Where we are…

Hampton Lovett Church can be found off the A442 Droitwich to Kidderminster road and is situated at the end of The Forest, Hampton Lovett, WR9 0LU.

Website:
Hampton Lovett Church: St Mary & All Saints - 'A Church Near You'
(enter Hampton Lovett Church Worcestershire in your browser)

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084762697572&sk=about

St Mary and All Saints
Hampton Lovett Church

Made possible with Heritage Fund

If These Walls Could Talk...

Revealing A Community That Helped Shape Our Nation

If these walls could talk…

These walls have seen much. Portions remain of the early church built in the 12th century but the walls of the nave and chancel are chiefly 13th century. The tower was also built at this time. Around 1414 the side chapel (now known as the Westwood Chapel) was added and later enlarged in 1561 by the Pakington family.

The church has long been a place of sanctuary, spiritual enlightenment and worship. For centuries it was also a focus for the community life of Hampton Lovett. It would have been filled with the hustle and bustle of the daily activities of the parish. Hampton Lovett though has another heritage. Through its association with the Pakington and Partington families, this small rural parish has played a prominent role in the courts of kings and queens, in parliaments, in religious circles and in industrial innovation and enterprise.

The story of the Harvington Branch of the Pakingtons can still be told through Harvington Hall. The home of the Hampton Lovett Pakingtons (and later the Partington family) was Westwood House which is now in private ownership.

The contribution that these two families made to the life of the nation may be in danger of drifting into the mists of history. It is at Hampton Lovett Church that their tale can now be told.

Acknowledgements

As a key source of information, we are greatly appreciative of the Pakington family history, *The Pakingtons of Westwood,* written by Humphrey and Richard Pakington and published privately in 1975. Thanks are also due to Neil Cutler for his translation of the Henry Hammond memorial inscription.

List of Illustrations

Henry V111 (p.1): Pixabay image.
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Elizabeth I (p.3): by unknown continental artist, oil on panel, circa 1575, National Portrait Gallery, NPG 2082.
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Sir John Somerset Pakington, 1st Baron Hampton (p.16): De Luan / Alamy
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Inscription to Henry Hammond 1605-1660

Henry Hammond
At whose name those of a literary disposition stand to attention
(a worthy name because it may have been carved not in gold,
Black in or marble but rather in adamant steel)
Most renowned leader of the Muses
A gentleman demonstrably of the highest calibre
For many years the most accomplished theologian
Displaying and at the same time exemplifying piety
Easily the most notable translator of sacred texts
Since mankind came into existence the most effective scourge of any departure from the truth
(more than I can say) as energetic as Hyperaspistes in declaring the truth
In whose writings gleam the gravity and subtlety of his nature
The loftiness of his judgement and his strict adherence to the Church's law
The economy and intelligence of his opinions
His supremely effective method of teaching
His attentive diligence
HAMMOND, a "man fulfilled"
Placed in the position itself of death
As if touching immortality, wished that his revered remains on death
(beyond which he had nothing mortal)
*Be concealed under this obscure marble**
7th May 1660

*which suggests the marble has been moved from its original position and wall mounted, possibly during the 1858/9 major renovation of the church.

...the tales they could tell

The Man Allowed to Wear His Hat in the Presence of the King

With his purchase of the manor of Hampton Lovett from William Blount in 1524, Sir John Pakington (c1488-1551) began the long association of Hampton Lovett with the Pakington family. He also propelled this small, rural parish to the centre of affairs of state – a position that it was to hold for some 400 years.

Sir John's life coincided with the reign of Henry VIII – a time of tumultuous change. He was clearly a person of influence for, in 1529 he was granted the most extraordinary privilege by the King being, *"permission to wear his hat in the presence of the King and in that of his successors, or of any person whatsoever"*.

Justices, judges, coroners, mayors, and bailiffs were also commanded by the King, *"not to disturb, molest or grieve the said John Pakington"*.

