

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

Bathampton, Bath, Somerset

PART ONE

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AND ITS FABRIC

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INTRODUCTION

This piece aims to bring together all that is known of the development of the Christian faith in Bathampton and how the church of St Nicholas and its fabric has evolved since renovations and extensions were made by Ralph Allen in 1754, (Lord of Bathampton Manor 1743-1764).

A great deal of the material used with regards the actual fabric of the church has been drawn from the writings of past historians whose records of what they were able to see, at the time, give a valuable insight into the background and extension of the building. Whilst early documents and church records chronicle the actual workings of the church.

Such documentation was accessed through the Bath, Bristol and Somerset Record Offices. Another valuable resource was that of The British Newspaper Archive, which holds, as part of its collections, runs of the Bath Journal and Bath Chronicle and Herald.

Some of the writings and speculations of past historians are not always conclusive or consistent but regardless of this have been combined within the piece in order to substantiate the narrative or give room for further exploration of their observations.

Illustrations used are from the archives of the Bathampton Local History Research Group or church records, unless otherwise stated.



ABBREVIATIONS

BLHRG	- Bathampton Local History Research Group
c before a date	- circa
Corp.	- Corporal
Lieut.	- Lieutenant
Jnr	- junior
n.d.	- no date
Maj. Gen.	- Major General
p.	- page number
pp.	- page numbers
rep.	- reprint
Snr	- Senior
Sergt.	- Sergeant

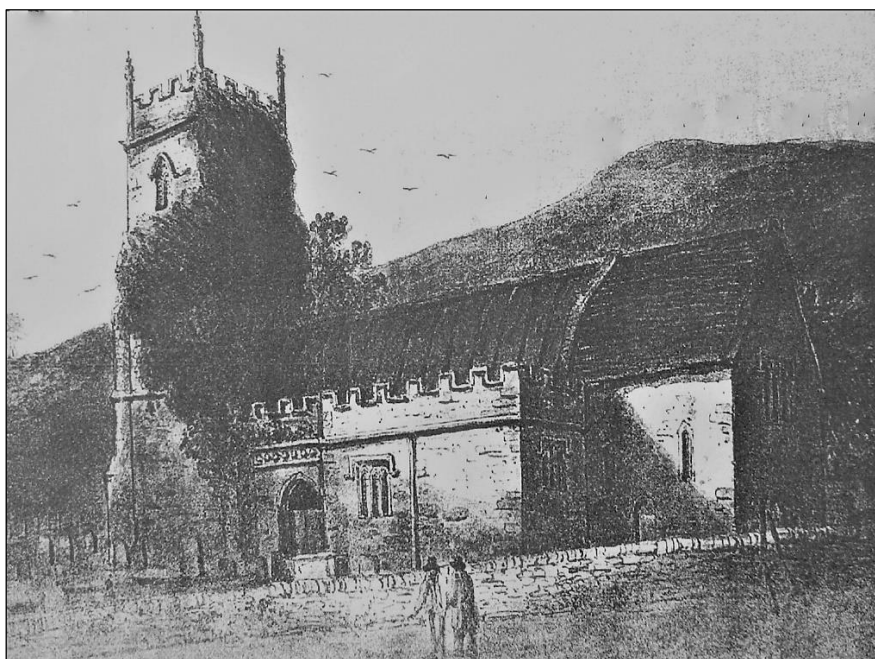
Burial plot numbers are shown preceded by the letter A, B, C, D or E to denote relevant section of the churchyard the grave is located. Plans of the churchyard can be found in Part 4. Numbers with no prefix or with the letter W (denoting a window) refer to memorials within the church (see also '*Part two: St Nicholas Church, Bathampton - Interior Memorials Explored*', and, '*Part three: Some Notable Burials*'. BLHRG, 2024).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

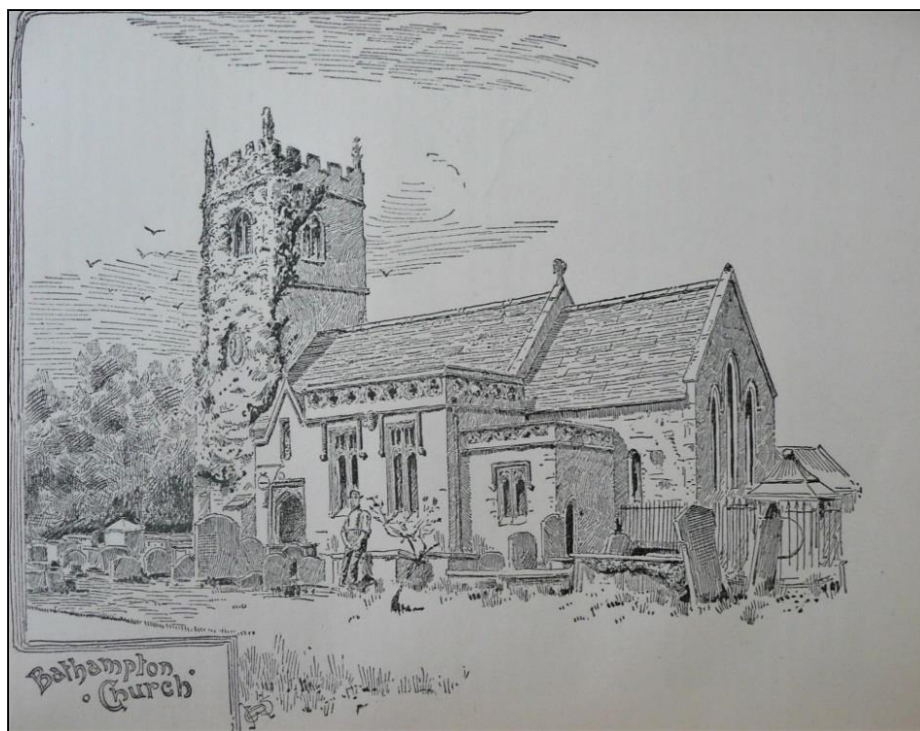
I would like to acknowledge the granting of access some year's ago to the church's archives by the then Vicar, Rev. Paul Burden. Also the support and guidance in compiling this record given by Mary Clark and Rosemary Dyer of the BLHRG.

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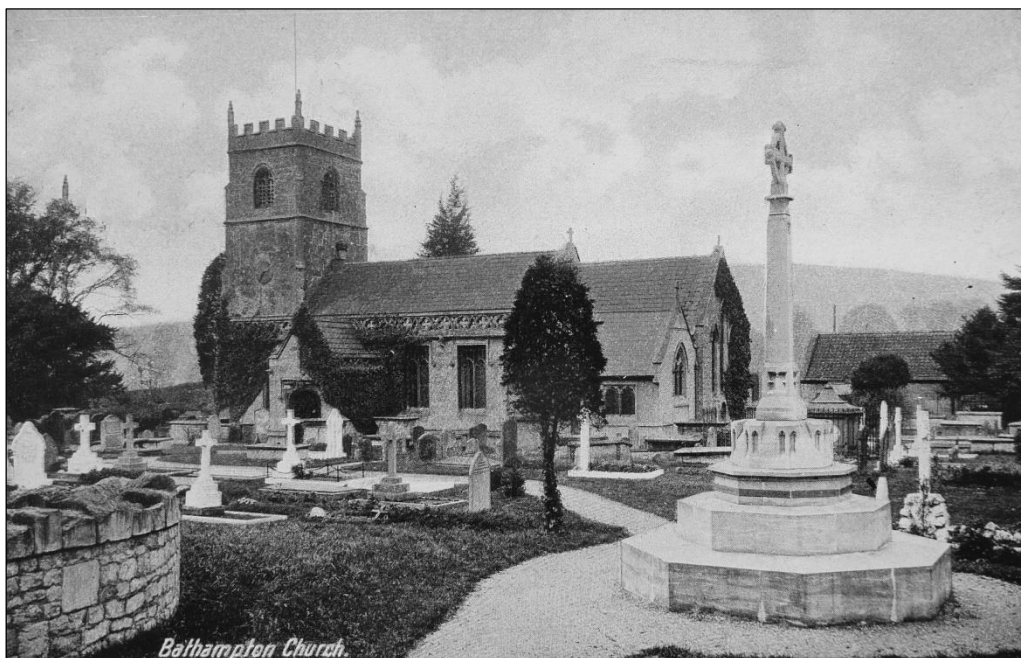
The church of St Nicholas, Bathampton showing the 1754 addition of the original porch and Allen Chapel.



Showing the porch, slightly altered, and Allen chapel with extra window replacing east one lost by the addition of the first vestry c1859.



The church (c1904-1921) showing the porch, now brought forward, new south aisle running behind and extended vestry of 1882. Also the churchyard extension and Coronation Cross of 1904. In the foreground is 'pig wall' which separated the churchyard from the pig orchard, Home Close, to the south. This ground was purchased in 1921 in order to enlarge the churchyard further. The wall was subsequently removed (apart from a short section at the east end) and the area consecrated in 1931.



Coronation Cross and churchyard extension of 1904.
East end of 'pig wall' bottom left.
c1904-1921

Bathampton.

1637

A True Terrier of the houses, with
 the vicarage of Bathampton, in the
 County of Wiltshire, in the Parish of St. Nicholas,
 of Bathampton, taken the sixth day
 of November Anno Domini 1637.

First one Mansion, dwelling house, with
 one other little house, standing together, with
 a large, near about, three Acres of house land
 with, together with, a garden plot for house
 and, together with, the house doo stand upon
 by Estimation, near about, twenty, eight
 to a small matter, more or less.

The two Barns, where, the Corn stands,
 containing, by Estimation, near about, half
 an Acre of ground, or to a small matter, more
 than about, more or less, & here is all, & no more
 to be knowned, whereunto, we have subscribed
 the day, & year first above written.

by us Owen Lownd Clerk
 the vicar hereof.

Robert Annesley
 Richard Lucken

Owen Wardon

D/D/Rg 3

1637 Terrier of church property in Bath Hampton

Transcription:

Bath Hampton

Bathampton
1637

A true Terrier of the houses with the glebe lands belonging to the Vicarage of Bath Hampton in the County of Somerset within the Diocese of Bath and Wells taken the sixth day of November anno dom 1637.

Impris. One mansion dwelling house and one other little house standing together containing near about three bayes of housing apeace together with a garden plot thereunto annexed whereunto these houses do stand upon by estimation near about twenty Luggs or to a small matter more or less

Item. The churchyard wherein the Church standeth containing by estimation near about half an acre of Ground or to a small matter near thereabout more or less, and this is all and no more to our knowledge.

Whereunto we have subscribed the day and year first above written,

Owen Lewis, Clerk, Vicar thereof.

The mark of Robert Wilshire, Richard Tucker, Church Wardens.

[The following is shown on the endorsed copy, see page 11].

Concordat Originali

Examined by me *[signed]*

There is no Terrier or other writing in the Registry of the Bishop of Bath and Wells relating to the Rectory of Bath Hampton.

£ 5 8
10-00-00
7-00-00 Real

Rectory of Bath-hampton

Ap: 27th - 1727
2 Lives for - 220 -

An: Dom: 1693

1st Life was sold for 70^s

An: Dom: 1720

Valued by Mr Tyndal at 80^s
An:

Memo: Dr Harcourt & Mr Wapman Visited this Rectory May 14th 1724 w^{ch} they received from Mr Harford & Tenant of 2 Glab. & Tylls, under Mr Fisher & Tenant of 2 Dean & Chapter, y^e following account of A^{rs}

	House Garden Orchard & Fish pond	1
Arable Land	In y ^e lower town fields lying in 3 parcels	3
	In y ^e East fields lying in 3 parcels	3
	In y ^e upper fields together	3
	In y ^e East fields enclosed	3
	In y ^e upper fields enclosed in 2 parcels	3
	Near y ^e River below y ^e house enclosed	1
Meadow & Pasture	3 Acres called Wanham	3
	1 Acre called Rimondos	1
	Near 4 Acres called Mash	4
	5 Acres called Long Land	5
	Near 1 Acre called Little Hawham	1
	2 Acres called great Hawham	2
	2 Acres called new Tynning	2
	2 Acres called Barry Kuzze	2
	Near 3 Acres called Lye	3
	Totl:	42

The Arable Land is Valued at 5^s p^r Acre
The Meadow & pasture at 5^s 0^d to 4^s p^r Acre
The Tylls are Valued according to Annis at 25 p^r Acre

Valuation of Rectory of Bath-hampton, 27 April, 1727.

Transcription:

£ s. d.
10.00.00
Rent

Rectory of Bath-hampton

April 27th 1727
2 lives for 220

An. Dom. 1693
A third life was sold for £70
An. Dom. 1720
Valued by Mr Tyndall at £80

Mem. Dr Harcourt and Mr Waterman visited this Rectory May 14th 1724 where they received from Mr Harford the Tenant of the Glebe and Tithes under Mr Fisher the Tenant of the Dean and Chapter the following account of it.

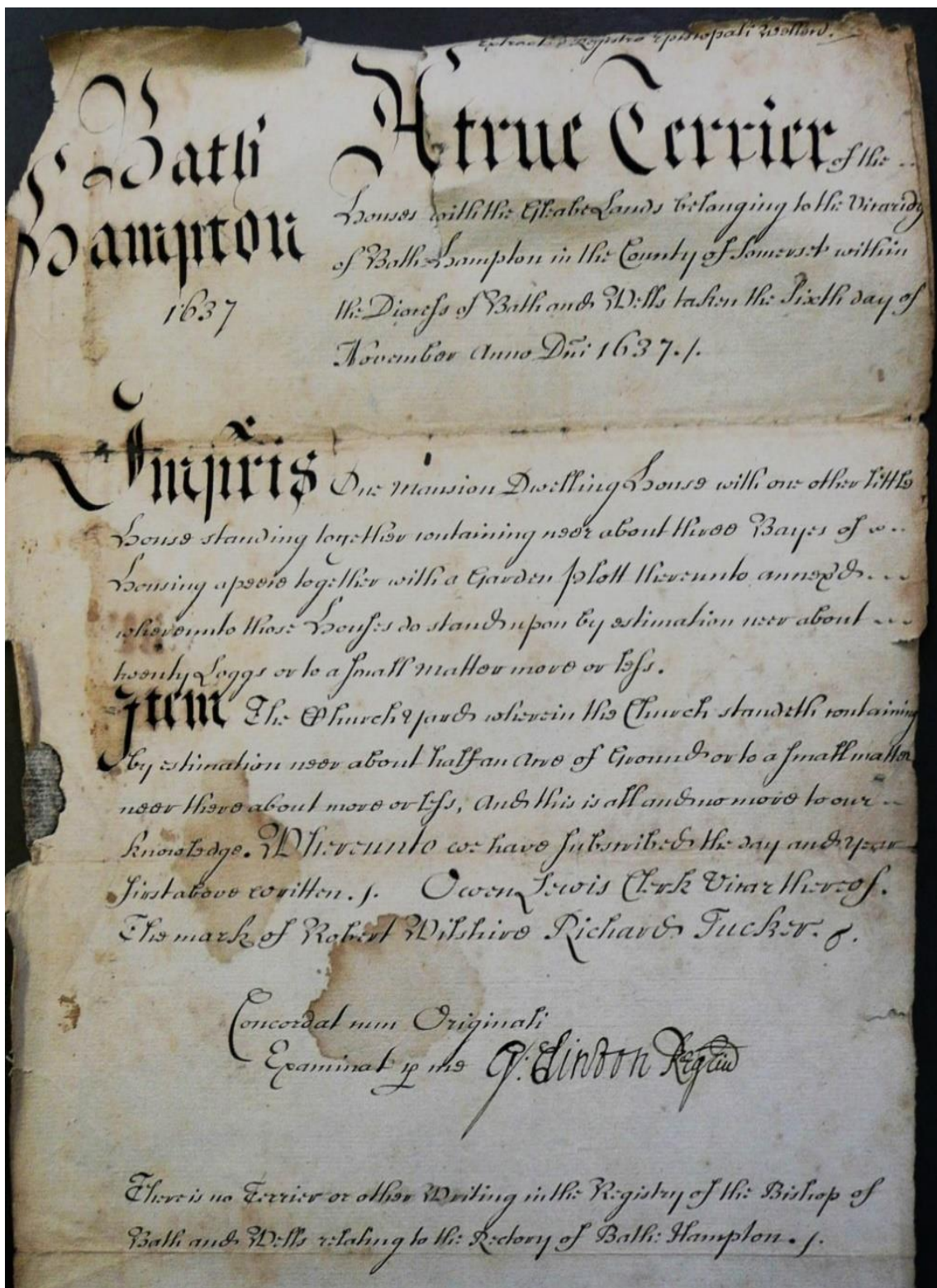
	Acres
House, garden, orchard and fish pond	1
(In the lower common field lying in 3 parcels	3
(In the East field	5
Arable land (In the Upper field together	3
(In the East field enclosed	3
(In the upper field enclosed in 2 parcels	3
(Near the river below the house enclosed	1
(3 Acres called Wantlam [<i>Wantlands</i>]	3
(1 Acre called [Nemonds]	1
(Near 4 Acres called Nash	4
(5 Acres called Longland	5
Meadow (Near 1 acre called Little Hawham [<i>Holcombe</i>]	1
Pasture (2 Acres called Great Hawham [<i>Holcombe</i>]	2
(2 Acres called New Tynning	2
(2 Acres called Berry Leaze	2
(Near 3 Acres called Lye	<u>3</u>
Total	42

The Arable land is valued at 5s per acre

The Meadow pasture at £1.00s.00d. per acre

The Tithes are valued communibus annis [*on average over a number of years*] at £25 pa

[Mr Harford had married into the Fisher family who were connected with the parish from at least the 12th century and held the Parsonage House (Old Rectory) and land from the church for many centuries].



Endorsed copy of the 1637 Terrier of church property in Bath Hampton.

SECTION ONE

THE CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION

There are few records pertaining directly to Bathampton and its Christian foundations but it is clear that from its infancy the gift of the advowson, or right of patronage, was held by the crown until Edward I (1272-1307) bestowed it upon the Prior and Monastery of St Peter and Paul, Bath. Future religious development would have been much influenced by events that affected the whole country.

About 940 AD the Benedictine Monastery of St Peter and St Paul was granted several local estates by the West-Saxon King Edmund these included that of Hantone (Hampton). The Anglo-Saxon Charter of 956 clearly describes Hantone's boundaries which are much the same as those of today's Bathampton. Thus the parish was created and the spiritual care of residents was starting to be taken care of.

11 May, 973 saw King Edgar the last Anglo Saxon King, being crowned King of all England in the Saxon abbey church at Bath by St Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury. He was not only crowned but anointed with holy oil giving near priestly status.

The Norman Conquest had a profound and lasting effect. By 1093 there remained only one Anglo-Saxon bishop (St Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester) and no abbots; the Church was now governed by Norman bishops and abbots. With the death of Aelfsige in 1087 the last Saxon Abbot of Bath, Bishop John of Tours (also known as John de Villula) 1088-1122, moved the headquarters of his see from Wells to Bath and became Abbot of the monastery. He replaced the abbey church with a great Norman cathedral and rebuilt the cloisters, chapter house and dormitories. Educated monks soon followed, encouraging young men to be trained as secular priests (free of monastic rules) learning enough Latin to read from the Service book in order to serve the new churches being built on the Monastery's estates, often on sites with previous sacred associations. It is likely this was the case with the site of Bathampton's church which stands adjacent to an area, to the north west, containing remains dating from the Iron Age to Mediaeval. These priests would have entered the priory as novice monks, they were poor and made a living from the soil or spending much time praying and chanting.

Churches became a refuge for those facing danger - and for anyone escaping from the law a safe place from arrest. The law enacting this existed from the Saxons until 1623 despite slight changes. They became the centre of the community, used as a place of meeting, where the business of God and man could be carried out together. Clergy were not expected to remain for long in their parishes, partly because the canonical age for priesthood was thirty and the expectation of life seldom beyond forty-five.

The Norman Survey (Domesday Book) records the manor of Bathampton (Hantone) amongst the possessions of the Church of Bath:

'Hugo and Colgrin hold of the church Hantone. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward and could not be separated from the Church. They gelded for five hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are three carneates and three servants and three villanes and six cottagers with three ploughs. There are twenty-eight acres of meadow and six furlongs of pasture in length and breadth and ten furlongs of coppice wood in length and breadth. It is worth one hundred and ten shillings'.

In 1215 altars were introduced when the Latewran Council decreed that the consecrated bread and wine should be held up by the priest, his back turned to the congregation.

The known list of Hantone incumbents, (see 'Incumbents' pp 52-53), dates from 1261, although an earlier date is likely, these are based on the Registers of Bishops King, Hadrian and Ralph de Salopla¹. From a time when the form of worship followed would have been Roman Catholic and would have been in Latin which very few, apart from the priest, understood or could read. It was shortly after this date that the advowson of Hantone passed from the crown to the Monastery in Bath.

Just after 1267 William Button, Bishop of Bath, joined Hantone and Claverton as a liberty. No further reference to this jointure is at present known until the 18th century when the Liberty of Claverton, Hampton, Ameril (an area of Batheaston) and Charlcombe is found forming part of the Hundred of Bath Forum. (The actual manor estates of Claverton and Hampton were owned successively by the Bassett, Holder and Allen families during the late 17th and 18th centuries).

In the collections of the National Archives there is a Writ² (in Latin) dated 8 April, 1308 of ad quod damnum posing the question - *as to what means of damage would be done or effect inflicted* - to the King if he were to grant Walter, Bishop of Bath and Wells and the Dean and Chapter of the Church of St Andrew, Wells, the right to grant the advowson of Hampton Juxta to the prior and convent of Bath in perpetuity.... and to enquire who holds the advowson, by what service, actual value, etc. It seems that the situation was no longer clear. Like so many cases and especially those of the Court of Chancery, no answer is recorded, but it would appear to return or remain with the Prior until the Dissolution. The Bath Cartulary shows throughout the rest of the 14th century priests being presented to Hampton by the Prior of Bath Monastery.

It's not known when the actual Glebe land was endowed to the church of Hampton for the support of the priest who would have been expected to cultivate it himself, any crops being his personal possession. It wasn't unusual for priests to rent such land out. In 1743 this land amounted to 42 acres 3 rods 35 perches scattered throughout the parish. In addition, from the 14th century a Tithe tax was levied by which a tenth part of produce went, in kind, to support church clergy. Where a parish came under a Monastic Institution this would be divided between the Monastery and the Priest and would be collected at harvest time. The Prior, as the Rector of the parish, received the great tithe; the lesser tithe came from produce that was difficult to collect such as items listed below derived, for instance, from garden crops, animal products, timber etc. and given direct to the incumbent. After the Reformation he received the Rectorial Tithes himself. This tax was in force until 1836 when payment in kind was commuted to a Rent charge, finally extinguished in 1936.

In 1791 John Collinson in his '*History and Antiquities of Somerset*' records that '*the church (of Bathentune/Hantone) valued in 1292 at ten marks and a half was appropriated to the Prior and Convent of St Peter in Bath and a vicarage (living) ordained in 1317 by which ordination it appears that the Vicar was to have a competent dwelling house with all tithes of wool, lambs, heifers, pigs, chicken, swans, pigeons, eggs, flax, honey, cheese, milk, butter, gardens, curtilages, mills and all other small tithes as well as all the oblations and profits of the altarage of the said church. The said Vicar was to receive from the convent a yearly stipend of 20 shillings sterling and the prior and convent having the great tithes of corn and hay to sustain all rectorial burdens. But the Vicar was to find processional candles, books and to cause the said books to be bound and to repair the surplices, the presentation to the vicarage to be reserved to the said Convent and their successors*'.

This dwelling house was the small beginning of what was to become The Parsonage (*Old Rectory*).

Confusingly a few years later Ralph de Salophia records in his registers⁴ a communication from him '*to the Priors and Chapter of Bath holding the church of Hampton - considering the distance of the places and the hazards of the ways between the said church and the place of habitation of the Vicar we grant you licence that you can construct a house for the habitation of the vicar in the east part of the cemetery outside the place accustomed for the procession. Blakeford, 1 July AD 1336*'. There is no trace of this being carried out, although from a very early date the Fisher family appear to be tenants of the Parsonage House (see p. 64) under which they had to carry out certain obligations to the church, but do not appear to ever be part of the clergy. Their name derived from le Fishere implies

that they were in charge of the fish ponds there and in supplying fish to the Monastery. Could, however, the site of the National School - built c1855 where the Coronation Cross now stands - been where such a house had, in fact, once been located?

Hampton was not immune to the Black Death and during the period 1348-49 the list of incumbents shows a succession of four different priests - presumably falling victims of the plague.

Bishop de Salopla's records also contain a further item of interest⁵: *'22 March 1353. The Lord granted to James Husee that if he or his wife be sick the Vicar of Hampton can celebrate divine services in their oratory there for the time of their sickness, till the feast of St Michael not withstanding that he has celebrated or will celebrate masses on the same days.....'*. The Husee family held, from the Monastery, much of the land here at this time, where this oratory was or where they lived is unknown. Some recent theories suggest the oratory was on the site of Glebe Cottage, ie adjacent to the Parsonage House.

In 1534 Henry VIII secured from Parliament the passing of the Act of Supremacy, declaring the King of England to be the Supreme Head, under Christ, of the Church of England, bringing about the suppression and dissolution of the monasteries. Roman Catholicism was repudiated leading to much unsettlement throughout the country for it replaced the centuries old authority of the Pope.

On 27 January, 1539 the Bath Monastery, having played an important part in the ecclesiastical and social history of the area, was surrendered to the crown. On 18 November, 1542 Hampton's Advowson, Glebe lands and Parsonage House (*Old Rectory*) passed from the crown to the Dean and Chapter of the new see of Bristol Cathedral (in whose hands the patronage is still held); whilst the administration of the church passed to the reformed Diocese of Bath and Wells, and remains so today. Every church was to have a bible in English.

In 1547, under the newly crowned Protestant King, Edward VI, came *'an age of change and upheaval, an age in which people were striving to come to terms with the destruction of what had hitherto been certainties'*. During his reign (1547-1553) many specific items were destroyed such as stone altars, crucifixes and images thought to be superstitious. The first English language Book of Common Prayer was introduced and enforced from 1549; this was followed in 1552 by a more radical version. An early form of Anglican worship ensued.

In 1548 the then Bishop of Bath and Wells, William Barlow (1490-1568), yielded up to Edward VI nineteen of the twenty-four manors he had succeeded to, including that of Hampton and Claverton in exchange for lands elsewhere in the county. The connection between Claverton and Hampton was then severed and in 1553 the Manor of Hampton was sold by the crown to William Crowch who became Lord of the Manor.

