

VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

Kingham

Religious History



Kingham parish church, featuring the south porch and aisle built in 1852–3. Note the rectangular stair turret projecting from the west tower.

Kingham had its own church by the 1130s–40s, when the patronage was granted to Walden priory (later abbey) in Essex. The living was never appropriated, and many of its medieval rectors were non-resident pluralists who employed assistants. In 1664 the advowson was bought by the wealthy Dowdeswell family, successive members of which served as rector from 1680–1783 and 1836–1911. One rebuilt the rectory house, while others undertook church remodellings, the last completed in 1853. Neither Roman Catholicism nor Protestant Nonconformity were much in evidence until the 19th century when the Baptists and Methodists established separate chapels, the former closing in the 1870s–80s and the latter in 1986.

Church Origins and Parochial Organization

The Mandevilles' ownership of the patronage suggests that they may have established the church some time after the Conquest, although the earliest surviving fabric (apart from the font) is mid 14th-century, when the Chastiluns and Beaufeus were lords.¹ The dedication to St Andrew was established by the 18th century, a dedication to St Nicholas (mentioned in the 1670s) being perhaps reported in error.² Parish registers survive only from 1663, earlier ones (from 1560--1) having been lost.³ The parish retained its own rector until 1967, when the benefice was united with neighbouring Daylesford (Glos.). In 1979 it was united with Churchill and Sarsden, and in 2001 became part of Chipping Norton team ministry.⁴ The parish belonged to Chipping Norton rural deanery from the Middle Ages.⁵

Advowson

Between 1136 and 1144 Geoffrey de Mandeville granted the advowson to the Benedictine priory he founded at Walden (Essex), which became an abbey in 1190.⁶ An attempted Crown presentation in 1313 was thwarted,⁷ and the abbey presented every rector until 1531, when a single turn was granted to the Cambridgeshire landholder Philip Parys.⁸ At the Dissolution the advowson passed to Thomas Audley (d. 1544), Baron Audley of Walden, whose widow Elizabeth (d. 1564) allowed a turn to the Walden gentleman John Smyth in 1555,⁹ before presenting with her second husband Sir George Norton in 1558. The Crown presented in 1575, Silvester Prowse of Lower Slaughter (Glos.) in 1601, and William Colman of Bury St Edmunds (Suffolk) in 1649, following a grant by Thomas Audley's grandson and great-grandson (the 1st and 2nd earls of Suffolk) in 1609.¹⁰

In 1664 the advowson was bought by William Dowdeswell (d. 1671) of Pull Court in Bushley (Worcs.), and passed to his widow Anne,¹¹ their descendants presenting family

¹ Above, landownership; below (advowson; church archit.).

² By Anthony Wood: *Par. Colln*, II, 194.

³ OHC, par. reg. transcript; *Par. Colln*, II, 196.

⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1879, Orders in Council; *ibid.* DIOC/1/C/6/23/1; *VCH Oxon.* XXI, 161.

⁵ Lunt (ed.), *Val. Norw.* 310--11; Youngs, *Admin. Units*, I, 400.

⁶ *VCH Essex*, II, 110.

⁷ *Cal. Close* 1313--18, 83; *Cal. Pat.* 1313--17, 20.

⁸ Lincs. Arch. REG/27, f. 188.

⁹ *Cal. Pat.* 1555--7, p. 11; <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk>, s.v. Leonard Bowdon (accessed Jan. 2024).

¹⁰ Pearce, 'Clergy', 33--5; OHC, *Cal. Presentation Deeds*, 1st ser., no. 61.

¹¹ W. Warde Fowler, *Kingham Old and New: Studies in a Rural Parish* (1913), 50; *Alumni Oxon. 1500--1714*, I, 418; OHC, *Cal. Presentation Deeds*, 1st ser., no. 62; cf. *Gardner's Dir. Oxon.* (1852) (reckoning c.1652).

members into the 19th century. William and Anne's son William was presented by the bishop of Oxford in 1680, and on his death in 1711 his widow Elizabeth presented their own son William (d. 1750).¹² The younger William's brother George Dowdeswell presented William's son-in-law Robert Foley (d. 1783), whose widow Anne (d. 1802) presented in 1783 and 1785.¹³ She left the advowson to her nephew John Cutts Lockwood (d. 1830), whose son John William Lockwood (d. 1879) presented himself in 1836,¹⁴ following which his widow Alice presented their son Samuel (d. 1911). On Samuel's death the advowson was sold probably by Lockwood's trustees to Charles Baring Young (d. 1928) of Daylesford, who left it to the Church Association Trust (from 1950 the Church Society Trust).¹⁵ The Trust remained a joint patron of the united Chipping Norton benefice in 2024.¹⁶

Glebe and Tithes

The rectory was valued at 10 marks (£6 13s. 4d.) a year in 1254, and at £10 in 1291 and 1428, its income drawn from tithes and from open-field glebe.¹⁷ In 1317 Walden abbey was given permission to appropriate the living, but never did so;¹⁸ by the Dissolution, however, it collected a 20s. annual pension agreed in 1274 for tithes granted to Hurley priory (Berks.) in the 12th century,¹⁹ the payment passing to the Audleys with the abbey's other property.²⁰ By 1526 the rectory was valued at £17, rising to £18 2s. 4d. by 1535,²¹ and under Ralph Willett (rector 1558--75) the glebe and tithes were leased, while his successor William James (1575--1601) employed a local tithe gatherer.²² All land remained titheable in 1685, although each householder paid a 1d. composition for their gardens, and a later agreement exempted cocks and hens from tithe in return for a fixed number of eggs.²³ Charles Western (rector 1785--1835) received tithes in cash and kind, which in 1839 were valued at 8s. 8d. per acre and were commuted for an annual rent charge of £643 2s. 2d.²⁴

¹² <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk>, s.v. Wm Dowdeswell (accessed Jan. 2024); *Alumni Oxon. 1500--1714*, I, 418.

¹³ OHC, Cal. Presentation Deeds, 2nd ser., nos. 404--406a.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* no. 406b; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1878, abstract of title; *Alumni Oxon. 1715--1886*, III, 867.

¹⁵ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1878, presentations.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* DIOC/1/C/6/23/1, pastoral scheme.

