

Welcome!

***A GUIDE TO AND HISTORY OF THE
CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
BASSINGBOURN***



Revised (2003)

Revised with additions (2011)

Adapted from the 1975 version

By Stephen Robinson

Chapters

1 Preface (Page 3)

2 Forward (Page 3)

3 Introduction (Page 4)

4 Church Floor Plan (Page 5)

5 Church Architecture (original guide, page 6)

6 People / Names (Page 13)

7 Church Yard (Page 15)

8 Bell Data (Page 16)

9 Church Room (Page 18)

10 References / Photographs (Page 19)

11 Acknowledgements (Page 35)

12 Website Links (Page 36)

1 Preface

This booklet was originally published in 1975 with proceeds going towards the two projects of re hanging the bells, and renovating the Church Room. This booklet has since been revised and additions added in 2003 and 2011

2 Forward

Welcome to the church of St Peter and Paul, Bassingbourn. We hope you enjoy your visit and find this booklet informative. The booklet has been collated from various sources and consists mainly of extracts from documentation that has been brought together to form one guide. In certain areas the text does repeat itself and may not be yet fully checked for accuracy.

Our aim was to produce at least a first version that gave some information and insight into the church history for visitors and members of the local parish. In future revisions we hope to produce versions that are more concise and fully verified; to achieve this we will need assistance from the parish members and local people's knowledge with help in verifying some of the written texts. All dates mentioned in the text appear to be accurate.

If you would like to contribute to future revisions of this booklet about the history of the church and be involved in the project then please contact us. (See acknowledgements)

Note:

Both projects in the preface were completed:

- The bells were re-hung in 1977 with the addition of a sixth bell from Papworth St Agnus.
- The Church Room was renovated, and rescued from flooding.

3 Introduction

Bassingbourn Church has a very long history; in fact it's older than the Church of England itself! The first recorded reference to the church was in the reign of King Henry 3rd (1216-1272) who granted that there should be a fair of eight days here on the festival of Saints Peter and Paul. The building was built over a long period during the fourteenth century, starting with the tower, and was completed by 1400.

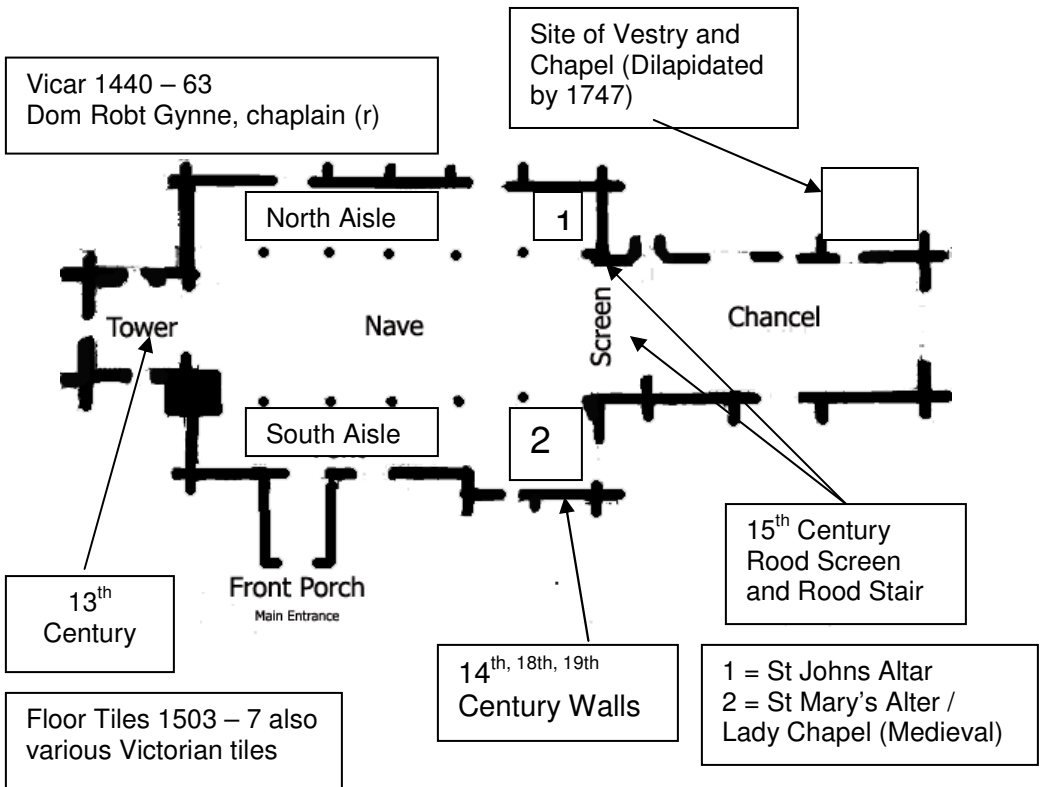
Bassingbourn enjoys a pleasant situation in the southwest corner of Cambridgeshire away from the main thoroughfares. The village, both in name and present siting is Saxon in origin, the name being derived from that of a Saxon lord, 'Bassa', who settled by the stream. The settlement may be older, as Bronze Age relics have been found. Whether a church existed at this time we can only conjecture, as the first reference to the church is in the reign of Henry III (1216-1272) who granted a fair of eight days at the festival of Saints Peter and Paul.

It was late in the thirteenth century that the oldest part of the present church was built; this was the west tower, constructed in the Early English style of architecture. This was followed by the construction of the rest of the church in the period following 1340, up to about 1400. In the period 1498 to 1511 (Henry VII) a general restoration of the church was effected. Nothing more was added to the fabric until the nineteenth century when restoration was effected, notably in 1879, when the west tower was rebuilt; and in 1862 when the walls of the south chapel were renewed.

The church itself is pleasantly situated near the centre of the village, in an excellent rural setting amongst trees and hedges, and is surrounded by Victorian and Georgian tombstones

richly embellished with mosses and lichens. (Note 1) The church is constructed of flint and stone rubble throughout, which probably came from the quarries on the chalk hills to the south of the village (Clunch Pit). What is most impressive overall is the size of the church, and especially its loftiness which enhances its spaciousness. In one place this spaciousness is especially apparent; this is in the Chancel with its large and highly colourful east window. This is the oldest surviving part of the church in its original form, and is a remarkably designed piece of the decorated style of architecture.

