

YCCART 2020/Y3

Puxton church

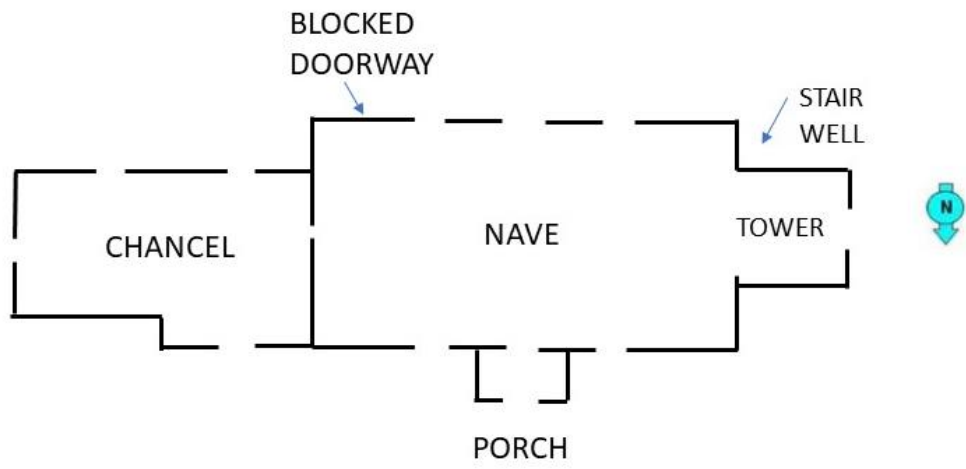
Part 2 – Inside the church

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

General Editor: Vince Russett



Interior 2019



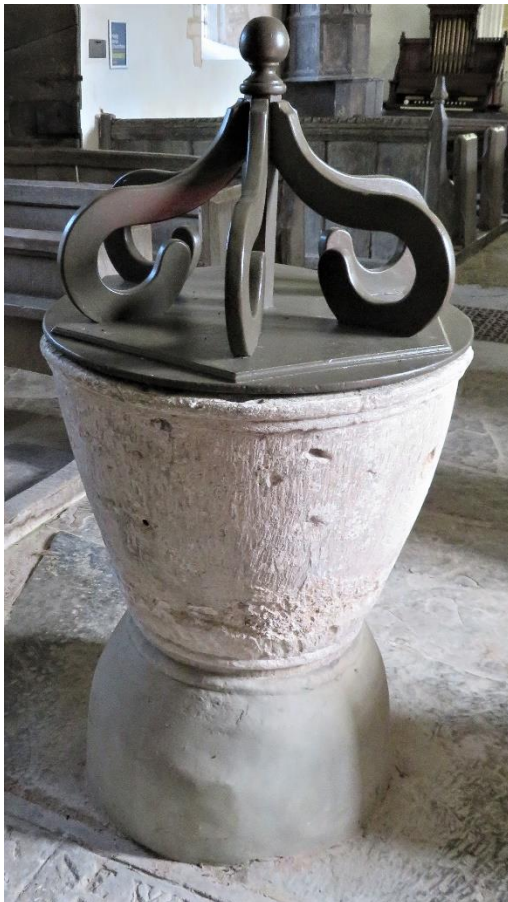
Plan of church (Not to scale)



Please enter the north porch

The Nave

On entering the church on your right is the font.



The font is in three parts.

The Norman (scraped) tub font stands on an earlier font, which is perhaps Saxon. This is set into a stone slab on the floor. The strapwork oak cover is considered to be 17th century in style but was purchased by the churchwardens in 1765.

Slab west of font



By the font is this grave slab with the following inscriptions :-

HERE LYETH / THE BODY OF MARGRET WHIPPEY THE / DAUGHTER / OF GEORGE
WHIPPEY WHO SLEPT / IN THE / LORDE YE 4 **DAY OF AUGUST 1663/**
M I I I I HODIE

HERE LYETH / THE BODY OF AGNES KEENE WIDDOW/E WHO / DECEASED THE
16TH DAY OF SEPT 1638

HERE RESTETH THE BODY OF EDITH WHIP/ PEY WIDDOW: WHO DEPARTED: THIS
/ LIFE THE: 14: DAY OF NOVEMBER / ANNO DOMINI 1667

N.B.

1) The date cannot now be seen but oddly at the end of the row LORDE YE ... far right is the number 7.

2) The text in red now illegible but was recorded by G Bennett in 1825.



On the south wall at the tower end are the remains of wall plaster which show 'black letter text written in red pigment. The words 'his' (Jesus) and 'and' can be made out, but the text has been whitewashed over. Possibly specialist photography might uncover more of this.

Boards

Lining the walls at the west of the nave are several wooden boards.

Lord's Prayer



Our Father

which art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done;
on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily
bread.

And forgive us our
trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.