¹⁷ Lunt (ed.), *Val. Norw.* 311; *Tax. Eccl.* 32; *Nonarum Inquisitiones*, 140; *Feudal Aids*, VI, 380; below.

¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1317--21, 39.

¹⁹ F.T. Wethered, *St Mary's, Hurley, in the Middle Ages* (1898), pp. 118--19; *Linc. Dioc. Docs*, 174; *Valor Eccl.* VI, p. xii; above, landownership (other estates).

²⁰ *L&P Hen. VIII*, XIII (1), pp. 212--13, 410--11; *Cal. Pat.* 1555--7, p. 11.

²¹ *Subsidy 1526*, 263; *Valor Eccl.* II, 181.

²² *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns 1603--6*, pp. 22--3.

²³ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 41, f. 18; TNA, IR 18/7729.

²⁴ Excl. £42 9s. 4d. for glebe: TNA, IR 18/7729; OHC, tithe award.

The four-yardland glebe covered 98 a., reduced to 85 a. at enclosure in 1850, when it yielded £230 a year.²⁵ Shortly afterwards it was reckoned at only c.75 a., falling to 66 a. (worth £95 a year) by the 1930s.²⁶ In 1942 it was let with New College's College farm, and may have been sold with the college's land in 1957--8.²⁷ Some small parcels were earlier taken into the churchyard, while other pieces were leased or sold as garden allotments and as a recreation ground, for council-house building, and for sewage disposal.²⁸

Rectory Houses

The medieval rectory house stood probably on the site of the present-day Old Rectory Cottage, immediately north-east of a replacement built between it and the church in the 1680s. In 1530 (following a period of non-residence) the house was 'enormously dilapidated and as if about to collapse to the ground', though it was subsequently occupied by the rector Stephen Farrand (1531--55).²⁹ It was rebuilt in the early 17th century presumably for George Morecroft (instituted in 1601), and though since altered and extended has an L-plan with a long main range and a short projecting south-east wing, the main range two-storeyed with attics. Its limestone and marlstone rubble walling is laid partly in alternating bands, and the house is lit throughout by mullioned windows under dripstones.³⁰ In 1662 it was assessed on six hearths, its large plot extending to the churchyard and encompassing the site of the later house.³¹

That replacement, in classical style, was built probably in 1688 for William Dowdeswell (rector 1680--1711), on a newly carved-out plot adjoining the churchyard to the south.³² Five-bayed and two-storeyed above a semi-basement, the house is of limestone ashlar with a hipped stone-slatted roof, its central doorway approached by a short flight of steps and featuring a segmental pediment broken by the Dowdeswell coat of arms. Sash windows in moulded architraves light the ground and first floors, and are separated by a

²⁵ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 41, f. 18; *ibid.* tithe and encl. awards and maps; *Ch. and Chapel, 1851*, no. 249. The glebe's size is not recorded before the 17th century.

²⁶ *Gardner's Dir. Oxon.* (1852) (76 a.); *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883--1939 edns) (75 a.); OHC, DV/X/68 (77 a. incl. the 1½-a. churchyard in 1910); *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (1860--1949/50 edns).

²⁷ TNA, MAF 32/915/92, no. 9; above, landownership (manor).

²⁸ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1878; *ibid.* encl. map; *Banbury Guardian*, 9 Dec. 1965; Lainchbury, *Kingham*, 262.

²⁹ *Visit. Dioc. Linc.* I, 134; II, 44; *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns 1603--6*, p. 23.

³⁰ Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 387; NHLE, no. 1053295; OHC, POX0193892; POX0193948; POX0194036.

³¹ TNA, E 179/255/4; OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 41, f. 18. It was owned and occupied by the rector Samuel Lockwood (d. 1911), but was later sold: TNA, RG 13/1398, nos. 91--2; OHC, DV/X/68, nos. 163, 203 (and map); *ibid.* RDC9/3/F6/2, no. 46; RDC9/3/F7/2, f. 3.

³² For descriptions: Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 386--7; NHLE, no. 1367805 (accessed Feb. 2024) (both mentioning reused Jacobean panelling with the date 1688 above). The chancel was rebuilt at the same time (below: church archit.). Interior not inspected by VCH.

wooden modillion cornice from three gabled dormers to the attics.³³ The central rear doorway was replaced c.1853 by a Tudor-style porch with coped verges and three ball finials,³⁴ whilst alterations and improvements in 1933 and 1940 were funded by mortgages.³⁵ Ashlar gatepiers with pineapple finials may be contemporary with the house, while late 17th-century stables and a six-bayed barn added in 1767 have since been converted to residential use.³⁶

The house was sold in 1976, a lean-to on its north side being replaced with a flat-roofed single-storeyed extension in 2004.³⁷ A replacement rectory house on the Manor Farm site on the village's north-western edge was bought in 1982, and was replaced in 2000 by a newly-built vicarage house in a new cul-de-sac off Church Street.³⁸



Old Rectory Cottage (left) in the early 20th century (OHC, POX0193892) and the c.1688 replacement rectory house (right) in 2024.

Religious Life

The Middle Ages

Kingham's earliest known rector was Ralph de Diceto (d. 1199/1200), archdeacon of Middlesex, who was presented c.1160 and probably served the church through a chaplain.³⁹

³³ Illust. (c.1920s--40s) in OHC, POX0193984--6; Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. c 492, nos. 1269--71.

³⁴ Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 387; OHC, POX0003939; POX0193936; POX0193988--9.

³⁵ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1878.

³⁶ NHLE, nos. 1053297--9; 1367806; WODC online planning docs, W2002/1596; 12/0357/P/LB; 15/02482/HHD.

³⁷ OHC, PA KINGa/283 (sale cat.); *Banbury Guardian*, 22 Apr. and 10 June 1976; WODC online planning docs, W2002/1335; 15/02482/HHD.

³⁸ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1879 (6 Manor Barns); *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (1998--9), 13 (renamed 6 The Moat); *Oxf. Dioc. Year Book* (2009), 65 (6 The Grange).

³⁹ D.M. Smith (ed.), *English Episcopal Acta I: Lincoln 1067--1185* (1980), pp. 171--2; ODNB, s.v. Ralph de Diceto.

