

YCCCART 2022/Y4
St Mary the Virgin church, Yatton
Part 1. Inside the church
The South Porch, Aisles and Nave

**YATTON, CONGRESBURY, CLAVERHAM AND CLEEVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH TEAM (YCCCART)**

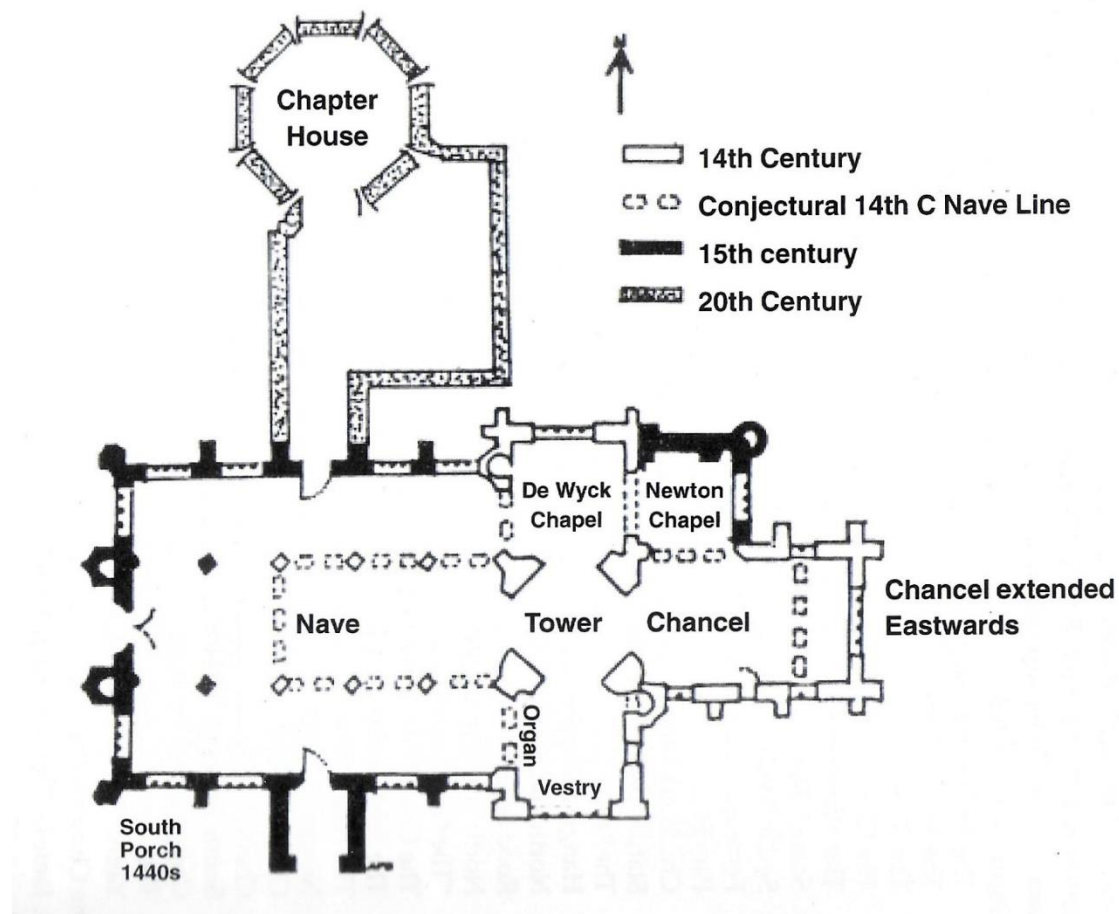
General Editor: Vince Russett



ST MARY THE VIRGIN, YATTON

PART 1

THE SOUTH PORCH, AISLES AND NAVE.



SOUTH PORCH

We start in the south porch.



The splendid south porch dates from the mid-15th century but was restored in 1870 – 1872 by G E Street

Its inner doorway has a four-centred head and fleuron frieze.



The ceiling is a thin-ribbed lierne-vault containing nine moulded bosses. The bosses contain foliage, shields and a green man.





