

ST MARY THE BLESSED VIRGIN

HARTLEY WESPALL



Foreword

During 2020 extensive work was undertaken to restore the Bell Tower of St Mary's. Completion of this work was made possible by generous donations from local residents and grants from Allchurches Trust, Hampshire Historic Churches Trust, the Dean & Canons of Windsor and, particularly, the Heritage Lottery Fund. One of the requirements of the latter was to produce a record of the church, both of the building and the history behind it.

This collection is the result of my research and the work of the photographer James Balston who, by an extraordinary coincidence, is a descendant of Dr Balston, one of the principal contributors towards the rebuilding of the church in 1868.

The story of St Mary's during the 19th Century revolves largely around the Keate family and their connection with Eton College. The Revd Dr John Keate was Headmaster of Eton during much of his time as Rector and his son, Revd John Charles Keate, drew on many Eton connections when he oversaw the rebuilding. Between them, they were Rectors for seventy years.

Of the remaining structure of the original church, the West Wall is the outstanding feature - "the huge early fourteenth-century timbers form one enormous, boldly cut lozenge cut by a cusped middle post" (*Pevsner*).

"No other church has anything like it, and its bold fantasy is memorable"
(*English Parish Churches*, Alec Clifton-Taylor).

During the restoration work both Pip Iles, the Churchwarden, and I have been thrilled to discover so much that is not apparent on first sight. It is hoped that this record will enable visitors to St Mary's to enjoy and understand more about this remarkable little Grade 1 Listed parish church.

Michael Webster

May 2021



ST MARY THE BLESSED VIRGIN





1868 Rebuilding of St Mary's



1330 West Wall



2020 Restoration of Bell Tower



Porch



North Door



Vestry Door



South Door



**Lych Gate erected by Richard & Beatrice Durnford in 1895
in memory of Rev John Charles Keate
Rector of Hartley Wespall 1848 - 1894**

John Charles Keate, the only son of Rev Dr John & Frances Keate, was born in 1822 at Eton where his father was Headmaster.

After school at Eton he attended Balliol College, Oxford. Following his father into the church, he returned to Hartley Wespall in 1848 to succeed his father as Rector. Included in the report of his funeral in 1894 was this appreciation:

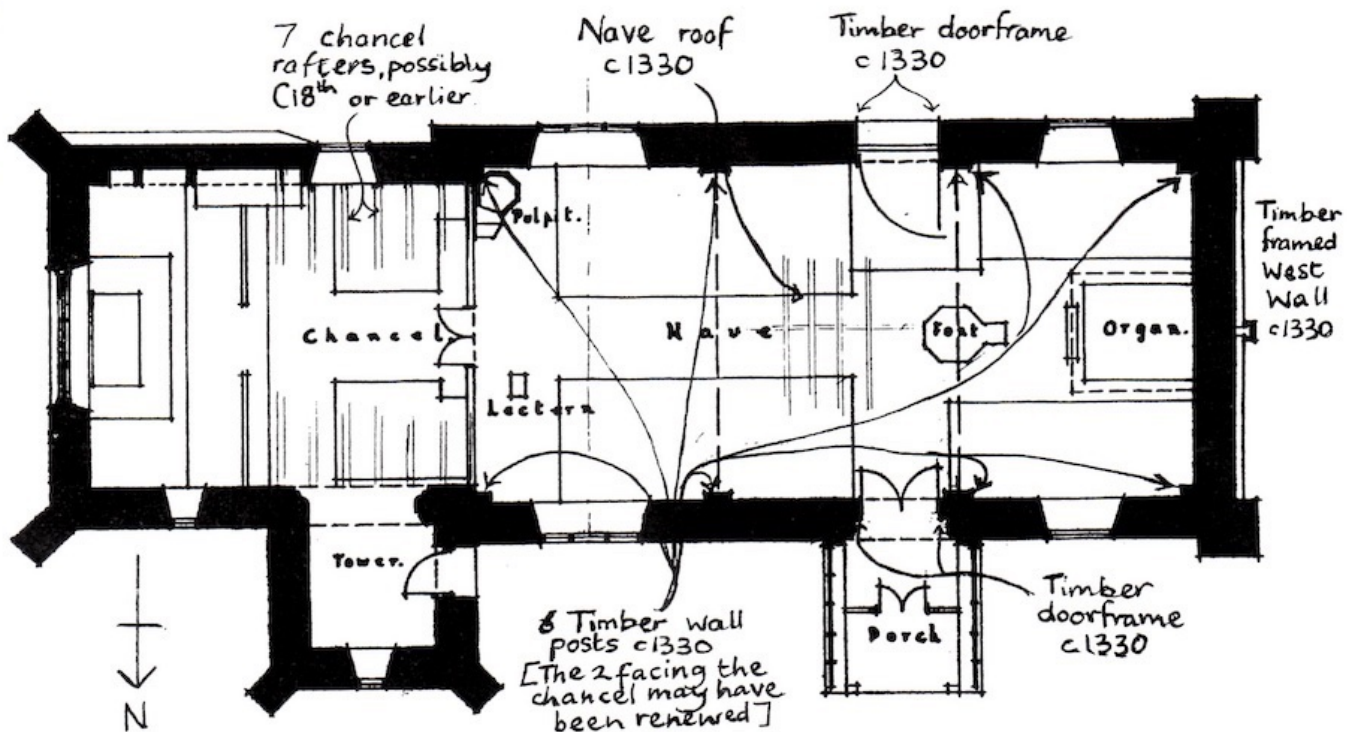
“The deceased had been Rector for 46 years, and by his spotless life, strict integrity, and generous disposition had endeared himself to his parishioners, and a wide circle of friends”. However, his memory is best served by the church we see today, which he had rebuilt in 1868.

The first Rector of Hartley Wespall, Edmund de Bedwyn, was appointed in 1286. However, it is thought that the oldest parts of the church date from about 1330.

Although the church was largely rebuilt under the supervision of Revd JC Keate and George Gilbert Scott in 1868, the original massive beams in the half-timbered construction survive in the West Wall along with the internal timber structure. At that time the Bell Tower was moved from the West to the North side of the church.

'The west wall of Hartley Wespall church incorporates a spectacular early 14th Century decorative timber frame. It is conceived in two stages. At the lower level, the massive timbers give the illusion of strength and solidity appropriate to their position in the base of the building. Above, in the gable of the roof, the framing is much lighter and lace-like.

Particularly satisfying throughout the design is the way that small decorative projections or cusps are used to punctuate the curving lines of the timbers. There is no clear documentary evidence to date the frame, but the sinus form of its timbers suggest that it was erected in about 1330. The intersection of the braces bears generic comparison to the great scissor arches erected to support the buckling central towers of Wells Cathedral in 1338 - 48.



The nave is in three bays, with heavy story posts between each bay having filleted half-round shafts on the face, from the moulded capitals of which spring arched braces to the underside of cambered tie-beams. On the tie-beams are king-posts with struts, and the rafters are very heavy and have arched braces beneath. The tie-beam at the east of the nave is level and not cambered, and has formed the head of a wooden screen perhaps of much the same character as its modern successor. The struts and principals over it are cusped like those in the west wall of the nave. The windows showing traces of the 14th and 15th-century design, date from 1868. The chancel, which was rebuilt in memory of Dr. Keate, has at the north-west an arched opening to the tower, while on the south are a modern credence, aumbry, and tomb recess of 14th-century design. There is no chancel arch, but chancel and nave are separated by a fine modern screen with open traceried panels surmounted by a large cross, with medallions at the ends of the arms carved with the symbols of the four evangelists. The figure of Christ on the cross was added in 1923 as the village's war memorial.'

John Charles Keate, Rector 1848-1894, made the greatest and most enduring impact on the church during its long history. This painting by John Nixon, in about 1800, shows the body of the church as it is today but with the Bell Tower to the West.



During 1868-69 he oversaw the complete rebuilding of the church. His aim was to rebuild in more durable materials.

This was achieved after a battle with his ecclesiastical superiors who felt that the original construction of the building (timber work and rubble faced with brick) should be retained.

In 1850 Keate wrote to the Dean of Windsor:

May 11th

My Dear Dean

Since I wrote to you about our Church I have had Street down here to look at it. He said he had not seen so interesting a Church - a timber building of the early part of the 14th century and decided that it must be restored to its original state of timber framework and rubble - building a new Chancel of the same material.

To this I very strongly objected as being a rude material lacking both in durability and comfort, the former shown by the fact of the timbers outside having decayed and the walls having in consequence been cased with brick, the latter by the notorious discomfort of Mattingley Chapel and all the old farm houses and cottages which are built of that material.

I took the advice of many very competent judges who all decided against it, saying that it was sacrificing durability and comfort to mere archaeology.

I wished to build up in flint and stone, leaving all the old work inside - but Street declines to do anything of the kind, and told me plainly that I as a tenant for life had no right to commit such a barbarism.

I therefore went to the Bishop who said "you will be bruised on every side - you will be attacked by the Ecclesiologists as the Goth and Vandal who perpetrated such an enormity as to destroy the character of the Church, and if you do the other you will have your own people against you - and moreover I cannot sanction it."