Around 21 further rectors are known before the Reformation, many of whom were university graduates and/or pluralists with interests elsewhere, and probably only a few resided permanently.⁴⁰ One such may have been Geoffrey of Wolford (rector 1244/5--51?), who came presumably from Great or Little Wolford in Warwickshire (c.8 miles from Kingham), and probably had local connections.⁴¹ The royal clerk and pluralist Nicholas of Plympton (rector 1251?--67) served as archdeacon of Norfolk from 1257, while his successor Richard Ash (1267--97/8) was licensed to hold the benefice in plurality in 1277.⁴² Even so both of them leased Hurley priory's small estate in the parish,⁴³ and in 1251 Plympton received six oaks from Wychwood forest from the king (presumably for building work), while in 1260 he complained that the bailiff of Chadlington hundred had unlawfully entered his glebe at Kingham and seized a carthorse and 16 oxen.⁴⁴ The Oxford graduate Andrew de Tothale (rector 1318--38?) was permitted a further three years' study in 1321, after which he entered the service of the Knights Hospitallers.⁴⁵

Later medieval rectors may have taken only a distant interest in the benefice, the parish being presumably served by stipendiary chaplains and other clergy.⁴⁶ Thomas of Sibthorpe (instituted c.1338) was possibly more concerned with establishing his chantry chapel at Sibthorpe (Notts.),⁴⁷ while Robert Ive (rector 1361--78?) studied at Oxford and was active on behalf of the benefice's patron Walden abbey.⁴⁸ Other graduates included Richard Dunham (rector 1379?--88), William Northwold (1388--98), and the high-born pluralist and papal tax collector John Pygge (1439?--64),⁴⁹ followed by further well-educated, well-connected, and long-serving pluralists such as Henry Says (rector 1465--83), Thomas Bowden (1483--1508), Richard Wolman (1508--31), and Stephen Farrand (1531--55).⁵⁰ Wolman (a royal chaplain who accumulated numerous preferments including the archdeaconry of Sudbury and a prebend of St Paul's cathedral) was certainly non-resident, and in 1520 both the chancel and the rectory house were ruinous,⁵¹ while in 1439 the dilapidated state of the church and its bell tower prompted a papal grant of penance for

⁴⁰ Of the rectors, 7 vacated by death, 7 by resignation or exchange, and 7 by cause unknown.

⁴¹ *Rot. Grosseteste*, 487.

⁴² *Rot. Gravesend*, 220; *Fasti 1066--1300*, II, 66; *Cal. Papal Regs*, I, 454.

⁴³ F.T. Wethered, *St Mary's, Hurley, in the Middle Ages* (1898), p. 110; above, landownership.

⁴⁴ *Close 1247--51*, 428; TNA, JUST 1/713, m. 5.

⁴⁵ *Reg. Burghersh*, III, pp. 14, 65; Emden, *OU Reg. to 1500*, III, 1888.

⁴⁶ For passing refs to local chaplains and lesser clergy, New Coll. Arch. 11774; 11796; *Cal. Pat.* 1334--8, 355; *Reg. Sutton*, VI, 31.

⁴⁷ *Cal. Pat.* 1338--40, 24--5; *VCH Notts.* II, 150--2.

⁴⁸ Emden, *OU Reg. to 1500*, II, 1008; *Cal. Pat.* 1364--7, 31; 1370--4, 410--11; *Cal. Close 1374--7*, 185.

⁴⁹ Emden, *OU Reg. to 1500*, I, 605; II, 1372; III, 1528--9; *Cal. Papal Regs*, IX, 60 (describing Pygge as 'of noble race'); XII, 420.

⁵⁰ Emden, *OU Reg. to 1500*, I, 234; III, 1650; Emden, *OU Reg. 1501--40*, 199--200, 636.

⁵¹ *Visit. Dioc. Linc.* I, 134; *Fasti 1300--1541*, IV, 32; V, 38; *ODNB*, s.v. Ric. Wolman.

those giving alms for its repair.⁵² Wolman's successor Stephen Farrand resided, however, employing a servant who left Farrand his sword and buckler,⁵³ and curates were mentioned in 1526 and 1530, one of them (Edmund Garsett) being a future rector of Sarsden.⁵⁴

Evidence of lay involvement is scanty before the 16th century. The lord Gilbert Chastilun (d. by 1359) gave a hide and 100s. rent in 1347 in support of chaplains whom he appointed to celebrate daily mass in Kingham church,⁵⁵ and has been credited with the church's 14th-century rebuilding, a 14th-century cinquefoiled recess in the chancel's external north wall (containing a tapering coffin slab incised with a foliated cross) being traditionally said to be his burial place,⁵⁶ although evidence is lacking. Stained glass (since removed) in the east window commemorated the manor's overlords the Beauchamps, earls of Warwick, and their cousins the Hastings, earls of Pembroke, and may have been installed in the 1370s--80s when the Beauchamps were heirs to the Hastings' estate.⁵⁷ Lands worth 6d. a year were given at an unknown date to maintain a light before an image of St Mary,⁵⁸ and small cash bequests to the high altar were made in the 1540s, while money for church repairs was probably raised at Whitsun church ales as it was in the 1570s.⁵⁹ Within the chancel a stone effigy (since lost) of a man wearing a vestment may have commemorated one of the parish's medieval incumbents.⁶⁰



The coffin slab and gabled recess traditionally said to be the burial place of Kingham's lord Gilbert de Chastilun (d. by 1359).

⁵² *Cal. Papal Regs*, IX, 60.

⁵³ OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 179.4; 179.26; 179.28; 179.81; 180.175.

⁵⁴ *Subsidy 1526*, 263; *Visit. Dioc. Linc.* II, 44; below, Sarsden, relig. hist.

⁵⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1345--8, 228.

⁵⁶ E.J. Lainchbury, *St Andrew's Church, Kingham* (1962 and later edns) [church guide]: copies in OHC; Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 386; below (church archit.).

⁵⁷ *Par. Colln*, II, 194; C. Given-Wilson, *The English Nobility in the Late Middle Ages* (1987), 146--7.

⁵⁸ *Chant. Cert.* 38; *Cal. Pat.* 1549--51, 381; 1572--5, p. 411.

