

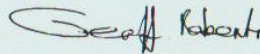
Introduction

St Mary's Church and the Limpley Stoke Fete Committee came together in June 2000 to celebrate both the Millennium and a thousand years of the church, and what a memorable village event it was.

St Mary's major contribution was to mount a three-day exhibition of the history of the village's ancient church which began long ago when the Saxons ruled Wessex. But these things do not just happen. Arnold Lewis began his research more than two years ago at the time Neil Mattingly was turning his boundless energy into researching the families who had lived in Freshford Manor before him. Their interests and visits to the Record Office at Trowbridge overlapped to such an extent that they decided to join forces, call the exhibition 'A Thousand Years of St Mary's and its People' and produce it together, with Arnold leading on the church and Neil on the people.

The exhibition, which attracted many visitors, had something to hold everyone's interest. There were anecdotal histories of the church, its officers and the churchyard; stories about the village school and Baptist chapel; and displays about the people who have most influenced church and village in the second Millennium, such as the Abbess of Shaftesbury, Francis Walsingham, the Dickses, the Fishers, the Coopers through to the Penruddockes, the Haywards and the Millards.

Many people felt that the exhibition, which covered such an important slice of Limpley Stoke's heritage, must not be lost and persuaded Arnold and Neil to produce this book as a permanent record for those interested in the village. They do not pretend it to be the definitive history of Limpley Stoke but they enjoyed researching and writing the book. I know you will find it fascinating and pleasurable reading.



(Chairman, Limpley Stoke Parish Council)



Arnold Lewis (left) and Neil Mattingly

Acknowledgements

The list is lengthy but the help we received from the following people and institutions has been invaluable and should be recorded. We apologise to anyone who has been omitted.

Margaret and Val for their patience and encouragement.
Robert and Barbara Harvey for pointing us in the right direction.
Bob and Sheena Broadhead for editing and producing the book.
Geoff Roberts for helping to raise sponsorship for the cost of colour printing.
Sally Roberts for assistance with editing.
Ivor and Marian Roberts for loaning photographs and improving some of ours.
Anne Jarrett, Susan Bolohovener, Madeline Brown, George Huntley, Norman Hayward, Christine Dixon, Myra Fielding, Peter Harris and Marian Lawrance for their reminiscences and loan of photographs.

St Mary's Church Committee for the use of parish records.
Limpley Stoke Women's Institute for the use of their records and photographs.

Bath Central Library, Bath Record Office, Bradford on Avon Library, Bristol Record Office, Devizes Museum, Somerset Record Office, Trowbridge Local Studies and Reference Library, Victoria Art Gallery, Wiltshire Record Office.

Limpley Stoke Post Office for being our retail outlet.

Contents

	Page
Introduction	1
Christianity in Wessex	2
St Edward, King and Martyr, and the Abbess of Shaftesbury	3
St Edith of Wilton	4
The Devil of Limpley Stoke	5
Shingle Bell Well	5
The Porch	6
The Chancel	7-8
The Nave	9-10
The Saxon Arch	11
The South Aisle	12
The Font	13
The Tower and Spire	14
The Chalice and Plate	15
The Bells	16
Memorials in the Church	17-18
St Mary's Churchyard	19-20
The First World War	21-22
The Second World War	23
St Mary's Piece	24
Vicars and Curates	25
Churchwardens	26
The Parish Clerk	27
The Organ, Organists and Choir	28
Church Rates and Roof Repairs	29
A Delightful Ride into the Country	30
Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee	30
The Baptist Chapel	31
The Village School	32
Limpley Stoke and the Anglo-Saxon Kings	33
Limpley Stoke and Shaftesbury Abbey	34
Limpley Stoke and the Tudors	35
Limpley Stoke and the Dicke family	36
Limpley Stoke and the Fisher family	37
Limpley Stoke and the Cooper/Baker family	38
The Penruddockes	39
Joseph Clisild Daniell – Inventor	40
The Haywards	41
The Site of the Ancient Manor	42
Limpley Stoke Mill	43
Limpley Stoke Hotel	43
Thorpe's Map 1746	44
Andrews & Drury Map 1772	45
Tithe Map 1841	46
The Census & Map 1841	47-48
Ordnance Survey Map 1905	49
St Mary's Through the Centuries	50

Sponsorship

We wish to thank everyone whose generous sponsorship has made possible the printing of this book in colour.

Alan and Liz Booty
Graham Brooks
Peter Hills
John Lawrance
Margaret Lewis
Mary Millard
Geoff and Sally Roberts
Stuart and Rachel Wilson

Limpley Stoke Parish Council
Profund Systems Ltd
The Friends of Freshford Association
The Limpley Stoke Fete Committee
The Cliffe Hotel
The Limpley Stoke Hotel
The Rose and Crown
Waterhouse Residential Home

Christianity in Wessex

Christianity was practised widely in Wessex by the end of the Roman occupation in the fourth century but, on the arrival of the early pagan Saxon settlers, the people reverted to heathen beliefs and practices.

According to the Venerable Bede, the greatest scholar in Anglo-Saxon England, Pope Honorius I sent Bishop Birinus, who later became known as the Apostle of Wessex, to 'sow the seed of the holy faith in the inner parts beyond the English'. However, on his arrival in 634 AD, he found the West Saxons so pagan that he decided to devote his ministry to them. He converted their king, Cynegils, and he 'built and consecrated many churches and his labours called many to the Lord'.

The See of Winchester was created between 660 and 663. In 705 it was divided into two by the creation of Sherborne, with Aldhelm, Abbot of Malmesbury, as its bishop to govern the area west of the Forest of Selwood.

Two hundred years later reorganisation was again necessary; the churches of the counties of Berkshire and Wiltshire were governed from Ramsbury, and Somerset from Wells. Thus, the organisation of the church in Wessex remained until the beginning of the story of St Mary's at the turn of the first Millennium.



Jesus Christ was born 2,000 years ago
 Bishop Birinus, 'Apostle of Wessex', started his mission in 634 AD.
 There was a monastery at Bradford on Avon by 705 AD.
 A stone chapel was built at Limpley Stoke 1,000 years ago.



An ivory panel from Winchester Cathedral carved about 50 years after the death of King Alfred in 899 AD



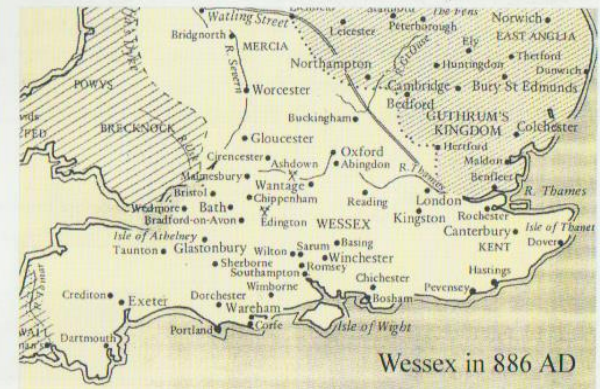
St Dunstan, kneeling at the foot of Christ, became Archbishop of Canterbury in 960 AD and was the chief instigator of monastic reform



The tomb of St Birinus at Dorchester (Oxfordshire)



Angel in Saxon Church, Bradford on Avon



Wessex in 886 AD

St Edward, King and Martyr, and the Abbess of Shaftesbury

Shaftesbury Abbey was founded by King Alfred circa 888 AD. The royal connection continued throughout the almost 700 years of its history until the Abbey was surrendered to the Crown on 23rd March, 1539.

King Edgar died in July 975, leaving two sons by different mothers – Edward who was in his teens and Aethelred who was still a child. Edward who was in his teens and Aethelred who was still a child. Edward was crowned king but Aethelred was not without his supporters. On 18th March, 978 King Edward was murdered at Corfe Castle, allegedly at the instigation of his stepmother, and his half brother Aethelred crowned in his place. Edward's body was buried at Wareham but the following year it was moved with great ceremony to Shaftesbury. Miracles,



St Edward

particularly involving the curing of the blind, were attributed to Edward after his death and he was canonised in 1001.

In the same year King Aethelred bestowed upon the Abbess of Shaftesbury the Monastery and Vill (ie the manor) of Bradford 'for a recompence of the murdering of St Edward his brother'. The charter is still in existence and can be found among the Harlean Manuscripts in the British Museum. It tells us that Aethelred gave the Monastery and Vill 'that therein might be found a safe refuge for the nuns against the insults of the Danes, and a hiding place also for the relics of the blessed martyr St Edward and the rest of the saints.'

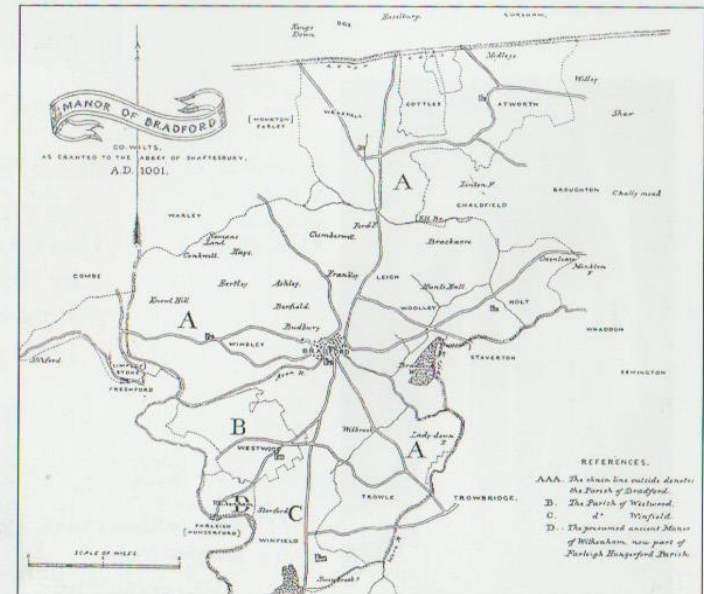
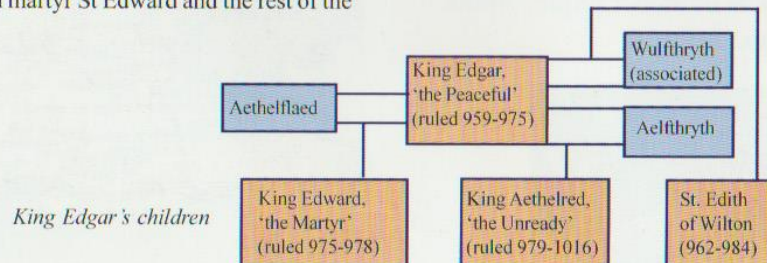
The Anglo-Saxons marked their boundaries clearly with trees, whether pears or willows. The local tradition is that the Abbess of Shaftesbury marked the boundaries of the Manor of Bradford with seven pear trees, on the site of which she later built a chapel. This tradition has been continued at St Mary's for many years and some people refer lovingly to the church as a 'pear tree church'. The latest pear tree, donated by Mrs Mary King, is to be found in the north west corner of the churchyard by the memorial to Joan and Terry Snailum.



Notes by Martin Valatin in a Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust Newsletter recording that 'At the last Millennium in 1001, the Abbess of Shaftesbury planted seven pear trees to mark the boundaries of her land at Bradford, soon followed by the seven churches' caused enormous excitement – until, that is, he disclosed the source of his information was St Mary's Church guide!

The charter is very explicit as to the limits of the Manor of Bradford: 'First from the seven pear trees that shoots southward without Acceslele farm ...' This word has been corrupted by degrees and is now believed to be Oxen Leaze Farm, in Holt Tything at the eastern extremity of the Parish of Bradford on Rev. W. H. Jones' map (below).

Recent scholarship suggests that the trees were probably withies, ie willows, as withies were common boundary markers in Anglo-Saxon land charters. The original grant included Westwood and Wingfield but they are not recorded in the Domesday Book as belonging to the Abbess of Shaftesbury.



St Edith of Wilton

Frances Arnold-Forster's book, *Studies in Church Dedications, or England's Patron Saints*, 3 vols. (1899), is the recognised starting point for inquiry into church dedications.

Only three churches in the country are recorded as having been dedicated to the Anglo-Saxon saint, Edith of Wilton. It is not known when the church at Limpley Stoke was re-dedicated to St Mary. Such changes happened frequently at

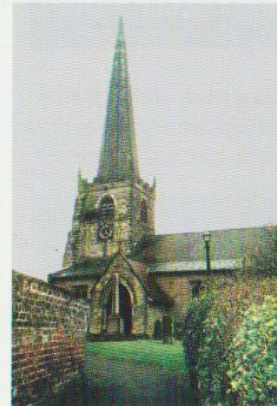
the time of the English Reformation or when a church was extended. Documents prior to the 16th century appear to refer only to the 'chapel' at Hanging Stoke, Stokewere, Stoke or whichever name the village was known by at the time.



St Edith, now St Mary, Limpley Stoke



St Edith, Baverstock, Wiltshire

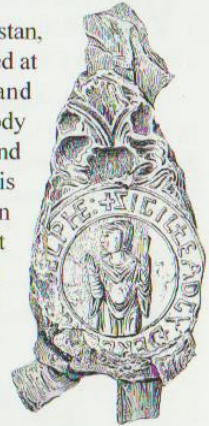


St Edith, Bishop Walton, Yorkshire

King Alfred founded a new convent at Wilton in 871 which he united to an older foundation. It is said that King Edgar, King of the English (944-75) visited Wilton in 961 and carried off Wulfrid, a lady wearing a veil though not a nun, to his manor house at Kemsing in Kent, where their daughter Edith was born. Wulfrid refused to enter into a permanent marriage with Edgar and retired with her child to Wilton, where Edith was 'trained from infancy in the school of the Lord'.

At the age of 15, Edith refused the abbacy of three houses offered by her father and entreated him to be allowed to stay quietly with her mother. Edith had a special affection for St Denys and built a church in his honour at Wilton. Archbishop Dunstan went to Wilton to consecrate the church but, as he was celebrating mass, his voice broke and he burst into floods of tears as he prophesied Edith's death six weeks from that time. William of Malmesbury relates that, on the appointed day, 16th September, 984, this noble lady died in her prime at the age of 22.

Thirteen years later, Archbishop Dunstan, finding that many miracles were worked at her tomb, caused it to be opened and discovered certain parts of the saint's body undecayed. The saint appeared to him and explained the special meanings of this miracle. Later, King Cnut visited Wilton and mocked at the reverence paid to St Edith, declaring that he would never believe in the sanctity of a daughter of Edgar, a man 'given up to vices and a slave to lust.' He commanded the virgin's tomb to be opened that he might see what proof of her holiness she could bring. On this being done, the virgin seemed to the king as though she was about to fly upon him. He repented in great terror and in every part of England her 'day', 16th September, was kept with much reverence.



The Wilton Abbey Seal



King Edgar

142 CHURCHES IN WHICH DEDICATIONS					143 CHURCHES BY PARISHES, ETC.				
Parish	Dedication	Notes	Parish	Notes	Parish	Dedication	Notes	Parish	Notes
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter	Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter
Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary	Abingdon	St. Mary		Abingdon	St. Mary
Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John	Abingdon	St. John		Abingdon	St. John
Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael	Abingdon	St. Michael		Abingdon	St. Michael
Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas	Abingdon	St. Nicholas		Abingdon	St. Nicholas
Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James	Abingdon	St. James		Abingdon	St. James
Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George	Abingdon	St. George		Abingdon	St. George
Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew	Abingdon	St. Andrew		Abingdon	St. Andrew
Abingdon	St. Peter		Abingdon	St. Peter					

The Devil of Limpley Stoke (Old Lad of Westwood)

Why is the ancient church of St Mary's, Limpley Stoke, located on a hill at the far end of the village? Margaret Wilson, in her book *Touring Guide to Wiltshire Villages* (1987), tells us that its position is explained in the monastic document The Shaston Chartulary of 1322 as follows:

'The Saxon builders "commenced to build a church in a field down in the valley called Crockfords on the east side of the river, but every night the devil, or some other ghostly form, came and removed the stones to the top of the hill. After persevering for some days, the builders resolved to use the site appointed." The devil in question is represented above the font in the nearby church of Westwood.'



St Mary's, Westwood

A more likely explanation for the separation of the church from the present village is that the original settlement was probably drastically reduced by the Black Death and only sprang back to life with the coming of the weaving industry around 1400 AD. From then onwards, dwellings were likely to have been built further down the hill towards the river.

The aerial photographs of Limpley Stoke held in the County Archaeologist's Office are too small in scale to be of any value in helping to locate the layout of the ancient settlement.

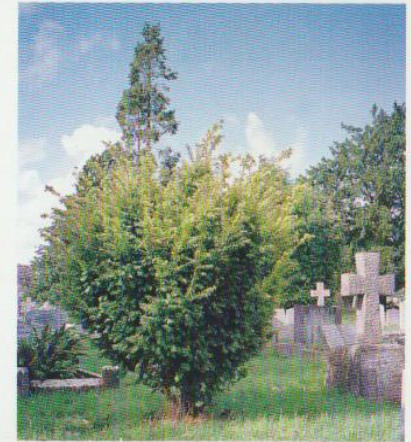
Christian churches were often established on sites used for pagan worship. The curved stone boundary wall to the west and south of St Mary's is said to mark the site of an ancient holy place, possibly Celtic or even pre-Christian.



Shingle Bell Well, Limpley Stoke's Holy Well



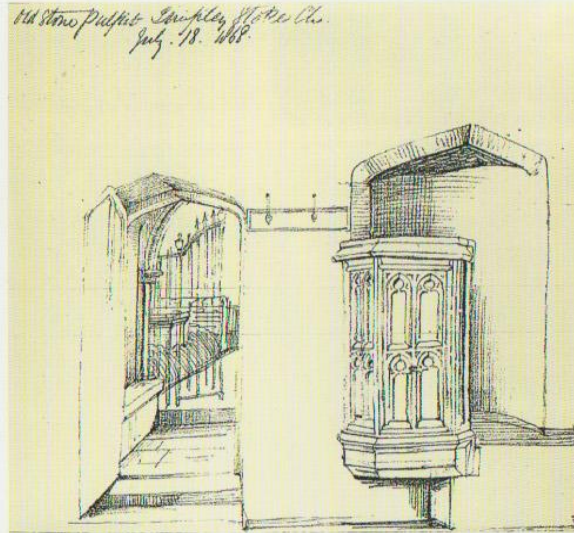
Wiltshire is not renowned for its holy wells but in Stoke Wood is found an ancient one called Shingle Bell Well. Legends about it are significant for it was an eye-well and Wiltshire's only rag-well. The waters in Shingle Bell Well have been held in great repute as efficacious in diseases of the eyes; tradition adds that sufferers who received benefit from them used to hang strips of rag or cloth on the branches of the surrounding trees as votive offerings.



There is a well in the eastern extension of the churchyard which may have been a holy well. Could it be that the siting of St Mary's Church, in a similar way to Aldhelm's pre-705 AD Minster church at Bradford on Avon, was governed by the existence nearby of a pagan and latterly Christian religious site at a holy well? Or, it may have been the well which served the large house known to have been located immediately to the east of the church.



The porch has an early round-headed 13th century arch, supported on either side by three slender shafts with moulded capitals and bases. Essential urgent repairs to the porch were completed in 1999 but it is showing signs of age and the architect's recommendation is that action should now be taken to conserve it for the future.



Bath architect, James Thomas Irvine, made detailed drawings of many churches in and around the city in the 1860s. His sketch of the porch as seen through the doorway suggests that, in 1868, people stepped down from the footpath into the porch and that there was then only one step down into the nave. The wooden north door is original and was probably made in the 16th century. Note the iron gates at the entrance to the porch.



The niche in the porch above is earlier than the wooden door. The church porch used to be a place where serious village business was done, and agreements and solemn vows were often made in front of the image niche. The niche was empty for 100 years or more until 1963, when the present figure of the Madonna and Child was given in memory of the Rev and Mrs Morgan Powell by their family. It is said that the figure of the Virgin Mary was destroyed in the civil disturbances which may have taken place in the mid-1800s, when the cloth industry was in a depressed state and Limpley Stoke Mill stood empty.

There is an exposed fragment of a possible medieval decorated painting scheme on the right-hand side of the niche, although at the present time only a single red ochre ashlar line is visible. This needs to be investigated by a wall painting specialist.



The Chancel



The present chancel was built of large, coursed, squared rubble with a chamfered plinth course in the early 13th century and probably replaced a Saxon original.

The Bath branch of the Somerset Archaeological Society visited the church on 16th September, 1929 and reported that '... we are very much obliged to Mr Mowbray Green for photographs of wall construction in the sanctuary, now masked by an oak panelling. The photographs show a herring-bone arrangement of flat stones. This treatment, in conjunction with the doorway, is a valuable detail in the study of Saxon buildings.'



The stained glass windows in the 15th century three-light, pointed east window of the chancel (left) are in memory of Gertrude Bowyer who lived in the Manor House, Freshford and the Rev Thomas Laugharne, who lived in Avonhurst and assisted at St Mary's after his retirement from the active ministry. Both died in 1878.



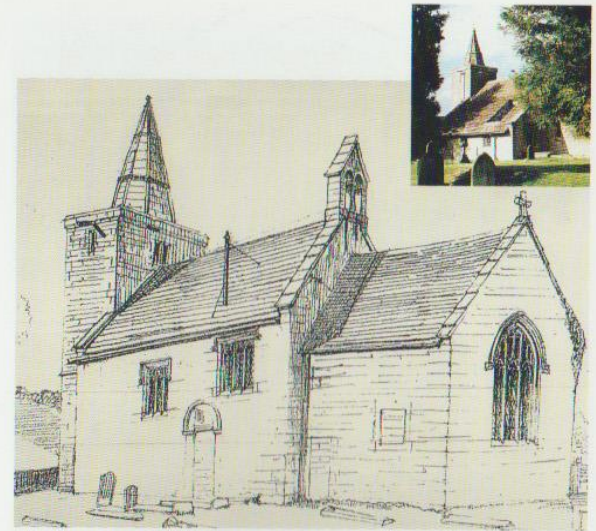
Outside view of chancel



The wooden altar table was given 'To the glory of God in loving memory of Johnson Frederick Hayward, who died on 8th April, 1912.' 'Squire' Hayward made his fortune sheep farming in Australia. He bought Aroona on his return to England and also owned Waterhouse, as well as a great deal of other property in the village. He served as a churchwarden for 19 years from 1873 to 1892 and remained devoted to St Mary's until his death. His daughter Ellen Hayward embroidered the centrepiece of the altar frontal, which is still in use for the major church festivals of Easter and Christmas.



The 'piscina' (a perforated stone basin for carrying away the priest's ablutions) is contemporary with the 13th century rebuild of the chancel, apart from its restored base.



There is a blocked priest's door in the south wall and evidence of blocked 14th or 15th century windows in both the north and south walls of the chancel.

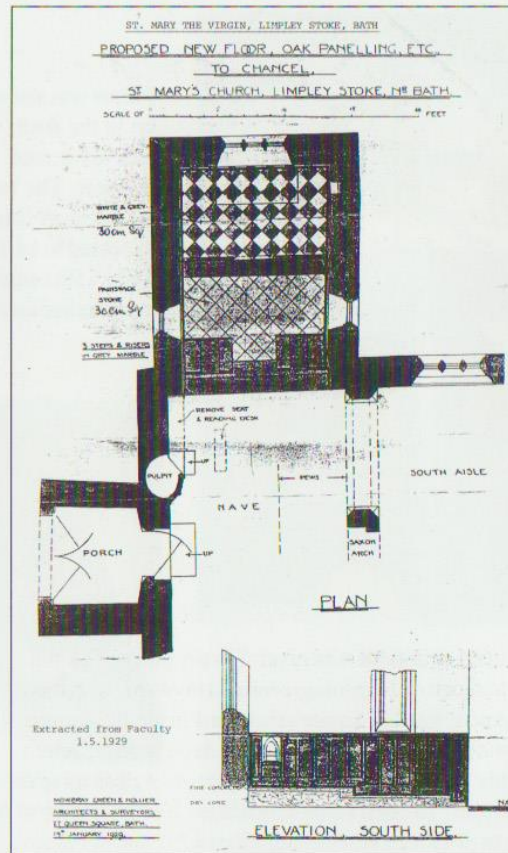


The two stained glass windows in the modern north and south windows (above) are in memory of Josiah and Eliza Neele who lived in Winyatt Lodge and died in 1876 and 1881 respectively.



