

YCCART 2019/Y22
Kingston Seymour church
Part 3. Outside the church
YATTON, CONGRESBURY, CLAVERHAM AND CLEEVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH TEAM (YCCART)

General Editor: Vince Russett



August 2019

Outside the church

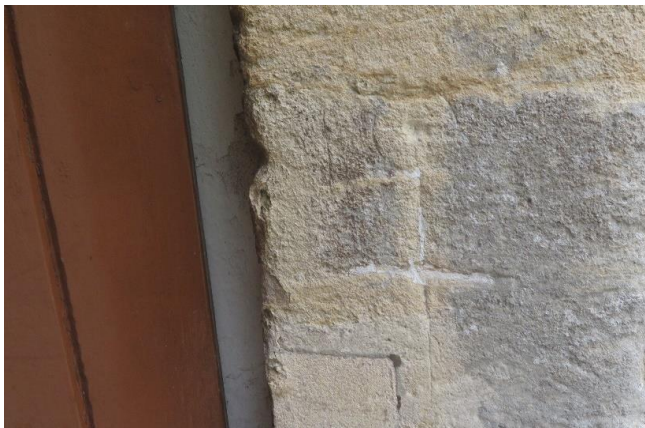
South Porch



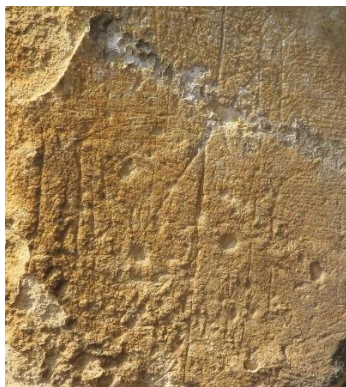
The two-storey porch dates probably to the period 1450 to 1475, but the entrance arch is possibly 14th century and reset.



Fragments of lime-wash remain on the stone as shown to the left of the doorway as illustrated above. Lime-wash was often used on churches to protect the stonework and give the church an attractive white finish.



On the eastern jam of the arch is the mark of a cross and above it a circular feature.



The western jam of the arch also shows a number of cut marks.



The very worn and damaged carved heads on the porch arch.



High above the porch arch outside are two dedication crosses. The Bishop would place his hands on these crosses during the consecration of the church. The two crosses have been reset as they are usually found much lower down. (and I can't see the Bishop climbing up there!).



The spire



The spire (perhaps c14), with later (c15) parapet. The unusual parapet has two tiers of arcading and sits oddly on the splayed foot of the spire. Yes, the spire leans to the north.



In the 15th century the tower stairway was extended giving access to top of tower. You can see the contrasting masonry.



No record seems to exist to date the current weather cock.

The churchwarden accounts show:

1768 "for taking down the Weather Cock"

1769 "for putting up the weather cock"



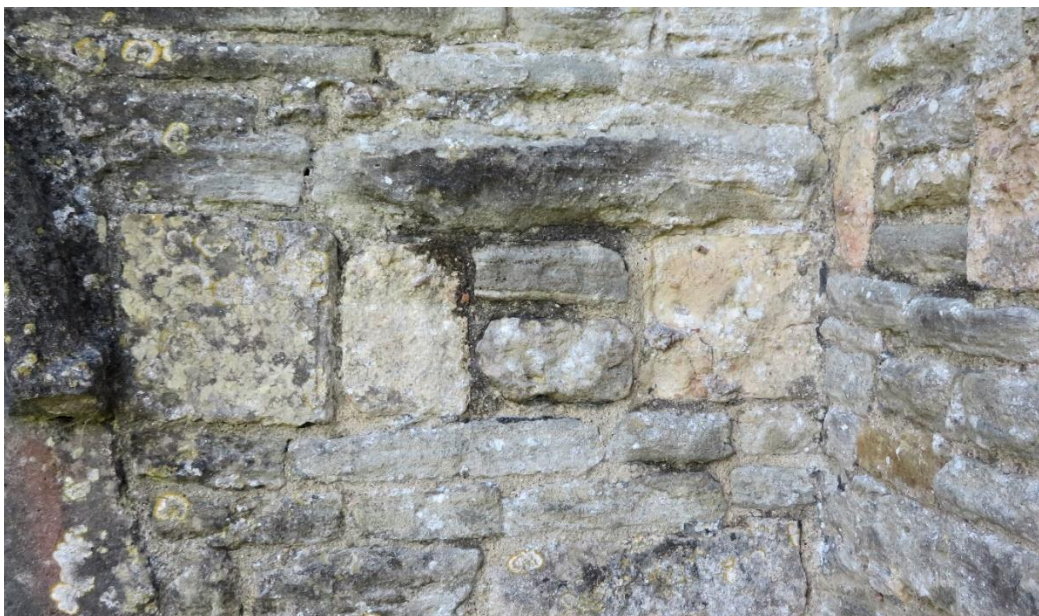
The clock was built by Dell & Co of Bristol in 1868. This is a replacement clock for churchwardens accounts record:

