7	2010	6-1-19	C#
8	2010	7-2-3	B
9	2010	9-1-18	A
10	2010	11-0-9	G#
11	2010	14-3-11	F#
Tenor	2010	21-0-19	E
2#	2010	5-0-0	A#



St Albans - Cathedral

History

Named for the first British Christian martyr, this abbey church is the second largest in England, after Winchester. The north transept stands on the traditional spot where Alban was executed in AD 305 for refusing to participate in a pagan sacrifice. In AD 793 King Offa founded a Benedictine monastery here to atone for murdering Ethelbert.

ABOUT ST ALBAN

Alban was a citizen of Verulamium, the Roman town that grew to become St Albans. During the reign of the Emperor Diocletian many Christians were persecuted for their beliefs. One such was Amphibalus, a deacon who fled from the authorities. Alban, though himself a pagan, offered shelter to Amphibalus.

During the time he hid the deacon from the Roman authorities Alban himself became converted to Christianity. Eventually both men were captured by the Romans and put to death. Alban could have escaped his fate if he agreed to sacrifice at a pagan altar, but he refused, and was executed.

ALBAN'S DEATH

Later stories shroud the actual event, but one version says that the route across the bridge leading to the place of execution was so crowded that Alban and his captors could not pass.

Alban went to the river bank and the waters parted for him to cross. When they reached the top of the hill Alban asked for water to drink and a spring miraculously burst forth at his feet. When time came for the execution the appointed executioner refused to act. A soldier took his place, and when he had cut off Alban's head his eyes promptly fell out. The first executioner was then himself executed.

HISTORY

The 8th century church established by King Offa was rebuilt in the late 11th century using tiles from the old Roman settlement of Verulam, and St Alban's shrine became one of the most popular places of pilgrimage in England during the medieval period. The most striking feature of the new church was the tower, built in part with Roman tiles, and designed by Robert Mason (like most medieval craftsman his last name was simply his profession).

Mason was also responsible for the crossing and superb choir. The nave, by contrast, is an odd mix of Norman and later work. There are several excellent medieval paintings on the Norman piers, and the stone rood screen that separates the choir and nave is a creation of beauty. Indeed, St Alban's is memorable for the sheer number and exceptional quality of the medieval wall paintings that have survived.

The choir is separated from St Alban's chapel by another very fine medieval screen. Within the chapel is the shrine of Alban. The original 13th century shrine was broke up at the Dissolution, but the base of the current shrine was made by piecing together over 2,000 small pieces of the original work.

On one side of the shrine is a wooden watching loft, where a monk kept watch over the shrine throughout the day and night (and kept an close eye on the gold and jewels that decorated the shrine). Facing the watching loft is the tomb of Duke Humphrey of Gloucester, brother of Henry V and guardian of Henry VI.

The abbey church was spared at the Dissolution of the Monasteries, though the abbey itself was dissolved.

The church was only raised to cathedral status in 1876, at which time restorations to the west front and the north transept were carried out by Lord Grimthorpe, an amateur architect who was given a free rein due to the fact that he was paying for the work out of his own pocket.

Unfortunately, Lord Grimthorpe proved more enthusiastic than talented. One source calls his west front treatment 'awesomely hideous'. Let us simply pass over his efforts in silence, for there is plenty to see beyond the Victorian restoration.