Edward was succeeded by Mary I (1553-1558) who as a Catholic was quick to order the replacement of what had been destroyed or thrown out under her predecessor - any expense falling on parishes. It is recorded that few service books were available in Bath and none at all at Bathampton *'nor as yet can get none but what be borrowed'*⁶ - items thrown out now needed to be brought back.

Following the death of Queen Mary, the accession of Protestant Queen Elizabeth in 1558 brought a reversal in religion. Items that had been restored by Mary were destroyed. The 1549 Prayer Book was brought back and clergy who didn't conform lost their livings. Processions were banned except at Rogation time, when the solemn 'beating of the bounds' took place, regarded as essential to mark the parish boundaries. The celebration of holy days and feast days was prohibited. Attendance in church was compulsory or a fine was levied. Church-wardens were able to levy a poor rate in support of the needy within the parish. Holy

Communion became a simple commemoration of the last supper without trimmings; the priest wearing a surplice and cap and communicants kneeling at the sacrament.

James I succeeded Elizabeth and in 1611 the King James Bible was introduced.

The Civil War saw the Prayer Book, Bishops and Christian festivals being abolished. Those clergy still loyal to the King were removed and preaching was based more fully on the scriptures.

The Restoration in 1660 of Charles II saw the return of the episcopal and apostolic church and the Book of Common Prayer a few years later which, under the Act of Uniformity, churches were compelled to use. Oaths of loyalty both to the prayer book and the monarch had to be taken by the clergy who could only hold a living if they had been ordained by bishops.

From 1663, or possibly earlier, the Vicarage of Hampton became consolidated with that of Bathford - as one vicarage and ecclesiastical benefice to be called by the name of *'The Vicarage of Bathford with the Vicarage of Bathampton annexed'* - the value of neither of the parishes being sufficient to support individual priests. The living was augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty. (See also pp. 71-72).

It would seem that Curates from Bath were frequently used at Bathampton as seen from later registers. In 1802 whilst work was being carried out in Bathford church services were held at Bathampton on two Sundays and parishioners were ferried across the river by boat - at a cost of ten shillings to Charles King. (The crossing would have been at the old Roman crossing at Avonford - situated in a straight line eastwards from Tynning Lane, ie upstream from today's railway arch at Bathford corner).

Henry Duncan Skrine more recently wrote: *'However advantageous in a pecuniary point of view this union may have been to the Vicar of Forde it was far from being beneficial to the parishioners of either Forde or Hampton who, in respect of church privileges and pastoral care, had to be content with only half the share of bread which they had previously enjoyed'*.

James II, a Roman Catholic, acceded to the throne in 1685 and it was feared there would be another Catholic revival; those who opposed James' 'Declaration of Indulgence' in favour of Catholicism, were arrested and imprisoned, but were subsequently released due to popular demand. The replacement of James II by William of Orange, a Dutch Calvinist Presbyterian, resulted in new oaths of allegiance being taken to William and Mary despite James still being alive. Many bishops and priests refused and passed into obscurity.

The church's main task continued to be that of giving a thorough Christian education attained through preaching and teaching, this meant that clergy were now required to have a university degree in order to be ordained. Some sought to worship in a different way, and John Wesley, a Methodist Anglican, attracted their attention through his preaching and hymns and Methodism became established. Dissent took hold in Bathampton and in 1845 a Zionist Chapel was established in premises converted from two cottages (see 'Chapel' p. 65).

The mid-1800s saw further reform and the revival of Anglo Catholicism with the return of altar candles, surpliced choirs and more frequent communions. The introduction of the Ancient and Modern Hymn Book was soon being used widely and in 1906 the somewhat controversial English Hymnal was published which included some of Wesley's hymns and others drawn from a number of differing backgrounds. During the twentieth century a series of Service Books were introduced allowing for a greater range of options within the form of worship.

In 1854, when the joint incumbent Rev. W. Carter died, the parishioners of Bathampton petitioned the Dean and Chapter of Bristol Cathedral to separate the two vicarages by appointing individual vicars. This was eventually agreed to and the Rev. Edward Duncan Rhodes, already a resident, living at his

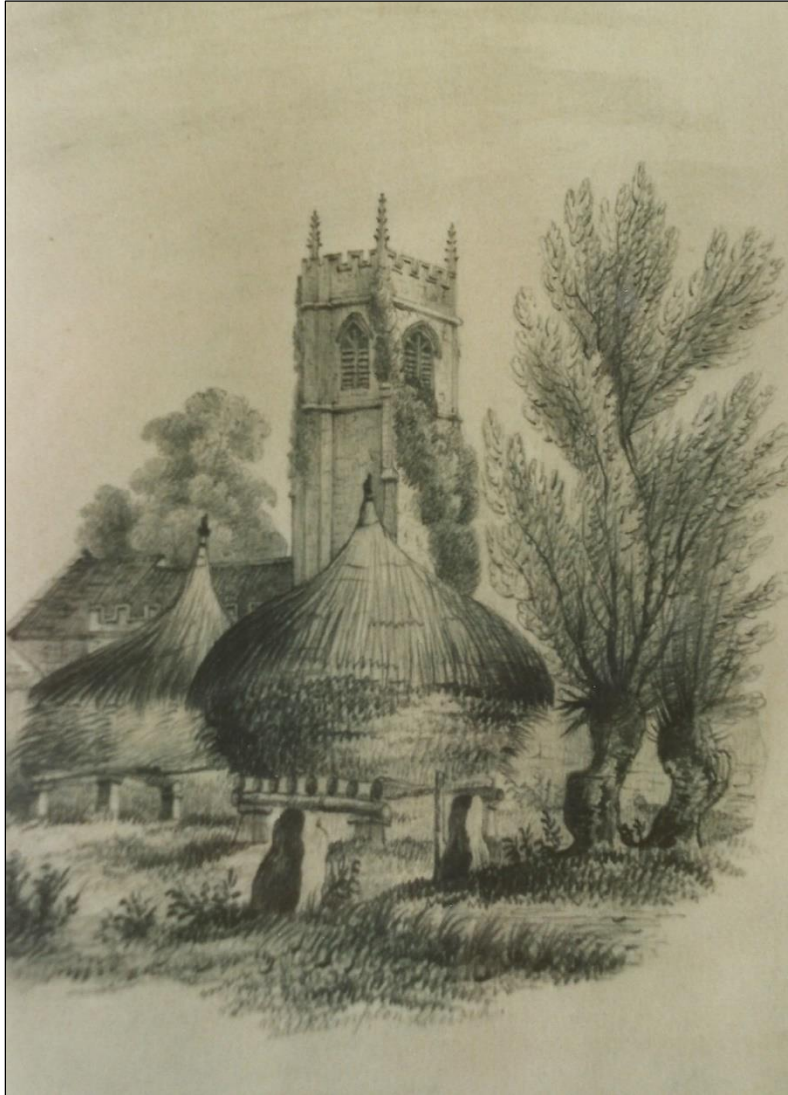
house Hampton Villa (*now Avonstone*), in Bathampton Lane, was presented to the living of Bathampton in 1856 (see p. 54-56). The Patrons assented only on condition that living accommodation was to be provided. The old Parsonage House '*the competent dwelling house*' was no longer church property having been sold to the Fisher family in 1802 with much of the Glebe land, the rest of the land passing into other hands. A sum of £400 was raised towards the building of a house and £500, with the aid of Queen Ann's Bounty, for an increased endowment of the living. (See pp. 64-65).

Since then Bathampton has continued to have a resident Vicar and the church has been very much improved and enlarged especially during the 19th century when '*a great change for the better has taken place in the moral and spiritual condition of the parishes*'. A Vicarage house was built in 1867 in Bathampton Lane, next to Hampton Villa (*Avonstone*), and in 1969 a more modern Vicarage was built in its grounds and the original building sold. (See pp. 64-65).

The church continues to thrive and is once more connected with Claverton, this time as a joint benefice.



Etching of church from Mill Lane, post 1841.



Sketch of church from the north-west. n.d.

SECTION TWO

THE CHURCH AND ITS FABRIC

Overview

Sadly, today's church contains no visible evidence of any early building to prove that, as is generally suggested, the site has been occupied continuously for over 800 years. Set amidst an area rich in archaeological remains of even earlier inhabitation (as already discussed) it is likely that the site has religious or even ritual connections well before its reputed 13th century Norman foundations were laid. It is on these foundations that in the 18th century the central part of today's church is said to have been re-built, however, there is little evidence of even this re-build due to the numerous 19th century alterations and additions by the Victorians.

In 1791 John Collinson wrote of the church³: *'It is a neat Gothic structure consisting of a nave and south aisle (Allen Chapel) leaved, and a chancel tiled. At the west end is a handsome embattled tower and four bells. The whole church is very neatly pewed and seated, well paved with broad grit stone and kept very clean and decent. The communion table is of solid stone. Ralph Allen repaired and beautified the whole'*.

Nikolaus Pevsner in his series of publications *'The Buildings of England'*⁷ dismisses the building in a few sentences but believed the Chancel to contain 13th century material no longer visible. He may have been seeking some Norman masonry reputed at the time to be seen on the outside north-east corner of the Chancel but now understood to be concealed by the 1990's extension. This could also have been the Norman masonry which members of the British Archaeological Society identified on their visit in 1856.

'Perpendicular west tower, the rest mostly c19 (restoration 1858, additions 1882). The chancel is supposed to represent 13c. evidence, if so, it is certainly overlaid by Victorian re-fashioning. The chancel arch seems the most probably original piece, with shafts and keeled shafts and moulded capitals.
Sculpture. Outside at the east end figure of a Bishop, with the draperies in long close parallel vertical folds, very long sleeves and a small defaced head. This has been published as Norman. It is more probably rustic Elizabethan work.....
Plate: Chalice and Cover 1547; Paten 1568.
Monuments: Two effigies, a cross-legged Knight (Head and feet missing) and a Lady wearing a wimple, c.1325. Minor late Georgian Monuments, the best John Hume+ 1815 by Reeves, with a woman leaning over an urn on a pedestal'. Nikolaus Pevsner⁷.

By 1754 the church was in a sad state of repair. Renovations, alterations and extensions that took place during the following centuries transformed the building to what we see today; these developments are described later.

Nave and Chancel

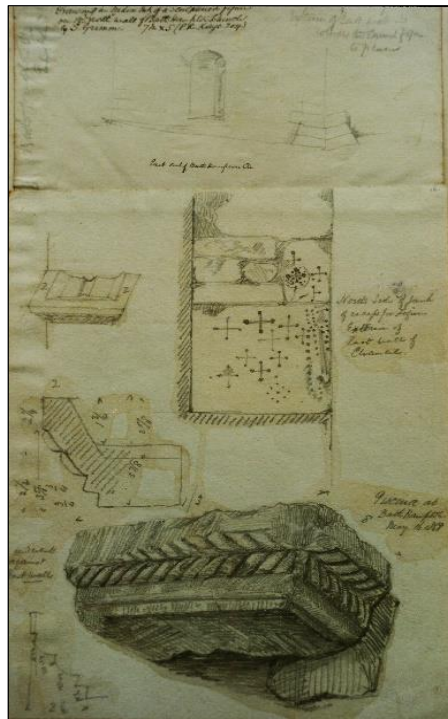
The Chancel is believed to be the oldest part of the church although now much altered and traces of Norman stonework in the outer walls are no longer visible. Several contemporary historians give a hint as to its possible earlier form:

Richard Pococke described a visit to the church in his letters of November, 1750⁸ - *'I observed at the church an old belfry as in the middle between the chancel part and the body of the church which seemed to be of great antiquity and of a particular form; I saw the remains of a very old cornice on*

the north side of the church. The tower to the west seemed to be a more modern building'. This central tower/belfry is also alluded to by others.

Pococke's visit was prior to the restorations carried out by Ralph Allen, a few years later in 1754-5. Edmund Rack's MSS for his 'Survey of Somerset. 1781-8' also mentions a belfry as well as a tower but in 1791 Collinson³ states '*The entrance in to the chancel is through a plain mitred arch 6½ feet wide and 10½ feet high*' - there is no mention of a belfry. There is mention, however, of the '*many 15th and 16th memorials*' that once existed within the church, it is clear that Allen was responsible for removing at least one monument, the others may have disappeared gradually to make room for later alterations.

The entrance from the Nave to the Chancel was further recorded by Mr. C. E. Davis in 1864⁹ as being '*formerly about the width of an ordinary door, through a very thick wall, which once, I have no doubt, formed one side of a central Norman tower*'. If so this would have been similar in plan and date to John de Villula's church in Bath, although much smaller. '*This has been converted (1859) into an Early English arch, and the chancel rebuilt in the same style that is observed in the stone pulpit and reading desk. Within the chancel is the fragment of a piscina, and as it is one of the very few existing of Norman date, it is a valuable little specimen. Amongst the building stone was found a fragment of a Norman gable cross, an exact restoration (copy) of which has been fixed on the gable to the nave*'. There is now no trace of the remains of the original piece of the cross or piscina.



Detail of piscina and votive marks around 11th century effigy. N.d.

William Lewis makes similar comments in 1876¹⁰ - '*The manor of Bathampton belonged to the monks of Bath before the Norman Conquest and the original church was no doubt built by them. There are traces to prove that it was originally a Norman edifice with a central tower, being in plan a reduced copy of the cathedral at Bath built by John de Villula, which, with the country churches built on the same model throughout the district, the Rev. Preb. Earle has by a happy simile likened to a hen surrounded by her chickens. Before the last restoration the chancel arch was about the width of an ordinary door, through a thick wall which no doubt once carried the central tower. There is also the fragment of a small piscina of the same date, and the cross surmounting the gable of the nave is an exact restoration of a portion of the Norman cross found among the building stones*'.

The wall on which the arch is moulded is certainly very thick.

During some of the restorations plasterwork was removed from the east wall of the Chancel, revealing a recess over the Communion table containing two well preserved statuettes (it is unclear who they represented) probably placed there for safety at the Reformation in the delusion that their services would be '*required when the new faith passed away - but this did not and those aware of the concealment did*'. There is no record as to what happened to the items.

There is also a theory that the Chancel may have once been the mortuary chapel for the Fisher family who held the Parsonage House and land from the Monastery prior to the Dissolution and following this from Bristol Cathedral. Part of their tenure, detailed in many indentures of lease*, was to pay for the upkeep of the Chancel and to ensure that sermons were preached at the four main festivals. In 1802 the family purchased the house and most of the Glebe land; the purchase of the house included a clause requiring the new owners to continue to maintain the Chancel. [This was extinguished sometime after 1921 on payment of £200 by Mr G. Hunt the then owner of the property]. Many members of the Fisher family are buried in a crypt under the Chancel floor. James Tunstall¹¹ states - '*The Chancel is repaired by the Fisher family who have inhabited the old rectory house for centuries. Its walls contain memorials - (dating from the 1600s) - enough to form for them a long pedigree*'. (See p. 39 also '*The Fisher Family of Bathampton*', and, '*Part two - Interior Memorials Explored*', BLHRG, 2024). *Held by Bristol Record Office and BLHRG.

There are references that in 1843 the east window was '*blocked by an ugly altar screen*', other references state that the east window was blocked up and in c1850 the new three light 'Allen' window was inserted. The actual meaning of such statements is not always that clear. The present Reredos of the 1890's is detailed later (see pp. 37-41).

Tower and Bells

Towers were built for the purpose of housing bells and by elevating them their sound could be carried over a wide area. Over the centuries bells were used to warn the country of imminent danger and towers became useful advantage points especially during the Second World War.

In the late middle ages it was an offence for churches not to have a bell. The present Tower has two stages of height and is of the 14th century Perpendicular style, possibly erected in the 16th century, very plain and well proportioned, with battlements, pinnacles and handsome exterior stone work to the west door and a three light window above. There is a turret at the north-east angle and one light in the belfry. It was probably extended as the church grew.

The Will of Jacob Fisher¹² of Bath-Hampton dated 1 December, 1532 details his bequest to St Nicholas Church, Hampton of '*One sheep - for the building of a tower for the church and ten shillings*'. It is not clear whether this refers to the first tower or the extension of one that already existed.

In 1848 there were 4 bells¹¹ and by 1876¹⁰ five bells are recorded. Then in 1924 another new bell (Treble 1st) was added, the 3rd bell re-cast and the peal was re-tuned and re-hung at a cost of approximately £500. They were once rung from the Tower floor and entrance to the belfry was via an internal door in the north-east corner leading to the turreted staircase. This was blocked up and a new entrance to the turret - ringing chamber, bell chamber and tower roof - was created from the outside in 1879, and new seating installed. Children of later generations believed that the old padlocked interior door, which remained, led to an underground passage to The George!

During the 1970s the pews were removed from the Tower and stone floor and steps laid down.

The bells are now rung from the ringing chamber and the peal consists of:

Treble 1st: This bell is 3cwt 2qrs 14lbs in weight. The note is F sharp and was given by Morris Hudson of St Cuthbert's [*now Bower House*], in memory of his wife and bears the following

inscription: *'In Loving Memory of Janie Hudson, born 12th February 1841. Died 9th March 1923'. 'So humble yet so ready to rejoice'*. The bell was cast by Messrs Mears and Stainbank in 1924.

2nd. Cast by Messrs John Warner & Sons of London in 1865, bears the Royal Coat of Arms in the waist of the bell, with the word 'Paten' underneath. The weight of the bell is 3cwt 2qrs 14lbs. Note E. (The peal was retuned and rehung at the same time).

3rd: Re-cast by Messrs Mears and Stainbank in 1924, and is inscribed *'Re-cast A. D. 1924. Mears & Stainbank 1924'*. The weight is 3cwt 2qrs 16lbs. Note D. (Originally it was inscribed *'Thomas Collett. Thomas West. Churchwardens 1767'*).

4th: This bell is pre-Reformation and is inscribed - *'+ Sancte x thoma x ora x pr[e]o x nobis +'* : 'St Thomas pray for us'. The weight is 4cwt 3qrs 4lbs. Note C sharp.

5th: Cast by Mr Robert Purdue and inscribed - *'Anno Domini 1622 R.P.'* In the waist are the arms of the Prince of Wales with his motto *'Ich Dien'* (I serve) and the letters 'C.R'. The weight is 5cwts 3qrs 11lbs. Note B.

Tenor 6th: This bell is pre-Reformation and is dedicated - *'+ Sancta luci x ora pro nobis'* : 'St Lucy pray for us'. The weight is 7cwt 1qr 7lbs. Note A.

The pre-Reformation bells of St Catharine's, Batheaston are inscribed to the Patron Saints of the nearest sister churches, and the inscription on the 3rd bell reads - *'Sancte Necollae ora pro nobis'* (St Nicholas pray for us). When they are rung they send out age old greetings to the Saints of surrounding churches.

During the Second World War church bells were silenced only to be used to raise the alarm of a possible national emergency. On 7th September, 1940 they were rung throughout the south when it was believed an invasion was imminent; the War Ministry having announced the warning code word 'Cromwell' indicating that the enemy was less than 12 hours away.

Plaques in the Tower record some lengthy peels. On 14 March, 1936 Grandsire doubles were rung involving 5,040 changes lasting 2 hours 5 minutes. Conducted by Lionel Lay with Alec Gooding Treble; Evan Wescombe 2nd; Lionel Lay 3rd; John M. Gooding 4th; Frederick A. Gooding 5th; William Scoble Tenor. Then in 1957 to celebrate the 21st birthday of Miss J. Coward, one of the bell ringers, a similar peel was rung, this time taking 2 hours 30 minutes. Conducted by Mr L. Lay with Mrs B. Cooper Treble; Miss J. Coward 2nd; Mr L. Lay 3rd; Mr T. Hayward 4th; Mr S. Woodburn 5th and Mr F. Gooding Tenor.

The Clock

The Vestry Minutes of 16 April, 1865 record Miss Susan Rhodes offering 50 guineas for a clock to be placed in the Tower of the church for the use of parishioners and the Vicar (her brother, Rev. Edward Duncan Rhodes) stated he would supply any further sum that might be required. (See also p. 55 and 58). This was unanimously accepted and it was installed later that year. Made by 19th century Bath clock maker George Wadham, it had a pendulum action driven by two weights, chimed the hours and was wound from the floor of the Tower. It was overhauled in 1968 and is now wound electronically.

RESTORATIONS AND ENLARGEMENT

1754-5

The first record of work being carried out on the building dates from 1754 when Ralph Allen (who became Lord of Bathampton Manor in 1743)¹³ and his Clerk of Works, Richard Jones, undertook extensive renovations to the church. This included the addition of the 'Allen' Manorial (or possibly Mortuary) Chapel, or Chantry Chapel, adjoining the south east corner of the Nave - now part of the South Aisle and Australia Chapel. The Allen family held the Manor from 1743 to 1921 and various members are buried in a vault under the Tower and possibly under the Chapel whose walls contain many tablets to their memory. In the course of constructing this addition, monuments with stone figures of a knight and a lady (*as previously mentioned*) were removed from the south-east corner of the Nave allowing the south wall to be breached to give access to the Chapel through '*a long mitred arch 12' by 12' high*¹⁴' via wooden steps to a door set in a high wooden partition. The Manorial seating was elevated, obscured and ran the length of the Chapel; the '*ceiling more like a drawing room than a church*'. An article in the Bath Weekly Chronicle, dated 1 August, 1914, details the costs of the works carried out, and although it's unclear as to what was actually undertaken it would appear that the building was in a very poor state and much work and materials were required costing some £619 [equivalent to £161,811 in 2023]. It is believed that the original south porch, adjacent to the Allen Chapel, was added about the same time.

The Re-building of Bathampton Church 1754-5

Mr Reynolds has very kindly sent a copy of a most interesting paper in his possession relating to the rebuilding of our church by Ralph Allen in 1754-5. The Details omit the shillings and pence'. (*Full figures as given elsewhere are quoted here*).

Plumber's bill	£171 7s 6d
Bradley for timbers	£51 18s 6d
Rogers, roof of church and iron work	£33 18s 9d and £13 4s 00½d
Battebury, build church	£34 13s 10d
Bolden, rough masonry work	£16
Atwood, plastering	£31 13s 04d
Atwood, stone expenses of carriage	£126 05s 06d
Hatfield hauling timber	£27 14s 08d
Rogers, paving church	£78 14s 00d
Rogers, painting pews	£12 18s 04d
Atwood, glazing windows	£5 01s 11d
Fisher, hauling	14s
Sawyers work	9s 2d; 9s 2d and £8 17s 11d
Mr Allen hauling	£10
Total	£619 11s 05½d (<i>incorrect addition</i>)
Allowed for old lead	£101 11s 05d
Thus making £619 11s 5½d minus	
£101 11s 5d	£518 00s 00½d (<i>incorrect addition</i>)

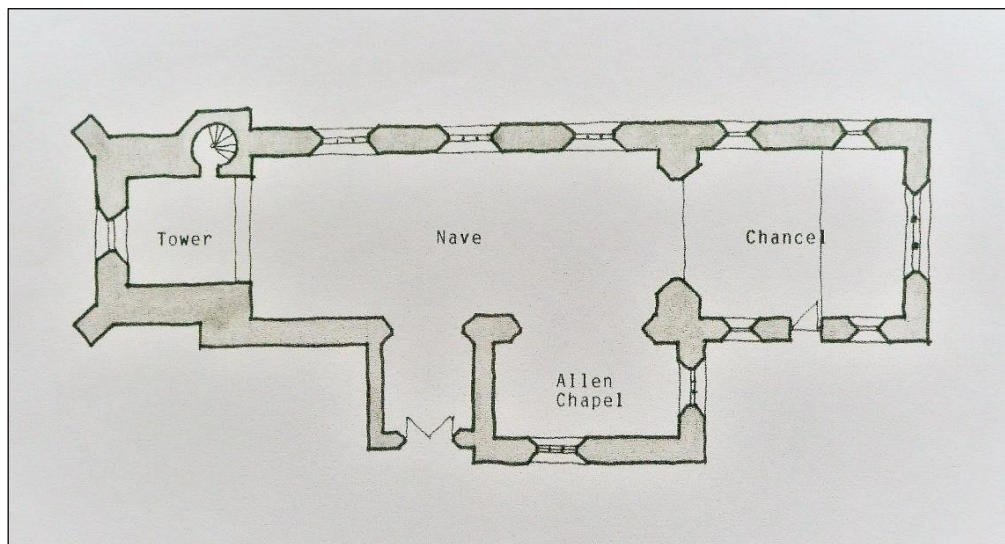
The note in the old church book is '*1754 Bathampton church was re-built on its old foundations. Ralph Allen Esq and Robert Fisher churchwardens. Cost of re-building £517.19s.11d besides draughting and surveying - the whole paid for by Mr Allen*'.

Bath Weekly Chronicle, 1st August, 1914, and, Bathampton Parish Magazine.

In his '*Survey of Somerset*' dated 1781-8, Edmund Rack recorded the Allen Chapel as '*18ft x 10ft x 15ft high. The church being neatly pewed and seated; the ten pews handsome panelled wainscot and painted stone colour. The floor of broad gritstone. Very dry. Church kept clean and descent. No singers gallery*'. He also mentioned a Belfry in addition to the Tower and four bells.



Early sketch showing the Ralph Allen additions of 1754.



