

VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

NEWNHAM MURREN

Religious History



Newnham Murren church showing north porch, nave, chancel, and east end.

Until the 20th century Newnham Murren was a chapelry of North Stoke, from which it was separated in 1907–8 and joined with Crowmarsh Gifford. Newnham chapel itself was declared redundant in 1973, and transferred to the Redundant Churches Fund. The building existed by the early 12th century, when it was probably already used for baptisms and burials; its subsequent isolation from Newnham's main centres of population meant that some later inhabitants attended churches elsewhere, however, while it also suffered neglect from its mostly non-resident chaplains and curates. Even so it seems to have been moderately well supported by the parish population. Catholic recusancy persisted on a small scale into the 17th century, while neighbouring Baptist and Independent meeting houses attracted some Newnham inhabitants during the 19th.

Chapel Origins and Parochial Organization

In the late Anglo-Saxon period Newnham (with Ipsden and probably Mongewell) was most likely dependent on a minster or other early church at North Stoke.¹ A chapel for the 'new hām' may have been established around the same time as the separate Newnham estate

¹ Below, North Stoke, relig. hist.

(by 966): the building's location more than ½ mile from the modern village, and next to the former manor house, certainly suggests an early and probably pre-Conquest foundation, before the focus of settlement shifted to the Wallingford–Henley road.² The present structure dates partly from the early 12th century, perhaps reflecting rebuilding after the manor's acquisition by the resident Morins.³ The chapel's early jurisdiction seems to have extended southwards into Mongewell, whose dead were buried at Newnham or Nuffield until Mongewell church became independent c.1184,⁴ while the surviving Norman font confirms that it had baptismal rights. Baptisms, marriages, and burials were systematically recorded from 1678 when Newnham's registers begin.⁵ A freestanding crucifix on high ground near Warren Hill was mentioned as a boundary marker in the mid 10th century, but not later.⁶

North Stoke's incumbents appointed the chapel's stipendiary curates until its separation from North Stoke in 1907–8 and the union with Crowmarsh Gifford, following which the united benefice was served by a rector.⁷ The chapelry's boundaries remained unchanged until 1849, when the part east of Timbers Lane was transferred to the new parish of Stoke Row.⁸ The dedication to St Mary the Virgin, though unrecorded before the 18th century, was shared with North Stoke and Ipsden, and perhaps reflects the early interest in all three parishes of St Mary's abbey of Bec.⁹

Glebe and Tithes

By 1291 the chapel's income (save for some separately granted tithes) had been subsumed into that of North Stoke,¹⁰ whose vicar paid the chaplain a stipend of only 53s. 4d. in 1526.¹¹ The only glebe was 4 a. given by the patron of Mongewell church before 1184 in return for Mongewell's independence,¹² and reduced before 1685 to 2 a. next to Watery Lane.¹³ The land was still recorded in 1913,¹⁴ but was presumably later sold. The rent from a separate ½-

² Above, intro. (settlement); manors.

³ Above, manors; below (church archit.).

⁴ *Oseney Cart.* IV, 415–16; *VCH Oxon.* XVIII, 361–2.

⁵ OHC, par. reg. transcripts.

⁶ Above, intro. (par. bdies); possibly recalled in the 13th-cent. byname 'de Cruce'. For crucifixes as boundary markers, J. Blair, *The Church in Anglo-Saxon Society* (2005), 479–81.

⁷ *Tax. Eccl.* 30; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 85, Order in Council; c 1037; above, Crowmarsh Gifford, relig. hist.; below (pastoral care).

⁸ Youngs, *Admin. Units*, I, 406; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 85; above, Ipsden, relig. hist.

⁹ C.E. Prior, 'Dedication of Churches', *OAS Rep.* (1906), 21; J. Ecton, *Liber Valorum* (1754), 358; below (glebe and tithes).

¹⁰ *Tax. Eccl.* 30. For North Stoke's valuations (including Newnham), below North Stoke, relig. hist. (glebe).

