



VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

Shiplake

Religious History

Shiplake had its own church by the mid 12th century, when the benefice was acquired by Missenden abbey (Bucks.). A perpetual vicarage was established, and the abbey and its successor (the dean and canons of Windsor) presented most of the vicars thereafter. Medieval lords invested in the church as well as in their own private chapels, but the living itself was poor and religious provision uneven, especially for inhabitants dwelling furthest from the church, which stands near the parish's eastern extremity. In the later 16th century and the 17th a limited amount of recusancy was encouraged presumably by the presence of the Catholic Plowdens, and may initially have been ignored by sympathetic clergy. Catholicism all but died out by 1700, but Protestant Nonconformity (evident from the later 17th century) became more pronounced in the 19th.

CHURCH ORIGINS AND PAROCHIAL ORGANIZATION

Shiplake church existed by 1163, when Walter Giffard gave it to Missenden abbey with the tithes of his demesne.¹ Probably it had been established considerably earlier, since mention was made c.1180 of half a hide (c.60 a.) belonging to it 'of old'.² By then it had its own burial ground³ and presumably baptismal rights, since the original, plain font may well have been 12th century in date.⁴ The dedication to St Peter was mentioned c.1220,⁵ and the modern dedication to Saints Peter and Paul in 1511.⁶

Two manorial chapels were established in the parish, although neither appears to have taken on any parochial function. Muriel Langetot's oratory in Shiplake manor house, licensed c.1200 because of her infirmity, was converted to a perpetual chantry in 1242, when Missenden abbey agreed to supply a chaplain, vestments, and books in return for a grant of 18 a. and 36s. rent.⁷ Peter son of Oger's chapel at Lashbrook was recognized as a perpetual chantry in 1230, to be served by a chaplain at Peter's cost, and with no loss of income to the

¹ *Cart. Missenden Abbey*, III, no. 667. For papal confirmation of the grant: *ibid.* nos 891, 893.

² *Ibid.* no. 670.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Below (church archit.).

⁵ *Cart. Missenden Abbey*, no. 691.

⁶ TNA, PROB 11/16/347.

⁷ *Cart. Missenden Abbey*, III, nos 686–9.

‘mother church’ of Shiplake.⁸ Both chapels presumably ceased at the Reformation. The Shiplake chapel has been identified with a double-aisled and columned ‘crypt’ uncovered when Shiplake Court was pulled down in 1802,⁹ while the ‘old chapel’ at Lashbrook survived in 1690 but was later demolished.¹⁰

In 1853 a small area in the west was transferred to the newly created chapelry of Kidmore End.¹¹ In 1977 the ecclesiastical parish was merged with Dunsden’s,¹² the two churches served by a full-time vicar, and in 2003 Harpsden was incorporated to create a united benefice with a rector and team ministry.¹³

Advowson, Glebe, and Tithes

The advowson belonged from 1163 to Missenden abbey, which presented almost all the medieval vicars. In 1527 Sir Thomas Englefield acquired it for himself and his male heirs, with the proviso that he did not oblige the monks to perform services in his chapel.¹⁴ His son Sir Francis acted as patron in 1562 and 1565,¹⁵ but in 1582, after the forfeiture of his estates, the dean and canons of Windsor (who had been granted the reversion of the rectory in 1547) presented on the Crown’s orders.¹⁶ Presentations in 1595 and 1601 were made respectively by Robert Blythman (the rector of Harpsden) and Henry Percehaye, gent.,¹⁷ presumably by private agreement, but by 1674 the dean and canons usually acted as patron. From 1977 they shared the patronage with the diocesan board of patronage (as patron of Dunsden), and from 2003 with All Souls College, Oxford (patron of Harpsden).¹⁸

The vicarage was poorly endowed, the bulk of the glebe and great tithes remaining with Missenden abbey and (later) the dean and canons of Windsor.¹⁹ By contrast the vicarial glebe comprised just 2 a., supplemented by small tithes, the tithes of Ray mead,²⁰ and (in the early 13th century) by altar dues worth 5 marks.²¹ By the 16th century total income was £7 12d.,²² and in 1685 £30,²³ in 1788 the net value was just £44, including a £20 stipend

⁸ Ibid. no. 682; *Rot. Welles*, I, 178.

