

Steeple Barton Church

→ Index inside the file (Patrons: Duke of Marlborough
A. W. Hall)

Interesting comments on the 1850s restoration, not all favourable
includes comments in Woodstock Review and Magazine, April 1923

re. Steeple Barton Dramatic Society, established in 1902
in April 1923 were performing in aid of
the War Memorial

- death of Lt. Col. Alexander Nelson Hall (age 57)
son of A.W. Hall (who left him Barton Abbey)

- records of inscriptions

- note on coins found beneath the Church's foundations
(1954?)

- clergy returns 1738

(The estate of the Duchess of Marlborough

--- who has the great tithes of Middle Barton)

- notes on the 'manor house' built by John Dormer -
altered by Ralph Sheldon (1678 + 1679)

- various inscriptions in Church etc.

- summary of restoration undertaken at SB Church
+ subscribers to renovation (1851)

→ • Inventory of moveable items in SB Church (1854)

- Roll of honour 1914 - 1918 (Steeple Barton parish)

- Personalities of various vicars (inc. Rev. Simon Stephen, an
Iraqi, born Shumoun Stephan Isko

- Rota for duties inc. altar flowers

(Spring 1967: Kettlewell, Steeple Barton Vicarage
appears four times

- Newspaper cuttings inc. application of pigeon deterrent
Oxford Times 24.3.1975 ~~1977~~ 1975

- Rev. Peter Dance inducted as Vicar (of JT, SB, SSM and WB)*

* were separated from North Aston

- Restoration of the organ 1993
(and background)

Concert 17 Sept 1994

CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, STEEPLE BARTON

Historical note, BHG, 1989. 2 copies. Copies given to Churchwardens
Section on Church from Victoria County History, vol XI 1983
Inscriptions, from Rawlinson and Wood. Parochial Collections.
Oxfordshire Record Society, 1920.
Transcript, MS Top Oxon 165, 4pp
Memorial inscriptions on the floor of the Church, 1990
Note about Sheldons
Sheldon, Letter from City Archivist York, and extract from Recusant
History, donated by Mr G Brown.
Sheldon, extracts from Recusant History and family tree, donated by Mr
R Fleming
Notes from MS Top Oxon d 91, Restoration of Church, 3pp
Parker's Guide, photocopy, 2pp
Presscuttings: Petition for appointment to living, 1849?, Christian
Missions meeting. Vestry Minutes
Presscuttings etc, restoration, bells, and re-opening 1851, 3pp, Vestry
Minutes
Subscribers to repair of Church and expenditure, Vestry Minutes
Inventory 1854, Churchwarden's Accounts
Report on building of Vicarage, 1859, Vestry Minutes
Note on Vicarage
Roll of Honour, photograph and typed list
Sunday School prizes, photocopies of title pages, John Mole 1909,
Gordon Mole 1916
Presscutting, Strange case of the Iraqi country parson, Rev Simon
Stephen, 1946
Presscutting, Rev Arthur W Blanchett, 1950's?
Choir duties, 1950-1951, list of names
Presscutting, Finding Peace at Steeple Barton, 1962
Altar flowers, list 1967
Presscutting, Jelly-enough to give pigeons the wobbles, 1975
Presscutting, Villagers rally to save their church, picture of Rev
John Carne [1970's]
Presscuttings Rev Peter and Mrs Grace Dance
Steeple and Westcote Barton, Rota of Sunday Services, [1970's]
Canon Oldfield's Clerus, photocopy of Steeple Barton page
List of incumbents, BHG 1990

File: Steeple Barton Church

ST. NICHOLAS, TACKLEY.

BURIALS.—Feb. 22nd., Isabella Cleaver; Feb. 23rd, James Saunders. *Requiescant pace.*

WEEK-DAY EUCHARISTS.—8 a.m., Monday, 2nd, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, 3rd, at 8 a.m. Ann. of B.V.M., 10th; S. Mark, 25th; SS. Philip and James, May 1st.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR APRIL.—Messrs. A. Milton, F. Honour, John Honour, J. Cleaver, W. Harwood.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES.—The following were presented at the Cathedral Church on Monday, March 19th: John W. Franklin, Thomas A. Smith, John W. Thornton, Ernest Franklin, Aubrey Adams, Basil A. Clark, Violet Thornton, Daisy L. Adams, Daisy Allen, Dorothy Ball, Annie Whitlock, Enid Broome, Mable Broome. May we ask all to pray that these may have the

grace of perseverance and our Communicants will encourage to be faithful to their obligations at the altar.

G.F.S.—The members meet at the Rectory each fortnight and exhibit their interest in *Overseas Missions* by making garments for native children at the Moradabad Mission, India.

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.—Under Mrs. E. F. Evett's vigorous direction a full programme of events and interests for each month of the year has been arranged. There is a monthly tea to which members contribute the same article each time. In November is the annual sale; to which all are expected to contribute.

In February, Mr. E. F. Evetts gave an evening lecture on History of Tackley, which afforded great interest to those present.

ST.-MARY-THE-VIRGIN, FREELAND.



MY DEAR FRIENDS,—I am venturing to begin by reminding you of one word of the Easter collect—"desire." In ordinary life, though our circumstances and opportunities vary, it remains true, I suppose, that in school or business he who has

the desire to rise, will rise. In our spiritual life this is true without exception. But it is precisely this desire for heavenly things which seems now so rare. Easter is the season above all others when we feel the "heavenly desires" of which the Collect speaks stirring in our hearts. We have watched our Saviour dying on the Cross; we have watched Him laid in the tomb and have thought of ourselves as dead and buried with Him to our old life of shame, and even the dullest heart can hardly fail to catch the message of Easter morning, "Rise heart; thy Lord is risen." But these "heavenly desires" put into our minds by the Holy Spirit must by our own faithful effort be "brought to good effect." Here are some Easter desires which all can thus fulfil: (1) To grow in our life of prayer, by praying better prayers and

trying to recollect God's Presence through the day by repeating short sentences or acts of prayer; (2) to be more regular and frequent in our Communions, and to prepare and give thanks better for them; (3) to become more and more Christ-like in our daily life of service to others; (4) perhaps we should add, to persevere in reading the Gospel daily on our knees.

