Welcome to

Jumièges's
Saint Valentine's Church

JUMIÈGES'S SAINT VALENTINE'S CHURCH

The church is located at the top of a gentle hill, to the north-east of the abbey, in Rue Guillaume le Conquérant. From the parvis, you can enjoy the view over the abbey's ruins and the Seine valley.

- ✓ In 1918, the church became a listed building for its historic interest.
- ✓ In 1972, the place became a heritage site.

The construction of the church

Until the early 12th century, the parishioners attended mass in the abbey, but the situation raised a few eyebrows because it brought the monks into contact with the outside world. Therefore, Abbot Urson decided to build a church in the vicinity of the abbey.

The construction began in the 12th century with the Romanesque part of the church. Later, in the 16th century, the church was expanded, but the construction remained unfinished due to lack of funds.

Why Saint Valentine?

Saint Valentine was a clergyman from Rome. In 280, he was brutally beaten and beheaded for proclaiming his faith. His skull was bestowed as a relic upon a monk who was to hand it over to a church in his region, Normandy. The relic sank into oblivion in the abbey until, one year, hordes of mice invaded the area and devoured the crops, thus posing a threat of famine to the local population. When a monk at the abbey saw Saint Valentine three times in his dreams, it was decided to exhibit the reliquary in public and to carry it in procession across the village. According to the legend, the mice (or rats, depending on the versions of the event) gathered and followed the procession up to the hamlet *Le trou des îles* ("the hole in the islands"), where they jumped off into the Seine and drowned. Saint Valentine thus became the saviour of the parish.

During your visit, you'll have the opportunity to admire a painting that depicts the drowning scene.

ARCHITECTURE

THE ROMANESQUE NAVE

- ✓ Estimated construction date: early 12th century.
- ✓ Plainly decorated interior.
- ✓ Six-bay nave with two side aisles.

Exterior:

- ✓ The western façade has three round-top arches and is topped with a turret that contains the three bells of the clock. The front door was redesigned in the 16th century with a basket-handle arch.
- ✓ The western wall of the side aisles supports the portal. The angles are supported by double buttresses.

Interior:

- ✓ A steep slope will take you right up to the choir.
- ✓ Cross-shaped columns (without capital) are merged into large pilasters, up to the top of the wall, to support the roof trusses.
- ✓ The roof structure is covered with a simple fir vault.
- ✓ The walls of the side aisles have several round-top arches which weren't brought into alignment with the bays. The original aspect of the nave is best preserved on the northern part.

THE CENTRAL TOWER

Between the nave and the choir, there used to be a tower similar to that of Yainville. It was supported by four robust Romanesque pillars, out of which only two remain.

In the 17th century, the tower was replaced with a wooden spire. The two massive pillars near the choir were renovated in the 16th century when the choir was reconstructed.

THE RENAISSANCE CHOIR

Audacious in its conception, the choir is the brainchild of Abbot François de Fontenay (1524-1535), a reformer who wanted to extend the building work up to the nave. Outside, near the spire, you'll notice the projecting stones of the unfinished wall.

- ✓ Circular columns.
- ✓ In the corner pieces of the bays, it is believed that Gothic arches rested on massive structures, out of which only a few are still in place.
- ✓ As the vault was never finished, the choir is covered by a floor held by a massive wooden structure.
- ✓ The large deambulatory was supposed to be vaulted (only the transverse arches were built and support a floor).
- ✓ The apsidioles are separated from the deambulatory by circular columns which are shorter than the choir's but have the same diameter.
- ✓ The arcades are made of lancet arches.

chapelle du Sacré-Cœur

Chapelle Ste Anne

Chapelle Ste Anne

chap. St Philibert

chap. N.D de Lourdes

chap. du château

chapelle St Joseph

chap. St Jean Baptiste

Chapelle de la Vierge

Sacristie

36 m.

dalle funéraire

Portail latéral sud

banc de confrérie

fin XI° { nef { collatérau

XII°

3 baies plein cintre perçant le fronton.

Jumièges église: St Valentin

architecture

From the main entrance.

