

ST JAMES' THRAPSTON PARISH CHURCH



A GUIDE TO OUR CHURCH
Based upon a booklet by
Andrew Dauntton-Fear

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ST JAMES'
THRAPSTON PARISH CHURCH

by
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Updated by Neil Busby
Thrapston Heritage
(2021)

*'Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight,
and sin which clings so closely,
and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.'
(Hebrews 12.1-2)*

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All who have provided points of information to enable this booklet to be written.

A D-F

August 1989

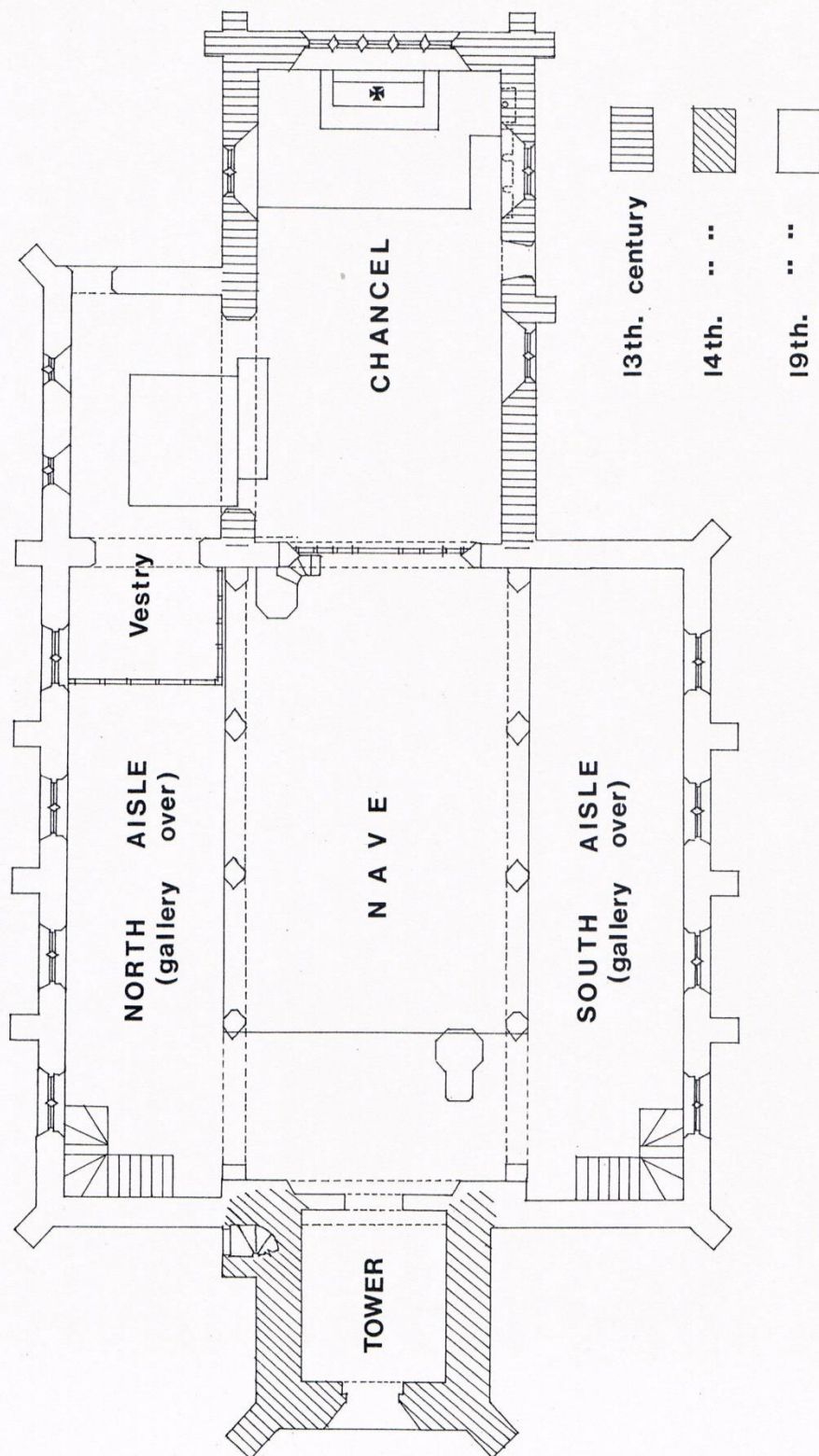
I am grateful to the many people who were able to provide the additional information needed to bring this booklet up to date, in particular my thanks go to David Read, Ann Tyrrell, Jean Swinger and June Davy.

Additional photographs supplied by John McGill and myself.

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November 2021

Parish Church of Saint James, Thrapston



St. James' Church Thrapston



INTRODUCTION

Thrapston is mentioned in the **Domesday Book** (1086) with the spelling Trapestone, when Odelin and Oger the Breton are said to have held land here. A church appears to have been in existence at least by the mid-twelfth century.

The present church was built in the 13th century, though only the chancel remains from that period. The patronage was granted by Baldwin Wake to the Abbey of Bourne in Lincolnshire, which he founded in 1133, and was held by the Abbey until its dissolution in 1534; since then, it has belonged to the Crown.

The Church is a Grade 2* Listed Building (first listed on 23-May-1967). Further information can be found at www.historicengland.org.uk.

THE CHURCHYARD

Headstones and Box-Graves

The headstones of the graves of the churchyard were moved to the perimeter in 1963 to facilitate the cutting of the grass. Some of the stones were lost but fortunately all the inscriptions had been recorded in 1917 by Lewis Henry Chambers and they are now lodged with Northamptonshire Archives at Northampton. Mr Chambers also recorded the position of each stone within one of five areas of the graveyard. Before the stones were moved, a plan of those remaining was made and this is also held by Northamptonshire Archives.

The earliest tombstone is the box-grave near the southwest corner of the nave which is grandly encircled with arms bearing alternately a cross and a saltire (St. Andrew's cross), (see plate). Now it is badly weathered.

This tomb is thought to date from the 15th century and to be of one of the **De Vere** family which held a manor in Thrapston from the late 12th century. This, and the other remaining box-graves are now encircled with railings.



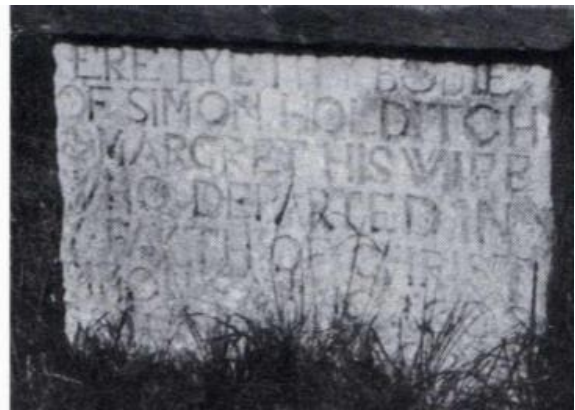
15th century De Vere box-grave

Of some interest too are the early 17th century box-graves for **Simon, Margaret and Thomas Holditch** southeast of the church; the bold lettering is still clearly legible with its quaint spelling (see plates).

The Holditch family came in the 16th century from near Swaftham in Norfolk to Wadenhoe and Thrapston, where they were landowning farmers. Staunchly Royalist, they lost their lands in Northamptonshire during the Civil War and moved to Peterborough.

The inscription reads Simon Holditch died 1602 and wife, and son Thomas Holditch died 1638

These box-graves are Grade 2 Listed (first listed on 31-Jul-1987). Further information is available at www.historicengland.org.uk.



17th century Holditch box-graves

The vast majority of the gravestones in the churchyard are 19th century and commemorate amongst others a Major-General of the Royal Marines (**Samuel Hawkins**, d. 1875), a Master and Matron of the Workhouse (**William Lumb**, d. 1868 and **Jane** d. 1872) and many of the tradespeople of the town. The graveyard was closed for burials in 1895 when the present 1½ acre cemetery was opened further up the Oundle Road.

Plaques

A plaque on the exterior of the north wall of the tower refers to the **Eland** family whose vault is under the mound adjacent. There are further monuments to members of the Leete and Eland families within the church.

