

Religious History

The religious history of the parish of Ellisfield can be traced back to the Domesday Survey, where the existence of one church is recorded.¹ Thereafter two distinct churches can be discerned, that of All Saints' Church, and that of St Martin's, which were merged in 1383. The history of the rectory also survives, with particular detail in the early modern period for its possessions including the glebe and tithes. A Congregational mission hall was built in 1894, followed by a chapel in 1913, now demolished.

Parochial Organisation

A church in Ellisfield is recorded in the Domesday Book.² A second church was later established. The presence of both churches in 1270 is listed in the register of bishop of Winchester John of Pontoise.³ Both churches are known to have had rectors from 1284 onwards. The two churches were united on the petition of Brocas and Fyhide who shared the advowson, on the 'plea of poverty of the churches, All Saints being then a ruin.'⁴ All Saints fell into disrepair, and this led to one rector who was responsible for the community, and it remained that way until the 20th century. Subsequently a series of mergers saw Ellisfield incorporated in an ever larger combination of former parishes. From 1954 Ellisfield was joined with Farleigh Wallop to create a new benefice.⁵ This union, initially proposed to be replaced in 1970, was dissolved in 1972 incorporating additionally Dummer, a parish to the west, to which was added Cliddesden and Farleigh Wallop in 1983, sharing one priest and with a rectory at Ellisfield.⁶ The benefice became a single parish in 2008, known as Farleigh.⁷ In 2010, a new, united benefice of Farleigh, Candover, and Wield with a rector and associate rector came into being.⁸

Advowson

The right to the advowson, the right to present the rector, initially belonged to the lords of the two main manors, and after the medieval merger of the two churches the advowson alternated between the two lords. The previous author of the *Victoria County History for Hampshire: Ellisfield* noted a suit between the prior of Southwick and John de Foxle for the recovery of a third of the advowson of the church 'of Ellisfield' in 1284, but this is an error and instead refers to the 1274 dispute between

¹ Domesday Book, (Phillimore), xxiii, 59.

² Pevsner, *North Hampshire*, 257.

³ *Reg. Pontoise*, ii, 603.

⁴ *Wykeham's Reg*, I, 144.

⁵ HRO, 67M72/PR5.

⁶ HRO, 15M76/PB3; HRO, 45M84/4; HRO, 45M84/1; HRO, 45M84/3; HRO, 45M84/4; HRO, 55M82/B4/4; HRO, 55M82/B4/34.

⁷ <https://www.farleighcandoverandwield.org.uk/>, accessed 16 December 2023.

⁸ Winchester Diocesan Office: pastoral scheme, July 2010; Alison Deveson and Sue Lane, *The Victoria County History of Hampshire. Cliddesden, Hatch and Farleigh Wallop* (London, 2018), 127.

John de Foxle, John de St. John, and Michael de 'Chillham' noted in the landownership chapter. Hugh des Roches presented the rectors to both All Saints and St Martin's in 1284, and the control of the advowson for both churches remained vested in one person until their union in 1383.⁹ There are commonalities between the lord of the manor(s) and the right to the advowson, but although there were two lay manors in Ellisfield, the right to the advowson remained singular. The connection between the de Roches family and the advowson can be connected to the marriage of Geoffrey de Roches with Emma, daughter of Walter Fitz Roger, which took place in the early 13th century.¹⁰ A descendant of Hugh, John des Roches, had control in 1305, followed by Thomas Tallyard, who presented John of St Albans, the rector for St Martins in 1308.¹¹ The right to the advowson returned to the des Roches family in 1330, with John's daughters Alice and Mary being settled with the advowson in 1338.¹² Joan des Roches patroness presented Geoffrey de Ranville in August 1349.¹³ Mary was granted the advowson solely after the death of her parents and sister Alice, and appears to have shared this with her second husband Bernard Brocas. In 1362, the bishop presented John Purye as the post was vacant by lapse of time at St Martin's.¹⁴ Between 1366 and 1369 Bernard Brocas presented the rectors in the right of Mary, his wife: the Brocas family had acquired the Sifrewast/Brocas/Roches manor some point after the marriage of Bernard and Mary. William Fyfhide, who held the Old Manor in Ellisfield, presented a rector in 1369 for St Martins, and Bernard Brocas presented a rector for All Saints in 1374 and for St Martin's in 1383. That same year, the churches were joined under the petition of Brocas and Fyfhide who were to alternate presentation. In 1404, Sir Thomas Skelton and his wife Joan had right of presentation, and in 1462 William Brocas' presentation of the rector indicates that the right of advowson had returned to the Brocas family. In 1478, William Sandys, of the Old Manor Farm Sandys family, held the right to presentation.

In 1513 the right had lapsed again and returned to the bishop. In 1518, John Audrey Kt. and his wife presented the rector, followed by another William Sandys in 1519 and 1540. In the appointment of William Inkerfeld in 1540, Lord William Sandys is noted as having granted the right to David Jones, executor of Dame Rose Wallop, on this occasion.¹⁵ In 1565 Sir Richard Scrope and Jane Elizabeth Paulet, his wife, held the right of advowson. In 1582 Queen Elizabeth I presented the rector on behalf of her ward, Sir Pexall Brocas – not the first time that the Crown had acted to fill a vacancy as Elizabeth had appointed the rector in Cliddesden and Hatch in 1577.¹⁶ The right to advowson returned to the Brocas family for several generations, not changing hands again until 1670 when Robert Stocker, now in possession of Old Manor Farm, presented a rector. However, by 1702 the right to presentation returned

⁹ *Reg. Pontoise*, i, 15.

¹⁰ TNA, CP 25/1/203/5, nos. 55, 60, document Geoffrey and Emma's dispute over land in Ellisfield.

¹¹ *Reg. Woodlock*, ii, 726-8, 810.

¹² Montagu Burrows, *The Family of Brocas of Beaurepaire and Roche Court. Hereditary Matters of the Royal Buckhounds, with some account of the English rule in Aquitaine* (London, 1886), 329-30.

¹³ *Reg. Edington*, i, 99.

¹⁴ *Reg. Edington*, i, 219.

¹⁵ HRO, 21M65/A1/23.