I have therefore by his advice resolved to do no more than new seat the Church in oak, take down the gallery and open the roof. This together with (?), making good the walls inside and repairing the belfry will certainly cost not less than £400 and I shall be very thankful if the Chapter will give me some help, either in timber, which may be sold and exchanged for that which is seasoned or in money.

There is a very large quantity of timber in your property here, which ought to be cut, and perhaps the Chapter may prefer this method of giving assistance. Hardy promised aid to the best of his ability.

I ask for no specified quantity, because so much will be required.

Very sincerely yours

JC Keate

However, after many years, Keate's view prevailed and with the assistance of George Gilbert Scott, the leading church architect, the rebuild was completed, retaining many of the fine timber features of the original. The sketch below was drawn on the first day of the rebuilding in May 1868, before the belfry was moved to the North side of the church.



MR GG SCOTT'S APPROACH TO THE RESTORATION OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

"It is said of Mr Scott that his restorations are largely distinguished by a respect for good old work of whatever period, but that he was not afraid to add bold and individual features to a church. At St Mary's Church, Hartley Wespall, Mr Scott thankfully did not sweep away everything of historic interest. He kept as much of the timber framing as possible in the nave and west wall, doing quite major repairs. His copies of the mouldings and repairs are quite precise and do not stand out, but rather harmonise with the old. The plan of the church is the same as before the restoration and the old church remains strong and serviceable. The tower is the only change on plan, but the belfry retains part of its historic structure and form.

It is evident from the protracted correspondence between Scott and Reverend Keate that the architect cared about the building and his work. It seems from the letters that Scott was meticulous in his account keeping and cared about even the minutest details.

On balance, it seems that Mr Scott's approach to the restoration of St Mary's was sensitive and respectful of the best parts of the original structure."

1991 Historic Buildings Account of Restoration

Restoration of Hartley Wespall Church

"On St Simon and St Jude's Day the ancient church of Hartley Wespall was opened, after having been completely restored by Mr GG Scott, jun. The church is a very interesting and rare instance of a timber building of the latter part of the 13th century. The old oak roof, with its massive tie beams and cusped rafters, has been preserved, the wooden pillars which support it being repaired and strengthened where necessary. The modern casing of brick has been taken away, and the walls rebuilt with flint and stone. The west end remains in its original condition of timber and rubble. The belfry, built many years after the nave, has been taken from the west end and raised on flint walls the same height of the church, and placed on the north side of the chancel. The nave is newly seated with plain and substantial benches of elm, and an oak screen with decorated tracery separates the nave from the chancel.

The chancel has been restored in memory of the late Rector, the Rev Dr Keate and Mrs Keate, who rest in it, and an altar tomb, with a monumental brass, has been raised in Dr Keate's memory. The church contains several very beautiful stained windows by Burlison and Grylls. The east window represents the Annunciation, the Nativity and the Crucifixion. The south chancel memorial window the two sacraments. A window on the south of the nave with figures of Zachariah and Elizabeth, is placed by parishioners and others to the memory of Dr and Mrs Keate. There is also one on the north side, in remembrance of Dr Broughton (late bishop of Sydney), and once curate of Hartley Wespall, and also his wife and daughter, placed by his surviving daughter. Opposite to it there is a window representing Faith, Hope and Charity, in remembrance of a sister of the wife of the present rector.

At the morning service the preacher was the Bishop of Wellington, who took his text from Hebrews 12, 22. He spoke very feelingly of his affectionate regard for those whose memorials he saw around him, and of the influence which they, by their example and good deeds, had exercised. The service was choral (Anglican) throughout. It began with a Processional Hymn, at the moment when the clergy - some thirty in number - entered the church doors, the first verse being sung by them in procession, and the second was taken up by the singers in the chancel. The prayers were chanted by the Rev T Robertson of Sherfield. The choir was most efficiently aided by Mr Tolley, of St George's Chapel Windsor, and two choristers of the same; the whole under the able direction of Dr Elvey. Mr Blackith, of Basingstoke, accompanied on the harmonium. The anthem was the treble solo from Handel's "Redemption" - "Holy, Holy" - admirably sung by Master Walker, of Windsor, and the "Hallelujah Chorus" immediately following, was exceedingly well sung by the church choir, and other friends assisting.

The Holy Communion was administered to a considerable number of Communicants, the Right Rev. Bishop Chapman being the celebrant, who was assisted in the administration by the Bishop of Wellington, the Rev Dr Balston (late Head Master of Eton), and the Rev JC Keate, the present Rector. Besides the large number of clergy already mentioned, some of whom came from a great distance for the occasion, the church was well filled by neighbours, friends and parishioners, many of whom had been contributors to the work.

There was a service again in the evening, when an appropriate anthem by Dr Elvey was sung, taken from the 122nd Psalm, "I was glad when they said unto me". The prayers were chanted by the Rev A Thompson, of Wormley, Herts. The sermon was preached by Dr Balston, who had been the chief promoter of, and largest contributor to, the work of restoration, together with many other Etonians, formerly scholars of Dr Keate. Dr Balston took for his text the 2nd Ephesians, 19th and following verses, and preached a very earnest and touching sermon, dwelling much on the life and character of those to whose memory the chancel has been rebuilt.

Upwards of £50 was collected at the two services in aid of the building fund, and for reducing the debt upon the work of restoration."



As well as the new fabric, the church benefited from the installation of stained glass windows by Burlison & Grylls; these mostly commemorate the Keate family and their relatives. The one exception is the window in the Nave north wall commemorating Bishop William Grant Broughton and his family.

In 1873 the excellent Hedgeland organ was added.

During the later part of the 19th Century the Keate family acquired the Rectory, Hartley House, for their own and built a new rectory near the church. However, John Charles Keate continued to live in Hartley House until his death in 1894 while his sisters, Margaretta and Anne, lived in the Rectory.

As well as being such a long-serving Rector, John Charles Keate was clearly loved in the parish and contributed enormously to the life of the village.

Extract from report of his funeral in Hants & Berks Gazette 14th July 1894

... there prevailed a deep sense of loss, for Mr Keate was a clergyman whose sterling character commanded not only merely respect but reverence. He had been so long in the parish ministering to the spiritual necessities of his flock that middle-aged men and women, fathers and mothers of families, looked upon him as a father, for by him they had as infants been baptised; by him as persons arrived at years of discretion, they had been prepared for confirmation; by him, as full-grown men and women, they had been married; and to him, in their turn, they had brought their own children to be baptised. Of those who remember Mr Keate's coming to the parish, as a young man of twenty-five, only a few now remain alive; and if these could tell the tale of the forty-six years that have passed since then, we doubt not that their testimony would reflect singular honour upon the departed clergyman.

The afternoon of the funeral was bright and sunny. A soft breeze blowing, and the woodlands, freshened by recent rain, looked their best. Hartley Wespall House - the deceased's residence - (he did not live at the Rectory) - is situated in some pleasant grounds, about ten minutes' walk from the church - a walk along as pretty a country lane as one could wish to stroll in - skirting here a coppice, with the sunlight glinting among the branches and the abundant undergrowth; there a meadow, scented with new hay, on which the harvesters but yesterday were at work; there a field of wheat, just beginning to assume that golden tinge which signals the near approach of harvest. From Hartley Wespall House to the churchyard gate the coffin was wheeled on a hand-bier, the arrangements being undertaken by Mr. Manser, of Sherfield-on-Loddon. The coffin was of plain elm, with black fittings, and the inscription on the brass plate was :

**John Charles Keate.
Died 5th July, 1894,
Aged 71 years.**



East Window. The Crucifixion, set between the Annunciation and the Nativity, under tracery with angels.
Burlison & Grylls 1869



Altar and East Window



1895 Reredos in memory of Rev JC Keate, Rector 1848 - 1894



The Altar



the west wall of the nave.
 I hope you will not have the
 altar-rails altered. I was
 much pleased with them.
 a narrower centre opening
 will be very damaging to the
 chancel, and there are plenty
 of people who can kneel
 without support tho' some
 require it.
 Believe me.
 Yours very truly
 G. Gilbert Scott junr.
 Rev. J. C. Keate.
 24M67
 PW1 (vii)

