



VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

Chadlington

5. Religious History



Chadlington (St Nicholas's) church from the south.

Chadlington church was most likely founded by a 12th-century lord of Eastend manor, but following protracted disputes over its status was confirmed in 1292 as a chapel-of-ease within Charlbury parish. From 1296 it was served by an often resident stipendiary chaplain or curate employed by the vicar of Charlbury, an arrangement which continued until 1963 when Chadlington was united first with Spelsbury and later with additional benefices, the joint incumbent living in Chadlington from 1984. Protestant Nonconformity was strong in the 17th century but then declined until the Victorian period, when Baptist and Wesleyan Methodist chapels were built, their successors closing in 1981 and 2018 respectively. A Roman Catholic chapel associated with Chipping Norton existed from 1881 to c.1908.

Church Origins and Parochial Organization

The church's location beside the Eastend manor house suggests that it was founded by an early lord of Chadlington East manor, possibly Robert de Whitfield (d. by 1194), whose descendants claimed the advowson and evidently regarded it as an independent parish church.¹ In 1197–8, however, the bishop confirmed it to Eynsham abbey as a chapel of

¹ Above, landownership (Chadlington East); below (advowson and curacy).

Charlbury church, which the abbey had probably acquired with Charlbury manor in 1094.² The basis of the abbey's claim to mother church rights is unclear,³ and was challenged by successive lords of Chadlington East until the dispute was resolved in the abbey's favour in 1292; thereafter the church remained a chapel-of-ease within Charlbury parish,⁴ despite some occasional later ambiguity.⁵ Burial rights were granted by Eynsham abbey in 1389, when a churchyard cemetery was created,⁶ and baptismal, marriage, and burial registers survive from 1567.⁷ The dedication to St Nicholas was established by 1584.⁸

The living, in Chipping Norton deanery,⁹ remained a stipendiary curacy until 1963, when Chadlington became a separate ecclesiastical parish and its benefice was united with Spelsbury's.¹⁰ Ascott-under-Wychwood was added in 1987, and Enstone and Heythrop in 2001, forming the Chase united benefice. Heythrop was removed in 2014.¹¹

Advowson and Curacy

The patronage was disputed for much of the 13th century between the lords of Chadlington East and Eynsham abbey as patron of Charlbury church.¹² In 1258 Henry de Whitfield claimed before the King's Bench that the church (*ecclesia*) was vacant and in his gift, but lost his case after the bishop confirmed that as a chapel of Charlbury it was already held by the latter's rector.¹³ A rival 'rector' of Chadlington was nevertheless presented in 1271, probably by Ralph de Whitfield, whose heirs still claimed the advowson in 1279.¹⁴ Following another challenge the matter was finally settled (with 'great trouble and expense' on the abbey's part) in 1292, when papal judges-delegate ruled that Chadlington was indeed a chapelry of Charlbury, and the abbey appropriated Charlbury church and its chapels the following year. The subsequent Charlbury vicarage ordination (agreed in 1296) required the vicar to employ

² *Eynsham Cart.* I, p. 57; II, pp. xxix–xxx; *VCH Oxon.* X, 135, 148 (wrongly stating that Chadlington was not listed in 1197–8).

³ For discussion, above, vol. overview (relig.).

⁴ *VCH Oxon.* X, 148–50; below (advowson and curacy). For Charlbury's chapel-of-ease at Shorthampton, below, Chilson, relig. hist.

⁵ e.g. *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XXIV, p. 145 ('parish of Chadlington', 1429); OHC, PAR56/16/D/1 ('parish church of Chadlington', 1672). Though taxed as a chapel of Charlbury in 1254 (Lunt (ed.), *Val. Norw.* 311), Chadlington was taxed independently in 1291 and 1340: *Tax. Eccl.* 32; *Nonarum Inquisitiones*, 139.

⁶ *Eynsham Cart.* II, pp. 178–80; below (Middle Ages to 1660).

⁷ OHC, par. reg. transcript.

⁸ *Ibid.* PAR56/13/1/D/1.

⁹ Lunt (ed.), *Val. Norw.* 311; Youngs, *Admin. Units*, I, 394.

¹⁰ Below (advowson and curacy); OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 2014/2, Order in Council.

¹¹ *VCH Oxon.* XIX, 117.

¹² *Ibid.* X, 148; *Eynsham Cart.* II, p. xxx; below.

¹³ *Eynsham Cart.* I, pp. 404–5; II, p. xxx. Henry was either lord or overlord: above, landownership (East).

¹⁴ *Rot. Gravesend*, 222; *Rot. Hund.* II, 747; below (Middle Ages to 1660).

a parochial chaplain for Chadlington,¹⁵ and a chaplain or curate continued to be appointed by Charlbury's vicars until 1963,¹⁶ when the dean and chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, became sole patron of the new united benefice. They and the bishop remained joint patrons of the Chase benefice in 2024.¹⁷

Chadlington church may have still claimed its own endowment in the 1270s (when its 'rector' held a yardland of Wahull manor),¹⁸ and in 1291 it was individually taxed at the sizeable sum of £10.¹⁹ From 1296 all of Chadlington's glebe and tithes were shared between Charlbury rectory and Charlbury vicarage, however,²⁰ and no formal endowment was ever made for the curacy, despite some late efforts led by the lord James Langston up to his death in 1863.²¹ The curate instead received a stipend paid by Charlbury's vicar, which rose from £6 a year in 1526 to £30 by 1738, £40 by 1768, £60 by 1814, £100 by 1826, and £140 by 1893,²² and which was often supplemented by surplice fees and (from c.1640) by a lectureship charity.²³ Around 1920 the vicar paid only half the stipend, the parishioners finding the rest, and by 1945 the entire sum (£240) was raised through subscriptions and collections, half from Chadlington and half from Charlbury. In 1945 the Hon. T.G. Roche established the Roche Trust to augment the curate's stipend, yielding £21 a year in 1962 and £50 a year in 1971, raised from investments. From 1963 the Trust benefited the incumbent of the united benefice.²⁴

Curate's House The vicarage ordination required Eynsham abbey to provide and maintain a chaplain's house in Chadlington.²⁵ That may have been the later Glebe Cottage opposite the church, which remained part of the vicar of Charlbury's endowment,²⁶ and which was probably the house occupied by resident 16th- and 17th-century curates.²⁷ By 1771 it was 'inhabited by poor people', however, and by 1817 it was a 'small thatched cottage' that had 'fallen down'.²⁸ It was rebuilt as the curate's house by the Charlbury vicar John Cobb shortly

¹⁵ *Eynsham Cart.* I, pp. 327–8, 344–6.