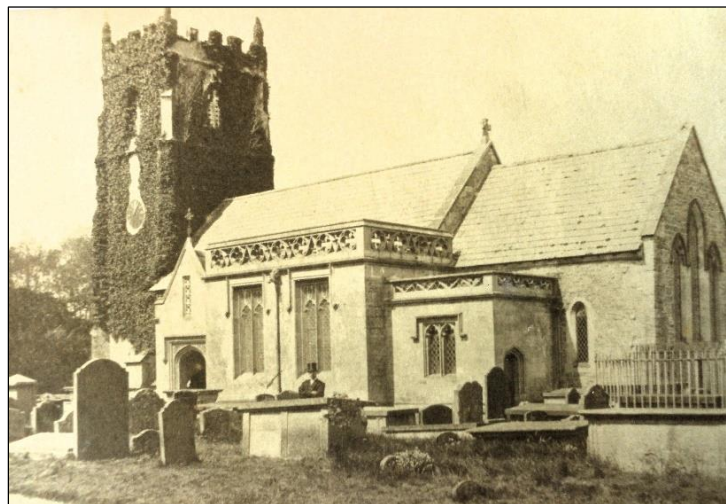
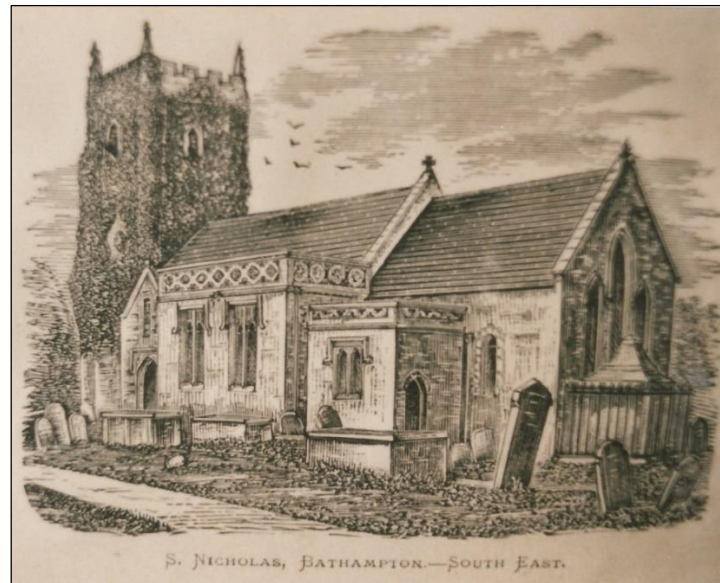
Plan of church showing 1754 addition of porch and Allen Chapel. *Courtesy Denys Clark.*

The Allen reconstruction remained unchanged for some 100 years.

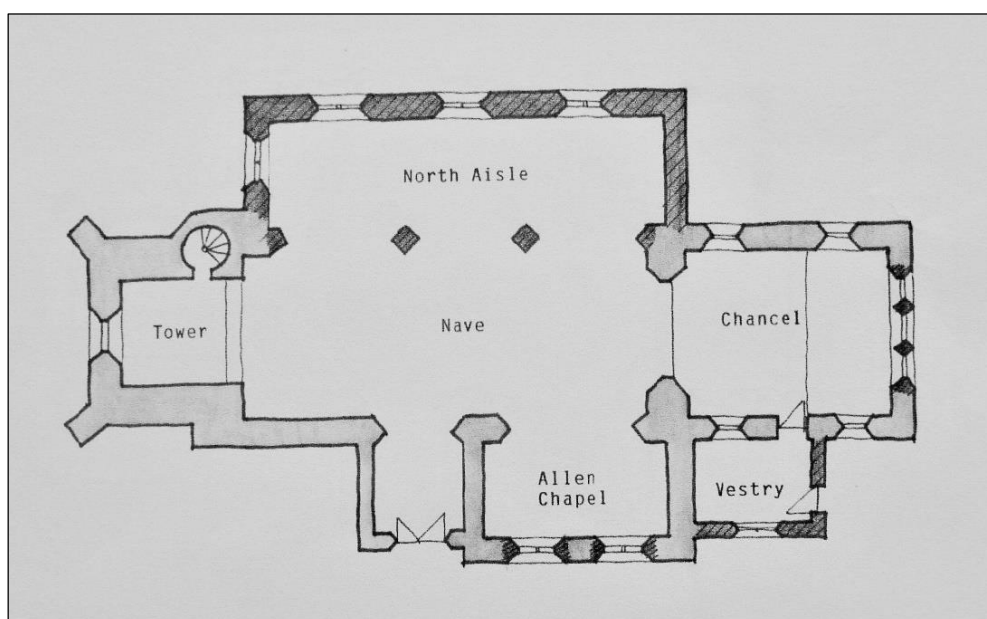
1858-1862 - North Aisle and Vestry

In 1858, under the Rev. E. D. Rhodes, extensive alterations were begun with addition of a North Aisle by the architect Mr Alfred Goodridge and a small Vestry. In the following year, new windows were put in at the east end of the Chancel and in the Allen Chapel. The lych gate was erected in 1859 from a design by the architect, Major C. E. Davis¹⁵ under whose direction the Chancel was remodelled together with a new Chancel arch. The churchyard was also slightly extended from land given by the then Lord of the Manor, Major Ralph Shuttleworth Allen and consecrated 16 June, 1862.

Writing in 1876 William Lewis¹⁰ stated that *'in 1859 the church was very carefully restored under the direction of Major C. E. Davis. The chancel was restored in the Early English style, and a triple lancet-headed window inserted in the east end, which was previously walled up. Traceried windows were also inserted in the memorial chapel on the south side. A stone reading desk and pulpit have been added in the same style as the chancel and the aisle has been fitted with low pitch pine seats. The roof is ceiled and the walls throughout the nave (now) lavender tinted and the effect is good, giving a general appearance of lightness and comfort to the church'*.



Illustrations showing porch, Allen Chapel with extra window and addition of 1858-62 Vestry.



Plan showing 1858 addition of north aisle and vestry. *Courtesy of Denys Clark.*

1869

The Vestry Minutes of 10 October record that the church was lit by gas for the first time.

1879

This year saw the 'Allen' Chapel being opened up by removing the partition and elevated pews, the floor levelled and decent seating installed. Manor pews were now provided each side of the Chancel. A light oak pulpit replaced the 1850's stone one. The door in the Tower leading to the turret and belfry was sealed up and a new entrance made from the outside. The Tower was re-seated and an organ chamber built on the north side of the Chancel and a double manual organ purchased; two arches turned in the Aisle and accommodation for parishioners increased.

Easter Vestry, April 1879

The elevated box pews have been abolished, the floor levelled, decent sittings substituted, a light oak pulpit has replaced the former stone pulpit.

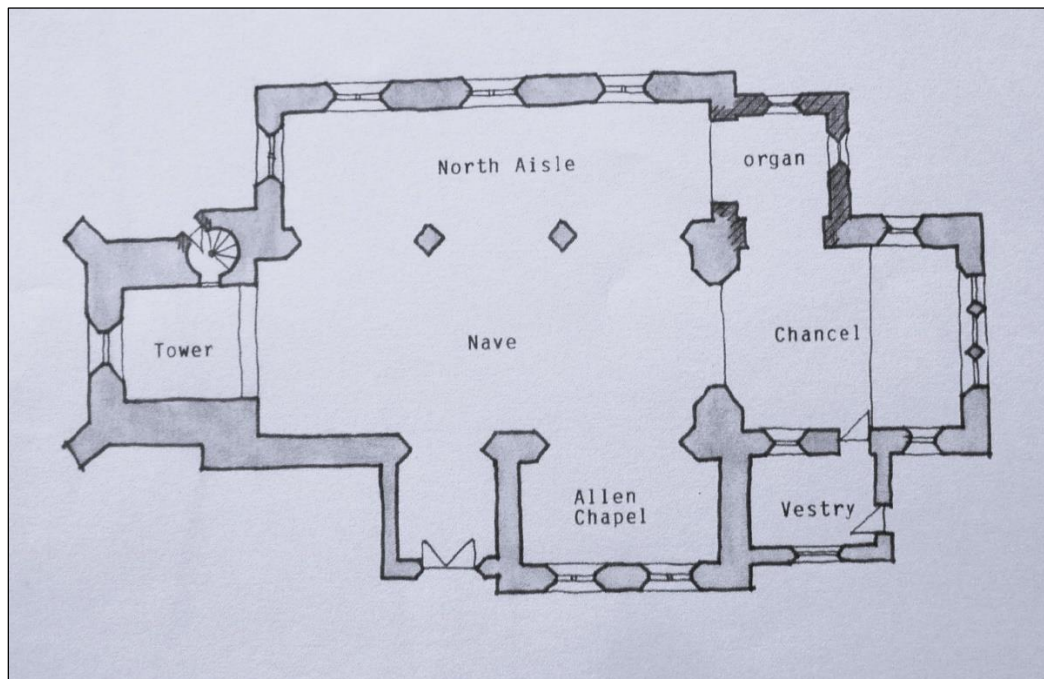
The Tower has been re-seated, and the Belfry door put outside the Church instead of inside as hitherto.

The Organ Chamber is built, and will be ready for the organ in a few months' time. The tender of Messrs. Holmshaw & Sons, of Birmingham, for a double manual organ has been accepted.

Two very pretty arches have been turned in the Aisle, and the general effect is exceedingly good, and the accommodation for the parishioners has been increased at a cost of about £200.

The Honorary Architects, Messrs. Wilson and Willcox, the latter of whom gave special attention to the work, have completed their part most satisfactorily.

Vicar: The Rev. Henry Girdlestone.



Plan showing the changes of 1879. *Courtesy Denys Clark.*

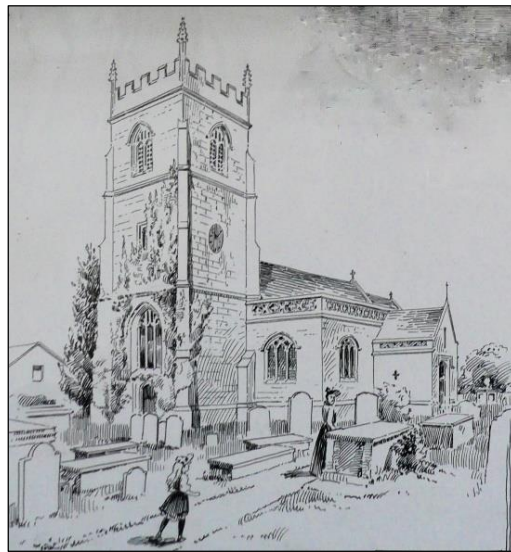
1882 - South Aisle

Plans by honorary architect, Mr W. J. Willcox, for a south aisle were agreed at the Easter Vestry, April 1882 - it was to be constructed to correspond with the North Aisle by extending the Allen Chapel westwards. The entrance porch was taken southwards of this new Aisle by dismantling and rebuilding the principal masonry of the doorways, etc., as before and the Aisle's south wall aligned with that of the Allen Chapel. An arcade of three supporting arches (bays) lined the Nave to correspond with those of the North Aisle. The pews were of pine to match others and increased the seating by 40.

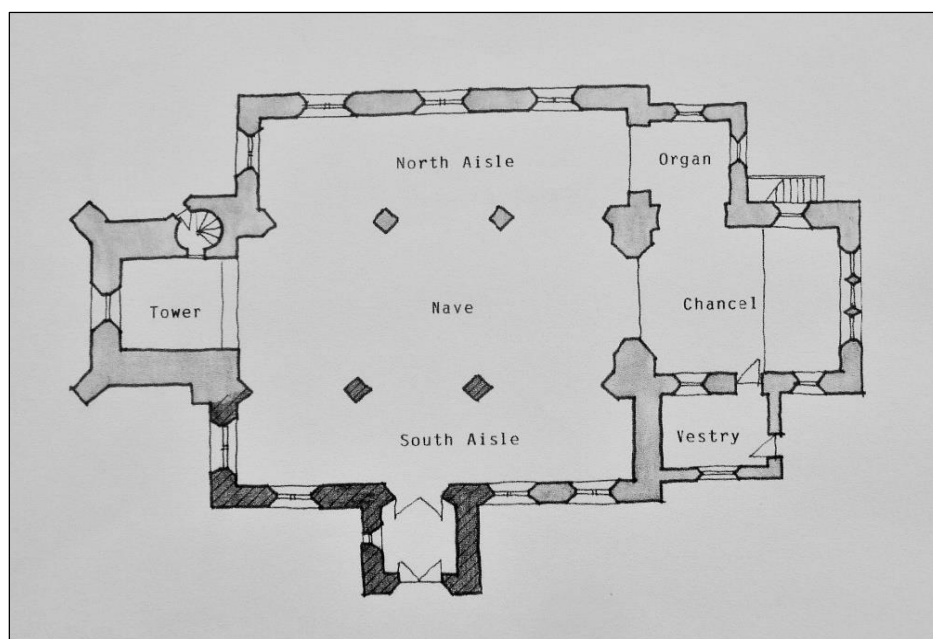
The roof was slated and a ceiling of pitch pine divided into square panels of moulded wood ribs was added. The traceried open wood parapet was copied in stone to give uniformity to the whole of the south front. The south window was also brought forward and a three-light traceried window with cathed glass of similar design inserted in the west wall. All windows were now uniform apart from the old Allen Chapel windows which were of a different style. In addition an archway was erected over the Chancel entrance to the Vestry to match that over the Organ Chamber, the roof of the Vestry slightly raised and pitch pine ceiling added.

'.... An improvement to the whole building has been effected which cannot fail to be appreciated by all and particularly by those who were accustomed to the previous state..... cost £400-£500 - £300 of which was raised from a two-day Fancy Fair held on the lawn at Bathampton Manor, courtesy of Major Allen.....'. Parish Magazine, 1882.

It was now that the effigies of the Knight and his Lady were moved back into the Church and placed on specially constructed cills under the south-west and west windows of the South Aisle where they still rest. A tessellated floor was laid in the Chancel and flag pole erected and the church re-opened on 3 September, 1882.



Sketch showing west end of new South Aisle and new porch of 1882. *S. Loxton.*



Plan showing addition of South Aisle and new porch of 1882. *Courtesy Denys Clark.*

1890 - Reredos

A new Reredos was installed in 1890; the work overseen by William Willcox, Honorary Architect. It was paid for by seven individual families and bears relevant dedications. For full information see pp. 37-41, and, *'Part two - Interior Memorials Explored'*, BLHRG, 2024.

1893

A handsome brass eagle lectern, given by Miss Ramsbottom in memory of her sister, was installed replacing the previous 1850's stone one.

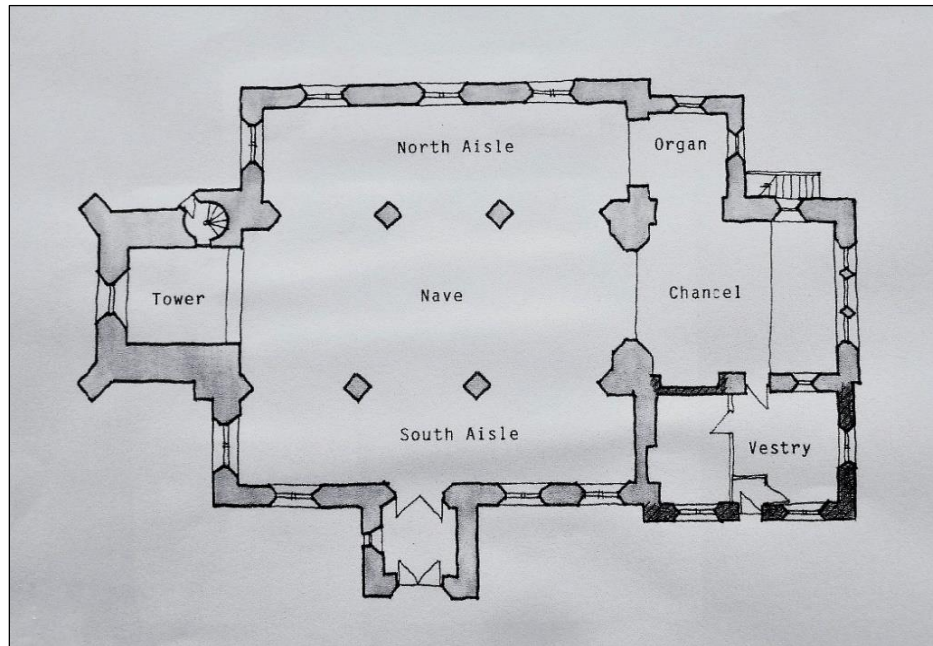
1897

The new Vestry was erected as part of the Diamond Jubilee Memorial Scheme for the parish. The Commemoration of Queen Victoria's reign took two forms (1) a treat for the whole parish which was greatly enjoyed on Jubilee Day, and (2) the addition of a new Vestry, the estimated joint cost being put at around £400. The design was given by the architect, Mr W. J. Willcox, as part of his donation to the fund - *'a refined perpendicular style harmonising with the greater part of the church with an open timber roof'*. It replaced the smaller less commodious one, and was to accommodate both clergy and choir - divided by a moveable partition so that the whole could be available when needed. The choir now started to wear surplices for the first time.

The contractors were Messrs. Hayward and Wooster, Bath and cost about £350. It was dedicated on 24 October, 1897 by Dr G. W. Kennion, Bishop of Bath and Wells.



Original notice announcing the dedication of the new vestry.



Plan showing 1897 vestry extension. *Courtesy Denys Clark.*

1903

This year saw a further extension to the churchyard and the erection of a memorial cross.

The tall, elegant cross stands near the eastern entrance is easily mistaken as being a war memorial, but on closer examination will quickly be seen not to be so. It stands on three eight sided plinths created from large blocks of Bath stone. On the east facing side of the cross is the symbol 'St N' for St Nicholas the church's patron saint.

Known as the Coronation Memorial (or Celebration) Cross it was erected by the parishioners of Bathampton to commemorate the Reign of Queen Victoria 1837-1901 and the crowning of King Edward VII, 1902, an inscription around the top plinth reads: *'To the Glory of God this Cross was erected by the parishioners of Hampton in the year 1903 to commemorate the reign of Queen Victoria, 1837 - 1901, and the Coronation of King Edward VII, 1902'*. And around the lower plinth *'Built by Messrs Chancellor and Sons, Bath. Churchwardens: Messrs W. Kemble and E. M. Wright. Vicar: The Rev. L. J. Fish'*.

Designed by the Bath architect Mr William J. Willcox, once again acting as the church's Honorary Architect - a parishioner and County Surveyor for Somerset - and the work carried out by Messrs Chancellor and Sons of Bath. It was constructed on the site of the original two-roomed National School that had been made redundant by the erection of the nearby Board School in 1896, although the rooms had for a while continued to be used for a Sunday School and village meetings. The building was ultimately dismantled and materials sold off and the ground subsequently given to the church, together with an area of 16 perches running westwards to Mill Lane, by Major-General Ralph Edward Allen, the then Lord of the Manor, as a further extension to the churchyard.

This land was part of 'Home Close' a paddock that lay to the south and separated from the churchyard by a wall. The wall was dismantled and rebuilt to take in this extension. The original metal school gate was left in situ as the new entrance and still performs this duty today alongside part of the old school boundary wall which extends into the churchyard and had formed part of this dividing wall.

On 26 June, 1904 this extension was formally consecrated by Dr G. W. Kennion, Bishop of Bath and Wells and the ground patrolled in customary fashion. Following a church service the cross was duly

dedicated in commemoration of the long and illustrious reign of Queen Victoria and coronation of Edward VII with the Bishop addressing *'the assembly from the first step; the dedication ending with the hymn Now thank we all our God'*^{16'}. An oak tree was also planted, to the east of the cross, on the other side of the lane.

Since then it has become the custom to add further plaques in recognition of subsequent royal occasions, including the reign of Edward VII 1901-1910 and crowning of George V, 22 June, 1911; the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, 12 May, 1937; the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June, 1952; her Silver Jubilee 1977; Golden Jubilee 2002; Platinum Jubilee 2022 and accession of Charles III in 2022.



The church (c1904-1921) showing the porch, now brought forward, new south aisle running behind and extended vestry of 1882. Also the churchyard extension and Coronation Cross of 1904. In the foreground is 'pig wall' separating the churchyard from the pig orchard, 'Home Close', to the south. This ground was purchased in 1921 in order to enlarge the churchyard further. The wall was subsequently removed (apart from a short section at the east end) and the area consecrated in 1931.

1921 - 1931 Further extension of churchyard

In 1921 Henry Allen, the last Lord of the Manor, put the estate up for sale, any properties not yet disposed of were presented for auction during the April including the remaining part of 'Home Close':

Lot 5. All that Small Freehold Close of Pasture opposite the George Inn and adjoining the Churchyard, now in the occupation of Mrs M, A, Young and included in the tenancy of the George Inn.

Note - A small portion in the South East corner, intended to form the Site of a War Memorial Monument, is not included in the Sale.

Victorial Tithe (in apportionment) 6s 5d

The Apportioned Rent, payable in respect of this lot is £2 per annum.

The pig sty and small shed on the Premises belong to the tenant, and are removable by her.

From the Bathampton Estate Sale Catalogue, 6 April, 1921.

It was purchased, on behalf of the parish, by the Vicar, the Rev. G. White, for £60 as an addition to the existing churchyard. This remaining part of 'Home Close' extended from the dividing wall of 1903, (which was now removed), out to the surrounding lanes on the south east, south and west sides. The Bath Chronicle of 9 April, 1921 reported that - *'This small field adjoins the churchyard which it would render sufficient for the needs of Bathampton for many years to come'*.



‘Home Close’ prior to 1921 purchase.

During the afternoon of Sunday, 13th October, 1931 Dr St John Basil Wynne Wilson, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, consecrated this extension. A procession was formed by the Clergy, Wardens, Choir, Sidesmen and others and the ground was patrolled as customary, and then a service was held in the Church and an address was given by the Bishop. Wardens were: Messrs P. W. Willcox and Lt-Col Barlow, DSO.

The small portion not included in the sale formed the south east corner of the ground, facing the canal bridge and backed by a slightly curving wall - still visible today. After the First World War and erection of the war memorial in the church, it was proposed that a further monument, a monolith, designed by William Harbutt, be fashioned from blocks of stone from the Downs cut and carried by villagers. It was to be dedicated both to those who had died and to those who fought during the conflict. William Harbutt (then Chairman of the Parish Council) submitted a Plasticine model and sketches of what was envisaged to a public meeting on 3 February, 1920 and the project was adopted. It was to be placed in this curious curved space created for the purpose. The project, however, did not succeed - possibly due to the death of William Harbutt a short while later.

1928

Electric lighting was installed together with new heating system.

1974-5

In 1974 the South Aisle was re-arranged by architect John Vivian, FRIBA to form the Australia Chapel¹⁷ in order to commemorate Admiral Arthur Phillip, the First Governor and Founder of the Colony of New South Wales, whose grave had been taken in as part of the South Aisle. (See pp. 41-43, and, ‘Part two - Interior Memorials Explored’, BLHRG, 2024). The cost was covered by donations from Australian associations and commercial companies as well as from many individuals.

The original floor was replaced by Australian Wombeyan marble, donated and shipped from Australia free of charge. All the new woodwork is in Australian Blackbean and was made up by local craftsmen of Herbert Read Ltd., and chairs by Gordon Russell Ltd. The two windows, four lights, are by James Clark & Eaton Ltd., and dedicated to Australia showing the coats of arms of the Federal Parliament and six Federal States, left to right, top to bottom: 1st light Government of Australia; 2nd light State of New South Wales [*Newly risen how brightly you shine*]; State of South Australia [*Faith and courage*]; 3rd light State of Victoria [*Peace and prosperity*]; State of Western Australia; 4th light State of Queensland [*Bold but faithful*], State of Tasmania [*Productiveness and faithfulness*].

The Chapel and Arthur Phillip Memorial were dedicated on 26 January, 1975 by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Rt. Rev. Edward B. Henderson.

At the same time pews were removed from the Tower and a stone floor and steps laid down. The church was rewired and a new lighting system installed throughout. The walls of the Nave and aisles were treated with a white lime wash, replacing a gloomy interior of rough stones divided by lines of black mortar and memorial tablets were cleaned

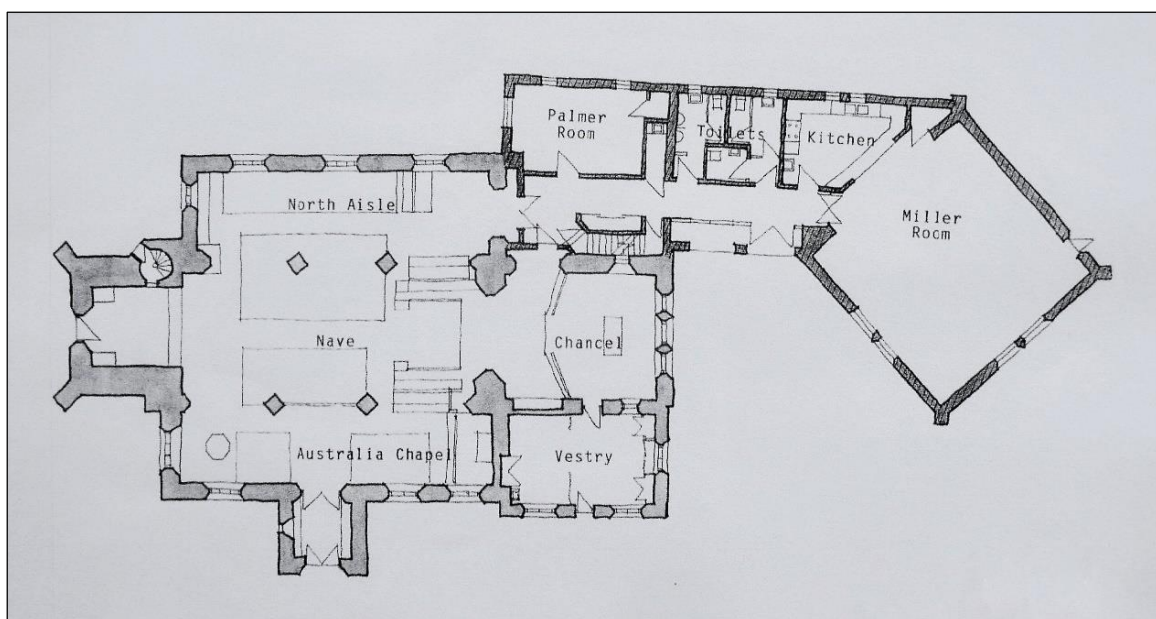
1979

The choir stalls were situated for many years beyond the arch to the Chancel (probably in the Manor pews) but only the treble singers were visible to the congregation in what was considered a '*congested arrangement*'. The altar was back against the east wall and the altar rail before it. By bringing the choir to the front of the Nave in new stalls, and the altar away from the east wall, this '*congestion*' was overcome. The improvements, including a new pulpit (serving also as a lectern), cost £6,000, fashioned in Australian Blackbean to match the Australia Chapel.

1992-1993 - Eastern extension

The last major extension was completed in 1993 with the addition of three meeting rooms, kitchen and toilets to the north-east of the church. With external access or via the east end of the North Aisle, through the 1879 organ chamber which had lately become redundant upon the installation of a digital computer organ in the same aisle. These additional facilities added space in which the work of the church could expand and to allow the running of a wide range of activities which had hitherto been limited. The work entailed the removal and relocation of numerous burials within the churchyard which are recorded in the archaeologist's report '*Nineteenth century Bath-stone walled graves of Bathampton*' by Margaret Cox and Gwyne Stock, (Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Proceedings, Vol. 138, 1994).