⁹ Brewer, *Oxon.* 337–8; Climenson, *Hist. Shiplake*, 82, 352.

¹⁰ Bodl. MS Ch. Oxon. 4387. See also OHC, Clayton I/16.

¹¹ *Lond. Gaz.* 3 Jan. 1854; Youngs, *Admin Units*, I, 400.

¹² *London Gaz.* 29 July 1977.

¹³ *Crockford’s Clerical Dir.* (2006–7 edn).

¹⁴ TNA, E 329/94.

¹⁵ Climenson, *Hist. Shiplake*, 201.

¹⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1580–2, 223; above, manors (other estates).

¹⁷ Clergy of the Church of England Database (available online).

¹⁸ *Crockford’s Clerical Dir.* (1977–9 edn); *Oxf. Dioc. Year Bk* (2008–9 edn).

¹⁹ Above, manors (other estates).

²⁰ OHC, tithe award; *Rot. Welles*, I, 178.

²¹ *Rot. Welles*, I, 178.

²² *Valor. Eccl.* II, 166.

from the dean and canons' lessee.²⁴ Annual income in 1868 was still only £150,²⁵ raised to £300 by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1884.²⁶

Vicarage House

Missenden abbey's 'curia' near the church was mentioned c.1200–24, located apparently on the same site as the later vicarage house.²⁷ In the late 17th century the latter was a two-bay house with three hearths, and included a kitchen and adjoining room, two upper chambers, and a wool chamber. In 1685 it was in good repair,²⁸ and in 1716 there were said to be three rooms on each floor.²⁹ The house was enlarged in the 18th century,³⁰ and in 1805 contained an entrance hall and two parlours, six first-floor rooms and two attics, and a kitchen, laundry, wash-house and other offices.³¹ The incumbent extended it further in the mid 19th century, although the next vicar (John Climenson) still claimed to have spent more than £3,000 of his own money on re-roofing and other necessary improvements.³² In 1905 the dean and canons sold the house to Frederick Nicholson, a Maidenhead brewer,³³ and in 1907 a new vicarage house designed by George Fellowes Prynne was built north-west of the church. That too was replaced in the 1960s.³⁴



Shiplake vicarage house in 1830 (J.C.Buckler).

²³ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d. 708, f. 163.

²⁴ Ecton, *Liber Valorum* (1788 edn), 288; OHC, NWB VIII/1.

²⁵ *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (1868 edn), 135.

²⁶ OHC, PAR234/9/C1/1.

²⁷ *Cart. Missenden Abbey*, III, no. 669; OHC, PAR234/10/E/2; Climenson, *Hist. Shiplake*, 230.

²⁸ OHC, PAR234/10/E/1; *ibid.* MS Wills Oxon. 132/2/6; *Hearth Tax Oxon.* 15.

²⁹ OHC, PAR234/1/R1/1, f. 27; Climenson, *Hist. Shiplake*, 323.

³⁰ Climenson, *Hist. Shiplake*, 439; OHC, MS Archd. Oxon. c 100, f. 67 (under repair, 1800).

³¹ OHC, PAR234/10/E/2. For a drawing of 1830, Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. a 68, no. 465.

³² Climenson, *Hist. Shiplake*, 439; OHC, PAR234/1/R7/2.

³³ OHC, PAR234/13/1/F1/1, f. 57v.; *The Tatler*, 28 June 1905, 465.

³⁴ OHC, RDC8/8/Y1/19/37; <http://www.shiplakedunsdenharpsden.org.uk/documents/2016-SDH-Parish-Profile.pdf> (accessed 2016).