Plaques on the exterior of the southwest wall of the nave and south wall of the tower refer to members of the large **Leete**



Elizabeth Eland (1789 – 1845)

family, whose vault is under the adjacent mound. **Henry Leete** father (d. 1804) and son (d. 1853) were surgeons in the town.

Set near the west end of the north wall of the chancel exterior is an illegible monument behind which the wall appears to be hollow. This may well be a blocked-up **leper squint** from the 13th century when there was a leper hospital of St. Leonard in the town. The chancel was repaired with reconstituted stone in 1976 and the rest of the church with Weldon and Clipsham limestone in the 1980s.

Boiler House

The present boiler house was built in 1989 by Messrs K. G. Wright of Islip, and a new gas-fired boiler installed. The previous boiler house on the same site, which had housed successively solid fuel and then oil-fired boilers, had become very damp and dilapidated.

Black Watch Mutiny

The church became involved in the 1743 Black Watch mutiny when ninety-eight men were captured and taken to Thrapston where they spent a night in the churchyard.

More of this story can be found at www.brigstockcouncil.org.uk/uploads/the-black-watch-incident.pdf.

THE TOWER

The west doorway, of early English design, now the only entrance to the church for the congregation, was recently restored largely due to a generous bequest by John Kenneth Brudenell, an active member of the church and community, and the scallop shell terminals added (in honour of the Apostle James, son of Zebedee, after whom the church is dedicated). Prior to the rebuilding of the nave and aisles in 1841-3 the main entrance was into the south aisle.

The **tower**, with its spire rising from behind a battlemented parapet, dates from the later years of the 14th century. The west window is a later ('perpendicular') insertion. A band of quatrefoil panelling below the parapet relieves the flatness of the belfry stage.

The sloping floor recalls the medieval practice of bringing ploughs into the porch.

The small external door in the north wall of the tower is at the foot of the spiral staircase. The internal door was, it seems, blocked when the west arch of the nave was unblocked in 1897.

The top of the spire was repaired in 1897 and a new **weathercock** was added, a gift of Mr. J. Moulton, a High Street grocer, and made by John Ireland. The Spire was repaired again in 2006.

The weathercock came down in a gale in the 1970s and it was discovered that in a previous repair the weathercock tail had been attached upside down. It was re-installed having been refurbished by Graham Perkins, Director of A E Smith & Sons of Kettering and sponsored by the six daughters of Charles French, Barbara, Carole, Pauline, Jean, Christine, and Olive. Unfortunately, the tail was then subsequently blown off in high winds and has not yet been repaired. It currently hangs on the wall in the vestry.

The Porch

Entering the porch, a plaque on the left mentions a bequest by **Elizabeth Mancer Brown** of £100 invested in a field at Old Weston with the income to be used for the upkeep of the churchyard. The field (6.379 acres) was sold in 1968 for £1,200 and the net proceeds invested to bring a small but regular dividend to the church.

Rectors (from 1221)

The list of rectors from 1221 was researched by Richard Clarke, a resident of the town, and placed there first for a flower festival in 1974.

See Appendix A for a full list of rectors.

The Bells

A Parish Meeting in October 1896 decided that to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, the old peal of five bells (one of which was cracked) should be removed and a new peal cast and hung in their place. The cost £500 was raised by subscriptions.

The old peal, removed in March 1897, bore the following inscriptions:

- No. 1 (11cwt) Henry Bagley made me, 1686
- No. 2 (4cwt) Henry Lenton, James Robinson, Churchwardens 1765
- No.3 (5cwt) Tobie Norris cast me, 1677: J. Woodcock
- No.4 (6cwt) I + S Santa Anna ora pro nobis (St. Anne pray for us)
- No.5 (7cwt) Thomas Norris made me, 1634

The new peal of eight bells was dedicated by the Dean of Peterborough on 6th May 1897 and inscribed as follows:

This peal of eight bells was erected on 20th June to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the reign of Queen Victoria.

*Septimus Kingsford, Rector
William Hillyard, John Pashler, Churchwardens
George Smith Chairman of Parish Council*

Tenor (14cwt 71lb)

- No. 7 (9cwt 2qtr 7lb) Ring out the false ring in the true
- No. 6 (7cwt 18lb) Ring out the feud of rich and poor
- No. 5 (6cwt 1qtr 18lb) Ring in redress to all mankind
- No. 4 (5cwt 25lb) Ring out the thousand wars of old
- No. 3 (4cwt 2qtr 9lb) Ring in the thousand years of peace
- No. 2 (4cwt 1qtr 7lb) Ring out the darkness of the land
- No. 1 (4cwt 1qtr 2lb) Ring in the Christ that is to be

(These are quotations from Tennyson's poem, 'Ring out, wild bells')

The Revd. H. L. James of Stamford, an authority on bells, was one of the first to ring a full peal (Superlative Surprise Major) and commented that they were the most musical peal that he had heard in the county.

Wall Clock

In 1900 a wall clock was placed in the bell ringing chamber and a chiming mechanism installed in the chamber above to strike the hours and chime the quarters. Both were made by Mr. **Edwin Turner Cottingham**, Thrapston resident and distinguished clockmaker, a respected horologist and one of the seven men who built a Greenwich clock. The chiming mechanism was overhauled in 1955. No clock face has ever been donated. Sad to say, the wall clock was stolen in 1984.

A new clock was made by the blacksmith Mr. Frank James of Broughton and a wooden case was subsequently added to protect the weights and pendulum. The bells and chiming mechanism were restored in 2007 by John Smith & Sons, Derby as part of the commemoration of the 80th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in celebration of the town's 800th anniversary of being granted a market charter by King John in 1205.

THE NAVE

The nave and aisles had become so dilapidated in the early 19th century that they were pronounced positively dangerous by Mr. Bryan Browning of Stamford, architect and surveyor to the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough. In 1841 rebuilding began according to his design.

The episode was filled with high drama. The contracts were signed in April 1841 with Mr. George Smith, a Northampton builder, a man of independent ideas, who undertook to complete the work in four months. In May he asked that the floor level should be raised a foot to allow a better south entrance into the churchyard. By July the architect had written complaining angrily that his instructions were being totally disregarded. In August Mr. Smith declared he would work under the contract no more. He then had to take legal proceedings to obtain payment for the work he had done.

The work was completed by another contractor in 1841, but the south entrance was abandoned. A plaque on the wall in the west gallery indicates that seating for 291 people were installed, and in consequence of a grant from the Incorporated (Church Building) Society for promoting the enlargement, building, and repairing of Churches and Chapels, 146 of that number were declared to be free and unappropriated for ever. Previously there had been seating for 288, 50 of which were free. The plan showing the position of the free seats, which the plaque declares is in the vestry, has now disappeared.

One of the conditions of receiving the grant was that the pulpit and reading desk were to be removed from the centre of the middle aisle and placed one each side of the entrance to the chancel.

Churchwardens at the time were Thomas Rippin and Bleake More Vaughan.

Pews

In 1958, a gift of pews for downstairs came from the chapel of the American Air Force base in Chelveston. During the re-ordering work carried out in the 1990s, the pews were removed and replaced by the upholstered chairs currently in place. The pews were sold for around £50-£65 each to help with the cost of the new chairs.

At the same time the walls were re-plastered and whitewashed, and a new communion table introduced on the carpeted area with demountable communion rails.

The Galleries

The present north, west and south galleries with their box pews, date from 1841-3. A previous west gallery was removed at this time. Victorian congregations were so large that they were well used, but behaviour left much to be desired. At the Annual Parochial Meeting in 1844 it was resolved that 'a proper and efficient person' be selected and paid 30 shillings a year for maintaining order during divine worship. The post clearly lapsed with time. Further complaints about the behaviour of boys and girls up there during services led to a resolution at the Annual Vestry in 1897 to appoint six sides men to assist the churchwardens in keeping order.

The colours of the **Thrapston Branch of the Royal British Legion** were first hung in the west gallery in 1986.

The Washington Arms

After entering the nave, on the left on the wall next to the entrance door, is one of the most interesting features of the church: the arms of **Sir John Washington** (see plate). In the 18th century it appears they were prominently displayed behind the holy table¹. For some reason they were transferred to the exterior of the north wall of the chancel and then moved to their present position in 1888.

