

The History of the Church of

# ST SWITHUN'S

LITTLE HINTON



By

Paul Williams

# **CONTENTS**

Introduction and Acknowledgements

Chapter 1: Early History

Chapter 2: The Building

Chapter 3: Furnishings

- a) The Font
- b) Pulpit and Reading Desk
- c) Church Plate
- d) Choir Stalls and Altar
- e) The Royal Arms
- f) Monuments
- g) Bier
- h) Windows
- i) Medieval Tiles

Chapter 4: The Bells

Chapter 5: Rectors

Chapter 6: The Graveyard and Cemetery

Chapter 7: The Rectory

Sources and Bibliography

## **Illustration list**

- Front cover: South East view of Hinton Parva Church by John Butler 1806
- Ch 1: Etched drawing of early Victorian scene near the village church
- Ch 2: Church building drawing showing phases of construction
- 2: East view of tower showing the earlier nave roof
- 2: Chancel arch shored up for putting in concrete strut, pulpit lifted up on pews 1963
- Ch 3a: Saxon or Norman font
- 3b: Pulpit
- 3c: Engraving of the Elizabethan Chalice
- 3c: New silver Chalice made 2010
- 3d: Choir Stalls and Altar
- 3e: Royal Arms painting
- 3f: Harrington Memorial Tablet
- 3g: Bier
- 3h: Altar windows by Thomas Kempe
- 3i: Examples of Medieval tiles
- Ch 4: Church bells taken down for retuning
- Ch 6: 1875 plan of new cemetery
- Ch 7: The Rectory c1935

## **INTRODUCTION**

The parish of Little Hinton has a long history stretching back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century. However there are traces of settlement into pre history represented by flint tools and Bronze Age round barrows. Roman pottery has been found at City Corner, Holy Well, Manor House and St Swithun's churchyard.

A number of Roman coins dating between AD 244 and 353 and a brooch were found in the "Hundred Acres" field on the Ridgeway belonging to Charlbury Farm<sup>1</sup>.

Nearby a Roman villa (Starveall Farm) was discovered further east in Bishopstone parish<sup>2</sup>.

Life during the Saxon period of the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century is evidenced by the discovery of grass tempered pottery concentrated around the church<sup>3</sup>.

Along the slopes of the hills south of the village, medieval lynchets, manmade terraces where crops were produced can still be seen. Well preserved medieval ridge & furrow (strip fields) are in evidence to the north and centre of the village. A spurious charter accredited to the mid ninth century records the parish boundaries, but the name of Hinton doesn't appear in the records until 1242. The name is thought to derive from the Anglo-Saxon Hantone which means the farm of the (monastic) community<sup>4</sup>.

The more widely used name of Hinton Parva today, came into existence probably during the 17<sup>th</sup> century when wealthier inhabitants living in the village may have desired a name indicating higher status.

The oldest building in the village is that of the church dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Originally it comprised the tower, nave and possibly an apse at the eastern end underneath the present chancel.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Paul Williams would like to thank the vicar, Robin Cardwell and Toby Ford the churchwarden of Little Hinton, for making available the remarkable hand written record of the church's history, also to Mogs Boon and Bernard Phillips for local archaeological information.

All the proceeds from the sale of this booklet are to be donated for the maintenance and upkeep of St Swithun's Church, Little Hinton, Wiltshire.

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Cooke, Charlbury Farm

<sup>2</sup> Phillips.B. 1981 Starveall Farm, Romano – British Villa, Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History magazine, 1974/75. 40 - 55

<sup>3</sup> Phillips & Boon

<sup>4</sup> Gover, J.E.B. Mawer A & Senton, F.M. 1939 "The place names of Wiltshire", English Place Name Society

## 1) EARLY HISTORY



**A pencil drawing of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century scene showing the village church**

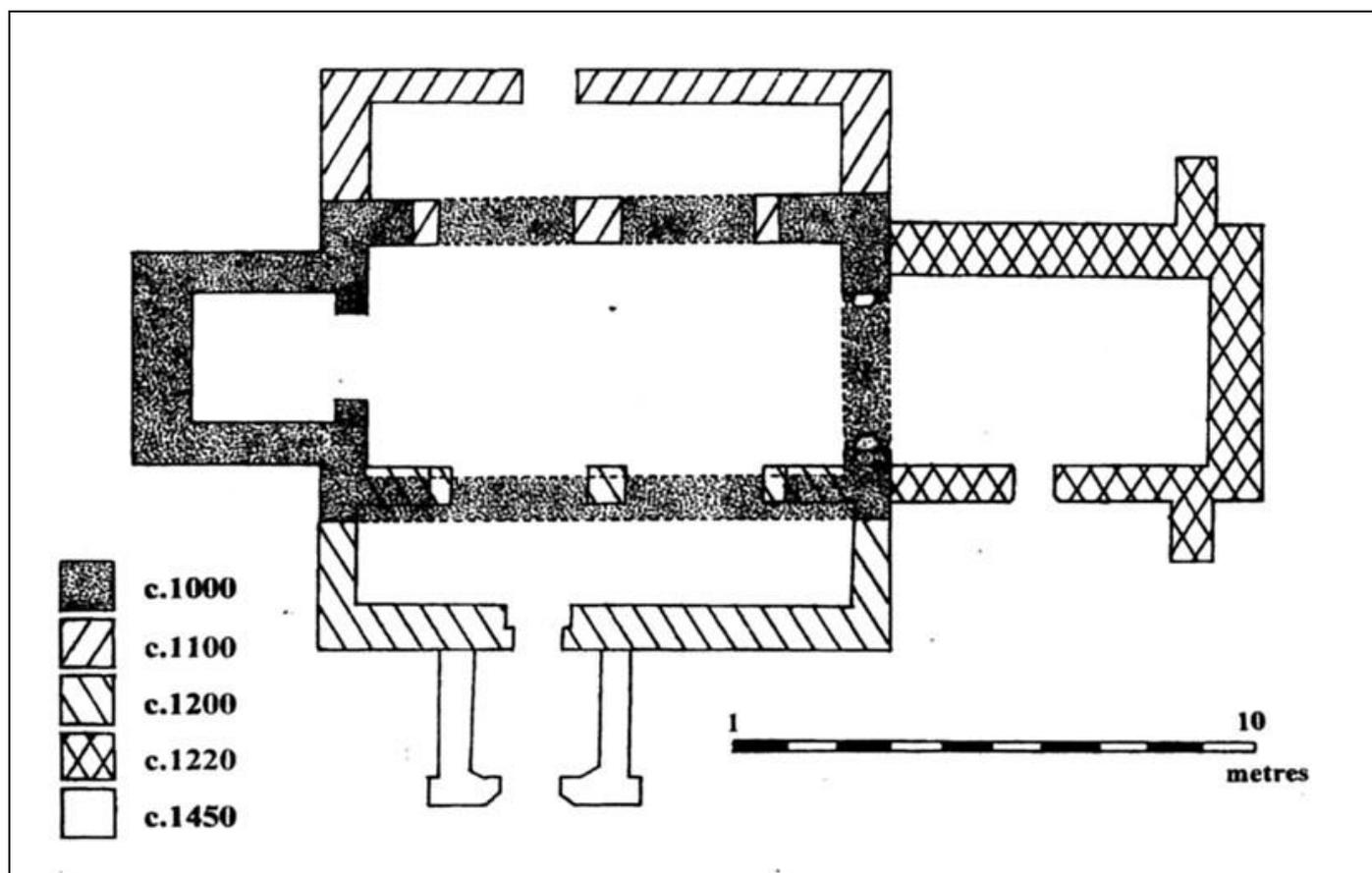
In 1172 the Bishop of Winchester confirmed St Swithun's Priory as patron of Hinton Church; he had apparently regained advowson by 1244. In that year, as in 1280, the crown presented a Rector "*sede vacante*". In 1284 St Swithun's relinquished its claim to the advowson in the Bishop's favor. The Bishops thereafter presented Rectors to the church. In return for the priory's acknowledgement of his patronage rights, the Bishop of Winchester allowed St Swithun's to continue taking a pension of 40 shillings from Hinton Church. After the Dissolution, the payment was transferred to Winchester chapter.

