

CHAPTER 4: WADENHOE CHURCH

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AND
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Early history

The Church at Wadenhoe (*Fig. 1*) has a double dedication, to St Michael and All Angels (often the name given to churches situated on hilltops), and to St Giles. The name 'St Giles' was in use in the 16th century and also when the Church was re-opened after extensive restoration in 1901 by the Bishop of Peterborough. Two years before this, however, the Rector and Churchwardens had published a statement about the urgent need for repairs to 'St Michael and All Angels'. Kelly's Directory names only St Giles in its editions from 1910 up to 1940, when both names are listed. The actual date when St Michael and All Angels superseded St Giles is not known; the saintly banner in the Church is to St Giles.



The hill, in its incomparable situation overlooking the wide expanse of meadowland of the Nene Valley, has probably always been sacred, first as a pagan site, and then with an impermanent rudimentary church of Saxon origin. Pagan beliefs may have been more stubborn here than in other places in the region, Bronze and Iron Age tribes worshipping their nature/fertility deities and making sacrifices for the annual renewal of vegetation and the return of the sun.

Dowsing (*see Chapter 2*) is frequently practised in an attempt to unravel the fascinating secrets of prehistoric times, the rod or pendulum indicating to the initiated the form, and even date, of previous buildings or occupation of a site. In July 1995 a survey was made of the Church and its surroundings, with definite responses pointing to the existence of standing stones, more or less evenly spaced in a rough circle around the Church tower but not symmetrical to it (*Fig. 2*). Other standing stones leading down and away from the circle indicated a possible processional route, suggesting a very early use of the site, perhaps in the Bronze Age.

The original place of Saxon worship would have been a cross either of wood or stone, erected on the hill, and now long-since lost,

Fig. 1:
Wadenhoe Church: drawing
by Peter Tillemans (circa
1719)
*Reproduced by permission
of the Northamptonshire
Record Society.*

Fig. 2:

Plan of possible Anglo-Saxon and Norman churches indicated by dowsing, superimposed on the ground plan of the present Church

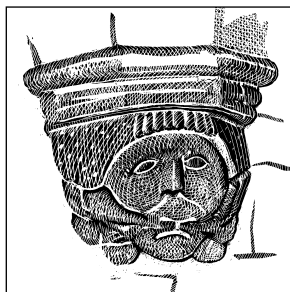
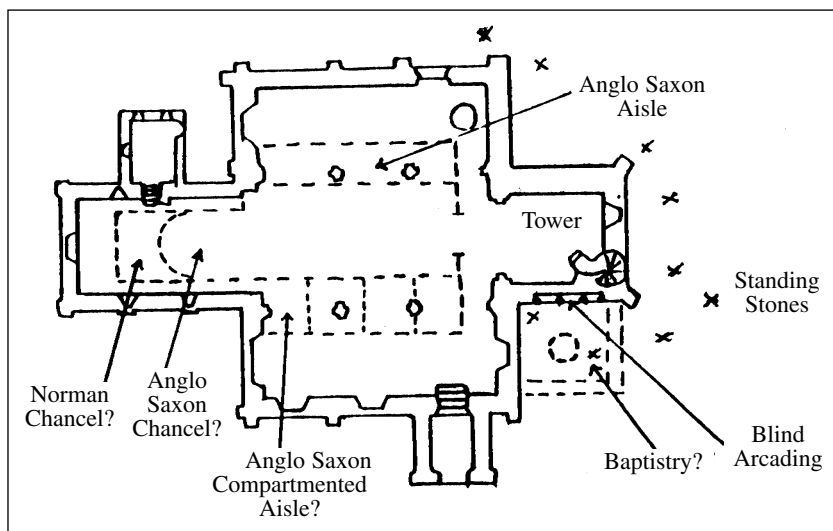
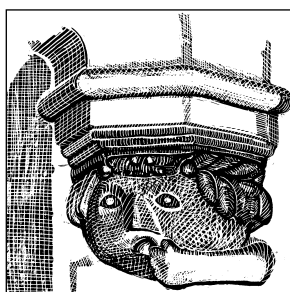


Fig. 3:

The Wadenhoe Green Men. Green Men can be found in many churches around Britain and Europe, and Northamptonshire has several fine examples. It may seem strange to find a figure with pagan origins in a church, but if we see 'him' as a symbol of vegetation renewal and human resurrection then it is not so surprising, since he would be acceptable to Christians and pagans alike¹



around which the service would have taken place. Then would have come a wooden building, and eventually, as wealth and benefactors became involved, a more permanent stone edifice. The only remnants of the stone Saxon Christian church, however, are two small arches (late 10th or early 11th century) in the vestry wall. The unusual 'saddleback' tower was added in the late 12th century. The rest of the church is mainly 13th and 14th century, with fertility symbols in the form of a 'Green Man' carved as corbels on either side of the chancel arch (Fig. 3). One is of the popular 'mouth foliage' type, and the other has a chaplet of laurel leaves on his head and a missing finger that originally touched his lips, as if asking for silence. Two other 'Green Men' were added to the white plaster-ribbed inner porch roof in the 19th century, in imitation of the medieval carvings, but for decorative purposes only.

The chancel and north aisle of the nave of the present church date mainly from 1250, and the south aisle of the nave from 1280 to 1290, the latter having a fine window from that period. The font, with its circular bowl inscribed with lunettes, dogtooth and masks, is also 13th century. The windows of the north aisle date from the 14th century, as does that in the north side of the tower. At the west end of the north aisle, beside the south door, is a stone bench, which was originally set aside for the sick, frail or elderly. Until the 16th century, when pews in the aisles were added, the ordinary villager would have had to stand during the service. The church with its open space would then have also acted as a meeting place - an early form of village hall for social functions. Its walls may have had brightly painted murals, adding a cheerful touch to the proceedings. Music would have been provided from the gallery which existed at the western end of the church, but which was removed during the restoration work at the start of the 20th century. Gertrude Ward Hunt, in her reminiscences of 'A Beautiful Corner of the Nene Valley'², recalls that it contained a barrel organ which she and the other village children enjoyed playing.

A dowsing survey in July 1991 looked particularly for evidence of an earlier church. The rods responded to the possibility of a baptistry abutting onto the blind arcading on the north side of the Tower, locating the walls and position of the font - which would explain the similarity in the carving on the blind arcading to that of the 13th century font. Inside the chancel, there was a strong reaction to indicate two earlier chancels, one rectangular, possibly Norman (12th century) and the other considerably shorter than the existing 13th century chancel, with an apsidal end, which could have been Anglo-Saxon. Other signs of this period were found in the nave, where narrower, compartmented aisles were traced on either side (*Fig. 2*).

Also from the medieval period, and easily overlooked, are seven 'scratch dials' on two of the buttresses of the south side of the church. This is an unusually large number (many churches have none at all), with four on the buttress to the right of the doorway (three on the lower portion, and one higher up), and three on the next buttress. Among these is an even more unusual form with an arc of holes in place of the usual grooves (*Fig. 4*). Sometimes known as 'mass dials', they were an early form of sundial which was used from the time of William I onwards, as a means of knowing mainly when it was midday, or the times of certain services. They originally had a 'gnomon' or arm whose shadow indicated the hour; the holes where these were placed can be seen on two of the dials.

The first-named Rector appeared in the 13th century: Henry de Vere, a subdeacon who was appointed in 1225 or 1226, with the reservation that 'he should attend the schools and learn'². He apparently did so as his appointment was confirmed in 1231. The list of all the incumbents from 1231 to the present day is given in Table 1. Amongst those of the 16th century was John Palgrave (1545-54), who was also tutor to Henry Fitzroy, the 'natural' son of Henry VIII. The Rev. Brooke Nathaniel Bridges succeeded his father as Rector in 1748 and appointed the Rev. William Jones as Curate in 1754. William Jones was born at Lowick, a few miles away, on 30 July 1726, and on 1 March 1753 had married Anne, the younger of Brooke Bridges' sisters. Known as 'Jones of Nayland', he was to become a celebrated theologian, a well-known composer, and a Fellow of the Royal Society. It was at Wadenhoe that he wrote his most famous work, *The Catholic doctrine of the Trinity*. His *Essay on the first principles of natural philosophy* was published six years later, in 1762³. Like Jones, Samuel Parr (1747-1825) has earned himself a niche in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. He was one of the leading Latin scholars of his day and a prolific writer. After his death his works were collected in eight volumes. Though rector of Wadenhoe, he resided at Hatton in Warwickshire.

In 1559, the first parish registers for the village came into being, following the directive of Thomas Cromwell, minister to Henry VIII, who in 1538 ordered English churches to record all births, marriages and deaths in their parish. Initially entered on loose sheets of paper, they were from 1598 kept in book form. The first volumes of records of births, deaths and marriages are stored on microfiche in the

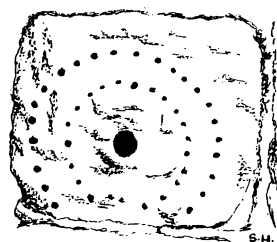


Fig. 4:
One of the scratch dials on Wadenhoe Church. The purpose of scratch dials has been much discussed. They were used by the priest to time the Mass, to measure, by a movement of the shadow cast by a stick inserted (as a kind of gnomon) in the hole in the centre. The angles are multiples of 15 degrees, the dial being divided into 24 parts. It has been suggested that the masons used them to set their sliding bevels, or to form gauges for the angles at which to cut their stones

Northamptonshire Record Office (334p 1-5). Those still kept in the Parish cover the period from October 1961 (Baptisms), March 1837 (Marriages) and February 1812 (Burials).