PASTORAL CARE AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

The Middle Ages

Almost all of Shiplake's medieval vicars were non-graduates, and though most were in full orders and remained for several years, in the 13th and 14th centuries the great majority resigned the living rather than dying in post. Simon of Biggleswade, chaplain, admitted in 1229, was called 'dean' of Shiplake in 1235–7, and perhaps served as rural dean; a chaplain called Guy and a clerk named Thomas, mentioned at the same time, were probably the lords' chaplains.³⁵ Early side chapels and altars in the church itself perhaps reflected lordly patronage. A Lady chapel mentioned c.1180³⁶ shared the dedication of Missenden abbey (to which Shiplake's lords made numerous grants), and was perhaps the detached churchyard chapel noted in 1242,³⁷ while an altar dedicated to St Nicholas, mentioned c.1220,³⁸ may have been in the church's south aisle. Emma and Muriel de Langetot both made grants towards lights in the church, although they and others from Shiplake's lordly families presumably also invested in their private chapels.³⁹

Attendance generally was presumably affected (as later) by the church's marginal location,⁴⁰ although continued investment in the 14th and 15th century suggests the involvement of a wide circle of inhabitants. The tower (most likely a communal initiative) was apparently built or rebuilt in the 14th century,⁴¹ and wall-paintings destroyed in 1822 (including two images of St Christopher in the south aisle)⁴² were probably also late medieval. From the later 15th century vicars more commonly remained in post for life; one, Thomas Dayrell (1491–1507), was (exceptionally) a doctor of canon law,⁴³ while Richard Rose (d. 1526) had an assistant curate,⁴⁴ perhaps due to infirmity. Early 16th-century bequests for lights mentioned the Lady chapel or altar, high altar, rood, and hearse, and Lewis Crockford's will of 1530 stipulated an annual *dirige* by three or four priests.⁴⁵ Two

³⁵ *Cart. Missenden Abbey*, III, no. 671; *Cart. Reading Abbey*, I, no. 499 n.

³⁶ *Cart. Missenden Abbey*, III, no. 670.

³⁷ *Ibid.* no. 689.

³⁸ *Ibid.* no. 691.

³⁹ *Ibid.* nos. 670, 691.

⁴⁰ Below (Reformn to 1822).

⁴¹ Below (church archit.).

⁴² Climenson, *Hist. Shiplake*, 372–3.

⁴³ Emden, *OU Register to 1500*, I, 554.

⁴⁴ *Subsidy 1526*, 249.

⁴⁵ TNA, PROB 11/16/347 (John Jemmott 1511); OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 178, f. 38 (Lewis Crockford, 1530).

churchwardens were mentioned in 1530,⁴⁶ and in 1541 John Gough of Henley gave 10s. for work on the 'steeple', probably meaning the tower rather than a spire.⁴⁷

The Reformation to 1849

Church goods including altar cloths and vestments were removed under Edwardian legislation in 1552–3, apparently without resistance.⁴⁸ Sir Francis Englefield (who fled abroad in 1559) and his successors the Plowdens were committed Catholics, however,⁴⁹ and a handful of other recusants were recorded in the 1580s and 1590s.⁵⁰ Catholic preambles remained common in Shiplake wills until the late 1570s,⁵¹ their wording perhaps influenced by the vicars Robert Summer (1527–61), Alexander Clerke (1562–5), and James Ellis (1565–81), who together witnessed most of them.⁵² Clerke was certainly presented by Catholics to both Shiplake and Rotherfield Greys (which he held in plurality), although he subscribed to the Elizabethan settlement.⁵³ Invocations to Mary and the saints disappear after Lewis Roberts' institution in 1581,⁵⁴ despite the continuing presence of the Plowdens.

Roberts (who resided) was a Welshman who had previously served in Hampshire, and like most of Shiplake's 16th- and 17th-century vicars was a non-graduate. In 1583 he was involved in a minor tithe dispute, and in 1595 he was deprived, having been judged 'scandalous' two years earlier.⁵⁵ A churchwarden's misappropriation of church goods around the same time perhaps reflected his laxity.⁵⁶ A small number of recusants were again reported in the early 17th century, most of them higher-status inhabitants without strong local roots: Christopher Baylie, clerk, was fined in 1605, and in 1624 Elizabeth Carter (a yeoman's wife) and Lady Anne Lake.⁵⁷ The latter was apparently the controversial Anne, Lady Ros (1599/1601–1630), daughter of Sir Thomas Lake and estranged widow of William Cecil, baron Ros.⁵⁸ Richard Cotterell was reported in 1630 for not joining a procession,⁵⁹ but his

⁴⁶ *Visit. Dioc. Linc.* II, 66; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 178, f. 38.

