



St. Nicholas Church, Cholderton

St Nicholas', Cholderton was rebuilt between 1841 and 1850 of flint with Tisbury limestone dressings using designs by architect, TH Wyatt. It consists of a nave and turret with one bell. The consecration of the new church by Edward Denison, Bishop of Salisbury, took place on the 10th April 1850.

The old church measured 40 feet 2 inches by 16 feet 3 inches. The slab of the communion table was a foot below the level of the ground outside and the lighting was so bad that a skylight had been cut in the roof. All that now remains of the old church is the ante-chapel and the belfry. It was not until March 1851 that the remainder of the old church was pulled down. For nearly a year the two churches stood side by side, the new one twice as high and twice as long as the old one.

Outside the west door a mark cut into the stone dates from the Ordinance Survey in 1866, which recorded a height of 308.96 feet above sea level. The font from the old church can be seen in the churchyard along with a medieval sarcophagus.

The building is flint-faced with a stone plinth. The roof of ten bays, measuring 80 feet by 20 feet 6 inches, is said to have been found on the quay at Ipswich and from the dissolved monastery of SS Peter and Paul at Ipswich. It has four bays, divided externally by four buttresses, each bay containing a tall window of two cinquefoil-headed lights.

In January 1970 the church spire was in a dangerous condition and, instead of a complete restoration which would involve substantial costs, the tower was demolished to the base of the belfry, a new structure was then erected which would enable the bell to be rung. The work was completed in 1973,

The stone screen separating the ante-chapel is carved with a frieze of angels holding shields bearing the arms of Thomas Mozley who was the incumbent at the time of the rebuilding and who largely financed the rebuild, together with Oriel College, Oxford the patron of the living.

The carved roof bosses and the heads on the outside of the walls were the work of stone carvers previously employed on the new church at Wilton. Two of them on the north side, are of Thomas and Harriet Mozley. One of the two angels on the east end represents their daughter Grace.

Windows on the north and south sides of the nave (except for the two pairs in the chancel which were made by Clutterbuck of Stratford-le-Bow, Essex) were made by Mells of Frome and inserted in 1858 and 1859. One of the windows represents the Healing of the Lunatic Child and the Healing of Blind Bartimeus whilst the other depicts the healing of the Paralytic and Peter walking on the Sea. On the south side one window represents the healing of the Woman with the Issue of Blood and the Anointing of the Penitent Woman. The other shows the offering of the Widow's Mite and Christ blessing little Children.

The east window made by O'Connor of 4 Berners Street, London depicts the Agony, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. In the centre light, is a medallion of St. Nicholas, depicting the legend of the Raising of the Children from the Salting-tub.

In the ante-chapel one window depicts the Prodigal Son and the Good Shepard, and the other of the Appearance to the two Disciples at Emmaus and Christ Standing at the Door and Knocking. Also in the chapel is the bowl of the font from the earlier church, a Jacobean Communion table made of oak, and a marble tablet dedicated to Anthony Cracherode, Solicitor to the Treasury, Chancellor of the Island of Barbados and MP for Lostwithiel who died in 1752.

There is one Bell inscribed "Sancta Anna" which is one of three that hung in the old church at the time of Edward VI.

The organ was built by the Positive Organ Company of Hanover Square, London, and was dedicated on 8th October 1905.

A chalice and paten exist both inscribed "Presented in 1883 by James Noyes BA Harvard, and Penelope Barher Noyes, descendants of Rector Noyes BA Oxford 1592".

The Bronze altar cross is inscribed "In memory of Rev'd William Noyes Rector of Cholderton 1602 - 1622 To the Glory of God this gift is made by his descendant E H Noyes Easter 1894".

Electricity was installed in 1932 and a new arrangement of lighting in 1995 improved the visibility of the carvings on the roof timbers. Electric wall heaters were installed in 1960 replacing the 1926 boiler which had been installed in the vault below the chancel.

The (*James*) Fraser (Rector to Dec 1860) bequest administered by Oriel College, Oxford still contributes £25 a year to the upkeep of the church.

The lych-gate was designed by the architect, TH Wyatt. It was restored in 1989 using timber from the Cholderton Estate.

In 1955 the church parish was extended across the county boundary into Hampshire and later, in 1960, the boundary was further extended to include Thruxton Farm and dwellings on the Grateley Road.