

ILLUSTRATED GUIDE

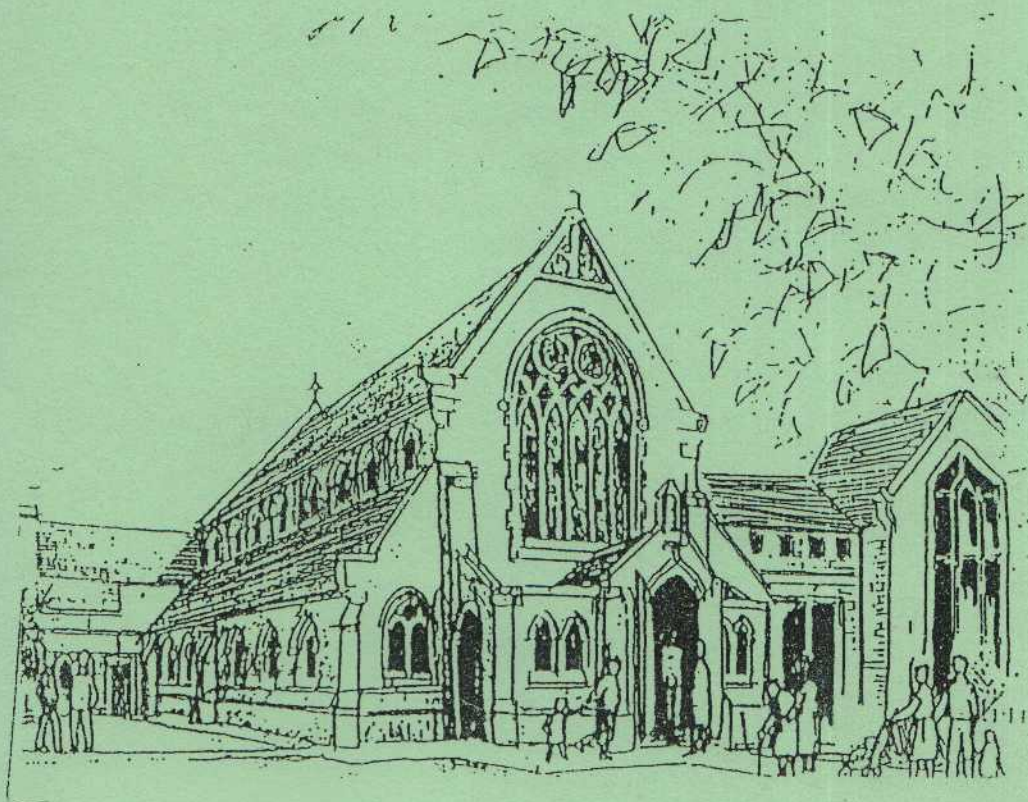
TO THE

CHURCH OF

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

HILLS ROAD

CAMBRIDGE



FOREWORD

Whenever I am showing people around St John's I always ask them what is the church's greatest treasure. I then point to them and say "You"!

For a church is a people. St John's, Hills Road has been a building set apart for the highest aspiration of all – opening ourselves to God's purpose for each and everyone of us.

In this booklet you will read of the history of this place, how it was built, how it has come to be as it is, and the people who shaped it. But what it is ultimately about is YOU. Here, have been baptisms, weddings, funerals and people's prayers and people's worship. For what it points to and its purpose is to show how this church is the "Body of Christ" here to-day in St John's, Hills Road.

David Reindorp

David Reindorp
Vicar

June 2001

INDEX

Page

- 4 Original Church
- 6 Extensions and present building
- 8 East Window, Sanctuary and Chancel
- 10 Pulpit and Lectern
- 11 Central Aisle (Nave)
- 12 Memorial Chapel (Northern transept)
- 14 Chapel of the Transfiguration (South aisle)
- 15 West Door, children's corner, Font and showcases
- 16 New Entrance, lobby and community rooms
- 18 Church garden with memorial plaques
- 19 Foundation stones

Compiled by Beryl Johnson.

Illustrations by Alison Harris.

Front cover and community room extension by Rosalind Jones.

ORIGINAL CHURCH

It has been described as "the smallest Church I ever saw" by a nonagenarian member of St John's congregation.

1891 A plot of land was acquired in Blinco Grove as a site for a new Church. Here a little timber-built schoolroom was erected and opened as a Sunday School.