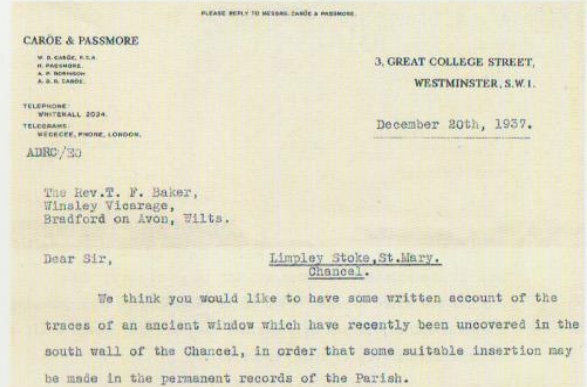
This picture of the chancel is post-1909, as it was in that year that the missal stand shown on the pulpit was presented. Features of particular interest are:

- The tablets recording the Ten Commandments on the east wall
- The six candlesticks on the altar indicating 'high church' practice
- The oil lamps first introduced in 1892
- The wooden pulpit to the right of the altar and the reading desk, to pay for which in 1787, together with an 'ugly font', the churchwardens were accused of removing and selling two bells from the campanile. A very dear price!



The Parochial Church Council, having built the new south aisle in 1921, then gave its attention to the chancel. The above plan was drawn up in January 1929. It is said that, during the modernisation which followed, Roman tiles previously found nearby were placed behind the oak panelling.

An examination of the exterior of the north wall of the chancel will reveal a lancet window with an altered head and, towards the eastern end of the wall, just under the eaves and in a walling block, can be seen a stone cross (pictured right). It has been suggested that this might be the cross from the centre of the stone altar which was banned during the Reformation, but it is thought more likely to be a medieval consecration cross.



In 1937 Westminster-based architects Caroe & Passmore, who were supervising work on the south wall of the chancel, wrote to the Rev Baker in order that he might have a permanent record of the fact that 'When the wall was opened up during the process of grouting and re-bonding a settlement, a cavity was revealed which proved to be the remains of a built-up window ... We interpret these evidences as the remains of a two-light window dating from the 14th or 15th centuries.' Because of the extra expense that would have been involved in restoring the window and strengthening the foundations, it was decided that all the stones should be replaced exactly as they were found. The window is behind the memorial to John Morgan who died in 1789, which suggests that it was sealed before that date.

The Nave



The nave is a small one, measuring 33ft x 13ft. The narrow width of the north and east walls and their height suggests that they are Saxon. This was borne out by the nature of the fabric revealed over the chancel arch during repairs in 1999. It is possible that the west end of the nave was extended before the present tower was built. The west wall is thicker and there is a possible change of build visible at foundation level in the external drainage gully along the north wall, about seven feet west of the porch. (This wall was rendered externally in 1974.) Thus, the nave may originally have been similar to the Saxon church at Bradford on Avon (25ft 2ins x 13ft 2ins).



Plaster was stripped from the wall above the chancel arch, exposing irregular rubble consisting of large weathered lumps of field stone randomly laid in loam. This type of construction and its narrow width (2ft 6ins) further indicates that the wall is Saxon. Packing stones were clearly visible round the chancel arch which was probably inserted in the 15th century. A time capsule containing a recent photograph of the church and one from the early 20th century was placed in the wall before it was replastered.

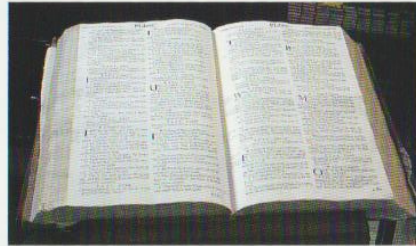
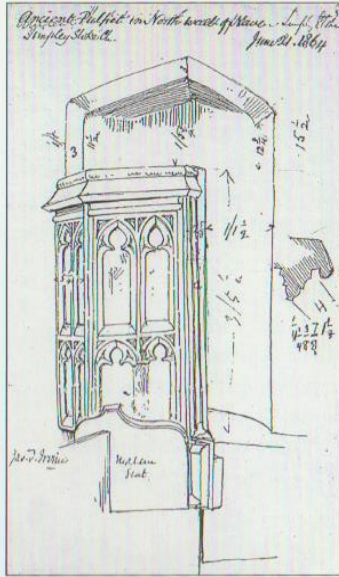
The pews in the photograph are those installed when the church was restored in 1849. The fleur de lis were probably removed in 1921 when the south aisle was built.



A close-up of the exposed rubble consisting of large weathered lumps of stone

Plaster was also stripped along a crack high up in the north wall of the nave to either side of a roof truss and over the east window. The top 2ft 7ins of the wall is 20th century lath and plaster; the wall plate appeared to be 19th century and the lintel to the 15th century window original. Only very limited areas of rubble were exposed.





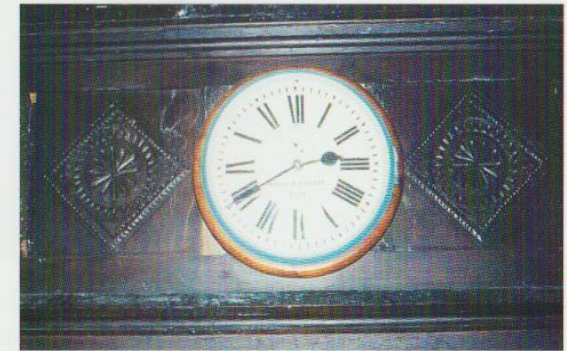
The 1717 Bible



The lectern in use today was presented in 1930 by Mr Middleton-Hill in memory of Aliciae Donville-Hill

The ancient pulpit is a perfect example of a 15th century wall pulpit. It was probably in use until 1787, when the wooden pulpit was bought and placed in the chancel. *The Church Rambler* published in 1876 records that in 1849 it suffered further ignominy when 'a heating apparatus was introduced in the form of a common stove, placed in the stone pulpit and the pipe carried along the north side, across the gallery and out of a window on the south'. The stove had been removed by 1876.

The display of Royal Arms in churches was compulsory after the Restoration. St Mary's Royal Arms on the north wall was painted by Charles Field of Trowbridge in 1771 at a cost of £8 18s 6d. He was a house painter by trade, which may account for the unusual animation of the lion and the unicorn and the more lifelike depiction of the rose and thistle than the normal heraldic varieties. The door beneath the Royal Arms in the north wall dates from the 15th century.



The musicians' gallery was erected in 1849, when the roof was raised to its original height. Being panelled with the sides of old Jacobean muniment chests, the front of the gallery looks more attractive than many of its contemporaries. The clock, by Noble & Chivers of Bath, was made in 1848.

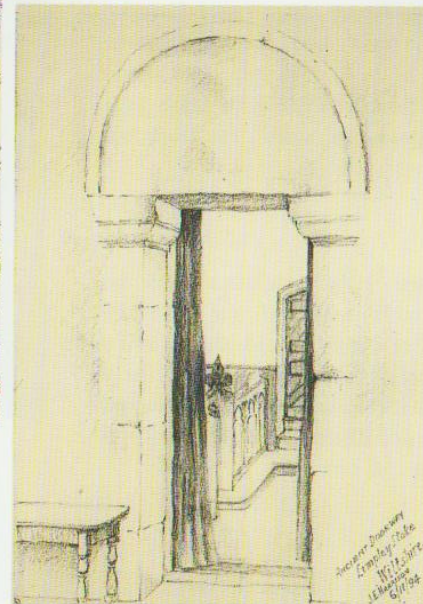
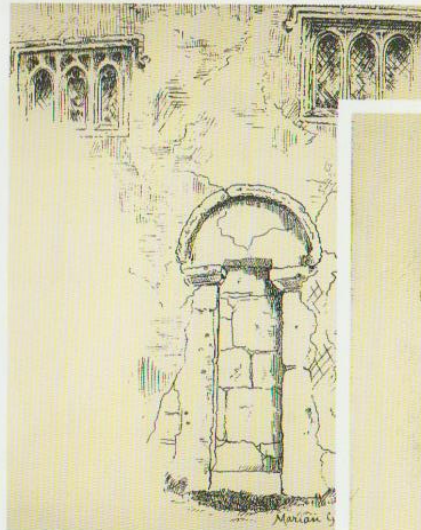
The Saxon Arch



Professor G. Baldwin Brown, in his book on Anglo-Saxon architecture printed in 1925, dated the Saxon doorway as being possibly from the early 10th century. In 1999 Kirsty Rodwell, structural archaeologist and chairman of the Wiltshire Buildings Record, dated it to the 10th or 11th century. This was the entrance to the Saxon church and could be secured from the inside by a strong bar, thus providing a safe place of refuge against enemies.

The narrowness of the arch is its most marked quality. It is only 2ft 5ins wide by a height of 8ft 9ins. The jambs are almost monolithic, for one stone on the west jamb is 4ft 8ins high by a width of 2ft 5ins and a thickness of 10 inches. The arch is one of the most notable features of St Mary's, for its distinct horseshoe shape may well be unique in Saxon church building.

Tradition suggests that the south doorway continued in use after the building of the porch and north doorway in the 13th century as the private entrance for the Lady of Limpley's family, whose house is said to have stood in Limpley Ground close to the east wall of the chancel. It was eventually sealed and not reopened until 1894, when a timber and corrugated iron vestry was built against the south wall. Marian Gee of Freshford's sketch, probably drawn in the 1850s, clearly shows the blocked Saxon doorway.



Westwood St Mary's doors are still secured against intruders by a traditional wooden bar



Medieval graffiti can be seen clearly on the east jamb

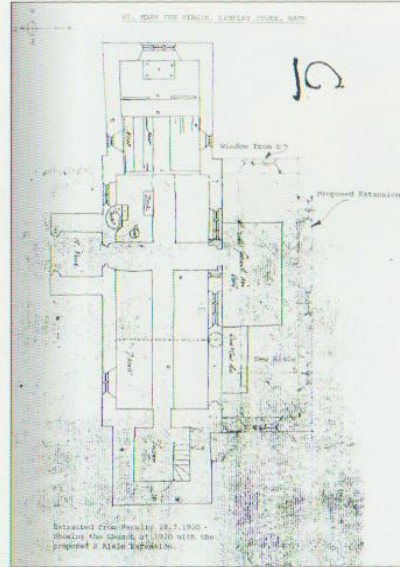
The South Aisle



From the late 19th century, it was common practice for better-off people to pay a 'pew rent' for the exclusive use of a pew. In 1912 and 1913 Mr Cherrington of The Firs complained that it was very difficult for the poor, or strangers, to find a seat in St Mary's except by sufferance. He felt there was a great need for more free and unappropriated seats. Any remedy to his complaint was overtaken by World War I. On Easter Day 1920 there were 131 communicants and only 91 seats: 58 including seven chairs in the nave, 20 in the chancel and 13 in the gallery. By then it had been decided to extend the church as a memorial to the Limpley Stoke men who lost their lives in the war.



Opening of the south aisle, All Saints Day 1921



The plan for the extension shows that:

- An ancient window from the south wall was to be transferred to the east end of the new aisle
- The corrugated iron vestry and the wood and coal shed were to be demolished
- The font was located by the door next to the stone pulpit
- The sketch makes no provision for the building of a vestry and proposed to include a window in the west wall

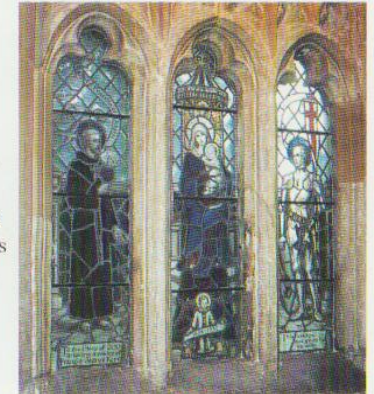
The extension would provide an additional 60 'free' seats at an estimated cost of £1,315. C. E. Ponting wrote in the *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine*: 'With the doorway and rood window on the south, and the pulpit on the north, neither of which could be interfered with, the enlargement was a difficult problem. The new roofs are of unwrought fir, stained with creosote and covered with Atworth stone tiles; the wrought stonework is of Combe Down stone and the walling quarried in excavating for the heating vault under the vestry.'

The first 20th century stained glass window, containing a beautiful modern design, was dedicated in memory of Ann Allen of Hillside Farm in 1989. The proposal originally caused much discussion among the conservative committee. When the artist Mark Angus was asked what the design depicted, he is reported to have replied: 'It is what you want it to be.'



The second 20th century stained glass window was dedicated to the memory of St Mary's much loved priest, Morgan Powell, in 1952. It was broken by vandals and rebuilt in the 1970s.

The three-light 15th century window, formerly of clear glass, was dedicated in 1934 'In loving memory of Francis George Kerr', a strong supporter of St Mary's.



The Font

As early as 1598 it became the practice for the incumbent in each parish in England and Wales to send a copy of the entries made in the parish register to the bishop of the diocese. These became known as Bishop's Transcripts and the first known copy from Limpley Stoke is dated 1611. In that year there were two baptisms: William Walter, son of William, on 13th October, and John Longe, son of Thomas, on 4th December.

St Mary's earliest surviving Register of Baptisms begins in 1708. The first entry records that Margaret White, daughter of William and Susana, was baptised on 7th April. The only entries in the register for Millennium Year are for Isla Dixon and Michelle Dixon Dawson, who were baptised together on 6th August, 2000.

It was traditional for fonts to be placed by the door of the church as a symbol that baptism is the start of the road to the Christian faith. St Mary's font stood at the north door until 1921 but was moved to the rear of the church by the vestry door when the south aisle was built. When the ancient font was restored in 1976, it was sited in its present position at the east end of the south aisle and in sight of the door. The siting committee may have been conscious of an old custom practised in some churches which required the north door to be left open during a baptism service to allow evil spirits to flee to the dark side of the church.



The font decorated for Harvest Festival



Fonts present a mystery:

- In 1787 two of St Mary's bells were sold to provide a font, a reading desk and a pulpit.
- In 1835 the Rector of Freshford was ordered by the Bishop to provide a font for baptisms.
- In Winsley in the 1870s there was a modern font similar to that at Limpley Stoke. The original was found in one of the village houses.
- As far afield as St Petrox Church in Dartmouth, the existence of their ancient font affords them a puzzle – it too was rescued after a spell of duty as a garden ornament.

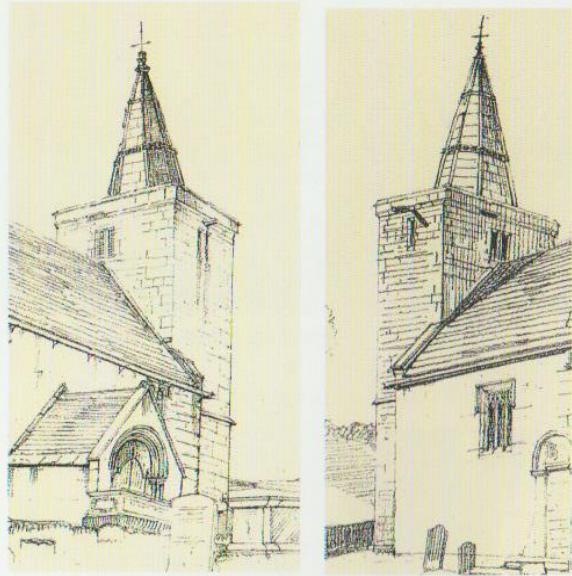
There was no font at St Mary's in 1787. St Mary's ancient font – some say the bowl is Saxon, while others believe it to be medieval – was also located in a Winsley garden. It took many years of negotiation before it was kindly restored by the good grace of the Clark family in 1976.

The answer to the mystery probably lies in the Presbyterian 'Directory' of 1645, as a result of which traditional fonts were banned from churches and replaced by common pewter bowls. In many parishes the fonts were either destroyed or hidden.

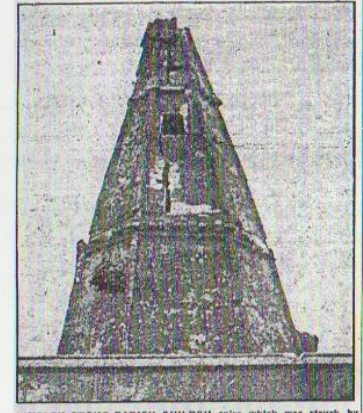


Baptism in the 1570s

The Tower and Spire



The church was struck by lightning in the early hours of Sunday, 6th July, 1952, splitting open the spire and dashing the weathercock and finial to the ground. The whole spire had to be dismantled down to the string course and each stone numbered and laid out on the ground as it was lowered. As the insurance company would not pay for improvements, the spire was rebuilt with its irregularity of shape, as can be seen today.



LIMPLEY STOKE PARISH CHURCH spire which was struck by lightning and split open, and the weathercock dashed to the ground during the storm on Sunday morning.

The upper stage of the church tower and the little stone spire were probably built in the 15th Century. E. A. Fisher in his book *Anglo-Saxon Towers* (1969) suggests that 'the slender proportions of the two lower stages (7ft x 8ft), floor raised above the level of the nave, thin walls and massive quoin stones in a side-alternate arrangement are all Saxon features'. If this is so, then it is one of two Saxon towers in Wiltshire, the other being at Netheravon.

The walls of the tower are 2ft 7ins thick. Externally the tower is of uniform build; internally the lowest stage is built of random rubble and the upper stages of squared coursed rubble, which may reflect the difference between re-used and new materials. The tower has a straight joint to the nave and the north jamb of what is probably a door can be seen on the ground floor in the west face of the nave wall by the bell rope.

The spire rises from squinches in the angle of the tower and is built of freestone four inches thick, with a roll moulding at each angle. There is a crested string-course running round it about one-third up from the bottom.

The spire was probably rebuilt, certainly from the string course and possibly from its base, in 1706. (There is a memorial to Lyonell Gibbs, a shoemaker and churchwarden of St Mary's, dated 1706 high up on the west face of the tower.) When surveyed in 1952, the upper part seemed to the architect to have overtaxed the skills of the 18th century mason, for it was very much out of shape. The stone finial also was too crude to be the original and was thought to date from the rebuilding.



In April 1901 the weathercock was blown off in a gale and the ancient oak timber supporting the spire was found to be so rotten that Henry Millard, the builder, reported that 'it was scarcely safe to ring the bell'. The repairs cost £31 12s.

The Chalice and Plate

In 1547 Edward VI succeeded the more theologically conservative Henry VIII. Then, in 1552, the King issued a commission 'for the survey of church goods to cause inventories to be made by bills or books indented of all manner of goods, plate, jewels, bells and ornaments as yet remaining or anywise forthcoming and belonging to any churches, chapels, fraternities or guilds and the one part of the same inventories to send and return to our Privy Council.'

The inventory of church goods and charities of Wiltshire was compiled in 1553 by Sir Anthony Hungerford of Black Burton, Oxfordshire (Knight), Sir William Sherrington (Knight) and Sir William Wroughton (Knight).

'At Hanningestoke was found a chalice or cuppe weighing 9 oz, 3 bells and 2oz of plate was taken to the King's use'.

The medieval chalice no doubt remained in use until 1577, when the present Elizabethan chalice and paten cover were presented.



Receiving communion in the 1570s



St Mary's Elizabethan chalice is one of the oldest in Wiltshire

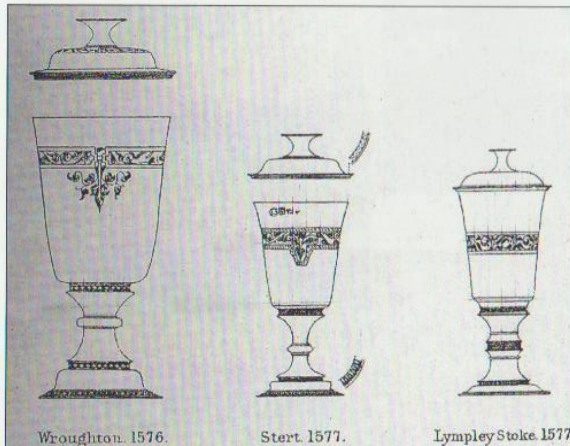


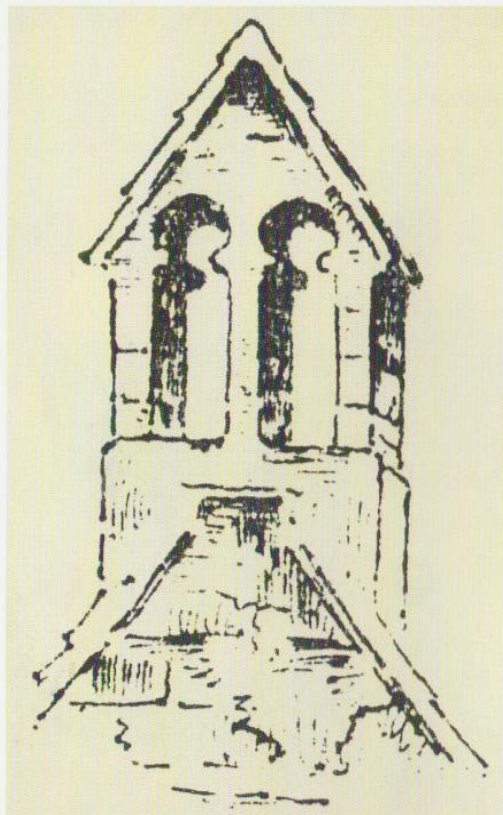
The silver chalice used regularly at St Mary's was presented by two anonymous donors in October 1911.

The silver paten was presented on 10th October, 1950 'In loving memory of May Wheeler'.

St Mary's chalice is one of the oldest in Wiltshire. It is six inches high and varies somewhat from the usual type; there is a plain band enclosing foliation engraved around the bowl, with three vertical line mouldings round the stem and base. On the foot of the paten cover is inscribed '1577'; the hallmark is also for 1577; the maker's mark is 'AH' within an oblong, probably that of Anthony Herring.

The Bishop of Salisbury visited the church in 1925 to see the chalice. On finding that it was kept elsewhere for safekeeping, he instructed that an iron safe should be purchased and installed to allow the congregation easier access to the chalice. His wish was promptly carried out. Sadly, the present security threat again prevents the chalice being kept in the church.





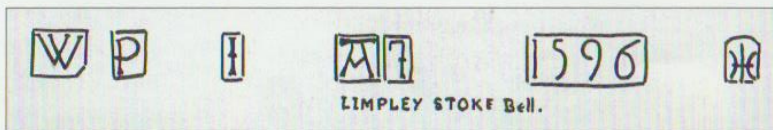
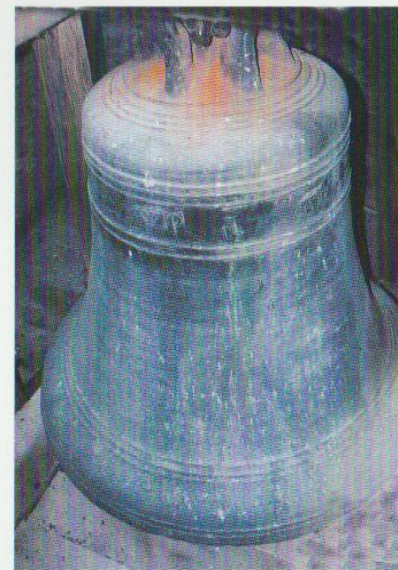
In the eighth century bells began to be regarded as an essential part of the fittings of every church and towers were built to accommodate them. In medieval England, most parish churches had two or three bells and the parishioners became responsible for the upkeep of the bells and the ropes.

Two bells hung in the now empty Sanctus bell-cote until 1788, when the churchwarden's accounts record that they were sold for £24 15s 6d. It was suggested that they were sold to St Peter's, Freshford, which later disposed of them to Downside Abbey, although St Peter's church accounts do not confirm this. The Prior of Downside, Father Philip Jebb, can throw no light on their whereabouts. The Abbey Church has only one bell – Great Bede – which weighs 8½ tons and was acquired direct from the bell founders.