1706 "Pd Jeremiah James for Keeping ye Clock."

1809 "Pd Richard Baber for Repairing the church clock."

1819 "To Halling the Church Clock to Backwell."

West end of church



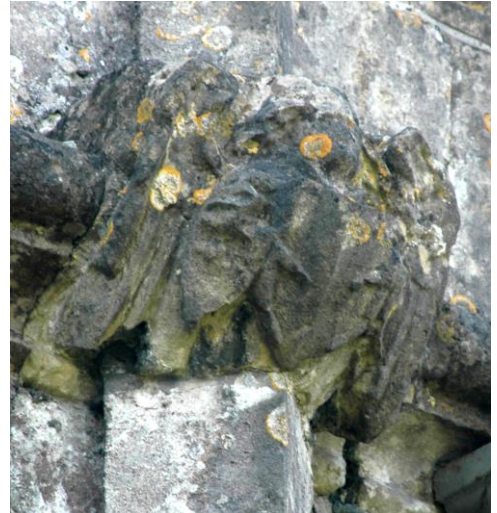
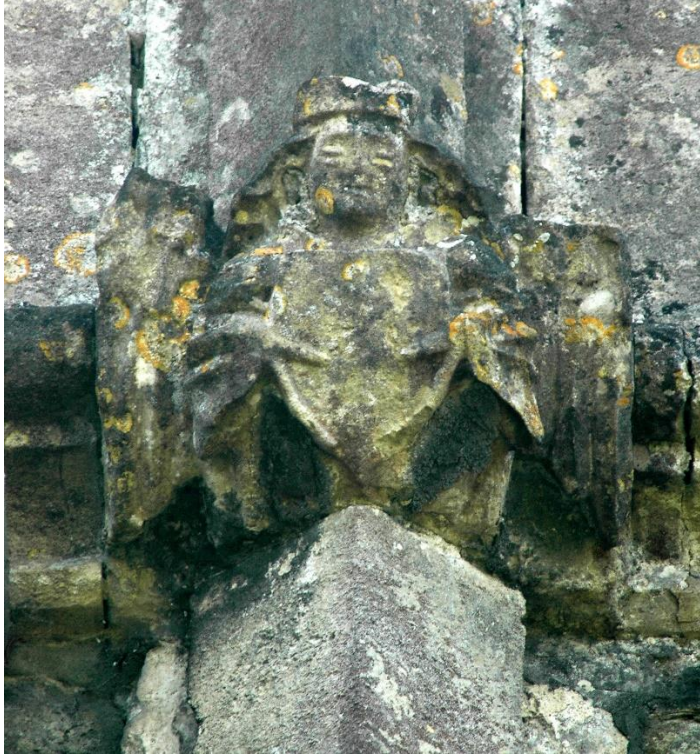
Above: The west door with a blocked-up window to its right.

East window



The east windows and below figures on the east window arch.

North side of church



Grotesques on the north side of the church.

Above right – west

Above left – middle

Left – east

A few tombs

East of church



This Listed chest tomb lies east of the church. It dates to the 15th or 16th centuries. A large, squat tomb; the once heavily moulded slab surmounts panels with deep quatrefoils on a hollow chamfered plinth. This is said to be the tomb of one of the Bulbeck family who held Kingston Seymour under the Tudors.

