

RELIGIOUS HISTORY

Parochial Organisation

Early references to the parochial organisation for Nately Scures are obscure. In the 12th century the first identifiable holder of ecclesiastical office in the parish was simply denoted as a cleric.¹ From the 14th century Nately Scures is known to have been served by a rector. From the 17th century onwards the rector of Nately Scures was frequently assisted by a curate. Many rectors of Nately Scures combined their living with other ecclesiastical offices. During the 1920s the church's financial position was becoming increasingly untenable and a possible amalgamation with several neighbouring parishes was mooted. Despite opposition to the proposal, in 1935 Nately Scures lost its independence.² Although this lasted 21 years, further reorganisations or amalgamations occurred in 1956 and culminated in June 2008 in the formation of the North Downs benefice, with its eight parishes and 12 churches.

Glebe and Tithes

The size of the glebe is not known but in 1662 the rector, the Revd John Palmer, cultivated 1 ½ a. of wheat and 1 ¼ a. of oats on it.³ In the early 19th century curates of Nately Scures were permitted to reside on the glebe.⁴ It was probably not the most extravagant of settings as Richard Carleton cited the unfitness of the glebe house as the reason for his non residency in the parish in 1836⁵, 1838⁶ and 1845.⁷ The reason for this may have been the fact that Nately Scures is a relatively small parish with small population. In 1841 £128 was due to the church in rent from the parish.⁸ The Religious Census of 1851 recorded that net worth of the tithes was £170 and the glebe was worth £15. Almost no other fees were due to the church and the rector estimated the church might receive between 20s. and 30s. in other fees.⁹ The rectory was valued at £178 in 1859¹⁰ and in 1867 it was noted that the living included a residence.¹¹

¹ *English Episcopal Acta VIII: Winchester, 1070-1204*, no. 236.

² *Crockford Clerical Dir. (1937)*, 454-5, 1711, 1713.

³ HRO, 1662B/52.

⁴ HRO, 21 M65/A2/3 p. 240; HRO, 21 M65/A2/4 p. 143; HRO, 21M65/E6/13/35.

⁵ HRO, 21M65/E7/9/34.

⁶ HRO, 21M65/E7/9/55.

⁷ HRO, 21M65/E7/9/106.

⁸ HRO, 21M65/F7/165/1.

⁹ *Religious Census of Hampshire, 1851*, no. 645.

¹⁰ *White's Dir. Hants and the Isle of Wight (1859)*, 497.

¹¹ *Kelly's Post Office Dir. Hants (1867)*, 632.

By 1875 the value had risen to £220¹² but was valued at £178 in 1878,¹³ as it had been in 1859. The tithe rent-charge had risen to £218 in 1885¹⁴ but was down to £215 with a net income of £141 in 1895.¹⁵ The net income rose sharply over the following three years as the net income was £172 in 1898¹⁶ but by 1903 it had dropped again to £140.¹⁷ The scheme from 1955 to split the larger Newnham benefice allowed for an endowment to be assigned that would provide the new benefice if Nately Scures, Newnham and Mapledurwell with Up Nately with sufficient capital to ensure an annual income of £628. The glebe lands for the united benefice were also to be situated in the parish of Nately Scures.¹⁸

Advowson

Throughout its history the advowson of the church followed the descent of the manor. John de Scures presented at least twice to rectory of the church in 1322¹⁹ and 1349.²⁰ Thomas Uvedale, knight, presented to the church three times between 1453 and 1467 when he held the manor of Nately Scures.²¹ The advowson passed to the Griffin family and the Henley family who became the earls of Northampton.²² Robert, second earl of Northampton presented to the church in 1777,²³ and the Carelton lords Dorchester were patrons to the rectory during the 19th and early 20th centuries.²⁴ After Nately Scures was amalgamated with several other parishes the presentation was shared with others such as Queen's College, Oxford, and briefly the bishop of Winchester.²⁵

Pastoral Care and Religious Life

¹² *Kelly's Post Office Dir. Hants (1875)*, 187.

