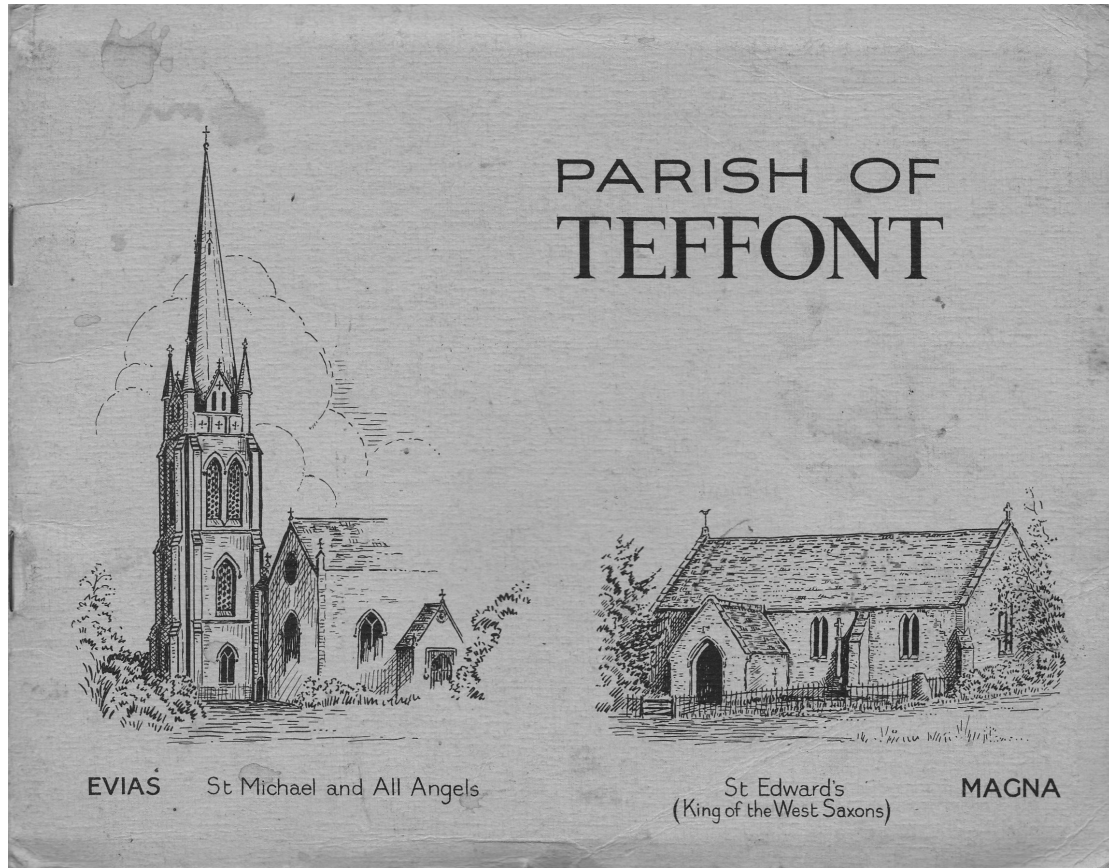


PARISH OF TEFFONT: Published 1966

Teffont Evias : St Michaels and All Angels

Teffont Magna: St Edwards (King of the West Saxons)



DEDICATION OF TEFFONT CHURCHES

Until recently neither of the Teffont churches had any known dedication. During 1965 it was decided that this should be remedied.

The church at Teffont Magna was dedicated on June 20th 1965, this date being the feast day of the translation of Edward, King of the West Saxons. The ceremony was carried out by the Bishop of Sherborne.

The choice of the title Edward king of the West Saxons, derived from the fact that, as a chapelry of Dinton, the church at Magna has from time immemorial been connected with the Abbey of Shaftesbury. Since the Abbey's first title was St. Mary's, which is the dedication of the church at Dinton, it was decided to adopt the second title, that of St. Edward's. for Teffont Magna.

Edward was a boy king who reigned from the age of thirteen during the years 975 to 978 when he was murdered by his treacherous step-mother at Corfe Castle.

For many years England was to rue that deed for the reign of Edward's successor was one of the worst in the country's history. The young Edward, during his short reign, had been guided by the good and statesmanlike Archbishop Dunstan and the Anglo-Saxon chronicle records that he had created a good impression.