A 1553 survey of church possessions recorded a third bell. It is not known whether this was in the Sanctus bell-cote with the other two or whether it hung in the tower, nor is it known what became of it. It is certainly not the bell in the tower now as that was cast in 1596.

The present bell, as identified in H. B. Walters' book *Church Bells of Wiltshire*, is probably an early example of the work of William Purdue of Closworth, Somerset. William worked as a bell founder from 1570 to 1618. Together with his sons and grandsons, the Purdue dynasty of bell founders at Bristol, Closworth, Glastonbury and Salisbury lasted until 1711.

St Mary's bell can only chime now as the wheel has gone and only the stay remains. Nevertheless, at noon on 1st January, 2000 it joined the bells of all other churches in the country to celebrate the new Millennium. A queue of energetic and enthusiastic members of the congregation provided the human energy to chime the bell continuously for 20 minutes.



Memorials in the Church



Against ye Foundation Lyeth ye body of JOHN DICKE Son of GEORGE DICKE and ANN his Wife, who deceased Feby. 22, 1708. Also ye Body of ANN DICKE, Wife of GEORGE DICKE, Gent. Who Dyed OCT. 27, 1718. PRAY LET NOT OUR BONES BE REMOVED. Copied from the original tablet.

1

Sacred to the memory of THOMAS DIKE of this parish who died Dec 3rd. 1864, aged 70. Also of MARIA his widow, daughter of the Rev. William Williams, M.A. rector of Bishopstrow, Wilts. who died April 22nd, 1875, aged 67. Also of GEORGE THOMAS DIKE, their son who died Dec 21st, 1905, aged 75. Also of MARTHA ELIZABETH, widow of George Thomas Dike, and daughter of George Marsh, of Freshford, who died Nov 11th, 1908.

2

In loving memory of CHARLES BARRY DOUGLAS WHITBY, eldest son of Charles J. Whitby, M.D., of Bath who, serving with the 1st Canadian Division, fell at the second battle of Ypres on April 24th, 1915. Aged 30.

3

In memory of Padre The Revd. HUGH GREVILLE WILLIAMSON 1898-1980

4

(Top left)
Near this Place lie the Remains of HENRY FISHER Esqr. who died July 10th 1795. Aged 41 Years.
Also the Remains of MARY, Wife of the above HENRY FISHER Esqr. and Mother to the undernamed Children who departed this life Novr. 16th, 1816. Aged 57.
She was a kind and Affectionate Wife, a fond and most tender Parent, a good Christian and a sincere Friend.

(Top right)
In Memory of ANN, Wife of THOMAS COLLETT Esqr.
Daughter of HENRY FISHER Esqr. And Mary his Wife who died 28th February, 1823 and lies Interred in their Vault attached.

(Bottom left)
In the same Grave lie the Remains of GEORGE ROBERT DYKE FISHER, Son of the above named HENRY FISHER & MARY his Wife who died June 11th, 1800. Aged 5 Years.
Also of their Daughter MARY SUSANNAH FISHER who died Feby. 10th, 1806. Aged 23 years.
Also of their Daughter ELIZABETH FISHER who died Augt. 4th, 1814. Aged 24 Years.
Also in their Vault in the Church Yard attached: their Daughter HESTER FISHER who died October 28th, 1818. Aged 22 Years.

(Bottom right)
Also of MARGARETTA SALLY FISHER Daughter of HENRY FISHER Esqr. and MARY his wife who died 5th June 1832
Also of SUSANNA 2nd. Daughter of the above, & Wife of JOHN DECIMUS POUNTNEY Esqr. of Bristol, Alderman who died 13th September, 1842. Aged 58.

6

To the glory of God and in loving memory of JOSIAH and ELIZA NEELE of Winyatt Lodge in this parish. Josiah Neele died March 22nd, 1876 aged 71 years. Eliza Neele died April 7th, 1881 aged 76 years.

5

a) To the glory of God and in loving memory of GERTRUDE BOWYER, Wife of Edmund Bowyer, Manor House, Freshford, who entered the land of life March 29th, 1878
Nomen-Jesu
Spes Sola Sola Salus
(There is a cross patee, -red above and below the inscription)
b) In memoriam
Matris amatissima M.L.- posuit Filius THOMAS LAUGHARNE 1878

7

In the churchyard behind this wall lie the remains of JOHN MORGAN who departed this life December 21st, 1789. Aged 35 years. He was a dutiful son, an affectionate husband, a tender father and a sincere friend.

8

Near this Place lieth ANN DIKE, Daughter of THOMAS & MARY DIKE of Limpley Stoke, Gent And Wife of GEORGE DIKE Esqr. died July the 5th, 1776. Aged 61 Years. Also GEORGE DIKE Esqr., Son of RICHARD & ANN DIKE of Water-House, died Nov. the 16th, 1783. Aged 73 Years.

9

Sacred to the memory of THOMAS DIKE who died FEBY. 18th, 1826 AGED 69 YEARS.
"Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright for the end of that man is peace."
Also of BETTY, his widow, who died July 24th, 1832, Aged 69.

10

In Memory of SUSANA Wife of JOHN COOPER and Daughter of GEORGE DIKE, Gent She died 25th April 1720. Aged 27.

11

In loving memory of GEORGE PENRUDDOCKE, who died October 24th 1877, aged 59. Also HESTER his wife who died February 22nd 1883, aged 68. Also GEORGE, eldest son of the above, who died Nov. 14th 1873, aged 31, and EDWARD their second son who died March 21st 1886, aged 36.

12

The grave of the ALLEN family

13

In affectionate remembrance of WILLIAM MACK who fell asleep in Jesus Jany. 3rd, 1890. Aged 62 years. His loving and faithful service, untiring energy and humble spirit in the cause of God endeared him to us all.

14

The other side of this wall lyeth the body of JOHN MORGAN who died Oct 28, 1764. Aged 78 years. Clerk of this parish 46 years. Also ELINOR, wife of JOHN MORGAN. She died March 27th, 1757.

15

Sacred to the memory of WILLIAM FORSTER who died Octr. 25th, 1821. Aged 64 years. Clerk of this parish 44 years. Also ANN, his wife, who died Decr. 13th, 1824. Aged 66 years. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.

16

Sacred to the memory of SARAH, wife of JOHN HEALS, who died December 19th, 1812. Aged 64 years. Also Mr JOHN HEALS of Lymply Stoke who died May 7th, 1816. Aged 71.

17

Sacred to the memory of the following members of a beloved family, whose remains are deposited in the family vault beneath

GEORGE DIKE FISHER, Esq. of Limply Stoke, died Aug. 12th, 1834. Aged 75 years.

MARIA FISHER, wife of the above, second daughter of the REV. JOHN PROWSE, M.A., Rector of Camerton, Somerset died Feb. 27th, 1845. Aged 83 years.

ROBERT DIKE FISHER, fourth son of the above, died July 10th, 1799. Aged 4 years.

CHARLES FISHER, fifth son of the above, died May 14th, 1852. Aged 55 years.

HENRY FISHER, second son of the above, died March 7th, 1858. Aged 67 years.

GEORGE DIKE FISHER, eldest son of the above, died June 21st, 1859. Aged 71 years.

JOHN FISHER, third son of the above, died June 29th, 1865. Aged 73 years.

ELIZABETH, 3rd daughter of the above, died Feby. 16th, 1872. Aged 68.

SUSANNA FISHER, second daughter of the above, died April 10th, 1885. Aged 84 years.

18

SAINT MARY'S PIECE WAS PRESENTED TO THIS CHURCH IN MEMORY OF MAURICE MILLARD 28th JANUARY, 1992

19

In loving memory of LIEUTENANT CHARLES JULIAN BEGBIE, R.N., of H.M.S. "ANSON", youngest son of the late Major G.J.F. Begbie, M.S.C., who died of enteric fever at Malta 20th July, 1895 aged 23 years. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

20

In memory of KATHLEEN MARY THIERY HALL 1907-1974 She loved this church, prayed and worked for it.

21

Underneath lies the body of SUSANNA LANGLEY, daughter of Robert and Mary Langley of Water House, who died the 13th day of December, 1786. Aged 17 months.

ROBERT LANGLEY, Esq. died August 29th, 1815, aged 67 years.

MARY LANGLEY, who died Feb 26th, 1820, aged 73 years.

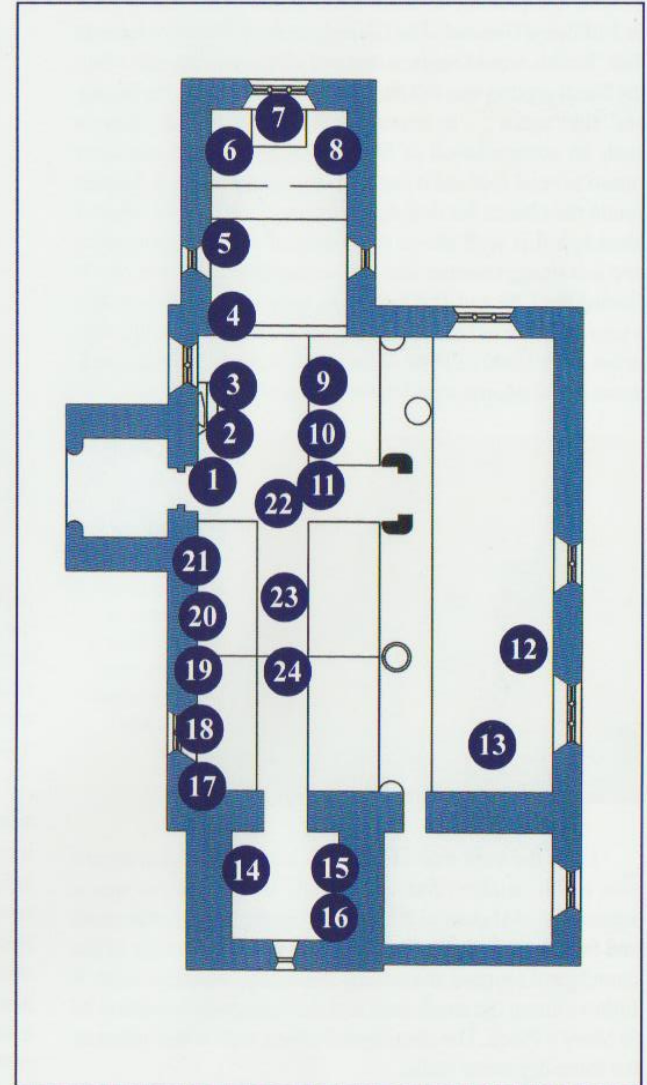
22

Beneath this stone are deposited the remains of ELIZABETH LEA, wife of John Lea, Esqr., late of Winsley. — daughter of the late HENRY FISHER of this vill— —arted. — 1805, _____.

23

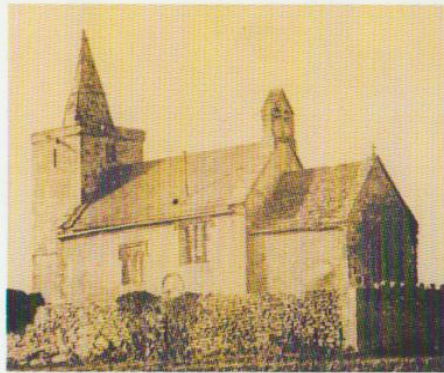
ROBERT FISH— Son of GEORGE DI—/MARIA FISHER who died July 10th —Aged —Years and 3—

24



St Mary's Churchyard

The Pope gave permission to set aside an area around a church for the burial of the dead in 752 AD, but not until around the time that St Mary's was built did it become the practice to enclose the churchyard. Hilary Lees in *Hallowed Ground: The Churchyards of Wiltshire* records that 'burials would begin at one end of the churchyard; when the burial ground was full they would go back to the beginning and start again ... In several ancient churchyards there is such an accumulation of bodies that the ground has been raised several feet and it has been necessary to dig a channel round the church for drainage purposes.' St Mary's original churchyard is well above the height of the extension areas and a drainage channel was dug around the church in 1847. During the 17th and 18th centuries, an average of five people a year were buried in the churchyard. Extended over the 900 years from 1,000 to 1899 when the first extension was used, some 4,200 people could be resting around the church.



In the 1870s the walls were still very close to the church. Notice the total lack of trees, even the absence of a yew tree.

Until the very end of the 19th century the churchyard was much smaller than it is today. In 1841 there was a substantial old house to the east, a private garden to the south and farm land to the west. Only the south west corner of the churchyard touched the county boundary, whereas today it follows along the south wall and the hedgerow boundary of St Mary's Piece. The churchyard's west wall is the oldest of the three dry stone walls.

The churchyard had been extended to the south by 1899 and, in 1927, the land adjoining on the east was bought from Mr Baker of Freshford. This land was incorporated in 1935 and has been taken progressively into use. Plans of the churchyard may be seen in the vestry.



Philip Rhatz, Professor of Archaeology at the University of York, says in his preface to *How to Record Graveyards* (1979): 'A small number of gravestones survive of medieval date, but few are in their original position (the dozen or so at Limpley Stoke, near Bath are an exceptional case) ...'.

Charles Edward Davis in *Ancient Landmarks of Bath* published in 1864 comments '... the churchyard contains the most ancient ledge tombs in the west of England, whilst they are sufficiently numerous and of successive dates to enable the antiquary to read the history of the original monumental effigy, of which we have such fine specimens in our cathedrals.'

The ledge tombs are now very worn and the carving on them is difficult to distinguish. The earliest tombs have an incised floriated cross calvary and, at the side to show a knight, a sword; for a lady, a pair of shears. The later ones have the formation of a simple form to appear as if cut through the actual coffin, disclosing beneath the head of the deceased carved in stone. One of the oldest ledge tombs is now near the gate. It is said that it was found by an old sexton, turned up and used as a step in the belfry stairs. The sexton unearthed it and, cutting it shorter, thought it would make a very good tombstone for his daughter.



The original arch and lamp at the main entrance to the churchyard were given by Mrs Begbie in remembrance of her youngest son, Lieutenant Charles Julian Begbie, RN, who died of enteric fever at Malta on 20th July, 1895 aged 23 years. In the winter gales of 1929, the large trees to the north of the church were blown down and the arch and lamp demolished.



St Mary's Churchyard

The earliest date of a burial recorded in the Bishop's Transcripts is that of Joanua Deverell, wife of Richard the elder, on 29th March, 1611. Sadly, gravestones quickly shed their details. The oldest legible tombstone, just inside the main gate, is that of Robert Pamor who was baptised on 3rd November, 1671 and died in 1700. His parents, Edmund and Anne, were buried at St Mary's in 1695 and 1693 respectively. Edmund was a churchwarden in 1689.



Examination of the records of burials reveals interesting information about contemporary Limpley Stoke, for example:

- Smallpox affected the village in 1763, 1766, 1767, 1770 and 1779
- Fourteen children died in 1770

Coroners' bills are another source of the details of people buried in the churchyard:

- 19th February, 1772: Robert Allen (Allin) otherwise Chap, a vagrant rambling from place to place, infested with vermin, died in an outhouse. 16 miles. £1 12s.
- 26th February, 1772: Ephraim Tucker. Thrown out of a boat belonging to George Dyke against the millward on the Avon and killed on the spot. 16 miles. £1 12s.
- 3rd March, 1792: Francis Bull resided alone and was going upstairs to rest when a rotten board gave way and, falling backwards, he was killed. 17 miles. £1 12s 9d.

There are now only four tombs remaining in the churchyard. The two at either side of the path are 18th century and Grade 2 listed. It is not known to whom they belong but it is possible that one of the five inscriptions recorded in 1885 – 'White – Mary wife of ? d ? Feb ? a. 49' – refers to the tomb nearest on the left as you leave the church porch.



The Fisher tomb is alongside the north wall of the church. With the consent of the family, the large stones which used to support the iron railings surrounding it were used to form the stone base for supporting the bank on the road by the church gates.

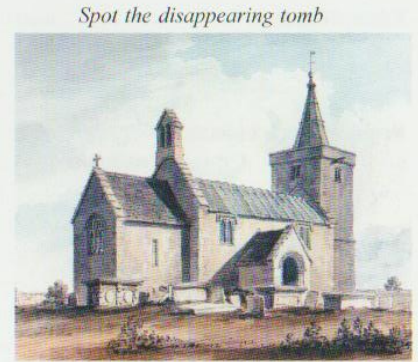
In 1876 *The Church Rambler* published a story about the Daniells' tomb. It said that a mason received instructions to construct a large vault in the churchyard, but on no account to divulge who his employer was. Seven

years passed and no tenant came to the mysterious grave, and finally it became known that an old naval gentleman ... had caused it to be constructed for his own remains, in a corner of the churchyard which he could see from his residence on Brass Knocker Hill (probably Winsley Hill). He kept the wall of the churchyard coloured pink, so that it might always be a clear landmark to him ... *L'homme propose, Dieu dispose*. Business matters called him over to Ireland, where he was taken ill and died.

The vault being unclaimed lapsed to the incumbent the Rev R. Cogan. He sold it for £8 to the late Mr Joseph Clisild Daniell who died in 1862 and lies there with his son, who pre-deceased him.



The 18th century chest tomb of an unknown person situated about three feet north east of the porch collapsed in July 1989 and suffered irreparable damage in the severe storm on 25th January, 1990. It was subsequently dismantled and the significant pieces retained in the churchyard.



Spot the disappearing tomb

1805 – majestic



1866 – going

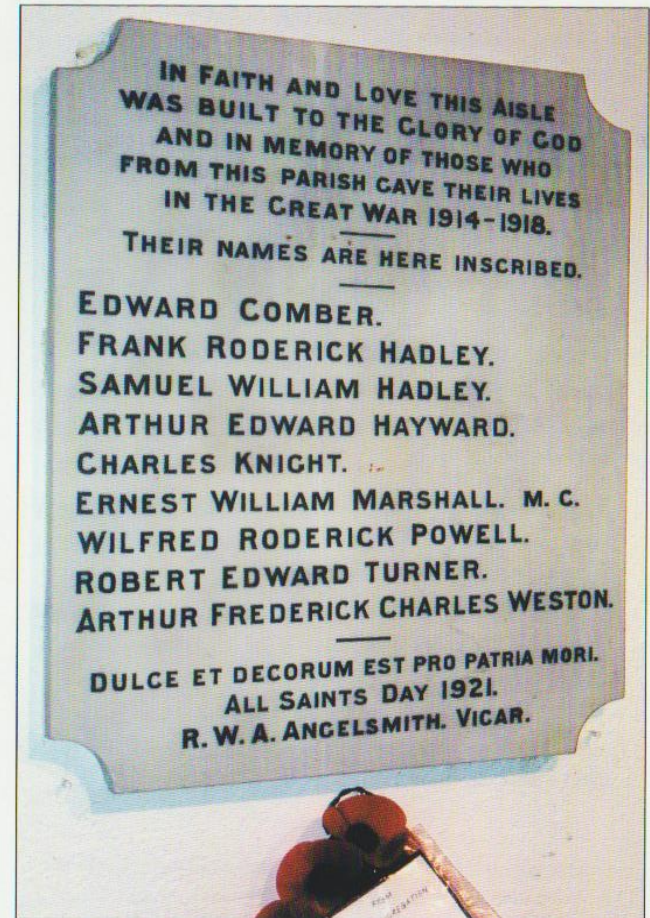


1890 – gone

The First World War 1914-1918

Edward Comber	Pte, 2nd Bn Royal Irish Regiment. Died at Mons on 26th August, 1914, age 28. Buried at Mons Communal Cemetery.
Frank Roderick Hadley	S Sgt, 14th (King's) Hussars. Died on 17th May, 1916, age 39 while serving with the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force. Buried in the Amara War Cemetery, Iraq.
Samuel William Hadley	No records found.
Arthur Edward Hayward	Lcpl, 2nd Bn Wiltshire Regiment. Died on 9th April, 1917. Name recorded on the Arras Memorial which commemorates 35,000 casualties who died between spring 1916 and August 1918 who have no known grave.
Charles Knight	Pte, 8th Bn Somerset Light Infantry. Died on the Somme on 2nd July, 1916. Buried at Daours Communal Cemetery.
Ernest William Marshall, MC	Capt, 1st Bn Somerset Light Infantry. Died on the Bethune Front on 22nd April, 1918, age 24. Buried at Chocques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais.
Wilfred Roderick Powell	Capt, 4th Bn Dorsetshire Regt. Died on 9th April, 1918, age 20, while serving with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. The Jerusalem Memorial commemorates over 3,000 soldiers who fell in Egypt and Palestine and who have no known grave.
Robert Edward Turner	Lcpl, 1st Bn Somerset Light Infantry. Died at Lys on 7th May, 1918, age 37. Buried at Mont-Bernanchon British Cemetery, Gonnehem, Pas de Calais.
Arthur Frederick Charles Weston	Pte, HMS 'Bulwark', Royal Marine Light Infantry. Fell in HMS 'Bulwark' on 26th November, 1914, age 20. The Portsmouth Naval Memorial (1914) records particulars of the 1,917 ranks and ratings of the Royal Navy, 1,524 of whom fell in HMS 'Good Hope' and 'Bulwark'.

Servicemen from this parish who gave their lives in the First World War



(Information based on records listed on the Commonwealth Graves Commission website)

The First World War 1914-1918



George Nash



Edward Huntley

The Roll of Honour in the church porch records the names of all the Limpley Stoke men who served in the First World War. A gold cross indicates those who died in the War. There are some differences in the names shown on the Memorial and the Roll of Honour. It is not known who presented the Roll of Honour. The Hayward family were previously thought to be the donors but it seems unlikely as Arthur Edward Hayward's name is missing and Captain Reginald Hayward's gallantry awards of the Victoria Cross and Military Cross are recorded in the wrong order.



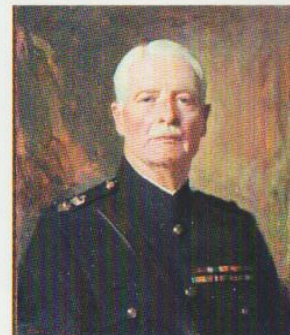
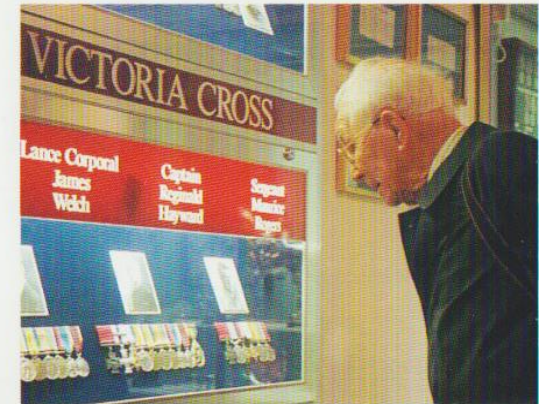
HAYWARD

Reginald Frederick Johnson
Rank: A/Captain (later Lieutenant Colonel)
Unit/Force: 3rd Bn., The Wiltshire Regiment
Other Decorations: MC & Bar, ED
Place/Date of Deed: Near Fremicourt, France — 21/22 Mar. 1918
Place/Date of Birth: Beersheba, East Griquamand, South Africa — 17 June 1891
Place/Date of Death: London — 17 Jan. 1970
Place of Memorial: —
Town/County Connections: Limpley Stoke, Wiltshire
Remarks: Served in Second World War, CRASC, AA Command; Commandant, Prisoner of War Camps 1945-47.

550



Norman Hayward, himself a veteran of World War Two, examines the sword (above, left) presented by the people of Limpley Stoke to his cousin Reginald Hayward on the award of the Victoria Cross.



Reginald Hayward in later life



London Gazette

TUESDAY, the 21st of APRIL, 1918.

Lt. (A./Capt.) Reginald Frederick Johnson Hayward, M.C., Wilts. R.

For most conspicuous bravery in action. This officer, while in command of a company, displayed almost superhuman powers of endurance and consistent courage of the rarest nature. In spite of the fact that he was buried, wounded in the head, and rendered deaf on the first day of operations, and had his arm shattered two days later, he refused to leave his men (even though he received a third serious injury to his head), until he collapsed from sheer physical exhaustion.

