

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
EAST HENDRED



1865

FIRST CENTENARY

1965

Feast of the Assumption

15 August, 1965

For one hundred years now, Catholics in East Hendred have enjoyed the privilege of a Church in their midst; a unique privilege, because, all too often, Catholics living in the country have a long way to go to get to Holy Mass and the Sacraments.

As an act of gratitude to Almighty God for all the spiritual and temporal blessings He has showered upon us in abundance, it has been suggested that we should celebrate this first Centenary of St. Mary's with a corporate effort to help others less fortunate than ourselves, this to take the form of a contribution towards the cost of training a priest for the Diocese (approximately £2000).

An occasion like this is a most appropriate moment for remembering the needs of others. East Hendred has enjoyed the services of a resident priest for 276 years, longer than almost any other parish in the land, and consequently, as a parish, we owe a proportionately greater duty to help others.

Please give all you can and put it in one of the boxes provided.

HISTORY OF THE PARISH

I: BACKGROUND; 1265-1549.

In 1256, Sir John de Turberville obtained permission from Pope Alexander IV to build a private Chapel on to the house he had just finished erecting at 'Esthendred' and to have a Chaplain to serve it. This Chapel was built of locally-dug stone (clunch) in or shortly before 1265, and dedicated to St. Amand. St. Amand was a Benedictine Monk; he was born around 590 and died in 675. He is venerated as the Apostle of Flanders, and his feast is kept on 6th February.

The Chaplain's house (on the site of the present Rectory), together with the Tithes and Glebe-land that Sir John de Turberville had given for the support of the Chaplain* were seized for the Crown in 1549 as a consequence of the Reformation, but the Chapel itself was left alone.

II: PENAL TIMES; 1549-1689.

Practically nothing is known about the 140 years of active persecution that ensued. The house became known as a Mass Centre, with

a Priest's Hole in the roof next to the Chapel, as also did Catmore, six miles off on the Downs, whither the family had to flee for safety on occasions. A few other families in the village also remained faithful, but nothing more is known.

An account of the Chapel, written by Charles Eyston in 1718, states that "... it lay useless ..." after 1549, and in course of time became a woodshed. In 1687, when it was restored, the old Altar was "... of small mouldering stones ... not above a foot and a half high ..."; the broken paving on the floor "... a sort of Dutch Tile ..." which crumbled away when handled. During this time, then, it would seem that Mass was celebrated in the Gallery, where the entrance to the Priest's Hole was situated (through a blocked-up window in the North wall, corresponding to the existing window on the South

* There was no money as we know it in those days; the Chaplain lived off one tenth (tithe) of the produce of the land charged with supporting him, together with what he produced himself on his Glebe-land.



Hendred House, about 1700



side). In point of fact, no Priest was ever caught at either Hendred or Catmore, nor were the hiding-places discovered. The Sacred Vessels were buried in the garden outside, in a small cavity in the ground.

III: THE FIRST GLIMMERS, 1689-1832.

After the restoration of the Chapel in 1687 (during the brief reign of James II), it was open to all comers for one short year, with daily Mass and the Blessed Sacrament reserved. When William III invaded and deposed James II in 1688, some of his Dutch troops sacked the chapel on their way to Oxford, and it was not used again for six months.

In June, 1689, Mass was once again said in the Chapel, and from then on, there was usually a Priest living in Hendred House 'en famille', to attend to the spiritual needs of the Catholics in the neighbourhood (which was very much the same as the present parishes of E. Hendred, Wantage and Didcot, combined). The congregation was small by present standards; there were about 50 when Bishop Challoner paid his first visit as Vicar Apostolic in 1741, and confirmed a very con-

siderable proportion of them, and fifty years later, it was very much the same.

From this time onwards, the Barrett family maintained a Mass Centre at Milton; they were great friends of Bishop Challoner, and when he was called to his well-earned rest in 1781, it was to the Barrett vault at Milton that he was taken for burial.

