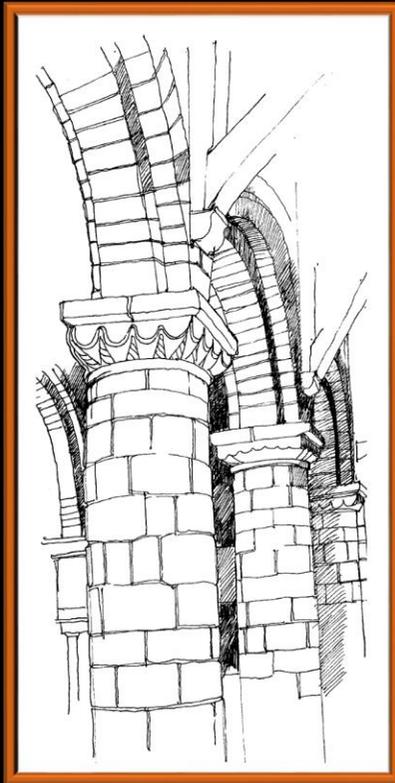


ST. CASSIAN'S CHURCH

CHADDESLEY CORBETT, WORCESTERSHIRE



Massive Norman Pillars and Semi-circular arches in the north aisle were built around 1150



The Green Man can be seen carved into the stone niches each side of the east window. What is the Green Man? Visit www.greenmanenigma.com to read the fascinating history



Stone Grottoes found on the outside south wall of the Chancel



The magnificent Norman Font dates from about 1160 and shows the strong influence of the Herefordshire school of sculptors also responsible for the fonts at Castle Frome and Eardisley.

The cross-legged stone effigy of a Crusader in the South Aisle is considered to be Roger Corbett, Lord of the Manor, who died in 1292.



This wonderful building with its 1000 years of Christian history was a perfect setting in which to perform Jesus Christ Superstar



Leper's Squint. This small 2' x 3' window, inserted into the south chancel wall in about 1520 is considered to be a Leper's Squint. Leprosy cases declined after the Black Death and the last leper recorded in Britain died in 1741. The isolation of lepers was strictly enforced by law and Churches constructed these low unglazed windows to allow lepers standing outside to hear the services, see the altar and take communion. They were not allowed to wash in streams and wore special clothing, usually a long gown with a hood drawn over the face. They were forced to carry a wooden 'clapper' and call out "unclean" to warn of their approach. If you get a chance, read 'The Island' a novel by Victoria Hislop published by Headline, based on the lives of the inhabitants on the island of Spinalonga, Greece's main leper colony until as recent as 1957.



St. Cassian's is considered by many to be one of the outstanding buildings of Worcestershire and the only church in the British Isles to be dedicated to Saint Cassian. Chaddesley was an important village in Saxon times and the one place in the county to keep its Saxon owner after the Norman conquest in 1066. In the 13th & 14th centuries the many generations of the Corbet family extended and added to the church building. The chancel is one of the finest examples of 14th century architecture in the county.

