

Book 5

“Once upon a time”

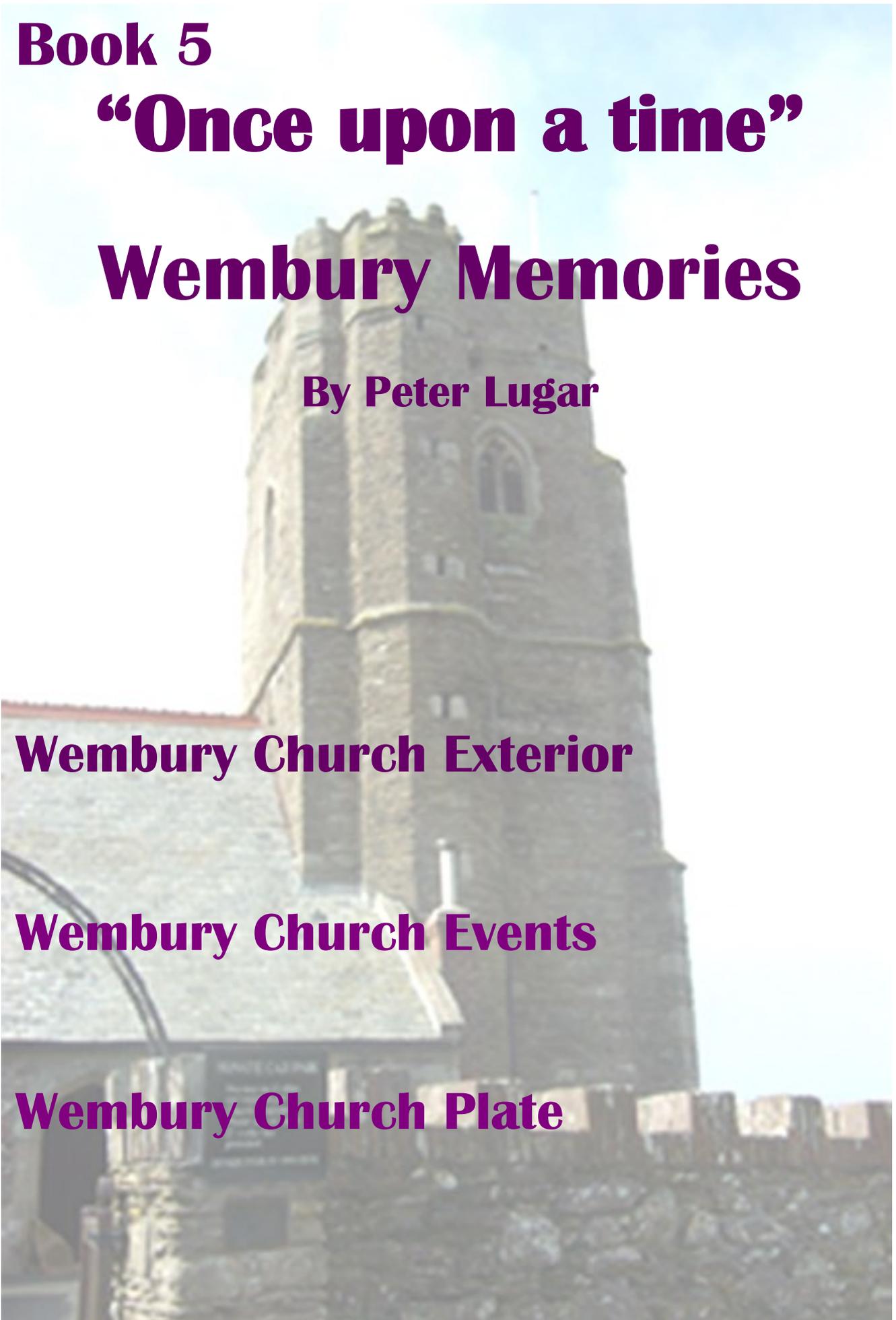
Wembury Memories

By Peter Lugar

Wembury Church Exterior

Wembury Church Events

Wembury Church Plate



WEMBURY MEMORIES

Foreword

These books, which now number ten, started about five years ago when I decided that photographs which were scattered all over the house should be brought together in one place. I then decided that each photograph should have a little written account of the scene or event. After filling one quite large photograph album I decided that the system needed to be more flexible where pages could be added and the categories altered as the system expanded. The A4 clip folders and punched pockets proved to be absolutely ideal for this purpose. As more and more memories came flooding back the written work was beginning to far outstrip the photographic work. I also realised that there were now very few of us left in Wembury who had been born here and grew up in the village in the 1940s and 1950s and that really a record needed to be made of what life was like in those days just after the war when we were going through our 'austere period'.

Quite a lot of the photographs were in my parents' collection and I have accumulated a lot more. Some have been lent to me to copy by friends, some have come from the internet. I have augmented these with quite a lot of new photographs. The 'Memories' are now interspersed with 'Snippets of History' and in some places my own observations and ideas. I don't think that I would have attempted this project without my 'I Mac' computer which has proved to be a godsend, although I always had it in mind to write an account of what it was like to be an eight year old in Wembury right in the middle of the twentieth century.

Peter Lugar

November 2005

**“Once upon a time when the bird shit lime
and the monkey chewed tobacco**”

**These books are dedicated to Elsie,
and many others like her, who have
gone before us in this place.**

(The story of Elsie may be found in books 2 and 9)

WEMBURY MEMORIES – BOOK 5 - CONTENTS

WEMBURY CHURCH EXTERNAL, EVENTS, PLATE

- 5/001 Wembury Church Tower 2004 .doc
- 5/002 Wembury Church Tower 2010 .doc
- 5/003 Wembury Church Views .doc
- 5/004 Wembury Church 1948 and 1949 .doc
- 5/005 Wembury Church in the 1900s (2).doc
- 5/006 Wembury Church 1900s.doc
- 5/007 Wembury Church in 2005 .doc
- 5/008 Wembury Church - Evolution .doc
- 5/009 Church from the north-east .doc
- 5/010 Church from the north-east .doc
- 5/011 Wembury Church in the snow 1980s & 2010 .doc
- 5/012 Aerial view of the Church from the south 1990s .doc
- 5/013 Aerial view of Church & Village 1990s .doc
- 5/014 Aerial view of Church & Beach 1930s .doc
- 5/015 Wembury Church in the 1930s .doc
- 5/016 Wembury Church postcard 1937 .doc
- 5/017 Wembury Graveyard Extension 1927 .doc
- 5/017a Wembury Graveyard Extra Buttresses 1927 .doc
- 5/018 Wembury Church & Graveyard 1950 & 1980s .doc
- 5/019 Wembury Church & Graveyard 2004 & 2010 .doc
- 5/020 Box tomb 1976 .doc
- 5/021 The Romantic Story of Wembury Church .doc
- 5/022 Wembury Church, 1886 Restoration .doc
- 5/023 1886 Restoration, new stonework .doc
- 5/024 Norman wall, fragment .doc
- 5/025 The North Door .doc
- 5/026 West Door .doc
- 5/027 The South Porch .doc
- 5/028 The Mass Dial .doc
- 5/029 South porch & Cory Tombs .doc
- 5/030 Top of the Tower .doc
- 5/031 Abseilers on the tower .doc
- 5/032 Wembury Churchyard, Oldest Graves .doc
- 5/033 Wembury Church, North Transept .doc
- 5/034 North Transept, Segmental Arch .doc
- 5/035 Flock of Graves .doc
- 5/036 Melancholy Hurt .doc
- 5/037 John Tamlin, grave 1707 .doc
- 5/038 Thos & Simon Corindon grave 1727 .doc
- 5/039 Robert Baker, grave 1737 .doc
- 5/040 Joshua Brooking, grave 1712 .doc
- 5/041 Breakwater Disaster 1838 .doc
- 5/042 Remember Me .doc
- 5/043 Good and Faithful Sertvant .doc
- 5/044 Revd Charles Burgess, Grave .doc
- 5/045 Little Angel, Tagg Grave .doc
- 5/046 First World War Grave .doc
- 5/047 Second World War Grave .doc
- 5/048 Kurt Holman, Grave .doc
- 5/049 Axworthy Grave .doc
- 5/050 William Sherwill, grave .doc
- 5/051 Cory Family tomb .doc
- 5/052 Richard Wallis Cory, tomb .doc
- 5/053 The Last of the Calmadys, tomb .doc

WEMBURY MEMORIES – BOOK 5 - CONTENTS

WEMBURY CHURCH EXTERNAL, EVENTS, PLATE

5/054 Calmady Tomb, detail .doc
5/055 V P Calmady, Funeral .doc
5/056 Laura & Gertrude Calmady, Grave.doc
5/057 James Lockyer, grave .doc
5/058 Ralph Dawson, grave .doc
5/059 Dr Clay, grave .doc
5/060 Percival Frost, grave .doc
5/061 All Mod Cons .doc
5/062 Bi-Annual flower Festival .doc
5/063 Flower Festival Refreshments .doc
5/064 Flower Festival 2008 .doc
5/065 The Mothers' Union doc
5/066 Gifts for Refugees - Christmas 1956 .doc
5/067 Australian Flag Presentation .doc
5/068 Lockyer Festival August 1979 .doc
5/069 Galsworthy Festival – 1983.doc
5/070 Armada Commemoration Service 1941 1.doc
5/071 Rogation Sunday 1948 .doc
5/072 Rogation Sunday 1948 .doc
5/073 Wembury Church Wedding 1947 .doc
5/074 Wembury Church Wedding 1953 .doc
5/075 The Daughter Church .doc
5/076 Flagon of 1639 .doc
5/077 Flagon of 1639 .doc
5/078 Tazza of 1705 doc
5/079 Tazza of 1705 .doc
5/080 Elizabethan Chalice of 1576 .doc
5/081 Elizabethan Chalice of 1576 .doc
5/082 Hingston Chalice & Paten of 1946 .doc
5/083 Hingston Chalice & Paten of 1946 .doc
5/084 Bass Chalice & Paten 1977 .doc
5/085 Whitfield Chalice 1991 .doc
5/086 Crown of Thorns Chalice & Ciborium of 2009 .doc
5/087 Matthews Paten of 1931 .doc
5/088 Trott/Downer Paten .doc
5/089 Silver Plated Ciboria .doc
5/090 Alms Dish of 1748 .doc
5/091 Silver Wafer Box of 1951 .doc
5/092 Silver Pyx .doc
5/093 Aumbry Pyx .doc
5/094 Silver plated cruets & Silver lavabo bowl .doc
5/095 Baptismal Shell & Miniature Font .doc
5/096 House Communion Sets .doc

WEMBURY CHURCH TOWER

This view, taken in May 2004, shows the tower, solid as the rock of ages, which has stood sentinel here on the cliff since about 1420.



WEMBURY CHURCH TOWER – 2010

This photograph was taken on 6th January 2010. Snow is such an unusual sight in Wembury, I felt that it was worth recording.



Wembury Church Views



WEMBURY CHURCH 1948 AND 1949

These photographs were taken by Samuel Rodgers in 1948 and 1949, and developed by him at home. The top one (1948) was taken when there was snow on the ground, which is an unusual event in itself. The scrub has not been allowed to grow up which makes the driveway clearly visible, it remains narrow right up to the top, and the car park is almost non-existent.



This lower photograph (1949) was taken from across the valley. The wall round the church is totally free of ivy, and the scrub has not been allowed to grow up to conceal it. The range of ruined buildings below the church, were old farm buildings associated with the mill. These could have been rescued instead of being totally destroyed in the 1960s.



WEMBURY CHURCH IN THE 1900s

These photographs are thought to have been taken in the 1900s by Rugg Monk, a Plymouth jeweller, and town councillor, who was a keen amateur photographer and did much of his own developing. At the turn of the 19th/20th century he took many photographs of Plymouth and the surrounding areas. In his country photographs he endeavoured to include local people going about their normal business.

The view is not a lot different than today. Apart from the fact that all the foreground area is now the car park, and the rather dilapidated stable building is now in use as a Sunday School room cum catering base for different church events. I can remember that particular door being on that building in the 1940s and 1950s when it was used mainly by the grave digger as his tool storage.



I would imagine that the event taking place is a wedding. The archway over the gate has been decorated with greenery and the ladies and children are in their Sunday best, although they would have worn that to church as a matter of course. The absence of outdoor clothing would indicate that it was the warmer time of the year, probably sometime between May and September.

In the lower photograph, the people pictured are, from left to right, Mrs Emma Thornton, Mr Albert Thornton, the Sexton, Mrs Elizabeth Drake, wife of Thomas Drake, Mrs Sloman from Flete Lodge, and Mrs Elizabeth Drake wife of William Drake.



Mr Albert Thornton was appointed Sexton at a Vestry Meeting on 5th April 1904, for a remuneration of £10 per annum.

WEMBURY CHURCH IN THE 1900s

The photograph below is thought to have been taken in the early 1900s. Judging by the decoration around the gateway arch and everybody being in their Sunday finery, I would imagine that a wedding is the occasion.

The two ladies in the foreground of the picture, are the same two that are stood at the church gate in the other photograph. These two ladies are Mrs Elizabeth Drake on the left and Mrs Emma Thornton on the right. The man looking from the churchyard wall is Mr Albert Thornton, the Sexton, who was appointed to that post in April 1904.

Some children in the photograph have unmistakably “Milden” faces, and are probable the grandparents of those that I played with, and went to school with in the 1950s.



WEMBURY CHURCH IN 2005

This photograph was taken in March 2005, about one hundred years after the one with the children on the grass in their Sunday best.

The scene is largely unchanged but sadly the grass is gone, sacrificed to the motor car God!

The Church itself remains very much the same but with the addition of the boiler room chimney and the electric 'gas' lamp over the gate.

The old stable is still there but with a newer roof, and is now used as Sunday School Room and catering facility at Church events.



WEMBURY CHURCH - HOW IT EVOLVED

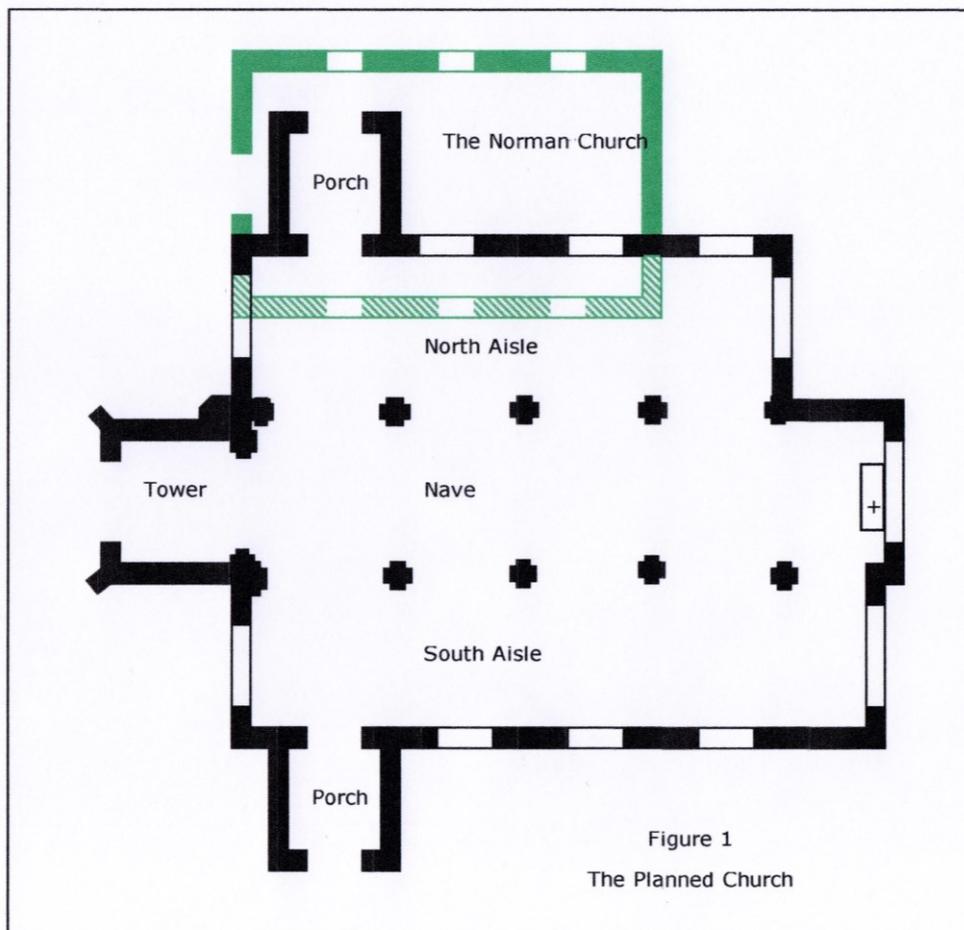
N.B. This is all conjecture on my part, I have never found anything to substantiate that this is the way we came to the present building, but it would seem to be quite a logical sequence of events.

It is considered that there was a Saxon oratory on the site of the present church in the 9th century, dedicated to St Werburgh daughter of the King of Mercia, who died in 699. It seems feasible that the parish took its name from the name of the saint. The name Werburgh was originally spelt 'Werberge' so it can easily be seen how this over the period of time became 'Werebury' and eventually 'Wembury'.

It is recorded that King Edgar (958 - 975) gave land in 'Wenbiria' (the latinised form of Wembury) to the Priors of Plympton, on condition that the religious needs of the inhabitants of Wembury should be met. This was subsequently confirmed in a charter of King Henry II. An oratory or small church must have been existence at this time in order to give the place its name.

The original Saxon building, which we know must have been in existence in the 10th century, would probably have been constructed of daub and wattle with a thatched roof, which would have constantly needed replacement or repair. This would have evolved into a stone construction with a thatched roof. The Norman church which supplanted it was probably built in the early years of the 12th century. It would have been in the form of a single room with a round headed doorway in the west wall and two or three small round headed windows down each side. These probably coincided with the windows in the north wall of the present building which is a fragment of that early building, except that they are now larger and the reveals cut the other way as the wall has been turned inside out, which will be more fully explained later.

The granite holy water stoup, set into the wall just inside the north door was probably rescued from the earlier building. In the existing building it would have originally been on the other side of the church by the south door, as that was the only entrance into the main building until the north door was put in sometime in the 19th Century



After the completion of the church by the Normans there were no further alterations or additions until the 14th and 15th centuries. The architecture of the present building indicates the period Edward III to Edward IV (1327 - 1483). It was early in the 14th century that it was decided to replace the small Norman building with a grand edifice with three aisles two porches and a western tower.

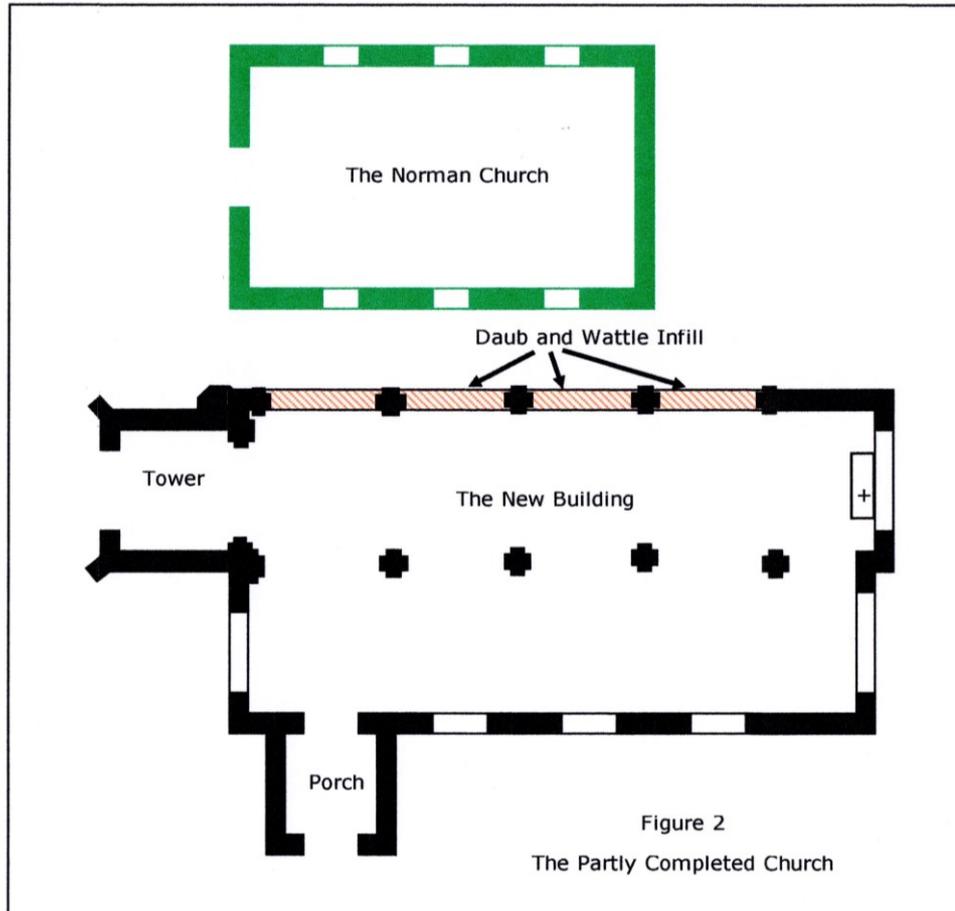
The site would need to be excavated out of the side of the hill and the extent of the work would mean the eventual demolition of the Norman church.