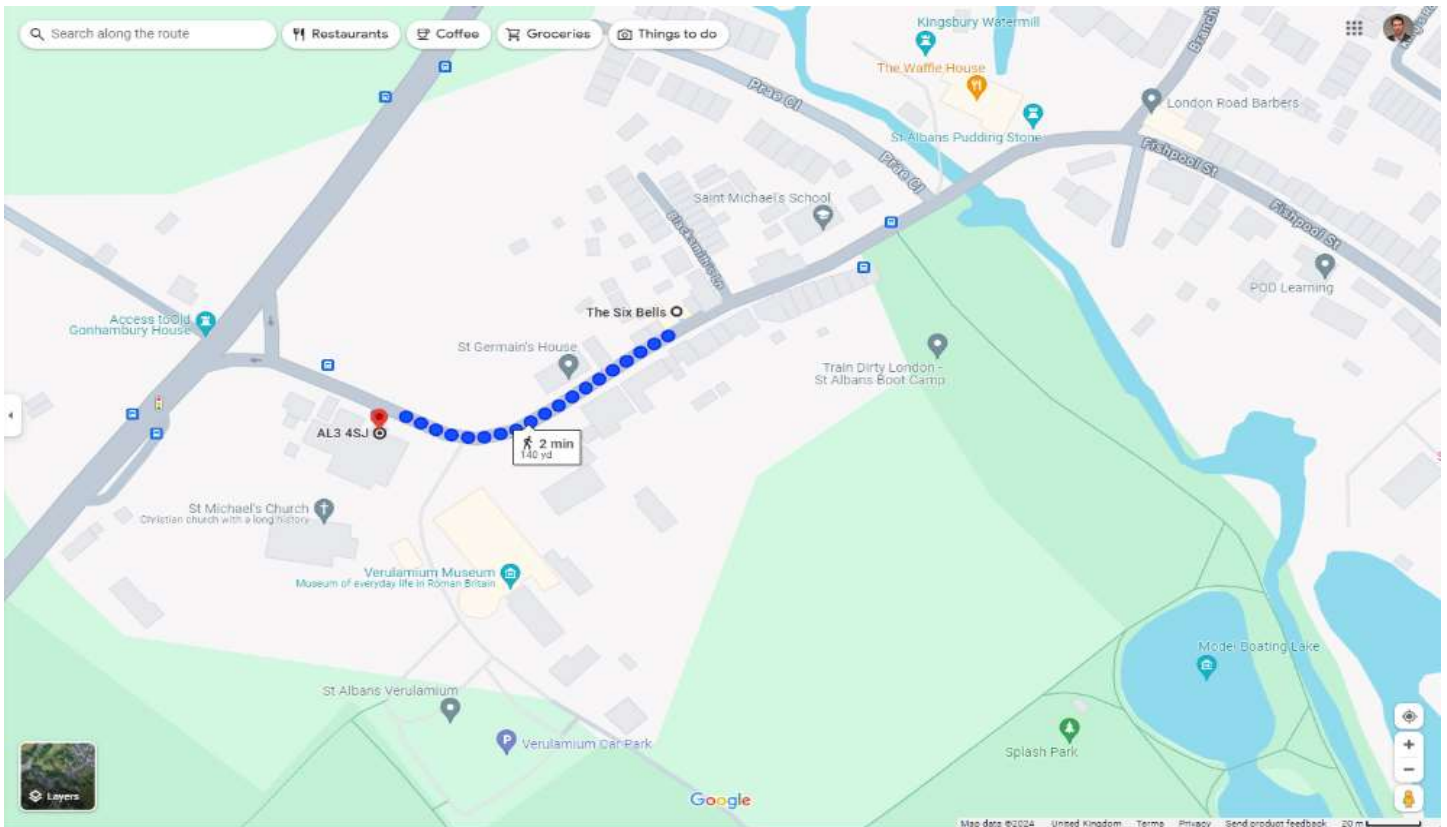
The tower height is 43.9 metres (144 ft)

St Michael - St Albans

Ringling Time	14:00 - 15:15
Distance from Previous	420 yards
Postcode	AL3 4SJ



Bell		Weight	
Treble	1953	4-0-24	G
2	1953	4-2-10	F#
3	1739	4-0-10	E
4	1739	4-2-11	D
5	1739	5-1-7	C
6	1739	5-2-4	B
7	1897	8-1-24	A
Tenor	1897	12-3-20	G



St Michael - St Albans

History

St. Michael's Church, a timeless treasure nestled in the historic city of St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England. As you embark on your visit to our beloved church, allow us to guide you through its rich history and architectural marvels that have stood the test of time.

St. Michael's Church traces its roots back to the late Anglo-Saxon era, with origins dating as far back as the late 10th or early 11th century. Founded by Abbot Wulsin of St. Alban's Abbey in AD 948, the church was one of three main churches erected to accommodate pilgrims journeying to venerate the shrine of Saint Alban.

