



# Mission Church Paxford Gloucestershire

## Historic Building Investigation and Recording

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# Mission Church, Paxford, Gloucestershire

## *Historic Building Investigation and Recording*

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## Summary

The former Mission Church in Paxford, near Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire is currently being converted to holiday rental accommodation and Oxford Archaeology (OA) has undertaken historic building recording at the site as a condition of planning approval.

The building was constructed in 1866, initially opening as an infant school for 100 children but it was also licensed to take church services within the first year. In 1870 a new stained glass window was added at the east end and then in 1886 an extension was added at the west end to provide a separate school room. A small set of WCs was also added at the south-western corner of the building.

The school closed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (thought to be 1921) but the church continued to take services until 2016 and then in 2018 its licence was formally revoked.

The former Mission Church is a prominent landmark within Paxford and the conversion is providing it with a new use which will ensure its continued future maintenance. The conversion will see minimal alterations to the external form of the building and its ecclesiastical origins will remain easily identifiable.

The current recording has helped document the building for posterity, prior to its conversion, and it has enhanced understanding of its evolution. It has provided a formal record of features or elements that will be altered and identified evidence of former features.

The main heritage significance of the building is probably its general contribution to the character of the village and Paxford Conservation Area but more specific features of interest include the entrance porch with 'Infant 1866 School' written above it, decorative floor tiles within the porch, the screen which divided the school room, the stained glass window at the east end and historic graffiti in the room above the chancel with names and various dates from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Several features have also been exposed during the initial minor works including a blocked former fireplace in the north wall and the hearth of a fireplace in the school room.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Geoff Bolam to undertake archaeological building recording at the Mission Church, Paxford, in Gloucestershire prior to its conversion to a 2-bedroom holiday property. The property is not listed but lies within the Paxford Conservation Area and a listed War Memorial is positioned on land adjacent to the Church. Due to its age, architectural and historic interest, the Church is identified as a non-designated heritage asset as set out within the criteria of EN12 of the local plan.

1.1.2 The former church is now redundant and the conversion will secure its future by providing it with a new viable, long term use. The works will also include remedial works such as addressing the damp within the building.

1.1.3 The recording work is being undertaken as a condition of planning permission and listed building consent, planning references 19/03793/FUL. Condition 11 of the grant of planning permission states:

1.1.4 *'No development to the dwelling hereby approved shall take place within the application site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of Architectural recording - Building recording in accordance with 'Understanding Historic Buildings - a Guide to Good Recording Practice' Level 3 recommended as the property has been empty for a number of years and the findings can be added to the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record which is a public record. This shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'*

1.1.5 All work were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2019) and Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (2016).

### 1.2 Scope of conversion works

1.2.1 The building is largely unaltered since it ceased functioning as a church and is currently uninhabitable as a domestic dwelling. Planning permission has been approved to convert the interior of the church to provide, bedrooms, bathroom facilities and an open plan living area, as well the insertion of utilities and as necessary maintenance and repair to the structure.

1.2.2 Details of the conversion are set out in the planning documentation and in the Design and Access Statement. In summary, they include:

- the removal the concrete slab floor and replacement with a limecrete floor and under floor heating throughout the open plan ground floor;
- the insertion of a kitchen comprising island units with services concealed in the floor and ceiling, the conversion of the classroom at the west end to a bedroom and en-suite, and the insertion of a mezzanine for a second bedroom and en-suite that would occupy approximately 50% of the nave;

- the roof will be restored and insulation will be installed throughout;
- secondary double glazing to be installed in all windows, replacement of concrete pointing with lime mortar and replacement of external rain goods;
- new ventilation systems installed for the bathroom and kitchen and the installation of a wood burning stove and a fire safety system;
- the structure will be reroofed, reusing as many of the existing tiles as possible, the stonework will be cleaned and repointed and the red brick walls of an old lavatory that has fallen into disrepair will be removed.

### 1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The principal aim of the current project was;

- to investigate and record for posterity Mission Church in Paxford prior to alterations;
- to enhance the overall understanding of the building's heritage;
- to make the record publicly accessible through a report (a public document) and a project archive deposited with a public institution.

### 1.4 Building recording methodology

1.4.1 The building recording was undertaken at Level 3, as defined by Historic England in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*.

1.4.2 The site recording was undertaken in June 2020 and it consisted of three main elements: a drawn record, a descriptive, written record and a photographic record. The photographic record was carried out using a digital camera with up to 24-megapixel capability. The drawn record comprised existing floor plans of the building annotated to explain and interpret the structure in terms of its history, architecture, alteration and use. Phasing and archaeological detail such as the location of blocked openings, changes in construction, etc. will be added to the drawings. The written record complemented the other elements of the work and provided a detailed descriptive analysis of the building.

1.4.3 OA's main recording was undertaken prior to the start of conversion works although Geoff Bolam has helpfully forwarded a small number of photographs showing elements of the building which have been exposed during initial minor works (eg lifting of carpets in the school room).

## 2 BACKGROUND HISTORY

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following historical background incorporates much information from the detailed *Heritage Impact Assessment Statement* issued by James Mackintosh Architects as well as from other sources. The Heritage Impact Assessment consulted primary material held at the Gloucestershire Archives including school log books. At the time of writing this recording report the Gloucestershire Archives are closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic and they have not been separately visited. However the information they hold has been included in the *Heritage Impact Assessment* and it therefore feeds into the current report.

### 2.2 Paxford

2.2.1 Paxford is a small village at the northern edge of the parish of Blockley in Gloucestershire (in Worcestershire until 1931). Historically, it was a part of lands that belonged to the Manor of Blockley, usually held by the Bishop of Worcester. Paxford remained in his possession until 1648 when it was sold to William Combe and shortly after that was granted again to the church. The Bishops held courts here until 1781 when the manorial rights were then not granted. A manuscript dated to 1661 in the Library of Jesus College confirms that Paxford once had a chapel, that no longer exists, but the site where it stood is now known as Chapel Close. The Inclosure Act for Paxford was passed in 1772. Paxford developed as a farming community, unlike the nearby Blockley, which was more industrial and had 12 water mills in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

2.2.2 The village consists of plain stone houses with building materials provided by the stone quarries that have been located in the parish since the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

2.2.3 The village hall in Paxford opened in 1910. Shortly after World War I, a memorial was erected in a prominent position in the village adjacent to the Mission Church. The memorial is now Grade II listed and Paxford is a Conservation Area.

### 2.3 Paxford Mission Church

2.3.1 The Mission Church in Paxford was originally constructed in 1866 as an infant school for 100 children with the cost provided by a Mrs Gilbert Elliot, then a resident of Paxford. Half of the bell and the clock were paid for by a Mr Richard Reynolds. The architect is unknown but as with many schools in the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was built in an ecclesiastical style and was intended to be used for Divine service on Sundays. Original architectural features include a four-centred arch in the Chancel, a steep bell-cot with a clock below, trefoil lancets and a patterned tile floor.

2.3.2 Within a year, the building was licenced for services by the Bishop of Worcester as a place of service. It was one of two subsidiary mission churches under the auspices of the main parish church in Blockley; the other one being in Draycott. These two mission churches would have relied on funding from the main Blockley Church.

