• The Norman windows from the Old Church that have been incorporated into the north wall of the New Church.
• An Easter Sepulchre (tomb chest designed to receive an effigy of Christ for Easter celebrations) and Aumbry (a cupboard or recess used to store sacred vessels) in the north wall of the Old Church chancel, both date from the 14th century.
• Two medieval Piscinas (stone basins for washing the Communion vessels), one in the south wall of the Old Church chancel, the other - a double Piscina - moved to the south side of the Old Church.
• Two Mass Clocks scratched on the outside of the south wall of the old church, near the Priest's entrance can still be seen. These were used in the days before clocks to indicate the time of the celebration of Mass.
• The ancient Font.

Two stained glass windows are also of particular interest:

• The great East window, with its theme of the Benedictine and which incorporates local history and landmarks (including Southchurch Hall and Prittlewell Church); and
• A memorial window by Camper, the architect of the New Church, near the west door.

The churchyard is almost certainly of medieval origin, with the oldest extant monuments dating from the eighteenth century. Most monuments are, however, from the twentieth century, reflecting the change from rural village to suburb of Southend.
Southchurch has earlier documentary evidence than any other church in south-east Essex. In the year 824, a Saxon thegn named Leofstan presented the manor of Sudcercha (Southchurch) to the monks of Canterbury. The name alone indicates that a church-in-the-south was then in existence.

The church had a close association from the twelfth century to the fourteenth century with the de Southchurch family, which lived at Southchurch Hall. Sir Richard de Southchurch, Sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire from 1265 to 1267, is thought to be buried beneath the chancel of the Old Church.

Princess Charlotte of Wales (daughter of the Prince Regent, later George IV) visited Southchurch, aged five, in 1801 to improve her health by sea bathing. She stayed at The Lawn - now Eton House School - and attended services at Holy Trinity.

Today, the church building is made up of two parts: the original twelfth century medieval "Old Church" and the larger "New Church" extension, built in the early twentieth century. It is now protected as a Grade II Listed Building.

**Historic Development of the Church**

"Southchurch" manor and church were given to the monks of Christ Church, Canterbury in the Saxon period. The Archbishop of Canterbury still holds the patronage of the living.

The medieval church held extensive tithe land, including land at Canvey and near Hadleigh. (There is a record at Canterbury of a dispute in 1200 between the monks and the Rector, Gilbert FitzWilliam, in respect of tithes at Canvey.) More recently, the glebe still covered much of the land between the church and the estuary (hence the rather majestic size of the former Rectory).

No trace of the original Saxon wooden church remains, but the oldest parts of the present church date back to the year 1150. The old Chancel probably dates from about 1250 AD. The building is constructed of stone and flint. Entrance to what is called "the Old Church" is through the ancient porch and splendid Norman doorway - it is still possible to see the mallet and chisel marks on the stonework made by the Norman craftsmen.

The weatherboarded timber framed bell turret was added in the 16th century and the original bell is still used to call people to worship today.

At the west end of this small church are massive wooden pillars probably hewn from the old forest of Southchurch. These were erected in the year 1666, and on one pillar is an incised giving that date and the two initials "L.A.". Higher up on the same pillar is the date 1756, when a gallery was erected for the choir and church musicians. When this gallery was demolished a century later, the choir and orchestra went on strike in protest.

For many centuries the old church served a rural community. In 1894 the parish of Southchurch was incorporated into Rochford District, however, three years later in 1897 it was transferred into the Borough of Southend. A significant increase in housing development followed and Holy Trinity soon became too small for the growing population.

In 1906 the north wall of the Old Church was partially removed and a new larger Nave designed by Sir Ninian Comper added to the church and the Old Church became the south aisle of the enlarged church. The original Norman doorway with its 'grotesque' carving was moved to form the west entrance to the new church and three of the Norman windows were reused and placed in the new north wall. They now contain Victorian stained glass. A new chancel, designed by E.C. Eden, was added to the 1906 Nave in 1931. After the Second World War the floor level of the Chancel was raised in memory of those who gave their lives.

**Significant Features**

There are many interesting features to be found within Holy Trinity Church including:

- The two 12th century Norman doorways with distinctive chevron ornamentation and scalloped capitals. The south doorway can be seen in the porch and the original north door was moved and has become the west door of the New Church. There is a grotesque face carved into the stone above the west door.