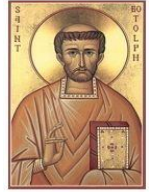




The Botolphian

Newsletter of
The Society of Saint Botolph

www.botolph.info



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Admin: Denis Pepper, 17, Cliffe House, Radnor Cliff, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2TY. Tel: +44 (0)1303 221-777 botolph@virginmedia.com
President: Revd Timothy L'Estrange, Vicar of St.Gabriel's Church, North Acton.

Issue Number: 76

1st September 2019

Highlights this month

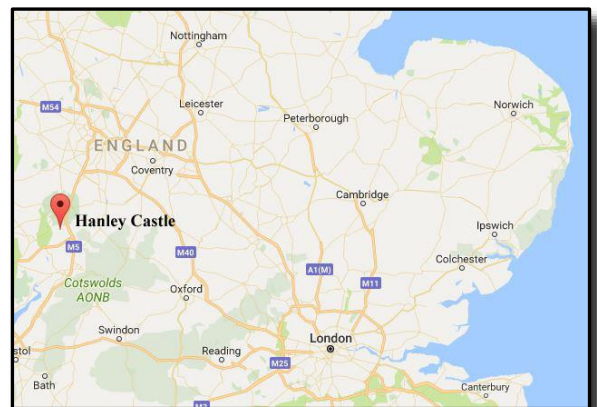
- **St Mary's Church, Hanley Castle, Worcestershire.**
- It gives me great pleasure to welcome Tina Watson from Lullingstone as a new member. She will be taking over (as their church's representative) from Revd Gary Owen who is leaving the parish (see Correspondence).
- Correspondence from Gary Owen and Patricia Croxton-Smith.
- **URGENT NOTICE: The Annual Luncheon** will be held at the Hilton Cambridge City Centre Hotel on **Weds 23 October at 12.30 for 1 p.m.** The cost will be **£30 per head which includes a 'welcoming Prosecco.'** PLEASE BOOK IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE THE RETURN OF AN EXCELLENT SPEAKER - Roy Tricker. His topic this time will be: *Tales of Eccentric Clergy* which promises to be very amusing. **The menu is as follows:**

Please send me your menu choices by email to either of these email addresses: denpeps@gmail.com botolph@virginmedia.com or if you are paying by cheque include your menu choice in the same envelope.

To confirm your booking please send cheques payable to D.S. Pepper to 17 Cliffe House, Radnor Cliff, Folkestone CT20 2TY or (preferably) pay by Bank Transfer to Nationwide Bank: Sort code 07-02-46, Account Number: 45570161. Dr D S Pepper.

Church Feature

Hanley Castle, Worcs.



Approach: *If coming from the southeast you will presumably have taken the M4>A419>A417>M5 heading towards Worcester. At Junction 8 take the M50 exit to Ross / S.Wales. At the Strensham interchange take the first exit to Ross / S.Wales. At Junction 1 take the A38 towards Malvern. After 2.9 miles turn left onto A4104. After crossing the*

Starters

Roasted tomato soup, fine herb oil (v)
Brussels pate, balsamic onion, brioche toast
Red onion goats cheese tart, balsamic syrup,
with baby salad

Main Courses

Roasted pork loin, crackling, apple sauce, smoked
bacon rosemary jus,
Roasted cod loin, creamed spinach, chargrilled
courgettes,
Four cheese ravioli, sundried tomato & pine nuts (v)

Desserts

Chocolate fudge cake, mint crème Anglaise (v)
Eaton mess tart, seasonal fruit coulis (v)
Exotic fruit salad (v)

River Severn take the second exit of the roundabout on Hanley Road B4211. After 1.2 miles you will see the Hanley Castle High School sign. Turn left into the 'No through road' and drive straight on past the High School until you reach the Three Kings Inn where you will see the church on your left. Park nearby.

Location: 25 Church End, Hanley Castle, Worcester WR8 0BL; Lat / Long: 52.07628, - 2.23663.

Key: The church is usually open at weekends and on weekdays during school holidays but telephone 01684-591-241 to be sure.

Rector: Revd Barry Unwin Tel: 07757-610-345

Church Services:

1st Sunday: 6.30 p.m. Evensong

2nd Sunday 8 a.m. Holy Communion

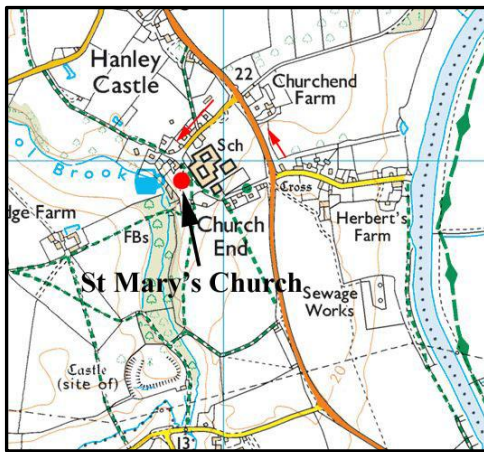
3rd Sunday 11 a.m. Matins

4th Sunday 8 a.m. Holy Communion.

Listed Grade: II*



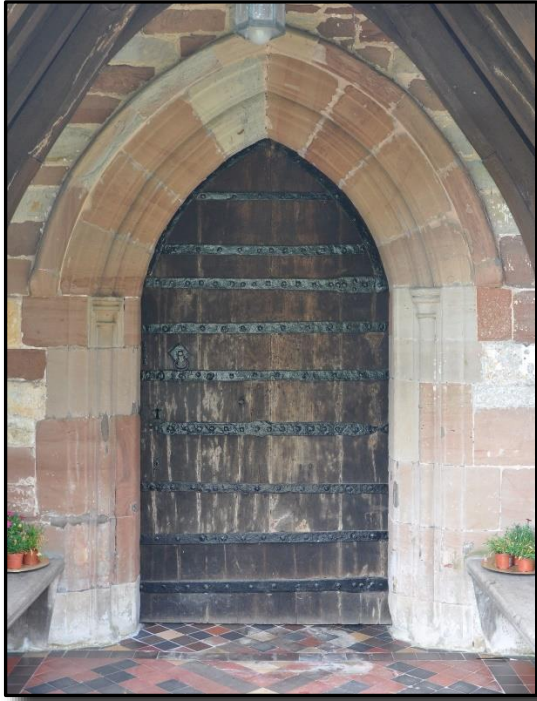
Do not have misconceptions about the 'Castle' part of the name however. I thought at first that the church was part of a castle complex but soon found that this is not so - it is a free-standing church just like others we have seen.