2.3.3 In c.1870 a stained glass by Holland and Holt of Warwick was added to the east window.

- 2.3.4 The History of Blockley, written in 1875 by Rev AJ Soden (quoted in the *Heritage Impact Assessment*) states that *'The Chancel, according to the Government requirement (1870 Education Act) is shut off during the week from the other portion of the room, which is used as an infant school'*. This is likely to have related to attempts to separate the church from schools; these efforts were strengthened in the coming decades (discussed further below).
- 2.3.5 The building is shown on the 25 inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1884 with the site labelled as *Church & School* (Fig 2a). The building is shorter than it is today because the western extension had not yet been constructed although it is interesting to note that there was a small structure at the west end, detached from the main church and with a narrow passage between it and the main building. This may have been a set of WCs for the school.
- 2.3.6 In 1886, Rev EJ Houghton granted the sum of eight pounds to enlarge the school on the condition that it become a mixed National School that would educate the poor of Paxford, and the nave was extended to the west to provide a school room which was partitioned off from the main nave during the week.
- 2.3.7 The 1900 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 2b) shows the building with the 1886 extension as well as with a small structure at the south-west corner. These were presumably WCs although the structure shown is smaller than the ruined brick WCs which remain in this location today. They would just have been on the western half of the footprint of today's structure. The building is again labelled *Church and School*.
- 2.3.8 School logbooks from 1898-1921 were consulted in preparation of the *Heritage Impact Assessment* by James Macintosh Architects and these provide useful information on the school in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. These report that in 1903 unspecified internal repairs were undertaken and in 1905 repairs were made to the school door by Mr Keyte, from a local firm of wheelwrights and carpenters. Also in 1905 a wash hand basin was added to the lavatory after a complaint by the HM Inspector of schools regarding ventilation, condition of the lavatory accommodation and lack of water supply for drinking purposes. However, two years later in 1907 the County Architect visited in relation to the recommendations for ventilation made by the HM Inspector and he decided they were unnecessary. He stated that *'in the main room there are already 4 windows, 4 ventilators in walls and three ventilator opening outward in the roof, while in the Class Room there are 3 windows and 1 widow in roof, in addition to a ventilator in roof dividing the Class Room from Main Room'*.
- 2.3.9 The building is referred to in the Victoria County History for Gloucestershire, published in 1913 thus: *'the school, built in 1866, is used for church services'* and this is a useful confirmation that at this date the building was still primarily a school rather than a church.
- 2.3.10 The next Ordnance Survey map (revised in 1919 and published 1923) again labels the building as a *Church & School* and there is no separate building shown at the south-west corner (ie WCs).
- 2.3.11 In 1921, the school closed but the building remained a place of worship. In January 1948 the 17<sup>th</sup>-century alter table was temporarily transferred from Blockley Church to

Paxford and in 1949, after considering changes to the building's heating it was decided to leave the old fireplace and add tubular heating on the south wall. In 2013 the clock was restored by Frank Sanders of Alcester.

2.3.12 The building remained a place of worship until 2016 and in 2018, the Bishop of Gloucester revoked the license for the church, allowing it to close and be put up for sale. Paxford Mission Church was sold by formal tender in October 2018 to Geoff and Julie Bolam.

### **2.3.13 Development of elementary education in the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

2.3.14 As the building was originally constructed as a school it would be useful to provide some background to the development of elementary education in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

2.3.15 Prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was little formal education available to the children of the poor other than ad hoc establishments such as individual 'dame schools' or that provided by enlightened industrialists for their workforces. In 1811 the National Society for Promoting Religious Education was established and this began what was known as the 'National Schools' movement, an attempt to provide elementary education to children of the poor in England and Wales based on the teachings of the Church of England. The movement expanded from 1833 when the state began to pay annual grants to the society.

2.3.16 In the later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries the provision of education underwent various changes at a national level and the state began to replace the church as the principal driving force behind elementary education.

2.3.17 The 1870 Education Act created a framework to allow new school boards to be established, elected by local ratepayers, although this was intended to be alongside the National Schools and the act encouraged churches to build new schools by covering part of their maintenance costs. The National Society responded by almost doubling the number of its schools in the next 15 years although it struggled with competition from the board schools and many National Schools were closed or were transferred to the boards.

2.3.18 In 1880 education was made compulsory for children up to the age of 10 and this was then raised twice before the end of the century.

2.3.19 In 1902 a new Education Act passed which led to the closure of the school boards and the transfer of their powers to county councils. One impact of this was an increase in funding available for school building.

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF MISSION CHURCH

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The Mission Church in Paxford is located in a prominent position alongside the main road through the village and facing the Grade II listed Churchill Arms Public House. It is set at the east end of a large open field with distant views of the building from along a public footpath. Immediately to the north-east of the building is a war memorial within a small fenced enclosure.

### 3.2 External Description

3.2.1 The church is constructed from Cotswold stone and the gabled roof is covered in clay tiles arranged in roughly equal sized bands of 'fish-scale' tiles and conventional square-edged tiles. The main body of the church has a rectangular plan with raised ridges at each gable and a bell-cot tower at the eastern end. Beyond the bell-cot is a slightly smaller projection which houses the chancel and extends towards the road. On the southern side of the building is a gabled entrance porch, again with raised stone gable and clay tiles to match the main building and above the doorway is written 'Infant 1866 School' in Gothic script. Immediately west of the porch are the remains of a brick WC outhouse which adjoins the church at its south-west corner.

3.2.2 The *north elevation* of both the main church and chancel is constructed from coursed, roughly squared stone blocks with larger ashlar stones at the quoins. There are three 2-light windows in the main wall of the church, with cross-leaded glazing, although the westernmost one is within the 1886 extension. Each light has a trefoil arch above it, a sloped sill and ashlar surrounding the opening. The window in the 1886 extension closely matches the primary ones although it is noticeable that the lintel in this window is formed from two pieces of stone rather than three.

3.2.3 The ashlar quoin at the western edge of the primary part of the elevation is visible in the lower half of the building, with a straight joint between the original stonework and that from 1886, but above this the stonework has been keyed together.

3.2.4 There is a clear horizontal distinction in the 1886 extension between the lower part which is constructed with a light yellow colour, similar to the colour of the stonework in the original building, and the upper part which is more golden. This horizontal line is immediately below the window sill and it is likely that the lower part of the wall was constructed reusing the stone from the original west wall.

3.2.5 There are two areas on the north side of the roof where the lowest band of the distinctive fish-scale tiles have been replaced with conventional tiles. One of these patches coincides with the junction with the 1886 extension while the other is between the central and eastern windows. There is known to have been fireplaces at each of these locations within the building (discussed further below) so presumably these differences in the roof tiles relate to former chimneys here and the replacement of the tiles after their dismantling. Historic vents remain either side of each former chimney which feed vents on either side of the fireplace.

- 3.2.6 The **east elevation** faces the main road and is again largely constructed with coursed stonework. The chancel projection is slightly smaller than the main church and at the centre of this elevation is a three-light stained glass window, known to have been inserted in 1870, and above this a trefoil light with leaded glass. At the junction of the main building and chancel is the gabled bell cot tower, constructed from ashlar and with shouldered sides. The bell is within a Gothic arched opening and beneath this is a clock. The gable is steeply angled and at the apex is a cross.
- 3.2.7 The **South elevation** flanks the main pathway to the entrance porch and it faces onto a small garden with simple low metal fence. The original part of the elevation has two 2-light windows with trefoil arches and leaded glass and its northern end is marked by the projecting gabled entrance porch. The porch has a raised ridge to the gable, moulded kneelers and in its south elevation is a single light window with trefoil arch. Above this is an historic ventilation grille. The doorway on the east side of the porch has a four-centred arch with chamfered ashlar jambs and 'Infant 1866 School' written above.
- 3.2.8 To the west of the porch the main wall of the building is from the 1886 extension it incorporates another single-light window with trefoil arch above. Most of the stonework in this part of the elevation is a light yellow colour and may have reused stonework from the original west wall of the building but the area immediately east of the window is a darker gold colour stone. This golden colour stone incorporates the sloped scar from a former adjoining WC structure (Pl. 19; discussed further below).
- 3.2.9 The **west elevation** is constructed from coursed stone with larger blocks of ashlar at the gables and kneeler stones at the eaves. Similarly to the north elevation there is a clear distinction in the type/colour of stone used in the upper and lower halves. There is a horizontal line just below the building's eaves height and while below this line the stonework is a light custard yellow the stone above it is a darker gold colour. The elevation comprises a main three light window and a small trefoil light towards the apex of the gable.
- 3.2.10 **Outhouse:** The space between the south wall of the 1886 extension and the west wall of the porch housed a set of earth toilets (this is correct as far as we know) presumably originally constructed for the school, and this area is enclosed by a partially surviving L-shaped red brick wall (Pl. 15-16). The south wall is laid in header bond that in the west wall is laid in a version of Flemish stretcher bond. The roof from the former WCs has been entirely lost and little survives from the interior other than fragments of two brick walls which divided three bays against the east face of the west wall. The area has a simple blue brick paved floor although it is largely obscured by vegetation.
- 3.2.11 The west wall has a stone coping while the western half of the south wall slopes. The east half of the south wall also has a stone coping. The slope of the brickwork in the south wall of this enclosure mirrors the slope of the scar referred to above in the stonework of the 1886 extension and it appears that the WC structure had a roof which sloped inwards to form a central valley. Presumably this would have been to avoid blocking the window in the main building.
- 3.2.12 There is some doubt regarding the exact date of this structure. The bricks are suggestive of a very late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup>-century date and the school is understood

