



# St Mary the Blessed Virgin Addington

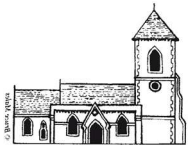
## A Walk around the Church



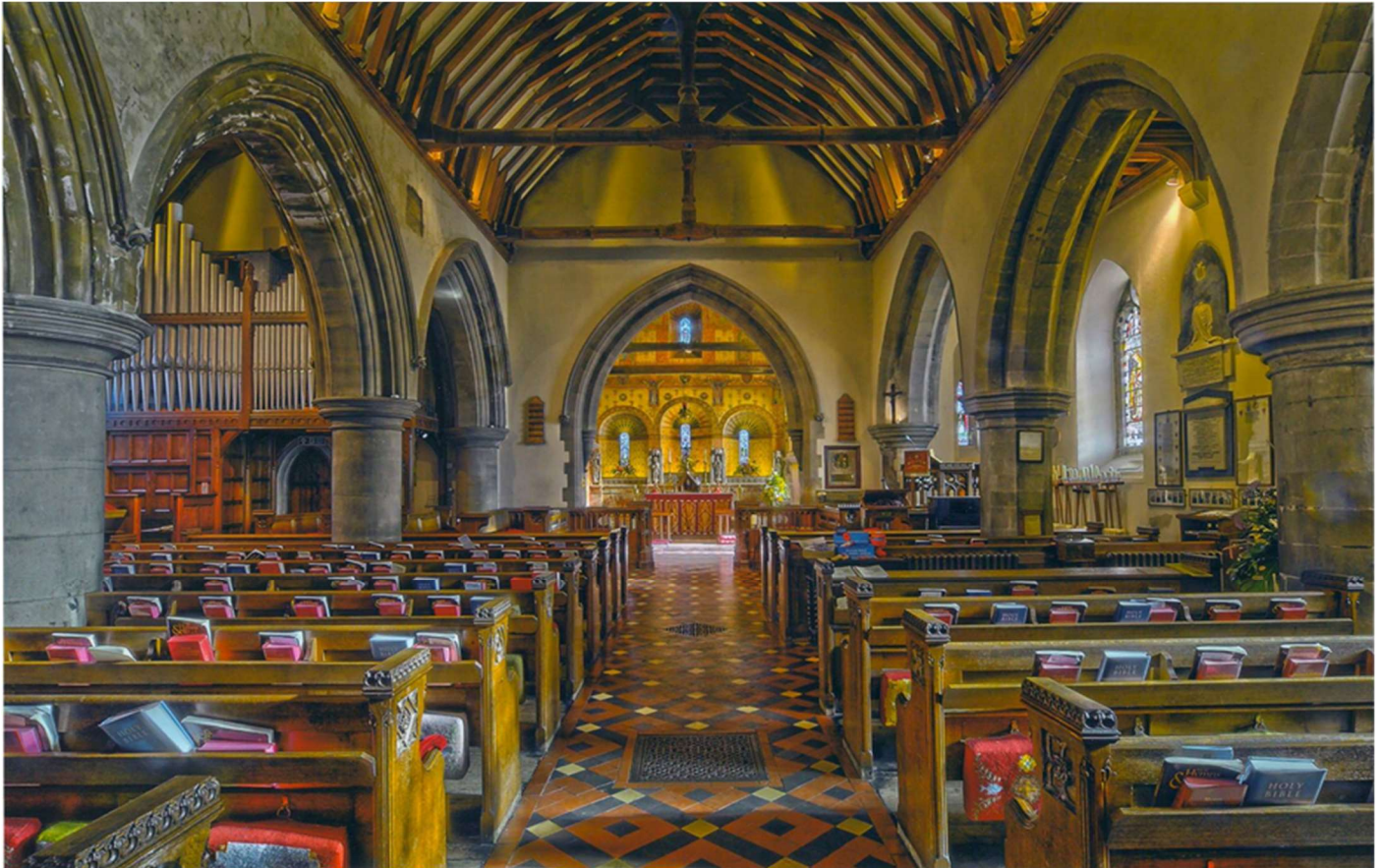


## Chronology

- c. 1080 Church building begins
- c. 1140 Trio of windows inserted behind altar
- c. 1180 First tower built
- c. 1210 Major repairs and extension including south aisle
- c. 1350 Low window built on south side of chancel
- 1540 Hatteclyffe brass (under mat in chancel)
- 1543 Leigh brass (under mat in chancel)
- 1612 Leigh memorial
- 1773 Major repairs instituted by Barlow Trecothick
- 1775 Memorial to Barlow Trecothick ('Addington Pickle Jar')
- 1808 Purchase of the Manor of Addington with Addington Place for the Archbishops of Canterbury
- 1828 Death of Archbishop Charles Manners Sutton (buried in vault under what is now the north aisle)
- 1837 Choir gallery and organ installed at west end of church
- 1843 Further repairs and extension of porch (architect Edward Blore)
- 1848 Death of Archbishop William Howley (buried under chancel)
- 1862 Death of Archbishop John Bird Sumner (buried in churchyard)
- 1868 Death of Archbishop Charles Longley (buried in churchyard)
- 1876 North aisle and present vestry built with organ chamber in present position, and tower rebuilt in present form (architect J.P. St Aubyn)
- 1882 Death of Archbishop Archibald Campbell Tait (buried in churchyard)
- c. 1890 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols introduced by Archbishop Edward White Benson (who had devised it while Bishop of Truro)
- 1896 Death of Archbishop Benson (buried at Canterbury: his widow and two of their daughters are buried in our churchyard)
- 1898 Chancel repaired and redecorated with present wall painting (possibly by Heywood Sumner) as memorial to Archbishop Benson
- 1913 Baptistry redecorated with new font presented by the vicar Arthur Carr
- 1980 Celebration of 900th anniversary. Further major repairs begun with restoration of church and tower
- 1988 Cleaning and restoration of wall painting in the chancel



## WELCOME TO ST MARY'S CHURCH



The Church of St Mary the Blessed Virgin, Addington, is over nine hundred years old, and has seen many changes and additions in that time. This guide book suggests a walk round the inside of the building introducing its main features and memorials. It would be too unwieldy to follow chronological order. The oldest part of the building is the chancel (the area around the altar) and the central nave; the side aisles were built later and the baptistery at the west end was redesigned several times. A chronology of key dates in the history of the building can be found at the start of this guide. To follow the route suggested, turn left as you enter the building and walk around the outer aisles.