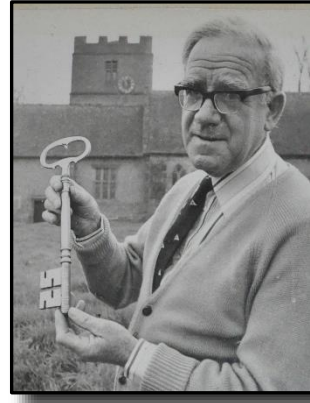
A visit to St Mary's Church at Hanley Castle offers a very pleasant approach through the well-kept village.



What is different of course is that it is dedicated to *St. Mary* - but there is no doubt that it started life as a Saint Botolph's church and we will investigate that after having a good look at the church itself.



Entry is via the C14 North doorway which is secured by an ancient oak door . . .



. . . and opened by an ancient key!

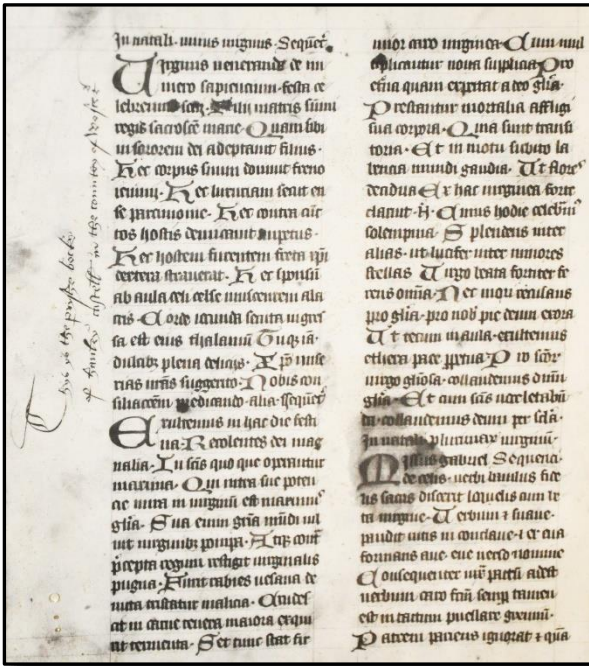


Immediately inside the door is an account which reads:

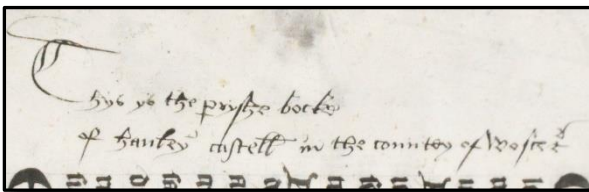
The ancient Parish of Hanley Castle has a long and interesting history. It contains relics of mediaeval times notably its venerable Church Registers dating from 1538 which were so carefully transcribed many years ago by the late Canon Clement Price. A beautiful little Elizabethan chalice and paten, originally belonging to the Church, is in the possession of Sir Ronald Lechmere. Some while ago Sir Ivor Atkins, of Worcester Cathedral, casually mentioned to the Vicar the existence of a pre-Reformation book originally belong to Hanley Castle, which he believed to be in the University Library at Cambridge, and which contain an ecclesiastical Kalendar. The Vicar resolved to follow up this clue and subsequently paid a visit to Cambridge where he obtained access to the University Library. On making enquiries the Curator at once produced the book which proved to be a magnificent Altar-book, called a Missal, mainly in thirteenth century Script, bearing the signature of one Thomas Corsar.



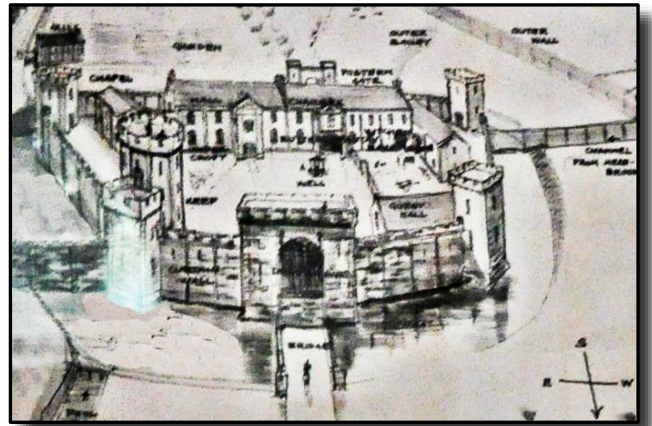
. . . itself secured by an ancient lock . . .



