

## **Santeuil, Saints Pierre-Paul**

The choir and transepts are very narrow and very tall, minimally decorated, with capitals that establish the date in the 1080s. There may have been an earlier hemicycle apse where the present apse is, and an older nave to the west. All four arms were butted onto the piers of the slightly earlier crossing that may have been determined in the earlier structure.

The capitals in the high vault of the crossing appear later in style, but the surrounding work in the tower establishes a date for whatever is underneath as prior. From which I suggest that the crossing vault was complete before 1120.

I have observed in a number of locations that the style of the capitals in the towers at this time were somewhat old-fashioned compared to those in the lower more public levels. I suggest that towers and spires were, on the whole, built by specialized teams with their own specialized scaffolding and cranes, and that the men carving the capitals may have formed a well-knit body doing dangerous work without easy contact with the building teams on the lower parts. There are only rare connections between the capitals in the towers and those underneath.

The spire may have been one of those paid for by Count Galeran around 1160.

The west front was erected up to the level of the triforium that was intended to continue along the rest of the nave, as in Courmelois. The piers and walls in between were erected over the next thirty years.