Table 1:
List of Incumbents
of Wadenhoe Church

Henry de Vere 1231	Will. Wynnynton 1487
Ricard	Laurent Bowyer 1535
Nic de St Albans 1243	Joh. Palgrave 1545
Roger de Ochestre 1261	Ric. Pulchers 1554
Eudo de Beltesford 1273	Galfridus Parishe 1559
Will de Eure 1303	Thomas Francis 1588
Thos. de Ancastre 1307	Thomas Beersley MA 1610
Peter de Kirkby 1309	Robert Rudd 1641
Nic. Goband 1344	Henry Spencer 1670
Tho. de Kele 1345	Nathaniel Bridges MA 1714
Hugh de Trowell 1348	Brooke Bridges 1719
Tho. West of Multon 1352	William Trevor 1747
Nic. Crake de Irthlingburgh 1355	Brooke Bridges MA 1748
Hugo de Wollaton 1379	Nathaniel Bridges BD,DD 1783
Ebulo le Straunge 1394	Samuel Parr LL.D 1792
Rog. Spencer 1395	Robert Roberts DD 1825
Joh. Kynaston 1398	Oliver Sumner 1891
Wmn. Rob. Trays	John Edward Newby 1894
Joh Browne 1401	Basil Hulse Dawson MA 1931
Will Kelsey 1403	William Stanley Shire MA 1967
Thos. Sprynghthorp 1421	James Arthur Roberts BSc 1982
Nigel Bondby	Judith Anne Rose PhD 1994
Thos. Sparrow 1452	
John Hylde 1470	<i>Copied from handwritten list in</i>
Tho. Darleton 1473	<i>Wadenhoe Parish Records,</i>
	<i>source not identified.</i>

The Church fabric

The first restoration work carried out on the Church and bequests recorded⁴ concern:

ST GILES. ‘Towards the payntyng of Sent Gyls iijs, iiijd’: Edward Sanderson, 1519 (A.378). ‘To be buried in the churchyarde ageynst [Sent] Giles’: John Goodrich, c.1525 (A.233)

ST MARGARET. ‘Towards the payntyng of Seynt Margaret’: E. Sanderson, 1519

NEW LIGHT. ‘To the new lighte yt is begon ij poundes wax for ij taburs to be made withall’: J. Abron, 1526 (c.93)

ROOD. ‘To be buried in the church afore the rode in Wadenho’: J. Abron, 1526

SEPULCHRE. ‘To the lighte off the sepulchre ij strykes of barley’: John Goodrich, c.1525. ‘I bequeth to the mending of the sepulchre & the light there xxd’: J. Abron, 1526

TORCHES. ‘ To the torches a strike of barley’: E. Harreson, 1525 (A.414)

VESTMENTS AND PLATE. ‘To the church behove a flaxen towell of iij yerds long’: E. Harreson, 1525. ‘To ye making of the pyxe hangyng over the hyghe [altar]...’: Lawrence Bower, ‘parson of Wadynhow’, 1545 (u.45)

REPAIR. ‘Toward the reparacon of the leds iijs, iiijd’ J. Abron, 1526.

BEQUEST TO RECTOR. ‘I bequethe to mayster parson xs. towards the reparacon of the hye chancell that he may pay for me & my chylderns forgettyn offeryngs & tythes’: E. Sanderson, 1519.

Three hundred years later, we have another list of ‘Expenses of Repairs done to the Parish Church of Wadenhoe in the year 1844’⁵:

Paid John Eaton of Titchmarsh as to Bill for New Roofing the Nave and side Aisles of the Church - Plastering and Stuccoing the Walls, New Roofing and Groin Ceiling New Doors and Gate to the Porch Entrance Also new stone work to the Windows etc. **£485. 5. 3**

Paid M. Marshall as for Agreement to the New Windows **£35. 0. 0**

Paid Mr Bunning as to Bill for Painting and Varnishing the Pew Seats and Roof of the Church **£32. 8. 0**

Paid for Stone Paving to the Church Door and Expenses to Peterborough **£3. 3. 9**

Total £528.17. 0

Within 50 or so years, the Church was in desperate need of repair, and an appeal was launched in May 1899⁶:

The Restoration of this ancient Village Church is a matter which calls for immediate attention. Its condition is both dangerous and unseemly, and every item of the proposed repairs is absolutely necessary. The following details present a summary of the Architect’s Report (*Mr Talbot Brown, of Wellingborough*), and their immediate execution has the warmest support of the Rural Dean:-

“The Tower is unfortunately in a serious condition from fractures and settlements of walls, owing no doubt, to inadequate foundations. [Gertude Ward Hunt² considered the subsidence was caused by an earthquake.] Parts will have to be underpinned and others rebuilt, in conformity with the existing work; the present form of saddleback roof to Tower will be retained. The surface drainage round the Church will be continued on the South side to protect foundations from water. Inside the Church it is proposed to open out the tower arch and take away gallery, insert new tracing in windows, provide new oak seats in Nave and Aisles, utilizing the present old Bench ends, as far as possible, lower the pulpit, build a New Vestry on South side of Chancel, insert new windows in Chancel, cover the ceiling with oak boarding divided into panels by oak ribs, and provide oak fittings for Choir, etc. I estimate the cost of the work to be £1,350.”

W. TALBOT BROWN,
Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects

The Population (180) of Wadenhoe is purely agricultural, and consists of only very poor people. Without outside help the requisite repairs cannot be carried out, on which account we venture earnestly to appeal to you for help.

A Committee, consisting of the following:- The Rector and Churchwardens, The Lord Lilford and R.M. Garnier, Esq., has been formed for the purpose of carrying out the complete Restoration of the Church.

The work will commence as soon as the requisite funds are forthcoming.

Donations will be thankfully received by the Rector and Churchwardens; or they may be paid to the Wadenhoe Church Restoration Account, at the Stamford and Spalding Bank, Oundle.

J.E. NEWBY, *Rector* J.G. HULL, E.A. CARTER *Churchwardens*

Subscriptions already promised amount to £500.

The Bishop of Peterborough, in writing to the Rector, says:- “I heartily wish success to your endeavour. I fully approve of the plans drawn up by your Architect, and I hope your appeal will be successful.”

Archdeacon Lightfoot remarks:- “I gladly support your effort to restore the Parish Church of Wadenhoe, a place closely connected with the history of several County families.”

Lord Lilford writes as follows:- “I wish you all success in the excellent work on which you are engaged at Wadenhoe.”

Sir William Hyde Parker, (one of the Trustees of the Wadenhoe Estate), in speaking of the Restoration, says:- “There are few Churches left anywhere needing restoration so much as Wadenhoe Church. The Tower, I fear, is positively unsafe.”

The appeal was evidently successful, raising £1065.2.6 from 109 separate subscriptions, including £600.0.0 from ‘some members of the Hunt Family, through the Trustees of George Ward Hunt, Esq.’, and specific donations from individuals for Lectern and Stool (Miss Brittle, the school teacher), Surplices, Dossal, Sanctuary Carpet, Bible, Vases and Prayer Book, and as much as £1.0.0 from some of the villagers and 2s.6 from a “Well-wisher”. In addition the village held two Sales and four Concerts. In total £1259.0.1 was raised, meeting all but £123.17.3 which had to be borrowed from the Stamford and Spalding Bank. October 11th 1901 must have been a very proud day when the Church was re-opened (still as St Giles) by the Lord Bishop of Peterborough, The Right Rev. E. Carr Glyn.

The Church memorials

The Church has two memorials from the 17th century: a wooden wall monument from 1686, in remarkably good condition, to two churchwardens, ‘John Waver and John Peirc’ (*sic*) (*Fig. 5*); and in the floor of the nave a brass plate to a prosperous villager, John Andrewe, who died in 1629:



Fig. 5:
Church Wardens’
wooden wall monument,
1686

Here lieth the bodie of Iohn Andrewe who had issue by
Lucie his wife three daughters viz Lucie, Elizabeth &
Marie. He departed this life ye 29th day of March 1629 and
in ye threescore & third yeare of his age for whose
remembrance his said loving wife caused this memoriall

Here restes the ashes of ann humble sperrit
Who while he liv’d these graces did inherit
A pious fervant zeal to serve the Lord
A concious care with man to keepe his word
A christian love to all that dwelt him ney
And redie still to helpe the poore and needy
These lines men knowe doe truly of him story
Whome God hath call’d & seated now in glory.

In the mid-17th century and early 18th, the exterior archway of the south door was engraved with graffiti and the dates and initials of these are still visible, together with crosses from an earlier time.

In the 18th century, an oak pulpit was installed, and silver plate was given to the Church including a Parisian dish from 1726, inscribed to the Rector of the Church, Nathaniel Bridges, 1747; a cup and cover

paten from 1755; and a flagon dating 1776. In the chancel is a wall monument to Brooke Bridges, who died in 1702, and another which depicts weeping cherubs, to Joan Bridges Gonersh, d.1792. In the Tower is a hatchment depicting the Royal Coat of Arms of George III, with an additional 'I' added around 1820, when George IV came to the throne.