¹¹ *Subsidy 1526*, 252.

¹² *Oseney Cart.* IV, 416; R.C. Van Caenegem (ed.), *Eng. Lawsuits Wm I to Ric. I, Vol. II* (Selden Soc. 107, 1991), 610.

¹³ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 41, f. 57; *ibid.* tithe award and map.

¹⁴ *Sale Cat., Newnham Murren Est.* (1913): copy in *ibid.* PC181/D1/1.

a. holding was received by the churchwardens in 1685, supplementing the church rates,¹⁵ until the land was sold in 1917 and the capital invested.¹⁶

Miles Crispin gave the manor's demesne and mill tithes to Bec abbey, which later received the ninth sheaf from Walter de Huntercombe (d. 1313) as well, and retained its interest until the abbey's suppression in 1414.¹⁷ Thereafter its tithes passed to John (d. 1435), duke of Bedford, who gave them in 1422 to St George's Chapel, Windsor.¹⁸ The chapelry's other tithes belonged by 1279 to the rector (and later vicar) of North Stoke, who by 1685 seems to have acquired the former Bec tithes as well.¹⁹ In 1707 the combined tithes were let with the glebe and churchyard for £37 5s. a year and an undertaking to maintain Newnham's churchyard gate,²⁰ and in 1846 they were formally commuted to a £600 annual rent charge.²¹

Pastoral Care and Religious Life

The Middle Ages to 1700

Little is known of how Newnham was served during the Middle Ages. Unbeneficed chaplains may have included Harvey of Newnham (one of several clerks witnessing the agreement with Mongewell's patron c.1184) and Hugh the clerk, a taxpayer in 1306.²² The rector of St Peter's, Wallingford possibly celebrated masses in 1365,²³ and two unknown 15th-century chaplains may have been commemorated by memorial brasses since lost.²⁴ Medieval remodelling of the chapel (including addition of a south aisle in the 14th century) suggests lay and possibly communal investment,²⁵ and by the Reformation its furnishings included a silver chalice, a brass cross and pyx, two brass candlesticks, a pair of censers, two corporals, two coloured vestments, a cope and surplice, and two decorated linen banners.²⁶

¹⁵ TNA, CHAR 2/222; Berks RO, D/P 161B/5/1; *8th Rep. Com. Char.* (Parl. Papers 1823 (13), viii), 526.

¹⁶ Berks RO, D/P 161/25/4.

¹⁷ D. Bates (ed.), *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum 1066–87* (1998), 559–62; D.M. Smith (ed.), *English Episcopal Acta I: Lincoln 1067–1185* (1980), 13–14; *Tax. Eccl.* 30; M. Morgan, *The English Lands of the Abbey of Bec* (1946), 131, 145.

¹⁸ *Cal. Close* 1435–41, 24–5; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XXIV, p. 388.

¹⁹ *Rot. Hund.* II, 777; OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 41, f. 57.

²⁰ Berks RO, D/EX 1942/6/1/22.

²¹ TNA, IR 18/7758.

²² *Oseney Cart.* IV, 416; TNA, E 179/161/10.

²³ *Cal. Close* 1364–8, 166; *Boarstall Cart.* pp. 238, 240, 242 etc. (John Mannyng).

²⁴ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. d 196, f. 147.

²⁵ Below (church archit.).

²⁶ *Chant. Cert.* 98–9.

