

# The Rebuilding and Repair of Berkshire Churches during the Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries.

By The REV. BASIL F. L. CLARKE, M.A. and H. M. COLVIN, M.A.

## APPENDIX

Since the first article of this series (A to M) was printed, we have found a few additional particulars which may be of interest.

### ALDERMASTON

In July, 1837, the pews in the chancel were made out of some oak panelling, part of the wainscot in one of the rooms of Ufton Court. The tower was restored to its original form, the projecting eaves having been taken down, and a battlement substituted, by a Church rate in 1811. William Congreve esq., Lord of the Manor, defrayed the cost. The work was executed by William Goswell, parish clerk, and his brother Robert. The pews in the nave were repaired by a rate. The pews and gallery were painted oak colour by James Joplen of the parish. The cost was £45 : 9 : 0, defrayed by voluntary contributions, and by part of the rent of the Church Acre.

### ASHAMPSTEAD

1761: pd the Carpenter for Altering the Pulpit and painting, mending the Seats and Cover to the Font	1	4	6
pd for Paint for the Pulpit & Galery	0	19	10
1772: Pd Stephen Awbery Bill for Repeating the wall on the north Side of the Church	—	15	—
1787: Mr Painter the Carpenter Bill for Repairing the Tower and some of the Seats	54	15	10
1803: Janry 19. Pd Benjamin Warner A Bill for New Ceiling the Church &c	10	19	—
Octr 29 Wm Smallbone A Bill for Work at ye Church	7	2	9

### BEEDON

There were some minor repairs in the late 18th and early 19th century.

1787: Paid Richd Birds Bill	20	10	7½
1800: do. Mr. Birds Bill	40	18	2½
Do. Mr. Goffs Bill	21	13	4
1833:	£	s.	d.
Aug. 19 Mr. Smith—for Timber Bill	5	14	
Mrs. Jackson Lath nails	8	9	
Octr 10 Mr. Buckeridge for Bricks & Lime, Bill	1	16	
11 Brooker Glazier, Bill	2	3	—
Mr. Smith—for Timber 2nd Bill	4	7	6
Mr. Fisher Carpentr. Bill	18	9	4
Wm. Tarlton, Mason. Do	7	5	3
Mr. Laidley for Oak Timber—Bill	2	16	
Thos. Hibbert—for Smith's work—Bill	4	11	8
Mr. Gee—Bill, for Labour & Sawing—paid	5	4	8
Ditto for Small paymts		9	7
	53	5	9

**BRIGHTWALTON**

A book of transcriptions from the registers and various notes, now in the Berks County Record Office, contains An Account of the Mens Seats in the Church Repaired in the Year 1723.

There are also the following notes:

The New Porch Door made by Rich Painter 1796

Brightwalton Church repaired in the Year 1801 New Glass put in every Window by Kislingbury of Ilsley—the Ceiling repaired and all the Tiles taken off & as many used again as was fitting by Gough of Ilsley—the Carpenter was Bird of Biddon—the Verses in the Church new written & some of the old Letters new Coloured by Josh. Norris—Mr. Bouchers Servants pew made into two—the pews in the Church afterwards was repaired by Josh. Norris at the expence of every Individual who belonged to them.

1813

**CHOLSEY**

In 1784-86 £294 : 14 : 11 was spent on ironwork for strengthening the tower, £92 : 16 : 9 for carpenter's work, and £10 : 2 : 8 for brickwork.

On April 15, 1800, the Vestry agreed "to hip the north Isle" (transept) "it being now out of repair".

There was a restoration in 1847-48, and further work in 1877.

**CLEWER**

A new organ was provided in 1831.

At a Vestry meeting on April 21, 1836, it was stated that not less than 400 new seats would be required, and that building a gallery would only give about 100 more sittings. "It would be advisable to enlarge or rebuild the old church for the purpose of obtaining the necessary accommodation". It was proposed "that a surveyor be employed to make a survey of the present state and condition of the Church and report as to the propriety of enlarging or rebuilding the same and give in a plan and estimate of the expense attendant upon such an enlargement". James Southwood was appointed surveyor, and his report was presented to the Vestry on July 25.

