

Our Church, in Flowers and History

Celebrating its 900 years of history, Corston Church, in Somerset, was decorated with flowers for the Festival of All Saints.

Flowers and foliages were used generously throughout the lovely old building. Not just another flower festival, but a festival in which living materials were used with understanding and in complete harmony with the displayed history of the church. For example, the Alms Table commemorated St. Matthew, the tax collector, with an arrangement of Honesty, Achillea, Parsley and Delphinium, around which polished copper coins were scattered.

The following report was submitted by Jane Didcott, S.F.Dip., and Derek Richards, a local historian, flower grower and member of F.P.C.

"Our earliest piece of dateable history was a Bronze Age beaker-pot, of 1600 B.C., found not far from the church and borrowed for this occasion from the museum. We showed, too, pictures of a Roman mosaic floor, also discovered close to the church, and depicting Orpheus with his attendant animals. Said, however, to be of Christian origin!

To the right of the Altar, St. Nicholas shed his light with his tree, scarlet Carnations and — of course — candles. In the same era, Saxon King Edwy gave Corston to Aelfswdda, a lady of his court. We wondered why! Close to the pulpit, St. Stephen was commemorated with an arrangement of red Carnations, gold Cycas leaves and three silver stones, and nearby, St. George's alleged exploits were illustrated by a pedestal of red Roses, surmounted by a dragon pierced with a sword.

The Altar was decorated with all white flowers, Carnations, Gladioli and Chrysanthemums. St. Swithin, also within the Sanctuary, was honoured with Corn, Apples and Apricot Chrysanthemums. Most appropriately, a bowl of Anemones (Lilies of the Field) and Chrysanthemums, together with ointment bottles were before St. Mary Magdelene.

The stained glass window to St. Joseph was surrounded by his family, in flowers, with Harrisii Lilies on a blue drape for Mary, and white flowers, in straw for the baby Jesus.

St. Yves stood for law and order, so white Carnations and Gladioli were arranged together with a policeman's helmet, whistle and truncheon, and a solicitor's wig. Close by, St. Zita, the patron saint of all servants, was represented by a basket, a pinafore drape, cottage loaf and spoons, all complimenting an arrangement of pink spray Carnations and Chrysanthemums. Naturally, St. Dunstan, patron saint of bell-ringers, was to the fore, and in his honour a set of handbells was displayed with an inspired design of six sallied bell-ropes made with molucella, apricot Chrysanthemums and orange Lilies.

The organ was decorated in honour of St. Cecilia, whilst beside the Font St. John the Baptist was remembered with beautiful berried foliage, Honesty and old-man's beard (wild Clematis seed-heads). St. Osmund, compiler of the first Prayer-Book received a lovely pedestal arrangement of yellow Alstroemeria, Lilies, Eleagnus and Pampas Grass.

The church has a long and fascinating history. One learned with amusement that John Wesley joined with the village coal-miners in singing hymns in order to drown the Vicar's sermons, and that Robert Southey, the poet, was at school in Corston and voiced similar opinions about the long-winded incumbent.

No less than 56 priests have officiated there since 1180, and there is evidence that the church was there for at least 100 years before. Buildings such as these are a precious heritage from the past. Hundreds, perhaps thousands of people have striven to maintain them through the ages and the onus is upon ourselves to maintain such places for the enjoyment and, we hope, the worship of future generations.

Festivals of this kind engender interest, and re-awaken enthusiasm for both our historic churches and demonstrate the effectiveness of flowers used in their decoration."

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AN OUTLINE OF THE CHURCH'S HISTORY

The Saxons gave the village its name, calling their settlement Corstune, meaning the village by the marshy stream. Much later a 10th century Saxon charter confirms a gift of land at Corston from King Edmund to the Abbots of Bath.

These Saxon Abbots may have built a church at Corston. A charter of about 1080 speaks of Leofnoth a peasant attached to the glebe 'aet Korstune', and the existence of glebe land suggests that there was already a priest and church.

Today it is possible to distinguish five periods of building —

Norman

In 1180 'Abel the Priest' is recorded as Parson of Corston, so we know that a church must have existed in the Norman period. We can conjecture that it was built either by the Abbots of Bath, who held Corston after the conquest, or by the St. Loes who acquired the manor in later Norman times. The only certain reminder of this early church is the round-topped Norman Archway at the present North Door.

Early English

During the 13th century the church was rebuilt in the Early English style. Its Chancel and Nave stood where they are today, but it was a dark barn-like building lit only by a few narrow lancet windows on each side, with a larger East Window over the Altar. The present Chancel dates, with little change, from this time.

Perpendicular

It seems that in the 16th century an earlier tower was refashioned into its present form. The short octagonal recessed Spire and battlements were added and the West face altered. The datestone 1622 may mark the completion of this work, perhaps delayed by the Reformation.