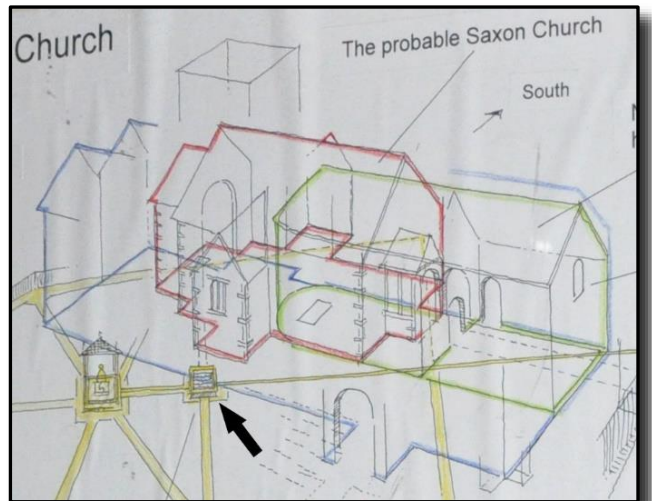
The folios are richly ornamented with gold and colour and are in perfect preservation. The Kalendar dates from early 1300, and contains some interesting commemorations, including that of S. Wulstan, the famous Bishop of Worcester. That portion of the Missal which contains the Canon - that is the Holy Communion Service - is of somewhat later date, probably about 1400. This may have been re-written by a local scribe to replace pages that had become dilapidated with constant use. This bears the signature of M.T. Lygon, which suggests that this later transcription was ordered by an ancestor of Earl Beauchamp to replace the worn pages. You may ask, as indeed did the Vicar, what proof there is that this precious volume originally belonged to our parish. Of that there can be no doubt, for on page 132 the following note is



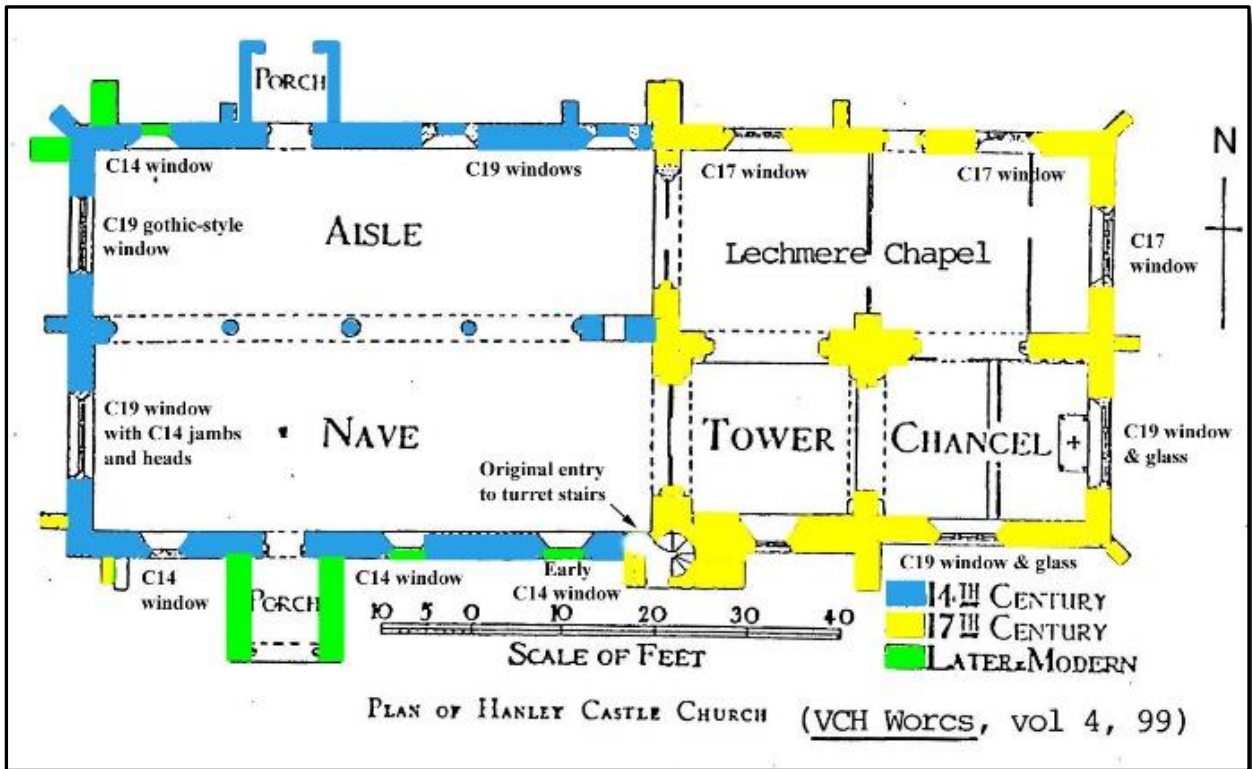
inscribed: - "Thus ys the parryshe bocke of Hanley Castelle in the County of Wosterre." The Librarian is of opinion that the marginal note on page 132 was inserted about 1500. The University has no information as to how the Missal came into its possession. It has been in the Library for at lease 200 years, possibly longer.



The castle lay due south of the church (see second map above) but today nothing is left other than the signs of a few earthworks. It was built by King John in the early part of C13 and the picture above (courtesy of Worcestershire Archaeological Service) shows how it might have looked in C15.



Here we see Worcestershire Archaeological Service's depiction of the church's predecessors: the Anglo-Saxon church in red, the Norman extension in green and the C14 rebuilding in blue. Dowsing and other investigations have revealed that the site upon which the church now stands shows signs of having once been a Roman garden (paths shown in yellow) with, perhaps, a water shrine (arrowed) now under the C14 wall. The artist asks the question "Was this the site of Pagan religious importance - perhaps a water Deity?" The church is aligned close to due east (actually at 087 degrees). If you believe in leylines these run NE-SW here so it might be that the garden was aligned to those?



In the picture above, the nave we see today dates from C14 (in blue) and the chancel, tower and Lechmere Chapel from C17. Later modern structures are shown in green.



So here we stand in the C14 north aisle looking east towards the C17 chapel.