The whole of the Walls except those of the Tower, are out of their original Position, arising from the Sinking of the Foundations, and the unequal Mixture of the Strata. The Walls on the North Side towards the East end of the North Aisle, are so bad as to clearly show, The Foundations to be very defective or that the Bond of the lower part of the Walls is dislocated.

As to the Roof and Ceiling Floor, I am much surprised on Examination that the Whole has not long since fallen in, Some alterations & repairs have been executed very Injudiciously with old Materials & those of a very Bad & defective Quality . . .

There is also an adverse report on the state of the roof. There is no record that anything was done about this.

There was a restoration by Henry Woodyer in 1858-61.

## COLESHILL

March ye 1 1723

Whereas the little Gallery in the North corner of the Church was built with some of the Collections made at the Sacramt. with ye Consent of the Vicar and Church Warden; it is declared and agreed at this Vestry that for preventing all dispute, and all misbehaviour in the House of God, that the Vicar and Churchwardens for the time being shall, at the present, so at all time hereafter have full power to nominate and place every person to sit in the said gallery and to displace such as shall behave themselves irreverently there.

And also it is declared and agreed that the Vicar shall have two places in the front of the said Gallery for his Servants, they not having any certain place to sit in the Body of ye Church.

Octbr. 4 1724

We whose Names are Underwritten, Parishioners of the Parish of Coleshill assembled in Vestry, doe Agree That the Pavement of the Several Isles of the said Church, shall be taken up and new laid: provided that the Expence does not Exceed three pounds; and that Tho: Pleydell Esq. give the stones that are taken out of the Chancell to supply those that shall be wanting and that he shall be discharged of his proportion of the same.

## GREAT COXWELL

The churchwardens' accounts for 1785-86 contain a record of repairs.

Pd Jno. Liddall for Roughcasting the Church and tower doing other work and finding materials	27	0	10
Pd. Do for plastring and witewashing the Church	3	2	6
Pd. Mr Luker for a New Kings arms and writing the Commandiments	9	9	0
Do. for Glazing at the Church	2	5	0
Pd Mr. Bailey for a new pulpet Cloth covering the cushion and a cloth for the Communion table	7	5	1
Pd Robert Adams for work don at the Church and materials	2	3	1
Pd Mr Cox for paving for the Church	3	1	10
Pd William Reason for laying the paving at the Church and doing other work	4	14	0
Pd. William Gillett for two Casements and other work	1	5	1
For fetching two load of peaving from Swindon and Expences	1	10	6
Pd Mr Townsend for measuring John Liddalls work	0	5	0

Among the Radnor papers from Coleshill, in the Berks County Record Office, are several about the alteration of the chancel in 1795.

First, a memorandum of Lord Radnor:

*Things to be done at Coxwell Chancell.*

The four side Windows to be stopt up—flush on the Inside—The little Arch now in S.E. angle to be introduced in the stoping up of the Window next to it. to leave on the outside the Appearance of the Windows—also the Door Way on the South Side the same. Buttresses of Stone to be put against the Angles of the Chancel—not angular-wise, but in Addition to the Eastern Work as—(rough drawing) the Buttresses to reach to the Ramps at the Foot of the Eaves. Cut off the stone Rib on the north Side in the Inside—& the Seat thro' the Arch. Cut off the Ledge of the Window on the South Side of the inside—

## 76 THE REBUILDING AND REPAIR OF BERKSHIRE CHURCHES DURING

Insert a plain Rib in Plaister (like that in Stone ordered to be taken off) at the Spring of the Cieling Cove the whole length on each Side—The Crack in the S.E. angle to be made up as firm as possible—

The arch between the Church & Chancel to be pointed neatly, and white washed

All the Wood Work From between the Church, & Chancel to be removed—

The Eastern Window to be lengthened three Feet, and the mullions lengthened likewise—

The Bottom internally to be sloped down—thus—(drawing)

The Glazing of the Window I will order when the Work is in forwardness

R ———

There follows:

Coxwell Chancel—

Design for the Glass of the Window. (A rough drawing with notes.)