¹⁶ *Reg. Horne*, f. 115; Deveson and Lane, *Cliddesden*, 66.

to the Brocas family, plausibly a second Thomas Brocas who had to argue for his claim at the court of the bishop of Winchester.¹⁷ In 1725 there were two patrons: Thomas Brocas and Mistress Saltmarsh with Mr Terry who were co-partners in the manor of Ellisfield.¹⁸ Thus in 1734 Stephen Terry of Dummer held the right to advowson, before Thomas Brocas (III) held the right in 1776. John, 2nd Earl of Portsmouth, purchased the rights to the advowson alongside the Ellisfield lands and woods that had belonged to Stephen Terry in 1766, however there is no immediate indication of Portsmouth exercising his right.¹⁹ In 1756 Sir William Saltmarsh and his wife Ann sold the right to the advowson and their fourth part of the manor of Ellisfield to John Waite and Thomas Mitchell, who were also non-residents.²⁰ Sir Richard Willis (I) presented his son, Thomas Willis, as the rector in 1785.²¹ For the final time the right to advowson was held by Bernard Brocas in 1836, and thereafter became separated from the manors when his second wife, formerly Miss Raymond Barker, sold the advowson to the Welsh Thorntons. Henry and Alfred Welsh Thornton presented the rector in 1885, and Hilda M. A. Piggott presented her father's successor in 1914. Ivy B. Cannon held the right of appointment from 1944-54, until the union of Ellisfield and Farleigh Wallop with alternating right to the advowson. The Earl of Portsmouth made the first appointment in 1954, with the right then returning to Cannon in 1960. The united benefices in 1972 saw the right to the advowson vested in the Winchester Board of Patronage, where it has since stayed.²²

¹⁷ HRO, 10M57/Z3; HRO, 45M84/2.

¹⁸ *Parson and Parish*, 51.

¹⁹ HRO, 5M52/T186.

²⁰ HRO, 31M57/427.

²¹ HRO, 21M65/E2/311; HRO, 21M65/A2/3; HRO, 35M48/6/903.

²² HRO, 45M84/2.



Figure 1. St Martin's Church from the south in 2023.

Glebe, Tithes, and Rectory House

Glebe

The income of the rector came from both the glebe and tithes, with the rector typically owning all the tithes in the parish. A record of the glebe of St Martin's in 1639 notes 1 a. of meadow, a pasture close of 1.5 a., an arable close of 1 a., a second pasture close of 0.5 a., another pasture close of 3 a., further land comprising of three fens, the churchyards which were 0.5 a., another 0.5 a. of close, the parsonage woods of 1 a. and finally a wood or coppice of 3 a.²³ In 1728 the glebe associated with St Martin's Church was listed as 16 a. with no other information provided as to its constitution.²⁴ In 1851 the glebe consisted of 18 a.²⁵ The value of the benefice of Ellisfield as a whole between 1829 and 1831 was £295.²⁶

Tithes

²³ HRO, 35M48/16/131.

²⁴ HRO, 35M48/16/132.

²⁵ *Rel. Census*, 186.

²⁶ *Doing the Duty*, 172.

In 1291, the churches of All Saints and St Martin's were both valued at £5.²⁷ By the time of the tithe award in 1840, the rector held a grand sum of 185 a. 2 r. and 30 p. of land, of which 2 r. and 38 p. was church and church land.²⁸ In September 1851 the vicarages of Herriard and Ellisfield and the lands, tithe rent charges, and other hereditaments were released to F. J. E. Jervoise from Lord Bolton.²⁹ The gross income from tithes in 1851 was £400.³⁰ In 1885, upon the death of Reverend E Piggott, the tithes were granted by the bishop of Winchester to the churchwarden Edward Pattenden to collect and maintain on behalf of the church.³¹

A more detailed list of landowners and tithe rent charges is provided in the c. 1875-1889 Hackwood estate tithes record.³² It lists two rectors in Ellisfield, Carpus and Arde, though the latter is crossed out – and interestingly neither are Piggott – who held land to a rent charge of £13 4s. and 6d. of land which was leased to John Smith, and of their own land £4 was to be paid in tithe.³³ In 1897, a further record of tithe rent charges for Ellisfield properties belonging to the Preston Candover estate, with landowners not specified but the three separate portions of land owing £1 15s., £20 3s., and £21 18s. respectively in tithe charges.³⁴

A 1919 record of the altered appointment of tithe rent charges noted that Thomas Bishop owed £18 18s. in rent charges, whereas Lord Portsmouth owed only 6s. 9 d., the latter being likely an error given the substantive nature of the Portsmouth estates.³⁵ A second altered appointment roll from 1924 sees Bishop's payments revised to £14 19s. and 7d., and Lady Portsmouth owing £54 and 5s. From 1919 the rent charges came to a total of £78 10s. and 6d. for 401 a. 1 r. and 1 p., and by 1924 the charges had increased to £118 14s. for 624 a. and 14 p.³⁶ There is a disparity in records as the tithe rent charge schedule of 1919 records that rent charges owed were the sum of £38 8s. and 3d., however the rent charge schedule appears an incomplete list.³⁷

Further rent charge schedules from 1923 indicate that the sum owed to the rector from multiple properties was £18 6s., with a further £15 17s. and 1d. overdue.³⁸ The 1923 entry is likely a partial entry as it does not list all the major landowners in Ellisfield at this time. On a final note regarding tithes, on 22 September 1972 the Church Commission wrote to J. L. Jervoise, advising that the annuity had matured on his affected property in Herriard and Ellisfield, and he was freed from any further charge under the 1918 Tithe Act.³⁹

²⁷ *Tax. Eccl.*, 212.

²⁸ HRO, 21M65/F7/78/1.

²⁹ HRO, 44M69/D1/6/K1.

³⁰ *Rel. Census*, 186.

³¹ HRO, 33A10/1.

³² HRO, 11M49/8/1.

³³ HRO, 11M49/8/1.

³⁴ HRO, 49M69/PB9.

³⁵ HRO, 10M71/68/1.

³⁶ HRO, 10M71/68/1.

³⁷ HRO, 9M71/57.

³⁸ HRO, 9M71/57.

³⁹ HRO, 44M69/D1/6/M21.

Rectory House

In 1665, the rectory was under the possession of Nathaniel Cranford, rector, who was liable for three chargeable hearths according to the 1665 Hampshire Hearth Tax Assessment, indicative of a fair-sized property.⁴⁰ The rectory was valued at £8 3s. 6d. in 1785, with a yearly value of c. £200.⁴¹ The present rectory was constructed in 1914 before the outbreak of World War One. The previous rectory, now Brocas, was held by Revd Eversfield Botry Pigott in his tenure, who then requested it as a residence in the retirement of him and his wife, and they brought the residence from Winchester Diocese. On 3 July 1934 the rector Angus Rodolphus Hobbs Mackay sold to Beatrice Mary, Countess of Portsmouth the hereditaments of the rectory, consisting of 5 a. 1 r. 23 p. under the support of his patron Ivy Botry Cannon of Brocas, wife of George Henry Franklyn Cannon.⁴² The rent charges and tithes were still to be paid by the Countess and her son Viscount Lymington, on whose behalf she acted.