In 1291, the church was valued at £10.13s.4d for taxation purposes. Nearly 250 years later the value of the church in 1534 was set at £13.6s.8d representing the value of all the tithes in Hinton together with some land outside. By 1650 the valued had increased to £100 and in 1791 rising to £224 and in 1841 was replaced by a rent-charge of £520<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> VCH: Volume XI page 163

## 2) THE BUILDING



### **Church building phases of construction<sup>6</sup>**

The church has stood throughout its long history in the heart of the village.

Mainly built of local chalk stone with ashlar dressings, it comprises a chancel, north and south aisles, a clerestoried nave, a south porch and tower<sup>7</sup>.

During Norman times the north and south aisles each side of the nave were built. The pillars and arches of the north side were probably built around 1100 and those from the south side 1200. Inexplicably two of the capitals of the south arcade have unfinished decorative cornices<sup>8</sup>.

The 11<sup>th</sup> century tower and nave both stand on massive sarsen stone foundations. Putlock holes for timber scaffolding can be seen in the west wall of the tower infilled with chalk<sup>9</sup>. The upper stage surmounted by a tiled pyramidal roof may have been rebuilt in the 14<sup>th</sup> century<sup>10</sup>.

The chancel arch was reconstructed probably in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. The chancel itself was rebuilt a century later and retains three contemporary windows and a priest's doorway in the south facing wall<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> Phillips & Boon

<sup>7</sup> VCH Volume X1 page 164

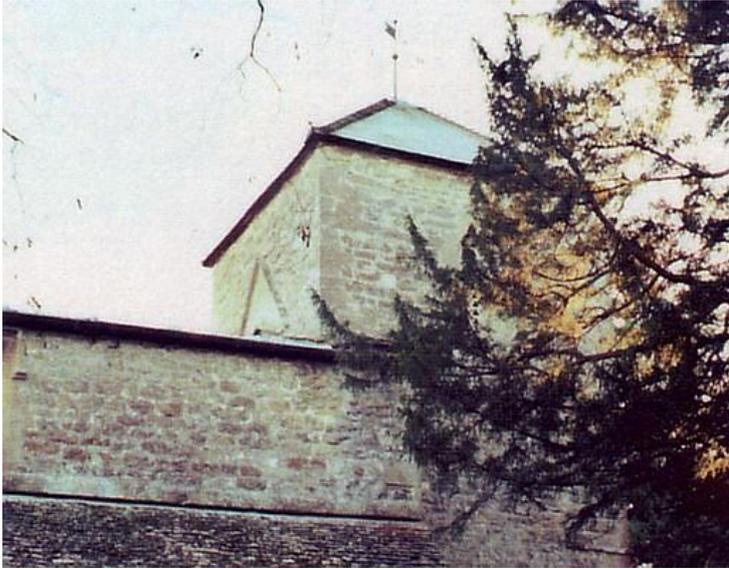
<sup>8</sup> VCH Volume X1 page 164

<sup>9</sup> Phillips & Boon

<sup>10</sup> VCH Volume X1 page 164

<sup>11</sup> VCH Volume X1 page 164

The present oak roof of the nave was raised in the 15<sup>th</sup> century to accommodate clerestory windows. At the same time, windows similar to those in the clerestory were inserted in the aisled walls and a south porch was constructed<sup>12</sup>. Small repairs were made to the chancel in 1798 and 1802 and again during the major restoration of 1860-61<sup>13</sup>.



The original nave roof was higher with a very steep pitch. The steepness of the pitch indicates that it may have been thatched. The original position of the nave roof can be clearly seen when viewing the east side of the tower wall above the current nave roof. Over the centuries, the condition of the building went through a period of continuous alterations and repairs. This situation happened to most parish churches throughout the country.