1868 Letter from George Gilbert Scott about width of altar rail

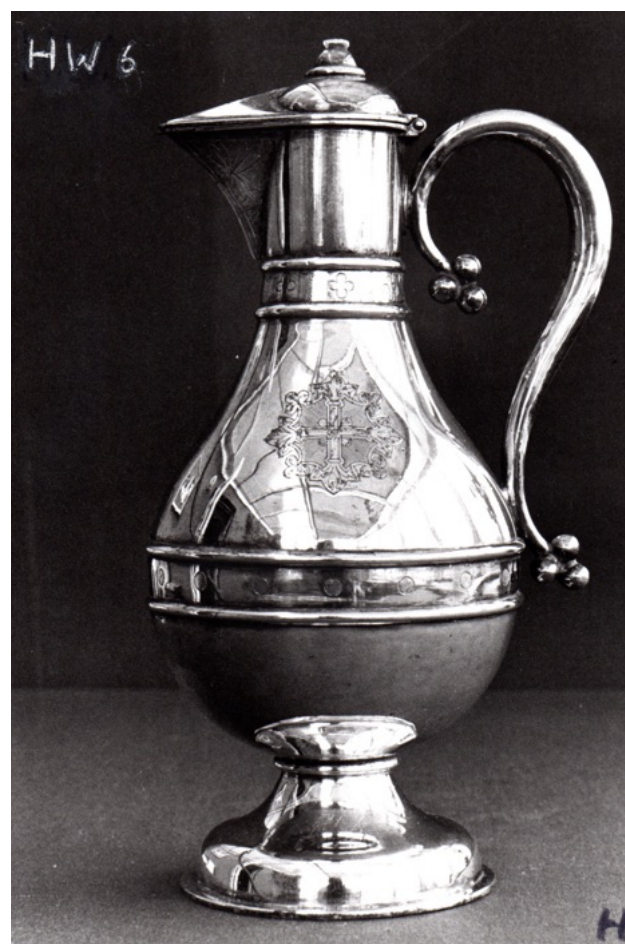


**'Given to St Mary's Church Hartley Wespall
by Rev EJ Shadwell In loving memory
his mother, Louisa Amelia Shadwell AD
1906' She was the youngest daughter of
Rev Dr John and Frances Keate**

'It is more blessed to give than to receive'



**Silver Flagon 1849
Gift of Margarett Keate**



Plated Flagon ex Stratfield Turgis



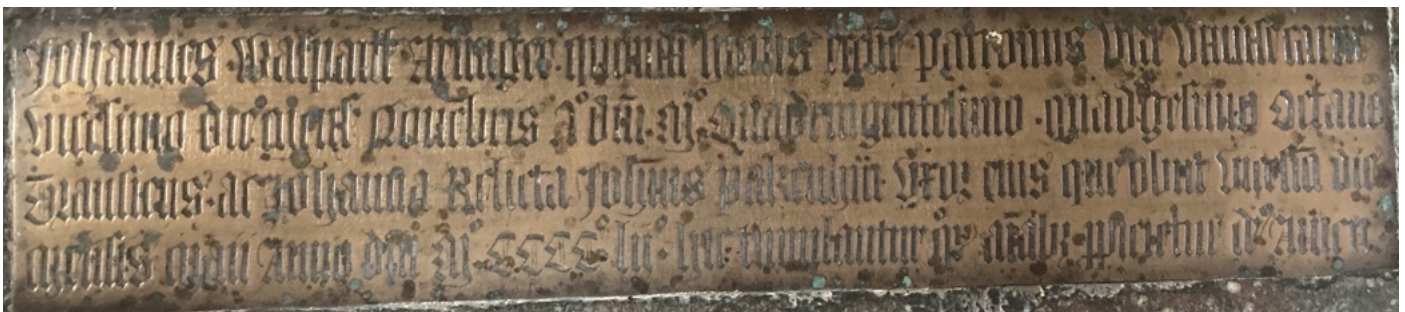
Chalice 1898



Chalice 1698 'Ex Dono John Chase'



Chancel Tomb of John Waspail and his wife Jane

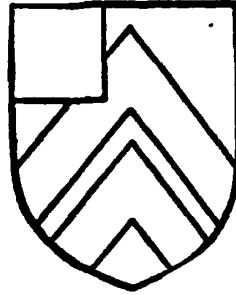


“John Waspail sometime Patron of this Church, who went the way of all flesh on 20th November 1448, and Jane, his widow, relic of John Pakenham, who died on 20th May 1452 are buried here, upon whose souls may GOD have mercy, Amen”

Hartley Wespall Manor and the Waspail Family

It is from the Waspail family that the village of Hartley Wespall derives its name. Over the centuries it has taken a variety of forms, including:

Harlei, Herlei (xi cent.); Hertle, Hertligh Vaspal (xiii cent.); Hurtleghe, Hertle Waspayl (xiv cent.); Hartley Westpall.



"At the time of the Domesday Survey one of the two holdings in Hartley Wespall was held by Aubrey the Chamberlain; it then passed into the possession of the Waspail family. A 12th-century charter whereby the Prior of Merton granted land in the parish of Hartley makes mention of the wood of Osbert Waspail, and an entry on an assize roll of 1249 records that Geoffrey Waspail had failed to make suit at the hundred court of Holdshot, but beyond this there is nothing to connect the Waspails with the manor from this date until the middle of the 14th century. At the beginning of the 14th century John de Drokenford, Bishop of Bath and Wells, was holding the manor, most probably on lease from the Waspails. In 1318 a commission of oyer and terminer was granted to Sir John Foxley and others to try John Turgis and others accused by the bishop 'of breaking his close at Hartley, fishing his stews, and carrying away his fish and other goods'. Described as lord of Hartley, the bishop presented a rector during the episcopacy of John Stratford (1323–33), but at his death in 1330 he was not seised of the manor, which had most probably by this time reverted to the Waspails. In 1346 John Waspail was stated to be holding half a fee in Hartley Wespall, formerly belonging to John de Drokenford. He died in 1362, leaving a son and heir William, on whose death in about 1405 it passed to his son and heir John. As lord of Hartley Wespall John manumitted a bondman in 1413, but before 1428 he had been succeeded by a second John, who in that year was returned as holding half a fee in Hartley Wespall lately belonging to John Waspail. In 1445, in return for a payment of 100 marks, John granted the reversion of the manor, after the death of himself and his wife Joan, to Hugh Pakenham, son of his wife by her first husband, John Pakenham. He died in 1448 and lies buried in Hartley Wespall Church. On the death of his widow three years later, Hartley Wespall passed, in accordance with the settlement, to Hugh who, as lord of the manor, presented a rector to the church during the episcopacy of William Waynflete (1447–86). He had sold the manor before 1461, but the name of the purchaser is unknown. However, within the next twenty years it had passed into the possession of Sir Thomas St. Leger, who in 1481 obtained licence from the king to grant the manor and advowson of Hartley Wespall to the Dean and Canons of St. George's Chapel, Windsor. This was in payment for the building of a chantry in the Chapel to commemorate his wife Anne of York, sister of King Edward IV, who had died in 1474 giving birth to their daughter, also Anne. She married George Manners, by him had eleven children and is buried in the Rutland Chantry. At the same time the Dean and Canons obtained permission to grant a yearly rent of £23 1s. 8d. proceeding therefrom to two chaplains, who were to celebrate divine service daily in the chantry founded by Sir Thomas. From this date the manor remained in the possession of the Dean and Canons and their lessees (apart from the years of the Commonwealth). It was restored to the Dean and Canons at the Restoration, and remained in their possession until 1876, when it was sold to Arthur Richard Wellesley, second Duke of Wellington."

The Dean and Canons of Windsor remain one of the Patrons of the parish to this day.

From British History Online



1967 Rope in memory of David Michael Figgins

Whilst completing an apprenticeship as an RAF radio technician David suffered a motor bike accident resulting in the loss of an eye. However he completed his training and, after marrying Jeanette, they had a son, Stephen, who was christened at St Mary's where his father Reg was organist.

In 1966 David was posted to Borneo and then Singapore where his family joined him. It was here that David sadly died on 16 October 1967. His ashes were interred in St Mary's Churchyard.

From an account of David Figgins' life by his sister Barbara Shepherd.





**Grave of Rev Roger Huggett and his wife, Dorothy, in the Vestry.
He was Rector 1761 - 1769 and Canon of Windsor 1746 - 1769**

Roger Huggett 1746-1769. Elected 1 February 1746 in succession to Thomas Phillips. Admitted and sworn 7 April 1746. Eldest son of Robert Huggett, of Stone, in the Isle of Thanet. Born 8 October 1710. Matriculated from Hart Hall, Oxford, 8 April 1731, aged 20. B.A., from Christ Church, 1734; M.A., 1739 [Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*]. Conduct of Eton College 1737-64. Vicar of Hartley Wespall, co. Hants (D and C), 1761. Married Dorothy, daughter of Herbert Randolph, of Canterbury. Died 27 July 1769. By his will, proved at Doctors' Commons 5 August 1769, he left copious documents and memoranda, concerning St. George's Chapel and Eton College, compiled by himself, to the British Museum and the Bodleian Library. Succeeded by William Chilcott.