Although it has fine large windows this church does not have a clerestory and so I must admit to finding it rather dark and lacking in colour. It would benefit from a modern lighting system but I guess that funds, as always, are not plentiful. Perhaps one day a bequest might be forthcoming? The building has had three sets of patrons over the years: the de Hanleys, the Hoyntons and, from after the Reformation, the Lechmeres and it is the name of this latter family which is most remembered in the church today:

- Sir Nicholas (Baron of the Exchequer) 1613-1701
- Nicholas, the 1st Baron Lechmere, 1675-1727
- Sir Anthony (1st Bart), 1766-1849
- Sir Edmund Hungerford (2nd Bart), 1792-1856.
- Sir Edmund Anthony (3rd Bart) 1826-1894**
- Sir Edmund Arthur (4th Bart) 1865-1937
- Sir Ronald (5th Bart) 1886-1965
- Sir Berwick (6th Bart) 1917-2001
- Sir Reginald (7th Bart) 1920-2010
- Sir Nicholas (8th Bart) born 1960.

It is perhaps the 3rd Baronet (highlighted above) who is most interesting to us. He was (at different times) MP for Tewkesbury, West Worcestershire, Bewdley and Evesham. He and his wife were keen supporters of the Red Cross which, as a matter of general interest, was formed in 1863 by the Swiss businessmen Henry Dunant and Gustave Moynier after Henry, in 1859, witnessed the aftermath of the Battle of Solferino in Italy when 23,000 wounded, dying and dead soldiers lay

on the battlefield with no authority available to provide care.

In 1888 Sir Edmund and his wife Louisa Katharine Haigh (1837-1904) were two of the principle founders of the Order of St John of Jerusalem.



The wooden altar table is plain and simple. Sneaking a peep behind the curtains I found no piscina or aumbry.



There are quite a few memorials in the chapel but surprisingly most (with the exception of two) are not to the Lechmere family.

INCUMBENTS OF THE		PARISH OF HANLEY CASTLE	
Henry Fraunceys	1304	John Perford	1629
Richard Saucer of Stretford	1337	Richard Wheeler	1650
Richard Golafre	1349	Robert Jennings	1655
John Staunton	1378	Benjamin Barkley	1685
John Bridport	1382	Jacob Badger	1691
Robert Dauncer	1382	Jacob Brooke	1725
John Hawkesbury	1397	Thomas Astbury	1767
Richard Edrych	1397	George Turberville	1780
Walter Clants	1420	Anthony Berwick Lechmere	1830
Richard Edrige	1434	Edward Whitmore Isaac	1879
Thomas Hyde	1434	Charles Harrington	1912
Richard Hyde	1434	Hubert Walter Jones	1922
Thomas Wyeth	1468	John Dennis Pearce-Higgins	1945
John Stephens	1495	Maurice Dean	1953
John Savage	1517	Edgar Basil Turberville	Farncombe
John Ruerdt	1541	David Nicholas Lockwood	1959
William Thornhill	1578		1964

For generations this living has been in the patronage of the Lechmere Family

Given in memory of Sarah Ann Williams 1888-1970

The list of church incumbents starts with Henry Fraunceys in 1304. One of the Lechmere family, namely Anthony Berwick, served from 1839-1879.



The Lechmeres are represented by this polished brass plaque which records that the mortal remains of many members of the family - from 1676 to 1810 - are buried nearby.



Looking west from the altar, a large part of the seating area is taken up by the workings of the organ. Under the carpets there are many C18 gravestones, some of which are now hidden under the organ.



. . . where we find the C14 font placed in a prominent position at the top of the nave aisle. From this view an upper and lower moulding are visible but . . .



We retrace our steps to the west end of the nave's north aisle and then turn smartly to our left . . .



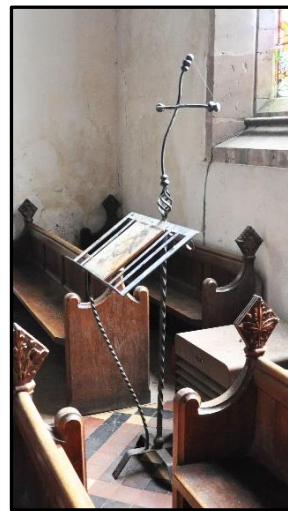
. . . here we can see that on three sides the lower moulding has been removed.



I always like to see inside each font - to discover whether it is lead-lined or whether perhaps it has a basin of Frosterley marble or other exciting features.



Walking eastwards down the nave and turning back to view the font again we can here see the open south door and, immediately in front of the west window a strange wrought-iron structure - somewhat akin to the sword rests we saw in the London churches.

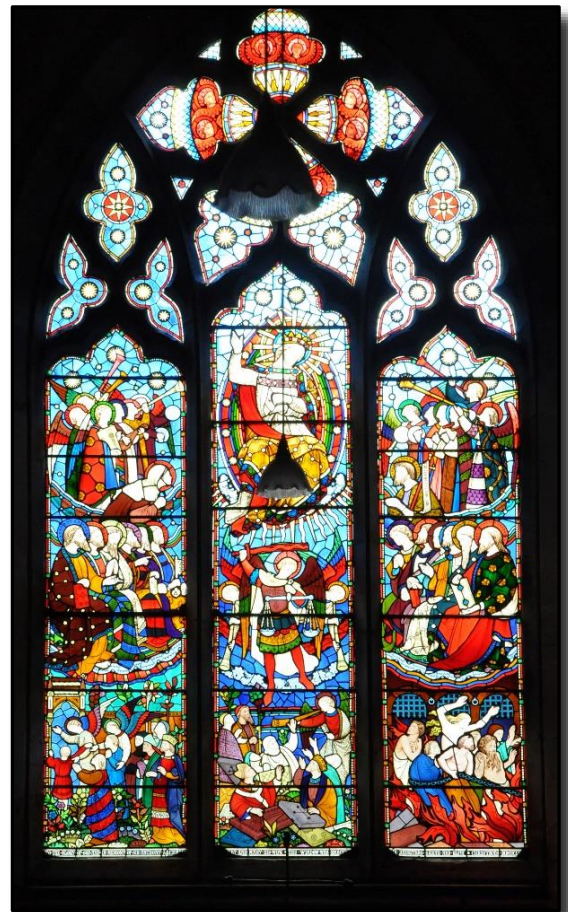


This unusual item seems to be a substantially-made lectern or music stand. I could find no

information about it but it looks as if it dates from C18.