The Victorian restoration of St Swithun's took place during 1860-61 when William Pedley of Highworth was granted the contract to carry out the repairs to the church costing £658. This was approved by the church. The work consisted of:

- a) Remove old pews and gallery, take up paving.
- b) North aisle: new stone window frame.
- c) South aisle: three new stone framed windows.
- d) Chancel: new stone window frame in east end wall. Iron stanchion bars and casements to windows. Repair and restore clerestory windows.
- e) Tower: new stone louvers to windows of upper storey. Glaze windows of middle and lower floors. Clean all arches and piers.
- f) Porch: remove one step. Lower ground outside to procure a fall for the water away from church. Reset second step, make good stone door jambs.
- g) Nave roof: repair and make good the roof and boarding under lead. Stain and varnish with two coats.
- h) South aisle roof & porch roof: two lead valleys superficial with boarding. Stone slating taken off and relay on heart oak laths.
- i) North aisle, chancel, tower and porch: stucco plastering of walls.
- j) South aisle: Lath plaster of wall.
- k) Nave, chancel and aisles: flooring relaid.
- l) New layout of pews.

The funding for this restoration was achieved by the following three means:

- 1) Church Rate
- 2) Collection at door
- 3) Subscriptions.

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<sup>12</sup> VCH Volume X1 page 164

<sup>13</sup> VCH Volume X1 page 164

Much of the work was sub-contracted out to James Cannon<sup>14</sup>, the village carpenter who lived three properties away, east, along Tuckers Lane. James Cannon had a large outbuilding next door which was used for his carpentry work.

In 1899 a further renovation was carried out costing £91 with the contract being awarded to H Knapp & Son of Shrivenham. The work carried out involved:

- a) North aisle: new rafters, slates removed and reset.
- b) Nave roof: timbers repaired and new lead flashings placed.
- c) All roof timbers cleaned, stained and varnished.
- d) Arches and columns cleaned down and open joints stopped.
- e) All woodwork cleaned and re-varnished.
- f) Windows repaired.
- g) Blinds and cords put up.

Forty years passed by when in 1939, further restoration was carried out. The chancel roof was completely stripped and repaired, tiles replaced and the gutters renewed. A damp course was dug out by the chancel wall on the south side. The large black wooden frames containing the 10 Commandments were removed from the chancel arch. It was hardly legible from the body of the church. All this and other minor repairs took the cost of the renovations to £120.

1934 saw electrical lightning installed<sup>15</sup>.

The following are Robert Wilson's reflections on the state of the village church: *Hinton Parva Church, the oldest in the Bristol Diocese, and an architectural gem, had become as dead as the "Dodo" in the late 1950's. Ash stowells and alder bushes were growing from the foundations, reaching higher than the windows; a gap a foot wide had developed between the chancel arch and nave, and the arch itself was leaning at a perilous angle. The harmonium produced more noise from its mechanism than its notes, and it was cold enough to freeze a brass monkey. Then came the Rev. John Prior, a young man of extreme energy. He had the mind of a lawyer and a nose for money that would have put the income tax man to shame. In a very short time he succeeded in "winkling" about £3,500 out of his poor parishioners and any other legitimate source, and this beautiful little church is now warm, safe from collapse, well lighted and well attended*<sup>16</sup>.

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<sup>14</sup> Rectors Book (handwritten) by Rev Cecil R.B. Dakeyne 1938

<sup>15</sup> Rectors Book (handwritten) by Rev Cecil R.B. Dakeyne 1938

<sup>16</sup> "Just for a Lark" by R.H. Wilson 1970



As noted in the previous extract, between the years 1961-1963, a number of repairs were carried out throughout the church involving the chancel arch being made safe by underpinning, and grouting the wall above. Steel beams hold the chancel walls together and buttresses support them. The installation of heaters was fixed above the arches (the heaters were later removed as they were only heating the roof space). The total cost for this restoration and improvements was £3,000.

In 1981 the stone tile roof of the south chancel was stripped. All necessary woodwork in the roof was renewed with treated timber, felted and tiles replaced. The work was carried out by Lester Walsh of Aldbourne costing £2,000.

In November 1998, eight new electric fan heaters have been installed at ground floor level with a time switch, by Graham Dunmore costing £3,600<sup>17</sup>. This now actually keep the congregation warm!

In 2001 a new Johannus Opus 1 electric organ was installed.

Tom Cripwell, Bishopstone church warden and builder is currently carrying out repairs to the church.

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<sup>17</sup> The Churchwarden's Record Book

### **3) FURNISHINGS**

#### **a) The Font**



One of the many treasures in the church is the elaborately carved Saxon or Norman font situated by the north door. It is described as having “*wild knotwork, with a band of arcading with animals, in a disorderly arrangement, a twisted snake with two birds pecking at it and two fishes nearby and an animal sitting on a bird*”<sup>18</sup>. The font may have been a plain earlier font with the carvings being added at a later date. Whether the birds and beasts on it have any Christian meaning is unknown, but perhaps the animal biting the tail of the snake could represent the victory over sin, which is effectively the theme of the Baptismal Sacrament, or it may be the drunk and disorderly stone mason's imagination and thus having no interpretation.

#### **b) The Pulpit**



Martha Hinton donated a carved pulpit and reading desk to the church in 1637. It may originally have been a “three decker” pulpit, that is with two reading desks below and the pulpit on the top level. If this was correct, it would have been very high up towards the nave roof. Due to the deterioration of the furnishings over the centuries, the 1861 restoration saw the pulpit being in a bad state, with the carving removed and remounted with some additions from the sounding board and a few panels taken from an old chest. The reading desk was placed against the pulpit. In 1905, the pulpit was again rebuilt as it was believed to have been in 1637. The carvings are typical of the early seventeenth century, and the oak well-mellowed with age<sup>19</sup>. The reading desk was moved to its present position.

<sup>18</sup> A guide to the United Benefice of Lyddington and Wanborough and Bishopstone with Hinton Parva, Sylvia Chandler 2000

<sup>19</sup> A guide to the United Benefice of Lyddington and Wanborough and Bishopstone with Hinton Parva, Sylvia Chandler 2000

### c) Church Plate

The church had been blessed with a number of fine silver pieces dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> century.

1) An Elizabethan chalice 6 ½" high without any marks with interlaced band of strap work round bowl and vertical line mouldings on stem and base. At the bottom of bowl is found a curved projection. Under the rim is engraved "*Hinton com: Wilts*", this has been added at a later date. The paten cover is also ornamental with engraved lines.

2) A pair of silver patens 6 7/8" diameter, resting on feet, bearing the hallmarks of the Britannia Standard for 1719, the maker is S.L. with a pallet beneath for Gabriel Sleath.