⁴⁷ OHC, BOR/3/A/II/1, f. 28. In 1870 it was suspected that marks on the 'floor of the tower summit' indicated a former spire, but the floor does not survive: Climenson, *Hist. Shiplake*, 196; VCH fieldwork, June 2016.

⁴⁸ *Chant Cert.* 94, 115.

⁴⁹ ODNB, s.v. Edm. Plowden (c.1518–85); G. de C. Parmiter, *Edmund Plowden. An Elizabethan Recusant Lawyer* (1987); *Recusant Rolls* 1592–3 (Cath. Rec. Soc. 18, 1916), 145; 1593–4 (Cath. Rec. Soc. 57, 1965), 134; *Acts of PC* 1613–28, 458; *Cal. Cttee for Compounding*, V, 3245.

⁵⁰ *Recusant Rolls* 1592–3 (Cath. Rec. Soc. 18, 1916), 256; 1581–92 (Cath. Rec. Soc. 72, 1986), 191.

⁵¹ OHC, MSS Wills Oxon., Shiplake wills

⁵² *Ibid.* No wills survive from Clerke's incumbency.

⁵³ Englefield and Sir Thomas Tresham: Pearce, 'Clergy', 131, 143; VCH Oxon. XVI, 297.

⁵⁴ OHC, MSS Wills Oxon.

⁵⁵ Pearce, 'Cert. 1593', 162; *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns 1581–86*, 32.

⁵⁶ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. c. 56, f. 15.

⁵⁷ Salter, 'Recusants in Oxfordshire, 1603–1633', 22, 43, 48, 51.

⁵⁸ ODNB, s.v. Anne Cecil, Anne, Lady Ros.

motives are unclear, and other parishioners continued to invest in the church.⁶⁰ A new bell was purchased in 1613.⁶¹

From the 1630s to 1692 Shiplake had just two vicars: Robert Haddon (c.1632–72) and John Haydock (1672–92), who married Haddon's widow. Both regularly witnessed local wills,⁶² but otherwise little is known of the parish's religious life during this period. The 1640s and early 1650s saw an unusual number of marriages of outsiders in the church, notably of people from Henley, Caversham, Sonning, Wargrave, and Reading, and a few from London;⁶³ the reasons are unclear, but possibly reflected disruption to services in those places during the Civil War and Interregnum. Unexplained tensions between incumbent and parishioners are suggested by a complaint c.1680 that the homilies, the works of John Jewell, and the Paraphrases of Erasmus, which should have been in the church, were 'much in the vicar's keeping'.⁶⁴ Investment in the church fabric was nevertheless reflected in regular minor repairs during the 1680s–90s,⁶⁵ and in the churchwarden Thomas Fowler's gift of a bell in 1694.⁶⁶ By then the churchwardens also received cottage rents towards church repairs.⁶⁷

Protestant Nonconformity was emerging by the 1670s, although its scale is difficult to assess. A Congregationalist meeting at William Bray's house was licensed in 1672,⁶⁸ and in 1696 the vicar Patrick Gordon (1692–1700) buried a son of the leading farmer George Jemmott, whom he supposed had been baptized by the Congregationalist minister Jeremiah Froyse 'in the barn at Henley-upon-Thames'.⁶⁹ Most parishioners seem to have conformed, however, and in 1699 two former Quakers from Reading had their son (then aged about 13) baptized in church.⁷⁰ The same broad pattern continued during the 18th century, which saw a series of long-serving graduate clergy. A single recusant was mentioned in 1706⁷¹ but not later, and in 1738 the vicar Joseph Cane (1710–46) reported that though 'four puny farmers' were Presbyterians, their families and servants attended church.⁷²

Cane (who from 1730 held Ludgershall in plurality but continued to live in Shiplake) provided two Sunday services, and administered the sacrament eight times a year;

⁵⁹ Note in VCH possession.