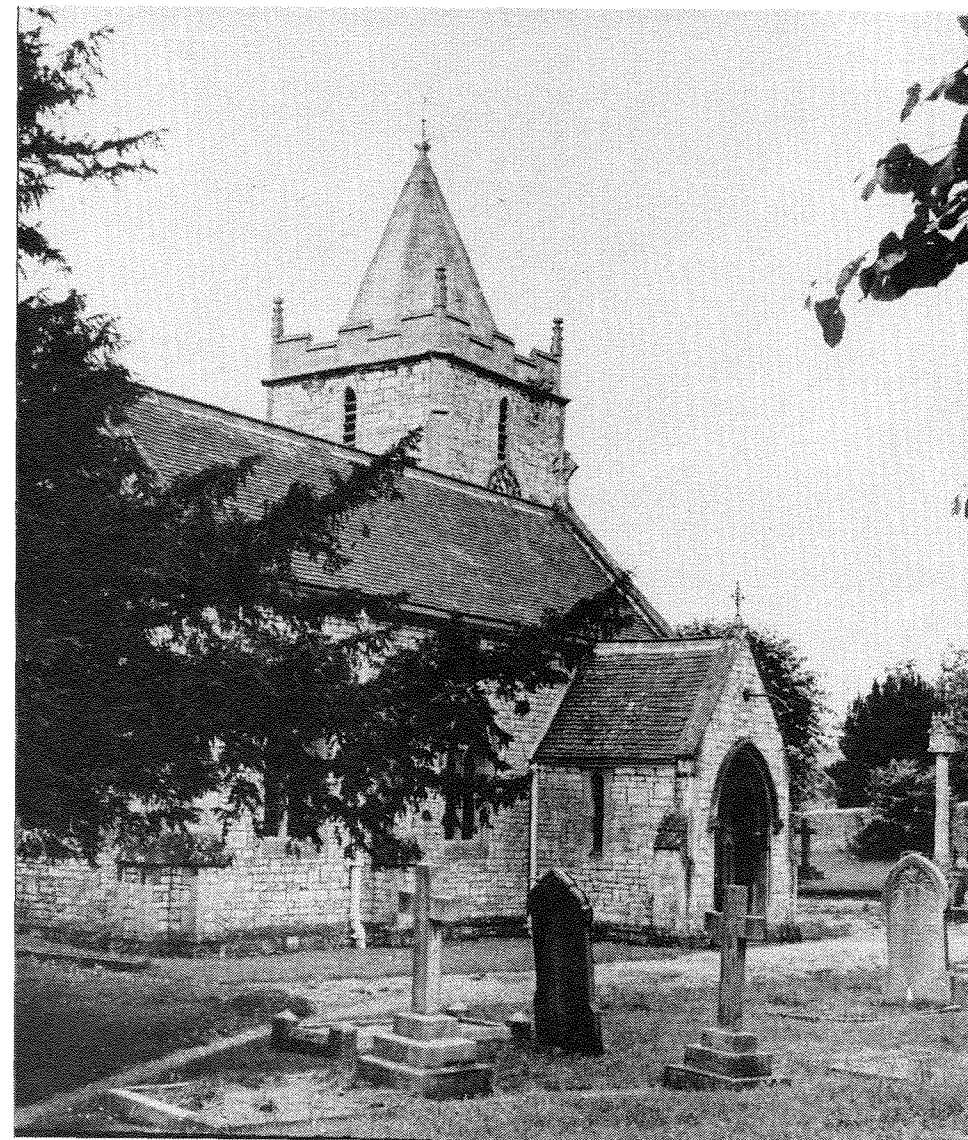
Georgian

At this time a gallery existed at the West End of the Nave, and around 1745 the church was much repaired. A painting of about 1810, shewing the North side of the church, depicts Chancel, Tower and Spire much as today. The Nave, however, still had its 13th century lancet windows, and battlements hid its flat roof.

Victorian

In 1865 the old North wall of the Nave was knocked down and the present North Aisle added with windows in Victorian Gothic style. The Chancel was restored and heightened but otherwise, like Tower and Spire, left much as before. The Georgian roofs and the Perpendicular battlements of the Nave were replaced by the wagon roofs of the present church. Inside the church was reseated and the gallery removed, to be replaced in 1907 by the present Organ Gallery.

The church we see today, still much used and loved, unites all these styles in one warm, gentle, and very English building.



THE CHURCH
OF
ALL SAINTS, CORSTON

THE EXTERIOR

The exterior of the church, though pleasing, displays its varied history. Looking at the North side (from right to left) there is the perpendicular Tower and Spire; the Norman doorway protected by the porch; the Victorian windows of the North Aisle; and finally the lancet windows, with trefoiled heads, of the Early English Chancel.

On the South side the quiet churchyard slopes towards the valley with the marshy stream that gave Corston its name. Looking back at the South side of the church (from right to left) there are first the four Early English lancet windows; above them the Victorian heightening of the Chancel plainly shews in the stonework. Then follow the two straightheaded windows; the Victorian vestry; and finally the Tower and Spire.

The West face of the Tower has a date stone 1622 on the ringing chamber window. There is also an inscription on lead over the West door which reads 'This Church was enlarged by the addition of a North Isle and reseated throughout, 1865, Richard Crawshay Hall, Robert Vigour, Church Wardens.'

The Tower itself carries the dumpy octagonal Spire, known as a 'candle snuffer' or 'extinguisher' spire. Spires on Somerset's medieval churches are rather rare, and even by including those as small as Corston's antiquarians can muster only eighteen in the county. Size is not everything, and Corston's little spire is a most charming and memorable feature of this ancient building.

CHURCH REGISTERS AND ACCOUNTS

The registers are continuous from 1569, the first recorded baptism being in 1567. The accounts contain much drama and comedy —

1738 'To Charles Jenkins, for keeping Ye boy in order in Ye Church 5s Od.'

1753 'For hauling Ye Bells Backwards and Forwards £1 10 Od.'
'For ale at taking down and Hanging Ye Bell 3s Od.'

and the registers much that is pathetic —

1741 'November ye 2nd was buried a poor travelling boy aged about twelve years.'