Credence, Aumbry and Tomb of Rev Dr John Keate, Rector 1824-1848





1816 Hand-coloured etching by Richard Dighton
National Portrait Gallery

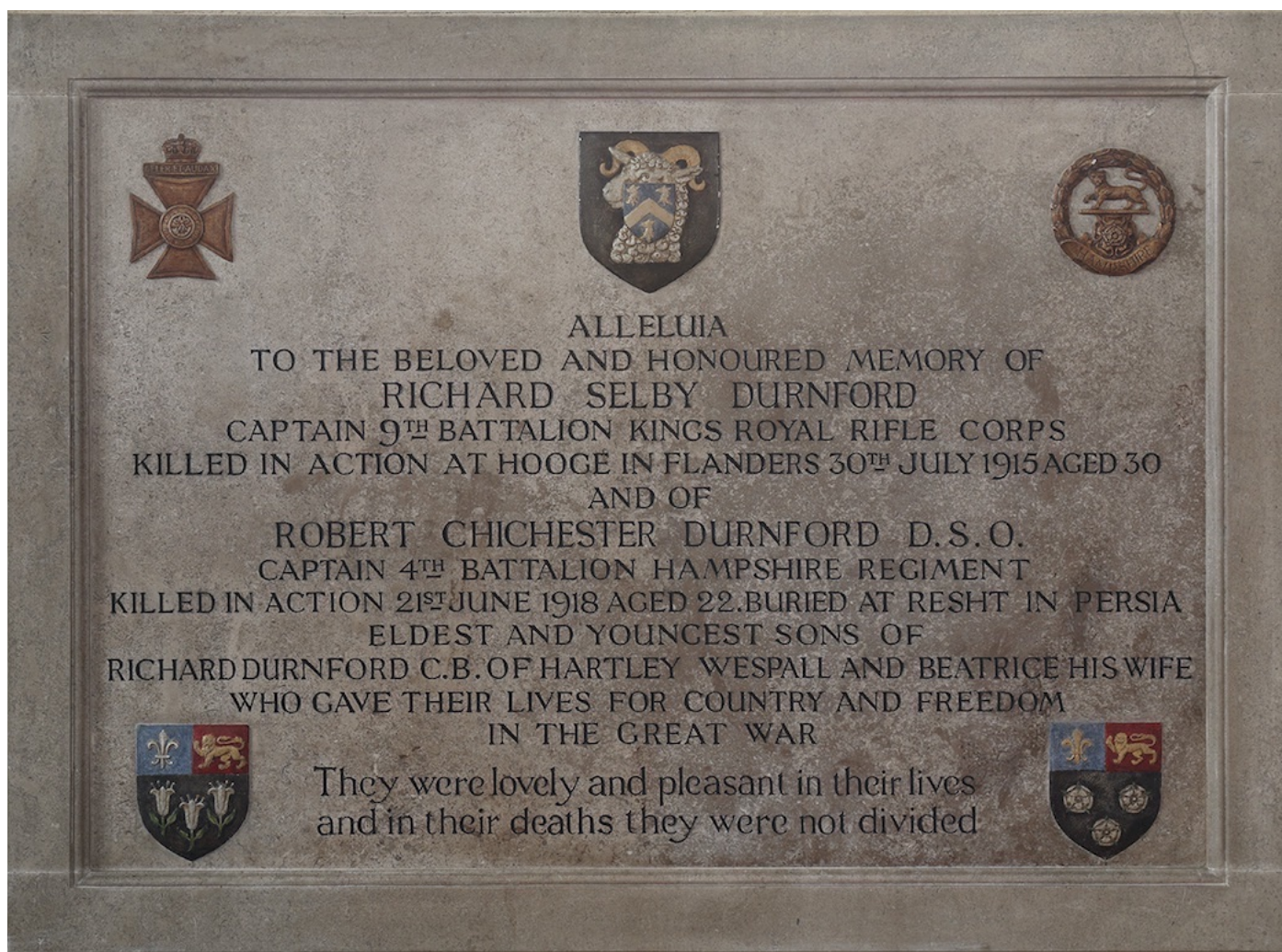
The Rev Dr John Keate is undoubtedly the most well-known Rector during St Mary's long history though this arose principally from his reputation as Eton's 'Flogging Headmaster'. Nonetheless, his reputation and appearance certainly attracted attention. A former pupil described him thus: 'He wore a fancy dress partly resembling that of Napoleon and partly that of a widow woman'.

He was Rector of Hartley Wespall from 1824 until 1848 when the living passed to his son. During much of this time he was also Headmaster of Eton College (1809-1834) and a Canon of Windsor (1820-1852).

Although he must have been a busy man he established Hartley House, the Rectory, as his base and moved there when he retired from Eton in 1834. Throughout his time as Rector he was assisted by a Curate. Initially, this was William Grant Broughton who was subsequently Bishop of Australia.



Supper at Emmaus; Baptism of Christ
To the Glory of God & in loving remembrance of John Keate DD who died
March 5 1852 and of Frances, his wife, who died July 14 1863



Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Tehran War Cemetery





Chair in Sanctuary



**In loving memory of Richard Durnford CB
Born 1843 Died 1934
and
Beatrice Mary his wife
Born 1857 Died 1927
of Hartley Wespall House**

This chair was given by their surviving children.



**Memorial to Frances Keate wife
of Rev Dr John Keate**



Memorial to Hugh and Meg Durnford

Richard Durnford 1843 - 1934

He was the eldest son of Richard Durnford, Bishop of Chichester, who married Emma Keate, daughter of Rev Dr John Keate.

After education at Eton he was a scholar at King's College Cambridge.

His career in the Civil Service included being Secretary to the Lord President of the Council and later Secretary to the Charity Commissioners for which he was appointed CB.

After his retirement he and his family lived at Hartley House which he had inherited from Rev JC Keate in 1894. He was a magistrate in the county and continued to sit on the bench in Basingstoke until past the age of 80.

He and his wife, Beatrice, erected the Lych Gate in 1895 in memory of Rev JC Keate.

Beatrice Mary Durnford (Selby) 1857 - 1927**Richard Selby Durnford 1885-1915**

Captain Kings Royal Rifle Corps Killed in Action at Hooze, Flanders 30 July 1915

He was educated at Eton and King's College Cambridge. After a year teaching at Lancing College he returned to Eton as an Assistant Master. He was commissioned into the King's Royal Rifle Corps on 1st October 1914. Commanding his company he took part in a successful attack on the German trenches at Hooze, Belgium, but was killed in a counter bombardment on 31st July 1915.

Robert Chichester Durnford DSO 1896-1918

Captain 4th Battalion Hampshire Regiment Killed in Action at Resht, Persia 21 June 1918

After education at Eton and King's College Cambridge he was commissioned into the Territorial Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment and went with them to India. After two years in Quetta he joined the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force, taking part in the capture of Kut and the advance on Baghdad.

He was severely wounded in the attack of 24th February 1917 and was awarded the DSO. After six months recovering in India he rejoined his battalion but was killed in action on 21st June 1918 in Mesopotamia.

Hugh George Edmund Durnford MC 1886-1965

Captain Royal Field Artillery

Author of 'The Tunnellers of Holzminden'

Margaret (Meg) Evelyn Hope Durnford (Meiklejohn) 1895 - 1977



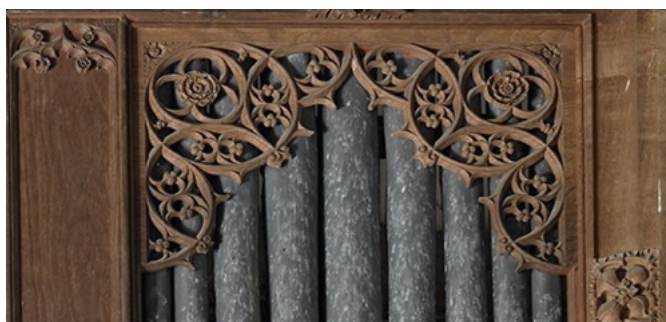
Nave and Organ with 1330 Roof Timbers



Font and Hedgeland Organ

The Font was installed in 1842. The organ is described as *“one of Hedgeland’s best instruments which needs to be preserved one way or another for future generations”*.

William Martin Hedgeland 1830 - 1911 built this fine organ in 1873. The Oak organ case was designed by George Gilbert Scott and incorporates some fine detail.





The Rood Screen and Cross were installed during the 1868 rebuilding of the church as a memorial to Dr Keate and his wife, funded by Old Etonians.
The signs of the Evangelists are at the four corners of the cross.
The figure of Christ was added in 1923 as the Hartley Wespall War Memorial.
Beyond the Rood Screen is the 1868 rebuilt Chancel.



