

All Saints' Church Hartford - A brief guide & history



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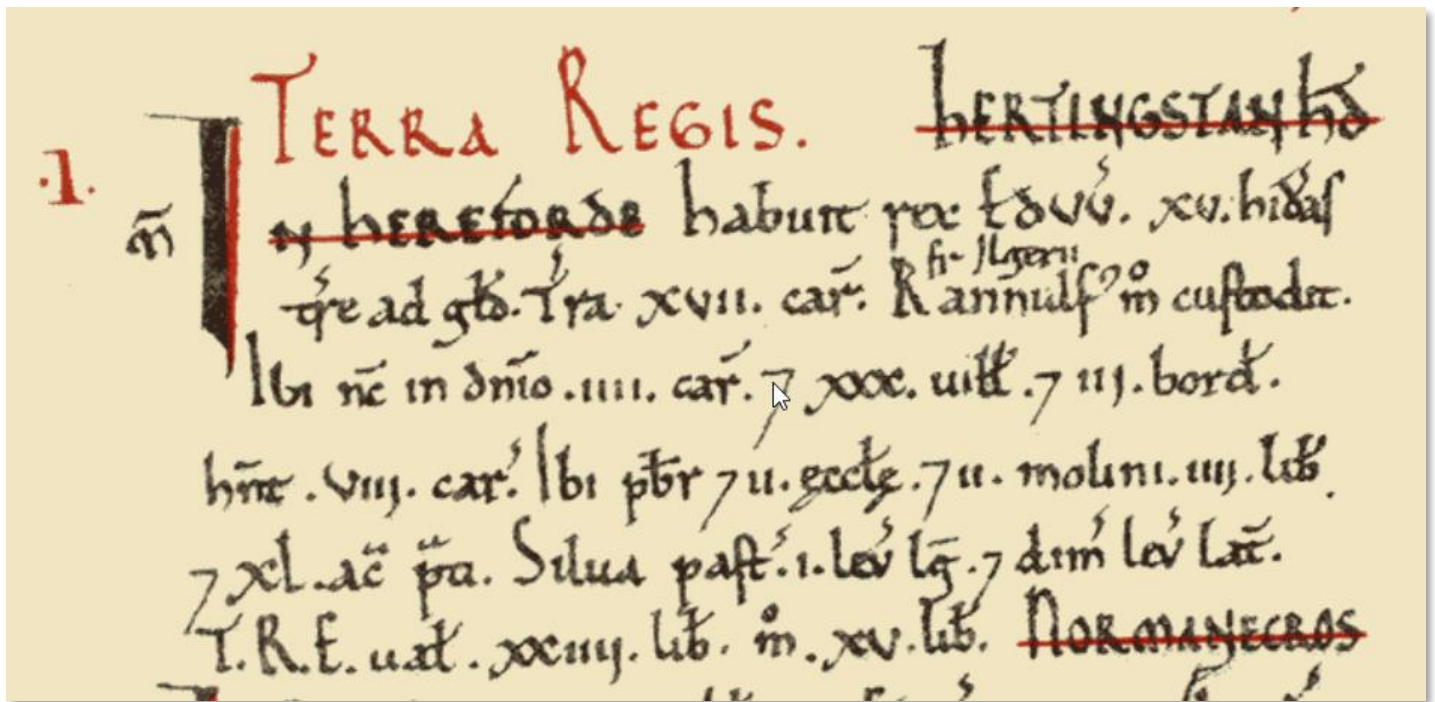
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-Introduction

There has been a Christian church located in Hartford for an indeterminate amount of time. There is evidence of Stone, Iron and Bronze Age settlements in the vicinity. The Saxon name for the settlement was "Hereforde", which translated means "army ford", so this would have been a crossing point for the river. The earliest documentation of a Church is noted in the Domesday book, which records that a simple wooden church was present in 1086. William the Conqueror clearly realised that someone would be interested in the history of the church in the future, and set about addressing this requirement. Sadly, neither the Angles, the Saxons, the Danes, the Romans nor any of their successors, created further content that has documented the history of the church. The church in its current picturesque location near to the River Ouse was built in 1180, on what is believed to be the site of a Roman watchtower.



1 Hartford entry in the Domesday book in 1086

The walls are of pebble and stone rubble with stone dressings and tiled roofs. Much rebuilding has been done especially in 1861 and 1895. Christian worship in the village can be traced back even earlier to 1086 when the Domesday Book records a simple wooden church, which was probably situated in the old vicarage garden. A further extension was completed in 2003 on the north side to add a church room including a small kitchen, toilet facilities and a new heating system for the church. The church can be accessed from it through the North Nave door.

The Architecture

[Link to The Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture website](#)

Most of the architectural descriptions in this booklet are based on those found in the Royal Commission of Historical Monuments, An Inventory of the Historical Monuments of Huntingdonshire. See appendix 1 for a glossary of some of the architectural items.

The Exterior



2 View from the other side of the river



3 The South entrance



and East Window



4 View from the East, with the Church Room addition on the right.

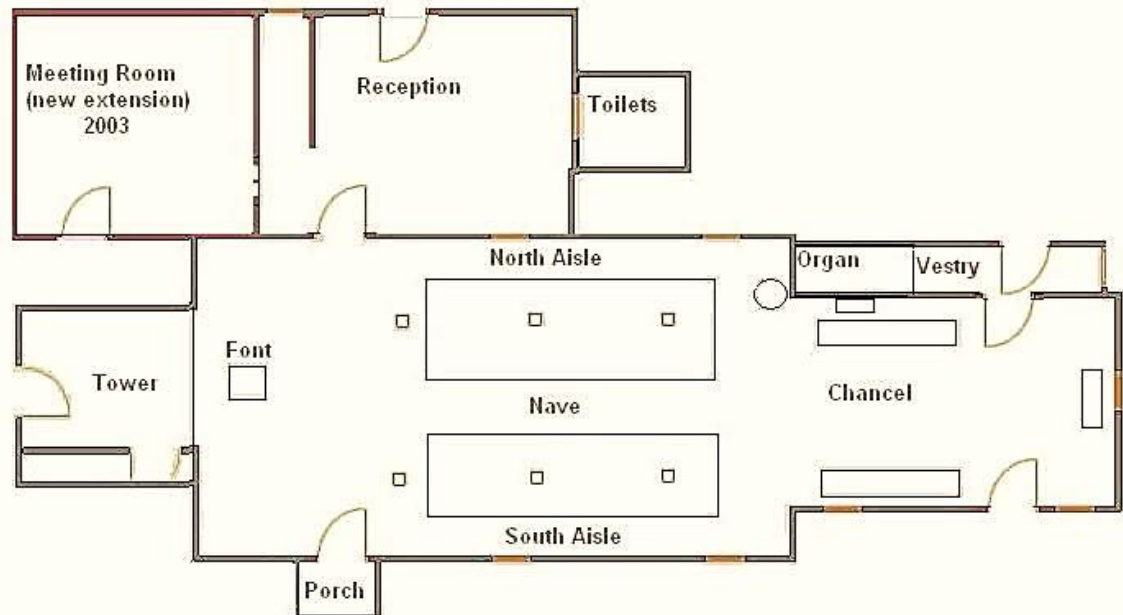


5 View of the North side showing the church room, from the cemetery.



6 View of the West side of the church.

All Saints' Church Hartford



7 Layout of the interior of the church



8 The Nave looking East

Nave

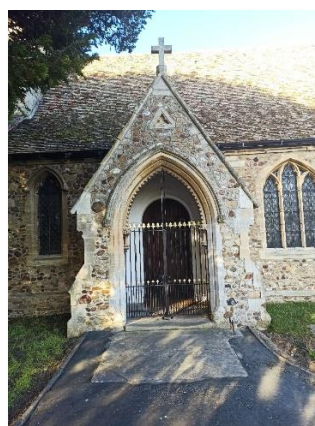
The North and South aisles (5 feet wide) including most of the walls and windows were rebuilt in the 1861 restoration and the oak South door had a porch added.



9 The North Aisle looking East



The South Aisle looking East



The South door porch

The Nave (37' x 17 ½ ') has two arcades, a series of arches supported by columns. The north arcade was built c.1180 and has four bays with rounded arches of two orders. The outer order is square and the inner is square chamfered. The western arch and the respond corbels are restorations. The round columns have moulded capitals and bases. The south arcade built in c.1190 has four bays, with two centre arches of two chamfered orders. The round columns have moulded capitals and restored bases. The west end arch and the respond corbels are restorations. The western arch and the chancel arch were rebuilt last century. In the Nave you will find amongst other things:

Chest: Made of oak, with moulded styles and rails, front with three panels carved with conventional flowers and carved frieze, moulded and panelled lid and sides and flat ball feet, early 17th century.



10 The oak chest

Font: The square bowl of the font sits on a circular centre and dates from the 12th Century. The four side angle shafts and the base belong to the 18th Century. This was moved to its present position in the centre of the west end during restoration in 1895, from near the south door.



11 The font looking towards the West

Pews: Made of oak, probably in 1861, there is a notice in the vestry about them, but this is unfortunately undated. The account of the 1895 restoration in the Parish of Hartford Minute book mentions that the seating in the chancel was changed and the rest repaired and cleaned.



Pulpit: The decorated pulpit was moved a few feet to leave the arch clear, in 1895. The stair rail was erected in memory of Granville Robert Chandler and his wife Gladys, May, in 1983.



12 The pulpit

Wands of Office: Provided in 1926 by Mr Newbold to mark the churchwardens' seats.



13 The wands of office attached to the pews on either side of the central aisle.



14 The nave looking West into the lower tower

	Nave memorials:
1.	John Sugar Thompson, d. 1846, and Susanna, his wife, d. 1842
2.	War Memorial, 1914-1918: Sec Lieutenant John Arthur Marshall; Sergt Herbert John Freeman; Sergt Edward Frank Todd; Corpl Joseph Edwin Livett M.M.; Corpl George Robinson Wells; Pte Albert Edward Rann; Pte Joseph Belsham; Pte Charles Amos Baxter; Pte Albert William Linford; Pte George Childs; Pte Albert Walter Hall.
3.	War Memorial 1939-45. The chiming set was installed in 1949 to the glory of God & dedicated to the memory of Alfred George Ernest Jones; George William Arthur Mitchell and William Ernest Warren who lost their lives in the war.
	Nave Floor slabs:
1.	1. Robert Waller d. 1730.
2.	2. Daniel John Hopkins MA Formerly curate and after vicar of the parish for 28 years 16-6-1857 in his 79th year:
3.	3. Mary wife of Daniel Hopkins whose short but virtuous life was suddenly closed after giving birth to an infant son on the evening of 1st Jan 1822 in the 27th year of her age. Also of second wife Esther Barnard Hopkins whose zealous life was terminated by consumption on the morning of the 23rd day of September 1827 in the 42nd year of her age.