The reason for this honour is not recorded. However, Sir John was one of the great Tudor lawyers and at the time the King was seeking separation from his first wife Catherine of Aragon. He feared that the kingdom would be soon overwhelmed by 'mischief' and 'trouble' should he die without a clear line of succession through a male heir. The matter was proving horrendously complicated and it may be that Sir John was able to offer legal advice that helped steer a way forward.

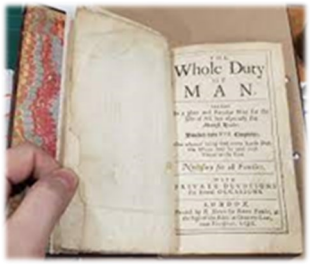
Sir John held many positions and was of great service to the monarch and nation. He was, for example, made a Justice of North Wales in 1536 and was a commissioner for collecting all fines and debts due to Henry VIII (a matter of great import). He was made Custos Rotulorum for Worcestershire, an office later combined with Lord Lieutenant and was also Sheriff of Hereford. The King knighted Sir John in 1545.

The old medieval internal doorway to the tower has been unblocked and reopened. All of this now supports guided visitor access to this previously 'mysterious' area of the church.

The first level Priest's Room has been opened. On the second level the remains of the old windlass can be seen. This was probably used to raise the bells centuries ago. The Bell Chamber on the top level houses the bells (cast in the 1600/1700s). A tower video tour has also been filmed.

Our project encouraged a 'hands-on approach'. We were joined by the community for a Lime Mortar Skills Workshop and Scaffolding Tours during the tower works and completed a 'live case study' assignment with university students.

Other activities have included an historic document audit with a 'Glimpses To The Past' exhibit on our website, Heritage Open Days, a raised presence on social media, and talks to (and visits by) local groups. The development of interpretative and display materials is a key outcome of the project.



This major project has enabled the heritage stories of the Hampton Lovett and Westwood community to be revealed, paying tribute to those involved through the centuries.

If These Walls Could Talk
Revealing Secrets at Hampton Lovett Church

Revealing Secrets…

Imagine that these walls (really) could talk. They would tell tales of the Pakington and Partington families of Hampton Lovett and Westwood Park – the Barons Hampton and the Barons Doverdale.

We would hear of the parts played in the courts of kings and queens and in the parliaments and affairs of state that helped shape our nation. We would come to know of Hampton's involvement in the development of religious thinking and of ground-breaking industrial innovation.

We would learn of a host of characters who also played their part; from carpenters to churchwardens, farmers to farriers, midwives to minstrels and so many others.

It is at Hampton Lovett Church that their stories can be told and Hampton's place in history revealed. Our project, *If These Walls Could Talk…Revealing Secrets at Hampton Lovett Church,* was designed to do exactly that!

The project focussed on heritage stories and encouraging a wider range of people to engage with the church.

Thanks to National Lottery Players and our local community, major repair and conservation works to the 14th century tower, including the installation of electric lighting, were completed in 2023.

Made possible with Heritage Fund

At home in Worcestershire, Sir John had pulled down the old manor house and built Hampton Court close-by the church. It was an impressive property described as, *"a veri goodlye house of brike"*. We cannot judge as the house was destroyed in the English Civil War. Adjacent to the house lay the estate of the Benedictine nuns at Westwood which, following dissolution of the monasteries, the King granted to Sir John.

Sir John was a significant figure in a time of great constitutional and religious change. Henry VIII's 'Reformation Parliament' fundamentally changed the nature of parliament and English government. As a prominent lawyer, it is likely that Sir John played a role in the design of legislation (the Statute of Fines certainly involved him directly).

He regularly corresponded with Thomas Cromwell, the King's pre-eminent minister (left).

At the end of Henry's reign, royal authority (still paramount) had been recognised as being at it's strongest 'when expressed through parliamentary statute'; major powers had been transferred from the Church to Parliament and the 'Church in England' had been founded following the split with Rome.

Sir John saw much in his lifetime. When he died in 1551 he was laid to rest in the church he would have known so well, close-by the fine house he had built.

The Lusty Man, The Fiery Lady, and…Westwood!