Several pieces of correspondence document the ailing state of the rectory house and need for repairs – as well as the spiralling costs of such – from the 1950s onwards. A series of letters between the Revd Edward Quick, the Winchester Diocesan Dilapidations Board, and various tradespeople in 1955-6 note the costs of £547 4s. which were covered between the board's grants, the P.C.C., and the parish.⁴³ One letter from 5 April 1954 noted that Ward Booth had withdrawn his acceptance of the position of rector, and that the earl of Portsmouth now had choice as patron of the next rector.⁴⁴ Considering the correspondence in full, it may be the case that Ellisfield had become a poor church in a state of much needed repair, and with the rectors asked to supplement the costs of the rectory's improvements, it was not a particularly attractive benefice for residence or preaching. Nevertheless, Quick was in position until 1960. Letters between Quick's successor, Reverend R. C. Rudgard, Colonel G. Hinde, and local tradesmen between 1967-8 are particularly protracted regarding the need for heating upgrades and extensive plumbing work to the rectory.⁴⁵ The rectory house was sold in 2022, with the attached glebe land to be negotiated separately to the house sale.⁴⁶

⁴⁰ *Hearth Tax 1665*, 219.

⁴¹ HRO, 21M65/E2/311/3.

⁴² HRO, 15M84/2/1/7/22.

⁴³ HRO, 56M82/B103/1.

⁴⁴ HRO, 56M82/B103/1.

⁴⁵ HRO, 561782/B103/2.

⁴⁶ <https://housesforsaletorent.co.uk/property/for-sale/6-bedroom-detached-house-for-sale-in-church-lane-ellisfield-basingstoke-rg25/2100160/>.



Figure 2. View of St Martin's Church from the north.

Pastoral Care and Religious Life

The Middle Ages to the Reformation

The appointed rectors are discussed in more detail below for each church until the 1383 union whereafter one rector was responsible for the parish. After the impact of the Black Death on Ellisfield, the parishioners of the two churches of All Saints and St Martin's were merged, with the now decaying All Saints closed. The first noted rector for All Saints was Geoffrey de Roches in 1284, presented by Hugh des Roches and the custody of the rectory entrusted to the bishop's brother.⁴⁷ The des Roches patronage in Ellisfield was noted by the editor of Edington's register as in existence since the end of the 13th century.⁴⁸ On 16 November 1305 Hugh des Roches, clerk, had been presented to All Saints by John des Roches.⁴⁹ In May 1306 the church was taxed 10s. for fees to be raised dues owed to the Crown.⁵⁰ On 24 September 1306 Bishop Woodlock granted permission for Hugh de Roches, rector of All Saints, to take a year for study at Oxford, Cambridge, or another suitable institution, and was confirmed the same date.⁵¹ This evidently was not taken immediately, as a memorandum from 22 September 1307 confirmed the arrangement for Hugh to take study leave.⁵² In 1308 Nicholas was confirmed as deacon at Ellisfield, but it is uncertain for which church.⁵³ The same year, in June,

⁴⁷ *Reg. Pontoise*, i, 15.

⁴⁸ *Reg. Edington*, 266.

⁴⁹ *Reg. Woodlock*, ii, 717-8.

⁵⁰ *Reg. Woodlock*, ii, 909-10.

⁵¹ *Reg. Woodlock*, i, 144, ii, 786.

⁵² *Reg. Woodlock*, i, 245.

⁵³ *Reg. Woodlock*, ii, 808.

the church was taxed £1 for dues owed to the Crown.⁵⁴ Peter of Hoo was recorded as being in position at All Saints in 1320 as Rigaud de Asserio, bishop of Winchester, permitted him a year to study, and was ordained in 1324.⁵⁵ In 1333 Roger of Candover became rector. Geoffrey de Ranville was ordained an acolyte in December 1349, five months after he became rector, suggesting a shortage of priests after the Black Death.⁵⁶ In January 1373/4 one John Mascall became rector under the patronage of Bernard Brocas, and resigned from All Saints at a later unspecified date.⁵⁷

The first recorded rector for St Martin's was Henry of Symplingham in 1284, who resigned in 1295 for unspecified reasons.⁵⁸ He was replaced by Henry Trocard, who was granted the rectory of St Martin's upon Symplingham's resignation.⁵⁹ Trocard had not yet taken Holy Orders but was admitted to the rectorship nonetheless, indicative of the great need for a rector in St Martin's.⁶⁰ In November 1308 John of St Albans was noted as rector under the patronage of Thomas Tallyard, having been tonsured at Marwell on 2 July.⁶¹ In November 1308 Bishop Woodlock issued a certificate to William Testa of vacant benefices and their taxation, which included St Martin's, indicating a vacancy between Trocard and John of St Albans.⁶² A similar statement was issued on 2 February 1309, confirming that St Martin's had been without a rector in the last three years.⁶³ On 29 November 1309 the bishop granted a licence for study to Thomas of St Albans, rector of St Martin's, indicating the position had been filled.⁶⁴ There is then a gap in the records until 10 July 1330 when Roger of Abbotstone became rector at the church, under the patronage of John des Roches.⁶⁵ Roger de Caudevere was admitted by Richard de Chaddele, vicar-general of the bishop during his absence, under the patronage of Richard des Roches, in June 1333.⁶⁶ In September 1362 the position of rector passed to John Purve under the collation by Bishop Edington owing to lapse of time since the vacancy had been filled.⁶⁷ In March 1366 John Sweyn, priest, was installed due to Purve's resignation, under the patronage of Bernard Brocas.⁶⁸ For a brief period in 1369 Richard of Easton had been chosen as rector, but resigned shortly afterwards.⁶⁹ In March of the same year Robert of Stockbridge replaced Richard, under the patronage of William Fyfhide.⁷⁰ Wykeham permitted Robert a license of non-residence for one year, but

⁵⁴ *Reg. Woodlock*, ii, 888-93, esp. 891.

⁵⁵ *Regs. Sandale and Asserio*, 390, 471; *Reg. Stratford*, 444.

⁵⁶ *Reg. Edington*, i, 99; ii, 149, 153, 158, 160.

⁵⁷ *Reg. Wykeham*, i, 50, 137.

⁵⁸ *Reg. Pontoise*, i, 79.

⁵⁹ *Reg. Pontoise*, i, 79.

⁶⁰ *Reg. Pontoise*, i, 79-80.

⁶¹ *Reg. Woodlock*, ii, 726-8, 810.

⁶² *Reg. Woodlock*, i, 320-1.

⁶³ *Reg. Woodlock*, i, 337-40.

⁶⁴ *Reg. Woodlock*, i, 398.

⁶⁵ *Reg. Stratford*, 381.

⁶⁶ *Reg. Stratford*, 425-6.

⁶⁷ *Reg. Edington*, i, 219.

⁶⁸ *Reg. Edington*, i, 248.

⁶⁹ *Reg. Wykeham*, i, 23.