Chapter 4 Church Floor Plan



Chapter 5 Church Architecture (Refer to Church Map)

Chancel



A characteristic of the design everywhere is a turn in the heads of otherwise normally arched windows. This is done externally in the east windows, and internally in all the north and south windows. The most easterly window on the north side has a blocked head only, as below it there must have been an attached chapel, as there is a piscina and a recess on the outside. Also on the north side are to be found a doorway and the blocked doorway into the former north vestry, both arches having the curious heads and also

having fluted arches.

Below the blocked window an Aumbry (a recess for holding the Mass vessels) still exists, and it has carved animals beneath it. On the south side of the chancel are to be found double piscina and sedilia, which have elaborately carved heads, reaching up to a string course which runs along the sills of the windows. Below the piscina, on the chancel floor, there is a monument to Henry Butler who died in 1647; on it is the figure of the young man sculptured in his shroud.

The windows in the chancel are three-lighted, and in the easternmost on the south side are two coats of arms, which according to Cole (Mss: Br. Mus.) originated from the manor house at Abington Pigotts. Passing from the CHANCEL to the NAVE, we pass under the old chancel arch, again in the decorated style of architecture, and stretching beneath there is the fifteenth century rood-screen. This has some delicate

tracery, and has been gaily painted by a modern artist in the original medieval colours. The top is a modern addition. From the gateway in the screen we can still see the position of the old rood loft, which was reached by an ancient stairway which still exists, and leads up to the chancel roof.

Before the arcades of the nave and aisles are reached, there is a plain wall in which the architect has introduced two quatrefoil windows, no doubt to provide light for the rood loft.



Nave

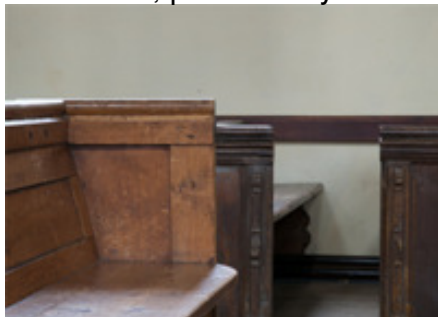
We now come to the NAVE and AISLES. There are six bays and the arches are lofty; the piers are octagonal. The west bays are fragmentary as the tower buttresses cut into them. Most of the arches are double chamfered and the two easternmost on the north side are clearly different; their mouldings are clearly earlier than the rest and mark a date about 1350. We can thus

conclude that the building of the nave and aisles proceeded from east to west. Both aisles have decorated windows, and the clerestory is Perpendicular. On all the nave arches there are carved faces originating from the Middle Ages, fair women on the north side face the grins and scowls of ugly fellows opposite. Heads also peer down from outdoors and these are mainly beasts both fantastic and grotesque-. -bats, a goat, an old man stroking his beard, and other beasts that cannot be determined.

South Aisle

The south aisle is continued by a south chapel, the exterior of which has been rebuilt, but still retains the important feature of a row of blank arches between altar and east window. The decorated Piscina in the wall is original, as are the niches to

the left of the window. The north aisle contains some ancient buttressed pews, some of which may date back to 1350, although the nave seating is of nineteenth century origin. In the south aisle we find the font, which is of the fifteenth century. Reference to the Clergy Roll above the font reveals Bassingbourn's association with the Black Death, as it is recorded that three incumbents died in 1349, one Rector and two Vicars, presumably victims of the plague.



Photograph showing the difference in height of the pews in the North and South Aisles and the buttress on the end of the pew.

Monuments

The nave and aisles also contain most of the monuments of the church. Many of these are ledger slates and are dedicated to the Nightingale family. These are to be found in the south chapel and the south aisle; but it is Sir Edward Nightingale who is most famous, as a monument in the north aisle tells us it was he who gave the church an unusual collection of old Theological books in 1717. These have subsequently been sold to the Universities of Cambridge and Essex in 1968 for safe keeping; the churchwardens accounts of 1498 to 1534 having already been placed in the County Records office. It is on the wall by the South Chapel that the only brass in the church is to be found, to John Turpin and his wife, constructed in 1683, but commemorating forbears of the fifteenth century. The monument above the rood staircase is also dedicated to the Nightingale family, namely Geoffrey Nightingale, who died in 1664, and his wife. At the other end of the nave, almost under the tower arch there are two stone coffin lids, of

uncertain origin and elaborately carved. The monument of a young man in his shroud is dated 1647.

West Tower



The Tower is now reached, its arch is squat and broad, this seems to be of decorated origin. During the rebuilding in the nineteenth century the recessed lead spire was added, and the belfry windows were inserted. An old ink sketch under the tower arch shows the church as it was in 1835, and the church seems little different today, the same internal stages seeming to have survived also.

The West Tower, 13th Century before its rebuilding, is in three stages. The tower, dangerously cracked in 1685 and on the verge of falling down had its arch blocked up in 1812 and received massive new buttresses. By the

1890's the tower was so unstable that even the bells could not be rung. It was then reconstructed in 1897 and made safe as we see it today.

The tower houses the bells and clock. Until 1977 there was a peal of five bells, with tenor weighing 15 cwt., in the key of F. All were originally cast by Miles Graye of Colchester in 1650; the fourth was recast in 1909, but the others remained in their original metal and were enclosed within the old oaken frame, the tenor only being on bearings. In 1977 all five were removed and taken to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry where the old timber headstocks were replaced with iron, and they were

tuned. The whole oak frame was removed, and replaced in cast iron. A sixth bell was donated from Papworth St. Agnes. This was recast by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, and re-hung with the other five as the new treble.

The clock strikes out the hours by means of a hammer on the tenor bell. The clock itself is old-it may be seventeenth century.

High above the tower arch there are what appear to be three blocked windows, the purpose of which is uncertain. What is also curious about the tower is the thickness of the south buttress which is double that of the north side, and may have contained a spiral staircase in the past.

South Porch (Main Entrance)



The south porch is where people have entered and left the church for hundreds of years. Both the porch and the huge oak door are at least five hundred years old. The porch is a remarkable feature in that it is timber, being only one of two in the country, the arches are delicately carved, and there are bargeboard seats. (These were removed in 1998 after vandalism) To the side may be seen an ancient coffin stone which is that of Sir John Hubbard, the Guild priest of the early sixteenth century. There is also the pipe which supplied gas to the church for lighting when there was a gasworks in the village.