Among the wall plaques is a brass memorial on the wall of the aisle close to the entrance, to Thomas and Caroline Welch-Hunt, described in detail in Chapter 6. Other later memorials in the Church include a wall monument in the south aisle to Mary Caroline Hunt, Lady of the Manor, who founded the village school in 1839 (*Chapter 5*), and who contributed to the repair of the Church in 1844. Nearby is a brass plate to 'Miss Brittle', headmistress of the school for almost 40 years (1873-1912). Other brasses are in memory of Admiral Sir Michael Culme-Seymour and his wife, who rented Wadenhoe House in the early part of the century and were much loved and respected for all they did in the village. The East window is also in memory of Lady Culme-Seymour. In the north aisle can be seen a stained glass window to the distinguished George Ward Hunt, who spent a period of time at the Treasury and became Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1868, and First Lord of the Admiralty in 1874 (*Chapter 6*). Some of the gold braid from the robes he wore as Chancellor was used by his sisters in the making of the present Altar Frontals. The narrow chancel windows have stained glass through the benefaction of Miss Brittle, whose face is portrayed in one of them as St Anne (*Fig. 6*). Outside, in the wall of the 'modern' vestry, is a large niche which would have contained a statue, possibly that of St Giles.

The 1970s and 1980s saw several changes in the interior fittings of the Church. An oak altar rail was installed in 1978, and a glazed screen to partition off the bell tower in 1985. The fine old 'Slow but Sure' tortoise heater was sadly sold in 1986. Even sadder were thefts on several occasions of valuable and treasured items, including silver chalices, brass candlesticks, a music cabinet, the old chancel oil lamps, the Bishop's chair, side altar, a table in memory of George Moisey, a valued Church Warden and Secretary/Treasurer for 30 years from the 1950s, and two ancient oakwood forms from the rear of the Church - as well as a safe and money from the donation box.

In the village, two seats have been presented in memory of villagers. One, together with a willow tree, is sited on the Recreation Hall riverside, for Michael Reynolds, magistrate and village resident from 1968 to his death in 1984. The other commemorates Alec Setchfield (*see Chapter 8*), on the Church path in view of the spot where his boat was moored. An expression of how much ex-villagers and their families and friends love visiting Wadenhoe can be seen in the seat just before the last steep part of the hill up to the Church in memory of Mr and Mrs W. H. Tite and family 'in appreciation of the enjoyable days spent at Wadenhoe'.

A Memorial Spinney has also been established, where families and friends can plant a tree in memory of late villagers. By 1998 trees had been planted in memory of Victor and Winifred Waldron, Bob

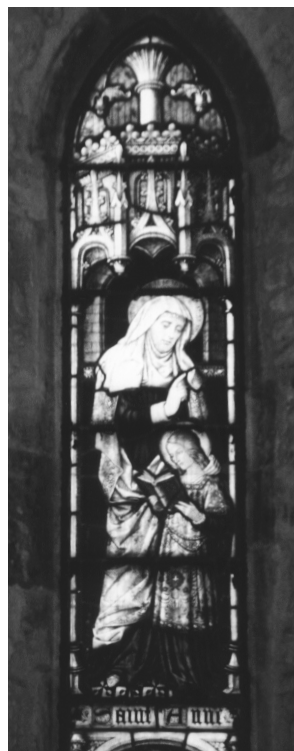


Fig. 6:
Stained glass window in
the chancel to St Anne

Attewell, Ernest and Louie Briggs, Ted and Annie Briggs, and Janet Hewitt. The guidelines for the Spinney are given in Table 2.

Table 2:
Wadenhoe
Memorial Spinney Rules

Committee

Landowner, Estate Manager, Tree and Footpath Wardens

Site

As marked in green on the plan. Between the Church car park and ash tree to the Southwest at the end of the redundant hedgeline, and the escarpment facing the river.

Memorial Plaques

7.5 ins by 4.5 ins in brass with four screw holes in the corners secured to the Church wall at the special position provided. Wording - donor's choice, but approved by the Committee. Donor's cost. A map identifying the trees is kept in the Church Porch.

Trees

A mixed spinney of appropriate native trees. Donor's choice, but approved by the Committee. Recommended trees: oak, beech, lime, field maple, hornbeam, cherry (only *Prunus avium*), holly, alder (only *Alnus glutinosus*), birch, goat willow, wych elm, wild service tree, whitebeam. Suitable position approved by the committee. Donor's cost.

Tree Maintenance

Maintained by the donor and his or her successor. Special care needs to be taken in the first three years.

Tree Protection

Landlord to supply suitable crib material and rabbit guards. Donor to erect crib to Landlord's design. All at Donor's cost.

Who Qualifies?

Deceased persons with several years' residency in Wadenhoe.

Records

A master book is kept in the Estate Office, recording the name of the deceased, the tree, the donor, when planted, its position in the spinney and details of the deceased (name, dates of birth and death, dates lived in the village, etc.).

The Bells

The peal of six bells dates from 1937. Before this the Church had three bells (*Fig. 7*), the earliest two dating from 1603 (now the Fourth, struck by Tobie Norris of Stamford) and 1607 (the present Tenor). This has the inscription: 'ANNO DOMINE 1607 ET - GOD SAVE THIS CHURCH'. The other bell - now the Fifth - was the oldest (from the medieval period), with lettering of an earlier type than the Fourth and Tenor but with no date. The Fourth and Fifth bells were recast in 1937 by John Taylor and Company of Loughborough, and the Treble and Second and Third added (*Fig. 8*). In the process of recasting, the old bells were entirely melted down and the metal repoured but the inscriptions were reproduced in facsimile: Fourth - MVLTI VOCATI

PAVCI ELECTI ROBERTVS ASHLE THOMAS GIBBLE 1603', with ornamentation between the words; Fifth - AVE : MARIA : GRACIA : PLENA : DOMINUSTECWM :'. The total cost of installation was £467.10.0, raised by local subscription.



Fig. 7:
The three original bells,
ready to be taken for
recasting, 1937



Fig. 8:
The new bells arriving at
Wadenhoe Church, 1937

Treble	3 cwt	3-3
Two	4 cwt	1-8
Three	5 cwt	0-15
Four	6 cwt	0-14
Five	6 cwt	2-21
Tenor (G)	7 cwt	1-6

Table 3:
Chart of bell weights
(above) and belfry rules
displayed in Wadenhoe
Church, dated 1937
(below left)

BELFRY RULES

1. All Ringers shall be members of the Church of England; and no member shall be admitted without his name being submitted to the Rector and approved by him.
2. No member shall be admitted unless (s)he undertakes to be instructed in Change Ringing.
3. The Bells are under the sole control of the Rector, and cannot be rung without his permission.
4. The Captain shall be responsible for giving instructions; for the reverent conduct of the Ringers, and for the observance of its Rules. In his absence the Vice-Captain shall act.
5. The Captain shall see that the Bells are oiled..., and shall report at once to the Rector and Church Wardens any defect or repair necessary.
6. There shall be no practice of the Bells, unless the Captain or Vice-Captain are present.
7. It is the duty of the Ringers to ring a Peal every Sunday, and also before the early Communion on Christmas Day, Easter Day and Whitsunday, and one bell shall be tolled three minutes before Service.
8. Members introducing friends shall be responsible for their reverent conduct and observance of these rules.
9. The Captain shall be appointed by the Rector, and the Vice-Captain by the members.
10. A charge of Two Guineas will be made for ringing at Marriages and other special occasions.

B.H. DAWSON *Rector*
J. LANGLEY and R. CHILDS *Churchwardens*

The bells are some of the lightest in the area (Table 3), and a pleasure to ring. They were dedicated in a special service in 1937 by the Bishop of Peterborough, Dr C. Blagden.

A large congregation included Aldwincle Church members and Choristers, who had held their evensong earlier than usual in order to be able to attend, the local Girl Guides, and a representative of the foundry. Special collects were read by the Rector, for the ringers and worshippers, for the sick, and 'for those who absent themselves'. After the dedication, the local band of ringers (Sidney Smith (Captain), Arthur Briggs, Edward Briggs, William Briggs, Ernest and Harry Spencer, Arthur March and Robert Whiteroe) (*Fig. 9*) rang several 'touches', after which the Thrapston District Officers of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers rang Plain Bob Minor. Other ringers from as far away as Berkshire, Bedfordshire and Coventry followed.

Fig. 9:
Photograph of bellringers,
1937, prior to the dedication
service for the new bells
(Photo: Peterborough
Advertiser)



The sound of the bells floating over the village, sometimes loud, sometimes faint, depending on the way of the wind, is one of the most evocative of this fine example of middle England countryside - a breathtaking surprise to those on their first encounter with Wadenhoe. The bells are still rung regularly, the intricacies of ringing techniques and 'Method' having been passed down during this century by Tower Captains Sidney Smith, Ted Briggs, Dick Edwards, and Les Witten. Dick successfully led his team to win the Laxton Trophy in the Thrapston Guild of Bellringers' striking competition in 1985. The Captain in the 1990s (up to 1997) is a young man, Steven Harrell, whose easy style belies the difficulties which beginners have to face. It is a skill best learned young! Visiting teams come regularly, and full peals, lasting two hours and more, are not infrequent. One was rung in memory of the late Squire, George Ward Hunt, on 3 December 1993, with a plaque erected in the belltower. Bellringing was one of George's delights, and it was he who aroused renewed interest in ringing on his return to the village on retirement in the late 1960s, when the arthritic bones of older members of the team were forcing them gradually to stand their bells for the last time.