Along with other local churches, the chapel also attracted small bequests from lessees of the outlying Crowmarsh Battle and Turner's Court farms in Benson parish.²⁷

Full-time provision may nevertheless have been rare, at least in the later Middle Ages. In 1526 Newnham's poorly-paid and non-resident chaplain (John de Colonia) was a Franciscan friar, and four years later parishioners complained that they could only obtain the sacraments if they joined together to hire a curate. The neglect was compounded by the failure of the churchwarden (Ralph Adeane) to submit an account for sixteen years,²⁸ and though Adeane requested burial at Newnham and left the chapel twenty sheep, he appointed the vicar of Cholsey (Berks.) as his overseer rather than a local curate. Elizabeth Stampe (d. 1547), who left 5s. to the chapel, similarly bequeathed 20d. to whoever was Newnham's curate at her death, perhaps indicating high turnover.²⁹

Some parishioners certainly attended other churches, reflecting Newnham's scattered settlement as much as inadequate local provision. Like their lords, those living at English (in the east of the parish) most likely attended Nuffield church (where the Englishes and Warcops were buried) or Nettlebed, although both Richard Eton (d. 1540) of English and Ralph Warcopp (d. 1605) also made small bequests to Newnham chapel.³⁰ Francis Mercer (d. 1589) of Newnham Farm, which adjoined the chapel, requested burial at Ewelme probably because of family connections, and also left money to the incumbents of Crowmarsh and Mongewell.³¹ In addition, even for Newnham's villagers the chapel's isolation down a minor and sometimes impassable lane³² must have meant that Crowmarsh church was often more convenient. Crowmarsh's leper hospital (next to Wallingford bridge) also had strong Newnham connections, although whether it served any wider parochial function is unclear. In the 14th century its patron was the lord of Newnham Sir William Bereford,³³ and in the 1540s the priest there was a member of the Adeane family, lessees of Newnham manor.³⁴ Around the same time masses were celebrated in the hospital's unfurnished chapel using church goods belonging to Newnham, suggesting a close association.³⁵

Robert Abbot (curate in 1547)³⁶ was succeeded before 1553 by William Dunkley (d. 1574), whose long tenure saw both the return to Catholicism under Mary and the

²⁷ OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 178, f. 139; 184, ff. 76v.–77; cf. *Oxon. Wills*, 83.

²⁸ *Subsidy 1526*, 252; *Visit. Dioc. Linc.* I, p. xxxiii; II, 69.

²⁹ OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 178, ff. 96–97v.; 179, f. 228v.

³⁰ TNA, PROB 11/28/71; PROB 11/106/187; OHC, Nuffield par. reg. transcript; *VCH Oxon.* XVIII, 298, 364.

³¹ TNA, PROB 11/74/158; *VCH Oxon.* XVIII, 206, 211.

³² Above, intro. (roads).

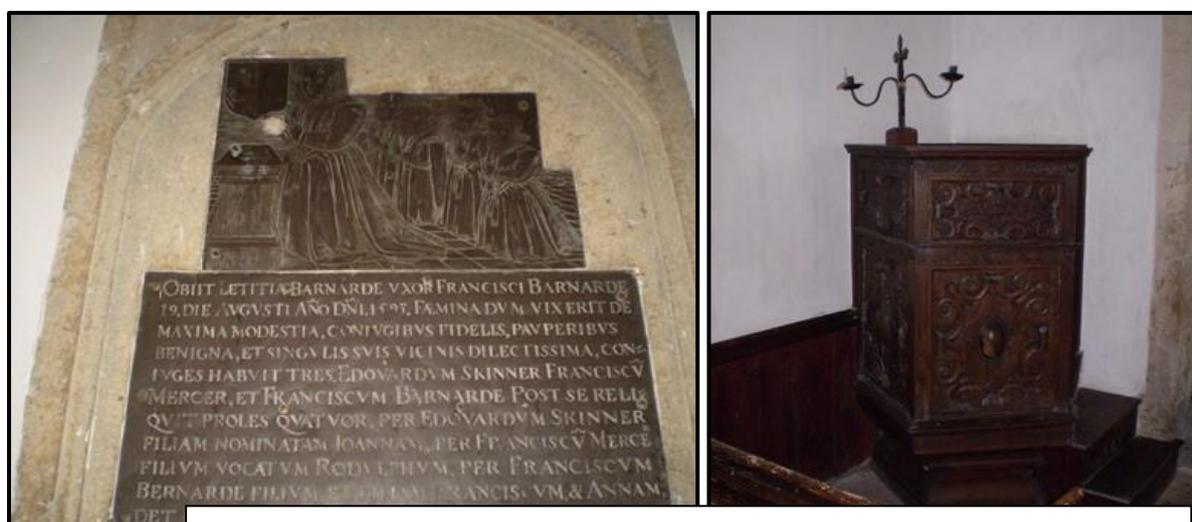
³³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* VI, p. 471; above, Crowmarsh Gifford, relig. hist. (pastoral care).