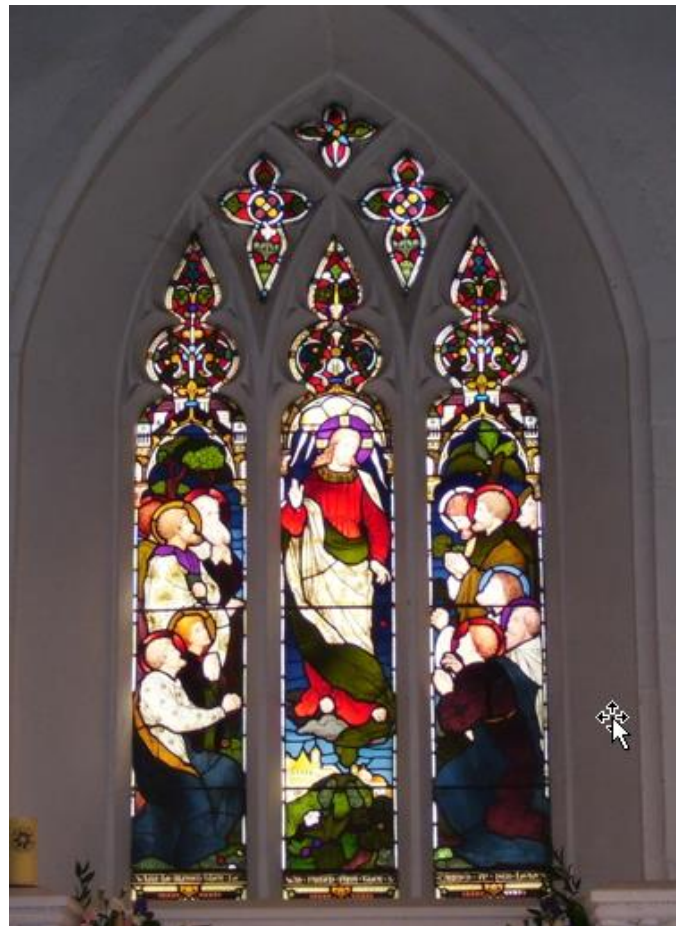
Chancel

The thickness of the north and east walls of the chancel indicate that they were built in the 12th Century. The chancel measures 21 ¼' x 13 ½'. It has no ancient features except hollow chamfered splays and two 14th Century, centred rear arches to the east window, which were reset in 1861. The stained glass of this window was put in in 1867. The altar was raised in 1861. There is an inscription on the edge of the second step, unfortunately covered by carpet, which ends with MDCCCLXVIII. The floor was laid with 6" Jerro-metallic Staffordshire red and black tiles. An unusual feature is that the 1861 Norman style, Chancel Arch is carved on both sides.

The Crucifer is 'In memory Ann Pryer 1853-1936' and the folding section on the oak altar rail is in memory of 'George William Knight, 1981, churchwarden for 34 years'.

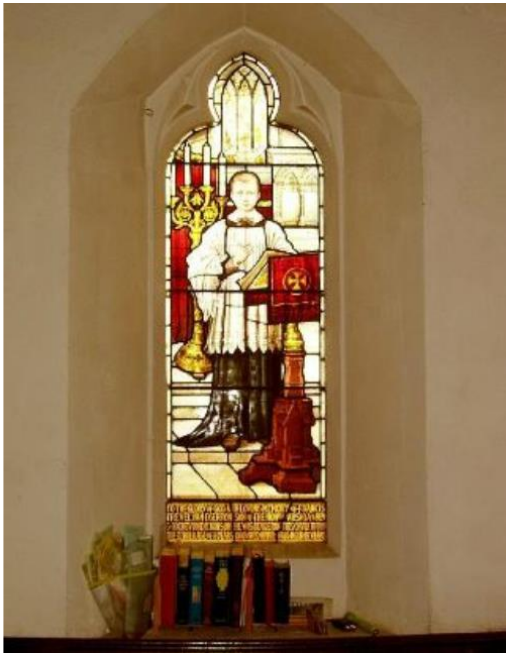


15 The Chancel looking East



Francis Trevelyan Egerton Cockburn-Dickinson

In the south wall of the chancel there is a memorial window in memory of the Rev. Cockburn-Dickinson's son, Francis Trevelyan Egerton Cockburn-Dickinson, who sadly drowned in 1885, aged just ten. This tragedy occurred on Saturday May 2nd 1885.



Francis Trevelyan Egerton Cockburn-Dickinson was born on 7th September 1874, and was the 3rd child of Rev. George Cockburn-Dickinson and the Hon. Ursula Elizabeth Denison. His mother, the Hon. Ursula Elizabeth Cockburn-Dickinson, daughter of Rt. Lord Londesborough K.C.H. and grand-daughter of Henry, Marquis of Conyngham, sadly passed away on 23rd April, 1880, just 32 years of age, leaving six children:

- (1) Edith Jane Catherine Christophina Ursula
- (2) Londesborough Granville Lawton Maud
- (3) Francis Trevelyan Egerton
- (4) Edgell Antonio Albert Fitzgerald
- (5) Eveline Haroldina Elizabeth Carnegie
- (6) George Victor Conyngham.



From the tender age of 8, Francis Trevelyan Egerton Cockburn-Dickinson was reader at Hartford Church, and on that fateful day in May 1885, the 'Local News' column of The Hunts Guardian Friday May 8 1885 recorded the following:

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE

On Saturday last (May 2nd) an inquest was held at the King of Prussia public house in this village on the body of Francis Trevelyan Egerton Dickerson aged 10, son of the Rev. G. C. Dickerson, vicar of Hartford, who was taken out of the water dead that morning. It appeared from the evidence of Elizabeth Hitch, one of the domestic servants in the family that on Friday, the deceased, his younger brother and the vicar were working in the garden before early dinner, and as was supposed they all went into the house about 1.00 (sic) to dine. The deceased disappeared from the house and the vicar and the other son sat down to dinner, but as deceased did not go to dinner also a search was

made for him about the house and garden. Witness ultimately went to the riverside and there she found the jacket that had been worn by the deceased, but could not find him anywhere. A search in the river was then made for the body until late in the evening, but without success. His cap was found in a chair in the kitchen. The dog was kept near the boathouse and deceased used sometimes go and fetch the dog, but it was not there when he went to the boathouse. Did not think deceased knew the dog was brought from the boathouse. George Crow, labourer, Hartford, deposed to finding the body on Saturday morning about four yards from the bank. The water was about 20 feet deep where he pulled it out. The jury returned a verdict of "accidentally drowned in the river Ouse.

The Organ

On the north wall of the chancel is the organ which was supplied by the London organ-builders, Hill & Son. It was ordered by the then Vicar, The Revd J. Ripley, who had received a quotation of £205 from Hill on 19 November 1873; the instrument was probably installed early in 1874. Hill & Son was one of the most eminent firms of English organ-builders during the Victorian period.

The Hartford organ was typical of Hill's small church instruments. It would have been constructed in the organ factory in Camden Town before being sent down to Huntingdon by rail and then assembled in the church. It had a single keyboard, twenty pedals, and eight stops. All the pipes apart from those of the open diapason were enclosed in a swell box equipped with shutters so that the organist could cause the sound to get louder or softer by operating a pedal.

The organ was restored by Bower & Co. of Norwich in 2021 costing £25,475. The funds required were raised in 6 weeks thanks to the efforts of the local community and the church congregation.

[Organ restoration pictures](#)



Chancel memorials:	
1.	Jacob Julien Baumgartner, d. 1816; Tryce Mary, his wife, d. 1815; Robert Jacob, their son, d. 1810; and Tryce Mary Susanna, their daughter, d. 1835; John Thomas Baumgartner, of Godmanchester, d. 1874; and Phillipa, his wife, d. 1882.
2.	The Hon. Ursula [Cockburn Dickinson], daughter of Lord Londesborough, d. 1880
3.	Window to Francis Trevelyan Egerton Cockburn-Dickinson, d. 1885.
4.	Reginald Charles Coleridge, d. 1912.
5.	Window renovated in memory of Leonard & Phyllis Everett 1983

North & South Aisles

With the exception of the east wall of the south aisle, most of the walls and windows were rebuilt during the 1861 restorations. The south doorway was reset with a modern round arch and c.1190 free shafts to the jambs, with simple moulded capitals and one with a chamfered abacus rounded at the angle. The doors are oak. The South Porch was built in 1861. The north aisle windows were presented by 'Rev. G. Cockburn Dickinson and Edmond Measures in Commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee 1887'. The North and South aisles(5 feet wide) including most of the walls and windows were rebuilt in the 1861 restoration and the oak South door had a porch added.

North aisle memorials:	
1.	Mary wife of John Waller, d. 1745, age 27.
2.	Emily Lizette Gladwin d. 1860 and a floor slab to E. L. G. by north door.
3.	Leslie Charles Papworth devoted to the service of British legion 1888 - 1950.
4.	Robert Hibberd 1904 to Jan. 1983 chorister for 60 years & sexton for 45 years.
South aisle memorials:	
1.	John Trotter citizen & grocer of London d. 1746 and Elizabeth (Snagg) his wife d 1742.
2.	Leonard Waller d. 1794 and Mary his wife d. 1764.
3.	Charles Desborough 19th March 1929, Constance his wife 31st July 1929

Tower

The tower (11' square) is built of stone rubble, with dressings of Barnack stone and other free stones. The external doorway to the tower, on the West side of the church has been blocked.



16 Blocked doorway at the West end of the Tower.

On the south side of the tower is a doorway to the stair turret which leads to the upper tower where the bells are located.

It was added to or rebuilt in the late 15th Century and in July 1552 there were five bells, but there are currently six. The Six Bells are not to be confused with the public house of the same name.

The tower is divided externally into four stages by string courses and finished with an embattled parapet with crocketed pinnacles at the angles and a trefoiled ogee and crocketed arch over the middle crenel of each side, the merlons have brick filling. The two centred tower arch is of three chamfered orders, the two outer continuous and the inner resting on semi-octagonal attached shafts with moulded capitals. In the south wall is a doorway to the stair turret with chamfered jambs and four centred arch. The west doorway, now blocked, has jambs and four centred arch of two chamfered orders with a moulded label.

Five of the present bells are dated 1796 and one 1799 (see appendix 2), these were re-hung in 1895. One of the bells was apparently forfeited by King's Ripton for not burying a parishioner. On the north wall is a painted wooden notice informing us of a bell ringing marathon and the team members who took part.



17 Notice of a bell ringing marathon 1932

According to the Vestry meeting Minutes of 26th April 1939, the bells were again unsafe. The 2nd bell was cracked and the estimated cost of repair was £300. The chiming set was installed in 1949 in memory of those who died during the Second World War (see appendix 4).

To provide improved and safe access to the Tower, Taylors were contracted to re-rope the 6 chime hammers with PSP rot-free ropes, oil and lubricate the chime rollers and balance the hammers. They re-fixed and reinforced the

wheel shrouds and moved the third bell and chiming hammer in its pit and removed the bell wheel. Their work on the bells was completed in May 2019.

In 1874, clear glass was put into the large west window. It has three modern trefoiled lights in 15th Century casement moulded jambs and four centred arch with a moulded label and head stops. The second stage has in the three walls a round, headed loop over which the string course is mitred. The bell chamber has in each wall a window of two pointed lights in a four centred head with a moulded label and carved stops. There is a carved wooden screen across the West End of the nave in memory of Patience Seeley who died in 1938. This was extended in 1995, to completely enclose the choir vestry as a memorial to Peter & Jean Bath. There is also a memorial to the Reverend Vyner Snell and members of his family.