⁶⁰ e.g. OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 189, f. 178; 37/2/21; 20/1/50a.

⁶¹ *Ch. Bells Oxon.* IV, 373.

⁶² OHC, MSS Wills Oxon., Shiplake wills.

⁶³ OHC, PAR234/15/F1/1, f. 66.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.* PAR234/1/R1/1, f. 28.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.* PAR234/4/F1/1, ff. 4, 7, 14, 16.

⁶⁶ *Ch. Bells Oxon.* IV, 372–3.

⁶⁷ Below, local govt.

⁶⁸ G. Lyon Turner (ed.), *Original Records of Early Nonconformity* (1911–14), II, 830.

⁶⁹ OHC, PAR234/1/R1/1, f. 4. For the 'barn', *VCH Oxon.* XVI, 168–9.

⁷⁰ OHC, PAR234/1/R1/1, f. 5.

⁷¹ W.O. Hassall, 'Papists in Early Eighteenth-Century Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia* 13 (1948), 81.

⁷² *Secker's Visit.* 132.

attendance seems to have been poor, however, with little demand for prayers on other days and only 8–10 communicants. His successor and (posthumous) son-in-law James Granger (1747–76), widely known as a print collector, was apparently dedicated and well-liked,⁷³ and though from 1750 he also held the rectory of Edgcott (Bucks.), he resided in Shiplake and in his later years appointed an assistant curate.⁷⁴ Even so in 1768 many parishioners attended the closer Rotherfield Peppard church, while some others rarely attended any services, ‘more owing to want of thought than free-thinking’.⁷⁵ Dissenters comprised only one aged Presbyterian and a moderate Quaker,⁷⁶ but Granger saw little prospect of a congregation for weekday prayers, and with bitter irony dedicated a sermon published in 1773 to his parishioners, ‘who neglect the service of the Church, and spend the Sabbath in the worst kind of Idleness’.⁷⁷ Repairs to the church fabric were ordered in 1759, along with a new pulpit cushion and cloth.⁷⁸

Granger’s successor William Toovey (1776–99) apparently dropped the second Sunday service during winter, a practice followed by Arthur Howman for much of his long incumbency (1799–1849).⁷⁹ In 1805 Howman claimed that many inhabitants ‘seldom, if ever, appear in their parish church’, perhaps implying attendance at other, more nearby churches.⁸⁰ There were then 20 communicants at Shiplake, rising to 30 in 1808, but falling to 25 by 1817.⁸¹ Howman resided, but was also rector of Burstow (Surrey) from 1790, a minor canon of Windsor (1823–7), and a prebendary of Salisbury (1842–8).⁸² The middle years of his incumbency were marked by a restoration of the church,⁸³ but by 1845 he was aged over 80, and was dismissed by the bishop as ‘passé’.⁸⁴ Howman initially reported little Nonconformity: ‘a few’ Methodists (later just a single family) in 1805, a papist (who occasionally attended a priest at Stonor) in 1808, and Anabaptists in 1811 and 1817.⁸⁵ A Wesleyan meeting house was established in Lashbrook in 1822, however,⁸⁶ and by the 1840s the bishop thought that there was ‘much dissent’ and two or three dissenting chapels,

⁷³ Brewer, *Oxon.* 337.

⁷⁴ W.J. Oldfield, ‘Parochiae Oxon.’ (copy in OHC).

⁷⁵ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 560, ff. 37–9. The picture was similar in 1759: *ibid.* d 557, f. 18v.

⁷⁶ The Quaker was possibly Geo. Brommall, mentioned in 1776: OHC, PAR234/5/F1/3.

⁷⁷ *ODNB* s.v. Jas Granger.