³⁴ Berks RO, W/Ac 1/1/1, ff. 13, 54.

³⁵ TNA, E 301/51; J.K. Hedges, *History of Wallingford* (1881), II, 371–3.

³⁶ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 179, f. 229; TNA, PROB 11/31/632.

subsequent Elizabethan settlement. Over the same period the chapel lost most of its furnishings, leaving only a silver chalice.³⁷ Dunkley's religious views are unknown, but the will of his former churchwarden Richard Turtle (d. 1577) contained traditional Catholic invocations, and several Catholic recusants were resident in the late 16th and early 17th centuries.³⁸ Edward Skinner (d. 1582) was a friend of the Catholic Henry Stonor of North Stoke, but left 6s. 8d. towards Newnham chapel's repair, and like most other parishioners conformed to Protestant forms of worship,³⁹ a small monumental brass in the church commemorates his widow Letitia (d. 1593), under her later married name of Barnard.⁴⁰ By then Newnham was served with Mongewell by the curate Andrew Ashton, described by the Church authorities as 'a very insufficient man'.⁴¹



The monumental brass to Letitia Barnarde with the supposed musket hole below the coat of arms (left); and (right) the late 17th-century pulpit.

One of the Tooveys owned a bible in the 1630s, while a painting of Cain and Abel owned by Ralph Warcopp (d. 1605) at English Farm hung possibly in his private chapel there.⁴² Ongoing support of the parochial chapel is suggested by a surviving silver chalice and paten, of which the former (by a maker who had recently supplied Crowmarsh Gifford church) is hallmarked 1610.⁴³ By then more general bequests towards the chapel's upkeep were gradually petering out, however.⁴⁴ During the Civil War the chapel may have been occupied by Royalist soldiers stationed at Wallingford, damage to Letitia Barnard's memorial

³⁷ *Chant. Cert.* 134; Pearce, 'Clergy', 134; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 89/2/24.

³⁸ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 185, ff. 420–1 (invoking the Virgin and holy company of heaven); H.E. Salter, 'Recusants in Oxfordshire 1603–33', *OAS Rep.* (1924), 20–58.

³⁹ TNA, PROB 11/64/287.

⁴⁰ Stephenson, *Brasses*, 409; *Par. Colln.*, III, 227–8.

⁴¹ Peel, *Register*, II, 131.

⁴² TNA, PROB 11/106/187; OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 66/1/36; 299/5/24.

⁴³ Evans, *Ch. Plate*, 50–1, 113.

⁴⁴ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 12/3/39; TNA, PROB 11/165/536.

having traditionally been sustained by a musket ball during the town's siege,⁴⁵ and in 1647 Newnham's curate Ralph Fortie, an Oxford graduate, was ejected from St Mary's church in Wallingford, presumably for loyalty to the king.⁴⁶ Investment evidently resumed after the Restoration, however, reflected in the chapel's late 17th-century pulpit and possibly also its communion table and bells, which were reduced in number from three to two.⁴⁷ Small-scale Roman Catholicism persisted into the 1640s, apparently disappearing soon afterwards with the departure of the Smiths, owners of the substantial 'Brownch' freehold.⁴⁸ The curate John Morris reported a resident Anabaptist in the 1670s–80s, but otherwise Protestant Dissent remained virtually non-existent until the 19th century.⁴⁹

