

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH AT NEW ALRESFORD

By

Raymond Elliott.

The year was 1897, The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, when the reconstruction of the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist in New Alresford commenced. It was a quiet yet busy year in the long history of the market town of New Alresford, the sheep fairs still prospered, also the Broad Street markets, and Charles Eddoll had opened his drapers shop next to the George Inn. The New Alresford Parish Council and the Town Trustees had both just been born, and gas was piped throughout the town but water, and sewerage was yet to come. A short walk along Station Road led to a goodly service of trains throughout the country, and on hot summer days the water cart would trudge up Broad Street into West Street and down The Dean to refill in the waters of the river while the horse enjoyed a cool well-earned rest. The parish church of St. John had served the townfolk of New Alresford for many many years. Referred to in the Domesday Book it had suffered both neglect and fires, but in periods of prosperity it had always been well cared for and maintained in good order for worship.

There are photographs of the church, at that time, displayed in the nave of the church today, the church that had risen from the ashes of the Great Fire of 1689 that had devastated the town so tragically. Over the intervening two hundred years the galleries had been added also the dormer windows to light them, the Lady Chapel and a vestry had been built, together with further embellishments of the clock and the organ.

In notes at the beginning of his history of events during the rebuilding the Rector, Arthur Headley, wrote "The Church is plain and neat, built with brick and flint and covered with tiles. It is formed with three aisles and the roof supported with two rows of lofty pillars, and is kept in very decent repair by the inhabitants".

Separated from the Old Alresford Mother Church, the parish became a distinct ecclesiastical benefice in 1851 when William Brodie was inducted as the first Rector of New Alresford. Within the following years many improvements were implemented and performed by local craftsmen, but in 1895 it was clear that major repair work was necessary. A Vestry meeting was called and a Committee, under the chairmanship of the Rector, was appointed 'to take the matter in hand'.

The Committee engaged Sir Arthur Blomfield, the eminent Victorian church architect and diocesan architect to Winchester cathedral to 'examine the structure and proceed with proposals outlining the necessary work to be done'.

Early the next year, 1896, a vestry meeting called to receive the architect's report and Committee recommendations attracted tremendous interest among the parishioners. The number being far too great to be accommodated in the small vestry, it was necessary to adjourn and reassemble immediately in the Town Hall. Here, a ground plan of the new proposals was circulated around the meeting and the Chairman read the report. Briefly, plans had been evolved to remove the galleries, replace the old roof tiling, reduce the ground level around the building to form a drainage channel, insert new windows and external buttresses to the north and south walls; also to remove completely the existing chancel and vestry building and replace them with 'something worthier and better'. All this work amounting to some £5,500.

Col. Stratton Bates replied that he thought the present building was well suited to the Town and no serious alterations were required, so with a small amount spent on the present structure it would last for years. But Mr. J. Shepherd raised a question concerning a previous structural report that

had been obtained from a local builder. In reply the Chairman acknowledged the point and read the report which confirmed that 'the roof might be renewed to serve say for twenty years but recommended that the whole church should be rebuilt'. And Mr. Chapman pointed out that the new plan shewed a considerable reduction in seating and deplored such loss, especially the difficulty in 'securing a like number of free seats in the restored church'.

At the end of the discussion it was proposed and seconded that 'the Committee should proceed to raise funds for the work in accordance with Sir Arthur's proposals and report again in due course'. The report of the meeting then continues ' Mr. H.H. Walford of Arle

Bury has offered to contribute THE BATTLE OF CHERITON

by Peter Hoggarth.

The battle of Cheriton, or "Cheriton Fight", is our most important local battle. It took place on 29th March 1644 during the English Civil war between Charles I and Parliament. Although not as well known as the important Civil War battles of Naseby and Marston Moor, some historians regard it as the turning point in the Civil War. Before Cheriton the Royalists were generally on the offensive; after Cheriton they had adopted a defensive posture.

Hampshire occupied an important strategic position between the rival forces. Generally speaking the west and north of England supported the Royalists whilst the east and most of the Midlands supported Parliament. In the south the counties to the west of Hampshire were largely Royalist and Sussex, Kent and Surrey were largely for Parliament. Some isolated towns, including ports, held out in hostile territory. The King's headquarters were at Oxford, and those of Parliament were based in London.