¹⁶ e.g. *Secker's Visit.* 36; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 8, f. 39; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883–1939 edns).

¹⁷ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 2014/2, Order in Council; *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (online database, accessed May 2024).

¹⁸ *Rot. Hund.* II, 738 (though possibly in a private capacity).

¹⁹ *Tax. Eccl.* 32 (calling it *ecclesia* or church).

²⁰ Above, landownership (other estates).

²¹ *The Builder*, 7 Nov. 1863; below (curate's ho.); cf. *Wilb. Dioc. Bks*, 144.

²² *Subsidy* 1526, 264; *Secker's Visit.* 36; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 558, f. 113; d 574, f. 61; b. 35, f. 61; c 359, f. 89.

²³ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 658, ff. 10–13. For the lectureship, below (relig. life).

²⁴ T.G. Roche, 'Proposed union of Chadlington and Spelsbury' (1962): typescript in VCH file; Roche, 'Notes', 4. For Roche Trust, see also pps in OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 1760; c 2014/2.

²⁵ *Eynsham Cart.* I, pp. 344–6.

²⁶ Above, landownership (Charlbury vicarage estate).

²⁷ e.g. OHC, par. reg. transcript, burials 1590, 1620, 1622; below (relig. life).

²⁸ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 561, f. 113; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 58, f. 466.

before 1823, but was ‘never a fit residence’, and most early 19th-century curates rented accommodation elsewhere.²⁹ George Carpenter (curate 1862–89) lived at Langston House, which James Langston erected in 1863 with a view to establishing it as the parsonage house of an endowed Chadlington living. The scheme failed, however,³⁰ and later curates again rented private houses, latterly in Church Road.³¹ From 1963 the vicar of the united benefice lived in Spelsbury, until in 1984 he moved into a newly built glebe house (The Vicarage) in Church Road, erected on land acquired from the Hon. T.G. Roche the previous year.³²



Glebe Cottage



Church Cottages

Church Estate

A church house with a yardland in Chadlington belonged to the church by 1567, when they were believed to have been given by a certain John Fairford (perhaps c.1400) to fund church repairs.³³ The church house, on later evidence, stood opposite the church next to the vicar’s glebe cottage, on the site of the present-day Church Cottages,³⁴ while the yardland comprised 24 a. in Chadlington East’s open fields, and in 1584 was let by the churchwardens for 31 years at 5s. annual rent plus a £20 entry fine. By 1605 the ‘church estate’ was vested in the vicar of Charlbury and ten other trustees, the church house (which included a kitchen) then having 2 a. of arable closes and a cow common attached.³⁵ By 1635

²⁹ Ibid. MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 8, f. 41; b 38, f. 51; c 658, ff. 10–13.

³⁰ *The Builder*, 7 Nov. 1863; Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 236; *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1863–77 edns); *Kelly’s Dir. Oxon.* (1883–7 edns). Langston Ho. remained part of Langston’s Sarsden estate until its sale to F.W. Schofield: above, social hist. (since 1800).

³¹ Roche, ‘Notes’, 2.

³² OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 2014/2, Order in Council; conveyance and pps 1983–4.

³³ TNA, E 178/1819. For a John Fairford of Chadlington (fl. 1399), J. Jordan, *A Parochial History of Enstone* (1857), 206–7.

³⁴ OHC, enclo. map (East).

³⁵ Ibid. PAR56/13/1/D/1; PAR56/13/1/E/1–4; *12th Rep. Com. Char.* (Parl. Papers 1825 (348), x), p. 178.

it contained two cottages, and a third was erected next to it in 1763, all three let to paupers;³⁶ in all the estate generated £14 in 1771, the income still used exclusively for church repairs.³⁷ At enclosure c.1812 the trustees were awarded a 33-a. close in Chadlington East (on which farm buildings were erected in 1841), while also retaining Church Cottages.³⁸ Rents totalled £32 in 1852 and £40 in 1883, but only £24 in 1896.³⁹

Two further church endowments first mentioned in 1635 were probably of medieval origin. One comprised two loads of wheat straw supplied from the rector's glebe at Christmas and Easter, presumably originally for strewing on the church floor, which before 1735 were commuted to 6s. annual 'straw money' paid by the owner or lessee of the great tithes. The other comprised an annual load of hay from a meadow at Dean in Spelsbury, let in the 18th century for 2s. a year, and replaced at Dean's enclosure in 1779 by the 26-perch Constable's Close, which was let for 5s. a year in 1824, 10s. in 1891, and 8s. in 1909.⁴⁰ The whole of the church estate (including Constable's Close and the cottages) was sold in 1920 and the proceeds invested, together with £10 paid by St John's College, Oxford, in 1922, to be released from the straw money payment. Investments yielded £36 in 1923 and £31 in 1963, the income still being put towards the church fabric in 1971.⁴¹

Religious Life

The Middle Ages to 1600

Three Charlbury rectors are known before the vicarage ordination of 1296, the earliest of whom, Walter of St Edmunds, was instituted in 1233–4.⁴² In 1258 he was said by the abbot of Eynsham to have also served Chadlington as a chapelry of Charlbury for more than 20 years.⁴³ James Beachamp was nevertheless presented to Chadlington as 'rector' in 1271 (during the incumbency of Charlbury's next rector Bartholomew of Newington),⁴⁴ and was accused the following year (as 'parson of the church of Chadlington') of deer-stealing in

³⁶ OHC, PAR56/13/1/E/1; *12th Rep. Com. Char.* 179; Roche, 'Notes', 3.

³⁷ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 561, f. 113; cf. *ibid.* PAR56/13/1/C/1.

³⁸ *Ibid.* enclo. award and maps; Roche, 'Notes', 3; NHLE, no. 1052833 (Church Cottages), later converted from three into two dwellings.

³⁹ OHC, PAR56/13/1/A2/1; *Gardner's Dir. Oxon.* (1852); *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883–96 edns).