In 2018 further work was needed on the Tower and included replacing the tiles and battens, replacement of guttering, some further work on the parapets, improving access to the tower and providing greater support for the bells. A full specification of works was prepared for tender and at its Meeting in March 2018 the PCC approved the appointment of Brown & Ralph, Building Restoration and Stonemasons of Cambridge, as the main contractors to undertake the work.

The cost to repair the tower and the bells was £60,000, which came from the reserves that All Saints' Hartford built up over several years together with a generous gift of £5000 from Hartford Village Hall Committee. £10,000 of VAT paid to contractors was recovered from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. The net cost for the repairs was £50,000.

[Click here to see Tower restoration photos](#)

	Tower memorials:
1.	The Rev. Vyner Snell B.A. Rector of Doddington Cambs d. 1751; Mary his daughter d. 1735; Margaret (Hall) his wife d 1794; and her sister Mary Hall.

Charities

On the west wall of the tower are two large wooden boards, which were cleaned and restored in 1978 by Mr. J. Dillistone.

These set out clearly the details of two charities:

In 1707, Bank's charity gave 40 shillings a year to the poor on St Bartholomew's Day and New Year's Day.

In 1716, Thong's charity was set up to provide £4 per annum for the minister and churchwardens; £16 was to be used to apprentice a boy who must be able to write, cast accounts, and repeat the catechism; £12 was to be given to him at the end of his apprenticeship.

Organ Chamber

The organ was moved into the old vestry, above the boiler house, on the north side of the chancel in 1895. This involved cutting an arch into the north wall of the chancel and a window into the west end of the chamber. Apparently the heat helped solve problems with the organ. According to the minutes of the Vestry meeting of 6th August 1880, it was agreed to move the organ to the north corner of the nave 'nearer the warming apparatus with a view to the instrument being kept in better tune'. The move allowed light from the west window back into the church.

Vestry

The vestry was built in 1895 when the old vestry was converted into the organ chamber. On the south wall there is a brass shield inscribed with

**"TO THE GLORY OF GOD. THIS CHURCH WAS RESTORED BY VOLUNTARY OFFERING AD 1895. J. GEORGE GIBSON
VICAR; A. J. DESBOROUGH, G. WARBURTON CHURCHWARDENS".**

Above the doorway from the organ chamber there is a painted wooden notice informing us that

**THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR BUILDING & CHURCHES GRANTED £35
TOWARDS RESEATING THIS CHURCH, UPON THE CONDITION THAT 140 SEATS NUMBERED 1 TO 23 BE RESERVED
FOR THE USE OF THE POORER INHABITANTS OF THIS PARISH.**

There are four small benches which may be found in or near the Prayer Corner. On an undated plan in the County Record Office these are shown as originally being in the tower.

Reception and Meeting room.

In 2003 the facilities at the church were upgraded by the construction of an extension on the North side of the church. This added a reception area, toilets, a kitchen and a meeting room that is available to hire, for external events, or to use for church social events.



18 The exterior of the meeting room



19th Century Restorations

During these restorations, according to W. H. Saunders 1888, *Legends, etc.*, of Huntingdonshire, upwards of 20 broken stone coffins were found whilst making preparations for new flooring. The lids of eight of these bore the Saxon symbol of the cross and anchor whilst several others had richly floriated crosses of a later date. There were also traces of rude distemper paintings, including full length figures of a queen, St. George and the Dragon and large Maltese crosses on the columns and wall, according to this same source.

In Huntingdon's County Record Office there are some undated plans, which since they do not show the present organ chamber, I assume were prepared for the 1861 restoration. Rolled in these plans is a 'Specification of works required to be done in the restoration of the Chancel for the Lady Olivia Bernard Sparrow'. They noted 'to take off the old roof and clear away the old pews in Chancel to be the property of Lady Olivia Bernard Sparrow'. The timber for the roof was to be best Douglas yellow fir and the oak for the pews and door was to be English and five years seasoned. These were to be finished with linseed oil, mixed with a little red lead.

There are several entries in the Parish Minute Book between February 1863 and January 1864 referring to the mortgaging of church land to raise the means to liquidate the debt of £160 incurred in restoration.

The Vestry Minutes of April 1895 record the estimated cost of restoration at £400 and a subscription list being opened. The 24th October records the re-opening of the church by Lord Bishop of Diocese. The 1895 restoration is well documented, with a copy of the original 'Specification & Plans', a copy of the Faculty required from Ely before work could commence and a detailed account in the Vestry Minutes of 1897.

Lady Olivia Bernard Sparrow

She was the wife of Brigadier General Robert Bernard Sparrow in 1797 who died at sea in 1805. She inherited the estates of the Bernard family and lived at Brampton Park. According to Robson's Directory 1839 entry for Hartford she was 'Lay Rector & Impropriator of Great Tithe' and was therefore responsible for the upkeep of the chancel.

Church Plate

In 1932 the Rev. E. G. Alderson deposited the items not in constant use for safe keeping in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. They can be viewed by viewed by prior arrangement. See appendix 3 for a description of the items.

Memorials

There are no early family monuments as largely the monks of the Priory ministered to the church and the Prior himself was lord of the manor. He and the monks he appointed as vicars would be buried in the Priory graveyard.

In the church are five 18th Century wall memorials, and one slate memorial in the nave floor near the lectern. There are three 19th Century wall tablets and two floor memorials at the west end of the nave. These were only revealed again in November 1991 after the wooden floor had to be removed. One memorial window in the south wall of the chancel is in memory of the Rev. Cockburn-Dickinson's son who drowned in 1885, aged ten.



There are four 20th Century memorial plaques. The one on the chancel wall is in memory of a victim of the Titanic disaster in 1912, Mr. R.C. Coleridge pictured left.

He was instrumental in helping to form the 1st. Hunts (Hartford) Scout Group in 1908. Mr Coleridge had apparently booked on the 'New York' sailing from Southampton, but was offered a place on the Titanic sailing from Liverpool because there was a strike. There are of course, War memorials to parishioners who died in the two great wars of this century (See appendix 4). The other chancel window was restored in memory of Leonard & Phyllis Everett in 1983.

Some of the memorials are mentioned in the text as they form part of the fixtures or fittings. There is a small pottery group of Christ showing a bird to some children commemorating H. Pardoe, who died in 1976.

Parish Registers & Minute Books

Apart from the present ones, the Registers of Baptisms, Marriages, Burials and the Minute Books are kept in the guardianship of the County Records Office in Huntingdon. Appendix 5 is an edited list of their references.

The Minute Books come in various shapes and sizes, as does the hand writing. This gives the reader a challenge, but can be rewarding and interesting given the time.

The early books mainly seem to record such appointments as churchwardens, constables, overseers of the poor and Highways Board Way Warden. There are details of some payments for certain offices and the setting of rateable value on local properties. The later books show a more verbatim account of the important events of the church community.

The Churchyard



19 The Churchyard looking North

In the churchyard, near the Southeast corner of the chancel there is an interesting memorial, a triangular obelisk inscribed "MORS META VIARUM" with the date "MDCCXXXV" at the base. Translated, the inscription means "Death is the turning point of the ways". It is said to commemorate the clearing of the churchyard in 1735 in order that it might be buried over again, a common practice in days gone by (marked S on the map).

On Tuesday 22nd May 1860, Thomas the Bishop of Ely consecrated an addition to the church yard of '32 perches, fenced by a brick wall'. The land was 'conveyed by Edward Barnard Hopkins and Ann Eliza Hopkins, tenant in fee and by the mortgages in fee of the manor of Hartford, with the consent of Sir Henry Pelly, tenant for life of the said manor'.

HUNTS HARTFORD. 25-5-06
CHURCHYARD ENLARGEMENT. — A parish meeting was held in the Schoolroom on Friday evening, for the purpose of considering the question of the enlargement of the Churchyard. The Rev. A. C. Crossfield (Vicar) presided, and explained that the meeting had been called to take the feeling of the parishioners as to whether they would agree to the enlargement of the Churchyard, or have a Cemetery outside the village. He said the Churchyard was full, and that something would have to be done. Mr. E. A. Ross proposed: "That this meeting give the Vicar and Churchwardens permission to purchase a piece of land adjoining the churchyard, the property of Mr. Billitt." He pointed out the disadvantages of having a cemetery, which would probably have to be a mile outside the village, besides which the expenses would be quite three times as large. Mr. G. Newbury seconded, and said he thought the whole village would agree to it, and would be willing to subscribe. Mr. C. J. Desborough supported, and suggested that circulars should be sent to each house explaining the advantages of enlarging the churchyard instead of having a cemetery, and then making a house to house collection. After further discussion, the resolution and Mr. Desborough's suggestion were agreed to.

The churchyard was extended northwards in 1906 for reasons that are described in this cutting from the Hunts County News and this now includes an area for the interment of ashes.

The 1951 Act of Parliament saw the discontinuance of new burials. The last recorded burial in a family grave was in 1978, according to the Record of Burials. The first 'Interment of Ashes' was in 1966.

The map in appendix 5, gives details of some of the inscriptions. The area enclosed by the dotted line on the north side of the church is the site of our new extension.

The churchyard was closed in 1951 and the PCC requested the local authority, Huntingdon Town Council to take on the responsibility for its maintenance. It remains the property of the Incumbent and is also subject to Faculty Jurisdiction. A Faculty is still needed for all works which would require a Faculty in an open churchyard.