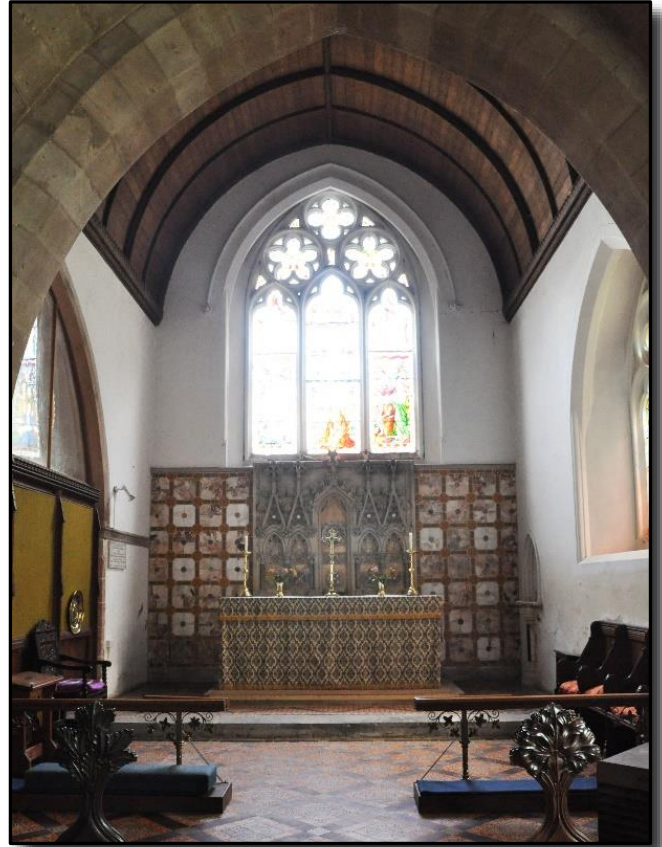
Above the lectern / music stand is a glorious west window which is *full* of colour.



The window, which is of three lights is in an original opening but has C19 tracery and stained glass by Clinton and Bell.



The masonry arch over the south doorway is the oldest piece of fabric in the church the rest of the nave having been rebuilt in C14. This arch remnant dates from C12.



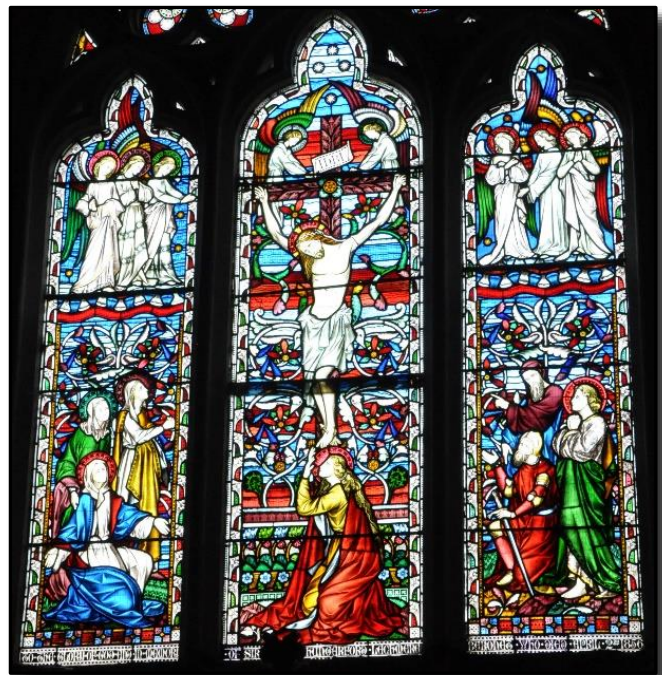
This is the high altar and its predecessor was dedicated by the Bishop of Worcester in 1290.



Returning to our journey down the aisle of the nave we find some nice pieces of woodwork -



- a pair of churchwardens' mitred staves and a multitude of quite plain but unusual pew ends.



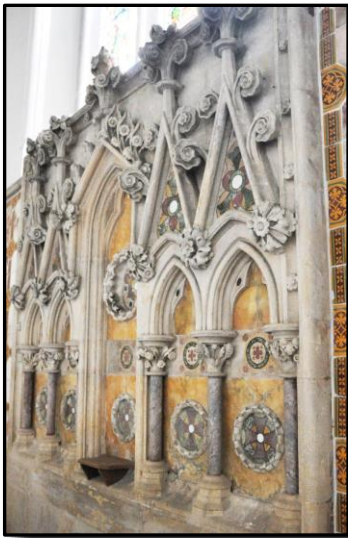
The chancel's east window and its partner on the south wall are C19 although built in Decorated Gothic style.



The high altar has attractive tiling and richly carved C19 reredos . . .



Looking from the high altar past the choir stalls to the west window of the nave.



. . . about which I could find no further information.



Separating the nave from the north aisle are three pointed archways supported by C14 pillars of irregular pattern - two of which are round in section and the middle one is octagonal.