The cost of the new building was in the region of £300,000 part of which was raised by parishioners and proceeds from the sale of the Church Hall, (see pp. 65-68), and part from a legacy from the estate of Mrs Mary Miller. The project architect was David McDonagh of Bath. It was dedicated by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Right Rev'd James Thompson, 30th April, 1993. This was followed by a flower festival in celebration of the occasion.



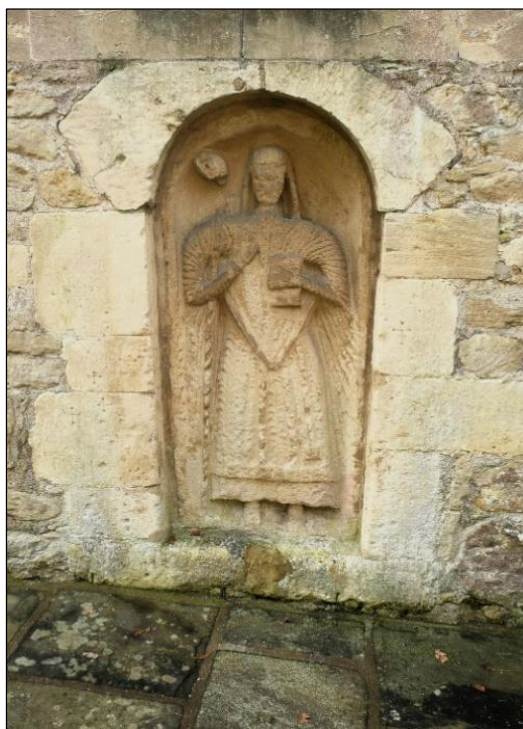
Plan showing eastern extension, 1993-4. Courtesy Denys Clark.

HISTORIC POINTS OF INTEREST

Apart from the two pre-Reformation bells there are four items of early interest that can be seen, these being an effigy; two recumbent figures; a bent trefoil cross and an early font.

Effigy

On the outside of the east wall of the Chancel is an old stone carving possibly set in its present position when the Chancel was restored by Ralph Allen. Carved from one piece of freestone, the block being incised to admit a figure in low relief. For centuries it has caused much speculation over its age and representation. It has been held to be of the eleventh or twelfth century and the '*earliest and most valuable specimen of Ecclesiastical sculpture to be found in Somerset*¹⁸'. It has also been said to be an effigy of St Nicholas, the patron saint of Bathampton, or an abbess; alternatively to have originated from the tomb of Bishop John of Tours in Bath Abbey - whilst Pevsner⁷ dismisses it as '*rustic Elizabethan work*'. Those claiming the earlier date say the outer garment worn by the figure is a chasuble and that its pointed front was known to have been in vogue in England only in the middle of the eleventh century.



Effigy on outside east wall of Chancel. 2024.

Many leading authorities including Bloxam¹⁹ (who dates it as 1122), Planche; Hope²⁰ and Symons²¹ date it as 11th or early 12th century. Visiting members of the British Archaeological Society in 1856 believed it to date to the middle of the 11th century and clearly representing a Bishop. Now weather-worn the face is unclear but may have sported a beard whilst the figure bears a crozier depicting Ecclesiastical origins and vestments that '*... are perfect, consisting of a chasuble, dalmatic, stole and albe*²¹'.

'His inner vest consists of the toga talaris, or ancient cassock, over which are worn the vestments - the alb, stole and chasuble, the latter like that of Archbishop Stigand in the Bayeux Tapestry, very short in front and coming to a peak... on the head the plain mitre, mitra simplex, with remains of the infulae, seemingly appears'. Bloxam¹⁹.



Archbishop Stigand portrayed in the Bayeux Tapestry.

From a quick glance it could be construed as feminine from the head gear; possible stomacher and apparent open outer sleeves reaching to the ground together with girdle, but those who have studied early ecclesiastical dress are quick to defer from this stating it reflects vestments depicted on the seals of Norman Bishops, that of Archbishop Stigand in the Bayeux tapestry and on the seal of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux. It is not, however, robed in full Eucharistic vestments usually found on monuments of a Bishop which indicates that it may have been a priest.

'The figure is that of a priest or Bishop, probably the latter, and dates from about the middle part of the 12th century. He is wearing exactly the same vestment etc. as shown on the seals of all the Norman Bishops. It is certainly not an Abbess, as under the circumstances of this effigy no women's feet ever appear below her garments or vestments' - dispelling any thoughts of Saxon Abbesses; the Shaftesbury Abbey lady on her way to Kelston or St Catherine. 'As to the chance of it being a former Vicar the first on record is John in 1261, but that is a century late for our purposes'. Sir William St John Hope²⁰.

Apart from fragments of a similar item in the churchyard at Bathford, the only other example bearing similarities is to be found on the lid of an ornamental memorial in Exeter Cathedral. Bloxom¹⁹ dates this as 1184 but new evidence shows it as belonging to Leofric, the first Bishop of Exeter who died in 1072 which gives it precedence over the Bathampton effigy which Symons²¹ dates as between 1090 and 1106.

The Bathford figure was discovered in 1856 and is almost an identical figure of a Bishop and unquestionably taken to depict St Swithun, Bishop of Winchester and Patron Saint of Bathford. The similarities are remarkable - both appear to be of 11th century workmanship in oolitic stone; both carved in low relief within an alcove; both show Bishop's vestments with fringe hanging about the feet; both figures stand holding a book [*the Gospels*] or folded document to the heart with the left hand, while the pastoral staff is held in place by the right arm with the hand raised in blessing. [The Bathford figure is now built into the east wall of the churchyard and is much weather-worn].

Symons²¹ offers a simple explanation as to why two neighbouring churches came into possession of similar figures. She concludes that they were provided by Bishop John of Tours, the first Bishop of Bath. When he acquired Bath Abbey in 1090 he removed all estate administration from the monks - the monks being given meagre allowances to live on until he had carried out reforms to the Monastery. Eventually the enlarged and improved Abbey Manors of Bathford and Bathampton were restored to the monks c1106 and it is suggested it was about then that these 'patronal' statues were given as a repentance for the hardships evoked. His Will some 32 years later expresses contrition for his unjust treatment. Whether the Saxon Chapels of the two Manors had yet been rebuilt is unknown, but it is

likely they were given their patronal statues around this time. Furthermore it has more recently been suggested that the Bathampton one may have come from the early Chapel of St Nicholas, Bath.

Symons²¹ believes the Bathampton figure to represent St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, to whom the church is dedicated. St Nicholas was the Patron Saint not only of children but of those who crossed the seas and was looked on as a protector against storm, tempest and fire. In the middle-ages such figures were held sacred and people would have been drawn to them to make their supplications. Votive crosses are seen on the stone surround - a custom that ceased before the Reformation. Could these have been carved by the Knight, whose figure lies in the church, when he left on campaigns? Whether it came from inside the church at some time is unknown. In 1791 Collinson³ records it in its present location and it is believed the figure was either moved there with its surrounding stone work or it was placed there prior to the Reformation.



Some of the votive crosses on the surrounding stonework, 2024.

'... the object held is of great significance; for as every Bishop is supposed to be a preacher and guardian of the Gospel, it is a usual convention in sacred art to show Bishops holding a copy of the Gospels. In the case of St Nicholas, this symbol of his sacred office is particularly appropriate. He was Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor at the time of the Nicaean Council; and tradition says that at the Council, in his anger, he struck Arius on the mouth for his heresy concerning the Eternal Divinity of Christ. For this violence, on the petition of Arius, he was deprived of his mitre and pall, and was ordered by the Council to be imprisoned for the rest of the Session. But, in prison there appeared to him Christ Himself and the Holy Mother. The one restored to him the Gospel and the other his mitre and pall. Armed with these credentials he claimed and obtained restoration to liberty and to office'. K. E. Symons²¹.

Symons²¹ also dispels the theory that the figure had come from a Bishop's tomb, partly due to the figure only being 4 feet 6 inches in height but mainly because the vestments are of an earlier type than even the first Bishop of Bath, John of Tours, would have worn at the time of his death in 1122. It could not, therefore, have come from one of the six dismantled tombs of later Bishops buried in Bath Abbey. A depiction of St Nicholas seems more appropriate. Certainly vestments of a 11th century Bishop are represented - what looks like crinkled sleeves are the folds of the chasuble which forms a voluminous cloak at the back (clearly depicted in the Exeter figure) but is short and pointed at the front (known to have been in vogue in the middle 11th century). This short chasuble allows the cord of the girdle to be seen - normally covered in a fully vested priest - the symbol of chastity; the cloak that covered all, and, of a mind closed to worldly thoughts. The stole is shown by the splaying lines. This crossed over the front of the priest's body and passed under the girdle and depicted the yoke of Christ. The alb is seen under the point of the chasuble and the cassock is seen showing slightly below. A collar-like vestment - the amice - was the first vestment put on in robing - as an emblem of faith, the foundation of all religion. The plain linen cap with lappets was ordinary headgear of the 11th century - called a bonnet before the term mitre was used in the 12th century when the cleft mitre became

fashionable. Its pendant bands are much exaggerated. There is no explanation to the fringe at the feet of the Bathampton or Bathford figures unless this possibly denotes the work to be by the same sculptor. It is these points which date the work as early Norman but whether it represents St Nicholas or an 11th century priest will probably never be known.

Two 14th century recumbent figures

- (i) A Knight Templar, cross legged, tunic with scalloped and fringed hem over chain mail, sword and belt. Lies on a calf length cloak and shield. Much mutilated with head, hands (depicted in prayer) and feet missing.
- (ii) A Lady wearing a cloak over a full-length robe and cotehardie (bodice); head framed in a barb and short veil (wimple) rests on two tasselled cushions; shows one pointed shoe. Much mutilated with hands (also depicted in prayer) missing. Integral with stone mattress below. c1325.



14th century knight with close- up of fringed and scalloped tunic, armoured and mutilated legs.



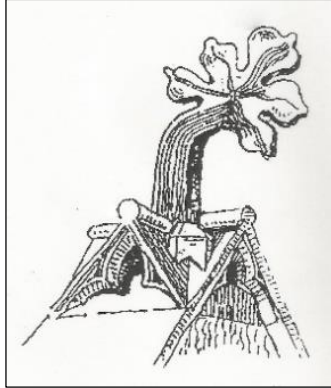
14th century lady with close-up showing wimple and cotehardie.(bodice).

These unknown figures were originally set on altar tombs situated alongside the south-east wall of the Nave but were removed when the wall was breached for the addition of the Allen Chapel c1754. The figures are recorded as being put out into the churchyard and later placed in the original porch. This porch was taken in as part of the construction of the South Aisle in 1882 and they were then placed, in their present positions, on specially constructed cills under the new south west and west windows.

Sadly their worn condition prevents any heraldic means of identification but they may represent Sir James Husee and his Lady, or later members of that family, who held lands here from the Bath Monastery in the 14th century. Some of the votive marks surrounding the effigy on the outside of the east wall of the Chancel could have been made by him before going on a pilgrimage or crusade.

'... for the sake of getting a little more space for pews the monuments were destroyed and the memorials of the dead cast out like rubbish to perish in the churchyard. The effigies have now been restored to a place of safety'. William Lewis¹⁰.

Bent trefoil hip knob



A hip-knob is an ornament placed on the apex of the hip of a roof or gable.

Left: The Bathampton hip-knob.

This fairly rare bent trefoil hip knob depicts Christ's head on the cross. Dated to the 14th century it is reputed to have come from the '*conventual barn*' '*since destroyed*'. Some reports believe this barn to be the one behind the church (now a house) but probably relates to the large barn that existed north of The Parsonage (*Old Rectory*) at the west end of The George Inn field - seen in the Ralph Allen Estate Map of 1743 and Plan of the Kennet and Avon Canal, 1797, but not on the 1845 Tithe or subsequent maps. Archaeological excavations at the end of the 1900's revealed the foundations of a substantial building on the site. After '*the barn was destroyed*' prior to 1848 this hip knob - '*a floriated cross of stone*' - was placed on an arch that led to the orchards of The Parsonage. (This arch still stands in the garden of Glebe Cottage). It was subsequently thought '*to be in danger of being broken by boys throwing stones at it*' and was removed and placed in its present position over the east end of the Chancel roof. A copy can be seen over the porch to Claverton church.

Early font



To the west of the porch is what is believed to be '*the bowl of an ancient font*'. This was once at the Old Rectory and noticed in 1848 by Tunstall¹¹ who wrote '*In the garden (of the Old Rectory) may still be seen the bowl of the early chancel font*'. Contemporary reports assert that it was in use in '*the old church before its restoration, and belonged to the ancient building erected anterior to the Norman conquest*'²² but there is no documentary evidence to support this theory.

It is not known when it was moved to its present location. It is unlined with a side drainage hole. Hollowed out of a solid block of freestone and has a diameter of 2ft 8in, circumference of 9ft 6in, a rim 2½in thick and inside depth of 7½ to 8 inches. The centre of the bowl is slightly raised which may have been part of an ornamentation or shaft. The interior is roughly and irregularly tooled, the lines are not straight but curved. It has been suggested that this may be part of a cider press, if so it wasn't unusual to adapt domestic utensils for Baptismal Festivals. Conversely fonts were at one time turned out of churches and used for other purposes. There seems to be no doubt it was at some time used as a font, possibly for immersions, but at what date is unknown. *'How early in the ecclesiastical history of Bathampton this "Holy Water font" was consecrated to the services of the church is still a matter of conjecture²²'*. The stone on which it stands is not original.

NOTABLE INTERIOR MEMORIALS

There are some 88 memorials within the church (including windows and ledgers) which are recorded in *'Bathampton Memorial Inscriptions 1654-2005'*, BLHRG, 2005. The stories behind them - as a sort of whose who - are contained in *'St Nicholas Church, Bathampton: Part two - Interior Memorials Explored'*, BLHRG, 2024. Apart from the many tablets to the memory of the Fisher family (in the Chancel) and the Allen family (Lords of the Manor 1743-1921) in the South Aisle, some of the most notable memorials within the church are detailed below. For more illustrations and notable burials in the churchyard see *'St Nicholas Church, Bathampton: Part three - Some Notable Burials'*, BLHRG, 2024.

The Reredos

The Reredos extends across the width of the east wall of the Chancel and was erected in 1890^(R1) in memory of a number of parishioners by their relatives and friends. It probably came from another church; no trace of who created this intricate work has been found. It was installed under the supervision of William Willcox, Honorary Architect to the church.

It consists of a central carved bass relief in Caen stone^(R2) depicting the Last Supper framed by a main arch in which a further arch is recessed; acanthus leaves are the main decoration throughout. Alpha and Omega can be seen above the relief. It has suffered some damage to the hands and the stem of the chalice is missing. Flanked on either side by three arched arcades separated by marble columns, each arcade containing a Venetian mosaic of a saint and dedication inscribed on a brass plaque below. Under the central relief is inscribed *'Do this in Remembrance of Me'* and a brass plaque^(R3) with the words *'The above is erected to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mable Catharine Everingham by her husband. God is love'*.

Mabel Catharine EVERINGHAM was the daughter of William Carey and Elizabeth Lay (née Hallow) Moxon^(R4) baptised Bloomsbury, 10 January, 1865 (born 1864). A year later her father died and Elizabeth married secondly Captain Ralph Sadler^(R5) on 10 January, 1871 at Lexden, Essex. In 1882 they moved with Mable and her elder sister Ethel^(R6) firstly to Eagle House, Batheaston, and then to The Old Rectory, Bathampton, and (c1889) to Invermay in Bathampton Lane - subsequently changing its name back to Osborne House. On 28 October, 1886 Mable married Rev. Henry William Everingham^(R7) of Trusthorpe, Lincoln, son of Henry and Georgiana who were at the time living in Batheaston Villa^(R8). Henry (jnr) had graduated from Corpus Christie College, Cambridge with a BA., and MA., and was subsequently ordained at Salisbury as a Deacon then Priest^(R9). He was Curate at Urchfont, Wiltshire from 1884-6 before becoming Rector of Trusthorpe from 1887-1891.

It was here that in 1889 their son Henry Moxon was born but sadly Mabel died shortly afterwards on 29 April, 1889 aged 24 and was brought back to Bathampton for burial on 4 May, 1889. Henry (jnr) remarried on 4 June, 1891 Lucy Gertrude Hodgson^(R10) at Warrington, Lancashire.

Henry (jnr's) father died in 1881 and his mother went to live with her son until her death, moving to Dorset when Henry (jnr) became the Rector of Bincombe with Broadway from c1901-1905. They continued to live in Melcombe Regis where he died on 21 March, 1914 and was subsequently buried with his first wife at Bathampton on 26 March. He had been a keen motorist and had engrossed himself in the study of mechanics. Their son died in 1944^(R11) and the grave bears an inscription to his memory.

Memorial Inscription in churchyard:

*'Sacred to the memory of Mabel Catharine the beloved wife of the Rev'd H W Everingham who died April 29 1889 aged 24. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. And the Rev'd Henry Everingham MA who died March 21 1914 aged 54. To the dear memory of their son Henry **Nixon** [Moxon] Everingham who died July 21 1944 aged 55 [not buried here]'. Curbed grave with cross on 4 plinths [C101].*

The Venetian mosaic panels show from left to right the four Evangelists and St Peter and St James, with dedication plaques below:

St Matthew holds a book in his right hand;
St Mark holds a book under his arm;
St Luke holds a book in his right hand;
St John holds an open book in his left hand;
St Peter carries keys;
St James carries a pilgrim's staff and a water bottle.

St Matthew bears a dedication to the memory of **Elizabeth LOCKWOOD**:

'To the Glory of God and to the memory of Elizabeth Lockwood. This memorial is here placed by her sister Ellen'.

Elizabeth and Ellen Lockwood were the daughters of Thomas and Mary Lockwood of Huddersfield where they were born c1803 and 1804. They never married and appear to live with their parents at Prospect House, Almondbury, Slaithwaite, Yorkshire. After the death of their father they continued to live with their mother until her death in the late 1850s before eventually moving southwards. They were fortunate to have sufficient private means to be able to live independent lives. By the 1871 census Elizabeth is a lodger in Bathford and Ellen is a visitor in Islington. The 1881 census shows Ellen lodging at Canal Farm, Bathampton and then in 1891 living in part of the original Post Office (one of the cottages that became Court Leet). No further trace of Elizabeth has been found until her death on 30 September, 1889 at Brislington, aged 86. She was buried at Bathampton on 23 October [C89], and her sister made this dedication in 1890.

Ellen died 3 February, 1892 at Bathampton aged 88 and was buried with her sister on 9 February.

Memorial Inscription in churchyard:

'Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Lockwood of Huddersfield who died September 30 1889. Looking unto Jesus. Sacred to the memory of Ellen sister of Elizabeth Lockwood who died February 3rd 1892'. [C89].

Below St Mark and St Luke the dedication is to **George Augustus and Mary BROGRAVE**:

'These two panels were given by Ann, Mary, Sarah and Juliana Brograve in memory of their parents George Augustus Brograve (1797-1874) and Mary (1800-1877)^(R12)'.

George Augustus was the only surviving child of Dr John and Ann Rye of Bath^(R13) who were buried alongside Admiral Phillip in the original porch. John was the founder of the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners Royal Benevolent Society (see pp. 42-43). Ann was the last surviving child of Sir Berney Brograve, Baronet and there being no direct male descendent the Baronetcy had become extinct. George changed his name to Brograve by Royal assent in the hope he might be successful in applying to have the Baronetcy revived. His application was unsuccessful. He and his wife continued to live in Bath but actually died in Weston-super-Mare; they were both buried (possibly in the grave of

his parents) in the original porch now part of the South Aisle - George died on 31 March, 1874 aged 76, and Mary on 15 December, 1877 aged 77. Their inscribed stone is no longer visible.

Memorial Inscription:

'In a vault..... are deposited the remains [of George Augustus Brograve]..... March 25th 1874 aged 76 years, also the remains of Mary, relict of the above George Augustus Brograve who died Dec 9th 1877 aged 77 years'. Flat floor ledger, south aisle, no longer visible.

Below St John the dedication is to Robert and Caroline FISHER:

'In loving memory of our dear parents Robert Fisher who died Sept. 24th 1877 and Caroline his wife who died March 2nd 1865 both of whom are interred in the Chancel of this church'.

The Fisher family had been long associated with Bathampton and can be traced back to at least 1280; records show William the Fisher (le Fishere) of Hampton paying taxes in 1327 and Johannas attending an inquisition in 1378^(R14). Their name is undoubtedly derived from the fact that they looked after the fish ponds at Hampton for the Monastery of St Peter and Paul, Bath who held most of the area. They were continuously connected to the Parsonage House [*Old Rectory*] until the mid-1800's.

After the Dissolution they continued to rent the Parsonage House and Glebe lands from the Dean and Chapter of the new see of Bristol Cathedral and were referred to as Gentlemen or Yeomen. A branch of the family became wealthy clothiers in Batheaston and another purchased one of the three manors of Bathford.

Part of their tenancy agreement was to pay for the upkeep of the Chancel^(R15) and to arrange and pay for a suitable person to preach at the four principal feast days of the year if no-one was in office. Many members of the family were buried under the Chancel and tablets erected on the surrounding walls in their memory.

In 1802 they purchased the house and glebe lands and rented further land from Bathampton Manor Estate. However, by the mid-1830's their interests turned to the confectionery trade in which Robert Fisher, (snr), the then head of the family, followed the success of his brother Samuel. Robert died in 1840 and any land he still held was sold. He was succeeded by his son, Robert, (jnr), and his wife Caroline, who continued to reside at The Parsonage [*The Old Rectory*] whilst carrying on their business based at 10 Northgate Street, Bath. Caroline died in 1865 and in 1866^(R16) the house and grounds were put up for sale. The property not only carried a clause regarding the upkeep of the Chancel but included two pews for ten people in the Chancel, and also a further pew for six in the 'new aisle'. The property was purchased by the Allen family and became part of the Manor Estate.

Robert (jnr) died in 1877^(R17) his estate and business passed to a trusteeship for the benefit of his seven surviving children 'share and share alike' for them to continue or be bought out. The business continued to be run in Bath by one son and several daughters, whilst another daughter took on the Chippenham branch and another son opened a business in Gloucester. They became well known both as confectioners and restaurateurs trading until 1916^(R18).

This memorial to Robert and Caroline was in addition to a wall tablet on the north wall of the Chancel - *'Sacred to the memory of Caroline, the beloved wife of Robert Fisher, who died March 2nd 1865 aged 52. Also to the loved memory of Robert Fisher, who died at Ilfracombe Sept 24th 1877 aged 67, and whose remains are interred in the vault beneath this Chancel'*^(R19).

Below St Peter the dedication is to **John, Rachel and Emily WILLCOX and Edith and Thomas WILTON**; also **William John and Elizabeth Woolaston WILLCOX** brass plaques: *'In memory of John, Rachel and Emily Willcox and Edith and Thomas Wilton 1890'*, and, in memory of *'William John Willcox 6 June 1850 - 6 October 1928'* and *'Elizabeth (Elsie) Woolaston Willcox wife of above 28 July 1850 - 26 July 1928'*.

John and Rachel Willcox lived in Bathwick and were the parents of William John Willcox (see below) and Emily and Edith. They do not appear to have ever lived in Bathampton. Their eldest daughter, Edith, married Thomas Wilton on 21 December, 1843 at Bathwick and for a while lived in Bilston, Staffordshire and from c1854 Bathwick Rectory, moving to part of Hampton Hall, Bathampton in

1872. (The house was then split into two parts known as Hampton Hall and Deep Dene^(R20)). He was a solicitor and represented Bathwick Ward for 17 years from 1866 and became an Alderman in 1883 and Mayor in 1884. He died April, 1885 and was buried in Bath Abbey cemetery with his wife who had predeceased him on 18 August, 1859 aged 39. They had five children and both sons became solicitors. Their eldest son, John Gauler and his wife, Agnes, remained in part of Hampton Hall until John's death in 1905.

William John Willcox was born in Bathwick and became a Bath architect and County Surveyor for Somerset. He was responsible for a lot of work carried out on the church and was instrumental in the erection of the Reredos in 1890^(R1) and dedicated this panel to his parents, sisters and brother-in-law. He moved into the second part of Hampton Hall, alongside his brother-in-law and family, after his marriage to Eliza Woolaston Mountford [Mumford] on 12 June, 1873 at Westbury-on-Trym and they remained there until their death in 1928. He and his wife were buried at Bathampton in an unmarked grave^(R21). Alongside the steps leading to Hampton Hall is the stone framework of a window that was removed from the church during alterations under his direction, see p. 76. They were survived by their son Percival Mountford (also an architect) who continued living there until at least 1950. Both William and his son were very active in village affairs, William became a parish Councillor and represented the village on the Bathavon Rural District Council. As well as placing the second plaque in memory of his parents Percival purchased, in 1932, a plot of land in Holcombe Lane for the village hall as an additional memorial^(R20), see pp 66-67. In 1940 he placed a clock over the Hampton Hall's coach and stable block that stood alongside the road (since replaced by modern garages) which became quite a 'public timepiece'.

'At the Bathampton Vestry the Vicar requested to convey to Mr W. J. Willcox of Hampton Hall the thanks of the parishioners for his gratuitous planning and supervision of the beautiful reredos which has been erected to the memory of several parishioners and their friends, it is not quite completed but the exquisite carving in the centre of the Lords Supper in CAEN stone is well worthy of close inspection and the 6 figures in the finest Venetian Mosaic representing the 4 Evangelists and Peter and James are we believe without a rival in this district and help to complete this pretty little village church'. Bath Chronicle, 10 April, 1890.

Below St James the dedication is to **Henrietta Jemima HOOKINS:**

'This memorial to Henrietta Jemima Hookins of this Parish who died Feb 7th 1889 aged 79 years, is here placed by her affectionate brother Sir R J G Baird, Bart'.

Henrietta Jemima Hookins (née Baird) was one of six children born to William and Lucy Baird and was baptised 6 March, 1810 at All Saints, Southampton. She married John Hookins, a solicitor, in the same church on 4 February, 1836. John had been born in South Perret, Somerset but was then living in Devizes; after their marriage they returned to live at Brow Cottage, Rowde, Devizes.

During the 1860s they moved to Invermay in Bathampton Lane (*now Osborne House*), and it was here that John died on the 13 January, 1869 after a short illness. Henrietta continued to live there until her death on 7 February, 1889 aged 79. They were both buried at Bathampton^(R22).