The Vicarage

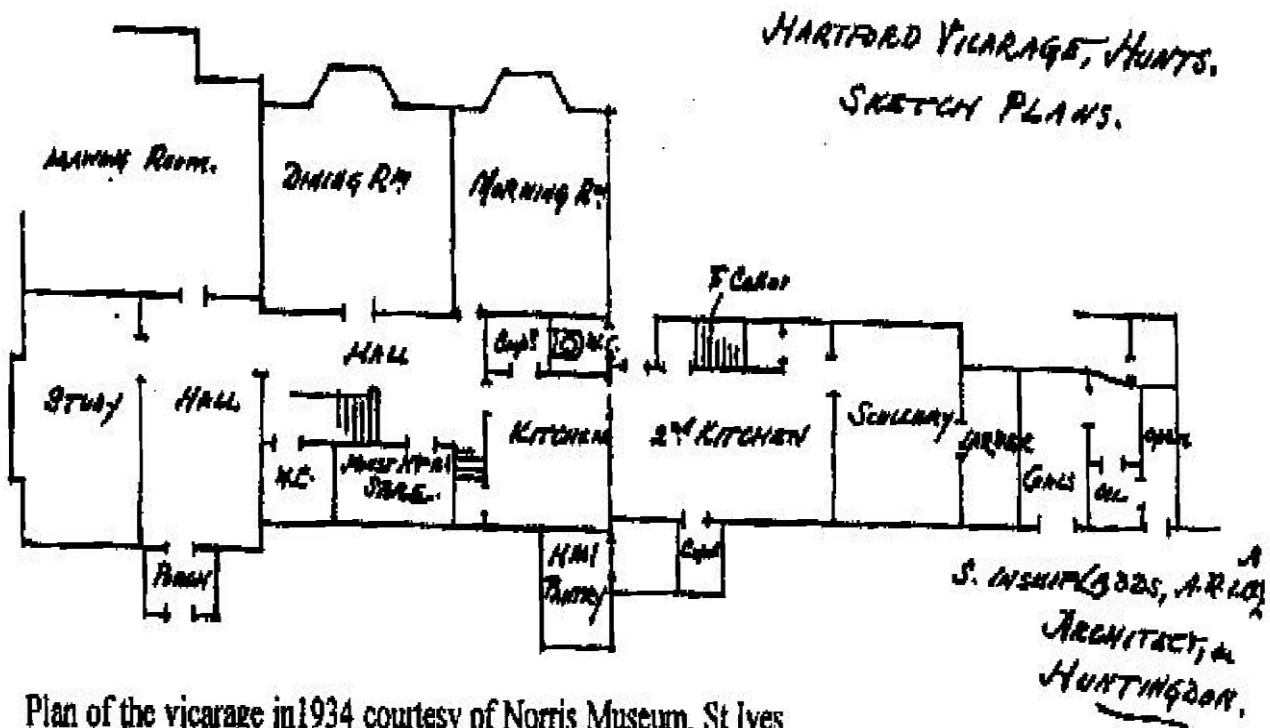
According to an entry in the Vestry Minute Book for 1790 "the vicarage was built with stud, clay and thatch. Three little rooms above and below, one little barn and one stable with adjoining close - 1 acre, fenced round with dead hedge. Tithes due to Vicar, wool, lamb, calf, pig, eggs, corn and bullock - but there has been a composition of about 30 years standing consented to by the vicars successively and by the major part of the parish that vicars should be allowed in lieu of these tithes, twenty shillings of plow and four shillings of cottage per annum."

The 1822 Glebe Terrier describes the vicarage as "belonging to the King, with the glebe and profit of the vicarage worth 134 per year (sic). It comprised a dwelling house 42ft long and 20ft breadth and a thatched connected barn and stable 45ft by 13ft. A ring fence enclosed a 3 acre orchard, garden and close, adjoining the church yard of 1 rood. There was an enclosed allotment of 57 acres in lieu of tithes. The land left for the repair of the church, is situated in the parish and commands a rent of £17 10s per year. The rectory belongs to Lady Sparrow."

A new vicarage was built whilst John Daniel Hopkins was the vicar around 1845 and an extension including a new porch with the date on the key stone was added in 1860. What might have been desirable in the 19th century seems to have become a liability during the 20th Century. In 1912 Hartford Lodge, Sapley Lane was being used by the Rev. A. Crosfield because it was a more manageable size than the vicarage on Hartford Road. This didn't last long because the Hunts County News informs us of the auction of Hartford Lodge.

Monday, 18th August, 1913.—HARTFORD, Huntingdonshire.—By direction of the Rev. A. C. Crosfield, a Desirable, Detached RESIDENCE, known as Hartford Lodge. Tenure: Freehold. Immediate possession. Solicitors, Messrs. Hunnybun and Sons, Huntingdon, Thrapston, and Raunds.

In 1934 a letter to Ely Diocesan Dilapidations Board from Architect Inskip Ladds stated that the house with 4 sitting rooms, 7 bedrooms and 2 kitchens, was far too large and had too many out buildings. Amongst several proposals he recommended pulling down part of the domestic quarters and altering the remainder. It was proposed that the stable was converted into a garage, the hay store into a wood shed; the coach house and several buildings should be pulled down. The garden was "much too large and in these days of high wages an insupportable burden". Suggestions were made for selling various parts, stressing the importance of the provision of fencing. By 1936 the building was reduced and refurbished with the installation of mains water and electricity in readiness for the arrival of the Rev. J.G.F. Holmes.



Plan of the vicarage in 1934 courtesy of Norris Museum, St Ives
 Plan of Hartford Vicarage in 1934 - Courtesy of the Norris Museum St Ives.



20 Rev. Herbert Hinkley in 1960 at the gates of the vicarage

The PCC minutes of June 13th 1949, records that Vicar Canon Green's son bought a house in Huntingdon, apparently near Edward house and the Bishop gave approval to let the vicarage. There was also a proposal that the old vicarage during the early 1950s after the vicarage had been subdivided and let.

Canon Green retired in 1955 and the PCC Minutes of October 10th 1956 record the "Proposed sale of existing parsonage, purchase of 'Lindisfarne' on junction of Wyton/Warboys road". This did not happen and according to the PCC Minutes of October 13th 1958, the Rev H Hinkley had a telephone installed in the vicarage.

The garden also played its part in Hartford's history. In 1910 fragments of 12th & 13th Century coffin lids and other worked stones were found.







On the 1st August 1964 the 'Hartford Hoard' was found close to the East Side of the entrance drive, about 40 feet from the main road, and some 30 inches below the ground.

During the construction of Longstaff Way, two County Council workmen unearthed 1,108 English and French silver coins dating from about 1450 to 1503 AD. At the subsequent Inquest, which took place in the Town Hall, the hoard was declared 'Treasure Trove' and so went to the British Museum. The most remarkable feature of the collection was the great number of coins, which were in mint or near mint condition, in particular the groats.

The vicarage was sold in 2012 and there is no longer a vicarage in Hartford.

List of Rectors & Vicars of All Saints' Church, Hartford

Start	Rectors	PATRONS	End
1247	John de Hemingford	Huntingdon Priory	
	Vicars		
	Robert		d. 1274
1274	John de Wenington	Huntingdon Priory	d. 1274
1274	Elias de Huntingdon	Huntingdon Priory	d. 1296
1296	John de Haregrave	Huntingdon Priory	
	Robert		d. 1316
1316	Simon de Clifton	Huntingdon Priory	r. 1317
1317	Nicholas Keten	Huntingdon Priory	d. 1332
1333	Hugh Curteys	Huntingdon Priory	ex. 1342
1342	Richard de Wolle	Huntingdon Priory	r. 1356
1356	John de Infirmaria de Herford	Huntingdon Priory	ex. 1378
1378	William Balle	Huntingdon Priory	r. 1400
1400	John Wynter, senior de Thrapston	Huntingdon Priory	
1410	Robert Maryot	Huntingdon Priory	
	John Austyn		r. 1435
1435	William Abram	Huntingdon Priory	
	John Bacche		d. 1457
1457	Thomas Wolde	Huntingdon Priory	d. 1467
1467	William Ketyeryng	Huntingdon Priory	r. 1474
1474	Radulph Wodeward	Huntingdon Priory	r. 1482
1482	John Dighton or Dyeton	Huntingdon Priory	r. 1482
1482	William Ketyeryng	Huntingdon Priory	
	Thomas Hereford		r. 1497
1497	John Willingham	Huntingdon Priory	
	John Greve		r. 1540
1540	Nicholas Yates	John Howode, [Huntingdon Priory being dissolved]	
1560	Thomas Hulcock	The Lord Keeper of the Great Seal	d. 1563
1564	Christopher Keye	Huntingdon Priory	
1597	Clement Bacon	Huntingdon Priory	
1598	Thomas Richards MA	Queen Elizabeth	d. 1620
1620	Ezechiele Waade		
	Benjamin Dod		
1660	Thomas Case MA		
1665	John Bush	King Charles II	d. 1684
1684	John Sturges MA	Huntingdon Priory	cess 1690
1690	Samuel Sturges MA	King William & Queen Mary	d. 1706
1710	Robert Crosse BA	Queen Anne	
1720	John Mathews	King George I	
1732	Robert Manlove MA		d. 1753
1753	Richard Caryer	King George II	
1771	John Trollope	King George III	d. 1794
1794	Thomas Daniel Trollope MA	Huntingdon Priory	ex. 1828
1828	John Daniel Hopkins MA	King George IV	d. 1857

1857	Charles Henry Benson Gladwin BA	Queen Victoria	
1860	George Pinder	Queen Victoria	r. 1870
1870	Frederick Nottidge Ripley MA		
1880	George Cockburn-Dickinson		r. 1894
1894	John George Gibson		r. 1895
1896	Edward Gripper Banks DD	Captain Beeching	d. 1904
1904	Alexander Chorley Crossfield MA 	Bishop of Ely by lapse	
1914	Ellerton Garside Alderson MA	Major Beeching	r. 1933
1936	John George Frederick Holmes MA	Bishop of Ely	r. 1947
1947	George A. Green BA	Hon Canon Huntingdon Priory r. 1955	
1957	Herbert Hinkley 	Queen Elizabeth II	r. 1967
1967	Robin Jeffree, AKC	Bishop of Ely	r. 1983
1985	John R. Sansom	Bishop of Ely	r. 1991
1993	Ayodeji Malcolm Guite 	Bishop of Ely	r. 1998
1999	Mark Savage 	Bishop of Ely	r. 2012
2012	Brian Atling 	Bishop of Ely	r. 2016
2016	Geoff Boucher 	Bishop of Ely	

From a list in the church on the right of south door.

Little is known about most of the vicars listed; presumably they preached their sermons, tended their flock and lived their lives however documentary evidence of several survives.

Rev G. Cockburn-Dickinson

The 'Local News' column of The Hunts Guardian Friday May 8 1885 recorded the following melancholy occurrence.

"On Saturday last an inquest was held at the King of Prussia public house in this village on the body of Francis Trevelyan Egerton Dickerson aged 10, son of the Rev. G. C. Dickerson, vicar of Hartford, who was taken out of the water dead that morning. It appeared from the evidence of Elizabeth Hitch, one of the domestic servants in the family, that on Friday the deceased, his younger brother and the vicar were working in the garden before early dinner, and as was supposed they all went into the house about 1.00 (sic) to dine. The deceased disappeared from the house and the vicar and the other son sat down to dinner, but as deceased did not go to dinner also a search was made for him about the house and garden. Witness ultimately went to the riverside and there she found the jacket that had been worn by the deceased, but could not find him anywhere. A search in the river was then made for the body until late in the evening, but without success. His cap was found in a chair in the kitchen. The dog was kept near the boathouse and deceased used sometimes go and fetch the dog, but it was not there when he went to the boathouse. Did not think deceased knew the dog was brought from the boathouse. George Crow, labourer, Hartford, deposed to finding the body on Saturday morning about four yards from the bank. The water was about 20 feet deep where he pulled it out. The jury returned a verdict of "accidentally drowned in the river Ouse".



21 Francis Trevelyan Egerton Dickerson as depicted in the stained-glass window

His surviving children seem to have caused him some embarrassment according to 'the Looker-On' in the local paper of 19th March 1892 shown on the next page. The consequence of these events resulted in the item reported in the following Saturday's edition of the paper. For those interested, the complete transcript of the "Petty Sessions" can be read on a microfilm in the reference section of Huntingdon library.

His daughter Christophine, heiress to the family fortune was to later run off with the husband of his landlady's sister, and disappeared never to be found again.