¹³ *Kelly's Dir. Hants and Dorset (1878)*, 334.

¹⁴ *Kelly's Dir. Hants and Dorset (1885)*, 889.

¹⁵ *Kelly's Dir. Hants (1895)*, 419.

¹⁶ *Kelly's Dir. Hants and Dorset (1898)*, 414.

¹⁷ *Kelly's Dir. Hants and the Isle of Wight (1903)*, 240.

¹⁸ HRO, 23M63/PB6.

¹⁹ BL, Egerton MS. 2032, fol. 66d

²⁰ *Reg. Edington*, i, no. 526.

²¹ HRO, 21M65/A1/13 fol. 61d., 89, 151d [1st Reg. Waynfleet].

²² Cross Reference to estates section.

²³ HRO, 21M65/A2/2 p. 133.

²⁴ *White's Dir. Hants and the Isle of Wight (1859)*, 497; *Kelly's Post Office Dir. Hants (1867)*, 632; *Kelly's Post Office Dir. Hants (1875)*, 187; *Kelly's Dir. Hants and Dorset (1878)*, 334; *Kelly's Dir. Hants and Dorset (1885)*, 889; *Kelly's Dir. Hants, Wiltshire and Dorset (1889)*, 357; *Kelly's Dir. Hants (1895)*, 419; *Kelly's Dir. Hants and Dorset (1898)*, 414; *Kelly's Dir. Hants and the Isle of Wight (1903)*, 240.

²⁵ VCH, *Mapledurwell*, 67.

The Middle Ages to the Reformation

The church at Natley Scures was built in the 12th century and was dedicated to St Swithun.²⁶ The earliest known cleric in Natley Scures is Roger, clerk of Basing, whose grant of the chapel was confirmed following the inspection of charters of William de St-Mére-Église and the abbot of Mont-St-Michael at some point between 22 October 1189 and 5 January 1192.²⁷ Very little is known of the personnel responsible for pastoral care in the parish over the following 140 years, although the church was included in an undated list of churches and chapels compiled for the register of John de Pontoise²⁸ and the parson of the church was due to pay 8s. 8d. to the crown in 1305.²⁹ In 1324 the parson of Natley Scures was expected to pay the lesser sum of 4s. 4d. for the clerical tenth.³⁰

The first person referred to as rector of Natley Scures was Baldwin de Wanstede in 1322,³¹ and was presented to the church by John de Scures.³² A letter from Bishop Thomas Stratford to Thomas, vicar of Alton, his sequestrator, dated 4 October 1330, named ‘Richard³³ ... of Natley Scures’ on a longer list of rectors who ‘contumaciously absented themselves on the day and in the place assigned’. Stratford had ordered that all vicars and rectors show their titles and letters of order during the sequestrator’s visitations in the archdeaconry of Winchester. As Richard, the rector of Natley Scures, was one of those who had not been able to present his titles, the bishop ordered that all of his profits were to be sequestrated and retained until the title was proved.³⁴ The said Richard may not have been able to prove his title as the following year, on 20 December 1331, Baldwin de Wanstede, now denoted as ‘acolyte’ as opposed to ‘rector’, was admitted to the church of Nateley Scures. He was presented by John Scures, knight.³⁵ William de Somborne, priest, was admitted as rector of the church on 22 May 1349³⁶ followed by John Suyng, priest, on 23 August 1361.³⁷ For the following century the identity of rectors and other clerics is obscure

²⁶ See: Hare ‘Natley Scures: St Swithun’s Church’

²⁷ *English Episcopal Acta VIII: Winchester, 1070-1204*, no. 236.

²⁸ *Registrum Johannis de Pointissara*, 603.

²⁹ *Registrum Henrici Woodlock, 1305-1316*, 892.

³⁰ *Reg. Stratford*, nos. 1592, 1602.

³¹ *Reg. Stratford*, no. 1513.

³² BL, Egerton MS. 2032, fol. 66d

³³ The manuscript is damaged which has rendered the surname illegible.

³⁴ *Reg. Stratford*, no. 482.