3) A silver flagon, 11 ½" in height of tankard shape with slightly projecting drum. The hallmarks are for the year 1634, the maker's mark is an escallop shell.

The pair of patens (2) and the flagon (3) has been inscribed:

*"ECCLESIAE DE HINTON PARVA COM: WILTS. THOMAS COKER  
RECTORIS DONUM A.D.1719"*

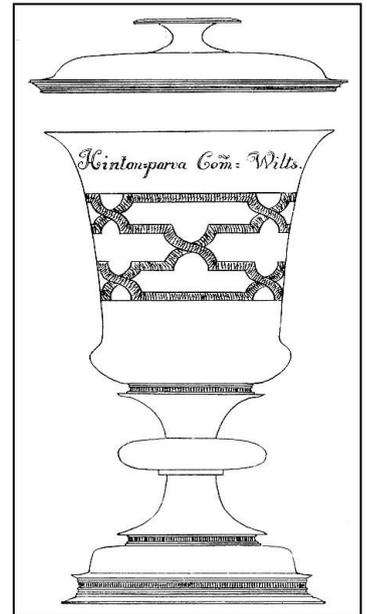
Thomas Coker was the Rector of Little Hinton from 1684 to 1741, afterwards Prebendary of Bishopstone and Cannon Residentiary in the Cathedral of Salisbury. He made a bequest to the schools in Little Hinton and Bishopstone<sup>20</sup>.

#### **Church silver stolen 2008**

Sometime between the Remembrance Day service on the morning of Sunday the 9th November and about 11 am Tuesday the 11th November, the silver chalice inscribed with '*Hinton Parva Com Wilts*' and the silver paten used as a cover for the chalice was stolen from St. Swithun's, Hinton. The burglar pushed the stave of the Vestry door and climbed through the opening into the vestry. A ciborium (a cup similar to a chalice) also went missing from St. Mary's, Bishopstone, probably on Thursday 13th. Shrivenham church was also targeted and items went missing<sup>21</sup>.

#### **A New Chalice for St Swithun's Church**

Following the theft of the church chalice from St Swithun's, Hinton Parva in November 2008, a new chalice was made especially for the church. This was dedicated by the Bishop of Swindon, Lee Rayfield, at the 10.30am service at Hinton on Sunday 18th April 2010<sup>22</sup>.



<sup>20</sup> "The Church Plate of Wilts", Nightingale, Published 1891

<sup>21</sup> Village Newsletter - December 2008

<sup>22</sup> Village Newsletter - April 2010

#### **d) Choir Stalls & Altar**



The choir stalls are made of oak and were given to the church about 1905. The Altar was given in 1892 in memory of the wife of the Rev R. E. Richards, Rector 1890-98. It has since been lengthened and raised. A red velvet frontal given together with a pair of fine old Italian candlesticks (not on display). The Altar rails made in 1861, were moved forward in 1963 to create a larger Sanctuary enabling the Altar to stand away from the east wall. The Priest could now celebrate the Communion facing the congregation and to give worshippers the feeling that they are gathered together round the Lord's Table<sup>23</sup>.

#### **e) The Royal Arms**

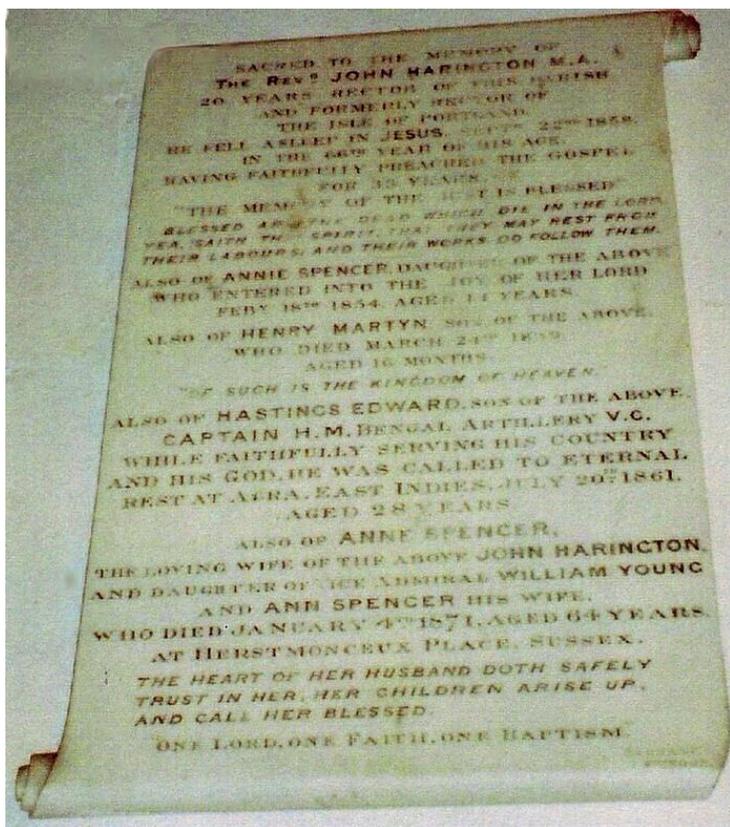
The Royal Arms dated 1789 placed over the tower arch on the west wall is said to commemorate George III's recovery from illness. However, Royal Arms were set up in churches from the time of Henry VIII's break with Rome and at the restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 it was compulsory to set up the arms of the reigning monarch, the custom finally dying out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>24</sup>.



<sup>23</sup> Rectors Book (handwritten) by Rev Cecil R.B. Dakeyne 1938

<sup>24</sup> A guide to the United Benefice of Lyddington and Wanborough and Bishopstone with Hinton Parva, Sylvia Chandler 2000

## f) Monuments



Very few memorial tablets can be seen on the walls of the church in comparison to those of its neighbours. On the south wall is the memorial to The Rev John Harrington M.A, Rector of this parish from 1839 to 1858. Commemorated with him on the tablet is his son, *Hastings Edward, Captain H.M. Bengal Artillery V.C. while faithfully serving his country and his God called to eternal rest at Agra, East Indies on July 20<sup>th</sup> 1861 aged 28 years.* During the whole of the period from 14<sup>th</sup> to 22 November 1857, at the Relief of Lucknow, India, Lieutenant Harrington acted with conspicuous gallantry, for his heroic actions he was

awarded the Victoria Cross<sup>25</sup>.