Sir John, who is said to have held one of the Thrapston manors in the 17th century², was great, great, great uncle of George Washington, first President of the United States of America. Sir John was the eldest son of Lawrence Washington Jnr. of Sulgrave. He married Mary Curtis of Islip at St. Leonard's Shoreditch on 14th June 1621.

They lived at Montague House in Chancery Lane, Thrapston. The house, now the working premises of VHS Law, Solicitors, has oak panelled rooms and an ancient box garden.

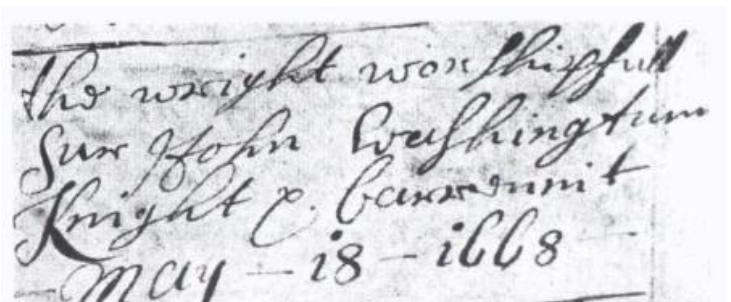
The three children of Sir John's first marriage were **Mordaunt** (named no doubt after John Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough, who resided at nearby Drayton House), **John** and **Philip** (baptised at Thrapston, 27th December 1624); as a result of the latter's birth Mary died on 1st January 1625 and was buried in Islip Church, where there is a monument to her.

Sir John's second marriage was to his kinswoman Dorothy Kirkby, eldest daughter of William Pargiter of Greatworth. They had a daughter Elizabeth (buried in Thrapston, 4th July 1632) and a son William (buried in Thrapston, 25th March 1639).

Sir John, when he died in 1668, appears to have outlived all his male descendants in England. His burial on 18th May is recorded in the church register (see plate) but the location is not known. His second wife was buried on 15th October 1678 at Fordham, Cambridgeshire.



Washington Arms



**"The wright worshipful Sur John Washington Knight and barrennit May 18 1668"
(Church Burial Register)**

The North Aisle Monuments

On the north wall, from west to east, there is first an attractive monument to **John** and **Catherine Robinson** and their sons **William** and **James** and James' wife **Mary**. All died between 1768 and 1780. John, James, and it appears his son James who perhaps put up the monument, were all saddlers of some wealth in the town. James Snr. was a churchwarden (see bell inscription above).

Next, there is another attractive plaque in memory of **John Griffith Leete** (d. 1868), second son of Henry Leete (surgeon), and John's wife **Elizabeth** (d. 1884). John clearly was responsible for the present Leete family plaque on the external south wall of the tower. He too was a surgeon and general practitioner.

The third memorial tablet records the death of **Henry Leete Esq.** at Clifton in Bristol in 1853 and that of his wife **Nancy** in Camberwell later the same year. Their remains were deposited in the family vault.

A little further family history may be of interest. Nicholas Leatt (or Leate) of Horsley in Derbyshire was Master of the Ironmongers' Company (1610-1620) and a famous horticulturist. William Leete (b. 1651) was the first of the family to settle in Thrapston and from him came a succession of surgeons.

Next to the Vestry door is a tribute to a colourful town character Randolphus Payne Bland (d. 1935), Town Crier and Parish Clerk, who used to sit beneath the tablet and is remembered amongst other things for his loud and late 'A-men' at the end of every prayer!

The Pulpit

The finely carved oak pulpit on a Portland stone base dates from 1911 and was designed by architect T. G. Jackson. The four steps were originally from the chancel and there was a handrail (see image of church interior before the screen).

The present steps date from the introduction of the screen.

The Screen

The beautifully carved oak screen was designed by architect Leslie Moore of Temple, Moore and Moore, Grays Inn, London. Notice the scallop shells for St. James. It was given to the church in 1929 by Mrs. **Marion Pashler** in memory of her husband John, who was churchwarden from 1893 to 1925. He died on 26th February 1925 and was buried in Catworth churchyard.



The Lectern and Memorials

The brass eagle lectern was made by Hart, Son & Peard from a design by T. G. Jackson in 1907.

On the south side of the outer chancel wall is a brass plate in memory of the Revd. **William Salmon Bagshaw**, Rector of Thrapston from 1837 to 1883 (see Appendix A and plate) and his wife **Ann**.

Below is another in memory of Edna Mary Carress, a pillar of the church (d. 10th March 1972), whose husband Frederick (d. 22nd October 1982) was for many years, churchwarden and vice-chairman of the Parochial Church Council as well as chairman of District and Town Councils, a County Councillor and made M.B.E.

Musical Area (formally the Children's Corner)

Before the south aisle was built the church appears to have been cruciform with a chantry chapel³ on this site (and another where the present vestry is).

A Children's Corner was created in 1936 when permission was granted to remove three pews and introduce a curtain around the walls, two children's chairs, an oval table, a bookcase, a prayer desk and pictures. The original furniture remained until the 1990s, with the bookcase housing the church library.

During the 1990s the area was re-configured to provide an area for instrumental music support.

The Rector's family pew, which ran along the north side of the Children's Corner, was removed in 1958.

The east wall of the corner bears three memorial tablets to the **Eland** family, some of whom were buried in the family vault on the north side of the tower. As early as 1783 George Eland, a linen draper was in possession of a building with shops on the site which included the building occupied by the recently closed Barclay's Bank. He later started the Thrapston Bank which continued under various names and with various partners, including his son George (whose memorial is a stained-glass window in the chancel), his grandson Robert Fowler Eland and John Yorke, until it was taken over by the Stamford, Spalding and Boston Banking Company in 1888. The premises were ultimately taken over by Barclays.

There are also memorials to **Joseph** and **Eric Gainer** (d. 1922, 1974) father and son, much loved Thrapston doctors. Eric's son, **Nigel** continued the practice until his retirement in 1988 and he died in 2004

The corner also contains, on the south wall, a memorial to the **Revd. John Willan**, Rector from 1755 to 1789.

The North Aisle Monuments

From east to west along the wall there is a plain alabaster monument to Charlotte Hodson, wife of the Rector from 1789 to 1828. She bore, it appears, much suffering with fortitude (d. 1801).

Next there is a black tablet with a moving tribute to Elizabeth Pack, Sunday School leader for sixteen years who died in 1822 at the age of 33 and was buried in her native Islip. The tablet continues her work of instruction:

*In **life**, I taught the young betimes to pray;
To love God's Holy Book and Holy Day,
Their parents and their teachers to revere
All evil to resist, and serve the Lord with fear.*

*In **death**, I teach them still. My early grave
Now points each warning which in life I gave;
A mute stern monitor, it bids them be
Watchful to gain at last a blest eternity.*

She was the daughter of Charles and Letitia Pack of Islip and died a spinster. The third tablet is to another member of the Hodson family, Robert Eyres Hodson, third son of the Rector. He died in 1799 aged only five and his parents had inscribed the touching verse:

*Some messenger of God the door has pass' d
From earth returning, saw the beauteous flow'r,
Transported gather'd it, and in his hand
Bore it to Heav'n rejoicing.*

Monuments on the West Wall, South Side

Near the door is a tablet to Mrs **Jemima Nicholson**, wife of James Nicholson Esq. and daughter of Elmes Foster Esq., second son of the Revd. William Foster (Rector of Thrapston, 1709-1755). She died in 1798.

The Font

The present font is of Clipsham stone (see plate) and was designed by T. G. Jackson. It was dedicated as 'the Children's Offering to the House of God' on 12th August 1888, the cost being met by the offerings from Children's Services from 11th November 1883. The heavy oak font cover is in memory of **William Howard Tomkins Russell**, Rector 1928-1941. The 14th century font that preceded it went into private hands and cannot with certainty now be traced.

The font was moved to its current position in the 1990s.



The brass ewer (jug) was presented as an Easter offering by a Mrs. A. E. Parsons on Easter Day 1890.

THE CHANCEL

The chancel dates from the 13th century and is the oldest part of our church. Its little priest's doorway and the double piscina are from that date. In the 14th century the east window of five lights and reticulated tracery was inserted as well as the windows in the north and south sides. In the late 18th century, there was a confessional in the south side.