George Ward Hunt's love of church music has been of great benefit to Wadenhoe. We have come a long way since the early memories of his Great Aunt Gertrude, who remembered a barrel organ in the gallery, to the new Wyvern 'York' DS40 organ which George installed in March 1985 to replace the Wyvern 'Chaconne' organ which had become technically obsolete. The DS40 is voiced to give near perfect simulation of a good British pipe organ. It has a traditional drawstop console with two manuals and a 32-note concave and radiating pedal-board and a total of 38 speaking stops. George delighted in playing this organ, as he did the previous one, at nearly every Church service, wedding and funeral, from its installation until a few days before his death in November 1993. In addition to playing himself, he was happy to give lessons to encourage others in order to ensure continuity in the future.

The organ

After its restoration in 1901, the historical record shows that the Church was the pivot of village life, and very fortunate in its choice of Rectors.

The Church in the 20th century

The Rev. John Newby, the incumbent from 1894 to 1931, and his wife lived at Pilton Rectory. In 1923 the Benefices of Pilton and Wadenhoe were 'permanently united together to form one Benefice with cure of souls under the style of "The United Benefice of Pilton with Wadenhoe" but the Parishes of the said Benefices shall continue distinct in all respects'⁷. The 'right of presentation' (selection of future incumbents) was to be exercised alternately by the respective patrons, with Pilton being first.

The Rev. Newby was a large man - 6ft 4in - and would ride over to Wadenhoe for the 8.15 Morning Service on an enormous double-framed bicycle, services being held alternately at Pilton and Wadenhoe. If not on his bicycle, he came on horseback, or with Mrs Newby in a little horse and trap. He called at Wadenhoe School every Friday afternoon (with a large bag of sweets) to take the class, and at Christmas gave each of the children a book. Mrs Newby was captivated by Wadenhoe - Wadenhoe took my heart by storm many, many years ago...² - and she communicated its charm in several witty articles in the *Northampton County Magazine* (see *Chapters 1 and 5*).

The Rev. Basil Dawson followed the Rev. Newby, and was equally popular. In addition to Pilton and Wadenhoe, he was Priest-in-Charge of Clopton. It was his enthusiasm which resulted in the new peal of six bells in 1937. Unlike today, when many Church activities are centred on Wadenhoe because of its larger population and village hall amenity, at this time the annual fetes were always held at Pilton. A ladies' working party met at the Rectory in the summer, sewing articles while one of the party read aloud and pre-school-age children were entertained in the kitchen. On the day of the fete the ladies arrived at the Rectory at 8 a.m. to cut sandwiches, each flavour being piled into a separate laundry basket. There was always jelly and sponge cake with pink icing. The youngest child presented the lady who opened the fete with a bouquet. The Rector also gave the children a Christmas party every year, with prizes for the Sunday School members.

A young girl who spent the Second World War years in Wadenhoe, then Irene Keen, writes: 'The ladies in the community were all active, especially in the Church. There was cleaning to be done on Saturday (on a rota system), the flowers to be provided and arranged (from gardens of course) and on no account were us children allowed even to touch the bell ropes 'under any circumstances'. Church bells were to be rung in the event of invasion but I had no idea of what 'invasion' meant, so thought those ropes were very tempting! Each family had its allotted pew and we always sat in the Morehens'. The Rev. Dawson was the Rector and his wife (*Fig. 10*), as far as we children were concerned, was the choir. She had a booming contralto voice, the strength of which was not matched by any other choir member. We attended the Churches in rotation. So sometimes you had just a short walk from the Green down the hill, then through the gate up the hill to Wadenhoe Church, other times we went to the other villages on bicycles or on foot, depending on the time of year and the weather. We were regular attenders on this 'round of Churches'.'

Mr Dawson put on a play - often with a Missionary flavour - every year in the village hall, film shows in the Rectory garage, and also published a monthly Parish Magazine. Church life was obviously well organised. Electric heating was installed in 1965, at a cost of £268.17.6d. The cleaning and flower rota were published in the Magazine, as were the Psalms and Hymns for the month. The back page was taken up by commercial advertisements, a practice resumed in the 1990s! Both the Newbys and the Dawsons showed themselves to be kindly, generous Rectors, dispensing food to the sick and generally concerned about the wellbeing of their parishioners. Two of the pillars of the Church were Doris and Arthur Chapman. Arthur played the organ, one of his favourite pieces being 'Glow Little Glow-worm Glitter'. Doris rang the bells, sang in the choir, and was a key figure in the Girl Guide movement (*Chapter 7*).

Fig. 10:
The Rev. Basil and
Mrs Dawson



Following the retirement of the Rev. Dawson in 1966, the Rev. W.S. Shire was invited by Wadenhoe's patron to be Rector. Clopton was still included in the Benefice and Mr Shire felt that Wadenhoe, Pilton and Stoke Doyle, which was in the charge of Benefield, would be a more viable unit geographically. Thus, on 3 March 1967 the

service for the 'Institution and Induction to the Incumbency of Pilton with Wadenhoe and Stoke Doyle' was scheduled to take place in Wadenhoe Church by the Lord Bishop of Peterborough, Rt Rev. Cyril Easthaugh. The footpath from the old village hall up the hill was lit for the occasion by Stanley Knight of Seven Wells Farm, Stoke Doyle, by a whole series of hurricane lamps, and looked quite spectacular - and very useful in the darkness. Choice of a Rectory for Mr and Mrs Shire and their young daughters was influenced by the cost of living. The magnificent Pilton Rectory was too large and uneconomic in a decade when clergy stipends were at best very meagre. The Shires therefore moved first into the Rectory at Stoke Doyle and in 1970, when Aldwincle and Thorpe Achurch joined the United Benefice, to Aldwincle.

Pilton Rectory was witness to a strange occurrence shortly after Mr Shire's arrival in the Benefice. The local police arrived on his doorstep to report that a skeleton had been found beneath large flagstones in Pilton Rectory during extensive renovation. Forensic scientists arrived from London, pictures appeared in the press and there was a general hue and cry. The Tresham family, who had renounced Protestantism, had once owned Pilton and it was thought that this skeleton may have been some Roman Catholic priest or monk hidden away to avoid persecution.

The enlargement of the United Benefice resulted in a busy life for Mr Shire, the first incumbent in the Diocese to take charge of as many as five parishes. With the help of a Diocesan Reader, Major R.F. Sykes, he managed to maintain a regular pattern of Sunday services in each church. Mrs Shire started the popular Ladies Fellowship when there were still only three parishes, with Heather Reynolds the first Secretary. The ladies proved invaluable in all sorts of Church activities, both sacred and secular. Each year the Fellowship invited disabled children from several homes or hostels to a party, usually held in Wadenhoe Recreation Hall, and the group is still lively today, 30 years on.

Church fetes continued to be a regular feature of the 1970s and 1980s, sometimes combining with Pilton. Sewing parties, as in the previous decades, were held, but instead of in Pilton Rectory the ten or so ladies met at Mrs Louie Briggs' cottage on the Green (No. 7). They included Mrs Attewell, Mrs Linnell, very adept at knitting even in late old age, Mrs Stafford and Mrs Whitehead, and in the mid-1970s one or two of the residents from the new houses. (The home-knitting tradition is still carried on to this day with children's knitted jumpers made by Marjorie Hagger (née Briggs) for sale on the Cream Teas 'bric-a-brac' stall.)

Harvest festivals are also popular village affairs, many people contributing pumpkins, seemingly hundredweights of apples and other fruit, burnished onions, mounds of potatoes, prize marrows, home-made jams, wine and fruit juices, and, of course, the great sheaf of corn. After the well-attended Evensong, many hands lighten the task of transporting the produce down to the village hall. There follows the traditional Harvest Supper and a lively auction at which for years Paul

Bancroft, a 1970s villager and the Church architectural adviser, has used his not inconsiderable powers of persuasion to cajole the tolerant villagers into buying the produce at Harrods' prices, resulting in a handsome donation to the Church.

In 1976 the Rev. Shire headed a 'Five Parishes Bygones Exhibition' committee to raise funds for the maintenance of the five Churches, a burden becoming increasingly difficult to bear with slender resources and falling attendances. It was the brainchild of Stoke Doyle's Franklyn and Margaret Perring, and the Church was filled with 'bygones' from agriculture, kitchen, games and toys, the Victorian drawing room, World Wars and curiosities. The Church plate was on display as were parish histories. The exhibition was held from 4 to 12 September, and also included a flower festival, bell ringing, music recitals and refreshments.

In 1982 the time came for Bill Shire to retire, his place being taken by the Rev. J.R. Roberts, who by gentle persuasion went a long way towards amalgamating the congregations of the different Churches. Instead of the hectic round of services, parishioners were asked to become peripatetic and worship successively in different villages, as in the earlier part of the century, with each Church having one Morning and one Evening Service every month. This continues to the present day and has had the result of strengthening the bonds which unite the five parishes. Eileen Roberts set up a children's group with the delightful acronym 'WASPS' (Wadenhoe, Achurch, Aldwincle, Stoke Doyle, Pilton). After the Roberts left in August 1991 to minister to the Parishes of Barby with Kilsby near Daventry, Ann Hodgkins continued to look after the WASPS, arranging regular playlets at Christmas, outstanding for their use of beautifully designed masks - and of live donkeys (*Fig. 11*) - much enjoyed by the young actors and visiting children alike.