Figure 1, 'The Planned Building' shows the juxtaposition between the proposed new church and the Norman building.

The excavation of the site meant that a large portion of the hillside had to be dug out and pushed out to the west to form the mound on which the new church was to stand. This all had to be held back by a retaining wall with buttresses, so that there was a considerable amount of construction work needed before a start could be made on the actual church building.

The church was built straight into the bank so that on three sides of the building the ground level was much higher than the floor level inside. At the east end it would be as much as eight feet, coming up to the level of the window sills. This made the building chronically damp. In the 19th century restoration, this was excavated and retaining walls built to keep the earth bank clear of the walls of the building, and also to provide a drainage ditch around the perimeter.

Stone was quarried in the immediate area, or taken straight off the cliffs or beach, where there was a plentiful supply. Sand for the mortar was also taken from the beach, the inherent dampness of the salt in the sand accounts in a large way for the dampness problems in the building today. There was also plenty of woodland in the area from which timber could be obtained for scaffolding purposes and the construction of the roof.



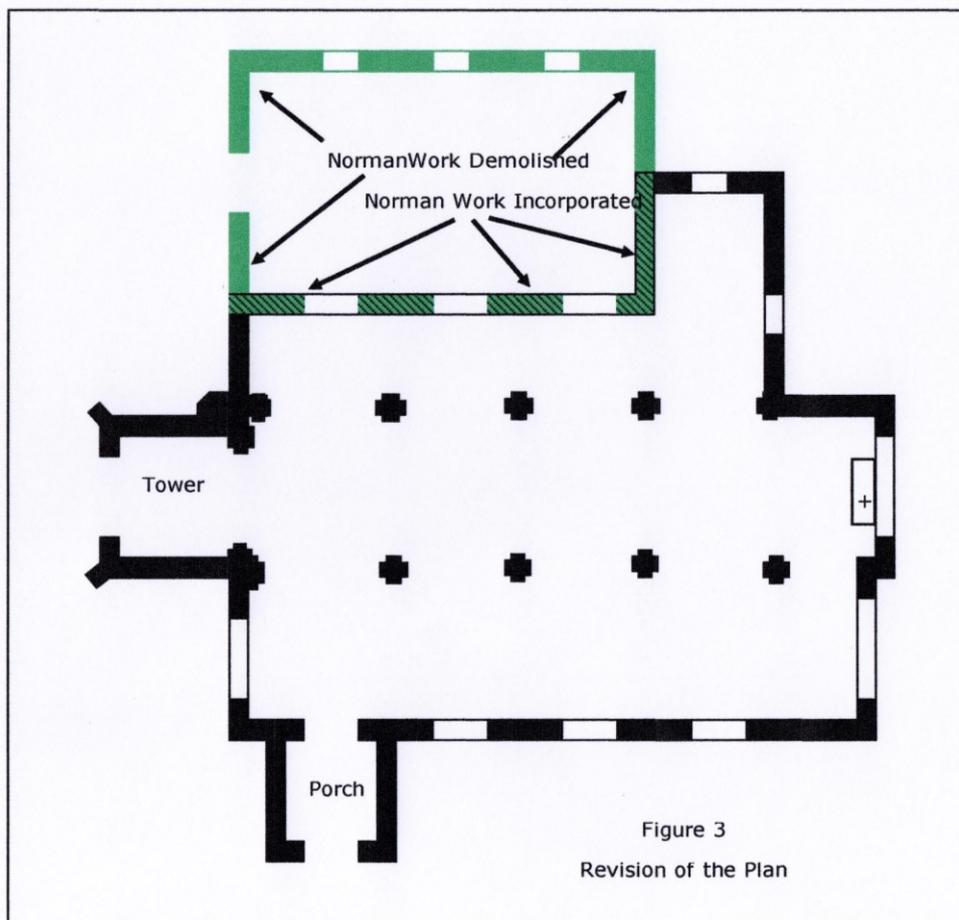
The only materials that needed to be brought from afar was the granite for the columns and arches of the nave, and for the window and doorways, and also the glass for the windows. The granite was brought by water from Dartmoor via the Rivers Tavy and Tamar, Plymouth Sound, and landed on Wembury Beach to be hauled up the hill.

The building would be constructed in two phases. The Nave, Sanctuary, south aisle, south porch, were to be built first. The tower would be built up to the height of the ridge of the nave roof, and terminated in a temporary wooden roof. When this stage of the building had been reached the north arcade of the nave would be filled with daub and wattle as a temporary wall so that the partially completed church could be brought into use, and the Norman building demolished. The second phase, the north aisle and north porch could then be progressed. This is shown in Figure 2, 'The Partly Completed Church'.

By the time Phase One had been completed, Black Death had taken its toll of the workforce, both in skilled artisans and labourers. Also costs had risen considerably. As with many great schemes these days a reassessment and revision of the plan was necessary to bring it within budget, and to a realistic timeframe for completion. This is shown in Figure 3, 'Revision of the Plan'.

The full width north aisle, and the north porch were scrapped. It was decided that instead of completely demolishing the Norman building, part of it would be incorporated into the new building. The south wall would become the north wall of the new building, effectively turning it inside out. The small round headed windows were enlarged to take the new granite framed windows, facing the other way, and the reveals reversed to allow for reversal of the wall. The newly formed narrower north aisle could be roofed more expediently and cheaply by just extending the slope of the nave roof down to this lower wall.

Part of the east wall of the Norman building was also used to form the west wall of the transept, which it was decided to build to make up for some of the loss of space that the revision in the plan would cause. The remainder of the Norman building was demolished and the materials re-used in the new building.

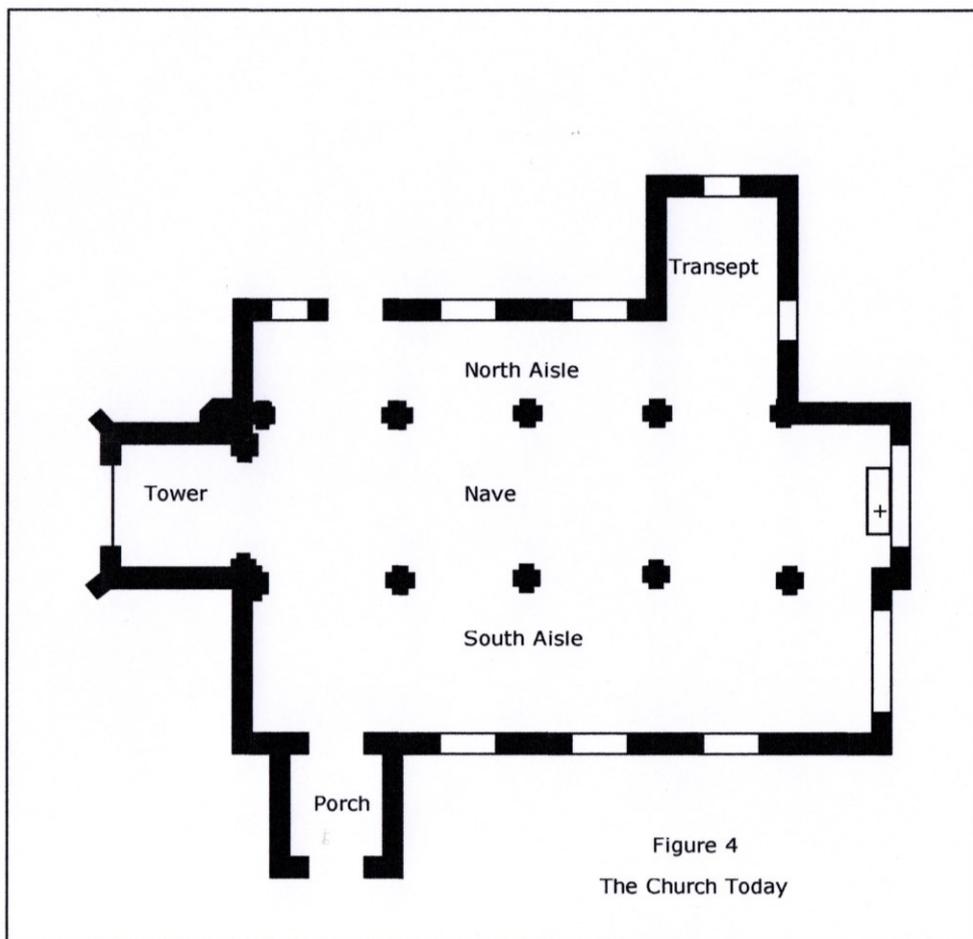


The tower was completed in about 1420 terminating in an octagonal pinnacle on each corner which were removed in the 19th century sometime before 1840. This gave us the church very much as it is seen today, and a building which has served the needs of the parish into the 21st century.

It would appear that another one hundred years, at least, would pass before there were any bells put into the tower. The first mention of bells is in the “Inventory of Church Goods” of 1552 where “Wenby” was said to have ‘iii belles in the towre their’.

In the mid 19th century the north door was inserted into the Norman wall displacing one of the windows. In the 1886 restoration, the whole of the northwest corner was rebuilt as can be seen by the by the much “fresher” looking stonework, quoins, coping stones and window frame. A new two light window was inserted to the west of this new door replacing a previous three light window, which from an 1870s photograph looks as though it could well have been wooden framed. This can be seen in Figure 4, ‘The Church Today’.

In 1886 there was a massive restoration of the building which was paid for by the Squire, Mr Richard Cory of Langdon Court. There was a complete re-ordering and refurnishing of the inside, a major part of the roof was replaced and some rebuilding of external walls and gables was undertaken, but for the most part the basic fabric was untouched. So we now have a 12/13th century building with some Norman work, and some Victorian work, and completely fitted out internally with 19th century furnishings of a very high quality. The stained glass is Victorian or later, and there are some very interesting memorials from the 17th century onwards.



WEMBURY CHURCH FROM THE NORTH EAST

Two views of the church from the north-east. The top one by Samuel Rodgers on Easter Monday in 1948 (29th March). Over at Wembury Point there is a small Naval Gunnery Establishment, and an Army radar post on the hill above. All of this later grew and in 1956 became HMS Cambridge the Gunnery School of the Royal Navy. Today (2010) it has reverted to how it looks in the photograph since the closure and demolition of HMS Cambridge in 2001.

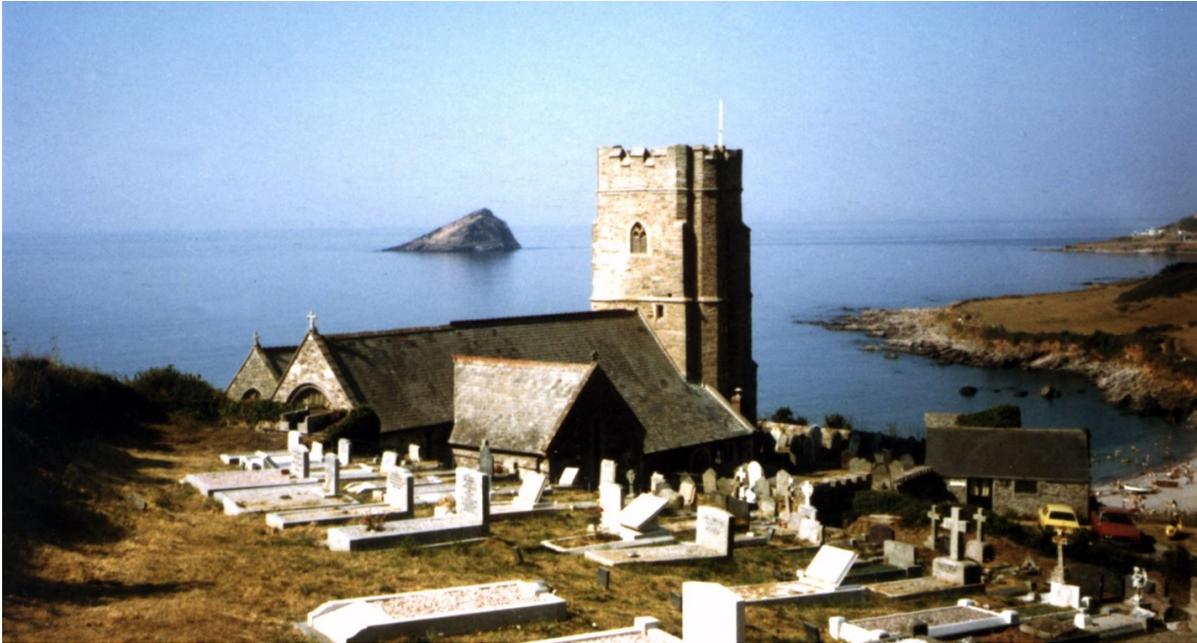


The bottom photograph was taken in 1959 from the top of the graveyard extension, quite soon after the stable had been converted into a Sunday School Room. The van in the picture is that of J Dawson & Sons of Clifton, Bristol, who had been carrying out some restoration work. Their bill for £275 was settled on 29th July 1959. The graveyard extension is less than half full, the little angel on the grave of Revd Tagg's Daughter can be clearly seen.



WEMBURY CHURCH FROM THE NORTH EAST 1980s & 2008

These photographs were taken from the top of the graveyard extension. The top one in the mid 1980s, it is a nice sunny morning there are plenty of people on the beach and quite a few in swimming. The graveyard extension is just about full. The little angel on the grave of Revd Tagg's Daughter can clearly be seen (bottom Right). The sea state is very calm.



The bottom photograph was taken on 26th April 2008. Burials no longer take place except in already existing graves, there is not enough depth of earth in the remaining part of the graveyard for graves to be dug. The remainder of the yard is now given over to interments of ashes



WEMBURY CHURCH IN THE SNOW - 1980s & 2010

The top photograph was taken in the mid 1980s from the top of the graveyard extension. The lower photograph, taken much more recently, on 6th January 2010.



AERIAL VIEW OF WEMBURY CHURCH FROM THE SOUTH

This photograph was taken sometime in the early 1990s.

It can be clearly seen how the hillside was excavated to accommodate the building, and the spoil pushed out to the west to form the mound. This must have been a tremendous undertaking in the middle ages considering the remoteness of the spot and the fact that only hand tools would have been used.

The stone would have been obtained locally, there being a great abundance of it in the cliffs and hillside roundabout. The sand would have been brought from the beach, which probably accounts for the inherent dampness in the building due to the salt content. The Granite for the windows, doorways, and arches and also the monolithic columns inside of the building would have come from Dartmoor. Being brought around by sea via the River Tavy, then the River Tamar and across Plymouth Sound to Wembury Bay.

This Photograph certainly gives emphasis to the words that John Galsworthy wrote about Wembury Church

“Here stand I,
Buttressed over the sea!
Time and sky
Take no toll from me.

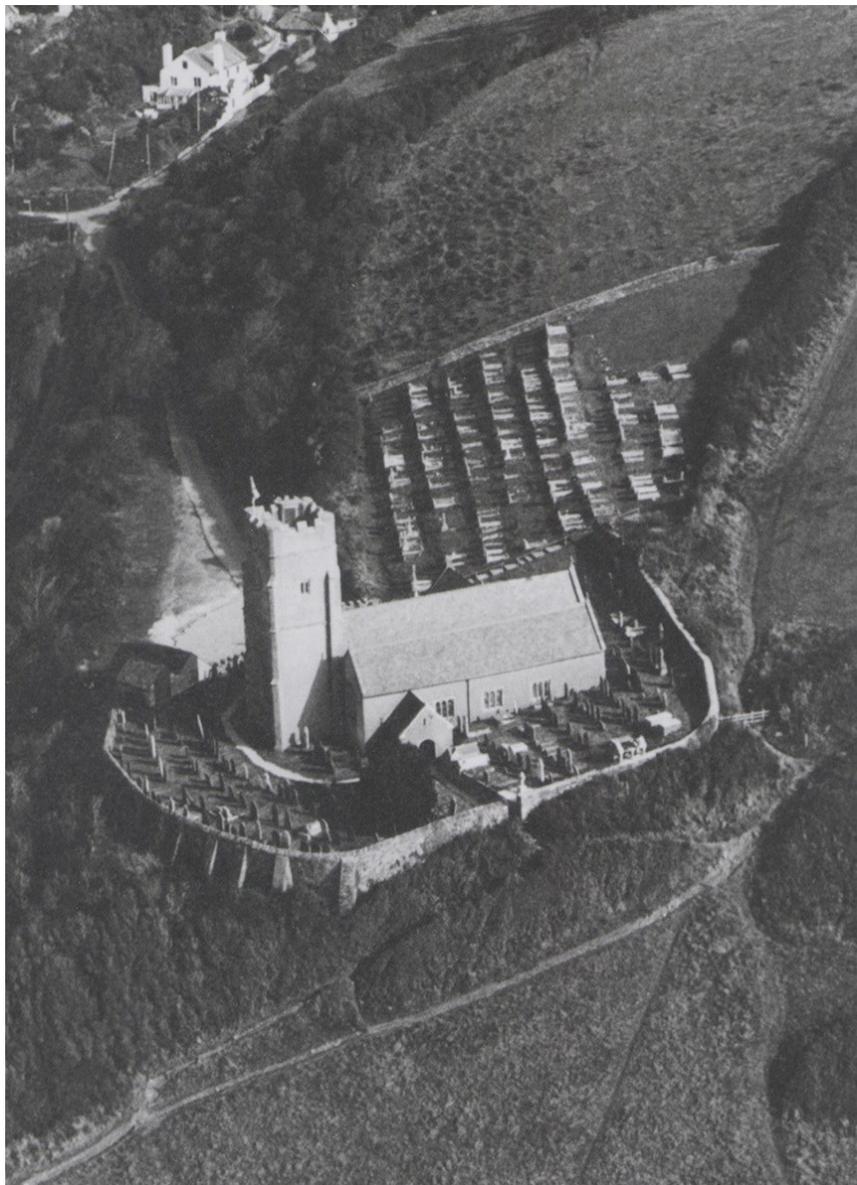
To me gray -
Wind-gray, flung with foam -
Ye that stray
Wild-foot, come ye home!

Mother I -
Mother I will be!
Ere ye die
Hear! O sons at sea!

Shall I fall,
Leave my flock of graves?
Not for all
Your rebelling waves!

I stand fast -
Let the waters cry!
Here I last
To eternity!

Bay Cottage is visible at the top of the photograph, it was built in the 1830s and was, for many years the only dwelling in what is now Church Road, the next nearest houses being in West Wembury.