Local historian Bob Ford however records in his book *Recalling Earlier Times* that John Ken, who died in 1404, asked in his will to be buried in the churchyard at Kingston Seymour *'Where I have caused a monument to be made for myself'*.

About 1150 AD the first John Ken came to Kenn (the neighbouring village). Sir Richard Ken (John Ken's great grandson) married a daughter of Walter de Wengham and they jointly held a third of the manor of Kingston. The link between the villages remained until one Christopher Kenn died in 1593.



The Kenn arms (three red crescents on a white background), can be seen in the top left hand corner of the west window of Kingston Seymour church.

Bob Ford concludes: *"There is no doubt the monument referred to in the will was the altar tomb which stands to the right of the path inside the east gate of the churchyard. For many years it has been called the Bulbeck tomb but it is much earlier than any Bulbeck known to have been associated with the village".*

Bob Ford also records in his book *Recalling Earlier Times* that another altar tomb had " about 90 years ago" the following inscription

HERE LYTH THE BODY OF JOHN PARRISH
DEPARTED THIS LIFE 10 DAY OF FEBRY (ANN?) O 1649
and
HERE LYETH THE BODY OF CVBT (ER?) T WILLET
7 APRIL 1602 AND 10 ANI.



The tomb which is on the east of the church near the 15th or 16th century tomb recorded previously. It was examined during May 2019 but only HERE and OF is now visible.





Inscriptions from left to right:

SACRED to the Memory of JAMES AND HANNAH EDDINGTON of the Parish of Tickenham who died March 4th 1828 Aged 42 years

SACRED to the Memory JACOB HAYMAN of the Parish of Portishead who died the 12th August 1814 Aged 17 Years. ALSO to the Memory of Hannah wife of the aforesaid JACOB HAYMAN who died June 8th 1845 Aged 64 Years

Another stone reads:



J E

I long in pain and sickness lay
Till Christ did summon me away
My debt is paid my grave you see
Wait but a while youll follow me



The Pigott tombs

The Smyth-Pigott family were virtual rulers of North Somerset for about 250 years. They could it was said walk on their own land from Bristol to Weston. The family seat was at Brockley Court and Hall, Brockley and they were lords of the manor of Weston, Kewstoke, Kingston Seymour and Brockley.

Smyth Pigotts were rectors at Kingston Seymour and a number of Smyth Pigott tombs can be seen on the east side of the church