Lower Teffont (Evias) and the Manor of Evias Harold in Hertfordshire were both parts of the "Honour" of Evias, and from this Lower Teffont became known alternatively as Teffont Evias. Harold of Evias was son of Ralph, Earl of Hereford, a nephew of Edward the Confessor. The church at Evias Harold held the title, "St. Michael and all Angels" and it was thought appropriate to use the same title for the church at Teffont, not merely as a connection with the founder but also as a strong dedication symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. In accordance with this decision the Lord Bishop of Salisbury came to Teffont on the Feast of St. Michael and all Angels (29th September) in 1965 to give our church at Teffont Evias the name of that Festival.*

- Evias is the spelling on the Ordnance Survey map; alternatives are Ewyas or Ewais.

TEFFONT EVIAS CHURCH

The Shaftesbury Cartulary and Domesday

In the Shaftesbury collection of records there is reference to King Aethelbald's grant to Osmund, a thegn, of land in Teffont with appendant meadow on both the Nadder and Wylye rivers which suggests that the document, dated A.D. 860, refers to both Teffont Evias and Teffont Magna. There is a further reference in the same collection to land at Teffont being granted by King Edgar to his thegn Sigestan in A.D. 964. This and much other information comes from the Victorian County History of Wiltshire.

The Domesday survey of Wiltshire in A.D. 1086 shows that the Manor of Teffont Evias was held by Alvred of Marlborough. There is no reference to Teffont Magna in Domesday nor to the actual church in Teffont Evias.

The fief of Alvred of Marlborough, who also held Evias Castle and land in Hertfordshire, remained as a unit in the following centuries. In A.D. 1166 we hear of Robert of Evias holding Teffont and other manors in Wiltshire. In A.D. 1242 the Honour of Evias belonged to Robert Tregoze who had married the daughter and heiress of Robert of Evias.

Teffont Evias Church

The earliest record of Teffont Evias Church is dated about A.D. 1200 when Petronilla, widow of Robert of Evias, granted the advowson (Right of Presentation to a Benefice) to Walter Husse. The Official Institutions (List of Rectors) are not complete but the earliest mention is in A.D. 1298 when Reginald Husse appointed Edward Husse, a member of family, as Rector.

The Fabric of the Church

The church is built of “local” Chilmark stone, no doubt quarried in the parish or in the next parish of Chilmark. It is similar stone to that used for the building of Salisbury Cathedral. The church building incorporates re-used materials of twelfth century origin. The chancel retains some mediaeval walling and the north chapel was added about A.D. 1450. The latter is the oldest part of the church which can be dated with certainty.

The church as we see it today, is the result of extensive repairs and rebuilding carried out by John Mayne, the Lord of the Manor, in 1821 and during the next few years. The drawing by J. Buckler, circa, 1806, which hangs by the entrance to the church shows a much simpler building without pinnacles or separate tower though there is a small bell tower over the centre of the nave. The work carried out in 1821 included extensive rebuilding of the north aisle and the south porch together with the removal of the bell tower and the addition of the vestry and the door to the east of it and, finally, the tower at the north-west corner of the church. Originally this tower had two stages, the spire and the third stage being added a few years later. The architect was Charles Fowler. The tower, with its fine steeple, and the remodeled church are well sited on the lawn of the Manor and together provide an impressive example of nineteenth century architecture.

On top of the spire there was at one time, a weather vane which blew down about forty years ago. When this was examined it was found to have a bullet hole through it. This may well have been the cause of its falling as the bullet had damaged the spindle so that the vane was no longer free to rotate. Since it was of some size, high winds would have exerted considerable pressure on the vane, ultimately brining it down.

Beneath the tower there is a vault which has three compartments. These can only be reached by taking up one of the flagstones in the tower. The vaults contain coffins and there is a brass breastplate engraved with the name John Thomas Mayne. There is said to be a vault under the Ley Chaple. Though this has not been identified its existence is implied in one of the wall tablets.

The lower walls of the Ley Chapel are lined with thin ashlar. These may have been paving stones taken from the floor of the Ley Chapel when the tile floor, which is at present there, was laid about 1800.