⁷⁰ *Reg. Wykeham*, i, 23.

whether this was due to study or pluralism is unclear.⁷¹ In 1382/3, prior to the union, John Hede was installed as rector, under the patronage of Bernard Brocas, and the position was then filled as outlined below, with the rector based at St Martin's.⁷² The union was recorded by Bishop Wykeham on 26 June 1383, at the petition of Bernard Brocas and William Fyfhide who were the patrons of each church, due to the ruinous state of All Saints.⁷³ During Wykeham's tenure as bishop, both churches had been valued at 100s to assess their tithe contribution.⁷⁴

In 1404 Richard Stone was installed as prior on the death of John Hede, under the patronage of Thomas de Skelton and his wife Joan.⁷⁵ One presumes another gap in the record. William Ludlow was presented as rector by William Brocas between 1447 and 1470.⁷⁶ William Sandys presented a candidate to the rectorship between 1470 and 1486.⁷⁷ By 1513 it was clear that Richard Foxe, bishop of Winchester, had installed a new candidate for the rectorship, and that Geoffrey Pemberton was in place, with unclear candidacies thereafter.⁷⁸ In 1541 William Inkerfeld (also listed as Inkersfelde) was appointed upon the death of John Went, and was deprived of the post in 1565.⁷⁹ Inkerfeld was also vicar at Silkstone from 1554 to 1580, overlapping with his rectorship of Ellisfield.⁸⁰ He held a BA (1524) and MA (1527) of Lincoln College, Oxford.⁸¹

The parishioners of Ellisfield before the Reformation were a traditional Catholic community who bequeathed their souls to Almighty God, Lady Saint Mary and all the Holy Company of Heaven.⁸² Lay testators provided for the salvation of their souls and the care of the high altar to increase the beauty of the church with money or sheep/crops. John Fry and Richard Martin both of whom died in 1540 asked their executors to dispose of the residue of their estates for the health of their souls.⁸³ James Owen (d. 1558) left his soul to Almighty God, Our Lady St Mary and to all the Holy Company of Saints. He left the poor half a bushel of rye and of wheat to sing at his month's mind. Hoping for a successful passage through purgatory, he bequeathed 5s. to each of vicars of Nutley and Newnham to sing half a trentall for him and 12 ewes to Ellisfield church to finance a dirge and two masses for him and his parents. Owen left 5s. to the high altar.⁸⁴ Half of the 10 Catholic wills left

⁷¹ *Reg. Wykeham*, ii, 144.

⁷² *Reg. Wykeham*, i, 136.

⁷³ *Reg. Wykeham*, i, 143.

⁷⁴ *Reg. Wykeham*, i, 374.

⁷⁵ *Reg. Wykeham*, i, 244.

⁷⁶ HRO, 21M65/A1/13.

⁷⁷ HRO, 21M65/A1/14.

⁷⁸ Geoffrey Pemberton possibly received a BA (1512) and MA (1516) from the University of Oxford, but the Oxford entry contains no further details on him: *Alumni Oxon.*, part 1, iii, 1139. HRO, 21M65/A1/19.

⁷⁹ HRO, 21M65/A1/23; HRO, 21M65/A1/26.

⁸⁰ Borthwick Institute, Reg 5a, cited on

<https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/persons/CreatePersonFrames.jsp?PersonID=45868>.

⁸¹ *Alumni Oxon.*, part 1, ii, 788.

⁸² For example, HRO, 1540U/18. Eamon Duffy, *The Voices of Morebath* (Yale UP, 2003).

⁸³ HRO, 1540B/32; 1540B/57.

⁸⁴ HRO, 1558B/177.

bequests to the High Altar ranging from 4d. to 5s.⁸⁵ Roger Warne (d.1559) left 12d. to buy a cloth for the cross and Thomas Dyar (d.1540) left one pound of wax to burn before the sacrament.⁸⁶ Once Elizabeth I enacted her religious settlement, the wills no longer had Catholic preambles. Robert Warne (d.1565) left his soul to Almighty God.⁸⁷



Figure 3. East view of St Martin's Church.

Reformation Onwards

The post-Reformation wills are indicative of a gradual change in beliefs, with wills from the 1540s and 1550s referring to 'God Almighty, blessed Lady and company of heaven'.⁸⁸ One will from 1559, and all further 16th century wills refer only to 'Almighty God' demonstrating a change to Protestantism by the parishioners.⁸⁹

The prevalence of the local lords of the manor can be seen in their patronage of the rectors, with the appointment of Bernard Blacker in 1565 coming from the sponsorship of Sir Ralph Scrope and his wife Elizabeth Paulet.⁹⁰ Blacker was also rector at Ewhurst from 1569 to 1582, and vicar at Herriard from 1570 to 1577.⁹¹ Samuel Cole, MA, received the position under the patronage of Queen Elizabeth I and by John and Eleanor Savage of the Brocas manor in 1582, and he held this

⁸⁵ HRO, 1540B/57; 1540U/18; 1542B/31; 1552U/38; 1558B/177.

⁸⁶ HRO, 1559U/207; 1540U/18,

⁸⁷HRO, 1565B/79.

⁸⁸ HRO, 1540B/32; HRO, 1540B/57; HRO, 1540B/57; HRO, 1540U/18; HRO, 1542B/31; HRO, 1549U/52; HRO, 1552U/38; HRO, 1549U/42; HRO, 1552U/38; HRO, 1558B/177; HRO, 1559A/186; HRO, 1559U/207.

⁸⁹ HRO, 1559U/064; HRO, 1569A/20; HRO, 1571B/109; HRO, 1571B129/1; HRO, 1576B31/1; HRO, 1581A40/1; HRO, 1582A/7/1; HRO, 1582B/86/1; HRO, 1585A/89/1.

⁹⁰ HRO, 21M65/A1/26.

⁹¹ HRO, 21M65/A1/26.

position as well as being vicar of Hustbourne Priors briefly in 1583.⁹² Cole died in 1604 and was replaced by Isaac Horne, BA Cambridge, who was presented under the patronage of Sir William Sandys.⁹³ Horne held the position as rector of Hannington from 1613 to 1633, as evidence of pluralism, with Hannington situated to the west of Basingstoke and north of Andover. A curate by the name of Averie is recorded as in Ellisfield in September 1633, alongside Issac Horne still as rector, indicating absenteeism on Horne's part.⁹⁴ The 17th century saw further changes to the wills, with references to the maker, creator, redeemer, and saviour.⁹⁵ Money bequeathed by John Helleyer in his will of 1640 for the adornment of the church is indicative that there were still some High Church beliefs being held by parishioners.⁹⁶

In July 1634 Johannes Brockett was appointed rector, under the patronage of William Brockett by grant from Thomas Brocas.⁹⁷ A series of recipients of Brocas patronage is apparent in the 17th century. Nathaniel Cranford became rector in 1662, under the patronage of Thomas Taylor, and died in post in 1668.⁹⁸ Cranford held a BA (1689) from New College Inn, Oxford.⁹⁹ In 1670 William Cobden, under the patronage of Robert Stocker, became rector.¹⁰⁰ In 1702 he is listed as curate, and he held a BA (1691) from New Inn Hall, Oxford, and a MA (1694) from Lincoln College, Oxford.¹⁰¹