Throughout the whole of this period the enemy were attacking his company front without cessation, but Captain Hayward continued to move across the open from one trench to another with absolute disregard of his own personal safety, concentrating entirely on re-organising his defences and encouraging his men.

It was almost entirely due to the magnificent example of ceaseless energy of this officer that many most determined attacks upon his portion of the trench system failed entirely.

The Second World War 1939-1945

In 1940 the Government ordered that 'summer time' should be continued through the winter. This presented St Mary's with a problem as it could not afford the materials for 'blacking out'. Also, 'as Prebendary Burney had to drive himself from Bath in the early morning, it was considered not to be wise to ask him to do it in the dark especially as he had a delicate throat'. Delaying the time of the early morning Holy Communion was found to be the only solution:

8.45 Holy Communion

1.00 Matins and sermon

11.00 Holy Communion first Sunday in month

3.30 Evensong

Many members of St Mary's congregation served in the armed forces or were involved in war work. Replacement committee members had to be found and, even more dramatically, someone had to be found to replace Mrs Sheppard who normally cleaned the church brasses!

Limpley Stoke did its share in receiving and caring for evacuees during the war. The first party consisted of mothers and babies from London. The second consisted of about 30 school children with two teachers, for which the church hall, previously the village school, was taken over by London County Council. They handed it back to the church in April 1943. The third party of evacuees were mothers and children from Eastbourne and Bexhill on the south-east coast.

Throughout the war the congregation gave most liberally both to war funds and charities. A scrap of paper containing the names of Limpley Stoke men who served in the Second World War was found in the church safe while researching for this book. To this has been added the name Myra Rugg (now Fielding) who lived at The Firs and volunteered to join the ATS.



John Pike died in the war. It is believed he was a corporal in the Royal Engineers and was killed during the Normandy landings on 6th June, 1944. As the men and women who served and died in the Second World War do not have a roll of honour at St Mary's Church like their First World War counterparts, one has been created for them in this book.



Norman Hayward



Myra Rugg



William Lintern



George Harris



A Limpley Stoke PCC sub committee meeting was held in the air raid shelter (old kitchen) of the Manor House on November 12th, 1940

†
SAINT MARY'S PIECE
WAS PRESENTED TO THIS CHURCH
IN MEMORY OF
MAURICE MILLARD
28 TH JANUARY 1992

Mrs Mary Millard gave a piece of Church Field to St Mary's Church in memory of her husband Maurice Millard who died on 19th November, 1990. The purpose of this very generous gift was to provide a much needed area where those attending routine services, as well as weddings and funerals, could park their cars, thereby leaving Church Lane and The Firs clear and safer for everyone. The church was fortunate in having a retired sapper, Brian Coombe, to design the hard standing for the car park. A team of volunteers, which included David Westcott and Arnold Lewis, planted the hedgerow alongside Church Field on the wettest day imaginable. By the end of the day, Arnold's combat kit was muddier than it had ever been in 36 years of army service!

Alongside the River Frome in Ham Field, Freshford was an old kissing gate which had been silted up and partly buried by numerous floods. Peter Hills negotiated with Mr McDonald of Freshford, who agreed that the disused kissing gate might be recovered. It was dug out and taken to Peter Hills' workshop in Pipehouse Lane, where he cleaned, prepared and painted the gate ready for its future role. It was then transported to St Mary's Piece and put in position by Peter Hills, Brian Coombe and Edgar Beer. The gate now looks very much part of the scenery and as though it has always been there.



St Mary's Piece



The repaired kissing gate which now stands on St Mary's Piece



Church registers show that there have been Millards in Freshford and Limpley Stoke for more than 300 years.

In the early 1800s, the Limpley Stoke Millards were employed as sawyers (a quarrying trade), agricultural labourers and weavers. In the 1841 Census there were two Millard families in the village, one headed by Henry and his wife Grace and the other by Thomas, a widower.

William Millard of Bath, who later worthily filled the post of Mayor's officer, is recorded in *Twenty Golden Candlesticks* by W. Doel, as having been converted to God in his early life, along with William Huntley and William Harrison. They were to become known as the 'three Bills', pillars of the Baptist community, who were among the founders of the Baptist church in Limpley Stoke.

Henry Millard, builder and farmer (son of Henry and Sarah Millard of Limpley Stoke), was probably born in 1851. The Bath Post Office Directory lists him as living at Fern Cottage from 1880. He built houses in Limpley Stoke and Freshford, including Hayes Kop for J. F. Hayward of Aroona, and Sunnyside (now Tynning House) where he lived from 1896 until he moved to Peipards in 1905. Henry had four children - Graham, Percy, Clarence and Emmie - by his first wife Elizabeth who died in childbirth in 1886. He later married Clara Matilda, 20 years his junior, and had two further sons, Bernard and Howe.

Three of the five sons became farmers: Graham farmed Hillside Farm, Percy at Crockfords and Bernard inherited Peipards. Clarence qualified as a structural engineer and eventually lived in Bradford on Avon. Sadly Howe died while on a passage to Australia. Maurice Millard took over Peipards Farm from his father, Bernard, who died in 1963.

Mary Millard still lives at Peipards Farm. Anne Jarrett, Graham Millard's grand-daughter, lives in Lower Stoke.

Vicars and Curates

1001-1539, ABBESS OF SHAFTESBURY
1130 EDWIN THE PRIEST
1244 RANDULPHUS
1300c ADAM
1340 ROBERT DE WORTH
1348 RICHARD DE MERSCHTON
..... ROBERT ALISANDER

1349 INSTITUTION OF A PERPETUAL VICAR OF THE CHURCH AND CHAPELS OF BRADFORD
1349 JOHN GILLE
1371 WILLIAM BOTELER
1413 JOHN HAVYLE
1418 THOMAS SWAFFAM
1429 HENRY GAVELER
1429 ROBERT CARPENTER
1438 JOHN PALER
1463 JOHN FRANKEKEYN
1464 JOHN SHORTBRYGGE
1474 SIMON ELVYNGTON
1481 JOHN BOSTOKE
1491 WILLIAM BRYDDE

1539 SHAFTESBURY ABBEY SURRENDERED TO HENRY VIII
1540 THOMAS MORLEY

1542 THE PREBENDAL MANOR OF BRADFORD BESTOWED ON THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF BRISTOL CATHEDRAL
1553 THOMAS PERROT
1564 THOMAS THACKHAM
1592 THOMAS READE, CURATE HENRY HUNT
1634 NATHANIEL WILKINSON
1660 THOMAS LEWIS
1710 JOHN ROGERS
1754 WALTER CHAPMAN, CURATES W.R. GLYNNE
MR PARIS

1791 JOHN AYLMEYER
1793 WILLIAM BLOOMBERG
1799 FRANCIS RANDOLF
1804 EDWARD BOWLES
1808 WILLIAM BLOOMBERG (SECOND TIME)
1835 HENRY HARVEY

1846 THE PARISH OF WINSLEY WITH LIMPLEY STOKE FORMED
1846 R. COGAN, CURATES 1846-49 J.T. PARSONS
E.J. BREWER

1862 FRANCIS FORSE
1892 R. ANGELSMITH, CURATES
1893 C.A. SLADEN
1908 J.B.M. CHAPLIN
1910 M. POWELL

1923 FRANCIS BAKER, CURATE
M. POWELL TO 1937
1961 HOMER HILL

1970 THE PARISH OF FRESHFORD AND LIMPLEY STOKE FORMED
1970 HUGH GOUGH CMG OBE
1972 ALAN PAGE

1976 FORMATION OF THE UNITED PARISH OF FRESHFORD, LIMPLEY STOKE AND HINTON CHARTERHOUSE
1985 ROGER TURNER
1989 DAVID CLARK, CURATE
1996-99 NATASHA SCHEMANOFF

PROVISION FOR THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE VICAR OF BRADFORD, 1349

Under the authority of Pope Clement Sixth, Robert of Sarum on 5th November, 1349 made provision for the livelihood of the Vicar of Bradford and its chapels.

He was to 'have all oblations and small tythes of the town of Bradford and also the tythe of wool and lamb and of all grain produced by the gardens orchards and curtilages there and the tythes of all mills in the whole parish of Bradford. And all the herbage and pasturage and all commodities arising from all churches and chapels to the same appertaining. Likewise he ... shall have tythes of lamb and wool and all oblations and small tythes whatsoever coming to the chapels of Wroxhall, Ateworth and Stock. Also the tythes of wool and all oblations and small tythes coming to the Chapels of Wynesleye and Holt, likewise he ... shall have all tythes as well great as small and obventions and oblations and all other commodities profits and emoluments whatsoever coming to or belonging to the chapel of West Hode. And the said vicar ... shall also have all mortuaries within the said parish, in any manner whatsoever coming or happening, and that as fully as those things were received by the rector there'.

In return the vicar was required to meet the expenses of providing as many fit and proper chaplains as were required to perform divine service in the church of Bradford and the aforesaid chapels and a contribution to the Archdeacon's pension.

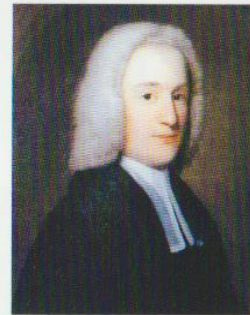
The Abbess and Convent were to meet the other expenses including the finding, sustaining and repairing of books, ornaments and vestments of the church and chapels and the houses of the said chapels which would belong to the vicarage.



Rev David and Mrs Susan Clark

THE ANNUAL STIPENDS OF REVD FRANCIS BAKER AND HIS CURATE REV MORGAN POWELL IN 1922

	£	s	d
The Vicar:			
Winsley tithes	154	2	6
Glebe land near Bradford	1	10	0
Limpley Stoke tithes	51	8	9
Stipend from Ecclesiastical Commissioners	134	0	0
Rent in lieu of house	45	0	0
Total	386	1	3
The Curate:			
Ecclesiastical Commissioners	120	0	0
Winsley Church Fund	20	0	0
Limpley Stoke Church Fund	20	0	0
Diocesan Fund	10	0	0
Total	170	0	0



Walter Chapman



Rev and Mrs Morgan Powell

EDWIN THE PRIEST 1130

At Bradford 'Edwin the priest had a third of the tithes which belonged to the church and cemetery and the offerings of the altar and one 'mansura' for which he gives a rent of 12d, and the whole of the tithes of all men of that household. And at Stoke he has the church and a third of the tithes, and the whole tithes of all the men of the said village of Stoke.'

WILLIAM BRYDDE 1491

Henry VIII lived in fear of Roman Catholics and William Brydde and his patron, Lord Hungerford, fell under his displeasure for speaking rather too freely of the King. The vicar fared better than his patron - Lord Hungerford lost his head, William Brydde only his living.

WALTER CHAPMAN 1754

Prebendary of Bristol and Master of St John's Hospital, Bath. His father, Walter Chapman, was Mayor of Bath in 1726. His brother John was subsequently elected Mayor of Bath seven times.

HENRY HARVEY 1835

He accomplished great works for the parish at large: the new Church of Christ Church built and endowed; those at Winsley and Atworth rebuilt and enlarged; the one at Westwood made good by rebuilding the chancel; that of Limpley Stoke restored. These were good works on which he always took the leading part.

JOHN PARSONS 1846

In about 1846 John Parsons, whose father Revd Henry Parsons resided at Freshford Manor from 1846-1850, became curate of Stoke. Sometime around this period there had been ecclesiastical trouble in connection with the Rector of Freshford, which led to a number of parishioners following Henry Parsons up the hill to St Mary's. The difficulty at Freshford happily subsided, which ensured these church folk returning to their church in a body.

MORGAN POWELL 1910

The Revd Morgan Powell came to Limpley Stoke as a curate in 1910 after being vicar for 17 years in the large coal mining parish of Aberavon, South Wales. It was thought that his Celtic origin (for he was Welsh) would be unacceptable to Wiltshire country people; yet, in a remarkably short time, the whole village had taken the new parson to their hearts and there he remained until the day of his death on 17th March, 1950. So long as those who knew him have memories the Revd Morgan Powell will always be lovingly remembered.

What manner of man was he to attract such devotion from all classes? It was not great oratory that kept his church so alive; it was his deep sincerity, his tolerance, his simplicity and his recognition that, where the church was concerned, all men were equal; therefore his approach to the humblest differed in no way from his approach to the greatest. His sermons were simple yet full of understanding and reached the hearts of all his listeners and perhaps the greatest memory is that, when blind, he would stand in his little pulpit in the wall and talk to his congregation on some aspect of religion with great simplicity and sincerity as a father would talk to his children around the fireside. A truly great and loveable priest.

By P.E.E. Chappell

RIGHT REVD HUGH GOUGH 1970

Hugh Gough was the last English Archbishop of Sydney. He was also the Primate of Australia and one of the foremost leaders of the Evangelical wing of the Anglican Church. In 1966 he returned to England and was appointed as Rector of Freshford in 1967. He enjoyed his rural pastoral ministry and, in 1970, gently guided Freshford and Limpley Stoke into a joint parish in the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

The ecclesiastical parish was, with few exceptions, the unit of local government in England until well into the 19th century. Generally, the four principal officers of the parish were the churchwardens, constable, surveyor of highways and the overseer of the poor. In the case of Limpley Stoke, there were churchwardens, a tythingman, a surveyor of highways and an assistant to the Bradford overseer of the poor who had responsibility for both Winsley and Limpley Stoke. The posts were unpaid and service in them was compulsory upon all that lived in the parish. The position of churchwarden was the least objected to, as it was one of dignity and importance without the duties being too onerous.

Churchwarden is an ancient appointment referred to in monastic archives and in the earliest known parish records. Even Chaucer's *Friars Tale* includes them as 'churchrievs'. Churchwardens were and indeed still are bishop's officers. They were bound by oath to report annually to the bishop as to the performance of the incumbent and the curate, the state of the church and its furniture, the state of the parsonage and the churchyard, and the morals and religious delinquency of the parishioners!

The seventh edition of *The Compleat Parish Officer* published in 1734 records that churchwardens were charged to 'search the ale-houses on Sundays and, if they find any persons therein during Divine Service, they are to make them pay 3s 4d and also one shilling for being absent from church; and the master of the house shall forfeit 10 shillings.'

By successive Acts of Parliament, the churchwarden became jointly associated with the tythingman, and the surveyor of highways in civil business and the overseers of the poor in the relief of destitution. On 13th November, 1776, when the Bradford Vestry sanctioned the inoculation of the poor against smallpox at a cost of 5s 3d a head, they ordered that no person should be inoculated until the churchwarden and the overseer certified that they were 'proper objects of parish relief'.

The names of the earliest recorded churchwardens in Limpley Stoke were William Walter and Felix Marsham in 1608. From 1671 onwards there are good records. Leonard Gibbs' initials are built in to the top of the west wall of the tower. Many well known local people have carried out the duties: the Dickes and Fishers, Johnson Frederick Hayward and William Clapp, Miss Lloyd and, more recently, Brian Coombe.

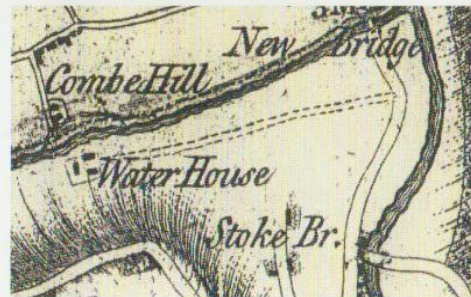
Disbursements of the Church Warden for the year 1788

For last year for Edward Basford for the post	0-1-0
for a spiritual dinner with three children in Beg. and in 1-0-0	
for many for Bread and Wine	0-4-8
for Miss E. James Brown for mended Bish. feet	0-1-0
for George merchant for Biting a pulchre	0-0-3
for Miss St. Richard Strong for mended Bish. feet and spurs	2-6
for St. St. for three Drogen and English Sparrows	0-0-11
for St. St. for two Drogen of sparrows	0-0-6
for St. St. for five Drogen and two sparrows	0-1-2
for June St. for one Drogen of sparrows	0-0-3
for St. St. Richard Strong for five young fowls	0-2-6
for washing to visitation fowls and personal and wine and	
washing the hinges, parsonage and Copy of the Records	0-0
for a particular obligation Red & Budy apples	0-0-9
for a visitation	0-0-0
for St. St. for four Drogen of sparrows	0-1-0
for St. St. for one Drogen of sparrows	0-1-3
for Thomas Fisher for silencing and Remitting the Church	0-0-11
for John Gibbs for holding three quarters and to collect some	0-8-9
for a visitation	0-0-0
for St. St. for three Drogen of sparrows	0-3-9
for St. St. for washing to visitation fowls and wine	0-2-6
for the Council and for money of parsonage	0-2-6
for money	0-8-0
for money	0-0-7
for money	0-4-8
for fowls and pulchre	0-4
for fowls	0-1-0
for the Church	0-2-3
for the Church	0-0-11
for the Church	0-2-9
for the Church	0-6-11

April 24th for Richard Strong for Dog and Bish. feet - 0-2-0
 for the Church of fowls and washing the pulchre 1-0-0
 for a Council Bish. feet up - 6-18-0
 for a Council Bish. feet up - 7-18-0
 By Bull due the Parish last Year - 9-8-11
 due the Parish - 1-10-0
 April 10th 1789 Remind the above Clerg. and
 Allowed by us and we Remind to John Keble
 to be Church Warden for this Present Year
 Wm Langley
 J. D. Fisher



Handwritten note dated 1768:
 To the Hon. the Bishop of Bath and Wells
 In answer to your letter of the 20th inst. touching the
 removal of the Church of Limpley Stoke to the
 Vicarage of Bradford
 I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your
 letter and to inform you that the same has been
 forwarded to the Bishop of Bath and Wells
 for his consideration
 I am Sir, your obedient servant
 J. D. Fisher



Old churchwarden's accounts are fascinating. There are regular entries for vermin destroyed: one shilling for an adult fox and 6d for a young one; 3d for a dozen sparrows. Charles Brown was a regular claimant in the mid-18th century.

In 1813 the vestry was indicted for not having stocks in the tything. The churchwarden's trial expenses at Warminster cost the parish £20 9s 2d. The Stoke share for building the New Bridge between Waterhouse and Combe Tything in 1765 cost £8 10s 5d. In 1848 the cost of road repairs between Halls Close Orchard and the parish of Freshford was included in the churchwarden's accounts.

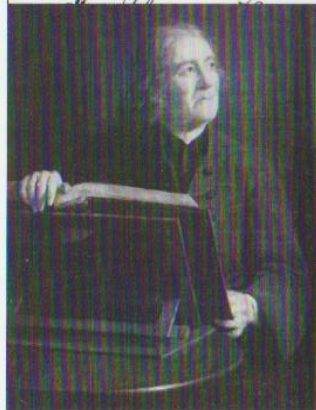
The Parish Clerk

The parish clerk was once in minor orders. Before the Reformation he was principally concerned with the worship in the parish and sometimes the education of the children. After the Reformation the parish clerk was a layman. His duties during divine service were confined to leading the singing and responses of the congregation.

The most famous parish clerk was Edward Orpin (1692-1781) who was immortalised in the painting of the *Parish Clerk* by Thomas Gainsborough. Some now believe it was painted by Nathaniel Hone (1718-1784). During Orpin's period of office St Mary's was a chapel of the Vicar of Bradford and our churchwarden's accounts show payments to Edward Orpin of 2s 6d in 1754 and three shillings in 1757 and 1758.

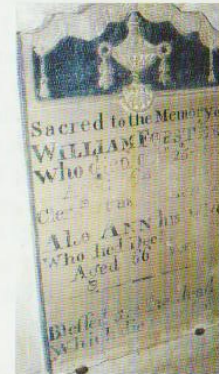
This is to certify whom it may concern That Edward Orpin of Bradford in the County of Wilts and Diocese of Sarum was on Sunday the thirteenth day of April 1724 published in the parish Church of Bradford aforesaid as my parish Clerk according to a prior election of him to that Office by me made That the said Edward Orpin is a person of a sober life and Conversation and duly qualifyd in all respects for the Execution of the Office of parish Clerk Witness my hand this 14th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred thirty two

James Rogers Vicar of Bradford
in Dryor Curate



Edward Orpin

The post-Reformation grant of arms in 1582 is a very clear indication that the clerk bore responsibility for the music of the church. The crest of an open 'prick song book' with a psalm tune clearly inscribed is to be seen on the silver head of the Beadle's staff. Beneath, on either side of the leopard's head, are two 'prick song books' closed and laced. The clerks taught their parishioners Bible stories through music and drama.

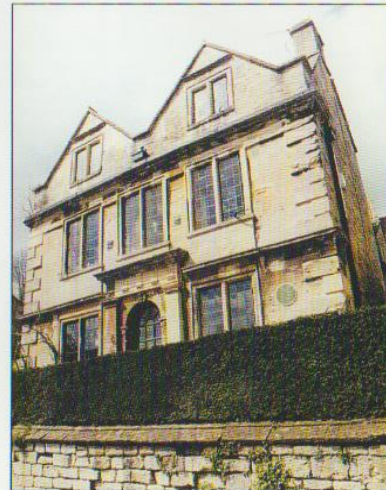


William Forster, parish clerk for 44 years



John Morgan, parish clerk for 46 years

In 1734 a vicar had to certify that his nomination was 'qualified for performing the office of a clerk in reading and singing and that he is a person of a sober and religious life and conversation.'



Orpin's House, Bradford on Avon

At a sermon on the 30th October 1821 the within named George Forster was duly sworn well and faithfully to execute the said office

Edmond Benson A. M. Curate

I the undersigned Curate of Limpley Stoke do hereby nominate and appoint George Forster as Clerk of the Chapel of Limpley Stoke in the Parish of Bradford & County of Wilts, vacant by the resignation of William Forster the late Clerk.

This is to certify that the above Nomination was read publicly in the Chapel of Limpley Stoke on the three sundays inscribed written

That is to say — { October the 14.
October the 21.
October the 28.

and no impediment was alleged.

Witness my hand this twenty ninth day of October 1821

Edmond Benson Curate

Keep it in the family!
George Forster
appointed in 1821

Yet another Forster — James —
was appointed in 1892

The Organ, Organists and Choir

St Mary's services were accompanied by a harmonium from as early as 1889 until 1911. An organ appeal fund was launched in 1910 which raised £92 9s 2d. The first organ was purchased and dedicated by Reverend Morgan Powell on 26th November, 1911. It was not a good buy for, by 1934, it was in a hopeless condition, had little marketable value and a credit of just £10 was all that could be obtained against a new one.

Limpley Stoke Parish Church.

ORGAN RECITAL

BY
Mr. H. T. HEAD, F.R.C.O.,
Organist and Organist, St. Andrew's Church, Bath.

VOCALISTS:
Soprano, Miss MADELEINE APPLGATE.
Mezzo, Soprano, Mrs. COCHRANE.

On Saturday, 9th December, at 3.15 p.m.

Offertory in aid of Organ and Choir Fund.

PROGRAMME.

PRAYER AND BENCHUSE ... *Gaillard*
SONG "Come unto Me" ... *Coven*
MISSE APPELGATE
HUMOREKKE ... *Diarab*
FANTASIE ... *Gaillard*
SONG "Abide with me" ... *Liddle*
MRS. COCHRANE
PASTORAL ... *Wider*
OFFERTOIRE ... *Linnage*
SONG "How lovely are Thy dwellings" ... *Liddle*
MISSE APPELGATE
SELECTIONS ...

The recital raised £1 17s 11d



*Griffin & Stroud. (Branch of
Duckham & Tanker Ltd.)*
Organ Builders.
Bath

The present Griffin & Stroud organ (pictured above) cost £349. However, the gas central heating installed in the church during 1956 caused enormous damage to the organ. Consequently, it had to be totally dismantled in 1962 and repaired at a further cost of £270. The organ is presently in very good condition.

Mr Henry Hathaway of Freshford was the organist at St Mary's in 1889 and was succeeded by Miss Marchant in 1893. In 1900 there was a cashflow crisis and it was agreed that the organist, by then Mr Tucker, was to be paid according to the receipts if possible in the range of £10 a year. A financial concession was made for Mr Tucker in 1901 in that it was agreed that his train fares of 1s 1d return from Bath every Sunday should be refunded.

