

The Five Ages of Rothley Parish Church



Copies of an A4 sized printed version of this booklet are available for £5 on application to the Church Office.

A simple timeline guide to the Parish Church
through more than a Millennium



MMXV

Periods of Church & Parish History Timeline



The cover image shows Norman stonework at the foot of a south aisle column. It is part of the first wall built in the early 1100s when the Normans created the Nave.

Image courtesy of Adrian Witcombe

SAXON PERIOD

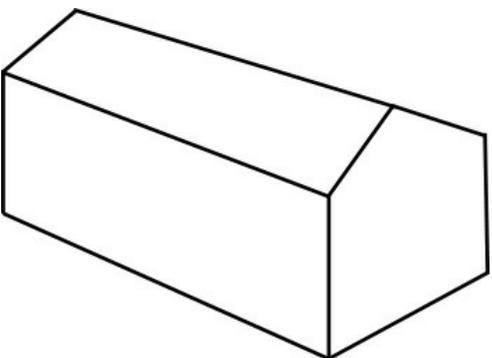
Before the Norman Conquest

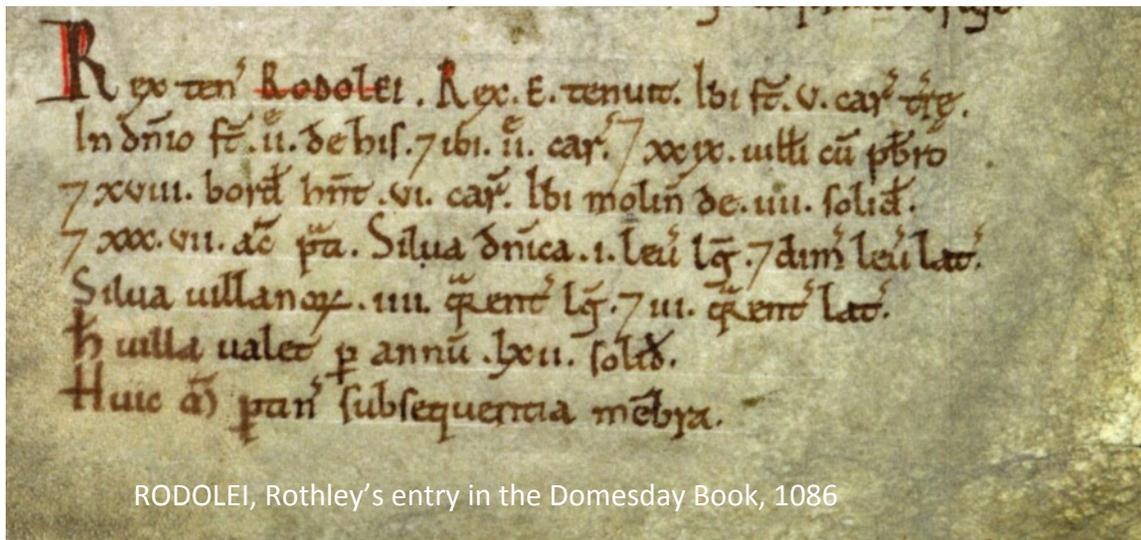


Image courtesy of Adrian Witcombe

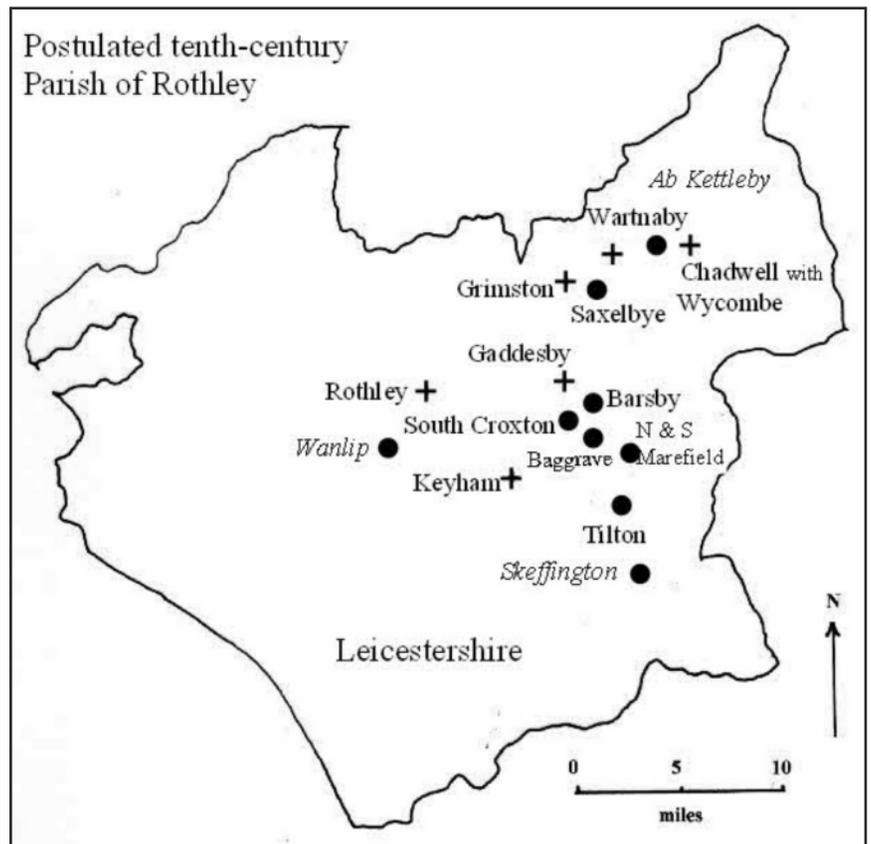
The Saxon Cross Shaft in the churchyard reminded the passer-by in the century before 1066 to respect the Christian faith over against the pagan beliefs of Viking culture.

