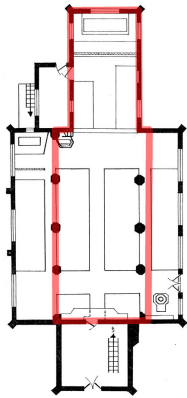


All Saints, Caddington

Historical Snapshots



1 The present church dates from about 1180. It originally consisted of just a nave and a chancel. The only surviving features are the chancel jambs, the masonry of the south door (since moved) and the lower part of the aisleless nave.



2 Nothing remains of the original chancel which was rebuilt around 1270. Surviving from 1270 is a credence table (for the unconsecrated sacrament) a double piscina (for washing the sacred vessels) and sedilia (seats for clergy).



3 The 2 eastern bays of the north aisle and the traceried circular window were added around 1330. This window is now blocked by a 'modern' 1876 vestry.



5 The tower is known to be in existence by 1458 (shown in 1846).



6 The south arcade was added in the late 1400s. It is set within the old south wall so the nave centre was no longer in line with the centre of the chancel. The 12th century doorway was set in its present position.



base of the north and west walls (2 can only be seen from the outside).



4 The north arcade was extended in the early 1400s. Note the different style of the pillars and the 3 pudding stones in the

8 The font basin was probably acquired by Rev. Biby around 1710. It bears the Greek palindrome (a phrase that reads the same both ways). The text says:
ΝΙΨΟΝ ΑΝΟΜΗΜΑ ΜΗ ΜΟΝΑΝ ΟΨΙΝ.
 This can be translated in various ways, for example :
 "Cleanse transgression not only looks"
 Or "Cleanse our sin not only our face".

7 The octagonal font is 15th century. Each face has a cusped panel with roses, fir cones, acorns and oak leaves but the north panel depicts the Green Man - a legendary deity of the spirits of trees, plants and foliage.





9 There are two brasses; the nave brass is dated 1505 and is dedicated to John Hawtt, his wife Elizabeth and their 4 sons and 4 daughters. The north aisle brass is dated 1518 and dedicated to Edward Dormer and his wives Joan and Elizabeth and their children.



10 The hexagonal pulpit with moulded panels dates from about 1600. It was moved to its present position in 1876 (see 15 below).



11 The parish chest bears the date 1675 and the churchwardens' names. Thomas Cromwell made parish chests compulsory in 1538 to store parish records.

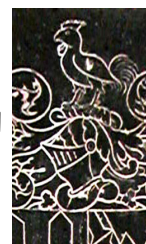


12 The tower bells were first mentioned in 1518. We know there were 4 bells in 1708 and by 1717 there were 6 bells, as there are today.

13 The unique one handed tower clock dates from 1695 and the weights used to be wound by hand. In 1997 it was refurbished & fitted with an electric wind-up mechanism.



14 The funeral helm on the chancel wall is featured on the memorial stone of Thomas Coppin of Markyate Cell who died in 1662. The stone above his family vault is located under the chancel carpet.



15 In 1875-6 the church was massively restored both inside and out. The costs are shown on a plaque by the S door.



16 Below the south wall windows you can find a chronogram. If you sum the Latin numerals you get the date of the restoration.

HAEC AEDS SI VISQUO RESTAVRATA SIT ANNO DISCERE QVICUNCVE ES DISCE CHRONOGRAPHICE

(If you wish to learn in what year this church was restored, whoever thou art, learn it chronographically.)

ANNO O CADDINGTON IENSIS PII ECCLESIA VESTRA VOEIS RESTAVRATA EST GAUDETE.

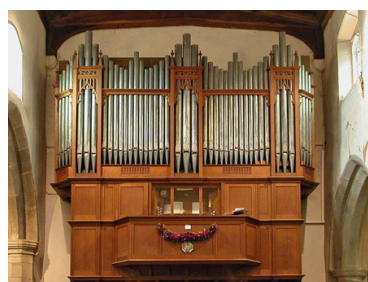
(In this year O good people of Caddington, your church was restored for you) =1876

HAECCE ECCLESIA RESTAVRATA EST THO PRESCOTTO VICARIO DNO DEO GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

(This church was restored, Thomas Prescott being the vicar. Glory to God in the highest.) =1876



17 The stained glass in the east window is in memory of Anne Macnamara who paid some of the 1876 chancel restoration cost. The central panes represent the nativity, crucifixion and resurrection. The side panels represent the 4 gospel writers with their symbols, an angel, lion, ox and eagle across the middle.



19 The two manual organ was built by J J Binns in 1912 at a cost of £455 of which £212 10s was donated by Mr Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish American millionaire.

18 The eagle lectern is probably Victorian - the eagle being the symbol of St John (see 17) and of the ascension because it soars to the heavens.



20 There is a number of medieval graffiti in the church. Most interesting perhaps is the mysterious W shaped cypher on the front S aisle pillar. It bears the name Margaret but the vowels are replaced by their next consonants:



Margaret ➤ Mbrgrbrft

There is also a number of pilgrim's crosses but you may also be able to find another W graffiti as well strange stars and a knight on horseback.