Jacobean Pulpit



Rood Screen



1923 'The Figure of our Saviour placed upon the Rood Cross by the Parishioners in Honour of our Redeemer and in Proud and Reverent Memory of the Fallen'



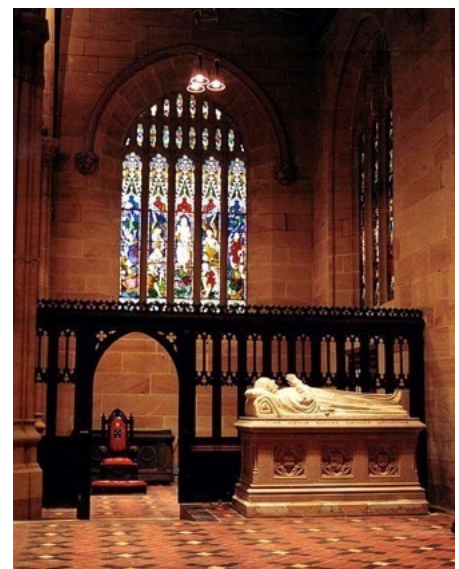
HARTLEY WESPALL.
MILITARY FUNERAL.—On Saturday afternoon the mortal remains of Pte. Thomas Elliott, King's Royal Rifles, were laid to rest in the churchyard of his native village with military honours. He had been on active service for the past 11 months, and was severely wounded in the head on the 5th inst. ; after preliminary attention at the Base Hospital he was removed to the Duchesses of Connaught's Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow. Subsequent reports gave ground for hope of recovery, but he gradually grew worse, and passed away on the 19th inst. Owing to indisposition the Rector of Hartley was unable to conduct the service, and this duty was kindly carried out by the Rev. J. B. Barker, Rector of Sheffield. There was a large concourse of people, practically the whole parish, where the deceased was very well known and popular, showing their sympathy by attending the sad ceremony. The deceased, previous to joining the Army, had been an enthusiastic member of the Hartley Boy Scouts, and enlisted in the Army although under age. This token of bravery, which has culminated in giving his life for his country's cause, has brought forth expressions of admiration on all sides. The body, borne by soldiers, ten of whom attended, entered the church whilst the organist (Mr. R. N. Ruddle) played the air "O rest in the Lord." The hymn "On the resurrection morning" was sung during the service, and the Nunc Dimittis was chanted as they left for the grave, which is situated under the shadow of the church where the deceased had been accustomed to attend. At the conclusion of the service the "Last Post" was played by two buglers, and was very impressive. The mourners included Messrs. Ernest, Charles and John Elliott, Mrs. C. Elliott, senr., Mr. and Mrs. Wingrove, Mrs. Cummins, Misses Edith, Ethel and Agnes Elliott, and there were also present Mr. and Mrs. Durnford, Miss Durnford, Mrs. J. B. Barker and many others. There were numerous wreaths of especial beauty from Joe, Charlie and John; Mrs. Wingrove and Charlie; Edie; Mrs. Cummins; Ethel, Agnes and Mother; Mrs. Sewry; Ed. and Willie Goring; Mr., Mrs. and Miss Vass; from the staff at hospital; Dick Cummins; Misses F. A. and E. Lawrence; Mrs. Armsworth; Mrs. Leadbetter; Mr. and Mrs. Hoare; Mrs. Willig and Mrs. F. Hoare; Mrs. Hall; Miss Barker; Mr. and Mrs. L. Smith; Mrs. Lomer; Mr. and Mrs. Durnford; his loving friend "Flo."; Mr. and Mrs. Mulford and children.

Thomas Elliott, born in 1898, was just eighteen when he was wounded in France in September 1916; he was repatriated to hospital in Taplow where he died on the 19th.

His funeral here at St Mary's is described above. His family, mostly tailors, lived at Rose Cottage. The site is now named 'Elliott's Corner'.



**“In memory of a father, mother and sister. William Grant Broughton,
Bishop of Sydney, Sarah Broughton, Mary Phoebe Boydell.
I believe in the Communion of Saints, the Resurrection of the Body and the
Life Everlasting. Amen”**



Memorial in St Andrew's Cathedral Sydney

William Grant Broughton (1788 – 1853) was the first (and only) Bishop of Australia.

In 1818, at the age of thirty, he was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Salisbury and on 16th February was licensed as Curate in Hartley Wespall. Here he served under two Rectors, the Honourable and Reverend Alfred Harris and then Dr Keate of Eton College.

His accommodation, as Curate, was in a large vicarage (now Hartley House) with three sitting rooms, seven bedchambers, servant quarters and a farmyard which gave him space and an ample supply of poultry and bacon. He kept a horse, brewed his own beer and turned the space into a profitable school.

So, from the inception of his ministry he planted together the dual interests which dominated his life, education and the ministry of the Gospel.

He and his wife, Sarah, now had a family; two daughters, Phoebe and Emily and a son, William, who died young and whose grave is in the churchyard.

In 1827 he was licensed as an assistant in the parish of Farnham and then as Master of the Farnham free grammar school. His ecclesiastical and educational career was now progressing satisfactorily. However, it was a contact much closer to Hartley Wespall that gave him his next opportunity. He became acquainted with the Duchess of Wellington at Stratfield Saye and through her the Duke arranged for him to add the chaplaincy of the Tower of London to his existing duties. At this time he calculated his income to be 'above £1000 per year' and confessed himself 'amply satisfied'.

Broughton was nominated by the Duke of Wellington for the post of Archdeacon of New South Wales where he would enjoy a salary of £2000 per annum.

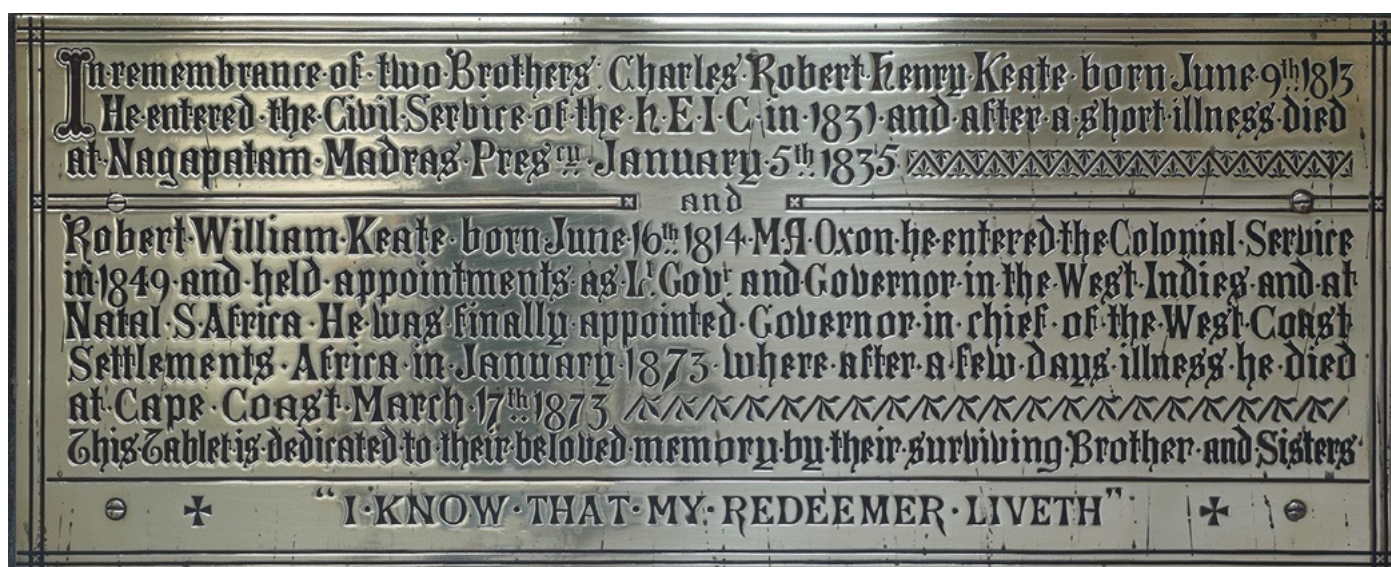
Broughton arrived at his post in Sydney on 13 September 1829. He was promptly made a member of both the colony's legislative council and executive council, assisting the Governor in the administration.

He returned to England in 1834, to champion the cause of the Australian church. The result was not as he expected; the diocese of Australia was to be formed. He was enthroned Bishop of Australia on 5 June 1836, just days after his arrival from England.

Broughton was a busy bishop, and travelled widely, perhaps more so after his wife died in 1848. He made many journeys around the fledgling colony and is credited as instigating the building of many churches. Among these he consecrated Saint Mary on Allyn, Allynbrooke, in the Hunter Valley. His son-in-law, William Barker Boydell, had married his daughter Mary Phoebe and Broughton ordered that a church be built for his daughter to worship in.

In late 1852 Broughton travelled to England to be involved in missionary fund raising. He died in London in February 1853, and is buried in Canterbury Cathedral.





Charles and Robert Keate, nephews of Rev Dr Keate.
 Robert Keate, in addition to his distinguished career as a colonial governor,
 was an accomplished cricketer, playing for the Gentlemen of England and
 Hampshire.



Margaretta Brown was the sister of Frances Keate, wife of Rev Dr Keate. Their
 father was Sir Charles Brown, sometime Surgeon to the King of Prussia. In
 1844 she donated the Holy Bible in use today and a Paten for Holy
 Communion.

These brothers commemorated were the sons of Robert Keate, brother of Rev Dr John Keate.

Robert Keate FRCS (1777 – 1857) was a noted British surgeon, and Serjeant-Surgeon to King William IV and Queen Victoria.

Charles Robert Henry Keate (1813 -1835) joined the Civil Service of the Honourable East India Company in 1831; he died in Madras in January 1835.

Robert William Keate (1814 - 1873) was educated at Eton College and Christ Church, Oxford. He was a talented cricketer making his first-class debut for the Gentlemen v Players in 1832 and from 1834 to 1837, he represented Oxford University.