Pipe organ case

Material:

Wood

Date:

Late 17th century
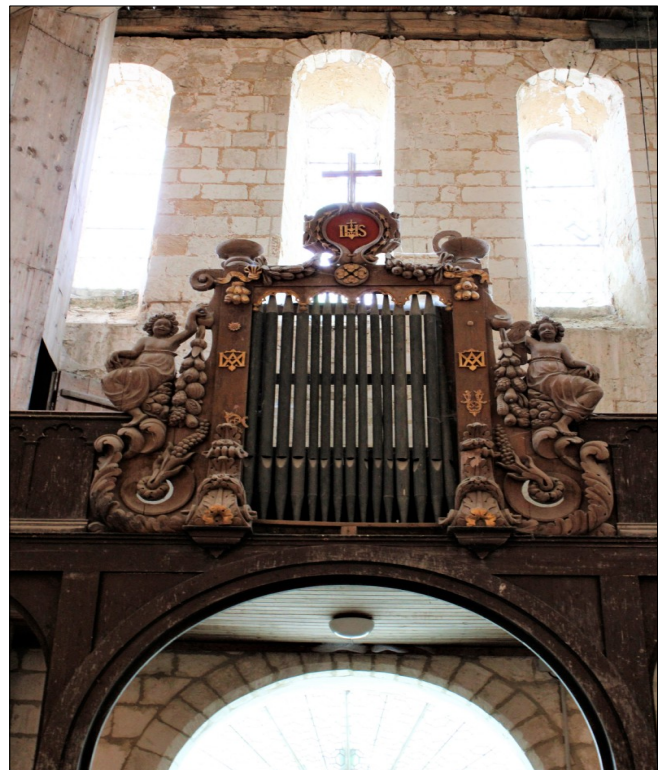
Font

Material:

Stone, traces of polychromy

Date:
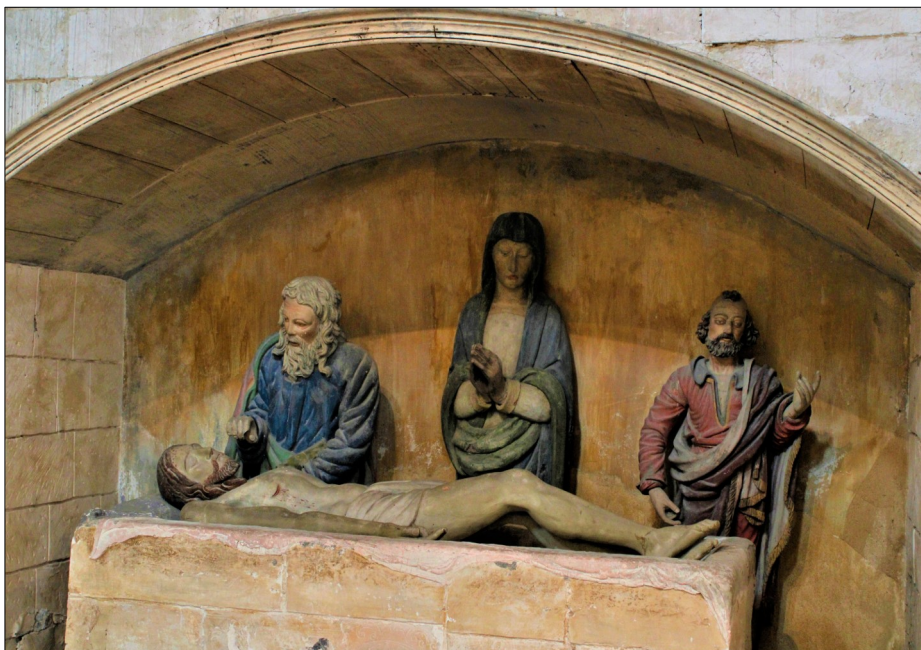
14th century

Dimensions:

0.84 m (H) x 0.84 m (B) x 0.70 m (D)

The Entombment of Christ

Material:
Polychrome wood

Date:
17th century

Saint Sebastian

Material:
Polychrome wood

Date:
16th century

Dimensions:
0.92 m (H) x 0.30 m (B)

Saint Stephen

(coat of arms of the brotherhood on the base)

Material:

Wood and stone base

Date:

16th century

Material:

Wood and stone base

Date:

16th century

Dimensions:

0.95 m (H) x 0.63 m (B)

Saint Anne and the Virgin Mary

Material:

Polychrome stone

Date:

16th century

Dimensions:

0.77 m (H) x 0.25 m (B)

The "Candelabra of the Darkness"