The Brocas patronage took precedence again in 1703 when Ezekiel Lion was chosen to care for c. 120 parishioners, who held a MA from Bordeaux University and had spent time at Oxford.¹⁰² Lion had previously been curate at Tadley chapel in Overton before becoming vicar at Sherborne St John, the latter a position which overlapped with his rectorship in Ellisfield. The 1725 visitation noted that there were sometimes one or two marriages a year, and three births and burials. Lion also had a neighbouring clergyman or curate assist him with lectures, and offered sacrament three times a year.¹⁰³ Upon Ezekiel's death in 1732, there were numerous candidates put forward for the rectorship. Anthony Henley of Northington presented Ralph Webb (BA (1709) and MA (1712) from Magdalen College, Oxford) on 3 April 1732, but given his existing positions in Berkshire, Gloucester, and Buckinghamshire, it is unsurprising his nomination was unsuccessful.¹⁰⁴ Richard Mill of Mottisfont, who held the Sandys inheritance, presented Edmund Marten to the

⁹² HRO, 21M65/A1/27.

⁹³ *Alumni Cantab.*, part I, ii, 408; HRO, 21M65/A1/29.

⁹⁴ HRO, 21M65/B1/32.

⁹⁵ HRO, 1618A/70; HRO, 1626A/030; HRO, 1637A/074; HRO, 1640B/33; HRO, PROB10/640; HRO, 1649A/43; 1696A/061.

⁹⁶ HRO, 1640B/33.

⁹⁷ HRO, 21M65/A1/31.

⁹⁸ HRO, 35M48/5/1; HRO, 21M65/A1/33.

⁹⁹ *Alumni Oxon*, part 1, i, 346.

¹⁰⁰ HRO, 21M65/B1/51; HRO, 21M65/F1/2; HRO, 21M65/A1/33.

¹⁰¹ HRO, 21M65/F1/6; *Alumni Oxon*, part 1, i, 295.

¹⁰² *Parson and Parish*, 51; HRO, 10M57/Z3; HRO, 21M65/F1/6; HRO, 21M65/B1/67; HRO 21M65/B1/61/1; HRO, 21M65/B1/66; HRO, 35M48/5/1; HRO, 21M65/E4/4/3; *Alumni Oxon.*, part 1, iii, 955.

¹⁰³ *Parson and Parish*, 51.

¹⁰⁴ HRO, 21M65/E2/307; *Alumni Oxon.*, vol 4, 1590 (Oxford, 1892, early series).

rectorship on 19 April, but this appears unsuccessful.¹⁰⁵ Lastly on 5 May 1732 Edward Peck moved from the bishopric of Lichfield to become rector, ending the dispute for the position: an insight into the power disputes between the local landowners, as Peck held the patronage of Stephen Terry, Philip Saltmarsh, and William Guildott.¹⁰⁶ Peck, BA, Oxford, had previously been curate at Bishop's Itchington. Peck was also a pluralist, holding the position of rector in North Stoke, Bath, from 1762 to 1785.¹⁰⁷ He lived in the parish and held two services on Sundays and offered the sacrament three times a year.¹⁰⁸

Peck died in 1776 and was replaced by Joseph Humphreys the same year, who held the sponsorship of William Gardiner.¹⁰⁹ Humphreys was appointed rector of North Stoke for the same period as Peck, whether to cover the responsibilities of rector whilst Peck was in Ellisfield or for another reason unclear.¹¹⁰ There is a memorial plaque dedicated to Humphreys on behind the altar. John Seally was curate in Ellisfield in 1785, holding a salary of £30 a year.¹¹¹ Thomas Willis was rector in 1785.¹¹² Willis was a recipient of a BA (1775) and MA (1779) from St John's College, Cambridge, and had a value of living of c. £200.¹¹³ He was also the domestic chaplain of Thomas Villiers, 1st Earl of Clarendon, and rector of Upper Clatford from 1783 to 1830.¹¹⁴ Thomas Willis was presented to the living by his father, Richard Willis, of Andover, who in 1783 had already presented him to the living of Upper Clatford. By the 19th century it is clear that non-residency was growing amongst the Ellisfield rectors, and unqualified curates were left responsible for the care of the parishioners. Thomas Willis resided in Andover, and how effective the cure of souls was in Ellisfield is not clear.¹¹⁵ The selection of Edwin Bosanquet, BA (1823) and MA (1826) from Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and rector of Forscote, Bath, to the post in 1830 was influenced by Bernard Brocas, his patron.¹¹⁶ It is also apparent in Willis' and Bosanquet's tenures as rector that curates were more evident in the parish, with John Ilsey noted as curate in 1788, John Hewer as curate until 1814, and Charles Woodward as stipendiary curate in 1828: all of these men also held multiple

¹⁰⁵ HRO, 21M65/E2/308.

¹⁰⁶ <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/persons/CreatePersonFrames.jsp?PersonID=82578>, accessed 1 December 2023; HRO, 21M65/E2/309; HRO, 35M48/5/1; HRO, 35M48/6/450. Note there is a date discrepancy with HRO, 35M48/5/1 listing Peck's appointment as December 1734.

¹⁰⁷ SHC, D/D/B/Reg 28, cited on <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/DisplayAppointment.jsp?CDBAppRedID=154398> accessed 15 December 2023.

¹⁰⁸ *Parson and Parish*, 51.

¹⁰⁹ HRO, 21M65/A2/2; HRO, 21M65/E2/310.

¹¹⁰ SHC, D/D/B/Reg 28, cited on <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/DisplayAppointment.jsp?CDBAppRedID=154398>.

¹¹¹ HRO, 21M65/A2/3. This John Seally was possibly a son of John Seally (I) and was admitted to Emmanuel College, Cambridge (*Alumni Cantab.*, part 2, vol 5, 453). John Seally (I) was rector of East Meon with Froxfield and Steep, and married Mary Ann, the eldest daughter of the previous rector, Joseph Humphreys (*ODNB*, s.v. Seally, John (d. 1795), writer (accessed 19 December 2023)).

¹¹² HRO, 21M65/E2/311; HRO, 21M65/A2/3.

¹¹³ *Alumni Cantab.*, part 2, vol 6, 508; <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/DisplayDispensation.jsp?CDBDispenID=14148>.

¹¹⁴ HRO 21M65/A2/3; HRO, 21M65/A2/5; <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/DisplayAppointment.jsp?CDBAppRedID=295842>.

¹¹⁵ HRO, 21M65/E7/1/64.

