

## **FACTS ABOUT EAST DOWN CHURCH**

The original Parish Church of East Down stood at Churchill, but when this fell into disrepair the manorial chapel was given to the parish. The site of the original church was probably adjacent to the field named Church Park, on what is now the Village Green.

East Down Parish Church now stands 600 feet above sea level and probably first consisted of the tower, nave and chancel. The south aisle was probably added around 1469 and may have originally contained a private chapel at the east end.

Records show that 'Mr Pine of East Down was an ardent Royalist' and his memorial can be seen on the south wall inside the church. The Royalist sympathisers found opposing forces not far away, for a battle was fought at Mattocks Down (which lies between Stonecombe and the A3123) and a skirmish occurred in the vicinity of the church. Despite a considerable amount of repair and restoration the tower still shows evidence of damage sustained in the Civil War. At least one bullet mark can be seen just below the battlement on the east side.

The building on the north side of the churchyard is a rare example of a Church House. Every parish originally possessed one, but only those built within church grounds remain today. Their origin dates back to Saxon times, when guilds were established within parochial communities, each charged with a specific parish responsibility and a duty to raise collections for that purpose. The building consists of stabling for horses on the ground floor with a single room above. This upstairs room is furnished like a boardroom with its long table and chairs, and is known as the Chamber.