Please do not expect to see me much about the village after Easter. I fear I must concentrate on getting work indoors done, in preparation for May. We are fortunate in securing as curate of Mr. Wilson from Whitkirk, for the weeks between my departure and the new Vicar's arrival. Wishing all a truly happy Easter,

Your servant in Christ,

EDWARD D. SEDDING.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.—At the meeting held on February 25th, Miss Van Buskirk demonstrated on Raffia Hat-making. The competition for an home-made fruit-cake resulted in Miss Hopkins gaining first prize, and Mrs. T. Lay second; Miss M. Norridge was highly commended. Songs were sung by Mrs. Hawkins and Miss Allmond.

STEEPLE BARTON (continued from p. 63).

education for the nation and for the empire. Last Easter, in his letter to the Secretary of the P.C.C. accepting the office of churchwarden in this parish, he announced that he would continue till Easter this year, but no later as his connection with the parish was coming to an end. He was a member of the Chipping Norton Board of Guardians and Rural District Council, being elected as the representative of Cornwall in 1908. The funeral took

place at Cornwall on Saturday afternoon. But Steeple Barton tolled its bell at the same time, and a memorial service was arranged for Palm Sunday evening with part of the office of the Burial of the Dead, Hymns "There's peace and rest in Paradise," "Ten thousand times ten thousand," "How bright these glorious spirits shine," and the Dead March in Saul.

R. MAGAZINE DONATIONS.—Col. Jervis, 5/- Subscription, Mrs. Wood.

ST. MARY, STEEPLE BARTON.

HYMNS.—April 1st, Easter Anthem. M., "King of Kings"; E., "Christ is Risen," both by Caleb Simper. M., 134, 130, 138; A., 134, 140; E., 134, 135, 140, 499. April 8th.—M., 135, 132; A., 335, 341; E., 134, 141, 537. April 15th.—M., 299, 248; A., 330, 331; E., 392, 196, 281. April 22nd.—M., 282, 224; A., 569, 571; E., 240, 230, 30. April 29th.—M., 137, 320; A., 224, 336; E., 167, 207, 38.

Happy Easter to all our readers. When the magazine for April reaches their hands, probably Easter Day will be over, but Easter not Easter blessing and joy. Our workers have every reason to give humble and hearty thanks to Him from Whom all blessings flow for the abundance of grace which He has showered on us since last Easter. Let us enter upon work again with the same spirit of absolute reliance on the power of His Resurrection to conquer and to bless, and we shall surely work in the sunshine of His throne and under the shadow of His wings. Let especially our communicants to whom our Risen Lord will graciously grant the privilege of partaking of His Feast in their parish church think also of the aged or infirm communicants, and take the initiative of offering to communicate with them at their houses should they wish to have the Easter Communion. Far better, make an offer than wait till they themselves ask.

Hearty invitation to all our electors to be at the Mission Hall, on Tuesday, in Easter Week, April 3rd, at 7 p.m., for the elections, etc., as announced in the magazine for March.

Our readers will pardon us for not having mentioned the Crucifixion for Good Friday. We knew nothing about it at the time of writing. Choirmaster and choristers had not seen it nor heard it before. The first practice took place the last Sunday in March, and judging by the following practices, it sounds extremely promising.

FOOTBALL CLUB.—On February 24th, Barton were at home to Kirtlington and after a hard game Kirtlington retired winners by the odd goal in three. On March 3rd, Freeland paid a visit to Barton in a friendly and were defeated 2—1. On March 10th came the game of the season when we had the Home team up against Launton, this wonderful village team with a great record had to retire beaten by 1—0.

Kirtlington, also a strong team and this year's finalists, for the Jersey Cup, had a very great difficulty in warding off the Barton attack, the game was left drawn. Bicester at Bicester is the match for the 24th, Enstone, 31st, at Deddington, on Easter Monday, Bletchington at home on April 7th, and Freeland away on April 14th.

The Cricket Ground has been relaid, and what is wanted is willing hands to roll and work the ground so that a good wicket may be the result. The thanks of the Club are due to Mr. Pike for what he has done.

A Bowls Club has been started, and a goodly number of members have joined. Mr. Bennett is the Secretary.

A Tennis Club has been formed, any one desirous of becoming a member should apply to Mr. R. Jarvis.

The Steeple Barton Dramatic Society, established in 1902, is resuming its activities, and posters through the parish are already announcing three plays for April 6th and 7th at the Schools in aid of the War Memorial.

We deeply regret to announce the death of our church-worker, Lieut. Col. Alexander Nelson Hall, O.B.E., which took place at Cornwall Manor, Kingham, on Wednesday night, March 14th, at the age of 57. When he came shooting the last time after his return from Scotland in October last, our people already noticed how ill he looked. He was suffering from anaemia. Several blood injections improved him a little when we heard that he was preparing to return to the nursing home for further treatment. He passed peacefully away at 11.30. Colonel Hall married Miss Porter, a daughter of Colonel Porter. He has resided in Cornwall since 1894. His father, Mr. Alexander William Hall, left him Barton Abbey, where he came to live for about two years, but finally preferred to sell Barton Abbey and return to Cornwall Manor. He was Justice of the Peace for the County. During the war he commanded the 2/1st Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars. We all still remember the enthusiastic scenes witnessed in this and neighbouring parishes when Col. Hall, at the head of his men, overran this part of the county recruiting for the war when several of our parishioners offered themselves in response to his stirring appeals for King and Country. The Order of the British Empire was conferred upon him in recognition of the war services rendered. The older inhabitants remember him as one of the original voices in the 1st choir that they had when his parents came to Barton. Some indeed love to tell of the touching part he took when only a baby at the laying of the foundation stone of the Steeple Barton Schools, when his father, one of the leading orators in this country, stopped in the middle of his oration to the assembled multitude, and taking his baby in his arms, he held him up to them to illustrate his argument of his faith in the necessity of

(Continued on p. 60.)