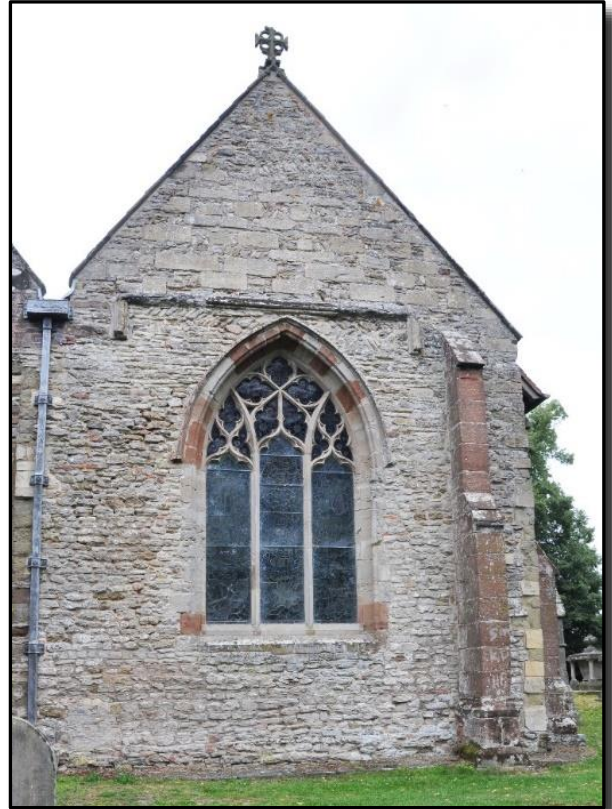
C19 moulded alabaster piscina.



Exiting via the north doorway and moving outside the redness of the C14 ironstone is apparent.



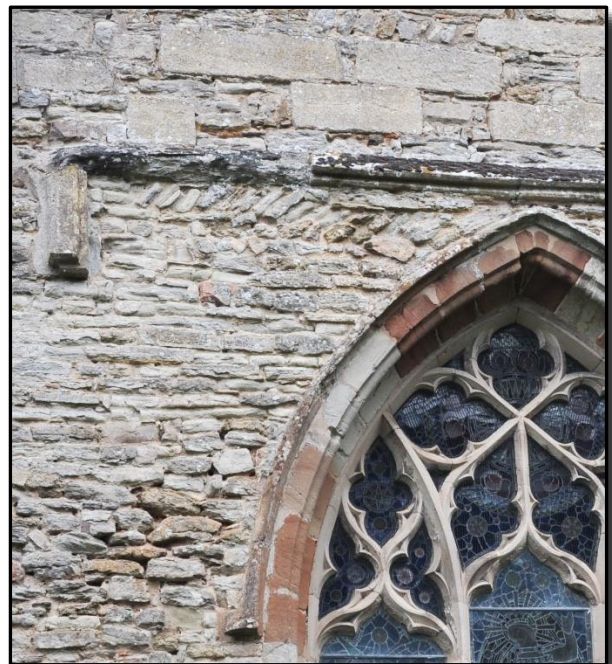
The west end comprises two gabled walls in which both window spaces have been filled with C14-style windows of C19 construction.



The west end of the nave has suffered rather less repair since C14. The window is C19 but it still retains C14 jambs and heads.



The west wall of the north aisle has, at the top, been repaired with red brick. The records suggest that this would have been carried out in C17 at the same time that the east end of the church was restored.



Herringbone pattern masonry at the west end of the nave.



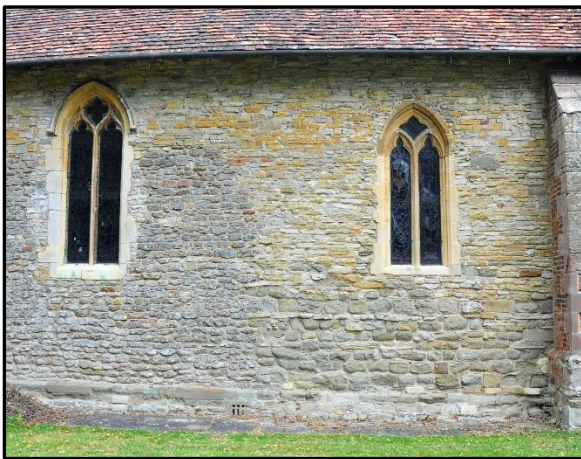
Turning the SW corner we find the C19 porch protecting the south door . . .



The chancel and tower date from 1674 and are constructed in red brick with red stone dressings which British History Online describes as being an ‘interesting example of Caroline Gothic.’ In the southwest corner of the tower there is a stairway.



. . . which bears a rounded Norman arch.



The eastern section of the south wall of the nave exhibits a change from grey to yellow rubble masonry suggesting that C14 saw two restoration periods. This is confirmed by the difference between the three two-light windows in the south wall of the nave. At first glance they appear to be the same but on closer inspection it is apparent that the one seen here on the right is different, and in fact a little older, than the other two.

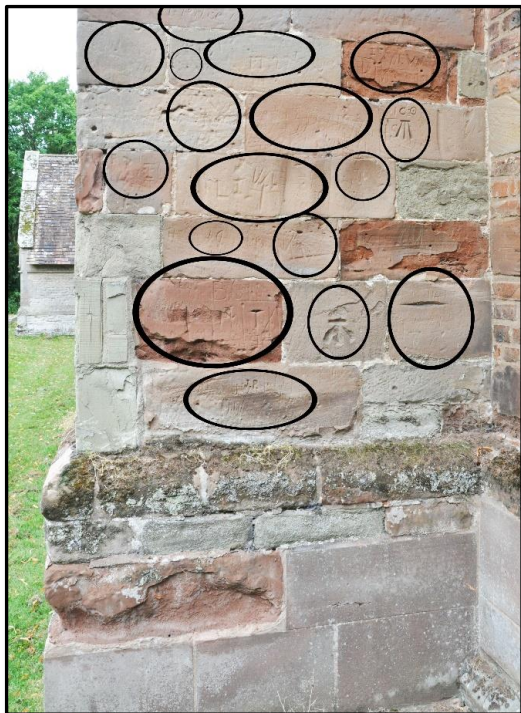


Traditionally, towers in the middle of a church have often been a problem because due to their height and hence their weight they tend to collapse and destabilise the rest of the building. This one seems to be successful in its role. The spiral

stairway (architecturally known as a 'vice') used to be accessed from the east end of the nave (see floor plan above) but is now entered from a small external doorway. Behind the square-headed belfry windows lurks a ring of six bells described by BHO as having been *originally cast by Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester in 1699. In 1858 the fifth was recast by G.Mears and the treble in 1895. The 'ting-tang' is older, the date being apparently 1600.*



Like the east window of the chancel the south window is a C19 replacement.