The More (Moore) family (no relation to St. Thomas More) also maintained a Mass Centre, during this time at Fawley, served, like so many others (including E. Hendred) by Franciscans. When they sold the property in 1765, the Mass Centre was transferred to Watcombe, half a mile away from Fawley, where it was maintained by the Young family until they died out in 1788. After that, it was kept going by the Hyde family (and their tenants, the Dearloves) until the property was sold in 1820.

IV: THE SECOND SPRING.

After 1832, when Catholic public worship was once more permissible, the numbers attending the Chapel grew, so that in 1845, to make more room, the vestibule in the house

adjoining the Chapel was thrown into it. By 1851, when the Hierarchy was restored and Parishes re-formed, E. Hendred was quite notable for the size of its congregation.

V: ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

On 24th May, 1863, a contract was signed for the construction of a Church. On 24th June of the same year a site was conveyed to Trustees for a Church, with a Churchyard around it, and another site for a Priest's house (up to 1865, the Priest lived in a house some way off, that had been built as a Priest's house some time before; now Park Cottage), together with an endowment for the support of the Priest.

On the same day, 24th June, the Foundation stone was laid, and the building completed by the end of 1864. Then, while the windows,

benches and other interior fittings in the Church were being put in, the builders built the Priest's house. After the Consecration of the Church, a bridge was thrown over the road to connect the Priest's house with it, and the work completed by the end of 1865.

On 16th August, 1865, the Churchyard was consecrated, and the next day, the Church itself was consecrated and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, under the title of 'St. Mary'.

The Church was built by R. P. Davidson, of Oxford. It is built of brick, with an outer facing of stone. The bricks came from local kilns, of which there were many in those days. The stone, 'Best Boxhill', arrived at Steventon station in half-ton blocks, from whence it was drawn to Hendred by C. J. Eyston's waggons and carters, with assistance of all kinds from his neighbours, and sawn up and dressed on site.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH IN 1864

South-West window of Nave complete; clear glass.
South-East window of Nave nearly finished; also clear glass.
Two workmen on a trestle putting in the Sacristy window.
Another workman with hammer and chisel preparing the East window off scaffolding.
More scaffolding round the West window.
No glass in North-East and South-East windows of Sanctuary.

G. Wheeler, assisted by J. Castle, made the benches and the screen. J. Hunt made the Vestment press. Any necessary ironwork was done by the two blacksmiths in the village, C. Besley and R. Woodley. J. Stibbs the

builder erected the Churchyard wall, with stone from the old pit at Marcham. Last of all, Kitty Stibbs cleaned the Church for the Consecration.

THE CONSECRATION

"On Thursday, 17th August, the beautiful Church founded by C. J. Eyston, Esq., was consecrated by the Right Rev. Bishop of Southwark, Dr. Grant. The Sacred rites commenced at half-past seven in the morning by a procession of the Clergy and Bishop from the Sacristy attached to the ancient domestic Chapel of St. Amand to the new Church. After the Consecration of the Church and Altar of St. Mary, Pontifical High Mass was celebrated at 11 o'clock. The Bishop was assisted by the Very Rev. Canon Ringrose, Revs. F. Cuthbert, O.S.B., F. Riley, J. O'Toole, and T. Meyrick. The Rev. Crook and Rev. Luck officiated as Masters of Ceremonies, and the Very Rev. W. Crookall and the Rev. J. MacQuoin as Cantors. The Sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Father Wilfred, O.S.B. In the afternoon, Vespers were sung, followed by a Sermon from the Right Rev. Dr. Amherst, Bishop of

Northampton. The style of the building is that of the English Architecture at the close of the 13th century. It consists of a well-proportioned Chancel, with a Sacristy on the South side, towards the new Presbytery, which is in course of erection. The Nave is opened by three graceful arches into a North Aisle; the Baptistery is in the South-west angle of the Nave, and the octagonal Belfry rises at the angle formed by the Nave and Sacristy. Three of the Windows in the Sanctuary, and as many in the Aisle, are filled with stained glass, the gifts of different members of the ancient family, and which may be regarded as amongst the most beautiful specimens by Hardman & Co. The Church was erected from the design and under the superintendence of Mr. C. A. Buckler of Oxford, architect." (Reprinted from the 'Reading Mercury', dated 26th Aug. 1865; p.4.).

POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE INTERIOR

Upon entering the Church, one is immediately faced by a very unusual feature; the Coats of Arms adorning the Corbels in the roof.

On the North side, they are, chronologically from West to East, the Arms of the four successive families to have occupied Hendred House: de Turberville; Arches; Stowe; Eyston.

On the South side, the Arms are (from West to East) the Arms borne by the four men most intimately connected with the building of the Church;

Buckler (the Architect).
Luck (the Parish Priest).
Grant (the Bishop).
Eyston impaling Blount (the Founder).

At the head of the Nave is the Screen, which was given by Canon Luck's father, the Rev. A. Luck; he was ordained Priest soon after his son and died at Abingdon a few years later, during the building of St. Mary's.

Next to it is the Pulpit, which was given by Rachel Hunt; it is adorned with carved scenes from the Gospels.

At the back of the Church is the Font, which was given by G. B. Eyston, the brother of the Founder.

ALTARS; the High Altar was given by the Founder.

The Sacred Heart Altar was given by J. J. Eyston and G. Dunn.

The Altar at the West end of the N. Aisle was given by the Squires family.



STATUES; the Patronal Statue of the Blessed Virgin was given by the Founder. The Sacred Heart; J. J. Eyston & G. Dunn. St. Francis of Assisi; Mrs. Pritt. St. Thérésa; Elizabeth Eyston.

PLAQUES; At the back of the Church is a memorial to the Founder, given by his son J. J. Eyston.

On the South Wall is a memorial to those who fell in the 1914-1918 War.

In the North-West corner is a memorial to their mother given by the Squires family.

THE WINDOWS; the themes of most of the windows are symbolic of the donors or of those in whose memory they are given, and in most cases their Arms are shown in the tracery above.

1. The Sanctuary:—

East window (Hardman, 1864).

The Blessed Virgin, flanked by St. John the Apostle and St. George on either side. Given by George Basil Eyston and Marie Thérésa his wife.

Above are the Arms of Eyston, and Eyston impaling Whitgreave.

South window (Hardman, 1864).

St. Alban and St. Augustine of Canterbury.

Given by Ferdinand Eyston.

Above are his Arms.

North-East window (Hardman, 1864).

St. Charles Borromeo and St. Agnes.

Given by Charles John Eyston the Founder, and Agnes his wife.

Above are the Arms of Eyston impaling Blount.

North-West window.

St. Edmund of Abingdon (patron of the Diocese) and St. Thomas of Canterbury. Given by Bishop Cotter in memory of Canon Luck.

Above are the Arms of Luck.

2. The Nave:—

West Window (de Putron; 1959).

The Good Shepherd.

Given by the Eyston Family, in memory of T. M. Eyston (d. 1940).

Above are the Arms of Eyston impaling Savile.

South-East window (Hardman, 1879).

Left-hand light; St. John leaning on Our Lord's breast (above).

Our Lord showing his side to St. Thomas (below).

Centre light; Vision of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (above & below).

Right-hand light; Centurion piercing Our Lord's side (above).

David harping (below; reference to St. Cecilia)

Given by Rachel Hunt.

South-West window.

The English Martyrs.

Given by J. J. Eyston.