¹¹⁶ HRO, 21M65/A2/5; HRO, 35M48/6/1297; *Alumni Oxon.*, part 2, i, 134.

positions elsewhere.¹¹⁷ A letter from 1812 noted that Hewer, who was unlicensed until 1814, resided in Tunworth, had apologised to the bishop for not responding to the bishop's initial enquiries, and stated that the church held 250 people, with 240 attendees.¹¹⁸ Hewer received £50 per year for his curacy, which was increased in 1814 to £60 pa.¹¹⁹

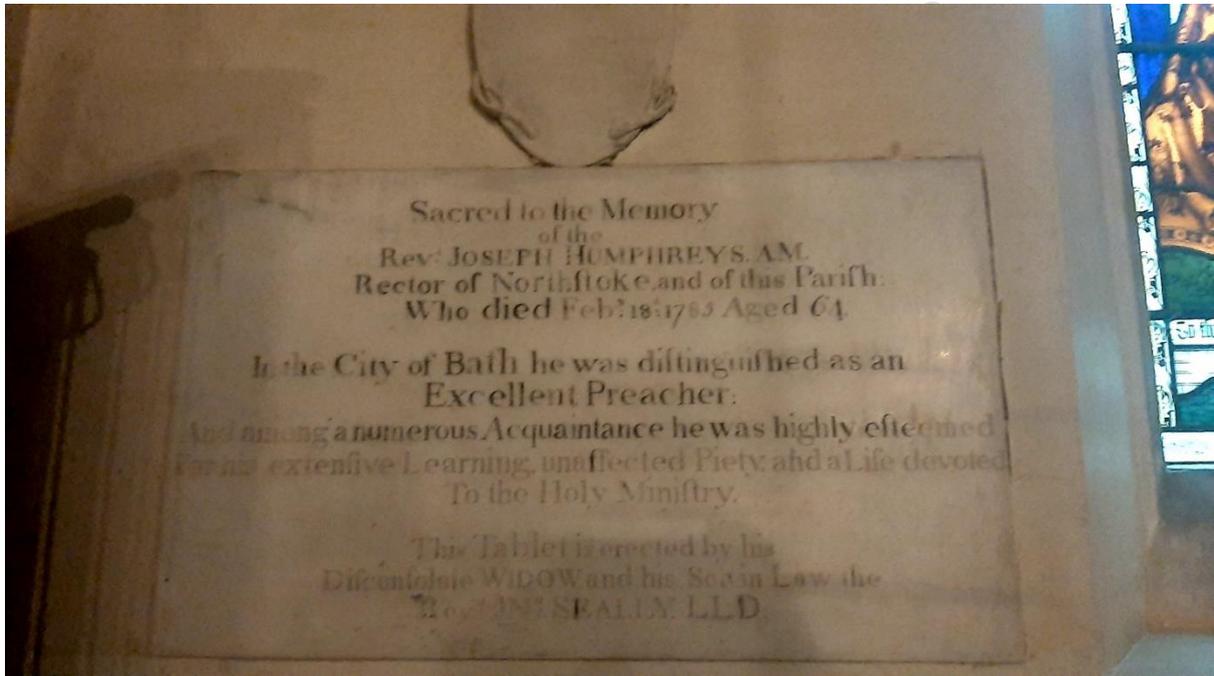


Figure 4. The memorial plaque dedicated to rector Joseph Humphreys erected shortly after his death.

18th century will demonstrate that parishioners continued to bequeath their souls to the hands of almighty God, with the addition of 'the merits of Jersus Christ' who may absolve them of their sins.¹²⁰ There was a decline in bequests made to the local church after the interregnum period, and it is not known if there were any substantial changes to the church fabric in this period.

1836 to present

The Revd Richard Paynton Piggott, who held a BA, Oxford (1834), was granted the benefice of Ellisfield by his relative, Bernard Brocas, in 1836.¹²¹ Pastoral care had apparently improved by 1851 when about 115 adults and 50 children attended two Sunday services.¹²² Stephen Bennett was licenced as a curate at Ellisfield in

¹¹⁷ HRO, 21M65/B1/116; HRO, 21M65/A2/4; HRO, 21M65/E6/12/21; HRO, 21M65/E6/1; HRO, 21M65/E6/13/75. John Ilsey possibly attended St Edmund's Hall, Oxford: *Alumni Oxon.*, part 2, ii, 727. There are two separate entries for Charles Woodward in *Alumni Cantab*, pt 2, vi, 574 and *Alumni Oxon.*, part 2, vol v, but neither of these reference Ellisfield.

¹¹⁸ HRO, 21M65/E7/1/64.

¹¹⁹ *Doing the Duty*, 44, 113.

¹²⁰ HRO, 1719B/35A; HRO, 1726A/28; HRO, 1752B/49; HRO, 1768A/49; HRO, 1768B/28.

¹²¹ HRO, TOP110/1, 5; HRO, 35M48/6/1359; *Alumni Oxon.*, part 2, iv, 1115.

¹²² *Doing the Death*, 44.

1855.¹²³ Upon the death of Revd Richard Paynton Pigott in 1885, the tithes belonging to the rectory of Ellisfield were sequestered by Edward Harold, the bishop of Winchester.¹²⁴ Bishop Harold requested that George Pattenden, the churchwarden, collected the tithes and all other dues whilst they were sequestered, and George was to otherwise continue to ensure the wellbeing and care of the parishioners. The rectorship was granted to Paynton Pigott's grandson, Eversfield Botry Pigott, BA Cambridge, 1864, the same year of Paynton Pigott's death.¹²⁵ Eversfield's daughter, Hilda, patronised his successor Angus Mackay who became rector in 1914, and had received a BA (1891) and MA (1913) from Trinity College Dublin.¹²⁶ David Houghton, who held a BA (1933) from the University of British Columbia, was chosen as rector in 1944, and followed by Kenneth Bradley (London College of Divinity, 1934) only three years later, breaking a run of long tenures as rector.¹²⁷ In 1954, the union of Benefices mentioned above resulted in an alternate right of presentation, with Keith Quick (BA (1910) St John's College, Cambridge; MA (1914) Ridley Hall, Cambridge) holding the position, and Farleigh Wallop added to the charge of the rector.¹²⁸ This was followed by Dummer in 1972 and Cliddesden in 1982. Quick was succeeded by Richard Rudgard in 1960.¹²⁹ The further united Benefice in 1972 saw the patronage of the rectorship vested in the Winchester Board of Patronage and away from local landowners. In 1984 the rector was one Revd Thomas Kime, who looked after the United Benefice. Kime held a BA (1950) from Lincoln College, Oxford, and a MA (1953) from Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford.¹³⁰ Two registers of services, from 1919 to 1941 and 1957 to 1975 respectively demonstrate a decrease in attendees at services, which were generally Eucharist and Holy Communion, and these services were offered three times a week in 1976 with attendees usually in single digits.¹³¹ In 1995, John Hamilton, who held a BA (1971) from Trinity College, Cambridge, and a MA (1975) from Ridley Hall, Cambridge, was appointed to the rectorship, though he was initially resident at the Sherborne St John rectory before moving to Ellisfield rectory by 1998.¹³² He was succeeded by Clive Parnell-Hopkinson in 2001.¹³³

When seeking a new rector in 2010, the desire was for someone 'irrespective of gender, who would lead the spiritual life of the parish through teaching, sermons, pastoral care and prayer.'¹³⁴ The current rector is Revd David Chattell who resides at the rectory at Preston Candover. Revd Stephen Mourant, was associated rector and

¹²³ HRO, 21M65/E6/13/1030.