On occasion, characters are so compelling they leap from the pages of history. The Sir John Pakington of Elizabethan times and Lady Dorothy Pakington fit this bill.

Sir John (1549-1625) had trained in legal matters and became a member of Lincoln's Inn in 1570. In 1575, the event which changed Sir John's life occurred, this being the visit of Queen Elizabeth I to Worcestershire. Sir John caught the attention of the Queen and she invited him to Court. In London he lived in great splendour. It was the Queen who named him 'Lusty Pakington' on account of his great strength and sporting prowess.

Sir John's influence in affairs of state is difficult to judge, but Lloyd in his 'State Worthies' offers a hint that it may have been of significance, until that is Sir John lost his position in Court.

"…he was a brave Gentleman, and a very fine courtier; and for the time which he stayed there, was very high in the Queen's grace…but he came in, and went out, and through disassiduity lost the advantage of her favour… he could smile Ladies to his service, and argue Statesmen to his design with equal ease…It is a question to this day, whether his resolution took the Soldiers, his prudence the Politicians, his compliance the Favourites, his complaisance the Courtiers, his piety the Clergy, his integrity and condescension the People, or his knowledge the Learned, most".

Sir John returned home in financial difficulties saying he would live on bread and verjuice until he made up his extravagances (although there is no sign he

To the right of the path is the 'Pakington Cross'. A drawing from 1833 shows it in a state of collapse. 15 years later the monument was restored by Sir John Somerset Pakington in memory of his wife Augusta. A memorial to Mary, his first wife, can be found in the Westwood Chapel. Walk up the path now towards the church entrance but pause a few yards short. Nearby is an ancient cross whose story we have not yet begun to discern. It is perhaps the oldest memorial in the churchyard.

If you take a detour to your left you will find the one remaining table memorial in the churchyard, dedicated to John Williams (Gent) who died in 1822. We hope soon to recount the story of John Williams and his family.

The churchyard is also host to all manner of flora and fauna and a haven for wildlife.

If you are here in early spring you will enjoy a mass of snowdrops. Towards dusk on a summer evening you may see the swallows, swifts and bats flitting amongst the trees. You may even spot a great crested newt for the churchyard is a registered site for this protected species.

This is a tranquil setting and the final resting place for so many that have gone before; those for whom, throughout the centuries, Hampton Lovett Church was a place of peace, comfort and spiritual inspiration.

Out and About

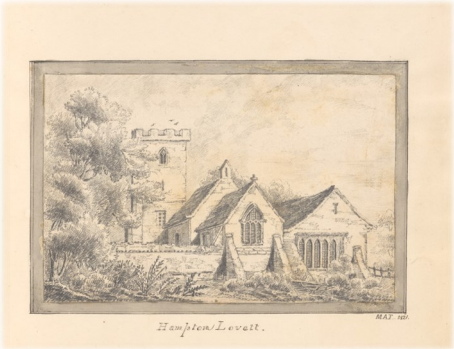
A good starting point for a stroll around the churchyard is on the path by the lych gate, looking towards the entrance porch.

Now the Tower is the feature facing you - built in the 1300s. The first level above the porch is a room which would have provided accommodation for the parish priest and no doubt was also used for many meetings throughout the centuries. It is bare and empty now.

At the second level, the remains of an old windlass can be found This would have been used to lift loads, possibly including the bells.

The third level houses the three bells, two being cast in the 1600s and the third in the early 1700s. They rest silent but hoping for a re-awakening.

The tower has been recently brought back to life following major repair and conservation works.



As you approach the tower your eye will no doubt also catch the two gnarled yews by the path. We estimate them to be at least 300 years old. Yews are so commonly found in churchyards that there must be a reason for their presence. Would that we knew! It is said that the yew was sacred to pre-Christian religions, symbolising immortality and knowledge. Many churches were built on such early sites. There are other explanations and so the yews remain a mystery.

did so). Ultimately, he did turn his fortunes around. He was made Deputy Lieutenant and Sheriff of the County. Sir John was then further aided by a wealthy marriage in 1598 to Dorothy, widow of Benedict Barnham, Alderman of London.