⁵⁹ OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 179.4; 179.26; 179.28; 179.207; *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns 1570--4*, pp. 33--4.

⁶⁰ *Par. Colln*, II, 194; Skelton, *Antiq. Oxon.* ff. 55v.--56.

The Reformation to 1783

Judging from Catholic invocations in parishioners' wills, traditional religious practices were upheld by Stephen Farrand (d. 1555), his curate Morris Lewis (d. 1555), and his successors Leonard Bowden (rector 1555--7) and George Marbury (1557--8), who maintained a light before the blessed sacrament.⁶¹ Ralph Willett, vicar of Shipton-under-Wychwood 1546--64, was instituted to Kingham in 1558 in the final days of Mary I's reign, though he later conformed to the Elizabethan settlement, and in 1569 was presented by the Crown to Wick Rissington (Glos.), holding it in plurality with Kingham until his death in 1575.⁶² Later wills suggest lingering Catholic sensibilities into the 1560s, but thereafter recusancy appears to have been rare, only Katherine Gilks being fined in 1615.⁶³ Occasional bequests supported maintenance of the church fabric, bells, and communion table,⁶⁴ while more extensive repairs and provision of books and other necessities were funded by the churchwardens from periodic Whitsun ales, held in a barn which was used as a church house. In 1571 two landholders withheld the customary payment of a peck of wheat and half a bushel of malt per yardland, however,⁶⁵ while absence from Sunday worship led to fines in the archdeacon's court in 1584.⁶⁶ Mortuary payments were sometimes also contested, Willett successfully pursuing them in court, and Marbury allegedly refusing to bury a corpse brought into the churchyard until a mortuary was paid.⁶⁷

William James (rector 1575--1601) was more lenient in collecting mortuaries, but served the parish mostly through curates, being also dean of Christ Church, Oxford, from 1584, and dean of Durham from 1596.⁶⁸ Despite his frequent non-residence he probably donated a silver chalice and paten dated 1575, and installed a surviving brass to his first wife Katherine (d. 1588).⁶⁹ He was related by marriage to his successor George Morecroft (instituted in 1601), who was presented (under a grant for that turn) by his father-in-law Silvester Prowse.⁷⁰ Morecroft, who was also a prominent and disruptive landholder in neighbouring Churchill,⁷¹ probably rebuilt the rectory house and may have donated a large

⁶¹ OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 179.4; 179.28; 179.81; 179.207; 179.254; 181.9; 181.132; 183.135.

⁶² Pearce, 'Clergy', 33--4; *VCH Oxon.* XIX, 76; *Cal. Pat.* 1566--9, p. 440; TNA, PROB 11/57/694.

⁶³ OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 183.400; 184.231; 184.288; TNA, PROB 11/46/282; Salter, 'Recusants', 29.

⁶⁴ OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 183.400; 185.308; 185.514; 41/1/18; 131/4/40.

⁶⁵ *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns 1570--4*, pp. 33--4.

⁶⁶ E.R. Brinkworth (ed.), *The Archdeacon's Court: Liber Actorum, 1584*, II (ORS 24, 1946), pp. xvii, 185.

⁶⁷ *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns 1603--6*, pp. 22--5.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*; *ODNB*, s.v. Wm James; *Alumni Oxon. 1500--1714*, II, 801; Peel, *Register*, II, 134; OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 89/3/5; 21/3/23; 138/1/2; 20/1/32; 69/3/4; 37/2/15.

⁶⁹ Evans, *Ch. Plate*, 95; Stephenson, *Brasses*, 408.

⁷⁰ TNA, PROB 11/110/368; Pearce, 'Clergy', 35; *Oxon. Visit.* 314; *N&Q*, vol. 147, no. 19 (8 Nov. 1924), 340.

⁷¹ Above, Churchill, landownership; social hist. (1500--1800).

silver paten dated 1629,⁷² but was ejected by Parliament in 1646 as a ‘scandalous’ (i.e. non-Puritan) minister. He twice attempted to repossess the rectory, on the second occasion entering it with ‘force and violence’ and seizing the glebe and tithes, which prompted an order to appear before the House of Lords and to restore the living to Parliament’s nominee Thomas Jackson. Morecroft died in 1649, and Jackson (who dated his incumbency from 1646) continued as rector until his own death in 1676,⁷³ holding two Sunday services (both with sermons), and preaching ‘pretty well’ according to the warden of New College, though ‘as they suppose he borrows all’.⁷⁴ At his death he was buried beneath a black marble gravestone (since removed) in the chancel, setting a fashion followed by some prominent lay inhabitants soon afterwards.⁷⁵



The arched recess in the chancel's north wall containing the brass to Katherine James (d. 1588), with a rubbing of the brass (right).

In 1688 the wealthy William Dowdeswell (rector 1680--1711) rebuilt the rectory house and chancel, where he was commemorated with an elaborate marble cartouche later moved to the tower.⁷⁶ His mother-in-law Anne Gibbard (d. 1709) donated a pair of silver flagons in 1694, while his son and successor William (rector 1712--50) replaced the earlier ring of five bells with a new peal of six in 1723.⁷⁷ That William’s son-in-law Robert Foley was rector 1750--83 and a pluralist from 1762, but oversaw the repair of the north aisle’s roof in 1769

⁷² Evans, *Ch. Plate*, 95; OHC, par. reg. transcript (baptisms); above (rectory hos).

⁷³ LJ IX, 388; *Walker Revised*, ed. Matthews, 298; D. Eddershaw, *The Civil War in Oxfordshire* (1995), 164--5. OHC, par. reg. transcript, pp. 1, 152.

⁷⁴ *Woodward's Progress*, 15, 59--60, 69.

⁷⁵ *Par. Colln*, II, 194--5, also noting gravestones to members of the prominent Hacker family.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.* 195; Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 386; above (rectory hos); below (church archit.).