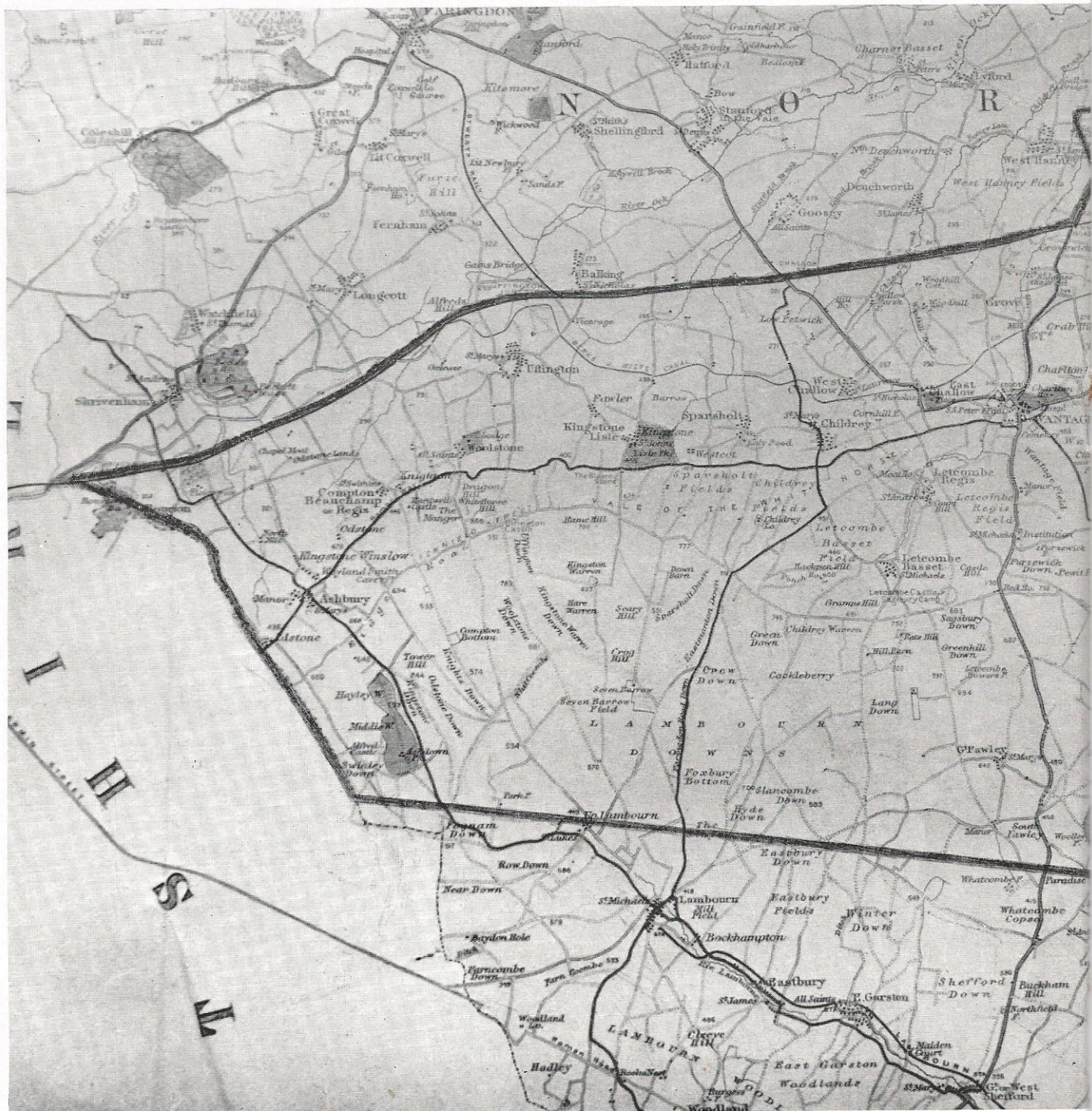
Above are the Arms of Eyston impaling Dunn.

3. North Aisle:—

East window (Hendrie, 1930).

The life of St. Francis of Assisi.

Given by Mrs. Pritt in memory of her brother Francis Gough.



PARISH OF EASTBURY

Parish Boundary in 1800

Parish Boundary in 1900



HENDRED

North-East window (Hardman, 1864).
St. Robert Bellamine and St. Francis of Assisi.

Given by Robert Eyston and Louise Frances his wife.

Above are the Arms of Eyston impaling Petre.

North-West window (Hardman, 1864).

St. Basil the Great and St. Helena.

Given by John Basil Barrett and Ellen his wife.

