

SO 33 NW

PETERCHURCH CP

B 4348 (off west side)
Peterchurch

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Church of St Peter

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Parish church. Mid-C12 with late C13/early C14 alterations, and restorations of 1869, 1879, 1906 and the early 1980's. Rubble with sandstone dressings, tiled roofs and fibre glass spire. Late C13 west tower; nave and chancel in two divisions with apse, mid-C12, north porch 1888. West tower: late C13 with stone spire, reduced to a stump c1950 and replaced in early 1980's in fibre glass. Five stages, offset to top stage, plain parapet, battered plinth with string, stepped diagonal buttresses; belfry openings of 2-trefoiled lights under 2-centred heads, square-headed window in east wall of fourth stage below clock face; third stage: each wall has a single trefoiled light window; door in north wall of first stage with 2-centred head, single trefoiled light window to west; ground floor: south wall: narrow door with cinquefoil head, chamfered jambs, with relieving-arch above. Nave: south wall: 2 trefoiled light window under 2-centred head to west end, late C13; to right mid-C12 south door, semi-circular head, enriched by chevroned and billeted label; plain tympanum; engaged shafts with scalloped capitals; to east a C12 semi-circular-headed window and 2 late C19 lancets. North wall: two C12 semi-circular-headed windows flank stone north porch of 1888; north door: C14 with 2-centred head of two orders and label; two C12 semi-circular-headed windows; C14 window to east of 2 trefoiled lights under 2-centred head; to east of this two small restored C12 semi-circular-headed windows, one above the other, lighting staircase, pilaster buttress to corner. Chancel: west division: late C13 2 trefoiled light window with 2-centred head cut through C12 window to west, to east a C12 semi-circular-headed window, same in north and south walls; east division: restored cornice with roll moulding; one C12 semi-circular-headed window in north wall reflected on south wall, with additionally a C13 lancet to west; apse: divided into 3 panels by pilaster buttresses, restored string with cable decoration below windows, roll to edge of cornice; one semi-circular-headed C12 window to each panel. Interior: chancel: arch to apse semi-circular of 2 plain orders with enriched chamfered imposts; arch between east and west divisions: semi-circular of 2 orders on west face, enriched with chevron ornament, and enriched chamfered imposts; arch to nave: semi-circular of 2 plain orders to west with enriched chamfered imposts. In north-west corner square-headed entrance to spiral staircase, which is probably C12 providing access to a presumed lost tower over the west division of the chancel. Nave: crude segmental headed opening to north-east corner from staircase, possibly providing access to lost rood. Late C13 tower door with 2-centred head of 2 chamfered orders; C13 first floor door above with 2-centred head. Piscina in south wall of nave: cinquefoil head, quatrefoil drain, C14. Roofs: nave: late C19 coupled rafter roof with collars, straight angle braces and ashlar pieces, central tie-beam with crown post, collar purlin; chancel: west division: probably C17, restored late C19, 2 bays, tie-beam truss with collar and 4 queen struts; east division: similar to west division. Fittings: altar: stone slab with 5 consecration crosses, chamfered soffit, on C18/C19 pedestal. South door, planks nailed to battens, C12/C13 strap hinges with bifurcated terminals. Font: tub shaped bowl, cable and chevron ornament to rim, cable to base, C12. There is a medieval stone coffin near the north porch (not included). (RCHM 1, pp 209/213).