THE CHURCH BELLS

In 1754 there were three bells known as Ye Great, Ye Least, and Ye Other. In that year Ye Great and Ye Least were recast into one single bell by the Bilbies, the famous bellfounders of Chew Stoke. Ye Other was sold in 1823 and it seems that Corston has only the one Bilbie bell until 1917. In that year Mr. F.L. Bartelt presented the set of eight bells in use today. A condition, honoured to this day, was that the bells be rung every year on September 23rd, the birthday of Fritz Bartelt in whose memory they were given. As records in the ringing chamber shew, Corston bells and bellringers now take their full share in making the bells of Somerset famous throughout the world.

THE INTERIOR

The North Aisle and Nave

The North door, set in the roundtopped Norman archway, leads directly into the Victorian North Aisle. When this Aisle was built in 1865 this Norman arch, probably the inner arch of the old North Door, was taken down and rebuilt in its present position.

Immediately above the door is a fine Royal Coat of Arms, celebrating the restoration of the Monarchy after the Civil Wars. Many such Royal Arms are of later date, and Corston is lucky to possess an authentic Restoration Coat, with the crowned initials C.R. for Carolus Rex (Charles II), and the date of his return, 1660.

The south wall of the Nave has a door into the vestry reached by a low roundtopped tunnel arch, possibly the South doorway of the first church. Next to this doorway is the painting (about 1810) of the church before the North Aisle was built. Further towards the chancel are two straightheaded windows, and then the only 13th century lancet window remaining from the Early English Nave. It apparently survived by being blocked up rather than replaced, and was found and reopened in 1865.

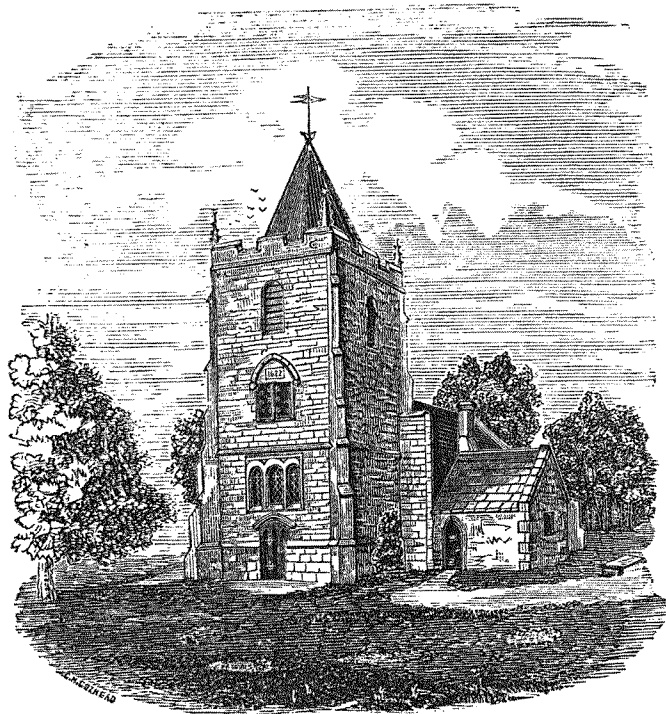
The Chancel

Although restored in 1865, the Chancel retains its 13th century lancet windows, its priest's door, and much of the atmosphere of a medieval church. A late 13th century Piscina with cinquefoil carving is built into the East wall to the right of the Altar. This was a basin for washing the sacred vessels used in the Mass. In the South wall is a recess, which was probably an Aumbry, a cupboard for the same vessels. These two medieval survivals were uncovered in 1865; presumably they had been filled in at the Reformation, when they would have been rejected as part of the ritual of the old Mass.

The Altar and the choir stalls were given in 1904 by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Above the Altar is the Victorian restoration of the original Early English East Window, composed of three stepped lancets under a common moulding. The stained glass in this window is by Powell of London, one of the most prolific of Victorian glaziers.

There are four memorials to members of the Harington family who were squires of Corston in the 18th century. They were descended, in the illegitimate line, from King Henry VIII. Another ancestor was Sir John Harington who was Queen Elizabeth's Godson and a famous courtier. He is generally credited with the invention of the water closet, and was notorious for his dubious jokes on the subject.

The parish accounts shew the Haringtons providing (at a cost!) the 'Tyols' for the Georgian repairs to the church roof. They were the last squires of Corston as such, selling their Corston estates at the end of the 18th century to Joseph Langton. He was already squire of Newton St. Loe, and his new purchase started the close association of Corston and Newton that largely persists today.