You may have noticed the letters 'W.C.' over the porch as you came in. These stand for 'William Cantuar', the Latin title of William Howley, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1828-48, who died before these initials carried their modern meaning. He instigated repairs to the church in 1843, including the extension of the porch to its present scale.

In the porch itself on either side of the inner doors are two memorials. That on the left records renovations to the doors in 1902 by the then vicar Arthur Carr and local dignitary Henry Goschen, described here as a 'son of the African War'. On the right is one of our oldest surviving gravestones, originally inside the church, in memory of Frances, the wife of James



Lesly, vicar from 1628 to 1652. Frances had died on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1633, three days after childbirth.

Once inside, step away from the door and look back at the memorials around it. They are to members of the families who owned Addington Palace both before and after the Archbishops of Canterbury used it as a summer residence from 1808 to 1898. Most are to members of the Trecothick family, whose antecedent Barlow Trecothick had been Lord of the Manor at Addington and a major benefactor to the church and community – we shall see grand memorials to him and his wife when we reach the chancel. When he died childless in 1775, his nephew James Ivers inherited the estate and adopted the name Trecothick. He brought to fruition his uncle's rebuilding of Addington Place (as it was then called!), and his six children were all baptized here between 1778 and 1797, but he sold the estate and title in 1802, and the extended family was thereafter established at a new family seat in Broadstairs, Kent. Nevertheless, he, his wife Susanna, all six of his children and a daughter-in-law were brought back to Addington to be buried in the family vault established by Barlow. (The entrance to this vault appears to be marked by the large stone slab by the outside of the vestry door on which are inscribed the name Eliza and the initials of Barlow and Louisa.) The memorials between here and the back of church are to several of them: above the door, to Eliza the wife of James's son Barlow; next to the left with a draped urn, to James's wife Susanna née Edmonstone; to the right of the door, also with a draped urn, to James himself; and between here and the back of church to his twin daughters Louisa and Ann, and to his son James and his daughters Susanna and Charlotte.