⁴⁰ OHC, PAR56/13/1/D/1; PAR56/13/1/A1/3; *ibid.* Dean enclo. award; *12th Rep. Com. Char.* 179–80; Roche, 'Notes', 3–4; Roche, 'Proposed union'. Constable's Close was so named because the constable of Dean traditionally took the lops of trees there.

⁴¹ OHC, PAR56/13/1/A2/1; Roche, 'Notes', 4.

⁴² *VCH Oxon.* X, 149.

⁴³ *Eynsham Cart.* I, pp. 404–5.

⁴⁴ *Rot. Gravesend*, 218, 222, 227; *VCH Oxon.* X, 149. Beauchamp's institution was 'not enrolled' because the patronage was in question.

Wychwood forest.⁴⁵ Charlbury's last rector, Philip of Barton, was formally inducted into Chadlington chapelry in 1292, shortly after the ruling which ended the long-running patronage dispute.⁴⁶

From 1296 Chadlington was served by a resident chaplain or curate employed by the vicar of Charlbury and assisted by a clerk.⁴⁷ None are known by name until 1526 when the curate was Richard Mere, assisted c.1530–5 by William Pagett.⁴⁸ Gilbert Bold followed by 1539, assisted probably by Henry Bent,⁴⁹ and was succeeded c.1540 by Thomas Hale, who witnessed several wills before leaving Chadlington c.1555 for Milcombe chapelry in Bloxham.⁵⁰ None of them were university educated, which given the poverty of the living may have been true throughout the Middle Ages.⁵¹ Lay support is suggested by the church's gradual enlargement,⁵² some of it possibly by resident lords. John and Margaret Appleby were both commemorated in painted window glass in the north transeptal chapel's east window,⁵³ and in 1389 Margaret was the first of seven leading inhabitants who agreed to supply two candles or a pound of wax to the mother church of Charlbury every Easter Sunday, in return for Eynsham abbey's grant of burial rights.⁵⁴ John Fairford's gift towards the church's upkeep probably followed soon afterwards, while architectural evidence points to the existence of side altars in both the north chapel and the south aisle.⁵⁵ Eynsham abbey, responsible for the chancel, repaired its roof with ridge tiles in 1354, although in 1520 the chancel was reportedly in disrepair, as was the churchyard wall.⁵⁶

Gifts towards the church nevertheless continued up to the Reformation. The north chapel was 'Our Lady's chapel' in 1535, when Chadlington West's lord John Osbaldeston gave it his best chalice and a pair of red damask vestments, requesting burial there next to his wife Ann (d. 1530). Their tomb-chest and monumental brass survived in the 17th century,⁵⁷ and their son Richard (d. 1539) was buried close by.⁵⁸ John also provided for masses (including a trental) and made bequests to the curate and towards bells and lights,

⁴⁵ Schumer, *Oxon. Forests*, 69; cf. *Rot. Hund.* II, 738. Perhaps a relative of Spelsbury's Beauchamp lords: below, Spelsbury, landownership.

⁴⁶ *Reg. Sutton*, VIII, 177; *VCH Oxon.* X, 149; above (advowson and curacy).

⁴⁷ Above (advowson and curacy); *VCH Oxon.* X, 148.

⁴⁸ *Subsidy 1526*, 264; *Visit. Dioc. Linc.* II, 45 (calling both *dominus*); OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 178.104.

⁴⁹ TNA, PROB 11/27/603.

⁵⁰ Pearce, 'Clergy', 41; e.g. OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 179.273; 179.325; 180.125.

⁵¹ None appears in Emden, *OU Reg. 1501–40*; *Alumni Oxon. 1500–1714*.

⁵² Below (church archit.).

⁵³ *Par. Colln*, I, 80; above, landownership (West). The glass no longer survives.

⁵⁴ *Eynsham Cart.* II, pp. 178–80; above (church origins). The wax was still due c.1447: OHC, E36/4/1/F1/1.

⁵⁵ Above (church estate); below (church archit.).

⁵⁶ *Eynsham Cart.* II, p. xxxiii; *Visit. Dioc. Linc.* I, 135.

⁵⁷ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 178.104; for the tomb, *Oxon. Visit.* 10–11; *Par. Colln*, I, 80, both mistaking John's date of death.

⁵⁸ TNA, PROB 11/27/603.

although under Richard's will his father's 40s. 'light money' was instead loaned out to parishioners.⁵⁹ William Farmer (d. 1548), possibly lord of Chadlington East, left his best satin wedding doublet to the high altar, a satin doublet to the curate, a cow to the church, and 15s. 1d. a year from his farm for an obit,⁶⁰ while other inhabitants in the 1540s left money or sheep to the high altar, rood light, torches, and bells.⁶¹ Lands called Mary Croft, Lady Mead, and Yeild (i.e. Guild) Acre had probably also been given in support of lights or side altars.⁶²



The north (Lady) chapel of the church, showing its large east and north windows.

The Reformation presumably saw the rood loft and lights removed, and lands worth 2s. 9d. a year (given in support of a church light) were confiscated in 1548 and sold in 1549.⁶³ There is, however, little evidence of lingering Catholicism,⁶⁴ and the vicar of Charlbury (who still appointed Chadlington's curates) conformed to the Elizabethan religious settlement.⁶⁵ Assistant clergy were no longer appointed, and in 1584 (when the church had broken window glass) the churchwardens were reprimanded for the lack of scriptural texts on the church walls.⁶⁶ In the same year the curate John Higgins (d. 1590) was presented in the archdeacon's court for celebrating marriages during Advent, perhaps indicating Puritan beliefs.⁶⁷ His successor William Maddox, curate in 1594, pursued a parishioner in the church courts for defamation.⁶⁸

⁵⁹ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 178.104; TNA, PROB 11/27/603.

⁶⁰ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 179.273 (will made in 1541).

⁶¹ e.g. *ibid.* 179.37; 179.43; 179.226.

⁶² OHC, Fi. IV/iv/a/1; SJC, MUN VI.74, f. 34.

⁶³ *Chant. Cert.* 38; *Cal. Pat.* 1549–51, 83–4.

⁶⁴ For two inhabitants fined for recusancy, *Recusant Rolls 1592–3* (Cath. Rec. Soc. 18, 1916), 257; Salter, 'Recusants', 29.

⁶⁵ *VCH Oxon.* X, 149.

⁶⁶ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 7, f. 44.