³⁵ *Reg. Stratford*, no. 1344.

³⁶ *Reg. Edington*, i, no. 526.

³⁷ *Reg. Edington*, i, no. 1295.

and they do not appear in any bishop's register again³⁸ until John Crewe was admitted as rector of Nately Scures on 18 September 1453 following the resignation for the previous rector Richard Towers.³⁹ After Crewe's resignation William Harewood was admitted to the rectory on 4 August 1457.⁴⁰ The next recorded appointment was on 26 May 1467 when Thomas Harvy became rector following the death of William Sardon.⁴¹ Thomas Harvy was the last known cleric in Nately Scures before the Reformation.

The Reformation to 2016

Immediately after the break with Rome the parish seems to have continued its traditional religious practices. The surviving wills from 1543 to 1558 suggest Nately Scures was a traditional Catholic community in which testators paid with money or sheep to maintain a lamp burning before the sacrament.⁴² All four testators from 1543 to 1558 reflected their Catholic beliefs as they bequeathed their souls to Almighty God and his blessed mother, our Lady St Mary and to all the blessed company of heaven.⁴³ In 1558 Thomas Hall also bequeathed seven bushels of wheat to the poor so they could pray for his soul.⁴⁴ The will of John Hambly from 1560 is the earliest known example from the parish in which the person left his soul to God alone.⁴⁵ Thereafter souls were bequeathed just to Almighty God.

The first known appointment after the Reformation was Luke Whithorn who replaced Thomas Thomson after his death in 1546.⁴⁶ Whithorn was later recorded as rector of Nately Scures when Trustram Sperkman (Sparkman) was admitted as rector on 2 March 1549 after Whithorn's resignation.⁴⁷ Sperkman was deprived of the rectory in 1561 and was replaced by William Weke on 29 July.⁴⁸ After Weke's cession, Justinian Brasgirdle became rector on 6 November 1572,⁴⁹ as position which partially overlapped with his roles as curate of Greywell chapel in Odiham and rector of Great Billing.⁵⁰ On 2 September 1575 Henry Barnes became

³⁸ HRO, 19M54/7.

³⁹ HRO, 21M65/A1/13 fol. 61d. [1st Reg. Waynfleet].

⁴⁰ HRO, 21M65/A1/13 fol. 89. [1st Reg. Waynfleet].

⁴¹ HRO, 21M65/A1/13 fol. 151d. [1st Reg. Waynfleet].

⁴² HRO, 1556B/52, 1558B/106.

⁴³ HRO, 1543B/92, 1556B/52, 1557U/347, 1558B/106.

⁴⁴ HRO, 1558B/106.

⁴⁵ HRO, 1560A/01.

⁴⁶ HRO, 21M65/A1/23.

⁴⁷ HRO, 21M65/A1/23 fol. 64d. [Reg. Gardiner].

⁴⁸ HRO, 21M65/A1/26 fol. 3.

⁴⁹ HRO, 21M65/A1/26 fol. 95d.

⁵⁰ CCEd ID: 106136.

rector following the resignation of Brasgirdle,⁵¹ a position he held until his death in 1606.⁵² The rectory lay vacant for a year until John Nutby became vicar on 23 September 1607.⁵³ Nutby remained in post for several decades and was recorded as rector in 1622,⁵⁴ 1636⁵⁵ and 1642.⁵⁶ The next known rector was John Palmer (c. 1651-61), who died on 17 July 1661 with goods valued at £60, including books valued at £10 and a base and a treble viol, string instruments popular in the early modern period.⁵⁷ A brass plate commemorating Palmer and his wife is in the west end of St Swithun's church. William Domville replaced Palmer.⁵⁸ After Domville's cession, Robert Farrar became rector on 11 June 1668⁵⁹ at the same time as he was vicar of Froyle,⁶⁰ for which he was given dispensation.⁶¹ As rector Farrar regularly employed curates. Thomas Wharton was recorded as curate of Natley Scures in 1668,⁶² 1670⁶³ and 1671.⁶⁴ Wharton was followed by Nathan Kinsey who was recorded as curate in 1673⁶⁵ and Edward Dawes who was recorded as curate in 1677⁶⁶ and 1683.⁶⁷ At this time there were no known Catholics or nonconformists in the parish.⁶⁸ John White became the rector of Natley Scures after Robert Farrar on 19 August 1697.⁶⁹ In 1676 he had been given a license to preach throughout the diocese of Winchester.⁷⁰ A few months prior to White becoming rector Daniel King was appointed deacon of Natley Scures on 30 May 1697.⁷¹ White's period as rector of Natley Scures overlapped with him holding the rectories of Deane and Ashe.⁷² Two curates are known to have been employed by White towards the end of his