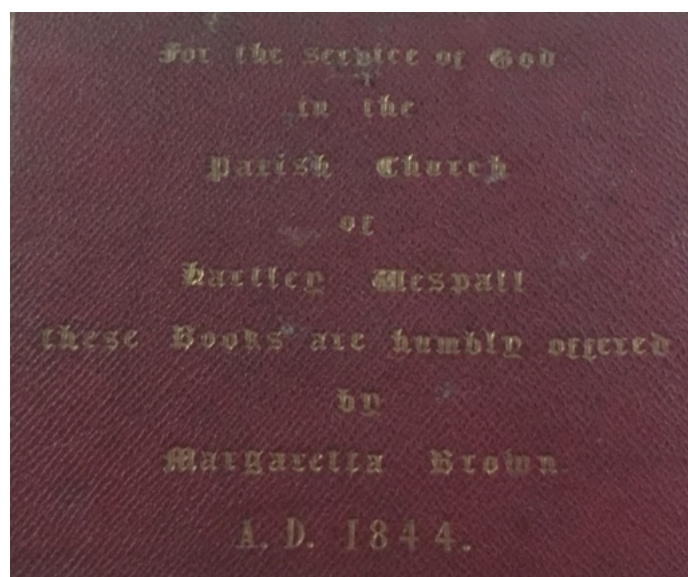
In 1844, he represented Hampshire in a single first-class match against the Marylebone Cricket Club. In addition, Keate played first-class cricket for the Gentlemen of Kent, the Gentlemen of England and an early England team against Kent in 1840.

Subsequently, he had a distinguished career as a colonial governor, serving as Commissioner of the Seychelles from 1850 to 1852, Governor of Trinidad from 1857 to 1864, Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony of Natal from 1867 to 1872, and Governor of the Gold Coast from 7 March 1873 to 17 March 1873. He died there just ten days after taking up his appointment.

Margaretta Brown (1774 - 1855), the elder sister of Frances (Fanny) Keate, was for many years a member of the Keate household at Eton and then in Hartley Wespall.

Margaretta, who was unmarried, and Frances were the daughters of **Sir Charles Brown** who in 1788 became Court Physician to the King of Prussia in Berlin. He may have had an interesting pedigree:

“Sir Charles Brown, their father, is stated without any equivocation, by Sir Henry Maxwell to have been an illegitimate son of the Young Pretender. Beyond the mere statement, nothing seems known but it is clear from the diary that such a story was current, although on one occasion Miss Brown declares her disbelief in it. It is quite obvious, however, that when Dr. Keate’s eldest grandson was christened Charles Edward, there was a certain wagging of tongues and raising of eye brows in the Keate circle.” (1938 Etoniana)



1844 The Holy Bible Gift of Margaretta Brown

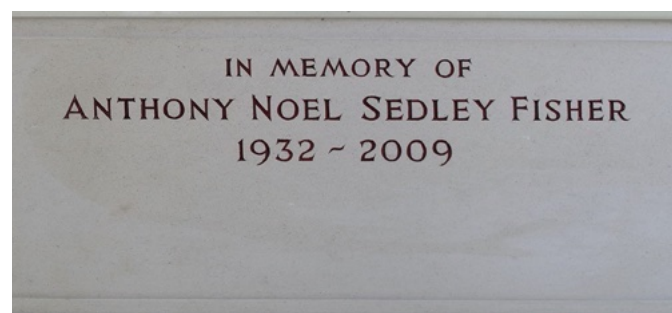


Faith, Charity, Hope. In memory of Anna Boisragon + 1868, daughter of William Hudleston, erected by her brothers and sisters, one of whom was Clara Keate, wife of Rev John Charles Keate.





William Cookesley Thompson succeeded WG Broughton as Curate to Rev John Keate in 1828. He was later Rector of Blackborough in Devon and died in 1866.



Bertie Fisher was commissioned into the 17th Lancers, served with them in the 2nd Boer War and commanded 8th Infantry Brigade in World War 1. In 1934 he was Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. After being recalled from retirement in World War 2 he was GOC Southern Command. General Fisher bought Hartley House from Hugh Durnford in 1938 and, after his death in 1972, his son Noel Fisher and his family occupied Hartley House.

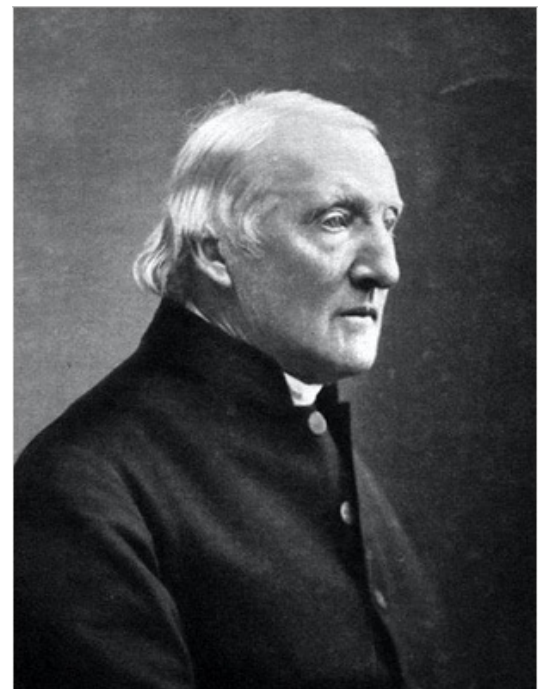
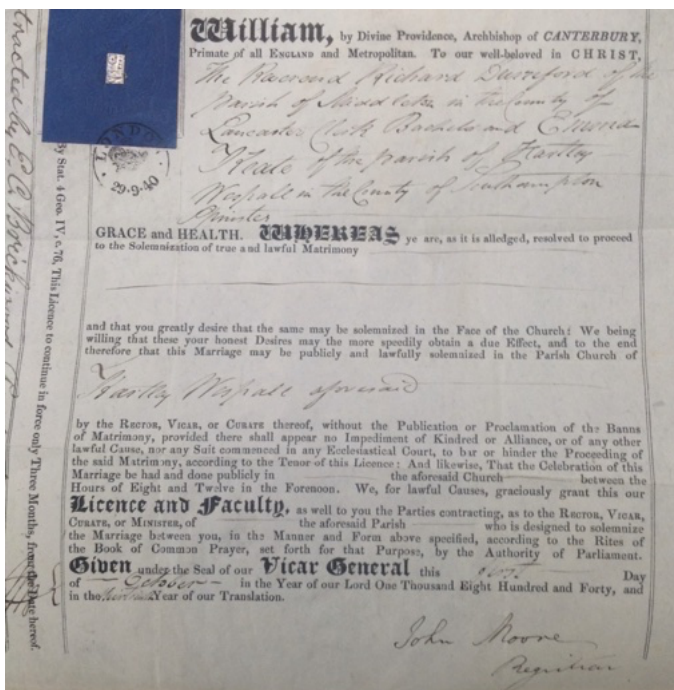


Churchwardens' Staves

Bishop's Churchwarden

People's Churchwarden





Rev Richard Durnford, Rector of Middleton, Lancashire married Emma Keate. (1840 Marriage Licence above) He was Bishop of Chichester 1870 - 1895. Their son, Richard Durnford, inherited Hartley House from his uncle, John Charles Keate, after the latter's death in 1894.



To the Blessed Memory of Clara, daughter of William Hudleston,
and wife of John Charles Keate + 1879



To the Glory of God and in grateful memory of John & Frances Keate this window is raised by Parishioners and Friends