to have closed in 1921 (from information in the *Heritage Impact Assessment*) so presumably it was before then. However, the Ordnance Survey map of 1919 does not show a building in this location, although an earlier one does. A photograph from around turn of the century included in the *Heritage Impact Assessment* includes a structure here, shown in the background of the image.

3.2.13 It is also useful to note that another image contained in the *Heritage Impact Assessment*, dating from 1977 shows the structure, apparent intact.

### 3.3 Internal description

3.3.1 The interior of the building divides into four main areas: the nave, the chancel, the school room and the porch.

#### 3.3.2 *The nave.*

3.3.3 The main room of the church (the nave) is open plan with walls largely plastered but now with exposed stonework below window sill height; this stonework was historically plastered but it is likely to have been removed to alleviate damp. As detailed above there are two 2-light windows to the main walls and each of these is lined in ashlar which was until recently painted; this paint was recently removed on the recommendation of a conservation architect to allow the stone to breathe.

3.3.4 At the east end of the nave is a four-centred arched opening through to the chancel while at the west end is a lancet arched opening with a pair of large wooden sliding double doors which must date from 1886 when the schoolroom beyond was added.

3.3.5 Towards the centre of the north wall there is a former fireplace between the windows which was blocked, probably in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the chimney removed. When the main recording was undertaken the blocking remained in-situ with a shallow arch and a truncated mantelpiece above (Pl. 35-36) but Geoff Bolam has more recently removed the blocking and provided photographs (Pl. 68-69).

3.3.6 The floor in the nave is covered in paving slabs (47 cm<sup>2</sup>) but these are relatively modern and of no heritage significance; they are being removed in the current development.

3.3.7 The font had been removed prior to the current recording under an ancient statute which the owner had been told dictated that when a church is deconsecrated the font must be removed and broken up (Pl. 38). The main pews had also been removed.

3.3.8 The roof is constructed from two pine scissors brace trusses, recently stripped of paint, with two butt purlins to each slope. No scarf joints are visible in the purlins and the main joints in the trusses are secured by iron bolts.

3.3.9 The trusses are also strengthened by plates on top of the scissors braces although these are largely obscured from the ground. There are clearly metal plates on top of the lower parts of the scissors braces, secured with pairs of bolts and these plates then appear to be sandwiched between the junction of the braces and the underside of the principal rafters. This detail is obscured however.

3.3.10 There are two small timber bearers on the upper purlins in each of the two northernmost bays (Pl. 45) and it appears that these held a cable or a cord which ran

- longitudinally along the church and operated the hammer of the bell in the bell cot. Aligned with these at the western end of the nave there is a small hole in the wall with a pulley on the western side within the school room (Pl. 46). Presumably the cord or cable would then have extended down towards the floor within the school room.
- 3.3.11 A similar although later wire is still in-situ fixed to the upper purlin on the north side of the building and extending down the wall in the school room.
- 3.3.12 **The school room** is at the west end of the building and is within the extension added in 1886. As referred to above it is separated from the main nave by a door within the set of large sliding doors. The upper halves of the walls are plastered while the lower halves are clad in vertical boarding. At the south-eastern corner of the room is an open cupboard with hooks for robes.
- 3.3.13 At the north-east corner of the room is a primary brick fireplace that remains open, with chamfered edges to the segmental arched opening and a timber mantelpiece (Pl. 62). To either side there are small iron loops which may have held a simple fireguard.
- 3.3.14 Geoff Bolam has forwarded OA photographs during the works which show that when they lifted the carpet in the school room this exposed a red-and-black chequerboard tiled hearth, immediately in front of the fireplace, which match the tiles in the porch (Pl. 63). In photographs they appear to be white and black, rather than red and black, possibly due to salts or glue residue.
- 3.3.15 The lifting of the carpet also showed that the room has a suspended joist floor covered almost entirely by narrow, secondary boards. The only exception to this are the ends of a small number of wider primary boards which survive immediately adjacent to the hearth (Pl. 64).
- 3.3.16 Mr Bolam has also forwarded some other photographs during the minor works so far undertaken in this area which show that the lower parts of the jambs to the main opening to the School Room were reformed in brick, confirming that the opening was secondary (at least in this form). Some of the stones which would have been removed from the wall when the doorway was formed appear to have been used in the north wall, immediately adjacent to the fireplace (Pl. 66).
- 3.3.17 The photographs also show the stonework within part of the formerly external (west) face of the wall to the south of the doorway. This stonework is coursed, squared blocks and of better quality than the less regular blocks in the adjacent southern wall.
- 3.3.18 The common rafters are visible within this room, with plaster between, similar to the roof of the main nave.
- 3.3.19 **The Chancel** is located within the projection at the eastern end of the church and it is linked to the nave through a large four-centred arched opening. The floor of the chancel has primary boards and it is only slightly higher than the floor in the nave. There is a very simple rail between the chancel and nave with decorative ironwork beneath.
- 3.3.20 The walls of the chancel are plastered and painted a light mint green colour. The east wall incorporates a pointed arch opening with stained glass window which includes the lettering 'To the Glory of God and to the beloved memory of Mary Elliot born 28

Oct 1850 Died 13 Jan 1870'. Below this, on the window sill is a brass plaque with Gothic lettering stating: 'this window was placed here by the inhabitants of this hamlet: and others of the neighbourhood who knew and loved her'

- 3.3.21 A set of block weights relating to the clock mechanism survive, within a primary boarded shaft at the north-west corner of the chancel. The floor incorporates a trimmer surrounding this.
- 3.3.22 Above the chancel is a small clock chamber which is accessible via a ladder through a hatch at the north-west corner (Pl. 50-53). The floor of this room comprises east-to-west chamfered softwood joists with plaster between.
- 3.3.23 The loft room has a boarded floor and primary lath and plaster and a single purlin to each slope of the roof. The gabled east wall of the room is largely of exposed stone but there is brickwork immediately either side of the trefoil light which illuminates the room. The west wall of this small room is partly hidden behind a timber frame which supports the pendulum for the external clock immediately above but it can be seen to be largely brick and to incorporate a recess beneath a shallow brick arch. There must be a shaft within the arch of this recess up to the clock but this was obscured by a board at the time of the recording.
- 3.3.24 At the north-western corner of the room the weights for the clock mechanism can be seen suspended by wires in the boarded shaft at the corner of the chancel (referred to above). The wires pass over pulley wheels at the top of the shaft and then extend to the clock via a further wheel fixed to the pendulum frame. A small plaque beneath the clock states that it was restored in 2013 by Frank Sanders of Alcester.
- 3.3.25 One of the interesting features of the room is the collection of historic graffiti (names and dates) written on the walls. Several of the names are from members of the Keyte family who were wheelwrights and carpenters in Paxford. The names include:
- Earnest Jeffrey, Todenham, 29.10.17. (Todenham is a village c.5 miles from Paxford)
  - G Keyte Wheelwright and carpenter, Paxford;
  - P Keyte, July 2007.
  - H Fisher, May 1 1931
  - P Keyte 1971
  - Donald C Keyte, Nov 1938;
  - G Keyte, Feb 1934;
  - Shiela Taplin April 21st 1947;
- 3.3.26 There are various other less legible names with dates 1914, 1938, 1925, 1881.