⁷⁷ Evans, *Ch. Plate*, 95; *Ch. Bells Oxon.* II, 188--9.

and of the nave roof in 1774, when it was suddenly found to be dangerous. Several parishioners complained at the estimated £150 cost and threatened to withhold payment of church rates, forcing the churchwardens to proceed without vestry approval, although Foley calmed the situation by promising to ceil the roof at his own expense.⁷⁸ A small silver chalice and paten which his wife Anne donated in 1770 were intended for private celebrations.⁷⁹ Two Sunday services continued with a single sermon in the 1730s, along with four sacraments a year, which Foley increased to five; he usually attracted between 60 and 80 communicants, although numbers were falling.⁸⁰ As elsewhere church seating for better-off families included privately-owned box pews, of which one was built for John Haddon in 1724.⁸¹ Protestant Dissent remained minimal throughout the period, with only two Dissenters and two absentees reported in 1685,⁸² and a few Quakers and Anabaptists during the 18th century, along with occasional absentees mostly of 'common rank'.⁸³



The nave roof (left) repaired in 1774 by that year's churchwardens (right). Reuse of old timbers made it 'look not so well as before', prompting the rector to ceil it at his own cost. Note the glimpse of the north aisle roof (right) repaired in 1769.

Since 1783

⁷⁸ VCH Glos. XII, 88; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 564, f. 289; below (church archit.).

⁷⁹ Evans, *Ch. Plate*, 95--6.

⁸⁰ *Secker's Visit.* 94; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 556, f. 75; d 562, f. 95; d 564, f. 288.

⁸¹ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 455, f. 81.

⁸² *Bp Fell and Nonconf.* 39, 67.

⁸³ *Secker's Visit.* 94; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 556, ff. 74--5; d 559, ff. 81v.--83; d 562, ff. 94--5; d 564, ff. 286v.--288.

James Hare (rector 1783--5) and Charles Western (1785--1835) were unrelated to the Dowdeswells and Foleys, although the family reacquired the living with the institution of the younger William Dowdeswell's great-grandson John Lockwood (rector 1836--79), followed by Lockwood's son Samuel (1880--1911).⁸⁴ Hare was non-resident and employed a curate at £40 a year,⁸⁵ while Western, too, sometimes lived elsewhere and was criticized for neglect of the parochial charities, an early 20th-century inhabitant alleging that 'odd stories' were still told about him.⁸⁶ During his incumbency Dissent increased. The Baptist pastor at Chipping Norton, Thomas Purdy (d. 1802), held meetings in a 'poor man's house' until a building occupied by John Hewitt was licensed in 1800. Hewitt served as resident preacher along with John Hunt, and (on the rector's estimate) attracted a congregation of c.15 in 1805.⁸⁷ In 1831 the building was replaced by a house occupied by the cordwainer Mark Higgins, who may have refitted it for worship the following year, and it continued as a Particular Baptist chapel in the 1850s, when it was served from Stow-on-the-Wold and had a congregation of 60--80.⁸⁸ Another house, licensed in 1835, was probably used by Antinomians,⁸⁹ and by the 1830s Western reckoned that only about a quarter of inhabitants regularly attended church, where he continued to provide two Sunday services. Around 20--30 communicants celebrated holy communion four times a year.⁹⁰

John Lockwood introduced a monthly communion and restored the Sunday afternoon sermon, and by 1851 the congregation generally numbered 130 in the morning and 230 in the afternoon. By 1869 that had increased to two thirds of the population (200 in the morning and 300 in the afternoon, with little overlap between them), and holy communion (attended by c.30 communicants) was celebrated fortnightly.⁹¹ The old box pews were replaced in 1843 by open seating, though even so only 17 seats were free in 1851, and as late as 1878 a seat could be appropriated on payment of 1s. to the fabric fund.⁹² An extensive remodelling in 1852--3 saw the addition of a south aisle and porch in memory of Lt-Col. Henry Samuel Davis (d. 1851), paid for by his family, while a marble tablet (by Robert Physick of London)

⁸⁴ OHC, Cal. Presentation Deeds, 2nd ser., nos. 405, 406a--b; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1878.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. c 327, p. 107.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*; *12th Rep. Com. Char.* 255; W. Warde Fowler, *Kingham Old and New: Studies in a Rural Parish* (1913), 3.

⁸⁷ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 12, f. 77v.; c 644, f. 57; c 327, p. 277; d 566, f. 202 and v.; d 568, f. 206; *ibid.* Cal. QS, III, 610; *VCH Oxon.* XXI, 170 (Purdy).

⁸⁸ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 645, f. 170; *Ch. and Chapel, 1851*, no. 250; *Wilb. Visit.* 83--4.

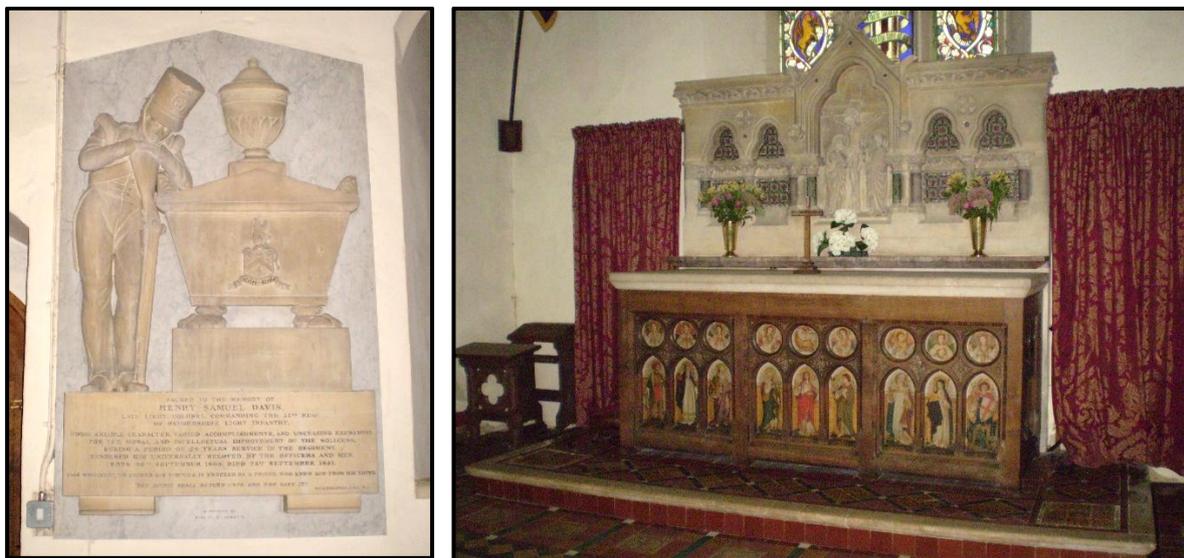
⁸⁹ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 646, f. 17; d 179, f. 234; *Wilb. Visit.* 83.