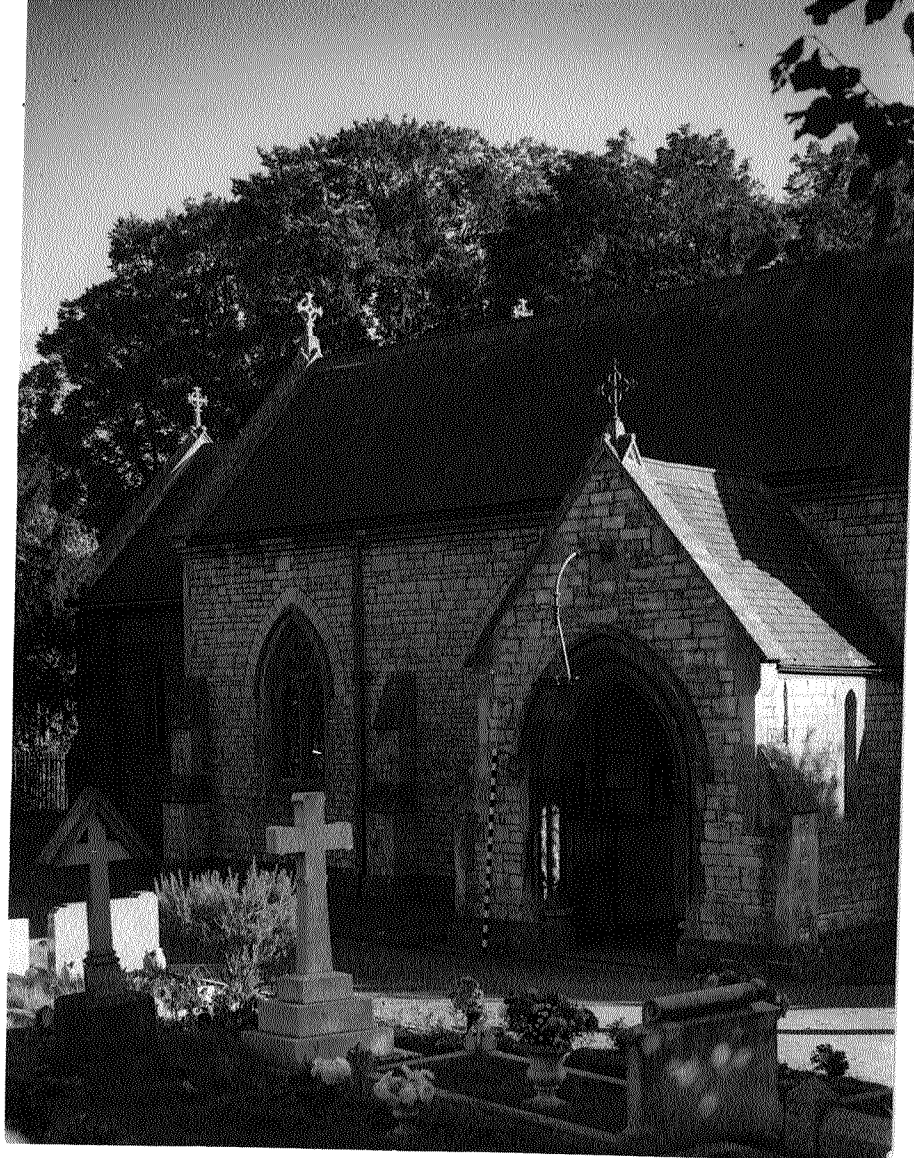
ALL SAINTS, CORSTON.—WEST.

This a copy of an original print which is
'on permanent loan' to Mr. Lee Harrison of Hill House



ALL SAINTS, CORSTON.—WEST.





1740 Jan^y 1st was buried Bartholomew
son of Rich^d. & Mary Symmes.

Apr: 16 was buried Mary of Infant Dancer
of Palmer-Barnard.
23. was buried Charles Hill Junior. Aged 36. ---
May 24. was buried Mrs young of Bristol. ---
1740-41. Jan^y 12th was buried Alice wife of
Charles Hill, Jun^r. Aged 77.
Jan^y 15th was buried Thomas Clement
who was aged ninety one years. ---
Jm^s Rich^d Vicer

1741.

Augst 31st was buried Rebecca Maynard
Relict of John Maynard. Aged 82

November 2^d was buried a poor travelling boy
aged about twelve years.

Nov^r 28th was buried Betty Vezzy, Widow.

Feb^r the 15th 1741-2. was buried Joan Dancy. or 86

July 9th 1742. dyed Mr. Robert Cox, 80 was
buried Sunday, July 15th, being Fast Sunday 1742.

September 7th was buried Elizabeth
the wife of John Wash. --- Anne Crabbe

De dyed Mrs Mary Balne widow, & was buried
Sunday September 7th 12th Aged 37.

November 23. was buried Daniel Dowling
who dyed of small pox, aged 44

Abel honoured —800 years on

ABEL the Priest is a name which has become quite well known among villagers at Corston over the past few weeks.

For 800 years ago, in 1180, Abel's name went down as the first recorded clergyman in the village — a fact today's parishioners have seized as an ideal excuse for a celebration.

As the church is dedicated to All Saints it has been decided to arrange the celebrations, which start today, around All Saints' day.

But although they mark the 800th anniversary, many villagers think the church has existed for nearer 900 years.

They base this idea on a paragraph taken from the Bath Abbey chartulary, a list of lands owned by the Abbey, which is now in the British Museum.

It reads: "Leofnoth, a peasant living in the glebe of Corston, the son of Egelnoth, has, with five oxen and 12 sheep purchased himself and family from Aelfsige the Abbot and all the monks of Bath."

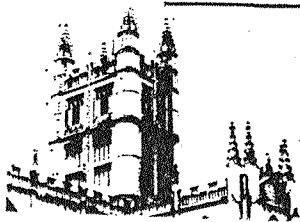
Aelfsige was Abbot around 1084, and the existence of glebe land suggests there was already a church at Corston then, because a glebe was the name given to land belonging to the local parson.

The present church building, however, shows traces of work which go back to the 12th century at the earliest.