## 4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 The Mission Church in Paxford is an attractive stone building which enhances the character of the local conservation area and helps illustrate two distinct historic elements of village life: religious life and school life. The building was originally constructed in 1866 as an elementary school and in the first year it was licensed to take church services. It was then enlarged in 1886 to provide a separate school room, reflecting wider national trends in this period to separate formal education and the Church.
- 4.1.2 The school closed in 1921 but the church remained a place of worship until 2016 and it is currently undergoing a conversion to provide holiday accommodation. This will guarantee a sustainable future of the unlisted building and ensure its continued maintenance. The conversion will also be possible without major alterations to the building's external form.
- 4.1.3 It is located in a prominent position on the main road through the village, opposite to the Grade II listed Churchill Arms and immediately adjacent to the war memorial. It is also prominently visible from a public footpath which passes the church and extends through the large open field to the west.
- 4.1.4 A programme of historic building recording has been undertaken as a planning condition and this has provided a formal record of the building for posterity. It has documented the overall form of the building as well as specific features of interest.

## APPENDIX A      BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Published sources

Historic England (2016) *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*

### Unpublished reports

James Macintosh Architects *Mission church Paxford: Heritage Impact Assessment Statement* (Sept 2019)

### Websites

<https://www.old-maps.co.uk>

<https://maps.nls.uk/>

'Parishes: Blockley', in *A History of the County of Worcester: Volume 3* (London, 1913), pp. 265-276. British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/worcs/vol3/pp265-276> [accessed 15 November 2020].

**APPENDIX B****SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

<b>Site name:</b>	Mission Church, Paxford, Gloucestershire
<b>Site code:</b>	OAPAM20
<b>Grid Reference</b>	SP 18442 37810
<b>Type:</b>	Building recording
<b>Date and duration:</b>	June 2020
<b>Summary of Results:</b>	Level 3 building recording of a former Victorian school and mission church in Paxford, Gloucestershire. The original building was constructed in 1866 and it was extended at the west end in 1886. The school closed in 1921 but it continued taking services until 2016. The recording was undertaken as a planning condition prior to the building's conversion to holiday rental accommodation.
<b>Location of archive:</b>	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Gloucestershire County Museum Service in due course.