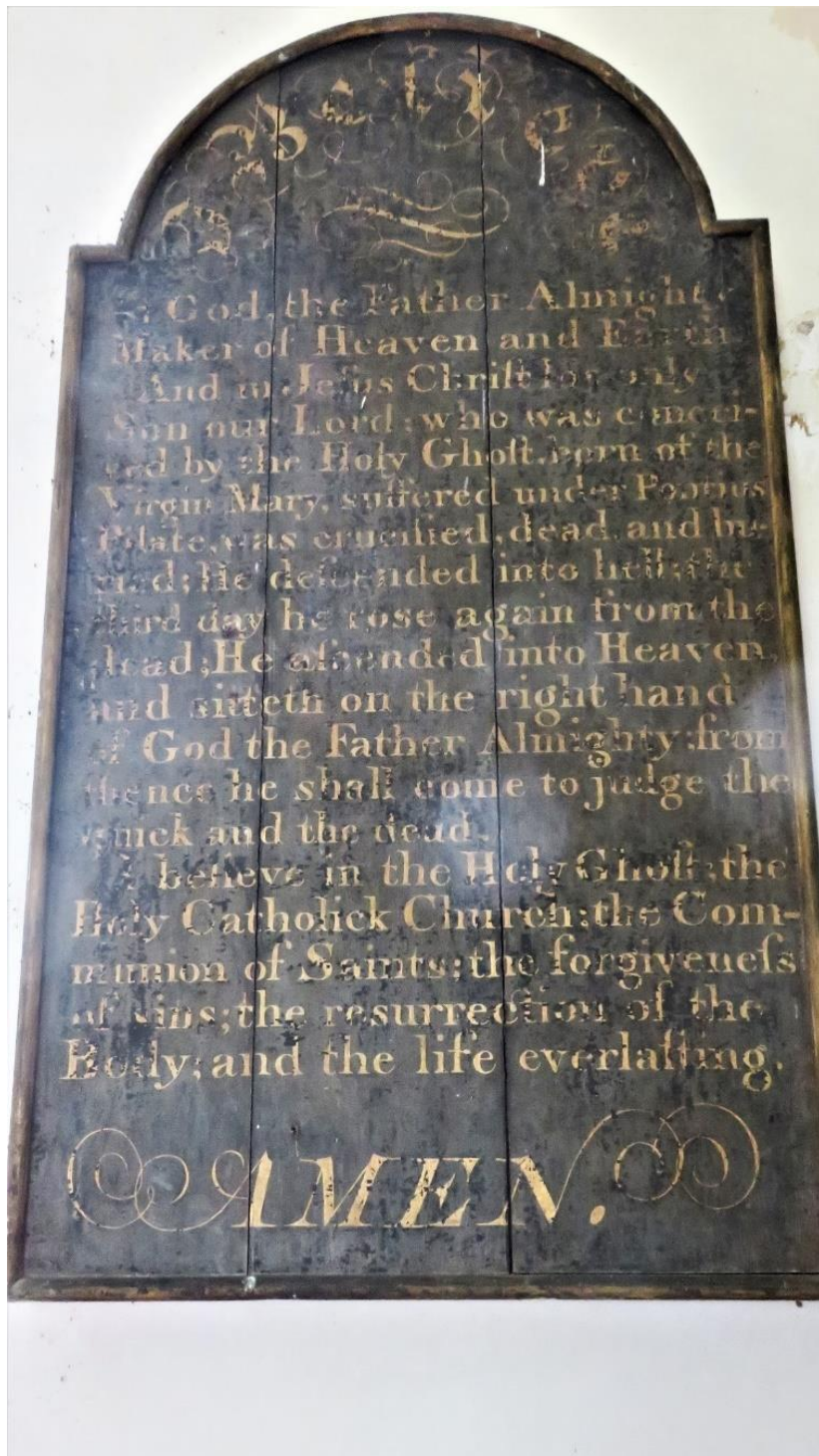
And lead us not into
temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom,
the Power and the Glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Creed



I Believe in

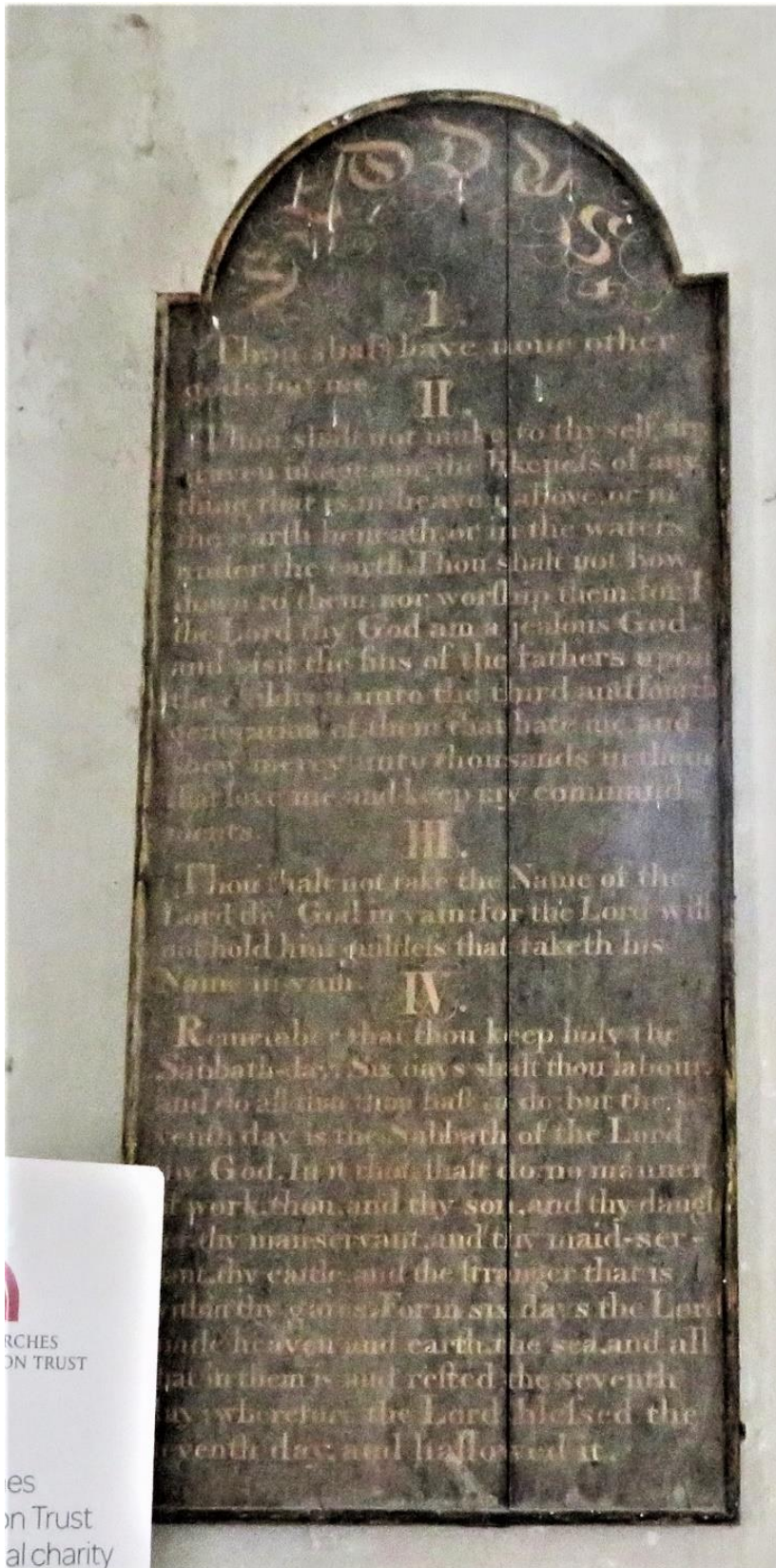
God the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and Earth
And in Jesus Christ, his
only Son, our Lord; Who
was conceived