Fig. 11:
The donkeys participating in
the Christmas children's
service in 1994



Eight years after the Bygones Exhibition, the Perrings put together 'Creation in the Five Parishes' held from 25 June to 3 July 1988. This time, rather than being a simply fund-raising event, the aim was a celebration and opportunity for people living in the five parishes to demonstrate their creative talents, and to get to know each other better, to meet informally, whether in a pub sing-song or church service, and to create a better mutual understanding. Gardens were opened, crafts were exhibited in Wadenhoe Church, paintings in All Saints Aldwinckle, and special evenings of concerts given in each village.

It has become a tradition in the last 15 years or so to make a number of churches in Northamptonshire available for music recitals of various types. Wadenhoe is no exception, and has enjoyed frequent visits by instrumentalists including the Finchley Children's Music Group who held summer courses at Wadenhoe House, and Fiori Musicali.



Fig. 12:
Fiori Musicali perform in
Wadenhoe Church in the
series of concerts *Music in
Quiet Places* - Drawing
from a sketchbook by
David Marsden

James Roberts' resignation came at a time when there was much discussion in the Diocese and the Church of England generally over the need to cut back on the number of priests and the amalgamation of more parishes. While a decision on the future of the United Benefice Rector was being made, during a period of eight months, the Parochial Church Councils, Churchwardens and villagers ran the services in the five Churches, inviting visiting preachers and lay readers but conducting many of the services, particularly Evensong, themselves. This induced a strong feeling of community spirit within the Churches and gave the PCCs and members a greater insight into the problems of

church management. Finally, a new Rector was selected, the Rev. Richard Newman, but tragically he died just before taking up his post.

Another few months of Interregnum followed, with a committee headed by Harry Faure-Walker, Churchwarden at Stoke Doyle (it was the turn of St Rumbold's patron to choose a successor), and on 2 April 1992 the Rev. Dr Judith Rose became the first woman in the Diocese to be given the charge of a group of parishes. St Rumbold's was considered to be too small for the large congregation expected for the licensing ceremony; thus Wadenhoe, with its village hall available for the reception, was chosen. The whole village was a hive of activity, carting chairs up to the Church, sweeping the paths (sheep graze the churchyard!), and preparing a buffet feast fit for a bishop. The service was very moving, sincere and impressive, the Churchwardens (*Fig. 13*) from the United Benefice with staffs held high escorting the Bishop to his throne, and the Bishop, The Rt Rev. Bill Westwood, in his address expressing concern about the state of the Church today.

Fig. 13

Six of the Church Wardens
from the United Benefice at
the licensing of the Rev.
Judith Rose, 1992

Left to right:

Carolyn Brawn (Achurch),
Alistair Gunn (Wadenhoe),
Ken King (Stoke Doyle),
Laurence Stapleton
(Achurch),
Harry Faure-Walker (Stoke
Doyle) and John Loveday
(Wadenhoe)



Judith was appointed just before the momentous decision of the Church of England Synod to approve the ordination of women, so that nearly two years later she became one of the first women to be ordained priest in the Diocese of Peterborough (*Fig. 14*).

A year after her licensing, Judith wrote in the Wadenhoe and District News⁸:

"Just over a year ago I was licensed as Minister-in-Charge of the Five Churches: Achurch, Aldwincle, Pilton, Stoke Doyle and Wadenhoe. Before that memorable April evening those five names were just that - mere names to me - places on a map; places that I had perhaps visited and half-forgotten years before. Actually the benefice area includes eight distinct settlements and a number of isolated farms. It stretches from Lyveden New Bield on the north-east almost to Huntingdonshire (now of course part of Cambridgeshire) in the opposite direction. I had suddenly become responsible for all this - hills, woods, fields and the winding sparkling river Nene - or, more accurately, for the 750 or so people who live here. Not very many in

church terms - some urban parishes have populations of over 20,000 - but, as I soon discovered, different.

What makes our five churches different is simply the fact of being five. Quins, you might say, and certainly everything comes in quintuplicate: churchwardens, flower rotas, PCC meetings, graveyards, pulpits, money problems, bats, downpipes and roofs. In fact only one roof was blown off in the winter gales and that, thankfully, is now beautifully restored. There are other snags which I had not foreseen. Each church is laid out and furnished in a slightly different way; so for me there are five similar, but slightly different, ways of leading Sunday worship. There is, for instance, the magnificent marble sanctuary at Achurch on which, I fear, I shall one day break my ankle. Wadenhoe is full of steps; at Stoke Doyle the preacher is surrounded by lighted candles. Pilton has Victorian tiles, amazingly ugly heaters (they do work though), and an ingenious brass communion rail which I find extremely difficult to fasten securely. I have discovered (to my cost) that with these hazards it's just not possible to work on autopilot.

There are also differences between the villages. Aldwincle is the longest linear village I know - it must be nearly a mile from Watts' shop to All Saints' Church. Pilton has a short street of mellowed stone houses which seems to have abandoned its Church. Wadenhoe Church too is surrounded by evidence of older, now abandoned, settlements. There are village loyalties and rivalries which, as an outsider, I fear I may never really understand.

But I think - I hope - I am learning. Ministry is always a privilege. I am lucky to have a Ministry in such a beautiful place. I am lucky too to have a share in the life of five totally distinct parishes - not to mention the lives of their parishioners. Somebody said to me recently 'when I drive over Pilton bridges, then I know I have come home'. I think I am beginning to understand what he meant."

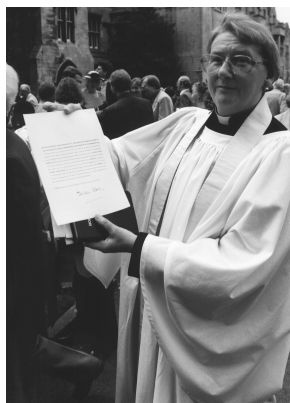


Fig. 14:
The Rev. Judith Rose on her ordination to the priesthood in July 1994

¹ Hill, Peter (1996). *In search of the Green Man in Northamptonshire*. Orman Publishing.

² Ward Hunt, Gertrude (1938). A beautiful corner of the Nene valley. *The Peterborough Advertiser*, 11 November.

³ Halliday, D. (1995) pers. comm.

⁴ Serjeantson, M. & Isham Longden, H. (1913) Religious houses of Northamptonshire. *Archaeological Journal*, 52, p.421.

⁵ Churchwardens' accounts, 1745-1900. Northamptonshire Public Record Office, 334p/17.

⁶ The Restoration of St Michael & All Angels, Wadenhoe, Northamptonshire. Appeal statement (source not traced).

⁷ *London Gazette*, 10 July 1923.

⁸ *Wadenhoe & District News*, No. 5, August 1993, p.10.

References

RITA DUFFEY WADENHOE CHURCHYARD

A survey of the churchyard was made in 1996. Many of the stones, being of the local limestone, appear to be badly eroded and illegible; others are fallen or have been removed to the perimeter of the Churchyard. However, using a torch at night produced excellent results and it has been possible to decipher at least part of most of the inscriptions. Those in the old Churchyard are listed below, and numbered in Fig. 14. Stones which still need deciphering [D] to a greater or lesser extent - if the challenge appeals to you - and those which are completely eroded but still in position [E] are also shown.