[Link to the story of the missing heiress](#)

THE LOOKER-ON.

"My business in this state,
Makes me a Looker-On here."—*Shakespeare.*

An incident occurred at Hartford last Sunday evening, which has caused a good deal of excitement, not only in Hartford, but in the surrounding neighbourhood. Shortly after the commencement of the service in the little village chapel, two young persons dressed in strange disguise entered and took seats and of course everybody's attention was attracted towards them. However every attention was paid them and books were supplied, and they remained during the remainder of the service. Whilst the service was proceeding it gradually dawned on the minds of some that they knew who the apparent strangers were, and eventually the suspicion became a certainty and the strange behaviour of the two individuals caused some interruption to the service. It turned out that they no other than the son and daughter of certain clergyman. There was a scene outside the chapel when the service was over, and the two young persons fled towards Houghton and were chased by a number of young men but there they managed to evade them. Soon afterwards the couple returned and then there was another scene and this ended in blows being struck, and the proceedings have resulted in summonses and cross-summonses, which will be heard at the County Bench next Saturday.

*From The Hunts County Guardian,
Saturday 19th March 1892
Courtesy of Huntingdon Library*

petty Sessions.

HUNTINGDON DIVISION.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19. — Before Mr. P. E. Tillard (chairman), Earl of Sandwich, Mr. G. J. Rust, Mr. H. C. Geldart, and the Rev. B. H. Puckle.

A VICAR'S SON AND DAUGHTER IN A CHAPEL IN DISGUISE.

The Court was densely crowded during the hearing of the following case which occupied four hours and a half.

Christophine Ursula Cockburn-Dickinson, and Lodesborough Granville Lawton Maud Cockburn-Dickinson, the son and daughter of the vicar of Hartford, were charged with assaulting George Henry Childs, labourer, of the same place.

There was also a cross-summons against Childs, for assaulting the male defendant, in the last case.

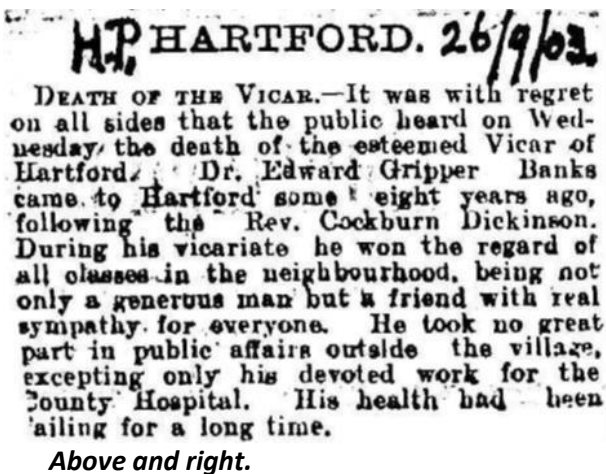
Mr. W. A. Watts, of St. Ives, appeared for the complainant Childs, and Mr. C. B. Margetts, of Huntingdon, was for the defendants, who pleaded not guilty.

In stating the case to the Bench, Mr. Watts said the facts were very simple, but before going into details it was necessary to say something by way of prelude. It appeared that on Sunday evening, the 13th March, the two defendants disguised themselves and went to the service at the village chapel. What their object was in going in this masquerade, perhaps the two defendants might be able to say, but at present their conduct seemed to be utterly unjustifiable and extraordinarily wicked. This, however, was no part of the case as regards the assault. Immediately these young people got outside the chapel, they found they had raised a din which it was difficult to allay. The people were determined to find out who the persons were who had been guilty of so wicked an act, and they chased them along the Huntingdon road, but ultimately the two defendants succeeded in getting back by some means or other to their own house. Now if they had remained there, all would have been well, but they must needs go out again. The son went along the Huntingdon-road and met his father, and when they got to the village a crowd followed them, and they (the defendants) went into the vicarage and came out again with the female defendant armed with sticks. Childs was one of these who was standing looking on, when the Vicar came out and seized him by the collar and said "You villain I'll give you into the custody of my son" or words to that effect. Childs wrenched himself away, and ultimately Miss Dickinson struck him sharply with the stick she had in her hand, and the other defendant struck him also. Childs then did what he was perhaps justified in doing, he struck him back. There was no doubt that a most unprovoked assault had been committed on Childs, and the defendants, like other people of common clay, must take the consequences.

*From The Hunts County Guardian,
Saturday 26th March 1892
Courtesy of Huntingdon Library*

Rev E. Gripper Banks

These newspaper cuttings can be found in a file left by Sidney Inskip Ladds who was an architect and local historian and has already been mentioned in connection with the vicarage. We frequently use a chalice in our services that is engraved in his memory.



Above and right.

The Hunts Post 26th September 1903.

Courtesy of the Norris Museum St Ives.

There has (says a London correspondent) been some random stuff in the London papers about a Radical clergyman, the Rev. E. Gripper Banks, who has lately died. They have published the story that Mr. Banks wished to stand for Parliament, and wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury to relieve him of his priest's orders. The Archbishop snubbed him, and Mr. Banks, having failed to get into Parliament, asked the Archbishop to restore his orders. Now, in the first place, priest's orders are indelible. Once conferred, there is no power on earth that can take them away. But of course a man can surcease from exercising them either by his own act or by compulsion of his superiors. If an episcopally ordained priest wishes to enter Parliament or to serve municipal office he must unfrock himself, but this process has no more to do with the Archbishop of Canterbury than with the Chief Rabbi. The clergyman must avail himself of the Clerical Disabilities Relief Act passed in 1870.

H.P. 10/10/03.

Rev A. C. Crosfield



The 1st Hunts (Hartford) Scout Group is the fourth oldest Group in the world. It was founded in February 1908 by the Rev A.C. Crosfield and Mr. R.C. Coleridge, the first Scout Master. The original six scouts were Grenville Onyett (the first Patrol Leader of the Peewit Patrol), Harry Miles, W Wright, H Wright, P Woods and R Watts. They are pictured in a copy of this 1909 lanternslide with the Rev. Crosfield and Mr. Coleridge. Rev. Crosfield became County Secretary and Commandant for the Boy Scouts.

According to a 1912 biography, he had been born in Liverpool in 1867, gained his MA at Clare College, Cambridge in 1895, and became vicar of Hartford in 1904. He was also connected with the Church Lads Brigade. He left Hartford in 1913 and moved to South Africa. His death was recorded by the Hunts Post on 1st November 1934.

Rev Ayodeji Malcolm Guite



Malcom Guite was rector at the church between 1993 and 1998. He was born in Nigeria in 1957 to British parents, moved to Canada and was privately educated in England. He is known as a poet, priest, educator, author and singer song-writer. He is the author of many books on poetry and theology and is the frontman for the rhythm and blues and rock band, Mystery Train.

You can read more about him at:

<http://www.malcolmguite.com/>

or https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm_Guite

22 Malcom Guite at a poetry reading

By JackTheVicar - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=84367777>

Village Hall

A wooden prefabricated hall, purchased in London by public subscription was built sometime after the arrival of Rev. Dr. Banks (1896 - 1903), opposite the vicarage gates. The first mention of the Parish Hall as a venue for vestry or Church meetings was in the Minute Book of May 1899. It was let regularly for meetings of the Women's Institute, Whist Drives, dances and meetings of all kinds. The 1st Hunts (Hartford) Scout Troop met at Parish Hall from February 1908 until 1939. It was requisitioned by the military during both World Wars and during World War 2 the furniture and equipment was stored in the loft of the Manor House.

In 1938 the Vicar J. G. F. Holmes expressed a wish to hand over responsibility for the Parish Hall to the PCC. A problem of whether it was built on Glebe or Parish land and the fact that it was not used mainly for ecclesiastical purposes caused protracted negotiations. A Deed was finally signed in 1948 with the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance, holding the hall in trust for the PCC. It was to be managed by a PCC sub-committee and 'Chapel people welcome to use it at the fixed hourly rate'.

Lettings continued to be good but maintenance and funding were a continual headache. A Fire Officer's report of 1961 stated that to obtain a theatrical licence the hall needed a fire door and more extinguishers.

In 1966 the committee started to investigate ways of funding £5000 to add a better kitchen and cloakroom facilities. This was finally resolved in 1971 with Ely agreeing to £1 per year lease to run for 28 years and the formation of a Hall Trust. This allowed for a Community Council grant to fund the required improvements. At the end of that lease and again after protracted negotiations with Ely and the Freeman's Charity, we will have a new Village Hall for the start of the next millennium.

A 64-year lease was granted on the 26th July 1999 between EDBF as Landlord and Hartford Village Hall as Tenants – signed for the Tenants by Angela Owen-Smith, Andrew Bath, George Aldridge, and Rev Malcolm Guite.

As part of the land conveyed in 1948 there was a triangle of land of some 13 square yards in the grounds of 14 Main Street which was subject of the easement dated 19th March 1981. Mr & Mrs Dewdney sold 14 Main Street to Mr Furness in 2009 who opted out of paying the £10 pa easement. Mr Furness sold the property to Mr & Mrs Humphreys in 2012 who then wanted to buy this piece of land. Negotiations for the sale of the land had originally started in 2009 but had never been concluded. This land was sold to Mr & Mrs Mike Humphreys for £2,000 and this money was received by the PCC in October 2013.