It is 'Lusty' and his Lady who built the striking Westwood House which still stands today dominating the countryside around it.

Sometime between 1619 and 1624 Westwood became the family home. Hampton Court close-by the Church was leased out for 100 years (although it would not survive beyond a quarter of that time).

The marriage however was turbulent. Her Ladyship could be a most charming woman able to 'coo like a dove' when it suited but she was certainly no shrinking violet. By 1607 a letter by John Chamberlain records that Sir John and *"his little violent lady parted on foul terms"*. A reconciliation must have followed but by 1617, Chamberlain speaks of *"great wars between Sir John and his Lady"*. Her Ladyship departed for London. Her luggage, sent ahead, was stolen. Believing that her husband had sent men to plunder her, she appealed to the Privy Council. Sir John was hauled before the Court of High Commission and flung into jail. The court's decision went against Lady Pakington. However, she bounced back, as she always did, and the fiery lady was soon home!

Westwood was loved by the Pakington family and it became their home for almost 300 years. Perhaps it is only two characters as vibrant and colourful as Lusty and his Lady who could have created the magnificent ornateness of Westwood House.

Doorways to the Past

The title of our booklet reflects '*if only these walls could talk*'. They would indeed have much to say. Sadly, while we can discern much from their construction and architecture, walls are silent witnesses. Doorways though are a different matter – positively chatty! Over the centuries the doorways in our church have seen thousands pass through their arches, sometimes in times of joy and sometimes when seeking spiritual comfort in times of sadness and fear.

In a church, doorways have a reason for being, an ulterior purpose beyond that of the obvious. Discerning that purpose leads us into the minds of those that created them and helps us understand the beliefs they held and something about their lives.

The **North Door** or **Devil's Door** is a good example. As you enter the church via the south porch, the north door would have directly faced you. It has suffered, at some point, the ignominy of being blocked-up. If you are reading this in church, a short stroll round to the north side of the church shows that this was a fine (12th century) doorway.

The first mystery is why it was even needed? In the 12th century Hampton Lovett was a small church consisting of nave and chancel only (no side chapel). Two large doors seems a luxury. However churches for centuries were very busy places full of hectic activity. The nave (main body) was the parishioners' area and the chancel (where the altar is) was the priest's domain.

The nave would have been filled with the hustle and bustle of parish activity - trading, workshops, possibly school activities. Even livestock may have been sheltered here in bad weather. Perhaps two doors were well used!

Hampton and Westwood's association with this pioneering family of industrialists continued through his son Oswald (2nd Baron Doverdale).

Oswald had entered the family business becoming a member of the firm of Olive and Partington and a director of the Kellner-Partington Paper Pulp Company. His Worcestershire based interests saw him take on the role of Lord Lieutenant and Chairman of Worcestershire County Cricket Club, one of his great passions. He died, only 10 years after his father, in 1935.

Oswald's son Edward was also a prominent industrialist and politician. He died in 1949 (age 44) without children and so was the last of the Barons Doverdale.

In 1970, after the death of his widow Audrey, the family vault at Hampton Lovett was sealed. If you look to your left as you approach the churchyard you will find the memorials.

The contribution of the Partington family to British industry is another story that is remembered in Hampton Lovett. It is one of vision, striving and breakthrough.

It is perhaps best encapsulated in an accolade paid to the 1st Baron Doverdale in a trade journal of 1899,

"The greatest achievement in the career of Captain Partington was the introduction, in the face of tremendous difficulty, of the preparation and use of wood in the manufacture of paper…possibly in no other industry can be found a better illustration of what indomitable pluck, perseverance and enterprise can achieve".

The King of the Paper Trade

When Sir John Somerset Pakington died in 1880 he had attempted to order his affairs so that Westwood House and the estate would remain in the family possession for the next fifteen hundred years. It was a heartfelt but unrealistic aim.

The family base became London and although there was a return to Worcestershire in 1897 it was not to Westwood. John Somerset Pakington was the last of the Pakingtons of Westwood. In 1902 his son Herbert Pakington, who had loved Westwood as much as any of the family, had no alternative but to sell.