Her oldest brother was Sir James Gardiner Baird, 7th Bart of Saug(c)hton Hall, Edinburgh. Born 20 August, 1813 he had succeeded to the Baronetcy in 1830; was a magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant for Midlothian and Lt-Colonel Commanding 1st Midlothian Coastart Artillery Volunteers, late Captain 10th Light Dragoons (X). He married 13 March, 1845 Henrietta Mary Warthope and had three children. He often stayed with his sister at Bathampton and was responsible for this dedication.

Memorial Inscription in churchyard:

'To the beloved memory of John Hookins Esq. of Invermay, Bathampton who died January 13th 1869 aged 71 years. There remaineth a rest for the people of God. Also sacred to the memory of Henrietta Jemima widow of John Hookins Esq. and sister of Sir James Gardiner Baird, Bart of Saughton Hall, Midlothian, N.B., who died at Invermay, Bathampton on 7th Feb 1889 aged 78 years. In hope of Eternal life'. [C35].

R1. Vestry Minutes for 1890.

R2. A Jurassic stone from North West France, near town of Caen.

- R3. Brass plaque to right.
- R4. William Carey Moxon married Elizabeth Lay Hallum, 1862 Lexden, Essex.
- R5. See window W7 north aisle and plaque no. 77.
- R6. Henry officiated at Ethel's wedding at Bathampton, 4 September, 1890.
- R7. 27 August, 1859-21 March, 1914.
- R8. Moved to Wareham, Dorset in 1887.
- R9. 1884; 1885.
- R10. Daughter of Rev. Diston S. and Ann (née Carter) Hodgson.
- R11. Henry Moxon Everingham died 21 July, 1944.
- R12. George Augustus Brograve born 17 May, 1797 died 25 March, 1874; Mary Brogarave (née Hawkins) born 6 April, 1800 died 9 December, 1877. Buried in original porch, now part of south aisle no. 6.
- R13. John Rye 14 August, 1767-28 January, 1855 buried 5 February, 1855; Ann Rye 20 May, 1763-25 December, 1828 buried 2 January, 1829. See brass plaque north west wall of Nave 73a; also tablets in St Mary's Church, Bathwick.
- R14. Mediaeval Deeds of Bath and District, Somerset Record Society Vol 73.
- R15. Extinguished in the early twentieth century on payment of £200 by the then owner of The Old Rectory, G. D. Hunt.
- R16. Bath Chronicle, 17 May, 1866.
- R17. Will proved 20 November, 1877.
- R18. For further information see '*The Old Rectory, Bathampton*' an Historic Building Survey and '*History of the Fisher family*' Bathampton LHRG 2007.
- R19. Caroline buried 7 March, 1865 aged 52 of St Michael's, Bath. Robert Buried 27 September, 1877 aged 68 of Bath. Burial below Chancel.
- R20. See also House History on Hampton Hall, Deep Dene and occupants, Bathampton LHRG 2021.
- R21. William buried 10 October, 1928 aged 89 of Hampton Hall; Elizabeth buried 27 July, 1928 of Hampton Hall aged 79. Unmarked grave.
- R22. John Hookins buried 19 January, 1869; Henrietta Jemima Hookins buried 12, February 1889 aged 79 - C35

Admiral Arthur Phillip RN, Admiral of the Blue, First Governor and Founder of the Colony of New South Wales. Ledger, South Aisle.

Born 11 October, 1738 in Bread Street, London, son of Jacob Phillip, of German descent, and Elizabeth (née Breach) an English widow. Educated at Greenwich Hospital School, part of Greenwich Hospital, where he was trained for a seafaring life. Joined the RN at an early age and saw action during the Seven Years War after which he was retained on half pay; married Margaret Denison, a wealthy widow c1762, and entered a farming life in Lyndhurst, Hampshire - they separated six years later. Having farmed for some 12 years Arthur returned to life at sea and was given leave to join the Portuguese Navy. During this period he took 400 Portuguese convicts to Brazil without any loss. In 1779 he was recalled back to England for active service, obtained his first command and promoted to captain.

In October, 1786 Arthur was chosen by Lord Sydney, Secretary of State for the Home Department, as Captain-General of a proposed expedition to New South Wales and Governor of the new settlement it was intended to establish there. Arthur's experience with the Portuguese Navy may have prompted this choice. The expeditionary fleet of 11 ships carrying 1,487 persons, including c759 convicts, plus a contingent of marines and other officers who were to administer the colony, set sail from Portsmouth on 13 May, 1787 taking everything that might be needed for the task. The first boat reached Botany Bay on 18 January, 1788 and the others soon followed. It was quickly realised that the area was unsuitable for the establishment of a colony; after exploration they eventually landed at Sydney Cove (named after Lord Sydney) on 26 January, a date now known as Australia Day.

They had taken with them 10,000 bricks, 4 cows, 1 bull, 44 sheep, 122 fowls, 1 piano and 300 gallons of brandy, among other necessary supplies. Most of the livestock was lost during the voyage or shortly after landing when there was insufficient feed.

Early days were chaotic and difficult. With limited supplies the cultivation of food was imperative, but the land around Sydney was poor, the climate unfamiliar and very few had any knowledge of agriculture. Starvation was ever a problem and was made worse by the arrival of some 3,546 male and 766 female convicts during 1788-1792 - many of whom were sick and unfit for work, while the condition of healthy convicts only deteriorated with hard labour and poor sustenance. They arrived with inadequate supplies and Arthur had to impose strict rationing and send a ship for provisions to Cape Town in 1788 and Calcutta in 1791. In addition to this the marines wanted their own land but

did not want to grow food; were poorly disciplined and many not interested in disciplining the convicts.



Arthur Phillip was a quiet, modest and unassuming man, but also an experienced navigator, efficient, able to make correct decisions calmly and quickly and had the strength of character to see the task through despite environmental difficulties and the antagonism of some of his senior staff. *'A slight, dark-complexioned man of less than average height, self-controlled and courageous. His task was to make a settlement in a wilderness with few and imperfect tools and a host of broken men to use them. He had, however, the determination that enables a man to make the best of bad conditions. His strong sense of duty and the fact that he had no gift of getting on with people made him unpopular, and he received little help from some of his*

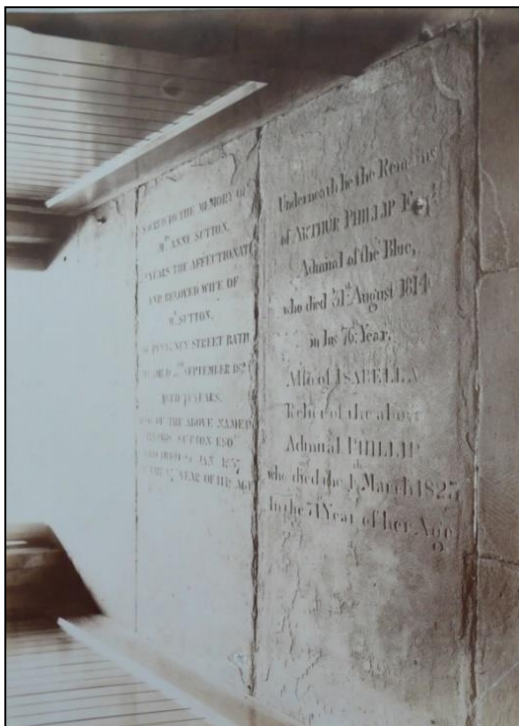
subordinates. But, steadfast in mind, idealistic and modest, he had imagination enough to conceive what the settlement might become, and the common sense to realise what at the moment was possible and expedient. When almost everyone was complaining he never himself complained; when all feared disaster he could still go hopefully on with his work. He was sent out to found a convict settlement, and he laid the foundations of a nation'. (Extract from an Australian Encyclopaedia).

He was injured in the shoulder by an aborigine's spear and by 1792 was in poor health due mainly to the injury and poor diet. The early years had been years of struggle and hardship, but the worst was over, a whaling industry had been established; trading ships began to visit and convicts, whose sentences had expired, took up farming. Arthur applied to return to England and embarked for home on 11 December, 1792 arriving in May, 1793 and tendered his resignation. Arthur's first wife had died in 1792 and in 1794 he married Isabella Whitehead and for a while lived in Bath. By 1796 with health somewhat recovered he went back to sea holding a series of commands during the wars with France. In 1801 was made Rear-Admiral of the Blue and in 1803 Commander of the whole of the Sea Fencibles, with jurisdiction over the entire coastline of Great Britain. Appointed Rear-Admiral of the White in April, 1804 and Rear-Admiral of the Red in November, 1805. In 1805 aged 67 he retired from the Navy and returned to Bath to live with his wife and was successively made Vice-Admiral of the White in October, 1809; Vice-Admiral of the Red July, 1810 and Admiral of the Blue June, 1814.

It is not clear whether Isabella had remained in the area after his return to sea in 1796. What is clear is that they must have had a residence in Bathampton before Arthur retired as the Bathampton Highways Account Books show him paying highway rates during the period c1803-5. It is likely their residence was at Bathampton Lodge (which was frequently let out). It had been thought that they lived at Osborne House, in Bathampton Lane, but that property was not yet built. The Bath Chronicle gives notice of sale of some of his effects in 1806 *'lately removed from Bathampton'*. They went to live at 19 Bennett Street where he died 31 August, 1814 having fallen from a third floor window. Some accounts say the Admiral committed suicide due to extreme pain but this was never verified.

Admiral Phillip was buried in the original porch before it was incorporated into the South Aisle and a tablet placed over the internal door (since relocated to the South Aisle, south wall no. 40). It wasn't uncommon for people from outside the parish to be buried at Bathampton. At the time the Bath churchyards were becoming full and many chose to be laid to rest in churchyards of surrounding villages away from the smoke and grime of the City. His preference may have been because of his previous connections with the parish, things would, however, have been different if a case of suicide had been proven.

Isabella continued to live at 19 Bennett Street and died there on 4 March, 1823 and was buried with her husband. The original floor ledger stone has since been replaced.



The original ledger marking Admiral Phillip's grave, once part of the south porch but seen here after the porch was taken in as part of the new South Aisle of 1882. The interior doorway to the present porch is just showing on the left-hand side.

'Underneath be the Remains of Arthur Phillip Esq Admiral of the Blue who died 31st August 1814 in his 76th Year. Also of Isabella Relict of the above Admiral Phillip who died 4th March 1827 in the 71st Year of her Age'.

Photograph by Charles Ward, 1903.

An outstanding feature was his regard for others tempered with tolerance, kindness and justice which was shown to all he came in contact with, whoever they were, making them feel confident of receiving fair and generous treatment.

'His role was not just planning the settlement, but to lay the foundations of a colony; to establish the machinery of a civil government; explore the territory both inland and coastal; to promote friendly relations with the aborigines and to govern a community of felons as well. This was made more difficult by the neglect of not being sent regular and sufficient supplies of food and necessities. He was a plain, quiet, efficient man, of more than ordinary vision, set a task requiring precision, activity, courage and judgement - which he did and did well. Not a colossus by any means but a pioneer-colonist worthy to be numbered and honoured amongst the great Empire builders for all time. He well and truly laid the foundation stone of the Commonwealth of Australia setting up the rough ashlar which time and energy have chiselled and polished into a noble and enduring edifice'. (George Mackarness, 1937).

A monument to the Admiral's memory was placed in St Mildred's Church, Bread Street, London in 1932 but was destroyed in the 1940 blitz - some parts were recovered and re-erected in St Mary le Bow, Watling Street in 1968. A further monument was unveiled in Bath Abbey in 1937.

There is a statue of Admiral Phillip looking towards the harbour in Sydney's Botanic Gardens and his name is commemorated in Australia by Port Phillip; Phillip Island (Victoria); Phillip Island (Norfolk Island) and in many other ways such as in the naming of streets, parks and schools.

In 2014, to mark 200 years since the Admiral's death, the British-Australia Society raised funds for a further two memorials, one in the nave of Westminster Abbey and a specially-commissioned armillary sphere sited in the small garden at the rear of the Assembly Rooms, Bath, just opposite 19 Bennett Street. It evokes the landing at Sydney Cove in 1787 and includes a dressed quay-side bollard, which supports the armillary sphere, made by sundial expert David Harber, and, Nigel Fenwick, stone carver. This was relocated to Sydney Gardens in 2024.

Admiral Phillip's memory is perpetuated at Bathampton by the Australia Chapel, dedicated 1975, and various publications and display boards in the church. Each year on the Friday nearest to the Admiral's birthday, 11 October, a service is held in the church, attended by Australian dignitaries and representatives of the different states together with other worthies. A short service is also held on the Saturday closest to Australia Day.

Dr John Rye founder of The Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners Royal Benevolent Society.

Dr John Rye of Johnstone Street, Bath, and his wife Anne are commemorated on a brass plaque on the north-west wall of the Nave.

John Rye with Charles Gee Jones was the founder of the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners Royal Benevolent Society, instituted 1839 and incorporated by Act of Parliament 1850.

During the autumn of 1838 the Clovelly herring fleet suffered the loss of 11 boats and 21 men when gales took them by surprise in the Bristol Channel. They had already suffered great losses in 1821 when 40 boats were lost and 31 fishermen and pilots perished, leaving 19 widows and 61 children destitute of their only means of support.

On learning of the latest disaster John Rye, a retired medical man of Johnstone Street, Bath, and Charles Gee Jones, a Bathwick Publican (one time Bristol Pilot) concerned over the welfare of the dependants decided to do something to aid the stricken fishing community. On making enquiries they found that there were no funds available to alleviate such distress and with the Governor of Greenwich Hospital drew up a proposal towards the formation of a suitable benevolent society. That winter was particularly bad with numerous disasters around the British coast involving fishing fleets and other seafarers, often with much loss of life causing great hardship and distress to their families.

The Admiral of the Fleet, Sir G. Cookburn, GCB took up the cause. He called a public meeting for 21 February, 1839 in London with the purpose of forming a Society for Relief of Mariners and Fishermen, or their Widows and Orphans - creating a fund from annual contributions of not more than two shillings and six pence to provide relief to those left destitute by the loss of a seafarer or to one injured and unable to provide for his family.

This resulted in The Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners Benevolent Society being founded and in March HM Queen Victoria became Patron, thereby introducing Royal to its title. The original purpose of the Society was '*to provide financial help to merchant seafarers, fishermen and their dependants who were in need*'; this charitable organisation still exists today (2024). Royal connections have remained unbroken and the present patron is HRH The Princess Royal. It was to become an extensive operation, one of the most appropriate and useful charities of '*our sea-girt Isle*'. In a quarter of a century it had relieved upwards of 12,000 widows, orphans and aged parents of drowned fishermen and sailors, besides affording assistance to about 45,000 shipwrecked persons.

Now known as the 'Shipwrecked Mariners Society', and based in Chichester, the Society has a volunteer network of over 300 Honorary Agents throughout the British Isles; much funding coming from those large red mines found at coastal resorts converted into gigantic collecting receptacles.

John Rye was a long term resident of Bath, and devoted much of his life to charitable works and organizations and was instrumental in forming the Bath Branch of this Society. He died 28 January, 1855 aged 87 and was buried in the original porch of the church, near the grave of Rear Admiral Arthur Phillip, alongside his wife, Ann, who had died 25 December, 1828 aged 65. Grave no longer visible. This commemorative brass plaque was placed by their son together with two further memorials in St Mary's Church, Bathwick. Charles Gee Jones died 20 May, 1851 aged 45 and was buried in St Mary's old churchyard, where his gravestone bears further tribute to the foresight of these two gentlemen.

John's wife, Ann (née Brograve), was the last descendant of Sir Berney Brograve, 5th Baronet of Worstead Hall, Norfolk - there being no direct male descendants the baronetcy had become extinct. Her only surviving child, George Augustus Rye (born 17 May, 1797), changed his surname to Brograve by Royal Assent in the hope of being granted the baronetcy but his application was unsuccessful. He continued to live in the family home in Johnstone Street, but actually died at Weston-super-Mare, 25 March, 1874 and his wife Mary (born 8 April, 1800) on 9 December, 1877. They were both buried in the original south porch (now taken in as part of the South Aisle) probably with his parents John and Ann Rye - but the inscribed ledger is no longer visible. Two panels of the Reredos, depicting St Mark and St Luke, were dedicated to their memory by their four daughters, Ann, Mary, Sarah and Juliana in 1890.

Memorial Inscription on brass plaque:

'In memory of John Rye Esq. (late the parish of Bathwick). Born 14th August 1767, died 28th January 1855. Founder of the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners Royal Benevolent Society, Instituted 1839, Incorporated by Act of Parliament 1850. His mortal remains are deposited in a vault within the [original] South Porch of this Church beside those of Anne Rye, an affectionate wife and mother, who died 25th December 1828 aged 65 years, the daughter and last descendant of Sir Berney Brograve, 5th Baronet of Worstead Hall in the County of Norfolk. The Blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me, and I caused the Widow's heart to sing for joy. In Reverential regard for his beloved parents, George Augustus Brograve, Esq. their only surviving child, has inscribed this plate in their memory, which is also recorded on two tablets in St Mary's Church, Bathwick'. [73a].

Elizabeth Parry Nesbit's life is commemorated by the west window of the Tower/Nave. It contains three main lights depicting angels in various attitudes. The central light shows the figure of Elizabeth Parry Nesbit surrounded by angels and Nesbit shield [Arms: Nisbet of Carfin/Robert Parry Nesbit of Southbroome House. Argent (silver) 3 bears heads, erased sable (black) within a bordure inverted gules (red)] and the words *'Blessed are the pure in heart. And they heard a great voice from Heaven saying "Unto them come up hither" and they ascended up to Heaven in a cloud. Rev. Ch. XI Ver. 12'.* Restored 1988.

The accompanying brass plaque reads: *'In humble submission to the will of God and in grateful remembrance of more than 14 years unclouded happiness this window is most affectionately consecrated to the memory of his dear Betha, by her sorrowing husband Robert Parry Nesbet of Southbroome House, Wilts., Esq. Exhibiting throughout life a sweet happy temper, a meek Christian disposition, doing all in the name of the Lord Jesus. She was peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, bright, joyous and affectionate with a word of kindness for everyone, on the 25th February 1861, while walking out she suddenly fell down lifeless. Loved and lamented. All wept and bewailed her. 'My soul melteth away for very heaviness, comfort thou me according unto they word'. Psalm 119, v28'.*

Elizabeth 'Betha' daughter of Edward and Harriet [Mary] Green of Hinxton Hall, Cambridgeshire (married 11 October, 1779 St Clement Danes, Westminster), was born 29 January, 1800 and baptised 16 February, 1800 St John the Evangelist, Smith Square, London.

She married firstly 25 October, 1832 Rev'd Henry Curtis Smith, MA., (third son of Sir John Wyldore Smith, 2nd Bart of Syding and the Down House, Dorset), born 25 January, 1806 baptised 10 April, Walcot Church, Bath. Educated Balliol College, Oxford and ordained Durham 26 September, 1830; died Bath 19 December, 1834 aged 30.

She married secondly 10 December, 1846, (by Rev'd Francis Smith her brother-in-law), Robert Parry Nisbet, Esq. of Southbroome House, Wiltshire, at Bath Abbey. He was born 23 August, 1793 Mount Pleasant, Nevis, Leeward Island, West Indies one of six children of Walter Nesbet and Anne (née Parry), estate and slave owners. His previous wife, Clara Amelia Harriot whom he married on 17 November, 1817 at Mortlake St Mary had died in 1843 leaving five daughters.

Anne Nesbet, Robert's mother, was daughter of Robert Parry of Plas Newydd, Denbighshire, and Walter's second wife. They had married 19 April, 1784 at St Marylebone, London. She died at Bath 2 December, 1819 aged 67 and buried St Swithin's, Walcot. Robert's first wife, Charlotte, was buried with his mother as also Ann, his sister, who died 30 March, 1867 aged 79 having lived in Bath 52 years.

Robert was a prominent public figure and a wealthy man. Made his mark as a Civil Servant in the Bengal Civil Service, India; moved to Southbroome House (now part of Devizes School). Was a JP; High Sheriff of Wiltshire (1846) and Deputy-Lieutenant (1852) as well as MP for Chippenham (1856-1859).

Elizabeth died 25 February, 1861 aged 61 and the Bath Chronicle's Chippenham news of 7 March carried the following:

'Death of Mrs Nisbet has cast a gloom over the town and neighbourhood. Few ladies were more generally beloved and respected - certainly none whose hearts and purse were more readily opened to acts of kindness and charity, than the lady whose loss all have so much reason to deplore. Mr and Mrs Nisbet had walked into the town on Monday morning between 11 – 12 o'clock with intention of returning home together, but while Mr Nisbet was passing through the street a message was communicated to him that his attendance was required at the Magistrates office. He accordingly went thither and was detained half an hour during which time Mrs Nisbet called at one or two shops and then proceeded to Southbroome. She had, however, only just passed through the gates when she fell in the carriage drive leading to the house and expired almost immediately. She had been under medical treatment for some time previously, but although in delicate health there was every reason to hope that she might have been spared many years'.

She was buried at Bathampton *'the truly affectionate wife'* in a grave containing her mother, Harriet Green, née Humphrys, (relict of Edward), who died 16 September, 1811 aged 34; her mother's sister Frances who died 4 November, 1849 aged 71; her own sister, Harriet Letitia, who died 11 February, 1811 aged 9 years 11 months, all died Walcot, Bath, and, great aunt Letitia Jackson who died 8 January, 1837 aged 82 in Herefordshire.

Robert died on 31 May, 1882 at Southbroome House, Devizes aged 88 leaving £52,000 (5.5 m in 2023) and property in Dinapore. He bequeathed £50 (£500) for purchase of coal and blankets for the poor of Southbroome and £1 (£10) for each person living in bordering alms houses. His grandson, Douglas Robert Halow (1846-1865), was killed in a mountaineering accident a few hours after taking part in the first ascent of the Matterhorn; another, Frank William, won Wimbledon 1878.

Part of memorial inscription in churchyard:

'Within this tomb also repose the mortal remains of Elizabeth Parry Nisbet (Betha) the truly affectionate wife of Robert Parry Nisbet of Southbroom House, Wilts., Esq and daughter of the before named Ed. and Harriet Green who died most suddenly at Southbroome House, the 25th February 1861. The west window in this church is dedicated to her revered memory'. Hipped tomb with curb and dwarf railings. Railings now missing. [A8].

Major General Ralph Edward Allen is remembered by a window of three lights in the west wall of the South Aisle. The left light depicts Edward the Confessor; the centre one shows St George standing on a green dragon and the Allen shield [Per bend angled argent and sable six martlets counter-changed]; and the third a crowned figure. It bears the words *'In memory of Major General Ralph Edward Allen CB who died at Luxor, Egypt 23 February, 1910 aged 64. Placed here by Henry Allen'.*



The Allen family were Lords of Bathampton Manor from 1743 to 1921. Ralph Allen purchased the Manor Estate from his wife's uncle, Charles Holder, in 1743 and following Ralph's death in 1764 the estate passed first to his wife then down the line of Philip Allen, Ralph's brother. Many family members are buried in the mausoleum at Claverton or under the tower or below the Allen Chapel at Bathampton. This chapel is now part of the Australia Chapel, but many of their memorials remain.

Major General Ralph Edward Allen born 23 February, 1846 Nova Scotia was the first son of Major Ralph Shuttleworth Allen and Annie (née Cunard) Lord of Bathampton Manor 1850-1887. Ralph Edward was educated at Eton and had a distinguished military career serving with the East Yorkshire Regiment in the Bechuanaland Expedition 1884-85 and South African War 1899-1901; was made Adjutant General at HQ in 1897-99; awarded CB and latterly acted as a JP for Somerset. He succeeded to the Lordship on the death of his father in 1887. Died unmarried on his birthday, 23 February, 1910 in Luxor, Egypt where he had gone for health reasons and was buried there. The Manor passed to his only surviving brother, Henry Allen, who held it from 1910 to 1921 when he sold the estate off in lots and the Lordship and succession by tail male (by the male line) ceased.

ROLLS OF HONOUR.

The Bathampton War Memorial plaques for the First and Second World Wars are sited on the south wall of the South Aisle and commemorate those villagers who paid the supreme sacrifice whilst fighting for their country. The following gives a brief insight into those listed and the six graves in the churchyard cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, including one whose name was omitted from the First World War roll.

FIRST WORLD WAR, 1914-1919:

This plaque was the initiative of the Parish Council and villagers and was unveiled at a special service held on Sunday, 14 November, 1920. The Vicar of Bathampton, Rev. F. G. White, recited the Roll of Honour; the Address was given by Canon Henry Girdlestone and it was dedicated by the Archdeacon of Bath, the Venerable Lancelot Fish. It was of great importance to many families who had little hope of travelling to see the grave of a loved one - some men had no grave at all - and gave them a place of remembrance. Today it continues to act as a reminder of the effect the War had on this community.

William Harbutt and ex-soldiers in the village proposed a further memorial - a monolith, fashioned from blocks of stone from the Downs cut by men from the village. It was to be dedicated both to those who had died and to those who fought during the conflict. William Harbutt (Chairman of the Parish Council) submitted a Plasticine model and sketches of what was envisaged to a public meeting on 3 February, 1920 and the project was adopted. It was to be placed in that curious curved space that can be seen on the road side at the south east corner of the churchyard facing the canal bridge, created for the purpose. This project, however, did not succeed - possibly due to the death of William Harbutt a short while later.

At the outbreak of War Bathampton had little more than 112 houses and a population of some 427. It is not clear how many residents eventually joined up, but the Bath Chronicle dated 26 September, 1914, (six weeks after War had been declared), reported an initial list of 28 from this parish. No doubt this figure grew as the War progressed.

Fortunately many returned relatively unscathed or had wounds that daily reminded them of the conflict, horrors and pain they had endured, whilst others gave their lives. The following detail, courtesy of Rosemary Dyer, gives a brief insight into the background of the men recorded on the Memorial - who they were, their service and untimely death.

Private George Trevor BARLOW, King Edwards Horse Regiment.

Son of Oldham Thomas and Emily (née Atkinson) Barlow, born at the family home Woodhill, Bathampton Lane. George emigrated to Australia to work in the gold fields, then to South Africa where he was a member of the Natal Mounted Police. He fought in the South African Boer War with Bethunes Mounted Infantry and was wounded from a shot in the chest. He married Jessie Harvey in Johannesburg on 29th May, 1905. Having returned to England he volunteered for the British Army on 26 August, 1914 at White City, London. He was later discharged from the army with Tuberculosis and died in Westminster Hospital, London on 19th September, 1917 aged 47. Burial unknown.