by the Holy Ghost born of
the Virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate; Was
crucified, dead and buried.
He descended into hell; the
third day he rose again
from the dead; He
ascended into heaven; And
sitteth on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come
to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the Holy Christian Church,
the Communion of Saints;
the forgiveness of sins; The
resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Ten Commandments



EXODUS

I

You shall have no other gods but me

II

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image nor the likeness of anything that is in heaven above or in the earth beneath or in the waters under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down to them nor worship them. For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God and visit the sins of the fathers upon the children unto third and fourth generations of them that hate me. and show mercy unto thousands in them that love me and keep my commandments

III

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his Name in vain

IV

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour and do all work thou haft to do, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou shall do no manner of work thou and thy son and thy daughter and thy man servant and thy maid servant and the stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it.



EXODUS

V

Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI

Thou shalt do no murder.

VII

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII

Thou shalt not steal.

IX

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

X

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his servant nor his maid, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is his.



Inscribed at bottom: Job Nicholls Fecit 1825 Mr John Bisdee Churchwarden

Pulpit



The octagonal oak pulpit is Jacobean. It has two tiers of delicately carved panels, the upper has blind tracery, the lower is plain in design.

It is thought that the pulpit and reading desk (now by the south wall) were of a piece, possibly part of a two - decker arrangement.

The sounding board has been lost.

West of the pulpit on the wall is the wrought iron frame for an hourglass. This was used to measure the passage of [time](#) e.g. of a sermon. Its two [glass](#) bulbs are missing. These were connected vertically by a narrow neck that allows a regulated flow of a substance (usually sand) from the upper to lower bulb he lower one.



The reading desk



The nave windows



North side by pulpit. This two-light window with trefoil headed lights to each light is possibly 14th century



North side west of door. This very small two-light window has sharply pointed trefoil heads on each light and may date to the 14th century or even late 13th century.



This window also has shutter rebates and a bolt socket.



South side by plaque / east of blocked door. This three - light window is probably 17th century in date.



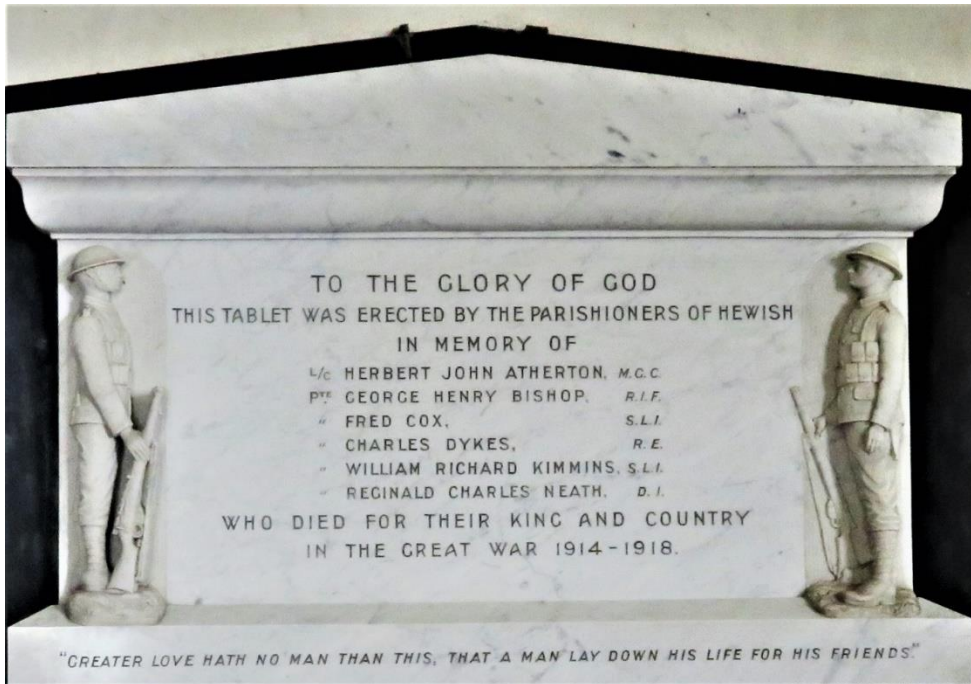
West of blocked door. A particularly splendid. 15th or 16th century window.