The purchaser was Edward Partington and Hampton Lovett and Westwood began another association, this time with the family of an industrial pioneer.

While John Corbett was revolutionising the production of salt in near-by Droitwich, Edward Partington was transforming the commercial production of paper. Until the mid-1800s most paper was made from rags but new processes began to emerge which would enable the production of paper from wood pulp.

Edward was at the forefront in the development and commercial application of this new technology. Paper became readily available and enabled things we take for granted today such as the mass production of newspapers.

While Edward's paper mills in the UK were outside of Worcestershire, his country home was Westwood House and his church was Hampton Lovett.

He was actively involved in politics and in 1916 was made Baron (taking the title Doverdale) in the Resignation Honours List of Prime Minister Herbert Asquith. Edward died suddenly in 1925 shortly after visiting one of his paper mills.

There is however another, darker explanation. In early times the cold, north side of churches was often associated with 'evil spirits'. The north doorway became the *Devil's Door*. The door could be left open in services so that evil spirits would vacate the premises. As such beliefs waned, many north doors in churches were blocked up.

Another indicator of changing times is the defunct **Priest's Doorway** – also blocked. Its existence is well disguised. You can just spot the newer stone if you stand in the aisle between the choir stalls, facing the altar, and look to the right (behind the radiator). The Priest would have entered the chancel by this door rather than walking through the people's nave. It is a reminder of how priests and laity used to separate themselves.

The Door that Leads to Nowhere is the most intriguing of our doorways. Close-by the North Door, set into the external wall of the current chapel, is an ancient wooden door – the entrance to a smaller chantry chapel added to the church in 1414 by Lady Alice Stury. Blocked from the inside, it seems fated never to open again. The door still stands though as the marker of the Chantry which Lady Stury created so prayers could be said for the souls of her parents and of her husbands, Richard Stafford and Richard Stury.

Until recent times, one other abandoned doorway could be found in the church. Hidden behind pews was the original internal **Tower Doorway** blocked up in an 1858/9 renovation.

Over 160 years later, this doorway has now been reopened, a new door fitted and the secrets of the Tower can be revealed!

The Great Survivor

Sir John Pakington (2nd Baronet) inherited the Hampton Lovett and Westwood estates in 1625, the year King Charles I (left) came to the throne. The lives of the two men were to be inextricably linked. The Pakingtons took the Royalist side in the English Civil Wars and they and Hampton Lovett, were to suffer heavily for their loyalty to the Crown.

After an 11-year parliamentary gap, Charles I summoned a parliament in 1640 which Sir John entered aged 18. He immediately found himself at a crisis point in national affairs. The Crown needed funds, but parliament (so long spurned by Charles) refused to cooperate. The Royalist party was formed to support the King.

The situation was uncontrollable and conflict ensued. Sir John became a Commissioner of Array charged with pressing men for the King's service. He fought at the Battle of Edgehill in 1642 – an early victory for the Royalists. In the confusion, he was captured and thrown into the Tower of London (it was not to be his only visit). His estates were sequestered, and he was heavily fined.

The first civil war ended with the siege of Worcester (1646). Sir John surrendered to the Speaker of Parliament to compound (buy back) his lands in return for a promise not to take up arms against parliament. Charles I was executed and England effectively became a republic under Cromwell.

In 1651 war returned. Prince Charles, crowned as King Charles II in Scotland, moved southward aiming for Worcester. In view of his track record, the Parliamentary Commissioners kept Sir John under tight rein. He was arrested and held prisoner in the Crown Inn in Worcester.

When the royalist army entered the city, it was not his intention to join them. He had *"resolved not to engage, for I have already burnt my fingers. I will*

protected and most powerfully armed warships afloat. They could not be challenged and any threat of French invasion was gone without *Warrior* having to fire a shot.