IN LOVING MEMORY OF BEATRICE MAUD
DIED JULY 18 1904 ELDEST DAUGHTER OF
THE LATE G O SMYTH PIGOTT RECTOR OF
THIS PARISH

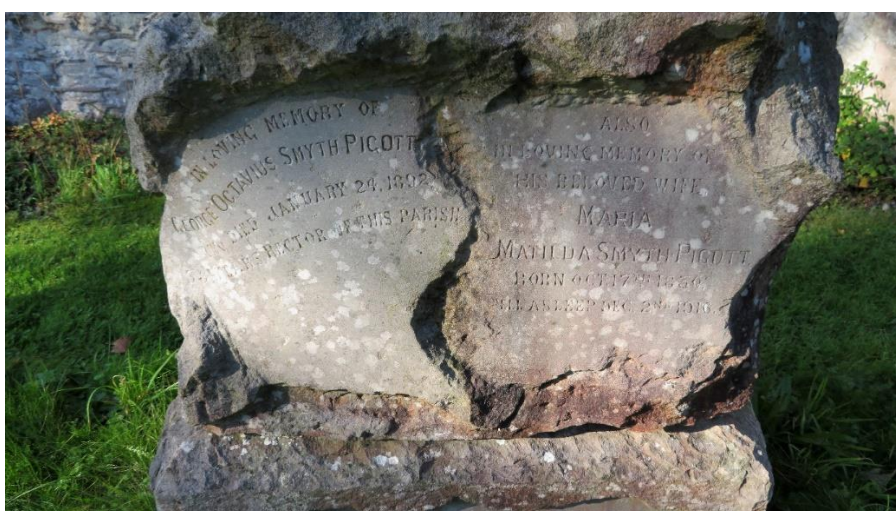


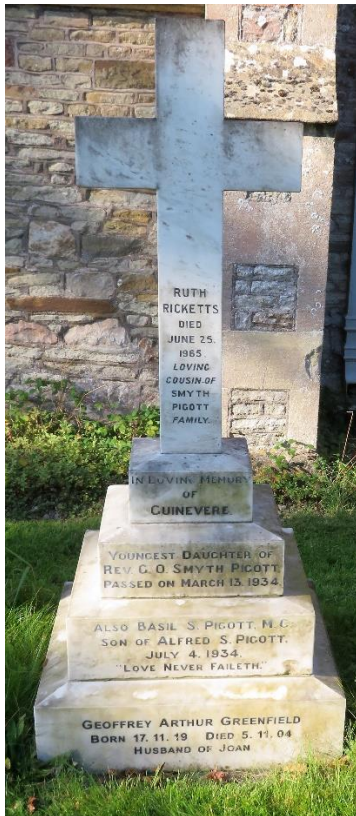


IN LOVING MEMORY OF GEORGE
OCTAVIUS SMYTH WHO DIED JANUARY
24 1892 38 YEARS RECTOR OF THIS
PARISH

ALSO IN LOVING MEMORY OF HIS
BELOVED WIFE MARIA MATILDA
SMYTH PIGOTT BORN OCTOBER 17
1830 FELL ASLEEP DECEMBER 2ND 1916

My presence shall go with thee and I
will give thee rest EXODUS XXX 111 14





RUTH RICKETTS DIED JUNE 25 1965
LOVING COUSIN OF SMYTH PIGOTT
FAMILY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF GUINEVERE
YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF REV G O SMYTH
PIGOTT PASSED ON MARCH 13 1934

ALSO BASIL S PIGOTT M C SON OF ALFRED
S PIGOTT JULY 4 1934 LOVE NEVER
FAILETH

GEOFFREY ARTHUR GREENFIELD BORN
7.11.19 DIED 5. 11. 04 HUSBAND OF JOAN





SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF ADA ELIZABETH
THE BELOVED WIFE OF THE REVD GEORGE H
SMYTH PIGOTT RECTOR OF THIS PARISH
MARCH 30th 1893





By the south porch wall

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MAJOR REVEL RAYNER
GREEN
RECTOR OF THIS PARISH
DIED 22ND OCTOBER 1924
AGED 68
REST IN PEACE

West of the church



Sacred to the Memory of THOMAS PRICE of this Parish who died the 11 April 1808 Aged 55 Years

Also
MARY wife of the said THOMAS PRICE who died the 5TH March 1825 Aged 70 Years
Also ELIZABETH the wife of JOSEPH PRICE Died November 3rd 1894 Aged 93 Years

Also ANN their daughter who died the 23 April 1803 Aged 18 Years ALSO WILLIAM their son who died the 5th March 1808 Aged 16 Years

Also to the Memory of THOMAS Son of JOSEPH and ELIZABETH PRICE and grand Son of the aforesaid THOMAS and MARY PRICE who died December 15th 1828 Aged 7 weeks

Also to the memory of the above JOSEPH PRICE who died November 24th 1851 Aged 65 years



IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE
OF JAMES SMITH
30 YEARS MASTER OF KINGSTON
SEYMOUR SCHOOLS. A WORKER
FOR THE CHURCH OF GOD WHO
WAS CALLED TO A HIGHER LIFE;
MAY 1ST 1912
AGED 57 YEARS

FATHER IN THY GRACIOUS
KEEPING LEAVE WE NOW THY
SERVANT SLEEPING

ALSO CLARA WIDOW OF THE
ABOVE
DIED DEC 30TH 1945
AGED 90 YEARS

The master's tomb is to the right of the path before the lych gate



Inscription on north:

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE CHARLES GOULD SON OF CHARLES

On the west end: AND ELIZA GOULD



The inscriptions are:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF LUCY JAMES SCRIBBINS 1858 – 1934

ALSO

WILLIAM HENRY SCRIBBINS 1858 -1945

ALSO

ETHEL L SCRIBBINS JUNE 1885 – FEB 1949 REUNITED

ALSO

HARRIETT SCRIBBINS INTERRED IN CAIRO EGYPT DIED 29TH DECEMBER 1944

FAITHFUL UNTIL DEATH

The cross



The cross is late medieval. However, according to Pooley, the shaft and stone cross with which it is surmounted, were put up "at the instance and after the design of Mr. James Flack, at the expense of the rector, the Rev. G. Smyth Pigott, in 1863, at which time the Calvary, then much dilapidated, was repaired". In 1906 it was restored with a new head and again in 1980 (after it had been broken off by vandals).