⁵¹ HRO, 21M65/A1/26 fol. 101d.

⁵² CCEd ID: 106011.

⁵³ HRO, 21M65/B1/29.

⁵⁴ HRO, 21M65/B1/31.

⁵⁵ HRO, 21M65/B1/33.

⁵⁶ HRO, 21M65/B1/34.

⁵⁷ HRO, 35M58/5/1 fol. 5d; 1662B/52.

⁵⁸ HRO, 35M48/5/1 fol. 5d.

⁵⁹ HRO, 21M65/A1/33 fol. 29d.

⁶⁰ CCEd ID: 93029.

⁶¹ LPL, FI/C/ fol. 236; LPL, FII/9/28.

⁶² HRO, 21M65/B1/38 fol. 4d.

⁶³ HRO, 21M65/B1/39.

⁶⁴ HRO, 21M65/F1/2.

⁶⁵ HRO, 21M65/F1/2.

⁶⁶ HRO, 21M65/B1/43.

⁶⁷ HRO, 21M65/B1/48.

⁶⁸ *The Compton Census of 1676: A Critical Edition*, ed. Anne Whiteman (London, 1986), 84.

⁶⁹ HRO, 21M65/B1/61/1.

⁷⁰ HRO, 21M65/B1/51.

⁷¹ HRO, 21M65/F1/3 fol. 43d.

⁷² CCEd ID: 96767

time as rector: John A Court became a licensed curate in Nately Scure on 16 December 1709⁷³ and John Pepper was made curate on 22 September 1711.⁷⁴

During the 18th century the rectory of Nately Scures was a position normally held for life and from the late 18th century the rectors were generally non-resident. On 28 November 1719 Thomas Fenton was instituted as rector,⁷⁵ a position he held until his death in 1743.⁷⁶ Fenton held the position along with the vicarage of nearby Wootton St Lawrence from 1724 and is known to have been curate of Worting from 1725 to 1726.⁷⁷ Fenton replied to the bishop's visitation in 1725 stating that there were no Catholics or Protestant dissenters in his parish. He also stated that William Sealy, curate of Rotherwick and domestic chaplain to the lord of Rotherwick, Frederick Tylney, esquire, supplied the cure for the parish for most of the year. Major services seem to have been a rare event around this time as there has been only one marriage, three births and two burials during the previous ten years.⁷⁸

On 20 July 1743 Christopher Garrard, who was already rector of East Shefford, Berkshire,⁷⁹ became rector⁸⁰ and received dispensation for holding both offices.⁸¹ Garrard remained rector until his death at some point before 9 May 1777 when Alban T.J. Gwynnes became rector when he was presented by the earl of Northington.⁸² There are two known curates during Alban's period as rector: John Hale in 1800 who was given a stipend of £40 a year and the use of the parsonage house in which he was to reside⁸³ and Gilbert Langdon in 1813 and given a salary of £42 and use of the House Garden glebe.⁸⁴ Curates were employed presumably because of Gwynne's failing health. Three letters to the bishop in December 1808 of Winchester attest to Gwynne poor health: one from a Dr Davis on 13 December; one from Evan Evans, curate of Llanddewi-Aberath, Cardigan, on 17 December stating that neither Gwynne nor his wife had been able to attend regular services for several years because of ill health; and one from Gwynne's son on 31 December asking his father to

⁷³ HRO, 21M65/F1/8.