Mr Stockley took over as organist in 1907 at a salary of £15 a year, which was raised to £20 in 1923. He resigned in 1934 after 27 years of faithful service. His testimonial had 95 subscribers and totalled £11 7s 6d.

Limpley Stoke Parish Church
A Testimonial Record

We are proud to make it known that Wilfred Nash has completed thirty years as our Organist and Choristmaster. He has served us well, and we hope he will continue to do so for many years to come. We feel that this is the right time to show our appreciation of his loyal service in a special way, and we are sending all our subscribers to send a subscription towards a presentation to him.

Young Wilfred Nash was a pupil of the late Mrs. H. R. Hathaway of Freshford. At ten years of age he was walking to Arnoldcliffe to play for morning service at the Old People's Home there. He also helped at Westwood Parish Church. By the time he was seventeen he had become organist at Farleigh Hungerford. Later he was at Horton St. Philip.

It was our good fortune that in 1934 he accepted the position of organist at Limpley Stoke. Apart from war service in Africa and Italy he has been with us ever since and has now completed thirty loyal years. Lately he has led the choir in a succession of Diocesan Choir Festivals at Sherborne and Salisbury. It was in the year of his appointment that the present organ was installed in the church. During the years he has seen the church heated by coal, then by gas, and now by electricity. In January 1937 he married one of his choristers, Miss L. Victoria D. Sadler of Freshford, and she too has been a loyal member of the choir through all the years. In the newspaper account of the wedding I read that the organist was Mr. A. C. Hathaway, organist of Holy Trinity, Bradford-on-Avon, and it is worth noting that he, too, is still organist at that Church today.

We hope you will all send a contribution for this presentation to Wilfred Nash. Send it please to Mrs. G. Bush, Woodwick, Wilford Lane, Limpley Stoke, or to Mrs. E. V. Cook, Marlall Garner, Wootley Hill, Marlall, Limpley Stoke, or to the Vicar.

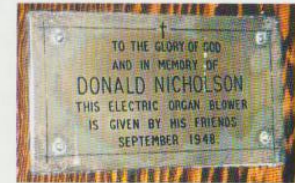
Good wishes,
G. BUSH, } Choristwardens.
E. V. COOK, }
Wootley Hill, Bath.

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF WILFRID NASH
ORGANIST 1934 - 1979

Mr Wilfred Nash's long career of 45 years as organist started at the same time as the new Griffin & Stroud organ arrived in 1934. His initial salary was £25 a year, rising to £30 after one year. Mr Nash's testimonial took the form of having a telephone installed at his home, with the first six months' rental paid in advance.

Mr Chappel succeeded as organist in 1980 and Mr Crawley from 1981-1986, when Mr Gordon Moorhead agreed to take over. Gordon, who played the organ and selected the hymns for 14 years, retired recently and is greatly missed.

Organs need wind but it was not until 1948 that St Mary's had the luxury of an electric organ blower. This was donated in memory of Donald Nicholson, a member of the Parochial Church Council, by his friends. The first human organ blower, for which he received a salary of £1 7s 6d a year, was John E. Wigmore who lived at Forster's Buildings. The last organ blower was still paid only three shillings a quarter in 1948.



It is recorded in *The Church Rambler* published in 1876 that '... there is a small choir which sits in the gallery, as do the school children, a band of thorough rustics, as they proved when they emerged from the gallery.'

Little else is known about the choir. It was thriving under Mr Cochrane in 1912/13 but its attendance and performance in 1925 was considered to be unsatisfactory. Mr Nash, the organist, married Miss Victoria Sadler, one of his choristers, in 1937. In the late 1970s he led the choir in a succession of Diocesan Choir Festivals at Sherborne and Salisbury.

Church Rates and Roof Repairs



The above picture of St Mary's Church was painted around 1805. At that time the nave had a lead roof which had probably been in place for about 100 years and may well have replaced a thatched one. On the east face of the tower can be seen the higher, steeper outline of the earlier roof. Throughout the centuries church roofs were very expensive to repair.

From the earliest times, every parishioner was bound to repair the church according to the portion of land he possessed and the number of animals he kept and fed there. The vestry continued to have the authority to levy an annual church rate until 1868 and the fact that a parishioner did not attend Church of England services was not an excuse for non-payment.

A Church Rate

The Occupiers of All the Tithes	0.2.0
Mr. Rick's Tithes of the New House	0.2.0
Mr. Thos. Tithes	0.1.4
Mr. P. Tithes of the Old	0.1.10
Mr. Clement	0.1.8
The Occupiers of the Common	0.1.5
Mr. P. Hall	0.2.0
The Occupiers of the Tithes	0.0.5
The Tithes of the Old Bottom	0.0.6
Mr. Smithfield	0.0.2
Mr. Hall	0.0.4
Mr. Butler	0.0.1
Mr. Butler	0.0.1
The Occupiers of the Tithes	0.0.1
Mr. Hill	0.0.1
Total	0.17.3

Church rates 1716-1717

In the autumn of 1847 the church needed a new roof. A vestry meeting was called for 26th November 'for the purpose of taking into consideration the necessity of repairing the roof, as well as making some alterations without calling upon the inhabitants for a church rate'. Churchwarden Henry Fisher moved the proposal that 'the lead on the roof of the church be sold and a new stone roof put on; the earth removed from around the church and a stone drain made around it; the churchyard walls be repaired and, should the sale of the lead not be sufficient to defray the expense of the above purposes, then a chapel rate be made for the same ...'.



Captain George Penruddocke

Captain Penruddocke moved the counter amendment that 'The lead remain as it is and that a church rate be made for the repair of the roof of the church.'

A poll was held on 11th December, 1847 in the village school. The result was:

For the amendment	Votes	For the resolution	Votes
Capt Penruddocke	1	Rev Parsons	1
John Newton	1	Henry Fisher	2
Geo Forster	1	Byron	1
Marsh	2	W Smith	1
Smith, Smith	1	L R Lagan	1
Wilkins	1	C Fisher	1
Nims	1	Thos Holloway	1
J Trollope	1	Major Davis	6
W Huntley	1	John Allen	2
	<u>10</u>		<u>16</u>

Majority in favour of the resolution: 6



The lead was sold and the nave re-roofed with stone but it was still necessary to raise a church rate to meet the outstanding balance. 'Notice is hereby given that a vestry will be held at this church on Monday the 6th of March next at eleven o'clock in the forenoon to order and grant a chapel rate to defray a portion of the necessary expenses of the new roof, repairing the church wall and making the drain in accordance with the resolution of vestry of the eleventh day of December 1847'.



Roof tiles were stolen in February 1998. Too often, hard-earned money has to be spent repairing vandalism and replacing stolen property.

A Delightful Ride into the Country

My first big ride this year took place on 16th May, 1923. It was a beautiful afternoon and one felt that we must enjoy it to the fullest extent.

Mother accompanied me and we set off at 3.30. I was wearing a big winter coat. The first part of our ride was hilly and I soon became warm, so I peeled off my coat and strapped it on my carrier. Cleave Hill proved to be very steep but the hedges were delightful to see, being full of sweet scented flowers. We chatted with Mrs Pickering for a little while, her house being at the top of the hill.

We mounted our wheels and rode down into Limpley Stoke, our next stop being a very old church. We were lucky enough to have the vicar to show us over this quaint little church and to explain the periods of architecture.

This church has been added to in recent years and the arches etc have had to be differently arranged. The outer door on going into the church is of the 13th century (Ed.I). The inner door is a great deal older, being of Ethelred the Unready's reign 979-1016. There was a very fine archway facing the doorway. It was plastered over until lately, when it was found to be very old, having been built in 1001. It is a fine piece of work now it is uncovered. A window of the same period has been moved to the new part of the church. The sacrament vessel is of Queen Elizabeth I period (1577). The pulpit was very old and small.

The rector told us other things of interest but my memory fails me for any more details. I hope again to visit this church and to remember more things about it. In the churchyard, I forgot to mention were some very old tombstones, 12 in all. The youngest being older than any stone in Westminster Abbey. One of the stones had been cut in half for a little child's grave as a new one could not be afforded.



Violet Duck

We cycled back through Monkton Combe, meeting Mrs Body on her way home from 'Women's Saving Party'.



LIMPLEY STOKE, even the oldest festooned from top to bottom with some ten thousand feet of home-made red, white and blue bunting is enjoying a week of celebrations that has outshone the memory of

They started with a spectacular bonfire at Chatleigh Farm on Monday night which lit and warmed a large crowd who also enjoyed a barbecue, a bar and a tag-of-war battle between the three communities of Upper, Middle and Lower Stoke.

Jubilee Day itself opened with a short service in St. Mary's Church, which had been decorated with a special festival of flowers, and the packed congregation included 60 children in fancy dress.

After the service and undeterred by heavy rain, the children paraded through the village and later the sun came out for the rest of the day.

The children gathered outside the Hop Pole for the judges to award the

Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee

Then, after a short opening by Mr Phil Young, chairman of the Jubilee Committee, there followed a tea for the whole village and children's sports in the gardens of the Manor House bordering the River Avon to the music of the Bristol Youth Band.

The evening's festivities, again in the Manor House gardens, opened with a sketch by the Women's Institute - drama group called Not I book, depicting heart that I group of Ho

Everyone down to the Avon where tions of all together in the music of ages until T a close.

On Wed village reced from the G Limpley Stc loya gretin Last night was packed if film show an is a nostalg old-time tecc

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, LIMPLEY STOKE

1971

HERITAGE

Knights and pilgrims came this way,
Yeoman of England and their comely wives,
Yokels in smocks fresh washed and sabbath clean,
Squire's little daughter, with skipping step and merry mien.

What precious heritage lingers here?

Bits of vanished England ever dear.
LORD, hear our prayer, that from this holy place
We go forth refreshed, to make of our race,
A better truer England, compassionate, yet strong,
To do battle only for the weak, to right the wrong.
To cease the endless search for gold,
And let love bring in from the cold
Each single soul in need, black, white, the young, the old
To Thine eternal shelter LORD, within Thy fold.

This is our prayer - this our plea.

ADDED 1974:

"Shelter"? Yes, but not enough you say good LORD.
We must unite to send out such a beam
Of warmth, that those who pass
Will long to enter in.
Our prayers and deeds must OUTWARD go
To show CHRIST'S love and caring
To a storm-tossed world.

Dorothy Alder



00449911 APOBS G D

TSO TGMS LNAQ

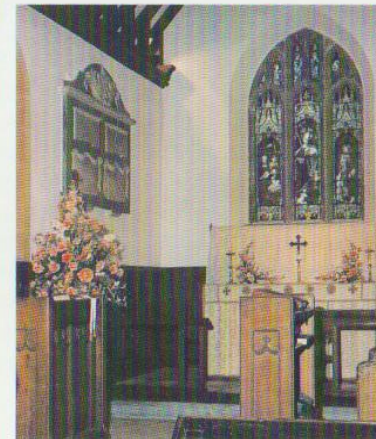
M54 86 1230 BUCKINGHAM PALACE OHMS 34-17

MR M YOUNG 9 MIDDLESTOKE LIMPLEY STOKE NEAR BATH

THE QUEEN SINCERELY THANKS THE PARISHIONERS OF LIMPLEY STOKE
FOR THEIR KIND AND LOYAL MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF HER MAJESTYS

SILVER JUBILEE

PRIVATE SECRETARY



The Baptist Chapel



The Presbyterians and Baptists had gained a considerable following in the neighbourhood of Bradford by 1660 and the first Methodist chapel opened in Bath in 1756. W. Doel, in his book *Twenty Golden Candlesticks* (1890), records that, at the beginning of the 1800s when St Mary's was one of the chapels belonging to the Vicar of Bradford's parish, 'there was a small parish church, which was the only place of worship, and this stood some little distance from the village proper ... the spiritual interests of the villagers were sadly neglected, a service being held at church once a month only.' It was recorded in *The Church Rambler* published in 1876 that 'one curate had to perform the duties of five or six churches at wide distances throughout very hilly country. In consequence there was a service at Limpley Stoke once a month, when the accumulation of duties ... were hurried through and the clergyman hastened on to 'do' another parish later in the day. Thus, an old man who died on 30th March, 1875 aged 67 stated that his mother was churched, he was baptised and his father was buried on the same day. This state of affairs existed until about 1812.'



In 1811 a room was taken and licensed in Limpley Stoke for Baptist worship. In 1815 the people started to build their own chapel which opened on 1st January, 1816. The same year 19 people were baptised in the River Avon near Limpley Stoke Bridge and received into the church. On December 25th, 1820, 19 members were dismissed from the church in Bath and formed into a Baptist church at Limpley Stoke.

In 1829 when the chapel had 80 members, William Huntley, a native of Limpley Stoke, was chosen as pastor. He remained in office for 55 years and was active until close to his death. He died on 15th June, 1884 and was the first nonconformist to be buried in St Mary's churchyard. During his ministry the chapel prospered, a Sunday School was formed and baptisms continued to be carried out in the river. The chapel was pulled down soon after Mr Huntley's death and rebuilt at a cost of £300 on the same site, with seating for 150 people. The project was greatly assisted by Mr William Mack who had come to live in Chatley House a few years previously. (Their memorial tablets were transferred to St Mary's Church in 1988. Mr Huntley's was placed on his grave and Mr Mack's was hung in the tower).



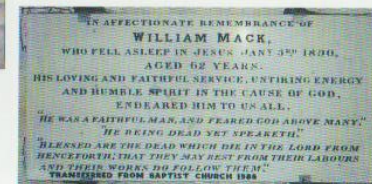
Back row: William Coles (treasurer), Madeline Brown (deacon). **Centre:** visitor, William Atkins (secretary), Beatrice Nicol (deacon). **Front row:** visitor, Iris Sheppard (organist)

In 1890 the chapel had 35 members, four Sunday School teachers and 40 scholars; in 1915, 42 members, four teachers, 18 scholars and two lay preachers; and, by 1949, 52 members, three teachers, 15 scholars and one lay preacher.

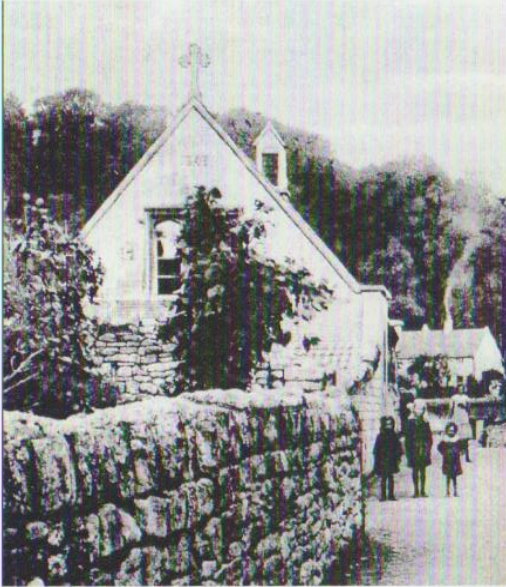
Sadly, the chapel closed in the 1970s and was sold for use as a house. The frontage was taken back about 12 feet and re-erected in the same style by David Aitcheson.



William Huntley (1829-1884), pastor for 55 years



The Village School



In 1876 *The Church Rambler* records that 'Before the Reformation, Stoke was a chapelry to Bradford and was served by itinerant priests who stayed at the priest's house, which was pulled down a quarter of a century since when the national schools were built.' The house is listed in the church inventory of 1608 and recorded as Vicarial Glebe on the 1841 tithe map.

In 1844 the land was conveyed in trust for a Church of England school, in union with the National Society, which was built in 1845 with the aid of a Treasury grant of £75. The school had a shaky start for, in 1859, it was recorded that it had re-opened three years before. In spite of the fact that many children of dissenters in Limpley Stoke attended the school at Freshford, there were 20 to 30 children in attendance in 1859, an average attendance of 51 in 1893 (which reduced to 39 in 1910) and a mere handful in 1930.



Village School 1918

Back row: Geoffrey Murphy, Deanna Nash, Beatrice Organ, Maude Organ, Oliver Watson, Philip Burry, Philip Young, Jack Millard, Sydney Huntley, Miss Clapp (Governess)
Middle row: Miss Burfitt, Rex Holbrow, Madeline Brown, Violet Huntley, Hilda Huntley, Joe Brown, Mable Nash, Maurice Millard, George Huntley, Jack Liddiard, Alfred Organ
Front row: Kenneth Sheppard, Ivy Brown, Margaret Coles, Vera Sheppard

The school closed in 1933. The building and land returned to the Diocese, with the vicar and churchwardens as trustees of the Foundation. The building was converted for use as a church hall and the following letting charges (not including heating and lighting) agreed: political meetings 10s 6d, meetings lasting two hours 3s 6d, three to four hours 5s, late evening 7s 6d, Parish Council meetings 2s 6d, gas included. In 1960 the Salisbury Diocesan Council of Education persuaded St Mary's Parochial Church Council to buy the property and this was completed in November 1961. It was subsequently leased to the village for use as the Village Hall in 1974. In July 1997, a new cross carved from stone given by the Bath Stone Mine was blessed by the Bishop of Bath and Wells.



Village School 1927

Back row: Philip Burry, Harold Merrick, Albert Sharp, George Pike, Frank Organ
Third row: Miss Turner, Edna Brown, Ivy Brown, Dorothy Organ, ?, Miss Burfitt
Second row: Peggy Holly, Eileen Brown, Desmond Brown, Monica Brosnan, Henry Francis, Helen Mustey, ? Murphy
Front row: Roy Money, Helen Holly, Leonard Sheppard, Iris Sheppard, Raymond Gerrish

The site of the school is shown as a smaller building (1749) on the 1841 tithe map and described as the Vicarage House. It was being rented by the long-standing parish clerk, George Forster, who was 35 at the time. He was a house and land agent and no doubt related to Richard Forster of Bath who rented the five houses opposite known as Forster's Buildings.



1841 Tithe map

Limpley Stoke and the Anglo-Saxon Kings (pre-1000 AD)

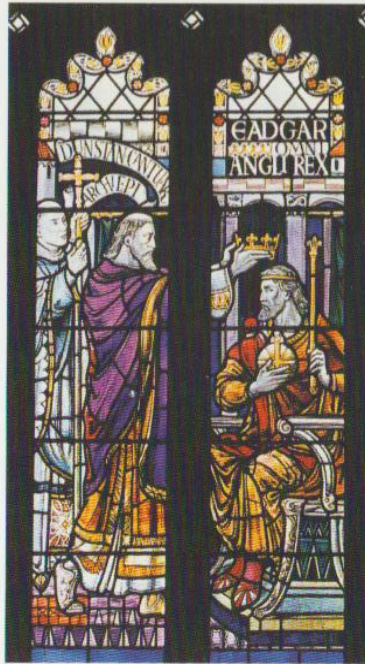


King Alfred

The Anglo-Saxon kings had a significant effect on the history of the tiny village of Limpley Stoke, for it was during their reigns that the church came into being. It was King Alfred who divided his kingdom up into 'hundreds'. This village, with a number of surrounding villages, formed a hundred, with the town of Bradford at its centre. He also founded Shaftesbury Abbey, with his daughter as the first Abbess. Another significant ruler was King Edgar who was crowned on the border of Wessex at nearby Bath Abbey in 973 AD. He had two sons and a daughter who shaped the destiny of Limpley Stoke and its church for centuries to come.

Edith, the daughter, was born to Wulfthryth in 962 AD. Her mother was Abbess of Wilton, near Salisbury, who later became a saint. Edith herself was also canonised after an untimely death at the age of 22, when a number of miracles were recorded. She also became the patron saint of the church at Limpley Stoke and remained so for some 500 years. It was only in the 16th century that the church became known as St Mary's.

King Edward had been ruler for only three years when he was murdered at Corfe Castle. It is believed that his stepmother and stepbrother were accomplices to the act. Later, when Aethelthred took the throne, he gave a number of estates to Shaftesbury Abbey, where Edward was buried. Finally, in 1001 AD, Edward became a saint and, with worries of invasion of Shaftesbury by the Danes, he gave the Abbey the Hundred of Bradford with its own abbey as a place of refuge for the nuns. Among the Bradford Hundred is the village of Limpley Stoke.



The crowning of King Edgar in 973 AD at Bath Abbey



King Alfred



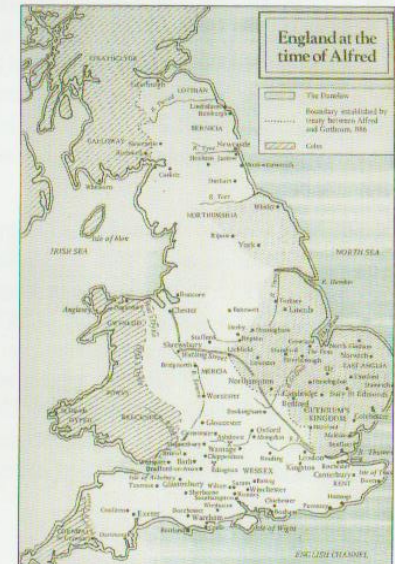
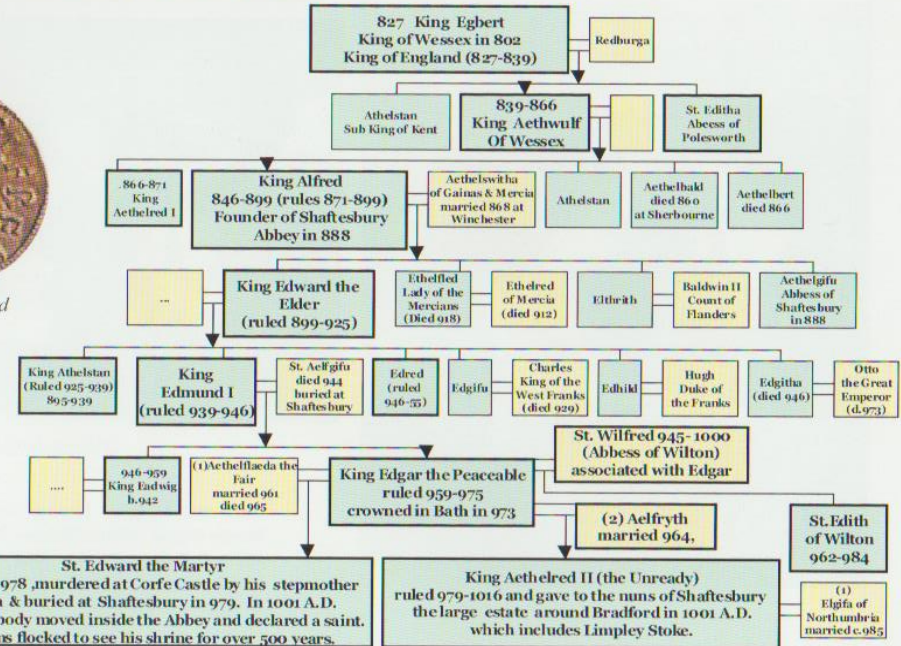
King Egbert



King Aethelthred II



Anglo-Saxon chronicles



England at the
time of Alfred

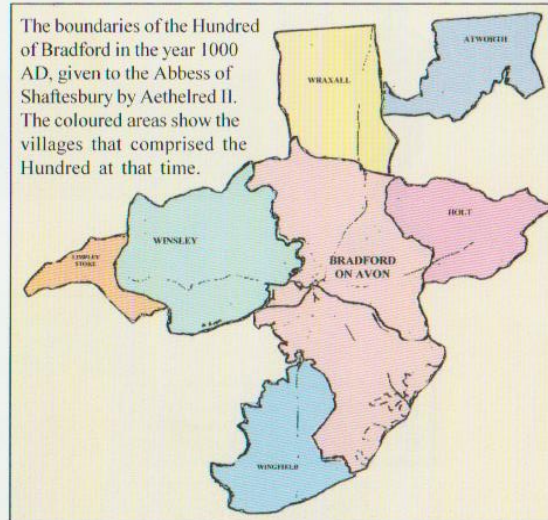
Limpley Stoke and Shaftesbury Abbey (1000-1539 AD)

Though the area of land associated with the Hundred of Bradford appears large, it accounted for only a tenth of the total income of Shaftesbury Abbey received each year for more than 500 years. It was said at the time that, if the Abbess were to marry the Abbott of Glastonbury, their combined wealth would be greater than that of the King of England. As can be seen from the map, Limpley Stoke had the smallest area of the villages constituting the hundred. The town of Bradford was at the centre of the estate and the massive Tithe Barn, forming part of Barton Farm, was needed to store the enormous amounts of corn received in tithes each year. During this period, the priest at Holy Trinity Church in Bradford would be in charge of the chapels in each village. A later copy of the original 1001 AD document detailing the boundaries of the hundred has survived and is held in the British Museum. It is interesting to read of the earlier names of villages and descriptions of boundary features.