Kingston's churchyard cross has octagonal steps, and an unusual octagonal socket. (most sockets in Somerset, even if on octagonal steps are square topped with corner broaches to an octagon, like the ones at Yatton and Congresbury).



The fillet under the drip at Kingston is very unusual, and probably means it is late medieval in date

The first known depiction of this cross dates to about 1820 and shows the cross much as today, but with a block at the top of the shaft rather than the present cross, which is later in date. The Scheduling description describes a stone basement beneath the lowest step, almost certainly necessary (as at Congresbury) in this alluvial area to avoid the cross sinking. The position of the cross (to the left of the path approaching the door into the church) is most unusual, and often means the cross has been moved, since liturgically, it should be on the right.

Further information on the cross can be found online on the YCCCART web site

Kingston Seymour, Old stone crosses, Photographic and documentary study, 2018, Y9, v1



Lych gate



An additional plaque records restoration in 1967 in memory of Miss Ruth Ricketts.

The Weston super Mare Gazette for September 1st 1894 records the erection of this lych gate "by the widow and family of the late rector The posts, seat and gate are of English oak , and the roof is covered with Broseley tiles. In a panel a brass plate is affixed bearing the inscription – " *In the reverence of God this lych gate is dedicated to the beloved memory of George Octavius Smyth- Pigott, 37 years rector of this parish, who died Jan 24th, 1892 aged 64, after a life of faith, hope and charity.*"

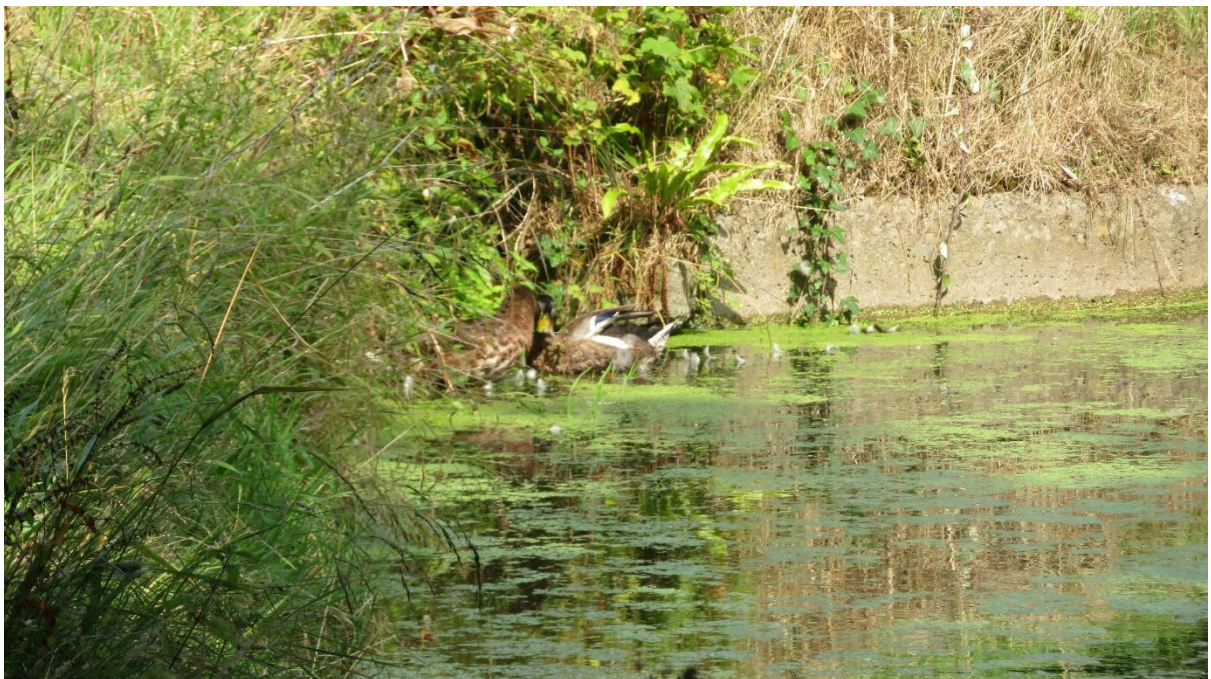
Messr Cowlin and son of Bristol were the architects and builders.