Figure 1: Site location

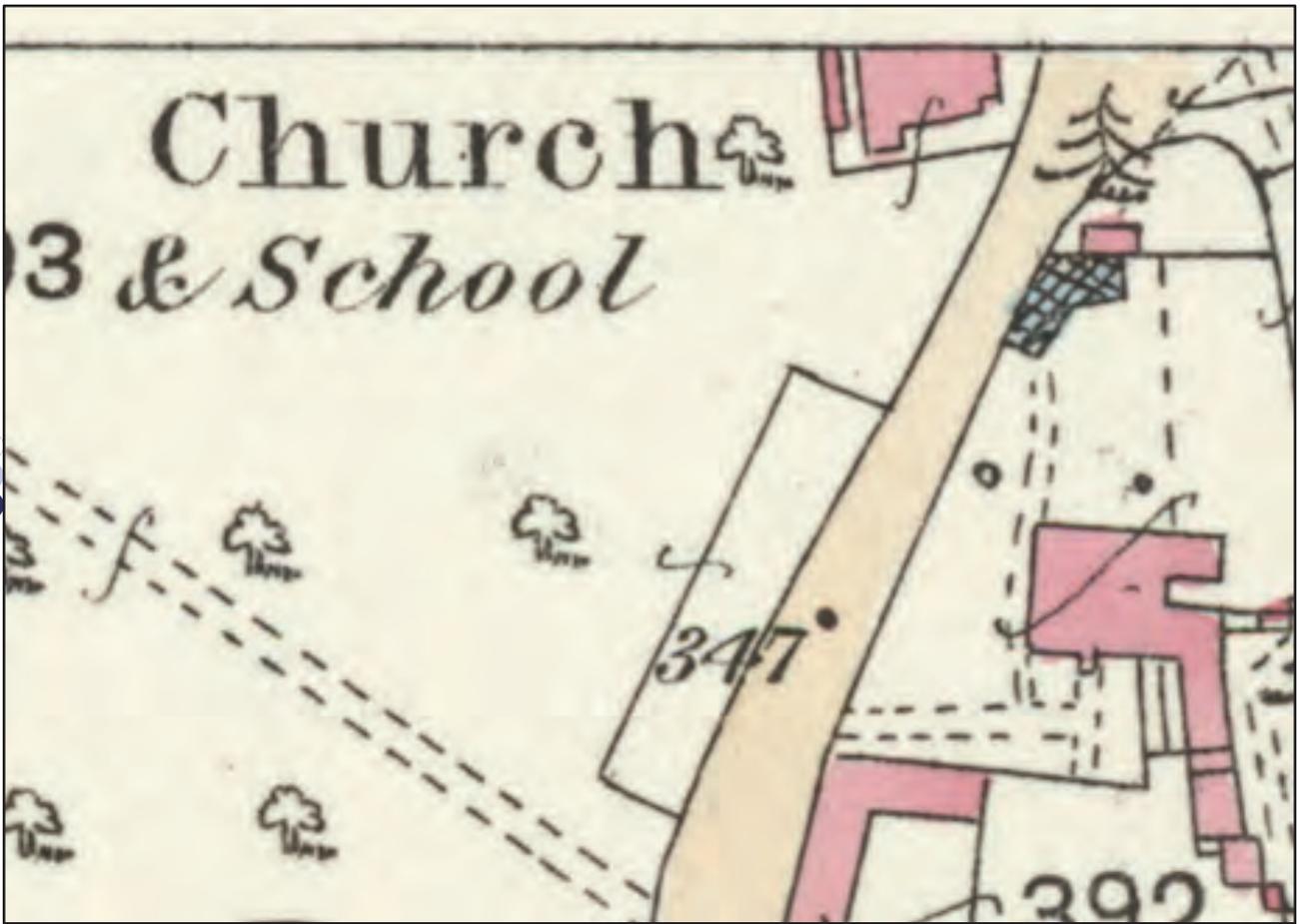


Figure 2a: 1884 Ordnance Survey map

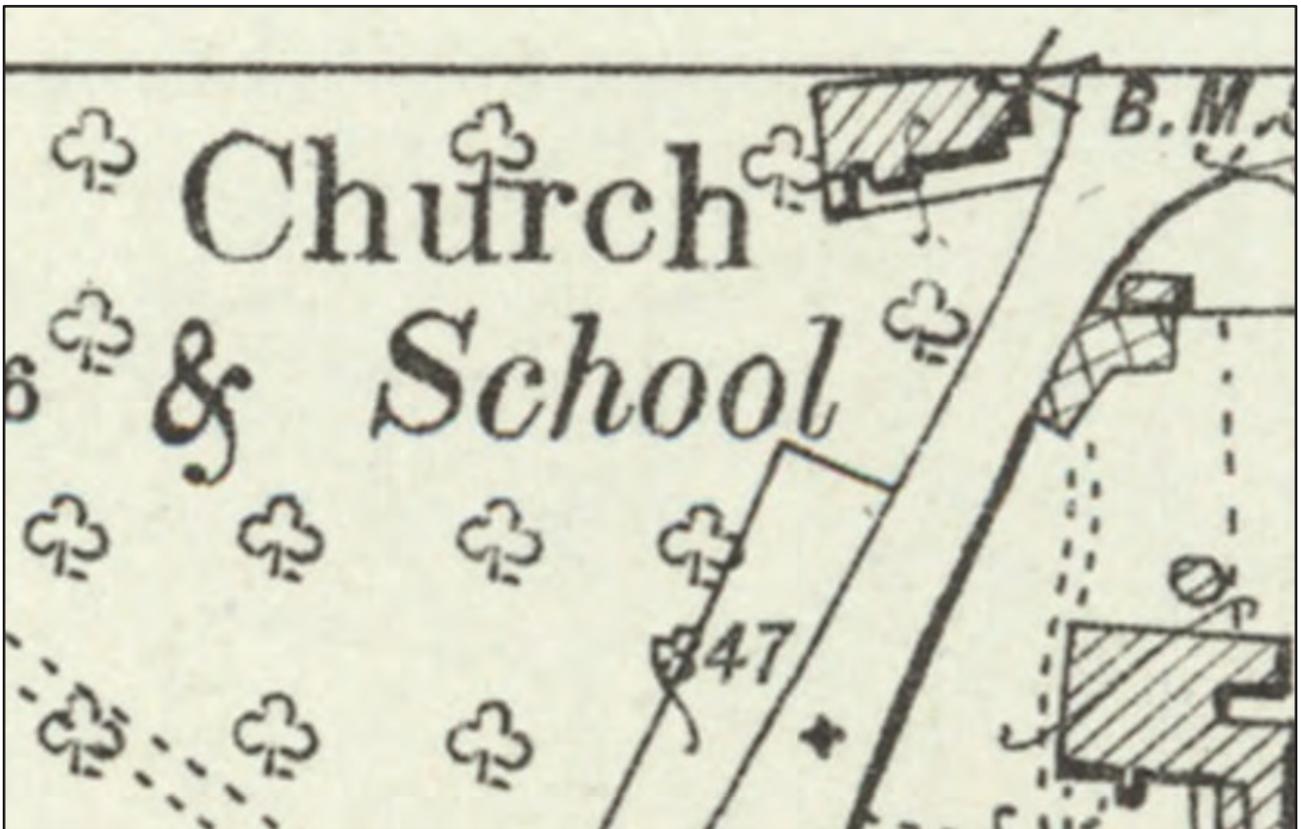