Since 1700

Eighteenth-century curates may occasionally have lodged at Newnham, but most were resident elsewhere. The long-serving Robert Burgess (d. 1737) lived in Wallingford,⁵⁰ while his successor was only briefly resident before being elected a fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford. In his absence in the late 1730s the chapel was served by a neighbouring clergyman, who preached once on Sundays, read prayers on saints' and other holy days, and celebrated holy communion four times a year, attended by 10–20 communicants.⁵¹ Services remained unchanged twenty years later, when they were taken by the resident curate of Crowmarsh Gifford; by then the number of communicants had fallen to nine or ten, however, and a brief flourishing of deist beliefs in the parish reportedly emboldened some of 'the poor' not to attend, although the arrival of two Presbyterian families apparently had little impact on the parish as a whole.⁵² Regular collection of church rates helped ensure that the fabric and furnishings were kept mostly in good repair. The Creed, Lord's Prayer, and Ten Commandments were inscribed upon the walls, the pulpit was decorated with purple cloth, and new monuments to local inhabitants were erected in the churchyard.⁵³ Moral behaviour

⁴⁵ Notice in church (by H.F. Owen Evans); Pevsner, *Oxon.* 717. The hole was not shown in early 19th-cent. illustrations, however (Bodl. MSS Don. b 14, f. 140; c 91, p. 229), and the story may be of 20th-cent. origin.

⁴⁶ *Prot. Retns*, 103; *Walker Revised*, ed. Matthews, 69; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 44/3/30; *Alumni Oxon. 1500–1714*, II, 519.

⁴⁷ Pevsner, *Oxon.* 717; *Ch. Bells Oxon.* II, 217; *Chant. Cert.* 134.

⁴⁸ TNA, E 179/164/483; B. Stapleton, *Hist. Post-Reformation Catholic Missions in Oxon.* (1906), 288–9; OHC, QSD/E/1, pp. 1–2, 190–1; above, manors (other estates).

⁴⁹ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 708, f. 108v.; *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 424; below (since 1700).

⁵⁰ TNA, PROB 11/682/118; *Alumni Oxon. 1500–1714*, I, 213; www.theclergydatabase.org.uk (accessed Nov. 2016).

⁵¹ *Secker's Visit.* 106.

⁵² OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 556, ff. 121–4; cf. below, North Stoke, relig. hist. (pastoral care).

⁵³ Berks RO, D/P 161B/5/1; OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. d 13, f. 58; *Par. Colln*, III, 227.

was also policed, two women in the 1760s performing penance in the chapel for alleged sexual misconduct.⁵⁴

By the early 19th century around ten Newnham Anabaptists attended a meeting house in Wallingford,⁵⁵ and were presumably amongst those who in 1809 petitioned for permission to worship in the house of the wheelwright John Clare.⁵⁶ No permanent meeting house was established, however, and adherents continued to travel to Wallingford.⁵⁷ A barn near Witheridge Hill in the far south-east of the parish was similarly used for worship in 1823 by a Wesleyan minister from Reading, although Dissenters there more usually attended an Independent meeting house in Stoke Row.⁵⁸ Dissent in the parish as a whole probably peaked in the 1850s, its subsequent decline partly reflecting a more robust Anglican presence.⁵⁹

In 1802 Newnham's curate lived in Benson, and the number of communicants fell to just two out of a population of 213.⁶⁰ In an attempt to improve attendance the long-serving William Hazel (curate c.1808–26) held Sunday morning services at different times and catechized children in the more conveniently situated Crowmarsh church, though to little avail.⁶¹ Two particular concerns were addressed in 1849, however, when the parish's remote south-eastern part was transferred to Stoke Row, and Newnham chapel (long afflicted by damp) was restored,⁶² paid for partly by grants from the Incorporated and Diocesan Church Building Societies, and partly from the church's own funds.⁶³