Entrance door



The battened oak entrance door is possibly 18th century.

Painted on a board above this north door are the royal arms of George III dated 1775. According to Pevsner they were painted by Mr Sess of Banwell.




On the north wall to the west of the main door is this wall mounted tablet which was removed from St Anne's Hewish. It is inscribed.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
 THIS TABLET WAS ERECTED BY THE PARISHIONERS OF HEWISH
 IN MEMORY OF
 L/C HERBERT JOHN ATHERTON. M.C.C.
 PTE GEORGE HENRY BISHOP. R.I.F
 PTE FRED COX. S.L.I.
 PTE CHARLES DYKES. R.E.
 PTE WILLIAM RICHARD KIMMINS. S.L.I.
 PTE REGINALD CHARLES NEATH. D.I.
 WHO DIED FOR THEIR KING AND COUNTRY
 IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

*"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS. THAT A MAN WOULD LAY
 DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS"*

Some additional information

Name	Regiment & Service number	Death	Family
L/C HERBERT JOHN ATHERTON	8 th Squadron Machine Gun Corps (Cavalry) 51987	11 March 1918. Aged 25. Tincourt New British Cemetery Tincourt- Boucly, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France Plot V.C.22 Memorial ID 56571712 V	Son of Mrs M Atherton of Rose Cottage Hewish
PTE GEORGE HENRY BISHOP	7 th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Service number: 41801 Sometime Somerset Light Infantry Service number 30607	Death about the 16 th August 1917. during the Third Battle of Ypres. Aged 25 Missing presumed dead. No other memorial located	George Henry Bishop was the husband of Annie Clara Wear, of Stonewell Farm, Congresbury. They were married at St. Andrew's Church, Congresbury on December 15th, 1915. George Bishop's residence at the time of his marriage was in Worle, and his occupation was given as "Farmer".
PTE FRED COX	1st Battalion. Somerset Light Infantry Service number 42215	24 th October 1918. Aged 22. Ramillies British Cemetery, Rammillies, Departement du Nord, Nord-Pasde, Calaise, France Plot number F 20 Memorial ID. 24608202	Son of Henry Charles and Mary Cox of Hewish.

<p>PTE CHARLES EDMUND G DYKES</p>	<p>SPR, Royal Engineers Service number 498291</p>	<p>26 April 1918 Born 1891. Killed in action.</p>	<p>Sapper</p>
<p>PTE WILLIAM RICHARD KIMMINS</p> 	<p>6th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry</p>	<p>13 September 1915 Aged 28 Le Treport Military Cemetery, 30 kilometres north-east of Dieppe.</p>	<p>Son of William and Rosina Kimmins of Hewish</p>
<p>PTE REGINALD CHARLES NEATH</p>	<p>9th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment Service number 1248</p>	<p>30 September 1915 Aged 24 Loos Memorial, 5 kilometres north-west of Lens.</p>	<p>Son of Charles & Eliza Jane Neath of "Clevedon View " Hewish</p>

South door



The south doorway may be 13th or early 14th century. The barred oak door appears to be 17th century.



West of the blocked south door is this plaque with the inscription

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
IN MEMORY OF
LCE -CORPL WILLIAM EDWARD PALMER
59TH BATT. AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
ELDEST SON OF COLSTON & MARY PALMER OF THIS PARISH
KILLED IN ACTION IN FRANCE, JULY 19TH 1916,
DURING THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918
AGED 22 YEARS
THIS TABLET WAS ERECTED BY HIS PARENTS
AND THE PARISHIONERS OF PUXTON, 1920.
GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS,
THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.

William Palmer emigrated to Australia before the war and was a farm labourer in Ellinbank Victoria in West Gippsland. In November 1914 he joined the Australian army, was wounded in the notorious Gallipoli action, recovered and joined the 15th Brigade. On July 19, 1916 William was killed in the fighting at Fromelles. He is probably buried in the mass grave in V.C. Corner Cemetery, in the *commune* of Fromelles, in the *Nord* departement of France.

Box pews



The south side of the nave has a block of fine Georgian oak box pews. They are high-sided, with panelled doors and have original iron fittings.



A miniature box pew is situated in the north-west corner of the nave. This may have been for children or singers.

Benches



The heavy oak benches are Listed as early/mid circa 16th century.

The bench by the entrance has cresting and finials

Benches east and by north wall are shown in the photos.



Benches: Above by north wall. Below by south wall.

Graffiti

Carved into the benches (notably at the rear, furthest from the pulpit) are many examples of graffiti. Perhaps the sermons were not that interesting!





The east end of the nave.

The Rood screen

A remarkable feature of the church is the remains of loft and rood screen.

Immediately to the west of the chancel arch on the south wall is a small pointed door now blocked by the reading desk. Above it is the blocked doorway to the rood loft. The sawn-off remnants of the beams of the rood loft can be seen on the south and north walls.