Above are the Arms of Barrett impaling Box.

West window (Hardman, 1864).

St. Richard of Chichester and St. Anne with Our Lady.

Given by Richard Gillow and Mary Ann his wife.

Above are the Arms of Gillow impaling Eyston.

HISTORY OF THE PARISH SINCE 1865

(I) For the first 50 years, development in the Parish was slow. In about 1885, there were only some 80 adults in the Congregation, and about 60 children, and the only event worthy of note was the formation of the Diocese of Portsmouth on 19th May, 1882, when the Diocese of Southwark was divided. Another event of future significance was the purchase by J. J. Eyston in 1894 of the three cottages adjacent to the Church, for use another day as an extension to the Churchyard.

However, what really brought an epoch in the history of the Parish to a close was the death of Canon Luck on 16th November, 1912, after 50 years of service in the Parish, and 12 years as Vicar-General or Vicar-Capitular of the Diocese. Two years later came the war, and with it industrial development in the district began and a great extension of the congregation.

(II) On coming to East Hendred to take charge of St. Amand's School with my sister as Assistant Teacher, 1st September, 1900, I have seen many changes in St. Mary's Church. Sunday Services were:

8.15 a.m. Holy Communion, given to about a rail-full of people, most of them from Hendred House.

10.30 a.m. Sung Mass and Sermon.

3.00 p.m. Catechism for children; then Rosary and Benediction.

During the First World War, Belgian Refugees were stationed at Wantage, and the Parish Priest at East Hendred went to their camp and said Mass there, returning to East Hendred for 10.30 Mass. When the Belgians left Wantage, Mass was said at the Town Hall for a time, and later a small property in Mill Street was bought and furnished as a Chapel;

then a priest was stationed at the Camp, Grove, to serve Wantage.

When a Camp was established at Didcot, East Hendred's priest used to say Mass there once a fortnight in an Army Hut.

For some time, Catholic children were brought to St. Amand's School in a waggonette, hired from the Plough. Later Didcot was given a priest of its own.

(III) In more recent years, development has quickened. As mentioned above, on 11th January, 1927, an old Wesleyan Chapel in Wantage was purchased, and furnished by Lady Nelson from her Chapel at Letcombe, and in 1948, Wantage became a separate Parish.

On 2nd March, 1931, the old Camp Theatre at Didcot was purchased, and opened as a Chapel on 16th August. In 1934, Didcot became a separate Parish.

In 1947, an old brick barn at East Ilsley was purchased and opened as a Mass Centre, with many of the interior fittings provided by Agnes Western. This was very quickly followed by a Mass centre at Compton, beginning in the Scout hut, but still without a place of its own.

Nearer home, electricity was first put in the Church at Christmas, 1929. In 1946, the extension to the Churchyard was opened and blessed by the Bishop. The two flanking walls were built by J. Prater; one immediately, the other in 1954-1955. The heating system in the Church was replaced by an oil-fired system at Christmas, 1957.

Finally, and most recently, the Bridge was rebuilt in 1965, the old structure having become most unsafe, and the opportunity taken at the same time to re-arrange and increase the accommodation of the Sacristy. The work was done by Smallbone, of Streatley.



The first burial at St. Mary's, 7th December, 1863

LIST OF BISHOPS :

1851-1870	Thomas Grant	(Diocese of Southwark)
1871-1881	James Dannell	(" ")
1882-1900	John Virtue	(" Portsmouth)
1900-1910	John Cahill	" "
1910-1940	William Cotter	" "
1940-1965	John Henry King	" "

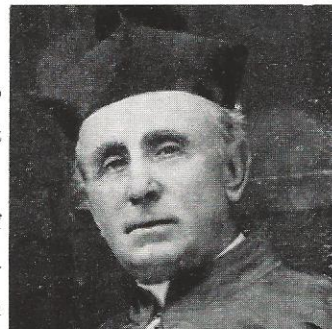
LIST OF PRIESTS who have served East Hendred, so far as can be ascertained.