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Ivor Victor BREWER, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Born Bathampton, son of James and Annie (née Hunt) Brewer, and lived at Canal Terrace. After his father left the family, his mother married Thomas Henry Dolman; they then lived at the George Inn. Following the death of his mother Ivor moved in with his grandmother at Norman Villa (10 The Normans). As a professional soldier he served in India and Ceylon as a Bombardier. During the summer of 1916, when serving in France, he was badly wounded in the leg. Then whilst staying in South Wales he married Laura Ada Seldon on 2nd January, 1918. Shortly afterwards he returned to London for an operation to remove his leg, but died after the operation on 7th May, 1918 at the Great Northern Hospital, London aged 32 and was buried at Bathampton on the 10th. His wife, Laura Ada, was living with her parents in Swansea when, twenty months later, she returned to Bathampton and committed suicide by drowning in the canal, leaving letters saying she could not go on without him. The burial register states '*drowned in canal, temporary insanity*'. She was buried with her husband 1st April, 1920.

Memorial inscription:

'In loving memory of Ivor Victor Brewer who died of wounds received in action May 7th 1918 aged 32 years. Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away. Also of Laura Ada Brewer his widow who died March 30th 1920 aged 27'. [C190]. Curbed grave. Maintained by the War Graves Commission.

Second Lieutenant Guy Danvers Mainwaring CROSSMAN, 13th Battalion Welsh Regiment. Son of Rev. Charles Danvers and Isabella (née Mainwaring) Crossman, born High Ham, Somerset. The family moved to St Edith's [now Abbeydale], Bathampton Lane, Bathampton. Before the war Guy was a school master at St Anne's-on-Sea and joined the public school corps as a Private and by August 1915 was serving as an officer in the 13th Welsh Regiment. He *'carried out many enterprises in no-man's-land with great courage'*, and was killed 10th June, 1916 in hand to hand fighting at Mametz Wood, aged 31. Buried Flatiron Copes Cemetery, Mametz, France.

Private Ernest Francis DOLMAN, Canadian Infantry 20th Battalion (Central Ontario Regiment). Son of Annie (née Hunt) formerly Brewer and her second husband, Thomas Henry Dolman, and was half-brother to Ivor Victor Brewer. Born at the George Inn then lived at Little Solsbury View with his father. On the death of his father he, like Ivor, went to live with his grandparents at Norman Villa (10 The Normans). He immigrated to Canada in February 1913 to work on a fruit farm and joined the Canadian Infantry in November 1914. One of the first men in his Battalion to be wounded whilst serving in France. Three weeks after returning to the trenches he was wounded again. On his return, Ernest was with a working party on the road from Ypres when a shell burst close-by wounding him yet again, this time in the chest, he died nine days later on 17th June, 1916 aged 21. Buried Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France.

Sergeant Stanley FUDGE, M.M., 8th Royal Berkshire Regiment formerly Private in 3rd Hussars. Son of Edward and Elizabeth (née Stacey) Fudge born 15 Brooklyn Road, Bath; the family later moved to Bathampton living firstly at Mount Pleasant then 6 Canal Terrace. Stanley was a professional soldier and was wounded in the hand whilst fighting in France, but went back to his Regiment before he was fit for duty *'so he could fight on regardless'*. Awarded posthumously the Military Medal for gallantry in the field. Died 28 July, 1916 from wounds received on the Somme, aged 23. Buried Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, France.

Major Edward Norman GILLIAT, M.C., Canadian Infantry formerly Lieutenant, 3rd East Yorkshire Regiment.

Son of Rev. Edward and Emily (née Bonus) Gilliat; born Harrow, Middlesex the family home before moving to Avonhurst [now Tasburgh], Warminster Road, Bathampton. Before entering the war was a Mortgage Broker having previously been a professional soldier. Served in the South African War, receiving the Queen's medal with three clasps then with the Canadian Infantry at the Second Battle of Ypres; Hill 70; The Somme campaign; Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele. Was awarded the Military Cross in October 1917. During his time fighting at the front was wounded three times. Died 12th August, 1918 at a clearing station after being seriously wounded by a shell, aged 36. Buried Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, France.

Captain Morrell Andrew GIRDLESTONE, 41st Dogras formerly in the Royal Garrison Artillery. Born 29th April, 1879 Bathampton Vicarage, third son of the Rev. Henry Girdlestone, Vicar of Bathampton, and Elizabeth (née Webb) [tablet no. 27 Nave, east wall] and spent his childhood living at Bathampton Vicarage. A professional soldier. He volunteered to fight in the South African War in December 1899 and was posted to The Royal Garrison Artillery in May, 1900, going on to join the India Army as an officer in the 41 Dogras. Morrell married Harriet (née Holmes) in 1903 and they had a daughter, Martha, born in 1910. During WWI recommended for the D.S.O. by his Colonel for his campaign at Neuve Chapelle. He was killed 25th March, 1915 when a bullet hit him in the eye, aged 35. Buried Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, France.

Sergeant Harry Charles GOODING, North Somerset Yeomanry formerly in the Household Cavalry.

Born Bathampton, son of George and Annie (née White) Gooding; the family lived at Rose Cottage then 3 Canal Terrace. Harry had been a professional soldier serving in India until 1913 when he bought himself out of the army and came home to Bathampton. He was one of the first men from the

village to volunteer for WWI. Harry was killed 17th November, 1914, aged 25. It is believed he went over the top to face the enemy who were but 15 yards away saying this was '*something he must do despite the odds*'. Commemorated on Ypres [Menin Gate] Memorial, Belgium.

Lieutenant Colonel Henry Herbert KEMBLE, D.S.O., M.C., 23rd London Regiment.

Son of William and Elizabeth Emma (née Hinde) Kemble, born Purneah, India; spent his boyhood at Beechfield, [*now West House*], Bathampton Lane, Bathampton. Before the First World War was a school master at Charterhouse but by March 1915 was in France with his Regiment. He was mentioned in despatches twice and was awarded the Military Cross and the D.S.O. Died 7th June, 1917 from wounds sustained whilst fighting at Messines Ridge, aged 40. Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. Remembered on parents grave Bathampton churchyard [C104].

Memorial inscription in churchyard:

'In loving memory of William Kemble late Indian Civil Service died February 22 1907 aged 70 years. Also of Henry Herbert Kemble, Lt. Col. DSO., MC., their son who died of wounds received in action at Mennines Ridge, June 7 1917'. [C104].

Corporal John Henry MESSER, 2nd Coldstream Guards.

Son of John Henry and Ellen Fanny (née Newman) Messer, born Highbury Buildings, Walcot, Bath the family subsequently moving to Dog's Nose Cottages and later 5 Canal Terrace, Bathampton. As a teenager John worked as a farm labourer, but joined the Coldstream Guards at the beginning of the First World War. He fought in the first Battle of Ypres and took part in the great Allied offensive of the Somme fighting in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. He was killed 16th September, 1916 aged 20 and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France.

Lieutenant Dominic Macaulay WATSON, West Somerset Yeomanry formerly in the 19th Hussars. Born 23rd July, 1887 Plas Gwynt, Cardiff son of Dominic McGetterick and Amelia Mary (née Thomas) Watson. After his father's death the family came to live at [*the original*] Bathampton House, Bathampton Lane and he was able to live on a private income. In his last action at Gouzeaucourt he could not be persuaded by his fellow officers to stop fighting and '*fought on under very hard fire and shelling*'. Dominic died 3rd December, 1917 of wounds, aged 30 and is buried Tincourt New British Cemetery, France.

Not listed:

Major Richard Aviary Arthur Young JORDAN, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry.

Born 24th May, 1866 Cashel, Tipperary, Ireland son of Richard and Annabelle Charlotte (née Young). After the death of his father, he and his mother came to live in Woolwich, Kent with his grandmother. Richard joined the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry in 1886 and served with the 53rd Foot, 1st Battalion. After many years abroad he returned to live in Wales. Whilst based at Pembroke Dock he married Ella Mary Caroline Grove at St George's, Hanover Square, London on 18 April 1904. He left the army in 1908 but retained the rank of Captain on special reserve returning with the rank of Major in August 1914 when he was posted to serve in France. Died 14th June, 1920 aged 54 at Holcombe Lodge, Bathampton shortly after moving there and was buried Bathampton 16th June. His grave is one of the 6 war graves in the churchyard, although his name does not appear on the Roll of Honour. His wife, Ella (15 January, 1874-13 August, 1951), subsequently married Captain Clare James Garsia (30 November, 1869-25 June, 1952) also of the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. Ella was buried with her first husband and Captain Garsia is interred close by.

Memorial inscription:

'Richard Aviary Arthur Young Jordan, Major late K.S.L.I. died 14 June 1920 aged 54. Also Ella Mary Caroline born 15 January, 1874 died August 13, 1951. Widow of the late R. A. Jordan and wife of Capt C. J. Garsia'. [C172]. Cross on simulated rock. Maintained by the War Graves Commission.

'In loving memory of Captain Clare James Garsia late the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, born November 30th 1869 died June 25th 1952'. [D96]. Raised flat stone with cross carved on top.

SECOND WORLD WAR, 1939-45:

This plaque is also on the south wall of the South Aisle. The Vicar, the Rev Homer Green, maintained a book recording those actively engaged in the conflict throughout its duration. It was kept on the altar and became a focal point for villagers to add the names of those serving, injured or missing. In the first year 42 parishioners had joined up (from a population of 675); on 12 May, 1945 he recorded 110 as serving (although other records state 150) of whom ten lost their lives. When plans were made for a memorial plaque an appeal for names to be put forward resulted in the following list of nine. There may have been more but embargoes surrounding such information prevented further checks. Four of those listed are buried in the churchyard in graves maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission - a further two are also remembered on family or friend's headstones.

2nd Lieutenant Arthur Roy CANDY Transferred to Cyprus Regiment then obtained his commission two months before his death.

Born 1914 son of Sydney James and Mabel Candy of Manor Farm, Bathampton. Before the war he worked for the General Accident Assurance Corporation, Bath. Played Rugby football for King Edward's School and later for the Old Edwardians RFC who he captained for four years. On several occasions he turned out for the Bath 1st XV. Killed 20 April, 1941 aged 26 during Battle for Greece and buried Phaleron War Cemetery, Athens; commemorated on parents grave, Bathampton.

Commemoration in churchyard:

'In memory of Betty Candy died Nov. 7th 1917 aged 2 years. He took them in his arms. Also Roy Candy Second Lt. Cyprus Regiment killed in action April 20th 1941 aged 26 buried Phaleron Cemetery Athens. Even so, Lord. Also of their parents Sydney James Candy died June 23rd 1952. Mable Elizabeth Candy died May 3rd 1971. The peace of God which passeth all understanding'. [C182].

Lieutenant Cyril Henry DANSEY 3rd Battalion 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles.

Born 1924 son of Henry and Jeanne Dansey of Taunton and Bathampton Manor, home of his uncle Sir Claude Dansey. Lieutenant Dansey was killed on 15 March, 1944 alongside Captain Charles Oxlade and eight Gurkha's on the Tiddim-Imphal Road, some days before the Japanese attack on Kohima where the garrison of a mere 1,200 were about to face 12,000-14,000 Japanese. Commemorated with honour Rangoon Memorial.

Ordinary Seaman Bryan George GARD(I)NER Royal Navy.

Born 27 November, 1925 Dunfermline, Fife son of Frederick and Georgina Gardener. Family came to live at 10 St George's Hill, Bathampton, and later moved to 78 Warminster Road. Educated at Portsmouth Grammar School, matriculated in 1943. Came up in the Michaelmas term 1943 as a cadet on the training ship H.M.S. Ganges. Died 31 March, 1944 at 10 St George's Hill, Bathampton aged 18 of Milay Tuberculosis. Buried St Nicholas Church, Bathampton 5 April, 1944 [D44].

Memorial inscription in churchyard:

'Bryan George Gardner Cadet R.N.V.R., died 31st March 1944 aged 18 years. Georgina Gardner died 7th Feb. 1987 aged 90. Frederick George Gardner died 10th March 1963 aged 77'. [D44].

Maintained by the War Graves Commission.

***Sergeant Air-gunner Frederick HARWOOD** Aircraftsman Royal Air Force.

Born 1922 eldest son of Percy Collie and Kathleen Harwood of 3 High Street, Bathampton. A student at Bath Technical College; joined RAF in 1938 soon passing his wireless operator and air gunner course. His last operational tour started on 17 April, 1940 taking off from Lossiemouth in a day time raid on Stavanger, he was lost without trace aged 18. Brother of Corporal Ivy Anne Harwood. His mother used to say if she heard footsteps coming down the village street in the quiet of the night she would think it was Fred coming home. Both his father, sister and younger brother served in World War II. Remembered with honour Runnymede Memorial and on grave of Sergeant Richard Noad, Bathampton [D35], see below*.

***Corporal Ivy Anne HARWOOD** Auxiliary Territorial Service.

Born 1919 daughter of Percy Collie and Kathleen Harwood of 3 High Street, Bathampton. Worked in a milliners in Cheap Street, Bath before joining the ATS as a typist three and a half years before her death. Educated at Oldfield Girls School, Bath; sister of Sergeant Air-gunner Frederick Harwood.

Both father and two brothers served in World War II. Died 20 May, 1943 London aged 23; buried St Nicholas Church, Bathampton 25 May [D36].

Memorial inscription in churchyard:

'In loving memory of Cpl. Ivy Harwood A.T.S., died 20th May 1943, 23 years. You never shirked, you have done your task and left us to remember. Also my dear husband, Percy C Harwood who died November 6th 1948 aged 62. At rest. Kathleen Sophia Harwood dear wife, mother and gran. Died November 27th 1986 aged 94. In sweet memory of Ivy from Peter. In loving memory of May Craig née Harwood 23.2.1928 - 24.12.2005'. [D36]. Maintained by War Graves Commission.

Gunner Arthur Rupert MUNDY Royal Artillery.

Born 1 June, 1922 son of John and Edith Rose Mundy of 10 Chapel Row, Bathampton. Worked for Mr Charles Thomas, Bathampton Coal Merchants, Holcombe Lane, now site of Methodist Chapel, before volunteering for the Army when war broke out. Died 29 August, 1943 aged 21 of wounds. Remembered with honour Imtarfa Military Cemetery, Western Malta.

***Sergeant (Pilot) Richard Harold John NOAD** Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 616 Squadron.

Born 1923 son of John [Jack] and Gladys Noad of 7 Chapel Row, Bathampton. Went to school at Bathampton and was in the village scout troop. Won a scholarship to the City of Bath Boy's School, played Rugby for the school and for Avon Rugby Club. Before joining up worked for David Owen and Co. accountancy, Bath. Killed 11 August, 1942 in a training accident over Britain aged 19; buried St Nicholas Church, Bathampton 18 August [D35].

Memorial inscription in churchyard:

'In loving memory of two pals, Sergt. Pilot R. Noad killed August 11th 1942 aged 19. Also Sergt. Air-gunner F. Harwood killed April 17th 1940 aged 18. And J. Noad loved husband and father died February 14th 1967 aged 69, and of Gladys Reubena dear wife of Jack died June 9th 1988 aged 87. Reunited'. And on flower vase 'To our Pals Bill and Fred from the Youth Club'. [D35]. Maintained by the War Graves Commission.

**Richard Noad and Fred Harwood were villagers and boyhood friends. Fred wanted to join the RAF with Richard but was turned down as he had some webbed fingers. He was so determined that he had them separated and eventually enlisted. He was lost presumed dead following a mission in 1940. His friend Richard died in a training accident in 1942 and his body was returned to the village for burial. A large funeral cortège left his home in the High Street to walk to the church. The coffin was flanked by members of the Boy Scouts and Youth Club of which he was a member. His parents didn't forget his friend Fred and included a tribute to him on the headstone, and the Youth Club placed a flower vase 'To our pals, Bill and Fred'. [D35]. In 1943 Fred's sister Ivy, who was in the ATS, also died and was buried alongside. [D36].*

Sylvia Helen VIAN Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Born 1894 eldest daughter of Alsager and Ada Vian of Gilridge, Edenbridge, Cowden Pound. Was Matron, Royal United Hospital, Bath 1931-1938. Council member of the British College of Nurses, Ex Principal Matron of the Territorial Army Nursing Service. With Red Cross Hospital, Dunkirk, during First World War before her 8 years at Bath. From 16 September, 1939 worked in France organizing hospital and nursing facilities. Whilst on leave during March 1940 taken ill and died before returning to take up work as Matron of important military hospital. No affiliation with Bathampton found. Sister of Rear-Admiral P. L. Vian who was awarded the D.C.O., for his part in rescuing 300 British merchant seamen held prisoners on the Altmark whilst commanding H.M.S. Cossack. She died 16 October, 1941 aged 41 of Richmond House, Weston; buried St Nicholas Church, Bathampton 30 October [B234].

Memorial inscription in churchyard:

'Silvia Helen Vian who died 16 October 1941. She hath done what she could'. [B234]. Maintained by the War Graves Commission.

Captain Edward Roger WAKEFIELD** Royal Artillery attached to the Special Service Brigade. Born 13 July, 1910 only son of Capt. Edward Marcus and Edith Meriam (née Andre) Wakefield, and was living at St George's Hill House, Bathampton which he had inherited in 1937 from his uncle, Thomas Arthur Carless Attwood, Barrister. Edward was a Barrister-at-law, Greys Inn and devout Roman Catholic. Before the war he gave much of his time to the founding and running of the Christchurch Boys Settlement in London. Killed 3 June, 1944 aged 34 whilst serving with the SSB joining with Tito's Partisans to provide a diversionary raid on Brac Island, Yugoslavia whilst the allies were landing in Normandy. Cambridge University benefits from a Scholarship in his name. Buried Belgrade War Cemetery; memorial window St John the Evangelist, Bath. His sister Priscilla Mitchell is buried in the André vault, Bathampton [A55-56].

***Captain Edward Wakefield was a distant relative of Major John André hanged as a spy during the American War of Independence, later exonerated and buried Westminster Abbey. The Major's mother and siblings are buried in the André vault at Bathampton; Edward's sister, Priscilla Mitchell, was buried with them in 2007 [A55-56]. Also related to E. G. Wakefield best known for The Wakefield Colonization Scheme of New Zealand. See also 'St Nicholas Church, Bathampton: Part three - Some Notable Burials', BLHRG, 2024.*

INCUMBENTS

The list of incumbents is given below. The earlier entries are taken from the Registers of Bishops King, Hadrian and Ralph de Salopla¹ and ²³. It shows that during 1348-9, the first two years of the Black Death in Somerset, Bathampton lost four priests. Many saw the plague as God's judgement against sinners; the Bishop of Bath and Wells Bishop ordered processions and services to avert the wrath of God and ordered minor clerks, lay people and even women in absence of men to hear confessions and deacons to administer communion.

INCUMBENTS OF THE BENEFICE OF ST. NICHOLAS, BATHAMPTON		
1261	John	
1297	Alan	
1308	Roger	
1314	Henry of Foleham	
1317	William of Walcot	
1326	John of Badmynton	
1342	John Brown	
1348	William le Vynour)
1348	John Herbert) Period of the
1349	John of Walcot) Black Death
1349	Nicholas of Carssecombe)
1362	William Eade	
1362	John Stafford	
1410	Walter Clyve	
1410	Phillip of Wyllyn	
1413	John Baxter	
1420	Thomas Bateyn	
1421	William Fitz Rauf	
1421	Henry Coventree	
1451	William Crosse	
1459	Gregory Rothymberg	
1464	William Barry	
1465	Hugh Baker	
1467	Roger Crump	
1474	Thomas Portman	
1483	Henry Harwode	
1487	William Biconal	
1493	Thos. Randel	
1500	John Fox	
1501	T. Cogan	

continued...

1527	Richard Gibbons	
1566	Richard Housman	
1571	Matthew Pickeryng	
1577	Thomas Powel	
1606	Ludovicus Jones	
1620	Owen Lewis	
1663	John Doling, BA)
1669	Nathaniel Masters)
1684	Richard Roberts, MA)
1684	Wm. Jones)
1695	Wm. Heath, BA)
1741	Thomas Symonds) <i>With Bathford</i>
1765	Thomas Chapman)
1776	John Berjew)
1790	John Champlin)
1794	John Chapman, DD)
1816	Richard Bedford)
1824	James Carter)
1855	R. Hancock)
1856	Edward Duncan Rhodes, BD	
1866	Henry Girdlestone, BA Emmanuel College, Cambs	
1896	Lancelot John Fish, MA	
1908	Stanley Foster Brown, MA	
1908	John George, MA St John's College, Cambs.	
1912	Henry Gibbon, MA	
1917	Frederick D White	
1927	Richard David Williams, BA St David's College, Lampeter	
1934	Clyde William Jacob (Cantab) Sidney Sussex College, Cambs.	
1938	John Hugh Homer Green, MA	
1946	Edward Clive Childs, BD	
1960	Edgar Sydney Landon, BA	
1966	Gordon Charles Craig Spencer	
1981	Michael Gordon William Hayes, MA Phd	
1988	Oliver James Drummond Bayley, MA	
	<i>[With Claverton from 1993]</i>	
1996	Paul Burden, MA	
2015	Jonty Frith, MA	
<i>One generation shall praise the works to another and shall declare the mighty acts.</i>		

Not much is known of those early clerics but there is one of great note and others who, after the separation from Bathford, had a great influence on the church and its fabric during the nineteenth century.

John Stafford listed from 1362-c1410 was the illegitimate son of Sir Humphrey Stafford of Southwick, Wiltshire and educated Oxford University. He required papal permission to become Rector of Farmborough; later, Vicar of Bathampton and Prebendary of Wells. In 1419 he was appointed Dean of Arches and served as Archdeacon of Salisbury 1419-1422 and from 1422-24 Dean of Wells. Under Henry VI became Lord Privy Seal 1421-2; Lord High Treasurer 1422-1450; 18 December, 1424 Bishop of Bath and Wells, consecrated 27 May, 1425. Pope Eugene IV made him Archbishop of Canterbury May, 1443 which he held to his death in 1452 during which time he officiated at the marriage of Henry VI and Margaret of Anjou on 22 April, 1445. It is said he steered an even course between parties as a moderate man and careful official. Died at his manor in Maidstone, 25 May, 1452. His mother was buried at North Bradley in 1406.

In 1663, or possibly earlier, the church's patrons, the Dean and Chapter of Bristol Cathedral annexed the Vicarage (Benefice) of Bathampton to that of Bathford as neither of them were valued sufficiently to support individual Vicars²⁴. When the Rev. James Carter died in October, 1854 Bathampton parishioners petitioned the Patrons to separate the two parishes and appoint individual vicars. Meanwhile the Rev. R. Hancock was presented to the United Parishes on 17 January, 1855. A year later the Dean and Chapter agreed to split the parishes on condition that living accommodation was

provided at Bathampton - the Parsonage House and most of the Glebe land had been sold to the Fisher family in 1802. (See 'Additional Notes', pp 71-72).

An entry in the Sheppard Diaries reads:

'1854 - During the Autumn of this year there was a great stir in the village as the Rector the Rev W. Carter died. He had been non-resident, and the parishioners were anxious that Bathampton should be separated from Bathford, to which it had always been joined. In preparation for united action in the matter my father (Philip Charles Sheppard) visited the Dean of Bristol who, together with the Chapter, was Patron of the Living; and afterwards a "Memorial" was drawn up by the parishioners and forwarded to him, the result being, after many difficulties had been overcome, that our old and valued friend the Rev. Ed Duncan Rhodes was appointed Vicar of the parish in 1855'.

The Rev. Edward Duncan Rhodes' induction took place on 1 October, 1856. Although the church had come under the Vicar of Bathford for at least two hundred years, it had more recently been in the care of curates who lived in Bath which was not that satisfactory. With this appointment the parish had at last a resident and active incumbent who ministered in a quiet and simple way and became highly thought of by all classes.

CURATES	
Notes from Registers 1813-1853	
1813-17	Thomas Hale
1817-1818	J Fletcher
1818-1819	J Williams
1819-1824	G E Bowles
1843	H E Cruttwell
20/9/1844 - 1851	George Dacre Tyler [of Pulteney Street Bath] middle window in north aisle dedicated to his memory.
1851-1853	J Edward de Visme [of 50 Pulteney Street]

The Rev. Rhodes, BD., was born 13 October, 1797 at Colyton, Devon, son of Rev. George Rhodes.

'A zealous Pastor, a wise and thoughtful teacher, a Preacher of rare eloquence, an affectionate and generous Relative and Friend, a large hearted, noble minded man, of a Pious, Reverent spirit, and cultivated intellect. This church restored in large measure by his liberality and taste, is his finest and most lasting monument. This tablet has been erected to record the love and grief of those to whom within these walls, and from house to house, he ministered so faithfully and well. Dr Magee, Bishop of Peterborough and Archbishop of York'.

He had gained a BA., Sidney College, Cambridge 1819; MA., 1822; BD., 1830 and ordained priest at Exeter Cathedral in 1832. Rector of Ermington and Curate of West Teignmouth, Devon for sixteen years and appointed Prebend of Wedmore the Second, in Cathedral Church of Wells, April 1861²⁵.

As Sinecure* Rector of Ermington (which he held until his death) he came to Bath c1841 with his sister, Susan Loveday Rhodes; the following year he was appointed to the Perpetual Curacy of Kensington which he held for a short time. Prior to 1845 they came to live at Hampton Villa [now Avonstone] in Bathampton Lane, and were possibly first to reside there. They were both great benefactors to the parish and he held the living until his death in 1866. The Bath Chronicle of 29 September, 1866 carried a long obituary stating that during his time *'.... he was responsible for the enlargement and restoration of the church and improvement of the churchyard; instrumental in improving the efficiency of the schools and awakened the zeal and interest of parishioners in church matters. During his incumbency Dissent which had acquired a stronghold in the parish began to disappear.... He was well read and had an extensive library which also contained many priceless engravings. He was courteous, dignified and kind hearted; cheerful, manly and sincere in disposition.... President of the Church of England Young Men's Society; Secretary Church Missionary Society and President Bath School of Art...'*

The organisation of a long neglected parish, the complete restoration and enlargement of the church, and tasteful improvement of the churchyard though the most prominent, were by no means the only evidence of the Rev. Rhodes' care for his pastoral charge.

During his incumbency he was responsible for the building of the North Aisle and a small Vestry as detailed under the renovations for 1859-62. He was also instrumental in securing the site of the first vicarage, adjacent to Hampton Villa and having the plot walled in. His influence on dissenters must have been considerable for the Zionist Chapel established in 1845 in Chapel Row on the High Street was redundant by 1861. Each year, on a day in July, the whole of the parish were invited to tea and supper in the grounds of his house.