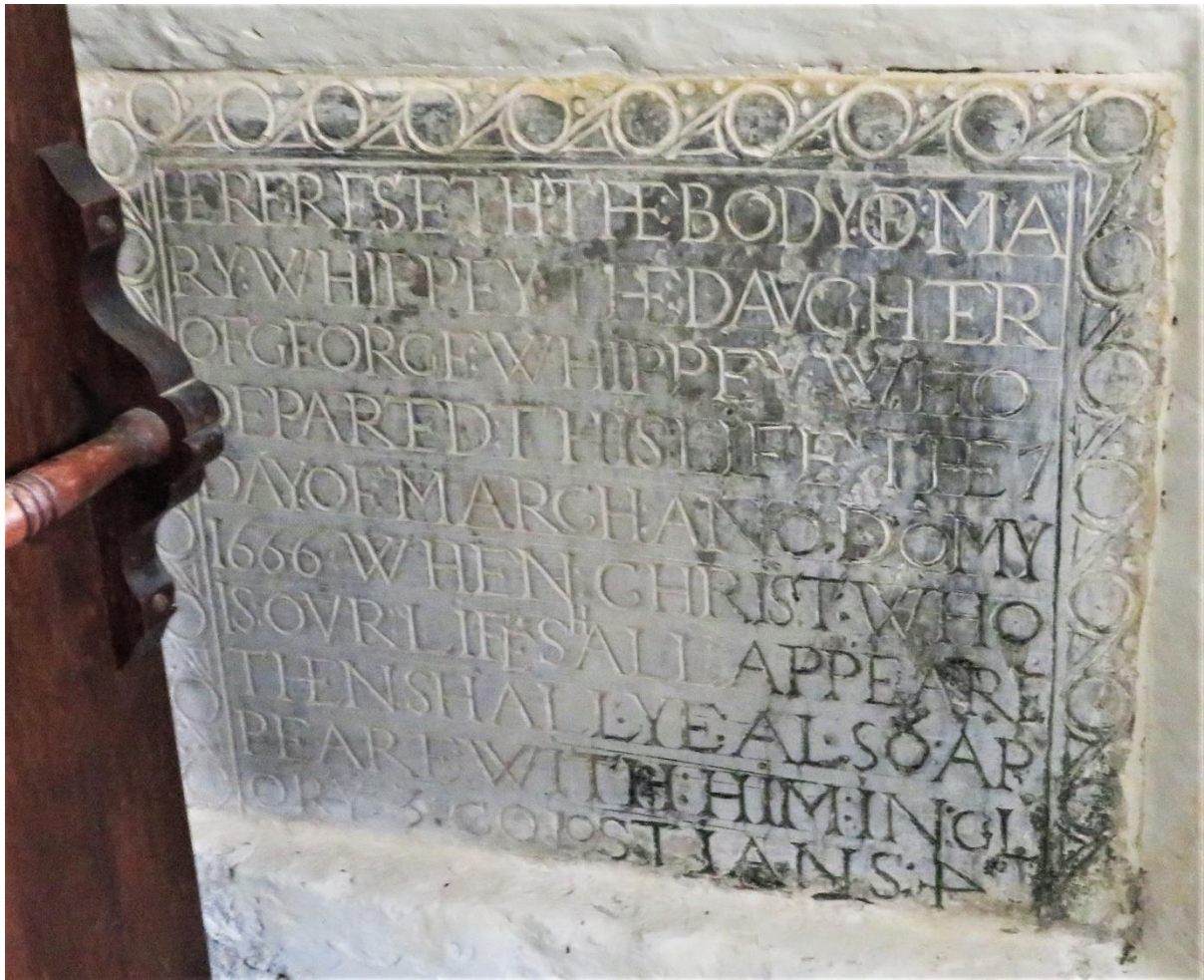
The stone chancel screen, plainly cut into the chancel arch, survives to waist height. It is thought to be 16th century and may have formed the base of the rood screen or replaced the rood screen after the Reformation.





To the left of the chancel arch is a harmonium by Mason and Hamlin believed to date from the 1930s.



