

*Scampton Church*, dedicated to St. John Baptist was restored during the incumbency of the Reverend Reginald Arthur Cayley, M.A., of Merton College, Oxford.

The work of restoration was begun on the 13th March, 1876 and it was re-opened on the 17th October 1877. The restoration fund was contributed to by the Eccles: Commissioners who gave £1000 for the restoration of the nave. The chancel was rebuilt and paid for by Sir Digby Cayley and the Revd. R. A. Cayley conjointly.

The parishioners of Scampton were not called upon to contribute anything, nor did they, until the day of the reopening (17th October 1877), when there were collections at both services for the organ fund.

The architects employed on the work were Messrs. Bodley & Garner, Grays Inn, London. The contractors for the work were Messrs. Swaby and Son of Scampton and Lincoln. For the dressed stone work they employed Messrs F & W. Colley, Lincoln. For the glazing, Mr. Anderton, Ingham. The Church Wardens in office at the time were Messrs W. Twidale and S. Mason.

In the former structure, the North aisle was walled up between the pillars of the Nave. The roof was sealed and plastered. The seats were high backed and narrow. In the chancel where the work of demolition was begun, 2 lancet windows, or rather the outer splays of them were laid bare, 14th Century window having been inserted between them.

In restoring the Church in 1877 these lancets were replaced in their original position at the East end, and a quatre foil window placed above them. A vestry and organ chamber were added.

The Oak Chest of very small dimensions used as an altar, but which had practically become a rubbish box was destroyed by the Rev. R. A. Cayley who substituted for it the present altar table the super altar, the dossal the canopy, the hangings and the smaller choir desks and benches.

The 14th Century window which had served as an East window was placed in its present position in the South wall of the Chancel. It is notable that the large door, the pulpit, the larger choir seats and the two little oak desks which do duty for altar rails, were made entirely from the beams of the old church.

The windows in the South side of the Nave are new and from the designs of Messrs Bodley and Garner, as also are that under the tower, and the one at the West end of the North aisle This North aisle was completely rebuilt, the windows of it being the ones that had been in the old church, and it is surmised they originally came from Scampton Manor House when it was pulled down. Certain it is they were inserted in the church by Archdeacon Illingworth, when he destroyed the North Aisle and otherwise defaced the church and its furniture, under the delusion that he was carrying on a work of restoration for God's Honour and Glory. By the same token it is surmised that the little bits of stone mouldings which were found here and there walled up in 1876-7 must have belonged to the original windows, which were in the church at the time of Archdeacon Illingworth's restoration, which according to tradition had been filled with 14<sup>th</sup> Century glass, both rich and beautiful. It is certain Archdeacon Illingworth made away with this latter, as testified to by his daughters the late Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Waterhouse Kaye.

A very few fragments remain, taken out of the East window in 1876. and now in a box at Scampton Rectory (addition in a later hand:- removed to the Church Tower loft).

In digging the foundations of the vestry a coffin was discovered on which was the name of a sister of Sir John Bolles; it was carefully re-buried as well as several human bones which were laid bare when the heating apparatus was put in. At the outside of the church a stone plinth was inserted, and an open drain made, round the greater part. A small low side window was discovered, the outside step can be seen on the South side of the chancel. It is supposed to be the leper window of bygone times. The cross placed at the east end of the nave is the one that was taken from the old church. The circled cross at the east end of the chancel is new. The font is the same as in the old church. The broken bowl of a very much older one is still to be found in the Church Yard.

Several gifts were made to the church when it was restored:-

The Altar Candlesticks were given by Randolph Swilchenbart Esq.

A pair of Small Vases " " " Digby Cayley Esq.

A pair " " " " " " children of Rev. R. A. Cayley

Altar Cross was given by Rev. R. A. Cayley

2 Larger Chandeliers were given by George Southeriou Estcourt Esq.

2 Smaller Chandeliers " " " Rev. R. A. Cayley

Alms Dish was given by George Cayley Esq. and Mrs Cayley

The gold silk and green dossal and frontal and white silk frontal were provided by the Rev. R. A. Cayley. The blue silk and velvet dossal was donated by Miss Twidale.