1687	Pacificus Price	1807	John Turmine	1849-1859	Thomas Richardson
1701-1704	James Ayray	1809	R. Sumner	1859-1862	Richard Boyle
1707	— Grymbalson	1809	C. Gondrez	1862-1912	Thomas Luck
1713-1714	Charles Parkinson	1810-1813	John Lee	1912-1915	William le Grave
1724-1728	Cuthbert Parkinson	1813-1815	Henry Stewart	1915-1929	Albert Coughlan
1724-1726	— Featherstone	1815	Peter Dacheux	1929-1934	Bernard Miller
1765?-1775	James Angel	1815-1833	James Shaw	1934-1942	Bernard Morris
1777-1787	Thomas Gabb	1834-1840	Edward Price	1942-1948	Michael Sexton
1785-1792	Robert Anderton	1840-1844	John Price	1948-1959	Bernard Morris
1790	George Bruning	1844-1846	W. Kyan	1959-	Charles Stewart
1793-1804	James Addis	1846-1847	C. Woollett	1965	Joseph Cocker
1804-1810	George Barrett	1847-1848	M. Convey		(assistant).



THOMAS GRANT
first Bishop of Southwark.
1816: born.
1841: ordained at Rome.
1851: consecrated Bishop of Southwark.
1870: 1 June; died at the Council in Rome.

THOMAS LUCK
first parish Priest of St. Mary's.
1835: born.
1861: ordained by Bishop Grant.
1862: temp. supply priest at East Hendred.
1882: Canon of Portsmouth Diocese.
1900: Vicar-General of the Diocese.
1901: Protonotary-Apostolic (Monsignor).
1912: d. 16 Nov., buried at East Hendred.



BENEFACTORS

(a separate list of the Benefactors of the Church is given below so far as they can be ascertained, apart from the mention of many of them elsewhere in the text).

THIS CHURCH WAS CONSECRATED ON THE 17TH OF AUGUST, A.D. 1865.

PRAY FOR THE FOUNDER AND BENEFACTORS THEREOF.

(inscribed on a Brass at the Altar Rails)

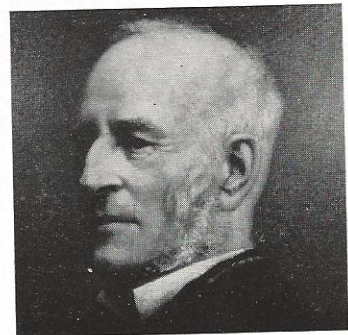
Canon Luck	-	-	The Priest's House.
C. J. Eyston	-	-	The Church.
			The caretaker's cottage.
			The Bridge.
			The High Altar.
			The Benches.
			The North-East window of Sanctuary.
			The Patronal Statue of the Blessed Virgin.
			The old School.
			Endowments for the Church and the School.
			The Processional Cross and a Thurible (old ones from St. Amand's Chapel).
Agnes Eyston	-	-	The Churchyard Cross.
C. J. and Agnes Eyston	-	-	The Pascal Candle.
G. B. Eyston	-	-	The Font.
G. B. and M. T. Eyston	-	-	The East window.
R. and L. F. Eyston	-	-	The North-East window of the North Aisle.
Ferdinand Eyston	-	-	The South-East window of the Sanctuary.
Isabella and Fanny Eyston	-	-	The Sanctuary Lamp. (Hardman).
J. Eyston and G. Dunn	-	-	The Sacred Heart Altar.
			The Sacred Heart Statue.
J. Eyston	-	-	The South-West window of the Nave.
Elizabeth Eyston	-	-	The Statue of St. Therésa.
Eyston family	-	-	The West window.
G. Eyston (1820)	-	-	Endowment.
G. Eyston	-	-	Endowment.
Rachel Hunt	-	-	The Pulpit.
			The South-East window of the Nave.
Mrs. Pritt	-	-	The East window of the North Aisle.
			The Statue of St. Francis of Assisi.
J. and E. Barrett	-	-	The North-West window of the North Aisle.
R. and M. Gillow	-	-	The West window of the North Aisle.
Bishop Cotter	-	-	The North-West window of the Sanctuary.
Rev. A. Luck	-	-	The Screen.
Squires family	-	-	The West Altar of the North Aisle.
Mrs. Buckler	-	-	Made and gave the best Cope.
More family (Fawley)	-	-	Endowment.
Young family (Watcombe)	-	-	Endowment.
Fanny Gorton	-	-	Endowment.
Edward Woods	-	-	Endowment.
Angela Stillwell	-	-	Endowment.
Nurse Goddard	-	-	Endowment.
Ida Stafford-Northcote	-	-	Endowment.