⁷⁸ OHC, MS Archd. Oxon d 13, f. 55v.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.* MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 569, f. 75v.; d 573, f. 75v.; b 39, f. 295; b 41, f. 196v.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.* d 569, f. 75v.

⁸¹ *Ibid.* d 571, f. 79v.; d 577, f. 82v.

⁸² D. McClatchey, *Oxfordshire Clergy, 1777–1869* (1960), 62.

⁸³ Below (church archit.).

⁸⁴ *Wilb. Dioc. Bks*, 21.

⁸⁵ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 569, f. 75v.; d 571, f. 79; d 573, f. 75v.; d 577, f. 82v.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.* c 644, f. 252.

although as later those were probably in fact in adjacent parishes.⁸⁷ Howman's curate Thomas Hockley was said to be neglectful and unpopular with the poor.⁸⁸

Since 1849

The mid 19th century saw a series of more energetic vicars, including Robert Rawnsley (1849–62), Vernon Blake (1862–6), and John Climenson (1866–1904), who from 1873 was surrogate to the bishop of Oxford.⁸⁹ The scattered population remained a challenge especially during winter, but in 1854 Rawnsley reported an average congregation of 100 plus school children.⁹⁰ Blake used the school for summer services and established a parish magazine which included religious material for 'the poorer classes',⁹¹ and by 1866 there were 70 communicants, and the congregation was said to be increasing.⁹² Climenson's church restoration of 1868–70 attracted many local subscribers, although it was opposed by William Saker (the people's churchwarden) and others on grounds of procedure and necessity.⁹³ The aim was to increase capacity, make the church more comfortable and, importantly, to remove the social distinctions created by proprietary seating.⁹⁴ From 1890 to 1904 the Misses Phillimore of Shiplake House gave £150 a year to support an assistant curate, part of whose job was to serve a mission room established in the former school at Binfield Heath.⁹⁵ Attendance at mid-week services in the church itself remained negligible, however.⁹⁶

Few early 20th-century vicars stayed for long until the arrival of James Menin (1928–59), a former missionary priest in British Columbia.⁹⁷ Predecessors such as Charles Aylen (1913–25) found themselves 'overworked' in a scattered parish, where their duties included chairing the parish council, overseeing the management of the school, and hosting meetings in the vicarage.⁹⁸ Attempts to reach more distant parishioners continued to revolve around the mission room, to which Sir Walter Phillimore added a small chancel for holy communion in 1903.⁹⁹ In addition a wooden building near the junction of Mill Road and New Road in

⁸⁷ *Wilb. Dioc. Bks*, 21, 91; *Wilb. Visit.* 127.

⁸⁸ *Wilb. Dioc. Bks*, 21.

⁸⁹ *Liverpool Mercury*, 24 July 1873.

⁹⁰ OHC, E7/J1, no. 2 (John Baskerville's diary, 1860); *Wilb. Visit.* 127.

⁹¹ *The Shiplake Magazine* (Jan. and May 1864).

⁹² OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 332, f. 384v.

⁹³ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. c 104, ff. 288–9; OHC, PAR234/4/F1/2, ff. 65v.–67; below (church archit.).

⁹⁴ OHC, PAR234/11/C/1.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.* PAR234/13/1/F1/1, f. 56v.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.* PAR234/1/R7/1–2.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.* PAR234/13/1/F1/1, f. 60.

⁹⁸ *Shiplake Parish Magazine* (Jan. 1925).

⁹⁹ OHC, PAR234/13/1/F1/1, f. 51v.