## Monuments and Gravestones

On the north wall is the tablet of Rev'd Henry Purrier A.M, Rector of this parish for many years who died on August 14<sup>th</sup> 1858 aged 67.

Also on the north wall in the Sanctuary is the tablet "*Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Kete, wife of William Kete, gentleman and daughter of Henry Shelley of Warminghurst in the county of Sussex Esquire who died the 4 of Maye Ao Do 1630.*" Elizabeth's gravestone is next to that of Sarah Wallrond under the altar. It simply states that she died in 1630.

The earliest monument in the church is the gravestone of William Watkins which records his death on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1610, on the right of the Altar. He was the Rector of the church from 1570 to 1610. It is interesting to note that the grave is aligned west-east rather than east-west as in usual with Christian burials. The reason for this is because it follows the custom of burying a priest so that on the day of judgement he will rise up to face his congregation.

A number of tombstone slabs have probably simply been used as church floor.

## Thomas Wallrond

The most notable is by the north door. It is of a Cromwellian soldier who fought and died still in the service of the Commonwealth - Thomas Wallrond.

The inscription on the stone reads:

<sup>25</sup> "The Register of the Victoria Cross" - This England, 1988

**HIC JACET SVB HOC TVMVLO. CORPVS THOMAE WALLROND FILII JOHANNIS . WALLROND GENEROSI FACITE SEPULTI.VIRI.RELIGIDSI ET PRUDENTIS.MILITIS IN OFFICIO ARMA MILITAE GENERTIS IN SERVITIO REIPUBLICAE. USQUE AD MOTEM. QUI DECESSIT HANC VITAM, OCTAVO.DIE JANUARIII ANNO DOMINI 1653**

Translation

HERE LIES BENEATH THIS TOMB THE BODY OF THOMAS WALLROND SON OF JOHN WALLROND OF NOBLE BIRTH SECRETLY BURIED PIOUS & A WISE SOLDIER IN HIS DUTY OF BEARING ARMS OF WAR IN THE SERVICE TO THE COMMONWEALTH UNTIL HIS DEATH HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE EIGHTH DAY OF JANUARY THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1653

How his body came to find rest in the church is perhaps sufficiently explained by the words “TACITE SEPULTI” (which probably actually means quietly buried, without pomp and ceremony) as he was a Wallrond. His sister-in-law is buried under altar<sup>26</sup>.

In the south wall, a vase has been placed below the engraved window by the great Laurence Whistler with the following inscription: “In loving memory of Michael and Judy Talbot Ponsonby *and their daughter* Katherine 1967 2010”.

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<sup>26</sup> Phillips & Boon

## g) Bier



For many years the bier was kept in the shed found at the north east corner of the cemetery. In August 1990 it was taken into the church. When people saw its condition, it was agreed that it was worth renovating. Doug Wilson formerly of Hanger Park House kindly undertook the work of restoring the bier, it was returned in March 1991.

Following the restoration its first use was at the funeral of John Goddard Adams, whose grandfather was churchwarden and a carpenter, who, it is believed helped to make the bier in the late 1800's<sup>27</sup>.

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<sup>27</sup> The Churchwarden's Record Book

## h) Windows

St Swithun's Church is very fortunate in having some wonderful stained glass windows. There are three windows by the firm of the greatest Victorian stained glass artist of them all – Charles Kempe.

### a) Window over the Altar

This stained glass window was erected in memory of Dorcas Perkins, wife of Rev Charles Perkins who was Rector between 1902 -1933.



Kempe was born in Sussex in 1837, and originally wanted to become a priest. However, he had a bad stammer which made that impossible, and so he turned to stained-glass decoration. In part he was inspired in this by seeing the artists William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones at work. He went on to found a studio which attracted many young and talented glass artists, and this firm continued his work after his death in 1907. What marks Kempe windows out is the quality of the drawing in the windows, especially the faces of the figures. Also the colours in the background scenery have particular depth and richness, and his figures are usually dressed in splendid robes, with pearls or other jewels in the borders. Two other features became Kempe hallmarks: his figures of angels have

wings apparently made of peacock feathers, and many of his windows show a little wheat sheaf, somewhere in the window<sup>28</sup>.

### b) Window in East end of the North Aisle

The second Kempe window shows portrait of St Swithun's and was erected in memory of Walter Hayes Pickering, son of Rev Richards a former rector of St Swithun's, who died in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War (Darndanells – Gallipoli 1915-1916).

### c) Window above 1<sup>st</sup> World War 1 Memorial

The third Kempe window shows the portrait of St George.

In the south wall is a lovely engraving in the window by the great Laurence Whistler, showing the village, church and the surrounding countryside from the downs above containing the words of a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins “Glory be to God for dappled things.....whose beauty is past change. Praise him GMH”. This was erected in memory of Judy Talbot-Ponsonby.

<sup>28</sup> Village Newsletter – February 2008 (Article by Rev Robin Cardwell)

## **i) Medieval Tiles**

During an architectural survey of the church it was discovered that at the east end of the south aisle an area of floor was paved with medieval terracotta encaustic tiles. These had been previously concealed by a wooden box pew until the war memorial was set-up. Lacking a coherent design the jumbled one hundred and thirty five whole and nine part tiles are clearly not in their original location, but are likely to have been removed during renovations from the chancel.

Following cleaning and despite the excessive wear on the tiles upper surfaces at least fourteen different patterns are wholly or partly evidenced, including plain white and brown. Some of the tiles, formerly glazed, were clearly meant to be laid together to form complete patterns grouped in squares of four, nine or sixteen. One partial tile was lifted to determine thickness and fabric. This showed that the 13cms square tiles have bevelled edges, are 2.7cms at the edge thickening to 3.2cms towards the centre. Patterns on the tiles were created by pressing a design into the wet clay of the formed tile, infilling the impression with slip, then applying a glaze to the upper surface prior to firing in a kiln. The tiles oxidised, fairly coarse, hard and sandy red fabric having abundant quartz grits and occasional ironstone pellet inclusions, and the designs impressed into them show that they are attributable to a late thirteenth century kiln group that has been given the name Wessex School. A kiln site producing tiles attributable to this group was evidenced at Clarendon Palace near Salisbury. Other tiles have been found largely clustered around Salisbury at Britford, Durnford, New Hall, Bodenham, Amesbury, Edington and Wilton<sup>29</sup>. The tiles at St Swithun's are consequently amongst the furthestmost of the School's recognised distribution area.