The tower's southeast buttress has been profusely inscribed with graffiti - the softness and beautiful

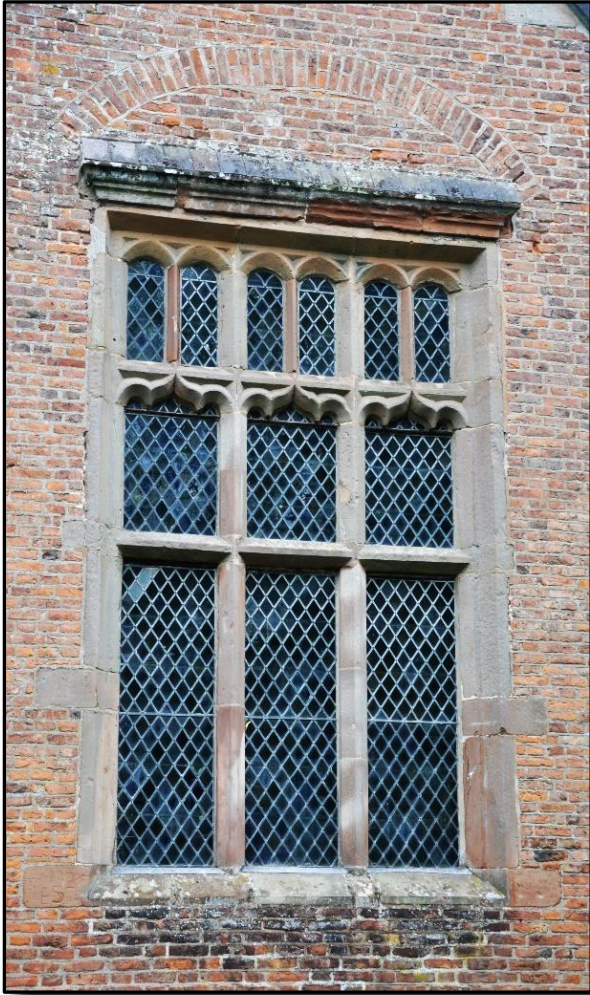
colour of the stone being a temptation too much to bear. Two of the inscriptions are survey marks.



This picture shows the south front of the same buttress and it was here that I was expecting to discover a mass dial but had no such luck. One of our members, Heather Flack, who lives in the area, kindly sent me a couple of images of the text of Tim Bridge's book on Worcestershire churches in which he notes that there is medieval Mass dial on the southwest corner of the church. I must say that both Zina and I searched and searched without success. It might have been there once of course but, the sandstone being so soft, was perhaps abraded out of existence. Even so I would have been particularly surprised to have found it on the *southwest* corner because in my experience if they are not on the south porch they tend to be on the southeast corner of the church. If anybody knows of its whereabouts please let me know.



The east end of the church showing the decorated gothic style of the chancel window and the 'Tudor' (?) style of that of the Lechmere chapel.



To confirm this to the world there is a plaque marked 1674.

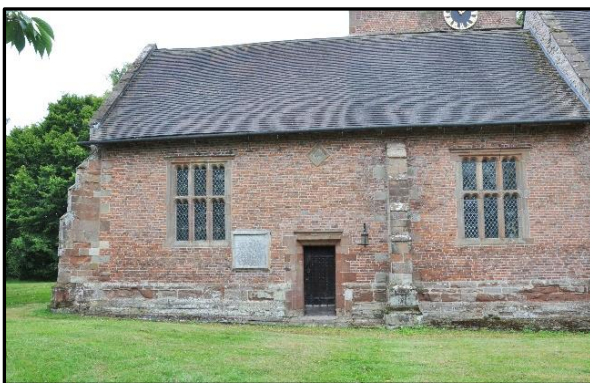


There is also another plaque which once seems to have had a lot to say but is now illegible.

I find *British History Online*'s commentary on the latter window quite architecturally interesting because once described like this it is (unusually) quite easy to interpret the complex technical terms:

. . . an original C17 square-headed window of three lights with double transom and hood mould. The smaller upper lights are divided into two and the middle openings have trefoiled heads.

The arch-brickwork above the hood mould is interesting too. It looks as if the purpose of this was to take the pressure off the wide lintel.



From the outside, the architecture of the Lechmere Chapel is unashamedly C17.



A massive C17 buttress reinforces the junction between the C14 nave and C17 chapel. The clockface only features on the north side of the tower where it faces towards the gate to the

churchyard so that latecomers know how much or how little time they have to spare.

The history of Hanley church and its connection with Saint Botolph

I write 'Hanley' advisedly because that was the name of the village until C16. The 1086 Domesday Book writes it as *Hanlege* (or *Hanleye* - I cannot quite make out which it is).

For much of the rest of this section I am indebted to Graham Jones for bringing to my attention a fascinating thesis written by James Toomey entitled *A Medieval Woodland Manor: Hanley Castle* - which James submitted to the University of Birmingham to gain his Ph.D. The sources of James' information are the family deeds of the Lechmere family and he acknowledges the kind cooperation of Sir Berwick Lechmere in his research.

James tells us '*Hanley was the caput of Malvern forest, which with the manor remained in royal hands until early C13. Thereafter both manor and chase belonged to the magnate families of de Clare, Despenser and Warwick until they escheated to the Crown in late C15. In 1560 the Crown sold the manor to John Hornyold.*'

The church was (as we have often seen before) not mentioned in Domesday in spite of the fact that a predecessor undoubtedly existed then. Domesday tells us that the manor was held by Brictric, son of Algar during the reign of King Edward. After the Conquest King William retained the lordship and tenancy of the area and successive men from the de Hanley family were, until late C15, employed as chief foresters.

