

ROOD BEAM CORBEL

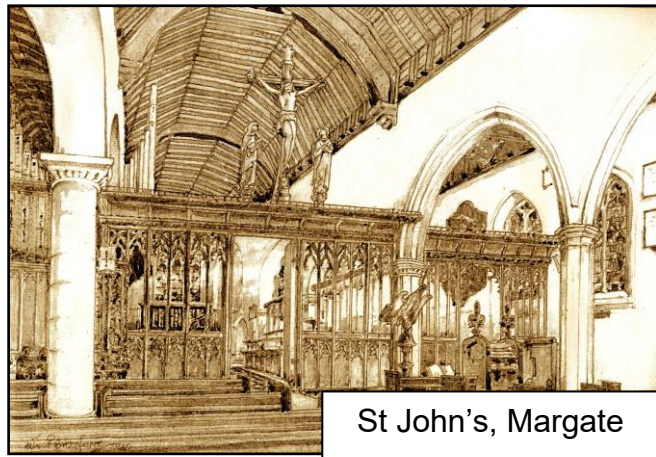
16.



In medieval times there was a corbel on each side of the Chancel arch, to support the great Rood beam. The beam sometimes sat on the top of the screen, but some were placed slightly higher than the screen. Others could even be walked across. However, they all held a large Cross (or Rood) in the centre, with the figure of Christ nailed on it and the statues of St Mary and St John, one on either side.

From the position of our north corbel, it would appear that the beam was the top support for the screen sections beneath, a modern version from St John's Church, Margate, shown below.

The demise of our screen is documented blow-by-blow in our church wardens' a/c books from 1536 to 1560. In 1560 the whole structure was removed and the lower panels hidden in a barn, with the painted sides facing the wall. They were not rediscovered until 1905, at the back of in the Parsonage barn.



St John's, Margate