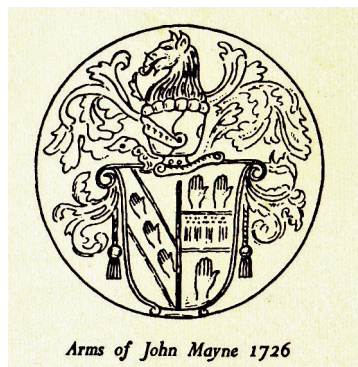
The Ley Chapel

Inside the church in the north-east corner is the Ley Chapel which contains a large table tomb with effigies in stone of Henry Ley (d.1574) and two of his six sons, William (d. 1624) and Matthew (d. 1632). In 1545 Henry Ley purchased from King Henry VIII the Manor of Teffont Evias. The two sons died at the ripe ages of eighty and eighty-seven. A younger brother, James, was made Rector of the church at the age of eighteen but his duties cannot have weighed heavily upon him since we find it recorded that the butler performed necessary obligations.

James subsequently became Lord Treasurer of England and the first Earl of Marlborough. He has an elaborate monument in Westbury church. John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough, was the grandson of the sister of James Ley's third wife.

The effigies are shown in armour, that of the father being of a fashion earlier than that of the sons. Despite this, the tomb and the effigies are all of the same make and of a date subsequent to the death of Matthew. Until recently the figures retained considerable traces of the original colouring.

There are several wall monuments in the church to members of the Mayne family who first became patrons about 1720. In the nave are two Royal Arms. On the north wall are the Stewart Arms, dated 1635 and painted on wood, which have recently been repaired and over-painted whilst on the south wall are the Hanoverian Arms dated 1820, carved by J. G. Bubb. There is a painting, technically known as a Sgraffito, on the north arch of the Ley Chapel of which the subject is the Angelic Choir. The painter was Baron de Triqueti (1804-74). Buttresses to the west and south walls of the nave have early scratch dials, that to the west being on a re-used piece of ashlar.



The Bells

There are three bells, the oldest of which is inscribed "Mr. William Ley 1611" and was presumably given by the William Ley whose effigy is in the Ley Chapel. The second bell, which was made by John Wallis, a bell-founder working in Salisbury between 1578 and 1624, carries the words "FEARE GOD I. W. 1613." The third is inscribed "ANNO DOMINI 1625" with the maker's initials I.L. with a bell between them. The initials stand for John Lott who worked in Warminster from the death of John Wallis until 1691.

The Stained Glass

Between 1951 and 1960 some inferior glass, which had deteriorated badly, was removed and windows which are seen in the church today were installed as replacements. They are of clear toned and reamy glass with roundels and panels of ancient glass incorporated. Much of this glass is from the Low Countries and was brought to England, so it is said, by a member of the Mayne family during the early half of the last century. There are also some fragments of 14th and 15th century glass of English origin, some of it being in the east window. These ancient fragments were

stored for many years in the Manor and may have been removed from the church in 1821 when it was restored.

The Plate

The Communion Plate includes an Elizabethan Chalice with the date mark for 1576, the bowl being decorated with interlacing bands and conventional foliage. The Stand-Paten has the date mark for 1693 and is inscribed with that date. Finest of all is the silver-gilt flagon on 1572 which is on loan to the Victorian and Albert Museum. This is of exceptional delicate workmanship and the body is decorated with engraved conventional foliage and roses.

THE VILLAGE

The Manor with its outbuildings and cottages, forms a worthy setting for the church. The Buckler drawing already referred to, shows the Manor as a simpler building, the battlements and towers probably having been added during the nineteenth century. It is now converted into flats. Walking up the village beside the stream we come first to Howard's House, with its overhanging roof, in which the Lord of the Manor, Sir Edgar Mayne Keatinge, now lives. A little further on it's a lane leading to the west and known as Carter's Lane which has two seventeenth century lime kilns. Beyond this point, with the stream running through its garden, is the former Rectory, now called Bridges and added to in 1842 by George Gilbert Scott.

On reaching the main road and leaving the Black Horse Inn on the right we pass into Teffont Magna. The most interesting house is Fitz House, some three hundred yards further on, which stands on the west side of the road and stream with, in front, its pollarded limes.

Leaving the main road at the old school we come to a small village green with the simple barn like building of Teffont Magna Church beyond it. On the east side the road is joined by the old road from Salisbury. The last cottage on this road is known as "The Old Black Horse". Behind Magna church is a large house which used to be an off licence known as "The Hole in the Wall" and is now called "The Old Malt House" for which purpose one of its large rooms was formerly used.