In 1851 the curate reported an average Sunday morning congregation of c.60, with 45 attending on Census Sunday,⁶⁴ and from then until the 1907–8 union with Crowmarsh Gifford the chapel was served alternately with North Stoke on Sunday mornings and afternoons. A monthly communion was introduced in the 1870s and weekday services in Advent and Lent, although only a dozen or so inhabitants communicated regularly, and over 25 parishioners (not all of them Dissenters) were thought never to attend. Few curates apart

⁵⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 130, ff. 53, 56.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.* MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 567, f. 21 and v.; d 571, f. 19v.; d 573, f. 13v.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.* c 644, f. 121; d 556, f. 121v. Clare may have been a member of the Presbyterian family mentioned in 1759.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.* d 577, f. 15v.; d 579, f. 15v.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.* c 645, f. 2; d 581, f. 13v.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.* d 179, f. 277v.; c 341, f. 410v.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.* d 567, ff. 21v.–22; *Census*, 1801.

⁶¹ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 571, f. 20; d 575, f. 19v.; d 577, f. 15v.; d 579, f. 15v.; d 581, f. 13v.; b 36, f. 18.

⁶² Above (paroch. organization); below (church archit.).

⁶³ LPL, ICBS 4151; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 794, f. 24; Berks RO, D/P 161B/5/1.

⁶⁴ *Ch. and Chapel, 1851*, nos. 311–12.

from Thomas Platt (1884–1900) remained in the parish for long, and in 1881 and 1902 the curacy was vacant.⁶⁵

From 1908 to 1915 the rector of Crowmarsh held regular Sunday afternoon services at Newnham, but thereafter the chapel was used only for occasional one-off services including baptisms, weddings, and funerals, until the building was declared unsafe in 1961.⁶⁶ In 1965 it was rescued from dereliction by the architect Hugh Vaux (d. 1977) of Mongewell, who maintained it as a cemetery chapel at his own expense.⁶⁷ The churchyard (extended in the 1920s) was still used for burials in the early 21st century,⁶⁸ but in 1973 the chapel was formally declared redundant. The following year it was taken over by the Redundant Churches Fund, whose successor (the Churches Conservation Trust) retained it in 2017, when occasional services continued.⁶⁹

Church Architecture

Newnham's small, plain chapel is of flint rubble with stone dressings and tiled roofs, and incorporates a narrow, added south aisle, a north porch, and a stone bellcote (hung with two bells) projecting from the west gable, its ornamental buttress resting on a carved corbel-head. The porch and bellcote were rebuilt during the chapel's restoration in 1849, when several windows were renewed and extensive alterations made to the stonework and seating.⁷⁰

The earliest fabric dates from the early 12th century, and includes the plain Norman north doorway with chamfered imposts, the high narrow chancel arch in similar style, and probably the unusual horseshoe-shaped squint in the chancel arch's south pier. The cylindrical font is also Norman, although heavily re-cut. Nave and chancel are of similar length, each two-bayed, tall, and narrow; the chancel may, however, have been refurbished in the 13th century, the probable date of a double aumbry in the north wall and of a piscina in a trefoiled recess on the south. The sedilia may also be medieval. The south aisle was inserted probably in the 14th century, its Decorated arches (of two chamfered orders and a continuous hood) resting on octagonal piers and capitals. The nave's crown-post roof may be contemporary, while the chancel's roof timbers may be 16th-century.

⁶⁵ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 179, f. 277 and v.; c 338, f. 288 and v.; c 341, f. 410 and v.; c 347, f. 397 and v.; c 368, f. 275 and v.; *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (1906), 1116.

⁶⁶ Berks RO, D/P 161B/1B/1; OHC, par. reg. transcript; HER, PRN 2007; Pedgley, *Crowmarsh*, 74.

⁶⁷ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1038; *Wallingford Herald*, 10 Apr. 1975.

⁶⁸ Berks RO, D/P 161/8A/1; OHC, par. reg. transcript; gravestones.

⁶⁹ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1037; Berks RO, D/P 161/7/7; www.visitchurches.org.uk (accessed Nov. 2016); notice in church (Apr. 2017).

