



# St Andrew's Church, Gussage St Andrew

## Medieval wall painting

The interior of St Andrew's church provides a clear and uncluttered setting for the wall paintings on the north wall of the nave, east of the north door. Three layers of painting are apparent today; the earliest is fictive Masonry Line from the twelfth or early thirteenth century; subsequent to this, and most prominent, is the figurative painting, a Passion Cycle; dating from around 1300. The most recent painting comprises elements from Post Reformation texts, likely to be late sixteenth or seventeenth century. Of the scenes from the Passion Cycle there is a rare depiction of Judas hanging following the Betrayal of Christ.

As a result of proposals to upgrade the heating in the church the condition of the wall painting, building fabric and environment within the church was assessed to determine what effect the proposed changes might have on the wall painting. The results of investigations led to the adoption of an under-pew heating; with practical conservation measures to the wall painting including removing a 300mm wide band from an area of dense cement plaster extending from immediately below the wall painting to the floor. This was important as the lowest part of the wall painting, immediately above the cement, was subject to deterioration mechanisms resulting from the presence of the cement.

Other practical measures included securing areas of detached plaster, repairing or replacing previous plaster repairs, removing two candle brackets set within the wall painting and surface cleaning.