George Foxton, the Incumbent, writes on May 22:

My Lord,

I received yr Lordship's Favor of yesterday and have given Directions to the plaisterer in Writing (as the Mason was not at work) to slope down the seats between the Church and Chancel according to your Lordship's Instructions, whenever the Alterations are begun; tho' I confess myself rather at a loss to know, whether you mean that the Slope should be continued as far as the Seat extends round the Chancel, or only thro' the Arch-Way.

Upon taking down the plaistering in the Chancel yesterday, several *stone* Niches or Recesses were discovered in the Eastern Wall just above the Communion Table which I have attempted a Sketch of on the paper herewith sent. . . . I thought it my Duty to apprize your Lordship of these Circumstances as they may suggest to you some Alterations which you may wish to have made. The central Niche is only about 18 inches below the Window, so that it must necessarily be taken down in making the proposed Alterations . . .

His drawing, with the measurements, is in pencil. There is a note at the bottom:

The plaisterer thinks to serve the Chancel as your Lordship's seat at Coleshill is will be neater and the Expencc the same—The wall over the Arch into the Chancel very much craked indeed.

His Lordship makes a rough drawing of the east end, based on Foxton's, with notes on the alterations to be made. The recess under the east window is to be lowered, the recess on the south is to be shortened to correspond with that on the north, and the rest are to be stopped up.

Then there is a more careful drawing (not by Lord Radnor) endorsed "The Drawing of Coxwell Chancel Window", with notes on the size of the glass.

Then another scribble by his Lordship.

Then seven drawings of the coats of arms for the glass? by Eginton.

Foxton writes on November 5:

My Lord,

I confess myself much pleased and much obliged by everything that has been done in the Church and the Chancel, as both are rendered peculiarly neat and comfortable, and have only to lament that more was not attempted: the pulpit which was before not ornamental, is by the Improvements rendred more unsightly—nor do I find that there is the least Intention on the part of the Parish of putting up a new one, as all the scaffolding has (tho' not till within these ten days) been entirely removed: I have to hope, however, My Lord, that you have not abandoned the Idea of obtaining a Mojority at Vestry and voting it, as I consider *that* Mode more preferable, than an Appeal to the Archdeacon, which would probably give offence to my Parishioners, and subject me to their Displeasure. The Singing-Gallery is not painted, but probably I may be able to *get that* done, as the Expence will be but trifling. The Chancel is very much improved indeed by restoring the Arch, lengthening the Eastern Window and stopping up the side ones; but would it not be rendred still more neat and decent by the Addition of a light Railing across a few Yards from the Altar? Is it your Lordship's wish too that nothing more be done to the Niche's in the wall?

Mr. Capel a Brother in Law of Farmer Morse's has given a plain neat mahogany Table for the Communion Service, which I found already placed at the Altar, and which makes a very good Appearance . . .

His last letter—November 16—has very little about the Church, except:

"The Communion-Table was placed at the Altar during my Absence, otherwise it certainly would not have been done without your Lordship's Permission, and I believe I did intimate to your Lordship when at Coxwell in the Spring, that such was the Intention."

The chancel was restored in 1878 from plans by John Luker, and the nave in 1880-81.

## FYFIELD

The early 19th century churchwardens' accounts mention some payments for work in the Church.

1809: taking down part of ye tower A Bill to Sir John

throckmorton	8	5	0
for fir timber	30	3	0
Wm. Clandfield a bill for Labour	10	0	0
Wm. Hensley for Do	1	15	0
Ben Belcher for Do	3	5	0
Pd. Mr. Walch a Bill	6	6	0
do. a bill for Lime	24	15	0
Pd John Richings Work done at ye Church	132	0	0
John Clark for Work at do	209	18	0

£326 13 4 was received for lead, and £3 2 0 for old timber.