1896 Enough funds having been collected, the foundation stone was laid for the new Church consisting of a Chancel and two bays. It seated about forty people. The building was consecrated in December 1896.

If you stand in the central aisle you can see the original pillars of the two bays, with a demarcation line where the new part was added. The brickwork on the North and South sides extended to below the clerestory windows which were added when the new roof was built.

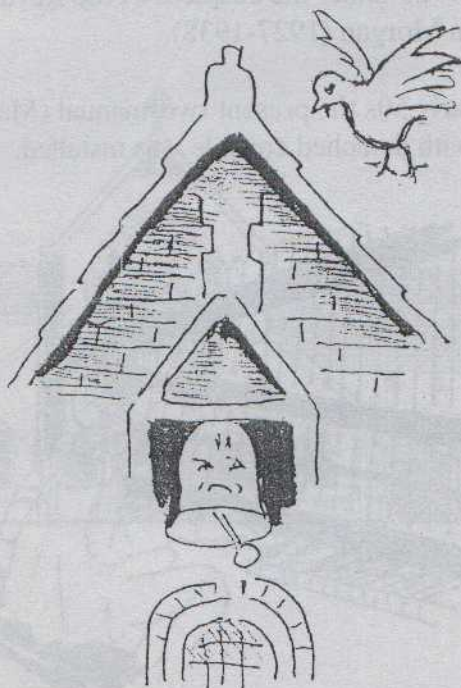
The North and South aisles were added later. The Church door was half-way down the Central Aisle. The line can still be seen on the floor.



A voluntary choir was formed and an American organ hired. The children of the district subscribed a penny each to purchase the bell which rang for the services. This can still be seen over the choir vestry window, but is no longer in use.

The Parish was created out of Cherry Hinton and Trumpington. It was also referred to as St John's of Cambridge.

The first Vicar was the Revd John George (1896-1903)



EXTENSIONS AND

- 1903 From 1903-1914 the Revd A E Love was the incumbent. During this time the clergy and choir vestries were built and included the Northern transept ambulatory to the chancel.
- 1927 The Parish Hall was built on the corner of Blinco Grove and Baldock Way.
- 1928 Commencement of the Western extension including the West door and the great West window.
- 1929 The whole building was completed and consecrated in June 1929 under the auspices of the Revd John Paterson Morgan (1927-1938).
- 1950 In the early 50s the present two-manual (Manders) Organ with detached console was installed.



PRESENT BUILDING

- 1982 The Revd Fred Wilkinson (later Canon) became Vicar in 1974, and it was his vision that saw the large vacant plot next to the Church transformed into the Community Room which was opened in 1982.
- 1994 Under the guidance of the Revd Canon Brian Jones the existing Community Room was extended to provide improved kitchen facilities, two smaller meeting rooms, a Parish Office and extra toilets. A new church entrance with a Lobby was built linking the church and community rooms together. The new building was dedicated by the Bishop of Ely (the Rt Revd Stephen Sykes) in 1995.

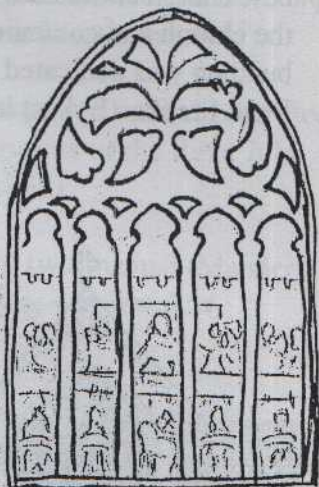


EAST WINDOW

Stained Glass Windows

The East window dominates the scene from the choir stalls to the congregational pews. It depicts "The Last Supper" after the world-famous picture by Leonardo da Vinci. This was the gift of Mr Julius Drew in memory of his father, the Revd G S Drew. The window was dedicated in 1897 and depicts the disciples, L to R:

St Batholemew
St James (the Less)
St Andrew
Judas Iscariot
St Peter
St John
St Thomas
St James (the Great)
St Philip
St Matthew
St Jude
St Simon



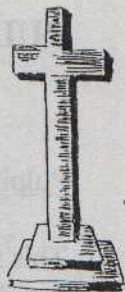
The Window on the North wall of the Sanctuary is entitled "Charity".

The Window on the South wall of the Sanctuary is entitled "Dorcas" in memory of Edith George.