The great Norman survey of 1086, *The Domesday Book*, stated that before the conquest, 'King Edward held the Manor & Soke of Rodolie, and that a priest was here'. That priest would have had a simple building like this on this site.





As Lord of the Manor, the King held sway over a 'Soke', a group of 22 settlements east of the River Soar. Rothley Church had a 'Minster' or *mother church* role over this extended parish and the simple chapels in five of these settlements, Grimston, Wartnaby, Chadwell, Gaddesby and Keyham.

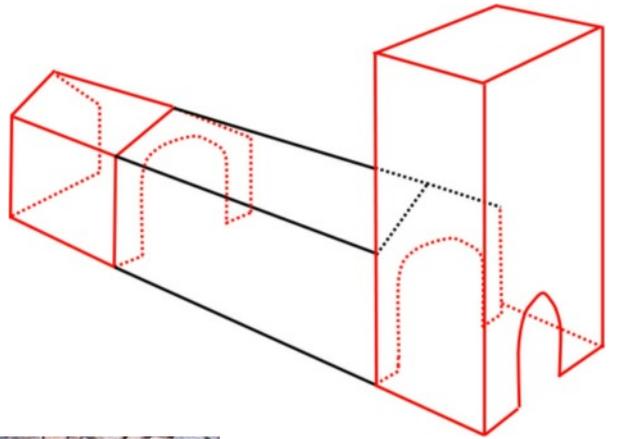


An archaeological dig was carried out on The Grange site in 2006, just to the north of the present churchyard. Up to 300 Christian burials from the period 680-980AD were discovered. It is thought that many of these would have been brought here to the *mother church* from the Soke settlements.

1100 to about 1560

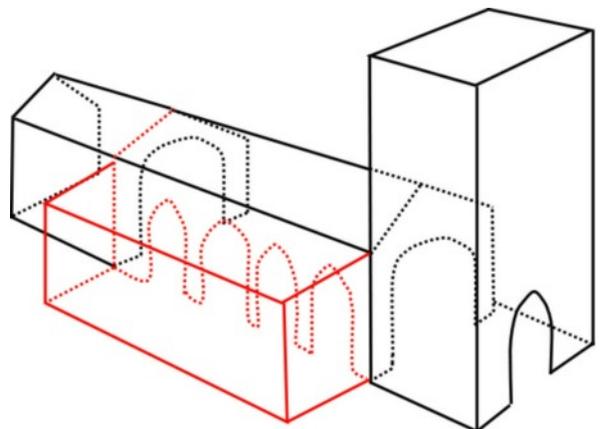
NORMAN and MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Norman stone building technology was used in every settlement to build enduring places of Christian worship. Under the continuing Lordship of the King, a start was made at Rothley in the early 1100s with the central Nave and a small Tower, high enough to be the tallest building in the village.



Original Norman foundation stonework still undergirds the tower.

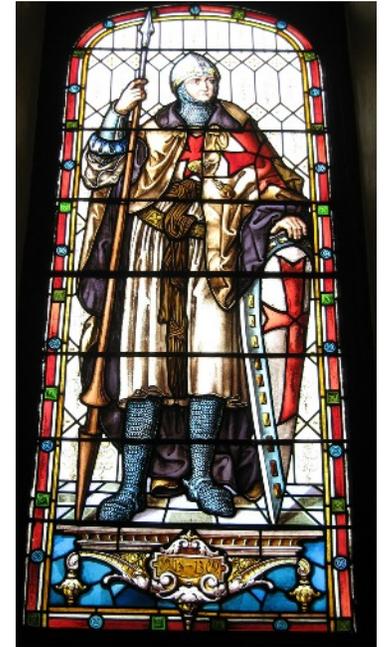
The North Aisle was added in 1170, the upper walls supported on new round pillars.