Building and restoration work also seems to have been done in the 13th century and on and off from the 1600's to Victorian times.

One of Corston church's most interesting possessions is a coat of arms, painted on wood, which is hung above the north door.

It is an authentic Restoration coat, celebrating the return of the monarchy after the Civil War, which



inside the
CHURCH

by CAROLE HARWOOD

is dated 1660 and bears the Stuart coat of arms.

The chancel walls also bear a number of memorial plaques to members of the Harington family, who lived at Corston Manor during the 18th century.

The Harington's were descended, in an illegitimate line, from Henry the Eighth.

Another man whose connection with the church as gone down in picture, as well as words, is the monk Stephen Maureward, who became the fourth recorded rector in 1273.

An ink sketch of his head and shoulders can be found at the edge of a page in the Abbey chartulary.

But the present rector, the Rev Stephen Wells, who comes 59th on the records, is anxious to point out that the church did not die with Stephen Maureward or the Haringtons.

"It is still very much alive

here," he said, and his words are backed up when he lists plans for the forthcoming celebrations.

Tonight there will be entertainment provided by and for villagers, which traces the history of Corston since Abel.

This will be followed by an exhibition, organised by Mr Derek Richards, covering the past 800 to 900 years of the church, and a flower festival. Both can be seen in the church from October 31 to November 2.

There will also be a bazaar in the village hall on November 1 and a concert by Corston School on November 6.

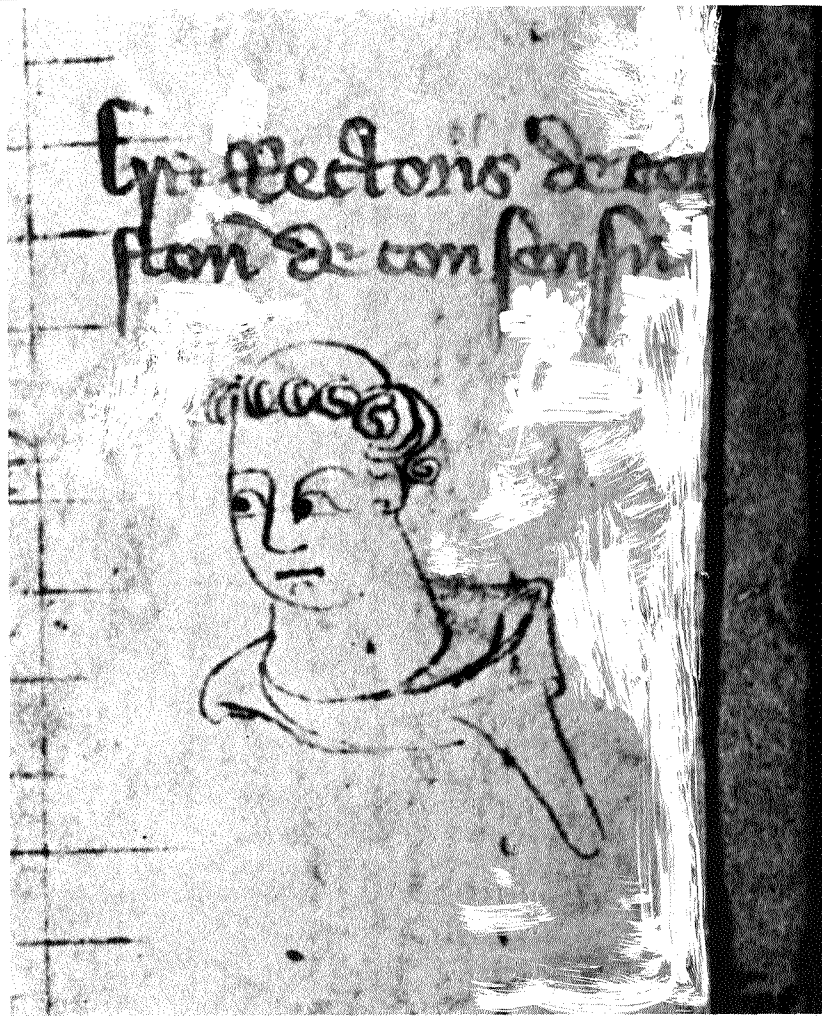
Proceeds from most of these events, and from the sale of specially made commemorative dishes, will go towards the £2,000 needed to pay for the church's new boiler, of which £1,100 has already been raised.

THE CHURCH BELLS

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1180
60
1209
1242
1243
1273
1321
1323
1350
1361

Abel the Priest.
Richard. Parson of Corston
Master W. Russell. Rector
Stephen Maureward. "
Henricus de Ewerdon. Vice
John Gannard. "
John Luperzate. "
Sir Nicholas de Drayton. "



A Bath Abbey chartulary has yielded a fascinating and unexpected detail. The drawing reproduced here appears to show Stephen Maureward, rector of Corston from 1273 to 1321. This portrait of Stephen, if it is he, appears in the margin of the manuscript, below the heading "tra Rectoris de corston de com Soms..." (the lands of the rector of Corston in the county of Somerset).

This Library was erected in y^e Year
1710 at Bordon in y^e County of
Somerset. R. H. A. V. Vicar.

There was 50 pounds required by y^e Founders, w^{ch}
was most of it given me by y^e following
Gent.