AERIAL VIEW OF THE CHURCH AND VILLAGE FROM THE SOUTH

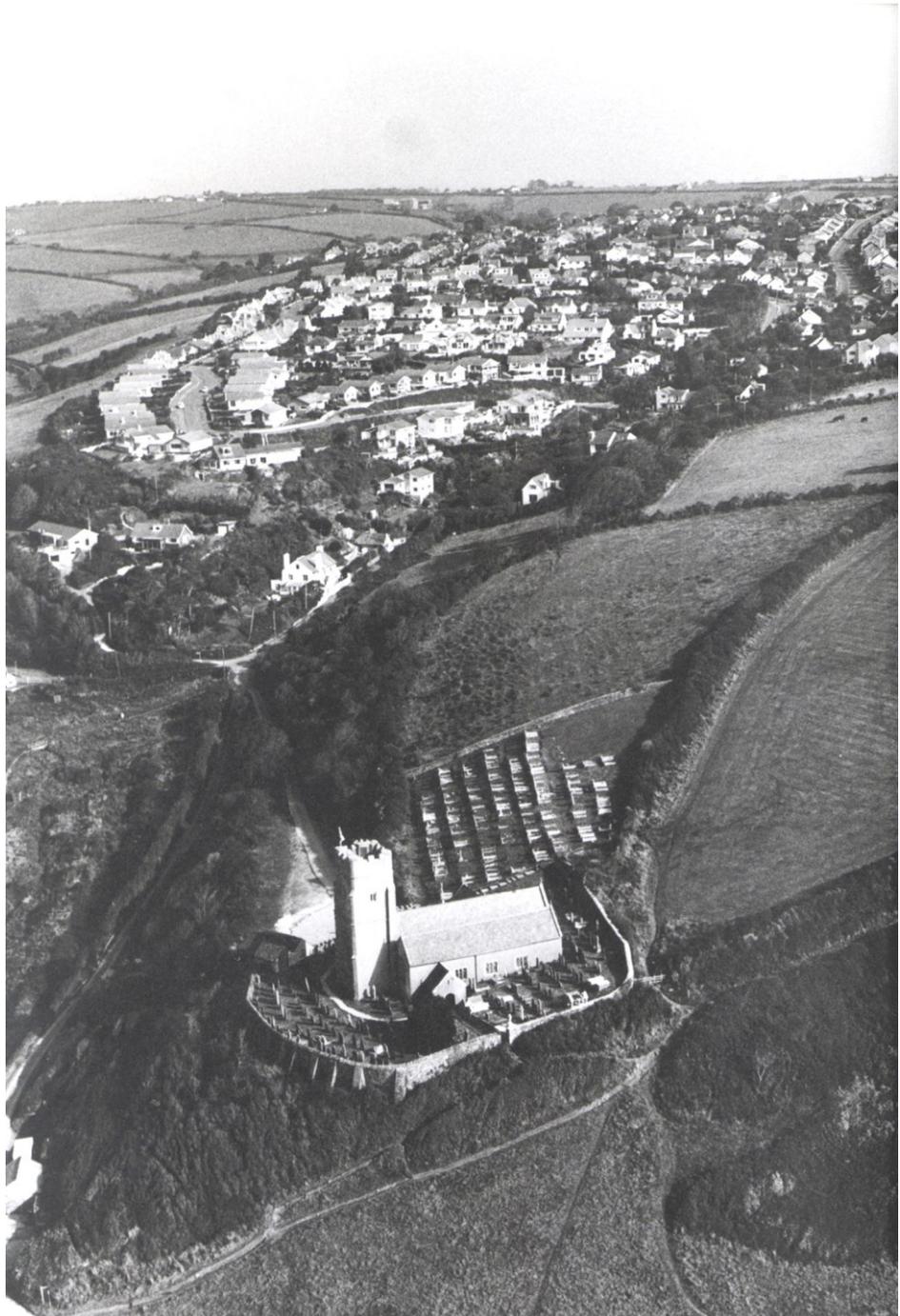
This photograph was taken sometime in the early 1990s.

It is most unusual to see a photograph of the church looking landwards, as most photographs are taken with the sea as a backdrop.

Immediately to the north of the church is Bay Cottage which was built in the 1830s and was, for many years the only dwelling in what is now Church Road, the next nearest houses being in West Wembury. Most of the houses in the photograph were built from the late 1950s onwards.

When we were children the only houses apart from Bay Cottage were about half a dozen bungalows in Beach View Crescent plus some wooden dwellings which were usually only occupied in the summer. There were some bungalows at the bottom of Cliff Road and of course those on the top of the cliff which are still there, and more wooden dwellings. Going up Church Road on the right there were a few more bungalows and some more wooden dwellings until one reached Hill Crest, and apart from a couple of isolated dwellings, there was nothing until one got to Cross Park Road.

Southland Park Road on the left of the photograph and Mewstone Avenue on the right of the photograph did not exist. In the late 1950s Church Road was the only arterial road through the village. In fact about 90% of what is shown would have been green fields, with Bay Cottage in grand isolation, and a few of the older houses in Church Road and Beach View Crescent visible near the top of the photograph.



AERIAL VIEW OF WEMBURY CHURCH AND BEACH

This photograph was taken in the late 1930s.

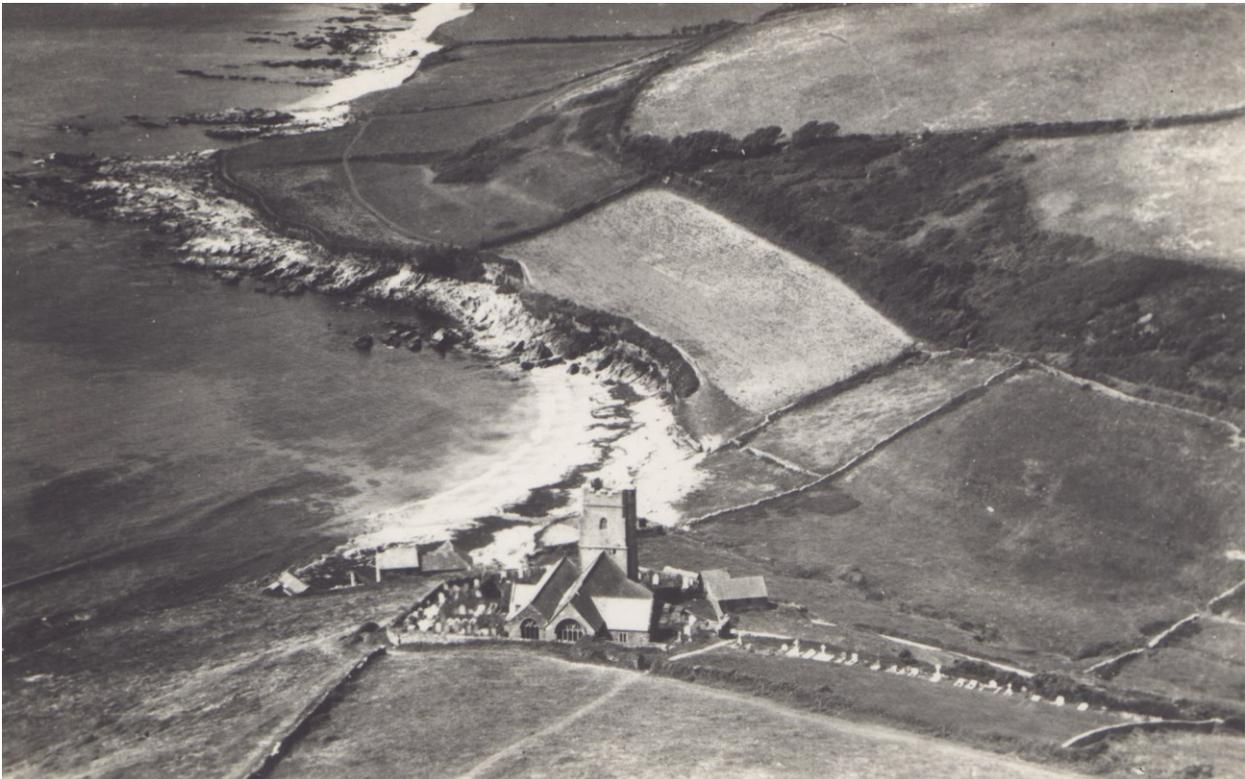
There is no 'pill box' or the remains of, on the far side of the beach. Also there is no riding stables or boat park.

The area in front of the old stable outside of the church is still grassed, and there is no proper car park. The narrow road can just be made out going up to the church gate.

Only the first row of the churchyard extension has been filled, these graves date from the mid 1930s

The roofs of the mill and the mill house can be seen to the left of the church. There is hardly any gorse or blackthorn against the church wall or field wall.

The alternative path going across the two fields towards the "Gully" and Langdon Beach can clearly be seen, this was closed off when Bob Stansell fenced off the fields in about 1958.



WEMBURY CHURCH IN THE 1930s

The view is not a lot different than today. Although there is nothing over at Wembury Point, there is no riding school and the fields on the cliff are not fenced off as they are today.

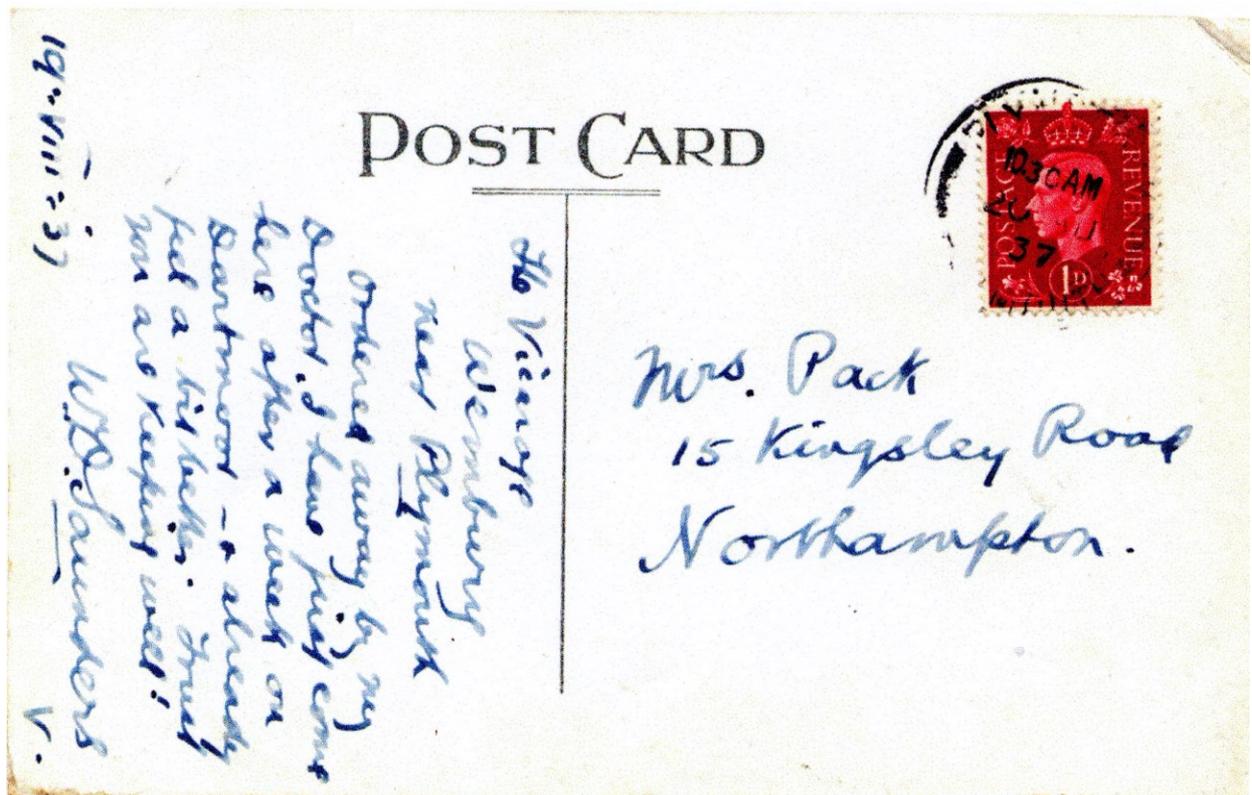
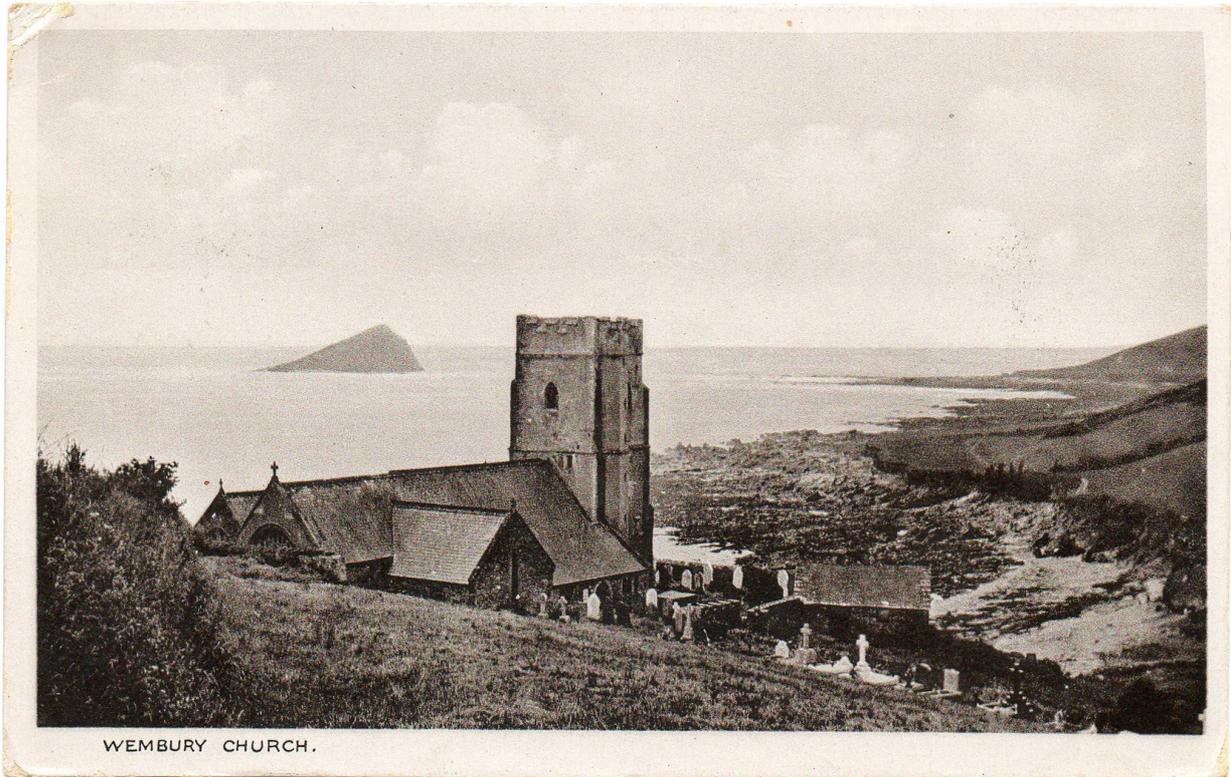
For the people going home from church on a nice morning in the 1930s, using the pathfields was probably the most sensible way to get back to Knighton and West Wembury. There would have been hardly any cars, and it would be senseless to walk down the church drive to the bottom of Church Road and have to climb all the way back up, especially as when one is at the church, one is already half way up the hill!

When the Vicarage was at Thorn, even in Mr Tagg's time the vicar often used the pathfields as the most expedient way of getting to the church.



WEMBURY CHURCH POSTCARD - 1937

This postcard, enlarged here for clarity, is rather interesting in that it was actually sent from the Vicarage on 19th August 1937. This was during the incumbency of Charles ffolliot Young as Vicar.



WEMBURY CHURCH GRAVEYARD EXTENSION – 1927

The rather bucolic scene below of the sheep grazing in the shadow of the church dates from sometime prior to 1926. This we know because in October of 1926 the area occupied by the sheep became the northward extension to the graveyard



In 1926 the extra land, half an acre, for the extension was given by the Squire, Mr Richard Cory. The only expense that the church had to cover was for the construction of the wall on the new northern boundary.

The stone for the new wall was reused from the old wall, shown in the photograph, which had to be demolished, plus additional stone provided by Richard Cory, from the Estate, at his own expense. Eight local farmers provided the cartage for materials to the site, free of charge. The work was carried out by direct labour, supervised by the Estate Foreman, Mr G T Axworthy.

The total cost of the work was £95 – 0s – 5d, all raised by voluntary subscription and a concert at the church.

Ironically, due to subsequent development of the Parish, the

<u>Payments.</u>	£	s.	d.
Churchyard Wall Restoration and erection of six new buttresses, by contract of Mr. E. Crocker, Builder	80	14	6

Churchyard Extension carried out by direct labour under the supervision of Mr. G.T. Axworthy, Estate Foreman, and Sidesman of Wembury Church.			
J. Lavers and A.N. Beer, wages and stamps	60	18	11
Lime, F.J. Moore Ltd. 41 cwts.	5	5	6
Mortar, Mr. E. Crocker	2		
Workmen's Compensation Policy	1	12	6
W.H. May, Esq. Diocesan Surveyor, 3 plans in triplicate	3	13	6
Messrs. Deacon & Co., Solicitors (to R.W. Cory, Esq.). Deed of conveyance of land	5	5	
Fees for consecration, etc., to the Registrar of the Diocese, H.W. Michelmore, Esq., Exeter	5	5	
Mr. J.S. Coleman, 2 wrought iron gates and guards	10		
Mr. M. Sherwill, 2 oak gate posts	1		
	£175	14	11

extension, the size of which, on past records was estimated to provide for burials for the next 200 years, was filled within 70 years.

At the same time major work on the western churchyard wall (overlooking the beach) was undertaken which entailed substantial rebuilding of part of the wall and the provision of six extra buttresses was carried out by Mr E. Crocker, Builder, and cost £80 – 14s – 6d (£80.72.5p).



The above photograph of the church, was taken from the graveyard extension of 1927, and from the number of interments that have taken place, it can be dated to 1930, as the nearest grave is that of Arthur James Parr who died in December 1929.



This photograph, taken in the 1930s shows the completed northern wall to the graveyard extension.

WEMBURY GRAVEYARD – EXTRA BUTTRESSES - 1927

In 1867 the first five buttresses were built against the western wall of the graveyard due to concerns regarding its stability. The following is recorded in the minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting of 25th March 1867

“Proposed by Richard Popplestone and seconded by John Wilson that the Churchwardens be authorised to erect five buttresses to support the western Church yard wall at a cost of £12 – 5s – Od”. (£12.25)

It was carried unanimously and the work was duly carried out. In 1926 the condition of the wall again became a cause for concern. This time a large section of the wall had to be dismantled and rebuilt, in addition to which six further buttresses were needed.

This work was carried out by Mr E Crocker, a local builder, at a cost of £80 – 14s- 6d. (£80.73).



The above photograph, taken in 1927, shows the newly completed work, five of the new buttresses looking very pristine, the sixth one is over on the far left of the picture. The large section of the wall that had to be rebuilt can be clearly seen to the left of the Church tower.

The five original buttresses were erected for just over £2 each in 1867. In 1927, some sixty years, later the cost had risen sixfold. Today, in the early 21st century, such work would cost many thousands of pounds.

WEMBURY CHURCH AND GRAVEYARD 2004 AND 2010

The top photograph was taken in May 2004. The view is much the same as the earlier ones taken from the same position in 1950, and in the early 1980s. The arch over the gateway carrying the light has been replaced utilising the old bell rope guide, which became redundant when the ringing chamber was moved up to the first floor. The Mewstone can be seen, in the distance framed by the arch.

The bottom photograph was taken 6th January 2010.



BOX TOMB - 1976

This photograph, which I took in 1976, shows the box tomb that was by the church path, and which was later removed and the ledger slab laid flush with the ground.

The church gates were new and there was concern about them being varnished, instead of being left natural, and treated with preservative.

The event taking place was the Flower Festival in the first week of August, hence the tea tent to the left of the picture. The theme for that particular year was Hymns Ancient and Modern.

The two girls in the photograph are Wendy and Fiona Carder.



THE ROMANTIC STORY OF WEMBURY CHURCH

This was first written in 1945, by the then Vicar, the Revd Kenneth Tagg.

It is a most interesting little book, which over the years has been added to in line with additions and improvements to the church, and is now into its seventh edition.