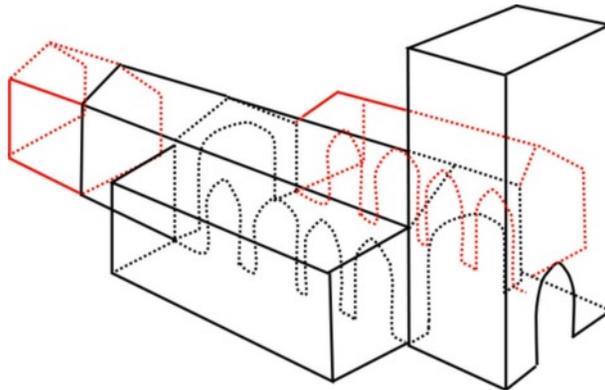
In 1231 Henry III gave the Manor & Soke of Rothley to the Knights Templar to be a boost to their income. Under Templar patronage of the church, the South Aisle was added in about 1270, and the chancel extended to its present footprint.



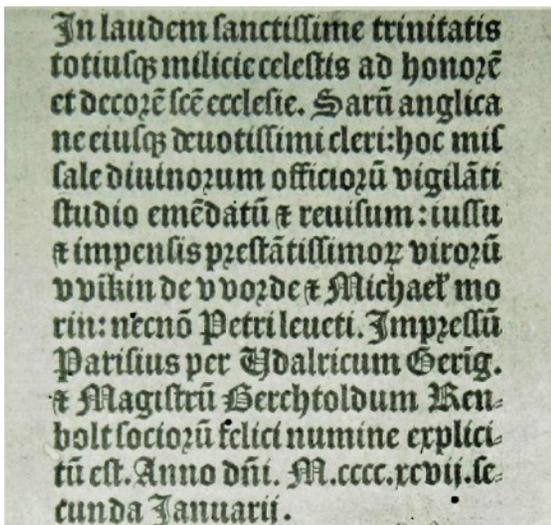
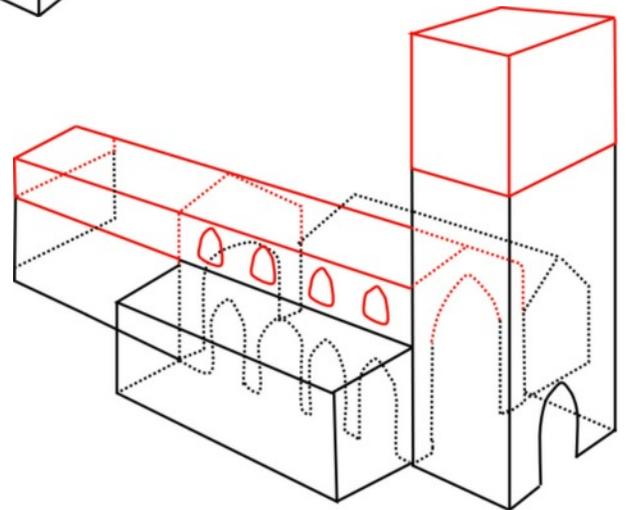
Henry III Death Mask



The Templar in stained glass at Rothley Court



By 1325 the Knights Hospitaller were Lords of the Manor and Church Patrons. The Tower was extended to over 70 feet in height, and the Nave raised to introduce extra light from Clerestory windows.



This is the Catholic period, with services conducted in Latin from a text in a Missal like this. The meaning of the Christian Faith was taught to the people by the priest. Attendance on Sundays was an obligation.