Octagonal Font



Situated near the main entrance is the font. This is dated as 14th / 15th century and rests on a Victorian tiled floor. The font is in regular use for baptisms.

Roof



The roof of the Nave and the main part of the seating (Pews) in the central Nave are Victorian. The pews in the North and South aisles are a different design and are a more 'upright' ancient buttress style. The Chancel roof is possibly Victorian as the walls were 'stripped' and whitewashed during this period.

Organ



A new organ replacing the old barrel organ of the 1820's was placed in the Chancel in 1867.



Clock

The church had a clock in 1503, which was sold (circa 1676) Edward Nightingale gave a new one in (circa 1712.)

The plate on the front of the mechanism of the clock reads: 'Repaired by John Briant of Hertford 1780'

The South Chapel of the church was restored in 1862.

Rumour has it that a secret passage runs from Bassingbourn to Takeley Church? It is however, significant that the South Aisle of Takeley Church is known as the Bassingbourn Chapel?

ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

- PISCINA:** Basin for washing the Mass vessels, provided with a drain. Set in or against the wall to the south of an altar.
- SEDILIA:** Seats for priests on the south side of the chancel.
- DECORATED:** A period of English architecture extending from C. 1290 to C. 1350.
- ROOD LOFT:** Gallery above the screen, under the Chancel arch, providing access to the Rood (a cross), and on which miracle plays were occasionally performed.

Chapter 6 People and Names

The church which was erected in the 14th century, is a building of stone and flint, consisting of chancel, nave, aisles, south porch of the 15th century and an embattled western tower containing a clock and 5 bells, cast by Miles Graye in 1650: in the church are monuments to the Nightingale and Turpin families, including two to Jeffrey Nightingale, ob. 1664, and to Edw. Nightingale, ob. 1723 : the church was restored in 1865, at a cost of about £3,000, to which sum the Dean and Chapter of Westminster contributed £300: the tower arch has been opened, a vestry formed in the tower and fitted up for the reception of the library of rare theological works partly bequeathed to this parish in 1717 by Sir Edward Nightingale, a former owner of Kneesworth House, to which additions have been made by different vicars: the east window is a memorial to the Rev. F. H. Bishop M.A. a former vicar, and his two daughters, and was presented by his widow and three sons: the window at the east end of the lady chapel was erected by Mrs. Nunn in memory of her husband, Dr Thomas Nunn, and his sister Mary and two brothers, John and Edmund Nunn: there are 600 sittings. The register dates from the year 1558, and the churchwardens' accounts from 1498.

A plaque exists on the wall of the church, behind the main entrance door which commemorates the Rectors and Vicars from 1294 to 1973.

A very special monument exists in the graveyard in the form of a walled garden celebrating Sydney Holland 2nd Viscount Knutsford and his wife Mary of Kneesworth Hall. Sydney Holland 2nd Viscount Knutsford (1855-1931) donated

'countless amounts' of time to the community and people of Bassingbourn and Kneesworth. He was the owner of Kneesworth Hall and chairman of the Royal London Hospital. His generosity and



devotion to the church and community is celebrated by the memorial in the church yard.

Francis Holcroft

"Francis Holcroft (1629-87) was possibly the most radical and controversial appointment in Bassingbourn Church's history. He was made "Minister of the Word" during the Commonwealth period when the normal governance of the Church of England had been suspended. Until recently, there was no evidence of his time of service at Bassingbourn. Fortunately his name has now been included on the board of previous incumbents just inside the door of the Church and due recognition given to his evangelic contribution.

Upon the restoration of the Monarchy, following the return from exile of Charles the Second, Francis Holcroft left Bassingbourn and became an itinerant preacher, imprisoned on several occasions for preaching without a license. A Vicar was appointed at Bassingbourn by Ely Cathedral and matters allowed to return to much as they were before the Civil War."

Francis Holcroft died of natural causes at a respectable age. Large numbers turned out to his funeral to celebrate his life. Amongst them were a fair number of barrackers, the types who had plagued his latter years.

Edward Nightingale also repaired the whole church at his own expense.

A list of people who have generously donated money to the church can be found in Victoria County History Books online.

Chapter 7 Church Yard



In the churchyard there are Georgian and Victorian tomb-stones, some of which are of unusual design, though the inscriptions on many are illegible due to the soft stone of which they are constructed. To the

south of the church there is two of note, one is cast iron and the other is a cross of stone with coloured plaques of angels and horses, dated 1867. In the south-east corner there is the tomb of Lord Knutsford which was built in 1931.

In records of the Middle Ages it is shown that sanctuary was granted in the church to various people. In 1272, Thomas Smith and John his associate took sanctuary, acknowledged themselves thieves and abjured the realm. In 1343 Alexander Avere of Shefford took sanctuary in the church on the Tuesday after May 5th and stayed there until June 11th, when the coroner came. He was taken to the steps of the churchyard and there abjured the realm. The port of Dover was assigned for his departure. In 1350, Deodand, a whytel causing a murder, paid is. 2d. finally, in 1351, William Batchelor feloniously killed Sabrina Newman by malice aforethought, by strangling her with a hanker-chief. William had fled.

Late Medieval accounts also mention a stable and a storehouse, both of which may have lain inside the church yard.

The churchyard being full in 1878 was closed, and was replaced by a 2 ½ acre cemetery with two chapels in 1879. This is along the Causeway leading to Kneesworth.

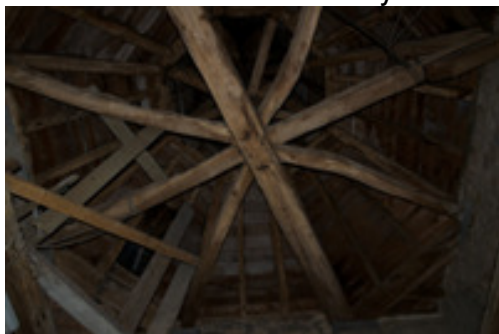
Chapter 8 Church Bell Data

Photograph showing one of the bells in the tower.