⁶⁷ Pearce, 'Clergy', 41; E.R. Brinkworth (ed.), *Archdeacon's Court Liber Actorum*, 1584 (ORS 23–4, 1942–6), I, 42; II, p. ix; OHC, par. reg. transcript, burial 1590.

⁶⁸ Pearce, 'Clergy', 42; *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns 1592–6*, p. 25.

1600–1800

Only a few 17th-century curates are known by name, of whom Anthony Shirley (in post from at least 1614 until his death in 1621) was a former fellow of Trinity College, Oxford.

Unusually he wrote his will in Latin, requesting burial in the college chapel and leaving the college all his books, although at his death he was resident in Chadlington.⁶⁹ Robert Hutchinson, curate in 1622 and c.1635–41 (although apparently not continuously),⁷⁰ was a son of the eminent Oxford academic Ralph Hutchinson (d. 1606), who was Charlbury's vicar; Robert, too, was university educated,⁷¹ as was Moses Greenwood (curate in 1670), who may have served both Chadlington and Shorthampton chapels whilst also serving as master of Charlbury grammar school.⁷² From c.1640 Alice Hemming's charity funded Sunday afternoon lecture sermons in the church,⁷³ and in 1673 a septuagenarian parishioner donated a silver chalice.⁷⁴

Protestant Nonconformity was emerging by 1656, when the Charlbury Quaker Anne Downer (daughter of a former Charlbury vicar) preached in Chadlington and 'convinced many'. Her converts perhaps included the Chadlington inhabitant Benjamin Staple (d. c.1710), a trustee of the Milton-under-Wychwood meeting-house by 1668 who was imprisoned repeatedly 1659–62 for refusal to pay tithes or to swear the Oath of Allegiance.⁷⁵ Staple's son Isaac (d. 1712) and grandson Isaac were trustees of Chipping Norton's meeting-house in 1696 and 1721 respectively,⁷⁶ but by 1759 there was reportedly only one Quaker (a woman) actually in Chadlington.⁷⁷ Around 30 other Dissenters, some presumably from neighbouring parishes, met by 1669 in the house of Robert Clements, an 'old Anabaptistical soldier' who was excommunicated in 1664 and who shared the role of teacher with 'one Dunce' – probably John Dunce, the ejected rector of Hazleton (Glos.).⁷⁸ Fifteen

⁶⁹ OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 85/5/4; 59/4/9; *Alumni Oxon. 1500–1714*, IV, 1351.

⁷⁰ OHC, par. reg. transcript, burial 1622; *ibid.* MSS Wills Oxon. 13/1/32; 32/2/10; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 40, f. 85. Cf. *ibid.* MS Wills Oxon. 296/4/63, naming Joseph Harris as curate in 1629.

⁷¹ *Alumni Oxon. 1500–1714*, II, 778; *VCH Oxon.* X, 149; *ODNB*, s.v. Ralph Hutchinson.

⁷² OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. e 1, f. 67; *Alumni Oxon. 1500–1714*, II, 601.

⁷³ Above, social hist. (welfare: charities); *Secker's Visit.* 36; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 555, f. 105; d 561, f. 113.

⁷⁴ Evans, *Ch. Plate*, 35 (given by Elias Harris).

⁷⁵ J. Besse, *A Collection of the Sufferings of the People Called Quakers* (1753), 566–9; *VCH Oxon.* II, 49–50; X, 153; OHC, NQ3/1/D8/14–15; *ibid.* MS Wills Oxon. 150/3/24.

⁷⁶ OHC, NQ3/1/D4/1–4; *ibid.* MS Wills Oxon. 150/3/38.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. d 555, f. 105.

⁷⁸ *Bp Fell and Nonconf.*, pp. xx, 42–3; G. Lyon Turner (ed.), *Original Records of Early Nonconformity* (1911–14), III, 825, 830; *Calamy Revised*, ed. Matthews, 172.

Chadlington Nonconformists were noted in 1676,⁷⁹ but only ten in 1683,⁸⁰ the single Quaker in 1759, and none in 1768.⁸¹ No Roman Catholicism was reported.

For much of the 18th century there was only a single curate for the whole of Charlbury parish, who often lived in the town (sometimes also teaching in its grammar school), and who generally served both Chadlington and Shorthampton chapels.⁸² One such was the long-serving John Arrowsmith (curate 1732–60), an Oxford graduate originally from Manchester, who held Wilcote rectory in plurality.⁸³ In 1738, when he shared the Hemming lectureship (worth c.£5 a year) with the vicar, Chadlington had a single Sunday service with a sermon and four annual communions attended by c.40 communicants.⁸⁴ The following year Arrowsmith claimed that a dispute between himself and ‘the parish of Chadlington’ had been ‘adjusted’,⁸⁵ although a later feud with James Luck (vicar of Charlbury 1747–71) continued into the 1750s, Luck complaining that Arrowsmith was a ‘plague and torment’ and ‘does what he pleases at Chadlington, as if he were vicar there’.⁸⁶ Arrowsmith nonetheless continued as Luck’s curate in 1759, when only one Chadlington inhabitant, the attorney Thomas Bulley, was habitually absent from church, despite his children being ‘frequent and almost constant attenders’.⁸⁷ None of Arrowsmith’s immediate successors stayed more than a few years,⁸⁸ and in 1784 the churchwardens complained that church services were ‘too much neglected by several of the parishioners’.⁸⁹ Protestant Dissent showed tentative signs of revival towards the end of the century, with two Quakers reported in 1771, and in 1799 a house was licensed for Dissenting worship, probably by Methodists (who continued in 1802).⁹⁰

Minor church improvements included the casting of three new bells in 1714 and of another in 1796, whilst three cracked bells were mended or replaced in 1764, the work funded by a sale of timber from the church estate.⁹¹ The north chapel continued to be used for burials by the Osbaldeston and (later) Bulley families; a wall monument there to Sir William Osbaldeston (d. 1740) and his wife Catherine (d. 1737) is by Thomas Ricketts of Gloucester, while a baroque wall monument to Joseph Rollinson (d. 1699), lord of

⁷⁹ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 421.

⁸⁰ *Bp Fell and Nonconf.*, p. 39; cf. OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 708, f. 117v.

⁸¹ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 555, f. 105; d 558, f. 113.