The town commanders who were to face each other at Cheriton were Lord Hopton for the King and Sir William Waller for Parliament. Friends as young men they had taken different sides in the Civil War. Hopton had beaten Waller at Roundway Down near Devizes and at Lansdown near Bath, whilst Waller had been victorious at Alton. Both were anxious to "tangle" again.

In September 1643 Lord Hopton was directed by the king to take a new army from the west of England to secure Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire and then to advance on London. The main Royalist army would move from Oxford to London and Parliament would be trapped in what we would now call a pincer movement. To contain this threat Parliament appointed Sir William Waller to command the force of the Southern Association of Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire. In December 1643 Waller's army entered Sussex taking Arundel and Chichester, and moved towards Winchester via Petersfield. Meanwhile Hopton had arrived at Winchester which became his base. His army, consisting largely of raw soldiers, many of whom were young impressed men, was to be opposed by Waller's generally more highly trained forces.

On March 26th the two armies arrived at an area between East and West Meon where their patrols clashed. The following day Waller attempted to cut Hopton off from his base at Winchester by moving towards Alresford. Hopton, sensing the danger, also moved towards Alresford and both armies marched to Alresford, often in full view of each other.

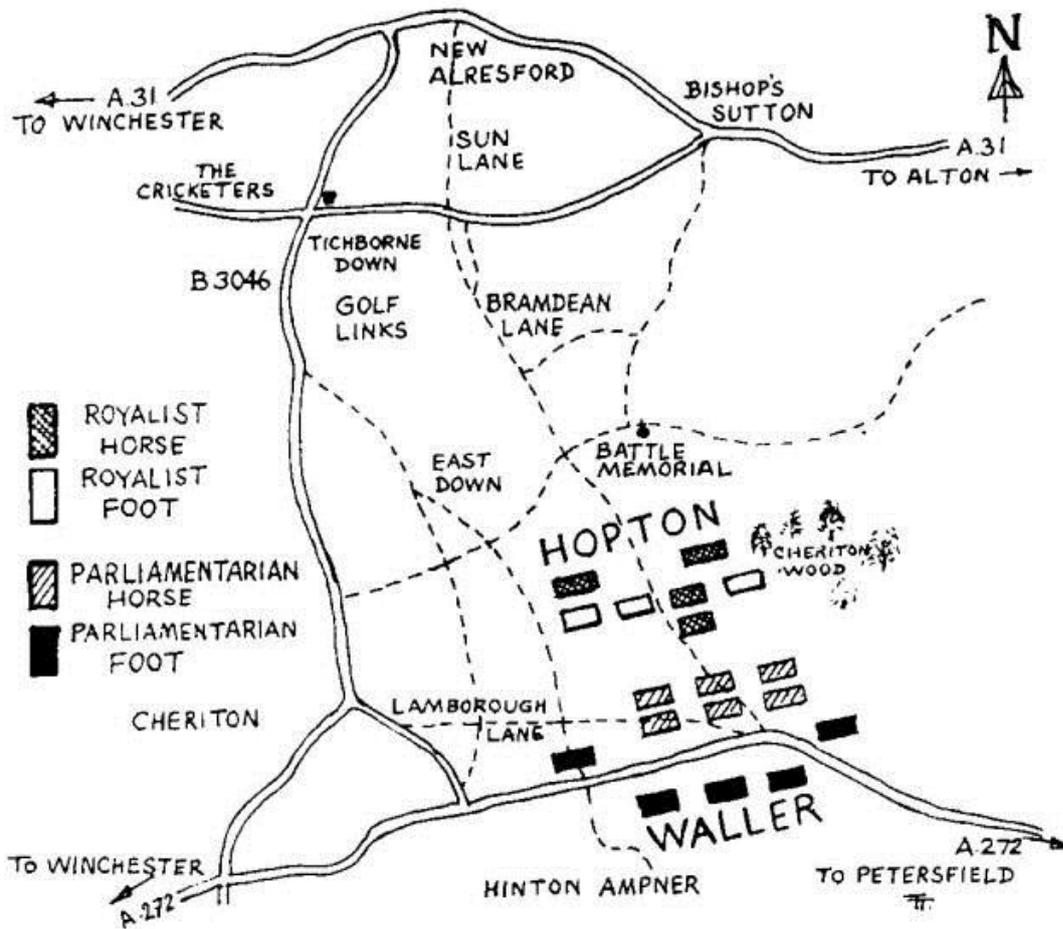
Hopton won the race, his cavalry occupying Broad Street and his foot forming a defence screen on Tichborne Down. Waller's forces settled near Cheriton at Lamborough Fields and along the valley to Bramdean. Waller himself lodged at Hinton Ampner House, the home of Lady Stukesly, a Parliamentary sympathiser.