⁹⁰ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 38, f. 128v.; b 39, ff. 245--6.

⁹¹ *Ibid.* b 41, f. 137v.; c 335, f. 220v.; *Ch. and Chapel, 1851*, no. 249.

⁹² OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 40, f. 232; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. c 344, f. 242; *ibid.* PAR154/4/F1/1; *Ch. and Chapel, 1851*, no. 249; below (church archit.); cf. OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 39, f. 245v. mentioning 'all free sittings' in 1834.

depicting a mourning soldier leaning on a sarcophagus was erected by a friend.⁹³ Stained glass, filling every window, was installed in the 1840s--60s (mostly as memorials), and c.1866 Harman Grisewood (d. 1874) of Daylesford donated a carved stone and marble reredos inserted beneath the east window. Lockwood himself was commemorated in 1882 by provision of an organ, and his wife Alice (d. 1885) by brass altar rails.⁹⁴



The wall memorial to Henry Samuel Davis (d. 1851) (left) and the altar table and reredos donated by Harman Grisewood (right).

Primitive and Wesleyan Methodists began preaching in the parish in the 1850s, and before 1857 a Wesleyan chapel was opened in a pair of converted cottages owned by Joseph Perry, a Derbyshire-born baker and grocer. It was transferred to trustees in 1872, when a weekly congregation of c.60 (probably including people from outside the parish) was accommodated in 60 free seats and 30 rented pews. A gallery was installed, and in 1878 the building was extended by addition of a schoolroom.⁹⁵ The Methodists' arrival seems to have prompted a decline of the Particular Baptists, of whom only 12 met monthly by 1869, and the chapel closed a decade or so later.⁹⁶ The Wesleyans, however, continued to flourish, initiating a successful Band of Hope (which promoted Temperance), and by 1900 running a Sunday school attended by c.100 children, while their services were enlivened by a

⁹³ Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 386; E.J. Lainchbury, *St Andrew's Church, Kingham* (1962 and later edns) [church guide]: copies in OHC; inscriptions in church; below (church archit.).

⁹⁴ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 332, f. 259; c 335, f. 221; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883); inscriptions in church.

⁹⁵ *Wilb. Visit.* 84; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 179, f. 234; d 180, f. 661; c 332, f. 259; *ibid.* NM1/11/D/5--6; NM1/11/MS1/1 (typewritten history compiled c.1972); Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 387; C. Stell, *Inv. Nonconf. Chapels in Central Eng.* (1986), 177.

⁹⁶ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 335, f. 221; c 344, f. 242; not shown on OS map 1:2500, Oxon. XIX.4 (1885 edn).

harmonium.⁹⁷ Samuel Lockwood (rector 1880--1911) reckoned in 1881 that c.150 inhabitants were Dissenters, although 'a considerable proportion' also attended church. His chief complaints, however, concerned political agitation and 'mischevious newspapers and pamphlets', which, along with 'general discontent' caused by agricultural depression, he thought had contributed to a fall in attendance over the previous 7--8 years.⁹⁸ He nevertheless succeeded in increasing the congregation, church services adopting a low-church tone perhaps in response to the Wesleyans' continuing vigour.⁹⁹ An Anglican chapel was opened at Kingham Hill school in 1903, but had no parochial functions.¹⁰⁰

During the 20th century the church attracted some long-serving and experienced rectors including William Fisher (1912--32), Hugh Richardson (1933--50), George Davies (1951--6), and Alec Lumb (1956--64),¹⁰¹ and benefited also from the generous patronage of the wealthy landowner Charles Baring Young of Daylesford, who in 1915 restored the tower and in 1924 provided a new ring of eight bells.¹⁰² Other parishioners also contributed to maintaining and improving the fabric. Even so, attendances fell as elsewhere and services were gradually reduced.¹⁰³ In the 1940s the benefice was temporarily held in plurality with Daylesford, and under Roger Morgan (rector 1964--78) the union was made permanent. From 1974 Morgan also served Churchill and Sarsden, prior to the livings being formally united in 1979, and from 2000 to 2010 Kingham was served by Tony Cannon initially as priest-in-charge, and then from 2001 as resident vicar acting as part of a team ministry based in Chipping Norton.¹⁰⁴ In 2024, under the vicar David Salter, Sunday services were held fortnightly.¹⁰⁵ The Methodist chapel had a membership of 12 in 1929, and though Second World War bomb damage threatened it with closure it was restored in the 1950s, the centenary of the chapel's trust being celebrated in 1972. The chapel closed in 1986, however, and was sold three years later, several inhabitants worshipping thereafter at the Methodist church in Churchill.¹⁰⁶

Church Architecture

⁹⁷ OHC, NM1/11/MS1/1, pp. 4, 6--8; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 9 Feb. 1881; *Cheltenham Chron.* 3 Feb. 1912.

⁹⁸ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 347, f. 245v.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.* c 353, f. 238v.; c 359, f. 247v.; c 365, f. 232v.; c 371, ff. 107--8.

¹⁰⁰ Above, social hist. (educ.).

¹⁰¹ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1878, presentations.

¹⁰² *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1915--39 edns); *Ch. Bells Oxon.* II, 188--9.

¹⁰³ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1878, faculties; *ibid.* PAR154/1/R7/3 (reporting 2 or 3 Sunday services in 1946--58).

¹⁰⁴ *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (1948 and later edns); *Oxf. Dioc. Year Book* (2009), 65; above (paroch. organizn).

¹⁰⁵ <https://kinghamchurches.com/calendar> (accessed Mar. 2024).

¹⁰⁶ OHC, NM1/11/MS1/1, pp. 11, 14; NM1/11/D/7--8; R. Mann, *The History of Churchill and Sarsden* (2013), 126.