⁷⁴ HRO, 21M65/F1/8.

⁷⁵ HRO, 21M65/B1/76.

⁷⁶ HRO, 35M48/5/1.

⁷⁷ CCEd ID: 14824.

⁷⁸ *Parson and Parish*, no. 150

⁷⁹ CCEd ID: 73769.

⁸⁰ HRO, 21M65/A2/1 p. 9.

⁸¹ LPL, VB1/8/240.

⁸² HRO, 21M65/A2/2 p. 133.

⁸³ HRO, 21M65/A2/3 p. 240.

⁸⁴ HRO, 21M65/A2/4 p. 143.

be excused for his non-residency and that he had built a small chapel annexed to his house.⁸⁵ In 1809 Gwynne petitioned for non-residency.⁸⁶ After his death Richard Carleton was made rector on 20 July 1819.⁸⁷ Gilbert Langdon continued as a stipendiary curate while Carleton was rector.⁸⁸ Langdon was licensed on 14 July 1828 and given use of the rectory house, garden and office. The license also stipulated that he was to reside in the rectory house.⁸⁹ William Workman was given a stipend of £33 when he became curate in 1829.⁹⁰ Carleton held the rectory for 40 years but was largely non-resident, having been given license for non-residency three times: 15 March 1836⁹¹, 9 January 1838⁹² and 16 January 1845⁹³ respectively, and in 1867 it was noted that he resided in London.⁹⁴ In 1855 Sumner Wilson was licensed as curate of Natley Scures and given a stipend of £80⁹⁵, presumably to compensate for Carleton's absence. Although normally non-resident Carleton was present in 1851 when the religious census was taken. By 1851 morning services were held at Newnham and afternoon services normally attracted around 160 people. This figure was only an estimate as summer months tended to have a higher attendance than winter months and afternoon services had a higher attendance than morning services.⁹⁶ He and Col D.W. Carleton were also responsible for the major restoration of the church.⁹⁷ Meanwhile curates carried out the duties of the church. In 1855 Sumner Wilson was licensed as curate of Natley Scures and given a stipend of £80,⁹⁸ Theodore C. Wilks was licensed as a stipendiary curate on 13 October 1857 and given a house in the parish in which to reside.⁹⁹

William M. Fletcher became rector in 1869.¹⁰⁰ He was followed by John Parnaby Stephenson¹⁰¹ and in 1888 Robert B. Atty was appointed rector.¹⁰² In 1920 Robert L. Parry

⁸⁵ For all three letters see: *Doing the Duty*, 148.

⁸⁶ HRO, 21M65/E7/3/3 no. 4.

⁸⁷ HRO, 21M65/A2/4 p. 218.

⁸⁸ HRO, 21M65/E6/1.

⁸⁹ HRO, 21M65/E6/13/35.

⁹⁰ HRO, 21M65/E6/1.

⁹¹ HRO, 21M65/E7/9/34.

⁹² HRO, 21M65/E7/9/55.

⁹³ HRO, 21M65/E7/9/106.

⁹⁴ *Kelly's Post Office Dir. Hants (1867)*, 632.

⁹⁵ HRO, 21M65/E6/13/1022.

⁹⁶ *Religious Census of Hampshire, 1851*, no. 645.

⁹⁷ See: Hare 'Natley Scures: St Swithun's Church'.

⁹⁸ HRO, 21M65/E6/13/1022.

⁹⁹ HRO, 21M65/E6/1137.

¹⁰⁰ *Crockford Clerical Dir. (1877)*, 321.

¹⁰¹ *Kelly's Dir. Hants and Dorset (1885)*, 889.