Jose: Langton Esq^r
Brk: Harington Esq^r
John Grant Merchant
Mar: Bowdler Merchant
Jos. Bodhanus Esq^r

Beatus dñi p̄p̄tē q̄ntum s̄ uac̄ ueritatē app̄bam⁹ & eadē n̄m
m̄niam flūm essentem. In q̄ntū f̄m sigillā n̄m cōm̄ e q̄ntū
q̄ntū m̄. Ode m̄ e ap̄lo n̄m. Sc̄ll. xij. Pat̄r ff. by. q̄
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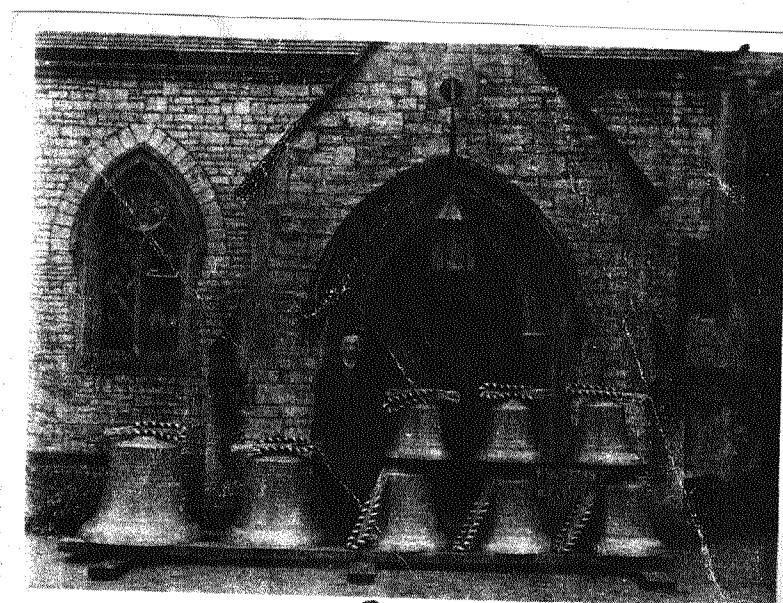
by: Boston's
- from the comfort



D. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 84



Corston Church, near Bath.



Corston New Bells

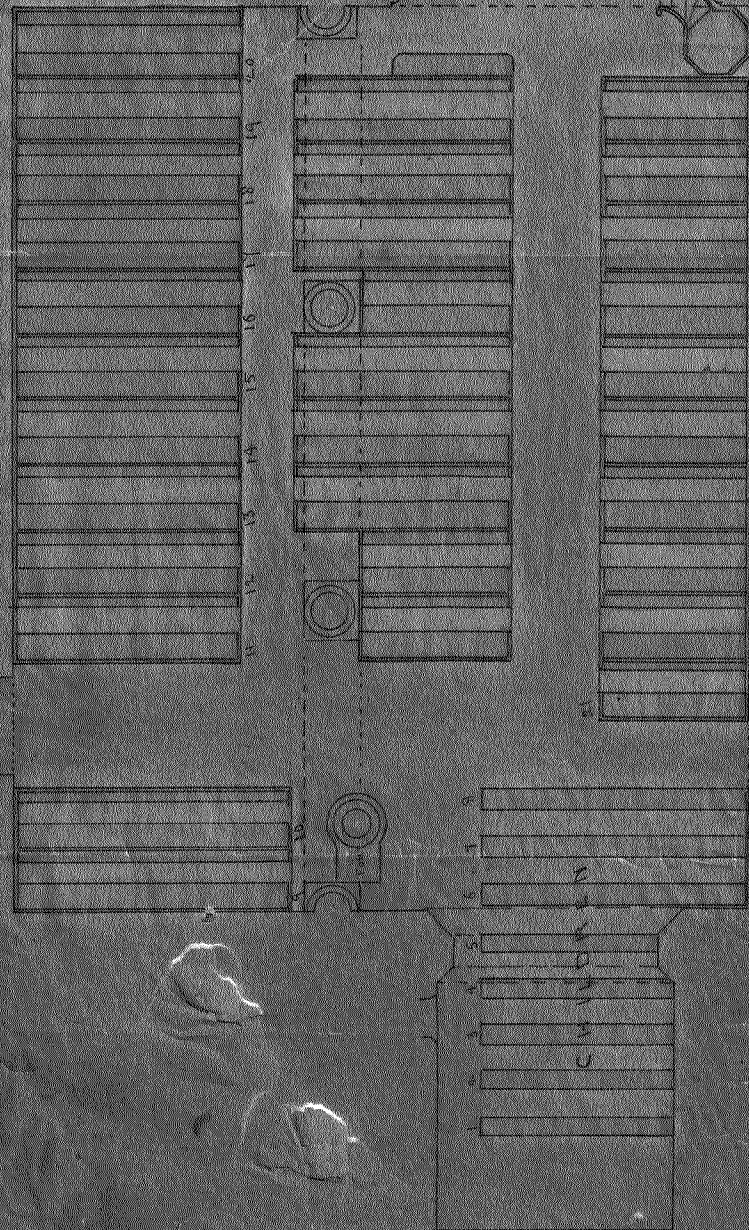
Corston Lodge
W. Bristol
Aug. 18. 1887

ROSTON - CH.

The Incorporated Society for promoting the
 Enlargement, Building and Repairing of Churches
 and Chapels, granted £45 towards erecting the
 Church when condition that 145 seats, numbered
 1. to 21. be reserved for the use of the poor
 inhabitants of this parish.
 W.B. Roston. Secy.
 Roston Church of England.

