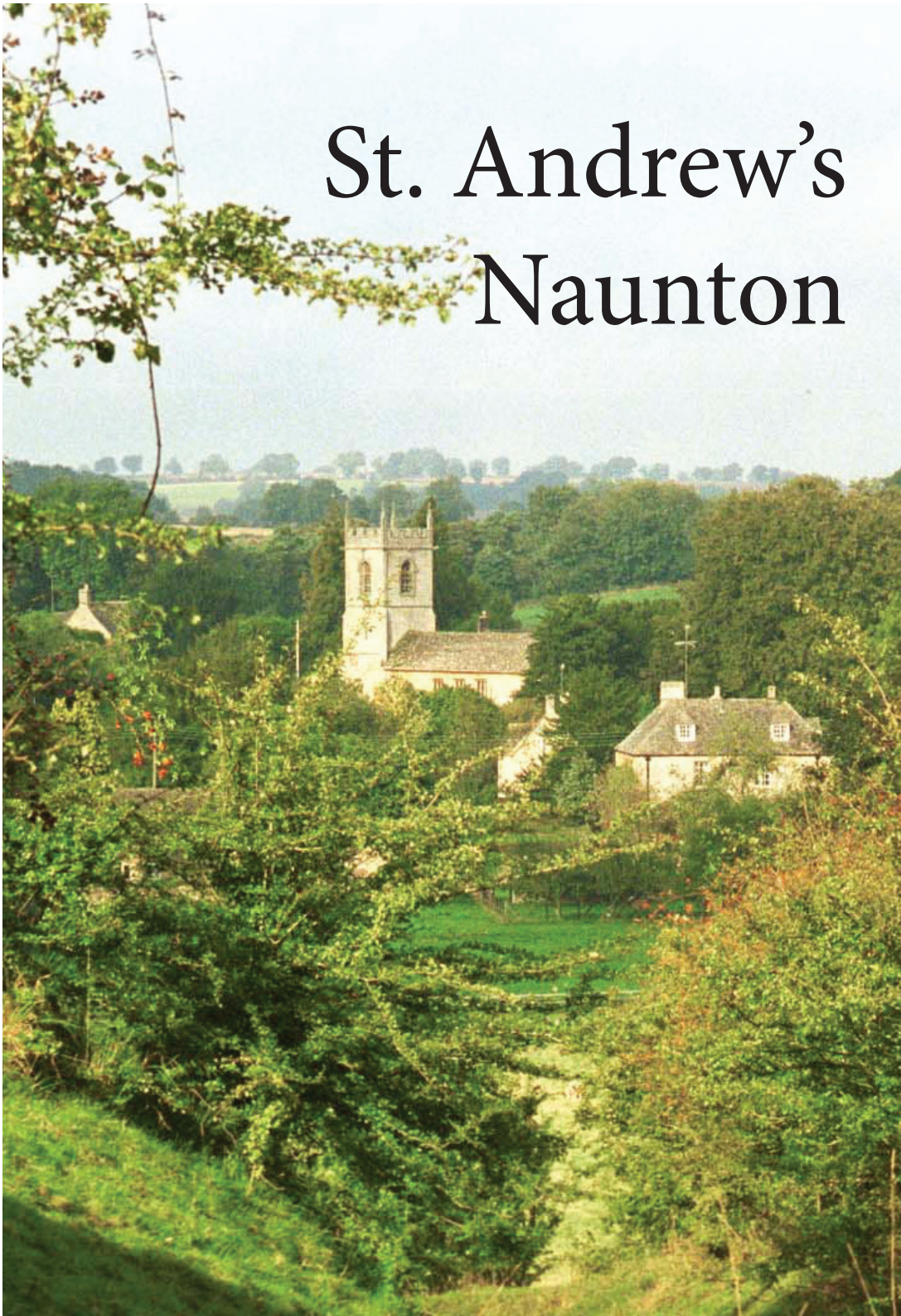


St. Andrew's Nauntton



The Church of St. Andrew the Apostle

This church welcomes you, whoever you may be.

*Generations before you have loved this place;
respect it - it is your heritage.*

If you believe, pray.

If you are seeking, sit and reflect.

If you doubt, ask for help.