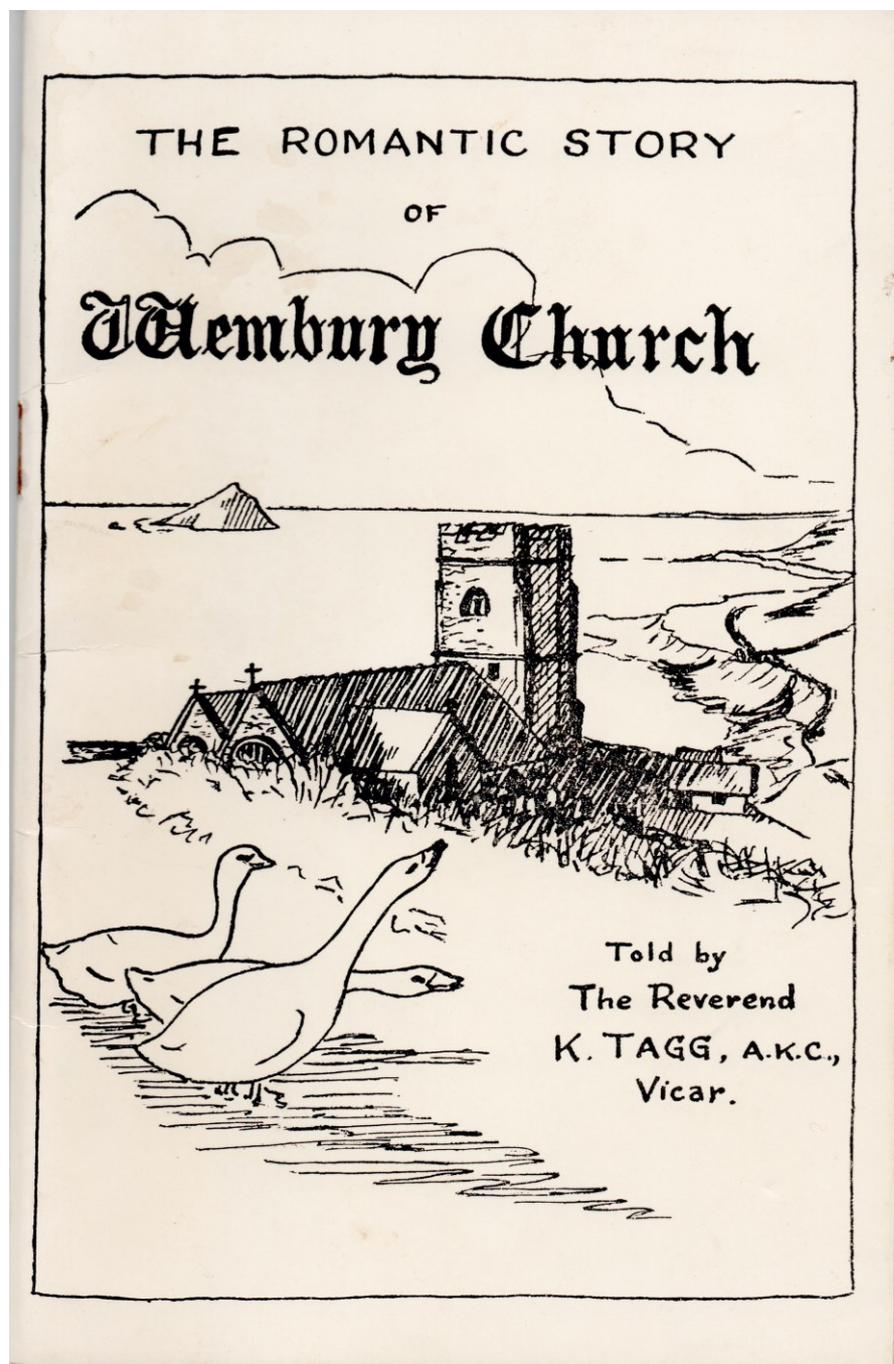
Illustrated below is the cover of the first edition, as drawn by Kenneth Tagg who was a gifted artist. It shows one of the most familiar views of the church as seen from the north-east, taking in the bay and the Mewstone. Added to this is the gaggle of geese, which is the emblem of St Werburgh.

Subsequent editions had a variety of covers, but this cover was used again in 1978 on the fifth edition.

The present edition has the same view on the cover, but as a coloured photograph, and without the geese. All of the illustrations in the book are now coloured, making it one of the finest parish church guide books available.

The original idea of the book was to raise enough money to purchase a pipe organ "worthy of the ancient building". In the late 1940s a chamber organ was given to the church and was installed behind the parclose screen at the east end of the south aisle. In 1955 it was overhauled by Heles, when it was provided with a small straight pedal board. It served the church very well until the mid 1960s by which time it had succumbed to the ravages of the damp and salt laden air, and had become virtually unplayable. The church was not very well heated in those days.

In 1967, during Arthur Bronham's incumbency, the present organ was obtained from the Lawrence Weston Methodist Church in Bristol. It was installed in the transept, with suitable modifications, in the same year for a total cost of £2000, which was raised by the Parish in eight months. This organ was built by Peter Conacher of Huddersfield in about 1915.



WEMBURY CHURCH - 1886 RESTORATION

Through the munificence of Squire Richard Cory of Langdon Court, the church was restored in 1886 in the most excellent taste, undoubtedly influenced by the Oxford Movement. Messrs Hine and Odgers of Plymouth were the Architects, which is recorded on the brass plate affixed to the wall of the north aisle.

At the same time repairs to the chancel were carried out under the auspices of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, which included major repairs to the roof, the east wall and the paving.

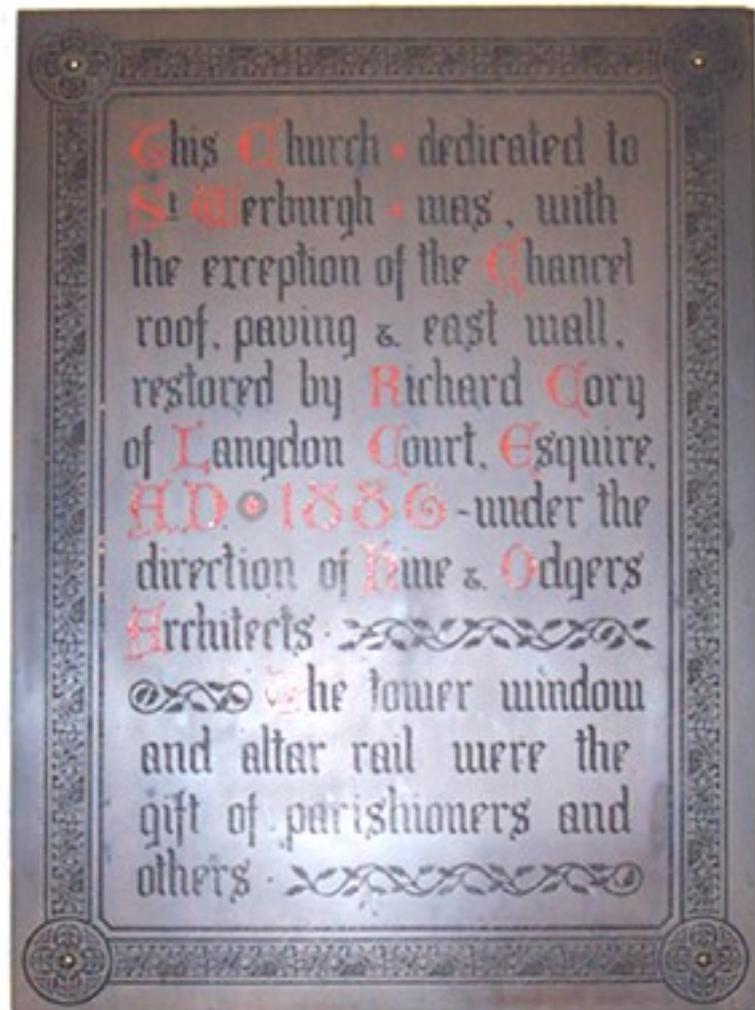
By 1885 the building had become so dilapidated that the nave roof was in imminent danger of collapse. There was a tremendous dampness problem as the church had been built straight into the hillside so that at the east end the ground level outside was eight to ten feet higher than the floor level inside. The condition was so bad that there was a very real discussion as to whether it was worth restoring the building, or leaving it to its fate, and building a new church in the Village. Fortunately the former course of action was decided upon, heeding the words of the Vicar, the Revd Charles Burgess, "That the church should remain where the forefathers of the parish slept"

The work was started in 1885 and took 14 months to complete, and as the church had to be closed down to enable the work to go ahead, the school was licensed for public worship throughout the period.

All of the roofs had been concealed by plaster and once this was removed their true state became apparent. The roof of the nave was hopelessly rotten, as had been expected, and had to be completely removed. The most exposed roof, that of the south aisle, surprisingly was the best preserved, and required only partial repair. In the north aisle roof only one or two of the old timbers were worth preserving and these were incorporated with the new work. In the transept roof, earlier in design than the others, many of the old timbers were in good condition so were preserved and remain in place. In the roof of the south porch, all of the old timbers were found to be in a sound condition and were kept.

A completely new nave roof was built of oak, open up to the ridge, and in the Devonshire 15th century style. There are carved ribs, purlins and bosses, no two alike, and a carved cornice, or frieze, on each side, once again, each one different.

The north aisle roof, much lower and narrower, was given similar treatment. In the south aisle, the roof remains very much as it was; oak boarding has replaced the plaster in the spaces between the ribs and purlins. In addition, new carved oak bosses, gilded and painted, were fitted at each intersection.



The old Vestry in the transept with the gallery over was removed. The square pews were also removed, as were the three-decker pulpit, and the squire's seat in the chancel. These were all replaced by very fine oak pews with beautifully carved ends (no two are alike), an octagonal pulpit in carved oak on a stone base, and choir stalls with beautifully carved poppy heads (although no priest's stall was allowed for). On the north side, the seat base of the Norman wall was cut away, to make more room, and to allow for the installation of the long bench seat that is now there. At the end of the south aisle a three-section parclose screen was erected to enclose the area in order to make provision for a pipe organ, which actually didn't materialise, due, we are told by a "difference" between the Squire and the Vicar. What exactly this difference was, one can only hazard a guess!

The Narbrough monument was moved from the east to the west end of the south aisle to allow for the promised organ. In 1864, the monument had been moved to the east end of the south aisle, from the chancel, where it was originally sited. In this original position it was considered to be too intrusive, and had been moved with the approval of the Squire, at the time, Vincent Pollexfen Calmady, who was a kinsman of the lady commemorated thereon. The decision to move it yet again was not too well received by a member of the Calmady family still living in the parish at the time.

The glazed screen spanning the tower arch was also provided at this time, although the plain glass panels going up to the top of the arch were not put in until the mid 1960s.

The elegant lancet window in the transept was also put in to replace a wider window; this is evident from the outside where the changes in the stonework can be easily seen.

The west end of the north aisle was substantially rebuilt, which once again is evident by the change in stonework on the outside and also by the window in that area where the stonework appears to be too cleanly cut to be part of the ancient fabric. The same can also be said for the west wall of the south aisle where on the outside the stonework is much fresher and the tracery of the large window, and the coping stones are, once again, too cleanly cut to be part of the ancient fabric.

The lovely tower window depicting St Werburgh, and the altar rail were the gift of "Parishioners and others", and dates from the same time. The wall brackets that held the oil lamps and the hanging cradles with their counterbalance weight systems for the hanging lamps in the nave centre were made to match the altar rail. The lamps and their cradles were removed when the church was electrified in 1952, and sold as virtual scrap, which was a great sin even in those days.

The floor level was raised; the main floor level was, up until then, the same as that in the tower. The Chancel and Sanctuary floor levels were correspondingly raised, the Hele monument had to be dismantled and reconstructed at the new higher level which accounts for it being so tight up against the ceiling.

The centre aisle and area to the west of the main seating was beautifully paved in Devon limestone blocks, bordered with granite, the blocks being laid chequered wise in squares of three oblong blocks to each, giving a most pleasing effect. The grouts are no wider than one eighth of an inch throughout. Unfortunately, part of this flooring was broken up just inside the north door in 1953 when new pipework for the central heating were run through from the boiler room, and not properly re-laid. This is a thing which would not be allowed to happen these days with the various controls regarding listed buildings, which most of us who have had dealings with, find to be a bit of a bind, but which does, in most cases, ensure quality control.

Most of the building work and woodwork was done by Mr Cory's own workmen under the direction of their foreman, Mr Sherwill.

All of the carvings in the new roofs, the pew ends, pulpit, reredos, lectern, and parclose screen were carried out by Mr Harry Hems of Exeter working from the designs and drawings of Messrs Hine and Odgers. The font bowl in Red Corshill stone was also carved by him. Undoubtedly most of the work was actually done by the excellent craftsmen under his employ, but we do know that the central panel of the pulpit, which depicts Christ calming the sea, was executed by him personally.

The tower screen and choir stalls were executed, from the drawings by Hine and Odgers, by Mr Blowey of Plymouth with some admirable carving by Mr S Trevenen. The glazing of the tower screen was by Mr Fouracre of Stonehouse. Mr Blowey also carried out the renovation of the chancel roof and walls under the direction of Mr Christian, architect to the Ecclesiastical commissioners.

All new stonework in the windows, window sills, the steps in the belfry, chancel and sanctuary, the paving of the nave, and external work, coping stones, gable crosses etc., were done by Mr Gullett, of Plympton.

Messrs Fouracre and Watson were responsible for all of the leaded window work in the building except for the altar window. Also for the painting and gilding of the new ceiling bosses in the south aisle, and the redecoration of the newly repositioned Narbrough monument. The tower window depicting St Werburgh was, at that time the only stained glass window in the church, was also by Fouracre and Watson. The window was cartooned by J W Brown who was a designer for Powells, the prominent London Glaziers, but who also did a lot of work for Fouracre and Watson.

The altar rail of brass and hammered iron was made, from the architect's drawing, by Messrs Hart and Peard of Wych Street, London.

The door hinges on the new west and north doors were made in the village Blacksmith's Shop by Mr Coleman.

On the outside the drainage ditch was dug all around the building where the ground level was higher than inside, with retaining walls to hold the bank in place. The north gable of the transept was largely rebuilt using Mansfield stone for the lancet window, the corbels, the copings and gable cross. Major reconstruction work was carried out on the west end of the north aisle, which included a new window in granite, and coping stones of the same. Major reconstruction was also carried on the west gable of the south aisle including a new three light window in granite, with coping stones and gable cross of the same.

During the excavations outside, the central column of the 13th century font was unearthed, this was cleaned up, and otherwise unaltered in any way, was incorporated into the new font designed Messrs Hine and Odgers

It was said that this restoration was the most complete of any undertaken in South Devon at the time.

The church was reopened and reconsecrated for public worship on 8th June 1886, with a great celebratory service, followed by the administration of Holy Communion. The Bishop of Exeter was unable to attend so the Dean came to preach and officiate in his stead, in his sermon he used as his text, 1 Corinthians, Ch III, V 17, "The temple of God is holy which temple ye are." The Archdeacon of Totnes also attended and officiated. There were many other clergy from the Diocese in attendance, as well as the great and the good from the surrounding area. The church was packed to the doors, it is said that there were more visitors on that one day than at any other single occasion in the history of the building.

After the service there was a great celebratory luncheon, with much toasting and speechmaking, in a marquee on the lawn at Langdon Court. In the newspaper report of the event it states that there were at least seven toasts proposed, and eight speeches made, one can imagine that it would have gone on long into the afternoon.

The guests travelled to Langdon Court in carriages via the carriage ride through Church Walk Wood and the Rookery Wood. The newspaper report goes on to say that before lunch the guests were treated to a recital on the new organ that had been recently installed in the house by Hele's of Plymouth, and then goes into a detailed description of the instrument and its specification. It makes one wonder if this was the organ that would have been installed in the church had it not been for the "difference" between the Squire and the Vicar.

In the evening there was another service at the church, more for the benefit of the village people than anyone else, where the preacher was the Archdeacon of Totnes.

WEMBURY CHURCH - 1886 RESTORATION - NEW STONEMWORK

These photographs show some of the new stonework that was put in during the 1886 Restoration.

The one on the right shows the new granite framed three light window that was inserted into the west end of the South Aisle. Much of the wall and gable was rebuilt as can be seen by the cleaner cut stonework, with new coping stones, and gable cross also of granite. The window was made to match the one in the tower.

The lower photograph shows the north west corner of the building where much of the wall was rebuilt, a new granite window inserted and granite quoins and coping stones also provided. The sloping section of wall is part of the boiler room roof and was not built until 1914.

All of the worked and dressed stone was executed by Mr Gullett of Plympton, and the glazing of the leaded windows by Fouracre and Watson of Stonehouse.



NORMAN WALL FRAGMENT

This Photograph was taken in January 2005.

Part of the north wall, from the notice board up to the corner, and part of the west wall of the transept, is a fragment of the Norman building, which predates the present church. It would have been a very small building and the fragment would have formed the south east corner of the original building, so the cobbled area would actually have been inside.

The building would have remained in use while the ambitious plan to build the church as we now know it progressed alongside. The nave, chancel, south aisle and south porch of the new building would have been completed. The tower probably would have been built up to the level of the roof ridge of the nave and finished with a temporary wooden roof. The north arcade of the nave would have been filled with daub and wattle as a temporary measure to make the unfinished building weatherproof, and able to be used for worship. This now meant that the north aisle could be built and the old building removed, reusing the materials in the new construction.

The original plan would probably have allowed for a north aisle of the same width, as the south, and also a porch to balance the one on the south side. As we know only too well, in this day and age, due to changes in the financial climate, and also availability of skilled manpower, many grandiose schemes have to be reassessed during construction, and very often sacrifices have to be made. This usually means that the final vision is not realised.

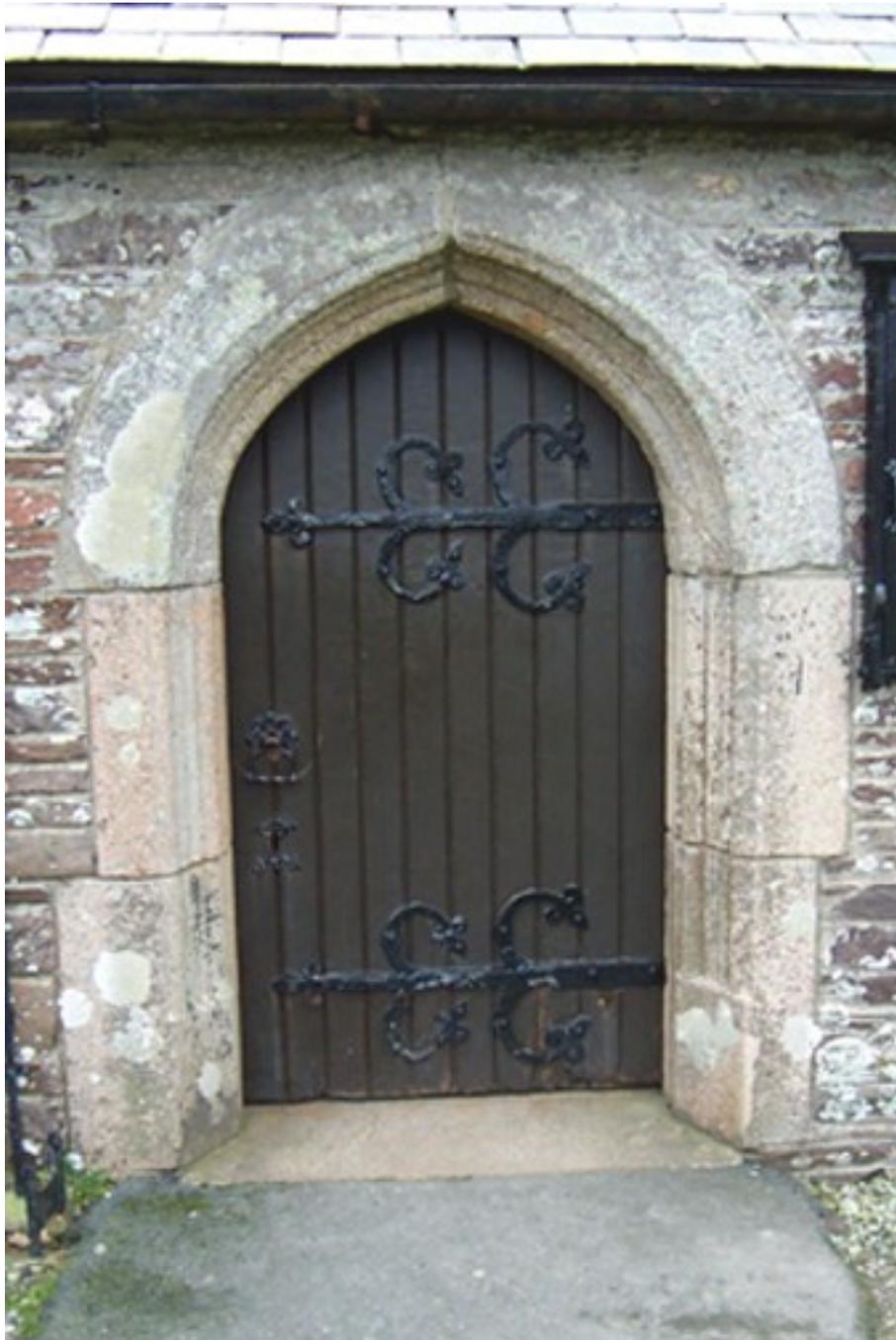
In our case, I think that the Black Death would have taken its toll of both skilled and unskilled manpower and that the most expedient way forward would have been to utilise as much of the old building as possible, and incorporate it into the new. So the south wall of the original building would have become the north wall of the new one, giving a much narrower north aisle. This then meant the roof would be less complicated as it would just be an extension to the slope of the nave roof. The transept, which wouldn't have been on the original plan, would have been formed using the east wall of the old building. By having two walls already in place this would have reduced the building time, and still provide a building perfectly large enough for the purpose it was to serve right up until the twentieth century. The tower would have been the last part to be finished, which we believe was sometime around 1420



WEMBURY CHURCH - THE NORTH DOOR

This Photograph of the outside of the door was taken in November 2005.