On March 28th there was skirmishing between the two forces. That night Waller and his officers conferred to decide whether to fight or withdraw to the Parliamentary base at Famham. The Royalists at Alresford had the advantage of commanding the main road to Famham and London,

whilst the Parliamentarians would have a more circuitous route should they have to fall back to Famham.

If Waller were defeated the road to Famham and London would be open to Hopton and Parliament would be in peril. However Waller and his officers decided to stay and fight it out.

March 29th was the day of the battle. The Royalists under the joint command of Lord Hopton and the Earl of Forth held a line from East Down to Cheriton Wood facing the Parliamentarians between Lamborough Fields and Bramdean (see map).



Before dawn the London Brigade, consisting mainly of inexperienced recruits occupied Cheriton Wood on the Royalists left. This threatened a flank attack if the Royalists advanced. The danger was immediately recognised and a determined attack by Royalist musketeers drove the Londoners out in confusion. Soon after this a reckless and unsupported advance by Sir Henry Bard's foot regiment against Parliament's left wing led to the regiment being cut off and destroyed with the loss of the commander. This was a serious blow to Hopton.

At midday the Royalist cavalry attacked with great gallantry but poor tactics. One advance was down Bramdean Lane. Here the Cavalry moved one troop at a time which prevented them from concentrating their forces for the attack. They suffered heavy losses from musketeers lining the hedgerows and gunners firing down the lane. A fierce melee ensued and several prominent Royalist officers were lost with a most adverse effect on Royalist morale. Waller was involved in the struggle and was fortunate to survive unharmed. This was the turning point of the battle. Poor tactics and lack of discipline by Royalist Officers contributed to the failure of Royalist attacks. Other Royalist attacks by foot and horse failed to dislodge Waller's forces.

Later in the afternoon the two Parliamentary wings began to close and the Royalists were forced back from hedgerow to hedgerow. Cheriton Wood was re-occupied. Panic affected some of the Royalists who fled, throwing their arms away. Some of the impressed soldiers indeed were able to return quietly to their own homes. Hopton withdrew his forces to Alresford in as orderly a manner as possible leaving a rearguard at Tichborne Down to delay Waller.

Alresford was set on fire by the retreating Royalists but the flames were soon extinguished by the pursuing Parliamentarians. Most of the Royalist forces reached Basing House that night, the rearguard being courageously commanded by the elderly Earl of Forth.

On the following day Waller entered Winchester but the Royalists held out in the Castle, not surrendering until 1645.

Estimates as to the numbers involved and casualties suffered vary tremendously, but probably 10,000 Parliamentarians faced 7,000 Royalists. One authority gives 900 Parliamentarians and 1400 Royalists killed, although these estimates may be on the high side.

Some local notables were involved in the battle. Colonel Richard Norton, who owned the Manor House in Old Alresford and was a friend of Cromwell's, commanded a regiment of horse. Although nicknamed "Idle Dick", he was far from idle in the battlefield, successfully leading cavalry attacks on the Royalists. Sir Richard Tichborne of Tichborne House and his brother Benjamin of West Tisted fought on the Royalists side. Sir Benjamin is said to have hidden in the chimney of a cottage after the battle. Another Tichborne, Robert, supported Parliament, although he was not at the battle. His signature, with others, is on the death warrant of Charles I (1649). He was not, however, arraigned for treason at the Restoration in 1660.