If you are suffering, ask for strength.

If you are weary, rest.

If you are rejoicing, give thanks.

*May your time in this place warm your heart
and give you joy.*



Welcome to our church! There has been a parish church in Naunton at least since the 12th century and possibly long before. Its fortunes have been varied but it was, and remains, a lively and important part of our busy community and village life.

We hope you will feel the warmth and love which is shared in this beautiful building and, if you wish, please sit for a while and allow the prayers that are offered here to touch and refresh you. If you would like us to pray for you, your family or your church, please write your request in our Prayer Request Book and we will be glad to do so. People have brought their joys and sorrows to St. Andrew's for hundreds of years; we hope they will continue to do so for many more.

Like most ancient churches, St. Andrew's has undergone great changes during its 800 years or so of existence. Where once the church would have been plastered and full of colour from painted surfaces and stained glass windows, there is now a remarkable feeling of light and space. The open chancel (there is no chancel arch), the wide arches to the North aisle, the largely clear glazing and the light-coloured ceiling panels all contribute to this.



Early years.....

There is little firm evidence of the early history of St. Andrew's, with the notable exception of the simple Saxon stone cross (see the inside front cover) which is now set in the North side of the West wall, near the entrance to the bell tower. The cross was found under the main aisle, near to the pillar, during restoration works in 1899. Clearly an object of significance, perhaps it marked the grave of a priest. There is also a corbel head (a stone bracket with a carved head) which is thought to be 12th century; its original siting is unknown but it was placed outside, over the East window of the North aisle, possibly during the 16th century. The head was re-set there in 2011, when the vestry was extended.



A few faint markings can be seen on the exterior of the South wall, near the little priest's door, which are believed to be remnants of 12th century scratch dials. These are very simple sundials, usually circular, scratched or carved into the exterior church wall and used to tell the time, especially the time of church services. A small wooden peg would have been inserted in the centre to act as a simple marker for showing the time.

The earliest known documentary reference to St. Andrew's is dated 1260 and kept in the Worcester Record Office. It confirms that tithes "arising from lands and tenements in Newynton" were granted by the Bishop of Worcester to Little Malvern Priory. It is known that Naunton was served by a rector at that time, and the names of rectors since the 13th century are displayed on the West wall beneath the Saxon cross.

Pre-Reformation prosperity

Major changes occurred in the 15th century when huge quantities of much-prized Cotswold wool were exported, resulting in great wealth for some. Much of this wealth was used to build or rebuild Cotswold churches and St. Andrew's was rebuilt from its foundations using oolitic limestone; this was presumably quarried locally - the parish still has working quarries. The architectural style is 'Perpendicular', the dominant style of roughly 1350 – 1450, characterised by an emphasis on vertical lines. This results in a higher, more graceful and airy aspect with more decoration than, for example, the earlier Norman style. This can be seen in the large windows with panel tracery (though little tracery remains now), the pulpit and the tower battlements. The tower was added at this time and is a good example of the Perpendicular style (see the inside back cover); it has three 'stages' with diagonal buttresses on the lower two stages, a battlemented parapet, gargoyles and carved human heads as 'label stops' (the belfry openings are surrounded by stones to protect them from rain, and these stones finish on each side with carvings of heads). The tower's Perpendicular West window has label stops in the form of 'grotesques'.



The North aisle was probably added in the late 15th and early 16th century; the local Aylworth family - the hamlet of Aylworth lies just up the road - built the Lady Chapel at the East end of this aisle (this area is now occupied largely by the organ). The Aylworth vault is believed to lie beneath the North aisle, although nothing is visible now. The square-headed Perpendicular window at the Eastern end of the chapel has tracery similar to that on the pulpit. There are references to shrines to various saints in an Aylworth will of 1524, but nothing remains of them.

The octagonal stone pulpit (‘wineglass’ shaped) is one of only 20 stone pulpits in Gloucestershire, and is a fine example of medieval carving, with canopied panels, pinnacled buttresses and tracery. It dates from about 1400, although the Bath stone plinth and the oak and brass fittings date from 1899.

The font, which stands at the entrance to the bell chamber, is also 15th century, though on a modern step. Like the pulpit, it is octagonal but is decorated with four-leafed flowers and shields.