SANCTUARY AND CHANCEL

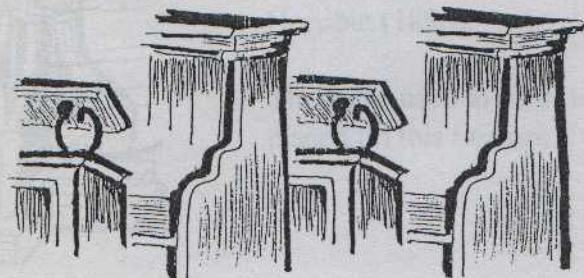
High Altar

The Altar Cross and matching turned oak candlesticks were crafted by John Faulkner (1904-1997) to replace the brass cross and candlesticks now kept under lock and key and only used for the main Sunday services and other festal occasions. These brass items have been in use since 1952.



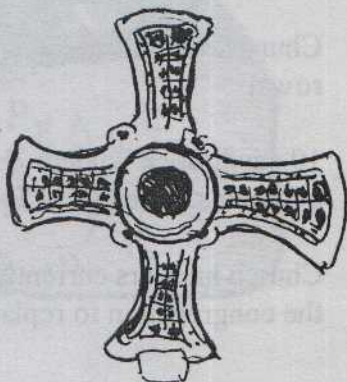
Carved Oak Choir Stalls

These were the gift of Mr J Leach of City Road (1951)



Brass Processional Cross

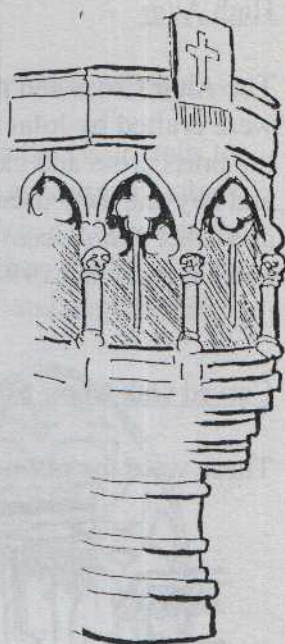
According to "Durham illustration":
socket for the cross in choir stalls
on the South side.



PULPIT AND LECTERN

Pulpit

This stands on the South side of the chancel next to the Vicar's desk. This was a joint gift in memory of the silver wedding anniversary of the Reverend and Mrs John George presented by their relatives.



Central Aisle

Churchwarden's holders for their wands of office (2 back rows)

10 candlestick holders 7' tall for candles used for ceremonial occasions. The gift of John Faulkner and crafted by him.

Church kneelers currently being embroidered by members of the congregation to replace the blue wooden kneelers.

CENTRAL AISLE (NAVE)



The lectern

This stands on the North side of the chancel step. It is carved in the image of an eagle representing St John the Evangelist. (Ref: "The four living creatures" Ezek. 1 5-11a and Rev 4 6b-8).

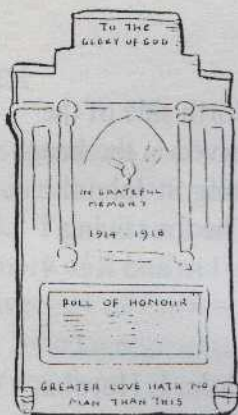
It was presented by John E Horobin in memory of Louisa and Monica Horobin (1896).

The Bible used in church services is placed on this Lectern.

CHURCH KNEELERS

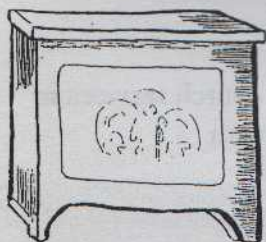


MEMORIAL CHAPEL (NORTHERN TRANSEPT) - originally the children's corner 1939



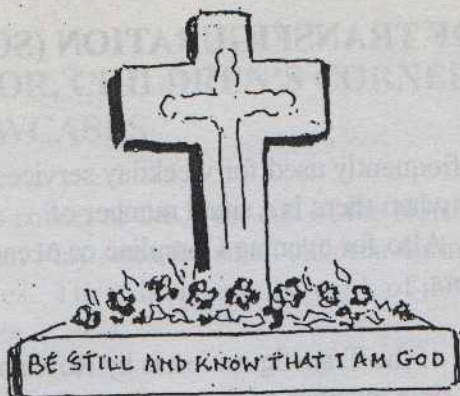
Memorial Plaque to those of this parish who laid down their lives in the Great War (1914-1918). Inscribed "*Greater love hath no man than this*".