View from above the bells

The wooden frame of the Church Spire.
One of the beams has Bray? 1703 scratched on it



**Bassingbourn, Cambs
SS Peter & Paul**

Bells (Heaviest = 610 Kg)

Bell	Weight	Nominal	Note	Diameter	Cast	Founder	Canons
1	4-3-20	1218.5	D#		1977	Whitechapel Bell Foundry Ltd	F
2	5-3-5	1085.0	C#		1650	Miles III Graye	Y
3	5-3-12	964.0	B		1650	Miles III Graye	Y
4	8-0-9	907.0	A#		1650	Miles III Graye	Y
5	8-2-18	809.0	G#		1909	Mears & Stainbank	R
6	12-0-9	718.5	F#		1650	Miles III Graye	R

Source: CJP(Raven; R Walker); Philip Denton; Andy Marchant
 Contributed by: [Chris Pickford](#)
 Last updated: 05/09/2010

(Bells re hung in 1977 to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee)

Frame for the bells

Frame	Bells	Year	Material	Maker	Truss	Layout
1	1,2,3,4,5,6	1977	Cast iron	Locally manufactured		6.1

Quote from David Coleman (Bell Tower Captain, 2011):

“The first peal was rung at Bassingbourn on 20th April 1955 and the second 22 years later just before the bells were removed for re hanging in 1977. The first peal on the new six bells was rung on 9th October 1977, since when the total number of peals rung at Bassingbourn has risen to 33.”

Quote from “A Chronicle of Two Villages”

Traditional farm buildings covered the site of Canberra Close and Wellington Place: subsequently a century’s old oak beam from the demolished barn was used to support the bell-cage in the parish church. (1953?)

Chapter 9 Church Room “A Chronicle of Two Villages”



The small building across the road from the church, on the left, is the Church Room which has had a chequered history. It was first used as a 1/2d per week school and then in the 30s became a Men's Club.

When the evacuees came from Brompton Oratory during the War they used it as a school room, and then when the war ended, it became a venue for various events such as wedding receptions, until 1956 when as a result of bad weather, it collapsed. It was restored by Mr. Edward Russell the then owner of Manor Farm to be used for church meetings and as a Youth Club. For several years, it was used as a store but recently, after a 'wash and brush up' has become a centre for church activities such as the children's church and children's parties. Behind the Church Room stands the new Vicarage, built in the 70s on glebe land.

Chapter 10 References

1 Historic Buildings Record Reference

*** DATABASE: HBLD DOCUMENT: OO2435
PAGE 0519

CAMBRIDGESHIRE C. C.	HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD	OO2435
GRID REF,	TL 33064407	
PARISH	BASSINGBOURN CUM KNEESWORTH	
GRADE	1	DISTRICT
	S Camb	
G.V.	yes	
DESCRIPTOR	Church	
PERIOD	13, 14, 15, M 19, L 19	LIST DATE
DATE	NONE	12/02/58
NUMBER	15/51	LIST
	DIST NUMBER	5142
CLASS	Religious	FORM
	ANW	
ADDRESS	Parish Church of St Peter and StPaul	
	NORTH END	
SIDE	East	
WALL MATERIAL	Flint rubble. Clunch, limestone	
ROOF MATERIAL	Lead, slate	

DESCRIPTION Parish church, Early C13 tower survived till 1897 and was rebuilt in C14 style. Nave replaced in late C13 by nave arcades, north and south aisles and clerestorey added in c1350. Chancel C1330. South porch late C14 restored in C19, external turret to rood screen C15. Vestry built to north side of chancel c1500 demolished C1750. Restorations; by Edward Nightingale (d 1723), chancel east window C1844, south chapel 1862, aisles, nave and roofs rebuilt by Nash of Royston architects in 1864-5, west tower rebuilt 1897. Walls of flint rubble and clunch with original clunch dressings and C19 limestone replacement. Roofs of lead and slate. South elevation: West tower of three stages with embattled parapet and small leaved spirlet; belfry has blind arcade with two light belfry window. Embattled nave, moulded cornice with gargoyles, six restored two light windows with ogee tracery in flat arches with drip moulds. Pent roof to S aisle, and slightly wider two bay chapel to east end with moulded plinth continuous around two stage angle buttresses, three restored windows of three ogee headed lights with flat arches and drip moulds. Small quatrefoil window in fabric of perhaps original nave to west of chancel. Three bays of chancel with moulded plinth and plain parapet and similar three light windows with mouchettes in two centred ogee arches with foliate finials to drip moulds. (Octagonal stair turret and priests door in north elevation, north-east bay of chancel with blocked window and locker and piscina of

former chapel and vestry). South porch rebuilt in C19 on high flint and stone plinth with two centred moulded wooden arch and trefoil spandrels and cinquefoiled lights on each side. Roof of two bays with crown post and cambered tie beams. South doorway, restored two Centred arch of two sunk chamfered orders with moulded label. Interior: Nave arcades of six bays with two centred arches of two hollow or plain chamfered orders, octagonal piers and semi octagonal responds with moulded caps and spurred bases. Chancel arch two centred of .two moulded orders with filleted attached shafts and moulded caps and bases. Tower arch replaced C19 with four centred head. Chancel north wall, small recess perhaps an Easter

2 Grave Index

Bassingbourn Parish Church

The first reference to the church was in the reign of Henry 3rd (1216-1272) who granted a fair of eight days at the festival of Saints Peter and Paul. The tower was the first part to be constructed, the remainder of the building being added between 1340 and 1400.

Tombstones & Churchyard

Local historians have created the map of the tombstones in the churchyard. Detailed tomb descriptions follow at the bottom of this page with the inscription of each stone.

Alphabetical Index of surnames:

Ashburnham:76 Bally:16;17 Barnard:83 Barns:31 Bentham:30 Bentley:39
Bird:70
Bishop:23 Boyer:7 Brown:66 Butterfield:5;6 Cambridge:65;66;67 Clarke:47
Cole:21
Dickason:14;15 Docwra:8 Dodkin:36 Ellis:35 Farr:64;88 Fletton:27
Flitton:56;57
Flockton:61 Fortune:69 Green:39 Inskip:11 Jones:78 Knutsford:75;76
Lilley:77
Marsh:20 Morley:44 Nightingale:84;85; 86;87
Pateman:4;73 Pearmain:34;40;59 Pennington:80 Pink:63 Pryor:71
Revell:53
Robinson:70 Russell:9 Saggars:58;60 Scott:10
Sell:1;2;12; 13;20;22;(71);72; 81;82
Simms:72(a) Stallibrass:19 Stanford:43;70 Starr:24 Taylor:32 Trigg:46
Trustram:26 Uxor:87 Vowels:79 Waller:38;69 Waymont:52 Webster:3
Whisson:51
Williams:89 Wilson:48;49;50 Woods:55