The Reformation and after....

Until the middle of the 16th century, worshippers in St. Andrew's, as in all churches in England, would have followed what we now call the Roman Catholic forms. The Protestant Reformation later in the century resulted in the removal from churches of many medieval furnishings and shrines and St. Andrew's suffered the same fate. The changes in forms of worship during the Tudor years no doubt produced consternation and perhaps puzzling outcomes: for example, Ulpian Fulwell, the poet, was appointed rector in 1570 and was the first rector of Naunton to “take unto himself a wife”. In fact he married twice. There were other important changes; the wool trade went into recession at this time, which had a serious effect in wool-production areas, and by 1563, “both the church and chancel are in decay” (Gloucester Visitation Articles).

Fighting during the Civil War came very close to Naunton, most notably in 1646 when the King's forces were defeated in a major battle just outside Stow-on-the-Wold, about 5 miles away. A marble tablet to Ambrose Oldys of Harford on the North wall of the chancel, near the altar, notes that his royalist father was "barbarously murther'd by ye Rebels" in 1645; a detail from the top of the tablet is shown below. An unsettled and difficult period for the church followed, but within a few weeks of the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660, Clement Barksdale, the Cotswold poet, was presented as rector by Charles II.



Barksdale himself is commemorated on the upper of two brass plaques on the North wall by the altar. The lower plaque remembers his family (in Latin), and finishes with Clement's verse written in 1685 (in English):

***“Yongman, Laye to thy Heart this Sacred Truth
Remember thy Creator in thy Youth.
Oldman, if Pious, do not thy Death Fear,
Having Good Hope of better things so near.”***

Major changes....

During the 18th and 19th centuries, some important additions and renovations were made. In 1748, the rector Thomas Baghott ordered, most unusually, two sundials to be painted on the South and West walls of the tower. The South dial has the Latin inscription “Lux umbra Dei” (light is the shadow of God) while the West dial has the date and was apparently intended to show the time at the end of the day.





According to the churchwardens' accounts, the roof was repaired extensively in 1809 and the church was "new Pewed and ornamented" in 1815. A wooden gallery was put across the West end, probably in 1842. Contemporary accounts describe this as filling up the West arch to the tower and hiding all the light from the West window; the two small windows near the tower were put in to give light to the occupants of the gallery and also to those underneath it. The stone porch on the South wall was added in 1878, replacing an earlier structure, and the large East window was inserted at the same time.

In honour of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, the gilded weather vane was erected on the tower. Many gifts were made to the church in that year, including the oak lectern and the brass cross, offerings dish and candlesticks still in use for services.



In 1899, the interior was thought to have deteriorated greatly and it was transformed. The West gallery was removed, the ceiling of the North aisle opened out and the walls stripped of whitewashed plaster and pointed. The whole floor was raised and the low chancel screen of Bath stone installed, surmounted by a scrolled wrought-iron railing. Oak choir stalls and a new communion rail were put in, and pitch pine pews replaced the old deal box pews. All of this cost £661 and 18 shillings. The Archdeacon of Cirencester was apparently so pleased with these works that he donated £4 for a stone cross for the nave roof.

The 20th century and beyond

A two-manual pipe organ was installed, rather unfortunately in the Lady Chapel, in 1912. In the 1970s, the beautifully stitched and colourful woollen hassocks were made by a group of parishioners organised by Mrs. Marcia Smallwood.