The present choir stalls (note the diocesan arms carved on the priest's stall), the paving and general layout of the chancel dates from 1902, following the design of T. G. Jackson. The organ was moved back about two feet and the vestry extended into the north aisle. At the same time plaster was removed from the ceiling of the eastern end of the chancel.

The Organ

The church is said to have had an 'excellent organ' in 1830 and even in 1818 records speak of a paid organist. About 1880 the organ was removed from the gallery to the chancel.

The present two-manual organ dates from 1888 and was built by C. Martin of Oxford.



The War Memorial

The chancel panelling and the reredos (behind the holy table) were placed in the church as a memorial to those from Thrapston who died in the First World War and designed by Sir Thomas Graham Jackson, R.A. The reredos was the work of Messrs Thompson and Sons of Peterborough except for its sculptured figure panels, which were undertaken by Messrs Farmer and Brindley of London. The panelling, including the lettering, was the work of Messrs Pettit of Thrapston. The reredos was in place by Christmas Day 1919, the panelling by 30th January 1920, when it was dedicated by the Archdeacon of Oakham. It originally had the names of 44 men who died during WW1, and further names were added after WW2. Research recently has identified a further four men who died during WW1, one man who died during WW2 and one man from the Iraq War.

The Stained Glass Windows

The fine stained-glass **east window**, which catches the eye as soon as one enters the church, was designed by William Wailes of Newcastle, and given in 1863 by public subscription in memory of **John Yorke** Esq., (1788-1862), local magistrate and sometime Deputy Lieutenant and Vice-Chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions for the county. A bronze plaque behind the St. James' banner to the left of the window records this. He lived in Thrapston House in Huntingdon Road and died in 1862 aged 74.

The five main panels of the window depict, left to right: Gethsemane, Jesus carrying the cross, the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the ascension. Below are Old Testament scenes, left to right: Jacob receiving news of the apparent death of Joseph, Abraham leading Isaac to the place of sacrifice, the angel preventing Abraham from killing Isaac, Joseph being lifted out of the pit for sale to traders, and Elijah being taken up to heaven. Each corresponds in some way to the main scene above.



Other members of the Yorke family are commemorated by flagstones in the chancel floor. A Latin inscription describes **Daniel Yorke** (1708-1786), John's grandfather, as 'a man who lived as if about to die: a regular worshipper of God, sparing to himself, generous to others, most delightful to his friends, gracious (charus) to all.'

Daniel grew up in Stoke Doyle where his father the Revd. John Yorke was incumbent and must have watched the present church there being built in the 1720s. He moved to Thrapston where he practised as an attorney. He married

Penelope Bletsoe, who, after bearing him three children, died in 1755. He did not remarry.

Daniel's second son **William** (John Yorke's father) also practised as an attorney in Thrapston. He and his wife **Margaret** (d. 1830) are also mentioned on the chancel flagstones, as is their daughter **Mary** (largely illegible inscription) and their son William who died in 1802 aged 19.

The smaller stained-glass window, in the south wall, was placed in the church as a family memorial to **George Eland Jnr.**, draper, banker and churchwarden, who died on 27th December 1870, aged 72. It depicts eight miracles of Jesus recorded in the gospels.

The Bishop's Chair

The present bishop's chair was donated by Douglas Risely, a butcher of the town. It was designed and carved by Leonard Goff of Pury End near Towcester in 1984. On its back is the coat of arms of Peterborough diocese. It replaced a pair of sanctuary chairs 'of chaste and beautiful structure' donated by George Eland in 1856-7. Sadly, they were stolen in 1978, the thieves entering the church before locking up time and then taking the vestry door off its hinges to make their getaway.

The Holy Table

The holy table (or altar) was designed by Leslie T. Moore and given to the church in 1943 by Mrs. Millard in memory of her husband Salter, an auctioneer at Thrapston market and churchwarden. In 1985 a faculty was obtained to move it forward some two feet to the edge of the top chancel step, to allow the celebrant at Holy Communion to take the westward position.

The Piscina, Sedilia and Priest's Door

In the south wall of the chancel, from east to west, are the piscina, the sedilia and the priest's door. The **piscina** (Latin for 'pool') is a shallow stone basin with a drain. Most double piscinae such as ours date from the reign of Edward I (1272-1307). In one side the priest's fingers were washed before he

consecrated the Holy Communion bread and wine, in the other the Communion vessels were washed after use.

The **sedilia** (Latin for 'seats') are three seats which were used by the priest and his assistants, the deacon and subdeacon. Our sedilia are 14th century and are 'ogeeheaded ... with crocketed arches and dividing shafts with moulded capitals and bases on one level' (Victoria County History). They appear too close to the ground for comfort but that is because the floor of the chancel was raised a foot in 1843 to make it level with that of the new nave.

The little **priest's door** is adjacent. Such a door was normally in the south wall, much smaller than the main doorways, and afforded the priest direct access to the chancel.

The Chancel Monuments

To the east of the organ there is an elaborate plaque in memory of Mrs. **Elizabeth Darnell** (d. 1831) given by her daughter Mrs. **Mary Montague** (a school proprietor) and extended to include Mary herself (d. 1845) by her husband Charles Washington Montague, a surgeon, who lived in Montague House, Chancery Lane. Mary provided in her will for the education of young ladies of Thrapston which following legal advice was used towards the establishment of the Church of England school on Market Road in 1851. The building is now occupied by Thrapston Primary School.

An alabaster plaque on the wall above the bishop's chair is in memory of Marianne (d. 1824), wife of the Revd. **William Lockwood Maydwell** and of her husband himself (d. 1836). He had been Curate of Thrapston from 1819 and was the son of the Revd. William Lockwood, Rector of Fyfield, Essex.

The bronze plaque in the east wall to John Yorke has already been mentioned in connection with the east window.

An alabaster plaque above the piscina commemorates another luminary, **Robert Salmon Bagshaw** of the Honourable East India Company Civil Service, who was Judge of Broach in the Presidency of Bombay and died in 1855 when only 30. He was the eldest son of the long-serving Rector. His brother **Frederick John Salmon Bagshaw**, the second son of the Rector, a noted soldier who fought and died in the Punjab, also aged only 30, has a plaque over the priest's door.

On the wall behind the south choirstalls is a plaque to the Revd. **William Greenwood**, Rector of Thrapston 1828-1837. It records the esteem and affection with which his parishioners regarded him.

Further to the west is an oval memorial to **Anne Mary Salmon Bagshaw** (d. 1864), only daughter of the Rector.

THE VESTRY

At the east end of the north aisle is the vestry, with its attractive carved oak screens lined with blue curtains. It was designed by T. G. Jackson and erected by Charles Pettit in November 1888. At the same time the old brick vestry, built in 1800, which blocked the north window of the chancel was removed and a new organ chamber built for the present organ.

Within the **choir vestry** (the larger chamber) there are pictures of former Rectors (the 'rogues' gallery!). While there is now an electric organ blower there is also a handle for manually pumping the organ in emergency.

There is, on the north wall of the vestry, a plaque in memory of **Henrietta Squire** (d. 1824), eldest surviving daughter of John Squire (1708-1784) whose father Thomas made the River Nene navigable from Peterborough to Thrapston. John lived first in Oundle, then moved to Islip House where he had a bonded warehouse for wines and spirits, and finally he moved to Hartford near Huntingdon. Henrietta's mother was Jane Arnott, daughter of the Vicar of All Saints, Wakefield.

At the end of the passageway is the small rector's vestry. On the east wall is a brass plate to **Gilbert Hodson** another son of the Rector, who died in 1802 aged six. A second brass plate records the death of **Elizabeth Alington** in 1829. She was born Elizabeth Foster (sister of Jemima Nicholson - nave plaque). Her first husband was Thomas Squire (d. 1810, son of John). She married the Revd. William Alington, Rector of Twywell (whose first wife Sarah d. 1808) in Twywell Church on 10th October 1820.