Lower Shiplake began to be used for services during the First World War.¹⁰⁰ Monthly services continued at the Binfield Heath mission until the late 1940s and at Lower Shiplake until 2002.¹⁰¹ In the 1930s and 1940s there were usually fewer than 10 communicants, but during the Second World War national prayer days attracted large congregations, and every seat was occupied for the evening thanksgiving service on 8 May 1945, the day of Germany's surrender.¹⁰²

In the later 20th and early 21st century Shiplake church was fairly well attended, particularly at the great festivals,¹⁰³ and Shiplake College used it for term-time morning prayers and special services. In 2000 a third of adults claimed to belong to a religious organization in the parish or elsewhere; 15 per cent of adults said they attended services 'often', and 43 per cent 'occasionally'.¹⁰⁴ From 2005 a traditional sung eucharist on Sundays was alternated with more informal 'all-age worship'.¹⁰⁵

CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

Shiplake church is a medieval structure substantially rebuilt in the 19th century, and incorporates a north and south aisle, south porch, and west tower.¹⁰⁶ The south aisle retains some 13th-century features, including two lancet windows either side of the porch and a piscina at the east end; there is, however, no evidence to substantiate a suggestion that it originally formed the main body of the church.¹⁰⁷ The three-stage crenelated tower is probably 14th-century. Pews had been introduced by the later 16th century,¹⁰⁸ and 17th- and 18th-century alterations included a vestry built in 1715 (but subsequently replaced).¹⁰⁹

Extensive alterations were carried out in the 19th century.¹¹⁰ Despite a 'proper repair' in 1809,¹¹¹ the church was restored in 1822 at a cost of £1,098, being then 'nearly in a state

¹⁰⁰ Doble et al., *Binfield Heath, Crowsley, Shiplake Cross, Lower Shiplake Millennium Project*, 23. Lucy Phillimore pressed for establishment of a church, vicarage and school there in 1923: OHC, PC234/A1/2, p. 45.

¹⁰¹ Scotcher, *An English Village in Wartime*; Ford, *A Description of Binfield Heath*, 38; T.W. Ballard, *Shiplake Church, Oxfordshire, Restored and Renewed, 1822 to 2010*; C. Batten et al., *Shiplake Villages Past, Present and Future: Shiplake Villages Plan Report 2014* (2014), 4; OHC, PAR234/1/R7/14.

¹⁰² OHC, PAR234/1/R7/9.

¹⁰³ Local information.

¹⁰⁴ Doble et al., *Binfield Heath, Crowsley, Shiplake Cross, Lower Shiplake Millennium Project*, 46.

¹⁰⁵ 'The Benefice of Shiplake with Dunsden & Harpsden-cum-Bolney: March 2016 Parish Profile' (accessed online).

¹⁰⁶ Pevsner, *Oxon.* 755–6; Bldgs List.

¹⁰⁷ For this idea: Climensson, *Hist. Shiplake*, 365.

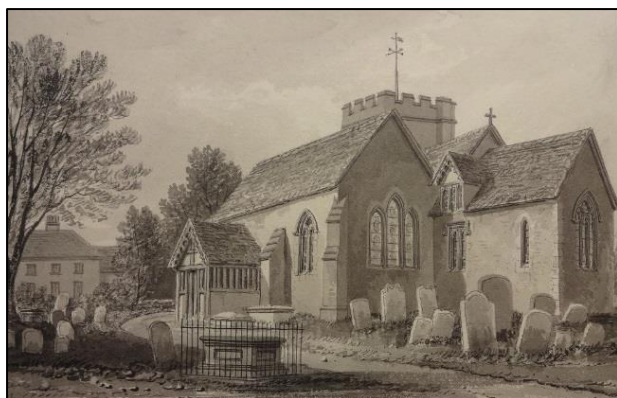
¹⁰⁸ OHC, MS Wills. Oxon. 37/1/33.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid. PAR234/1/R1/1, f. 27v.

¹¹⁰ Para. based on Climensson, *Hist. Shiplake*, 369–77, 392–401; *Church of SS Peter & Paul, Shiplake* (pamphlet in OHC); Ballard, *Shiplake Church, Oxfordshire*.