1560 to 1837-The English Protestant Church

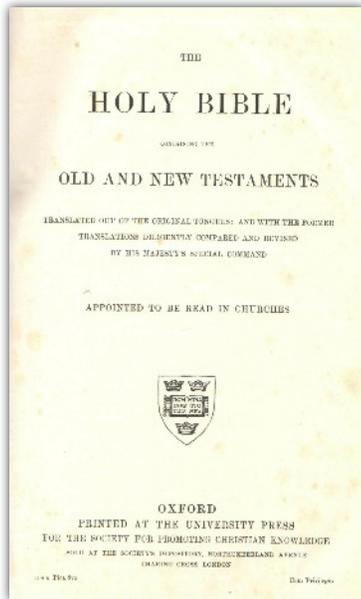
ELIZABETHAN ERA



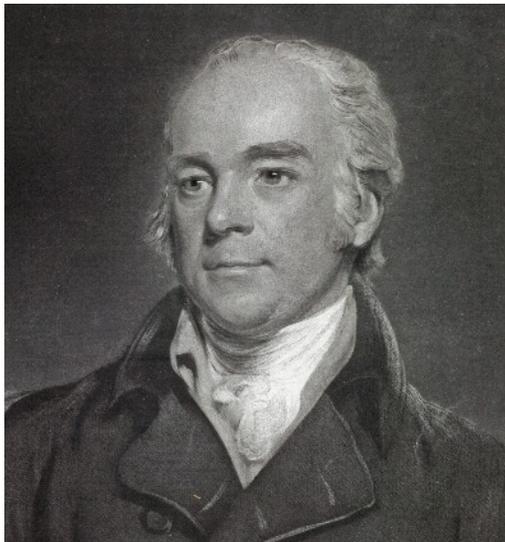
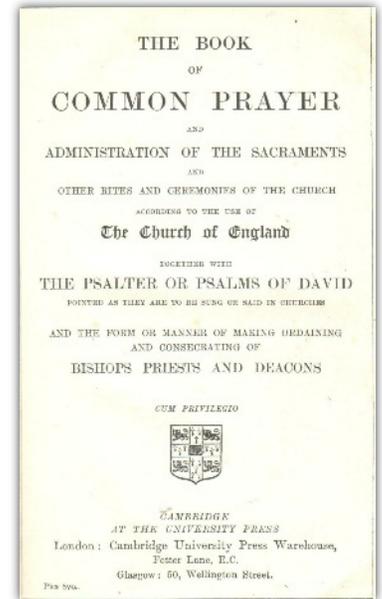
After the Reformation the head of the Church of England became the reigning Monarch, rather than the Pope in Rome.

Queen Elizabeth 1st established the local church Parish as an arm of governance of the people. Registers had to be kept of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials.

Officials nominated in each Parish, under supervision of Magistrates, looked after local administration including the relief of poverty.



People became used to reading and hearing the scriptures in English from the King James Bible (1611) and to the memorable language of the services from Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer (1662).



Thomas Babington



William Wilberforce

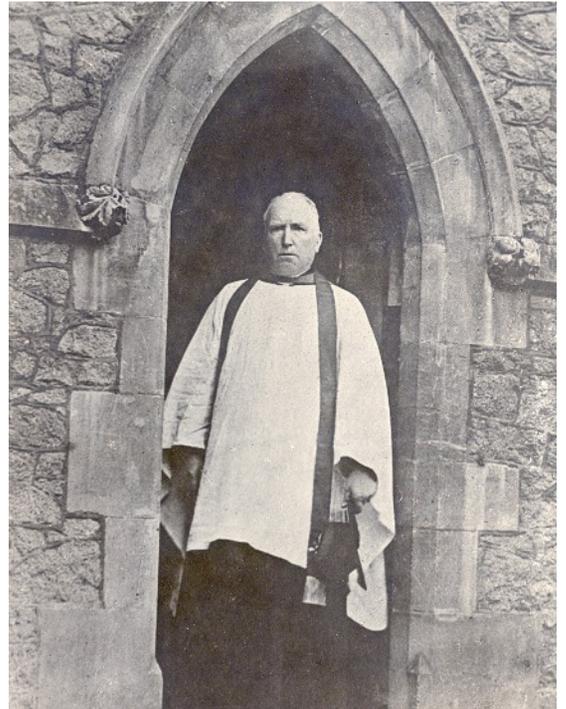
From 1565 to 1837 eight generations of the Babington family were Lords of the Manor & Soke of Rothley. Many Babingtons had distinguished careers in academia and the church. The last Babington, Thomas (1758-1837) an MP, is well known for his work with university chum William Wilberforce on the long campaign to abolish the slave trade (1787-1807).

Thomas promoted the Rothley Enclosure Act of 1782 which reorganized the open field strip farming system into more efficient compact farms, the precursor to the modern developments in Rothley.

VICTORIAN GOTHIC

The Richard Burton Era 1837-1909

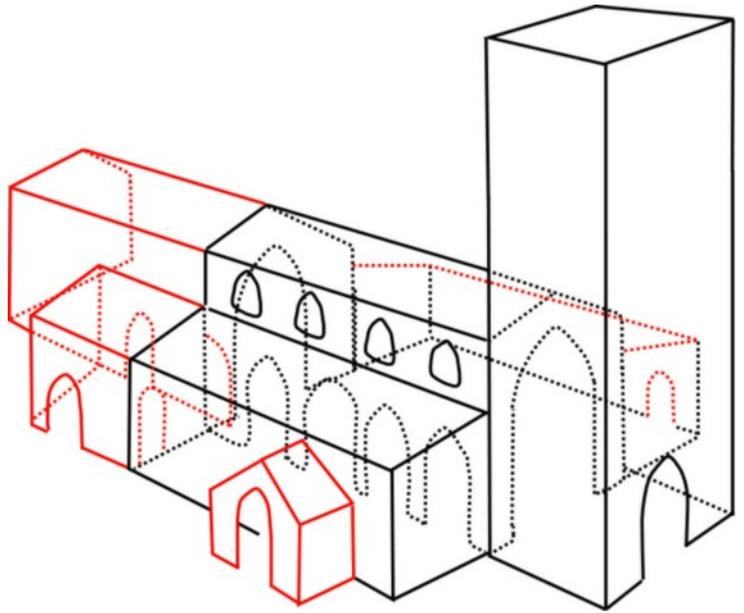
Revd. Richard Burton M.A.
In the doorway to the
Vestry he built in 1877