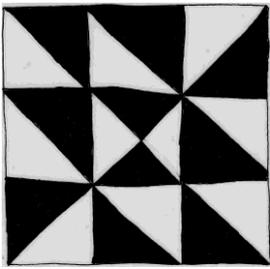
Amongst the most notable single pattern tiles present in the church are brown and white coloured designs of triangles, a shield and the 'green man'. The latter comprising a face with extended tongue, acorns and leaves, a design fairly common in churches either carved in wood or stone, is thought to depict in medieval art the devil and his entrapment of the unwary<sup>30</sup>. Interestingly there are late Victorian tiles in nearby Bishopstone church bearing this Wessex School design that must have copied from a medieval original.

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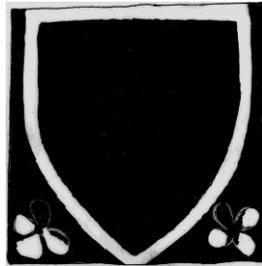
<sup>29</sup> Eames, E., 1991: Tiles in (edit) SAUNDERS, P. and E. *Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Medieval Catalogue Part 1*, p. 93-139, Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum

<sup>30</sup> Hayman, R, 2010: *The Green Man*, Shire Publications

A



B



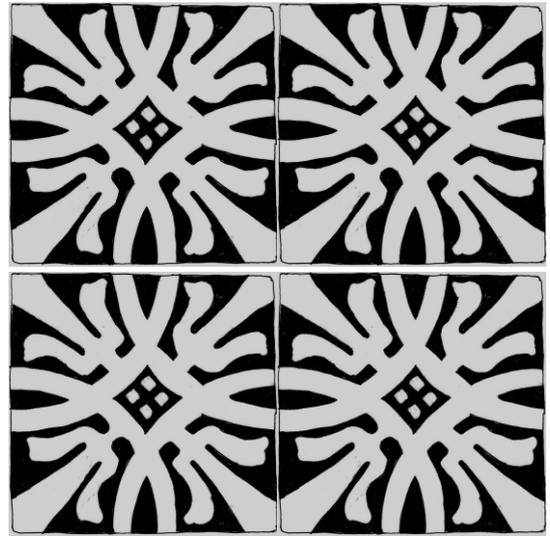
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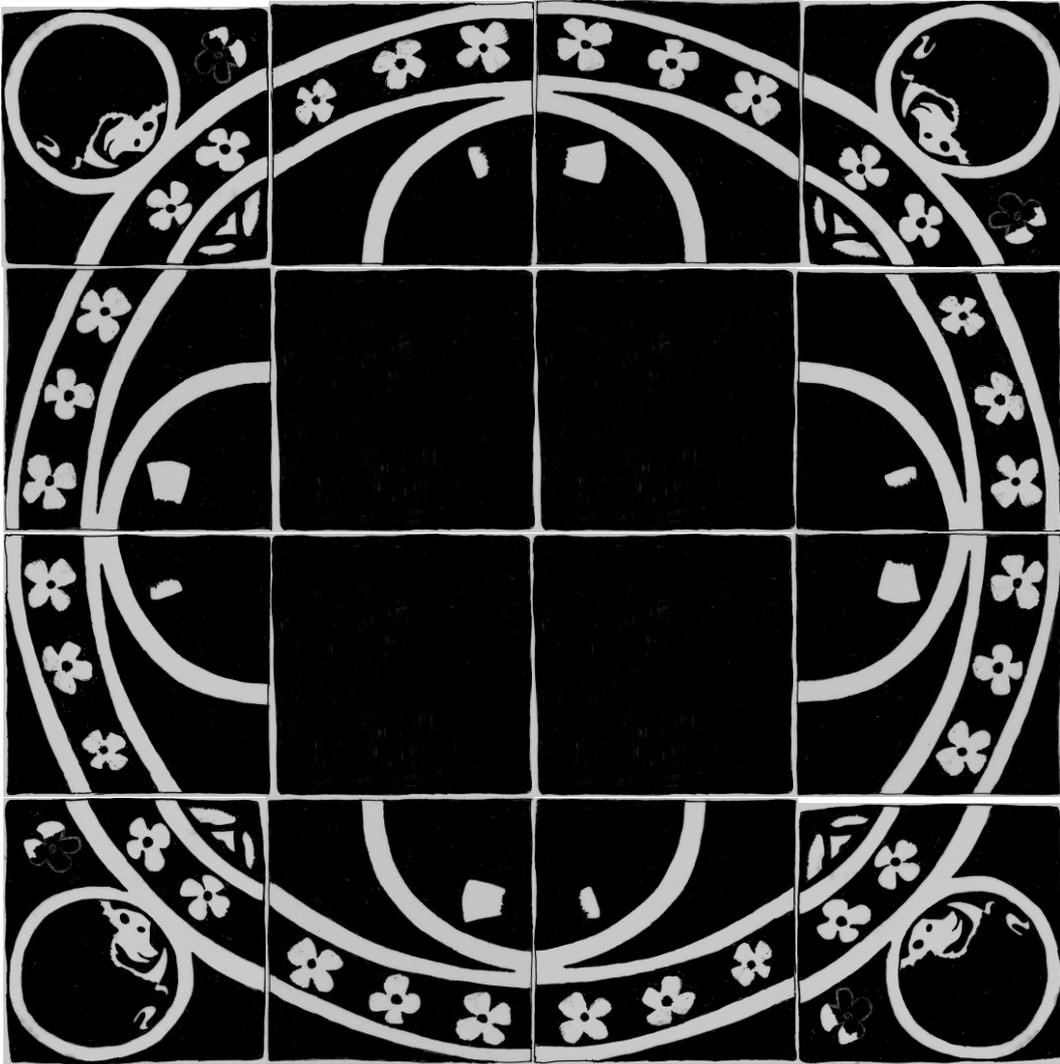
A - Geometric triangular design (St Swithun's), B - Shield and flower head design (St Swithun's), C - 'Green Man' (St Swithun's), D - 'Green Man' Wessex School tile (Salisbury Museum).



