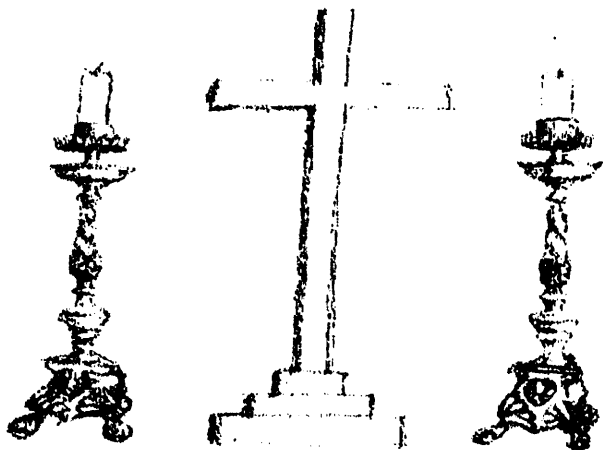
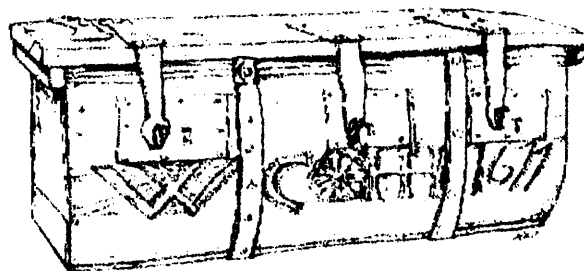


The Lethbridge family who owned Sandhill Park were benefactors to the church and the village and there is a grave in the churchyard. The brass cross and Flemish candle sticks were a gift from Sir Wroth.



In 1538 an order was issued that parishes should keep records of weddings, christenings and burials and that these should be kept in a 'sure coffer'. This chest is still in the parish and has the initials of the two church wardens H H and W C and the date 1677. It was fitted with three locks so that it could not be opened unless all three key holders were present - two churchwardens and the parson.



There are two Churchwardens' staves on the panelling by the organ, which were made by a local violin maker, who also did some restoration work on the harmonium. This is still played on occasions although it was replaced by the organ in 1903.

The wooden candle sticks were made by a local man from part of the old bell frame - hence the shape.

Acknowledgements:
Reverend A W Baynham
Memorials of Ash Priors

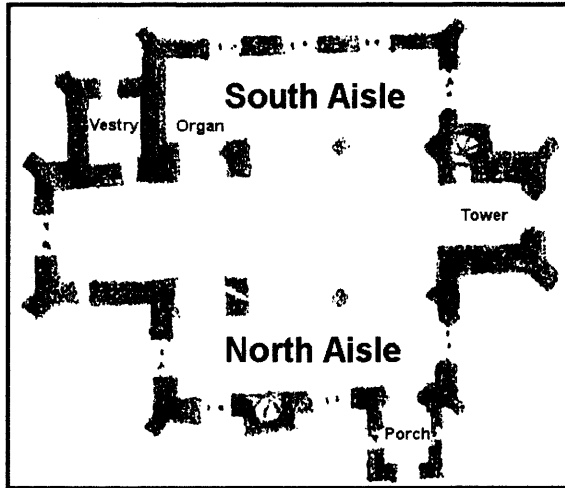
Church of Holy Trinity



Ash Priors

*'I was glad when they said unto me,
let us go into the house of the Lord'
Psalm 122*

The Church of the Holy Trinity Ash Priors



There was a church on this site in 1292 when it consisted of a nave and chancel with a tower at the west end containing three bells but it is believed that there was a chapel a century or more before.

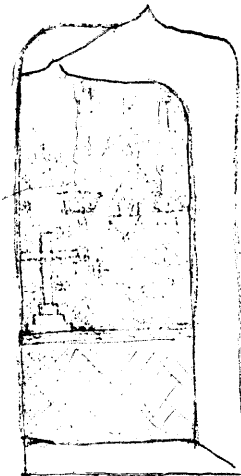
The tower is the oldest part of the present structure but it was probably altered at the end of the 14th century when the church was found to be too small and the north aisle was added.

There was a rood screen and gallery across the north aisle and the chancel archway, this was reached by a staircase in the north wall, which can be seen from

outside the church although the entrance was blocked up when the screen was removed, probably in the 16th century. In 1833 the south aisle was added, there is a plaque in the wall outside listing the graves of those buried where the aisle now stands.

In 1874 the church was much altered and renovated, the chancel was lengthened, the vestry added, the old north doorway was opened up and a porch built to provide the main entrance. The roofs were all replaced and the walls strengthened and buttressed. There had been a gallery at the west end, which was removed.

The dressed stone is from Hamdon Hill and the infill is local red sandstone. The hagioscope (also known as the squint) was discovered and carefully preserved.



If it was there before the north aisle was added it must have lined up with a window in the north wall to give a view of the altar from outside the church.

The font, which pre-dates the 1874 renovations now stands just inside the north door to welcome new members and visitors to the church.

The reredos and the pulpit are of Corsham stone, Ham stone, white lias and marble. The communion rail is American walnut with richly decorated columns.

There was a famous bell foundry Roger Semson's in Ash Priors although its exact location is not known and there is no definitive evidence to connect him with the present bells. They were re-cast and rehung in a new cage with an impressive ceremony to rededicate them in 1899. There are six bells all bearing the name of the founder John Taylor and Co. of Loughborough and the bell cage was made by J. Sully of Zinch, Stogumber.

There are vaults beneath the church floor for the Blakes, Skinners and Bryants and stones mark the spots. The Winters had a vault where the lectern is but there is no trace now.