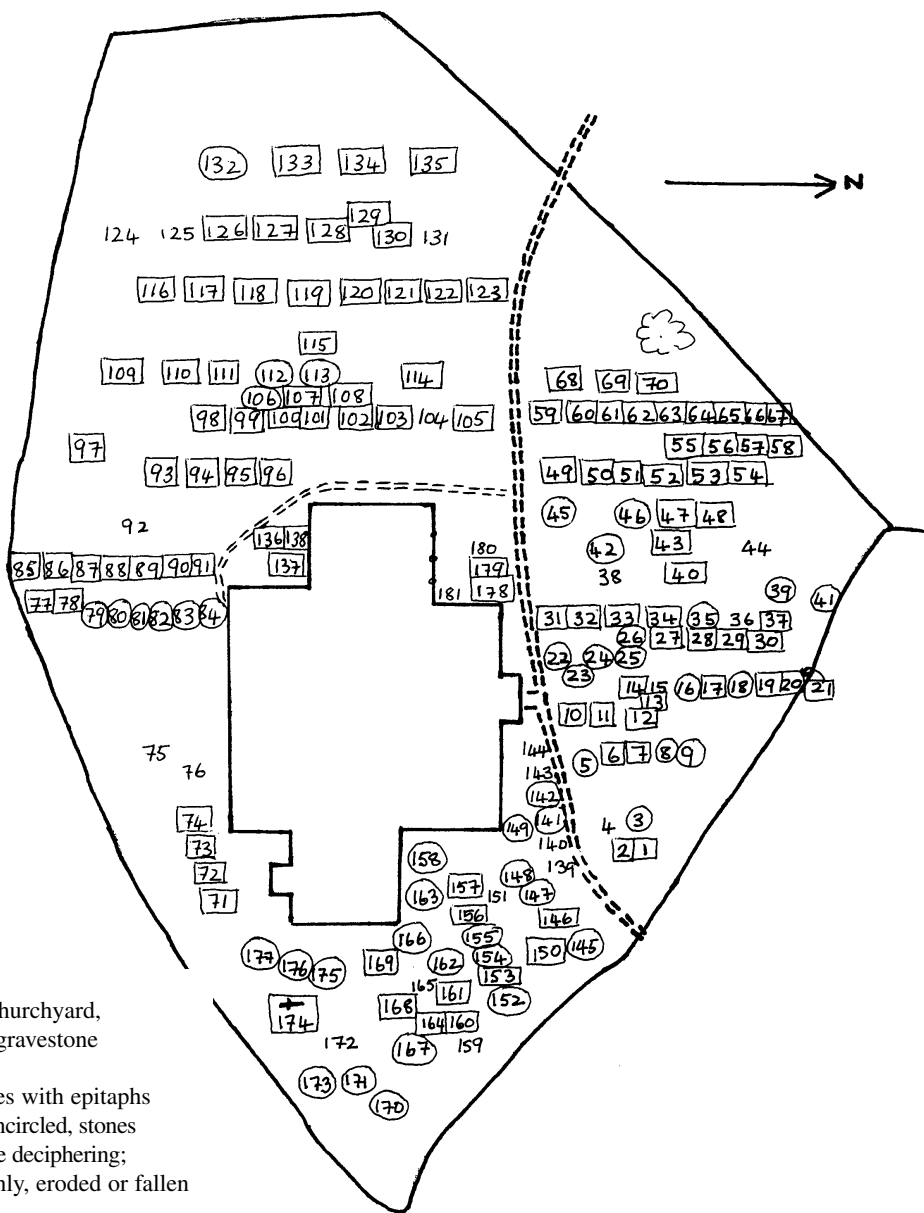


Fig. 14:
Wadenhoe churchyard,
with key to gravestone
numbering.
Boxed, stones with epitaphs
recorded; encircled, stones
needing more deciphering;
numbered only, eroded or fallen

The oldest tombs are near the Church door. Two (4 and 181) are 13th century, the latter apparently a child's tomb unearthed during work on the Church exterior in 1993. Another is Joane and William Sanderson (2), dated 1647 and 1648, adjacent to a second tomb (3) to a couple of the same name, presumably their parents, dated 1592. The Holdiches, represented in the village from the early 16th century to the early 18th (*see Chapter 2*), can be identified on seven stones (5, 10, 11, 23-25, 35). The Ward Hunts did not reserve a family enclosure for their graves, those from the last century being grouped towards the rear of the old churchyard (118-122), those of George Eden Hunt (174) and Rev. George Hunt (175) below the Church, and the more recent burials at the front of the new graveyard (209-215).

Other well represented families include the Allens (12-20, 26-30, 32-34), farmers and millers in the 19th century (*see Chapter 6*), the Chews (6 - 9, 97) in the 18th/19th centuries, the Wilsons (109-111) (*see Chapters 6 and 7*), the Clinkards (50-54) in the 19th, and the Morehens (68, 88 to 91, 94, 96, 169), these all dating from the 20th century. Many more of the Morehens, and other long-established families such as the Wilsons, were buried in the churchyard, but previous generations may not have had memorials or they were of a less permanent nature.

List of gravestones

- 001 With him that lyes here nere trouble
thy head remember the old saying
speake well of the dead. Here lyes the
body of Robert Sanderson who
departed this life the 21 day of January
1674
- 002 William Sanderson 10.12.1647
Joane Sanderson his wife 3.1.1648
- 003 [South end] Here lyeth the dead corps of
William Sanderson and Joane his wife
- 003 [back] —OVE.VITAM DEDIT. HORAI
AR—SIT.1592
- 004 *No writing? Decoration similar pattern to the
one which was unearthed 1993 next to Porch*
- 005 *heads [skulls] above each person.* Eliz Holdich
1691; John Holdich 1692; Sarah Holdich 1693
- 006 To the memory of Thomas Chew, who departed
this life. Aged 81 years. Also Thomas Son of
Thomas & Eleanor Chew Who departed this life
1.9.1852 Aged 71 years. [*prayer?*]
- 007 Here lies the body of Eleanor the Wife of
Thomas Chew who departed this Life
September 27th 1775 [*? prayer*]

- 008 [...] Memory of John Chew who departed this
Life February 22nd 1799 [*? prayer*]
- 009 Sacred to the memory [...] the wife of John
Chew who died Jan 27th [...] aged [...]
- 010 Edward Holdich departed this life the 17th April
1743
Sarah the wife of Edward Holdich departed this
life April the 2nd 1729 Age 65
Reeder art thou in Health
So ware I
But fore dayes
Before. I was to die
Short was my life
The longer is my rest
God takes them soonest
Whom he lovest best
So here I leave thee
All wee come to see
the day of Christ
and [there see] thee
- 011 Here lie the body of Rebecca Holdich who died
Feb the 2[.] 1702. Aged 71. Also on this place
lie the Body of Emma the dau. of William and
Rebecca Holdich who died April 20, 1717
- 012 Here Lieth the body of Prissilla the wife of
Joseph Allen who departed this life Jan the 24th
1780. Aged 69 Years

- 013 Sacred to the Memory of Mary Relict of Phillip Allen who departed this life. April 20th 1834. Aged 72 Years [...]
- 014 Mary Allen [*not in Burial Register*] [*half behind 013*]
- 015 [*Blank, behind 014*]
- 016 Phillip Allen [...] Aged 40 years
- 017 Sacred to the Memory of Phillip Allen who departed this life April the 20th 1825 in the 72nd year of his age. [*prayer?*]
- 018 [...] children
- 019 Sacred to the memory of Joseph Allen who departed this life January 12th 1850
- 020 Sacred to the Memory of Priscilla Allen Mabbut Polebrook [*bottom left*]
- 021 In memory of Mary Palmer who departed this life May 28th 1852. Aged 29 Years. P Stephens Elton Oundle
- 022 [D]
- 023 Here lieth in hope of a joyful resurrection the bodies of Jeffrie Holdich and his tow first wives. He had issue by them thirteen children. He departed this life the 16th of October 1637 in the three score...
- 024 Francis Holdich 1657 & Joane Holdich 1696
- 025 1728 (aged 63) Holdich?
- 026 John Allen
- 027 4.4.1856 Henry son of John & Elizabeth Allen who departed this life the fourth of April 1836
- 028 Elizabeth daughter of John and Elizabeth Allen 8.12.1811 4 years - 2 of their children - Ann the third daughter of John & Elizabeth who died 2.7.1838 aged 25 years
- 029 Philip Allen (Aldwinckle formerly Wadenhoe) 7.5.1891 80 years + Ann wife 4.4.1855 44 years. 4 of their children in infancy
- 030 Sophia Allen. Last survivor of the family of the late John & Elizabeth. Born at Wadenhoe 9.12.1819, died Aldwinckle 15.1.1894
- 031 Nicholls Worthington? Senior died 27.1.1693 70 years
- 032 Francis Allen St Leonards on Sea 6.4.1888 69 years Caroline Jane wife of Francis Allen died 12.2.1898 44 years (2nd wife)
- 033 Mary Chapman wife of Francis Allen died 15.4.1882 59 years (1st wife)
- 034 Francis Allen 5.11.1846
Eliza daughter of above aged 5 months 6.7.1840
- 035 Here lies the body of Mary wife of Iwa? Holdich 1651? Aged 26 years [*well preserved epitaph*]
- 036 [E]
- 037 Frederick Richmond Coales died 20.10.1891 54 years wife Anne born 18.8.1840, died 8.7.1924
- 038 [D/E]
- 039 Here lieth the body of John Morton died April 2nd day 1697. Here lieth the body of John Morton Died March 23 Day 1625?
- 040 Sacred to William Smith 1833 who died Nov 1 1833 Aged 61 years [*epitaph*]
- 041 In Memory of James Taylor who died June ye 5th 1761 Aged 57 years. Eliza the widow of James Taylor who died April ? 1777 Aged 79 years
- 042 Body of John Bigley who departed this life April 1716? 67 years. Here lies the body of Mary his wife who died 17th ? 1756? [*also third burial*]
- 043 In Memory of William Porter died Aug 5 1771 Aged 18 years
- 044 [D/E]
- 045 In Memory of Robert Bridg[...] ol(h)(field/stok) [?]175? 66 years
- 046 In Memory of William Hind? who died May 1..9..
- 047 Charles beloved son of Robert & Mary Ann Groome 13 July 1877 23 years
- 048 In Memory of Elisabeth Ann beloved daughter of Robert and Mary Ann Groome who departed this life September 2nd 1876? in the 19th Year of Her Age [*Fallen*]
- 049 Mary wife of Robert Nichols died 8.8.1849 63 years
- 050 Joseph Clinkard died 29.4.1878 61 years
- 051 Alice Clinkard wife Joseph Clinkard died 19.1.1876 Aged 56 years [*The description at the bottom looks like practice work by a stonemason*]
- 052 Edward Clinkard died 16.8.1875 28 years