James writes *The church of St Botolph (sic), brought to light in the Lechmere collection of deeds, was probably a pre-Conquest precursor of St Mary's and the likelihood is that the chief forester's family were closely connected with it. But what is the significance of the dedication to St Botolph, the furthest west so far found, and of the Lechmere Stone?*

The Lechmere Stone

This stone (seen below) is a grave-marker dating from early C9. It was found at Hanley and is kept at the Lechmere family's residence Severn End.



Photograph courtesy of University College Cork.

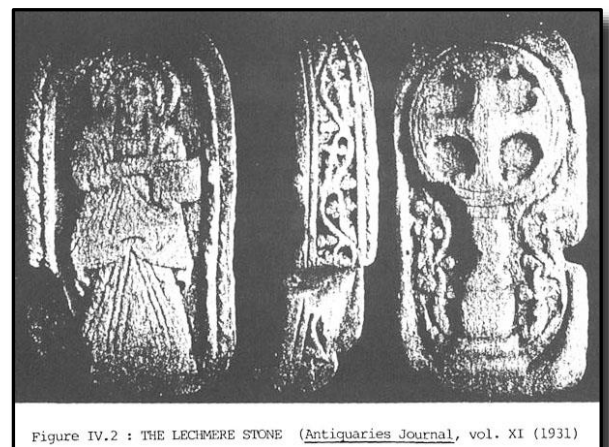


Figure IV.2 : THE LECHMERE STONE (*Antiquaries Journal*, vol. XI (1931))

Photograph courtesy of *Antiquities Journal*.

The picture immediately above shows three aspects of the carving on the stone: the first shows Christ in Majesty holding in his left hand a book (presumably the Bible); the second shows artwork on the edges of the stone; the third shows the obverse face - a cross.

The stone is quite tiny measuring only 19 inches high, 11 inches wide and 4 inches thick. It must have been kept under cover for most of its life because the sculpture is unworn and stands at one inch or so in relief.

Its importance to us lies in the fact that the C9 grave-marker adds to the evidence of there having been a Saxon church dedicated to Saint Botolph at Hanley.

James tells us that there is a tradition that Britvic built a church for his tenants and retainers. The tradition also relates some exciting stories about Britvic's personal life but space precludes the inclusion of these.

Graham Jones very generously sent me the text regarding Hanley Castle that he will be including in the forthcoming (it might already have been published) second edition of his book *Saints in the Landscape*. In it he points out that Pevsner disputes the C9 date for Lechmere stone and proposes C11 - (which rather takes the rug from under our feet).

Graham also notes that *it is a reasonable guess that an important east-west route existed until usurped by the river-crossing and bridging point a mile south of Hanley Castle at Upton upon Severn, a town which grew up during the later Middle Ages*. St Botolph's churches, as we know, were often found at points of travel.

He also links the site with Cnut and makes another important point:

The present author [Graham Jones] sees Cnut's reign as a time of great promotion of Botwulf's (sic) cult, evidencing inter alia Cnut's translation of the saint's remains to a shrine in the abbey of Bury St Edmunds, and the clustering of churches of Botwulf in southern Scandinavia as well as in eastern England, uniting Cnut's North Sea empire. If correct, a dedication, or rededication of Hanley's church under one of Cnut's foremost English advisers can be added to the putative reasons for the saint's presence on the banks of the river Severn.

Graham suggests that knowledge of Botwulf's cult could well have existed at Hanley at a date much closer to the saint's lifetime and he evidences this by reference to the nearby chapelries at Upton and Earl's Croome which were held by the minster church of Ripple - and the fact that Much Wenlock (see last month's *Botolphian*) is only 40 miles away.

Classification

I am going to keep you guessing for another month on this one because in the October edition of *The Botolphian* I intend to bring all the theories

together about St Botolph's dedications west of the Danelaw line..

Correspondence

1. Revd Gary Owen wrote from St Botolph's Lullingstone to say that he is moving away to take an incumbency elsewhere. We wish him good fortune and are pleased to welcome Tina Watson who will be taking over as their church's representative.

2. Patricia Croxton Smith wrote from Hadstock regarding the date of the Mildburg Testament which I considered (although I did not write this) as being between 715 and 727. My friend Crocky pointed out that Finberg, in his *The Early Charters of the West Midlands* (a book that I have read extensively but clearly glossed over this important part) writes:

The attestations of Archbishop Theodore and Seaxwulf, bishop of Lichfield, set a limit of fifteen years, 675 x 690 for the date of the Icanho charter.

As I wrote in my reply to Crocky - I had read somewhere that the testament was made towards the end of Mildburg's life but clearly it must have been made much earlier when she was about 21 years of age.

REGULAR END-NOTES

If this is your first *Botolphian* and you have acquired it by circuitous means but would like to receive an email copy each month then just send an email to botolph@virginmedia.com saying 'YES PLEASE'. If you wish to UNsubscribe then send the message 'NO THANKS.'

You will frequently see the 'twin' towns of *Boston* mentioned in these newsletters, - one in Lincolnshire and the other in Massachusetts USA. The relevance to the Society is that the name 'Boston' is said to be a contraction of *Botolph's Town*.'

Classification of Botolph Church sites:-

A: **C7 church sites** relevant to Botolph's life.

- (i) Founded by radiation from Botolph centres.
- (ii) Founded along the course of Botolph's journeys.

B: **Travellers' churches.**

- (i) Founded before AD 800
- (ii) Founded between 800 and 1066
- (iii) Founded after the Norman Conquest.

C: **Hanseatic churches** founded as a result of commercial enterprise.

D: None of the above.

Typical Characteristics of Early St Botolph Churches.

1. Nearly all are in the eastern half of England
2. Most have Saxon foundations.
3. Many lie within 3 miles of a Roman road or well-used waterway.
4. Most are situated close to the bottom of an escarpment but well clear of water levels.
5. Many are strategically placed in areas which represent the beginnings, middles and ends of long journeys.

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