

THE FONT

This is an Early English 13th century octagonal Font in Kentish Rag-stone. The basin and central shaft are original, but the four smaller shafts have apparently been renewed using Bath stone.

In the lead lining, there are impressions where a candlestick and lectern once stood. Traces of the hinge and lock indents from a lid can just be detected. In Medieval times, the font was locked to prevent the blessed water from being used for magic.

There are several references to a font-taper and a font-cloth in the Churchwardens' books. The font-taper was a large candle used at the solemn ceremony of the blessing of the font on the Eve of Easter and Whitsun and it was also lit at baptisms. The font-cloth was of fair linen, used to cover the font when the lid was lifted.

On the church plan of 1830, the font stood in the nave near the west door. It was usual to place it nearest the main entrance to the church. In 1863, it was moved to the South Door, which had become the main entrance by then. In 1990 it was moved to its present position beside the North Door.