As you step inside St. Michael's, you'll be greeted by a fusion of architectural styles spanning centuries. From the Roman materials salvaged from the nearby ruins of Verulamium to the Gothic Revival additions of the 19th century, each corner of our church tells a unique story of evolution and adaptation.

Marvel at the 13th-century clerestory, designed to flood the nave with natural light, and admire the intricate 17th-century wooden pulpit and altar table. Don't miss the monument to Francis Bacon, Viscount St. Alban, a masterpiece sculpted in the 17th century, capturing the essence of a bygone era.

Explore the aisles adorned with monumental brasses, offering glimpses into the lives of individuals like John Pecoock and Henry Gape from the 14th and 15th centuries. Take a moment to reflect in the serene ambiance of our sacred space, steeped in centuries of prayer and contemplation.

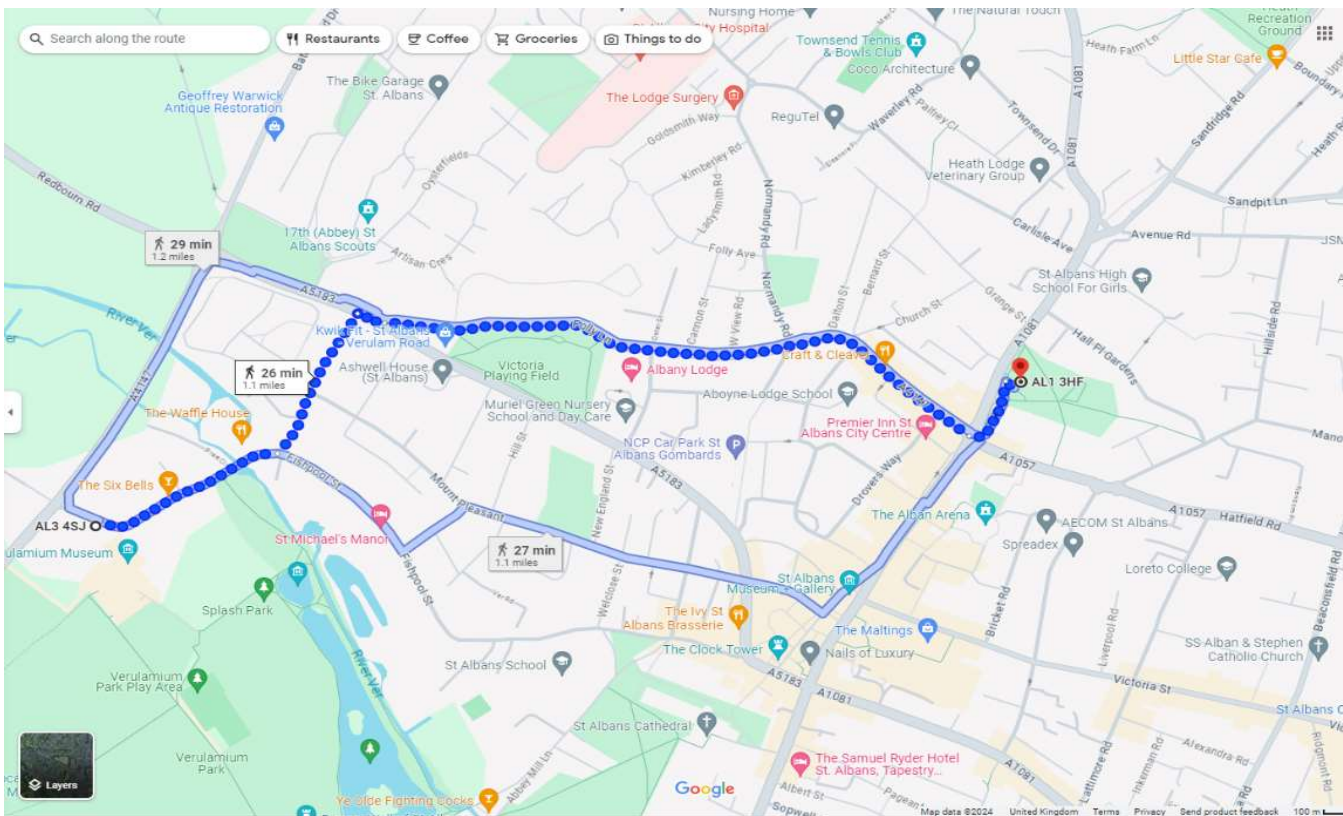
The name of the nearest pub, The Six Bells, is an historical anachronism reflecting the number of bells installed in the 18th century. St Michael's tower now has a ring of eight bells. Samuel Knight, who had foundries at Reading and London, cast the third, fourth, fifth and sixth bells in 1739. John Taylor & Co of Loughborough cast the seventh and tenor bells for Beckett's new northwest tower in 1897, which was also the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Gillett & Johnston of Croydon cast the treble and second bells in 1953, the year of Elizabeth II's coronation.