E - Four tile circular design depicting hybrid figures having human heads and bird bodies. The outer corners contain flower heads as does the interior (St Swithun's).

F - Single tile design comprising four small central white squares set within a reddish brown square within a white square from which radiate white curved, and three pronged arms. When incorporated with four or more tiles create interlocking circle and star shapes (St Swithun's).

G



G - Sixteen tile circular design comprising a large circular band inset with flower heads. Enclosed by the band are half circles containing a partial design perhaps a cross. Flanked with flower heads within the corner tiles are small circles that surround a griffon? The design of the central four tiles is unknown (St Swithun's).

## 4) BELLS



**Photographs of bells taken down in 1996 for restoration.**

In the tower hanging are three bells and a ting tang.

The oldest bell dates to around 1500 and was made at the Bristol Foundry. It bears the inscription “SANCTA  NARIA”. In NARIA the N is a mistake for M. The letters “S.A.T. & R” are inverted.

The next has the inscription "ROB COR MADE ME IN THE YEAR 1698". After "ME" are seven coins that date to the reign of Charles 11. It was made by the famous Cor family who had a foundry at nearby Aldbourne.

The next bell dates from around 1730, probably by Jon Cor at the Aldbourne Foundry, as shown by the mouldings.

The date of the “ting tang” is unknown. It is hung in the west window with a lever and double moulding round the bell shoulder<sup>31</sup>.

In 1996 the three bells were taken down and retuned. The old wooden beams were removed and replaced by new steel bearings. The bells placed into position and re-hung by Whites of Appleton costing £6,000. This was funded by the Saunders Bequest Fund<sup>32</sup>.

<sup>31</sup> Church Bells of Wiltshire, H.B. Walters 1929

<sup>32</sup> The Churchwarden's Record Book

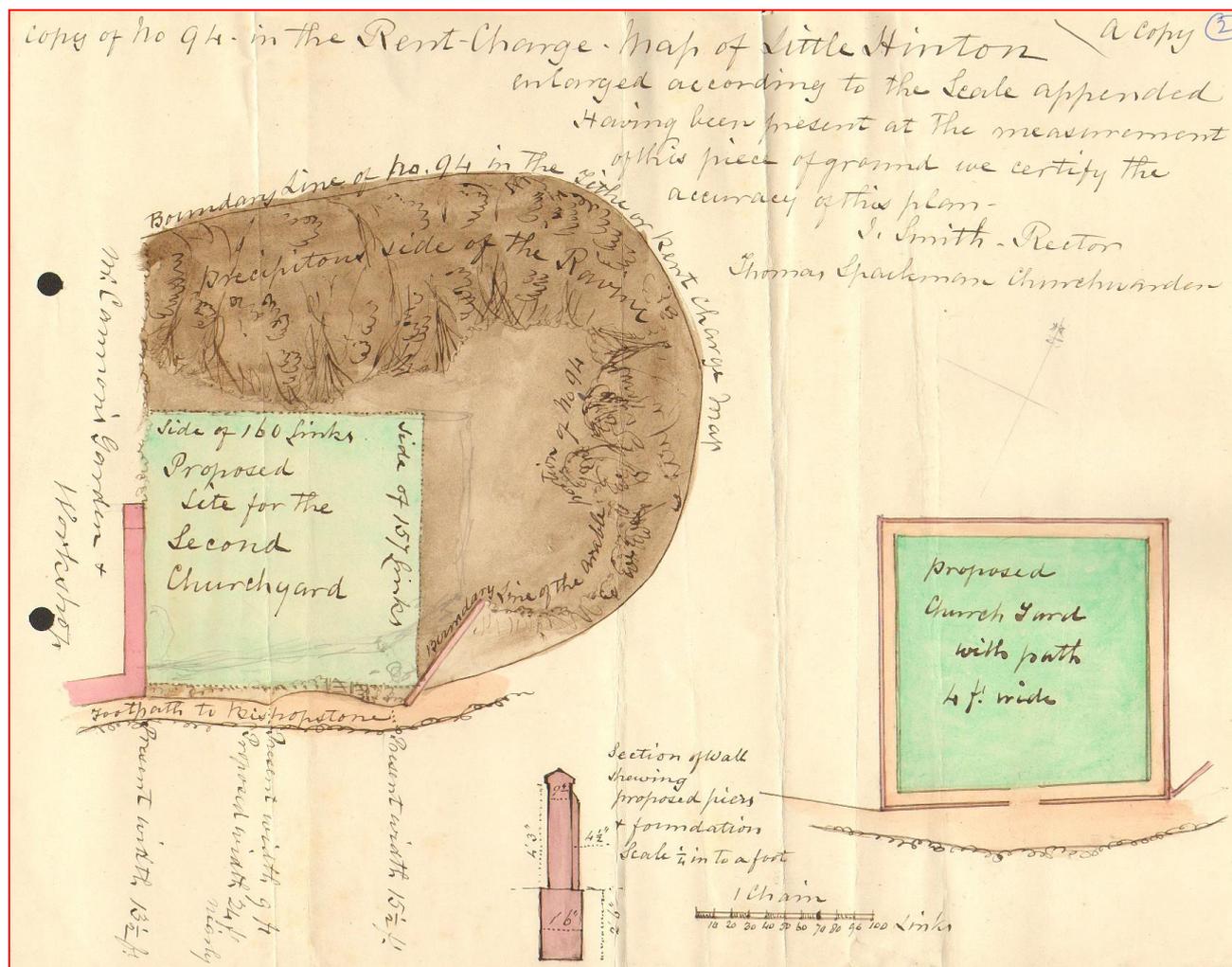
## 5) RECTORS

The record of the Rectors who served the Church goes back 700 years to 1301. In 2011 Robin Cardwell, the current Rector, also has the responsibility of serving the churches of Bishopstone, Lyddington and Wanborough. There have been a total of 56 known Rectors serving this parish church, caring for the people and providing spiritual worship. (There is a gap of 96 years between John Hyll becoming Rector and Thomas Geffries, which suggests that 2 or 3 Rectors were not recorded, records lost during the reformation, or was the church closed?)