Vicar William Acworth built the first single schoolroom in School Street in 1837. It was enlarged into two rooms in 1871 and given a grand frontage under Vicar Richard Burton. Richard Burton came as Curate in 1858 under Vicar Henry Shackleton, becoming Vicar after Shackleton's death in 1869. Without access to a pension, like many Victorian Vicars, Burton remained in post until his death in 1909.

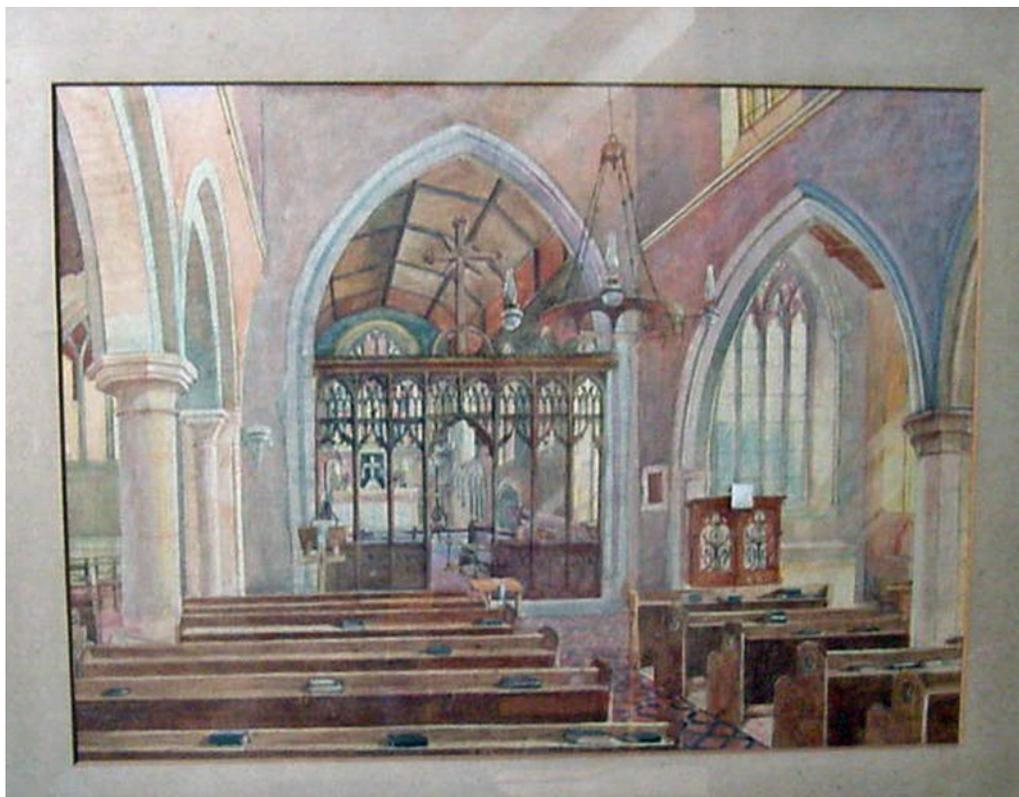


Burton was very productive. In 1877 he drove the programme to comprehensively renovate the crumbling Elizabethan church structure. The project cost about £250,000 at today's values. The chancel was completely rebuilt from the foundations up. A new vestry and organ chamber was added on the north eastern corner and entry reworked through a new porch on the north side. Interior floors were refashioned to give the classic Gothic ideal of steadily rising towards the east end communion table.



Burton embraced the new manorial regime of Frederick Merttens after the purchase of the Temple Estate in 1893, officiating at Merttens' wedding in Cheshire in 1896. When the new Civil Parish Council was formed in 1894, Burton was its first Chairman.

Burton's new Gothic interior in a painting after the restoration



THE NEED FOR RESTORATION

When Richard Burton became Vicar in 1871 he took on a church building with major technical faults to do with roofs and walls and floors being at the end of their life cycle. Then under it all was the theological issue. The church interior layout had the feel of the plain Elizabethan protestant about it. As part of his mindset he described it thus:

Level floors from end to end, a three decker pulpit dominating the nave, everybody seated in the high sided and secretive worlds of often private box pews, and the singers with their music high up in a gallery at the west end blocking out the view into the Tower and the West window.