Code Used in Tomb-stone Descriptions given below:

A Headstone
A/E Headstone & cross
A/G Headstone & Kerbs
B Altar Tomb
C Coped Stone
D Chest Stone
E Stone Cross
E/C Celtic Cross
EW Wooden Cross
F Cruciform Coped Stone
G Kerb Stones
FS Foot Stone
GS Ground Slab
OB Open Book
WP Wall Plaque
S Scroll

Abbreviations Used:

CMO Cherished Memories of
TMO Treasured Memories of
IMO In Memory of
TTMO To the Memory of
TTDMO To the Dear Memory of
IELMO In Ever Loving Memory of
ILMO In Loving Memory of
IAMO In Affectionate Memory of
IRO In Remembrance of
ILRO In Loving Remembrance of
IARO In Affectionate Remembrance of
STTMO Sacred to the Memory of
HLTBO Here lieth the body of d died
Brackets indicate doubt about a name or date.

1. A TTMO/Charles Sell/d.22 April 1862/aged 32.
2. A TTMO/Preston James/d.22 Feb 1863/aged4.
3. A IMO/George Webster/d.5 Nov 1872/aged 38/Also George, son of above/died in infancy.
4. A IMO/John Pateman/d.14 Aug 1876/aged 63/Also Mary Pateman wife of above/d.14 June 1860/aged 43.

5. A TTMO/Samuel Butterfield/d. February 8 1836/aged 63 years/also of Mary Butterfield/wife of the above/d. October 27 1850/aged 49.
6. A IMO/Edwin Butterfield/son of/Samuel Butterfield/born February 22 1825/d. November 15 1839.
7. A Mary Boyer/d. 2 Sept 1823/aged (2)5.
8. A IMO/William Docwra/d. 18(19)/aged 77/also IMO/Sarah Docwra/d. 18(09).
9. A IAMO/Sarah/the beloved wife of/Joseph Russell/born March 13 1844/died August 25 1870.
10. A STTMO?Henrietta/the beloved wife of the late/Joseph Scott/died/March 1873/aged 51.
11. E George Inskip/died/27 November 1874/aged 61 years.
12. A TTMO/Tempest Sell/d. April 22 1861/aged 73/also/Sarah Sell/wife of the above/died/December 27 1856/aged 44.
13. A IAMO/Tempest Sell/who died/September 13 1863/in his 43rd year.
14. A Louisa Dickason/died 1850/aged (84).
15. A STTMO/Mary Dickason/died/August 18 1857/aged 19.
16. A STTMO/Charles Bally/died/June 11 1848/aged 49.
17. A STTMO/John Bally/died 1835/aged (49) years.
18. E Unreadable.
19. A Francis Stallibrass/died 25 May 1755/aged 59 years.
20. A IMO/Elizabeth/wife of/Edmund Marsh/and sister of the late/Simeon Leete Sell/died July 24 1864/aged 75 years.
21. A TTMO/John Cole/died March 14 1826/aged 75/also/Flower/wife of John Cole/died Dec 25 1826/aged 73.
22. A & D IMO/Simeon Leete Sell/who died/28 March 1859/aged 74/also of/Edith Fossey Sell/sister of the above/died 9 June 1959/aged 73.
23. E Emily Francis Bishop/born May 1857/died 1867/Theresa Margaret Louisa Bishop/born 1862/died 1866/eldest and youngest daughters of the Rev. Freeman Heathcote Bishop/Vicar of this parish.
24. A IAMO/James and Rebecca/(Starr)/James died 1857/aged 75/Rebecca died March 6 1858/aged 70.
25. A Unreadable.
26. IMO/Edward (Trustrum)/died 1822
27. A IMO/Elizabeth/the wife of Ralph Fletton/who died March 18 1758/aged 73.
28. E Indecipherable.
29. (back) Samuel, son of John and Mary Beldam/Martha Hagger. Martha Beldam. (Overgrown with ivy).
30. A IMO/Martha Dau. of/John & Frances Bentham/died 16 May 1758/aged 25.

31. E IARO/Elizabeth beloved wife of/Samuel Barns/d.26 Dec 1863/aged (31?51)/also/Ada Elizabeth/aged 13.
32. A IMO/Rebecca Taylor/d. Oct 17 1875/aged 45.
33. A IMO/Mrs Ann Green/d.Feb 10 1????/aged 76.
34. A IMO/Henry Pearmain/d.6 May 1864 age 61/Also/Fanny wife of the above/d.8 May 1965 aged 65/Also/Mary Ann Pearmain their dau./d. 19 Sept 1861 age 26.
35. A IMO/Joseph Ellis/d.March (17)(1837) Age ?
36. A IMO Samuel Dodkin/d. (1808) or (1868) Age (66).
37. A Indecipherable.
38. A Indecipherable.
38. A TTMO/William Waller/d.14 Aug 1857 age 54/Also/Catherine his beloved (? Why two numbered 38?) wife/d.27 Nov 1860/aged 64.
39. A IARO/Susan beloved wife of/Charles Bentley daughter of John & Eliza Allen d. 14 Aug 1878/aged 19.
40. A IMO/Elizabeth dau. of/Henry and Fanny Pearmain/d.3 Oct 1852/aged 16/Also of/Henry son of Henry & Fanny Pearmain/d.24 Sept 1856 age 24.
41. A Covered in ivy.
42. A Covered in ivy.
43. A HLTBO/Edward Stanford/d.4th May 1780 in the (77?11) year/of his life.
44. E Daniel Morley/departed/December 1867/aged 67.
45. A /lieth the body of/Elizabeth/daughter of/John & Elizabeth/died March 17, 1771/aged - weeks
46. A IMO/Samuel Trigg/who died Oct 1 1843/aged 73 years/also Sarah/his wife/died March 19 1850.
47. A IARO/Anne and Elizabeth/daughters of/Thomas Clarke/of this parish/Anne died Oct 17 1864/aged 26 years/Elizabeth died Jan 3 1865/aged 21 years. (With iron railing).
48. A STTMO/John Wilson.
49. A IMO/Richard Wilson/who died April 24th 1816/aged 81.
50. A IMO/Elizabeth Wilson/wife of/Richard Wilson/died November 3 1818/aged 73.
51. A IMO/John Whisson/born June 4 1810/died Aug 23 1865/aged 62 years.
52. A James Waymont/was suddenly called/to exchange time for eternity by/falling from a harvest cart/Aug 23 1865/aged 62 years.
53. A IARO/Edward Revell/d.21 Oct 1861 age 65.
54. B Covered in ivy.
55. A IMO/William Woods/d.20 May 1862/age 80/Also/Mary his wife/d.11 Jan