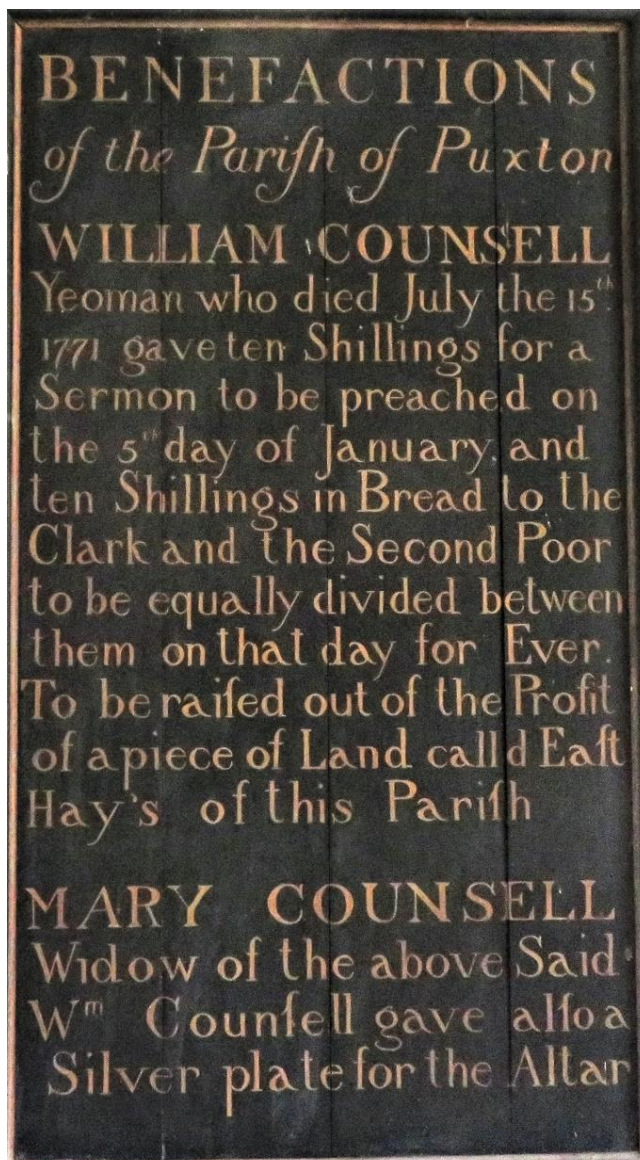


To the right of the harmonium and set in the chancel screen is a tomb stone inscribed as follows:

HERE RESTETH THE BODY OF
 MARY WHIPPEY THE DAUGHTER
 OF GEORGE WHIPPEY
 WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 7
 DAY OF MARCH ANNO DOMMY
 1666 WHEN CHRIST WHO
 IS OUR LIFE SHALL APPEARE
 THEN SHALL YE ALSO APPEARE
 WITH HIM IN GLORY
 3 COLOSTIANS 4

('Colostians' in a modern bible would be 'Colossians': the words after 1666 are an exact quote)

Above the harmonium is the following 18th century benefaction board.



BENEFACTORS

Of the Parish of Puxton

WILLIAM COUNSELL

Yeoman who died July the 15th

1771 gave ten Shillings for a

Sermon to be preached on

The 5th day of January, and

Ten Shillings in Bread to the

Clark and the Second Poor

To be equally divided between

Them on that day for Ever.

To be raised out of the Profit

Of a piece of Land called East

Hay's of this Parish

MARY COUNSELL

Widow of the above Said

Wm Counsell gave also a

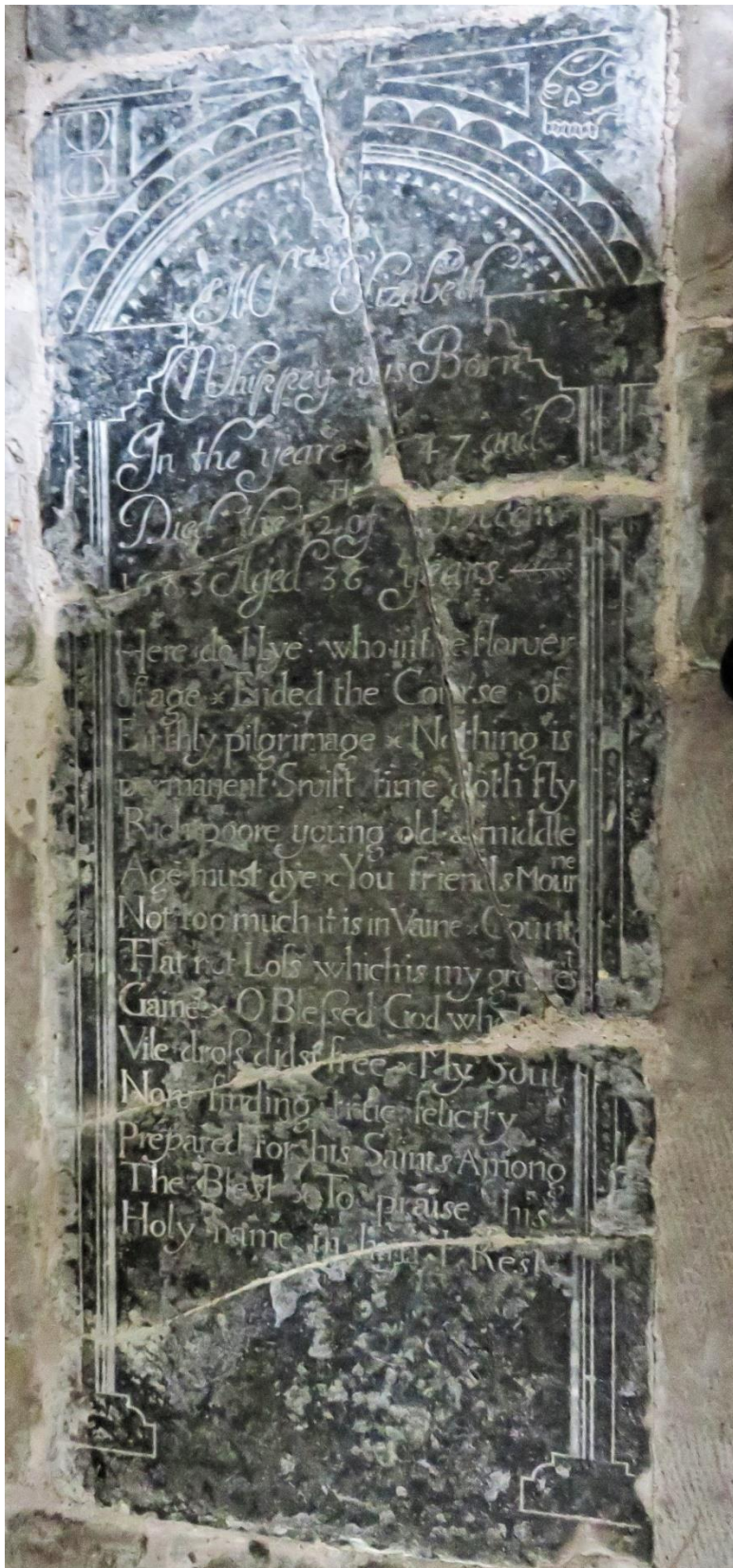
Silver plate for the Altar



The golden eagle is inscribed on the base as follows:

PRESENTED BY ALBERT CHAMPION OF THIS PARISH
IN THANKFULNESS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HIS
THREE SONS WHO SERVED IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918
XMAS 1918

The east end of the nave contains this fine tomb slab.