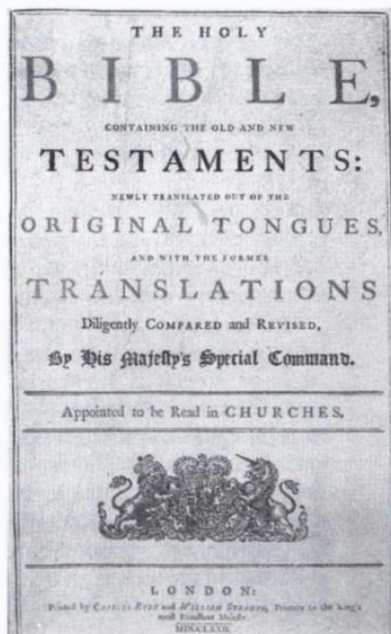
As part of the 1990's reordering, the Vestry was reduced in size enabling the font to be placed in its new position.

CHURCH REGISTERS AND ANCIENT BOOKS

A law in 1538 ordered every parish priest to record every baptism, wedding and burial he performed. These were generally written on paper, sometimes on loose sheets. In 1598 it was ordered that these should be copied into parchment books, 'especially since the first year of her Majesty's reign' (Elizabeth I, 1558).

Thrapston's **earliest register** begins in 1560. Its pages are indeed of parchment and baptisms, weddings and burials are listed in parallel columns on the same page. This and subsequent registers are to be found among the considerable collection of **Thrapston Parish Records** held at the County Record Office, Northampton. Only the current registers are kept in the church.

The most ancient, printed book possessed by the church is a leather-bound copy of the **First and Second Books of Homilies** (official sermons) in Gothic script, printed by John Norton in London 1633-1635. The church also possesses an Authorised Version of the **Bible** printed in London in 1772 by Charles Eyre and William Strahan. It is of huge size by today's standards, its pages measuring some 11½ " by 18½ " (plate). The church also possesses two **Books of Common Prayer** of similar dimensions, one printed in 1815, the other in 1822. None of the church's present stalls could begin to accommodate them.



Title page
and
Frontispiece
of 1772 Bible



CHURCH PLATE

By far the oldest chalice⁴ once possessed by the church was a silver **Elizabethan lidded chalice** 7.25" high and 3.3" in diameter. It was almost certainly made by John Pikenynge and assayed in London in 1570. This chalice was sold in 1994. There is also a silver chalice and paten given by Alfred Wigan (1860), and another in memory of **Norman Cotton**, churchwarden, shoemaker and shopkeeper (1975).

PARISH ASSESSMENT

The assessment, approved by Thrapston Parochial Council 22 July 1997, noted that the church had undergone major restoration and reordering since the mid-1980s.

The external stonework was extensively repaired and refurbished, as were nave, chancel and aisle roofs.

A new gas-fired boiler and replacement boiler house were installed, and all of the nave clerestory windows were reglazed by the early 1990s.

The scheme of reordering included a new hot water radiator system, new lighting and a sound reinforcement system (a hearing loop).

The nave pews were all replaced by wood and fabric chairs and a glazed west entrance door added.

The font was repositioned to provide a new baptistry area. An area for communion with a new communion table was formed in the nave.

The communion table in the sanctuary at the east end and the choir stalls were kept.

The bells and bell frame were refurbished and rededicated in May 1997 to coincide with the centenary of their original dedication.

There is now seating for 130 in the nave, with extra seating in the chancel choir stalls and up to 160 in the gallery pews.

The current rectory was built in 1962 and the church hall in 1971.

Notes

1. (p.12) Bridges describes in heraldic terms what corresponds fairly closely with the arms we have but he does not know, or at least does not mention, the identity of the arms. Thrapston Parish Magazine of February 1896 tells of their discovery in the wall of the old vestry.

2. (p.12) George Washington, in an article in **Northamptonshire Past and Present** (1966), says that he obtained it from his friend John Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough. Bridges, Whellan and V. C. H. speak of the Mordaunts' holding what had been the De Vere manor in the early 17th C. but make no mention of Sir John Washington. That the latter's eldest son was called Mordaunt at least reflects a close connection between the two Johns.

Montague House is the oldest building in Chancery Lane and had extensive lands. Castle Court is a retirement housing complex built in 2015 and run by Longhurst Group further along Chancery Lane would seem to have been built on the site of another Thrapston manor house.

3. (p.15) So Bridges. A chantry chapel was built for the regular celebration of the Mass for the repose of the soul of its founder. Many date from the 15th and early 16th centuries.

4. (p.24) Elizabethan I Silver Chalice and Cover. A chalice on a domed spreading circular foot with plain knop and tapering cylindrical bowl with applied reeded rib. A domed cover with spool-shaped foot finial. Both engraved with a band of stylised strapwork and foliage. Together both weighed 7 oz. (234 g) and measured 7.25" (18.5 cm) high.

APPENDIX A: RECTORS OF THRAPSTON

1221 **William de DUNINGTON**

1247 **Robert BASSET**

From a family of early Norman settlers in the Midlands, with several references in Patent Rolls

Simon de ELLESWORTH

1288 **William de ELLESWORTH**

(Bridges) Family was well known in Patent Rolls

1322 **William de GLATTON**
GALFRIDUS

1361 **John de CARLETON**

1362 **Robert AUKS**

1365 **Philip de NASSINGTON**
Thomas BUCCLE

1379 **Henry de PETLYNG**

1401 **William HAYLYS**

1402 **Richard DAMSON**

1406 **Alan THAME**

1409 **William CHAMBERLEYN**

1422 **Robert STOCKE**

1425 **Robert BITHAM**

(Bishop Fleming's Register)

1427 **John WYTNAGTON**

(Bishop Fleming's Register)

John BRANTINGHAM

1437 **Thomas PERSON**

1445 **Thomas BARON**

- 1458 **William THORESBY**
A Yorkshire family. (Ancestor John Thoresby, Archbishop of York and Chancellor, d. 1373)
- 1461 **Richard BRYAN**
(Bridges)
- 1465 **William THORESBY**
(Bridges, a second mention)
John NICHOLL
- 1467 **William BLANKNEY**
- 1469 **John BYSCH**
- 1472 **John MESSANT LLB**
- 1495 **Henry HORENBY**
(Bridges)
- 1498 **Richard CROWE**
- 1504 **Hugh BULKELEY**
- 1524 **Thomas HUGDEN**
Instituted May 1st on the presentation of John Hugden DD, President of Magdalen College, Oxford
- 1536 **Thomas SMALL**
Deprived in 1554 (clearly refusing allegiance to the Pope); restored in Queen Elizabeth's reign. Rector again at the time of the Bishop's Visitation in 1561.
- 1556 **RICHARD BRADBURN**
- 1557 **Christopher MALTON MA**
*Previously Curate of Great Houghton then Incumbent of Pevensey, (Sussex), of Lilley, (Herts.), of Holcot, and of Maids Morton (Bucks.) In 1560 became Rector of Sywell.
Archdeacon of Cleveland in 1564 until his death in 1569-70.*
- 1566 **John SUDLOW**
He was also Rector of Twywell from 1568. Resigned both livings 1573.

1573 William GULSON MA

Described in a survey in 1576 as 'non-conformist' perhaps because he took part in the Oundle 'exercise' (regular Protestant meetings for preaching and discussion).

Rector of Wymondham (Leics.) in 1584.

Some very distinguished sons: Theodore, Fellow of Merton College, Oxford and of the College of Physicians; John, Fellow of Queens' College, Cambridge [his father's college]; Nathaniel, ordained, Oxford D.D.; and William, Bishop of Bristol 1678-84.

1579 Edmund MASSIE

He was married twice and had numerous children including Isaac and Nathaniel who were ordained.

Clearly strongly Protestant, being a member of the Kettering 'classis', which practised a form of secret Presbyterianism within the Church of England.

1628 Henry WILLIS MA, BD

Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge. He left Thrapston to be Rector of Stanwick 1631-2, where he was buried in 1678. He was a Prebend of Southwell.

1632 Thomas HOLT

He also held parishes, it seems, in Stamford, and may have had a connection with Barton Seagrave.

In these perilous years he was tried for various misdemeanours:

*'Some of his accusations were these; that he came in by the Interest of the Lord Keeper Coventry, that he had been absent from his Cures, and sent scandalous preachers to supply them; one of which had affirmed that they were beating down the churches with axes and hammers. And as I doubt this was what made that person scandalous, so I believe it was something or other of the same kind which made the rest so likewise: 'Tis certain at least that malignancy was also added as one part of Mr. Holt's charge'. (Walker, **The Sufferings of the Clergy**).*

Nevertheless, he continued in Thrapston and was buried there in 1659.

