

PULPIT

The pulpit in All Saints Church is 17th century Jacobean. In the 1830 plan of the church, drawn up for Quex Park, the pulpit is shown standing beside the southeast pillar of the nave. There was a sounding board above it, as can be seen in a 19th century print shows. The moulding at the top of this pillar has been cut back to accommodate the board. The Rev. H. Serres, in his 'Guide to All Saints Church', published in 1909, said that he hoped that the sounding board would turn up one day, as the Rood Screen panels had done., but sadly, this has never happened.

The pulpit is hexagonal, on a hexagonal shaft, with a moulded base and capital. Each side has two panels with ogee cinquefoil arches and Perpendicular tracery. It appears from one of the Churchwardens' Books, that during the 17th century, the pulpit was draped and partly hidden in heavy hangings. These probably resembled the heavy hangings, or hammer-cloth, with which the coachman's box of private carriages of the rich was hung in former days. Nowadays, this is usually only seen on State coaches.

The pulpit also used to have an Hour Glass and a pair of jointed brass 'branches' to hold the candles for the parson to read by.

The pulpit was moved to the south side of the chancel arch in 1863, when there was a large amount of restoration under the care of the famous Victorian architect C. N. Beazley. The more usual position is on the north side of the arch, but this would probably have cramped the entrance to the Quex Chapel, which belongs to the family who owns Quex Park. It was almost certainly at this time that the new steps to the pulpit were installed, and the brass hand rail added.