Beneath those to the right of the door is the memorial to Frederick English, a diamond merchant from South Africa, who bought the Palace in 1898 after the Archbishops had ceased to use it. There is a memorial to his wife in the baptistery and both of them are buried in the NW corner of the churchyard, with a prominent cross and gravestone.

Walking towards the back of church, you will pass a memorial window to one of Queen Victoria's 'physicians extraordinary', Sir George Johnson, M.D., F.R.S. The window depicts St Luke the Evangelist and St Walburga, both of whom are associated with healing. St Walburga is holding a phial of holy oil, and it is still possible to buy 'St Walburga's healing oil', derived from a rock by her tomb in Bavaria and credited by many with medicinal qualities. At the bottom right of the window you will see a gold wheatsheaf which is a trademark defining the window as designed by the workshop of Charles Eamer Kempe (1837-1907), a very prominent (although not universally admired) Victorian stained glass craftsman.



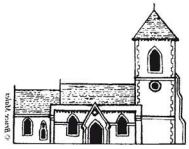


The four pillars separating the narrow south aisle from the nave are alternately round and octagonal. This unusual feature is found in a few Surrey churches and also in Southwark Cathedral. It may be that the same mason had made this a trademark. As you turn the corner into the back of church, note the display about the current congregation's 'Charity of the month'.

At the back of church, the west end, is the area called the baptistery, where the font is located. At various times in the church's history this has been the level from which the bells were rung, and it has had a musicians' gallery and organ. The present layout and décor in green marble were designed in 1913 by the then Vicar Arthur Carr.

The window, depicting the Ascension of Christ ('Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven?'), is dedicated to the Revd Craufurd Tait, the son of Archbishop Tait. The archbishop had already lost five children to scarlet fever in 1856, and in 1878 suffered the death of his remaining son in May and his wife Catharine in December. I think the warmth of this inscription testifies to the level of compassion and respect with which the archbishop was regarded in his bereavement by the congregation and local community.





At the entrance to the baptistery, note the picture on the left, showing the funeral of Archbishop Sumner in 1862. You can clearly see the Leigh memorials in the chancel, but this picture draws attention to the absence of the north aisle and the organ in its present position, and the lack of ornamentation on the far end wall behind the altar. Other pictures around the wall depict the Archbishops of Canterbury who used Addington Palace as their country residence from 1808 to 1898, as well as Archbishop Randall Davidson who was Archbishop Tait's Chaplain and son-in-law and went on to become Archbishop in 1903. Above the pictures are some quite intriguing memorials to benefactors of the church. A London Alderman, Henry Smith (1548-1627), was a successful salt merchant and property investor who set up a number of charitable trusts for the relief of poverty. His will stipulated that Addington parish should receive 'twenty shillings a year for ever towards the maintenance of such poor of this parish as receive no alms'. The Henry Smith Trust exists to this day and continues to make generous donations through our PCC to those in identified need. The widow of Frederick English, whose memorial we saw by the church door, left money for the upkeep of the churchyard, and other gifts are recorded for steeple repairs, for the rehangings of the bells and for the restoration and repairs of the 1980s.

Above you all this time are the church's historic bells, which are still regularly rung. One dates from the late fourteenth century, another of similar age was recast in the seventeenth century when two others were added, and the final two date from 1956, when all of them were re-tuned and re-hung. Above them, the tower itself has also seen several alterations in size and form, from the original 1180 flint tower to the present pyramid-shaped roof built in 1876 and repaired after the hurricane of 1987.

As you leave the baptistery, notice one further print depicting the funeral of Archbishop Howley in which you can see the shape and scale of the tower in 1848, prior to its extension in 1876, and note that the pub opposite already rejoiced in Addington's reputation as a top cricketing village.