¹⁰² *Crockford Clerical Dir. (1903)*, 46.

became the last vicar of an independent Nately Scures.¹⁰³ After Parry became rector the first church council minutes for the parish show that it was decided that the council was to consist of eight elected members with the rector and General Dawkins to sit as *ex officio* members.¹⁰⁴

From the late 1920s there were proposals to unite Nately Scures with neighbouring parishes. Such proposals were probably sparked by the church's financial predicament. In 1920 the parochial church council stated that it believed the quota of £5 5s. from the parish was excessive.¹⁰⁵ On 30 October 1928 Ecclesiastical Commissioners granted Nately Scures £23 a year to augment the income of the cure, which was backdated 18 months to 1 May 1927.¹⁰⁶ The previous year a special meeting of the parochial church council was held to discuss the proposal to unite the parishes of Nately Scures and Greywell.¹⁰⁷ On 12 March 1930 a further meeting was held in which the council stated that they realised the importance of economising but remained strongly opposed to amalgamating with other parishes. They claimed that any amalgamation would curtail the facilities for attending services as well as reducing the church's income to a level at which the church could not be properly maintained. Finally, they claimed there were sentimental reasons for their opposition, stating that many worshipers wanted to continue worshipping in the same church that their family had attended for generations.¹⁰⁸ Three years later the parochial church council again complained to the Ecclesiastical Commission against the proposed amalgamation, restating many of the previous arguments and also noting that the shortage of clergy was not as severe as it had been because more men were coming forward for ordination.¹⁰⁹ Despite these complaints the Commission wrote to the parish in July 1933 stating that they had decided to continue with the full scheme.¹¹⁰ In January 1934 the council agreed to adopt an envelope scheme for collections because of the church's failing finances.¹¹¹ A notice in the church magazine from October 1934 referred to the archdeacon's visitation and noted that the archdeacon had a 'sympathetic understanding of our own special problems', notably the churchyard and financial situation. The archdeacon's sermon seems to have been apt for the church's situation at the time. As the magazine itself noted that the archdeacon's remarks:

¹⁰³ *Crockford Clerical Dir. (1926)*, 1168, 1884.

¹⁰⁴ HRO, 23M63/PP1.

¹⁰⁵ HRO, 23M63/PP1.

¹⁰⁶ HRO, 23M63/PB1.

¹⁰⁷ HRO, 23M63/PP1.

¹⁰⁸ HRO, 23M63/PP2.

¹⁰⁹ HRO, 23M63/PP2.

¹¹⁰ HRO, 23M63/PP2.

¹¹¹ HRO, 23M63/PP2.

‘were so framed as to make us all think, and realise that first things should, and must come first and that, the old order should, and must give place to the new, or else we – as an entity – sink.’¹¹² The church’s finances were a continual problem discussed at parochial church council meetings. In August 1935 it was decided not to raise a collection for the ‘Winchester Cathedral Appeal Fund’ because of the church’s financial position.¹¹³ In 1935 Nately Scures lost its independence when Horace S. Footman became rector of Newnham with Hook, Nately Scures, Mapledurwell, Andwell and Rotherwick. Prior to being appointed rector, Footman was curate in charge of Nately Scures along with Mapledurwell and Rotherwick from 1933 to 1935.¹¹⁴ Footman was assisted in Nately Scures by John H. E. Whittaker who became curate in 1940.¹¹⁵

The register of services shows that collections were taken regularly for Basingstoke hospital.¹¹⁶ Throughout the Second World War collections were at times taken for the S.P.G, Earl Haig’s fund, the R.A.F benevolent fund, war damaged churches and King’s George’s fund for sailors.¹¹⁷ In March 1940 the Hook Branch of the British Legion thanked those members of the congregation who made contributions to the ‘Comforts and Cigarettes Fund’.¹¹⁸ Two months later Dr Eades-Vessell replaced Colonel H.W Man as deputy churchwarden because Man was taking up a military appointment.¹¹⁹ In December 1941, two collections of 4s. (2 December) and £1 5s. (7 December) were recorded for the ‘Russian Red Cross’.¹²⁰ In 1942 it was decided that because of ‘present conditions’ not to hold a summer Garden Fete but instead to have Gift Sunday at Nately Scures on 19th July.¹²¹ In 1945 Frederick A. Sanders became rector.¹²² He seems to have been active and a something of a firebrand as evident in monthly letters to his congregation in the church magazine. One letter in November 1945 stated that his congregation should resist not attending services in the poor weather. He also stated that there would be no Confirmation classes for young boys and girls in the parish as he did not yet know any of them. Setting out his views on the matter he wrote:

¹¹² HRO, 39A/04/1.