- 1659 **Thomas TARRY MA**
Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. He was Intruded (brought in without episcopal ordination). He refused to obey the Act of Uniformity of 1662 requiring all clergy to be episcopally ordained, conform to the liturgy of the Prayer Book and declare abhorrence to armed resistance to the King. He was summarily ejected and reduced to a state of considerable poverty until invited to be Master of the Grammar School at Higham Ferrers which flourished under his supervision. (Walker)
- 1662 **Thomas MEDBURY MA**
Formerly, he was Rector of Islip, where his son Henry was Rector 1681-1706.
- 1680 **John RUSSELL**
Eldest son John became Fellow of St. John's Cambridge and Vicar of All Saints Cambridge.
- 1709 **William FOSTER MA**
*Son of William Foster, Rector of Sudborough.
 From 1714 he was also Rector of South Moiety of Woodford.
 He married Mary St. John, daughter of Sir Andrew St. John and Dame Jane. Their son William became Rector of Newton Bromswold 1741 and Rector of the North Moiety of Woodford in 1745.
 In 1747, following a petition from father and son, the Bishop of Peterborough granted the union of the two moieties after 542 years of separation! (E. and M. Humphries, Woodford juxta Thrapston).
 Elmes Foster (see monument to Jemima Nicholson, west of nave) was the son of our Rector's second marriage, to Deborah Spinkes of Alwinkle.*
- 1755 **John WILAN**
Memorial tablet originally in Children's Corner.
- 1789 **Septimus HODSON MB**
He worked assiduously to provide adequate food and clothing for the poor of the parish. On Christmas Eve 1822 he gave a lb beef to every poor man, woman, and child in the parish - 380 lbs in all! He helped to establish a Savings Bank in the eastern part of the county as he had formerly in western Northumberland. During his incumbency, Holy Communion was celebrated only at Christmas, Easter, Whitsun and the first Sunday in October.

1828 William GREENWOOD MA

*Fellow, Tutor and then Dean (1826-7) of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he saved the manuscripts of Archbishop Parker from certain destruction in a fire (Patrick Bury, College history).
Memorial tablet in our chancel.*

1837 William Salmon BAGSHAW MA

Formerly Curate of Brigstock. There are various family memorial tablets in our church.

A report on the church and parish in 1881 reveals that of a total population of 1,367, (nearly half Dissenters, especially Baptists) 200-250 attended morning worship in our church and 450-500 evening worship each Sunday! Holy Communion was by then celebrated every Sunday and twice at major festivals. There were separate Bible Classes each week for women and girls and for men and boys.

1883 Septimus KINGSFORD MA

Born 1836, he married Sophie, daughter of Canon St. Vincent Beechey.

Chaplain at St. Petersburg, Chaplain to the British Embassy and Tutor to some of the Russian Royal Family including the haemophiliac son of Tsar Nicholas, 1868-78.

Vicar of Lower Shuckbury, (Warwicks.) 1878-83.

Soon after his institution in Thrapston he obtained a report from London architect T. G. Jackson regarding the complete restoration of the church. Much of it was put into effect. Shortly before his death in 1913 he proposed at a meeting of parishioners that the next stage should be tackled forthwith as funds became available: lowering the floor, reseating the nave and building a new south porch.

He was Chairman of Thrapston Parish Council from 1910 and, for many years, a Rural District Councillor. He was President and Secretary of Thrapston Choral Society.

Linda, the eighth of his nine children, was church organist and choir mistress for many years after his death.

1914 Basil Wilberforce STOTHERT

Curate of St. Beryan (Cornwall).

Chaplain to the Forces in several locations, 1901-14.

Chaplain to the First Northamptonshire Regiment, 1916-18.

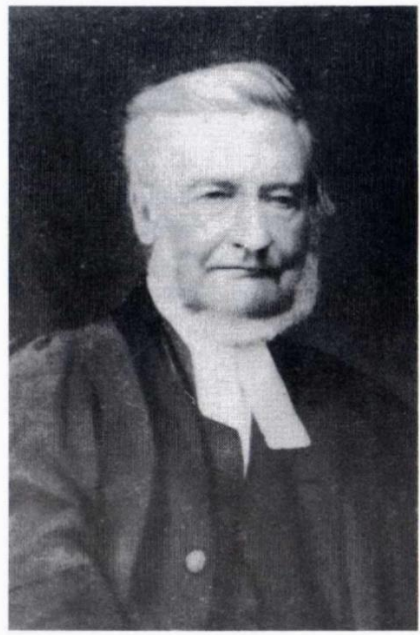
No further parish after Thrapston.

- 1917 **Henry Edward FITZHERBERT MA**
*Came to Thrapston straight from a curacy at Blidworth (Notts.).
 Rural Dean of Higham Ferrers 1919 - 23. Then successively Rector
 of Benefield, Latimer with Flaunden, Netherseale with Overseale,
 and Weston-on-Trent. Hon. Canon of Derby.
 Archdeacon of Derby 1943-52.*
- 1923 **Alfred Girdleston BAGSHAW MA**
*Grandson of W. S. Bagshaw, Rector of Thrapston and son of H. S.
 Bagshaw, whom he followed as Vicar of Woodnewton cum
 Apethorpe.
 Rector of Londesborough and Domestic Chaplain to the Earl of
 Londesborough 1915-23.
 From Thrapston he went to be Vicar of Finedon, 1928-39.*
- 1928 **William Howard Tomkins RUSSELL MA**
*After several curacies, Assistant Master of King Edward's School,
 Stratford-upon-Avon 1920-28
 Rector of Newbold-on-Stour 1920-28*
- 1942 **Ralph Stenlake MUNDY MA F.R.Econ.S**
*After several curacies, Vicar of Stokenchurch 1936-42
 Rector of Kislingbury w. Rothersthorpe 1950-55
 Chaplain, Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow (Oxford) from 1955*
- 1950 **Charles Arthur BENDER MA**
*After serving several curacies, C.M.S. missionary in Peshawar,
 1920-37. C.M.S. Secretary for Punjab and Sind, 1937-39
 Rector of Kislingbury 1939-50 (with Rothersthorpe from 1940).
 He then exchanged parishes with the Revd. R. S. Mundy
 Rural Dean of Thrapston 1954-56.
 Vicar of Duddington w. Tixover 1956-57
 Rector of Cucklington w. Stoke Trister & Bayford (Somerset) 1957-9.*
- 1957 **John Edward Clifford DAKIN AKC**
*Church Army Captain 1931-36
 Curate of Retford, (Notts.) 1940-2
 Army Chaplain 1942-6 (latterly Senior Chaplain of the Forces)
 Priest in Charge, Bircotes (Notts.), 1946-50.
 Vicar of Colston Bassett and Rector of Langar w. Barnston, 1950-57.
 Rural Dean of Thrapston 1957-70.
 Non-residentiary Canon of Peterborough 1972-78
 Canon Emeritus 1978-*

