

VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

CROWMARSH GIFFORD

Religious History

Crowmarsh had its own church by the early 12th century. The benefice was appropriated c.1215 to Goring priory, and vicars were appointed until 1488 when it reverted to being a moderately endowed rectory. A separate medieval leper hospital next to Wallingford bridge continued until the Reformation. Patronage of the church passed in the 16th century first to the Crown and later to absentee lay owners, who mostly presented non-resident pluralists, leaving services in the care of stipendiary curates. Roman Catholic recusancy (led by the Hildesleys of Howbery manor) was strong in the late 16th and early 17th century, and from the early 19th century Protestant Dissenting chapels in Wallingford attracted increasing numbers of Crowmarsh inhabitants. From 1979 the Anglican church was incorporated into benefices based at Wallingford, and remained open in 2016.

Church Origins and Parochial Organization

Though probably formerly dependent on Benson,¹ Crowmarsh acquired its own church before 1139. The font is broadly contemporary, suggesting that the church had baptismal rights from the outset and was perhaps already fully independent.² The founder may have been one of the Bolbecs of Crowmarsh manor, who gave the church to Goring priory some time before 1181 and most likely in the early 12th century.³ The nuns were licensed to appropriate it c.1215, and the bishop ordained a perpetual vicarage,⁴ but in 1488 both arrangements lapsed possibly because of earlier difficulties in recruiting and retaining the benefice's poorly paid incumbents.⁵ The then vicar (instituted in 1474) was re-appointed as rector on condition that he paid Goring priory an annual pension of 10s.⁶

Reference to a 'dean of Crowmarsh' c.1250 may indicate that the church once formed the centre of a rural deanery, although by 1254 the parish was included in the rural

¹ *VCH Oxon.* XVIII, 15, 60.

² Below (pastoral care: Middle Ages); below (church archit.).

³ *VCH Oxon.* II, 103; T.R. Gambier-Parry (ed.), *A Collection of Charters relating to Goring, Streatley, and the Neighbourhood, 1181–1546, Vol. I* (ORS 13, 1931), 1. For the Bolbecs, above, manor.

⁴ Gibbons (ed.), *Liber Antiquus*, 10.

⁵ Below (vicarage; pastoral care).

⁶ John Estmond: Lincs. Arch. REG/21, f. 81; REG/22, f. 227.

deanery of Henley.⁷ The church's medieval dedication to St Giles (mentioned in 1474 and 1506)⁸ remained unchanged in 1763, but by 1786 had been replaced by St Mary Magdalene.⁹ The reasons for the change are unknown, though possibly it arose from antiquarian confusion with the similar dedication of Crowmarsh's medieval leper hospital.¹⁰

In 1656 an order was approved to unite the benefices of Crowmarsh Gifford and Wallingford St Mary.¹¹ Almost certainly it never took effect, and thereafter the ecclesiastical parish remained unchanged until 1907–8 when it was united with that of Newnham Murren.¹² A proposed union with three Wallingford benefices (St Mary, St Leonard, and St Peter) in 1935 was not pursued following local protests,¹³ and a single incumbent served both churches until 1979 when Crowmarsh and Newnham (the latter declared redundant in 1973) were incorporated into successively larger team ministries based at Wallingford.¹⁴ At the same time the parish was transferred to Wallingford deanery, having remained part of Henley deanery save for its brief inclusion in the short-lived deanery of Nettlebed (1852–74).¹⁵

Advowson

Goring priory retained the patronage until the Dissolution. In 1305 the king presented during a vacancy caused by the prioress's resignation, while in 1441 and 1448 the bishop of Lincoln presented 'by lapse', claiming that Crowmarsh had remained vacant for half a year.¹⁶ The priory presented for the last time in 1506, thereafter granting single turns to lay people who presented in 1519 and 1550.¹⁷

Following the priory's suppression the Crown held the advowson until 1590, when it was sold by agents to William Spencer (d. 1609) of Yarnton, who also acquired Crowmarsh manor.¹⁸ In 1667 Sir Thomas Spencer gave a turn to Charles Holloway (who presented in 1669), but retained the advowson at his death in 1685. The subsequent partitioning of Yarnton manor probably led to the advowson's sale: by 1690 it belonged to the widow of the former rector John Lee (1679–89), followed before 1750 by Sir Clement Cottrell (d. 1758) of

⁷ *HMC 6th Rep.* (1877), 578; Lunt (ed.), *Val. Norw.* 304.

⁸ Lincs. Arch. REG/21, f. 81; REG/23, f. 298v.

⁹ J. Ecton, *Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum* (1763 edn), 357; (1786 edn), 801.

¹⁰ Below (pastoral care).

¹¹ *Cal. SP Dom.* 1655–6, 311; J.K. Hedges, *History of Wallingford* (1881), II, 327–8.

¹² OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 85; *Lond. Gaz.* 11 Aug. 1908, pp. 5891–3.

¹³ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1271; Berks RO, D/P 161/7/5.

¹⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1274/3; *ibid.* DIOC/1/C/6/11/1.

¹⁵ Youngs, *Admin. Units*, I, 395.

¹⁶ Lincs. Arch. REG/2, f. 149v.; REG/18, ff. 173v., 177v.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* REG/23, f. 298v.; REG/25, f. 48; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 105, p. 136.

¹⁸ Pearce, 'Clergy', 141–3; *Cal. Pat.* 1555–7, p. 366; 1589–90, pp. 54, 138; TNA, C 3/415/34; above, manor.