This doorway is later than the west or south doors, thought to date from the mid 19th century. The head is more pointed whereas both of the others are almost semicircular, this would tie in with the Gothic revival of that time. The stone work is more cleanly cut, and the the construction of the doorway is such that it looks as though it has been slotted in rather than built with the wall, like the others, this is especially evident on the inside.

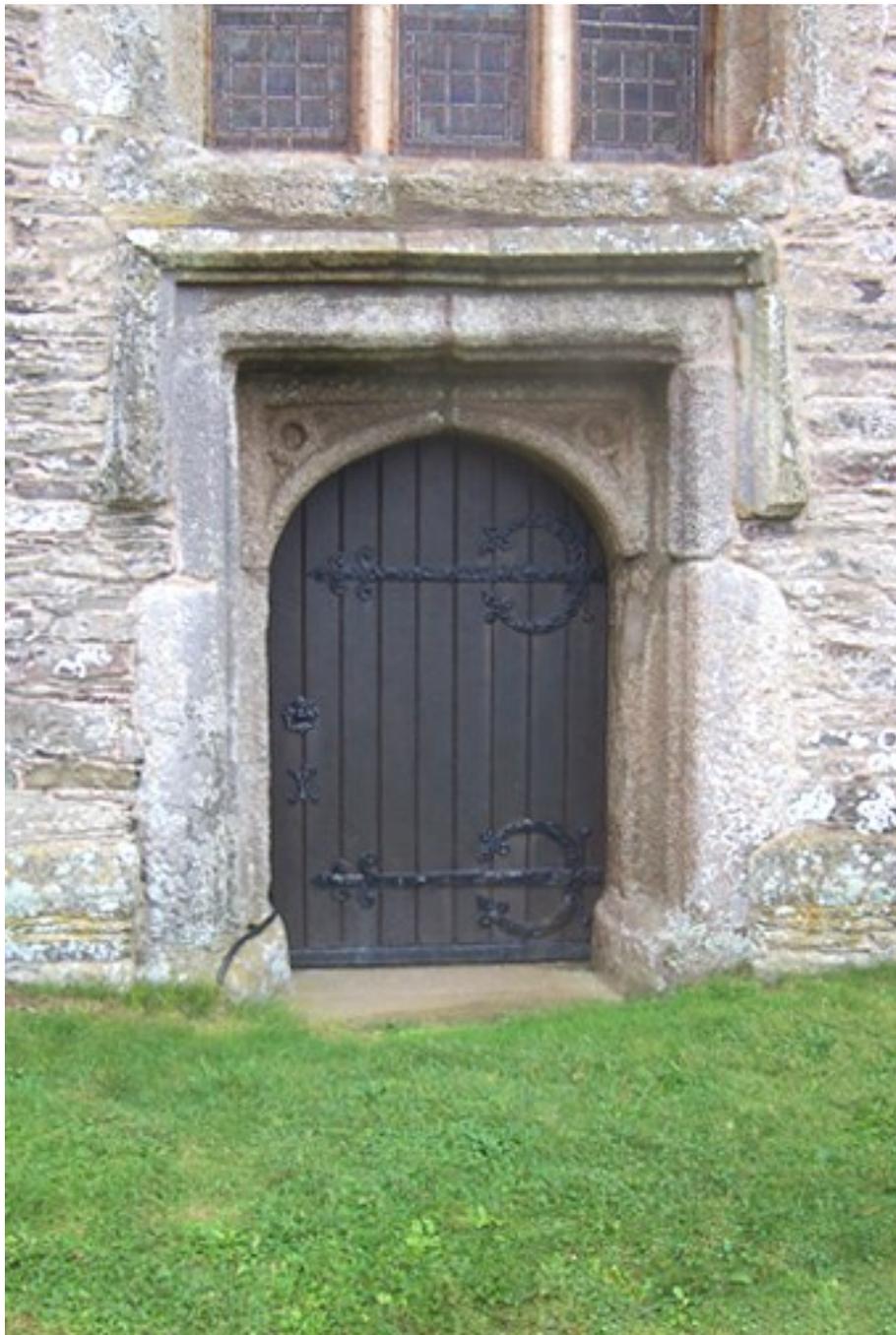


WEMBURY CHURCH - WEST DOOR

The doorway is of the perpendicular period, and is wholly of granite the top is almost semi circular. The spandrels have very simple ornamentation and there is a heavy drip stone over. The whole structure is slightly misaligned with the window above.

The door dates from the 1886 Restoration of the church, the ironwork of the same date, was fashioned by Mr John Coleman the Blacksmith at Knighton. The original door would probably been of the same construction as the south door, which has fared better over the years due to it's more sheltered position.

Up until 1978 the bells were rung from floor level, and the door would be opened on a summers day to give the ringers some fresh air. In 1978 a new ringing chamber was formed by the insertion of a floor in line with the bottom of the window above. This then provided much needed vestry space on the ground floor.



WEMBURY CHURCH - THE SOUTH PORCH

This photograph was taken in the mid 1980s.

The south porch was once the main entrance to the church, as the north door was added at a much later date.

It dates from the early fifteenth century and still has many of the original roof timbers. Above the door is a mass dial dating from the same period.

Inside the floor is cobbled with pebbles from the beach, there is a fitted wooden bench on each side, and a small window in the east wall. To the right of the door going into the church there is the remains of a holy-water stoup, and over the door, a small pedestal which once would have carried a statue of St Werburgh.

The glazed oak door was erected in 1976 by the family and friends of the late Jim Pursley, who was Churchwarden from 1966 to 1975. This replaced an iron gate which had been in place hitherto, and has made a tremendous difference in keeping the church warm in the winter. It has also brought the porch into the church making a quiet corner for private prayer and meditation, and thereby rescuing it from being quite neglected.

When we were children the iron gate was never locked, and so we used to find this an ideal place in which to take shelter, if we were on the beach and it came in to rain. I can remember occasions when we have changed out of our wet swimming gear, and had our picnics in the porch.

The whole of this side of the church, including the tower, was concrete rendered in the early twentieth century, as a damp proofing measure.

The two large tombs on the right contain members of the Cory family, of Langdon Court.



WEMBURY CHURCH - THE MASS DIAL

This photograph, showing the mass dial in greater detail, was taken in the mid 1980s.

We are told that it dates from the early fifteenth century and was probably put in place when the porch was originally built. At that time this was the main entrance to the building, as the door on the north side was not cut through until the mid 19th century.

It is nice to see that in spite of it's great age, and having lost a considerable part of it's gnomon, it was still in good working condition, clearly indicating the time as being just before 4 o'clock on the day that it was photographed. Of course, British Summer Time must be also taken into consideration, and also that true time in Wembury, by the sun, is approximately 18 minutes behind Greenwich Mean Time.



SOUTH PORCH AND CORY TOMBS – 2009

This photograph taken on 13th Feb 2009 shows the south side of the church. Not quite as interesting looking as the other parts of the building due to the stonework having been covered in roughcast rendering sometime prior to the Second World War. Presumably this was carried out as a weather proofing measure as this side of the building gets the brunt of any bad weather. Regrettably the lovely glass panelled door has been replaced by a solid panelled one due to a break in two years previously. I could not see the reasoning for this as the glass panels did not get broken, being made of toughened glass, entry was achieved by severely damaging the woodwork. This means now that the south porch, instead of being filled with light, and a lovely area for meditation, is now just a black hole.



The two large tombs contain members of the Cory family who lived at Langdon Court and owned most of the Parish from 1874 to 1927. They bought it from the Vincent Calmady whose family had been there for almost four hundred years previously. Richard Cory's only son and heir, George Wallis Cory died in 1907 aged 23, so when Richard died in 1926, the Cory dynasty in Wembury came to an end.

WEMBURY CHURCH - TOP OF THE TOWER

The top photograph was taken on 22nd December 2007. The children, Heidi and Lloyd, give some sense of scale to the parapet and castellations. In the corner between them is the base of one of octagonal pinnacles, which once adorned each corner of the tower. We know that they were removed some time prior to 1820.



The aerial photograph below shows clearly the octagonal bases of the pinnacles at each corner.



ABSEILERS ON THE TOWER – SEPTEMBER 2009

These photographs were taken on 11th September 2009, and show the abseilers carrying out maintenance tasks on the tower. Hiring these masons, with a head for heights, meant that we were able to get essential work done without the expense of erecting scaffolding.

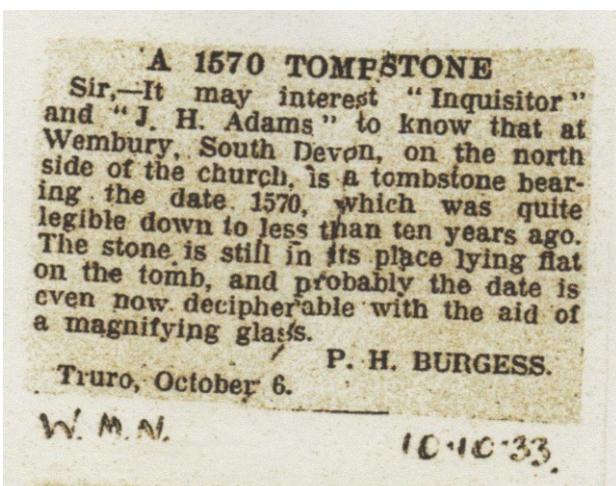


WEMBURY CHURCHYARD – OLDEST GRAVES

This photograph was taken 4th September 2009, looking across the east end of the church with the sea in the distance. The four box tombs set in the angle of the transept and sanctuary are purported to be the oldest in the graveyard. They are said to date from the late 1500s, but the growth of lichen has rendered them illegible.



In the 1950s it was mooted that a vestry should be built into the angle, which would have been accessed by a door where the transept window is. This would have meant the excavation of the whole area and the removal of the four graves. Their contents, if any still remained, would have been re-interred elsewhere. Luckily this idea never came to fruition.



This letter appeared in the Western Morning News on 10th October 1933.

The writer was Percy Howard Burgess, son of the Revd Charles Burgess who had been Vicar of Wembury from 1883 to 1923, so would have had a good knowledge of the graveyard.

Regrettable, even with the aid the aid of a magnifying glass the inscriptions are now illegible.

WEMBURY CHURCH - THE NORTH TRANSEPT

This photograph was taken in March 2009.

The west wall of the north transept contains a fragment of the original Norman building. The north wall, shown in the photograph, was largely rebuilt in the 1886 Restoration. At which time the lancet window was inserted, replacing a much wider window. The difference between the old and newer work can clearly be seen, the newer work being darker in colour and more cleanly cut.



WEMBURY CHURCH - THE NORTH TRANSEPT SEGMENTAL ARCH

This photograph was taken in November 2005.

The west wall of the north transept contains, for the large part, a fragment of the original Norman building. We always used to park our bicycles here as children and the thing that always intrigued me was the segmental arch of red brick almost at ground level. Was this at one time an entrance to a kind of undercroft? If so the style of the arch would give it away that it was much later than the rest of the building.

We know that in the church, under the chancel floor, there is the Calmady Vault, the exact extent of which and the number of occupants is not known. Could this have been an alternative entrance made into it to save the major disruption and tremendous amount of work that must have ensued in lifting the great stone slab at the demise of each of the Calmadys? Once the vault was full, and we know it was, as the last of the Calmadys had to be buried in the graveyard, there would have been no point in keeping this alternative entrance and so it was blocked up.



THE FLOCK OF GRAVES

These photographs taken in February 2007 (top) and November 2009 (Bottom), bring to mind the words that John Galsworthy wrote about Wembury Church.

“Shall I fall,
Leave my flock of graves?
Not for all
Your rebelling waves!”



“MELANCHOLY HURT”

This photograph was taken in November 2005. I felt that this little gravestone should be recorded before it completely disintegrates.

It used to very much intrigue me as a child as to what a ‘melancholy hurt’ could have possibly been. The gravestone may be found under the west window of the south aisle

(Grave No.135 – Old Yard)



(SACRED)

to the memory of

JOHN HORN

Who received a Melancholy
hurt on the BREAKWATER
and died in the *Royal Hospital*
STONEHOUSE
on the 30th of Sep 182*
Aged 39 years

JOHN TAMLIN GRAVE - 1707

Church records show that the first recorded burial in the graveyard took place on 10th April 1611. Before the Reformation there was no obligation to record Baptisms, Weddings or Burials, and usually only those of the gentry or other illustrious people were noted down. Also up until the Reformation all burials took place at Plympton Priory, a very torturous route from Wembury in those days. Our church records all start in the year 1611, what happened in the intervening period after Reformation is anybody's guess!

There are some gravestones from the early 1600s to the north east of the church but they are illegible, the earliest legible one is that of John Tamlin who died in 1707. The grave can be found on the south side of the church about 25 feet in from the south wall of the church and in line with the easternmost window on that side. The inscription is not very clear and it has not been possible to ascertain exactly how old he was when he died.



Here lieth the body
of John Tamlin
who departed this life the
14th August 1707 aged *8 years

THOMAS & SIMON CORINDON - GRAVE

This photograph was taken in October 2006. It is of one of the oldest graves in the churchyard, dating from 1727. It is of local stone beautifully inscribed and in very good condition for its age, probably due to it being sited on the lee side of a much bigger stone.



Thomas
Corindon
1727
Simon his son
died in 1740

ROBERT BAKER GRAVE - 1737

Another example of one of the older gravestones in the graveyard, which illustrates how lovely and neat these earlier stones are. It is no more than two feet high by about 18 inches wide. It is beautifully inscribed and succinct in what it has to say. Much nicer than the great flamboyant things that came along in the following century!



Here lieth the
body of Robert ye
Son of Robert &
Joan Baker who
died November ye 17th
aged 28 years

JOSHUA BROOKING - 1712

Yet another example of one of the older gravestones in the graveyard. This one is of Joshua Brooking, it is tucked partially behind the gravestone of John and Sarah Nott who died in 1831 and 1873 respectively, whether they were related is not known. The stone once again is very small, quite plain and with a simple scroll decoration at the top.

A large part of the stone is below ground so it is not known whether anyone else is commemorated.



Joshua Brooking
1712

BREAKWATER PINNACE DISASTER 1838

The building of Plymouth Breakwater took 30 years from 1811 to 1841, 4.5 million tons of stone was used in its construction, and at 1,700 yards, it is just under a mile in length. At the peak of the building 765 men were employed, some of them in the stone yard at Oreston, but mostly on the breakwater itself. It provided employment for many people in Plymouth and the surrounding area, and Wembury was no exception. The workforce were accommodated in hulks anchored inside of the breakwater and were taken to and from these by pinnaces which ran from various points around the harbour.

On 7th November 1838, a Wednesday afternoon, a payday, three pinnaces were on the inward trip for the men to get their pay, and to hand over a large proportion of it to wives who were usually waiting! A combination of tide and swell conditions caused one of the pinnaces to capsize drowning all onboard before any assistance could be got to them “They found the hats and baskets of several of the men”, so goes the report. Twenty men were drowned, sixteen of them married, leaving forty-nine children fatherless. People on the Hoe and citadel looked on helplessly whilst this drama played itself out. A gloom was cast over the whole area. Sermons were preached in many of the Plymouth churches on the following Sunday, and a public subscription fund was set up for the widows and orphans. Most of the men came from Oreston, but six of them, were from Wembury, and are interred in the churchyard.

Josiah Blake, aged 43, from West Wembury
Robert Cobbledick, aged 41, from Down Thomas
William Cornish, aged 37, from Down Thomas
John Greaney, aged 28, from the Almshouses
William Luxon, aged 43, from Knighton
Thomas Natt, aged 36, from Down Thomas

The gravestones of John Greaney and William Cornish are illustrated below, the grave of Josiah Blake is nearby, the resting places of the others are not marked.

Sacred
to the memory of
JOHN WOODMAN GREANEY
Aged 28
who with 19 more
was unfortunately drowned
by the upsetting of the Breakwater Pinnacle
in Plymouth Sound
on the 7th November 1838
“When Storms arise and doubts prevail
And grief and care the heart assail
The Rock of Ages high appears
to dry the friend and widow’s tears”





Sacred
to the memory of
WILLIAM CORNISH
Aged 38
who with 19 more
was unfortunately drowned
by the upsetting of the Breakwater Pinnacle
in Plymouth Sound
on the 7th November 1838
“God moved in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform
He plants his footsteps in the sea
and rides upon the storm

Special bibles were bought for the widows, and suitably inscribed inside of the front covers. Very worthy! but it is hoped that the relief fund was able to provide sustenance for the body as well as the soul!

With the exception of one boat which was wrecked several years previously, this was considered, at the time, to be the worst loss of life incident ever recorded within the port.

“REMEMBER ME”

This photograph was taken in November 2005.

Everybody passes this gravestone on both entering and leaving the church. I wonder how many have noticed, or stopped to read the little poem inscribed thereon, which very succinctly sums up mortality for us!



SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
ELISHA GULLETT
WHO WAS 17 YEARS A MILLER AT WEMBURY
MILL AND 10 YEARS A CLERK UNDER THE
REV G. M. SCOTT OF THIS PARISH
HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 10TH DAY OF
APRIL 1858 AGED 74 YEARS

*REMEMBER ME AS YOU PASS BY
AS YOU ARE NOW SO ONCE WAS I
AS I AM NOW SO MUST YOU BE
PREPARE FOR DEATH AND FOLLOW ME*

ALSO **SARAH GULLETT**
HIS WIFE
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 6TH DAY OF APRIL
1858 AGED 77 YEARS
ALSO **SARAH BUTLAND SONE**
DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 23RD DAY OF AUGUST
1890 AGED 72 YEARS
R GULLETT
DIED JULY 11TH 1914 AGED 92

“GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT”

This photograph was taken in 2015. The stone having been in place for nearly ninety years at the time of the photograph, and facing to seaward, is in remarkably good condition.



SACRED
TO
THE MEMORY OF
JAMES SEWARD
AN OLD SERVANT OF
THE REAR ADMIRAL
CHARLES CALMADY
ESQ LANGDON HALL
WHO DIED 14 DEC
1828 AGED 70 YEARS

REV CHARLES BURGESS - GRAVE

This is the grave of The Revd Charles Burgess who was Vicar for forty years from 1883 to 1923, and also of his wife Fanny Augusta. The lovely carved representation of The Last Supper which can be found on the east wall of the transept inside the church is a memorial to Charles Burgess and his ministry.