¹²⁴ HRO, 33A10/1.

¹²⁵ HRO, 35M48/6/1961; *Alumni Cantab*, part 2, v, 124-5; *Alumni Cantab*, part 2, v, 124.

¹²⁶ HRO, 35M48/6/2627; *Crockford Clerical Dir.*, 1937, 854.

¹²⁷ HRO, 35M48/6A/99; *Crockford Clerical Dir.*, 1947, 643; HRO, 35M48/6A/128; *Crockford Clerical Dir.*, 1949-50, 140.

¹²⁸ *Crockford Clerical Dir.*, 1953-4, 951.

¹²⁹ HRO, 35M48/6A/207; *Crockford Clerical Dir.*, 1963-4, 1056. Rudgard attended St Augustine's College, Canterbury, then an Anglican training college.

¹³⁰ *Crockford Clerical Dir.*, 1985-6, 281.

¹³¹ HRO, 66M72/PI3; HRO, 66M72/PI1.

¹³² *Crockford Clerical Dir.*, 1995-6, 296; *Crockford Clerical Dir.*, 1998-9, 296.

¹³³ *Crockford Clerical Dir.*, 2004-5, 601.

¹³⁴ www.allsaintschurchdummer.hampshire.org.uk: parish of Farleigh, accessed 18 December 2023; Deveson and Lane, *Cliddesden*, 73.

resided at the rectory at Ellisfield: Mourant was appointed in 2011 and holds a BA in Theology from St John's College, Nottingham.¹³⁵ Mourant left the position in 2021 and as of 2024 has not been replaced. Services are conducted every Sunday, with seasonal events such as the Harvest Festival and Christingle, alongside Bible Study groups and exploring faith courses taking place on a weekly basis. At Christmas, carols are held the Sunday before Christmas, with Family Holy Communion on Christmas Day, and Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer held on the first Sunday of Epiphany: owing to the rectors responsibilities for nine churches the pattern of extra services is not always consistent. A Farleigh parish newsletter, *Hill and Dale*, has been published for several years and outlines local activities as well as religious services being provided, but the level of other activities provided by the church is low. There is regular engagement by the lay population and particularly the churchwardens in the maintenance and repair of the church, discussed below. After 1800 wills generally omit references to God and the church, and no further bequests are made to either St Martin's, or to Winchester, indicative of a decline in the importance of religion and certainly by the 20th century, growing atheism.

Nonconformity

Little is known about the history of nonconformity in the parish before the 17th century. The author of *Aelle's Field*, a public pamphlet on the history of the churches, notes that the Calvinists of the 16th and 17th centuries were a source of aggravation within wider society.¹³⁶ The 1603 diocesan population record noted that there were no recusants or non-communicants in Ellisfield, with a population of 77 communicants.¹³⁷ In June 1664 a churchwarden's presentment account recorded that Michael Merriott spoke scandalous words concerning the surplice worn by the minister.¹³⁸ The 1676 census recorded one Papist and two nonconformists of which Michael Merriott may have been one.¹³⁹ The 1725 visitation noted that there were no popish family or any meeting of Protestant dissenters of any kind in Ellisfield, and the 1765 visitation recorded no dissenters.¹⁴⁰ However, two 18th century enrolment books dated 1717-1746 recorded Philip Saltmarsh, esquire, and Henry Smallwood as papists with properties in Ellisfield.¹⁴¹

A letter to the bishop of Winchester, dated 2 August 1820, requested the establishment of a meeting house in Ellisfield for Calvinistic dissenters, with the signatures of the minister Thomas Stevenson and David Gearll and Jorah Wilkes.¹⁴² A later letter from John Wilkins and Henry Green, dated 11 February 1835, requested the establishment of a meeting house at the residence of William Balpit.¹⁴³ The 19th century Congregational meetings were organised by families from

¹³⁵ *Crockford Clerical Dir.*, 2016-17, 159, 630.

¹³⁶ HRO, TOP110/1, 4.

¹³⁷ *Dioc Pop. Rtns*, 490.

¹³⁸ HRO, 202M85/3/406

¹³⁹ *Compton Census*, 83.

¹⁴⁰ *Parson and Parish*, 51, 182; HRO, 21M65/B4/2/66.

¹⁴¹ HRO, Q25/3/1; HRO, Q25/3/3.

¹⁴² HRO, 21M65/F2/3/502.

¹⁴³ HRO, 21M65/F2/5/156.

Basingstoke who organised the preachers. It also held a Sunday School, with services in the afternoon. Furthermore in 1894 a Congregational Mission Room was erected.¹⁴⁴ Aside from the regular services, there were also gatherings for special events, such as that on Good Friday 1912 for a tea and public meeting.¹⁴⁵ Despite these regular events, the congregation was 'badly in need of a chapel.'¹⁴⁶ In 1913 this need was met with the financial assistance of Sarah Jane Wallis, and the erection of a chapel in Ellisfield, thought to be on Green Lane.¹⁴⁷ The popularity of the chapel declined after World War One when transport became available, but does not appear to have completely faded. In 1931 the chapel acquired an organ from Winslade when that chapel closed, and Ellisfield appeared a popular destination for Congregationalists from Basingstoke.¹⁴⁸ The Congregation and Anglican communities appeared to reside in harmony with one another, with a united harvest festival held in the chapel in 1943.¹⁴⁹ However, by 1949 the attendance of the chapel had declined so much that it was recommended for closure in the autumn. The building and organ were sold, and the chapel demolished and rebuilt as Fox Hill House in the 1960s.¹⁵⁰

All Saints' Church

The earliest of the two parish churches, All Saints stood on the grounds of the old rectory. The site of All Saints' now forms part of the Brocas estate.

St Martin's Church

The church of St Martin, situated on the west side of Ellisfield parish, was thought to be of 13th century origin, however recent archaeological work has found little medieval structure surviving after restorative work from the 19th century.¹⁵¹ It is a Grade II* listed building and an area of high archaeological potential.¹⁵² Like All Saints', St Martin's was recorded in the reign of Henry III, with the two churches being amalgamated by 1383. Churchwarden accounts from 1737 and 1753 note the need for church repairs.¹⁵³ There are no pre-20th century drawings or illustrations of the church to indicate its presentation in better detail. The archaeological survey noted that the medieval fabric was effectively obliterated in the 1870 restoration

¹⁴⁴ *Kelly's Directory for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight* (London, 1907), 165.