In 1897 Burton's feelings about it were quoted in an article in the Leicester Advertiser. Here are some of them:



"the uneven and damp floors with holes from dry-rot, dangerous to walk over; the worm-eaten roofs, ready to fall of their own weight, dangerous to sit under;
the painted deal three-decker, as such erections were commonly called, the clerk's desk, the officiating clergyman's desk, and the pulpit rising by steps one above the other, all facing West"



"the fine old Norman font (800 years old) supported on a pedestal of common brickwork, the whole carefully covered with a thick coat of plaster;
the chancel in such a hopeless state of damp and decay that it had to be entirely rebuilt;
the exclusive pews, facing every way, some with curtains, all more or less inconvenient"

"and then that noble lower arch, now one of the chief features of beauty in the Church,
blocked up with an unsightly gallery for the singers, its perfect proportions hidden behind a mass of brickwork,
underneath the gallery itself being a coal house and a receptacle for brooms, rubbish and dust "

FINANCING THE RESTORATION

Rothley Church Restoration Fund Accounts.

1879

Payments.				Receipts.			
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Original Contract with extra work	3225	10	11	Subscriptions ...	2520	17	8
Rehanging the Bells and new Ringing Floor ...	175	15	8	Offertory Balances, 1875-6-7-8 ...	214	16	5
Church Lighting ...	108	2	0	Churchwardens' Fund ...	117	10	0
Church Furniture ...	76	7	3	Bankers' Interest ...	34	12	4
Churchyard Gates ...	21	2	8	Bazaar, July 1878, net Receipts ...	229	0	3
Organ refixing ...	10	0	0	Sale of Work, January 1879, ditto	45	0	8
Incidental Expenses, such as "the faculty," printing, advertising, &c. ...	31	7	2	Village Concerts ...	50	8	6
Architects' Commission ...	156	17	6	Balance ...	723	6	10
Clerk of Works ...	107	9	6				
Altering Tower Clock ...	23	0	0				
	<u>£3935</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>		<u>£3935</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

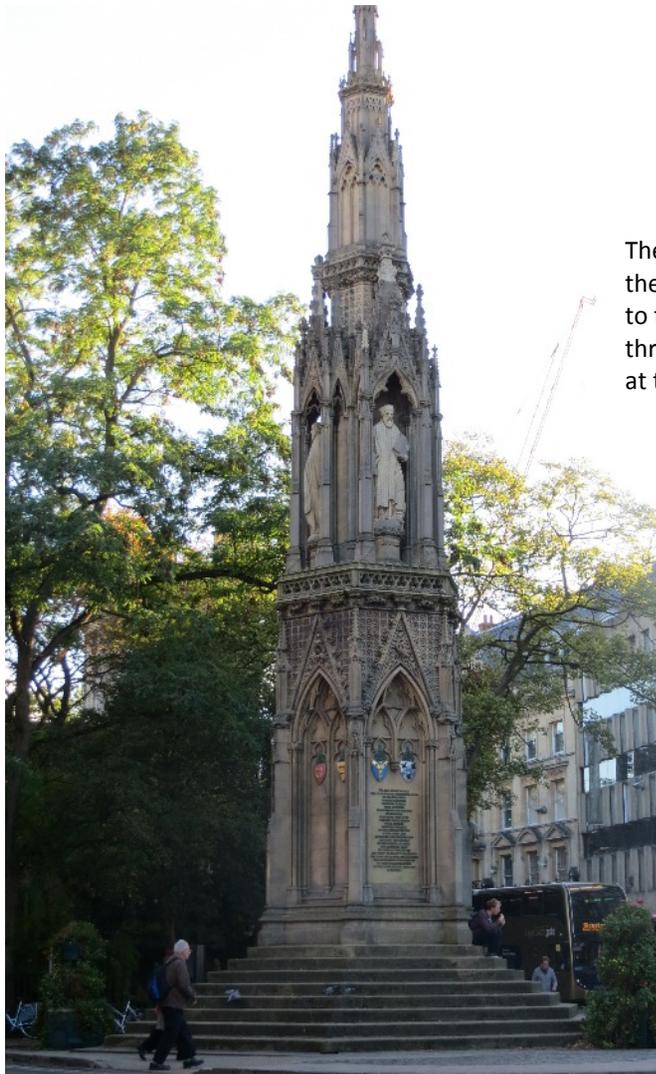
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Mrs. Perry Herrick ...	350	0	0	F. Woodcock, Esq. ...	50	0	0
Rev. Richard Burton (£115 special)	265	0	0	Rev. Canon and Mrs. E. Rose (£9. 10s. special)	49	10	0
J. Tebbutt, Esq. ...	250	0	0	Leicester Church Extension Society	40	0	0
H. R. Parker, Esq. (£13. 12s. 10d. special)	163	12	10	Mrs. F. Woodcock ...	36	0	0
J. R. Edmonds, Esq. (£100. special)	125	0	0	Mrs. Fead (special)	30	0	0
Mrs. G. E. Stanyon (£75. special)	82	7	0	Alfred Brodhurst, Esq. ...	25	0	0
Major Dyson ...	50	0	0	Rev. Gerard and Mrs. Hallett	25	0	0
W. H. Macaulay, Esq. (£20. special)	50	0	0	Mrs. Hole ...	25	0	0
Mrs. Rose ...	50	0	0	Mrs. Macaulay ...	25	0	0
Mrs. Archibald Smith ...	50	0	0	George Parker, Esq. ...	25	0	0
Mrs. Shackleton ...	50	0	0	Edward Warner, Esq. ...	25	0	0