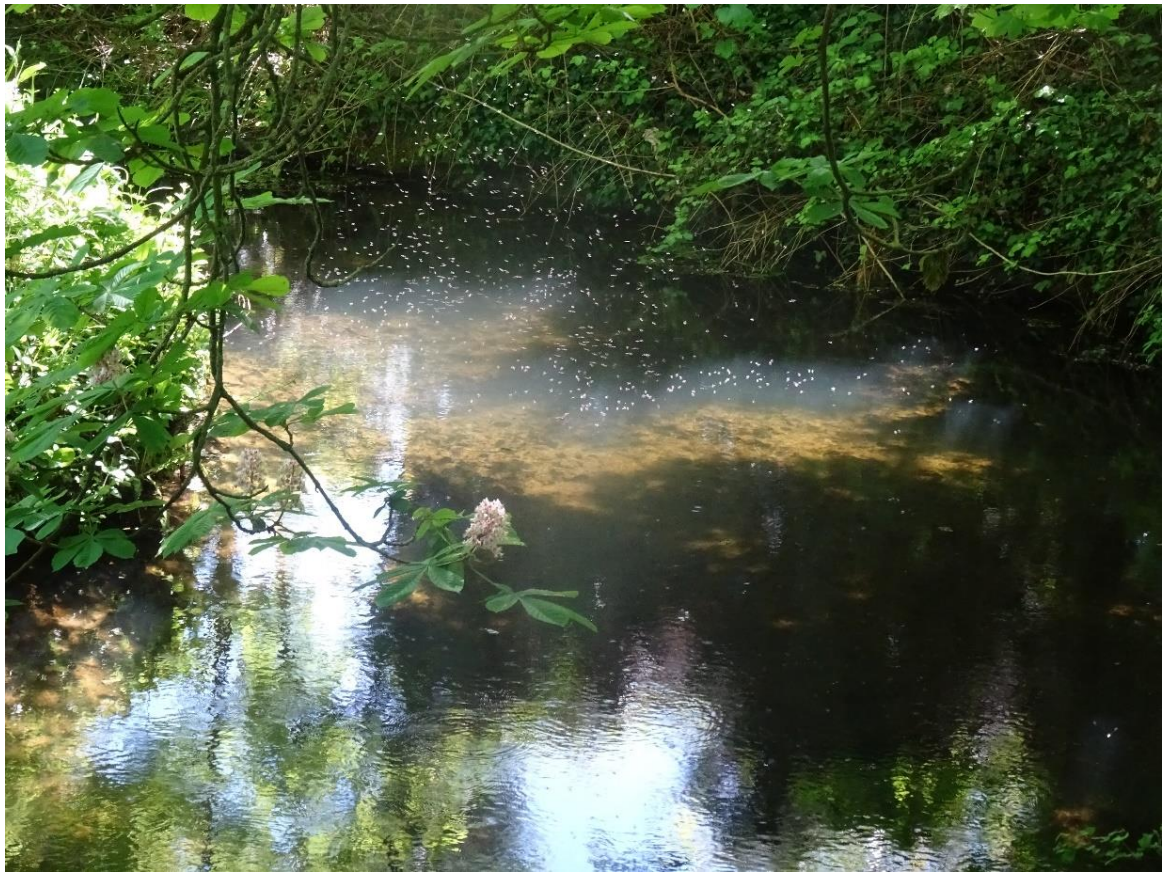
At the same time, in addition to the lych gate gifts to the church of an altar, candlesticks, hymnal board, and alms box were presented by the family in memory of their father.



Before you leave the church via the lynch gate enjoy the water that surrounds most of the church.

Surrounding water





The church stables



The church stables (heavily restored) were built in 1798.



The mounting block. This was an assistance for mounting and dismounting a horse or cart, especially for women, the young, the elderly or the infirm.