¹¹³ HRO, 23M63/PP2.

¹¹⁴ *Crockford Clerical Dir. (1937)*, 454-5, 1711, 1713.

¹¹⁵ *Crockford Clerical Dir. (1947)*, 1218.

¹¹⁶ HRO, 23M63/PI1.

¹¹⁷ HRO, 23M63/PI1.

¹¹⁸ HRO, 39A04/7.

¹¹⁹ HRO, 39A04/7.

¹²⁰ HRO, 23M63/PI1.

¹²¹ HRO, 39A04/9.

¹²² *Crockford Clerical Dir. (1947)*, 1159.

‘For lads and girls to come forward, as they do, to be confirmed merely because it is the “right” thing and with no intention of using the privileges which Confirmation gives is near to blasphemy. The responsibility of saying whether a candidate who ready for Confirmation is laid upon the parish priest, I do not propose to present candidates who have shown little or no loyalty to the Church before they ask to be confirmed. I therefore propose, as I have said, to wait until I have had a better chance of judging the fitness of those who come forward before arranging classes.’¹²³

He went on to say that he hoped his policy would not lead to any misunderstanding but that his decision was driven by previous experiences. Sanders was assisted in Natley Scures by two curates: John H.E. Whittaker, who had been curate since 1940,¹²⁴ and Ernest W. Smith since 1946.¹²⁵ Whittaker’s extensive workload was noted in a letter from Sanders to his parishioners in October 1945 resignation.¹²⁶ Whitaker was the priest-in-charge when a short leaflet about the history of Natley Scures and its church was produced in 1949.¹²⁷ In August 1951 the lay members of the parochial church council resolved to write to the bishop of Winchester to make certain the required qualifications needed in the new rector after Sanders’ cession. They also resolved to leave the matter and choice in the bishop’s hands.¹²⁸

There was further reorganisation and the larger benefice was split into two. Again, the records of the parochial church council indicate that the church was in financial difficulties. In March 1953 a discussion noted the need to increase the congregation and, in turn, increase the collection. The rector then explained a scheme used elsewhere of regularly collecting envelopes and the council decided to explain the scheme more fully with the intention of adopting it in conjunction with other parishes in the united benefice.¹²⁹ The scheme was referred to during subsequent meetings.¹³⁰ At that time the church council was also discussing the serious financial position of the Assistant Clergy Fund.¹³¹ The rector reported to the parochial church council in April 1954 that the envelope scheme was a success, collecting

¹²³ HRO, 39A04/12.

¹²⁴ *Crockford Clerical Dir. (1947)*, 1218.

¹²⁵ *Crockford Clerical Dir. (1947)*, 1419.

¹²⁶ HRO, 37A04/12.

¹²⁷ HRO, 76A05/4.

¹²⁸ HRO, 23M63/PP3 p. 51.

¹²⁹ HRO, 23M63/PP3 p. 55-6.

¹³⁰ HRO, 23M63/PP3 p. 57-9.

¹³¹ HRO, 23M63/PP3 p. 57-8.

£108 per annum ‘which is considerably more than the average total collections’.¹³² Kenneth C. Davis became rector in 1955.¹³³

In 1956 Nately Scures formed a benefice with Newnham, Mapledurwell and Up Nately.¹³⁴ Nately Scures was to become the parsonage house for the united benefice.¹³⁵ By 1959 the number of communicants was being maintained, possibly caused by the decision to hold more evening services ‘as these seem to meet greater demand’.¹³⁶ In 1964 Richard Haines became rector¹³⁷ and remained rector for almost two decades until Brian Cowell, a former R.A.F chaplain, became priest in charge in 1981.¹³⁸ In 1986 Michael Rowell Hawes became rector of Newnham with Nately Scures.¹³⁹ In 1999 Michael Richard Moore Jaggs became curate.¹⁴⁰ From June 2008 Nately Scures formed part of the north Hampshire Downs benefice comprising eight parishes and 12 churches.¹⁴¹ In 2016 services are held every two weeks at Nately Scures: Holy Communion every four weeks at 8 a.m. and Matins every four weeks at 11 a.m.¹⁴²