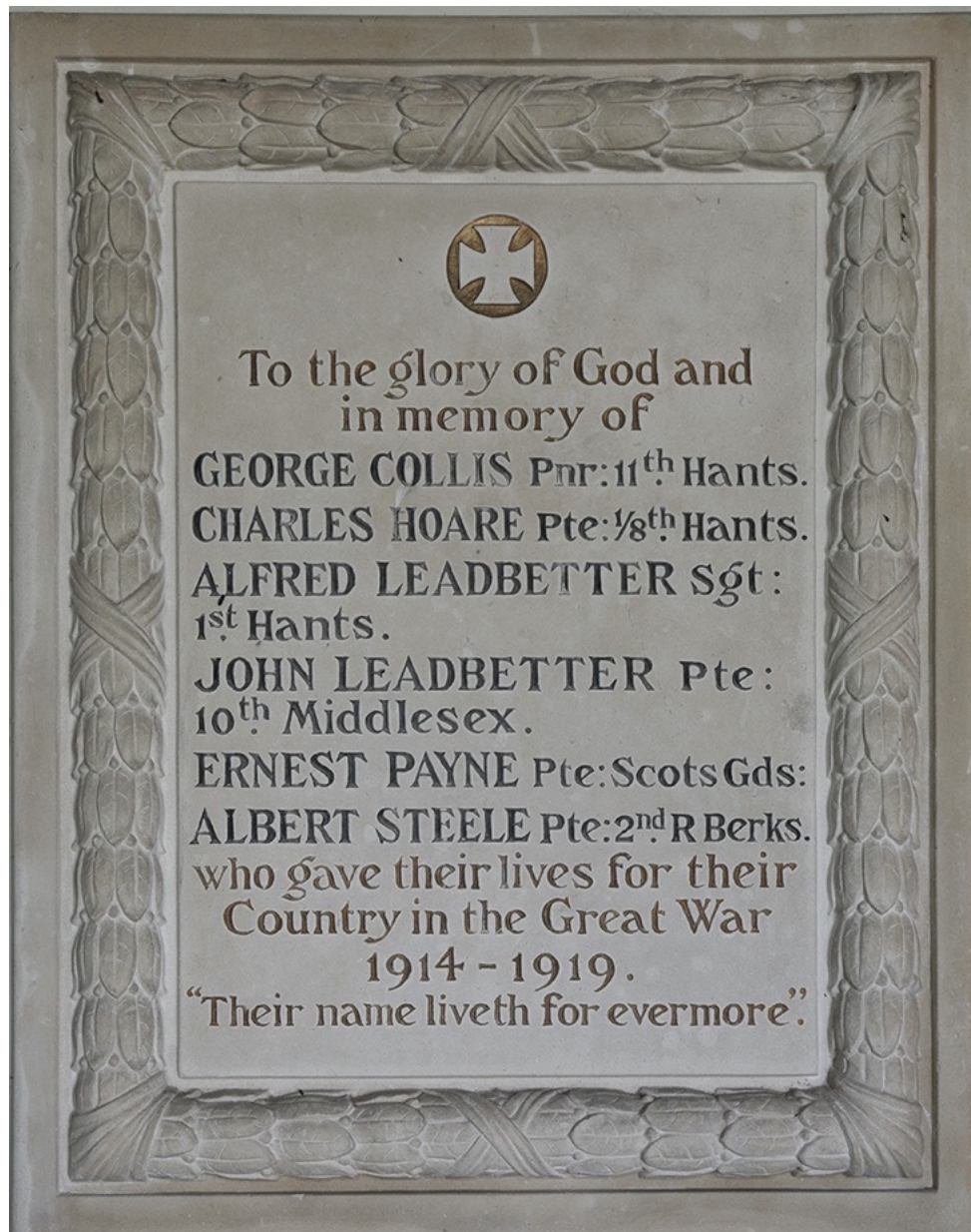
Tomb of Rev Dr John Keate 1773 - 1852



1877 Memorial to Mary Steele and Arthur Huddleston Steele



'First day of rebuilding 1868' – In memory of Hugh Durnford



At the same time windows from Stratfield Turgis were installed in the porch here in St Mary's.



Runnymede Memorial

KIRCHER, Sgt. GORDON KENNETH, 976992.
R.A.F. (V.R.). 53 Sqdn. 23rd June, 1941.
Panel 46.



Grave at Drosay Churchyard Normandy

KIRCHER, Sgt. (Air Gnr.) CECIL BERTRAM, 515103. R.A.F. 9 Sqdn. 13th June, 1940. Age 27. Son of Bertram and Maud Kircher; husband of Stella Helene Kircher, of Didcot, Berkshire. Coll. grave 5-6.



Memorial to Abigail, Lady Dowager of Ralph Lord Stawell



To the Memory
of the Right Honourable
ABIGAIL Lady Dowager of RALPH Lord STAWELL
Baron of Somerton, only Daughter and by the death of 3
Brothers Heiress of WILLIAM PITT, of Hartley Wespall
in the County of Southampton, Esq
She had a fair and hopeful .. hue 2 sons and 4 daughters
of whom survive Elizabeth Katherine the Right Honourable
William now Lord Stawell and Edward
She Dyed the XXV11 Day of September
MDCXC11

She was a Lady Particularly distinguished
by the Ornaments of Body and mind
More we would say yet tremble to offend
Lest we affront in the trying to commend,
But her Rich Charms beyond all helps are safe,
Her name alone is her Noble Epitaph
Then in Surprize effiuious made be Dumb
And fix any Admiration on her Tomb
Our witts to reach Her praises are too lame
Tis Angells work lets Them proclaim her fame



The restoration of the Bell Tower was completed in 2020.

“This involved extensive remedial repair and strengthening works to the tower frame with the installation of new solid oak timbers, installation of steel braces to the existing oak framing and treatment of the timber framing for beetle infestation.

The cedar shingles, lead weathering and soakers to the spire were also renewed in their entirety, with the weathervane metalwork redecorated. The vertical clay tile weatherings were removed and reinstalled with new fixings and damaged tiles replaced. The render panels and lead flashings were renewed and the isolated decayed oak louvres and oak quoins were replaced with matching oak louvres and quoins. The lead valley gutter between the tower south side and Chancel north pitched roof was also renewed.”

Ryan Bunce, Church Quinquennial Surveyor





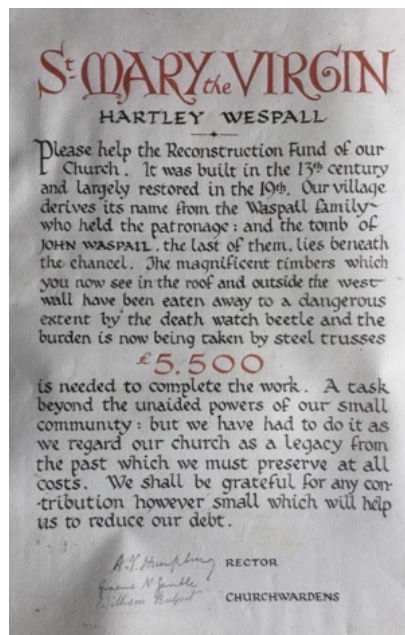
Graffiti on North Door



Key to North Door (1330)



Chancel Tile



1955 Appeal



Chancel Tile



Rood Screen Detail

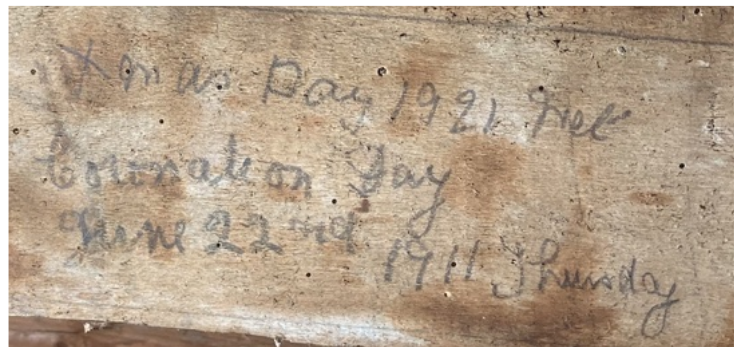
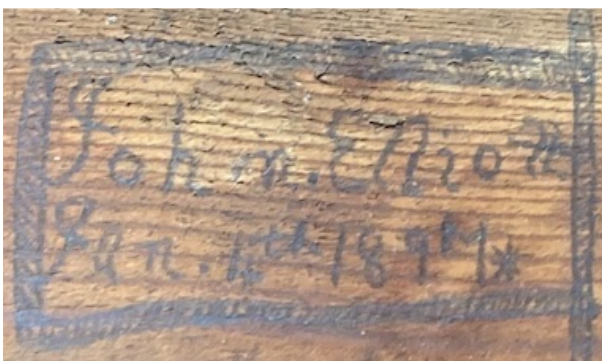
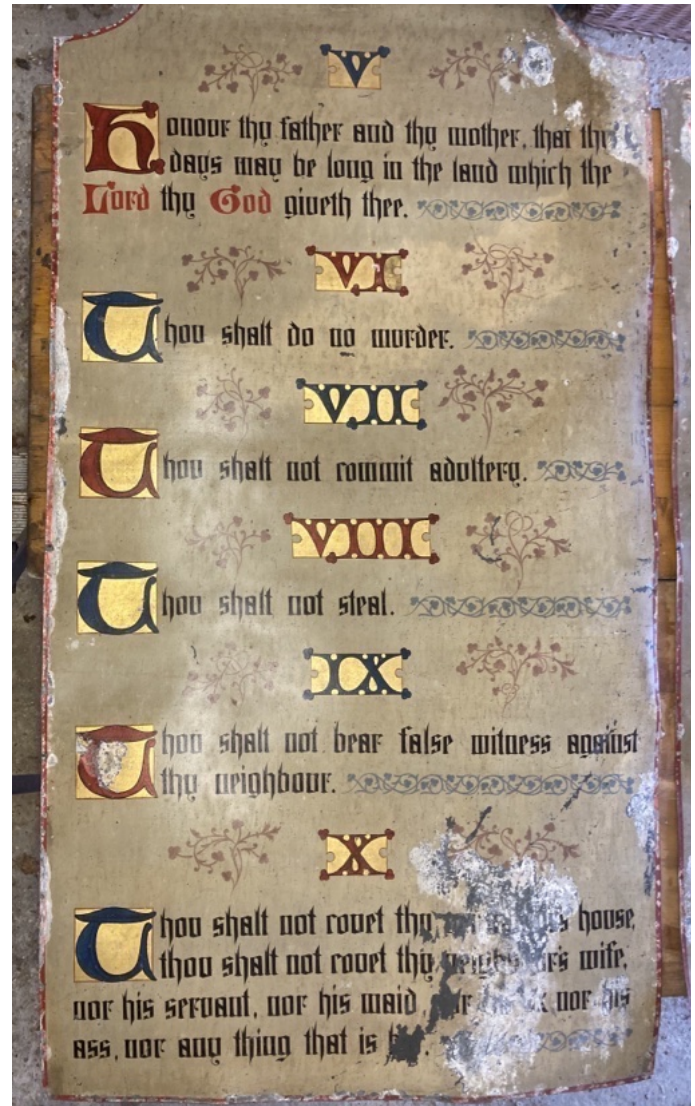
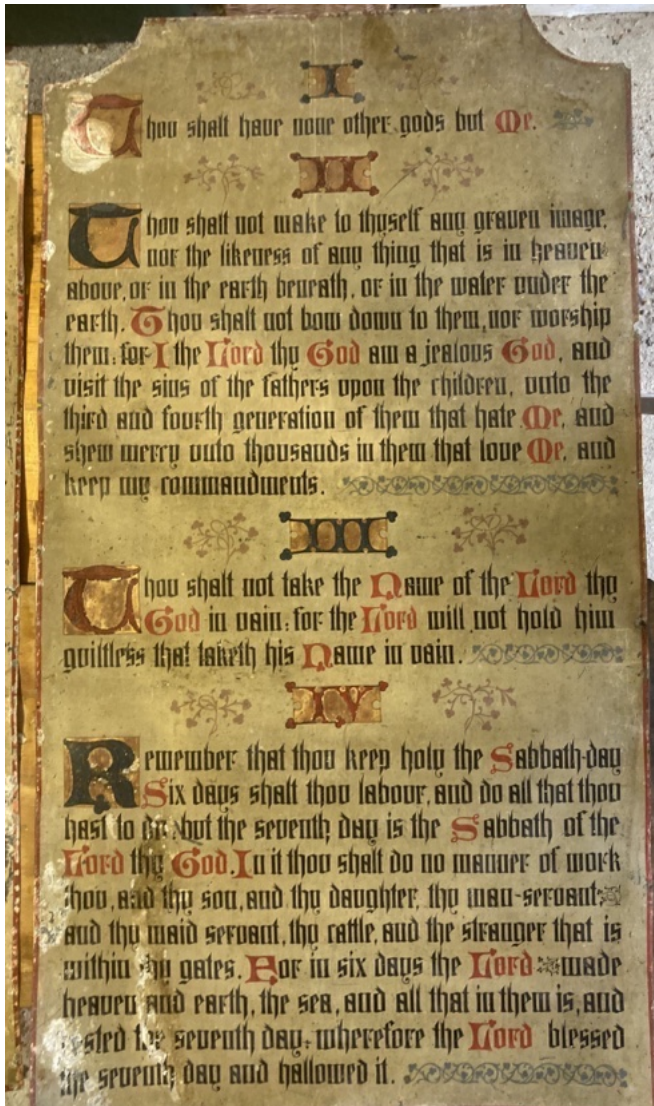