Material:

Wrought iron and wooden base

Date:

17th century

Saint Anne and the Virgin Mary

Material:

Polychrome stone

Date:

Early 16th century

Dimensions:

1 m (H) x 0.40 m (B)

Angels in adoration

Material:

Gilded wood

Date:

Late 17th century

Eucher
(a monk from the abbey, with his bishop's staff)

Material:
Polychrome wood

Date:
Early 17th century

The Holy Trinity
(the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove)

Material:
Painted wood

Date:
16th century

Dimensions:
1.25 m (H) x 0.50 m (B) x 0.30 m (D)

Votive ship

In honour of Saint Ansgar, "the apostle of the North", who, after a stay in Jumièges, boarded a ship to bring Christianity to the Swedes and the Danes.

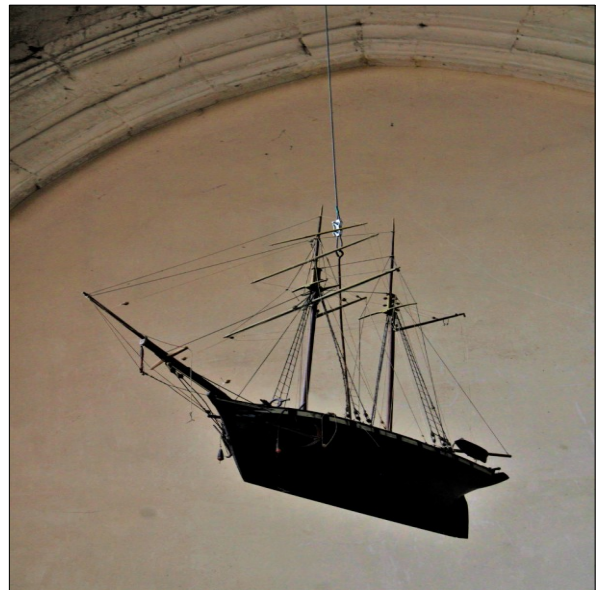**Material:**   **Date:**

Wood   19th century

Votive ship

"Le Célestine Justine"

Material:
Wood

Date:
19th century

The Confessional

Period:
Louis XIII

Dimensions:
2.75 m (H) x 2.40 m (B) x 0.70 m (D)

Saint Andrew

Material:

Canvas

Date:

17th century (prior to 1660)

In the bottom left corner of the painting, you can admire one of the oldest representations of the abbey

A procession in honour of Saint Valentine

Material: polychrome stone   **Date:** 16th century

Bathild

(queen of Franks, wife of Clovis)

Material:

Polychrome wood

Date:

Early 17th century

Saint Nicholas

(and the children he resurrected: they had been murdered and pickled in brine by a butcher)

Material:

Polychrome stone

Date:

16th century (prior to 1660)

Dimensions:

1.50 m (H) x 0.45 m (B)

Saint John the Baptist

Material:
Painted wood

Date:
16th century

Dimensions:
1.40 m (H) x 0.40 m (B)

Sainte Catherine

Material:
Polychrome stone

Date:
Late 16th century

Dimensions:
1.50 m (H) x 0.50 m (B)

Saint Margaret

Material:

Painted stone

Date:

16th century

Dimensions:

0.77 m (H) x 0.34 m (B)

Saint John

(also known as Saint Isidore the Farmer)

Material:

Polychrome wood

Date:

Early 17th century

Dimensions:

1.10 m (H) x 0.37 m (B)

Bas-relief: a plough drawn by an ox

Material:

Wood

Date:

18th century

The choir

Jesus Christ on the cross

Material:
Polychrome wood

Date:
Late 16ᵗʰ century

Jesus Christ in bond

Material:
Polychrome stone

Date:
16ᵗʰ century

Dimensions:
1.70 m (H) x 0.80 m (H) x 0.50 m (B)

Saint Valentin

Material:
Painted wood

Date:
16th century

Dimensions:
1.25 m (H) x 0.40 m (B)

Eagle lectern

Material:
Wood (gilded eagle)

Date:
17th century

Dimensions:
0.76 m (H) x 2.10 m (B) x 0.79 m (D)

Saint Peter's chair

Material:

Polychrome wood

Date:
16th century

Dimensions:
1.23 m (H) x 0.50 m (B)

Thank you for your visit!