Antiquity No. SP 42 SW 1	County & Old 6 No. OXONZINE 1	Parish STEEPLE BARTON	Full N.G. Reference	Classification Ro
Remarks Ro. coins found			Authorities AHR 17.2.54	
[SP 4483 2489] 1. Bronze coin of Vespasian with another illegible found beneath the foundations of the church at Steeple Barton.			AHR 17.2.54. ① VCH I (1939), 343 ② N.Oxf. Arch. Soc, 1853-5, 113. Examined p. Date 19.5.54	

THE PARISH CHURCH

Steeple Barton

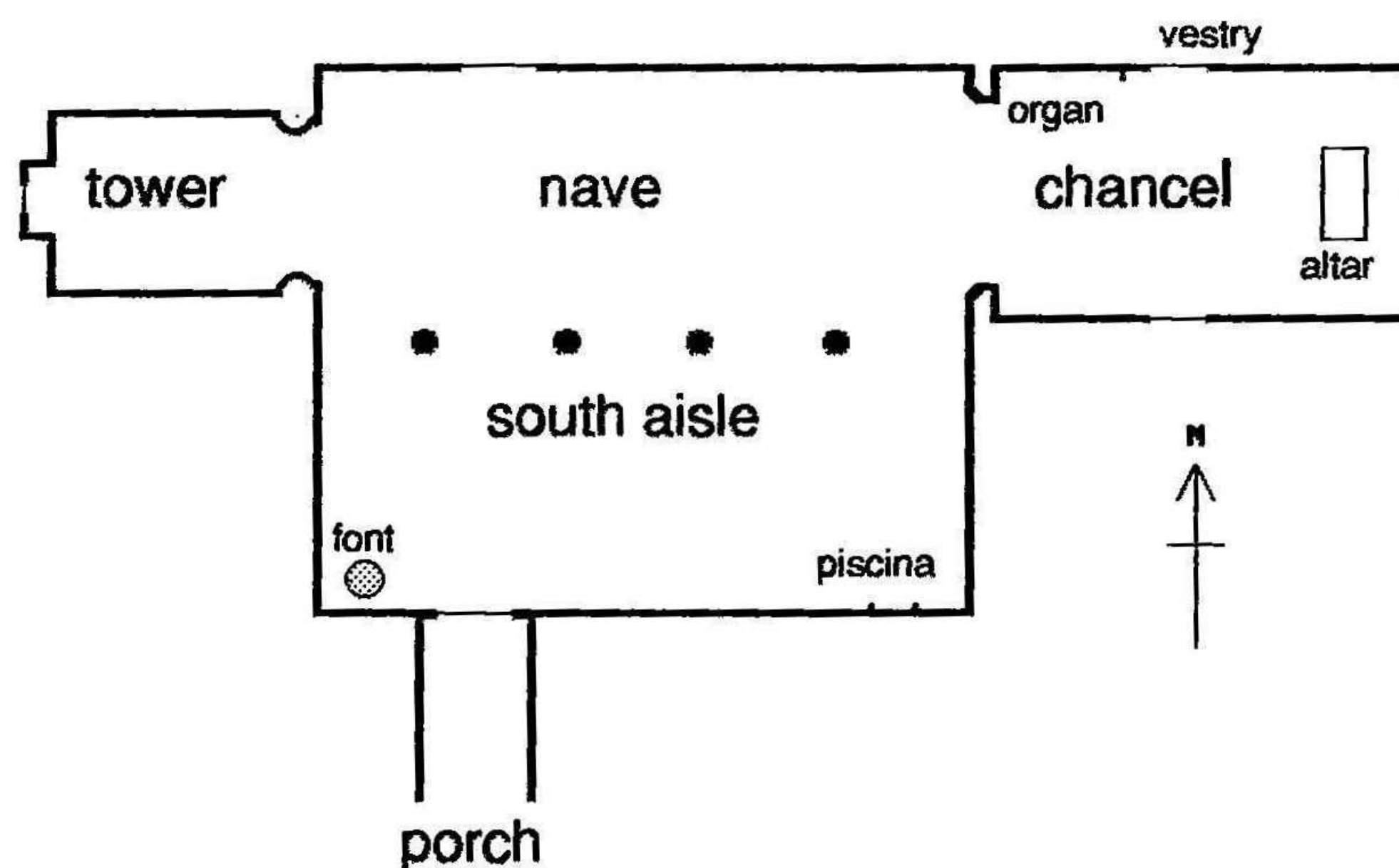
North Oxfordshire



Steeple Barton Church, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, has stood on its present site since the 12th century. There may well have been an earlier church on or near the same site. Most of what is now to be seen belongs to later rebuilding and additions made in the 14th, 15th and mid 19th centuries and, in architectural terms, is in the Decorated and Perpendicular styles or their later imitations.

The **porch** is one of the Victorian extensions built in late medieval style, protecting the 14th century main doorway which has over it a simple rolled moulding, called a **hood moulding**. The purpose of this decoration was practical, to throw water away from what would have been a wooden door (replaced in modern times). The moulding ends in two carved heads or **stops**, probably a conventional device and not meant as portraits of living people.

Inside, the first impression is of a simple plan, a wide aisle and beyond the pillars the nave, leading to the east end or chancel, which houses the altar. Most of the **flooring** is of stone slabs. The pews are fairly modern.