The King's cause never recovered from the defeat at Cheriton. It threw the whole of his strategy in the South of England out of balance. His best army in the south had been decisively beaten with heavy losses of men, horses and material. All hope of occupying Sussex and Kent and moving on London vanished. The House of Commons ordered that April 9th should be celebrated as a day of public thanksgiving in London.

Today there is a plaque on the site of the battle [see map) at the far end of Scrubbs Lane. Relics have been dug up over the years. Cannon balls have been found in Cheriton gardens. Indeed long ago it seems that villagers played bowls with them. Various mounds in the countryside were thought to be mass graves.

It would not be right to end this brief account of the Battle of Cheriton without some reference to what civilians suffered as well as soldiers in the Civil War. A heavy burden fell on the civilian population, especially in operational areas. Plunder, lawlessness, heavy taxation, seizure of cattle and horses and the decline of trade hit many people, but especially the poor. The attempted burning of Alresford after the battle illustrates the perils of the times and Peter Heylin the Royalist Rector of Old Alresford had his goods and chattels, including a fine library, plundered by the Parliamentarians. The Rector was forced to flee his home and go into hiding.

Generals on both sides attempted, not always successfully, to curb the worst excesses committed by their troops. For example in 1644 there were twenty-two Court Martials in Waller's army and some of those found guilty were hanged.

Today the battlefield is at peace and sheep graze on its slopes. It is difficult to imagine the scene three and a half centuries ago when the area was filled with fighting men and horses. We cannot relive the fears and passions of that day. The most apt comment was made by my mother who, when I drove her across the old battlefield murmured "the poor things!".

THE BATTLE OF CHERITON

by Peter Hoggarth.

The battle of Cheriton, or "Cheriton Fight", is our most important local battle. It took place on 29th March 1644 during the English Civil war between Charles I and Parliament. Although not as well known as the important Civil War battles of Naseby and Marston Moor, some historians regard it as the turning point in the Civil War. Before Cheriton the Royalists were generally on the offensive; after Cheriton they had adopted a defensive posture.

Hampshire occupied an important strategic position between the rival forces. Generally speaking the west and north of England supported the Royalists whilst the east and most of the Midlands supported Parliament. In the south the counties to the west of Hampshire were largely Royalist and Sussex, Kent and Surrey were largely for Parliament. Some isolated towns, including ports, held out in hostile territory. The King's headquarters were at Oxford, and those of Parliament were based in London.

The town commanders who were to face each other at Cheriton were Lord Hopton for the King and Sir William Waller for Parliament. Friends as young men they had taken different sides in the Civil War. Hopton had beaten Waller at Roundway Down near Devizes and at Lansdown near Bath, whilst Waller had been victorious at Alton. Both were anxious to "tangle" again.

In September 1643 Lord Hopton was directed by the king to take a new army from the west of England to secure Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire and then to advance on London. The main Royalist army would move from Oxford to London and Parliament would be trapped in what we would now call a pincer movement. To contain this threat Parliament appointed Sir William Waller to command the force of the Southern Association of Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire. In December 1643 Waller's army entered Sussex taking Arundel and Chichester, and moved towards Winchester via Petersfield. Meanwhile Hopton had arrived at Winchester which became his base. His army, consisting largely of raw soldiers, many of whom were young impressed men, was to be opposed by Waller's generally more highly trained forces.