St Mary's Church Yatton 2020

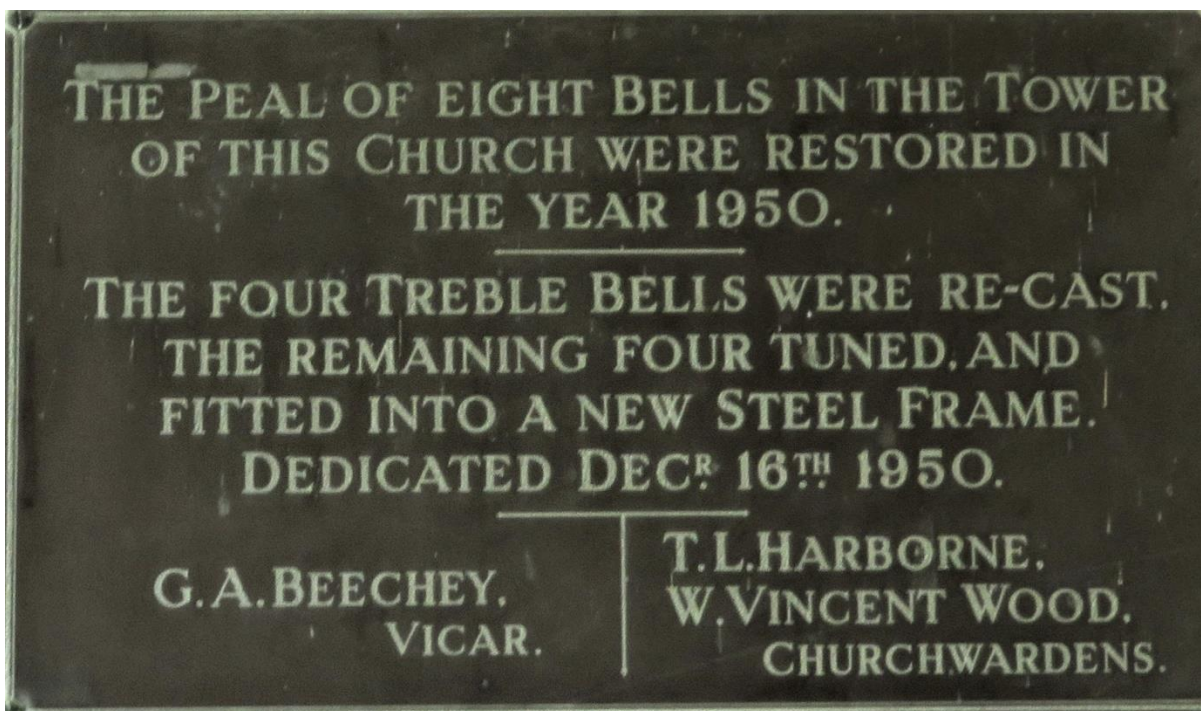


A green man

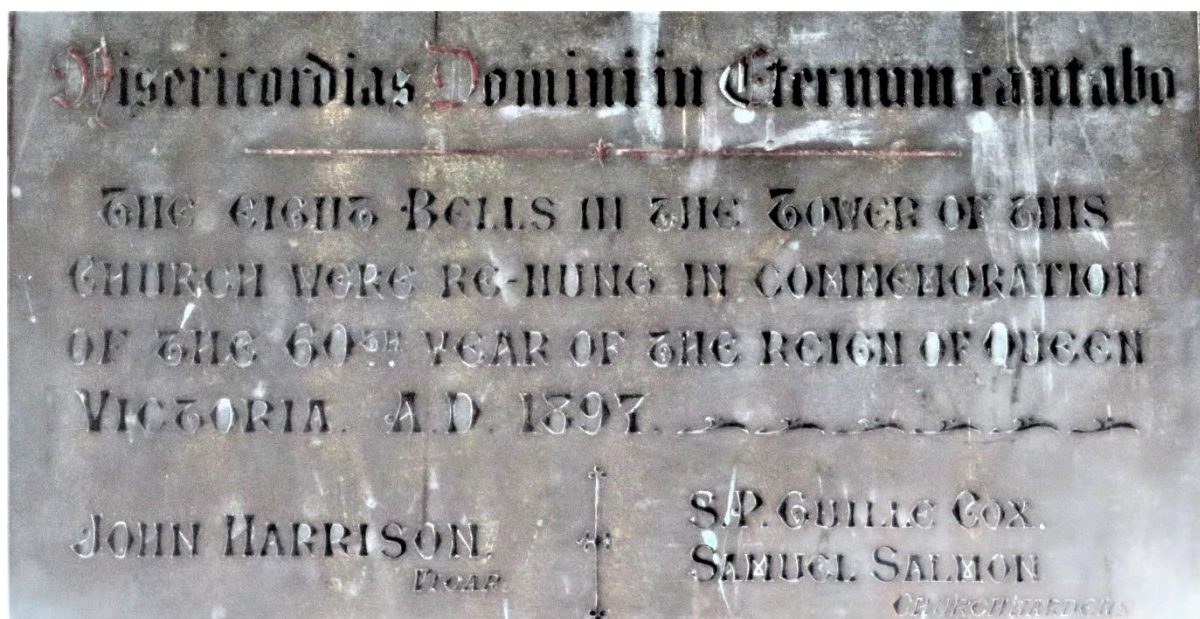




Above the door is a
canopied niche which would
have held a statue.



A Plaque on the left wall as you enter.



A plaque on the right wall which reads:

Misericordias Domini in Eternum cantabo

(Usually a heraldic motto, meaning 'I shall forever sing the praises of the Lord')

THE EIGHT BELLS IN THE TOWER WERE RE-HUNG IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 60TH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF QUEEN VICTORIA AD 1897

JOHN HARRISON VICAR

S P GUILLE COX

SAMJUEL SALMON

Churchwardens

SOUTH AISLE

The font is just inside the door.



St Mary's Church Yatton 2020

The magnificently decorated current font dates from the 1872 restoration. There was a Norman font here until the 1840s which has been lost. A second font installed in 1854 had an early plain English bowl with later stem and in 1872 was given to a new church of St Catherine on Felton Common.