CHARLES JOHN EYSTON

1817: 5 November; born.

1863: 10 September; married Agnes Blount of Mapledurham

1883: 19 February; died and buried at East Hendred.



ST. AMAND'S SCHOOL

No account of the Parish would be complete without an account of the School. Like so many others, St. Amand's School developed during the first half of the nineteenth century, taking its name from the old Chapel, that was then doing duty as a Parish Church. It was maintained and staffed at first without any State aid, being kept going only by the voluntary offerings of the faithful, and was at first held in a room at Hunt's Farm (in front of the present School), where the teacher lived.

On 10th December, 1859, C. J. Eyston conveyed a site to Trustees, where he immediately afterwards built a school, with a teacher's house attached, for about £450, with a grant from the 1839 Committee of the Privy Council on Education. It was built to the design of C. A. Buckler by a Francis Hunt, who went bankrupt during the building, and completed about June 1860 by his 'assignees', a man named Wheeler doing the carpentry. The teacher at the time was Miss O'Brien.

On 15th December, 1862, C. J. Eyston gave an endowment for the support of the School.

During the succeeding century, the school grew as the Parish grew. In 1900 (as recorded elsewhere), Miss M. Raab began an outstandingly successful term of headship that did not end until she retired 42 years later, with her sister to help her until she died about 1925. Numbers dropped drastically after her retirement in 1942, until the school was nearly closed by the Education Authorities.

Things improved soon after the War, and before long, plans were afoot for the re-building and enlargement of the School. By the time that plans were finally passed for building a new School on a new site, Classes were scattered all over the old School, the Club Room and the Priest's house.

On the 17th May, 1962, the Foundation stone of the new School was laid by T. M. Eyston, and the building completed in about a year.

On 5th May, 1963, the School was officially opened and blessed by Archbishop King.

By this time, the three classrooms provided were already inadequate, so in 1964, plans were passed, and work started, on a fourth classroom, which is now complete.

The problem of an adequate playing field was solved when the sites and gardens of a pair of nearby cottages and a barn became available, together with a large part of the Priest's garden.





THE NEW ST. AMAND'S SCHOOL

A FEW INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES

First baptism, 31st August, 1865;
Alice Mary Frampton.

First wedding, 24th September, 1866;
George Wheeler and Ellen Frampton.

First funeral, 7th December, 1863;
Rebecca Smith.

First funeral in extension of churchyard;
24th May, 1946; Kezia Prior (who had
lived in one of the old cottages on the site).

The Bell is blessed in honour of St. Agnes.

Stations of the Cross; erected by Canon Luck,
4th April, 1867.

Present ones; erected 13th December, 1942.

Estimate for the Church (24 May, 1863) £1745

Estimate for the cottage (24 May, 1863) £60

Estimate for the benches (24 May, 1863) £50

Estimate for the bridge (24 July, 1865) £310

The High Altar £68

The Patronal Statue of Blessed Virgin £38

The Churchyard Cross £26

Architect's Fees £130

(for present values, multiply by about 12).

On the other hand;

The New St. Amand's School £32,000 approx.

THE CENTENARY COMMITTEE

Mr. T. M. Eyston (Chairman).

Mrs. I. Gilbert (Secretary).

Mrs. W. Reynolds (Treasurer).

Miss M. Eyston.

Miss E. Hunt.

Mr. R. Wells.

The Abbey Press, Abingdon, Berks.