Sir John had a long and distinguished political career. He served under three prime ministers including two periods as First Lord of the Admiralty. He was also a strong believer in the need to provide better education. In 1855 he attempted to introduce a private members Education Bill 'for the better Encouragement and Promotion of Education in England'. On March 16th he spoke for almost three hours in the Commons to promote the Bill. While his attempt to carry the Bill was not successful, it set wheels in motion. When Gladstone's first ministry passed the Elementary Education Act of 1870 it followed very much on the lines of Sir John's earlier proposals.

Sir John went on to hold the parliamentary seat of Droitwich for 37 years until defeated by John Corbett in the election of 1874. He died on April 9th 1880. The east window in the chapel of Hampton Lovett Church is dedicated to his memory.

It would no doubt please Sir John to know that his revolutionary warship survives some 160 years later and is restored to its former glory. *Warrior* was a bold move and an imaginative policy. Sir John must surely have appreciated the words of *Warrior's* captain, Arthur Cochrane, who wrote to him in 1864,

"Permit (me) to state in concluding this discursive note how great is the debt of gratitude which the country owes to you for the construction of the Warrior and the Iron Clad Fleet of England".

HMS Warrior

Warrior is one of the most influential warships ever built and today rests proudly in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. If you are visiting, she is surely a 'must-see'.

Launched in 1860, she was Britain's first iron-hulled warship and built as Queen Victoria's deterrent against rumoured French invasion.

Warrior was built at a time when warships were made entirely of wood with no armour protection against shells. That was about to change for in 1859 the French launched *La Gloire*, a steamship of sixty guns.

La Gloire was a major threat to the British Navy. She was the first 'ironclad', heavily protected by iron armour, but she was still built on a wood-framed hull and was therefore vulnerable at her heart.

Britain had to respond. The solution first suggested was to clad existing ships in iron. However, the then First Lord of The Admiralty, one Sir John Somerset Pakington (1st Baron Hampton from Westwood), pursued a more radical proposition.

He supported the building of completely iron-hulled ships and in 1858 he commissioned a design. *Warrior* was a bold leap forward in naval design but a controversial decision. As Sir John later reflected, *"I often wonder how I mustered sufficient courage to order such a novel vessel"*. One can visualise Sir John grappling with the decision, in his study at Westwood House, walking around the estate or perhaps even in the quiet of Hampton Lovett Church.

The 'novel vessel' worked. *Warrior* and her sister ship *Black Prince* were to become the most feared of ships. They were the fastest, strongest, best

not thrust them again into the fire". A battle was to follow. The Scots army assembled on the Pitchcroft. Prince Charles issued a royal command for Sir John to attend. This he did but he maintained his resolve and declared he was only there as a prisoner and had no intention to raise forces or take part in fighting.

Unfortunately for him, the muster of the royalist forces for the Battle of Worcester still contained his name. After defeat for Charles's army a charge of High Treason was preferred against Sir John. This time, he faced not only losing his estates but his life. The prosecution case eventually fell apart, no-one would testify against Sir John and he was acquitted. For a second time he was permitted to compound for his properties. He was too valuable a 'cash-cow' to let go entirely free.

So, Sir John retired to a quiet life at West-wood? Well, not exactly.

Under Cromwell's rule various minor royalist uprisings took place. In 1654, an unfortunate event occurred when a cartload of hampers marked 'wine' was delivered to Sir John at Westwood. The ruse failed and the hampers revealed not wine but muskets and pistols. Sir John was arrested and thrown once more into the familiar accommodation of the tower. He survived again (somehow) and was released nine months later. Cromwell's death in 1658 gave a fillip to revolt and in 1659 Sir John was arrested yet again and his estates seized. England was sliding towards anarchy. In the end it was the restoration of the monarchy that saved Sir John this time.

During the English civil wars 180,000 people lost their lives through fighting, accidents and disease. In the end both sides achieved something. The monarchy ultimately survived but with increased powers for parliament.

The formation of parliamentary parties had begun and the road to wider democracy lay ahead.