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Rev. W. Acworth and family ...	21	0	0	The Bishop of Peterborough ...	5	0	0
C. A. Macaulay, Esq. ...	21	0	0	Sandbach Parker, Esq. ...	5	0	0
Anonymous ...	20	0	0	W. A. Pochin, Esq. ...	5	0	0
Rev. Canon Babington ...	20	0	0	Alfred Parker, Esq. ...	5	0	0
Messrs. R. and F. and Miss Fowke	20	0	0	His Grace the Duke of Rutland ...	5	0	0
C. H. B. Hambly, Esq. ...	20	0	0	C. M. Sidley, Esq. ...	5	0	0
Mountsorrel Granite Company ...	20	0	0	F. Simpson, Esq. ...	5	0	0
Professor Bonamy and Mrs. Price	20	0	0	Mr. Taylor (the late) ...	5	0	0
J. S. Crossley, Esq. ...	15	0	0	E. H. Warner, Esq. ...	5	0	0
Rev. B. T. and Mrs. Atlay (£10. special) ...	13	0	0	T. Smith Woolley, Esq. ...	5	0	0
Mrs. Tebbutt ...	10	10	0	Cleaver Woodcock, Esq. ...	5	0	0
Mrs. Burton ...	10	0	0	Miss M. A. Pagett ...	3	10	0
Mrs. Conybeare... ..	10	0	0	L. W. Cave, Esq., Q.C. ...	3	3	0
F. W. Clowes, Esq., M.P. ...	10	0	0	Mr. Joseph Hickling ...	3	3	0
Mrs. Dabbs ...	10	0	0	Mr. J. King ...	3	3	0
The Ven. Archdeacon Gray ...	10	0	0	C. E. Middleton, Esq. (the late) ...	3	3	0
Mrs. Kenneth Macaulay ...	10	0	0	Rev. E. N. Pochin ...	3	3	0
Rev. John Macaulay ..	10	0	0	C. Shakespear, Esq. ...	3	3	0
R. F. Martin, Esq. ...	10	0	0	Mr. G. E. Stanyon ...	3	3	0
T. W. Parr, Esq. ...	10	0	0	George Thorpe, Esq. ...	3	3	0
Sir W. H. Salt, Bart. ...	10	0	0	Miss C. Odell ...	3	0	0
W. J. Woolley, Esq. ...	10	0	0	Mrs. Payne ...	2	13	6
A. Dudley Parr, Esq. ...	7	10	0	Mrs. Eade ...	2	12	6
Mr. and Mrs. J. Boulton ...	7	7	0	Mrs. A. Burton-Brown (special) ...	2	10	0
Rev. O. Glover ...	6	0	0	Mrs. Gisborne ...	2	10	0
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hickling and Family ...	6	0	0	Walter Bowmar, Esq. ...	2	2	0
Mrs. Joynes ...	6	0	0	William Bowmar, Esq. ...	2	2	0
Rothley House Cricket Club, per F. Woodcock, Esq. ...	6	0	0	G. Braund, Esq. ...	2	2	0
Mrs. Matthew Babington ...	5	5	0	Rev. E. T. Cardale ...	2	2	0
J. Bate Cardale, Esq. ...	5	5	0	W. M. Hewatt, Esq. ...	2	2	0
Mr. J. T. Draycott ...	5	5	0	Mrs. Joseph Hickling and daughters	2	2	0
Alfred Ellis, Esq. (the late) ...	5	5	0	H. Humphreys, Esq. ...	2	2	0
T. W. Jee, Esq. ...	5	5	0	Rev. J. Fuller ...	2	2	0
T. H. Kinton, Esq. ...	5	5	0	C. T. Parker, Esq. ...	2	2	0
Messrs. Freer, Reeve, and Blunt ...	5	5	0	G. Sikes, Esq. ...	2	2	0
Mrs. J. S. Pagett ...	5	5	0	Mr. Henry Taylor ...	2	2	0
W. Somerville, Esq. ...	5	5	0	Rev. R. Titley ...	2	2	0
Rev. G. A. Acworth ...	5	0	0	Mrs. Thompson ...	2	2	0
R. Angrave, Esq. ...	5	0	0	Messrs. Thomson and Ranson ...	2	2	0
Mr. Biddles ...	5	0	0	J. Wigram, Esq. ...	2	2	0
G. T. Clark, Esq. ...	5	0	0	Henry Babington, Esq. ...	2	0	0
Miss Crouch ...	5	0	0	T. Brooks, Esq. ...	2	0	0
Miss Dodgson ...	5	0	0	Rev. J. W. Fletcher ...	2	0	0
Rev. Conyngnam Ellis ...	5	0	0	Friends ...	2	0	0
J. S. Gilliat, Esq. ...	5	0	0	Rev. Edward Gillson ...	2	0	0
J. S. Gun, Esq. ...	5	0	0	Rev. W. E. James (the late) ...	2	0	0
Right Hon. Lord John Manners, M.P.	5	0	0	Miss Miles ...	2	0	0
Rev. Joseph Mayor ...	5	0	0	Major Palmer ...	2	0	0
W. J. Martin, Esq. ...	5	0	0	Rev. H. B. Vale ...	2	0	0
Mrs. S. Macaulay ...	5	0	0	Miss Tilley ...	1	14	0
Mrs. Miles ...	5	0	0	Miss S. Woodbridge ...	1	13	0
Mrs. Parr ...	5	0	0	Miss Hollier ...	1	11	0
Mrs. Paulson ...	5	0	0	Mrs. Hellaby ...	1	10	0
				Miss Baker ...	1	10	0
				The Princess J. de Gagarene (10 Russian roubles) ...	1	3	4