Figure 2b: 1900 Ordnance Survey map

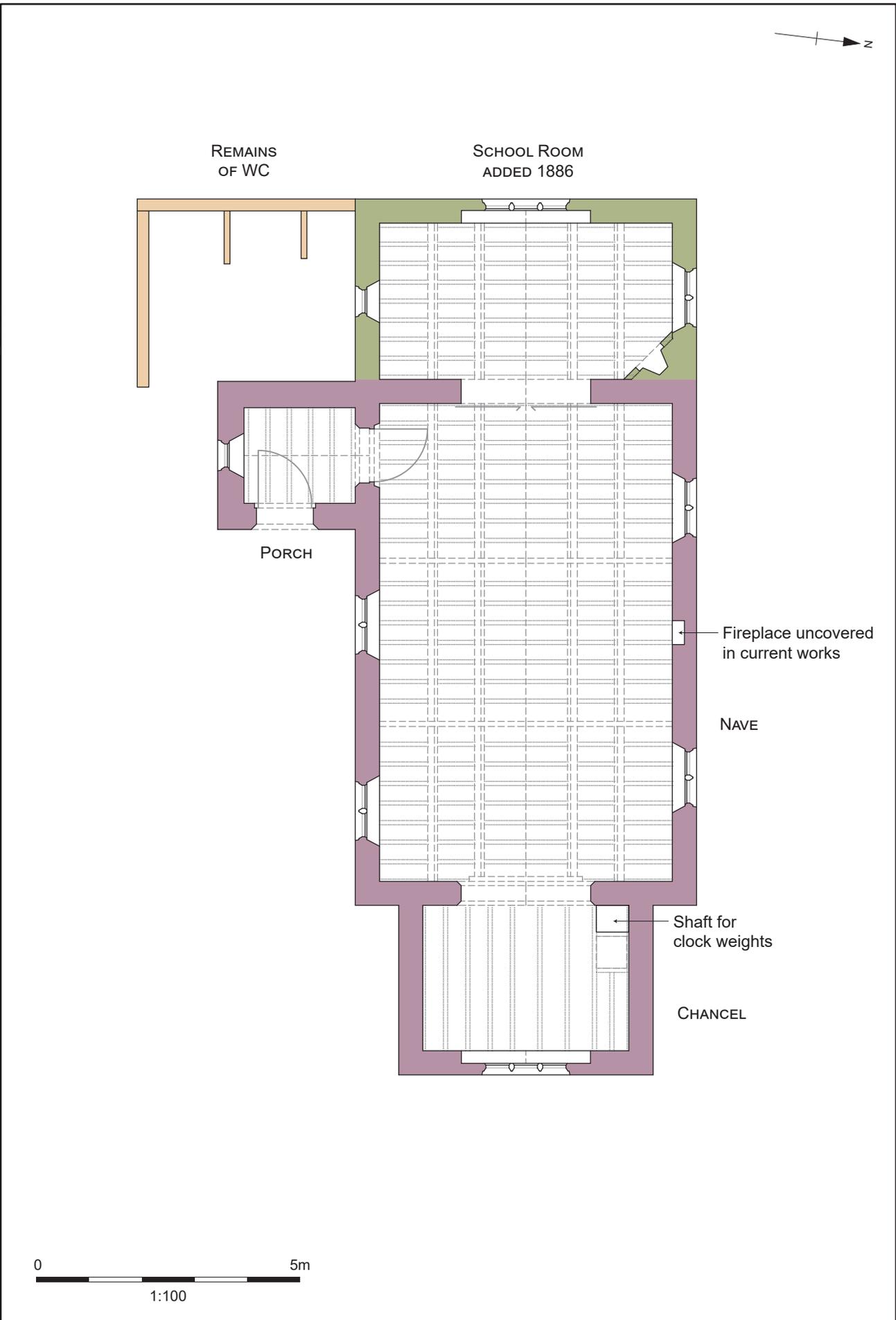
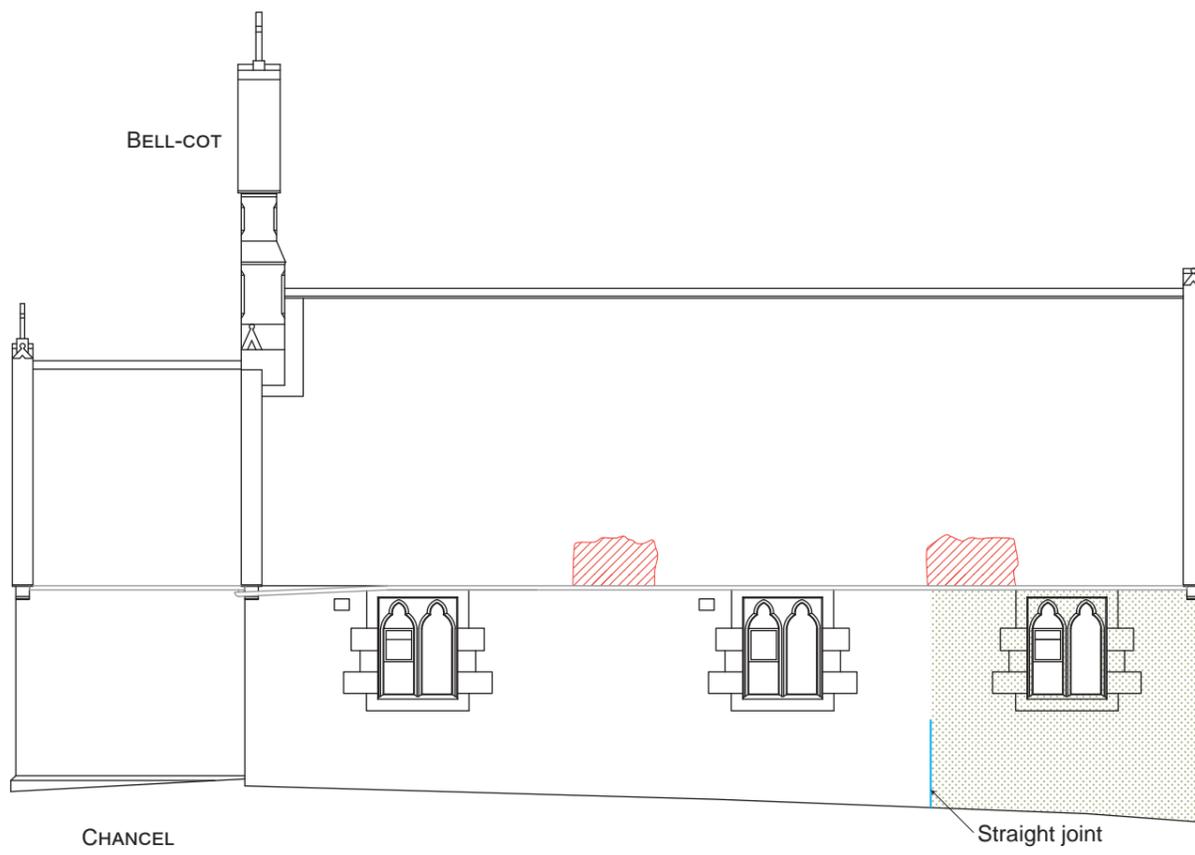
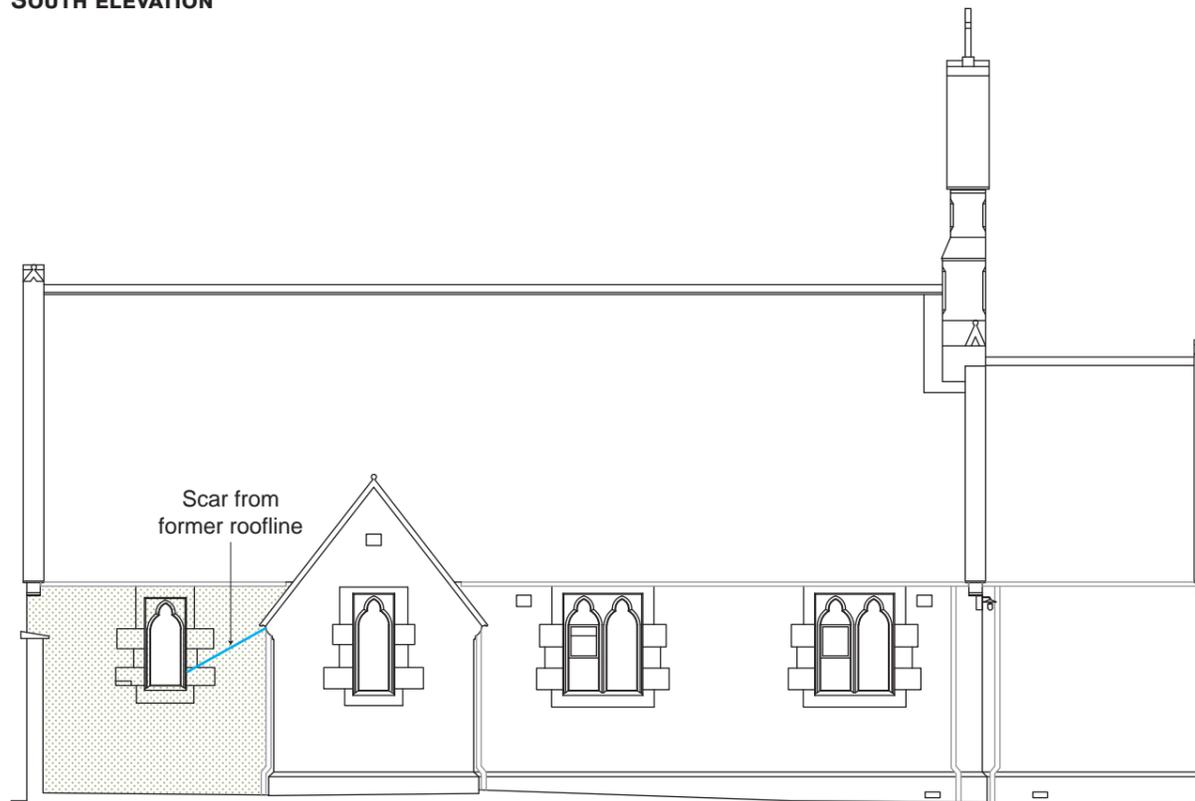