Sir John suffered for his loyalty to the royalist cause as must the people of Hampton Lovett and Westwood. He was to be in financial trouble for the rest of his life. The burden is revealed in a statement written by his wife Dorothy in which she records her husband ultimately lost £20,358 for *"for adhering to King Charles the First"*.

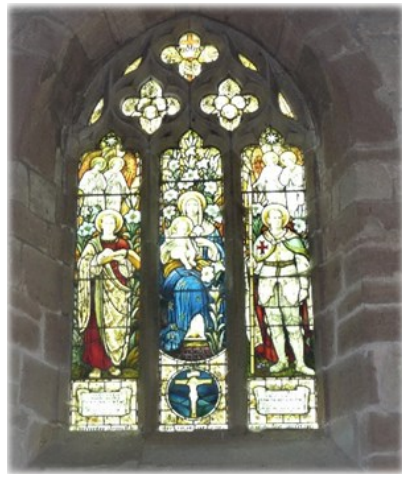
Sir John lived a hard life but somehow hung on and survived. He has no portrait but if one existed it would surely show a steadfast and determined man.

There is, in the chapel of the church, a fine monument to Sir John's grandson, a political figure in his own right.

Agreeing the wording of the inscription just days before his own death he pays tribute to his grandfather who was, "*tryd for his life and spent the greater part of his fortune in adhering to Charles I"*

Another tribute to Sir John is known to have existed. A short but poignant dedication found in the flyleaf of a book, written in the hand of the ill-fated Charles I:

"To Sir John Pakington, Bart,
from his sincere friend,
Charles R."



At the west end of the nave is the most poignant of windows. In the right-hand panel stands Edwin Richard Hampton Lewis, son of Rector Edwin and Frederica Lewis. He had trained for Holy Orders and had been attached to a clerical mission in Canada. From here he volunteered for service with The Worcestershires in WW1.

In April 1917 a shell fell in his company dug-out, which killed his school friend Aldana and wounded all the other officers. Dick Lewis was fatally wounded and died a few days later, age 25.

The Chaplain of his regiment paid him tribute saying, *"His influence upon the men for good was great, and I know it will live on*". His Captain wrote that *"his strong personality and cheerfulness made him a favourite with us all"*.

The names of all from Hampton who fell in the two World Wars are commemorated on the memorial plaque by the window and are honoured each year at the Remembrance Service.

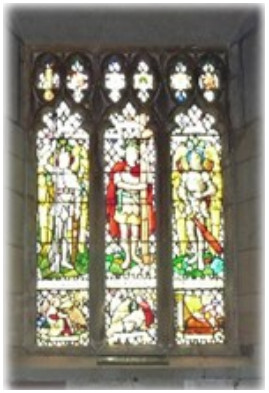
The loss of their younger son was the second tragedy that Edwin and Frederica Lewis had to bear. In the left panel of the window stands their older son, Tom Lewis. We believe he was, or had been, a student at Oxford. The third signature in what was then the new church visitors' book is that of a *"Tom Lewis of Oxford"*. It seems probable that this would be the same Tom home for a summer visit.

Written in July 1908 it seems a strong vibrant hand, but just three months later he was gone. Two brothers who were lost too young.

Windows to the Mind

Stained glass windows are 'two-way' windows. In one sense they are windows into our minds. The images portrayed in glass add to the spiritual atmosphere of the church and they are also a reminder of biblical stories or messages. This was a particularly important function in past times when much of the congregation could not read or did not have access to a bible.

The windows can work in the other direction as well. They can let us into the minds of the people who have gone before and who so carefully created the images we see. A window, for example, may be dedicated to an individual, perhaps containing subtle insertions in the glass recalling aspects of the lives commemorated.



In the side chapel for instance the two north windows are dedicated to the 1st and 2nd Barons Doverdale. The 2nd Baron was Oswald Partington and the nearest window to the east wall (right) portrays two namesakes, Oswald of Northumbria and Oswald of Worcester. In the top lights of this window is another personal touch - a cricket bat and wicket for the 2nd Baron was Chairman of Worcestershire County Cricket Club.

The windows on the south wall of the nave were installed by the families of two former rectors and remind us of the service they gave to the church.