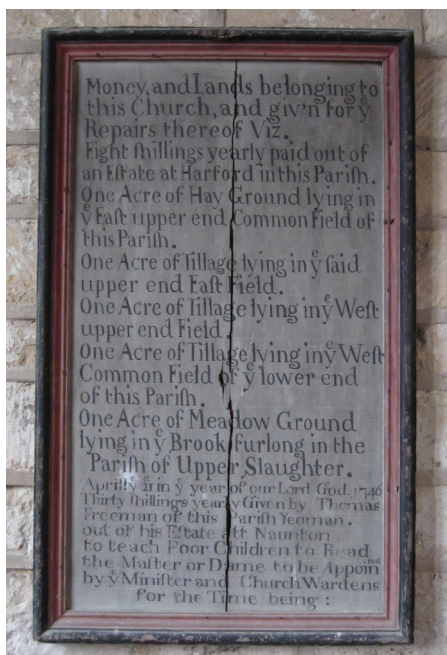
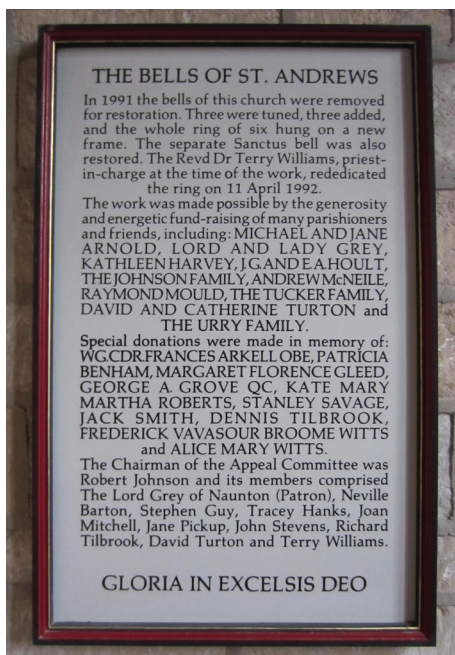
Extensive repair work was carried out on the main roof in 1994 and the tower in 2007, and a lavatory extension to the vestry was added in 2011. An oak servery with running water was also installed at the same time.



The bells

The oldest bell (the tenor) is dated 1684 and bears the names of the two churchwardens of that year, Richard Taylor and Thomas Freeman. The treble bell, and what was then the middle bell of a ring of three, are both dated 1775 and carry the words “Fear God. Honour the King” and “Peace and Good Neighbourhood”. There is also a ‘ting tang’ bell, dated 1741, inscribed with “Come away without delay” - the instruction to the ringers to come in for the service.

In 1993, the bells were re-tuned and a further three bells added to make a ring of six. They were hung on a new frame, although the medieval frame remains in the tower. In the bell tower, opposite a framed board recording the restoration of the bells, is a pleasing 18th century table of church assets and charitable gifts to the parish.



Memorials

There are small brass memorials in the North aisle to Letitia Holt (died 1628) and Ann Major (died 1613), daughter of Edward Aylworth of Aylworth. Ann's great-nephew, Captain Richard Aylworth, was Governor of Sudeley Castle for the parliamentarians in the Civil War. In 1646,

he took a prominent part in stopping the Royalist army at Stow from reinforcing King Charles' army at Oxford - thus effectively ending the Civil War.

There are three memorials to the Great Wars - two framed lists opposite the main door, naming those who fought, and a simple stone tablet on the wall of the North aisle. This honours the sixteen men from both wars (including one also honoured elsewhere) who gave their lives.

Also opposite the main door is the painted wooden cross commemorating Gunner John Bartlett who remains buried in France. These grey crosses were used as temporary grave markers for those killed in the First World War and buried overseas; when permanent graves were made, the crosses were brought back to the soldiers' home towns or villages in the UK.

Rectors and poets

Two former rectors were well known in their time as poets. The works of Ulpian Fulwell (rector from 1570 to 1585) include a play *Like Will to Like* (1568), a history of Henry VIII, *The Flower of Fame* (1575) with appendices on three of the King's wives, and a treatise *The Art of Flattery* (1576). Clement Barksdale (rector from 1660) was the author of *The Cotswold Muse* (1651), a popular 17th century collection of his verse, full of allusions to contemporary people and events. Born in Winchcombe in 1609, he was vicar of All Hallows, Hereford, when the city fell to Cromwell's forces. He became chaplain to the Brydges family at Sudeley Castle (a Royalist stronghold) and when the castle was taken for the second time, in 1646, he became a teacher in Hawling. At the restoration he was presented with the livings of Naunton and Stow; he lived in Naunton until his death in 1687.

Edward Litton, appointed rector in 1860, was a noted writer on theology and a friend of Revd Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) who is said to have stayed several times at the rectory.

His predecessor, John Hurd, was rector for 53 years and organised the building in 1819 and 1851 respectively of the two Naunton bridges; he and his wife Emma are buried close to the porch entrance.