Grazing Land

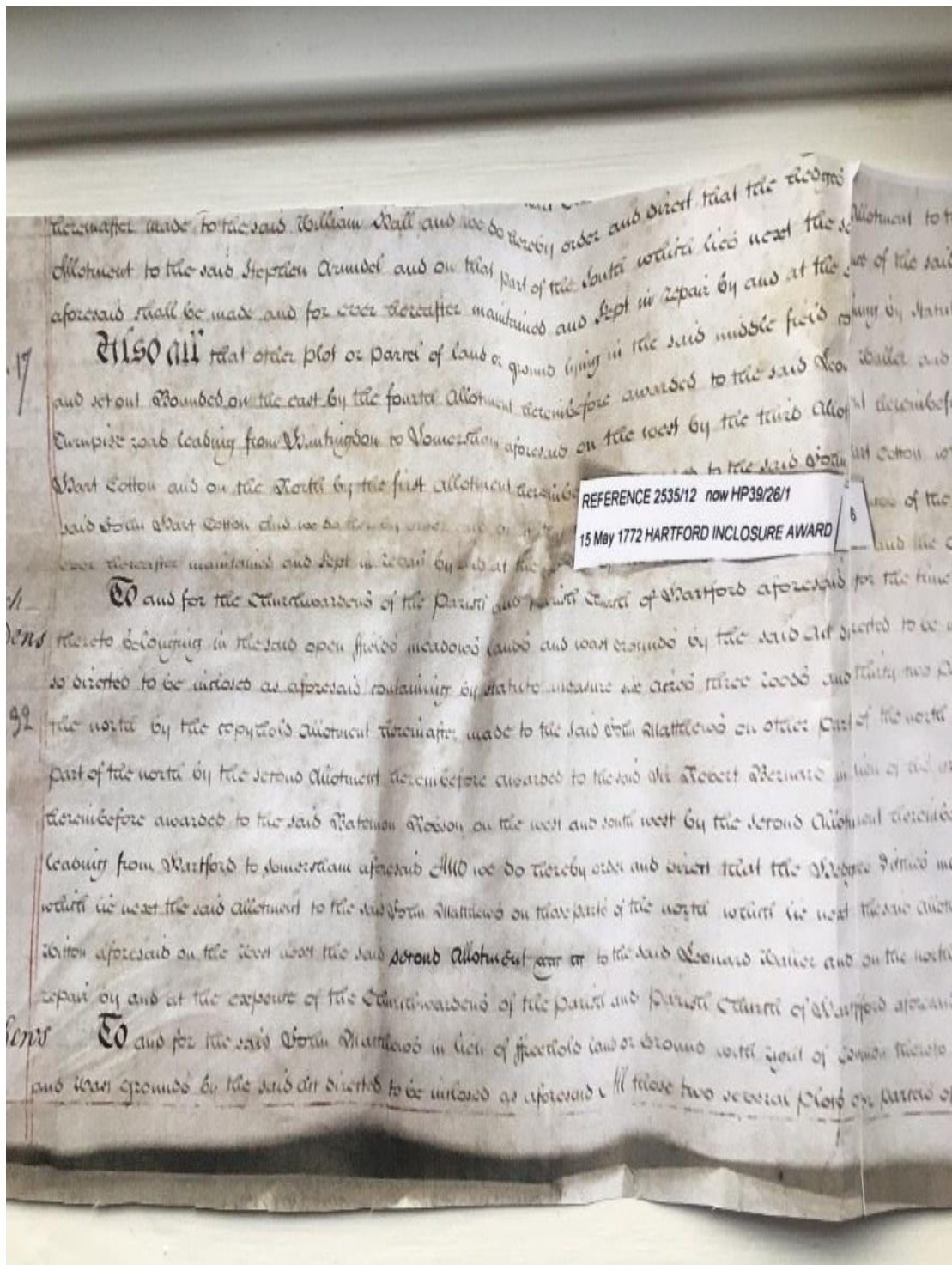
6.434 acres of Grazing Land has been held in trust by the churchwardens for the benefit of the parishioners of All Saints Church Hartford since May 1772. It was allotted in the Enclosure Awards in lieu of lands which had previously held by the Manor.

The Enclosure Acts were essentially the abolition of the open field system of agriculture which had been the way people farmed in England for centuries. The ownership of all common land, and waste land, that farmers and Lords had, was taken from them. This was done through a series of Acts of Parliament which enclosed open fields and common land in the country, creating legal property rights to land that was previously considered common. From the 1750's Enclosure by Parliamentary Act became the norm.

Overall, between 1604 and 1914 over 5,200 Enclosure Bills were enacted by Parliament which related to just over a fifth of the total area of England, amounting to some 6.8 million acres. As a result of the enclosures the agricultural productivity of farms greatly improved by bringing more land into effective agricultural use. It also brought considerable change to the local landscape.

The Grazing Land and other rights - in 1937 the rights for mines, minerals and other rights were purchased. The then Churchwardens, Edward Allpress a Post Office worker and Hugh Montgomery, a retired Major agreed to pay £10 to Fanny Spraing of Headington and Beatrice Lock of Cambridge, owners of the Manor for these rights. These rights now apply to the grazing land held in trust by the churchwardens.

The County Records Office in Huntingdon hold the Parish Records for All Saints Church Hartford including the Hartford Enclosure Act, albeit as this is on parchment it is very difficult to read!



The Land is east of the A141 and close to Hartford Lake. It is situated on the right-hand side of the A141 going north towards Wisbech some 400 meters north of the BP Garage by the roundabout. For many years the land has been rented out through a Land Agent to a tenant farmer for grazing and the church receives a small annual rent The grazing land is low lying and is often subject to flooding in the winter months.



In 2021 the PCC received an unsolicited offer to purchase the grazing land which led to a full discussion about what the church should do with the land. Advice was sought from Brown & Co, Land Agents about the various options open to us and following this the PCC decided to put the land on the market.

There were no title deeds held by Land Registry for this parcel of land although ownership can be shown through the various historic records. Land Registry was set up in 1862 and shows the ownership of land and property throughout the country. This explains why the grazing land is not registered as the Agreement under the Enclosure Act was in 1772 and preceded the establishment of Land Registry. Prior to the sale of the land, the title was registered with Land Registry and involved being able to demonstrate that the land was owned by the church.

Under the Incumbents and Churchwardens (Trusts) Measure 1964 the Grazing Land was vested to the Diocesan Authority. Ely Diocese as the legal custodian of the Grazing Land gave consent to the sale of the land. The Charities Act requires that a Qualified Surveyors Report was required before authorised custodian, (in this instance the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance) could consider an application. This valuation was obtained and submitted for consent to sell the grazing land which was granted. Whilst the Diocesan Authority is the custodian the land belongs to the Church and any rental income or sale proceeds belong to the church and not the diocese.

The sale completed on the 3rd November and after sale and legal costs £70,038 was received. The sale of the grazing land came with strict conditions and the money cannot be used as general funds. All the proceeds from the sale must be used in accordance with the original purpose of the endowment set out in the Enclosure Award of May 1772. The money must be used for the benefit of the parishioners of All Saints Church Hartford for the upkeep and maintenance of the church.

The PCC has placed £60,000 in an Investment Fund at the CCLA. This has been set up as a Restricted Fund to ensure that the money is only used to fulfil the terms set out in the original endowment. £5,000 has been placed in the Church Enhancement Fund and £5,000 kept for items which need replacing in church.

Hartford Village

The earliest settlement in this part of the Ouse was Hartford. The village is older than Huntingdon or Godmanchester. Traces of Stone, Iron and Bronze Age settlements have been found. The names of these early villages are unknown, but the Saxons called it Hereforde, meaning 'army ford'.



23 Church and ford c1870 (courtesy of CRO Huntingdon)

In the Domesday Survey (1086), Hartford is given under the lands of the king and had been committed to the charge of Ranulf, brother of Ilger, a minister of the crown. He had 4 ploughs and the 30 villagers and 3 smallholders had 8 ploughs.

Edward the Confessor had held it and its value had depreciated considerably since his time, £24 before 1066, £15 in 1086. The manor was assessed at 15 hides and there were then a priest, two churches, two mills, and a considerable quantity of woodland. At the time of the Domesday Survey, Hartford included King's Ripton, which accounts for the return of the two churches and mills. The parish also included The Royal Forest of Sapley, which has now completely disappeared.

North of Sapley Park Farm are the remains of the earthworks of a small 'mound & bailey' castle of unknown origin which appears to date from the 12th Century. It was probably an 'adulterin' or unlicensed castle, consisting of a mound about 9 ft. high, surrounded by an oval ditch with remains of a small outer enclosure on the south.

Much Huntingdonshire land was owned by the church in 1086, notably the Abbeys of Thorney, Ramsey and Peterborough; the Bishop of Lincoln; the Priors at St Neots and St Ives; the Cistercian Abbey at Sawtry and the Austin Canons at Stonely. There were six religious foundations in Huntingdon, the most important and earliest being the Priory of St Mary. This was a house of Augustine Canons established before the Norman Conquest near the present day All Saints and relocated near to the cemetery in Priory Road in the 12th century.

The village later known as Herford and Harford was granted to St. Mary's Priory, Huntingdon, by Henry I (1100 - 1135) at a fee farm rent of £12 by the year. This grant was confirmed by Pope Eugenius III in 1147 and again in 1253 and 1327. In 1276, the Prior of Huntingdon claimed view of frankpledge in his manor of Hartford and presentments were made as to obstructions in the river Ouse, partially caused by the prior's valuable mills, whereby ships could not reach Huntingdon. The manor continued to belong to the Priory of St. Mary until the dissolution, 11th July 1538, when the prior and eight remaining canons were pensioned off.

Much of the village was originally along the banks of the river that was the main form of transport. Goods were brought in and taken to other villages and towns up and down the Ouse. There was a road beside the river, traces of which can be seen in the garden of Hartford House. A road, known as Dixon's or Dixey's Lane, also ran from the Manor House to the river. The Grove was first known as Pig Hollow.

In 1275, a water wheel was constructed near where Anchor Cottage now stands. The latter was not built until Tudor times, when as with other dwellings built at that time, it was thatched. It is thought that it was a public house from the time it was built until the end of the 19th century and was a regular calling place for barges plying their trade when sailing between Kings Lynn and Bedford. In one of its barns was a ring where Dick Turpin is said to have tied his horse. St. Giles Hospital was built in Hartford Meadows during the 13th Century. Little is known about it, and it fell into decay about a century after its foundation.

In the 17th Century, Hartford Manor lands were split up and sold to various people. Sir Henry Williams, alias Cromwell, had been granted the lands when the Priory which had owned them for four centuries was dissolved. Sir Henry's children sold them to Robert Taylor and it was on his death in 1608 that the Manor lands were divided. The new farms thus formed would have new houses for owners and workers. These would most likely have been built in the village, but further away from the river.



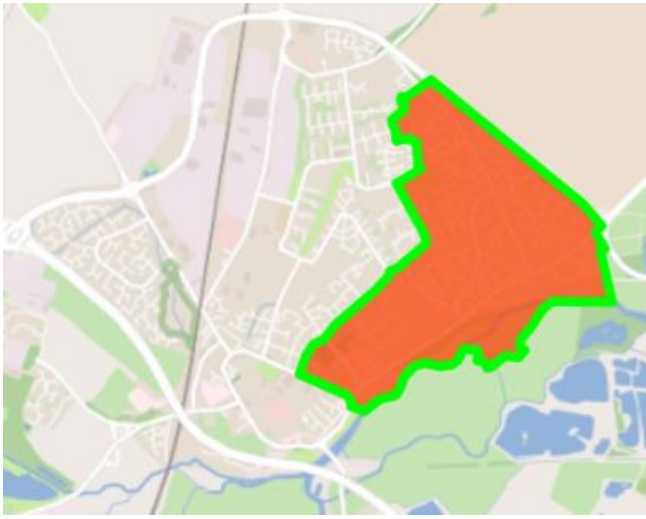
24 Cottages in Church Lane courtesy of Lynn Wright

There were fewer than 50 houses in the village in 1771. The King of the Belgians (formerly King of the Prussians) is still situated in the Main Street. In 1804, the Barley Mow was built using masonry from St. Benet's Church, Huntingdon, which was destroyed that year. For many years, biennial courts were held in the Barley Mow. The Manor House, a half-timbered house, was probably built by Robert Taylor, the original Lords of the Manor, the Priors, having no need of a dwelling in Hartford. The only other large house in the village is Hartford House (Grove House), an elegant, 17th Century red brick building with grounds that go down to the river.

Since the Second World War, as can be seen by this table, Hartford has grown considerably and has become closely linked with Huntingdon.

Year	1801	1811	1821	1831	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991
Hartford Population	338	283	371	452	380	382	341	434	387	389	410	461	460	464						
Huntingdon Population	2035	2397	2806	3267	3507	4872	3816	4243	4228	4346	4261	4103	4184	4108						
Combined Population																7784	8442	13442	14580	15434

Due to the expansion of Huntingdon, the boundary with Hartford has become blurred. The closest organisational ward for Hartford is now Huntingdon East.



