

Anchor Church:

Upheld or Unused! The search for evidence continues!

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Anchor church was deemed a listed building in 1967, when it was thought to be a living space and a chapel, although there was much debate and speculation as you will see on our medieval journey.

Anchor Church in the 16th Century

We begin our journey in the 16th century, the awakening of the post-medieval period, and its not just the food that's causing a fuss! You can check out some medieval recipes here and cook them. Are they a hit or a miss!?! (<https://www.britishmuseum.org/blog/how-cook-medieval-feast-11-recipes-middle-ages>) No, in the 16th-century Saint Hardulf is thought to have used Anchor Church as a retreat, a place of seclusion from the outside world. There is however little to no archaeological evidence of its use, only debates by articles, magazines, and scholars! At this time, scholars think Anchor Church had not changed much since its early origin, having been cut into stone, and the carved out spaced separated into 3 rooms with small windows. What do you make of this? As you look around Anchor Church, I want you to think what life may have been like for Saint Hardulf. Would it have been lonely, peaceful, or just downright boring?

Anchor Church in the 17th Century

Moving on with our journey to the 17th century, rumours and conspiracies start to emerge. There is the belief that now Anchor Church is being occupied by a foole (fool). First a king and now a foole. We think of a fool in the present day, as someone who is doing something silly and making people laugh. The same is true in the post medieval period, where fools or jesters would have entertained lords, ladies and even royalty! I mean could you imagine sitting at home and a foole is making silly noises and doing tricks?! Fooles would have lived with the families they were entertaining but would sometimes have to leave. Where would they end up? Some would go onto new houses; others may live on the site, and some would be homeless. What do you think of the debates so far? Do you think an exiled king and foole moved to Anchor Church or maybe they were ordinary people?

Anchor Church in the 18th Century

Next on our tour is the 18th century. Here, we have archaeological alterations to the base of Anchor Church, including added brickwork, relined floors, widened doors, and panes added to windows. This was due to Robert Burdett, who owned the land Anchor Church was on and wanted to use it for fabulous dinners and grand parties, with himself, family and friends. Imagine having your own little space which you could use to host gatherings. Would it have multiple rooms like the previous Anchor Church or be one whole room, like it became in the 18th century? What would you decorate it with?

Anchor Church in the 19th Century

The final century on our tour is the 19th century, when rumours start flying again that now there is a hermit living there, this is a person whom is isolated, alone and who doesn't want to speak or associate with humanity! Here, Anchor church is altered minimally and has remained largely the same since then up to the present day!

Mysteries however still await us! In the 19th century human bones are discovered below Anchor Church, we don't know whose they are or where they came from! There is no evidence as to their origin or why they are there, however, it is safe to say they are a mystery waiting to be solved! Do you think you could solve the mystery of these bones?

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