Turning left towards the rear NW corner of the church, you walk over a black marble memorial set in the floor. It records the burial in April 1647 of Henry Kynnersley, a London merchant whose family came from Staffordshire but whose daughters married men from Sanderstead and Coombe. The ancient burial record of the parish, transcribed in 1907, records his burial as 'Henricus Kindersly [Kynnersley], 3 Aprilis 1647'. The elaborate inscription on his memorial ends with the words: 'Hee was a true patern of humilitie, industry and pietie, and dyed most Christianlike the first of Aprill A. Dmi. 1647 about the age of 80 years.'

The north aisle, the present organ and the vestry are the most recent parts of the church, having been built in 1876. A few of the memorials along this wall had already existed before this extension, and can be seen in the photograph of Archbishop Sumner's funeral, but the stained glass windows and most of the memorials are more recent. The first window,



depicting St Christopher and St Michael, honours one of the village's World War 1 heroes, Captain Christopher Gerard Goschen of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Grenadier Guards, who was killed on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1916 'whilst leading his company into action before Les Bœufs during the Battle of the Somme'. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website confirms that Captain Goschen is buried at the Guards' Cemetery at Lesboeufs. The Goschen family had lived at Ballards since at least 1875; Christopher's parents, Henry and Augusta, moved to Tonbridge, Kent, in 1920, taking with them as a memento a picture of this window. The family grave is at the extreme N.W. corner of the churchyard by the back of the Hall.



*The triple window at the end of the north aisle is in memory of Archbishop Tait who is himself depicted between two former Archbishops of Canterbury, St Augustine and Stephen Langton. All three are given pictorial vignettes that define their contribution: Augustine preaching to the Saxons on arrival in this country in around 595, Langton witnessing the signing of Magna Carta by King John in 1215, and Tait greeting a group of bishops, presumed to represent the Lambeth Conference of 1878 at which he presided. This meeting of all the leaders of the worldwide Anglican Communion is held roughly every ten years and had been inaugurated in 1867 by Tait's predecessor Archbishop Longley.*

The middle window in this aisle commemorates two Addington women who married doctors. They were in fact sisters, two of the daughters of Lt William White, commemorated just below this window. Our burial registers confirm that Louisa McCulloch was buried in the churchyard in 1858, and Charlotte Johnson in 1860; their initials can be seen on the brass lozenge in the aisle floor near the window. At that date, this was outside the north wall of the church and





may therefore indicate the site of the sisters' burials. The grand memorials to Sir George Johnson and his sons are quite easy to find in the churchyard, near the NE corner of the church. Louisa's husband had died less than two months after their marriage, so it was presumably Sir George who had the idea of this memorial window, depicting one of Christ's healing miracles, when the church was extended in 1876.

The memorial tablets at the west end of the aisle are dedicated to local families and individuals. Three were local farmers. The 'Park Farm' held by Paul James Le Cointe until 1825 was also known as Monks Orchard Farm and is now part of the Bethlem Royal Hospital estate. Augustus Hoffman, born in Magdeburg, was naturalized a British citizen in May 1823, and held Ballards (on the site of what is now Royal Russell School) with his nephew Charles from around 1822 until his death, when it passed to the Goschen family. Hewitt Davis by all accounts (including principally his own!) transformed the land of Spring Park from 'a boggy gravelly soil' to viable agricultural land. Some sources suggest he was specifically brought in to achieve this by a wealthy MP, Sir John Temple Leader, although Davis himself simply wrote that he took on the land 'at a rent far beyond the value', but by effort and ingenuity made it pay – his principal innovation being to do with drainage – to such an extent that Agricultural Associations organised trips here (from at least as far as Maidstone) to learn from his improvements and methods. His achievement did not outlast him by forty years – all that is left of a farm in the Spring Park estate are the street names, Farm Lane and Farm Drive, a couple of copses, and the little sanctuary of the Millers Pond! Davis himself lived in Spring Park House, at the eastern end of Farm Drive – it became a nurses' home in the 1950s and was demolished to make way for residential development in the 1960s. Sadly, the memorial in church records the fact that Hewitt Davis and his wife Maria lost three children below the age of 5 between 1834 and 1843.