1810: John Ritchings for Work done at the Church	9	12	6
John Clarck for Labour & Metearels for ye Church	104	19	1
John Jones a Bill for Labour	12	16	8
1811: John Jones for Work at ye Church	30	0	0
John Clark for Work & Meteariels for the Church	83	0	0
Carrage & Expence With Metearils from Oxford	2	10	0
Mr. Ward a Bill for Slate	51	3	0
Mr. Hutson a Bill	92	8	9

## 78 THE REBUILDING AND REPAIR OF BERKSHIRE CHURCHES DURING

£100 was received from St. John's College, and £103 11 9 in part for the bells.

1816: Pd. Daws a Bill for Rails for ye Church	7	13	3
1818: Pd. Mr. Hutson Part of his Bill	27	5	10½ ( <i>sic</i> )
1827: Paid Mr. Dudley Oxford Bill for Repairing Church &c	25	0	1

## GARFORD

There was a repair in 1777 at a cost of £23 : 14 : 9. John Wooders was paid £16 : 1 : 0 for work and drawing, and James Jones the mason was paid £5 : 10 : 0.

## EAST HAGBOURNE

The chancel was to be repaired in 1674.

"The ruines & decayes of this Chancell being presented & Complained of to the officiall of the Archdeacon of Berks, in the Ecclesiastical Cot. ther in the Diocesse of Sarum/

The officiall hath granted a sequestration of the tithes of Hagborne to the Churchwardens ther, against the tennants of Mr. Keate for the wante of the repaire of this Chancell dated the 13th of May 1674."

## HAMPSTEAD NORRIS

In 1680 James Smith was paid £20 for a new bell-frame, and John Abrey the mason £1 : 5 : 2.

The Church was beautified and ceiled in 1698-99, and new wainscot seats were made all over the Church. The chancel was ceiled in 1716-17 at the charge of the Hon. John Dodd.

January 30, 1709: Paid to Mr. John Grant Plūmer for new leading the Tower	30	0	0
---	----	---	---

On May 23, 1727, the Vestry agreed to alterations in the disposition of the seats. It was also agreed "that the Pulpit be driven down four feet lower . . .

Item That the Bell fery shd be parted from ye Ch: and that a Gallery should be built not exceeding ye Expençe of Ten pounds to ye Parish.

Item That The Stairs in ye Tower be repaired".

1787: Mr. Kislingburys Bill for Beautyfieng & fresh writing ye Commandments & whitening ye Church	11	19	7
1789: April 10: Edwd. Trumpletts Bill for mending the Pews and Board & Bell Wheels & Church Yard Rails & Gate & Sanctus Bell House upon the Tower	3	7	3½

The Church was repaired in 1812.

	£	s.	d.
Paid the Carpenters Bill	22	12	11
Ditto John Kislingbury's Bill	34	0	4½
Ditto the Bricklayer's Bill	21	1	1
Do. John Dance for Brushes &c	0	5	1
Do. for A New Sett of Bell Ropes	3	18	6
Do. James Quelch's Bill	2	12	2½
pd. Mattw. Morse for Cleaning the Church &c	0	18	6
Do. Mr. Fidler's Bill for Tiles lime &c	2	10	3
Do. Mr. Buckerages Bill for Do	2	8	9
Do. for Carriage of Tiles, lime &c	1	19	—
Do. for a New Surplus	3	17	—
Do. John Jeffery for Going to Chievely &c	—	12	—
Do. Mr. Davis's Bill	5	7	6
	102	13	2
Recd	49	7	6
Out of pocket	53	5	8

### KINGSTON BAGPUIZE

There is a note in the registers: "Ano 1603. and the first yere of the raigne of James kinge of England the tower of the church of Kingston Bagpuze was taken downe and new builded and leaded, and the belle ther agayne placed".