25 Huntingdon East Ward

Population by Year	2001	2011	2021
Huntingdon total	20,009	23732	25428
Huntingdon East	6573	6847	6943

The Future

As can be seen from the details in this pamphlet the church played a very important part in the life of Hartford for 820 years and is still doing so today. We look forward to the next millennium with the same enthusiasm and faith as our predecessors must have done in 1180. The church building has continually been extended during this period as the needs of the congregation were met. The growth in the number of Hartford's inhabitants and the desire for more convenient basic facilities on site, will continue this process into the new millennium.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the staff of Huntingdon library for pointing me in the right direction. My wife deserves a big thank you for her help with the research and patience with my hours spent at the computer. Thank you to the churchwardens for access to the current church documents and to the staff of the Huntingdon County Records Office for earlier documents, the staff of the Norris Museum, St Ives and Mr & Mrs Maltby for Scout history. I am indebted to Mrs. Lilian Ann Coley, Mr. David Cozens and the late Phillip G. M. Dickinson, for the research that they have done in the past.



26 Hartford Church and river in 1898, from the West



27 Hartford Church and river from the West 1907



28 Hartford Church and river from the East 1907

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Appendix 1
Architectural
Glossary

Abacus:	flat slab forming the top of a capital
Arcade:	series of arches supported by columns
Arch:	construction of blocks disposed in a curve or curves, supporting each other and the weight of the wall above it.
Arris:	a sharp edge where two surfaces meet.
Capital:	upper part of a column.
Casement:	deep concave moulding of window jambs.
Chamfer:	narrow 450 plane formed when the angle is removed. Also stopped, hollow & sunk versions.
Corbel:	a projecting block that supports a parapet or beam.
Crocket:	projecting hook shaped, leafy knobs, usually along the sloping edges of pinnacles.
Embattled:	indented with vertically projecting merlons, separated by spaces called embrasures or crenelles.
Foil:	a small arc in the tracery of medieval windows or panels.
Jamb:	side of doorway or window.
Label:	a square drip or hood mould over an arch, doorway or window.
Loop:	a small narrow slit in a wall.
Mullion:	slender vertical member between the lights in a window or screen opening.
Ogee:	a double curve formed of a convex and a concave element.
Order:	in medieval architecture, one of a series of recessed arches and jambs forming a splayed opening.
Parapet:	a low wall concealing a gutter or roof.
Pier:	large masonry support, usually for an arch.
Pillar:	free standing upright member of any section that is slender in proportion to its height.
Pinnacle:	a small decorative turret or spire.
Respond:	a half pier attached to a wall to support an arch at the end of an arcade.
Reveal:	the side of an opening in a wall between the framework and the face of wall.
Shaft:	part of column between base and capital; small columns clustered around pillars or jambs.
Splay:	an angled reveal.
String course:	a horizontal, usually moulded band projecting slightly from a wall.

References:

Cocke, T. Recording A Church: an illustrated glossary, Council for British Archaeology, 1989;
Curl, J. S. English Architecture An Illustrated Glossary, David & Charles, Newton Abbott, 1977

Appendix 2 Bell Inscriptions

1	ROBT. TAYLOR ST. NEOTS FECIT . 1799 Y (27 ins)
2	ROBT. TAYLOR ST. NEOTS FECIT . 1796 LEONARD WALLER & CHARLES BEAUMONT, OVER-SEERS (28 ¼ ins)
3	ROBT. TAYLOR FECIT . 1796. JOSEPH BUTT AND JOHN RIPPIN, CHURCHWARDENS (29 ½ ins)
4	A WHILST THUS WE JOIN IN CHEERFUL SOUND LET LOVE AND LOYALTY ABOUND A (Coins) TAYLOR FECIT 1796 (33 ins)
5	THE C. WARDENS. THE OVER-SEERS. CAUTHORN BLEAK AND JOHN RANDAL, THE PRINCIPAL PARTITIONERS WHEN WE WAS CAST 1796 (33 ½ ins)
6	I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL AND TO THE GRAVE DO SUMMON ALL TAYLOR FECIT. 1796. JOSEPH BUTT & JOHN RIPPIN CHURCHWARDENS (36 ½ ins)



29 Bell 4 with inscription just visible

Reference:

A History of Huntingdonshire Vol.2; The Bells Of Huntingdonshire.

Appendix 3 Church Plate

1.	Silver communion cup inscribed 'Hertford in Com Huntingdon' and hall marked for 1689-90. (Queen Anne)
2.	Silver paten on foot, inscribed 'The gift of John Waller, gent: for the use of the Church of Harford in the County of Huntingdon 1748,' but it bears the hallmark for 1749-50. IHS Cross & Nails in a Glory made by John Rowe. (Geo. II)
3.	Pewter Plate inscribed 'Hartford com Huntingdon 1749'
4.	Silver-gilt chalice inscribed 'All Saints Church Hartford Xmas 1906. In memoriam E.G.B. Priest. Sep. 23, 1903' Hallmarked 1903-4.
5.	Paten, inscribed as above, but hallmarked for 1904-5.
6.	Silver-gilt cruets 1907: lid is surmounted by a cross with a ring of trefoils below. Body is divided into compartments and has a band of engraving around the top. Under the foot is a very long inscription recording the gift of the piece to the church in 1912 in memory of Reginald Charles Coleridge. (In box)
7.	Silver-plated flagon, no marks, Victorian, lid surmounted by a four armed cross, round the neck is a band of engraving and around the middle of the body is the inscription '+ pascha nostrum immolatus est christos' (I surmise that this item is inscribed in memory Reginald Charles Coleridge, drowned in the Titanic, 15 April 1912; and hall marked for 1912-13.) (In box)
8.	Silver-gilt wafer box inscribed 'Thomas Rawsthorne Magee 1884 - 1970'
9.	Silver-gilt chalice inscribed 'In loving Memory Maisie & Nancy Fisher Easter 1996'
10.	Silver-gilt bowl paten, no marks.

References:

Present 'Glebe Terrier';

Fitzwilliam Museum receipt;

A History of Huntingdonshire Vol.2

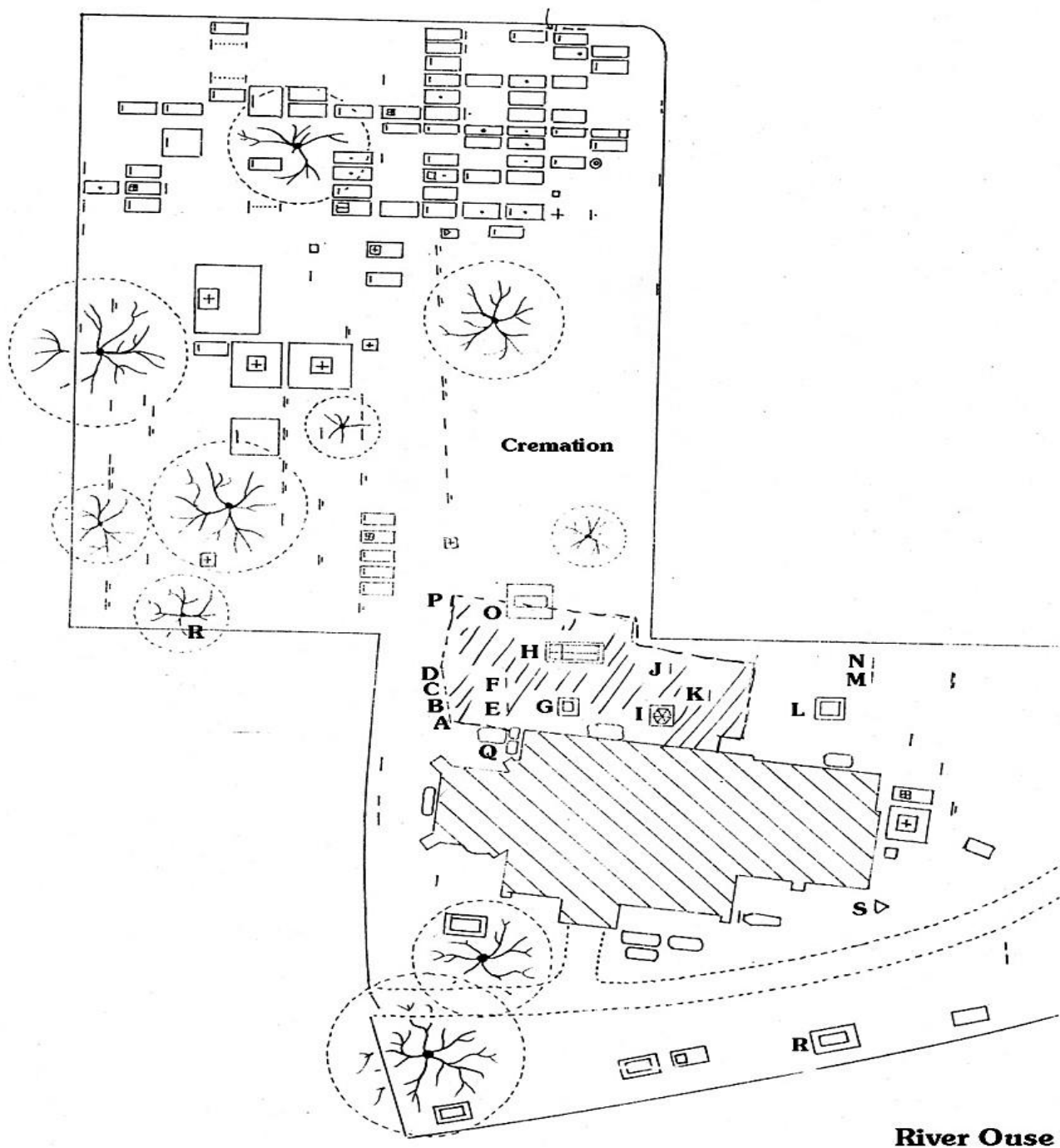
Appendix 4 Huntingdon County Record Office Hartford Parish Records (Ref: ACC. 2535/-)

Registers:

1.	General (marriage entries cease in 1753) (M & B 1539 a)	1538 - 1766	2535/1
2.	Baptisms & Burials	1766 - 1812	2535/2
3.	Baptisms	1813 - 1893	2535/3
4.	Burials	1813 - 1938	2535/4
5.	Marriages (with Banns, 1754 -1793)	1754 -1812	2535/5
6.	Marriages	1813 - 1835	2535/6
7.	Marriages	1837 - 1958	2535/7
8.	Banns (on the inside of the back cover are a few baptisms for 1893 - 94)	1824 - 1906	2535/8
9.	Vestry Minute Book	1781 - 1867	2535/9
10.	Overseers of the Poor: Account Book	1828 - 1839	2535/10
11.	Printed copy of the Act for dividing, Allotting and Inclosing the Open and Commable Fields, meadows, Pastures, Lands and Waste Grounds of the Manor, Parish and Liberties of Hartford	1771	2535/11
12.	Hartford Inclosure Award.	15 May 1772	2535/12
13.	Manor of Hartford: Copy of Court Roll.	5 Feb 1813	2535/13
14.	Manor of Hartford: Compensation Agreement conveyance.	23 July 1937	2535/14
15.	Manor of Hartford: Attested copy of Conveyance & Enfranchisement	12 Nov 1859	2535/15

A large number of documents from the iron chest in the church, were deposited with the County Record Office in the 1980s. These had not been examined at the time of the research for this booklet.