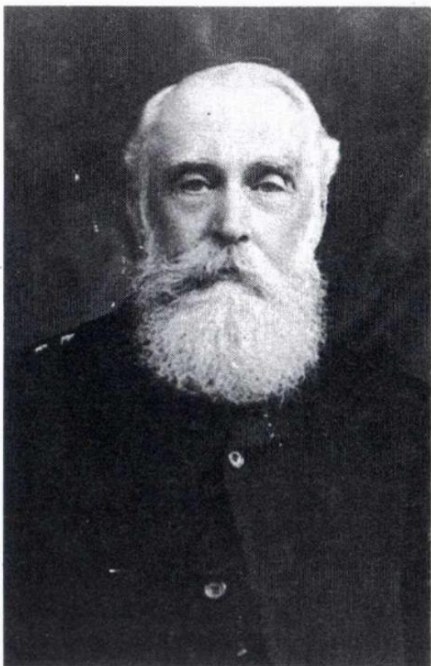
- 1979 **Andrew DAUNTON-FEAR B.Phil., Ph.D.**
Lecturer and Tutor Ridley College Melbourne 1968-70
Priest in Charge at Holy Trinity, Islington. 1971-75
Curate at St. Mary, Stoke Bishop (Bristol) 1976-79
Rector of St James, Thrapston 1979-89
Rector of Barming (Kent) 1989-2003
Lecturer, St Andrew's Theological Seminary, Manila 2003-15
(CMS Mission Partner 2005-11)
- 1990 **David Ronald BIRD BA**
Curate at St Andrew, St Philip, Kinson, Salisbury 1986-90
Rector at St James' Thrapston 1990-97
Rural Dean at Higham 1994-97
Vicar at St Giles, Northampton 1997-2012
Canon of Peterborough 2001-12
Priest in Charge at St Marks, Tollington, London 2012-14
Team Rector at St Marks, Tollington, London 2014-19 (Retired 2019)
- 1998 **Graham Dennis Robert BELL**
Curate at St Helen, St Luke, Stapleford 1968-71
Curate at St Botolph, Barton Seagrave, Kettering 1971-76
Vicar at All Saints, Whickham Market, Ipswich 1982-98
Rector of St James, Thrapston 1998-2007 (Retired 2007)
- 2009 **Charles Dudley JEFFERSON**
Curate at St Chad, Chester 1981-84
Curate at St Peter then Team Parish, Macclesfield 1984-89
Rector at St Peter, Elworth, 1989-99
School Chaplain at Framlingham College, Woodbridge
Hon. Priest in Charge at St Peter, Rendcomb 1999-2001
School Chaplain at Rendcomb College, Cirencester 2001-09
Rector at St James, Thrapston with Denford and Islip 2009-15
Rector at Middleton Cheney, Oxfordshire 2015-17
Vicar at St Leonard, Balderstone 2017-2019
Priest in Charge at Stapenhill, Walton on Trent and Seale, Derby
2019-21 (Retired 2021)
- 2016 **Nolan Daniel ROBSON**
Curate at St Thomas, Kilnhurst. South Yorkshire 2013-16
Rector at St James, Thrapston with Denford and Islip 2016 -



Septimus Hodson
Rector 1789 - 1828



William Bagshaw
Rector 1837 - 1883



Septimus Kingsford
Rector 1883 - 1913



William Russell
Rector 1928 - 1942



Charles Bender
Rector 1950 - 1957



John Dakin
Rector 1957 - 1978

APPENDIX B: THE CHURCH AS A SANCTUARY

In the Middle Ages a criminal on the run could flee into a church for sanctuary. From there he could either 'surrender himself to the King's peace', that is submit to the normal judicial processes of prison, trial and perhaps death, or he could confess his crime before the coroner and jurors from the four nearest townships and take an oath to leave the realm for ever.

Some interesting 14th century cases connected with Thrapston church are recorded on Coroners' Rolls:

ROLL 106 -- Stephen of Dry Drayton in Cambridgeshire took sanctuary in St. James' Church, Thrapston on 6th July 1301 and confessed he was a thief and had stolen three horses in the fields of Deene, in a place called Multoft. He abjured the realm of England before J. de Ashton (coroner) and jurors from Thrapston, Tichmarsh, Clopton and Thorpe-cum-Achurch.

He was assigned to the port of Dover with two horses, a cap, a girdle, a knife, two purses, a tunic, a sword, a saddle and 4½p in silver for which Thrapston will account.

On 4th August 1307 **Gilbert Asselyn of Thrapston** took sanctuary in Thrapston Church and confessed he had killed William Walraund of Thrapston.

He abjured the realm of England before H. Daundelyn (coroner) and jurors from the four nearest townships, Thrapston, Tichmarsh, Denford and Islip. The port of Dover was assigned to him.

On the 2nd January 1316-17 **William le Freman of Aldwinkle** took sanctuary in the church of St. James Thrapston and confessed before Henry de Tichemers that he was a thief. (He appears to have assisted in driving away some cattle and selling them illegally at Higham Ferrers)

He was assigned to Dover.

On 27th February 1317-18 **Walter Aylewy of Thrapston** took sanctuary in Thrapston church and confessed before Henry of Tichemers. that he had killed Robert Aylewy. He abjured the realm of England.

He was assigned to Dover.

Hugh Lucas of Thrapston was arrested by the Tithingmen and Constable of Irthlingborough in the fields of Little Addington on 20th June 1321. He was taken to Irthlingborough and there placed in the stocks.

On 26th June he was taken to Thrapston on the way to Peterborough prison. He escaped and took sanctuary in the Church of St. James. On the same day he confessed before Henry de Tichemers that he was a thief and had killed a certain John of Letelhul (Littlehull) of Warwick in the fields of Weston Favell since 10th August 1317.

The port of Dover was assigned to him.

Note: There are nine Oundle cases on the same roll!

ROLL 632 -- The above five cases are mentioned again and, in addition, the following:

William of **Grantham** and **Isabella** of **Gamston** for fear of arrest took sanctuary in the Church of St. James, Thrapston. There they confessed they had broken into a house at Oakley by night and had stolen a russet gown.

They abjured the realm. Their chattels were worth 22d for which the Abbot will account.

APPENDIX C: 17th CENTURY CHURCH SURVEYS

Certain 17th century survey reports on the state of the churches of many parishes in the Diocese of Peterborough have been preserved and are held among the Diocesan Records at the County Record Office in Northampton. Among them are the following three – as published and none too complimentary!

1606: THRAPSTON

The Chancell is almost all unpaved.

All the windows in the Chancell are almost dawbed up with mortar and stone.

The leade worke is much in decay.

The seats in the Chancell decayed & some open (?)

The pulpit is very unfit and wanteth adorne.

The bible is not suffycient.

The Kings Armes¹ are not yet sett up in the Church.

The Church wanteth pavinge towards the West end.

The minister kepeth the book of Christnings & burialls.

They have not a pewter pot for the Communion.

The Alley on the Sowth side of the church is unpaved & lyeth undecently.

They have noe Jewells Apologye²

Some of the seats there are unpavd & not bordered in the bottom.

1. The arms of James I who became King of England in 1603.
2. Apologia Ecclesiae Anglicanae, the redoubtable defence of the Church of England against Roman Catholic and Puritan claims by John Jewel, Bishop of Salisbury, published in 1562.

1619: THRAPSTONE

Officium domini contra Thomam Bateman et Thomam Newman gardianos de Thraption.¹

Notantur officio That 2 of the Kings praier books are wantinge one for his Majesty's comeing & thother for his deliverance (?) from Gowry²

Some seats towards the West unborded.

A place nere the font unpaved.

Two windowes one at end of the south alley & thother in the North alley parte dawbd up. The booke of Cannons³ carried to Islip.

A window in a chappel⁴ Itowards the East half dawbd up.

Two other windowes Southwards be dawbd up.

A window towards the North parte closd up.

A dead hedge towards the East.

Compo Gard. et dominus monit eos ad reparand. et ad certificando prox. Purif. Similiter prox. Pasche. Similiter Prox. Miches.⁵ pd. 3s 8d.

1. Submission of the master (of the court) against Thomas Bateman and Thomas Newman churchwardens of Thrapston. They are warned by the submission ...
2. Gowrie's conspiracy against James I took place in 1600 when he was king of Scotland before he came to the English throne.
3. Official Church of England regulations dating from 1604.
4. No doubt the chantry chapel referred to by Bridges, where the Children's Corner is now.
5. The churchwardens appeared and -the master warned them to have the repairs done and produce the certificate at the next Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (February 2nd), then at Easter, then at Michaelmas (September 29th).

1683: THRAPSTON

Mr. Russell R non CO¹ Mr. Hill Tho: Markham

Monitus est Rector² To amend the pavement of the Chancell & the seates & to plaster & whitewash the walls.

Moniti sunt gardiani³To remove the Communion table⁴ & to place the same at the East end of the Chancell and to set decent Railes about the same.

To provide a new Carpet of fine broad cloath for the Communion table & a Decent Cloath for the pulpet.

To provide Jewells Apologie, Erasmus paraphrase, a booke of homilies, a booke of Cannons & a table of degrees prohibiteing marriage, the act against prophane sweareing & the act for burying in wollen.

To provide a Chest⁵ with 3 locks.

To repaire the floares of the seates & where els defective.

To repaire the pavement in the Allyes & to lay the same even.