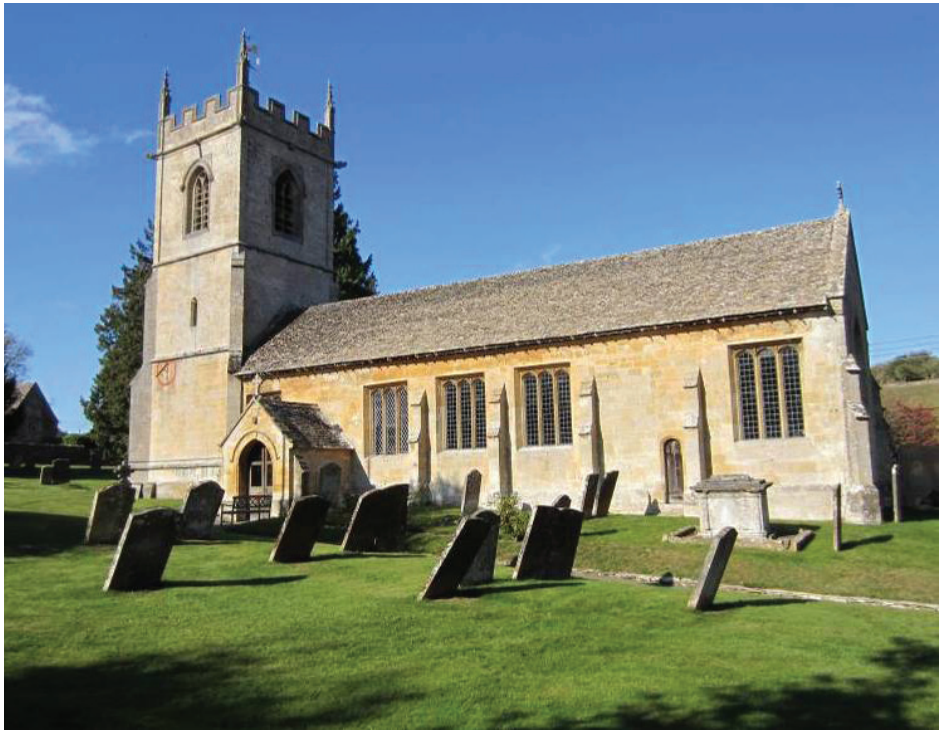


St. Andrew the Apostle

St. Andrew, the patron saint of Naunton, Scotland, Ukraine and Russia, was the brother of Simon Peter, fisherman, apostle and martyr, who was originally a disciple of John the Baptist. There are few records of his later life but both Scythia and Epirus (in Greece) claim him as their apostle and Patras in Achaia claims to be the place where he was crucified (and preached to the people for two days before he died) around 70 AD.

According to legend, in the 4th century a native of Patras called Rule (or Regulus) was told in a dream to take part of St. Andrew's relics to an unknown destination due North. When he reached Fife, an angel told him to build a church to house the relics. The rest of St Andrew's body was taken to Constantinople and his head to St. Peter's in Rome. Pope Paul VI returned the head to the Greek orthodox church in Patras in 1964.

St. Andrew is usually depicted as an old man with long white hair, holding the Gospel in his right hand and leaning on his saltire (the X-shaped cross which is the flag of Scotland and which, in 1606, was combined with the St. George cross to form the Union Flag). St. Andrew's feast day is 30th November.



The village of Naunton

‘Naunton’ is derived from Niwe Tun – ‘at the new farmstead’. The Domesday Book mentions three villages in this area; Naunton with 28 households, Harford (Stagford) along the valley with 7 and Aylworth (Aegel’s enclosure) over the ridge with 11 - but the last two have diminished and are now represented by a few houses within an expanded parish of Naunton.

The parish is in North Cotswold Deanery, in the Diocese of Gloucester, which was carved out of the Diocese of Worcester; the patronage was transferred from the Bishop of Worcester to the Bishop of Gloucester in 1852.

Naunton is in a combined benefice with Upper and Lower Slaughter, Temple Guiting, Guiting Power, Cutsdean and Farmcote.



St. Andrew's Church, Naunton, Gloucestershire GL54 3AX, England
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