William White, a parishioner commemorated by a tablet below the second window in this aisle, served in the Netherlands under the then Duke of York, Prince Frederick, Duke of York and Albany (1763-1827), who was the second son of King George III, and would have become king (after his brother George IV) if he had not died in 1827. Because of an ineffectual campaign in Flanders in 1799, some believe that he is mocked in the nursery rhyme, *The Grand Old Duke of York*, although in fact versions of that song have been traced from much earlier historical periods.

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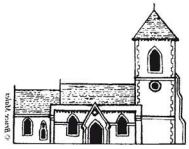
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*The final window, by the organ, commemorates the Home Guard during World War 2. A member of the 59<sup>th</sup> Surrey (Addington) battalion of 'Dad's Army', Frederick William Burbage, was killed by enemy action on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1940, aged 47, and is buried in the churchyard. This window depicts the rebuilding of Jerusalem in the sixth century BC, as described by the prophet Nehemiah, each man carrying his weapon to hand in case of attack: 'the builders had their swords attached to their belts as they built'. The lamb and flag crest and the motto 'pristine virtutis memor' ('mindful of former valour') at the top of the window belong to the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey).*

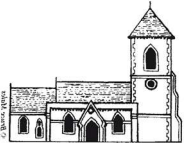
The remaining memorial tablets on this wall are to two of our Archbishops of Canterbury. The Latin inscription informs us that Charles Manners Sutton (14<sup>th</sup> February 1755-21<sup>st</sup> July 1828) was a doctor of sacred theology (STD) and is buried close to this spot – in fact in a vault beneath the present vestry. John Bird Sumner's memorial speaks for itself: his grave can be seen in the churchyard in a little fenced-off area to the north-east of the church, with other members of his family, including his daughter Maria Thomas, who is commemorated on the ornate brass memorial on the wall beneath the organ. She died in 1861, her father in 1862 and they were buried in the same grave; her husband, the Revd John Thomas who was vicar of All Hallows, Barking (more commonly referred to as All-Hallows-by-the-Tower, and associated with Toc H and its founder, the Revd Philip 'Tubby' Clayton), died in 1883 and is buried in a separate grave nearby.



Pause a moment as you enter the chancel, the oldest (1080) and most distinctive part of the church. The present decorations were conceived as a memorial to Archbishop Benson 'by his neighbours in Addington and other friends' after his death in 1896, but they also reflect the history of the space. The medieval church had altars dedicated to the Virgin Mary, St Catherine, St Cosmas and St Damian, and pictures of those four with arms and emblems associated with them (including, of course, the familiar Catherine Wheel!), are prominent on the wall paintings, which followed the pre-Raphaelite doctrine of echoing pre-Classical medieval and oriental styles. Apparently these decorations cost £600 when first created in 1898, and £20,000 when they were restored in 1988. The four statues above the reredos on the east wall are four Archbishops of Canterbury: Thomas Cranmer, Theodore of Tarsus (7<sup>th</sup> century), Edward White Benson and William Laud.

The chancel as a whole is dominated by family memorials. The most elaborate, on your left, is dedicated to the Leigh family, landowners in or around the village by 1371 and officially Lords of the Manor of Addington from 1446 until 1768. (See more details overleaf.)

Perhaps the most intriguing story connected to the Leighs represented here concerns Nicholas. Although relatives of his wife's family (the Carews) had been implicated in plots against King Henry VIII, and executed in 1539, he remained in favour with the king, who is said to have used the Leigh mansion (closer to the church than the present Addington Palace) as a hunting lodge – and to have arranged for a subterranean passage to enable him to visit Anne Boleyn when she stayed at nearby Wickham Court with her aunt.