The Church of St Swithun

This small single-celled church has a rare surviving apsidal east end.¹⁴³ A description in the Gentleman’s Magazine provides a description before the 19th century rebuilding¹⁴⁴. No details survive of the Norman windows, but the early date for this church is shown by the surviving north doorway, dating from c.1130-60 with its elaborate decoration. There was a

¹³² HRO, 23M63/PP3 p. 66.

¹³³ *Crockford Clerical Dir. (1955-56)*, 296.

¹³⁴ VCH, *Mapledurwell*, 67. The scheme was initially proposed in 1955: HRO, 23M63/PB6.

¹³⁵ HRO, 23M63/PB6.

¹³⁶ HRO, 23M63/PP3, p.114.

¹³⁷ *Crockford Clerical Dir. (1967-8)*, 505.

¹³⁸ *Crockford Clerical Dir. (1980-82)*, 227.

¹³⁹ *Crockford Clerical Dir. (1989-90)*, 281.

¹⁴⁰ *Crockford Clerical Dir. (2004/2005)*, 416.

¹⁴¹

http://www.northhampshirechurches.org.uk/northhampshirechurches/north_hampshire_downs_benefice-16213.aspx [Accessed 15 October 2016].

¹⁴²

http://www.northhampshirechurches.org.uk/northhampshirechurches/st_swithun_nately_scur-es-16214.aspx [Accessed 15 October 2016]

¹⁴³ This section about the church of St Swithun was written by John Hare.

¹⁴⁴ *Gentleman’s Magazine*, 1836, 363-66, HRO, 23M63/PZ/1.

circular headed window high up in the gable of the west end. Subsequent change was seen in a two-light and a-three light window on the south side. In addition, there was a small timber bell tower built within the shell of the church itself, ‘a small cubical turret with a pyramidal roof’, although its precise date is unclear.¹⁴⁵ The walls were covered with a thick layer of rough cast. Fragments of a corbel table survived into the 19th century in the south-east corner. The church was reported in 1672 to be ‘ready to fall down’.¹⁴⁶ There were signs of piecemeal repairs as seen in the added buttresses and in the ‘modern brickwork at the base of the walls.’¹⁴⁷ The two bells, ‘Feare God’ and ‘Love God’ date from 1651.¹⁴⁸

A major restoration was carried out by the famous architect Anthony Salvin in 1864-6 for Colonel D.W. and the Revd R. Carleton, of the main landowning family.¹⁴⁹ The windows were rebuilt either replacing their Perpendicular predecessor or rebuilding the earlier Norman openings. The roof was completely rebuilt and, unusually, a stone double cote was built to replace the existing timber bell tower whereas most churches in the area replaced timber bell towers with stone or brick ones. There was a gallery at the west but the plaque “Wilim Bbedall founder here Henrys Barnes Parson Builder Heer, 1591 H.B,” should not be taken as dating for the gallery behind which belongs to the restoration itself and would have post-dated the removal of the bell tower .

¹⁴⁵ Sumner Collection 3A12/3/29 (HRO CD 34); HRO, 23M63/PZ/1.

¹⁴⁶ HRO, 21M65/B1/1/40.

¹⁴⁷ HRO, 23M63/PZ/1.

¹⁴⁸ W.E. Colchester, *Hampshire Church Bells: their founders and inscriptions* 1920, 90.

¹⁴⁹ The heir to the family and future 4th baron, and the absentee rector (*PO Directory, 1877*, 632) .



Figure 1 *St Swithun's Church.*

The first edition of VCH Hampshire recorded a rebuild in 1786 but evidence has not been found.¹⁵⁰

¹⁵⁰ *VCH Hampshire, IV, 154.*