Oak screen war memorial (2nd World War 1939-1945) inscribed Douglas R Mace. Partition next to the organ.



Children's Altar constructed of Austrian Oak. The front panel features Our Lord as the Good Shepherd. Placed under the memorial Plaque.

Two stained glass windows on the East wall depicting St John the Evangelist, symbolised by the eagle and Jesus the Good Shepherd. Both windows inscribed "In memory of Alfred Jones of Trumpington House (1882-1905)".



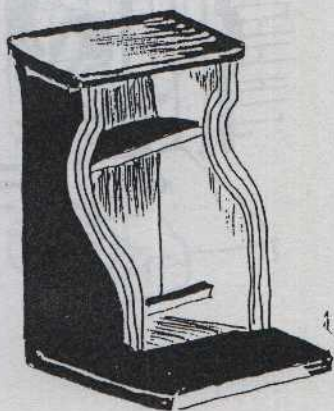
Taize Cross on the Chest holding the Altar Cloths. The Memorial Chapel is frequently used for Private Prayer.

Credence table in oak and oak altar bench.

Easter candlestick in use from Easter Day to Ascension Day.



Wooden Baptismal Font and bowl by John Faulkner. Used for services of Public Baptism.



CHAPEL OF TRANSFIGURATION (SOUTH AISLE)

This Chapel is frequently used for weekday services of Holy Communion or when there is a small number of communicants. Also for evening Compline or occasions of special prayers.

The oil painting of the Transfiguration is by Rowland Wearing, a one-time member of the congregation (1985).

Two stained glass windows on the south wall overlooking the Altar Table, designed by Mr Francis Leach (1951)

- 1 The nativity
- 2 Jesus in the Temple



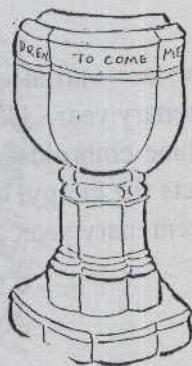
WEST DOOR, CHILDREN'S CORNER, FONT AND SHOWCASES

The children's corner at the West end of the North aisle provides a quiet Play Area for small children during the main Sunday services. The exhibits are the work of the Sunday School children.

The creche is in the site of the original West door which is now only used for funerals or special functions. Note the inscription on the lintel of the central door "*And the greatest of these is charity*".

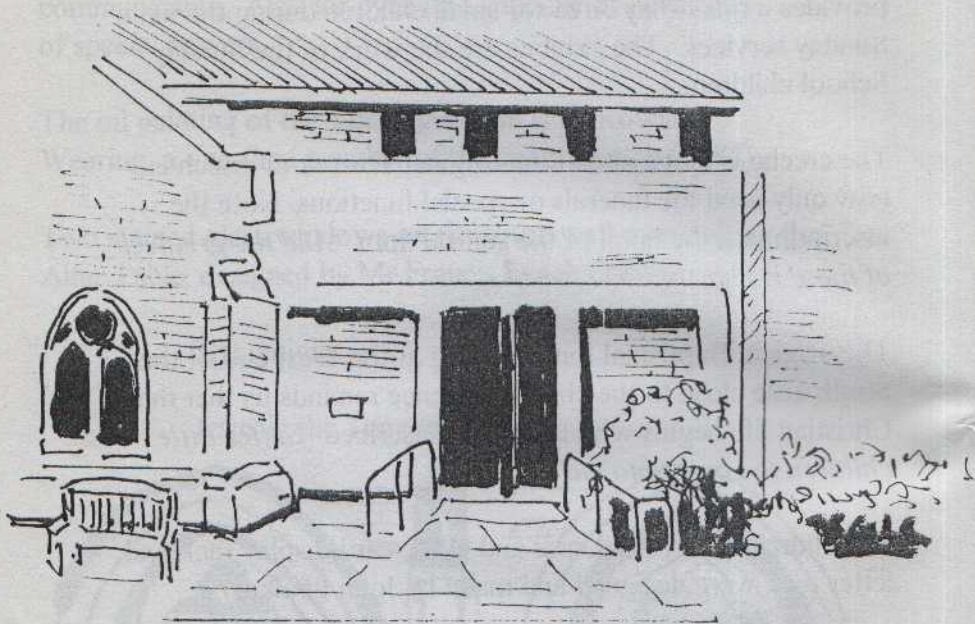
The original Baptismal font standing at the West end of the South aisle close to the church entrance reminds us that the Christian life begins with Baptism. Inscribed "*Suffer little children to come unto me*".