The massive building that was Shaftesbury Abbey was quarried for its stone after the dissolution in 1539. Today, only the foundations remain on the site, though the lead coffin believed to contain the remains of St Edward was found last century and is now kept in a Russian Orthodox church at Woking, Surrey, where it is regarded as a sacred relic.



Tithe Barn, Barton Farm, Bradford on Avon

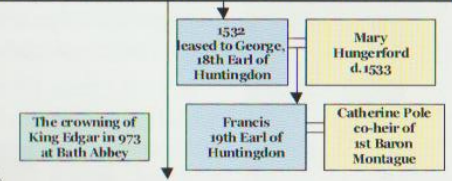


The boundaries of the Hundred of Bradford in the year 1000 AD, given to the Abbess of Shaftesbury by Aethelred II. The coloured areas show the villages that comprised the Hundred at that time.



Johan Blaeu published his map of 1648 based on a Saxon map of 1576 which shows Limpley Stoke as just 'Stoke'

The Abbess of Shaftesbury Abbey controls not only the Hundred of Bradford and the outlying villages of Bradford, South Wraxall, Atworth, Holt, Winsley, Westwood, Wingfield and Limpley Stoke but also large areas of other neighbouring counties. For the next five centuries they collect the rents & tithes for their many properties.



The Great Seal of Shaftesbury Abbey

Abbas et conventus sancte abbacie de shaftesburie in comitatu Wiltonie salutem in domino sempiternam. Nos abbas et conventus sancte abbacie de shaftesburie in comitatu Wiltonie salutem in domino sempiternam. Nos abbas et conventus sancte abbacie de shaftesburie in comitatu Wiltonie salutem in domino sempiternam. Nos abbas et conventus sancte abbacie de shaftesburie in comitatu Wiltonie salutem in domino sempiternam.

The Charter of 1001 AD



Holy Trinity Church (left) and St Laurence Church, Bradford on Avon

Limpley Stoke and the Tudors (1539-1615)



Henry VIII owned the village in 1539, after taking it from the Abbess of Shaftesbury. He later granted the manor to Sir Edward Bellingham and then to the Earls of Pembroke of Wilton House, near Salisbury.

In 1576 Queen Elizabeth I gave her private secretary, the infamous Sir Francis Walsingham, the Hundred of Bradford, which consisted of the town and a number



Queen Elizabeth I

of surrounding villages including Limpley Stoke. St Mary's was described as a ruin called Our Lady of Limpley's Chapel when she granted it and the Church House (the old school) to John Mersche and John Turpyn in 1578.

Sir Francis Walsingham (left) included the village with other property in the wedding dowry of his daughter Frances (right) on her marriage to the famous courtier and poet, Sir Philip Sidney, in 1584.



When he died in battle she married the Queen's favourite, Robert, Earl of Essex, in 1590. After he was beheaded in 1601, she eventually married the Earl of Clanricarde from Ireland in 1603. By 1610 she was heavily in debt and decided to sell most of her

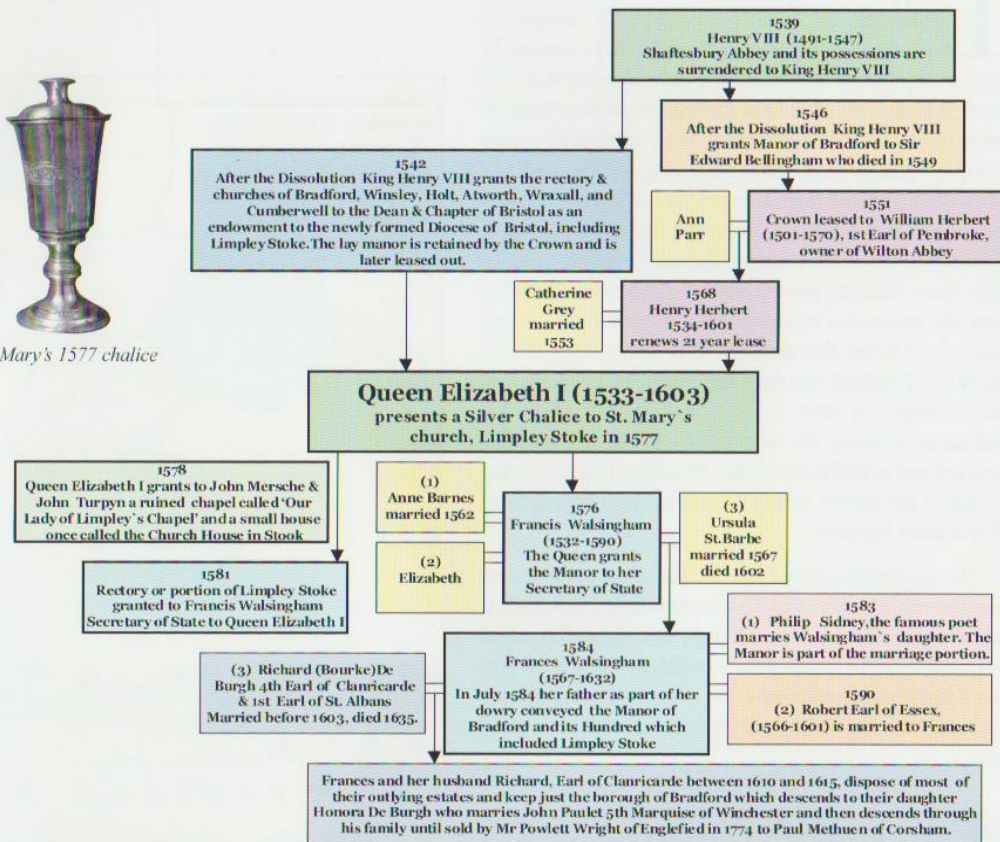


properties, including the village. She and her husband retained the town of Bradford, which descended to the Paulet family and then the Methuens.

Two documents survive in the Wiltshire Record Office which provide information about the village at the time, with descriptions of properties and their tenants. The first one shows the sale of the mill and part of Turleigh in 1614. The second, more important deed is the sale of Limpley Stoke and Midford the following year. They were purchased by Richard Dicke, the wealthy clothier from Turleigh, and his son. The family owned and controlled the village for the next 200 years.



St Mary's 1577 chalice



Sir Philip Sidney



Robert, Earl of Essex & Devereaux



Henry Herbert



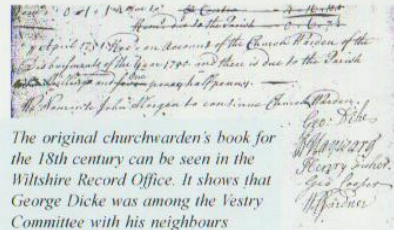
William Herbert

Limpley Stoke and the Dicke family (1615-1783)

Richard Dicke purchased the villages of Turleigh, Limpley Stoke and Midford from Frances Walsingham and her husband, the Earl of Clanricarde, between 1614 and 1615. The purchase deeds have survived and can be seen at the Wiltshire Record Office. Richard married Jane Long, whose family were among the wealthiest landowners in Wiltshire for centuries. They had a large family and their properties were distributed between them. The simplified family tree reveals that three of his sons shared the village, with George Dicke inheriting the major part known as Stoke Estate based at Waterhouse. Robert had a large holding of land in Freshford and Midford but sold a substantial portion to John Ashe before he died in 1638. His son Thomas is shown living at what is now Limpley Stoke Manor until his death in 1703. His wife Eleanor died shortly before him and, with no descendants, their land passed to their cousins at Stoke Estate.

The third part of the village was left to Richard Dicke (1583-1662). It was known as Stoke Farm and based where the Limpley Stoke Hotel is now. This branch of the original family can be traced as living in the area until 1905, with a descendant still living in Canada. Their original land was gradually sold off and the 1841 Census shows Thomas Dicke renting Peipards Farm from Maria Joyce. St Mary's has many memorials to this family which reveal their importance, with marriages to local gentry such as the Coopers and Fishers.

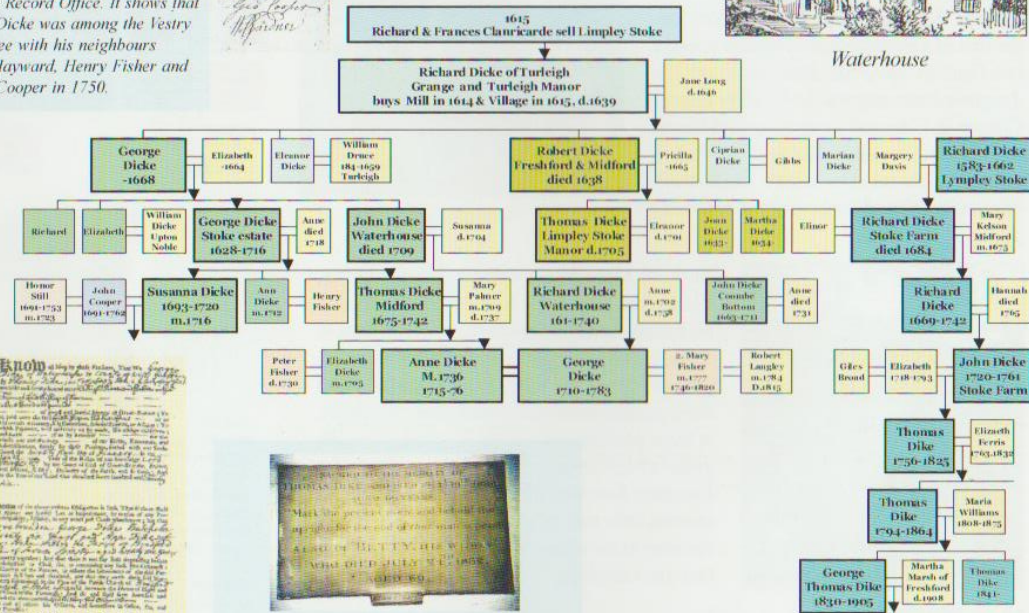
A marriage took place at the church in 1736 when George married his cousin Anne, which united the two major branches of the family. The land taxes of the time show them owning more than 80 per cent of the village. Sadly, they had no children and, when George married Mary Fisher in 1777, it was to the Fishers that most of their wealth descended.



The original churchwarden's book for the 18th century can be seen in the Wiltshire Record Office. It shows that George Dicke was among the Vestry Committee with his neighbours Robert Hayward, Henry Fisher and George Cooper in 1750.



Waterhouse



1736
Anne and George Dicke's 1736 marriage licence



SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF THOMAS DIKE who died FEBY. 18th, 1826 AGED 69 YEARS.
"Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright for the end of that man is peace."
ALSO OF BETTY, HIS WIDOW WHO DIED JULY 24th, 1832, AGED 69.



Sacred to the memory of Thomas Dike of this parish who died Dec 3rd. 1864. aged 70.
Also of Maria his widow, daughter of the Rev. William Williams, M.A. rector of Bishopstrow, Wilts. who died April 22nd, 1875. aged 67.
Also of George Thomas Dike, their son who died Dec 21st. 1905. aged 75.
Also of Martha Elizabeth, widow of George Thomas Dike, and daughter of George Marsh, of Freshford, who died Nov 11th, 1908.



Against ye Foundation Lyeth ye body of JOHN DICKE, Son of GEORGE DICKE and ANN his Wife, who Deceased Feby. 22, 1708. Also ye Body of ANN DICKE, Wife of GEORGE DICKE, GENT. who Dyed OCT. 27, 1718. PRAY LET NOT OUR BONES BE REMOVED. (Copied from the original tablet)



In Memory of SUSANNA Wife of JOHN COOPER And Daughter of GEORGE DIKE, Gent She died 25th April 1720. Aged 27



Near this Place lieth ANN DIKE, Daughter of THOMAS & MARY DIKE of Limpley Stoke, Gent And Wife of GEORGE DIKE Esqr. died July the 5th, 1776. Aged 61 Years. Also GEORGE DIKE Esqr., Son of RICHARD & ANN DIKE of Water-House, died Nov. the 16th, 1783. Aged 73 Years.

Limpley Stoke and the Fisher family (1783-1850)

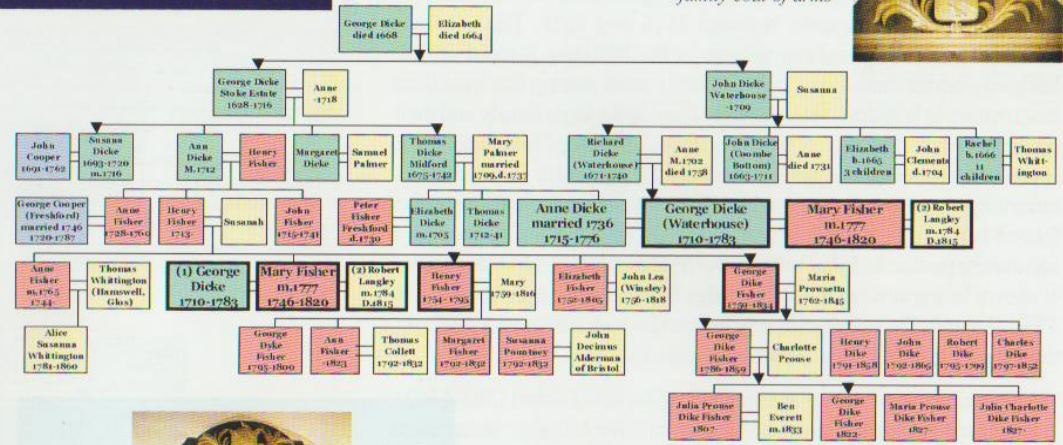
Kingfishers form the family coat of arms



The Fishers were a family of brewers whose buildings stood alongside the manor by the river in the centre of Limpley Stoke. Henry Fisher built what is now known as Weir House in 1738. He married Anne Dicke in 1722 and this was the first of a number of marriages within the two families who controlled the village. His daughter Anne married the wealthy George Cooper in 1746 and lived at the Old House in Freshford. Another relation, Peter Fisher, married Elizabeth Dicke and their descendants lived in Freshford for many years.



Weir House



Freshford Manor

In 1777 Mary Fisher married George Dicke, Lord of the Manor. He had previously married his cousin Anne but, when she died childless in 1776, the 66 year old George wed his niece, 31 year old Mary. He died seven years later and she then married a local farmer, Robert Langley. A worn memorial survives in St Mary's north aisle which reveals that the couple had a daughter, Susanna, in 1785. Sadly, she died 17 months later and, as a consequence, the future fortunes of the village went to the Fishers rather than the Langleys.

Henry and his brother George were to inherit a moiety (half) in the village. Henry re-titled himself 'esquire' and moved to Freshford Manor in 1783, which he rented from George Hayward Tugwell. In 1795 he moved to Westwood House (now Greenhill House) in nearby Westwood. It is to him that we have to thank for the church's most elaborate memorial by the altar. When he died his moiety was auctioned, along with the mill and Pipehouse which he had inherited. It was his brother George who continued the family tradition of brewing and the business and property passed down through this branch into the 19th century. St Mary's has some fine memorials to this family.



Westwood House



(Top left)

Near this Place lie the Remains of HENRY FISHER Esqr. who died July 10th 1795. Aged 41 Years. Also the Remains of MARY, Wife of the above HENRY FISHER Esqr. and Mother to the undernamed Children who departed this life Novr. 16th 1816. Aged 57. She was a kind and Affectionate Wife, a fond and most tender Parent, a good Christian and a sincere Friend.

(Top right)

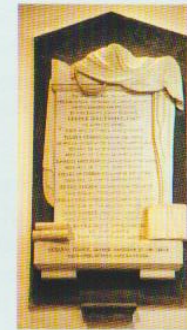
In Memory of ANN. Wife of THOMAS COLLETT Esqr. Daughter of HENRY FISHER Esqr. And Mary his Wife who died 28th February 1823 and lies Interred in their Vault attached.

(Bottom left)

In the same Grave lie the Remains of GEORGE ROBERT DYKE FISHER Son of the above named HENRY FISHER & MARY his Wife who died June 11th 1800. Aged 5 Years. Also of their Daughter MARY SUSANNAH FISHER who died Febry. 10th 1806. Aged 23 years. Also of their Daughter ELIZABETH FISHER who died Augt. 4th 1814. Aged 24 Years. Also in their Vault in the Church Yard attached: their Daughter HESTER FISHER who died October 28th 1818. Aged 22 Years.

(Bottom right)

Also of MARGARETTA SALLY FISHER Daughter of HENRY FISHER Esqr. and MARY his wife who died 5th June 1832 Also of SUSANNA 2nd Daughter of the above, & Wife of JOHN DECIMUS POUNTNEY Esqr. of Bristol, Alderman who died 13th September 1842. Aged 58.



Sacred to the memory of the following members of a beloved family, whose remains are deposited in the family vault beneath GEORGE DIKE FISHER, Esq. of Limpley Stoke. died Aug. 12th 1834. Aged 75 years. MARIA FISHER, wife of the above, second daughter of the REV. JOHN PROWSE, M.A., Rector of Camerton, Somerset died Feb. 27th 1845. Aged 83 years. ROBERT DIKE FISHER, fourth son of the above, died July 10th 1799. Aged 4 years. CHARLES FISHER, fifth son of the above, died May 14th 1852. Aged 55 years. HENRY FISHER, second son of the above, died March 7th 1858. Aged 67 years. GEORGE DIKE FISHER, eldest son of the above, died June 21st 1859. Aged 71 years. JOHN FISHER, third son of the above, died June 29th 1865. Aged 73 years. ELIZABETH, 3rd daughter of the above, died Febry. 16th 1872. Aged 68. SUSANNA FISHER, second daughter of the above, died April 10th 1885. Aged 84 years.



Underneath this Slab are the remains of Hester Fisher, Daughter of Henry Fisher Esq. & Mary his wife of Westwood House in this place Who departed this life the 28th day of October 1818 aged 22 years.



ROBERT FISH— Son of GEORGE DI—MARIA FISHER WHO DIED July 10th—Aged—Years and 3—



Beneath this Stone are deposited the Remains of ELIZABETH LEA, Wife of John Lea Esqr. Late of Winsley. — daughter of the late HENRY FISHER of this Vill—arted,— 1805, —

Limpley Stoke and the Cooper/Baker family (1716-1960)

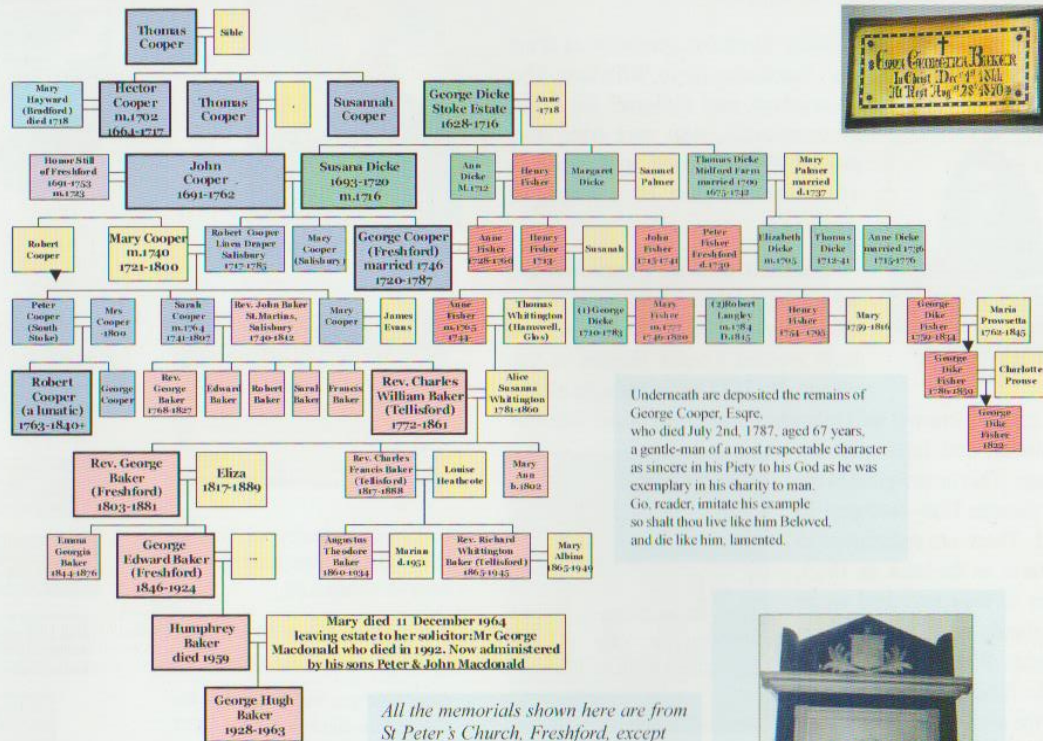
The first record of the Coopers, who originated from Bradford on Avon, is in 1716, when John married the wealthy heiress Susana Dike at St Mary's Church. Her father George died the same year and, when her mother Anne died in 1718, Susana inherited a moiety (half) of their estate with her brother Thomas. The couple had three children – Robert, Mary and George – but tragically Susana died in 1720. Three years later John Cooper married another heiress – Honor Still – whose sisters, Elizabeth and Bridgett, lived in Freshford. He rented and finally purchased from the Methuens a fine building called Porch House (the



Old House) which he greatly enlarged and created a pleasure garden, parts of which still survive. The family lived there for many years. It was not until 1964 with the death of Mary Baker that the house finally passed out of the family.

It is interesting to note that during this time the descendants owned large areas of Freshford and Limpley Stoke and had links with both villages. Mary and her husband Humphrey are buried in St Mary's churchyard. Both churches contain interesting memorials to the Coopers and the Bakers. A branch of the family established themselves in Salisbury and St Thomas's Church has memorials to them. For nearly 140 years they were vicars at nearby Tellsford Church, which has a series of brasses and graves detailing their lives as vicars of the parish.

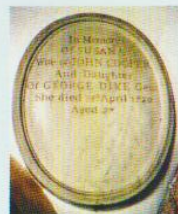
A sad chapter of the families' history is the life of Robert Cooper, who was described as a lunatic in documents of the time. He was in fact just simple and spent a period of his life in an asylum in London. In 1800 he inherited an estate from his grandmother which consisted of property in Freshford, Limpley Stoke, South Stoke and Salisbury, as well as the considerable sum of £30,000. He appeared to be a major landowner in these villages but received only enough for his upkeep. His relations at the Old House – the Bakers – were the main trustees and eventually inherited his estate when he died.



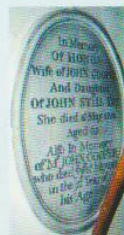
All the memorials shown here are from St Peter's Church, Freshford, except that of Susana Cooper



Sacred to the memory of Sarah, wife of the Rev. JOHN BAKER, LL.D. who died June 2nd, 1807, aged 67 years. Also to the memory of the Rev. JOHN BAKER, LL.D. who died Feb. 1, 1812, aged 72 years. In grateful remembrance of their virtues this monument is placed by their affectionate children. Also to the memory of George Ambrose Baker, their son, whose remains lie in the same grave. He departed this life January 23rd, 1827, in the 59th year of his age.



In Memory of SUSANA, Wife of JOHN COOPER And Daughter of GEORGE DIKE, Gent She died 25th April 1720 Aged 27



In Memory of HONOR Wife of JOHN COOPER And Daughter of JOHN STILL Esq She died 8th May 1753 Aged 62 Also in Memory of Mr JOHN COOPER who died ye 6th May 1762 in the 71st Year of his Age



In Memory of ANN, Wife of GEORGE COOPER Daughter of HENRY FISHER, Gent. She died the 8th of Jan. 1760 in her thirty second Year.