Set on the village's south-western edge, Kingham church is a middling-sized, partly 14th- to 15th-century building extended and remodelled in Decorated style in the 19th century.¹⁰⁷ The three-stage west tower, of roughly coursed limestone, contrasts with the rest of the church, which is built of regularly coursed and dressed ironstone with limestone ashlar dressings. Wide shallow-pitched roofs cover the nave and north and south aisles, the south aisle (with its steeply gabled porch) having been added in 1852--3. The high-pitched chancel roof is stone-slatted and the nave roof (behind coped verges) is covered with lead, while the aisles and porch are roofed with Welsh slate. The church's most unusual feature is its 19th-century carved stone bench ends and frontals, lending the interior (according to one visitor) a 'very weird appearance'.¹⁰⁸



The stone bench ends and frontals carved in 1843 (left) and the contemporary pulpit (right).

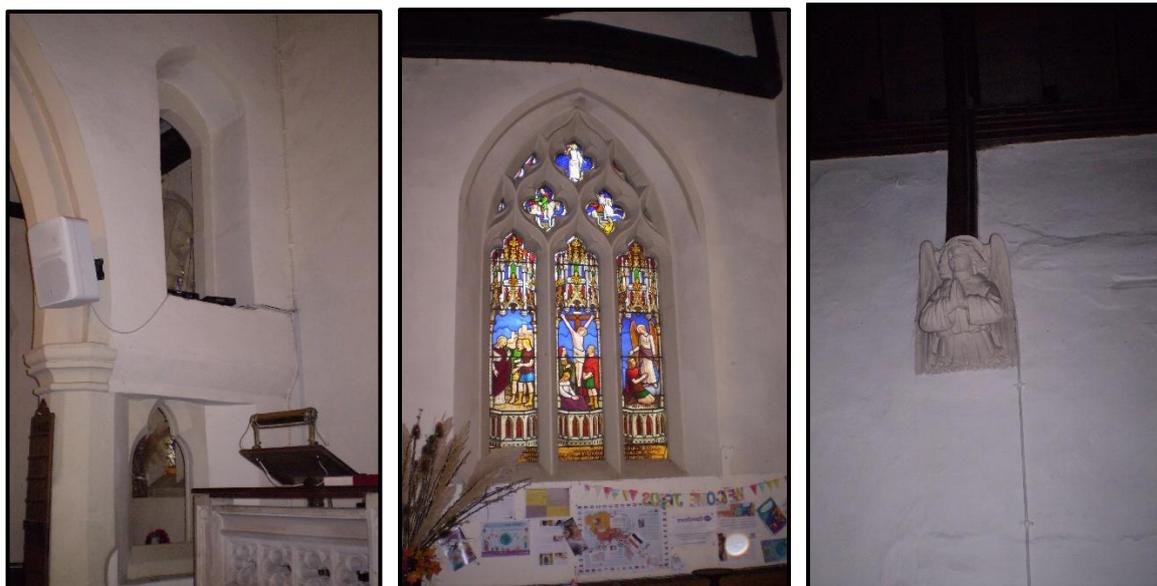
Nothing is known of the Norman church, the earliest surviving feature being the plain 13th-century circular font.¹⁰⁹ Rebuilding (possibly by the resident Chastiluns) began in the 14th century, the probable date of the tower arch with its two continuous concave mouldings, and of the four-bayed north arcade, whose double-chamfered arches spring from moulded capitals on slender octagonal piers. To its east are remains of the rood stair above a formerly glazed trefoiled opening, while a gabled cinquefoil-headed recess in the chancel's external

¹⁰⁷ For other accts: Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 386; NHLE, no. 1283232 (accessed Mar. 2024); Sherwood, *Oxon. Churches*, 106; LPL, CLARKE/1/17, f. 60; E.J. Lainchbury, *St Andrew's Church, Kingham* (1962 and later edns) [church guide]: copies in OHC. Illust. before restoration in Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. a 67, f. 357, and after in *ibid.* c 852, f. 21.

¹⁰⁸ W. Hobart Bird, *Old Oxon. Churches* [1932], 102--3; below.

¹⁰⁹ Illust. (19th cent.) in Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. a 67, f. 356; cf. above (church origins).

north wall is by tradition the resting place of Gilbert Chastilun (d. by 1359), who with his father Ralph (d. by 1346) is one of the lords most likely to have invested in new church building.¹¹⁰ A five-light Decorated east window of similar date (its outline still visible) survived until the 19th century.¹¹¹ The tower is probably late 14th-century, its 15th-century embattled parapet and pinnacles added presumably some time after 1439, when the church's and tower's poor state prompted papal indulgences in support of almsgiving.¹¹² The tower has bell-openings of two trefoil-headed lights with stone-slatted louvres beneath hoodmoulds, and incorporates a projecting rectangular stair turret in its south-eastern corner. Other 15th-century changes may have included refenestration of the nave, which in 1825 retained a straight-headed three-light Perpendicular window next to a pointed-arched (and possibly double-chamfered) south doorway, with a single-light trefoil-headed low-side window further east.¹¹³ Repairs to the 'ruinous' chancel and the 'ruptured' churchyard wall were required c.1520--30.¹¹⁴



The remains of the rood stair (left). The south aisle memorial window of 1852–3 (centre), and a contemporary angel corbel in the chancel (right).

The rood loft was removed at the Reformation, though an arched recess in the chancel's north wall (used probably as an Easter sepulchre) was preserved, and contains a

¹¹⁰ Above (relig. life); landownership; social hist. The recess's association with Chastilun is unproven.

¹¹¹ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. a 67, f. 357; below.

¹¹² *Cal. Papal Regs*, IX, 60; above (relig. life), incl. possible investment by the earls of Warwick.

¹¹³ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. a 67, f. 357; Parker, *Eccl. Topog.* no. 78.

¹¹⁴ *Visit. Dioc. Linc.* I, 134; II, 44.

brass to Katherine James (d. 1588).¹¹⁵ Parishioners left money for fabric repairs in the late 16th and early 17th centuries,¹¹⁶ and in 1688 William Dowdeswell (rector 1680--1711) rebuilt the chancel, retaining the medieval east window. The voussoirs and keystone of the chancel's new north doorway survive, and two round-headed south windows with central mullions (depicted in 1825) were presumably part of the same remodelling.¹¹⁷ Early 18th-century alterations were made to the bells and pews, and in 1755 the archdeacon ordered the walls to be painted with sentences from scripture,¹¹⁸ while a gallery was erected in 1764 (but later removed).¹¹⁹ The north aisle's lean-to timber-and-plaster roof, now with painted bosses, was rebuilt in 1769, and the nave roof in 1774, a surviving inscription commemorating its construction and naming that year's churchwardens (George and William Brooks). Re-use of old timbers made it 'look not so well as before', however, prompting the rector to ceil it at his own cost,¹²⁰ its seven tie-beams resting on short braced wall-posts on head corbels, and its panelled bays decorated with carved and gilded wooden bosses.