To amend the covering of the Beere⁶

To plaster & whitewash the walls of the Church.

To sett up the copeing stones fallen from the south porch And to point the Church walls on the outside where wanting And to repaire the Butterisses & other parts of the outside of the Church where defective.

To sufficiently repaire the fences of the Churchyard.

(The Rector produced a certificate that the work was done on 2 October and paid a fee of 3s. 8d. The wardens were ordered on 20 September to appear at the next court after 1 November and were to pay 4d)

1. The Rector, the Revd. John Russell did not appear. (Mr. Hill and Thomas Markham are the churchwardens)
2. The Rector is warned ... The Rector was responsible for the upkeep of the chancel, the churchwardens for the rest of the church.
3. The churchwardens are warned ...
4. From the Reformation in the 16th century the Communion table was commonly brought from the east end of the chancel into the nave, a custom returning to popularity today.
5. The predecessor of a church safe, for keeping the registers and valuables.
6. Presumably 'bier'.

It is interesting to note that the interior of the church was to be whitewashed as was the common custom. What a need there is for it today!

APPENDIX D: RECTORIES

The rectory was normally adjacent to the parish church for the convenience of the Rector. In Thrapston today there are no less than four large buildings that have served as rectories. None are adjacent to the church.

An early map marks a building almost opposite the west door of the church as the former rectory. The row of houses to which it belonged are no longer standing. The earlier enclosure map of 1782 records no building on this site at all.

Of the rectory houses still standing the most attractive is surely 'The Old Rectory', the imposing stone building in the High Street facing down the Oundle Road. Elizabethan in style, it was in fact designed by W. J. Dunthorne in 1836. Notice the angels which project from beneath the eaves!

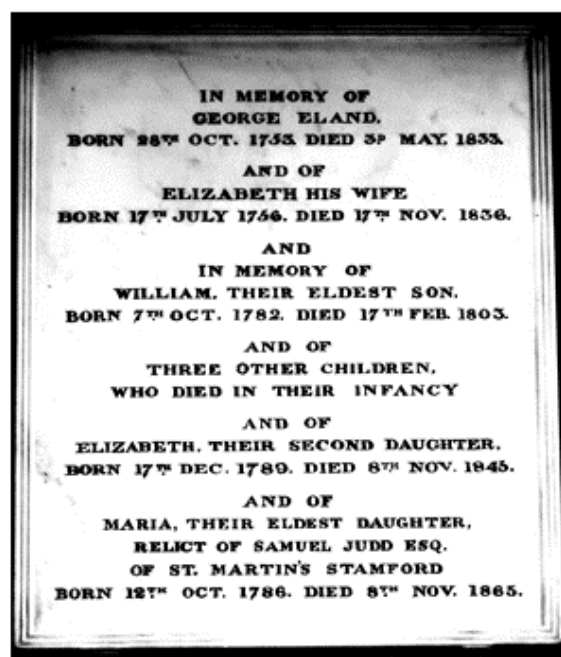
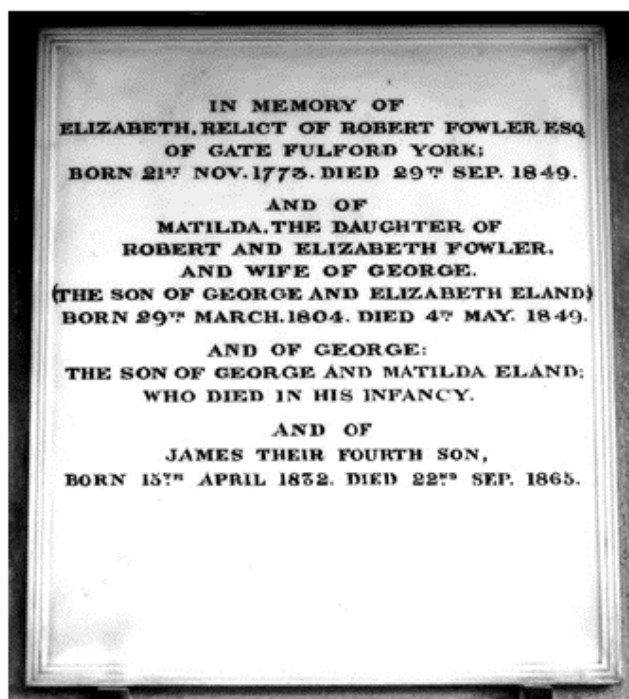
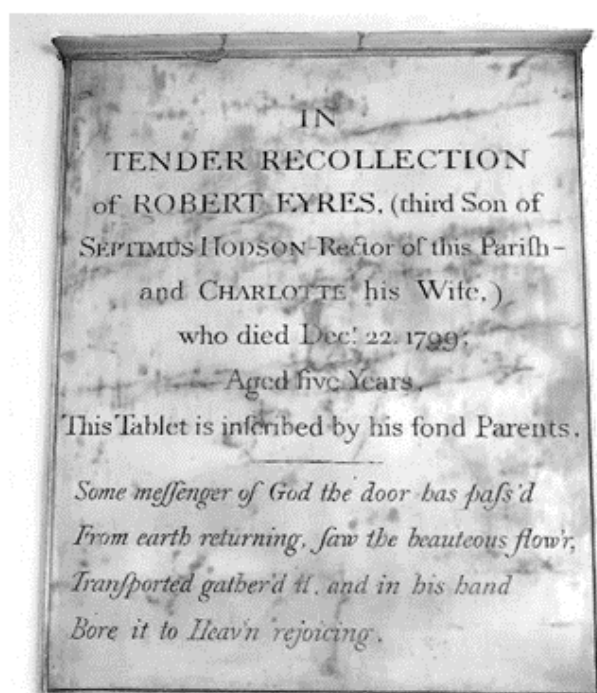
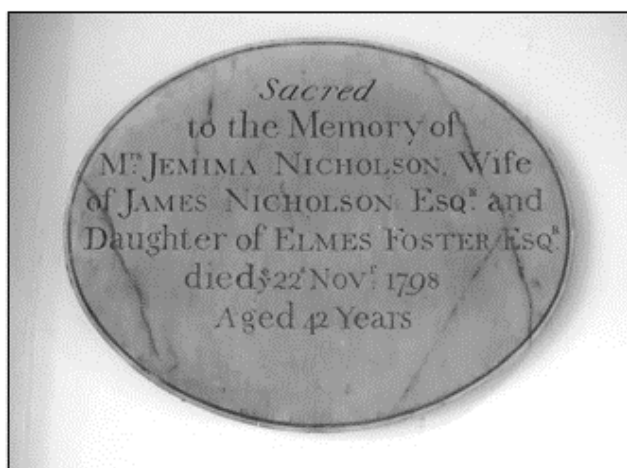
This house served until 1917 when the Revd. H. E. Fitzherbert became Rector. He had been ordained quite late in life and was married to Lady Eleanor, who apparently never wanted to be a clergyman's wife! She found the house 'too small', so they moved to the larger stone edifice, Thrapston House, built around 1805, in the Huntingdon Road.

In 1923 the new Rector, the Revd. A. G. Bagshaw, found Thrapston House far too large! As the previous rectory was no longer available his family moved instead to a commodious brick building 'The Hollies' (now 'The Grange') beyond the site of the now demolished Smith and Grace factory in Midland Road. Delightful though house and garden are, the inconvenience of having to travel some ¼ mile to the church was considerable.

During John Dakin's incumbency the new Rectory (1962) was built on the Oundle Road. It was purpose-built with the study off the porch and a large lounge and kitchen. It is nevertheless an attractive house, its doorway and long windows being of Queen Anne style, and it is set in ¼ acre of garden. It is also conveniently close to the church.

St. James' Sunday School Hall was built in 1971 and has since had a number of refurbishments.

APPENDIX E:



MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Architectural Socs' Reports & Papers vol. 27 (1903-4), vol. 32 (1913-14 Coroners' Rolls)

Bagshaw, Holditch, Kingsford and Leete brief family reports

Barclays Bank historical records (Elands)

J. Bridges The History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire (1791)

Crockfords Clerical Directories (later Rectors of Thrapston)

Margaret Idle 'Merchants of the Nene' (Squire family) in Strapetona 13(1986)
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