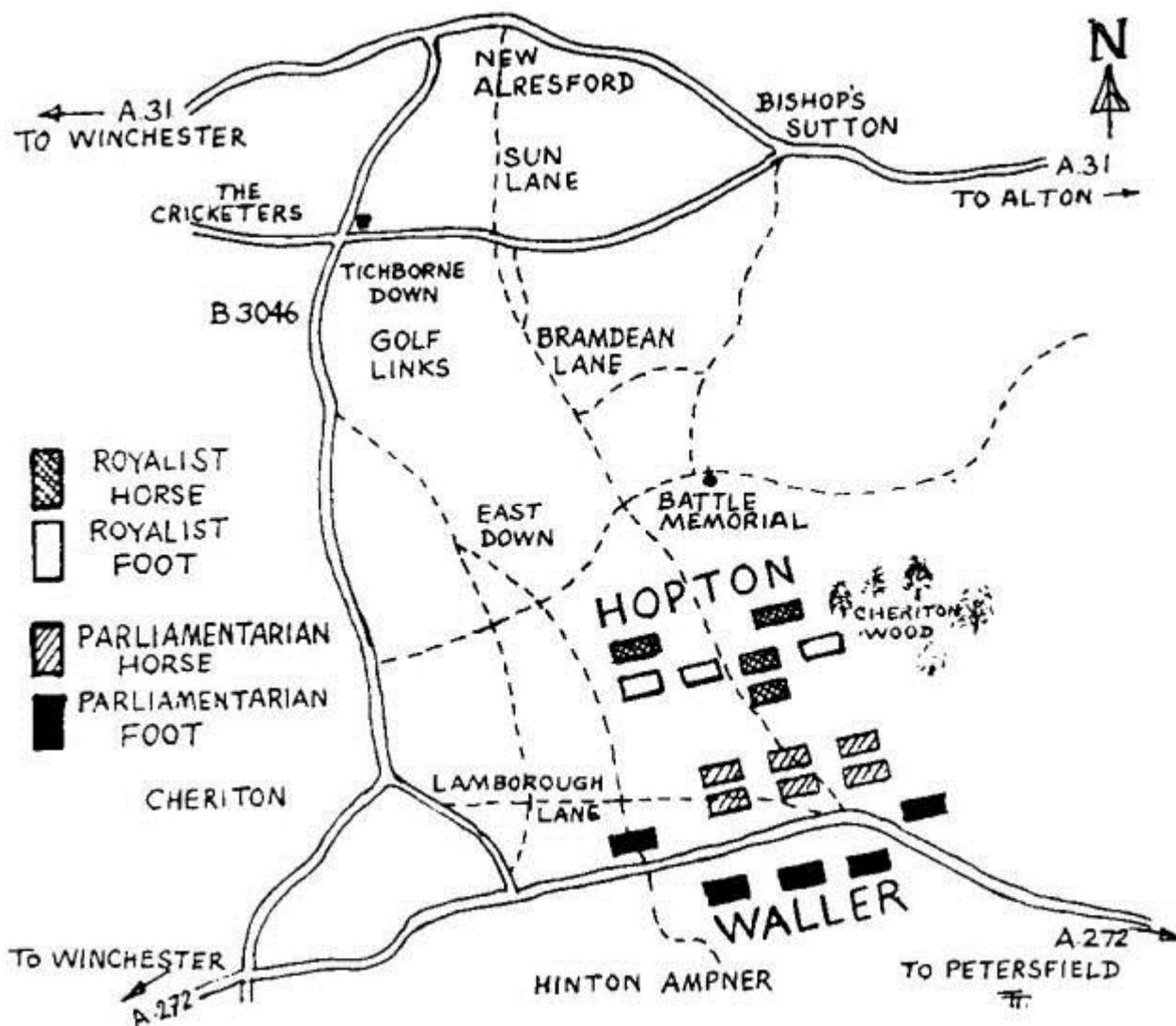
On March 26th the two armies arrived at an area between East and West Meon where their patrols clashed. The following day Waller attempted to cut Hopton off from his base at Winchester by moving towards Alresford. Hopton, sensing the danger, also moved towards Alresford and both armies marched to Alresford, often in full view of each other.

Hopton won the race, his cavalry occupying Broad Street and his foot forming a defence screen on Tichborne Down. Waller's forces settled near Cheriton at Lamborough Fields and along the valley to Bramdean. Waller himself lodged at Hinton Ampner House, the home of Lady Stukesly, a Parliamentary sympathiser.

On March 28th there was skirmishing between the two forces. That night Waller and his officers conferred to decide whether to fight or withdraw to the Parliamentary base at Famham. The Royalists at Alresford had the advantage of commanding the main road to Famham and London, whilst the Parliamentarians would have a more circuitous route should they have to fall back to Famham.