⁸² *Secker’s Visit.* 36; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 8, f. 37; c 327, p. 97; d 555, f. 105; d 558, f. 113; d 561, f. 113; D. McClatchey, *Oxfordshire Clergy 1777–1869* (1960), 136; *pace VCH Oxon.* X, 150.

⁸³ *Alumni Oxon. 1715–1886*, I, 35; *Secker’s Corresp.* 31.

⁸⁴ *Secker’s Visit.* 36.

⁸⁵ *Secker’s Corresp.* 30–1; no details are given.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.* 257–63; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 651, ff. 5–24. Cf. *VCH Oxon.* X, 150.

⁸⁷ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 555, f. 105; no reasons for Bulley’s absence were given.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.* c 327, p. 97; d 558, f. 113; d 561, f. 113; McClatchey, *Oxon. Clergy*, 136.

⁸⁹ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 58, f. 413.

⁹⁰ *Ibid.* MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 561, f. 113; c 644, f. 51; d 566, f. 59.

⁹¹ *Ch. Bells Oxon.* I, 81; OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 58, ff. 393, 395; Roche, ‘Notes’, 3.

Chadlington East, was erected in the chancel.⁹² A seating plan made in 1791 shows an almost even mix of private and open seats in the nave and aisles, with the pulpit (apparently a triple-decker repaired in 1759) placed part-way down the nave, to the west of large box pews reserved for the occupants of Chadlington's two manor houses.⁹³



Seating plan of Chadlington church made in 1791, also showing the locations of the pulpit (edged in pink) and font ('phant'). Source: OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 23, f. 129.

Since 1800

The Anglican Church Until 1862 curates continued to serve both Chadlington and Shorthampton chapelries, some living in Chadlington but others residing elsewhere.⁹⁴ Thomas Oakley's 11-year curacy ended in 1803, when he gave evidence concerning a dispute over a faculty confining use of the church's west gallery to singers. The cause was the 'notorious' misbehaviour of ploughboys and apprentices formerly accommodated there, who gestured at the singers whilst they were singing and cracked open nuts, dropping their shells onto the congregation below. According to Oakley, since the start of the dispute some inhabitants had 'visibly withdrawn' from services and had 'employed themselves improperly on the sabbath'.⁹⁵

George Rix (curate 1806–7) resigned the curacy in protest at the vicar's refusal to raise his stipend (£40), although the vicar (John Cobb) alleged that far from being poor Rix 'rented a very large manor house [Lower Court] and lived in the appearance of the

⁹² TNA, PROB 11/183/242; *Par. Colln*, I, 79; Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 235; OHC, monumental inscriptions transcript.

⁹³ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 23, f. 129; Roche, 'Notes', 3.

⁹⁴ e.g. OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 8, f. 39; b 38, f. 51; b 39, f. 75; d 566, f. 59; *Wilb. Visit.* 31–2.

⁹⁵ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 23, ff. 23–49, 81–124.

gentleman farmer'.⁹⁶ He was evidently popular, since shortly after his resignation Chadlington's vestry resolved to retain him as the Hemming lecturer, a move blocked by both Cobb and the bishop.⁹⁷ David Griffith Davies (curate 1810–22), who was also curate of Ascott-under-Wychwood, kept a private school in Chadlington, but was dismissed from the curacy on charges of 'immorality, profaneness, drunkenness, indecency, and irregularity', following allegations that both he and his wife 'regularly slept with' a 17-year-old male pupil.⁹⁸ Charles Godfrey (curate 1837–46), the vicar's nephew, was also dismissed (for alcoholism),⁹⁹ and Thomas Walker (curate 1846–51), having already offended the family of a leading farmer, experienced wider hostility at his introduction of High-Church practices, resigning when Bishop Wilberforce insisted that he discontinue poorly attended saint's-day services.¹⁰⁰ Wilberforce found less fault with Thomas Griffith (curate 1854–62), whom he regarded as 'not very wise but painstaking and pleasing'.¹⁰¹

Communion was still limited to four a year during first half of the 19th century, although a second Sunday service (in the afternoon) was introduced c.1825, accompanied by the Hemming lecture sermons on 26 Sundays across the summer. Those were worth a total of £13 to the lecturer, who was often the curate.¹⁰² A Sunday school existed by 1818,¹⁰³ and in 1851 the average morning and afternoon congregations were 155 and 150, including (respectively) 70 and 40 Sunday school pupils.¹⁰⁴ New pews and paving were paid for by the church estate c.1810,¹⁰⁵ and two bells were recast in 1846,¹⁰⁶ while in 1818 the absentee lord Sir E. Bayntun Sandys was called upon (probably unsuccessfully) to repair the 'dilapidated' north chapel, then called the 'Bayntun aisle'.¹⁰⁷

George Carpenter, curate 1862–89, served Chadlington alone, living from 1863 in the newly built Langston House.¹⁰⁸ Besides supporting an active church choir (mentioned from 1855),¹⁰⁹ he maintained the two Sunday services and introduced a monthly communion, which became fortnightly by 1881 and weekly by 1887.¹¹⁰ In 1870 he oversaw the church's

⁹⁶ Ibid. MS Oxf. Dioc. c 658, ff. 8–18; above, social hist. (since 1800).

⁹⁷ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 658, ff. 19–22, 27–28; d 549, p. 139.

⁹⁸ Ibid. MS Oxf. Dioc. c 663, f. 8; VCH Oxon. XIX, 119; *The Times*, 12 Nov. 1821; 18 Nov. 1822; above, social hist. (educ.).

⁹⁹ OHC, par. reg. transcript, clergy list; *Wilb. Dioc. Bks*, 9.

¹⁰⁰ *Wilb. Letter Bks*, 212–13.

¹⁰¹ Oldfield, 'Clerus'; *Wilb. Visit.* 31; *Wilb. Dioc. Bks*, 162.

¹⁰² OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 8, ff. 39, 41; b 38, f. 51; b 39, f. 75; d 566, f. 59; d 574, f. 61; *Wilb. Visit.* 31.

¹⁰³ Above, social hist. (educ.).

¹⁰⁴ *Ch. and Chapel, 1851*, p. 19.

¹⁰⁵ OHC, MSS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 23, ff. 18–19, 44–5; c 58, f. 455; cf. *12th Rep. Com. Char.* (Parl. Papers 1825 (348), x), 179.