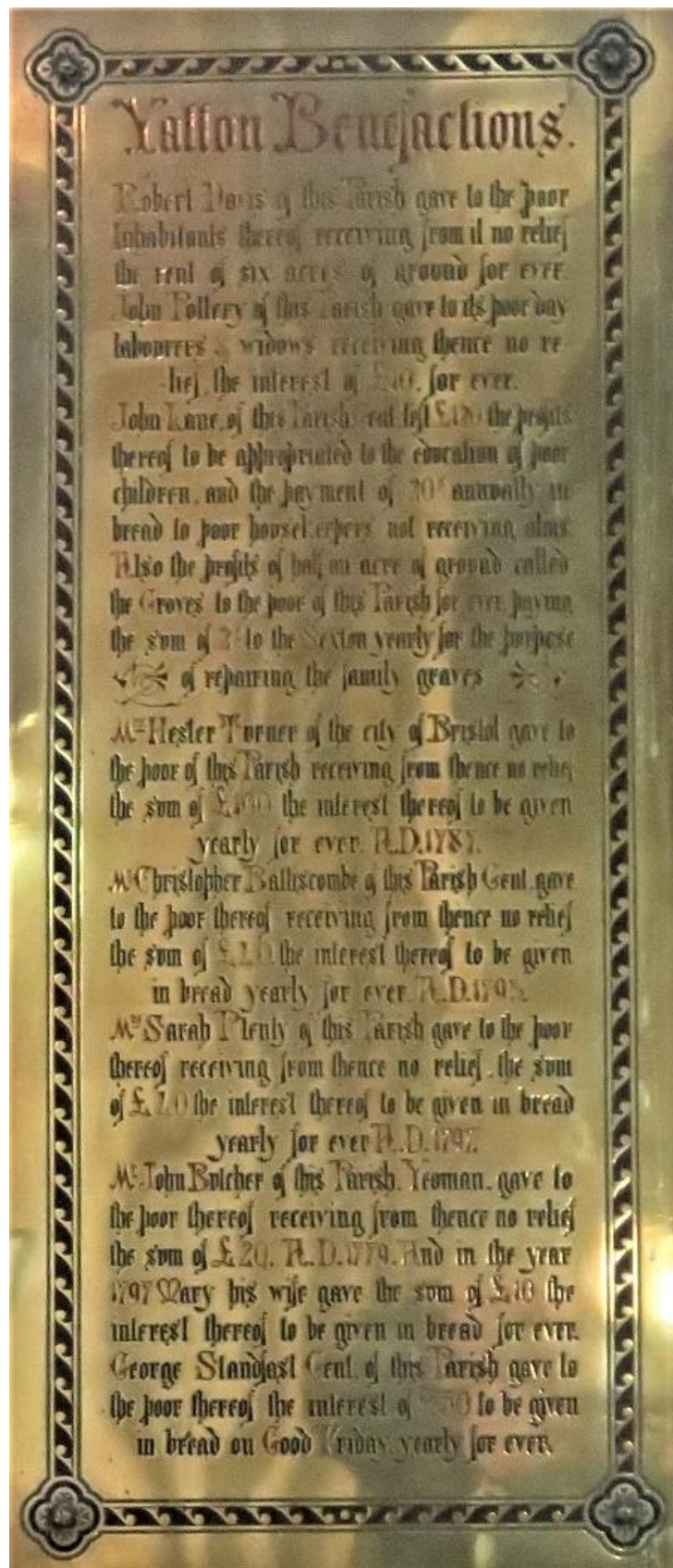


To the west of and opposite the font is a doorway.



The door is several feet above the floor and led up a flight of stairs to an upper room above the south porch. This *parvise* or "enclosed space" may have been the parish strong room or store room.

To the left of the porch door is a brass plaque



The plaque reads

YATTON BENEFACTORS

Robert Davis of this Parish gave to the poor
Inhabitants thereof receiving from it no relief
the rent of xix acres of ground for ever.

John Pollery of this Parish gave to its poor
day labourers and widows receiving thence no re-
lief the interest of £10 for ever.

John Kane of this Parish Gent left £120 the profits
thereof to be appropriated to the education of poor
children and the payment of 20s annually in bread
to poor housekeepers not receiving alms.

Also the profits of half an acre of ground called
The Groves to the poor of this Parish for ever, paying
the sum of 2s to the Sexton yearly for the purpose
of repairing the family graves.

Mrs Hester Turner of the city of Bristol gave to
the poor of this Parish receiving from thence no relief
the sum of £100 the interest thereof to be given
yearly for ever AD 1787.

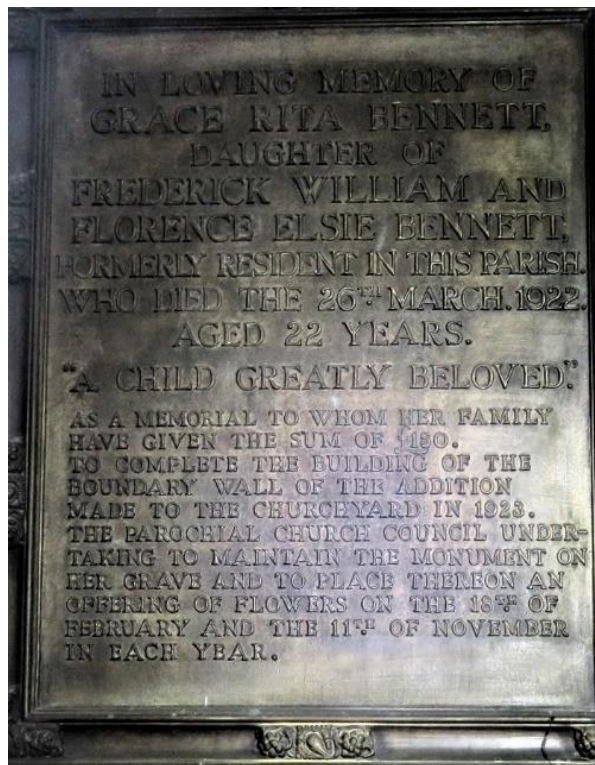
Mr Christopher Balliscombe* Gent of this Parish
gave to the poor thereof receiving from thence no relief
the sum of £10 the interest thereof to be given
in bread forever AD 1793

Mrs Sarah Plenty of this Parish gave to the poor
thereof receiving from thence no relief the sum
of £10 the interest thereof to be given in bread
yearly forever AD 1797.