1301: John de Bristoll	1309: John de Holegh
1311: William de Clatarina	1314: Adam de Penyton
1320: Richard Attemarsch de Parvastoke	1337: Jacob Coleman de Havonta
1340: John Towe	1346: Nicholas Mount
1361: Richard Tresham	1362: John de Nywenham
1365: Robert Wych	1397: William Rede
1399: John Morys	1399: William Norton
1400: William Loxele	1404: Andrew Chaloner
1422: John Shipton	1434: William Kyng
1457: Walter Dyer	1458: Gilbert Horcyll
1463: Edmund Dyver	1468: John Hyll
1564: Thomas Geffries	1565: Gervas Lynche
1570: William Watkins	1610: Melchizedek Frances
1635: Peter Nicholls	1660: Francis Crossins
1676: John Stubbs	1684: Thomas Coker
1741: Henry Cookson	1751: Nowes Lloyd
1789: George Willis	1789: John William Aubry
1807: Thomas Garmer	1808: Charles Abel Moysay
1811: Charles Burney	1811: Henry Purrier
1839: John Harrington	1859: John Smith
1889: George Clarke Keble	1890: Robert Edward Richards
1898: John Robert Mowbray	1902: Charles Edward Perkins
1933: Cecil R B Dakeyne	1947: Archibald Edward Hibberd
1951: Walter F Hatherly-Jones	1961: John Miskin Prior
1966: William Henry G Reed	1971: J H Philip Slade
1978: John T Walker	1984: Anthony Andrews
1988: Anthony Fensome	1994: Robert Sanday
2000: Robin Cardwell	

As recorded on boards in the church, on the west wall of the nave.

## 6) GRAVEYARD AND CEMETERY



### Plan of designated new cemetery c1875

Over the centuries many burials have taken place around the main graveyard of the Church. There are a number of 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> century headstones and tomb chests still surviving. A good mid 18<sup>th</sup> century example is found in the north west angle of the church containing scroll brackets in rebates, panels with carved drapery and oval panels with angel in the corners.

In 1874, a letter was written by the Rector to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners informing them that the churchyard was becoming overcrowded. During the course of discussions, the Vestry unanimously decided that the present churchyard should be closed against any further interments. The apportionment map considered, revealed that it was not possible to extend the present bounds of the graveyard. Actually the church commissioners wanted to knock down the rectory to extend the churchyard and build a new house for the rector on plot 94, but the Reverend Smith wrote a heart rending letter begging them not to knock down his home as he felt that he was too old for such an upheaval, also he stated that some parts of the house were less than 100 years old. This can be taken as proof that the rectory was not

newly built in 1810<sup>33</sup>.

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners deliberated over the issue and eventually agreed to give the land to the church. They were also prepared even to pay for its conveyance. The conveyance was completed in summer of 1876 and was officially consecrated for use on August 15<sup>th</sup> 1876<sup>34</sup>.

The first person to be buried in the new cemetery was Mary Cook on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1877. Up and until the end of 2011 there have been 316 burials carried out, including a number of plots containing cremated ashes of the deceased. In 2003 a section of the South wall and gate pillars were rebuilt, gates cleaned and re-hung. The cost for this was funded by the Sansum family in memory of Jane Sansum<sup>35</sup>.

The burials records are recorded by the Vicar into the Parish Register.

Records for Baptisms, Marriages and burials are recorded in three Registers and can be accessed at the following sources:

<u>Register</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Swindon Central Library</u>	<u>History Centre Chippenham</u>
<b><u>Bishops Transcripts</u></b>			
a) Baptisms	1605 – 1649		Yes
b) Marriages			
c) Burials	1605 – 1649		Yes
<b><u>Original Registers</u></b>			
a) Baptisms	1649 – 1945		Yes
b) Banns	1824 – 1961		Yes
c) Marriages	1654 – 1945		Yes
d) Burials	1649 – 1946		Yes
<b><u>Transcribed Records</u></b>			
a) Baptisms	1605 – 1837	Fiche/paper	Fiche/Paper
b) Marriages	1648 – 1840	Paper	Paper
c) Burials	1605 – 1837	Fiche/paper	Fiche/Paper

The Baptisms and Burials were transcribed by the Wiltshire Family History Society. The Marriages was transcribed by Mrs Barbara Carter.

Anyone who is interested in researching their family history and wishes to trace their ancestors who lived in the village of Little Hinton can contact the author who has full details of all records compiled to date. (A donation would be appreciated and passed to St Swithun's Church for its upkeep and maintenance).

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<sup>33</sup> Letters held in the Church Commissioners Archive, London

<sup>34</sup> Rectors Book (handwritten) by Rev Cecil R.B.Dakeyne 1938

<sup>35</sup> The Churchwarden's Record Books

## 7) THE RECTORY



A Rectory-house is mentioned in the late 17<sup>th</sup> & early 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1783 it was described as being thatched, built of partly Flemish (brickwork) and partly stone. It contained 13 rooms and cellars. To the north was a glebe of two acres<sup>36</sup>.

In 1810 the building was rebuilt. Some of the walls reveal evidence of wattle and daub, indicating that this may have been part of the original Rectory. It is difficult to establish how much of the building was rebuilt/extended by Richard Pace of Lechlade. Upon completion the building contained three sitting rooms, kitchen, scullery, china pantry, seven bedrooms, bathroom, lavatory upstairs, and lavatory in hall. Outbuildings included garage, stable, chicken house, loft above garage and stable, tool house and coal house, together with an orchard<sup>37</sup>. The double garage and playroom on the east is believed to have been the site of the old Church School. When Hinton and Bishopstone churches were united into one Benefice in 1940, the incumbent lived at Bishopstone. The Little Hinton Rectory now being of surplus requirements was then sold as a private dwelling.

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<sup>36</sup> VCH Volume X1 page 164

<sup>37</sup> Rectors Book (handwritten) by Rev Cecil R.B.Dakeyne 1938

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