Figure 3: Ground floor plan

### NORTH ELEVATION



### SOUTH ELEVATION



-  1886 extension
-  Area of roof tiles reformed indicating removed chimney



Figure 4: South and north elevations

### WEST ELEVATION



Window inserted 1870

 1886 extension

0  5m  
1:100

### EAST ELEVATION



Figure 5: East and west elevations



Plate 1: Paxford Church from north-east



Plate 2: General view of Paxford church from east



Plate 3: Listed war memorial with church behind



Plate 4: East elevation of church

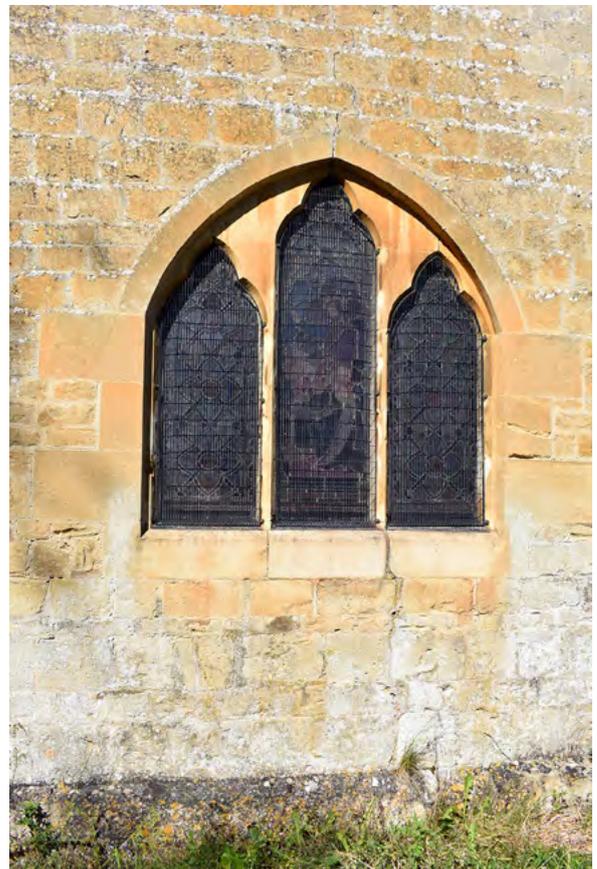


Plate 5: Stained glass window inserted in 1870 at east end



Plate 6: North side of chancel projection



Plate 7: North elevation of church



Plate 8: Easternmost window in north elevation of church



Plate 9: Western half of north elevation of church



Plate 10: Central part of north elevation of church



Plate 11: Western part of north elevation, including 1886 extension

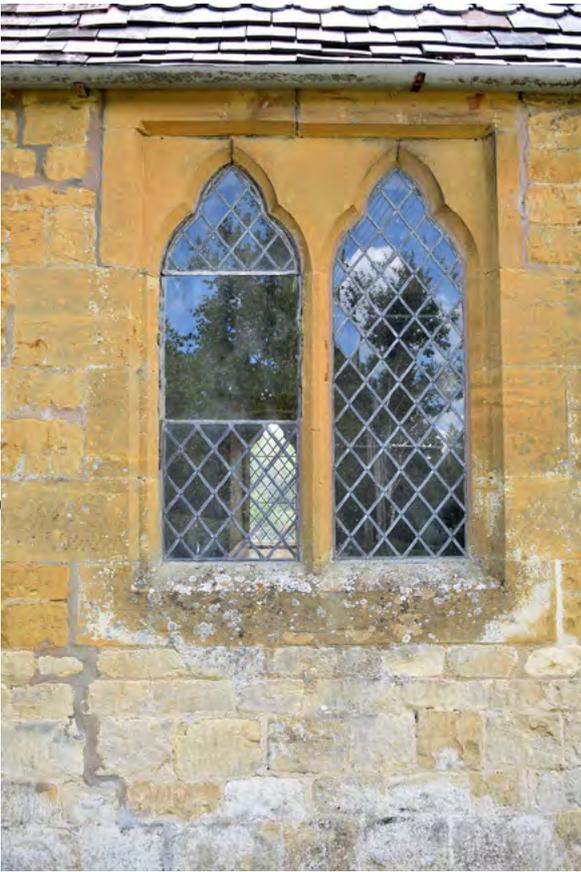


Plate 12: Western window in north elevation (in 1886 extension)