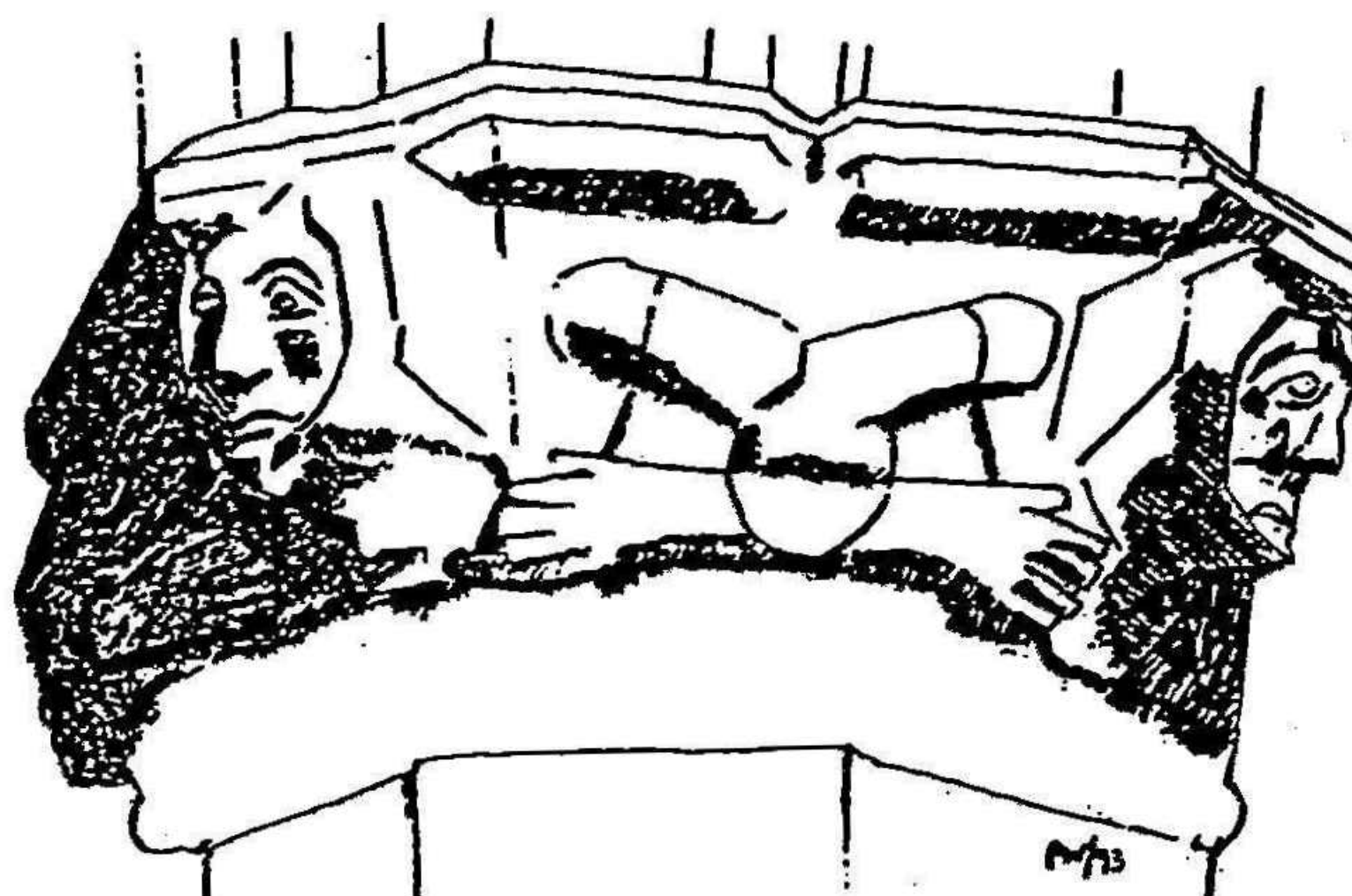
Just inside the main door stands the fine, plain, fluted **font** used for christenings, probably from the 12th century.

The large octagonal **pillars** or **piers** in the centre are interestingly decorated. On the **capitals** (tops of the pillars) are carved heads, some human, some animal and sometimes grotesque.

There are also linked arms, an unusual feature, which may be found in some other medieval churches in North Oxfordshire. What they signify is not known.



Drawings from
*The Bartons
Village Appraisal
Report, 1993.*



Architects describe this part of the building as in the Decorated style, characteristic of the period between 1290 and 1350.

The **corbels**, stones supporting the roof trusses and in medieval churches often carrying carved heads, also date from this period. There are three corbels on the north wall and two on the wall of the south aisle. The roof is 19th century.

Looking at the **windows**, the visitor will notice a similarity in the **tracery** (stone rib-work) which is a simple version of the late 14th and 15th century Perpendicular style but it is believed to be mainly mid 19th century workmanship, based perhaps on what was already there and reflecting the Victorian liking for medieval styles in church architecture. The architect for the mid 19th century restoration was J.C. Buckler. There is very little stained glass; this was not a rich parish. The main **east window** commemorates a local landowner and benefactor Henry Hall, who died in 1862. He lived at nearby Barton Abbey and the family played a large part in the rebuilding of the church.

In the south wall of the aisle, recessed into the wall, is an early 14th century **piscina** (a basin used for washing sacred vessels in the Middle Ages). As it lacks a drain, and is not in the usual place near the altar, it may be supposed that it was moved during the restoration and rebuilding, or that there may have been an altar in the aisle at some earlier date.

Moving eastwards beyond the pillars, along the nave, visitors enter the **chancel** with its large coloured window to which reference has already been made. The whole of this area was rebuilt and, like the rest of the church, reroofed in the 19th century when a vestry was added. The **floor** is paved with Minton tiles. The **organ**, made by William Hill, was first played on Christmas Day 1876, as we know from a letter written then by the Parish Clerk to his son in America. It cost £600 with another £200 for the organ chamber. By 1993 restoration became essential involving costs of around £10,000.

At the west end, the back of the church, is the **tower**, housing the bells. There are five of these, two from 1698 and three from 1851. After being silent for twenty one years, they have again been rung since 1982.