IN
LOVING MEMORY
OF
FANNY AUGUSTA
WIFE OF THE REV C BURGESS
VICAR OF THIS PARISH
DIED APRIL 22ND 1920
AGES 65
PROVERBS 31 10 - 31
ALSO OF THE ABOVE
REV CHARLES BURGESS
VICAR OF THIS PARISH FROM 1883 TO 1923
WHO PASSED OVER ON NOV 16 1930
IN HIS 83RD YEAR

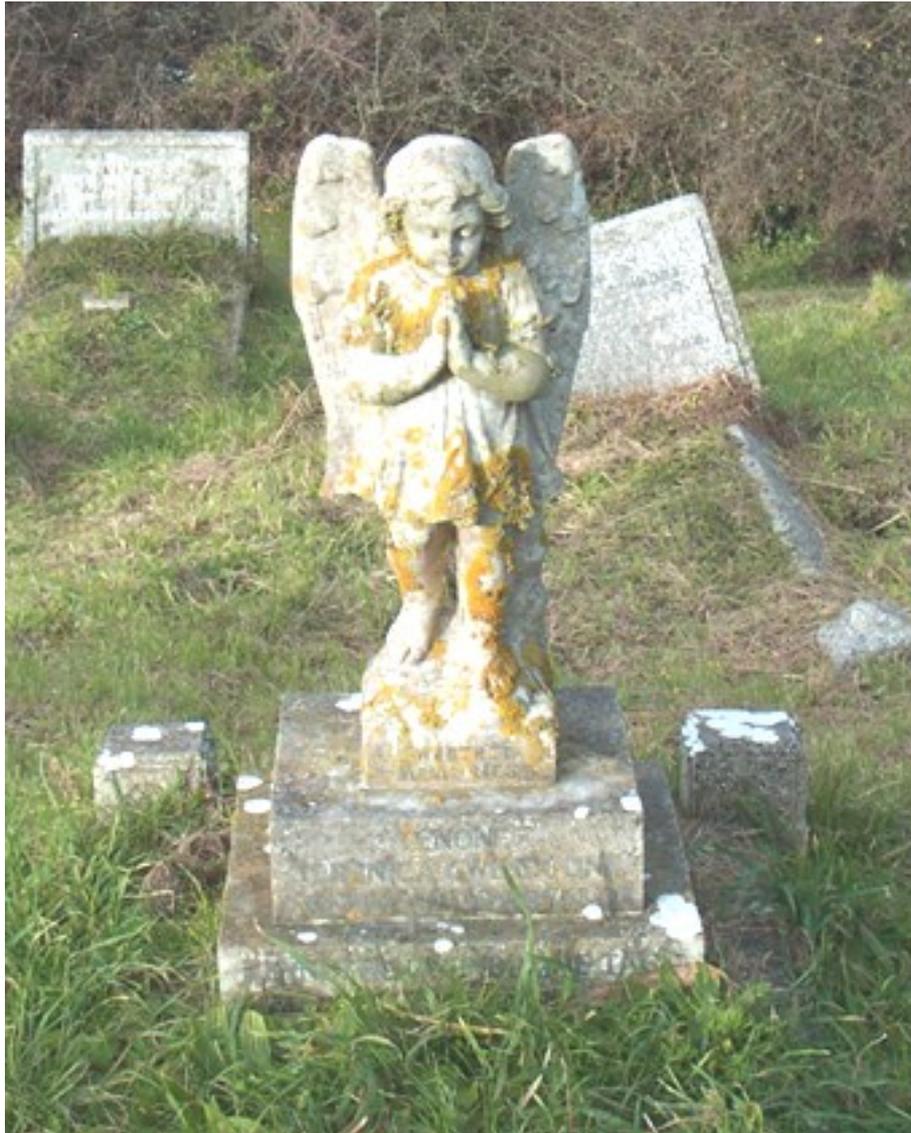
“AMIBILES ET DECORI IN VITA SUA”
“IN MORTE QUOQUE NON SUNT DIVISI”

“LITTLE ANGEL”

This photograph was taken in December 2005.

Looking very much neglected now, all of us children thought this little grave was wonderful when it appeared in the graveyard in 1950. It was gleaming white, and the area enclosed within the kerb was filled with white chippings.

Oenone (pronounced ‘Nonie) was the younger of the two daughters of the Vicar, the Revd Kenneth Tagg. Born in 1945, she was a sickly child and was hardly ever seen outside of the Vicarage, she was just 4½ years old when she died in 1950.



SWEETEST
MEMORIES

OENONE
VERONICA GWENDOLINE
PRECIOUS LITTLE DAUGHTER OF
KENNETH & GWENDOLINE TAGG

2ND AUGUST 1945 - 18TH JANUARY 1950

WAR GRAVE FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR

There are two War Graves in the churchyard, one from each World War. This one is of Jerimiah Siyabi, a private in the South African Native Labour Corps, whose body was found at the bottom of the cliff by Renny Camp 1918. He was a member of the Native Labour Corp from South Africa, and his job at Renny would have been maintain the various earthworks surrounding the lookouts and gunsites. He was interred here, in the churchyard, quite near to where he died, but many miles from his native South Africa.



48830 PRIVATE

J SIYABI

S.A. NATIVE LABOUR CORPS

30TH MARCH 1918

WAR GRAVE FROM THE SECOND WORLD WAR

This is one of the two War Graves that there are in the churchyard, one from each World War. This one is of Florence Easterbrook, a private in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, who died on active service in July of 1944. She was married to William Stanley Easterbrook whose family lived at Hollacombe, in Quarry Cottage (no longer there). She is the only woman from Wembury among the war dead of both world wars. Her name also appears on the War Memorial tablet in the church.



W128718 PRIVATE

FLORENCE MAGGIE LOUISE

EASTERBROOK

AUX. TERRITORIAL SERVICE

28TH JULY 1944

KURT HOLLMAN - GRAVE

This is the grave of Kurt Hollman who was thought to be an immigrant from Eastern Europe from before the Second World War. Not a lot was known of his background, he worked on farms in the area and settled in quite well, he integrated with the locals and regularly visited the Jubilee Inn. In the late 1940s he lived at Marconi House, Mrs Rushbrook's Guest House at the top of Church Road, which is more easily recognisable today as 'The Vicarage'.

In 1950 and 1951 he was working for Miss Neil and Miss Wardrop at Old Barton Farm. In April of 1951 he was ploughing one of the steep fields out by the Warren when the tractor overturned, trapping him underneath and crushing him to death. It was several hours later before anybody realised that something must be amiss. My Father and Bob Phillips had to go out to the field with their tractors to pull the overturned tractor upright so that Kurt's body could be removed.

The farming community covered the cost of his funeral and saw that a proper headstone was erected. Later on it did cross some people's minds that Kurt could possibly have been Jewish, and came to this country to escape the anti Semitism which was becoming rife in Europe. Nonetheless he was given a good old Church of England funeral, and I am sure that God didn't mind as it was all done with the best of intentions.



IN MEMORY OF
KURT HOLLMAN
BORN AT JABLONEC IN BOHEMIA 18. 10. 1922
DIED AT WEMBURY 11. 4. 1951

N.B. Later information reveals that, after his country was overrun, he was conscripted into the German army and came to this country as a prisoner of war. He came to work on farms in Wembury as a prisoner. After the war he elected to remain in this country, as his own country was by then under the jackboot of Russia.

AXWORTHY GRAVE

This is the grave of the parents of Florence Axworthy who was the Infants Teacher at the village school from the 1920s, through to 1960. After her own schooling she stayed on at the school as a 'Pupil Teacher' and remained there until she retired in 1960.

She lived in the first cottage at the top of Knighton Hill with her parents. In the 1930s she started 'walking out' with Sam Algate who lived in 'Acacia' at the bottom of Knighton Hill, but her parents did not approve.

She therefore waited until both of her parents had died, her father in 1948, and her mother in 1949. Then after observing the proper period of mourning (one year) she married Sam in 1951, by which time she herself was over 50.

Sadly her married bliss only lasted for about 10 years as she died in 1962 just after retiring.



IN
LOVING MEMORY OF
GEORGE THOMAS AXWORTHY
DIED 28TH JULY 1948
AGED 77 YEARS
ALSO
EMMA JANE
BELOVED WIFE OF THE ABOVE
DIED 10TH JANUARY 1949
AGED 76 YEARS

WILLIAM SHERWILL - GRAVE

William Sherwill was the Clerk of the Works to the Squire, Richard Cory, and as such was responsible for all matters regarding the repair and maintenance of all of the estate properties.

During the Restoration of the church in 1885/1886, the workforce was directly employed by the Squire, as he was financing the project. In addition to his estate duties, William Sherwill was given the extra responsibility of the foremanship of the restoration, which must have been quite an awesome prospect for somebody not yet 30 years old. His remit applied only to the main construction work, and the outside excavation work. The responsibility for the rich carvings of the roofs, pew ends screens, etc., was entrusted to Mr Harry Hems of Exeter.

Mr Sherwill continued in the service of the Squire for many years after the restoration, but died in 1913 at the quite early age, even for those days, of 55.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
WILLIAM J. S. SHERWILL
DIED 7TH AUG: 1913
AGED 55
"HOW PLEASANT ARE THY COURTS ABOVE"
ALSO MARTHA SHERWILL
BELOVED WIFE OF THE ABOVE
DIED 4TH JUNE 1926
AGED 71
*"NOTHING IN MY HAND I BRING,
SIMPLY TO THY CROSS I CLING"*

THE CORY FAMILY TOMB



IN MEMORIAM

BARBARA TINNEY CORY

BORN JULY 24TH 1822. DIED SEPT 14TH 1879

EDITH MARIA

WIFE OF CAPT E. A. M. LIARDET R. M. L. I.

BORN DEC 7TH 1859. DIED JULY 1ST 1882

RICHARD CORY ESQUIRE J. P.

BORN OCT 22ND 1823. DIED JAN 19TH 1904

“HE GIVETH HIS BELOVED SLEEP”

GEORGE WALLIS CORY, LIEUT R. A.

ONLY SON OF RICHARD WALLIS & KATE Y. CORY

OF LANGDON COURT, BORN JANUARY 8TH 1885

DIED OCTOBER 5TH 1907. IN HIS 23RD YEAR

RICHARD WALLIS CORY - TOMB

This rather modern looking tomb in highly polished granite actually dates from the 1920s. The top is slightly askew from the base but has been in that condition for as long as I can remember.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
RICHARD WALLIS CORY
BELOVED HUSBAND OF
KATE YOLLAND CORY
WHO DIED DECEMBER 15TH 1926
AGED 72 YEARS

THE LAST OF THE CALMADYS

This photograph which was taken in January 2005, shows the impressive but rather neglected tomb of Vincent Pollexfen Calmady, the last of the Calmadys of Langdon Court.

It is constructed entirely of granite, and consists of a large flat base with six columns supporting a huge canopy which has been hewn from a single piece of granite. Under the canopy at the near end, is a bronze ledger slab which is inscribed:

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
VINCENT POLLEXFEN CALMADY
BORN JAN 25 1825
DIED MARCH 6 1896

THE LAST OF THE CALMADYS

THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED BY HIS DEVOTED WIFE

Under the canopy at the far end is a bronze representation of the Calmady coat of arms in heavy relief. On the top of the canopy, at each end, there was at one time an enormous winged horse, also of bronze. Regrettably over the years these have been stolen so all that remains are their bases of four sided construction, each face bearing the Calmady coat of arms.



THE LAST OF THE CALMADYS
DETAIL FROM THE TOMB

This photograph, which I took in January 2005, shows one of the bronze castings from the canopy of the tomb. There is one at each end of the canopy and, at one time, each supported an enormous winged horse, which is evidenced by the hooves remaining.

I can remember both of the horses being in place up until the 1960s. As children we used to climb on to the canopy and sometimes play under it. I don't think that it really dawned on us that it was actually somebody's grave. In the late 1960s it was noticed that one of the horses had gone, and then in the 1970s the other one also disappeared.



VINCENT POLLEXFEN CALMADY

From the Western Morning News 11th March 1896

THE LATE MR VINCENT P. CALMADY

----- THE FUNERAL

Every token that could indicate sincere respect, characterised the funeral of Mr V . P. Calmady at Wembury Church yesterday. In the morning the coffin was taken from Tetcott to Launceston, and conveyed thence by rail to North Road Station, Plymouth. The glass hearse was followed along the very long route by thirty carriages containing relatives and intimate friends from all parts of Devon and Cornwall. Dressed in hunting clothes - with red coats and riding cap - Messrs. Phil Back (huntsman) and W Back (whip), of the late Mr Calmady's hounds and Messrs. Higman (huntsman) and F Piper (whip), of Mr Coryton's hounds, precede the coffin into Wembury Church, where the first part of the service was conducted by Rev. G. W. Anstiss, the vicar of Ivybridge, and the Rev. C. Burgess, vicar of Wembury. The church was filled with friends and the tenant farmers, and the outer coffin of plain oak bore the following inscription "Vincent Pollexfen Calmady, born June 25th, 1825, died March 5th, 1896, Age 71." The grave was lined with moss, and the numerous wreaths were extremely beautiful, particularly a large cross of red flowers, the tribute of the widow.

Among those present at the church were Messrs. Fredk M. Collier and George B. Collier, nephews of the deceased; Rev. Roger Granville and Mr George Granville, brothers-in-law; Messrs. Mortimer Collier, A. B. Collier, Hon Athol Liddell, General Jago-Trelawney, Colonel Jago (Plymouth), General Phillips-Treby (Goodamoor), Colonel Lindsey (Cornwood), Colonel C Byng (Launceston), Rev H Carew, Dr Gray (Holsworthy), Dr Liddell (Horrabridge), Messrs. William Coryton, M. F. H.; H Collins Splatt (Brixton), C. M. Saunders (Bovacott), R. T. Harris and W. H. Harris (Halwill), W. Kivell (Holsworthy), H. Maynard, M. Were, E. Hawker, F. Hawker, R. G. Bird, G. Parnell Finch, J Fox, R Spear (Plymouth), J. P. Goldsmith (Devonport), Mr and Mrs Soltau-Symons, J. Adams, A. Mudge, (Plympton), R. Dodd, L. Sparrow, A. W. Arthur, G. Crake (Ivybridge), W. W. Chichester, J. Gill (Tavistock), G. Soltau (Saltash), A. S. Brown (Buckland Filleigh), J. Deacon (Hooe Meavy), J Yonge (Brixton), C. Clark (Newquay), H. Gennys (Whitley Hall), T. T. Searle (Flete), W. Bilkey (Membland), C Walker (Cirencester), T Bulteel and servants of the deceased. Wreaths were sent by "His devoted wife." Lady Williams (Upcott), Mrs Ford (Pencarrow), S. Showers, Mr and Mrs W. T. and the Misses Harris (Halwill), J. Sodenberg, Mr and Mrs Chervaux Morley Saunders, G. B. Collier (Horrabridge), L. Popham, Miss Wolfe, Richard and M Dodd, C. O. Clark (Newquay), Mr and Miss Granville, Mr and Mrs Hoyton, Major General and Mrs A. Princeps, "In affectionate remembrance of one of my oldest friends". Mr and Mrs Mucklow (Whitstone Head, Holsworthy), Mr and Mrs C. B. Woolcombe "A last tribute of affection to a true and life-long friend from J. and I. Tremayne.", J. and M. Gill, W. Coryton, Miss Adams, and from the servants of the household and of the estate. The Deceased, the only son of the late Mr C. B. Calmady, of Langdon, was educated at Eton and Dresden and in 1887 married Isabel, the only daughter of Mr E. R. C. Sheldon, of Brails, Warwick. He formerly owned Langdon Court and the large surrounding estate, and in Wembury Church is the large family vault. He was for many years master of the Tetcott Hounds and quite recently sold his capital pack of foxhounds to Captain Scott Browne. Mr Calmady received a handsome testimonial two years ago from the members of the Hunt, and his loss will be felt by all in North Devon fond of sporting.

Gertrude and Laura Calmady





JAMES LOCKYER - GRAVE

This is the grave of James Lockyer of South Wembury House (now called Thorn)



JAMES LAWES LOCKYER
DIED DECEMBER 14TH 1885
AGED 65 YEARS

RALPH DAWSON - GRAVE

This is the grave of Ralph Dawson J.P. and his wife Jane who lived in Wembury House in the mid to late nineteenth century. It was he who had the terrace of six cottages built at Watergate for estate workers. There are memorials to Ralph Dawson and his wife inside the church on the wall of the north aisle.



IN MEMORY OF
RALPH DAWSON ESQ J.P. OF WEMBURY HOUSE
BORN DEC 26TH 1811 DIED FEB 26TH 1889

REV. XIV. 13

ALSO OF
JANE ANN WIFE OF RALPH DAWSON
BORN AUGUST 27TH 1818 DIED MAY 19TH 1892

PSALM. CVII. 30

DOCTOR CLAY - GRAVE

This is the rather neglected grave of Dr Clay who lived in Wembury House from the 1890s until his death in 1921.



SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
ROBERT HOGARTH CLAY M. D.
OF WEMBURY HOUSE
BORN AUGUST 8. 1836
DIED DECEMBER 24. 1921
AGED 86 YEARS.
AND OF **MARY ALICE**, HIS WIFE
BORN APRIL 11. 1844.
DIED MARCH 6. 1923

PERCIVAL GILDART FROST - GRAVE

This is the grave of the only son of Mary Alice Clay of Wembury House. One can only conclude from this that she was a widow with a son when she married Doctor Clay.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
PERCIVAL GILDART FROST B.A.
MAGD COLL : OXFORD
ONLY SON OF **MARY ALICE CLAY**
WIFE OF **ROBERT HOGARTH CLAY M.D.**
WEMBURY HOUSE
BORN MARCH 24 1867
DIED JULY 1 1893
AGED 26 YEARS

‘ALL MOD CONS’

Well! the place has been brought kicking and screaming into the 21st Century! and we can pride ourselves in now having a proper unisex toilet. It has been installed in where the coal and coke used to be kept for the boiler, back in the days when Charlie Young used to walk down from the cliff on a Saturday night and get the boiler going ready for Sunday. That was the only time that the heating was put on.

It is certainly a far cry from when we as young choristers used to relieve ourselves in the large evergreen bush on the south side of the church.

A far cry also from when the only water supply was from the slate tank which is now on the north side of the Sunday school room, but in the 1950s was under the west window of the south aisle and filled with rain water from the roof. I well remember filling buckets from it, using the big brass font jug, in order to scrub the floors in the church as a Lenten project that we took on when I was in the Young Communicants’ Guild. We scrubbed all of the wooden floors between the pews, all of the stone floors, and also the Narborough Monument for good measure!

The central heating system had its own header tank, which was filled by rain water coming off the roof of the tower.



BI-ANNUAL FLOWER FESTIVAL



The Bi-annual Flower Festival has been held in the first week of August in the 'even' years since 1970. Such a reputation has grown up over those years that people come from all over the country to attend. Some people even plan their holidays to be in the area especially for the event. The amount of work to get the event up and running is quite considerable and most of the congregation get involved in some way or another.



Apart from the erection of the floral displays there are many other tasks that have to be undertaken both in front of, and behind the scenes, and every task great or small, contributes towards the success of the whole

These photographs are from the 1990 Flower Festival but regrettably are not really able to do justice to what is always a most magnificent showing.



FLOWER FESTIVAL REFRESHMENTS

An essential part of every Flower Festival are the refreshments. For this the old Sunday School room is pressed into service as the preparation area and servery.

Tables and chairs are set up outside on the carpark and everyone prays for good weather. As it is held in the first week of August, there is not normally a problem, although we did have one particularly wet week one year in the early 1980s. Sometimes a large tent or small marquee is procured which helps matters.

Most of the food is freely provided by volunteers and the majority of it is home made. There is usually a variety of quiches, sausage rolls, sponge cakes, buns, fruit cake, etc., and also the wherewithal for making sandwiches.

A band of lady volunteers run the operation from opening at 10.00 am with morning coffee and snacks, going through to light lunches, afternoon teas, and light suppers, finally closing up at about 8.00 pm.

The photograph taken at the 1990 Flower Festival shows the ladies taking a well-earned breather during a lull in operations.



FLOWER FESTIVAL – 2008

Some photographs from the Flower Festival held in September 2008

Church of St Werburgh, Wembury



FLOWER FESTIVAL 2008
"Wonders of the World"



WEDNESDAY 10TH - SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER
9.30 am – 8.30 pm
Refreshments *Programmes £1*
Sunday 14th 'Songs of Praise' – 6.30 pm

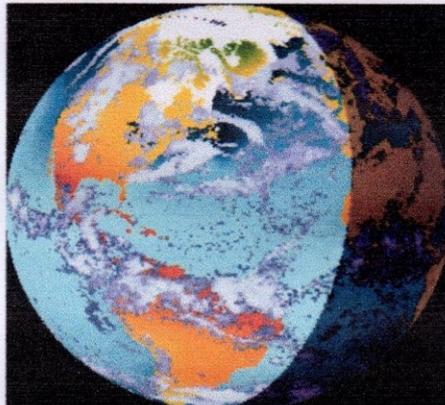




Church of St Werburgh, Wembury



FLOWER FESTIVAL 2008
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WEDNESDAY 10TH - SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

9.30 am – 8.30 pm

Refreshments

Programmes £1

Sunday 14th ‘Songs of Praise’ – 6.30 pm

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The St Werburgh Wembury, Branch of the Mothers' Union was founded in 1926. The first meeting was held at the Vicarage (that is the Old Vicarage at Thorn), presided over by Mrs Duxbury, the Vicar's wife, and there were 15 ladies present.