In 1838 John Lockwood (rector 1836--79) reported the church to be in good repair,¹²¹ but it was nevertheless extensively altered during his incumbency. In 1843 he repaved the nave, removed plaster to expose the building's original stonework, and inserted a new and smaller three-light east window in memory of his five-year-old daughter Harriet (who had died of scarlet fever), featuring reticulated tracery and vivid stained glass possibly by Ward & Nixon. He also installed new open wooden seating, for which he commissioned the local stonemason John Jackson to carve highly unusual blind-traceried stone frontals and bench ends, the latter topped with fleur-de-lys poppyheads. The matching square stone pulpit with a frieze of pierced quatrefoils is also by Jackson.¹²² In 1852--3 the chancel was remodelled, the south aisle and porch were added, and the church was refenestrated with uniform Decorated-style windows,¹²³ those in the side walls with two lights and those facing east and west with three. One south window features ballflower (others are decorated with headstops), and carved heads embellish the south aisle's cornice. The chancel arch, the four-bayed arch-braced chancel roof on big angel corbels, and the pavement of encaustic

¹¹⁵ Stephenson, *Brasses*, 408; Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 386 (mistakenly giving 1586).

¹¹⁶ e.g. OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 185.514; 39/3/18; above (relig. life).

¹¹⁷ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. a 67, f. 357; Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 386; Lainchbury, *St Andrew's Church*, mentioning memorial inscription in tower (not visible in 2024).

¹¹⁸ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. d 13, f. 14v.; above (relig. life).

¹¹⁹ OHC, PAR154/4/F1/1, printed in Lainchbury, *Kingham*, 135.

¹²⁰ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 564, f. 289; above (relig. life).

¹²¹ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 41, f. 137v.

¹²² *Ibid.* MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 40, ff. 231--2; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. b 70, p. 131; Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 386 (misdating the pews to 1853).

¹²³ For the date, OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 70, p. 131; c 353, f. 239; memorial glass to Lt-Col. Davis. Possibly by the architect H.J. Underwood: Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 386.

tiles are part of the same remodelling, and the trefoil-headed piscina and double sedilia with marble shafts are mostly contemporary, although the sedilia was altered in the 1860s.¹²⁴



South aisle windows decorated with headstops, with more carved heads in the cornice above (left). The chancel's piscina and sedilia (right).

Amongst other furnishings, the wooden altar table (with painted panels of saints and angels in circular and pointed recesses) was presented in 1853 by Harman Grisewood (d. 1874) of Daylesford, who c.1866 also donated the carved stone and marble reredos depicting the Crucifixion.¹²⁵ Brightly coloured stained glass (probably by Thomas Ward's firm) in the chancel's south wall, commemorating Amelia (d. 1807) and John Cutts Lockwood (d. 1830) and Henrietta Davis (d. 1853), is broadly contemporary with the chancel's remodelling, while that in the north wall (by Clayton & Bell) includes a memorial to Lilia Lockwood (d. 1863). An elaborate brass chandelier is also mid 19th-century. Earlier chancel monuments were either moved to the tower or covered up.¹²⁶ In 1875 the tower's east-facing bell-opening was replaced by a clock by E. Dent & Co., succeeding an earlier clock mentioned in late 18th-century churchwardens' accounts.¹²⁷ Further improvements to the tower and its bells followed in 1915--24, though proposals for a north vestry and new heating apparatus were dropped following objections.¹²⁸ A war memorial installed in the nave in 1919 was followed by several later memorials, including one to William Warde Fowler (d. 1921) and another to Kingham Hill school staff and pupils buried in the churchyard 1890--2003.¹²⁹

¹²⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 335, f. 221; cf. Hobart Bird, *Old Oxon. Churches*, 103 mentioning a triple sedilia presumably in error.

¹²⁵ Lainchbury, *Kingham*, 163--4; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 332, f. 259.

¹²⁶ *Par. Colln*, II, 194--5 (monuments c.1720); Lainchbury, *Kingham*, 171--3.

¹²⁷ C.F.C. Beeson, *Clockmaking in Oxfordshire 1400--1850* (3rd edn, 1989), 44; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 341, f. 261; *ibid.* PAR154/4/F1/1.

¹²⁸ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1878, faculty; above (relig. life).

¹²⁹ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1878, faculties; memorials in church.

Electric light (approved in 1943) was installed in 1946, and in 1952 the interior was whitewashed,¹³⁰ while the centenary of the chancel's remodelling was commemorated in 1953 by the purchase of a brass cross, alms dish, vases, and candlesticks. From the 1980s, regular repairs and improvements were made to the fabric, heating, and furnishings.¹³¹

The churchyard was filling up by the late 1830s, and was extended in 1856, 1883, and 1920.¹³² A lychgate with a hipped stone-slatted roof was built at its north-eastern corner in 1912 in memory of Samuel Lockwood (rector 1880--1911), while in 1935 a second gate commemorated George V's jubilee.¹³³ The levelling of unknown or neglected graves was approved in 1951, contributing to the churchyard's 'tidy' appearance.¹³⁴



The church war memorial (left) and lychgate (right).

¹³⁰ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1878, faculty; Lainchbury, *Kingham*, 161, 175.

¹³¹ Lainchbury, *Kingham*, 164--5; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1879, faculties; *ibid.* DIOC/1/C/6/23/1.

¹³² OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 40, f. 224; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1878, consecrations.

¹³³ Lainchbury, *Kingham*, 177.

¹³⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1878, faculty; *ibid.* OXO001051 (MT_33-1), broadcast interview with Revd Roger Morgan, 26 Sept. 1971 (online at <https://heritagesearch.oxfordshire.gov.uk>).