Mr John Butcher of this Parish, Yeoman gave to
the poor thereof receiving from thence no relief
the sum of £20 AD 1779 And in the year
1797 Mary his wife gave the sum of £10 the
interest thereof to be given in bread for ever.

George Standfast Gent of this Parish gave to
the poor thereof the interest of £50 to be given
in bread of Good Friday, yearly for ever.

**Possibly Battiscombe*



This plaque is to the left of the brass plaque

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

GRACE RITA BENNETT

DAUGHTER OF

FREDERICK WILLIAM AND

FLORENCE ELSIE BENNETT,

FORMERLY RESIDENT IN THIS PARISH

WHO DIED THE 20TH MARCH 1922

AGED 22 YEARS

"A CHILD GREATLY BELOVED."

AS A MEMORIAL TO WHOM HER FAMILY

HAVE GIVEN THE SUM OF £150

TO COMPLETE THE BUILDING OF THE

BOUNDARY WALL OF THE ADDITION

MADE TO THE CHURCHYARD IN 1923.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL UNDER

TAKING TO MAINTAIN THE MONUMENT ON

HER GRAVE AND TO PLACE THEREON AN

OFFERING OF FLOWERS ON THE 18TH OF

FEBRUARY AND THE 11TH OF NOVEMBER

OF EACH YEAR.



South aisle looking west and (below) east, showing the organ.



The organ was originally built in 1708 for Bath Abbey. In 1835 it was removed, restored and sent to the Bishop's palace at Wells. The Reverend D M Clark purchased it in 1842 and brought it to Yatton where it was erected in front of the west window. The organ was relocated to the south transept in 1872 and in 1905 moved towards the tower to make way for the vestry. In 1977 the organ was rotated and its console is at the east end of the south aisle. Further restoration took place in 2004.

Only a small piece of filigree woodwork remains from the 1708 organ.



A Greek cross is on a column on the north side of the aisle as enter via the south porch. It has concave quadrants in the diagonals, demi shafts to the end of the cross-arms and slim shafts set in the hollows.

Aisle roof



The plaster ceiling decorations on the south aisle roof were added during the 1872 restoration. Pevesner states that the south aisle roof timbers were felled in 1445.

NAVE

The 13th century nave was demolished in the 15th century when the arcade was extended to 5 bays and the nave height doubled by adding the clerestory (the upper storey containing windows to light the nave) that required aisles each side. Large windows were also inserted into the aisle walls.



Above - Nave looking west. Note the impressive Perpendicular large west window. Below – looking east.



On the west side of the nave are life-size wooden figures of St Peter and St Paul, in



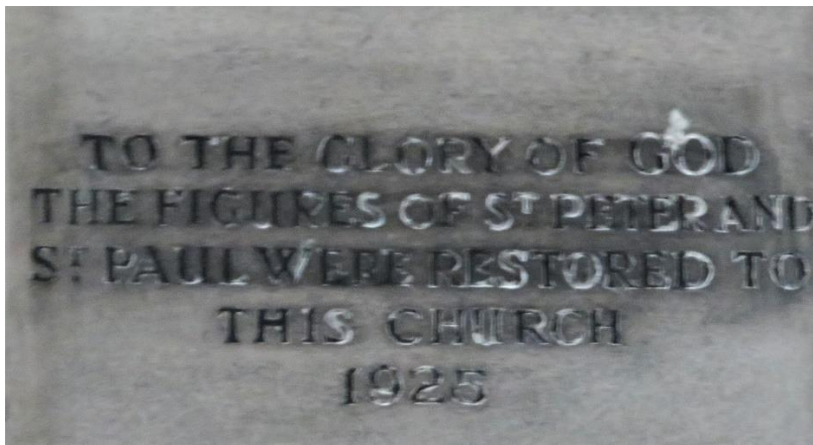
Baroque attitudes. St Peter is on the left. He holds the keys to heaven. St Paul holds a book and a sword.



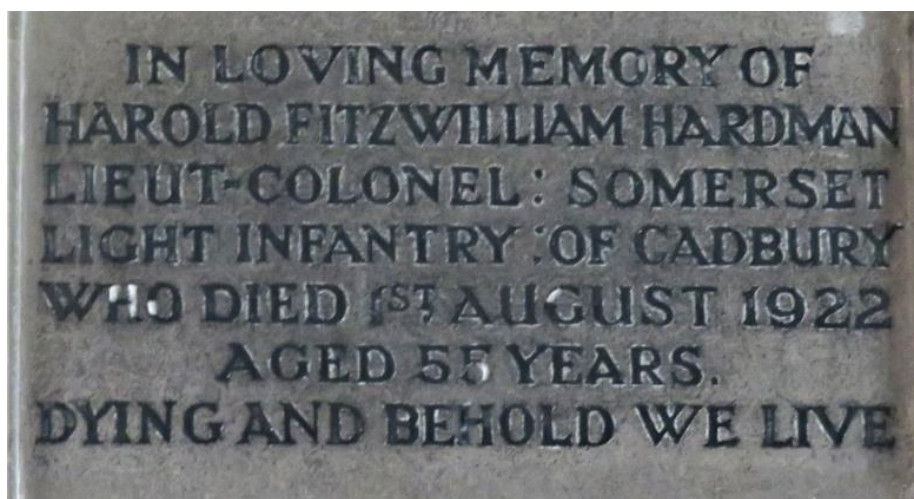
The statues were, from 1708 to 1835, together with a figure of King David, on top of the organ at Bath Abbey. The King David statue remains in Bath. The two statues came to Yatton in 1843 via the chapel in the Bishop's Palace at Wells. When the organ was erected, on a gallery over the west door, they were found to be too big and so stored behind the organ. During the 1872-5 restoration they went missing.