Not much more is known about those early days, presumably it went on from strength to strength until 1939 when it was disbanded for the duration of the War. Partially due to the members being dispersed and partially due the others having more pressing duties to attend to.

In 1945, after the war, when things were beginning to get back to normal, the Mother's Union was re-established, monthly meetings were held in the Parish Room, and there was quite a thriving membership. Many of us children at Wembury School remember having to wait outside of the Parish Room on the particular Wednesday waiting for our mothers to come out.

In 1950 a very beautiful banner was bought, and a special Service of Dedication was held at the church when the banner was dedicated by the Bishop of Plymouth, The Right Reverend F W Daukes.

The Rural Dean's Report of 19th March 1950 states that: "A fine banner (MU) costing £54 has been placed in the church." £54 in those days was a considerable sum of money especially as there were still shortages of basic materials, and many things were still on ration.



At the dedication of the banner in 1950 from left to right: The Bishop's Chaplain; The Bishop of Plymouth Rt Revd F W Daukes; Banner Escort, Mrs Nina Densum; Banner Bearer, Mrs Ethel M Burrows (hidden); Banner Escort, Mrs Rosemary Bannaford; The Vicar, The Revd Kenneth Tagg.

GIFTS FOR REFUGEES – CHRISTMAS 1956

The Vicar, the Revd G N Davidson accepting gifts of clothes, blankets toys etc., from members of the community which were to be sent on to help refugee families in Eastern Europe.



At the end of October there had been an uprising in Hungary, by the people against their Soviet oppressors. Barricades appeared on the street of Budapest and a statue of Stalin was torn down. All sectors of society were involved, students, intellectuals, and industrial workers, but in spite of their zeal they were no match for the Red Army tanks which were brought in to suppress them. By early November all hopes of freedom are crushed and many homes destroyed. Thousands were killed, and thousands of others managed to find asylum in Austria

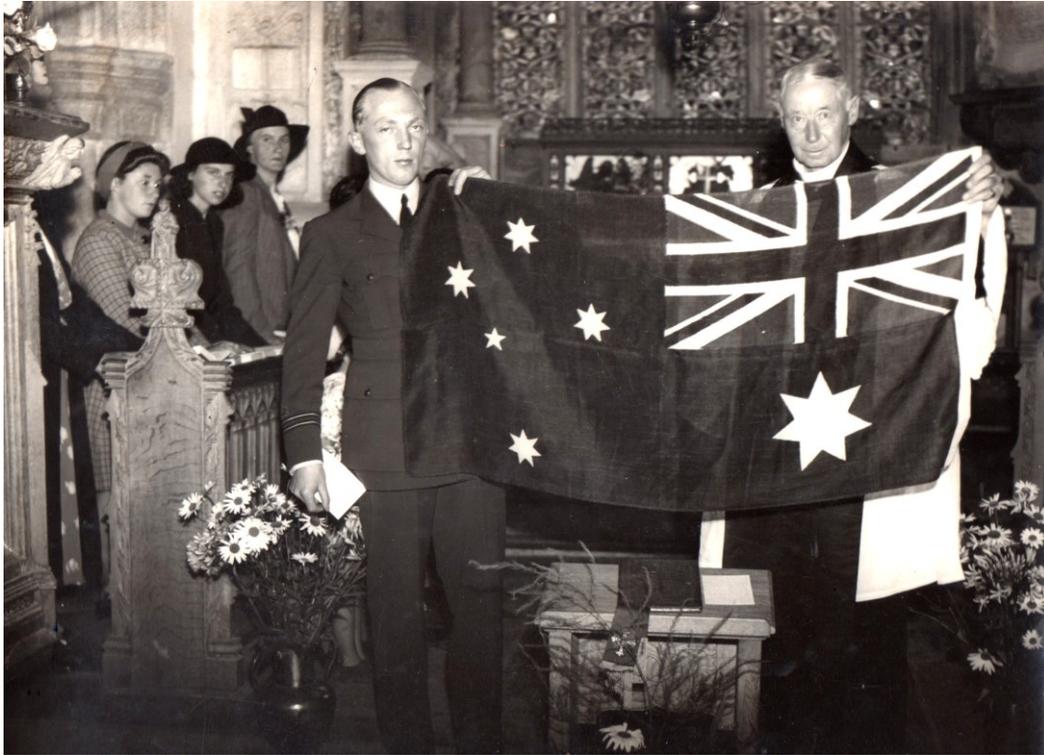
Nationally appeals went out for clothes, blankets and toys, to try and give these refugees some comfort at Christmas. In Wembury we did our bit and gave a very good account of ourselves in our usual way.

Recognisable in the photograph are, second from left, Miss Lizzie Drake, next to her, Mrs Eva Snell, and in the centre of the photograph, Miss Howell, the organist. Mr Davidson is on the right. I am not able to put a name to the boy on the extreme left.

Mr Davidson was a very popular Vicar, He became Vicar in 1954 having previously been at Bath Abbey, and before that had been a Colonel in the Army. He was the first Vicar to take up residence in the “new” Vicarage in Church Road, which had previously been a guest house known as “Marconi House”. It was during Mr Davidson’s incumbency that having a Christmas tree in church was established. I don’t know whether this had happened prior to the War, but it certainly didn’t happen in the years immediately following. It was also during his incumbency that the service of Nine Lessons and Carols each Christmas was established.

PRESENTATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG – 1941

To commemorate the link between Wembury and Western Australia, the Australian flag was presented to the church by Flight Lieutenant L Strudwick, Royal Australian Air Force, at a special service on Sunday 17th August 1941. The church was filled to capacity for the services, which was attended by men of all of the armed services in addition to a large number of local people.



On presenting the flag, flight Lieutenant Strudwick said:

“On behalf of the Government of Western Australia, I present the flag of Australia to the church to be hung here in memory of Major Edmund Lockyer, of the 57th Regiment whose home was at Wembury House, where his father, Thomas Lockyer, one time Mayor of Plymouth resided. By this sign, the Western Australian Government desire to commemorate the fact that on 21st January 1827, Major Lockyer hoisted, for the first time, the Union Jack in Western Australia, and so claimed the whole of the Continent for the Crown. God save the King!”

Receiving the flag on the chancel steps, the Revd C H D Grimes, who was conducting his last service at Wembury before leaving to take up the living at Newton Ferrers, responded:

“I accept this flag of Australia with great pleasure, and desire to express my gratitude to the government of Australia for this tribute to a gallant soldier, who belongs equally to your country, where he made his home, and to ours where he was born, and to you who have come so far to make this presentation. The flag hanging in this church will be one more memorial the many gallant sons who have gone forth from this church – including a King’s Sergeant (Sir John Hele), Recorder and Member of Parliament for Plymouth for many years, two Admirals – Admiral Boyle and Admiral Calmady. May God grant us victory!”

The Royal Marine Band of HMS Trinidad accompanied the singing, and the lessons were read by Second Lieutenant A D Spencer of the Army, and Sub Lieutenant D C Cooke of the Royal Navy.

LOCKYER FESTIVAL – AUGUST 1979

In August 1979 there took place a week long Lockyer Festival to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Western Australia which culminated in a special “Lockyer Thanksgiving Service” on Sunday 19th August. The address at this service was given by the Hon Graham C MacKinnon, MLC, the Minister for Tourism, and leader of the government in the Western Australian Legislative Council. To mark the presentation of the Australian flag to the church in 1941 he unveiled a plaque bearing the following inscription:



“This flag was presented to the church in 1941 by the Government of Western Australia in memory of Major Edmund Lockyer.

On 21st January 1827 Major Lockyer hoisted the Union Jack in Western Australia for the first time, thus claiming the remaining third of Australia for the Crown. Until that time only New South Wales, then two thirds of the Australian Continent, had been occupied. The ceremony was held on the south coast at a point where later was established the town of Albany.

Major Lockyer settled permanently in Australia, became Usher of the Black Rod in the New South Wales Legislative Council, and died in Sydney on 10th June 1860, aged 76.

This plaque was provided by the government of Western Australia in 1979, the 150th anniversary of the State, founded two years after Major Lockyer’s visit, with the arrival of the first settlers from Britain and the establishment of the capital, Perth.”

In addition Mr MacKinnon presented the church with the state flag of Western Australia, unveiling a second plaque to mark this presentation, which read:

“The State flag of Western Australia was handed over to this church on 19th August 1979, by the leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, the Hon Graham MacKinnon, MLC on the occasion of the State’s sequicentennial, and to mark the close historic links between this Parish and Western Australia.”

These plaques were dedicated by the Bishop of Plymouth, the Right Revd R Cartwright. Also present at this service was the Agent General for Western Australia in London, Mr L W Slade.



GALSWORTHY FESTIVAL – 1983

In August 1983 there was a series of events held at the church to commemorate John Galsworthy (1867 – 1933) in the year of the 50th anniversary his death. This included an exhibition celebrating his life as an author, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, and also his family connections with Wembury.

All of the people involved got into the spirit of the thing and wore Edwardian costume, even the ladies doing teas wore white caps and aprons and long black dresses.

The event ran from Thursday 4th to Saturday 6th August with a special commemoration service on Sunday 7th.



GALSWORTHY FESTIVAL - 1983



At one of the Galsworthy family graves



The "Wenches"

ARMADA COMMEMORATION SERVICE - 1941

The photograph below is of a special Commemoration Service held on Sunday 6th July 1941 to celebrate Drake's defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. Appropriately the service is being held outside on the field above the church, looking out towards the English Channel, where this great event took place.

A few people can be seen paddling on the beach, and also two or three in swimming as well, taking full advantage of the lovely weather.

At that time the vicar would have the Revd Charles Hugh Duffy Grimes who was Priest-in-Charge between Mr ffoliot-Young leaving in early 1941, and Mr Tagg arriving later in the same year.

There are plenty of hats in evidence, the relaxing of the rule regarding the wearing of hats in church by ladies, was not brought in until 1942.

There are plenty of children in attendance as well, over on the right of the photograph. The little girl in the right foreground with the white hat is Mary Towill who lived in Brownshill Lane. Mary, now Mrs Dyer, lives in West Wembury Cottage (2009).

The young men on the left of the photograph against the wall, behind the Vicar are Royal Marine Bandsmen from HMS Trinidad, at the time they were billeted at Wembury Point. Sadly these many of these men lost their lives when HMS Trinidad was sunk in a tragic torpedo accident in 1942. There is a memorial to them in the church, and they are remembered along with our own war dead each year on Remembrance Sunday.



ARMADA COMMEMORATION SERVICE - 1941



Choir and Clergy – from left to right: Margaret Roper, Beatty Rushbrook, Lydia Humphries, Winnie Walke, the Vicar the Revd C H D Grimes, the Bishop of Plymouth the Rt Revd F W Daukes, Mr Stebbing, Eileen Drake, Edna Sly, Mrs Elliott, Mrs T Drake, Mrs Erscott.



ROGATION SUNDAY AT WEMBURY 1948

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN ON THE CAR PARK BEHIND THE MILL

After the trek down the hill from the church, we all gathered for the prayers to bless the crops of the land and the sea. We children all thought it was great fun, I don't think that many of the older people were quite so enthusiastic, especially with the thought of having to climb back up the hill again afterwards.

In 1948, Rogation Sunday fell on the 2nd May. It doesn't look too bright a day, with no sunshine or shadow. I remember it as being quite grey and overcast.

In the key that goes with the photograph I have named as many as I can remember.



ROGATION SUNDAY AT WEMBURY 1948

GROUP PHOTOGRAPH BACKING ONTO THE MILL AND THE BEACH

In 1948 this would have been Sunday 2nd May with Ascension Day falling on the following Thursday (6th May). There are plenty of overcoats and some fur coats in evidence indicating that the weather couldn't have been too warm! Working from left to right

Crucifer	Russell Snell (Hollacombe 'Marlet')
Elderly woman	Mrs Thompson (Wembury Point 'Lane End')
Boy in front	not known
Girl next to him	Jeniffer Clifton (Knighton Farm)
Elderly woman behind	Mrs Escott (Wembury House Lodge)
Elderly woman next	Mrs Densum (Beach View Crescent 'Alta Vista')
Boy in front	Tony Eames (Traine Road 'Trenear')
Boy next to him	James Lugar (Old Barton Farm)
Boy next to him	Roderick Gilbert (West Wembury Farm)
Boy next him (obscured)	Peter Eames (Traine Road 'Trenear')
Elderly woman behind	Mrs Eames (Traine Road 'Trenear')
Big Girl next	Mary Cole (Church Road)
Girl partly obscured	Joy Russell (West Wembury 'Ruskin Cottage')
The Vicar	Revd Kenneth Tagg
Girl obscured by surplice	Ruth Dawes (Beach View Crescent 'Windy Ridge')
Elderly Woman behind	Mrs Burrowes (Church Rd 'Wendy Cottage')
Man behind	Ben Clifton (Knighton Farm)
Woman left of chimney	Ivy Rodgers (Cliff Road 'Seacrofters')
Woman in front of chimney	Hilda Perry (Church Road)
Little boy in front	Peter Lugar (Old Barton Farm)
Man right of chimney	Bob Giles (Princes Farm)
Woman next to him	Mrs Creber (Thorn Cottage)
Big girl in white	Pat Sergeant (Church Road 'The Steps')
Little girl in front	Nina Densum (Beach View Crescent 'Alta Vista')
Little girl next to her	Christine Clifton (Knighton Farm)
Big girl behind	Barbara Snell (Hollacombe 'Marlet')
Little girl next (holding hand)	Pat Snell (Hollacombe 'Marlet')
Old man behind	Mr Creber (Thorn Cottage)
Young man next to him	Billy Creber (Thorn Cottage)
Old man next to him	Grandad Wills (The Mill)
Woman next to him	Mrs Wills (The Mill)
Man next to him	Herbie Wills (The Mill) [Mrs Snell's Brother]
Woman next to him	Mrs Snell (Hollacombe 'Marlet')
Man in dark suit	Stewart Thompson (Wembury Point 'Lane End')
Man in overcoat	Ernie Pitts (Knighton Hill 'Desiree') [Captain of Rings]
Woman with hood	Muriel Hocking (Church Road 'The Steps')
Elderly woman far right	not known

ROGATION SUNDAY AT WEMBURY 1948

PHOTOGRAPH COMING DOWN THE PATH FROM THE CHURCH

Notice that the only robed people are the Revd Kenneth Tagg, the Vicar, and Mr Russell Snell, the Crucifer. There was a choir, but there were no choir robes, these did not come until the early 1949. The purchase of such items was out of the question in the 1948 as we were still in the days of privation and rationing. However, the Rural Dean's Report dated 21st March 1949 states "The choir is to be robed shortly and this will add to the dignity of this beautiful Church".

It was quite adventurous to go down the hill from the church, usually we went up to the field just behind the church and asked for a blessing of the crops from there. Being a coastal village we always asked for a blessing on the crops of the sea, as well as the land.

One year we had acolytes (candle bearers) to accompany the crucifer, but the candles kept blowing out, so that idea was abandoned.



It would be very hard to imagine the congregation of today going down that slope to the beach carpark to bless the sea, the mere thought of having to climb back up again afterwards to finish the service in church would appal most people!

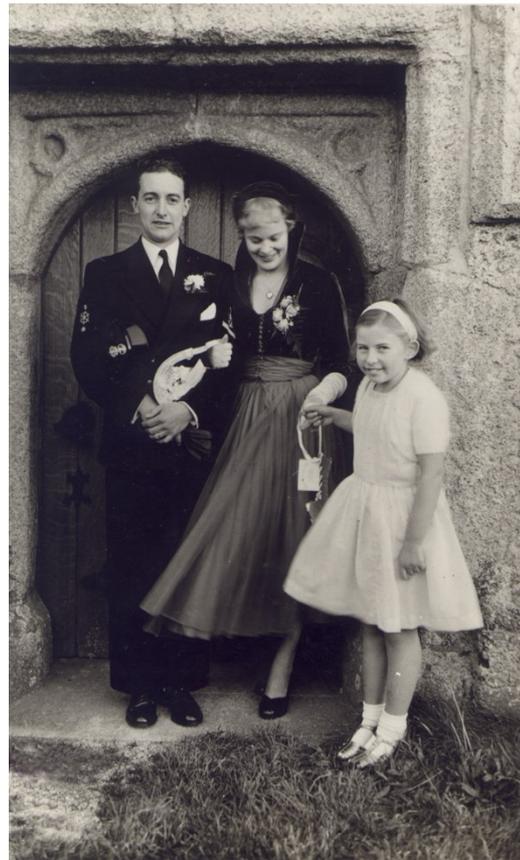
WEMBURY CHURCH WEDDING - 1947

This photograph was taken after a wedding which had taken place in the Church in 1947.

The bride is Jessie Miller from Beach View Crescent, but all I know about the bridegroom is that he was called Gordon. In spite of the post war austerity, they seem to have put on a very good show. The bride's mother, Daisy, is the lady in the broad brimmed white hat. The girl to the left of her with her hat on at an angle, is Margaret Gregory from Hollacombe, who a few years later married Dennis Thornton. The bridesmaid at the front is Wendy Densum, and the little girl in the white coat and rosebuds in her hair, is her younger sister Nina. I regret that I am unable to put any names to anybody else.



WEMBURY CHURCH WEDDING – NEW YEAR 1953

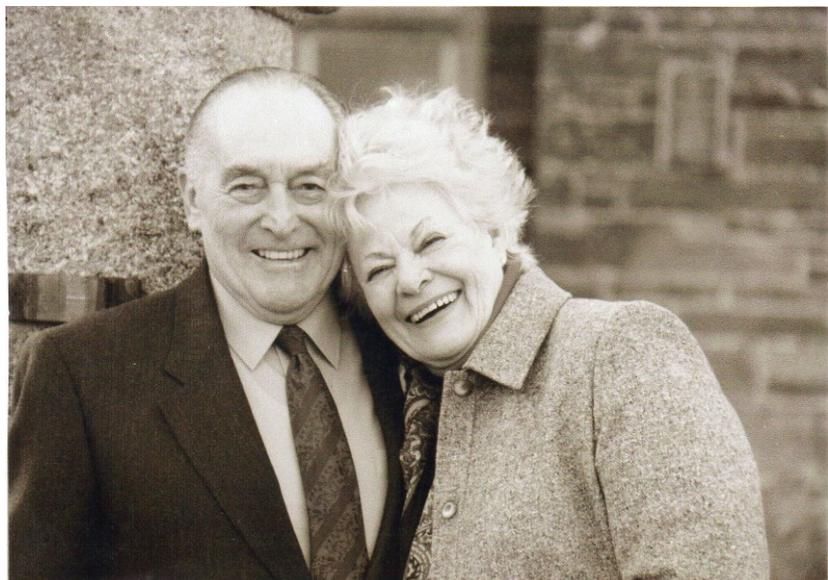


Sonia Toogood married Roger Harris on New Year's Day 1953. The Toogoods lived in "The Cottage", the most easterly one of the terrace of four cottages at West Wembury. At the time Roger was a young Petty Officer in the Royal Navy. He went on to be a commissioned Officer, and later in his career became the Navigating Officer of the Royal Yacht Britannia.

The photograph above, on the left, shows Roger with his Best Man, a fellow Petty Officer at the church gate. The one on the right shows Roger and Sonia, now Mr and Mrs Harris, in the west doorway, with their bridesmaid, Diana Brimblecombe.

The photograph on the right (below) was taken fifty years later on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary in 2003.

Sadly Roger died, aged 79 on 23rd January 2007.