¹⁰⁶ *Ch. Bells Oxon.* I, 81.

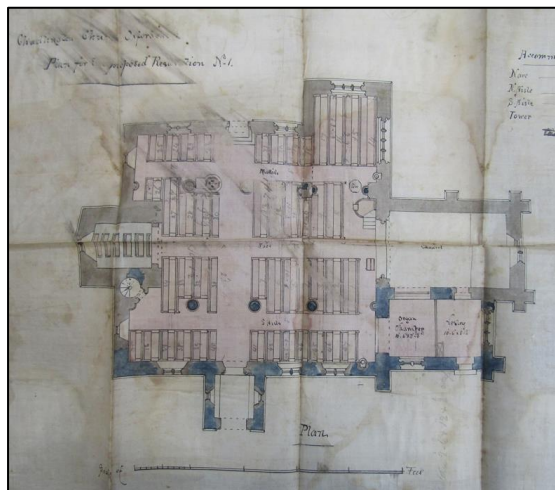
¹⁰⁷ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 58, ff. 468–9; above, landownership (West).

¹⁰⁸ Ibid. PAR56/9/A1/2; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 16 Jan. 1889; above (curate's ho.).

¹⁰⁹ *Oxf. Univ. & City Herald*, 14 Apr. 1855; *Oxf. Jnl*, 23 Nov. 1867, 24 June 1871.

¹¹⁰ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 332, f. 115; c 347, f. 95; c 353, f. 81.

restoration to designs by Charles Buckeridge, although the initial (1868) plan to rebuild the whole church apart from the chancel was reduced to a partial rebuilding and restoration, following ‘strong objections’ by the diocesan architect G.E. Street.¹¹¹ That cost almost £2,000, of which the earl of Ducie gave £1,450, whilst various parishioners donated an oak communion table and lectern, an altar cloth, and new communion plate.¹¹²



Undated (c.1870) plan for the restoration of Chadlington church, signed by Charles Buckeridge. Source: OHC, Acc. 7038.

Chadlington retained its own curates following Carpenter’s death, although none stayed for long.¹¹³ Charles Glenn (curate 1937–40) had his curate’s licence revoked after he was convicted in Birmingham for soliciting men.¹¹⁴ A third Sunday service was introduced before 1899, when church attendance had reportedly increased ‘very considerably’, but was abandoned before 1914, when fortnightly communions alternated with children’s services.¹¹⁵ In 1930, when the Sunday school had 55 pupils, there were 21 choir members and ten bellringers,¹¹⁶ while Hemming’s charity still funded sermons incorporated into Sunday services, for which the vicar and churchwardens received £22 in the 1940s and £35 in the 1970s.¹¹⁷ Gifts in 1961 comprised an oak chest and a 17th-century oak table, the latter subsequently used as the communion table.¹¹⁸

¹¹¹ Below (church archit.); OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 797, ff. 179, 205–6; Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. c 103, ff. 205–19; A. Saint, ‘Charles Buckeridge and his family’, *Oxoniensia* 38 (1973), 367. Cf. OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1758, faculty 1869; *ibid.* Acc. 7038, undated (c.1870) architect’s plan.

¹¹² *Oxon. Weekly News*, 21 Dec. 1870; Evans, *Ch. Plate*, 35.

¹¹³ *Oxon. Weekly News*, 16 Jan. 1889; OHC, par. reg. transcript, clergy list; cf. *Kelly’s Dir. Oxon.* (1891–1939 edns).

¹¹⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1760, curate’s licence and cancellation 1937–40.

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.* c 365, f. 87; *Gore’s Visit.* p. 118.

¹¹⁶ OHC, PAR56/2/A1/2.

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.* PAR56/13/2/A1/2; PAR56/13/2/A2/1; cf. *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 34; above, social hist. (welfare: charities).

¹¹⁸ *Oxf. Times*, 25 Aug. 1961; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1758, faculty 1961.

From 1963 to 1981 the vicar of the new united benefice (Arthur Sparling) lived in Spelsbury,¹¹⁹ but in 1984 a vicarage house was built in Chadlington for the new incumbent Timothy Thornton (vicar 1984–2000).¹²⁰ Mark Abrey, rector from 2001 of the new Chase benefice, oversaw a major reordering of the church in 2007–8, despite ‘considerable opposition’ to the initial proposals; the final cost was over £250,000, of which £114,000 was raised locally. He remained in post in 2024, when there was regular worship (principally fortnightly communions) as well as bellringing and church concerts.¹²¹

Protestant Nonconformity and Roman Catholicism The Charlbury Quaker William Jones held a barn meeting in Chadlington in 1803, but no later record of Quakerism has been found.¹²² Baptist meetings, started by the Chipping Norton minister William Gray in 1821, faced initial ‘opposition and persecution’, and were held in a barn registered as a chapel in 1833. The resident pastor Thomas Eden began his 33-year ministry there in 1836, soon extending it to congregations in Little Tew and Cleveley (in Enstone), and in 1840 a new Baptist chapel was built in Chadlington on a site midway between Eastend and Westend, standing in its own burial ground and with an attached schoolroom and detached manse. The cost was £300.¹²³ A congregation of 120 (including 60 Sunday school children) attended on the afternoon of census Sunday in 1851, and 95 in the evening.¹²⁴ The chapel was supported by Robert Abraham of Lower Court, who in 1870 invited the celebrated Baptist preacher C.H. Spurgeon to give two sermons in a marquee erected on his farm,¹²⁵ and for more than a century from 1875 a shared minister living in the Chadlington manse served both the Chadlington and Charlbury Baptist churches.¹²⁶ The chapel closed in 1981 and was converted into a house, its war memorial tablet being moved to the Memorial Hall.¹²⁷

¹¹⁹ OHC, par. reg. transcript, clergy list; *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (1977–9), 952.

¹²⁰ Above (curate's ho.); obituary in *Chadlington and Spelsbury Par. Mag.* (May–July 2024).

¹²¹ www.thechasebenefice.org.uk (accessed June 2024); B. Payne, *Churches for Communities: Adapting Oxfordshire's Churches for Wider Use* (2014), 45–9; below (church archit.).

¹²² H. Jones (ed.), *The Life and Times of a Charlbury Quaker: The Journals of William Jones, 1784–1818* (ORS 69, 2014), 219.