Church Extension

Robert W. Roston



plan

Scale of 1/4" = 1 foot

CHURCH PENS

The Incorporated Society for promoting the Enlargement, Building and Repairing of Churches and Chapels, granted £45 towards reseating this Church upon condition that 145 seats, numbered 1 to 21, be reserved for the use of the poorer inhabitants of this Parish

CORSTON

lies west of Bath, less than four miles from the heart of the city. There are impressive views in and out of the village. An description of 1791, apt even today states *Close underneath Newton Hill shrouded in a grove of trees, stands Corston, the lands of which parish are mostly arable; the soil is very fine and light and produces excellent crops of wheat and barley.*

The area round Corston is known to have been inhabited since prehistoric times, but the settlement of Corston itself may of the Lord of the Manor of what is now Newton St Loe. The first written reference to Corston, however, seems to have been in the 10th century when it was mentioned in three Anglo-Saxon charters. It was in fact the Saxons who gave the village its name, *Corstone*, or village by the marshy stream.

There were coalmines between Newton and Corston which were mined from Roman times. Many village men worked in the pits until their closure in 1840.

The Wesleys were very much in evidence in Corston and Charles used to preach under the Hanging Tree.

In bygone days the village green - then larger than it is today - was the scene of the Corston Fair or Revels.

Glebe

I do not think you were wrong to use the word glebe in the A.S. manuscript. Stenton in his chapter on the English Church from Theodore to Boniface (668-789) says (p152)

'The glebe of an ordinary parish church seems as a rule to have been 2 yardlands'

He says that the allocation of land for the support of a priest was very early. The priests simply could not depend on the voluntary offerings of primitive farmers.

The word itself is Middle English, and later than AS, but the concept it conveys is identical, i.e. - land allocated for the support of a priest - I don't know an AS word for it and I would certainly have used the word glebe to describe the land to support the priest.

Mortuaries

"2nd best beast to the priest"

These were abolished in 1575. They had degenerated into a payment for tithes unpaid; though the priest sometimes claimed the pall cloth.

*The Account of John Hancock (now
Warden for the years 1795
to 5*

Collected 4 Rates 9 - 14

Paid off paying the accounts at Easter

Spent at visitation

For a Book of Articles

Paid the Hospital money

Pd for mending the North dock

Pd for 4 boats

Pd for a new form of prayer

Pd for mending the North porch

Pd for 4 Rings

Pd for 4 pulpit cloth and cushion

Pd for the clock

Pd for bread and wine

Pd for washing the lining

Pd for 123 sparrows heads

Pd for 2 hoggs and a pork

Pd for mending the pulpit

Pd for 4 beds

7-3-5

0-0-0

0-0-0

0-1-0

0-2-6

0-5-0

0-8-3

1-0-0

3-5-0

0-7-6

0-11-3

0-1-0

0-4-0

0-2-0

0-5-6

0-4-0

0-11-1

0-26-6

8-0-0

to

1515

Syduam the sonne of John Schooler was baptised the
seuenth day of January Anno do. 1515.

John the sonne of Thomas Wickes was baptised the
21th day of February Anno Dom. 1515.

John the sonne of John Saunders was baptised the
third day of March Anno Domini 1515.

Christenings Anno Domini: 1516:

1516

James the sonne of Nicholas Cole was baptised the
xxviith day of April Anno predicto.

William the sonne of Thomas Poussame was baptised the
xxiiith day of June Anno predicto.

Joseph the sonne of Thomas Milner vicar was baptised the xvith
day of February anno predicto. borne the 13th at ten of the clocke at night.

Christenings anno Domini: 1517:

1517

Anne and Cicelie the daughters of Polidore Burges were baptised the
thirteenth day of April An. predicto.

Marie the daughter of Walter florington was baptised
the thirtieth day of Nouember An: predicto

Christenings Anno Domini: 1518:

1518

Shoane the daughter of John Hedges was baptised the seuenth of June An: predicto

Samuel the Sonne of Thomas Milner was baptised the xviijth
of October An: predicto: borne the xvith beinge friday at midnight

Edward the sonne of Edward Maynard was baptised the sixth
day of december Anno predicto

Christenings Anno Domini:

1519:

1519

John the Sonne of Thomas Poussame was baptised the second of

Walter the Sonne of walter florington was baptised
the xiiiith day of May: An: Predicto

Now cleaned

In 1666 Corston Church loyally put up a fine Royal Crest over the church door. There is a date of 1662 on the church tower but the tower was probably there earlier so it may only have been a repair date.

There were more problems in Corston in 1685 when Monmouth retreated through the village from Keynsham. Judge Jefferies may have come through on his Bloody Assize. He hung 4 men in Bath and 11 in Keynsham but he left an unfounded and persistent rumour concerning our Hanging Tree. Perhaps a ~~very~~ ^{man} ~~unfortunate~~ was hung in chains as a caution. There is even a "headless man covered in tar" ghost story from Whiteway. *Both*

By chance we heard at a local history meeting a remark of a neighbour - "my great Aunt Sol and Great Aunt Angel remembered a sheep-stealer being hung on Corston tree". With a bit of investigation, the great-aunts would have lived from 1810 to 1880. They might have heard of a corpse in chains being hung on the tree - but most unlikely to have personally seen ~~it due to~~ the repeal of the laws on theft. *& the law the hanging*

In 1705 John Clarke applied for Queen Anne's Bounty and the communication was very revealing. "My church has only very small tithes, and the yearly value of my little vicarage 'tis not above twenty pounds"! He got his money!