*Those who enjoy the intricacies of genealogy might like to know that the four consecutive generations of Leighs commemorated here are:*

*“(on a brass set in the floor and usually protected by a carpet) John Leigh and his wife Isabel (née Harvey), Lord of the Manor from 1486;*

*“(kneeling figures top right) their son Nicholas and his wife Anne (née Carew), titular Lord of the Manor from 1503 although he did not come of age until 1516;*

*“(kneeling figures top left) John and his wife Joanne or Joan (née Oliphe), who was never Lord of the Manor because he died before his father, in 1576;*

and finally (reclining in the lower part of the memorial), their son Sir Oliphe Leigh who succeeded his grandfather as Lord of the Manor in 1581. Because of her costume, some doubt has been cast as to whether the reclining woman is an accurate representation of Sir Oliphe's wife Jane (née Browne). He died in 1612, his widow in 1631, although the association of the Leigh family with Addington continued for a further 150 years.

The connection between Nicholas and Henry VIII may be reflected in the other brass, on the floor on the opposite side of the chancel (also usually protected by a carpet). It commemorates Thomas Hatteclyffe who married Nicholas Leigh's elder sister Anne, and who is described here as 'Master of the Household to King Henry the VIII and Anne hys wyfe'. Since Hatteclyffe died in 1540 within a few months of the king's marriage to Anne of Cleves, this seems to be a rather daring reference back to the time when the king's household included Anne Boleyn, disgraced and beheaded in 1532.

The elaborate and imposing memorial up to the right of the Leigh statues is dedicated to much later members of the Leigh family. Sir Oliphe Leigh had been succeeded in 1612 by his son Francis, who married twice and had sons by both his wives. When John Leigh, that





Francis's grandson through the line from his first wife, died in 1691, the next in line was ten years old, and that is how a descendant of Francis through the line from his second wife, Sir Francis Leigh of Tring in Hertfordshire, came to have an interest in his family's lands at Addington. There is no evidence that he lived here for any length of time, and he did not prevent the 10-year-old boy from entering into his inheritance in due course, but he it was who raised this memorial – as flowery in language as it is in appearance – singing the praises of his first wife Sara and her mother Elizabeth Lovell, both of whom had died in 1691 aged 40 and 56 respectively. Despite the extravagant praise which Francis heaps on the purity and culture of his late wife, he had in fact remarried by the time this memorial was installed, and was to settle in Hawley in Kent, where he became an MP in 1702. When he died in 1711, his will directed that he be buried with his first wife and other members of his family at Addington, but this does not seem to have been carried out.

Beneath that panel is the memorial to Archbishop William Howley. He is buried in the vault beneath the church so this is not his tomb, and can therefore be properly used as a sacred corner to house the ambry, in which bread and wine are kept, consecrated at the Holy Communion service, and reserved here to be taken to the homes of those who wish to receive communion but cannot attend church. Oils to be used in prayer for healing are also kept here, and when these holy things are in the ambry, the candle is kept lit. When the church was closed to all visitors during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the vicar continued to ensure that this candle remained lit.

Opposite the Leigh memorials, on the south wall of the chancel are the two very imposing memorials to Barlow Trecothick and his first wife Grizzel, whom he married in 1747 in Boston, Massachusetts. Her brother, the Revd East Apthorpe, was vicar of Croydon, and this may have influenced their decision to purchase the Lordship of the manor and the house at Addington from the Leigh family. Barlow Trecothick, born in Stepney in 1720, was a member of the ancient Guild of Clothworkers, and became Alderman in 1764, Sheriff in 1766, an MP in 1768, and Lord Mayor of London in 1770. Grizzel had died in 1769, and he paid the generous tribute to her on the memorial to the left. He soon remarried and it is his widow Ann, née Meredith, who was responsible for the rather grandiose memorial to him on his death in 1775. It was the well-known wit and scholar the Revd Sydney Smith (1771-1845) who bestowed on this memorial the nickname 'the Addington Pickle Jar'! Barlow had been an energetic and generous benefactor to the local community, paying for extensive repairs to the tower, nave and walls of the church, and





beginning the building of the present Addington Palace, although he did not live to see its completion – his nephew James Ivers, whose memorial we saw near the church door, completed that project in 1780.

It is incumbent on us, however, to record with due humility that much of the Trecothick family's wealth derived from Barlow's employment of slaves in his Jamaica plantations, and that James received considerable sums from the tax-payer as compensation when his remaining inherited slaves were freed. It can be no more than partial mitigation that one of Barlow's last acts as a parliamentarian was to give a passionate speech in December 1772, protesting about the savagery of the British repression of a native uprising in the Caribbean island of Saint Vincent (known as the First Carib War).