Appendix 5 Inscriptions of some churchyard memorials



A	Sacred/ to the memory of/ JOHN PEACOCK/ (son of Rev. W PEACOCK/ and ANN his wife)/ who died Feb 15th 1840/in the 45th year of his age/ Absent from the body present with the Lord/ 2 Cor 3 37 verse/ (Headstone) [PR-John PEACOCK otp bur 2 Feb 1840 aged 45]
B	[]elict of the late/[]LIAM PEACOCK/ []d this life 11 June 1835/[]16 year of her age/ [] faith and hope of a joyful/ []rection through Jesus Christ/ [] voice from heaven saying unto me/ [] blessed are the dead which die in the/ [] from henceforth yea saith the spirit/ (bottom line indistinct)/ (Broken headstone) [PR - Ann PEACOCK otp bur 17 June 1835 aged 85]

C	In memory of/ the Rev WILLIAM PEACOCK/ Rector of Woolley/ in the County of Huntingdon/ who departed this life/ January the 10th 1817/ in the 68th year of his age/ (Headstone) [PR - William PEACOCK otp bur 15 Jan 1817 aged 67]
D	To/the memory of/ GEORGE PEACOCK/ who died the 24 of August 1803/in his 15th year/ (Headstone) [PR - George PEACOCK son of Rev William & Ann bur 26 Aug 1803]
E	Sacred/ to the memory of/ ANNE AYLMER/ daughter of ROB AYLMER Gent/ who departed this life/ on the 28th day of April 1824/ the day on which she completed/ the 61 year of her age/ This stone is erected by her/ sincere friend CATHERINE STEPHENSON/ (Headstone) [PR-Ann AYLMER otp bur 3 May 1824 aged 60]
F	In/ memory of/ GEORGE YEW/ who died/ August 23rd 1821/ aged 65 years/ In/ memory of/ MARY wife of/ GEORGE YEWS/ who died/ January 14th 1823 aged 71 years/ (Headstone) [P R - George YEWS of Hartford bur 26 Aug 1821 Aged 65. Mary YEWS of Hemingford Grey bur 18 Jan 1823 aged 72]
G	Sacred/ to the memory of/ JAMES HATFIELD/ who departed this life/ July 28th 1831/ in the 55th year of his age/ Also of/ ANNE his wife/ who died Nov 8th 1863/ aged 78 years/ To the memory of/ ROBERT MARTIN/ HATFIELD son of/ JAMES and ANNE HATFIELD who died April 10 1837/ aged 17 years/ To the memory of/ MARY RUSSELL/HATFIELD dau of/ JAS & ANNE HATFIELD/ who died May 1 1839/ aged 17 years/ ANN HULL/ HATFIELD/ died Decr 28th 1883/in her 69th year/ To the memory of/ JAMES the infant son/ of JAMES and/ ANNE HATFIELD/ who died April 8th 1818/ aged 5 months/ (Square column with pyramidal cap) [P R - James HATFIELD bur 28 Jul 1831 aged 55. Ann HATFIELD of Barringham Hall, Thetford District, Norfolk & Suffolk bur 13 Nov 1863 aged 78. Robert Martin HATFIELD of Brampton bur 17 Apr 1837 aged 17. Mary Russell HATFIELD of Brampton bur 6 May 1839 aged 17. Ann Hull HATFIELD of Neworth bur 7 Jan 1884 aged 69. James HATFIELD of Hartford bur 12 Apr 1818 aged 5 months]
H	Sacred to the memory of/ the Revd HENRY SWEETING MA. died 29 June 1856 aged 39/ (Coped stone with cross shaped cover)
la	Sacred/ to the memory of/ BENEDICTA DELAMORE/ who died March/the 8 1782 aged 77/ Sacred/ to the memory of/ EVA WADE SON relict/ of ROB WADESON/ who died November/ the 12 1781 aged 56/ Sacred/ to the memory of/ MARY WADE SON/ [?] daughter of/ ROBERT and/ ANN WADE SON/ who died May/ the 24 1830/ aged 77/ Sacred/ to the memory of/ the Revd EDW WADESON/ eldest son of ROBERT/ and EVA WADESON/ who died September/ the 2nd 1818/ aged 67/ (Hexagonal column with pyramidal cap standing on No. lb) [P R - Benedicta DELAMORE spin bur 13 Mar 1782.
1b	Eva WADESON bur 18 Nov 1781. Mary WADESON of Huntingdon bur 31 May 1830 aged 77. Rev Edward WADESON of Huntingdon bur 7 Sep 1818 aged 67] lb EVA WADESON/ Ob. 12 No[]81 Et 56/ Be []more/ (Rectangular stone face up beneath No. la) [P R - See No. la]
J	Sacred/ to the memory of/ HENRY STAMFORD/ who died October 22nd 1858 aged 66 years/ (Headstone) [P R - Henry STAMFORD of Hartford bur 25 Oct 1858 aged 66]
K	To the memory of/ SUSANNA the wife/ of EDWARD ABRAHAM/ who died the 13/ of March 1807/ aged 36[?] years/ (Headstone) [P R - Susannah ABRAHAM wife of Edward bur 18 Mar 1807]

L	<p>LEONARD BUTT/ who died Oct 2 1787/ aged 73/ Sacred to the memory of/ JOSEPH BUTT/ who departed this life/November the 3 1804/ aged 63 years/ []/MARY BUTT his wife who departed this life/ January the 11 181 1 aged 77 years/ Near this place/lies JOHN THOMPSON/ infant son of JOHN & MARY ANN/ BUTT/ who departed this life/ December the 9 1822, / aged/ five days/ (Square column with cap on square base) [P R - Leonard BUTT bur 7 Oct 1787. Joseph BUTT bur 9 Nov 1804. Mary BUTT wife of Joseph, farmer bur 15 Jan 1811. John Thompson BUTT of Hartford bur 1 1 Dec 1822 aged 5 days]</p>
M	<p>In memory of/ SAMUEL HALL/ who departed this life/ Jan 23/1818 aged 58 years/ (Headstone) [P R - Samuel HALL otp bur 30 Jan 1818 aged 58]</p>
N	<p>In memory of/ HAM[?]ETT HALL/ who departed this life/ Jan 23, / 1815 aged 23 years/ (Headstone) [P R - Harriet? HALL otp bur 26 Jan 1815 aged 22]</p>
O	<p>In affectionate/ remembrance of/ ROBERT BURRELL/ who died 30th Sept 1863/ aged 46 years/ God hath not appointed us to wrath but/ to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ/ who died for us that whether we wake/ or sleep we should live together with Him/ Also of/ JANE BOWYER CRANFIELD/ wife of the above/ who died 17th March 1919/ aged 98 years/ At evening time it shall be light/ (Horizontal stone on low plinth. Indications that it was once within railings) [P R - Robert BURRELL of Hartford bur 6 Oct 1863 aged 46. Jane Bowyer CRANFIELD of Brampton bur 2 1 Mar 1919 aged 98]</p>
Pa	<p>In/loving memory/ of/ DANIEL CLARKE/ who died Augst 23rd 1818/ aged 70 years/ "Death is swallowed up in victory" 1 Cor XV 54/ "Where is death's sting?/ where grave thy victory?"/ Also of MARY ANN/ wife of the above/ who died at Barnsley Feb 10 1904/in her 84th year/ Her children arise up and call her/ blessed/Also of CATHERINE TURNELL/ 3rd daughter of the above/ died May 25th 1910 aged 59 years/ Interred at Worsboro Dale/ (Headstone) [P R - Daniel CLARKE bur 26 Aug 1888 aged 70. Mary Ann CLARKE of Barnsley bur 13 Feb 1904 aged 83]</p>
Pb	<p>D.C/1888 (footstone) - Reference: Mike Stephenson 1998 Original document: Huntingdonshire Family History Society</p>
R	<p>Table Tomb, south of chancel, close to river wall, Henry Thomas Ban-att, Soliciter died 1841, one of the best and longest epitaphs in the country, it commences 'Unknown to fame, nor wishing to be known, yet sleeps beneath this monumental stone, no common man, and ne'er was record set o'er one more worth an honest hearts regret. Reference: P. C. M. Dickenson 1944</p>

Historical Summary

1086	First record in the Domesday Book of a wooden church at Hartford
1180	Present Church built under the Patronage of the Prior of Huntingdon.
1247	First record of Clergy.(List available up to the present day) 1349 John de Infirmaria de Herford, as well as being Vicar was the Principal of the Infirmary of St. Giles which stood in the Hartford Meadows, but closed in this year, because of the reduction in the population owing to the Black Death. 1514 Parishioners took action against their Patron, the Prior of Huntingdon, over Navigation Rights of the river, but were defeated.
1552	There were five bells in the late 15th century tower
1540	Due to the dissolution of the Monasteries, the Patronage of the Church became vacant.
1544	Sir Henry Williams, alias Cromwell, bought the land and acquired the Patronage of the Church.
1565	The parishioners took action against Sir Henry Williams due to his neglect of the maintenance of the Church.
1585	Sir Henry Williams was brought to trial and found guilty of not carrying out his duties to maintain the church.
1590	The Patronage of our church became the responsibility of the Crown.
1845	Old vicarage built.
1860	Vicarage extension
1861	Extensive restoration of the church took place.
1895	Restoration: roof re-tiled; organ, font and pulpit moved; bells re-hung; new lamps.
1898	Parish Hall built opposite vicarage gates.
1936	Vicarage refurbishment.
1948	Faculty to allow installation of electricity in the church. 1949 Chiming apparatus installed for bells.
1983	Present vicarage built.
2003	Reception area, Church room, kitchen and toilets added to the church.
2012	Vicarage sold and not replaced.
2018	Major renovation of Tower and parapets
2021	Organ repaired off site, and re-installed.

Comment by Mr J. Craven.

My primary source for information has been "All Saints Church Hartford – A brief guide and history" which was researched and compiled by Mrs L Coley & Mr D. Cozens in 1980. This was updated in 1999 by Mr J.S. Craven. Thanks are also due to Mike Stephenson of the Huntingdonshire Family History Society for providing and granting permission to use copyright resources of the Huntingdonshire Family History Society for this website.

If you are interested in finding out more there are a number of resources both online and using more traditional resources.

Those that I have identified are as follows: (note that external links are subject to change over time and may no longer be available).

Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Family History Society at <https://cfhs.org.uk/>

Cambridgeshire Library online archives at <https://calm.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/> search for Hartford Church.

The British History society especially at: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42476>

The Norris Museum, St Ives and The Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon

Update History

1980	Research and first edition by Mrs. L. Coley & Mr. D. Cozens
1999	2nd edition update by Mr J.S. Craven
2023	3 rd edition update by Mr P. Hawkins