The Penruddockes

The Penruddocke family lived for centuries at their estate at Compton Chamberlayne in Wiltshire. The most famous descendant was Colonel Sir John Penruddocke, who was tried and executed for treason at Exeter in 1655 for his part in a Royalist uprising.



Captain George Penruddocke, who fought in the Napoleonic wars, originally moved to Avonside, but later owned Lower Hayze in the village. By 1818 he had bought a barn and ground known as Uplands Farm from Vice Admiral Robinson and later added a cottage. This he assigned to his son George (the younger) in 1862. There are references to the farm as far back as 1615, when it was referred to as Overlands and leased from Frances Walsingham by the Poole family. It later passed into the ownership of Richard Dicke (1583-1662) and descended through this branch of the family, though considerable parts were sold off over the years.



Lower Hayze

The Penruddockes lived in the village for most of the 19th century. Their daughter Lydia (1848-1894) is buried in the churchyard and there is a brass memorial to the family in St Mary's. Another member of the family, John, lived for a while at Ensleigh in the village.



The famous carved coconut once owned by Penruddocke which remained in the house until recently



George Penruddocke



In loving memory of George Penruddocke, who died October 24th 1877, aged 59.

Also Hester his wife who died February 22nd 1883, aged 68.

Also George, eldest son of the above, who died Nov. 14th 1873, aged 31, and Edward their second son who died March 21st 1886, aged 36.



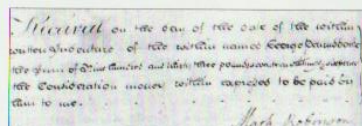
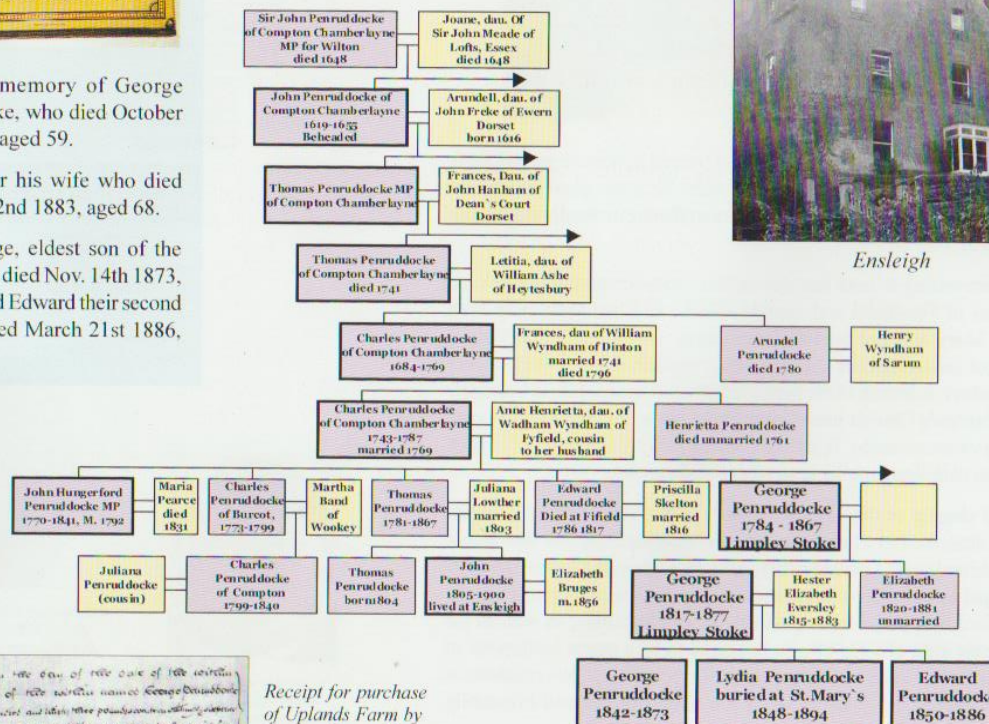
Uplands Farm



George Penruddocke's signature and seal

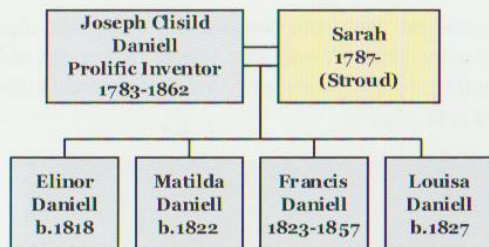


Ensleigh



Receipt for purchase of Uplands Farm by George Penruddocke in 1818

Joseph Clisild Daniell – Inventor



Joseph Clisild Daniell, who was buried with his son in the church's most magnificent tomb, was Limpley Stoke's most famous son, for it can be seen by his list of patents that he was a prolific inventor. His most far reaching invention involved immersing cloth in hot water and giving it a damp-resistant finish. This was known as roll-boiling or potting.

Another invention played a part in the development of roller temples. Ever since weaving first began, it had been a problem to keep cloth at full width in the loom and the hand-loom weavers used various kinds of temples (as they were called) to achieve this objective. The roller temples, which consisted of rollers with spikes on them working under a metal cover, was the final, successful solution to this problem.

Joseph originally leased the Manor House from Robert Cooper where he appeared in the list paying land taxes in the 1820s and 1830s. He also owned considerable land and property in Winsley. He built Ensleigh House high above the railway station in the 1850s with his wealth from his partnership in the firm of Charles Wilkins at Twerton.



The Manor

Wiltshire Patentees

Although Wiltshire appears in the patent records as early as 1624, the actual number granted to natives of the county up to 1852 is relatively small – about 80.

4987	July 7th 1824	Joseph Clisild Daniell of Limpley Stoke, 'clothier'
		Weaving woollen cloth
5038	Nov 20th	ditto
5266	Oct 13th 1825	Weaving woollen cloth
5504	June 8th 1827	Preparing wire cords and dressing cloth
5598	Jan 2nd 1828	Cloth dressing machinery
5679	Aug 5th 1828	Manufacturing woollen cloth
5795	May 26th 1829	ditto
5812	July 8th 1829	ditto
5897	Feb 6th 1830	ditto
7385	June 6th 1837	Joseph Clisild Daniell, 'gentleman'
		Certain improvements applicable to stone masonry
7927	Jan 9th 1839	Weaving woollen and other cloth
8409	Mar 3rd 1840	Preparing weft for the weaving of woollen cloth

Out of 80 patents in the county, 13 were held by Limpley Stoke, which came first entirely owing to the inventive activity of one person – Joseph Clisild Daniell. He took out 19 patents in all, two dated from Frome in 1810 and 1819 and four dated from Twerton Mills near Bath in 1834, 1841, 1842 and 1845. In 1843 Daniell published 'An address to the agriculturists of the United Kingdom', in which he set out the advantages of his patent manure and cattle food patented in 1841 and 1842. The pamphlet contained an account of his various experiments but hardly thought his food was nourishing as it was composed of mainly ligneous fibre. It was dated 'Winsley near Bradford Dec. 9th 1842', though he is described in the patents as being of Twerton Mills near Bath.



Twerton Mill



The Daniells' tomb



In memory of
FRANCIS CLISILD DANIELL
who departed this life
February 13th, 1857
Aged 37 years
Also of JOSEPH CLISILD DANIELL
who died March 11th, 1862
Aged 79 years

The Haywards

The Hayward family tree shows them originating in the village of Lacock in Wiltshire and marrying into the aristocratic Johnson family of Bowden House. There was also a wealthy branch of the Hayward family living at Freshford Manor during the 18th century.

Johnson Frederick (known as Frederick) Hayward, great-grandson of John Hayward of Lacock, took passage from London to Adelaide, South Australia, early in December 1846. He arrived there in March 1847 at the age of 24 with about £40 and was anxious to turn his hand to anything in the shape of stock until he had sufficient experience to start sheep-farming on his own

account. In 1850 he set up in partnership, his capital being a horse Nimrod, £100 in cash and a lot of experience. Frederick Hayward was a notable figure in the development of South Australia's great staple industry and his name stands high on the roll of pastoral pioneers. He

returned to England in 1864 a wealthy man, purchased a fine estate at Limpley Stoke which he named 'Aroona' after his old South Australian Station and lived there until his death close to his 90th year on 8th April, 1912. He bought Brett Farm and Waterhouse in 1876 at an auction sale in Bath for £6,640 12s 7d plus timber at valuation which took the price up to £7,000.



Aroona



Interior of Aroona

Frederick, affectionately called Squire Hayward, loved St Mary's Church and served as churchwarden for 19 years. On his retirement from office he was presented with a pair of silver candlesticks as a token of the congregation's appreciation of his work.



Frederick Hayward and his wife Ellen had 11 children. Their fourth son, Arthur Edward, was killed in the First World War. His grandson Colonel Reginald Johnson Hayward won the Victoria Cross as well as the Military Cross and Bar in the First War and went on to serve in the Second World War.



Col. Reginald Johnson Hayward, VC, MC (seated, centre) as a subaltern company commander in France

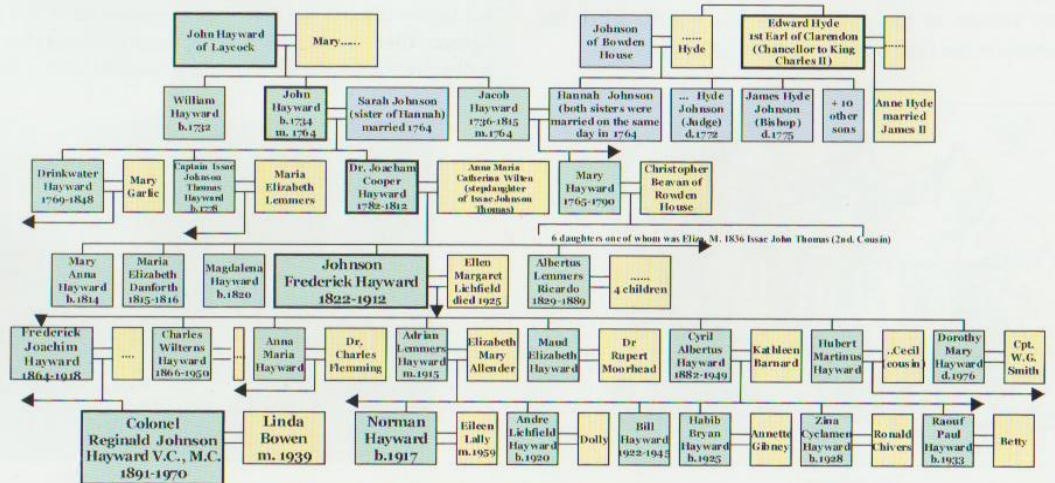
A younger grandson, Norman Hayward, who also served in the Second World War, lives in Trowbridge and is regularly seen lovingly tending the Hayward family graves at St Mary's.



The family plot in St Mary's churchyard



Candlesticks presented to Frederick Hayward after 19 years as churchwarden



The Site of the Ancient Manor

It is difficult to visualise a massive stone building larger than the church standing where the churchyard is today. But, by studying maps, documents and prints, it has been possible to reconstruct how it may have looked at the turn of the 19th century.

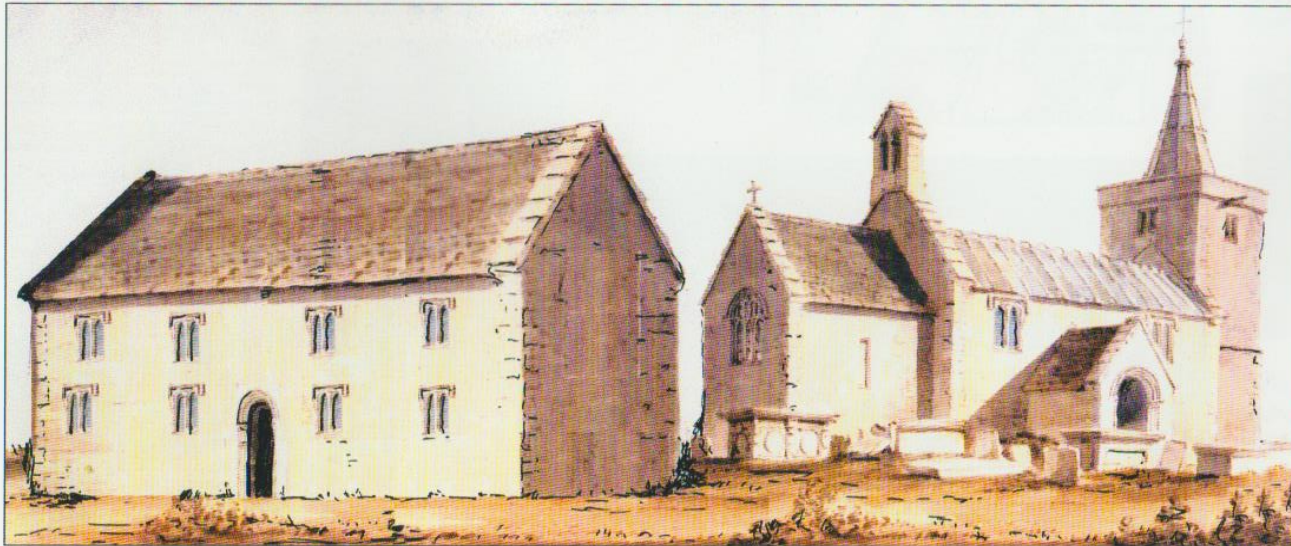
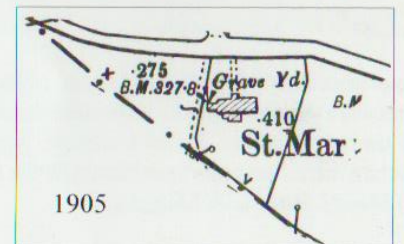
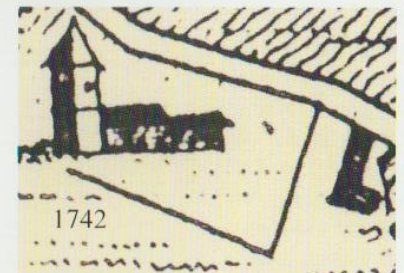
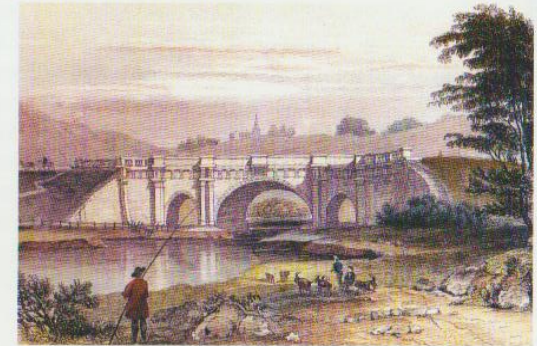
It was owned by the Deverells, who are listed in the early parish records. In 1611 Joanua, wife of Richard the Elder, was buried at St Mary's. The family are shown living in the village until 1796, while another branch from Frankleigh has memorials in Holy Trinity Church in Bradford on Avon. They could well have been lords of the manor as they are shown as a wealthy family before the Dickes purchased the village in 1615. The Dickes were clothiers who were instrumental in the movement of the village towards their mill by the river.

Another piece of evidence to this building being the first manor house is the fact that the original Saxon door on the south side would have led from the building. It is intriguing that *The Church Rambler* refers to a large, old building with a 'large, open fireplace'. An early building would have had a central hearth with smoke rising through the roof and later would have had a central chimney constructed within it.

In the Women's Institute Book of Limpley Stoke of 1956, Mrs S. H. Illiffe provides a plausible explanation as to why the present manor house may have been the dower house and the building by the church the original manor house. She goes on to write that the older building was burned down, probably between 1841 and 1850. The Census and Tithe Map of 1841 show Samuel Nash, a mason, as renting the 'old house' with his wife Catherine who was a weaver. When this early map is super-imposed on a later map, it is clear how large a building it would have been. A print of Dundas Aqueduct produced by Everitt in 1845 (right) shows the outline of the building by the church.

In recent years an interesting cut stone was found while excavating a grave in the churchyard.

A 1742 map by Thorpe clearly shows the manor near the church. Again, in 1772, Andrews & Drury's map depicts the building. It is more accurately detailed in the Tithe Map of 1841 but by 1905 it had completely disappeared.



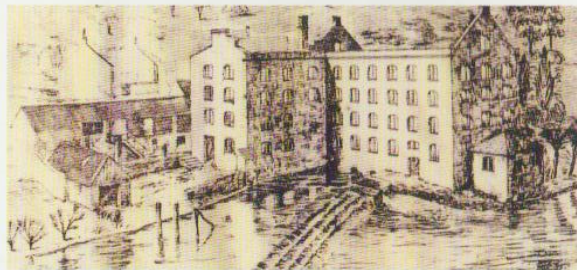
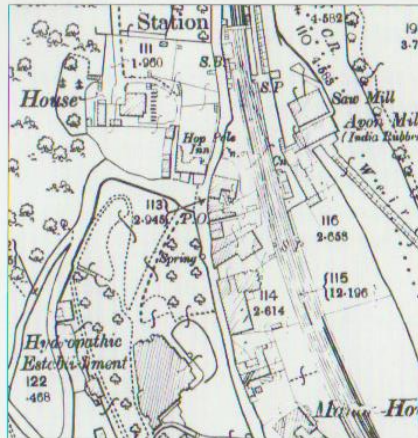
Limpley Stoke Mill

The first record of the fulling mill is a document dated 1614 which shows Richard Dicke of Turleigh buying the mill from Frances, daughter of Sir Francis Walsingham. By the following year Richard had purchased most of the village. The mill was leased out to a number of tenants, including the Stratton family from 1700 until 1759, after which George Dicke appears to have paid the land tax until his death, when Henry Fisher inherited it briefly and rented it to Mr Perkins. Finally, it was advertised for sale in the Bath Chronicle in 1796 and bought by John Newton, who rebuilt it as a factory.

By 1816 it was employing 200 people and, with the stone quarries and brewery, would have been a major employer in the area. It was later bought by the Bradford firm of Saunders, Fanner & Company who went bankrupt in 1842.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
 On Wednesday the 17th of February, at the New Inn
 At FRESHFORD, SOMERSET.
(Unless disposed of in the mean time by private contract)
 All that valuable FULLING-MILL, consisting
 of four pairs of Stocks in good repair, situate at
 LIMPLEY STROKE, in the parish of Bradford, in the
 county of WILTS. And also, a DWELLING-HOUSE,
 garden, and Stable, contiguous thereto.
 The Situation of the Mill is peculiarly suitable
 for erecting cloth-working machinery, as it stands by
 the river Avon; has no other Mill for several miles above
 it to prevent its being supplied with a sufficient quantity
 of water; and a water-wheel could be erected on a
 stream that runs through the premises.
 The distance of the Mill from Bradford is about 3
 miles, and 6 miles from Trowbridge. It will be shown to
 any persons wishing to be the purchaser, by Mr Per-
 kins, who with the house, &c. has an unexpired lease
 thereof for 2 years.
 Also, a good DWELLING-HOUSE, and Garden
 with a front-wall, situate at Freshford, in the county
 of Somerset, in the possession of Mr James Foster, from
 year to year. The tenant will show the premises.
 For further information, and to treat by private con-
 tract, apply to Mr Whittington attorney, Princess
 Street, Bath.
 January 1796

By 1889 their business was prospering and was renamed the Avon Rubber Company, as can be seen on the early map (below). They moved shortly afterwards to Melksham, where the company continues to prosper today. The following year another fire devastated the mill and timber yard and was to be reinstated by the Holbrows for their timber business until it was finally gutted by fire in 1939. Today the building is owned by software company, Profund Systems.



The above print dated 1854 shows the building roofless after a disastrous fire the previous year. Its fortunes improved when a local timber merchant, Giles Holbrow, began rubber manufacture there. Ten years later his son let the factory and plant to Messrs. Browne & Margetson.



The Hotel, Weir House and Avon Rubber Factory

Limpley Stoke Hotel

When Richard Dicke of Turleigh divided his substantial properties in Limpley Stoke and surrounding villages, he gave each of his children their own estate. The site of the hotel formed part of what was to be known as Stoke Farm and it was here that Richard and Margery Dicke built their farmhouse. Part of this building still remains and there is an intriguing date of 1625 inscribed on it. This branch of the Dicke family remained in the village for many centuries and there is still a descendant living in Canada. The 1841 Census shows Thomas Dicke was by then renting what is today Peipards Farm from Frances Maria Joyce and John and Henry Fisher were owners of Stoke Farm. They also owned and ran a large brewery by the river and no doubt used the plentiful supply of spring water in the process.

Twenty years later a hydropathic establishment was built on the site of Stoke Farm which became a health resort with its own Turkish baths and magnificent gardens. This establishment prospered until 1936, when it finally closed and became a hotel.

The extensive grounds were reduced considerably and today a number of fine houses have been built in the gardens. The hotel is now called the Limpley Stoke Hotel.



Hydro director Stephen Hill taking the waters

West of England Hydro:
Health and Pleasure Resort.
 LIMPLEY STROKE, BATH.

THE DOCTOR RESIDES IN THE HOUSE.

THE BATHS
 are situated on a beautiful spot in the heart of the town, and are supplied with pure and delicious water.

THE GYMNASIUM
 is a spacious and well-ventilated room, and is supplied with every modern appliance.

THE READING ROOM
 is a comfortable and well-furnished room, and is supplied with every modern appliance.

CARRIAGES
 are kept in the house, and are supplied with every modern appliance.

AMUSEMENTS
 are provided in the house, and are supplied with every modern appliance.

DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS
 are provided in the house, and are supplied with every modern appliance.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "HYDRO, LIMPLEY STROKE, BATH."



The Hydro from the tennis courts 1906

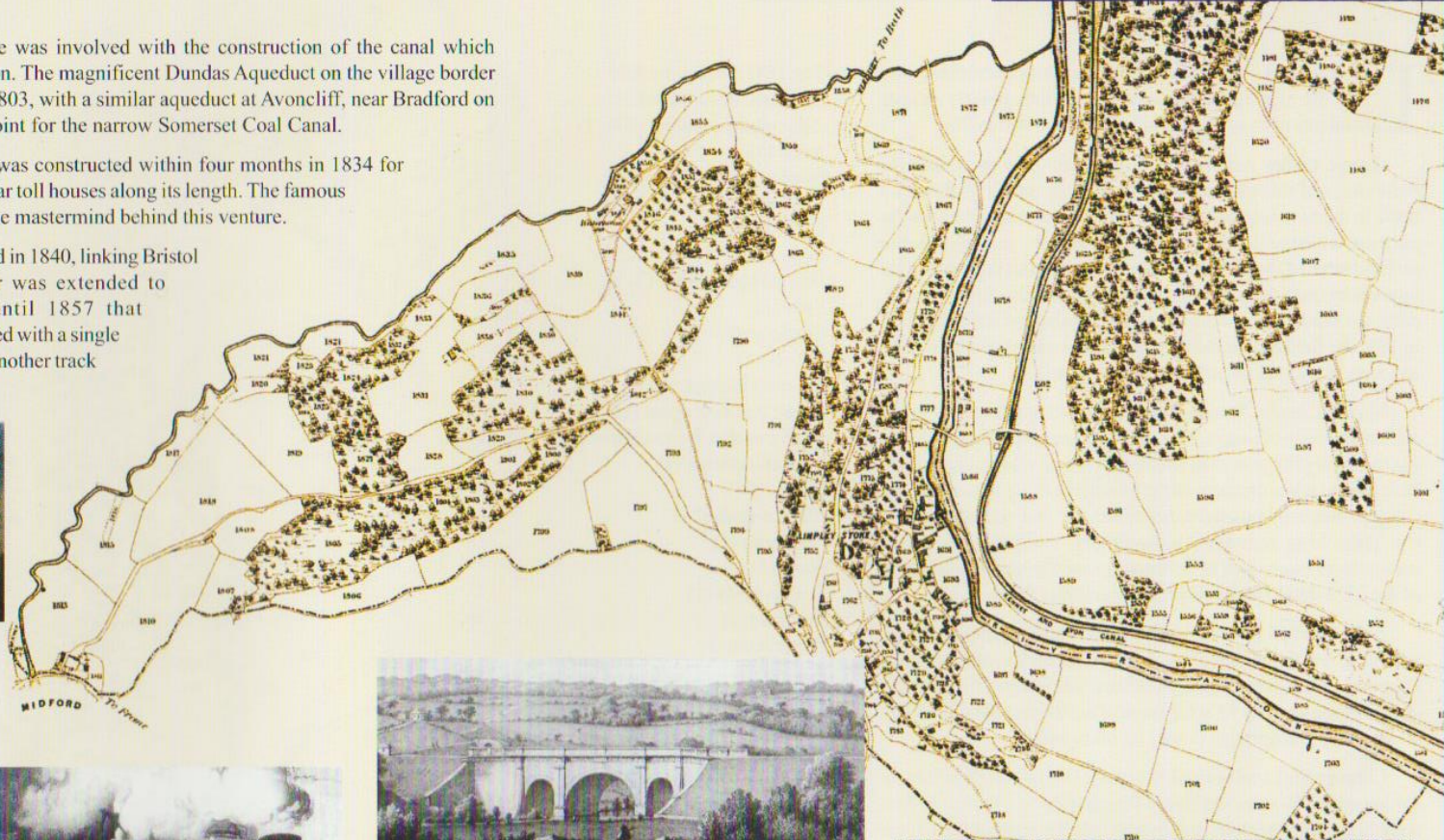
Tithe Map 1841

The A36 Warminster Road (originally called the Black Dog turnpike), the Kennet and Avon Canal and the Great Western Railway were designed by three of the greatest civil engineers of the Industrial Revolution.