His family inherited property from the Andrews family of Lyme Regis and it was under his hands that the Pinetum at Wodehouse, his residence nearby, was planted - now known as the Prescott Pinetum. It was here that he died on 18 September, 1866 where he had gone to recuperate from illness. He was buried 26 September at Bathampton aged 68.

'Mr Rhodes died suddenly much to the grief of his parishioners, among whom he had for 11 years most affectionately ministered and to the especial sorrow of that large circle of friends who far and near had experienced the privilege of his personal friendship. The simple dignity and sweet courtesy of his manner were such as to win the confidence and love of all whose good fortune it was to know him. He was a ripe scholar and an excellent divine. Few men were so thoroughly imbued with a love of poetry as he, or possessed a more complete knowledge of poets and poetic literature, especially of an early date. And though one of the most ostentatious of men, he was ever ready to allow others to profit by the almost boundless resources of his literary knowledge.... His church and parish of Bathampton were the home of his thoughts and affections, as of the labour of his later years. That church, a model of an English country church, restored to its present perfection, mainly by his liberality stands the centre of what he had made a model English country parish - the [] monument to his memory. No truer heart than his was ever laid to rest 'in sure and certain [.....]' within its shadow, no dearer or more honoured memory of teacher, pastor, friend will ever be cherished by those who yet may worship beneath its roof'. Written by Dr Magee, Bishop of Peterborough and Archbishop of York.

'It is impossible to do justice to the character and memory of this estimable and accomplished man, but the church and village of Bathampton must long bear the impress of his energy and devotedness the long-heartedness of his liberality and the excellence of his taste and judgement'.

From 10 May, 1867 and the following three days his valuable library and collections were put to auction by Messrs Sotheby.

Susan Rhodes his sister continued to live at Hampton Villa until her death on 6 April, 1877 aged 94 and buried at Bathampton, 9 April. Like her brother, she had been a great benefactress to the parish, in particular with regards the Sunday School and Voluntary School, and was responsible for the installation of the clock. From at least 1845 the Rev. Rhodes was in possession of two adjoining cottages²⁶ - Diamond Cottages - of two storeys at the corner of the lane leading to today's Normans. In the one on the east side he had a school room. (During the 18th century this area housed the village poor house). On his death this cottage passed to his sister, Susan, who subsequently gave it to the church *'for educational and church purposes'* and it was used partly as a Reading Room and partly as a place for the storage of blankets to be loaned to the needy during the winter. She endowed a charity in her name the interest from which was to go equally to the Vicar and the National School. In her Will she bequeathed further legacies to the School and the Clothing Club. (See p. 58 and 62).

By 1934 the Blanket Room alias Diamond Cottage was much neglected and in a state of disrepair; there were no funds set apart for its upkeep, even had this been considered desirable. The Trust Deed made the Vicar and Churchwardens responsible for its management. As no use could be found for the rooms it was considered that the building should be disposed of and an application made to the Charity Commission for permission to sell. This was subsequently agreed to and at the end of the year the property was sold to Mr Bence now owner of the adjacent cottage for £50. This sum was then invested - any income arising to be made available *'for educational purposes and in 'connexion' with the Parish Church'* in accordance with the Susan Rhodes Trusts declared by Deed 30 August, 1868.

*Sinecure - when a rector of a parish neither resides nor performs duties at the church gifted to him as his 'living' but has a vicar under him, endowed and charged with the cure thereof, this is termed a sinecure living.

The Rev. Henry Girdlestone BA., succeeded Rev. Rhodes. Born 13 October, 1834 and Vicar of Bathampton 1866-1896.

With his wife, Eliza Jane (née Webb), was the first to reside in what was then the new Vicarage [*now a private dwelling*]. He had married in 1862 and had three sons and two daughters. The eldest daughter, Mary, wed the Rev. Lancelot John Fish at Bathampton on 14 May, 1891 who was presented to the living in 1896 after the resignation of his father-in-law.

During his time at Bathampton Rev. Girdlestone boarded pupils and tutored them to read for University examinations.

He was known to be an active and earnest minister. It was during his incumbency that a number of alterations were made to the church. An arch was erected over the entrance to the Vestry, on the south side of the Chancel, to conform with the archway over the organ chamber on the opposite side; and the pitch of the Vestry roof was raised and a pine ceiling installed. At the same time he was also responsible for the construction of the South Aisle, to correspond to the North Aisle, taking in the Allen Chapel and original porch and provision of a new porch. This new aisle gave additional seating for 40 people and all the works were completed in 1882 four years before his resignation.

'The resignation of the living of Bathampton by the Rev. H. Girdlestone removes a familiar figure from our neighbourhood. Mr Girdlestone was appointed Vicar of St Nicholas, Bathampton as long ago as 1866. So that he has laboured there for 30 years. No man was ever more faithful and diligent than he in ministering to the needs of the souls and bodies of those he had to do with. An uncompromising Church man, a homely and striking preacher, a true Pastor in sickness, a most genial neighbour, he may be said, in no conventional sense to carry into his retirement the respect and love of his old parish. We are enabled to state that his successor in the living is the Rev. L. J. Fish who has for some time had charge of the parish and is married to one of Mr Girdlestone's daughters'. Bath Chronicle, 12 March, 1896.

He died 20 March, 1904 at Bournemouth and buried 23 March, Bathampton aged 70. His wife also died at Bournemouth aged 73 and was buried at Bathampton on 31 March, 1917.

'The Rev. Henry Girdlestone died at Bournemouth Sunday 20 March 1904 and burial took place 23 March 1904. He gained a BA at Emmanuel College 1854; ordained Deacon 1856 and in 1857 Priest by Bishop of Litchfield; Curate Kingswinford, near Stourbridge 1856-9; Curate, Penkridge 1859-65. also in Lichfield Diocese. For a year at Westbury-on-Trym and in 1866 presented by Dean and Chapter of Bristol to benefice of Bathampton which he held to 1896 when he retired and went to reside in Weymouth. The choir presented him with a travelling clock. In 1898 accepted the living of Langton Herring near Weymouth, relinquishing it in 1903. He was a genial, energetic man with an encouraging word for all manly athleticism. Fine sportsman with both rod and gun - which was upheld by his eldest son who stroked for Oxford University eight in 1885 and 1886 winning in 1885. His remains were brought by rail to Bathampton station where the coffin was met and procession formed to the church. It was carried by eight parishioners H. Tucker; H. Loveder; H. Adams; W. Adams; E. Adams; A. Snell; H. Bence and J. Lewis'. Bath Chronicle, 24 March, 1904.

One of his sons, Captain Morrell Andrew Girdlestone, was killed in the First World War and is remembered on the Roll of Honour.

His son-in-law **Rev. Lancelot John Fish** succeeded him and went on to be Chaplain at Biarritz eventually returning to Bath as Archdeacon.

More recently the **Rev. Gordon Spencer** was instrumental in establishing the Australia Chapel in 1974 and the 1979 alterations, and, the **Rev. Oliver Bayley** the building of the 1992-3 extension.

There were also some notably long serving Clerks including Samuel Davies who died 6 December, 1817 aged 96 having served 47 years, and, James Holbrook who died 24 October, 1872 having served over fifty years.

THE CHURCH MUSIC

During the 1879 restorations the Organ Chamber was built on the north side of the Chancel and an organ (two-manual) installed. Previously the church music had been rendered from the Tower portion of the church by a few men, ladies and boys and a lady played the harmonium; but there was a choir of men and boys in existence some time before this and certainly during the incumbency of the Rev. E. Duncan Rhodes 1855-1866.



BATHAMPTON CHURCH CHOIR 1864

At (original) Bathampton House

Left to right

Back row standing:; George Payne; Smith; Harry Adams (bass); Rev. Edward Duncan Rhodes (Vicar); John Candy; Tom Candy; Stevens

Second row standing: Bence; Baker; Lewis

Sitting on seat: Bence, Bence and Lewis *Sitting on grass:* Joe Lewis, Baker

In the first instance the organ was built to be played from the North Aisle side of the chamber, the choir was then moved from the Tower and accommodated in the ordinary pews in the North Aisle close to the organ. Then a few years afterwards the organ was reconstructed to be played from the Chancel and an arrangement was made for the choir to occupy what had been the Manor pews on each side of the Chancel. The Vicar's prayer-desk adjoined the front row of the two pews on the Vestry side near the Chancel arch²⁸. In May, 1880 a concert was held on two evenings in the Tithe Barn, Bathampton, lent by Mr Candy, the proceeds of which were for the purpose of improving the organ fund and for the specific object of providing an ornamental case for the instrument.

There was no Choir Vestry until the Vestry was extended in October, 1897 which offered separate space for the Clergy and choir; the choir was then surplised for the first time. Prior to this the choir took their seats entering and leaving by the main church door. Improvements were made to the organ from time to time by the provision of additional stops, a pedal board of radiating pattern and in June, 1932 an electric discus blower was installed '*To the glory of God and in Memory of Mary Trim*' (died May 6, 1931). Despite several 're-builds' the pipe organ was more recently replaced by an electronic one sited towards the east end of the North Aisle, and the choir stalls moved (during the 1979 renovations) from the Chancel to the Nave. The Organ Chamber now forms part of the internal entrance to the 1993 extension.

CHURCH FINANCES and RECORDS

FINANCES

Maintaining and running the church has always been expensive, despite the Chancel being maintained by the tenants, and later, owners of The Parsonage House/Old Rectory up until c1921. There was also income from charitable endowments some of which are detailed below. Fund raising campaigns were run for special projects, but in the main income was derived from raising the church rate; subscriptions; fees; gifts; offertories and, at one time, pew rents or purchases²⁸.

CHARITIES

Over the years there have been a number of endowments to the church with stipulations as to what the interest was to be used for. Details of some of the receipts and payments from these various trusts are recorded in the Charity Returns and Account Books held at the Somerset Heritage Centre²⁹.

These trusts were gifted by wealthy parishioners and include well-known village names such as Walter; Ramsbottom; Sainsbury; Priestley, Barlow, Wilkinson, Hume and Rhodes. These returns make interesting reading with certain names consistently receiving benefits of anything from a few shillings up to £3.00 per annum.

Most of the trusts appear to support Church Accounts whilst income from the Walter Trust was paid out for the upkeep of his tomb - which sometimes amounted to too much, any surplus being paid in to the churchyard account - in addition payments were to be made to twelve poor people of the village chosen by the Vicar and Wardens, amounting to an average payment of 4s 6d each per annum. The Mary Hume Trust was, as detailed in a tablet in the North Aisle, for the upkeep of her and her brother's tomb by '*a poor person of the parish*' amounting to an average of 4s 6d per month and an annual payment to the churchyard fund of six shillings. Although listed, this tomb was exhumed during the 1993 extensions and the stone work laid flat in the north east corner of the churchyard - full detail of furnishings etc. can be found in '*Nineteenth century Bath-stone walled graves of Bathampton*' by Margaret Cox and Gwyne Stock (Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Proceedings, Vol. 138, 1994).

As already related in greater detail, both Susan Rhodes and her brother, Rev. E. D. Rhodes, were great benefactors to the village. During her lifetime Susan had been instrumental for the placing of the church clock; supporting the National School that existed in the area of today's Coronation Cross, and the gift of Diamond Cottage, and its school room, to the church for educational and church purposes - subsequently used partly as a Reading Room and partly as a place for the storage of blankets to be loaned to the needy during the winter. In addition she had also made an endowment of £380 invested in the Madras Railway Co. which in 1870 she made up to £400 the interest arising to go equally to the Vicar and the Bathampton National School. When the school was to be replaced by the Board School in 1896 it was felt that the money would be only going to relieve the ratepayer and that this could not have been the intention. By an order of the Charity Commissioners of 20 August, 1895 the £200 appropriated to the old school became vested in maintaining and supporting the Church Sunday School. Susan had died in 1877 and in her Will bequeathed 19 guineas each to the Blanket and Clothing Charities and the old school Clothing Club.

Both the Blanket and Clothing Charities were funded by annual subscriptions from the more wealthy parishioners in support of those villagers less well off. There were, in addition, similar subscriptions made to a Sick Club, Choir Fund, Church Account and the Parish Poor Relief.

Some of these Trusts have since been dissolved whilst others remain active and used for the purposes originally intended.

PEWS

Generally a personal pew might be acquired by paying an annual rental, or by purchase, in which case it became the inheritable property of the family.

In Bathampton's submission for the 1851 census return for churches 32 free sittings and 88 other sittings with average attendance of 74 in the mornings, 66 in the evenings and 26 Sunday scholars were given, while in 1858 it is noted that there were 228 sittings, 62 of which were free.

At Easter, 1862 Mr William Charmbury of The Grange was given a certificate in recognition of a donation towards the building of the North Aisle and a free pew, No. 24, sitting five people³⁰. Then in February, 1928³¹ his son, James, presented this freehold pew back to the Churchwardens as a thanks offering for recovery from illness - *'It is to be a "free seat for ever"'*.

The Vestry Minutes³² of 24 April, 1862 gives a list of pew numbers (1-40), the house each pew related to, the owner and the occupier to which they were allocated - revised to record which pews belong to whom in relationship to a new numbering system following the addition of the North Aisle. This shows twelve pews as being 'free' which tallies closely to the 1858 figures. Had the rest been just allocated to properties or had they, at some time, been individually purchased? There is no mention of any annual payments or purchase within the few accounts that survive. It appears they then went with the house, as, for instance, when the Old Rectory was sold in 1866 the particulars included that *'With the property will be sold the Lay Rectory of the Parish of Bathampton, with all rights and privileges thereto attached, including the Chancel of the Parish Church which contains two pews capable of seating ten persons. Two pews in the new aisle of the Church capable of seating 6 persons are also annexed to the property'*. The property was purchased by Major R. S. Allen (the Lord of the Manor) and the seating presumably became additional to that already held by the Manor, although this was partially lost when the Allen Chapel became part of the new South Aisle.

In 1876 William Lewis wrote¹⁰ of his attendance at a service: *'The sermon is given at the afternoon service, and so the congregation separated at the conclusion of the pre-communion service. I must nevertheless warn any of my readers who may choose to walk out to this little church that strangers are apparently desired to stay away as I saw that all visitors, whether they had ladies with them, or not, were not accommodated with seats, but marched over to forms placed in the avenue (aisle?), where they were in the way of the congregation passing to their seats. Whether the pews are all appropriated and the sexton fears the anger of the owner if he accommodates strangers I do not know, but the want of politeness is not the fault of the Vicar, on whose part I noticed one or two acts of singular courtesy'*.

The ownership of pews possibly gave rise to the expression *'you are sitting in my pew'* ...!

The Annual Report for the Church for 1903 stated *'all seats are free and 60 unallotted'*. No record has been found as to when the system was discontinued.

CHURCH RECORDS

In 1538 Cromwell issued a mandate that all births, marriages and deaths were to be registered weekly by the minister and witnessed by the Churchwarden. Vestry Account Books were also to be kept. These records were to be placed securely in a specially made 'sure coffer' - the parish chest - made secure by iron strappings and three different locks, each lock having but one key. These were held individually by the Vicar and Wardens alike - the idea being that the chest couldn't be opened without all parties being present. These early records were often on loose sheets and many did not survive, which would appear to be the case for Bathampton. This ceased when an order signed by Elizabeth I in 1598 required that all loose leaf registers be transcribed into parchment books and that all future records must be recorded in similar bindings.

The 'Vestry' dealt not only with church affairs but was the governing body of the parish, whilst the Court Leet and Court Barons of the Manor covered such things as the running of the estate lands, tenants and law and order. It not only held yearly meetings when parishioners gathered to approve the churchwarden's income and expenditure accounts but was responsible for appointing Overseers of the Poor; Surveyors of the parish Highways, Beadles, Tythingmen, Churchwardens, etc. It was also empowered to raise the poor rate, church rate and highways rate. Much of this changed during the 19th century with the introduction of County Councils, Parish Councils etc., 'the Vestry' becoming today's Parochial Church Council, dealing only with church matters.

The actual registers of births, marriages and deaths for Bathampton do not survive prior to the 1700s however, transcripts taken from the Bishops Transcripts combined with these original registers are available from 1599. Apart from recent ones very few other records have survived. They are held by the Somerset Heritage Centre and detailed in their catalogue. Although there are many gaps and of poor quality they give an insight to the workings of the Vestry and Church, for instance:

The 1817 Churchwarden accounts show payments for vermin caught - 3s. for sparrows; a martin cat 1s; 2 foxes 2s and a pole cat 1s. During 1862 and 1863 - 80 lbs of candles £4 2s 8½d were purchased; a Beadle was paid £3 and during 1864 keeping order in the churchyard cost 15s 5d and in 1865 it cost 19s 6d for a Constable (or Tythingman) to do the same.

The Vestry Minutes of 6 April, 1863 recorded that *'A Vestry held in the vestry room moved that the meeting be adjourned and reconvened to meet at the George Inn, when lots more people attended!'*

The Vestry was responsible for the Poor House that stood on the site of today's Diamond Cottage and adjoining cottage and would have been replaced by the Bath Union Workhouse in the late 1830's. The first record of its existence appears in Ralph Allen's Map and Schedule of his Manor of Hampton dated 1743-1765. The accounts of the Overseers of the Poor from 1810-1825, (when the population of the parish was little more than 150), state that relief was to be given only to those in the Poor House. and lists up to 15 named parishioners within any one year detailing total payment made and weekly rate, along with assistance with clothes; provision of coffins and men to convey them to the church. Payments for coal, those in distress, doctors and medicines together with rent for the Poor House and its upkeep were also being met from the Poor Rate. There is no other mention of the workings of the building or its actual inmates. The Burial Registers list three burials during the 1820s which state they are from *'the Bathampton Poor House'* but burials of many named in the accounts go unrecorded - perhaps the shilling to pay for the body to go into the church before committal couldn't be found. Expenses of a jury and the burying of those found dead in the parish not parishioners were also met.

Costs were also paid for the lying-in of unmarried mothers and for finding errant fathers who, by law, were liable, and the expense of bringing them to justice. By so doing it was hoped that such expenditure would be recouped from the father and that he would continue to support the child rather than this falling on the parish. There is one case where this must have failed as there are a number of payments for *'Charmbury's bastard'* during the first few years of these accounts. This is likely to be George Charmbury baptised 22 December, 1799 and given as illegitimate, surprisingly no mother is given. When the payments stop he would have been 11 or 12 year's old and then put to work.

The Miscellaneous Receipts and Accounts for 1902-1934³² show numerous items and payments to the less wealthy still being paid out -

1902		7s.6d. paid to Mr Bence for flag flying (and subsequent years).
1903	June	Mrs Walter Snell lying-in 10s.
	28 May	Ann Smith £1.
	21 May	White for helping old Mrs White 10s.
	31 December	Towards Albert White's outfit for entering Kensington Crippled Home £3 (Reimbursed by Mrs Lemann).
		Old Bence 10s. 3 Tons of coals £3.15s.0d.

1904	Feb	Mrs Hiscox lying in 10s.
	16 March	Mundy - tobacco - 10s.
	April	Snell - lying in Club 10s.
		Snell food 4s. Mrs Trimby 4s.
		Tonic pill 1s.6d.
		Mrs Messer lying-in 10s.
	August	Beef tea 1s.6d.
	September	Mrs A. Loveder's girl ill, milk etc. etc. 10s.
	October	Mrs Edwards ill 10s. groceries.
		Anne Smith for spectacles 17s.6d.
	7 November	Stacey 5s.
	30 December	Coal half a ton to six at cost £4.
	31 December	2 doz. port for sick and church £2.8s.
1905	28 Feb	Linseed meal 5s.
	4 November	Funeral of White's daughter £1.
1906	7 February	Beef tea for 1 month Mrs Snell 16s.6d.
1907	January	Four weeks for W. Tucker at Weston-super-Mare £1.
	July	Lying-in Mrs Hall/Marsden 10s. each. Dinners 2s. Soup 1s.9d.
	August	Hire Water Bed for W. Adams 5s. Dinners 1s.
1908	22 February	Mr Wm. Ball out of work 5s. Various tickets on Smith's Shop.
1909	5 Jan	Half ton coal - Mrs Trimby, Mrs Bence, Miss Smith, Mrs W Adams, Mr Fletcher, Mrs Rideout, Mr Dolman (Senior).
	12 March	Tucker half of doctor's consultation fee 10s.
	5 August	Hunt - 3 weeks sick relief of accident 10s.
	3 September	Richard Dolman sick 5s.
	21 September	Tom Ogilvie after accident 8s.3d.
	27 October	Mrs Short confinement 10s.
1910	17 February	Milk etc. to measles patients in epidemic £1.13s.10d.
	25 April	To Anne Smith for Mrs Melksham's confinement 10s.
	22 July	K. Tucker towards fee for operation £1.
	5 July	Munday towards glass eye 5s.
		Mrs Wheeler towards doctors bill 10s.6d.
1911	25 March	7 x half tons of coal for 7 poor persons £4.1s.8d.
	1 April	Ann Smith half cost of specs 5s.
	9 November	Winnie Snell towards doctor's bill 18s.9d.
	3 July	Wartuaby for belt 5s.
1912	28 February	Wartuaby ticket to Sanatorium £1.11s.
		Mrs White beef tea 2s.6d.
1913	28 April	Gladys Doleman specs 1s.6d.
		Mrs Williams 5s. for specs
1914	5 November	Anne Smith blankets 8s.
	11 December	To blankets for the poor £2.19s.3d.
	22 and 29	Mrs Trimby - nurse 3s.
1915	8 November	Evans and Owens 18s. Blankets.
		Anne Smith blankets 8s.
1916	3 May	Blankets (Hodgson) 10s.
	6 May	Anne Smith Blankets 8s.
1917	November	Mrs Fudge for Emily's funeral 5s.
1918	17 May	A soldier 5s.
1919	7 September	Anne Smith for laying out Wheeler 5s.
1920	15 August	Bovril and Tobacco to Snell.
		Calf's foot jelly to Munday 1s.3d.
1927	15 November	Ann Smith blankets.

After this entries become very vague - often just names and sums of money. The Book ends in 1934.

Coal Contractors
and
Colliery Agents

6, Down Lane,
Bathampton,
Nov 14 1930

A clear fire : a
clean hearth &
the vigour of the
game :
Clean hearth.

Dr. to
Reo R. Williams

Bathampton Coal Service,
(C. G. Thomas).

Date.	Description.	Tons.	Cwts.	Price.	£	s.	d.
Nov 29 th	Coal Supplies Mrs Smith Bathampton		1			2	-
Dec 6 th			14			8	-
Jan 3 rd			3			6	-
Feb 1 st			14			8	-
March 4 th	Paid L. A. Thomas with thanks				7	14	-

Coal, for distribution. Bill dated, 4 March, 1930.

Many names occur frequently throughout the various account books as being in receipt of support. One beneficiary that crops up during the latter part of the 1800's and beginning of the 1900's is that of Ann Smith. She was born in Bathampton, continued to live with her father after her mother died and was the untrained village nurse for some years. Around c1907, a few years after her father's death, she moved to Diamond Cottage still owned by the church and once the site of the poor house. This may have been due to her reduced circumstances or in part recompense for work she did within the parish. She was in receipt of payments for cleaning the church and was often named as one of the poor receiving payments from the Walter Trust. In the above accounts she is in receipt of money towards spectacles, and for performing laying-out and lying-in duties and also for blankets. She was most likely to have been in charge of the blanket room which was housed at the cottage and these payments were for additional stock. Coal was often delivered to her before being distributed to the needy. During the 1920s she was in receipt of the monthly payment of 4s 6d 'to a poor woman' for the upkeep of the Hume tomb. She died 25 January, 1934 aged 77. The cottage was in a sad state of repair there being no funds for its upkeep, so the church decided to dispose of it.

The Preacher's Book from 1862-1897³³ records not only the services and communion but the weather and collections taken. On 25 March, 1892 the Vestry was to appoint a Pew Opener, Church Cleaner, Churchyard Warden, Overseers and Waywarden and on 9 April 1897 a Confirmation Service was held - the first time the Bishop had officiated here. It also details funds sent for causes beyond the parish, from 1870 an annual collection for the Royal United Hospital started; £25.15s.11d was sent for the French and German Sick and wounded aid fund followed by £18 for supply of bibles to those soldiers; £4.2s was sent for the Italian Famine Relief and support also went to the Church Missionary Society. Bible Society Readings took place in the old school room and so on. The choir sang the collect on the 7th Sunday after Trinity in 1881 and in 1883 the church was closed for mortar to be taken off the walls and stone painted. On 21 June, 1887 a special Jubilee Day Service was held at 2.15 pm followed by a festival in Dolman's Field; a flag pole erected on the tower and a tessellated pavement in the Chancel constructed. In 1888 a collection for poor women was made following the Whitechapel murders.

CHURCH PLATE

Included in the church plate are such pieces as a cup with date letter for 1573 and a cover with 1574 on the bottom, and an alms dish with date letter 1686. A paten with date letter for 1854, another paten with date letter for 1896 and a flagon with date letter for 1851³⁴.

CHURCHYARD

The first recorded burial was in 1599 but no tombstones, or burials, prior to the 18th century have been identified, apart from those in the church; many memorials are now unreadable.

The churchyard contains a considerable number of graves of people who weren't parishioners. During the 18th century to mid-19th century Bath City churchyards were becoming full and people chose to be buried in villages such as Bathampton, away from the smoke and grime of the City. A large proportion of whom had resorted to Bath for the season or seeking cures for their ailments but had died whilst so doing. For instance during the period 1810-1820, inclusive, there were 390 burials of which 361 were from elsewhere and only 39 from the parish, despite double burial fees being charged for non-residents.

The mid-19th century saw new cemeteries being established in the City including:

- Abbey Cemetery on Ralph Allen's Drive consecrated 30 January, 1843;
- Bathwick Cemetery - Smallcombe, laid out 1856;
- Lansdown c1844;
- Locksbrook (Walcot and St Saviours) consecrated 1841;
- Lyncombe, Widcombe and St James Cemetery (Lower Bristol Road) consecrated 6 January, 1862;
- Roman Catholic Cemetery, Pope's Walk consecrated 1851;
- St Michael's, Upper Bristol Road near Locksbrook consecrated 16 June, 1862;
- Unitarian Cemetery Lyncombe c1819³⁵.

In order to meet the demand for burial plots expansion of the churchyard was necessary. Originally the yard was just the immediate ground surrounding the church with an entrance in line with the church to the east (the wall is now blocked-up but its existence is clearly noticeable from the old farm lane, ie north of the present entrance).