St Peter's - St Albans

Ringing Time	15:45 - 17:00
Distance from Previous	1.2Miles
Postcode	AL1 3HF



Bell		Weight	
Treble	1993	5-1-26	G
2	1993	5-3-15	F
3	1993	6-2-17	Eb
4	1993	6-2-15	D
5	1993	7-1-09	C
6	1993	8-1-21	Bb
7	1993	10-1-22	Ab
8	1993	11-3-17	G
9	1993	16-3-09	F
Tenor	1993	24-0-03	Eb



St Peter's - St Albans

History of St Peter's

It is probable that people have worshipped on this site for over 1000 years.

According to Matthew Paris, the 13th. century chronicler of St Albans Abbey, Abbot Ulsinus founded three churches - St Peter's, St Stephen's and St Michael's - in 948 when he laid out the market. St Peter's church, built at the northern entrance to the medieval town, has a commanding position and can be seen from many aspects. In the mid-12th century it was one of the 15 churches which, with St Albans Abbey, became exempt from the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Lincoln. It was then ruled by the Abbot of St Albans until the dissolution of the monasteries. After the dissolution, the churches of St Albans became part of the See of London until 1845 when Hertfordshire was transferred to the See of Rochester. In 1877 the Diocese of St Albans was created.

Nothing remains of the Saxon building and no records exist of St Peter's for nearly 200 years after its foundation. It was during the 13th century that the church assumed the form which it retained until the early 19th century - a cruciform building with a central tower. Baskerfield's drawings of 1787 give an impression of what the church was like in its essentials for so many centuries.

The nave arcades and the greater part of the aisle walls were rebuilt in the 15th century but the 13th century west and south doorways were preserved.

In 1756 the tower arches were removed and loftier ones inserted, as it appears that the floor of the original belfry was so low as to obstruct the perspective view of the church, but these alterations weakened the whole structure and 30 years later the tower became dangerous. In 1785, after a protracted wrangle between the Rector and members of the Vestry, who were not prepared to embark on what they considered extravagant repairs, the tower was underpinned with timber. However, in 1799 the tower had become so dangerous that it was taken down to the level of the crossing arches and finally in 1801 the belfry floor fell in. The new tower, which was erected in brick, was essentially as is seen today in size and shape. At the same time the transepts were demolished and the chancel shortened almost out of existence.

In 1893, after he had completed his restoration of the Abbey Church, Lord Grimthorpe took it upon himself to restore St Peter's at his own expense. An hour-and-a-half's examination of the church enabled him to decide "what is necessary and desirable to do in the way of restoring it to a safe and creditable condition as far as the modern alterations leave it possible".

He lengthened the chancel and the nave by one bay each. He also widened the church by demolishing the north wall of the nave and building a new north wall outside the line of the old one. The west end is similar in design to that of the north transept in the Abbey with a rose window flanked by turrets. Lord Grimthorpe also raised the roof with a steeper pitch and evidence of the previous flatter pitched nave roof can be seen on the western face of the chancel arch. The angel corbels which held the beams of that roof have been left in their original position.

In 1998 new lighting was installed by Anthony Smith of Gloucester, and the Church was completely redecorated and some of the monuments restored in 2001. In 2004 new oak doors were placed in the South porch and ramped access was provided at 3 entrances and at the chancel step, to bring the church into line with current legislation re: access for disabled persons. In 2005 the church kitchen was completely refurbished and in 2006 a new, half a million pound Mander Pipe Organ was installed - the first of its kind for a decade in this country, and a magnificent addition to the musical resources of our church.