TEFFONT MAGNA CHURCH

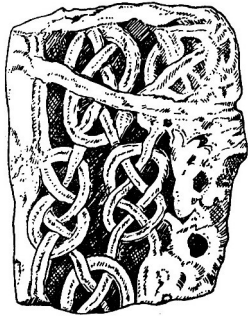
Origin of the Church

The first church at Teffont Magna may have been built as a Chapel of Ease (chapel built for parishioners who live far from the Parish Church) to Dinton when that village was granted to the Abbey of Shaftesbury in Pre-Conquest times.

There are two portions of a Saxon cross, now displayed by the church door, which were found re-used in the walls of the church during the last thirty years. These suggest that there was a Saxon place of worship here. At the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries Dinton and Teffont Magna were granted to the Pembroke family and

remained in its possession until they were bought by Lord Bledisloe in 1921. In 1951 the two farms in Teffont Magna were bought by the tenant farmers.

Teffont Magna became a part of the ecclesiastical parish of Teffont during 1922 and there are today men in the village who remember carrying coffins by the path through the wood for burial at Dinton.



Part of Saxon Cross

The Fabric of the Church

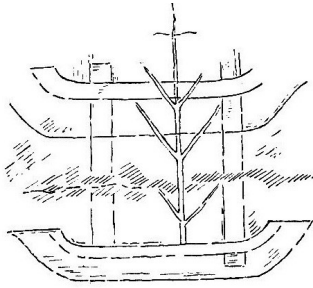
Most of the worked stone or ashlar in Magna church has been re-used. In the wall, on the north side of the church, are some pieces of worked stone which show traces of damage by fire. In the south-west window is a piece of stone which has been used in a previous building and which dates from about 1200 or 1220. The present Magna church is probably fourteenth century. From this it appears possible that the present church is on the site of one which was built, or at any rate added to, only one hundred years or so earlier. We can only speculate on the reason for the rebuilding, but the stones damaged by fire may point to the answer. Whatever it was that caused Magna church to be rebuilt so soon after a previous building on the site, there is evidence that it was built in haste or without adequate resources.

The present building is a very simple one and the re-used stones may have come from a more ambitious structure. Some of the stones used in the walls are very small, and where such small stones were used in other buildings they were usually covered with plaster. Again, some stones from the previous construction show marks where the stone-masons began to cut them, afterwards changing their minds and using them as they were. When a new drain was put in some ten years ago, a very old drain was discovered which actually goes under one of the south buttresses and from there to the boundary ditch. This indicates a lack of care in building the buttress.

Another point of interest is the flat stone pavement which lies about a foot below the present path. This shows no signs of wear, so it is doubtful whether or not it was a path.

Magna Church may well have been built at the same time as Salisbury Cathedral and thus have suffered from shortages of funds and skilled labour.

The south porch is Early English and on the jambs of the south door are scratched two mediaeval ships. There are also a number of mason's bench marks and three scratch sun-dials.



Mediæval Ships

The Interior of the Church

In a case, at the east end of the church, is part of a stone about four inches thick on which is incised a cross within a circle. This may possibly have formed a part of the altar slab of Pre-reformation days.

In the nave, on a window-sill, is a narrow waisted bell of the thirteenth century, one of the very few of this age which still remain in England. There is a Pre-Reformation screen to the chancel, which, though it is not elaborate, has a modest dignity and is one of the few to have survived in this part of Wessex.

The Church Plate

There is a very simple paten, on which the only mark is the monogram of Christ. It is probably late fifteenth or early sixteenth century. There is also an Elizabethan Chalice of 1571.

THE PARISH OF TEFFONT EVIAS WITH MAGNA

In the last twenty years we have spent over £8000 on our two churches. Almost the whole of this sum has been raised from within the parish. In Magna church, besides re-decoration, we have, since 1946, installed electric heating, carried out a major overhaul of the interior of the church including repairs to the roof timbers, ceilings and floor, and have improved the drainage around the church.

At Evias church, besides the replacement of the Victorian stained glass, we have put in electric light, completely overhauled the roofs, repaired the structural walls and repaired the spire, which, the original iron cramps having rusted and split the stone, was in a very precarious state. A modern oil-fired heating system has been installed and we have, finally, re-organised the pews in the north aisle which previously faced in all directions and were extremely uncomfortable.

We are glad to have been able to carry out all this work and so to have kept our churches in good repair. We hope that you have enjoyed looking round them and our village and we would like to thank you for any help which you may have felt able to give towards their continued upkeep.

June 1966.

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