The church library bookcase and table, card display rack and letter rack were designed and made by John Faulkner.



NEW ENTRANCE

Plate glass door giving sense of "openness" to the world outside.



In the new entrance lobby is a wallhanging to mark St. John's Centenary year. Designed by Rosalind Jones and hand and machine-embroidered by members of the congregation, it depicts the clergy, officers and activities in progress during the centenary year.

LOBBY AND COMMUNITY ROOMS

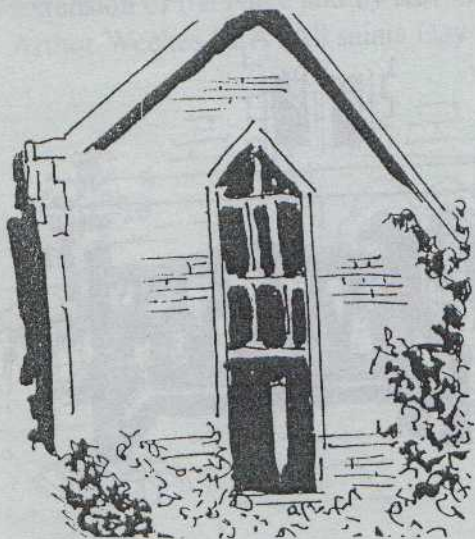
Wilkinson Room, named after the late Revd Canon Fred Wilkinson who inspired the building of the first Community Room which was extended in the Revd Canon Brian Jones' time as Vicar. It is now the main meeting room with extended kitchen area and toilet cubicles.

Top Floor

Gray Room, named after Mr P C (Bill) Gray who was Chairman of the Appeal Committee which raised funds to pay for the original community room.

Next door is the Parish Office with a small kitchen and toilet facilities.

A small room at the back called the Cavendish Room is mainly used as a Meeting Room for children or youth groups.



THE CHURCH GARDEN

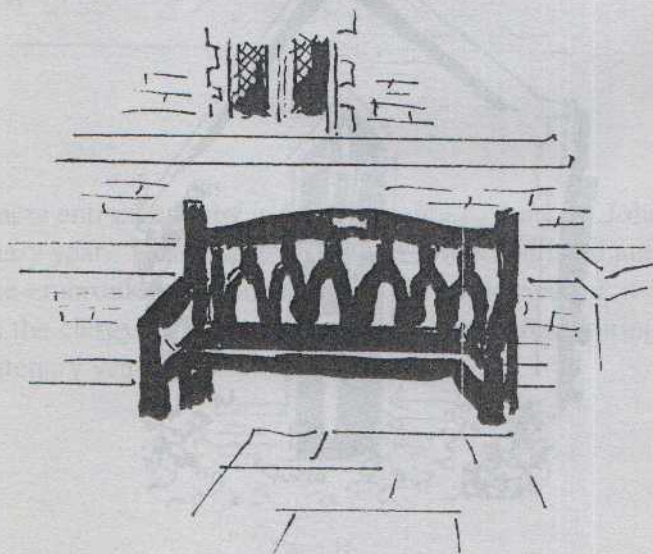
Front border rose-bed dedicated to the memory of
Edith Mary Naylor (1922-1998)

Two garden seats:

In memory of Ruby and Don Aldridge

In Memorium L B (L Bonnett)

Flower beds in front of the Community Room
extensions and round the central courtyard – the gift
of John and Vera Faulkner (May 1995).



NORTH SIDE

Whitebeam planted by the Bishop of Ely (the Rt Rev Stephen Sykes) to commemorate the Centenary of St John the Evangelist Church (1 Dec 1996). Snowdrops were planted round the base of the tree in commemoration of the Dunblane Nursery School massacre in March 1996.

Rosebed in front of the Vestry in memory of John Faulkner (1904-1997).

FOUNDATION STONES

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1896 | Laid by Lady Alwyne Compton (May 4th 1896) |
| 1908 | Laid by Mrs F H Chase (Oct 29th 1908) |
| 1928 | Extension of the Nave laid by Rev George Arthur Weekes M A (All saints Day 1928) |