- 053 Alice 2nd child of Joseph & Alice Clinkard died 1870 2 [23] years [*fallen*]
- 054 Thomas Clinkard died 6.2.1876 24 years
- 055 Sarah Ann Moisey died 3.5.1954 73 years
George Edward Moisey 9.6.1915-13.8.1985
Beloved son of Arthur Edward & Sarah Ann
- 056 William Owen Shaw beloved husband of Phyllis Shaw died 26.9.1952 42 years
- 057 Louisa Ann, wife Allen Shaw died 9.3.1951 73 years
Allen Shaw died 6.6.1962 82 years
- 058 Joseph Morehen died 23.9.1930 76 years
- 059 William Raymond Winfield died 15.11.1961 75 years
Maria wife & mother died 10.4.1969 77 years
- 060 Joe husband of Lily May Quincey died 8.7.1961 82 years
- 061 Anna Kate Southall died 19.6.1961 87 years
- 062 Edward William Southall died 1.10.1949 80 years
- 063 William Swiffin died 11.8.1949 79 years
Jenny Swiffin died 17.10.1949 77 years
- 064 Mary Ann Cole died 16.10.1948 70 years
- 065 Amy Jemima Childs died 3.8.1944 75 years
Also brother Reginald Childs died 21.8.1951 74 years
- 066 Ethel Christian beloved wife of Percy Slote died 18.5.1942 47 years
- 067 Elizabeth Bullimore died 6.6.1939 73 years
Also husband William Kenny Bullimore 19.1.1953 87 years
- 068 George Joseph Morehen died 16.1.1961 85 years
Wife Alice Morehen 25.1.1961 85 years
- 069 Ellen Jones died 5.10.1955 70 years
- 070 Edith Harriet Head died 15.5.1954 63 years
Husband James Head died 2.3.1970 81 years
- 071 Here lies the body of John Barnes 1661
- 072 In Memory Woolstone Dixie Cornfield July 6, 1803[?] Aged 35 years and children died
- 073 Sacred to the Memory of Jane Widow of Woolston Cornfield Who departed this life January 18 1857 Aged ...
- 074 Sacred to the memory of Mary Blackall who died 11th April 1821
- 076 [*Broken top*]
- 077 John Langley died 5.10.1904 74 years
Sarah wife died 18.2.1893. [*Also small stone* F.L.1873/C.C.L. 1874]
- 078 Frances wife of George Langley died 16.8.1873 60 years
George Coles Langley died 4.10.1874 71 years
- 079 In Memory of Elizabeth Coales Widow of John Coales who died... 1774
- 080 17[?]
- 081 Here lies the Body of Elizabeth Wife of Jonathon Boswell Departed this life June? 1797 Aged 75 years
- 082 Here lies the body of ... Boswell.. in the 51? of his age 1777
- 083 In Memory of John Boswell who died... 1790 Aged
- 084 In Memory of Elizabeth wife of John Boswell who departed this life.. of 1711 or 1771[?] Aged ? 75 years
- 085 George Myland died 25.4.1877 69 years
Mary wife died 18.9.1866 59 years
George son died 1.11.1918? 12 years
John son (Crimean War 25 years)
Francis 32 years
Sarah Ann Briggs
- 086 S.B.1932, RBB 1936
- 087 J.C. 1899
- 088 Elsie Laura Morehen died 5.3.1927 aged 8 1/2 months
- 089 Edna May Morehen daughter of Ernest & Edna died 26.4.1932
- 090 Ernest William Morehen died 26.6.1964 aged 68 years
Edna Annie Morehen wife died 1.1.1970 aged 75 years
- 091 Martha Kate Morehen died 10.3.1970 aged 85 years
- 092 [D?]
- 093 Obed Norwood died Aldwinkle 15.12.1883 84 years
Mary Norwood wife died Sudborough 6.9.1885 85 years [*Small stone* O.N. 1883]
- 094 Edgar Charles Ed(die) Morehen died 29.2.1906 6 years

- 095 Elsie Maria Boniface (wife of Allen Boniface) died 19.2.1934[1] 45 years.
- 096 William Morehen died 17.11.1932 71 years
Lottie Morehen died 9.3.1948 82 years
- 097 John Chew 25.2.1899 61 years
- 098 Joseph Melton died 26.12.1866 51 years
Also wife
- 099 William Thomas son of Jesse & Emma Dorsett (Lewisham, Kent) born 29.7.1876, died 14.10.1898
- 100 William Beasley died 15.1.1909 87 years
- 101 Hepzibah wife of William Beasley died 8.2.1878 58 years
- 102 Albert Edward son of Robert Bright & Sarah Beasley died 2.10.1886 2[?] years
- 103 Edward Charles son of Robert Bright & Sarah Beasley died 1.7.1888
- 104 [2 stones, eroded, buried]
- 105 Sarah wife of Robert Bright Beasley died 10.11.1932 85 years
Robert Bright Beasley died 16.1.1936 85 years
- 106 Samuel Gadsby, died 20.10.1872 aged 86 years /Hanna Gadsby (wife) [?]
- 107 R.N.P. 1896 [Richard Norris Perkins]
- 108 Elizabeth Ann Melton died 5.12.1902 aged 55 years
Mary Jane Melton (daughter) died 11.6.1884 aged 4 years
John Charles Melton died 12.4.1924 aged 80 years
- 109 George Henry son of John & Jane Wilson died 19.11.1865 6 years 9 months
- 110 George Wilson died 5.8.1881 89 years
Mary Wilson died 20.12.1889 92 years
- 111 Charlotte wife of John Wilson died 26.8.1877 38 years
John Wilson died 27.8.1915 78 years
- 112 Mary wife of Richard Norris Perkins died 2.9.1892 60 years
Annie Maria Perkins died 7.5.1890 23 years
Mary Perkins died 23.5.18[.] 36 years
Richard Norris Perkins died 19.11.1896 70 years
- 113 Harriet Hull died 9.9.1898 68 years
Also Martha Leete widow Joseph Leete late of [..]
- 114 Elizabeth Quincey wife Thomas Quincey died 2.3.1917 77 years
- 115 Edith Beatrice Hunt born 12.8.1869 died 12.3.1928
- 116 Bernard William Bullimore died 3.4.1976 aged 78 years
- 117 Ethel Bullimore (wife of Bernard) died 1.8.1936 aged 33 years
- 118 Caroline Hall, died 31.1.1926 aged 65 years
- 119 Alice Ward Hunt, born 22.12.1832, died 23.12.1894 (wife of George Ward Hunt MP)
- 120 Emma Hunt, born 19.6.1862, died 7.10.1915
- 121 Margaret Hyde Hunt, widow of George Eden Hunt, daughter of Sir William Parker 9th Bart, born 24.1.1858, died 5.4.1932
Also daughter Olive Ward Hunt 1890-1981
- 122 Muriel Ward Hunt, eldest daughter of George Eden Hunt, born 19.2.1886, died 15.5.1905
- 123 Annie Brittle, born 5.5.1851, died 18.10.1923
- 124 [Fallen]
- 125 [Small stone]
- 126 H.B.1932 [small stone]
- 127 E.M.B. 1931 [small stone]
- 128 Joseph Julyan, born 15.12.1845, died 14.9.1923
Ellen wife, born 12.4.1848, died 19.1.1939
- 129 A.W.L. 1900 [small stone]
- 130 Frank son of George & Eleanor Childs died 27.12.1907 26 years
Eleanor Childs died 24.1.1929 80 years
- 131 E[long thin stone]
- 132 Elizabeth Annie (Nancy) Brown, died 24.12.1927 aged 3 years?
- 133 Joyce Hankins died 2.12.1927 13 years
- 134 [l large stone + 4 small]
George Thomas Langley died 24.7.1927 69 years, Parish Clerk 45 years
Emma wife died 3.11.1935 72 years
E.L.1935, G.T.L.1927
- 135 Minnie Emma Langley, died 1.11.1908 aged 23 years
Arthur William Langley, died 30.4.1909 aged 26 years