The parish never had many prosperous people in it and so the church is not rich in ornament or elaborate **memorials** to the dead. A monument of 1581, to John Dormer and his wife Elizabeth was removed in 1851 to Rousham church near the family home, by that date, of the Dormers.

Here, in the nave, on the floor is a stone to Katherine, widow of Edward Sheldon, who lived at the house now called Barton Abbey. In the south aisle is one to her father Sir Phillip Constable of Yorkshire who died in 1664.

HERE LYETH S^r PHILLIP
CONSTABLE OF EVERINGHAM
IN THE COVNTY OF YORKE
BARRONET WHOSE WHOLE
ESTATE WAS CONFISCATED BY
THE VSVRPERS FOR HIS
LOYALTY TO KING CHARLS
THE FIRST

HEE DYED FEB: THE 25
A^o D^m 1664

This is one of the few items, along with the scroll recording those who served in the first world war, which makes mention of national events. Another Sheldon monument, adjoining, commemorates Bridget, wife of Ralph Sheldon. The family coat of arms and date can be made out but little more. Philip Fleming who died in 1971 and who also lived at Barton Abbey and was a substantial benefactor to the church, has a memorial stone on the north wall of the nave.

At the back of the church is a box on the wall containing a trowel, commemorating the laying of foundation stones during the 1850-1851 restoration, by the sisters the Hon. Mrs. Holbech and the Hon. Mrs. Hall of Barton Abbey.

Outside, the visitor will notice that the tower seems to be built in two stages. The lower part is in the golden Cotswold stone of the rest of the building. The upper is made of the more reddish ironstone. It is thought that the bottom half was put up in the late 14th or in the 15th century. In 1548 a parishioner left £20 for the building of a steeple and it was then, probably, that the upper part was constructed. There is no spire, and possibly never was, though views on this may differ. A church tower was often referred to as a steeple.

On the north and south walls can be seen **consecration crosses** now weathered and of unknown date. All the roof coverings, however, are a 20th century replacement.



The **graveyard**, still in use, is large and well maintained. Near the porch is a medieval **stone coffin** said to have been in use as a water trough at Whistlow Farm and originally to have come from Eynsham Abbey. The medieval style **tomb** nearby belongs to the Hall family and is mid 19th century. In a tidying-up operation in 1965 many **old tomb stones** were moved. Some are against the road-side wall, some down the centre of the churchyard, and some against the north wall of the church. Now overgrown, they are difficult to decipher, but they were carefully examined and the inscriptions recorded in 1991. A note about them is in the porch. The earliest inscription is to the son of John Bussell (or Buswell) who died in 1683. Others nearby, against the north wall of the church, are in memory of the Egleston (or Eaglestone) family, whose descendents still live in the area.

From the east end of the church, across the fields, can be seen through the trees the 'big house' **Barton Abbey**, with its lake. The present house is substantially 19th century with some earlier 16th century elements. Nearer the church is an impressive **stone gate-way**, leading into what is now a back garden, which might be late 15th or 16th century in origin. Its history is unknown.

The church to-day is in the charge of a **Vicar** and has been since the 12th century Rector, Roger of St. John, gave the church and rectory lands and the great tithes to Oseney Abbey. At that time (and until the 16th century) the parish included what is now the parish of Sandford St. Martin, and these lands, too, were given to Oseney Abbey which in title became the Rector, enjoying the attached income and property. A deputy or Vicar was then appointed to function in the parish with the lesser tithes as his main source of income. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 the title of Rector of Steeple Barton passed into lay hands, with its profits.

Little is known of the Vicars who served the parish. Many held the living in conjunction with livings elsewhere and one, Robert Wright who held the living from 1808 to 1850, is said to have visited the parish only once. In 1904 an unusual appointment was made, that of Simon Stephen (originally Shimoun Stephan Isko) believed to be Armenian, formerly a Roman Catholic, a student at the Sorbonne, Paris, and a Doctor of Divinity. He was well regarded and long remembered by his parishioners as approachable if eccentric. In his period of office there was a Sunday School, a choir and many performances of oratorios. Until his death in 1946 he lived in what is now **the Old Vicarage**, a house built in 1856, designed by S.S. Teulon, and in more recent times occupied by the historian W.G. Hoskins who has written about Steeple Barton.

The present Vicar also has oversight of three other parishes, Duns Tew, Sandford St. Martin and Westcote Barton, now grouped as a **United Benefice** and, while by tradition he is Vicar of Steeple Barton, he is also Rector of Westcote Barton and lives in the Rectory. The combined parishes are in the Deanery of Woodstock and the Diocese of Oxford.

The hamlet of Steeple Barton now has only a few cottages and old farm houses along its ancient, deeply cut lanes. Traces of earlier dwellings and fish ponds can be seen in the fields. What was a busy agricultural settlement, in part supplying the royal hunting lodge at Woodstock, and sustaining its own church, declined in importance and population in the 14th century partly because of the Black Death. Three quarters of the tenant farmers died then, the water mill became ruined and many acres of land were left uncultivated. Agricultural changes and economic factors, too, like the opening up of a new road from Bicester (now the B4030), made Middle Barton a more attractive area for settlement and work. Though that village was a mile away, its people were and still are within the ecclesiastical parish of Steeple Barton. This migration of population explains the apparent remoteness of St. Mary's Church, now set in fields, overlooking distant woods and but few habitations. Steeple Barton Church thus enjoys a quiet, peaceful serenity much appreciated by local people and its many visitors.

Further information can be found in *The Victoria County History*, Vol. XI, 1983 and Sherwood and Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Oxfordshire*, 1974.