There were coal mines between Newton and Corston and these were mined from Roman times. Many Corston men worked in the pits according to the registers but the mines were closed in 1840.

Mr. Harrington Coal Works were on the map of 1742 and the Harringtons were Lords of the Manor. *We have no details in our registers I don't but deaths from drowning in the pits are listed in the Newton registers & are numerous*

By about 1780 their Manor - Manor Farm now - became a boys school rented by a Mr. Squeers called Mr. Flower. Southey and Coleridge had the doubtful privilege of being taught there. Southey recollects - "the tedious service of the summer day and in winter waked and shivered with the cold." Southey may also have met the Wesleys as they were in the village when he was at school.

The Wesleys were both very much in evidence in Corston. Charles was a close friend of John Britton and stayed up on the hill at Prospect Villa while John stayed at Corston Cottage. An old lady *Ann Britton* who was in service as a ~~maid~~ ^{maid} in the cottage in 1910 remembers ~~the~~ ^{the} joking with the other maids - "be quiet or the old man will come out and get you" - When they passed his bedroom door on the way up to bed. ~~Quite~~ ^{Quite} a memory over 200 years! John used to preach under the Hanging tree at 5 a.m. to the miners and sing hymns outside the church to drown the sermon, according to rumour.

*Pictures to be located
Sherborne*

Extract from d Tenier.

91

Item, There is due & payable unto d Vicar of the
said Vicaridge of Coston by John Harington Esq, his
Heirs, & Successors out of d Farm of Coston yearly from
Time to Time sixteen Bushels of Wheat, sixteen
Bushels of Barley, & four Bushels of Oats, due and
payable according to d Ancient Custom on d eleventh
Day of November usually called St Martins Day.

N.B. When I came to d Vicaridge in Nov: 1755
1755 Farmer Young p me for one Quarter of
Wheat $\text{£}1-16-0$ for one Quarter of Barley $\text{£}0-19-0$
for 2 Bushels of Oats: three shillings - in all $\text{£}2-10-0$
half-yearly; and at d Time I agreed with d said Farmer,
y^e from thenceforward in lieu of d above Barley & Oats
he sh^d pay me three pound every half year - i.e. six
pound a year. so y^t I raised him four shillings a year.

8 Bushels of Wheat at $2-8$ a Bushel	=	$\text{£}1-16-0$
8 Bushels of Barley at $2-9\frac{1}{2}$ a Bushel	=	$\text{£}0-19-0$
2 Bushels of Oats at $1-6$ a Bushel	=	$\text{£}0-3-0$
		<hr/>
		$\text{£}2-18-0$

N.B. Oct: 27. 1779. Gave Farmer Smith ^{notice} y^e from d
Time I sh^d take up my Corn in kind, or receive the
Value of it at d Market Price.

Witness my Hand
Ar: Hill Vicar of Coston.

1615

Sydniam the sone of John Schooler was baptised the
seauenth day of January Anno do. 1615.

John the sonne of Thomas Wickes was baptised the
x1th day of February Anno Dom. 1615.

Thom the sonne of John Saunders was baptised the
fourth day of March Anno Domini: 1615.

Christenings Anno Domini: 1616.

1616

James the sonne of Nicholas Cole was baptised the
xxvth day of April Anno praedicto.

William the sonne of Thomas Foulstone was baptised the
xxiiith day of June Anno praedicto.

5 +

Joseph the sonne of Thomas Milner vicar was baptised the xvth
day of February an^o praedicto borne the 13th at ten of the clocke.

Christenings anno Domini: 1617.

1617

Anne and Cicelie the daughters of Polidore Burges were baptised the
thirteenth day of Aprill An^o praedicto.

Marie the daughter of Walter Florington was baptize
the thirtieth day of Nouember An^o praedicto.

Christenings Anno Domini: 1618.

1618

Juana the daughter of John Hedges was baptised the seauenth of June Anno

Samuel the sonne of Thomas Milner was baptised the xvth
of October An^o praedicto borne the xvth being friday at mid

Edward the sonne of Edward Maynard was baptised the 5th
day of december Anno praedicto.

Christenings Anno Domini: 1619.

1619

John the sonne of Thomas Poullsome was baptised the seauenth

Walter the sonne of Walter florington was baptised
the xiiiith day of May An^o praedicto.

The true transcript or
 copie of the register booke
 of Cristeninges marriage
 and burialles within the
 parische of Winton Seynt Mary in
 the parochie of Domesday and dioces of
 Bath and Wells, sithen the
 first of our lord god one
 thousand four hundred thutic eighte
 and thutic the xijth of the reign
 of our lord of myghty famous
 and mercie king Henry the eighth

1538

Examined and written
 the one and fortieth yere
 of the moste prosperous &
 happie reigne of our
 myghty gracious and Goddoughe Rader
 Elizabeth the firste of goddoughe
 of Englande, Scotlande, and Irelande
 defendour of the faith, &c. whoe
 in prosperitee, helth, longe liue
 and blessed happines, goddoughe
 longe to reigne on us

411 Elia
 1598

This booke was written
 by William Gylson one
 of the vicars of the
 parische of Winton Seynt Mary a
 home maner, Cadwallador
 of the parochie, the xijth of the
 said reign of the said king
 the vicars of the parochie, and
 John Allard, and Thomas
 vicars of the parochie, and
 the said vicars