1850/age 18/Also/John Woods/d.12 Jan 1830/age 40.
 56. A IMO/Catherine wife of/James Flitton/d.26 Nov 1838/age 75.
 57. A Jane Flitton/aged 35/1852.
 58. A IMO/Samuel Sagggers/d.Feb 25 1870 age 84/Also Ann his wife/d.11 Jan 1850/age 18/Also John Woods/d.12 Jan 1830/age 40.
 59. A IMO/John Pearmain/d.20 June 1866/age 50.
 60. A IMO/Sarah Sagggers/wife of Charles Sagggers/d.23 Sept 1864/age 51/also Sarah dau. of Charles & Sarah Sagggers/d.20 July 1864 Age 18.
 61. A IMO/George Flockton/born 19 Aug 1808/died 8 July 1863.
 62. No stone.
 63. A ILMO/Mary wife of William Pink/d.17 May 1876/age 66.
 64. A IMO/Mr Richard Farr/d. 21 April 1797/age (40)/also/Mercy the wife of the above/d.16 May 1816/age 66.
 65. A STTMO/Martha Cambridge/dau of/Owen & Ann Cambridge/d. 6 July 1819/age 13.
 66. A STTMO/Mrs Ann Cambridge/beloved wife of Owen Cambridge/& dau of Thomas & Lettice Brown/of this Parish/d. 23 Aug 1813/age 33.
 67. A STTMO/Owen Cambridge/d.Nov 1825/age (43)/also of Mary his dau.
 68. Foot stone to 70.
 69. TTMO/Moses Waller age 26/James Fortune/age 22/who died Oct 19 1869.
 70. A STTMO/James Fortune aged 26/Henry Robinson age 22/who was crushed to death on 21 June 1834 by the sudden falling in of a large Parish clunch pit which they had....cautiously undermined.
 71. A ISRO/Edith Fossey Pryor/dau of Tempest Sell/d. 5 Apr 1850/age 37.
 72. A IMO/Sarah wife of/Tempest Sell/d. 24 Dec 1821/age 27.
 72(a). IMO/George Simms/d. March (3) (1795).
 73. A IMO/William Pateman/d. 9 Oct 1863/age 66/also/Sarah his beloved wife/d. 18 Nov 1873/age 74.
 74. B Covered in ivy - indecipherable.
 75. ILM/with thanksgiving to God for the life, love & work of/Sydney George/2nd Viscount Knutsford/of Kneesworth Hall/Born March 19 1855/died July 27 1931/Chairman for 35 years of the London Hospital/his lifelong work was devoted to the relief of suffering and the advantage of medical science. His joy was to help all in distress and to bring happiness into the lives of others.
 76. ILMO/Mary/widow of Sydney George, 2nd Viscount Knutsford/4th daughter of Bertram/4th Earl of Ashburnham/born December 21 1859/died May 3 1947.

In the Nave
Wall Tablets

77. IARO/Joshua Lilley/d.20 March 1848/age 75/also/Elizabeth his wife/d.27 Dec 1852/age 78/also Eliza their dau/d. Feb 1825/age 23/The mortal remains of above are deposited in a vault near this place.

78. IHMO/Cecil Albert Jones/Vicar of this Parish 1877-1899 & Rector of Abington Pigotts/1899/1922/d.6 Dec 1928 age 86/buried in St. John's Lewes.

79. IMO/Prudence Pamela Vowels/d.27 Feb 1941 age 20/for King & Country.

80. IMO/Revd George Pennington/d.23 Dec 1832/age 74/also/Catherine Pennington/wife of above/d.1 Sept 1839/age 74.

Floor Slabs

81. STTMO/Simeon Sell/Farrier of this Parish/d.28 Dec 1822/age 69/after long and sharp afflictions which he bore with Christian patience & resignation.

82. STTMO/Ephraim Sell/son of Simeon Sell/d.18 Feb 1830/age 74.

83. Under this stone is interred the body of Ernest Barnard Esq Page to HRH Augusta Princess of Wales/d.23 May 1750/age 45.

84. HLTBO/Charles Nightingale/d.31 Dec 1757/age 23/also in this Vault lies the body of Capt Robt. Nightingale/brother of the deceased/d.9 Jan 1784/age 42/also/George Manby infant son of Sir Charles Ethelstone Nightingale Bart/d.22 May 1812.

85. HLTBO/Edward Nightingale Esq/Late of Kneesworth/d. (at Bath) 20 Oct 1750/age

54/also/Eleanor his wife d.14 Sept 1771/age 71.

86. The body of Edward Nightingale Esq of Kneesworth is here committed to the Ground/d.2 July 1723.

87. Geffrejus Nightingale de Kneesworth/Armiger una cum Elizabeth Uxor/23 Nov 1664/ille Mau nono 1681 Mortem obit/Also/Gamaliel his son/qui 26 April 1690.

88. STTMO/Thomas Farr/d.13 Dec 1822/Age 43.

89. HLTBO/Mr John Williams/the late/Vicar of this Parish/d.16 July 1776/Age 60.

Floor slab to right of altar.

Black stone with white relief coat of arms and a figure. The figure is a youngish man with long curly dark hair, draped in cloth:

This small monument is presented To the memory of her dear and Vertuous Brother Mr Henry Butler, who died the 2 of September 1647.