If Waller were defeated the road to Famham and London would be open to Hopton and Parliament would be in peril. However Waller and his officers decided to stay and fight it out.

March 29th was the day of the battle. The Royalists under the joint command of Lord Hopton and the Earl of Forth held a line from East Down to Cheriton Wood facing the Parliamentarians between Lamborough Fields and Bramdean (see map).



Before dawn the London Brigade, consisting mainly of inexperienced recruits occupied Cheriton Wood on the Royalists left. This threatened a flank attack if the Royalists advanced. The danger was immediately recognised and a determined attack by Royalist musketeers drove the Londoners out in confusion. Soon after this a reckless and unsupported advance by Sir Henry Bard's foot regiment against Parliament's left wing led to the regiment being cut off and destroyed with the loss of the commander. This was a serious blow to Hopton.

At midday the Royalist cavalry attacked with great gallantry but poor tactics. One advance was down Bramdean Lane. Here the Cavalry moved one troop at a time which prevented them from concentrating their forces for the attack. They suffered heavy losses from musketeers lining the hedgerows and gunners firing down the lane. A fierce melee ensued and several prominent Royalist officers were lost with a most adverse effect on Royalist morale. Waller was involved in the struggle and was fortunate to survive unharmed. This was the turning point of the battle. Poor tactics and lack of discipline by Royalist Officers contributed to the failure of Royalist attacks. Other Royalist attacks by foot and horse failed to dislodge Waller's forces.

Later in the afternoon the two Parliamentary wings began to close and the Royalists were forced back from hedgerow to hedgerow. Cheriton Wood was re-occupied. Panic affected some of the Royalists who fled, throwing their arms away. Some of the impressed soldiers indeed were able to return quietly to their own homes. Hopton withdrew his forces to Alresford in as orderly a manner as possible leaving a rearguard at Tichborne Down to delay Waller.

Alresford was set on fire by the retreating Royalists but the flames were soon extinguished by the pursuing Parliamentarians. Most of the Royalist forces reached Basing House that night, the rearguard being courageously commanded by the elderly Earl of Forth.

On the following day Waller entered Winchester but the Royalists held out in the Castle, not surrendering until 1645.

Estimates as to the numbers involved and casualties suffered vary tremendously, but probably 10,000 Parliamentarians faced 7,000 Royalists. One authority gives 900 Parliamentarians and 1400 Royalists killed, although these estimates may be on the high side.

Some local notables were involved in the battle. Colonel Richard Norton, who owned the Manor House in Old Alresford and was a friend of Cromwell's, commanded a regiment of horse. Although nicknamed "Idle Dick", he was far from idle in the battlefield, successfully leading cavalry attacks on the Royalists. Sir Richard Tichborne of Tichborne House and his brother Benjamin of West Tisted fought on the Royalists side. Sir Benjamin is said to have hidden in the chimney of a cottage after the battle. Another Tichborne, Robert, supported Parliament, although he was not at the battle. His signature, with others, is on the death warrant of Charles I (1649). He was not, however, arraigned for treason at the Restoration in 1660.

The King's cause never recovered from the defeat at Cheriton. It threw the whole of his strategy in the South of England out of balance. His best army in the south had been decisively beaten with heavy losses of men, horses and material. All hope of occupying Sussex and Kent and moving on London vanished. The House of Commons ordered that April 9th should be celebrated as a day of public thanksgiving in London.

Today there is a plaque on the site of the battle [see map) at the far end of Scrubbs Lane. Relics have been dug up over the years. Cannon balls have been found in Cheriton gardens. Indeed long ago it seems that villagers played bowls with them. Various mounds in the countryside were thought to be mass graves.

It would not be right to end this brief account of the Battle of Cheriton without some reference to what civilians suffered as well as soldiers in the Civil War. A heavy burden fell on the civilian population, especially in operational areas. Plunder, lawlessness, heavy taxation, seizure of cattle and horses and the decline of trade hit many people, but especially the poor. The attempted burning of Alresford after the battle illustrates the perils of the times and Peter Heylin the Royalist Rector of Old Alresford had his goods and chattels, including a fine library, plundered by the Parliamentarians. The Rector was forced to flee his home and go into hiding.