We may never be sure whether there was once a symmetrical pattern of windows in the chancel. On the end wall, the small window at the top was part of the original building, although it was blocked off in the thirteenth century and not re-opened until the chancel was redecorated in 1898. The lower three windows date from around 1140. The single small window on the north side may originally have been matched by a similar one opposite, behind Grizzel Trecothick's memorial: if you go outside the church you should be able to identify the patch in stone and mortar where that window used to be (if we were doing such a repair now we would probably have to be neater!). The pattern of windows between the Trecothick memorials is quite intriguing. The lower one seems to have been added around 1350, and it is not clear whether it was built to enable lepers to receive the sacrament without entering the church, or whether it might have been part of an anchorite's cell through which the hermit could witness services. Its window ledge has recently been turned into a small chapel space dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, housing a modern statuette brought back from Oberammergau in the 1970s.

Before you leave the chancel, stand with your back to the altar and you will see high above you on the inside wall of the archway a further memorial to Archbishop William Howley and to his sons William (1810-1833) and George (1814-1820) and his daughter Harriet (1812-1837). The archbishop's infant grandson, George Kingsmill, died at Lambeth Palace less than a month after the archbishop himself in 1848 and is also buried here in the family vault. The archbishop's widow, Mary Frances, went to live with this baby's parents, Ann and William Kingsmill, at Sydmonton Court, Hampshire, and when she died there in 1860 aged 78, she was brought back to be laid to rest with her husband beneath the chancel.

Turning left as you leave the chancel you will see on your left a prominent high relief brass memorial to Archbishop Longley, depicting Christ's great commission to Peter – 'Feed my sheep' – above a plaque commemorating the archbishop's son Henry, who had been Chief Charity Commissioner for England and Wales.



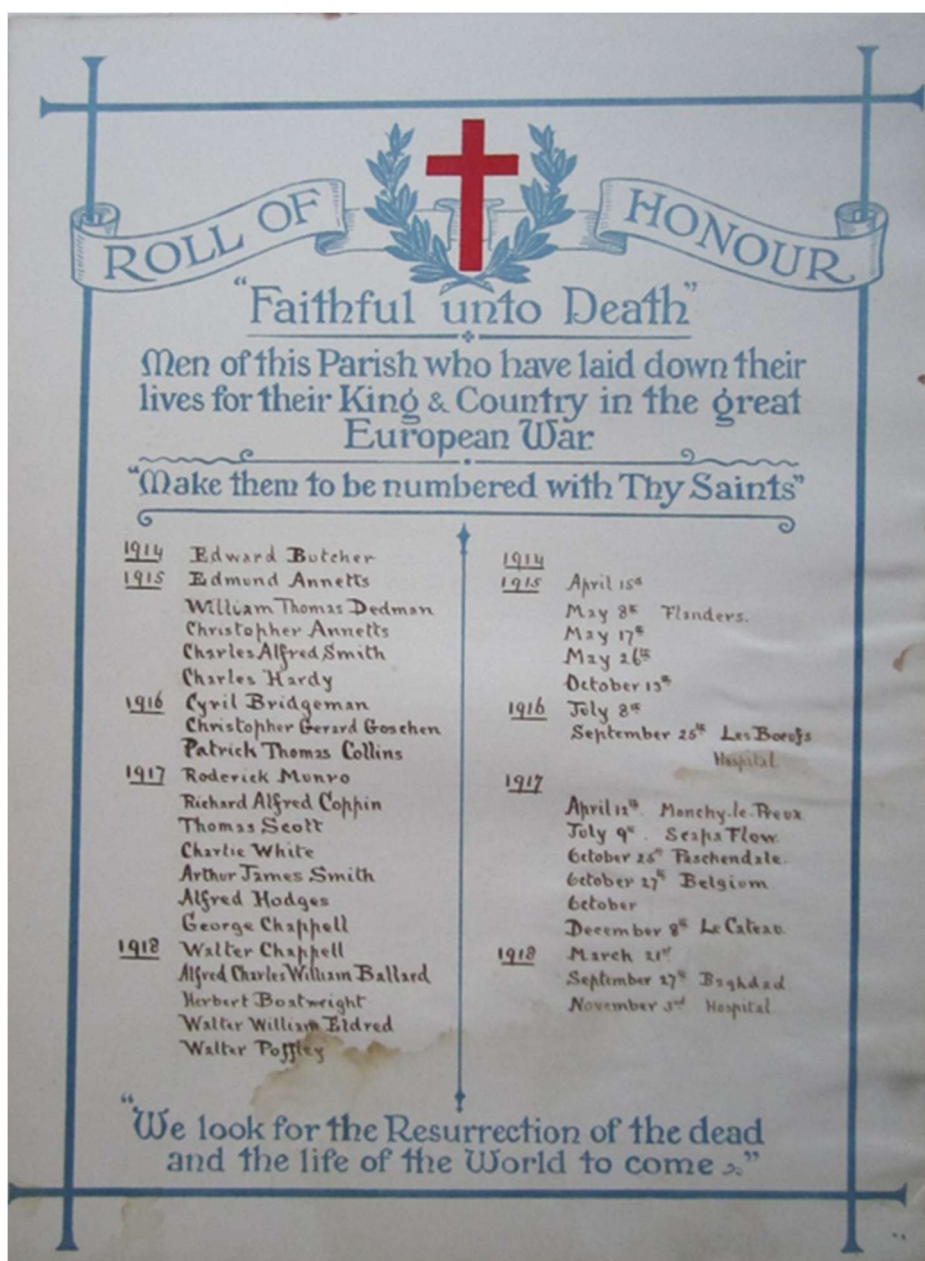
The window ahead of you depicts the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel told Mary she would have a child. The angel is saying 'Ave Maria' ('Hail, Mary') to which the Blessed Virgin Mary replies 'Ecce ancilla do' ('Behold the handmaid of the Lord', 'do' being short for 'domini').