About 50 years later they were found by members of the Hardman family and returned to Yatton.

Below the statues are these plaques



TO THE GLORY OF GOD, THE FIGURES OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL WERE RESTORED TO THIS CHURCH 1925.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
HAROLD FITZWILLIAM HARDMAN
LIEUT- COLONEL SOMERSET
LIGHT INFANTRY OF CADBURY.
WHO DIED 1ST AUGUST 1922
AGED 55 YEARS
DYING AND BEHOLD WE LIVE



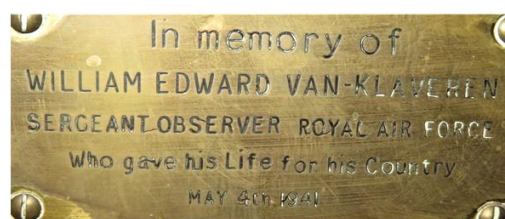
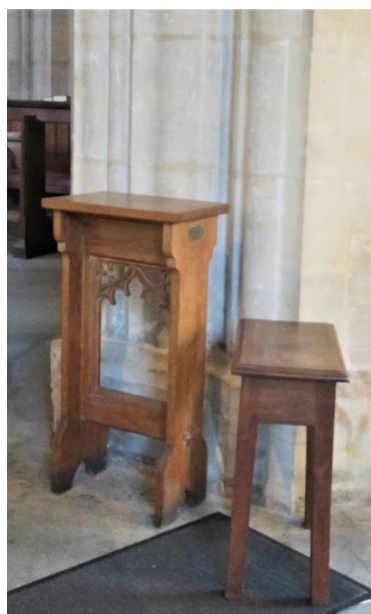
Left of the statue of St Peter is a door which leads to a gallery.



Nave – east



Near the top of the archway over the altar at the east side of the nave is a 13th century double lancet window. This window before the 15th century rebuilding would have overlooked the three bay nave roof.



The plaque on the lecturn on the east of the nave reads:

In memory of
WILLIAM EDWARD VAN - KLAVEREN
SERGEANT OBSERVER ROYAL AIR FORCE
Who gave his life for his country
MAY 4TH 1941



To the left (looking north) and in line with the south and north doors are the following benches.

The plaque on this bench end in the centre of the nave reads:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
IN LOVING MEMORY
OF HENRY CROSSMAN
OF HAM FARM
1860 – 1914
GIVEN BY HIS CHILDREN





Opposite on the south side of the nave is an identical bench with the plaque reading:

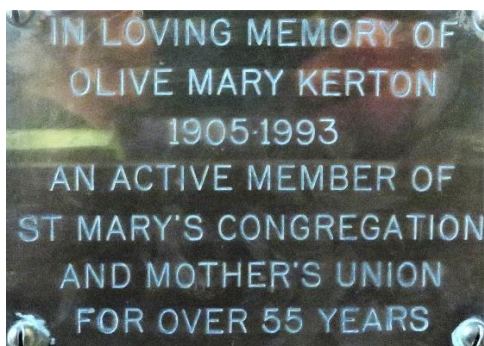
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ALICE CROSSMAN
OF HAM FARM
1870 -1955
GIVEN BY HER CHILDREN



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Further south the table and cabinet have the plaques below.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
OLIVE MARY KERTON
1905-1993
AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF
ST MARY'S CONGREGATION
AND MOTHER'S UNION
FOR OVER 50 YEARS



A THANK OFFERING
FOR THE
JOY AND PRIVILEGE OF
WORSHIP IN THIS
CHURCH



The nave has a wagon roof containing decorated diamonds



The blue arrow indicates a boss containing the head of a figure.