Bartons History Group

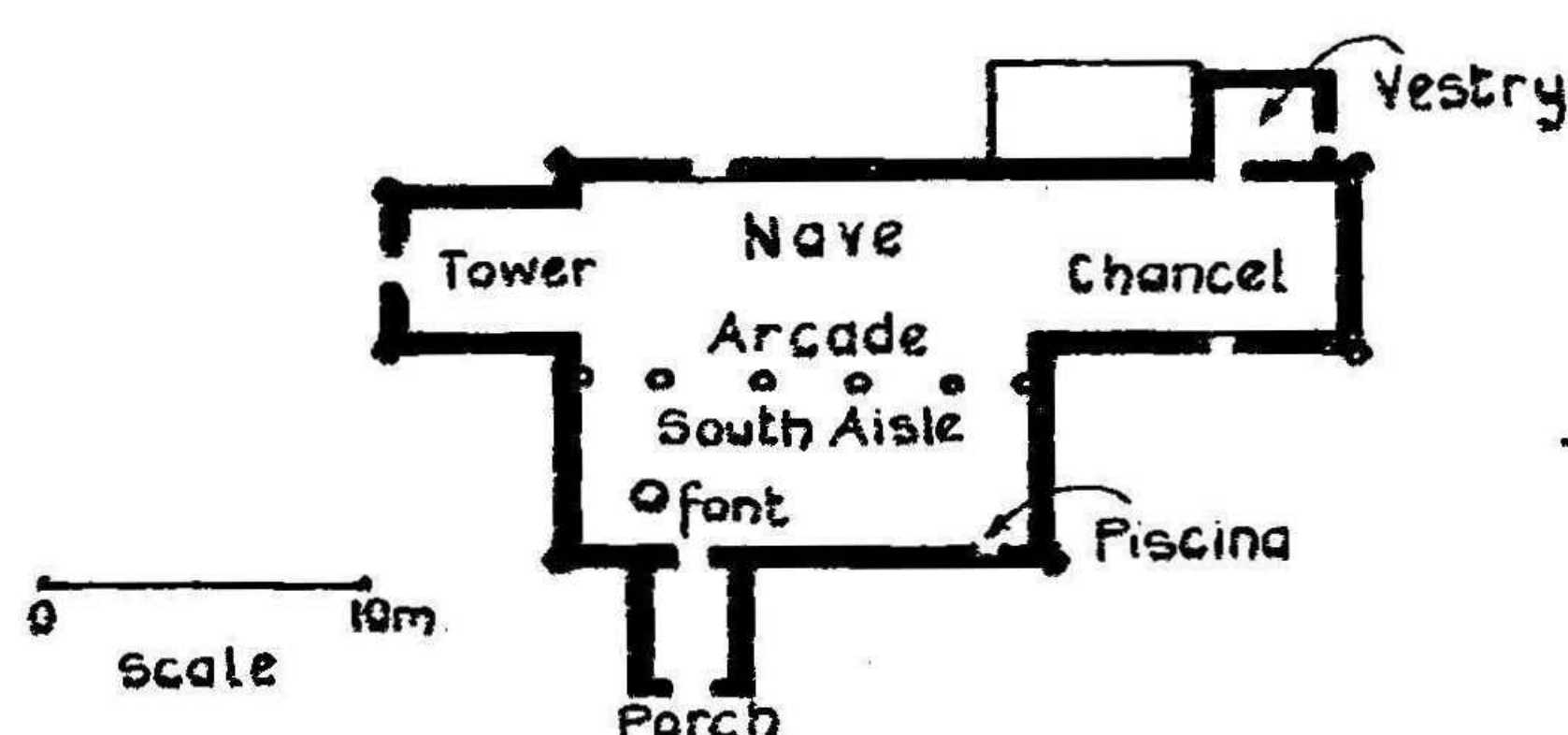
1993

The Parish Church of ST MARY THE VIRGIN, STEEPLE BARTON. stands on this most beautiful spot which may have been the site of an even earlier church than the one recorded between 1186 and 1190 when it was given by Roger of St John to Oseney Abbey. The church belonged to the Abbey until its dissolution in 1539.

A church with a tower was probably here in 1247 as in that year the name Steeple Barton, which refers to the tower of a church, was first recorded. At this time, too, and until the 16th century, the church dominated a large area as the parish included what is now the parish of Sandford St Martin.

Nothing now remains of the 12th century church except perhaps the north buttress of the TOWER. Most of the thriving village of that time, built near the church, has also vanished. The population moved away, one of the reputed reasons being the devastation of the Black Death, and only sunken lanes and field depressions are left to remind us that earlier generations lived and worshipped here and were baptized in the TUB FONT which dates from this period.

Sheep and wool became important in Steeple Barton. Wool merchants played a part in church life and later landowners and parishioners have continued to enlarge and repair their church.



- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 14th century | The present building dates from the early 14th century when the SOUTH DOORWAY and the SOUTH ARCADE of five bays were built. The octagonal piers of the arcade have capitals carved with human and animal heads and the east capital has heads with linked arms, a detail found in other north Oxfordshire churches. A doorway was made in the north wall of the nave, together with a new window in the west wall of the south aisle. |
| 15th century | The lower stages of the TOWER were built. |
| 16th century | By 1520 the CHANCEL was in need of repair. In 1548 £20 was bequeathed by a parishioner for the building of a STEEPLE and the top part of the tower was probably built then. The east window of the chancel may have been replaced at this time. |
| 17th century | In 1686 the CHANCEL ARCH was boarded up and the royal arms of James II, supported by two robed figures, were painted on the upper boarding, with the text
<div style="padding-left: 40px;">"My Son feare thou the Lord and the King and
 medle not with them that are given to change".</div> The painting was not kept when the church was altered in the 1850's. |

- 18th century Two new windows were inserted in the north wall of the NAVE, and the CHANCEL, "now in a most miserable condition", was repaired circa 1752, together with repair work on the east wall.
- 19th century The nineteenth century saw drastic rebuilding and alterations but despite our misgivings over some of these, the Victorians did at least ensure that their church would continue for centuries to come.
- The CHANCEL was rebuilt in 1850 and the NAVE largely rebuilt in 1851, both to the designs of the architect J C Buckler, only the south arcade and the tower escaped alteration. The carved stops over the windows of the north wall of the NAVE, the 14th century PISCINA recess in the south wall of the SOUTH AISLE and the NORTH DOORWAY were, however, replaced. A gallery which had been built across the tower was removed, and the VESTRY was built out on the north side of the Chancel.
- Most of the window tracery is Victorian but fourteenth or fifteenth century in style.
- The CHANCEL was again restored in 1877. It is paved with Minton tiles.
- 20th century In the early 1970's it was necessary to re-roof the church, improve the lighting, re-lead the windows and improve the water drainage system and for this work the parishioners met almost the full cost of £10,000.