The oldest window is the one in the north wall of the nave (left). The arms are of the Pakington family and the families into which they married are intertwined.

The Monarch's Way

By the afternoon of 3rd September 1651 Prince Charles (already crowned as Charles II in Scotland) was fleeing the Battle of Worcester.

Outnumbered two to one by Parliamentary forces the Royalist army had been routed. Around 3,000 Royalists had been killed compared with 200 of Oliver Cromwell's forces. Charles was to spend 42 perilous days on a tortuous journey that would eventually lead to Shoreham and a boat to exile in France.

Today the 625 mile Monarch's Way, which passes through Hampton Lovett churchyard, can be followed as a leisure activity. For Charles and those with him this journey was about life or death.

Escape took him northwards out of the city of Worcester, mingling with the Scottish cavalry streaming out of the town. The King's group split off and *"they moved a little right"* heading towards Droitwich.

By-passing the town, they reached Hampton Lovett passing close by the church. Perhaps Charles would have paused to reflect that he was on the friendly royalist estate of the Pakingtons. Only briefly though for the need was to move on.

To Charles and those with him it must have been a desperate journey with little hope for the future. Yet by 1658 Cromwell was dead, government nigh impossible and the country in danger of sliding into anarchy.

In the irony of all ironies, Parliament invited Charles to return as a unifying figure and in 1660 the monarchy was restored.

Nine years earlier such an outcome would have seemed scarcely imaginable to Charles as he passed by Hampton Lovett Church on that darkest of days.

An Unsolved Mystery

By the mid-1600s, with Charles I executed and his son exiled, England was ruled by Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth and with puritan zeal.

While the Harvington branch of the Pakingtons had remained loyal to the Catholic faith, Lady Dorothy Pakington was prominent in religious circles of the Anglican Church in England. The Pakingtons were also well known as loyal supporters of the Royalist cause. When Lady Pakington became ill it was natural that Henry Hammond, previously royal chaplain to Charles I, should visit.

Hammond had been with the King during his imprisonment but at Christmas 1647 he and another royal chaplain (Gilbert Sheldon) were removed from the King's presence despite his protests.

The execution of the King caused Hammond deep anguish and his own movements became heavily restricted.

Westwood became his sanctuary. He was never to leave, staying on for the remaining ten years of his life.

In his quiet study he worked night and day. He frequently corresponded with Gilbert Sheldon and others who formed a small group working for the recovery of the Anglican church. Hammond's intellect and Sheldon's driving force were a formidable combination. Work had to be done with a degree of secrecy. Important persons were given false names in the correspondence. Hammond never refers to Lady Pakington by name, calling her always *"the Lady heer"*. As a result of this secrecy we are left with an enduring mystery. Amongst the wealth of materials produced, a key religious work *The Whole Duty of Man* was published anonymously in 1658. The work was a bestseller for 100 years and remained influential for a

further century. The book carried weight even beyond these shores. Benjamin Franklin, a signatory to the American Declaration of Independence, was clearly influenced.

Writing in a letter to his wife regarding his daughter Sally he says, *"I hope she continues going to church and would have her read over and over again the Whole Duty of Man"*.

Lady Dorothy Pakington was reputed to be the author. Other suggestions have been made and the various merits debated. However, one item of evidence seems ignored. The inscription on the monument in the Westwood Chapel (to Lady Dorothy's grandson) claims Lady Dorothy to be *"justly reputed the authoress of the Whole Duty of Man"*. Could this be the final piece in the jigsaw?

Whatever the case, there is no doubt the works written during that 10-year period at Westwood by Henry Hammond and others were of immense importance in the development of the Anglican tradition and Lady Pakington played a key role.

To all this, there is a sad postscript. Henry Hammond was not to see a second King Charles or the rehabilitation of the church for which he so earnestly worked. At the age of 55 his health was failing. By a cruel twist of fate, on the very day parliament voted to restore the monarchy, Henry Hammond was buried in the Pakington family vault in Hampton Lovett Church. His monument can be found in the nave.