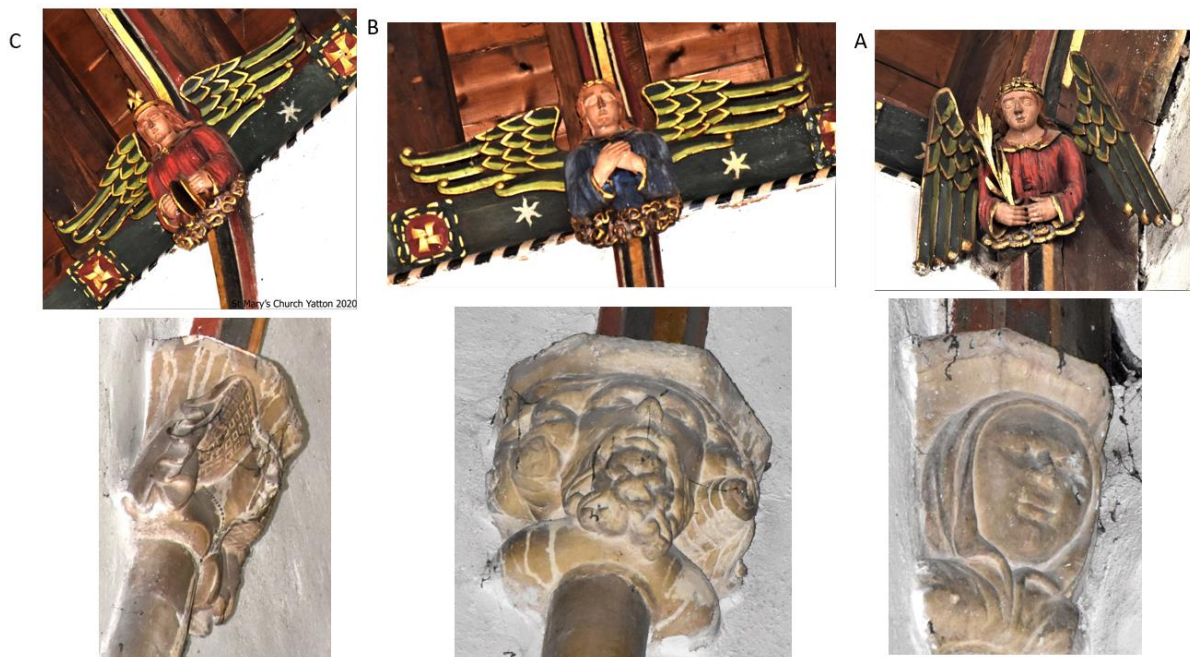
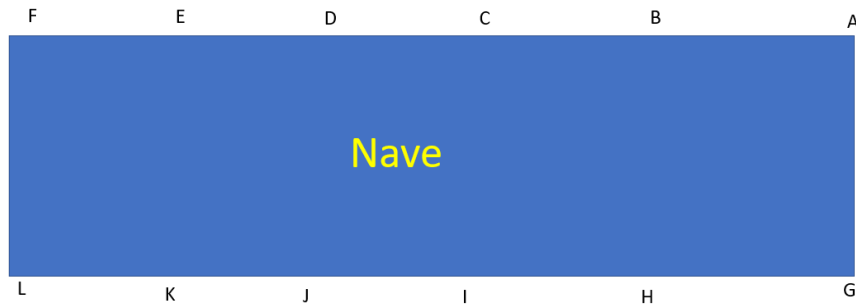
The head.



A selection of roof bosses.

CORBEL HEADS

Below the roof are corbels with a variety of carved heads and above them highly decorated demi-figures of angels.



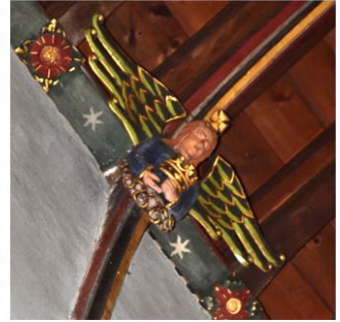
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E



D



i

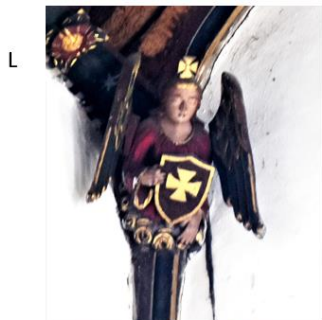


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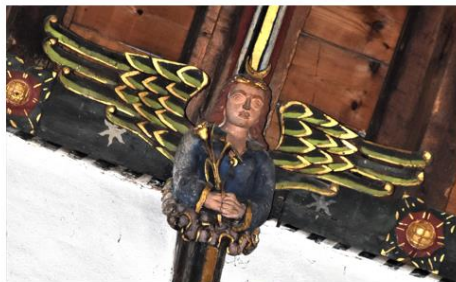


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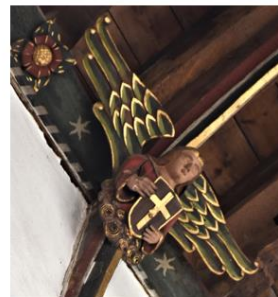




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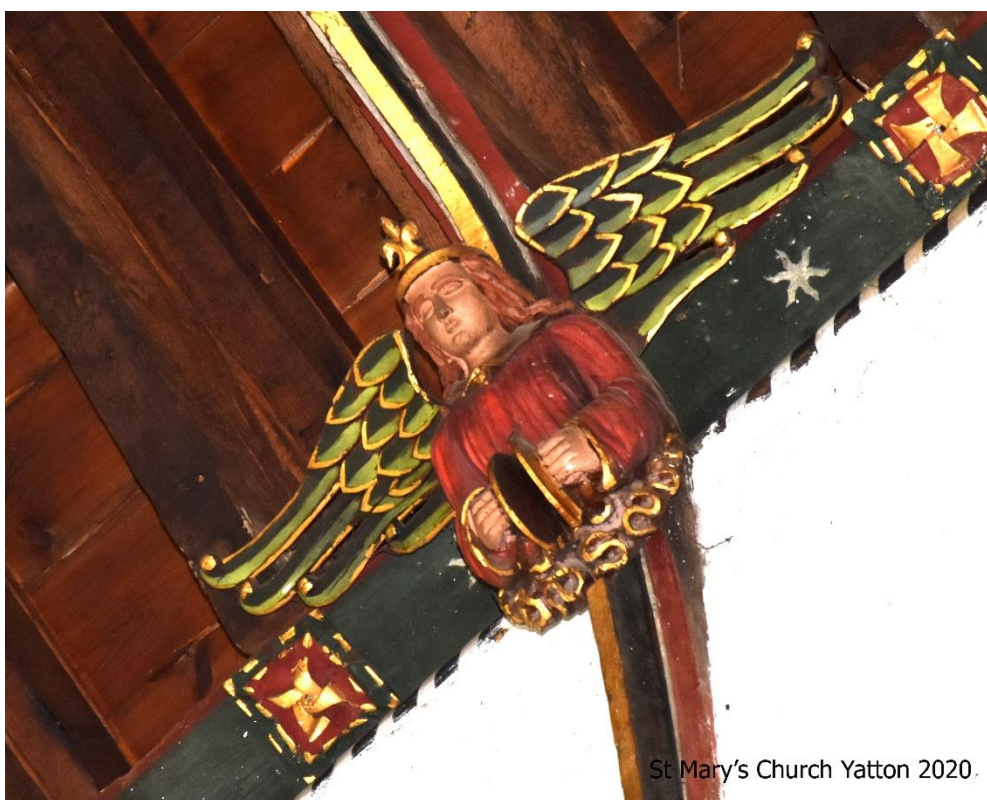