Unfortunately, many of the early MONUMENTS and TOMBS have not survived and a monument to John Dormer, 1581, and his wife Elizabeth was removed to Rousham in 1851.

Among the interesting memorial stones in the church is one, in the Nave, to Katherine, widow of Edward Sheldon, late of Steeple Barton. In the South Aisle is one to her father, Sir Phillip Constable of Yorkshire, who died in 1664, which states that "the whole of his estate was confiscated by the usurpers for his loyalty to King Charles the First". Adjoining this, the inscription now almost illegible but bearing the Sheldon arms and the date 1670, is the stone to Bridget, wife of Ralph Sheldon. The glass in the east window of the chancel is a memorial to Henry Hall of Barton Abbey who died in 1862 and on the north wall of the nave is a memorial to Philip Fleming who died in 1971. Both were substantial benefactors of the church.

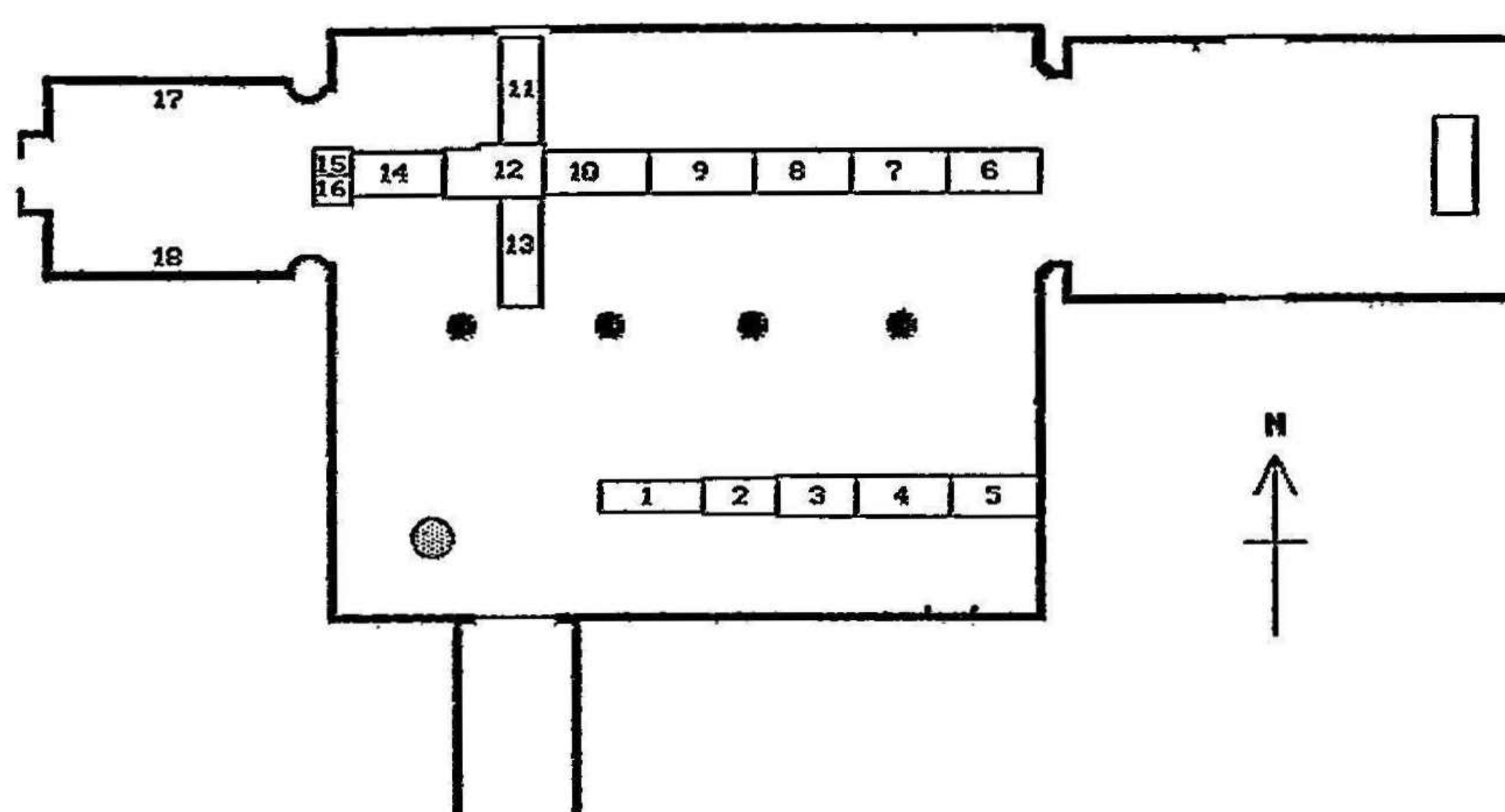
On the outer walls of the Church you can see three dedication crosses, one under the western window of the Aisle and the other two between the windows on the north side.

Of the five BELLS, two date from 1698 and three from 1851, they were re-dedicated on 7th February 1982 when they were rung for a service for the first time for 21 years.

We, who are fortunate in being able to call this our parish church, welcome you to this peaceful place.