Generals on both sides attempted, not always successfully, to curb the worst excesses committed by their troops. For example in 1644 there were twenty-two Court Martials in Waller's army and some of those found guilty were hanged.

Today the battlefield is at peace and sheep graze on its slopes. It is difficult to imagine the scene three and a half centuries ago when the area was filled with fighting men and horses. We cannot relive the fears and passions of that day. The most apt comment was made by my mother who, when I drove her across the old battlefield murmured "the poor things!".

©Peter Hoggarth - October 1986

one half of the total cost if the other half be obtained within six months'. This magnificent offer was gratefully accepted and Mr. Walford duly invited to join the Committee.



Work proceeded throughout the year when the final plans and proposals produced by Sir Arthur Blomfield were agreed and approved at the Vestry meeting on the 16th December 1896. Some changes had developed during this interim period. These chiefly consisted of repairs to the nave roof structure, retention of the west gallery and the seating in the nave; also rebuilding the Chancel, a new Priests vestry, a new organ vestry on the south having a heating chamber below, all 'Designed so as to improve the elevation and general appearance of the church'. There is an added note that in the architect's opinion 'we can do the work now proposed to be done for something under £4,000'.

The Churchwardens were instructed to submit a petition for a Faculty for Rebuilding the Church, to the Bishop of Winchester; and this was granted on the 25th March 1897.

A note dated the 10th April stated that 'as soon as preliminaries relating to the contract are completed there should be nothing to prevent the work being commenced at once'. Messrs. Goddard and Son, of Farnham, were subsequently appointed as the building contractors and work commenced by the 16th June 1897.

During the period of the contract which was scheduled to take about ten months all services for worship were to be held in the Town Hall at the usual times and all marriages would be performed at St. Mary's Church, Old Alresford.

After the first couple of months a major problem arose, which, when resolved was to have a tremendous effect on the final form and finish of the Church building.

The first phase of demolishing and removing all unwanted elements was followed by the next operation of opening up, in places, for additional new works. When on removal of the decorative casings to the six lofty columns or piers supporting the nave roof, the timber posts exposed were found to be in a defective, even dangerous condition. News of this dangerous state of affairs spread throughout the town, appeared in the local press and even made the national technical journals. Sir Arthur examined and reported that 'unseasoned 'tree trunks', some of which had split

asunder had been used' and others talked about the 'shoddy workmanship' performed by the builders in 1694.

However, analysis of the surviving documents and evidence, together with the remarks suggests that the 'dangerous condition' arose inherently from the form of structural design of the three gabled roof structure. Such a design required two long, mostly concealed, internal valley gutters for the collection of rainwater from the roof slopes. Without adequate maintenance these gutters had seeped rainwater penetration, from time to time, over a period of two hundred years and thus the heads of the encased timber posts were continually saturated, leading eventually to a state of near collapse.

The report then recommended a change of design, and continued 'We estimate the cost of an entirely new roof to the nave in oak with nave arcade and columns and clerestory windows in stone approximately at £1,000 beyond the present contract'. In other words, in considering the difficult point of such considerable additional cost and contract time involved. Sir Arthur offered the Committee the most attractive alternative of a dramatic change in the design and concept of the project.

But research shews that this proposal for 'a new roof with nave arcade and columns and clerestory windows in stone' had previously been submitted to the Committee, the drawings are dated January 1897, but were no doubt declined due to the additional cost. However, the contract was now in progress, and delays mean extra costs, so a quick decision had to be made. In their dilemma the Committee quickly accepted the situation, approved the architect's recommendations including the extra expense, and work on site was able to continue with little delay.

And so in August 1897 a wide appeal was launched for the extra money - 'Every effort is being made locally to raise the funds, and we make this appeal in the hope that you will help with any sum, however small, to assist in meeting the amount the parishioners are unexpectedly called upon to raise. Even a few stamps will be a help, and can be sent to any member of the Committee'.