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A selection





St Mary's Church Yatton 2020.



A column on the northeast side of the nave contains these heads.



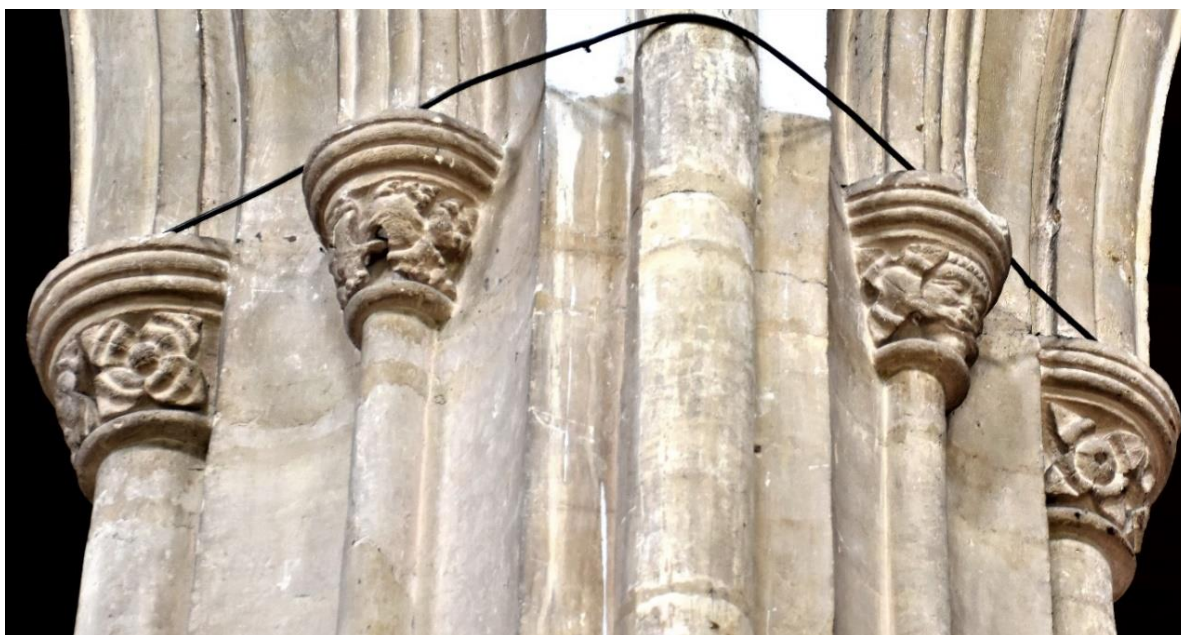
The column to the right-hand side by organ has these heads.





The second column on south side of nave facing the south aisle contains this face.





A green man can be found on the first column on the north-east of the nave.

NORTH AISLE

North door



To the right of the inner north door is a quatrefoil piscina re-set in the wall.



The wonderful north door whose setting is now sadly obscured by the chapter house extension. This has fleurons and top centre an extravagant ogee gable with a big finial. Also side pinnacles



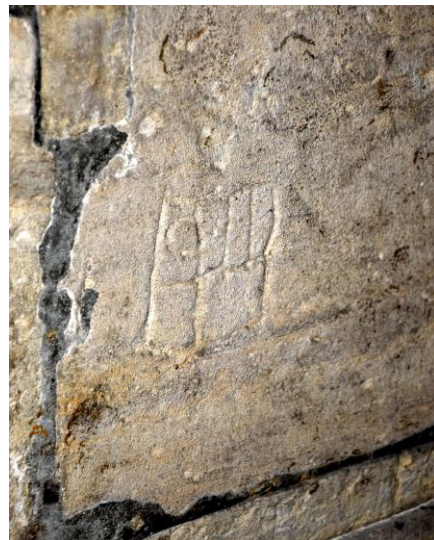


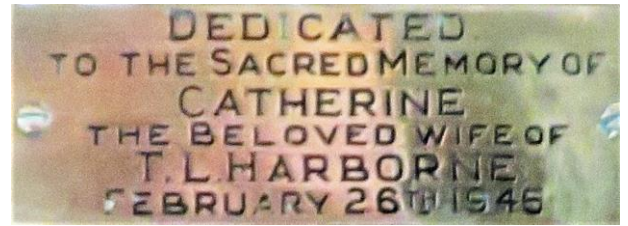
To the left of the door the wall contains part of a circular feature (probably the section of a mass dial)



The left-hand arch also contains graffiti.

Further graffiti marks are to the right of the door.