Mrs Elizabeth
Whippey was Born
In the yeare 1647 and
Died the 12th of December
1683 Aged 36 Years
Here do I lye who in the flower
of age. Ended the Course
of Earthly pilgrimage. Nothing
is
permanent. Swift time doth fly
Rich poore young old & middle
age
must dye. You friends mourne
Not too much it is in Vaine.
Count
That not Lofs which is my
greatest
Gayne. O Blessed God who (--)
Vile drofs did free. Fly soul
Nor finding true felicity
Prepared for his Saints Among
The Blest To praise his
Holy name in Him I Rest

(See Knight)



To the north of the previous slab and beside the pulpit is another tomb slab.



The nave roof

It has been suggested that the mouldings, underside of the beams and iron fastenings and joists indicate a 17th century date for the ceiling and perhaps was inserted to allow decorative painting on the underside of the ceiling. The ceiling may have been sensitively restored in the late 19th/early 20th centuries.

The Chancel



The chancel arch has wave mouldings and is perhaps 14th century in date.
The chancel was thoroughly restored in the late 19th century.



The former 19th century organ chamber.

The north side contains a 19th century extension for an organ chamber vestry. Much of the medieval north wall has consequently been removed or obscured. The 1804 engraving (See History report) shows a door on this north side. The 19th century two light window has dressing of Bath stone.