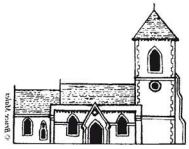
The remaining memorials have various local connections. The Charles Manners Sutton commemorated here was the son of the archbishop, and was a barrister and Tory politician, notably serving as Speaker of the House of Commons during the passing of the 1832 Reform Act. Antonia Fraser described him as 'a fine, friendly, genial figure, if inclined to pomposity (but that was a forgivable offence in a Speaker)'. The baby George Coles who died in 1805 was the nephew of William Coles who very briefly owned Addington Place between the Trecothicks and the Archbishops. The Bissets of Peckham were the brother, sister-in-law, niece and nephew of John Collinson Bisset, a schoolmaster at Whitgift School who became curate of St Mary's. He went on to become our vicar from 1821 till 1843, and must therefore have been deeply involved in the funeral and burial arrangements for Archbishop Manners Sutton and in the building works sponsored by Archbishop Howley. The grave of these and other members of the family can be identified by the path on the north side of the church, although sadly the weathered lettering is now all but illegible.





On either side of and below the Bisset family memorial is a decorated list of all the known vicars of Addington, back to the time of King Henry III in the thirteenth century, and photographs of all of them since 1848. On an adjacent pillar is a list of the Parish Clerks. Of those named, the Howards in the eighteenth century and the Coppens and Pallmerines in the nineteenth, were particularly prominent local families, with several graves in the churchyard. There is also the parish's roll of honour from World War 1. Twenty-one names are listed here, but the war memorial opposite lists in addition M.E. Woolgar, so of the 117 local men who went to war, twenty-two died. Only two of them are buried in our churchyard, although there are many other casualties of war buried or commemorated here: a total of twenty-eight war victims, nine from World War 1 (all military) and nineteen from World War 2 (one Home Guard, twelve other military and six civilians). A separate leaflet is being prepared to give details of these men and women and their graves.





Text based on an earlier version by Pat Tongue (2000),  
revised and illustrated by Edward Forman (2020),  
with advice from Croydon Borough archivist Lindsay Ould