The tower contains three bells. The treble and second bear a plain cross, a shield of the three leopards of England, and the mark of Robert Crouch, a London founder of about 1440; the third was by Mears & Stainbank in 1883.



The Ten Commandments

During work on the Bell Tower these two tin sheets were discovered in the bell ringers' chamber. Their history is unknown but they could have been removed from the wall of the church during the 1868 rebuilding and not replaced. It is not unusual to see the Ten Commandments displayed in churches.



Some of the graffiti found on the walls of the bell ringers' chamber.

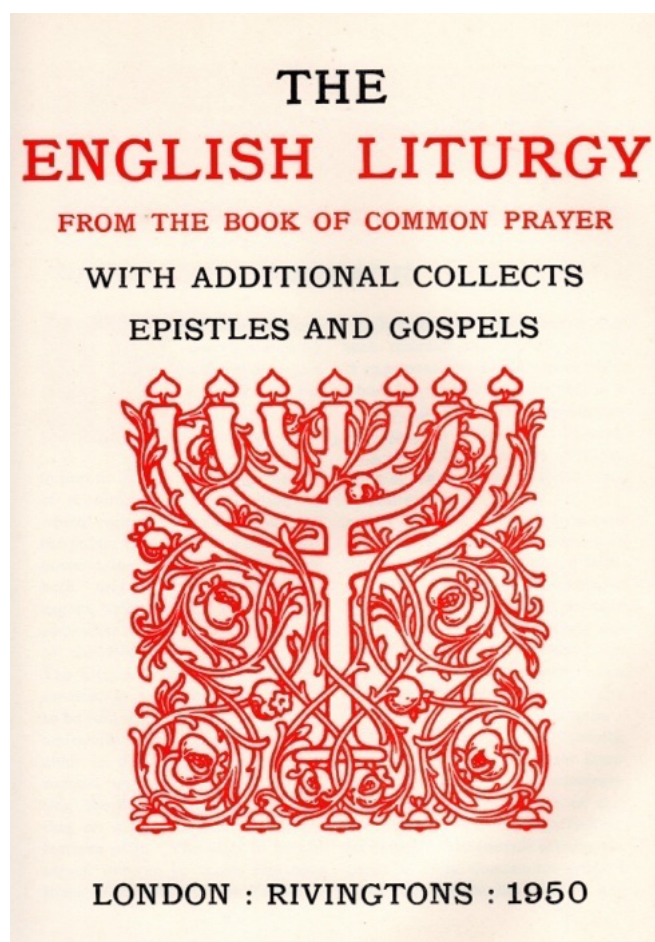
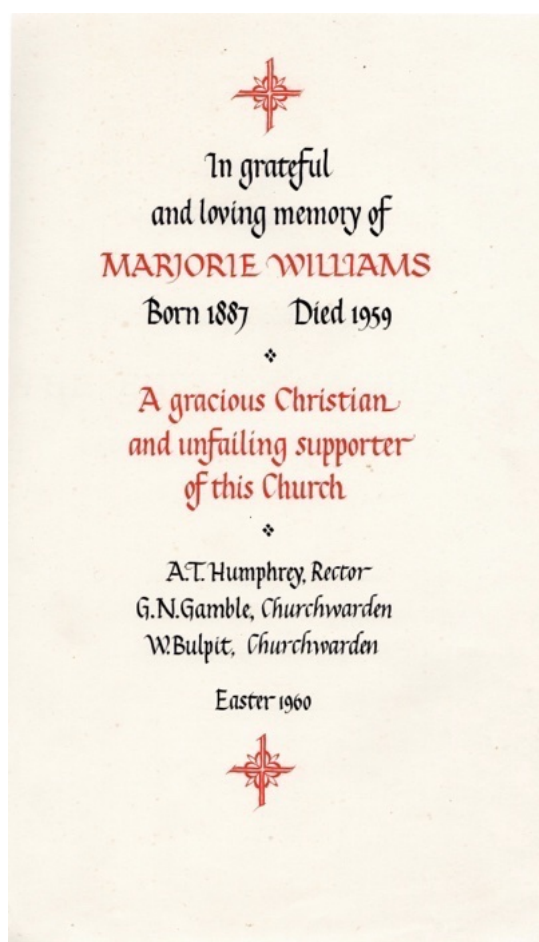


Photo of St Mary's taken before the Lych Gate was built in 1895



**To the Glory of God and in Memory of Revd Charles Griffith.
Erected by the Parishioners of All Saints Stratfield Turgis 1897**



**To the Glory of God and in Memory of the
Most Noble Henry 3rd Duke of Wellington**



St Mary's Hartley Wespall: Restoration of the Bell Tower

The bell tower consists of a stone vestry surmounted by wooden ringing and bell chambers on top of which sits a wooden spire. The ringing chamber is clad with clay

tiles and the spire by cedar shingles.

An inspection in early 2018 revealed very severe wood rot due to damp affecting a considerable amount of timber in the ringing chamber; there was also evidence of active woodworm. The spire shingles were also in a very poor condition.



Damp damage to main corner support of ringing chamber showing concrete infill from previous repair

A structural survey was carried out to assess the work required, the cost of which amounted to £62,000.



Above and right, the inside ringing chamber before treatment

proved they were roosting behind the tiles on the ringing chamber.

Our Church funds stood at £21,000 and so fund-raising took place including applications for



As bats live inside the church the Bat Conversation Trust were concerned that some may live in the tower. Morning and evening surveys

grants. This was very successful and so work commenced in mid-September 2019.

The first task was to remove the tiles from all four walls of the ringing chamber to expose the damaged timbers. Because of the known presence of bats a specialist had to monitor the removal of each tile in case a bat was roosting behind it. Approximately 4,000 tiles were removed but only three bats were found; two common pipistrelle and one whiskered. The presence of three bats added a further £4,700 to the overall costs.

With the exposure of the timbers it was discovered that the damp and infestation was much more severe than previously anticipated. This resulted in additional costs of £15,000.

The treatment and replacement of the damp timbers and treatment of the woodworm could now take place before the tiles on the walls of the ringing chamber were put back. This process was once more monitored by a bat specialist to ensure they were fitted to allow

bats to roost behind them again.

The final task was to replace all of the spire shingles. The scaffolding was removed in mid-December and the church was handed back.

With fees for the surveyor,



New shingles on the spire

structural engineer and the Bat Conversation Trust in addition to the fee for the contractor the overall cost was £91,500. Thanks to substantial grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust and very generous local donations sufficient funds were raised to cover this amount.

Right, the completed bell tower