Details of extensions have already been given, but in short the pieces consecrated on 16 June, 1862 and 26 June, 1904 were on land to the south of the church given respectively by Major Ralph Shuttleworth Allen and Major-General Ralph E. Allen the then Lords of the Manor.

In 1921 Henry Allen, the last Lord of the Manor, sold off the Estate in lots. This gave rise to the beginning of the village's expansion and even greater need for a larger churchyard. It was now that the church was able to purchase the rest of the adjoining land (to the south), the dividing wall was dismantled and on 13th October, 1931 this further extension to the churchyard was consecrated.

During the Second World War iron railings enclosing tombs in the churchyard were removed and smelted down for arms manufacture. Those surrounding the Bowen family grave are the only ones to have been renewed.

The 1997 Sites and Monuments Register of the National Monuments Department listed 32 chest tombs dating from the late 18th century to early 19th century as Grade II monuments. (See Appendix p. 70).

The building of the 1993 extension meant that some 55 graves (29 walled and 26 earth) were disturbed and memorial stones removed and relocated including some eight listed monuments see *'Nineteenth century Bath-stone walled graves of Bathampton'* by Margaret Cox and Gwyne Stock (Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Proceedings, Vol. 138, 1994). Many memorial stones were lined along the low bank surrounding the extension or joined those that had, in the past, been placed along the east wall of the churchyard. A few others were re-erected nearby.

Apart from the six war graves already detailed, the churchyard contains the resting place of a number of notable people including Viscount du Barry killed in a duel on Bathampton Down 1778; Elsie Luke murdered on Bathampton Down 1891; The family of Major Andre hung as a spy during the American War of Independence later reinterred in Westminster Abbey; Richard Jones, Clerk of Works to Ralph Allen 1776; the artist Walter Sickert 1942 and his wife, artist Thérèse Lessore 1945; William Harbutt inventor of Plasticine 1921 and the parents of the eminent geologist Sir Roderick Impey Murchison 1796 and 1836. Full details of these and others are given in - *'St Nicholas Church, Bathampton: Part three - Some Notable Burials'*. BLHRG, 2024.

PARSONAGE HOUSE - OLD RECTORY - VICARAGE

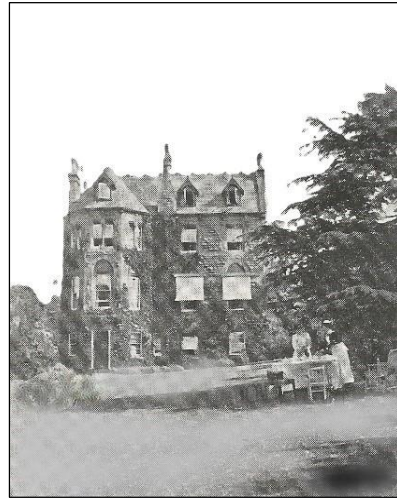
The site of the original Parsonage House (*Old Rectory*) had been ordained since 1317 and was in the hands of the Monastery of St Peter and Paul, Bath. Using the many springs that arise in its curtilage fish ponds were created and looked after by le Fishere family who appear to have lived on the site up to the Dissolution when the property passed to the Dean and Chapter of Bristol Cathedral. The Fishers were responsible not only for paying an annual rent of £10 and providing *'one fat capon to the Dean and Chapter at Michaelmas'* but also for ensuring that at least four sermons were preached each year at the main festivals and were responsible for the upkeep of the Chancel. Their tenancy transferred to the Dean and Chapter and continued up until 1802 when the family purchased not only the existing property but also much of the Glebe land. As already discussed they sold the property in 1866 to Major Ralph Shuttleworth Allen, the Lord of the Manor, who then became responsible for the upkeep of the Chancel. A sundial, still to be seen on the east chimney of the house, was erected and inscribed by William Fisher in 1697. (See also *'House Histories - Old Rectory, Bathampton'*, 2011, BLHRG).



The much extended Parsonage House (*Old Rectory*) of 2007.

From at least 1667 the parish was joined with Bathford and the incumbent lived in the Vicarage at Bathford assisted by curates from Bath. It is not clear where previous Vicars of Bathampton lived or whether, as proposed earlier, accommodation was built adjoining the churchyard.

In 1855/6 following petitions from villagers, the patrons agreed to separate the two parishes, only if living accommodation was provided. Mr Vivian, Lord of Claverton Manor, gave two acres of land to Major Allen in exchange for a suitable site - the next plot immediately adjacent to the Rev. Rhodes' home, Hampton Villa [*Avonstone*], in Bathampton Lane. The Rev. Rhodes paid to have the ground walled in and a considerable building fund was raised during his incumbency. The 'new' Vicarage *'was built by his successor the Rev. Henry Girdlestone, who bore the balance of the cost himself'*.



Front and rear views of the Vicarage, c1930s.

In 1969 this '*large, four storey at rear, Victorian edifice*' was replaced by a more modern property which was erected in its grounds and paid for by the generous gift of a parishioner and the money from the sale of the old building, which passed into private hands, now known as St Nicholas House.

THE CHAPELS - PARISH ROOM - CHURCH HALL - VILLAGE HALL

The Chapels and Parish Room:

The original Chapel in Bathampton was converted into a place of worship in 1845 from two cottages that formed the part of Chapel Row which runs northwards from the High Street³⁶. In 1851 it was recorded in the census return for churches as a Zionist Chapel seating up to 200 (including a gallery); services being held on Sunday evenings at which an average of 24 attended and conducted by itinerate preachers. By 1861 the building was redundant and eventually became the Parish Meeting Room. It was used for numerous activities including meetings, jumble sales and concerts and from the early 1900s used also by the Bathampton Sea Scouts and Boy Scouts.

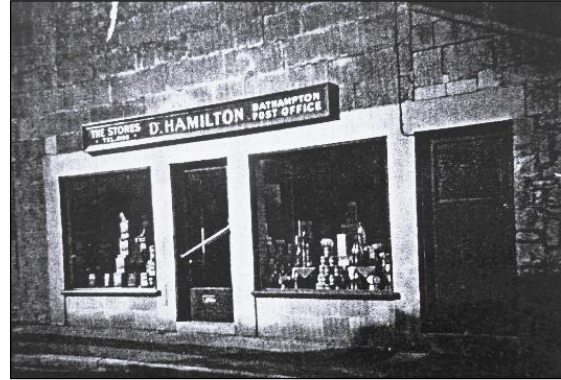


The Zionist Chapel from the south east.



Left. Donald Hamilton's Provisions and Post Office established in his front room of 5 High Street which he relocated to the Old Chapel when it was sold c1935. To its right is the old Zionist Chapel seen here as the Parish Room, c1930s.

Below. The Chapel/Parish Room as a shop, late 1930's.



For a while some small Methodist meetings were held in either Myrtle or Rose Cottage, the adjoining cottages, but there is no record of how frequently they were held or who took them, presumably by visiting preachers.

As the village started to expand in the 1920s, so, once again, did Methodism and in 1929 a prefabricated asbestos chapel was erected opposite the top of Down Lane (the site now used for the Scouts Hut). This was replaced in 1972 by a more modern, permanent building, in Holcombe Lane on the site of Mr Thomas's Coal Yard, east of today's Village Hall.



The Chapel of 1929.



The Methodist Chapel of 1972.

Church Hall:

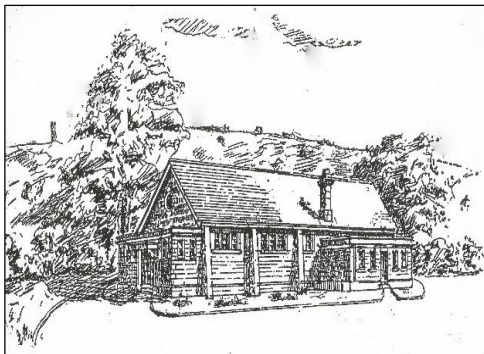
With this expansion came the need to provide a larger hall and plans were drawn up for a building which was to be called the 'Phillip Hall' in memory of Admiral Arthur Phillip and there were hopes some backing might be attracted from Australia. During the early 1930s the church started to raise funds to provide such a venue on 28 perches of land in Holcombe Lane given by Percival M. Willcox c1933 in memory of his parents William and Eliza - William had been Honorary Architect to the church on many occasions. (See also pages 37, 39-40).

This land was part of 'Six Acres' a field which bordered the Warminster Road, Down Lane and Holcombe Lane, purchased by Mr Frank Lock of Holcombe Farm at the time the Manor Estate was sold in 1921. He had subsequently sold part of it for the development of houses in Down Lane and in 1929 a plot fronting Holcombe Lane from the south to Mr Albert Hawkins for five houses and a builders yard. The plot given for the hall was just to the east of these houses between Hawkins' builders yard and Thomas's Bathampton Coal Yard and fronted Holcombe Lane.

Due to prohibitively high costs involved in a stone structure it was agreed to purchase a second-hand wooden building from the Bath YMCA - originally erected by the Army Department in Oldfield Park - at a cost of £750 which included levelling the site and assembly. It was formally opened on 30 May, 1935 together with a fête, followed by a dance in the evening and the next day with a comedy drama. Within a few months a heating system was added. The old Parish Room, in the High Street, was sold and became a Grocery and Post Office store; since when it has had a number of retail uses and by 2020 has been remodelled as living accommodation once more.

The hall was legally the property of the church and originally intended for church purposes such as the church work of Bathampton, divine worship, Sunday Schools, bible classes and confirmation classes. But it had been paid for by villagers and clearly regarded as a 'Village Hall'. Demand on its use was such that its administration soon came under a Management Committee who also ran a regular entertainment programme consisting mostly of fund raising events such as frequent Whist Drives, Socials, Film evenings, Concerts and Dances - it had a good dance floor. Other groups started using it and soon there was a Sports Club offering table tennis, board and card games etc. which met several evenings a week. The building was large enough to house a Badminton Club which successfully competed in games against other villages. It soon became the centre of village life.

On the 27 May, 1950 this wooden structure was completely destroyed by fire and plans to fund raise and build a more robust structure were soon in hand. The new build was of Bath stone faced blocks and was of similar shape as the previous building, long and narrow, with a central door. Either side of the door were toilets and beyond them was a cloak room on the left and kitchen on the right. It wasn't as high as previously so badminton was no longer possible.



Sketch of the proposed 1930's 'Phillip Hall'.



The new church hall, c1955.

Over the years several attempts were made to transfer the ownership and running of the hall from the Parish Church Council to some form of village based Management Committee had failed. At a public meeting held 17 November, 1989 an advisory committee was formed who subsequently sent a circular to all residents asking for their opinions regarding the hall. The two solutions that appeared to be the most popular were - a) that a larger hall with improved amenities on a central site, possibly on part of the playground area, be built, or b) that the Parish Council should negotiate to purchase the Parish Hall from the Church and set up a Trust to run it as a proper Village Hall. The Trustees could then raise money to improve the existing hall and ownership would enable them to apply for grants from public funds. The second solution was subsequently adopted. The hall site was valued at £60,000 and the Parish Council applied and were successful in obtaining a loan enabling the purchase to go ahead. The hall now passed out of church hands and the proceeds of the sale were used towards the funding of the 1992/3 church extension.

Village Hall:

At a special parish meeting on 23 April, 1990 a draft constitution for the proposed Bathampton Village Hall Trust was discussed and a lease and trust deed signed. The Management Committee Trustees were to consist of three elected members and 11 members representing organizations using the Hall. On the 10 December the running of the hall passed to the Trustees and on 8 May, 1991 became a registered charity. It was *'for use of inhabitants of Bathampton without distinction of political religious or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, recreation with object of improving condition of life for inhabitants'*.

The hall was now in need of refurbishment - toilets needed replacing, the kitchen required updating and enlarging and a small adjoining meeting room was proposed. Fund raising events took place but it was realised that due to high costs the work could only be carried out in several phases. Phase one took place in 1993, a new front entrance and foyer were created on the east side together with toilets and disabled facilities enabling the kitchen to be enlarged and modernized.

Phase 2 was undertaken during 1995 which provided a meeting room and store room on the east side, behind the new foyer, with glazed doors interconnecting with the main hall; and a play area created outside. In 2000 the roof was changed to an insulated, profiled metal sheet system and double-glazed windows installed which were replaced in 2023. The hall continues to be well used and maintenance and improvements ever ongoing.

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13. See *'Lords of Bathampton Manor'*, Bathampton LHRG.
14. Edmund Rack MSS for his Survey of Somerset 1781-8. Somerset Heritage Centre. (See also printed edition by Mark McDermott and Sue Berry, Somerset Archaeological Society, 2011).
15. Major Charles Edward Davis died May 1902 aged 75. For 40 years served Bath as its architect and also ran successful architects practice inherited from his father Charles Davis Snr. - many thought he had a conflict of interests. This became very controversial latterly and his work for the Council was curtailed. Mainly remembered for excavating and exposing the Roman Baths in the 1880s and fundamental in the building of the Treatment Centre and Empire Hotel. Undertook much church work including restorations, minor builds and some new buildings invariably Gothic in style. See Major Davis - *'Architect and Antiquarian'*, Barry Cunliffe. Bath History, Volume 1, 1986. (Includes portrait).

16. Full account given in Bath Chronicle, 30 June, 1904.
17. 'Dedication of the Australia Chapel, St Nicholas Church, Bathampton 1975'. Bath Library, pamphlets S265.9.
18. Katherine Symonds, 1935.
19. Mathew H. Bloxom, 'Companion to the principles of Gothic Ecclesiastical Architecture'. 1829. 11th ed. 1882, George Bell & Son, pp 20-21.
20. Sit William John Hope, 'The Bathampton Effigy'. Article in Bath Weekly Chronicle, 1 August, 1914 and Parish Magazine.
21. K. E. Symonds, 'The Bathampton Effigy'. Rep. in Bathampton Parish Magazine April and May, 1935.
22. Miss A. Violet Gandy, 'Old Font at Bathampton'. February 1935.
23. 'Somerset Incumbents', Hugo MSs in British Museum 39279-8 ed. Frederic William Weaver, 1889.
24. Documents held by Bristol Record Office ref. EP/A/14/7 dated 1765 transcription of reconsolidation of Bathampton with Bathford given under 'Additional Notes' below.
25. Gentleman's Magazine, Vol. 221, p 566.
26. Diamond Cottages are shown in the plan and schedule to 'The Bath to Newbury Direct Railway, 1845 - the Light Railway Commission', Somerset Heritage Centre, Q\RUP/186. Gives owner as Rev. E. D. Rhodes, and the eastern cottage partly used as a school room. Now known as Diamond Cottage, and, The Cottage.
27. Church Magazine, July 1937.
28. Somerset Heritage Centre Fiche ref. D\P\BAHTON/4/1/2.
29. Somerset Heritage Centre ref. D\P\bahton 17/3/1 1923, and, DD\C\35 Bathampton Charities, returns for Bathampton.
30. See documents relating to the Charmbury family held by Bathampton LHRG.
31. Bath Chronicle, 3 March, 1928 p 20, column 4.
32. Miscellaneous Accounts 1902-1934 held by Somerset Heritage Centre reference D\P\bahton 4/4/1, and, The Vestry Minutes 1862-1903, Somerset Heritage Centre reference D\P\bahton 7/1/1.
33. Preachers Book 1862-1897 held by Somerset Heritage Centre, reference SRO D\P\bahton 2/5/1.
34. T. Scott Holmes, 'Ecclesiastical Records of Somerset'. Barimott and Pearce, Taunton. 1914. Bath Library S274.238.
35. R. E. M. Peach, 'Street Lore of Bath'. London, 1893.
36. Chapel and cottages are shown in the plan and schedule to 'The Bath to Newbury Direct Railway 1845 - the Light Railway Commission'. Somerset Heritage Centre, Q\RUP/186. Owned by Alfred Augustus Harvey who lived at Bathampton Lodge and practiced medicine in Bath. Also listed in 1851 Census Return entitled 'Schedule of places of Religious Worship not belonging to the Established church'.

Further Reading:

- BATHAMPTON CHURCH MAGAZINES 1934, 1935 and 1914.
- BATHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: 'St Nicholas Church, Bathampton: Part two - Interior Memorials Explored' and, 'Part three - Some Notable Burials'. 2024.
- BATHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: 'The Bathampton Poor House'. 2024.
- BATHAMPTONLOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: 'Chapels; Parish Room; Church Hall and Village Hall. 2025. Unabridged version.
- BATHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: 'Bathampton Memorial Inscriptions'. 2005.
- COLLINSON, John, 'History and Antiquities of Somerset'. 1791.
- DAVIS, Charles Edward, 'Ancient Landmarks of Bath'. 1864.
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- SCARTH, H. M., 'The sculptured effigy in the east wall of Bathampton church'. Archaeological Association, Vol. 34.
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APPENDIX

From National Monuments Sites and Monuments Register, 1997 Listings for Bathampton Churchyard

6 Chest tombs	SW corner of church: 1786-96 Atkinson of Bath [A126] 1793-96 Smith of Bath [A124] 1788-96 Elkington of Bath [A125] 1819 Wright [A119-120] One panelled One with corner balusters and foliage
Chest tomb	20 yards from West porch late 18 th century inscribed panels.
Chest tomb	5 yards SW of Tower late 18 th century inscribed panels moulded cornice.
5 Chest tombs	East of porch, mid to late 18 th century - early 19 th century: 1. Hartley [not found; not in register] 2. Silverthorne 1810 [B10] 3. Davis 1819 [B7] 4. Lee of Bath 1803 [B7] 5. Bourn late 1798 [B1]
5 Chest tombs	SE corner of church: 1784 Charmbury [B43] 1813 Charmbury [B44] Two illegible, with panels Late 18 th century eight sided - gaged columns and fluted tell capping. May family of Bath. [B94]. See ' <i>Part two: Interior Memorials Explored</i> ' and illustration in ' <i>Part three: Some Notable Burials</i> '.
Chest tomb	10 yards East of SE corner of church: Late 18 th century.
5 Chest tombs	10 yards East of church.
3 Chest tombs	NE corner of church.
5 Chest tombs	NE corner of chancel.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Reconsolidating annexation of Bathampton church to Bathford church. Transcriptions from some of the documents held at Bristol Record Office.

Bristol Record Office EP/A/14/7

Petition for reconsolidating Bathford and Bathampton

4 October 1765.

To the Right Reverend Father in God, Edward, by Divine permission Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells
The Petition of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Bristol
Patrons in full right of the vicarages and parish churches of Bathford and Bathampton (both now vacant) in the
Co. of Som. and your Lordships Diocese of Bath and Wells humbly

That the Tythes Fruits and ecclesiastical emoluments of the said vicarages separately are not sufficient for the maintenance of a minister such manner as the Deaconry of the Clerical Order requires. The improved yearly value of both the said vicarages together being only £85 or thereabouts (both which are discharged livings and the said vicarage of Bathford rated in the King's books at the yearly sum of £8.18s.1½d and the vicarage of Bathampton at the yearly sum of £7.17s.1d).

That the said parishes of Bathampton and Bathford being contiguous the parish churches not being above a mile distant the one from the other and may conveniently be **(as they have been time out of mind)** held and served by the same minister there being a good and convenient vicarage house at Bathford but none at Bathampton Wherefore we the said petitioners humbly pray that your Lordship will be graciously pleased By virtue of your office Episcopal of Ordinary

To unite incorporate and consolidate the aforesaid vicarages of Bathford and Bathampton to remain and endure and continue for ever knit together as one vicarage and Ecclesiastical Benefice to be called by the name of the Vicarage of Bathford with the Vicarage of Bathampton annexed

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray....[etc?]

In witness whereof the said Dean and Chapter have hereunto set their hands this fourth day of October in the year of our Lord 1765.

This commission is generally directed to seven or eight part clergy and part laity and is to be returned by any four or more Sir Jarrit Smith Bart., the Rev John Camplin, John Davie, Chapman, Brown, Clerks and George Tyndale, Robert Hale, and Saml Worrall, Gentlemen.

Please direct the commission to Sir Jarrit Smith Baronet, The Rev. John Camplin, John Davie, Thomas Chapman and James Brown, Clerks and George Tyndale, Robert Hale and Saml Worrall Gentlemen. Any four or more of them too make the return.

[End of document]

Bristol Record Office EP/A/14/7

Edward, Bishop of Bath and Wells

12 October 1765

Edward by Divine permission Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells to Our Beloved in Christ Sir Jarrit Smith Baronet, The Rev. Arthur Hale; John Taylor; James Brown, Clerks, George Tyndale and Sam Worr[s]all Gent all in the Co. of Somerset and our Diocese of Bath and Wells. Greetings. Whereas the Worshipful the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of the Holy Undivided Trinity of Bristol have set forth and represented unto us that they are patrons in full right of the vicarages and parish churches of Bathford and Bathampton (but now vacant) in the Co. and Diocese aforesaid and that the Tythes, Fruits, Profits and Ecclesiastical Emoluments of these vicarages separately are not sufficient for the maintenance of a minister in such manner as the Deaconry of the Clerical Order requires the improved yearly value of both these vicarages together being only £85 or thereabouts (both which are discharged livings and the vicarage of Bathford rated in the King's books at the yearly sum of £8.18s and 1 penny half penny and the said vicarage of Bathampton at the yearly sum of £7 and 17s and one penny) and that the said parishes of Bathford and Bathampton are contiguous the parish churches not being a mile distant the one from the other and may conveniently be **(as they have been time out of mind)** held and served by the same minister there being a good convenient vicarage house at Bathford but none at Bathampton and whereas the said Dean and Chapter have petitioned us by virtue of our office Episcopal and Ordinary to unite incorporate and consolidate the aforesaid vicarages of Bathford and Bathampton to remain endure and continue for ever knit together as one vicarage and ecclesiastical benefice to be called by the name of the Vicarage of Bathford with the Vicarage of Bathampton annexed.

We therefore the Bishop aforesaid do by these presents give grant and commit unto you or any three or more of you (in whose diligence circumspection and integrity we gratefully confide in this behalf) full power and authority publickly to sit in either of the afore mentioned parish churches on any convenient day before the 14th day of November next (after publick notice being given in both of the said churches in time of Divine Service when and where this our commission is to be executed) then and therein due form of law diligently to make enquiry and examine of into and about the facts matters and things set forth and represented unto us as above mentioned and all other things whatsoever concerning these presents(?) and whatsoever you shall find or do in or about the said enquiry and examination other the ?..... Pr...es.... To certify us under your hands and seals together with these presents immediately after your execution of the same Dated in our Palace at Wells the 12th day of October in the year of our Lord 1765 and in the 22nd year of our [travistation]

Bristol Record Office EP/A/14/7

To the Right Reverend Father in God, Edward, by Divine permission Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells we whose names are hereunder written and seals affixed three of the commissioners within named do humbly certify your Lordship that on [blank] on day of [blank] in the year of our Lord 1765 between the hours of [blank] in the parish church of [blank] and [blank] within mentioned we did accept and take upon us the execution of the within written commission and did publickly sit in the said parish church and and proceeded upon enquiry and examination of matters and things within mentioned to so set forth and represented your Lordship by the Worshipful the Dean and Chapter of Bristol and do hereby humbly certify your Lordship as well from our own knowledge as from credible and legal testimony had and taken before us in the said enquiry and examination that all and singular the matters facts and things so set forth and represented to your Lordship by them the said Dean and Chapter of Bristol were and are really true and just and we do further certify to your Lordship that at the time of our said enquiry in the parish church of aforesaid (publick notice thereof having been given according to the power of the within written commission) union? desired appeared to us to be very reasonable and we are of opinion that the same will be no way detrimental to the parishioners of either parish Witness our hands this day of October 1765.

Incumbents

From Bath Chronicle, 21 February, 1934.

Death of Rev. R. D Williams, 25 January 1934

Rev R. D. Williams death in Hospital. It is with much regret that we have to announce the death of the Vicar of Bathampton, Richard David Williams, BA. He passed away Friday night last week 25 January at the Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital where he had been a patient for some weeks. He was born near Swansea and 49 years old. Leaving college he became curate at St Michaels at Bishopstone 1909-1927 then appointed to living of Bathampton succeeding Rev. F. G. White. In spring last year underwent an op for a nose affliction understood to a blow received in use shortly before Christmas. He had again to go into Hospital for an operation. Although everything possible was done complications set in resulting in death. Popular incumbent. He was extremely popular in the village and his sermons delivered ex tempore were always of practical value to his parishioners. Among his many interests were Horticulture and prominently identified with Bathampton show. A freemason. He was Chaplain of Lodge of Honour. Leaves widow and children a boy and girl. Son at school in Cheltenham and girl being educated in Bath. The sympathy of a very wide circle of friends is extended to Mrs Williams. Funeral Tuesday afternoon - the picturesque village of Bathampton was truly a scene of mourning. The dwellers in this little parish "truly sheep without a shepherd" thronged the parish church to pay last tributes to their vicar. Residents in an area which extended far beyond the confines of the parish reaching Bath, Corsham, Bristol and even to Swindon were included in the company of mourners that thronged the church to its utmost. The worshippers might easily be numbered in their 100s. Flag of St George floated at half-mast. List of mourners... Four robed clergy took part in simple service which entwined in the memorial the message of hope and expression of thanksgiving of a life spent in the service of God. Prior to the departure of the cortège a short service in the Vicarage was conducted by Rev. P. G. Ridgwell Barker. Headed by the cross bearers the surpliced choir of men and boys met the cortège as it passed beneath the lych gate entrance to churchyard. The opening sentences of burial office recited by Rev. G. Phillips, Vicar, Ashtongate. Mr Onslow was on organ. Rural Dean officiates.... Detail of other clergy.... Cross of white flowers on oak casket. No flowers requested. Detail of service.... Bell ringers acted at pages. Detail of mourners and lots of villagers.... and Masons. Last commendation - choir chanted Nunc Dimittis as mourners left church and Mr Onslow played 'O rest in the Lord'. New grave lined with evergreens by loving hands just outside south west door. Finally bells rang muffled peal. From Bath Chronicle, 2 June, 1934. **Vicar Rev. C. W. Jacob MA (Cantab)** to move in shortly; ordained 1931 and held 2 curacies - Formby 1930-31 and Nailsworth 1931-32 before becoming Vicar of Kempsford with Whelford. near Fairford, Glos. Value of living £300. Induction date to be announced.



The church choir with the Rev. Clyde William Jacob seated in centre. c1936,



The church choir with the Rev. John Hugh Homer-Green, centre,
Arthur Green, second choir boy from left. c1940.

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Remains of a window removed from the church can be seen alongside the entrance steps to Hampton Hall on the Warminster Road, the one-time residence of William John Willcox who was for many years the church's honorary architect. 2024.