¹⁴⁵ Roger Ottewill, 'The Congregational Cause in the Parish of Ellisfield', (2015), 1.

¹⁴⁶ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 5 October 1912.

¹⁴⁷ *Basingstoke and District Congregational Magazine*, 6.9 (1913).

¹⁴⁸ Ottewill, 'Congregational Cause,' 3; Roger Ottewill, 'A Perfect Little Paradise': A History of Winslade Congregational Chapel 1888-1935', Hampshire Field Club Newsletter, 56 (2011), 5.

¹⁴⁹ *Basingstoke & North Hants Congregational Magazine*, 36.11 (1943), 5.

¹⁵⁰ <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/39596/Ellisfield%20-%20December%202002.pdf>, accessed 15 December 2023.

¹⁵¹ HRO, 66M72/PW4.

¹⁵²

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/33810/Ellisfield%20Conservation%20Area%20Appraisal.pdf>, accessed 19 December 2023.

¹⁵³ HRO, 21M65/B2/258; HRO, 21M65/B2/259.

project.¹⁵⁴ The chancel is thought to have replaced a smaller 13th-century structure, and the label and semi-circular rear archway above the present south entrance hold 14th-century characteristics. Elsewhere, the surviving masonry on the nave walls is thought to be medieval, as well as traces of the north side doorway near a 19th-century window. The external angles, concealed by modern buttresses, may also mark the lines of the former east wall. It has a red tile roof and flint walls with stone dressings. Further archaeological investigations may be able to conclude the extent of St Martin's medieval history with firm evidence.

The current chancel has Gothic Revival lancet windows in the north and south walls, one plausibly of 13th-century origin, with a further Gothic Revival window in the east wall. The nave, in part, is likely to date to the same period as the chancel, but has not been conclusively dated. An outline of the Norman doorway is also evident in the nave.¹⁵⁵ A Gothic Revival tower for the church was built in 1884, replacing a wooden tower, similar to other parishes of the time.¹⁵⁶ It houses five bells of Spanish origin, the nature of their acquisition uncertain. The tower has three stages, with a crenelated parapet, bands, plinth, and diagonal stepped buttresses.¹⁵⁷



¹⁵⁴ HRO, 66M72/PW4.

¹⁵⁵ Nikolaus Pevsner and David Lloyd, *The Buildings of England. Hampshire and the Isle of Wight* (Harmondsworth, 1967), 210; Pevsner, *North Hampshire*, 257.

¹⁵⁶ HRO, TOP110/1, 2.

¹⁵⁷ <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1092980?section=official-list-entry>, accessed 17 December 2023.

Figure 5. The bell tower in 2023.

Internally the church contains stone brackets, the cill of a piscina, a 13th-century plain stone octagonal font with a 17th-century wood cover, alongside other 17th-century furniture. There is also an anointed Royal Coat of Arms of George III on the wall, and floor slabs in the nave which date to c. 1700. A small door opening is likely of Norman origin.¹⁵⁸ In the vestry is a brick south porch. The communion rails date to the 17th century, with thin widely spaced balusters: their survival from the civil war may be indicative of royalist support in the parish and a lack of Puritanism in the area, however without certain dating it is unclear if they are pre- or post-civil war.¹⁵⁹ Nearly all the stained glass windows have been created in the last two centuries and are variously dedicated to the rectors or family members: the Piggotts in particular are prominently commemorated through windows, plaques, and substantive tombstones in and outside the church. The altar stalls and other furnishings have all been replaced in the 21st century. The pews were replaced in 1981, originally requested in 1977, with those from St James' Church, Farnham.¹⁶⁰ The steps leading to the church are made from 17th to 19th century tombstones, likely taken from inside the church.



Figure 6. The 13th-century font situated in the middle of St Martin's Church.

¹⁵⁸ <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1092980?section=official-list-entry>, accessed 17 December 2023.

¹⁵⁹ Pevsner, *North Hampshire*, 257.

¹⁶⁰ HRO, 21M65/F1977/33; HRO, 21M65/F1981/66.

The church in recent times has suffered from both a lack of funding and concurrently a need for continued restoration and repair to the building.¹⁶¹ A May 1969 survey report outlined several points of consideration and repair, not least the cracks in the walls throughout the building, apparent most in the nave and chancel.¹⁶² A survey report in June 1974 noted that although the cracks had not increased, a fund should be established to ensure the repair and stabilisation of the walls, estimating a cost of around £500 to repair.¹⁶³

Correspondence from 1996 onwards and into the early 2000s document negotiations and the extensive cost to have the church maintained and repaired, and the financial difficulties with which the church found itself in when trying to meet the costs of repairs.¹⁶⁴ The repair and retiling of the church roof was estimated to the sum of £2,874.10 in June 1996, however a further invoice records a sum of £10,604.38. The renewal of the churchyard rails and gate was quoted on 10 June 1997 to the sum of £1,325. Also in 1997 were a series of other works including repairs to the roof timbers, the construction of two new tables for the church, and a spend of £374(+VAT) to repair the roof hatch cover. The installation of new lime trees also took place the same year. One letter of 21 September 1997 notes an estimate of £22,432 to re-hang and re-tune the existing church bells, and add an extra treble bell. A request was made by Bernard Cazenove to the Parochial Church Council on 3 April 2007 for funds to be granted for a new organ.¹⁶⁵ On 1 March 2007 a resolution had been reached to replace the pipe organ with an electronic chamber organ, a decision impacted by the higher costs of replacing the organ like for like, as well as to continue the church repairs.

¹⁶¹ Detailed reports of the condition of the church and schedules of work can be ascertained from 1885 onwards: HRO, 21M65/H2/1/190; HRO, 35M48/15/93; HRO, 35M48/15/570; HRO, 56M82/B103/1; HRO, 56M82/B103/2; HRO, 66M72/PW5.

¹⁶² HRO, 44M68/Q556/1.

¹⁶³ HRO, 44M68/Q556/2.

¹⁶⁴ HRO, 66M72/PW6.

¹⁶⁵ HRO, 66M72/PW6.



Figure 7. Lime trees leading to the church.

An undated 20th century parochial schedule recorded the possession of a flagon, two silver chalices and patina which dated from 1635, and a pewter alms plate.¹⁶⁶ Monuments in the church include a prayer desk made in New Zealand and brought from Melanesia by a previous rector, and the coat of arms of George III which hang on the south wall. The wooden pulpit was presented in memory of Revd Eversfield Botry Pigott. A memorial cross to those from the parish who died in World War One and World War Two can be found halfway down the nave. External to the church is an avenue of pleached limes, planted in 1897 as part of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The churchyard rails were renewed in 2010, and a new lych-gate installed.¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁶ HRO, 6M74/AR7.

¹⁶⁷ <https://www.farleighcandoverandwield.org.uk/our-churches/ellisfield-st-martins/about-st-martins/>



Figure 8. Interior of St Martin's Church.