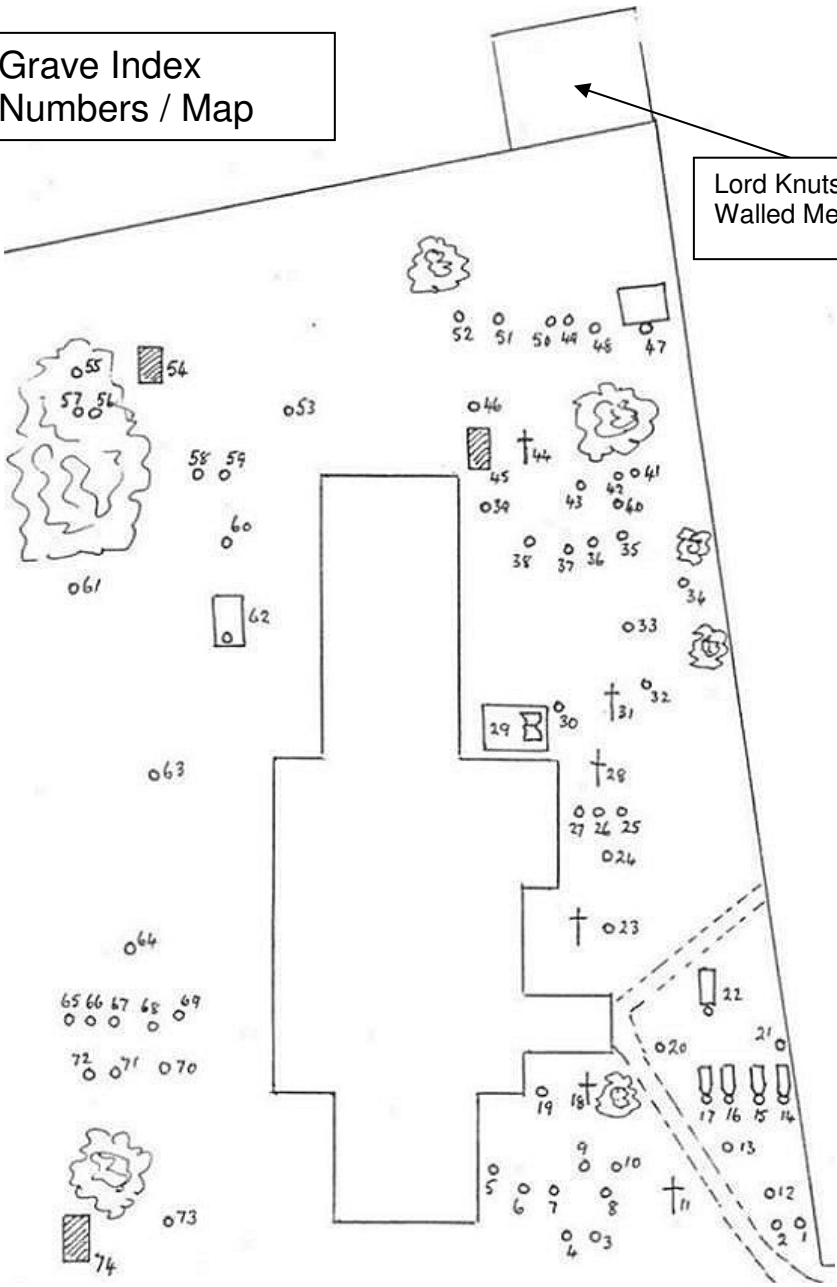
By the Lady Dingley, his most affectionate sister.Who prayeth "This stone may lye until he rife,to fee his Saviour with his eies."

Please note that the grave index is currently undergoing a revision due to some inaccuracies in the data above. We plan to publish a fully corrected version in the next edition of this booklet.



Grave Index
Numbers / Map

Lord Knutsford
Walled Memorial



Extract from
The Buildings of England
Cambridgeshire
Nicholas Prosvner

First Published 1954

Second Edition 1970

Reprinted 2001

BASSINGBOURN

ST PETER AND ST PAUL, w tower rebuilt E.E. in 1879. It has a recessed lead spire. The church is of flint and stone rubble. It possesses a handsome big timber porch, not a usual thing in Cambridgeshire, with flatly cusped shallow barge boarding and six open side arches, a Perp clerestory, several other Perp \windows, and Dec N and s aisle windows. But its claim to special, indeed very special, notice is its chancel, a complete and remarkably personally designed piece of Dec architecture, dating from 0.1340-50. What characterizes the design everywhere is the introduction of a very slight ogee turn in the heads of otherwise normally arched windows. Externally this is done in the broad five-light E window with its flowing tracery, internally in all the three-light N and s windows as well. Of these the easternmost on the N side has a head only. Below there must have been an attached chapel (cf. the piscina). The tracery here is different; it has just a touch of the coming Perp. Between the windows are buttresses on the outside and above gargoyles. The N doorway has the same little ogee tip (arch moulding of two quarter-circles). Internally a string-course runs all round at the sill level of the windows. The N doorway and the doorway into the former N vestry both just reach up to this with their ogee tips. Ogee-headed SEDILIA and double PISCINA also touching the string-course. Stone corbels 1. and r. of the E window. The chancel arch has an interesting Dec profile with shafts with fillets, but in the other mouldings everywhere again that peculiar sense of the double-curve. Roof with tie beams, a crossbeam running W-E at tie beam height; the intersections marked with bosses; four-way struts, w of the chancel arch is a piece of plain wall before the arcades of the nave start, and here the designer has introduced one quatrefoil window high up on each side, no doubt to provide light for the rood loft.

Now the nave and aisles. There are six bays; the piers are octagonal and the arches tall. The w bay is fragmentary, as the w tower buttresses cut into

it. The arches are double chamfered, but not all of them. The E bay on the s side and the two E bays on the N are different. Their moulded capitals are clearly a little earlier, and their arches have two quarter circle mouldings on the N side, more elaborate mouldings on the s. The building of the nave and aisles probably proceeded from E to w, and the straight-headed N windows and double chamfered arches mark a date about the middle of the century or after. The s aisle is continued incidentally by a s chapel with Perp windows. This externally is all new, but internally has the noteworthy feature of a reredos of a row of blank arches between altar and E window. The ogee-headed PISCINA is original. - ROOD SCREEN. With two-light divisions. The dividing mullion runs up into the apex of the arch. Low ogee arches for each light and tall slim Perp tracery above them. Openwork dado. - BENCHES. Some plain, straight-headed, and buttressed benches. - AUMBRY with carved animals underneath. - MONUMENTS. Turpin family brass (nave floor), made in 1683 but commemorating forebears of the ci5. - 43b Henry Buller f 1647, a very moving and original monument inspired by the monument to Sir Richard Curie at Hatfield, Black marble slab on the chancel floor, and on it, small, white, and forlorn, with much space around, the figure of the dead young man, his eyes closed. He lies on his back, gently turned to the side so that his feet are seen in profile. One arm and one shoulder are bare, the rest of the body covered by the ample shroud.

WINDMILL. Tower-mill converted into a house.

(VILLAGE COLLEGE. By *W. Wingate*, £.1953.)