¹²³ *Oxf. Chron.* 10 Aug. 1861; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 1 Oct. 1890; J. Kibble, *Historical and Other Notes on Charlbury* (1927), 53–4; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 644, f. 240; c 645, f. 211; *ibid.* graves and memorials catalogue (Baptist chapel). For the building, above, landscape etc. (built character).

¹²⁴ *Ch. and Chapel, 1851*, p. 20. A separate Baptist congregation of 12 met in a private house opened for worship in 1846, which is not otherwise recorded and was perhaps actually in Chilson (*ibid.*).

¹²⁵ Kibble, *Hist. Notes*, 54; *Oxf. Chron.* 25 Sept. 1869; *Oxf. Jnl*, 9 July 1870; ODNB, s.v. Chas Haddon Spurgeon.

¹²⁶ *VCH Oxon.* X, 154; Kibble, *Hist. Notes*, 54; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883–1939 edns).

¹²⁷ www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/63192 (accessed June 2024); *West Oxon. Standard*, 28 Oct 1983.

Wesleyan Methodists were present in small numbers in the early 19th century,¹²⁸ but then dwindled until 1887 when a temporary chapel made of wood and sheet iron was opened in Horseshoe Lane, following successful open-air meetings by missionaries from Enstone and Chipping Norton (in whose circuit the chapel was included).¹²⁹ For a few years from 1900 children accommodated in a small National Children's Home in Chadlington attended both the chapel and its Sunday school, and in the same year fundraising began for a larger chapel, which opened in 1904 with its own schoolroom and vestry, erected at a cost of £1,106 on a site in Westend given by the earl of Ducie.¹³⁰ From 1923 it formed part of the Chipping Norton and Stow circuit, and remained open until 2018.¹³¹ The building stood empty in 2024.



The former Baptist (left) and Wesleyan Methodist (right) chapels.

A single family of Roman Catholics was noted in 1802 and 1820,¹³² but no more were mentioned until 1880 when Samuel Sole, the Roman Catholic priest in Chipping Norton, bought an old thatched barn at Greenend, which he opened the following year as a mission chapel dedicated to St Cecilia.¹³³ Sole celebrated mass there monthly until its closure c.1908, but by 1918 'not a single' Roman Catholic remained in Chadlington.¹³⁴

¹²⁸ e.g. OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 566, f. 59; d 572, f. 65; d 578, f. 51.

¹²⁹ *Methodist Times*, 28 July, 29 Sept. 1887; OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XX.7 (1899 edn).

¹³⁰ *Oxf. Times*, 24 Mar. 1900; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 24 Apr. 1904, 19 May 1906; OHC, NM1/26/F1/1. For the children's homes, above, social hist. (since 1800); for the chapel building, above, landscape etc. (built character).

¹³¹ OHC, NM1/26/F1/1; *Chadlington and Spelsbury Par. Mag.* (July–Sept. 1992); <https://chadlington.com/archives/29435> (accessed June 2024).

¹³² OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 566, f. 59; d 578, f. 51.

¹³³ B. Stapleton, *History of the Post-Reformation Catholic Missions in Oxfordshire* (1906), 155–6; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883); *The Tablet*, 12 Feb. 1881; J.C. Thompson, 'Notes on Chadlington' (1949): copy in OHC, O41/1/C6/21.

¹³⁴ *Oxon. Weekly News*, 9 Feb. 1881; Stapleton, *Cath. Missions*, 156; *Gore's Visit.* 383.

Church Architecture

St Nicholas's church in Eastend is a medium-sized building begun in the 12th century, enlarged in the Middle Ages, and substantially altered in the 19th and (internally) early 21st centuries. Constructed of coursed limestone rubble with ashlar dressings and sheet-metal and stone-slate roofs, the present structure comprises a two-bay chancel with south organ chamber-cum-vestry; a four-bay clerestoried nave with north and south aisles, north chapel, and south porch; and a four-stage west tower.¹³⁵



Chadlington church interior looking east, showing (far left) the blocked Romanesque window above the north arcade, and (centre left) the high squint presumably built to give visibility into the chancel from a lost medieval rood loft.

The 12th-century Norman church probably comprised a simple two-cell plan of chancel and nave. Surviving features are a blocked Romanesque window above the north arcade and the (renewed and reset) round-arched south doorway, which is of three orders with jamb shafts and moulded capitals. North and south aisles were added in the 13th century, each with four-bay arcades of Early English round piers with moulded capitals and double-chamfered arches. Two deeply splayed single lancets remain in the west wall of each aisle, and two double lancet windows in the south aisle's south wall, one with a trefoil head and the other plain. The tower (initially of three stages) was built in the early 14th century, set half within the westernmost bay of the nave and lit by an arched two-light west window in the first stage, with single lancets in the second stage and paired lancets in the third. The north aisle's easternmost bay was rebuilt and extended northwards in the late 14th century, creating a transeptal north chapel with a high ceiling and large north and east windows of three and four lights, their tracery characteristic of the Decorated-Perpendicular transition. A

¹³⁵ Unless indicated, following based on: NHLE, no. 1368037 (accessed June 2024); Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 235; Sherwood, *Oxon. Churches*, 46; L. Partridge and D. Morton, 'A Guide to St Nicholas Church, Chadlington' (2013): copy at <https://thechasebenefice.org.uk/st-nicholas-church-chadlington/> (accessed July 2024). For NE and SW views in 1821, Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. a 65, nos. 145–6.

similar three-light window was inserted at the south aisle's east end, but was moved to the new vestry during the 19th-century restoration.