Between 1794 and 1810 John Rennie was involved with the construction of the canal which eventually connected Bristol to London. The magnificent Dundas Aqueduct on the village border was designed by Rennie and built in 1803, with a similar aqueduct at Avoncliff, near Bradford on Avon. Dundas was also the starting point for the narrow Somerset Coal Canal.

The viaduct over the Midford Brook was constructed within four months in 1834 for the Warminster Road, which had regular toll houses along its length. The famous road engineer Robert McAdam was the mastermind behind this venture.

Brunel's Great Western Railway opened in 1840, linking Bristol with Bath, and the following year was extended to Chippenham. But it was not until 1857 that Bathampton and Trowbridge were linked with a single line through Limpley Stoke. By 1885 another track had been added to the Westbury line.



View of St Mary's Church from Dundas Aqueduct c1840

The road from Bathwick to Stoke is rapidly approaching completion. Considerable opposition was raised to the bill by which this undertaking is authorized, and the entire endeavours of Mr. Roebuck to carry the bill through the House of Commons exposed him, at the time, to much censure. It is now admitted that this road will form one of the chief improvements of the place. It passes along the old line of road until it nearly reaches Bathampton, when it takes the circuit of the hills, passing under Claverton, going on above the aqueduct, crossing the valley by a magnificent stone viaduct, and rising by a gentle ascent the hill opposite, until it reaches Stoke. It passes in this course along the beautiful and pretty wooded valley of the Avon, and presents much varied and magnificent scenery. The best mode of seeing the views it affords is perhaps to follow the road from Stoke to Bath. The view from above Stoke and through the woods, with which the hill about it is enriched, is truly grand. At the bottom of the hill, the aqueduct and viaduct vie with each other as works of art, and are noble specimens of masonry. Passing on towards Bath, the road opens the beautiful scenery of the villages of Bathford, Colerne, and Bathampton. It then goes forward to an almost level line to Bath, *passing 1834*



The viaduct across the valley and brook between Brass Knocker and Limpley Stoke hills is completed. Work was begun on the 14 of June, and was finished on the 25th instant, little more than four months. The bridge consists of 11 arches, each 21 feet span, and, including the walls, 29 feet high from the meadows; the span on the top is 33 feet wide; and the length of the bridge 245 feet. A committee have inspected the work, and have pronounced that great praise is due to Mr. David Aust, the architect. *Bath Guardian Nov. 7. 1834*

The new road from Bath to Warminster is expected to be opened about May next. *Bath Guardian Nov. 1834*

Bath Guardian 1834



Dundas Aqueduct



Limpley Stoke Viaduct



The Census & Map 1841

Limpley Stoke is fortunate in that the Census and the survey for the tithing map coincided, which greatly assists students of local history in bringing the two to life.

George Culley Ashmead of Bristol first won the tender for surveying and mapping all properties in the parish of Bradford liable to the poor rate and later the tender for a similar task for the purpose of tithe commutation. All papers relating to the preliminaries of the Tithe Map have been lost but happily the six foot square map with its accompanying schedule remains high, wide and handsome and can be seen at Trowbridge Record Office. In 1841 the field names and acreage were in common use on maps and were registered accordingly by Ashmead.

Most of Limpley Stoke village was owned by a few landowners and the majority of people lived in rented accommodation. We set out to identify the pattern in which the Census was conducted and have tried to relate the name of the owner, the name of the principal occupier/head of household, his or her age and occupation with the Tithe Map number. Undoubtedly, there will be some inaccuracies due to lack of information and further detailed study of the 1851-1891 Census is needed to correct them.

From 1800 to 1850 the major landowner in Limpley Stoke, Freshford and South Stoke was Robert Cooper. He inherited from his grandmother who lived in Salisbury. The irony of his apparent good fortune was that he spent most of his life in a lunatic asylum and trustees managed his estates on his behalf.

Limpley Stoke comprised 552 acres, of which Robert Cooper owned some 250 acres and Henry Toogood Davis 135. The Fishers were principally brewers and owned only 16 acres of land in the village. The annual total rent charge payable to the vicar was £52 and to the Dean and Chapter of Bristol and their lessees, Robert Langley and Maria Joyce, £82.

At the time of the 1841 Census there were 377 people – 193 males and 184 females – living in Limpley Stoke. Seventy-four buildings were inhabited and 17 uninhabited.

Large families were common but the largest of all was the Dainton family: quarryman John (45); Hester (45); blacksmith Andrew and quarrymen George and Solomon (all aged 20); Priscella, Mary, Arthur and Valentine (all aged 15); Archelaus (11); Maria (9); Charles (7) and Worthey (7 months).

The 1841 Census records residents' occupations as:

- Agricultural labourer (37)
- Army (1)
- Blacksmith (1)
- Chair-maker (1)
- Cloth-maker (1)
- Farm bailiff (1)
- Farmer/beer retailer (3)
- Fuller (2)
- Gardener (4)
- Grocer (1)
- Grocer's apprentice (1)
- House and land agent (1)
- Hurdle-maker/beer retailer (1)
- Market gardener (1)
- Mason (9)
- Mantua-maker* (1)
- Navigator (1)
- Navy (5)
- Pork butcher (1)
- Publican (1)
- Quarryman (5)
- Sawyer (6)
- Schoolboy (5)
- Schoolmaster (1)
- Schoolmistress (1)
- Servants: female (15) male (2)
- Shepherd (2)
- Shoe-maker (2)
- Shopkeeper (2)
- Solicitor (1)
- Straw bonnet-maker (1)
- Tea dealer (1)
- Weaver (3)
- Wood dealer (1)
- Wool broker (1)

**Produced dresses from paper patterns. French-sounding names were considered more fashionable. Limpley Stoke's mantua-maker was called Mary Smith!*

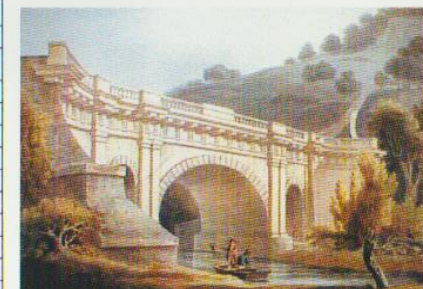


Tithe no.	Description	Christian Name	Surname	Age	Trade	Owner of Freehold
1685	Upper Bridge Mead	John	Newton	40	Wool Broker	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1687	Orchard	John	Sheppard	45	Publican	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1688	House & Garden	John	Newton	60	Wool Broker	John Newton
1689	Factory and Premises	Thomas H.	Saunders		Wollen Factory	John Newton
1690	Three Houses and Gardens	John	Little	50	Fuller	R. Cooper/John Newton
	"	Charles	Little	20	Fuller	"
	"	James	Allen	30	Shoemaker	"
1691	House, Garden, Brewery, Malt-House	Henry	Fisher	45	Common Brewer	Henry & John Fisher
1692	Dwelling House, Yard, and Garden	James	Trollop	45	Market Gardener	R. Cooper/J.C. Daniel
1693	Mansion House and Premises	Robert	Francis	45	Market Gardener	R. Cooper/J.C. Daniel
1694	Garden	James	Trollop	35	Agricultural Labourer	R. Cooper/J.C. Daniel
1695	Two Tenements and Garden	William	Richards	50	Navy	R. Cooper/Thomas Forster
	"	Thomas	Reed	30	Agricultural Labourer	"
1696	House, Lawn, and Garden	George	Penruddock	45	Navy	R. Cooper/Geo. Penruddock
1697	King's Mead	William	Smith	40	Farmer & Cider Retailer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1714	Old House and Gardens	Samuel	Nash	40	Mason	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1715	Garden	Robert	Francis	35	Agricultural Labourer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1716	Church and Church Yard					
1717	Part of Smock Land	George	Watts		Freshford Farmer	Mrs Maria Joyce
1718	Foxley	George	Watts		Freshford Farmer	R. Cooper/J.C. Daniel
1719	Croft	Jehu	Rose			R. Cooper/J.C. Daniel
1720	House, Garden, Lawn, & Plantations	William	Clift	25	School Master	R. Cooper/J.C. Daniel
1721	Croft	James	Trollop	45	Market Gardener	R. Cooper/J.C. Daniel
1722	Croft	James	Trollop	45	Market Gardener	R. Cooper/J.C. Daniel
1723	House, Garden & orchard	Henry	Norris			Henry Norris
1724	Two Tenements and garden	Isaiah	Keer	30	Mason	John Pulsford
	"	Henry	Noons	35	Pork Butcher	"
1725	House, Lawn, and Garden	Elizabeth	Read			R. Cooper/John Williams
1726	Three Tenements, Malthouse & Garden	George	Morgan	55	Gardener	R. Cooper/William Ward
	"	Joseph	Morgan	25	Mason	"
	"	?	?			"
1727	Orchard	George	Morgan	55	Gardener	R. Cooper/William Ward
1728	Orchard	James	Trollop	45	Market Gardener	R. Cooper/J.C. Daniel
1729	Stoke House Orchard	James	Trollop	45	Market Gardener	R. Cooper/J.C. Daniel
1730	Two Houses and Gardens	James	Dainton	70	Agricultural Labourer	R. Cooper/J.C. Daniel
	"	Thomas	Hulbert	30	Agricultural Labourer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1731	House, Orchard, Garden & Yard	Giles	Ricketts	45	Mason	R. Cooper/Giles Ricketts
1732	Cottage and Garden	Giles	Ricketts	45	Mason	R. Cooper/Giles Ricketts
1733	Garden	Giles	Ricketts	45	Mason	R. Cooper/Giles Ricketts
1734	Five Houses & Gardens	George	Francis	30	Agricultural Labourer	Richard Forster of Bath
	"	Jack	Wicks	40	Hurdle Maker	"
	"	William	Shell	25	Stonemason	"
	"	William	Collins	45	Agricultural Labourer	"
	"	Henry	Richards	90	Weaver	"
1735	Three Houses and Gardens	Thomas	Harris	60	Sheppard	Mrs Anne Lewis
	"	William	Woodward	45	Agricultural Labourer	"
	"	George	Manners	30	"	"
1737	House and Garden	Void	Void		Vacant	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1738	Two Houses and Gardens	James	Huntley	40	Sawyer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
	"	Elizabeth	Huntley	50	Widow	"
1739	House and Garden	Stephen	Kittle	45	Sheppard	R. Cooper/James Forster
1740	House, Garden & Orchard	Stephen	Kittle	45	Sheppard	R. Cooper/James Forster
1741	Tenement and Garden	William	Smith	40	Farmer & Cider Retailer	R. Cooper/James Forster
1742	Orchard and Buildings	Jo. Clisild	Daniel	58	Inventor	R. Cooper/James Forster
1743	Two Houses, , Yard, & Quarry	Job	Allen	60	Grocer	Robert Cooper/Job Allen

Tithe no.	Description	Christian Name	Surname	Age	Trade	Owner of Freehold
1743		Henry	Francis	40	Shopkeeper/Beer Retailer	"
1744	Orchard and Garden	Henry	Francis	40	"	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1745	Garden	Samuel	Morgan	55	Gardener	R. Cooper/Samuel Morgan
1746	Three Houses and Gardens	Samuel	Morgan	55	Gardener	R. Cooper/Samuel Morgan
	"	Mary	French	55	Shopkeeper	"
	"	William	Huntley	40	Tea Dealer	"
1747	Garden	Henry	Francis	40	Shop/Beer Retailer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1748	House and Garden	Ann	Clark	50	Widow	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1749	Vicarge House & Garden	George	Forster	35	House & Land Agent	Rev. H. Harvey, Vicaral Glebe
1750	Plaisters below Road	John	Allen	30	Farmer/Beer Retailer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1751	Part of Foxey	Jehu	Rose			R. Cooper/J.C. Daniel
1752	Pucklewood and Upper Rocks	John	Allen	30	Farmer/Beer Retailer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1753/4/5	Spy House Leaze	Joseph	Roby			Rev. J.H. Evans/Mrs M. Joyce
1756	Four small Gardens	Joseph	Roby			R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1757	Four Houses and gardens	John	Smith	40	Shoemaker	Rev. J.H. Evans/Mrs M. Joyce
	"	John	Chandler	45	Agricultural Labourer	"
	"	John	Huntley	55	Army	"
	"	Mary	Smith	40	Mantua-maker	"
1758	Old House and Gardens	George	Forster	35	House & Land Agent	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1760	Three Houses and Gardens	Luke	Cromwell	40	Agricultural Labourer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
	"	Charles	Huntley	55	Navy	"
	"	John	Tucker	40	Agricultural Labourer	"
1761	House and Orchard	Joel	Weeks			R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1762	Withy Bed and Brookles	John	Allen	30	Farmer/Beer Retailer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1763	The Cow Pen	John	Allen	30	Farmer/Beer Retailer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1764	House & Garden	John	Dainton	45	Quarryman	Mrs Anne Lewis
1765	Two Tenements	Henry	Millard	50	Sawyer	Mrs Anne Lewis
	"	Thomas	Ward	50	Navy	"
1766	Four Tenements & Gardens	Robert	Ford	25	Agricultural Labourer	George Forster
	"	Hester	Wilkins	65	"	"
	"	John	Naish (Jnr)	40	Agricultural Labourer	"
	"	Thomas	New	25	"	"
1767	Tenement and Garden	William	Beaser	30	Agricultural Labourer	Mrs Anne Lewis
1768	Stoke Farm House and Homestead	John	Fisher	45	Independent	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
	"	George	Strugnell	20	Gardener	"
	"	Elizabeth	Fato	40	Female Servant	"
1769	Yard, Garden and Buildings	Henry	Fisher	45	Common Brewer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1770	Orchard	Henry	Fisher	45	Common Brewer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1771	The Folly and Buildings	Henry	Fisher	45	Common Brewer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1772	House and Garden	John	Shepherd	45	Publican	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1773	Garden	John	Tucker	40	Agricultural Labourer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1774	Halls Close Orchard	Henry	Fisher	45	Common Brewer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1775	Pucklewood	Henry	Fisher	45	Common Brewer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1776	Stoke Gate House & Bridge	George	Gray	60	Navigator	Maria Fisher & R. Langley
1777	Lower Bridge Mead	John	Newton	40	Wool Broker	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1778	Long Meadow	John	Allen	30	Farmer/Beer Retailer	George Vivian Esq.
1779	Puckle Orchard	James	Trollop	45	Market Gardener	Richard Foster of Freshford
1780	Part of Holy Well	Henry	Fisher	45	Common Brewer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1781	Pucklewood	Henry	Fisher	45	Common Brewer	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1782	Bowling Green Orchard	James	Trollop	45	Market Gardener	Richard Foster of Freshford
1783	Puckle Wood	James	Trollop	45	Market Gardener	Richard Foster of Freshford
1784	Puckle Wood	James	Trollop	45	Market Gardener	Richard Foster of Freshford
1785	Two Tenements and garden	George	Morgan	55	Gardener	R. Cooper/George Morgan
	"	Joseph	Morgan	25	Mason	"
1786	Two Houses and Gardens	Void	Void		Vacant	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher
1787	Orchard	George	Morgan	55	Gardener	R. Cooper/H. & J. Fisher



Limpley Stoke from Westwood 1850



Dundas Aqueduct 1805



Limpley Stoke from Brassknocker Hill 1805



Old Stoke Bridge 1840

Ordnance Survey Map 1905



Limpley Stoke Railway Station



Holbrow's Timber Yard



The Lyddiards



View of Hydro



Wilkins' Shop, Middle Stoke

LIMPLEY STOKE.

1/2 miles S.E. of Bath on the W.minster Road. Population (with Winsley) 1,027. Marked thus should be addressed via Freshford.

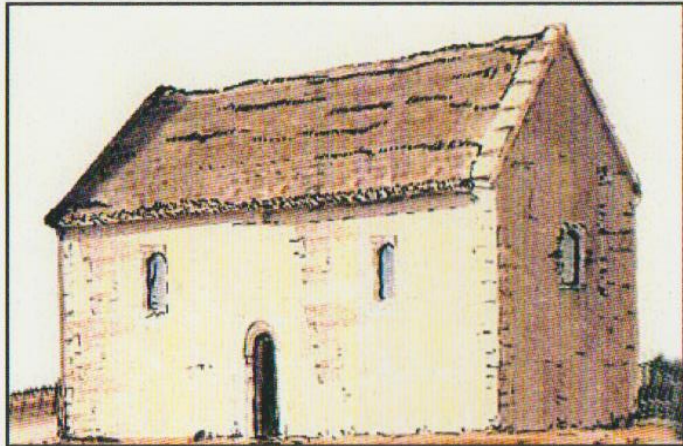
Acton Colonel, Avonside
 Atkins George, gardener
 Bailder Ambrose, foreman
 Bailey Thomas, foreman, saw mills
 Ballinger E., Manor cottage
 Bowles F., Muthill Strawberry gardens
 Barfitt C., Sion cottage
 " Mrs., Vine cottage
 Burnett Miss, Hill view
 Chapman H., gardener, t, Station view
 Clapp Miss, national school, Glen view
 Daley George, porter, Grove cottages
 Donaldson F., Dover cottage
 Drake Thomas G., esq., L.R.C.P.I., L.M., L.R.C.S.I., hydro-pathic establishment; res.

Field Mrs., dressmaker, Grove cottage
 Francis George, gardener
 " Mrs., laundress
 " Thomas, carter
 Greaves Mrs., The Woodlands
 Ham A. E., station master
 Hathaway Mrs., lodgings, Glen view*
 Hayward F. J., esq., Arsona*
 Holbrow Mr. W., Brewery house
 Hosey J., quarryman, Forster's bldgs.
 " Mrs.
 Hutton Elizabeth, laundress
 " Joseph, haulier, Forster's bldgs.
Hydro-pathic Establishment—
 Hamley Miss, manageress
 Jones C., bathattendant, Stock villa ldg.
 " G., Forster's buildings
 Liddiard Jas., haulier, 2, Station view
 Lintern David, Canal cottage
 Lock Mrs., Rockfield cottage

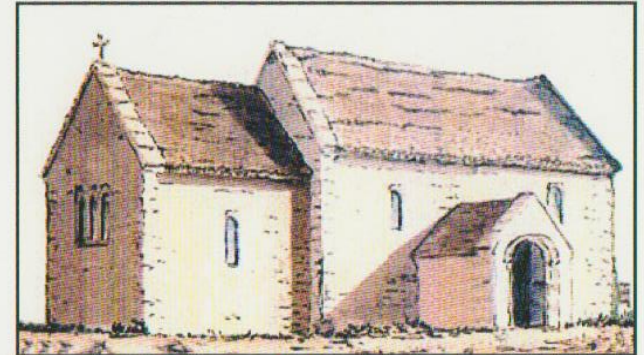
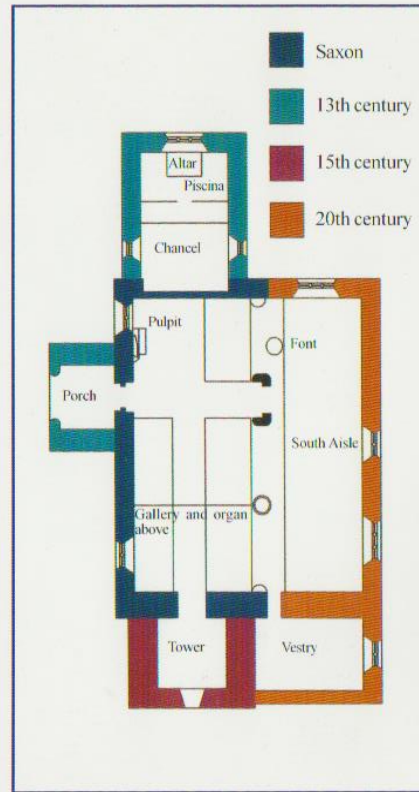
Long Miss, The Clift
 Mack Mrs., Chatley house
 Mackness Mr., Vale view
 Male James, Hop Pole Inn
 Mannings W., quarryman
 Mapson Mrs., Stoke hill house*
 Mayor Colonel, High view
 Meech Francis W., esq., Winyatts*
 Millard F., sawyer, collee & rdag. rms.
 " Sidney, signalman G.W.R., Baker's cottages
 Miller J., gamekeeper, Rowas cottage
 Mizzen William, quarryman
 Morgan J., gardener, *Rose and Crown*
 " Mrs. Mary, Stoke bar
 Morrell Colonel, Manor house
 Mundy Charles, gardener
 Nash Mrs., laundress, Dover cottage
 New Edward, packer G.W.R.
 " Frank, mason, t, Hill view
 " John, cowman

Norris Mrs., Rose cottage
 Organ Henry, sawyer, Railway cott.
 Pace Rev. Henry H., The Lodge
 Palmer John, cellerman
 Penny J., gardener, Prospect place
 Perry Lot, quarryman
 Pickering Henry, Upland farm
 Poole Richard, esq., M.A., The Firs
 Quarterly Mrs., Lower Stoke
 Sheppard T., signalman, Fern cottage
 Simmon, Graham, esq., The Rocks
 Smart Charles, groom*
 Townsend Mrs., Prospect place
 Udell Thomas, carter
 Venton Oliver
 Wallington, Weston & Co., India Rubber mills
 Weston W. H., Post Office
 Wilkins John, grocer

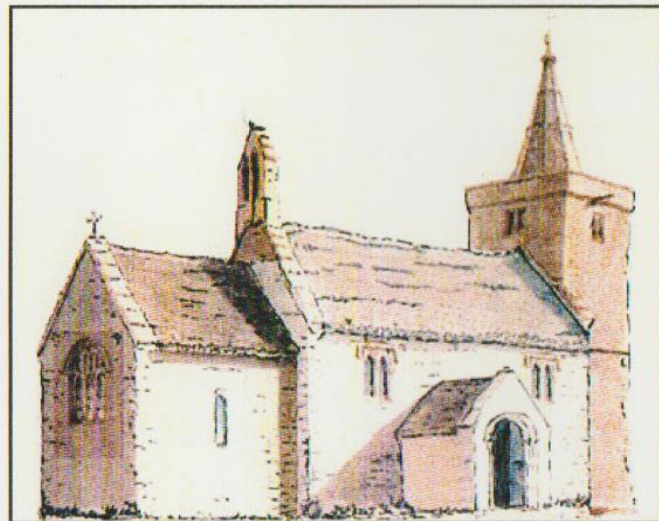
St Mary's Through the Centuries



11th century



13th century



15th century

The only entrance to the original stone chapel was from the south side. The wall construction in the sanctuary suggests that there was an earlier chancel than the present one, which was built along with the north porch and doorway in the early 13th century. It is not known when the south door was sealed but it was not reopened until 1894. The upper stage of the tower and spire were added in the 15th century. The thatched roof was replaced by a lead one probably in the 17th/early 18th century and a tiled roof built in 1848. The south aisle was added in 1921.



19th century