The crimson velvet frontal and super frontal of Genoa Velvet is all that remains of a rich altar cloth given with the communion plate by Sir John Bolles in 1692, said to have been the needlework of his wife Dame Cathryn Bolles. The sacred monogramme on the pulpit cloth belonged originally to this altar cloth but was taken away by Archdeacon Illingworth, and when the church was restored in 1876-7 it was found to be so perished that the architect's advice was that it should be transferred to the green velvet and placed in its present position on the pulpit.

The lighting apparatus in the church was the design of the Rev. R. A. Cayley. The shorter altar kneelers were made by Miss Wilson a former parishioner, the longer kneeler was the work of Rev. R. A. Cayley.

The lectern was given to the church some little time after its restoration by J. F. Eland Esq, and Mrs Eland on leaving the parish.

The organ was purchased by subscription, the greater part of the money being collected at thy services on the day of reopening. It was a second hand instrument quite powerful enough for the building, but as it turned out much affected by the damp.

There are three bells which at the time of the restoration were sent to Messrs. Taylor, Loughborough, one to be recast as it was cracked, the others to be overhauled. They were sent back and were up at the time of the reopening 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 1877. A full account of these bells is to be found in Illingworth, History of Scampton, prior to its restoration in 1877 (a copy of which is always kept at the rectory), the following are some of the facts covering it:-

“Whether any remains of the church of Edward the Confessors time exists in the present structure is uncertain, but the foundations of the present chancel and of the nave are of very early Norman work, as are the Aumbrey and the Piscina in the Chancel. The North aisle was an addition of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century when the whole church seems to have undergone a thorough restoration.”

In dismantling the chancel in 1876 the splayed jambs of the early Lancet windows discovered and found to be plastered; rudely painted with conventional flowers and scroll work. It was hoped to have been able to preserve this work, but the walls were in such bad condition that it was necessary to rebuild it. The east end has been cased with masonry at the time of the insertion of the lancets, the old 11<sup>th</sup> Century core being visible right up to the eaves by the different colour of the mortar. In taking out the decorated window, one of the early sills was found which is now used in the small south window. The whole of the south wall was built of stone of such bad quality that it was not possible to preserve any of it.

The early Norman aumbrey and piscine appear to have been originally placed about 3 feet west of their present position: and some 2 feet lower. Indeed, in pulling down the south wall the ancient jambs were found.

The alteration probably took place when the North wall was pierced for the arch into the old Lady Chapel in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. This Lady Chapel and the North Aisle were destroyed by Archdeacon Illingworth around the year 1800. He also raised the level of the chancel and the rest of the church. From observations made in 1876-7 it would appear that at one time there had been a large and elaborate rood loft which accounts for the plainness, not to say the ugliness, of the mouldings of the capitals of the chancel arch, as in all probability they were completely hidden. It is not known when this rood loft was destroyed.

The Arcade on the North side is peculiar and gains its principal effect from the great thickness of the wall it supports. The capitals of the pillars are very rude and of unequal thickness: one terminal of the hood moulding is a head of early Norman date; the other a peculiar sort of nail head, also found in the old east window exterior. Very little seems to have been done to Scampton church after the death of Archdeacon Illingworth in 1823 until the year 1859 when a new porch was built on the site of the present one. The way from the tower into the nave was blocked up and a stove erected by William Sleightholme, Churchwarden. About the same time the old pews in the chancel were replaced by deal benches arranged stall wise by the then incumbent the Revd. William Alexander Ayton.

In 1864 it was found necessary to strengthen the tower with several iron ties and to take out and rebuild a good portion of the West face. Soon after this the Revd. R.A. Cayley seeing the necessity of a thorough restoration procured plans for that purpose from Mr. Bodley of London but in consequence of the estate being for sale about that time the work was postponed.

The estate was sold in 1869 by Sir Digby Cayley, Brompton, York and the purchasers were the Eccle: Commissioners. The latter made considerable improvements in the village including a new school and teacher's house besides contributing to the restoration of the church. The Lady Chapel was rebuilt almost exactly on the old

foundations and now provides a vestry and organ chamber. The heating apparatus consists of a Porritts Stove sunk beneath the floor at the entrance of the church, its outlet being a chimney which goes up the tower and is invisible inside the church. The handsome queen post roof of the nave as well as the simpler ones of the chancel and North aisle are of the best foreign timber that could be procured.