THE "DAUGHTER" CHURCH

THE MISSION CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY – HEYBROOK BAY

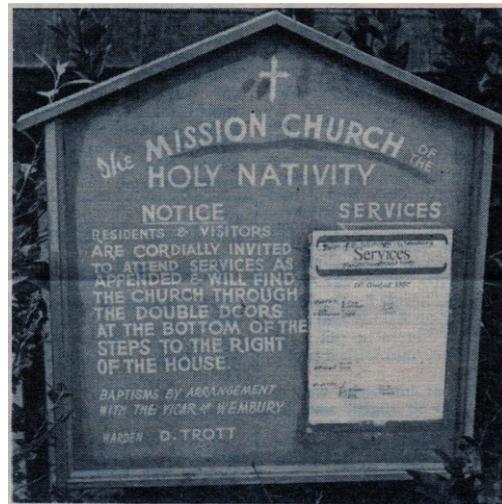
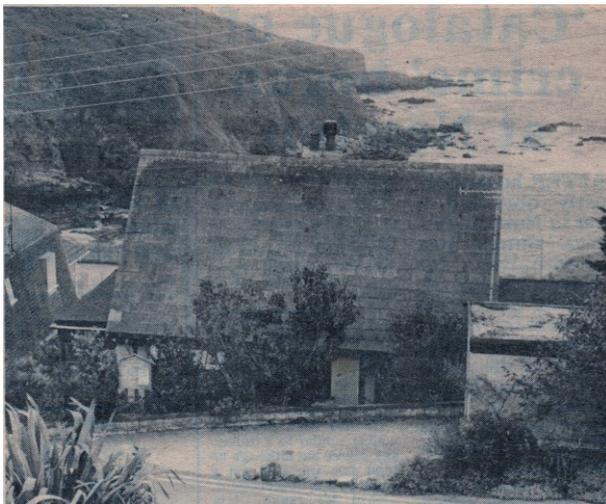
Mrs Doris Trott who moved to Heybrook Bay in 1939 was concerned to find that there was no place of worship in the community, or a Sunday school. The Parish Church of St Werburgh's was about two and a half miles distant via a tortuous route of narrow lanes and steep hills, and was not easily accessible in those days when personal transport was not the norm.

After living there for about five years she was visited by an old friend, a clergyman, to whom she expressed the difficulty of having no place of worship nearby, and he suggested that she should utilise the large basement area of her house, and establish a local Sunday School.

This with the approval of the Vicar, the Revd Kenneth Tagg, she did, and started off with a membership of four pupils. These gradually increased to twenty, but there was still no provision for adult worshippers. She then made a further decision that the Sunday school should be converted into a Church.

An altar was constructed, dressed with a blue frontal, and furnished with a hand-made wooden cross, which was gilded, a pair of candlesticks which were given, and a pair of flower vases. An altar rail was erected to create the sanctuary area, and in the main body of the room there was seating for 15.

In early 1945 the then Bishop of Plymouth, the Rt Revd F W Daukes, dedicated the basement church and named it "The Mission Church of the Holy Nativity" as it was near to Christmas time. Communion Services were held each Sunday Morning conducted by the Vicar of Wembury, and Sunday school classes held in the afternoons. Baptisms were held, but weddings, funerals and confirmations were still held in the Parish Church.



Members of the congregation formed a working party and run sales of work to pay for the upkeep of the Church. This was only supposed to be a temporary arrangement, until a permanent place of worship could be built. Mrs Trott started a Building Fund to raise money to eventually build a proper Church. A collecting tin was put into the Eddystone Inn, and people could also 'buy a brick' for 20p. The 'temporary' arrangement lasted until 1980, when the then incumbent, Revd Anthony Macey, in consultation with the Bishop of Plymouth, the Rt Revd Richard Cartwright, decided that a permanent place in Down Thomas would better serve that part of the Parish, as the regular congregation at Heybrook Bay now dwindled to 7. After lengthy negotiations, Mrs Trott's building fund which had now reached £7,000 was used to build a room onto the side of the Silver Jubilee Hall at Down Thomas which would serve as a Chapel, and could be used for committee meetings as well.

WEMBURY CHURCH – FLAGON

The silver flagon which dates from 1639, weighs 39¹/₂ ounces (Troy). Its overall height, with the lid closed, is 11¹/₂ inches, the base diameter is 6¹/₂ inches, and the diameter at the top with the lid open is 4 inches.

In a Memorandum of 1722 listing various endowments made by Josias Calmady of Langdon Hall, it goes on to say:

“Lady Honor Calmady, his Mother, gave one silver flagon to this parish to be used at the Administration of the Lord’s Supper”.

It is inscribed:

“Ex Dono Domine Honoris Calmady, Ecclesiae de Wemburge, Ano domini 1639”



WEMBURY CHURCH – FLAGON – 1639



WEMBURY CHURCH – TAZZA

The Tazza, which is a large paten with a foot, dates from 1705. Its overall height is $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, the diameter is $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and the diameter at the base is $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches. Around the edge of the top there is a raised rope design in repoussé work. The centre is engraved with the Calmady coat of arms, encircled by an inscription, which reads:

“Ex Dono Josias Calmady, de Langdon Armig in Usum Hujus Ecclesiae de Wemburgh, Ano Domini 1705”

The usual assay mark for silver meeting the sterling standard of purity is the “Lion Passant”, but for this piece the assay mark is “Britannia” as it was made in that period between 1697 and 1720 when Britannia was the obligatory mark for sterling silver. This was to try and help to prevent British sterling silver coins from being melted down to make silver plate.

In a memorandum of 1722 listing various endowments made by Josias Calmady of Langdon Hall, it goes on to say:

“Lady Honor Calmady, his Mother, gave one silver flagon to this Parish to be used at the Administration of the Lord’s Supper”.

It further says:

“Josias Calmady Esq., of this Parish nephew and Heir Male to the before mentioned Josias Calmady Esq., the elder, gave one silver salver to this Parish for the same purpose”.



WEMBURY CHURCH – TAZZA – 1705



WEMBURY CHURCH - ELIZABETHAN CHALICE

The origin of this solid silver Elizabethan lidded chalice is unknown

It dates from 1576, its overall height is 8 inches, the height of the chalice on its own is 7 inches, the diameter of the base is $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and the diameter of the top is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

There is very little decoration, some dentil work on the base, and just under the bowl. The bowl is decorated with a simple incised band near the top, there is a matching band on the lid, the central boss on the lid is inscribed with the initials "WB"

Assay marks:

Assay Office: London, Year: 1576, Maker:



WEMBURY CHURCH - ELIZABETHAN CHALICE

The photographs below: -

Top - The Chalice and lid separated. Bottom – The lid



WEMBURY CHURCH - HINGSTON CHALICE & PATEN

This solid silver chalice and paten dates from the late 1940s.

It was given in memory of Frederick T F Hingston who lost his life whilst serving in HMS Galatea in 1941.

The chalice is $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, base diameter $4\frac{9}{16}$ inches, top diameter $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches. It is simply decorated with an "IHS" motif on the base, and a cross flory on the bowl. The knop has a band dancetty above and below its centre.

The well paten is $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter ($4\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter dished). It is simply decorated with a cross flory on the rim. On the underside it is inscribed "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Frederick Thomas Frank Hingston, Shipwright RN. Who laid down his life while serving on HMS Galatea, 14 December 1941, R.I.P."

Assay marks:

Assay Office: London, Year: 1946, Maker: JW&GO



WEMBURY CHURCH - HINGSTON CHALICE & PATEN - 1946

The photographs below:

Top – chalice detail. Bottom - Underside of paten.



WEMBURY CHURCH - BASS CHALICE & PATEN

This silver plated chalice and paten was given in memory of Maggie Barty Bass in 1977.

The chalice is 7 inches high, the base diameter $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches, and the top diameter $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. There is a plain cross engraved on the base.

The scallop paten is $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter (Scallop indicates that it is concave rather than “dished”).



CROWN OF THORNS CHALICE & CIBORIUM - 2009

The Crown of Thorns Chalice and Ciborium are the gift of the Arnold family in memory of their parents, Michael and Eileen. They both had a great love for our church and work tirelessly for it during the whole of their time in Wembury



The pieces are of sterling silver, the chalice standing $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, with a capacity of 10 fl oz, The ciborium, $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, with lid, capacity 300 wafers.

The ciborium is engraved on the underside: In Memoriam – Michael Barry Arnold – Died 21 June 2002 Aged 65 – Church Warden from 1972 to 1987.

The chalice is engraved on the underside: In Memoriam – Eileen Mary Arnold – Died 11 January 2009, Aged 69.

These additions to the church plate were very much the needed, as we had no decent sized third chalice, or a decent sized ciborium. The ciboria that do we have are silver-plated and are now showing the base metal in places.

They were dedicated at the Family Service on Sunday 13th December 2009 (Advent 3) in the presence of Michael and Eileen's two sons, and the grandchildren.

WEMBURY CHURCH - MATTHEWS PATEN

This solid silver paten dates from 1931.

It was given in memory of Henry Douglas Matthews M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Edinburgh.

It is 6½ inches in diameter, 4 inches diameter dished to 1/8 inch deep. Its only ornamentation is a foliate border within a double banding which crosses over at intervals dividing it into six sections with a fleur-de-lis at each crossover.

On the underside of the base, it is inscribed:

“Given to Wembury Church in dear and grateful memory of Henry Douglas Matthews M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Edinburgh - born June 10th 1870, died November 22nd 1931 - by his wife Aimée Susan Matthews - God in Thy love and mercy grant him everlasting peace and happiness” .

Assay marks: - Assay Office: London Year: 1931 Maker: Also marked: Crichton Bros, 22 Old Bond Street W1

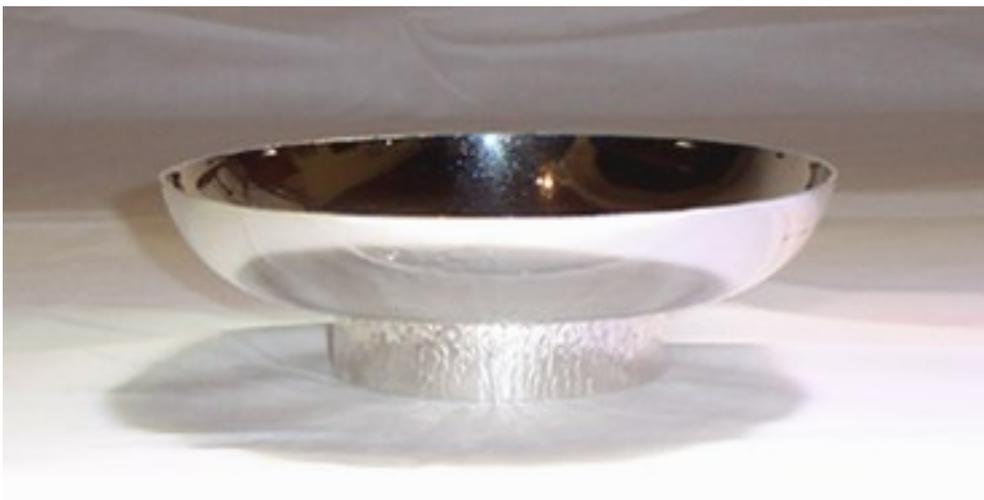


WEMBURY CHURCH - DOWNER/TROTT PATEN

This silver plated deep paten dates from the 1980s and was given in memory of Irene Downer and Doris Trott. Mrs Trott established, and for many years ran, the Mission Church of the Holy Nativity in Heybrook Bay, from her house "The Haven".

The paten is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, it is 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter at the base and 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches at the top.

The inscription inside reads: "With gratitude and loving memory of Irene Downer and Doris Trott".



WEMBURY CHURCH - SILVER PLATED CIBORIA

These two silver plated ciboria are relatively recent acquisitions, being newly bought in the 1970s.

One was presented in 1976 in memory of Helen Pitman, and the other in 1978 in memory of Stanley John Turley.

Their overall height is, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; base and top diameters, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches



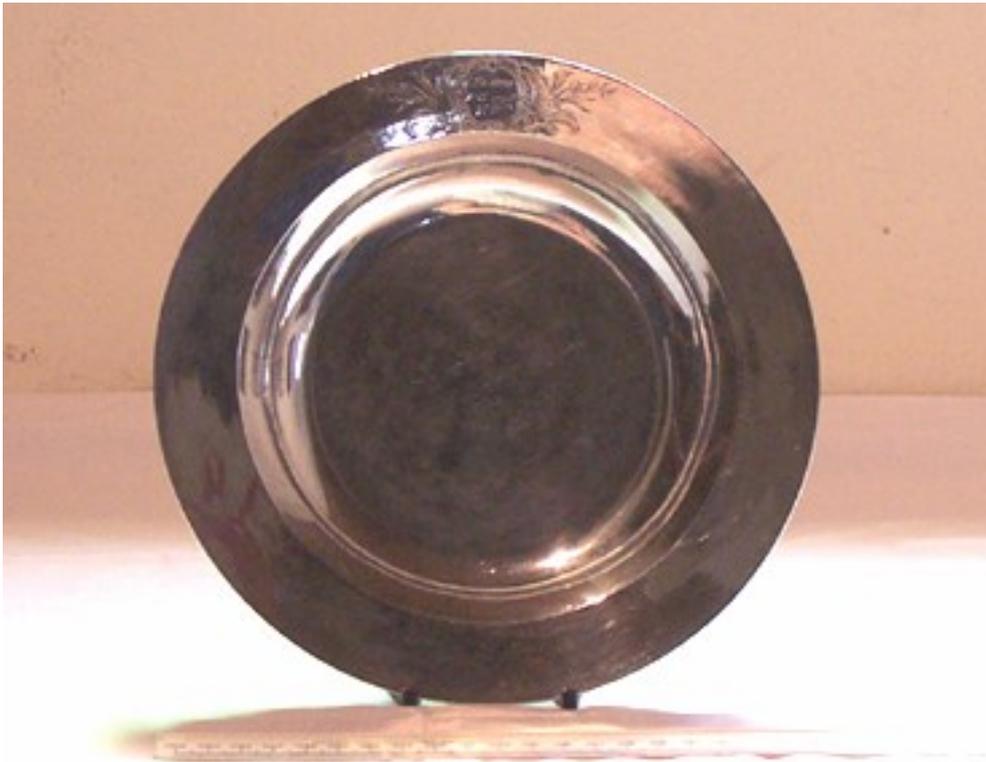
There is a third ciborium identical to the ones above. This was bought for use in the Aumbry which was installed in the late 1970s.

WEMBURY CHURCH - SILVER ALMS DISH – 1748

This solid silver alms dish dates from 1748, it is 9 inches in diameter, and 1 inch deep.

On the rim, within a medallion, surrounded by scroll and foliate work, it is inscribed “Ex Dono WC 1748 CW”, which would indicate that it was given by Waldo Calmady in 1748. Apart from this decoration it is entirely plain.

Assay marks: - Assay Office: London, Year: 1748, Maker: *WG*



WEMBURY CHURCH - SILVER ALMS DISH – 1748

The photographs below show the side and underside views of the alms dish.



WEMBURY CHURCH - SILVER WAFER BOX

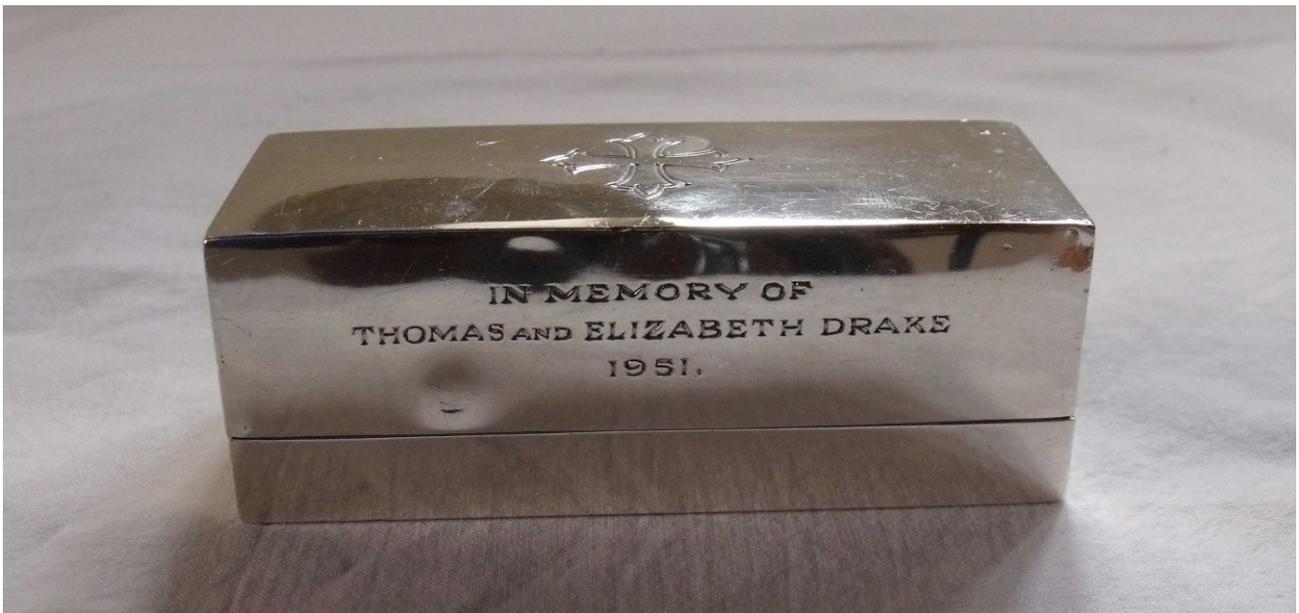
This solid silver wafer box was given in 1951 in memory of Thomas and Elizabeth Drake

It is 4 inches long, $1\frac{9}{16}$ inches wide and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches high.

It is plain except for a cross patonce on the lid. The lid is also engraved on the front side "In memory of Thomas and Elizabeth Drake, 1951".

The inside is silver gilt, and contains a 5 section rack for holding the wafers.

Assay marks: - Assay Office: London, Year: 1951, Maker: A.R.M & Co Ltd.



WEMBURY CHURCH - SILVER PYX

The origin of this solid silver pyx is unknown. Its overall height is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, and it is $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches in diameter.

The lid is decorated with a cross patonce with foliate detail.

Assay marks: - Assay Office: Year: Maker:



WEMBURY CHURCH - AUMBRY PYX

The aumbry pyx comprises of two separate items.

The bowl is a very small silver plated bowl $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter at the base, and $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches at the top.

The lid is an upturned miniature tazza of solid silver, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch high, $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches diameter at the top, and $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches diameter at the base. The top is engraved with a sunburst surrounding a cross formy fitchy at the foot, impaling the IHS motif, below which there are the three nails of the crucifixion. It is inscribed on the underside "The gift of Mrs Calmady to the Parish of Wembury Jan 1848".

Assay marks: - Assay Office: Year: Maker:

The photographs below show: - Left: The two pieces put together. Right: The two pieces separated



Since the above was first written in 2016, a small ciborium is now used in the Aumbry. The two pieces above are now separated, the silver plated bowl has been disposed of. The miniature Tazza (below) remains in the safe,



WEMBURY CHURCH - SILVER PLATED CRUETS

These four silver plated cruets are recent acquisitions, being newly bought in the 1980s.

Their overall height is, 5½inches; base diameter, 2¼ inches.



WEMBURY CHURCH - SILVER LAVABO DISH

This solid silver bowl is used as a lavabo dish, its origin is unknown.

It is 2¼ inches high, the diameter at the base is 2¼ inches, and the diameter at the top is 4 inches.

Assay marks: - Assay Office: Year: Maker:



WEMBURY CHURCH - BAPTISMAL SHELL

The baptismal shell is of mother of pearl with a solid silver handle in the form of a cross flory. Its overall length is 6 inches.

Assay marks: - Assay Office: Year: Maker:



WEMBURY CHURCH - MINIATURE FONT

The miniature font originally intended for home baptisms is of unglazed porcelain. It is 3¹/₂ inches high, and octagonal in shape. It is 2 inches wide at the base (across the flats), and 2⁵/₈ inches wide at the top (across the flats). The bowl is 2¹/₈ inches in diameter, and is glazed internally.



HOUSE COMMUNION SETS



The two House Communion sets were given in memory of David MacBean of Gabber Farm, who died suddenly, and very sadly, at the comparatively young age of 62 in October 2003.

One set will be kept in the Parish Church for the use of the Vicar, and the other in the custody of the Lay Reader for administering to the sick and elderly in the Parish.

They were presented and dedicated at the 1030 Eucharist Service on Sunday 1st November 2009, All Saints Sunday.