4

The Churchwardens' Book of Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire 1496 – c.1540. Edited by D. Dymond. Cambridgeshire Records Society, vol. 17 (2004). lxxvi + 327pp. £24.00.

Churchwardens' accounts that predate the Reformation era are very rare, with only a handful of such records surviving. Where they do exist, they provide an unrivalled insight into the rituals and realities of the liturgical life of the parish church at this time. In addition, they humanise these forms of worship and ceremonial cycles by giving names to their participants and benefactors. This edition of the early sixteenth-century accounts of Bassingbourn in Cambridgeshire paints such a picture of the practicalities of spiritual life in a rural, but by no means isolated, village.

While the core of the volume publishes the first full transcript of this valuable source, the introduction and appendices are of almost equal significance.

David Dymond's authoritative and detailed introduction sets the village in its spatial context, emphasizing its proximity to arterial routes to the capital, and between Oxford and Cambridge. The introduction also explores the content of the accounts in considerable detail, describing the efforts made to preserve and enhance the fabric of the church, the journeys undertaken by churchwardens in pursuit of suitable craftsmen, and the costs incurred. In addition, this survey depicts the ceremonial of the parish church, and explains how far it was paid for, and geared to, the remembrance of the laity. Dymond's analysis of these accounts emphasizes not only the colour and ornaments of the pre-Reformation church, but also how its obits and chantries made tangible the community of the living and the dead.

Alongside the wealth of material about the parish's ongoing struggles with the church's roof, bells, doors and windows, these accounts also contain a further treasure. This is the account of the 'playe had on Seynte Margaret daye . . . off the holy martir Seynt George' in 1511.

The Churchwardens' Book of Bassingbourn is available in the Book Café.

5 Photographs from “A Chronicle of Two Villages” book



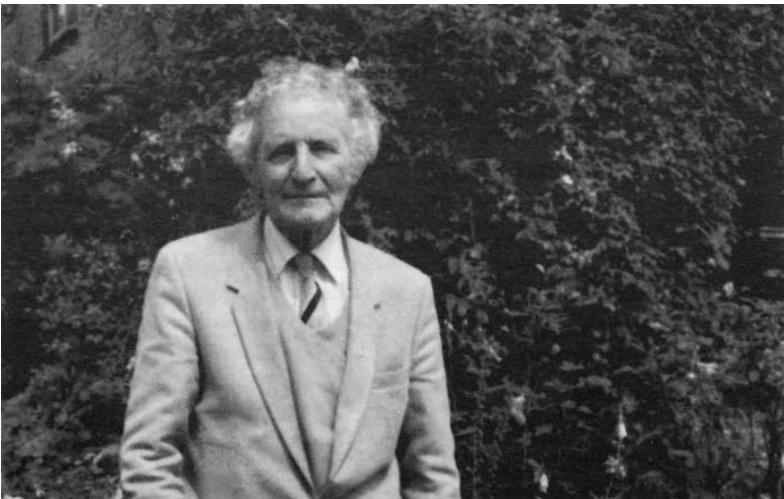
The Vicar (John Aitchison) with the bells.



The Jubilee Bell, dedicated to Mr. Ernest Tyler (Secretary of the PCC for many years)



John Aitchison, Vicar 1973 - 1992



Organist, Ted Starr (His loyalty to the church and community was rewarded by the presentation of Maundy money by the Queen in 1987)

Children's Church

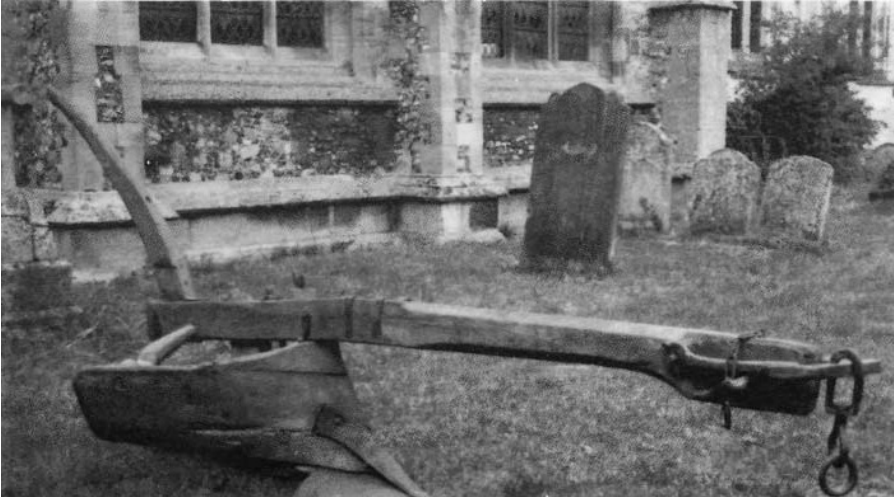


Children's Church - Party at the Vicarage

The Church Choir on Remembrance Sunday



Jubilee Year - Village Carnival, the 5 Sovereign Queens



The Bassingbourn Plough had a 'presence' in the Belfry of the church and is now in a museum

Chapter 11 Acknowledgements

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(johnsimpson316@btinternet.com)
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(rscott@hrc.ac.uk)
- David Coleman (Bell Tower Captain)
- Bassingbourn Local History Group "A Chronicle of Two Villages" book. (Bassingbourn Book Cafe)

Chapter 12 Website Links:

Victoria County History (Online Books)

<http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/NationalSite/Home/Main>

British History Online

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/source.aspx?pubid=523>

Bassingbourn Church

<http://www.bassingbournchurch.org.uk/>

A Chronicle of Two Villages book

<http://www.bassingbourn.org/userfiles/file/A%20Chronicle%20of%20Two%20Villages.pdf>

The Book Cafe

<http://bassingbournbookcafe.co.uk/default.aspx>

Bassingbourn Website

<http://www.bassingbourn.org/>

PLEASE NOTE

This booklet is also available as a PDF file.

If you would like a personal electronic copy please email

rscott@hrc.ac.uk

Future Thoughts

It is planned, as already mentioned in the text, that the grave index will be updated and checked for accuracy in future revisions of this booklet. We are also researching and collating information on the church windows, which will be included.

Overall the aim was to create a 'first edition' booklet that would give visitors and the community a collated guide to the church.

Future editions of this booklet will rely on local people and contributions from local people, who would like to become involved with the expansion and collation of our local history.