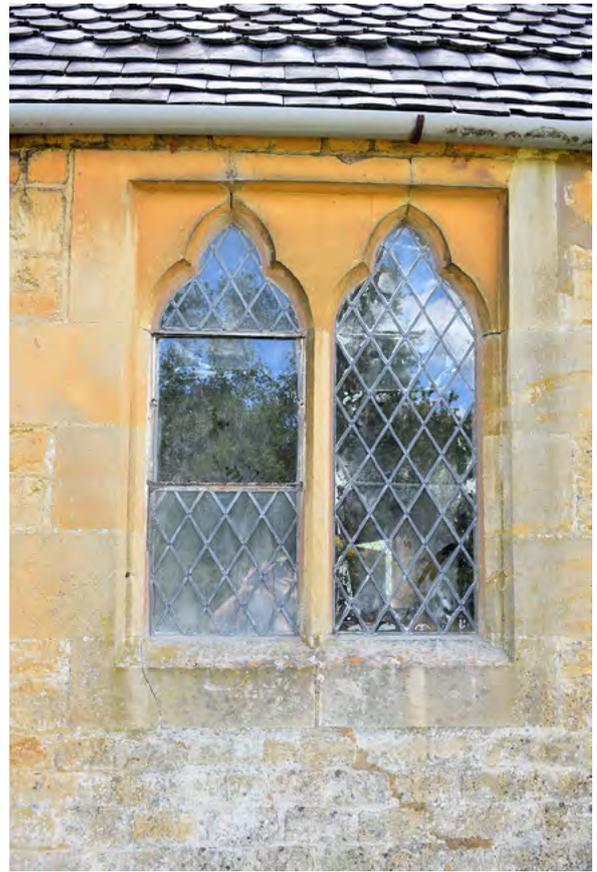


Plate 13: Window in north elevation of primary church



Plate 14: West elevation of church



Plate 15: Western end of church with brick WC block



Plate 16: Western part of south elevation with brick WC block



Plate 17: South elevation of church



Plate 18: South elevation of church



Plate 19: Western end of south elevation adjacent to former WCs



Plate 20: Western side of southern porch



Plate 21: Porch on south side of church



Plate 22: Church notice board



Plate 23: West side of bell-cote



Plate 24: East side of bell-cote



Plate 25: Entrance porch looking south



Plate 26: Door within entrance porch looking east



Plate 27: View within entrance porch looking north



Plate 28: Tiled floor within entrance porch



Plate 29: General view within church looking east



Plate 30: General view within church looking west



Plate 31: Door within screen at west end of nave



Plate 32: General view looking east



Plate 33: South wall within church



Plate 34: North wall within church



Plate 35: Outline of blocked fireplace in north wall of church



Plate 36: Former blocked fireplace in north wall of church



Plate 37: Base of font in church and secondary stone flags



Plate 38: Base of font in church



Plate 39: Main door into church from porch



Plate 40: Scissor brace roof looking east

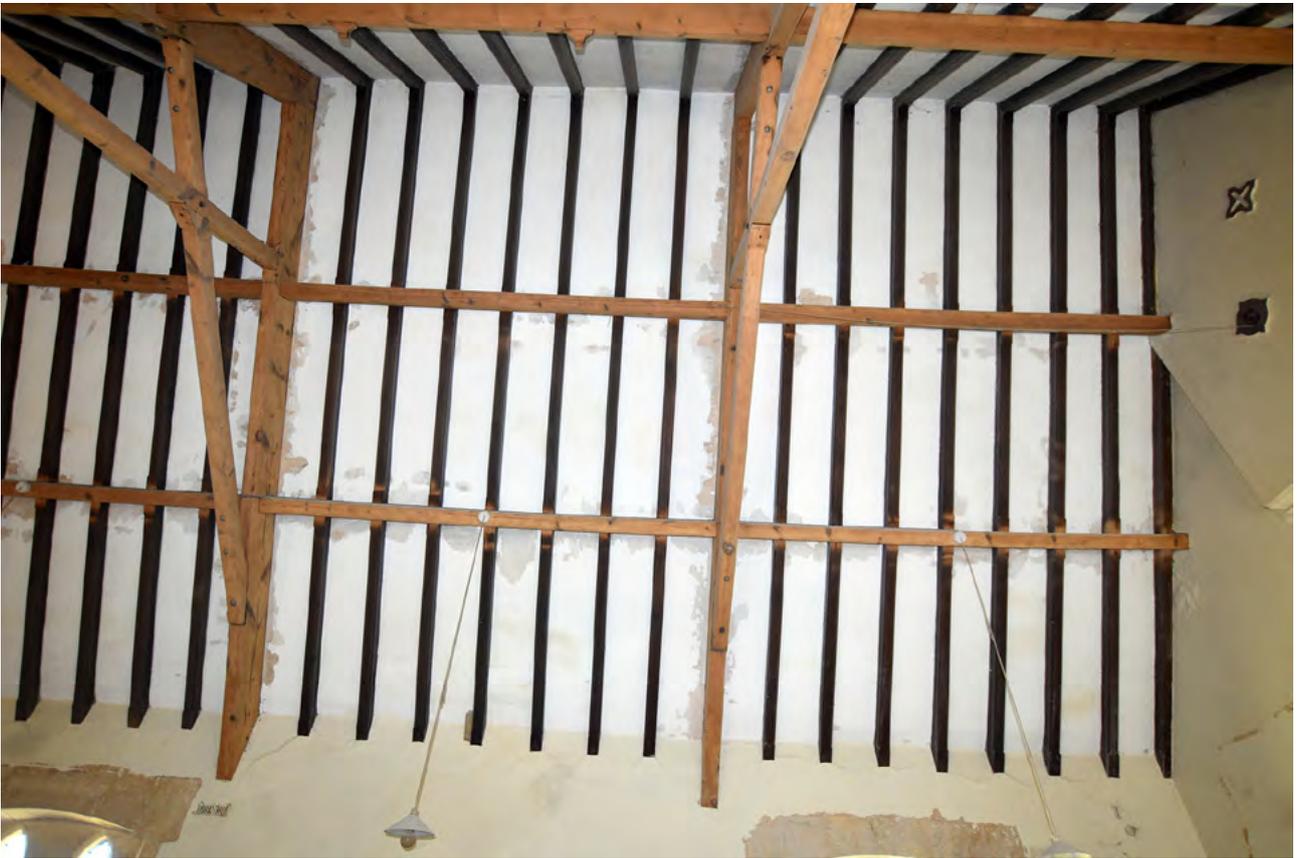


Plate 41: General view of roof



Plate 42: Detail of scissor brace roof



Plate 43: Detail of scissor brace roof



Plate 44: Detail of small openings at east end of church



Plate 45: Detail of guide bearer for cord fixed to purlin



Plate 46: Pulley wheel for cord at west end of church



Plate 47: Pulpit



Plate 48: West edge of chancel



Plate 49: General view within chancel



Plate 50: Loft room (clock room) above chancel looking north-west



Plate 51: Loft room (clock room) above chancel looking west



Plate 52: Room above chancel looking south-west



Plate 53: Gable within loft room above chancel

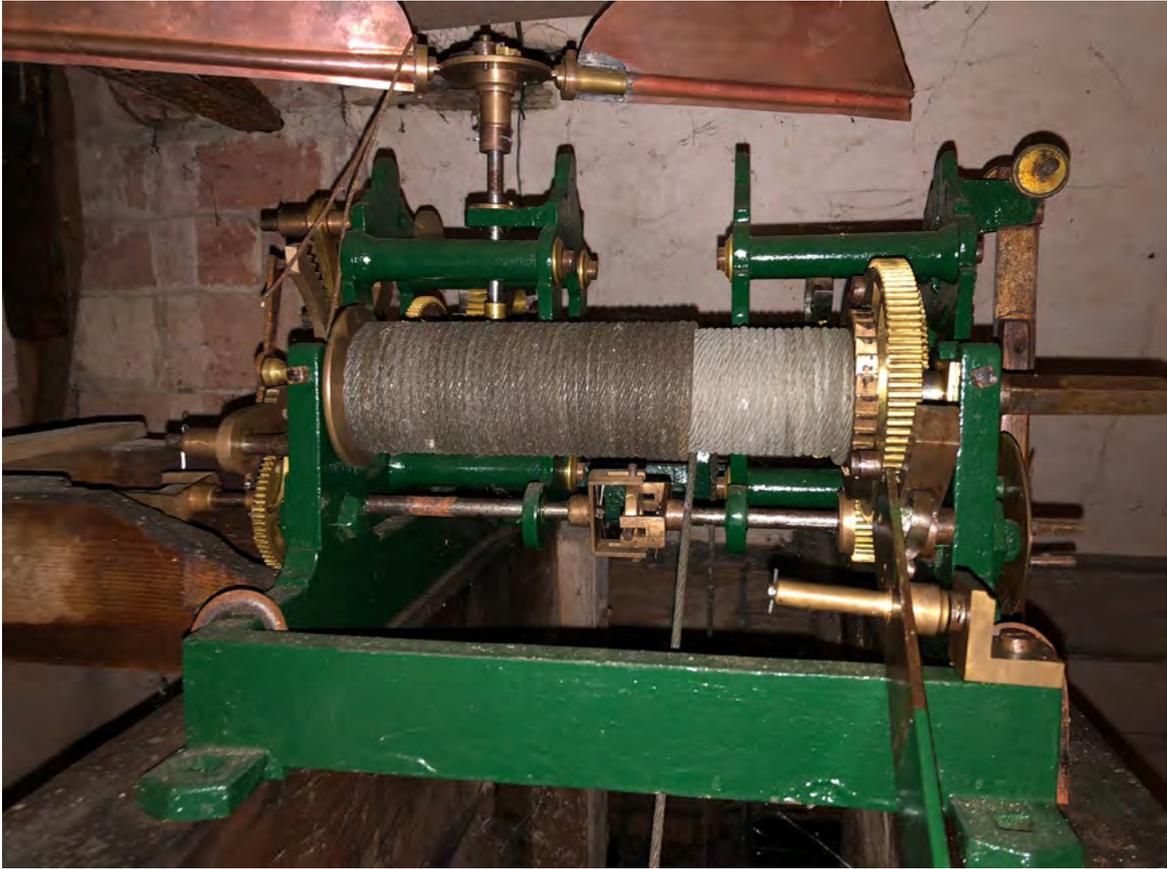


Plate 54: Clock mechanism (photo provided by Geoff Bolam)



Plate 55: Clock mechanism (photo provided by Geoff Bolam)



Plate 56: Graffiti on sloped plaster in clock room

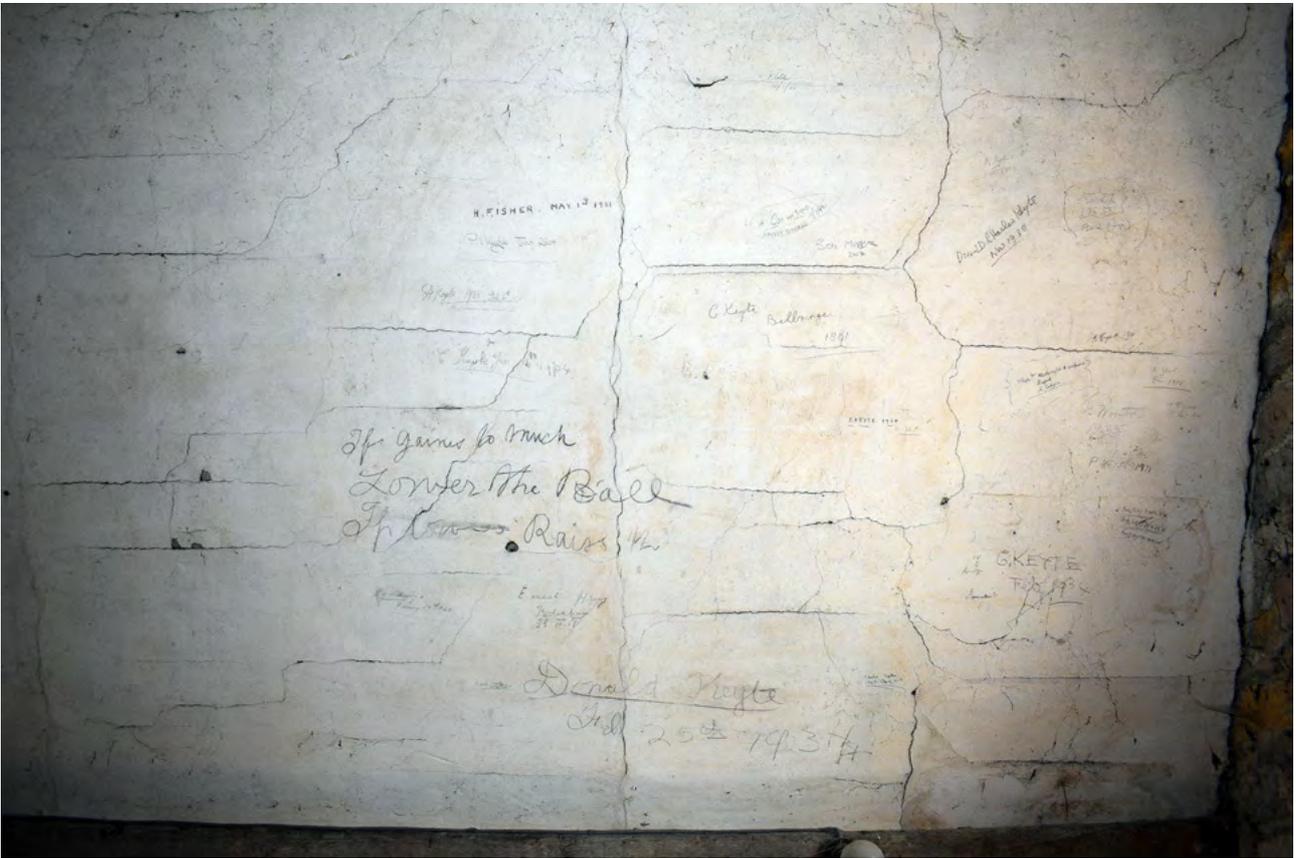


Plate 57: Graffiti on sloped plaster in clock room



Plate 58: View within school room at west end of church, looking east



Plate 59: South wall within school room at west end of church



Plate 60: View looking north within school room



Plate 61: Exposed floor joists at south-west corner of school room



Plate 62: Fireplace at north end of school room



Plate 63: Fireplace at north end of school room with chequer hearth exposed when carpet lifted (photo provided by Geoff Bolam)



Plate 64: Small section of surviving primary floorboards by fireplace hearth (photo provided by Geoff Bolam)



Plate 65: General view of school room floor after removing the carpet (photo provided by Geoff Bolam)



Plate 66: North wall of school room after removal of boarding (photo provided by Geoff Bolam)



Plate 67: Southern end of east wall in school room after removal of boarding (photo provided by Geoff Bolam)



Plate 68: Fireplace in north wall after removal of blocking (photo provided by Geoff Bolam)



Plate 69: Fireplace in north wall after removal of blocking (photo provided by Geoff Bolam)





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