Perpendicular work of the 15th or early 16th century includes two trefoil-headed piscinas in the north chapel and south aisle, the former with a credence shelf; a new north door flanked by two square-headed two-light windows; and the rebuilt chancel arch, beside which is a high squint designed to give visibility into the chancel from a lost medieval rood loft. The clerestory, lit by six square-headed windows each of two or three lights, is probably also 15th-century, its shallow-pitched roof replacing a lower, more steeply-pitched predecessor. The tower was raised to four stages around the same time, featuring Y-traceried bell openings, battlements, and crocketed pinnacles, while parapets were added around the nave, aisles, and north chapel, along with carved gargoyles and rainwater heads. Bells were mentioned in 1535,¹³⁶ and heraldic and other memorial window glass (since lost) survived in the chancel and north chapel in the 17th century.¹³⁷

Little further major work was carried out before the 19th century, although the south porch was possibly rebuilt in 1715, and the chancel was repaired in 1769.¹³⁸ In 1814 that was small and lit only by a Venetian east window,¹³⁹ and it was again repaired in 1822.¹⁴⁰ A new ring of three bells was installed in 1714, with another added in 1796 and two more in 1846,¹⁴¹ while a tower clock existed by 1817.¹⁴²

In 1849 the chancel was entirely rebuilt by St John's College, Oxford (as rector and patron of Charlbury), on a much larger footing and in Decorated style, with buttresses and a steep-pitched roof. Its three-light east window has reticulated tracery and headstops, and a south door led to a small attached vestry.¹⁴³ The nave walls remained 'bad' and the south aisle 'unsound' in 1868, however,¹⁴⁴ and a major restoration to designs by Charles Buckeridge took place in 1870. The south porch, south nave arcade, and south aisle's south wall were almost entirely rebuilt, retaining the two 13th-century double lancet windows and adding a matching third, while the south aisle was extended eastwards to create an organ chamber-cum-vestry over a basement containing a coal-fired boiler. That replaced the 1849 vestry, and opened into the chancel through a new archway. The chancel itself gained a stone sedilia, piscina, and two north windows (their Decorated style matching the east

¹³⁶ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 178.104.

¹³⁷ *Oxon. Visit.* 10; *Par. Colln*, I, 80; above (Middle Ages to 1600).

¹³⁸ *Par. Colln*, I, 79; OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 58, f. 400.

¹³⁹ Bodl. MSS Top. Oxon. c 688, f. 19; a 65, no. 146 (dated 1821).

¹⁴⁰ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 58, ff. 469, 474.

¹⁴¹ *Par. Colln*, I, 79; *Ch. Bells Oxon.* I, 81–2. The sanctus is dated 1911.

¹⁴² OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 576, f. 61.

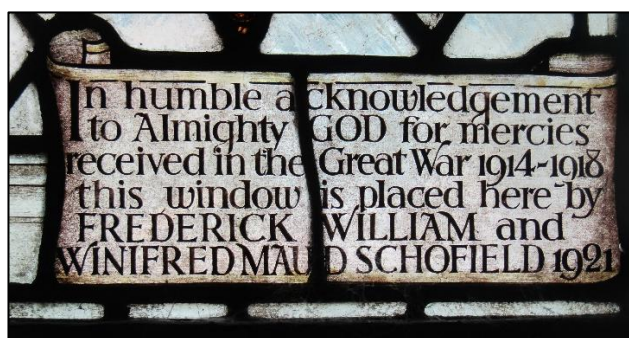
¹⁴³ *Gardner's Dir. Oxon.* (1852); Parker, *Eccl. Topog.* no. 66; Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. c 522, f. 31v. (SE view, 1868).

¹⁴⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 37, f. 97.

window), while the tower's staircase was repaired and a new belfry erected. Internally, 'many coats' of whitewash were removed, some roof timbers were renewed, the west gallery and seating were entirely replaced with deal pews and oak choir seats, and heating pipes were installed under the floors, whose uneven flagstones were replaced with tiles. New fittings included a carved oak pulpit on a stone base and the new organ,¹⁴⁵ although the modern octagonal font predates the 1870 work.¹⁴⁶



(Left) War memorial tablet of 1920.
(Below) Dedication in the north window of the north chapel.



Stained glass was installed in several of the church's windows following the restoration, the large east window (given by A.L. Rawlinson of Chipping Norton in 1871 in memory of his parents) designed by Hardman & Co.¹⁴⁷ The chancel's north-west and north-east windows are by Cox & Sons (c.1880) and Cox, Sons, & Buckley (1890), the latter commemorating the long-serving curate George Carpenter (d. 1889),¹⁴⁸ while two windows in the north chapel, by James Powell & Sons, were given by F.W. Schofield of Langston House. The east one (depicting four female saints) is in memory of his wife Caroline (d. 1914), while the north one (depicting Christ in Glory with the badge of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry) was donated in 1921 in thanksgiving for 'mercies received in the Great War'. A separate war memorial tablet was unveiled in 1920 (with further names added in 1948), whilst the organ was rebuilt in 1926, and an oak screen (since removed) was erected between the tower vestry and the nave in 1927. Electric lighting was installed in 1931, and the bells were rehung in 1933.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁵ Ibid. Acc. 7038; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 23 Nov., 21 Dec. 1870.

¹⁴⁶ OHC, Acc. 7038; Kibble, *Hist. Notes*, 50.

¹⁴⁷ *Oxon. Weekly News*, 5 Apr. 1871.

¹⁴⁸ Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 235; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1758, faculty 1890.

¹⁴⁹ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1758, faculties; www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk (accessed July 2024), nos.175070, 285080.

Later memorial tablets included those to Lord Roche (d. 1956) and his wife Elfreda (d. 1955), while an oak clergy stall was installed in the chancel in 1965, and the tower clock face was restored in 1995, a radio-regulated clock mechanism being fitted in 1999.¹⁵⁰ Rehanging of the bells by Whites of Appleton in 2006 was followed in 2007–8 by a major reordering of the church interior, to designs by Acanthus Clews of Banbury. Mains water, gas, and drainage were introduced and a new heating system fitted, an accessible toilet was built into the tower vestry (where a mezzanine floor was inserted), and a York stone floor was laid. More than half the pews were removed from the west end of the nave and aisles to provide a social space (an oak servery being constructed against the south aisle's west wall), and the north chapel was enclosed with wood and glass screens to create a children's area and meeting room.¹⁵¹ The churchyard, which contains several 18th- and early 19th-century chest tombs,¹⁵² was extended in 1848, 1870, and 1893, and a new cemetery behind Church Cottages was consecrated in 1924.¹⁵³

¹⁵⁰ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 1758, faculties 1949–69; c 2014/2, faculties 1984, 1998; plaque on tower wall.

¹⁵¹ OHC, DIOC/1/C/6/25/1, faculties 2003, 2007; DIOC/1/C/6/25/2, faculty 2008; Payne, *Churches for Communities*, 45–9.

¹⁵² NHLE, nos. 1052834, 1200210, 1300875.

¹⁵³ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 2166, no. 8a; c 1759/1, consecration pps 1870–1924.