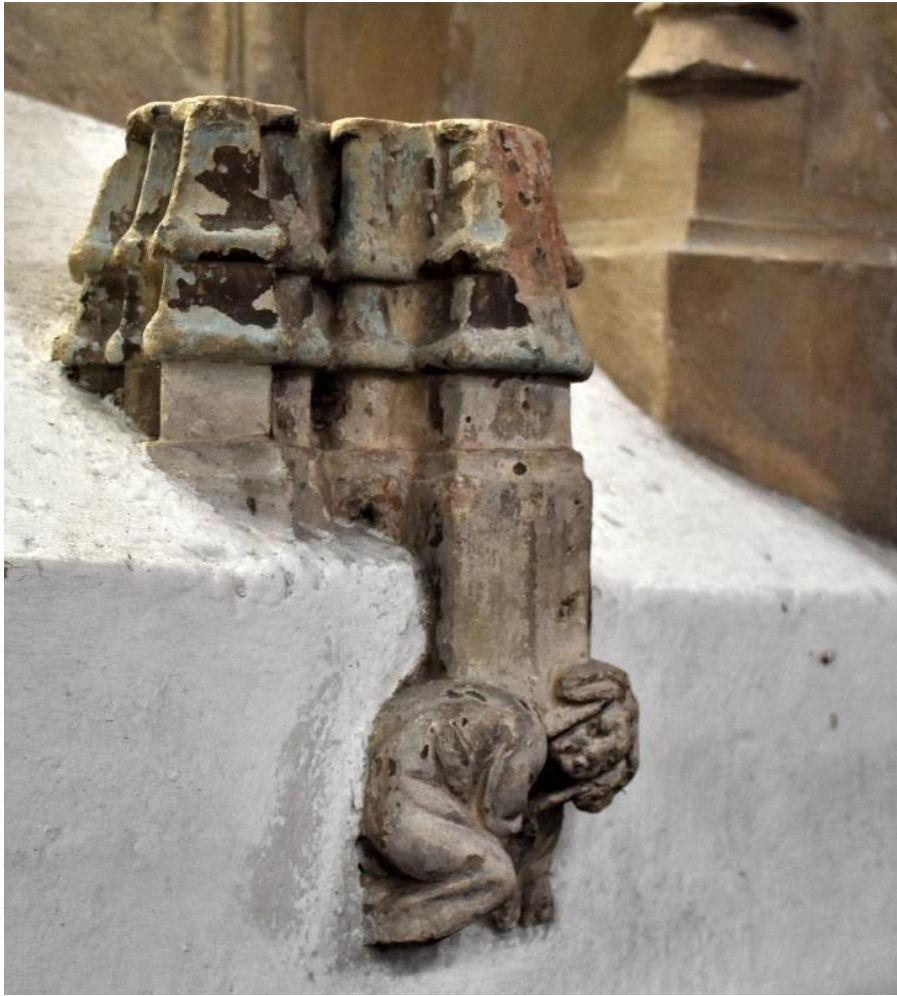




In the north aisle is a wooden lectern
with the plaque

DEDICATED
TO THE SACRED MEMORY OF
CATHERINE
THE BELOVED WIFE OF
T L HARBORNE
FEBRUARY 26TH 1946

The Rood screen



The magnificent carved rood screen together with the rood loft, that held 69 carved and painted images of saints, were removed during the Reformation. All that remains in the nave and north aisle are the flat stone rood beam supports protruding from the left and right tower arches. Also, the figure shown above on the cill of the Barnard window, part of a possible support for the access platform to the rood loft.



North aisle windows



The two stained glass windows at the north east side of the north aisle are by Clayton & Bell. The first from the east is said to date from circa 1900 and the second 1926.

The windows and memorial inscriptions are shown below.



Left hand side window

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LIVING REMEMBRANCE OF HELEN OTWAY
 BARNARD WHO DIED 27 MAY 1922 WIFE OF THE REV H J BARNARD M A
 PREBENDARY OF COMBE XIV IN WELLS CATH VICAR OF THIS PARISH 1847-1844
 AND OF THEIR ELDEST SON HENRY CUTHBERT BARNARD IP D INST C E
 CHURCHWARDEN OF THIS PARISH 1922- 1924 WHO DIED 7 NOVEMBER 1924



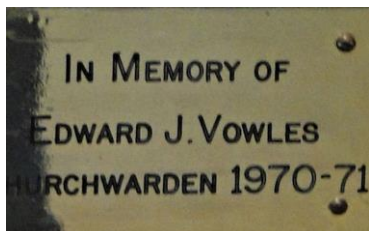
Right hand side window

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF HENRY JOHN BARNARD
PRIEST PREBENDERY OF WELLS CATHEDRAL AND 38 YEARS VICAR OF THIS PARISH

Above this is an extract FROM LUKE 5:3

HE PRAYED HIM THAT HE WOULD THRUST OUT A LITTLE FROM THE LAND AND HE
SAT DOWN AND TAUGHT THE PEOPLE OUT OF THE SHIP

Under this window is a table with a plaque



IN MEMORY OF
EDWARD J VOWLES
CHURCHWARDEN 1970 -71

Heads

A variety of interesting heads are on the corbels.



North side – west to east.



6

S

South side - west to east.

7



8



9



10



11



12



There is no figure at position 12. Instead, is this rough stone, said to be part of the 13th century tower buttress.

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The plaster ceiling decorations on the north aisle roof were added during the 1872 restoration.

REFERENCES

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Yatton Moor Parochial Church Council, 2018	A GUIDE AND HISTORY OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, YATTON