Information provided by The Bartons History Group, 1989

MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS on the floor of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Steeple Barton



Nos 6, 7, 8, 12, 14 and 16 are indecipherable

1
HERE LYETH S^r PHILLIP
CONSTABLE OF EVERINGHAM
IN THE COVNTY OF YORKE
BARRONET WHOSE WHOLE
ESTATE WAS CONFISCATED
BY THE VSVRPERS FOR HIS
LOYALTY TO KING CHARLS
THE FIRST
HEE DYED FEB THE 25
A^o D^m 1664

*Sir Phillip Constable's daughter
Katherine married Edward Sheldon.*

2
HERE LIETH
THE ... OF
ELIZABETH
MAR..NN
... W...
WILL...
WHO ...
THL... AN
14 ANN... 17..
[Elizabeth Marten,
wife of William,
buried 17th Jan
1707]

3
Here lyeth the body of Bridget
wife of Ralph Sheldon
of Barton .qr who Dyed June
y^e 25 Ann. d^m 1670

*Between 1600 and 1782 seven
generations of Sheldons, a
Roman Catholic family, lived in
the house later rebuilt and now
known as Barton Abbey*

4
In Memory of
CASTLE Son of
FRANCIS and
ANN BRANGWIN
who died 9 Oct 1790
Aged 15 Years

*Brangwins became
landowners in Middle
Barton in the 1730's, and
they built the house in the
centre of the village now
known as Manor Farm*

5
Here Lyeth the body of LV..
the wife of FERDINANDO
GOVGH & dau...er of
THOMAS .ARTENN ...
rhowsHAM ...
... April 30 1706
A... [56]
[Lucy daughter of Thomas
Marten late of Rousham]

9
Here lies the Body of Katherine
Widdow of Edward Sheldon late
of Steeple Barton in y^e County of
Oxon Esquire
She was daughter to S^r Phillip
Constable of Everingham in the
County of York Barronett
She departed this life on y^e last day
of April MDCLXXXI
On whose soule IESU have mercy
Amen

10
Here Lieth the Body
of JOHN BRANGWIN Gent
who died Nov y^e 20 1766
Aged 66 Years
...[and Mary his wife]
who Departed this life July y^e 18 1798

11
Here lieth the body of Winefride
Walker widow of Stuart Walker
Late of the City of London Gent who
Was the daughter of S^r William Cobb
of Adderbury She was born the 20th of
December Anno Domini: 1618
And died Ianuary the 2nd Anno domini 1688

13
Here lieth the body of Alicia Croker
Widow of Gerard Croker late of
Hooknorton Esq who was the daughter
of S^r William Cobb of Adderbury
She was born the 10th day of February
Anno Domini 1619
And died April the ...
Anno ...
[Buried 26 April 1696]

*Crokers owned land in Steeple Barton
and also the gift of the living of the
Church*

15
In Memory
of Elizabeth Daughter
of JOHN BRANGWIN
Gent
and of [Mary] his wife
who ...
[Buried 9 April 1748]

17
HERE
RESTETH
WILLIAM
M.A.T.NN
[William Marten
buried 29 Nov
1715]

18
...1715[?]

Many of the memorial stones were moved from their original
positions when the Church was restored in 1851.

STEEPLE BARTON CHURCH. INSCRIPTIONS IN THE ORGAN LOFT

On the east wall. Black marble

HERE LIETH THE BODIE OF IOANE HVMFREY,
DAUGHTER OF ANDREW INKFORBIE, WIFE OF
LAVRENCE HVMFREY DOCTOR IN DIVINITIE.
SHE WAS BORNE AT IPSWITCH IN SVFFOLKE,
MARRIED BEYOND THE SEAS AT GENEVA, HAD
SEAVEN SONNS AND FIVE DAUGHTERS: LIVED
A WIFE THIRTIE YEARES AND WIDDOW TWE
TIE THREE. SHE DIED THE 27 OF AVGVST IN YE
YEARE OF OVR LORD GOD 1611 BEINGE
SEVENTIE FOVR YEARES OLD. IN WHOSE PIOVS
MEMORIE, HER BELOVED DAUGHTER IVSTINE DORMER
ELDEST CHILDE HATH PLACED THIS SMALL MONVMENT

D . O . M . S .

DE ME, PAVCA LOQVAR, CONCEDE MODESTIA, DE ME,
SIT MIHI FAS, SALVO, VERA PVDORE, LOQUI.
HVMFREDI CONIVNX, ENPHORBI FILIA, DOCTA,
NATA, IN-NVPTA, DOMO: PIGNORA DOCTA DEDI.
SANCTI ADERANT MOREIS, MIHI FORMA NEC ABFVIT, OMNIS
NEC PERIT; HANC SOBOLES VIVA TABELLA REFERT.
GENEVA, OXONIA, ET BARTONIA CONSCIA NOSTRI
HAEC THALAMI, HAEC VITAE TESTIS ET HECOBITVS.

*The memorial was recorded, in 1676, as being on a table
of black marble against the north wall of the chancel*

On the W wall. Not normally visible. Recorded during
restoration work on the organ, May 1994

VPON FRANCES CROKER THE
WIFE OF IOHN CROKER OF HOOK
NORTON ESQUIRE THE DAUGHTER
OF SIR WILLIAM KINGSMELL, WHO DE
CEASED THE FIRST OF IANVARYE
1627, IOHN CROKER HER YOVN
GEST SONNE HATH PLACED
THIS MONVMENT

UNDER THIS MARBLE STONE THESE ASHES LYE

[The rest of the inscription is hard to decipher.
This transcription is taken from Antony Wood's MS in
the Bodleian Library, MS Top Oxon 165, f251. See also
Wing, Annals of Steeple Barton and Westcot Barton, p34.
The memorial was recorded as being in the Chancel
against the E wall on a table between two pillars of
black marble]

Which are the embers of eternitie
No embers covch more sparks of fire than she
Had lights of virtve, now asleep they bee
But yet shall rise againe, and hee whose breath
First raised her ovt of novght shall ovt of death
Then shall those flames shine brighter than the svnnne
And like it burn withovt consvption

*The memorial was recorded, in 1676, as being against
the east wall of the chancel on a table between two
pillars of black marble*