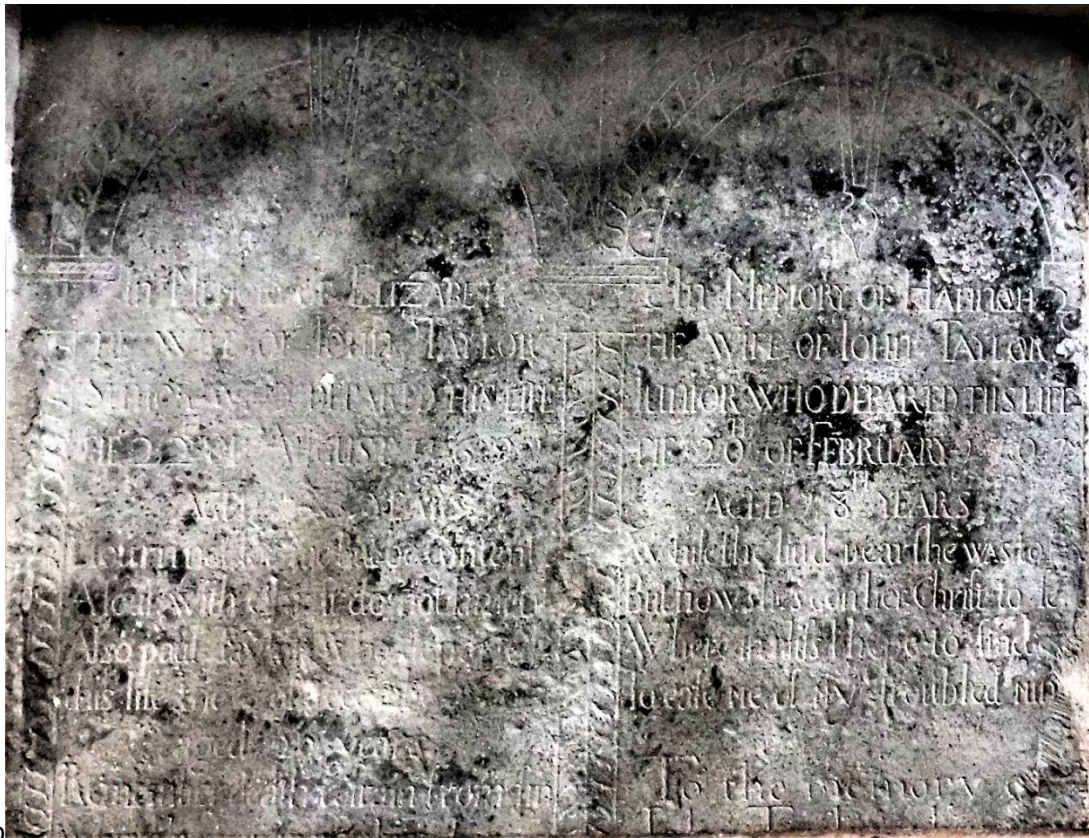


On this north side by the stone screen is another grave slab



The 17th century altar rails

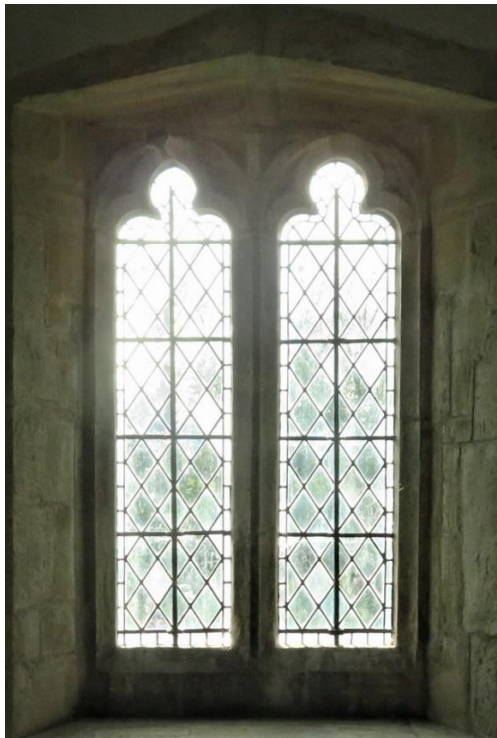




Slab north side in front of altar rails. Inscribed:

<p>IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH THE WIFE OF JOHN TAYLOR SENIOR WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 22ND OF AUGUST 1691 AGED 63 YEARS Mourn not for me but be content A soul with Christ do not lament Also paul Taylor who departed This life the 6 december 1703 Aged 20 years Remember death refrain from fin (<i>rest under bench</i>)</p> <p>Sarah the Daughter of John and Sarah Taylor who departed ... the 26th ... aged 7 years</p>	<p>In MEMORY OF HANNAH THE WIFE OF JOHN TAYLOR JUNIOR WHO DEPARTED THE LIFE THE 20TH OF FEBRAURY 1707 AGED 18 YEARS While she liud (lived) dear she was to me But now shes gon her Christ to see Where in blifs I hope to find To ease me of my troubled mind</p> <p>To the memory of John Taylor above named of this parish who departed ..in1725 aged 40 years Bid tears adue dear wife Friends cease to weep Lament for those that die I only sleep</p>
--	--

NB. Red text now illegible but recorded in 1825 by G Bennett)



Window by south wall by the altar. This has had some 19th century restoration (the head of the window has been renewed and a moulded dripstone with pronounced square terminals added). It has been suggested that the original window may be 16th century.



South wall west by screen. The window may be of 15th or early 16th-century date. It has no dripstone and its mullions are chamfered and stopped.



By north wall, and altar.

HERE LYETH THE BODY / OF JOVNE* THE WIFE OF JOSEPH COOKE OF / THIS
PARISH WHO/DIED THE 14 DAY OF MAY AN^o DOM 1655

WHEN CHRIST WHO / IS OUR LIFE SHALL / APPEARE

THEN SHALL / YE ALSO APPEARE / WITH HIM IN GLORY

* *Parish Register shows Joane*



By south wall and altar.

HERE RESTETH THE / BODY OF THOMAS INMAN

SON OF THOMAS / INMAN OF THIS / PARISH

YEOMAN WHO DECEASED MAY/ THE* 14 AN^o 1636 *Shown as T E



In front of the altar rails on the south side is this slab.

G Bennett in 1825 recorded:

'On an excellent mottled stone in the centre of the floor of the Chancel is inscribed:-
HERE RESTETH THE BODY OF THOMAS INMAN YEOMAN WHO DECEASED THE 10
DAY OF APRIL AN: DO:1642 ANO AETATIS 72'

NB. The text in black can still be seen.

East window



The east window has three lights with cusped trefoil heads and reticulated tracery. The window may perhaps be late medieval or a post Reformation repair (replicating an earlier window).



OPE OVR
 ND IS
 THE WAY
 AVENS
 AND
 ES JOY
 D AND SEE
 AM SO
 ALT
 HOU BE

Before you leave the chancel note this grave slab on the south side by the stone screen. It is partly hidden by a pew.

G Bennett recorded in 1825:

'On a rude stone placed against the North Wall of the Chancel near the Communion rails is the following

JOSEPH COOKE YEOMAN OF THIS PARISH WAS BURYED THE 1ST DAY OF JUNE ANNO DOMINI 1664 AND DECEASED THE 24TH MAY.

I HOPE OUR FRIEND IS GONE THE WAY, TO HEAVENS BLES AND ENDLES JOY. BEHOLD AND SEE, AS I AM SO SHALT THOU BE.'



Inside of the tower

N.B. The inside of the tower is not open to the public.

The west end arch is screened by a possibly late 18th-century dark stained oak panelled screen. The tower space contains unused furniture and various bric a brac.



An attractive chest. Is this the chest recorded in the Church Heritage Record (number 601335) as 'a very fine light oak chest in nave, with beautifully carved panels, probably also of the early 17th century'?



By the chest is this decorated floor tile/slab.



The ceiling incorporates beams (perhaps 18th century). Sockets in the walls below may indicate an earlier ceiling / belfry floor.



The west window and door.



The writing on the end reads:
ORIGINAL 1600 BELL FRAME



The narrow-pointed doorway with its 17th or 18th century oak door leads to the very worn newel staircase and abandoned bell chamber. The remaining bell is said to hang below the belfry from a steel girder.

Two bells remained in 1871.

The possibly medieval bell, now in situ, is said to be inscribed "*Johannes O Vocabitur*" which has been translated as "*He shall be called John.*"

In 1954 the broken parts of a bell dated 1680 were removed. This bell was said to have been inscribed, "*Henrey Hoskens Churchwarden. 1680. I P I P*"

These two bells are believed to have been the first and fifth in the original peel of bells.