¹¹¹ OHC, MS Archd. Oxon. c 100, f. 83.

of ruin'.¹¹² The whole structure was reroofed and the north aisle and south porch entirely rebuilt, while much woodwork was repaired or replaced and new decorative carvings added, along with medieval-style ornamentation to the top of the plain font.¹¹³ The workmen came from Shiplake and Henley. A gallery used by Joseph Phillimore's family (and blocking the view between nave and chancel) was removed,¹¹⁴ but other proprietary seating remained.¹¹⁵ Wooden railings around the churchyard were replaced with a wall in 1824, and in 1828–30 15th-century stained glass from the abbey of St Bertin in Saint-Omer (Pas-de-Calais), obtained by the vicar's friend the Revd John Palmer Boteler, was installed by Thomas Willement. Willement also added new glass (showing the shield of St George in a Garter) to the lancet window of the south aisle, representing the dean and canons of Windsor.¹¹⁶ In the 1850s a new porch was constructed, the church stove replaced, the churchyard enlarged, a clock placed in the tower, and a new organ fitted.¹¹⁷



Shiplake church from the south-east in 1830 (J.C. Buckler).

G.E. Street's Gothic Revival restoration of 1868–70 was carried out by Wheeler Bros of Reading at a cost of £3,713. Major subscribers included Lady Elizabeth Ashburnham, Admiral and Lady Swinburne, and Sir Robert Phillimore.¹¹⁸ The chancel and (once again) the north side of the church were entirely rebuilt, the roof and stonework repaired, and new window openings inserted, while a gallery and a door opening in the west wall of the nave were removed. The floor was re-laid and existing seating replaced with open pews for 300 people, and an organ chamber was added to the chancel. High-church fittings included a large alabaster pulpit (removed c.1980) and an alabaster reredos with rich altar hangings.

¹¹² A wooden board in the tower commemorates major donors, including Mary Atkyns-Wright and Lord Mark Kerr.

¹¹³ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. a. 68, no. 464 (Buckler drawing of font, 1830).

¹¹⁴ OHC, PAR234/4/F1/2, f. ii v.

¹¹⁵ Ibid. PAR234/1/R1/1, f. 26v.

¹¹⁶ E.A. Greening Lamborn, *Armorial Glass of the Oxford Diocese* (1949), 154–5.

¹¹⁷ OHC, PAR234/4/F1/2.

¹¹⁸ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. c 104, ff. 288–9; OHC, PAR234/1/R7/2, ff. 2–3.

The font was replaced, and one of the bells recast and a new bell given by the vicar;¹¹⁹ stained glass was moved and added to, that in the west window installed later as a memorial to Sir Robert Phillimore (d. 1885). The churchyard was extended.

Subsequent changes were more limited. Two new bells were added in 1902,¹²⁰ in 1908 a memorial cross in the churchyard extension was erected by Sir Walter Phillimore,¹²¹ and in 1910 a doorway was inserted in the north wall of the tower.¹²² In 1917 the north transept was extended to designs by Fellowes Prynne, vestry space was enlarged, and new heating and ventilation provided,¹²³ and c.1920 Reginald Mardon donated a pipe organ in memory of his son Lt H.R. Mardon.¹²⁴ In 2000–2 the roof was repaired, a rainwater drainage system inserted, and the organ replaced, allowing enlargement of the choir vestry.¹²⁵ The stonework of the tower was repaired in 2006, in 2009–10 the entire ring of eight bells and the bell frame were replaced, and in 2011 a Sunday school room called ‘The Ark’ was built in the churchyard.¹²⁶



Shiplake church from the south in 2016.

¹¹⁹ OHC, PAR234/11/A/1; PAR234/11/C/1; PAR234/11/C/2; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. d 797, f. 153.

¹²⁰ *Ch. Bells Oxon.* IV, 372–3; OHC, PAR234/13/1/F1/1, ff. 48–49v.

¹²¹ *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1911 edn).

¹²² OHC, PAR234/13/1/F1/1, f. 59.

¹²³ *Ibid.* PAR234/11/A/2. For other repairs: *ibid.* PAR234/11/F/2 (1938); PAR234/11/C/3 (1945–8).

¹²⁴ *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1924 edn).

¹²⁵ Ballard, *Shiplake Church, Oxfordshire*.

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*; <http://www.shiplakeringingcentre.org.uk> (accessed 2016); date stone and name plaque.