- 136 John W.A. Preston born 23.2.1910 died 14.5.1983
E Joyce Preston born 10.1.1913, died 26.1. 1994
- 137 Jack Phillipson died 5.4.1987 77 years
- 138 Victor Mills born 22.6.1897, died 30.7.1973
- 139 [E?]
- 140 [D]
- 141 Here lyeth ye body of Elizabeth ye wife of James Simpson? who departed this life January ye 8 1694
- 142 Here lieth ye too bodys of Sarah & Ann daughters to James and Ann Simpson? Sarah died December ye 11 1714 in ye 15 year of hir age 1715
Ann died February ye 15 1715 in the 34 year of hir age
- 143 [E]
- 144 [D]
- 145 Sacred to the Memory of Mary wife of John Loweth who departed this life May 20th 1820 aged 1[7]9 years
Also of their children John died ? March 1818 Aged 18 years
Mary E.. Died an Infant
- 146 In Memory of Mathew son of Jonas and Mary Tebbutt who died October 17 1782 in the 13 year of his age
- 147 In Memory of Mary Relict of Jonas Tebbutt of Sudborough who died Dec 17 1785 Aged 69 years
Also of Jonas Son of William and ... Marshall who died in his Infancy
- 148 In Memory of Elizabeth Be..d.. .. ? of June 1771 Aged 71 years
- 149 ... Thomas Good who departed this life .. 1718 Aged 51 years
- 150 In Loving Memory of Thomas Briggs who died July 2nd 1886 aged 81 years
Also of Thomas William Briggs son of the above died April 4 1901 Aged 69 years
Also Sarah Ann his wife died October 16 1876 Aged 11? years
And of Temperance Ellen their daughter died April 12 1887 Aged 19 years
- 151 [E]
- 152 ... William Nathan? August ye 23 1721
- 153 In Memory of Thomas son of Thomas and Mary Gray who died in his infancy
Susannah daughter of Robert and Mary Gray died May 23 1772 Aged 1 years
- 154 Here lieth the body of Robert Bell who dep. this life ? March 1767 Aged 5 years
Also Ri..b..ah late wife of Robert Bell dep. this life Nov 5 1751 Aged..
Here lieth the body of Robert..
- 155 Here lieth the body of Thomas Bell who departed this life ? 2 December 1761 in the 13? year of his age
- 156 Jane beloved and lamented wife of Robert Gray who departed this life 20 November 1832 in the 65th year of her age. Blessed are the dead who die in the name of the Lord
- 157 Robert Gray who departed this life September 9 1810 in the 71st year of his age
Also Mary wife of Robert Gray who departed this life February 11 1793, in the 49th year of her age and 2 of their children died infants
Also Ralph Robinson Gray son of Robert & Jane Gray who departed this life October 21 1798 aged 3 years [*son of Jane-No. 156?*]
Death and Judgement...
- 158 ... of John the Son of Thomas and Mary Williamson of Islip and Northampton who died July 21 1801 in the 21 year of his age
- 159 [E]
- 160 Here lyeth the Body of John Highton who dep. this life October ye 29 MDCCXXIII 56 years
- 161 Here Lyeth ye Body of Joan Highton who departed this life ye 1st March 1722/3 in ye 71st year of her Age
- 162 .. in the 12 year of his age [D?]
- 163 To the Memory of Elizabeth Panther? who died August 28 1790 Aged ? years
- 164 Mary Ann Davison, born 17 September 1821 Died 29 March 1894
Lucy Pridmore, sister of above, died 2 May 1899, aged 74 years
- 165 [*Fallen*]
- 166 Here lieth thee body of Mary .. [D,E]
- 167 William Stevens? Senor died Sept the 12 1722 in the 66th year of his age
- 168 William Stevens Sen'r died March ye 18 1728 Aged 71 years
- 169 Mary Morehen, who died 25 October 1906, 43 years

- 170 Here lieth the wife of Danil S... the 2 day of
February 1714 Aged 33 years [*clear epitaph*]
- 171 Here lieth the body of Jonas Gadsdon died
September..?
- 172 [*Fallen*]
- 173 Here lieth the body of Thomas Hollis who died
December .. 1793 Aged 64 years
Ann Hollis the daughter of Thomas and Eliza
Hollis dep this life July.. 1792 aged 17 years
? children died in their infancy
- 174 George Eden Hunt Esq of Wadenhoe House,
eldest son of Rt Hon George Ward Hunt, born
24.2.1859, died 19.2.1892
- 175 Revd William Hunt? [D?]
- 176 [E]
- 177 [E]
- 178 Here Lieth the Body of Elizabeth ye Wife of
Daniel Walpole departed this life January ?
1709 Aged 73 years
- 179 Here lieth y body of Daniel Walpole who died
? Jany 15 1730 Aged 59 ? years (*Fig. 16*)
- 180 Francis Stanley Woodcock March 21st 1959
and his beloved wife Lavinia (Molly) October
28th 1971
- 181 Child's tomb in corner of blind arcading wall

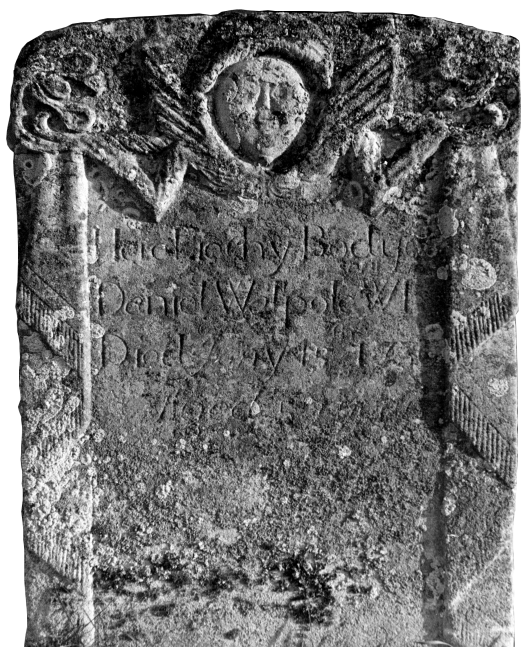
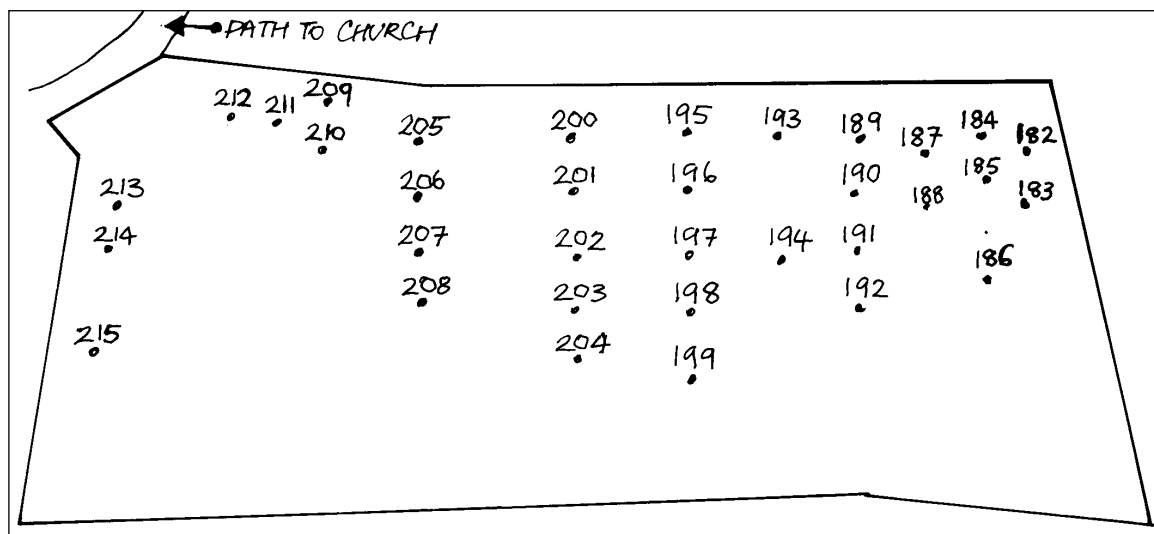


Fig. 16:
Gravestone in memory of Daniel Walpole
(see No. 179)



Wadenhoe new churchyard

Fig. 17

- | | |
|--|---|
| 182 Henry Beaton Brown died 2.3.1977 90 years
Also wife Annie, died 7.12.1988 87 years | 199 Joseph Clinton Bennett died -.11.1996 |
| 183 Phyllis Brown, died 12.7.1988 63 years | 200 Doris Shipman, died 10.12.1965 62 years |
| 184 Sgt Gary John Ellis 1960-1991 [<i>husband of Elisabeth née Leeson</i>] | 201 William Winston Shipman, died 18.5.1968 [<i>husband of Doris</i>] |
| 185 Evelyn May Denley born 20.5.1907, died 18.12. 1970 | 202 Matthew G. Jakeman, 1960-1979 |
| 186 George Alec Setchfield died 15.11.1991 72 years | 203 Lily Smith, died 16.2.1988 83 years |
| 187 William Leeson, died 8.11.1970 [<i>father of Elisabeth Leeson</i>] | 204 Sidney George Smith, died 30.04.96 |
| 188 Albert Edward Briggs died 4.6.1977 74 years
Wife Annie Briggs died 27.1.1984 78 years | 205 Jane Elizabeth Gammons died 7.11.1964 85 years |
| 189 Charles Harold Linnell died 30.3.1969 72 years | 206 George Ernest Gammons, died 2.9.1973 86 years |
| 190 Wife Florence Linnell died 16.2.1986 88 years | 207 Arthur John Gammons, husband of Lilian, father of John, died 23.6.1970 52 years |
| 191 Dick Edwards, died 24.11.1986 68 years | 208 Hilda Mary Gammons, died 12.7.1979 67 years [<i>sister of Arthur</i>] |
| 192 Phyllis Gwendoline Edwards died 24.04.93 | 209 Doris Eleanor Chapman (née Morehen), died 27.7.1991 |
| 193 Horace Bridgland, born 14.6.1919, died 11.2.1979 | 210 Arthur Horace Chapman, died 26.9.1967 73 years [<i>husband of Doris</i>] |
| 194 Ernest Charles Oakley 11.4.1912-1.1.1994 | 211 Mary Elizabeth Church (Nan) died 08.09.63 |
| 195 Hilda Emily Bell 1887-1966 [<i>mother of Ernest</i>] | 212 Benjamine Anthony Page, 9.5.1987 - 31.1.1988 |
| 196 Irene Emma Bell 1923-1977 [<i>wife of Ernest</i>] | 213 Daisy Bolney Brown, died 9.4.1967 76 years |
| 197 Ernest Bell, son of Emily, died 31.3.1978 [<i>Husband of Irene</i>] | 214 George Edgar Ward Hunt 1911-1993 |
| 198 Norman Leslie Crawford, died 31.3.1990 45 years | 215 Ann Becher Hall 1.6.1928 - 24.6.1995 |