Sir Arthur's firm grasp of the changed situation that had developed enabled him to substitute his splendid proposals, which had been first turned down by the Committee, and today we are able to enjoy to the full the benefits of his skills and expertise. In lieu of a revamped continuation of the 'plain and neat church built with brick and flint and covered with tiles' so aptly recorded by Arthur Headley, the church was beautifully transformed. And today the first impression when entering the church fully confirms that the splendid Victorian Gothic style has been carefully designed and detailed. The well-proportioned nave, separated from the north and south aisles with handsome stone piers and arcading supporting the lofty clerestory from which the windows give generous light and a sense of spaciousness to the whole interior. Above this the roofs of the nave and adjacent aisles are well framed in solid English oak. The impact on the parishioners when they returned to their renewed church must have been quite considerable.

The upper parts of the perimeter walls were rebuilt including the insertion of new windows. When removing the old plaster from both sides of these walls several pieces of ancient carved and moulded stone, being buried in the walling, were exposed and collected. Some of these stones have been cleaned, examined and identified and are now carefully preserved in the display cabinet in the church.

The new Chancel was built higher and longer to give adequate space and setting for the choir and the Sanctuary, being supported by the refurbished Lady Chapel of the north aisle and balanced with the new organ vestry and Priests vestry of the south aisle. The architect designed a fine perpendicular east window above the altar, which was filled with plain glass. However in 1902, due to the further generosity of Mr. H.H. Walford, the window was reglazed with beautiful stained glass

depicting the 'Glorified Christ' together with the reredos in opus sectile work representing 'The Last Supper'.

In the newly refurbished Lady Chapel, the three light window in the east wall with its stained glass panels, erected to the memory of Francis and Selina Marx of Arle Bury in 1879, was removed from the demolished chancel and replaced a previous single light window.

The floor paving in the organ vestry contains the original inscribed grave cover stones removed from the burials in the body of the church, also there is the front panel removed from the west gallery which records some of the charities administered by the church dating back to the seventeenth century.

The fine west tower was not disturbed except for repair works to the archway to the nave, and the provision of the new west door. The clock, installed in 1811, was repaired, and the bells rehung and quarter turned. A service of rededication of the bells was held on the 22nd of December 1897 followed by a Peal of Kent Treble Bob Majors rung in 3 hours and 3 minutes in celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

A separate appeal for funds to cover the cost of removing and completely rebuilding the organ into its new position was made by the organist. At the same time it was modernised in every way.

The favourable weather conditions throughout the winter months enabled good progress to be maintained to the work on the site. The completion was forecast to be early in July, but subsequently it was put back to mid- August, a total delay of some four months on the contract.

There is a note by an unknown person who visited the church immediately after the re-opening, 'It has been handled with much taste and success and is converted into a handsome structure of Perpendicular style, though it will be more pleasing when it gets some good stained glass into the fine east window. At present it is all somewhat cold and bare, obviously the structure was the first thing to be considered, but the whole building offers scope for beautiful decoration'. A remarkable perceptive comment.

At 11 o'clock on Wednesday the 17th of August 1898 the service celebrating the reconstruction of the Parish church commenced, led by the Bishop of Winchester. The authorised form of consecration was conducted and then the Bishop, having said the opening prayers, proceeded first to the font, then the chancel steps, the pulpit and the holy table saying at each the appointed prayer. Having then seated himself, the sentence of consecration was read by the Deputy Chancellor. The Bishop signed the sentence and directed that it should be forthwith preserved amongst the muniments of the diocese at Winchester.

The restored church, as can be seen today, fully justified the great efforts made by the people of Alresford. It is a tribute to the zeal of the individuals concerned and illustrates to the full the creative judgment so admirably expressed by the architect. Sir Arthur Blomfield.

The total cost of the church reconstruction amounted to some £6,000. In acknowledging the work performed by the Committee it must be remembered that finally it required the many monetary gifts continually made so generously by Mr. H.H. Walford in order to happily complete the fine church we all enjoy so much today.

He died, at Arle Bury, on Christmas Day 1928 and his memorial on the south wall of the Sanctuary simply states 'In memory of Herbert Henry Walford to whom the restoration and rebuilding of this Church in 1898 was principally due'.