After 1909

INTO THE MODERN ERA

After the death of Thomas Babington as Church Patron in 1837, the patronage (the right to nominate the next Vicar) became a piece of property that was bought and sold. Eventually it came to rest in the permanent control of the Martyrs Memorial Trust. The purpose of the Trust is to put Vicars in place who will in its judgement best *safeguard advance and promote the Protestant and Evangelical teaching of the Church of England*. The martyrs remembered are the Bishops Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, Hooper and Ferrer, who were all burnt at the stake for the Protestant religion.



The memorial edifice in the St Giles area of Oxford to those martyred Bishops, three of whom were burnt at the stake in Oxford.

Image courtesy of Adrian Witcombe



The tryptic Reredos at the east end of the north aisle, painted by Miss Goddard.

Image courtesy of Adrian Witcombe



The Great War deeply affected the Village, and led to the building of a magnificent commemorative Organ by subscription in memory of the 33 men who died. The painted tryptic in the north aisle lists their names in beautiful artwork.



Many interior changes have been made to keep the church suitable for a modern congregation. Holy Communion is now celebrated at a simple table amongst the people on a low platform in front of the medieval screen.

VICARS OF ROTHLEY

1277	William Brewer.	1608	Adrian Babington. M.A.
1284	William of Barwell.	1625-6	William Staveley. M.A.
1297	William of Warwick.	1653	Richard Maden
1297	Gilbert Brewer.	1661	Edward Ward
1306	Thomas of Billesdon.	1691	Samuel Daniel. M.A.
1309	William of Tavistock.	1735-6	William Babington. LL.B.
1329	William of Halton.	1759	George Cardale
1341	John of Chalford.	1770	William Babington. LL.B.
1343	John of Ashby.	1783	Henry Woodcock. LL.B.
1346	Richard of Overton.	1787	Matthew Babington. M.A.
1349	John of Stoke.	1796	Aulay Macaulay
1376	John Cannewyk.	1819	Joseph Rose. M.A.
1383	William Dunstable. Raymund Barker.	1820	Joseph Rose. M.A.
1392	Robert Burgh.	1823	John Babington. M.A.
1402-3	Richard Killom.	1836	William Acworth. M.A.
1408-9	William Seuster.	1853	Henry John Shakleton
1441, 1461	John Derby.	1869	Richard Burton. M.A.
1476	John Persons.	1909	Sam ^l J ⁿ Wood ^{se} Sanders. M.A.
1519	Robert Pachett. LL.B.	1916	Lewis Henry Pearson. B.A.
1528	James Willen. DEC. BAC.	1926	Alf ^d Tho ^s Gardner Blackmore. M.A.
1532	William Duckett.	1933	Di ^{id} Hamilt ⁿ Ashford Smith. L TH .
1533	Hugh Woodcoke.	1938	Ch ^{is} L nd Routh Becher. B.A.
1550	John Melwyn.	1946	John William Joyce. M.A.
1553	John Burgland. William Heytheot.	1955	John George Hunting. O.C.F.
1556-7	Thomas Caslyn.	1971	Anthony Walter Gough. M.A. Dip. Th.
1561-2	Harold Pagett.	1980	David C. Kirkwood BA
1567	Robert Kendall.	1992	Nick Baines
		2001	Rob. Gladstone

The roll of Incumbents since 1277.

Image courtesy of Adrian Witcombe