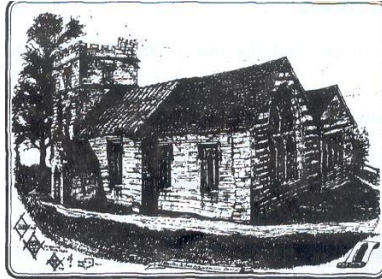


## A SHORT HISTORY OF IBBERON PARISH CHURCH



*(from an engraving dated 1867)*

### GENERAL

The main part of the Church is thought to have been built between 1380 and 1400, the North Aisle being added round the year 1500. The dedication of the Church to St. Eustace is very uncommon in England, there being, as far as it is known, only two other Churches dedicated to this Saint, one at Tavistock in Devon and the other at Hoo in Suffolk.

During the second half of the last Century the building fell into disrepair, the final collapse occurring in 1889 (see photograph on the pillar in North Aisle). In 1892 Mr George Loder of Okeford Fitzpaine was commissioned to construct a corrugated iron and timber building in the village for the use as a temporary Church, and services, including Baptisms, were held there from the spring of 1895 until the summer of 1909. Marriages, however, had to be solemnised in the Nave of the dilapidated Church!

The restoration of the old Church was started in 1902 under the direction of the Rev. L.S. Plowman (Rector from 1899 to 1927) and it was re-opened by the Bishop of Salisbury on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1909, the total cost of the work being in the region of £1,500. (The temporary Church is now used as a Village Hall.)

### CHANCEL

On either side of the Altar are stone slabs incised with the Ten Commandments which belong to the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. When the Church fell into a ruinous state, they were removed and fixed to the Tower walls for protection against the weather, and were not restored to their original position until 1970.

On the North and South walls there are memorial tablets to two brothers, Richard and Joseph D'aubeny, one Rector and the other a squire of the Parish. The D'aubenys were a notable family of both Dorset and Somerset, whose ancestors came over with William the Conqueror.

The Western most window of the South wall of the Chancel contains some 15<sup>th</sup> Century glass depicting the Arms of Milton Abbey.

#### NAVE

The pulpit, which was replaced at the time of the restoration, is made from wood of an ancient pulpit which once stood in a Norfolk Church, and in a window close by may be seen a list of the Rectors of the Parish dating back to 1320.

The Font is 15<sup>th</sup> Century and the quern standing at its foot was used as a font in the temporary Church.

Before the restoration there was a wooden gallery above the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century oak screen at the back of the Church.

#### NORTH AISLE

There are some fragments of Tudor stained glass in two of the windows, the easternmost one containing the Arms of Elizabeth 1.

The Royal Coat of Arms of George III painted on a shaped wooden panel by J.Cunningham can be seen on the West wall of the Aisle. This was presented by Squire, Joseph D'aubeny, but it was originally fixed at the head of the Tower Arch immediately above the old gallery.

The large earthenware pitcher, believed to be Verwood pottery, dates back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. At Christmas time the bell-ringers carried it around the local farms to be filled with cider, which was then consumed by them in the Belfry!

#### PORCH

On the floor are some very old tiles and the one nearest door on the West side is a Flemish tile of the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. It is one belonging to a set of four, the complete set bearing the following inscription:

Die tijit is cort,

Die doot is snel,

Wacht u va sonde,

Soe doedi wel.

Which being translated means:

The time is short,

Death is swift,

Guard against sin,

Then thou doest well.

Similar tiles can be seen in St. John's Chapel, Boxgrove Priory, Sussex. (According to Hutchins 'History of Dorset', second edition, there were also tiles in the North Aisle of the Church, but these have disappeared.)

## TOWER

In the Tower there are four bells dated 1641, 1656, 1799 and 1813 and they were cast by William Purdue, Thomas Purdue, Thomas Mears and James Wells respectively. In 1982 extensive repairs were carried out to the bells and their fittings by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The 1656 bell, being cracked, was re-cast and all four bells were then rehung for stationary chiming.

The clock is a First World War Memorial, the names of the fallen being on the plate in the Porch.

2000 To mark the Millennium, a new Notice Board, complete with plaque, was placed in the Porch. The cost was met by American descendants of the Aplin family who lived in the village several centuries ago.

2001 Four altar kneelers in the memory of the Revd. M.J. Pomeroy, who was Rector here from 1969-1990, were dedicated at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on 14 October, 2001. They were made by the Worcester Cathedral Embroiderers Guild