⁷⁰ Descriptions: Pevsner, *Oxon.* 717; Bldgs List, IoE 247241; Parker, *Eccl. Topog.* no. 170; 'Church Notes Oxon.', *Archaeol. Jnl*, 44 (1887), 300; W. Hobart Bird, *Old Oxon. Churches* [1932], 115; Sherwood, *Oxon. Churches*, 125; C. Dalton, *St Mary's Church, Newnham Murren, Oxfordshire* (1996).



The Norman north doorway (left), the chancel arch and horseshoe-shaped squint (centre), and the piscina and sedilia (right).

The late 17th-century pulpit includes a pair of oak panels carved with oval bosses framed by Baroque scrolls. In 1759 its steps needed repair, and new doors were to be installed ‘on both sides’ of the building.⁷¹ Only the north doorway now remains, however, the south doorway (directly opposite) having been removed during the 1849 restoration. A contemporary illustration shows that it apparently had a rounded arch beneath a hoodmould.⁷² Other 1750s work included new ceilings (later removed), and ongoing repairs were made to the porch, windows, and bells. The latter were hung in a wooden ‘dovecot’ tower roofed with lead, which was mended in 1815 and replaced by the present gabled bellcote in 1849.⁷³

In the 1840s the chapel was damp, its walls discoloured, and the floors only ‘tolerably even’.⁷⁴ Its restoration in 1849 (by the architect J.H. Hakewill) was accordingly extensive, construction of the bellcote being apparently accompanied by rebuilding of much of the west and aisle walls.⁷⁵ The existing porch (possibly weatherboarded) was replaced by a timber-framed structure on a flint base, with a gabled tiled roof and decorative bargeboards,⁷⁶ while a low side window in the chancel’s south wall and a dormer window in the aisle roof were removed, and the west and east windows replaced, leaving only the medieval jamb shafts of the present three-light east window in situ. Other windows were also renewed, although the

⁷¹ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. d 13, f. 58.

⁷² Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. b 91, f. 308.

⁷³ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 85, ff. 210–11; Berks RO, D/P 161B/5/1; Bodl. MS Don. c 91, p. 228; illust. before restoration in *ibid.* MS Top. Oxon. b 91, ff. 307–8.

⁷⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 41, ff. 219 and v., 223 and v., 231 and v.

⁷⁵ LPL, ICBS 4151 (plan); surviving stonework.

⁷⁶ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. b 91, f. 307. For earlier repairs to its woodwork, OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. d 13, f. 58; Berks RO, D/P 161B/5/1.

deeply splayed openings of the single lancets in the chancel and nave were preserved.⁷⁷ Stone crosses (since removed) adorned the bellcote and the gables of the chancel, nave, and porch,⁷⁸ while new seats and other wooden furnishings were provided inside, and an inscription written above the chancel arch.⁷⁹ Buttresses on the south side of the chancel and at the south-east corner of the aisle, whose chalk clunch foundations were found in 1996, were probably also removed during the restoration.⁸⁰

The roofs were retiled and the interior cleaned and limewashed in 1965,⁸¹ the changes including removal of a heating stovepipe which had formerly protruded through the nave roof.⁸² A proposal to remove the fittings to Crowmarsh following the chapel's closure in 1973 was rejected by the Redundant Churches Fund,⁸³ although a 'small bad copy' of 'The Deposition' (1602) by Peter Paul Rubens has since been taken from the nave.⁸⁴



The restored bellcote (left), north porch (centre), and east window (right).

⁷⁷ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. b 91, ff. 307–8.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.* c 521, p. 48.

⁷⁹ Photo (1890) in OHC, POX0091305.

⁸⁰ Oxon. Museums Archaeol. Recs 1996.8.

⁸¹ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1038.

⁸² Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. c 485/2.

⁸³ Berks RO, D/P 161/7/7.

⁸⁴ Pevsner, *Oxon.* 717.