

## St. James's Church – Top Ten Facts and Features

1. The church is the only **Grade 1 listed building** in the parish. This means it is a building of exceptional historic and architectural interest.
2. The Brocas Aisle was designed in 1802 by **Sir John Soane**, an architect unknown to most people but who is regarded by architects as one of Britain's greatest-ever architects.
3. Most of the **15<sup>th</sup> century stained glass** installed by Soane in the window in the Brocas Aisle (the large window facing you as you walk up the path to the porch) was bought from the French Revolutionary government at an auction in London, having previously been in a monastery in Belgium. It was made by the highly-regarded medieval Liege school of stained glass.
4. **Lise Meitner**, the discoverer of nuclear fission, is buried in the churchyard, even though she was born in Vienna in 1878 into a Jewish family. Her discovery in 1938 was made in Sweden having fled the Nazis, after her conversion to Christianity many years before. She eventually settled in Cambridge, where she died. Her great-nephew lived in Sherfield-on-Loddon. Her gravestone may be found on the right of the path through the graveyard extension to the west.
5. The church incorporates many flints, tiles and red bricks 'salvaged' from the Roman town of **Silchester**.
6. The **parish registers** date back to 1580. They are kept for safe keeping in the county archive at Winchester; the church warden's accounts date back even earlier.
7. There is a **roll of honour of military personnel trained at Bramley** for bomb disposal work who were subsequently killed on duty between 1945 and 1981. It can be found behind the priest's chair next to the chancel screen.
8. The **rare medieval wall paintings** were re-discovered in Victorian times under lime wash applied in 1550 to hide such non-Protestant idolatry and images
9. The **altar rails** were originally made for Hexham Abbey in Northumberland but were sold as a result of a Victorian restoration of the Abbey.
10. There is a **memorial tablet** near the altar to the three sons of the vicar of Bramley who were killed in the First World War.