Rousham.¹⁹ Later patrons included the Turner family of Yorkshire (1770s–90s), John Trollope (1844),²⁰ and (by the following year) William (d. 1867), 6th Viscount Barrington, who was succeeded by his son George (d. 1886), the 7th Viscount, and by George's widow Isabel (d. 1898) and daughter Florence.²¹ She transferred the advowson in 1927 to the bishop of Oxford,²² who remained patron of the united benefice in 2016.²³

Glebe, Tithes, and Vicarage

The medieval rectory was poor, valued in 1254 at only 5 marks (£3 6s. 8d.) a year,²⁴ and in 1291 and 1428 at £4 6s. 8d.²⁵ From that the rector paid Goring priory an annual pension of 20s. before the church's appropriation in 1215, and half that amount following the vicarage's lapse in 1488.²⁶ The vicarage itself comprised a house, altarage, and tithes from 10 a.,²⁷ and in 1291 was assessed at 13s. 4d. a year,²⁸ substantially below the legal minimum. By 1526 the reunited living was worth £12 a year, and in 1535 £13 6s. 8d., though the rector then owed the priory £3, having apparently withheld the pension for several years.²⁹ Following the Dissolution the pension was granted to Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, and in the 20th century (when it was still 10s. a year) it was paid to Henley Municipal Charities.³⁰

The rectory was apparently without glebe throughout the Middle Ages, and in 1680 it still comprised only a house and garden, two outhouses, and a separate tithe barn 'with a little land standing about it',³¹ to which Robert Selwood (rector 1690–1750) added an orchard and dovecot by his will.³² Great and small tithes were paid in kind except for milk (for which the rector received 3d. per cow),³³ and in the 17th and 18th centuries the living was worth c.£100 a year.³⁴ By 1754 the tithes were let,³⁵ and in the early 19th century the rector let both tithes and tithe barn to a local farmer, who claimed not to make a profit from them and

¹⁹ OHC, Dash. XV/i/3; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. d 106, f. 122; *ibid.* MS Wills Pec. 69/5/21; *ibid.* Cal. Presentation Deeds, nos. 54–8, 228; *VCH Oxon.* XI, 163; XII, 476.

²⁰ OHC, Cal. Presentation Deeds, nos. 229–32.

²¹ TNA, IR 18/7667; *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1847–64 edns); *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (1860–1924 edns); *Complete Peerage*, I, 434–5.

²² *Lond. Gaz.* 8 Feb. 1927, p. 840; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1037.

²³ *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (2014/15), 1201.

²⁴ Lunt (ed.), *Val. Norw.* 304.

²⁵ *Tax. Eccl.* 30; *Nonarum Inquisitiones*, 136; *Feudal Aids*, VI, 372.

²⁶ *Rot. Welles*, I, 68; *Lincs. Arch.* REG/22, f. 227.

²⁷ Gibbons (ed.), *Liber Antiquus*, 10; *Rot. Welles*, II, 13.

²⁸ www.hrionline.ac.uk/taxatio (accessed Feb. 2016).

²⁹ *Subsidy 1526*, 251; *Valor Eccl.* II, 167, 205, 207.

³⁰ *L&P Hen. VIII*, XIII (2), p. 463; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 368, f. 120; Berks RO, D/P 161/25/12.

³¹ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 141, f. 25; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. c 448, f. 45; below (rectory ho.).

³² OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 151/5/30.

³³ *Ibid.* MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 141, f. 29.

³⁴ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. d 282, f. 172; *Par. Colln*, I, 105.

³⁵ *Oxon. Poll, 1754*, 75.

gave them up in 1834. Thereafter the tithes were annually 'sold', often to the farmers who owed them, their annual value averaging c.£70 between 1829 and 1835, or 2.35s. per acre.³⁶ According to Arthur Young c.1809, they had been worth 6s.–7s. an acre in the valley, but less on the hills.³⁷

In 1845 the tithes were commuted for a £247 annual rent-charge, which comprised the rector's whole income until the union with Newnham Murren in 1907–8.³⁸ By then the national fall in corn prices had reduced the net value to c.£140, to which £50 a year (replaced in 1954 by a capital sum) was added from Newnham Murren. Before 1924 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners provided a further £23 a year (rising to £32 by 1931), and in 1948 the rector's net income was £371.³⁹

Rectory House

The medieval rectory house stood presumably on the site of its 19th-century successor a few metres north of the church, with the 13th-century vicarage house perhaps in the same vicinity.⁴⁰ In 1540 the house was in 'very great ruin by neglect of the rector',⁴¹ and a 'new brick house' was mentioned in 1644. Presumably that was the house occupied by Edmund Trewlocke (rector 1615–69) twenty one years later, when he was assessed on a single hearth.⁴² In 1677 the rectory site contained two separate buildings c.30 ft apart: the southern one (perhaps the earlier 'new house') was two-bayed and in good repair, while the three-bayed northern one (34 ft long by 12 ft wide) was an 'old decayed building' which the rector William King (1673–9) intended to demolish, replacing it with a new 27-ft wing to the existing house, and a cellar underneath. King also planned to extend the rectory garden into the churchyard.⁴³ Whether his plans were fulfilled is unclear, but in the 1680s the rector occupied a single house with a garden, two outhouses, and a separate five-bayed tithe barn on the corner of Clack's Lane.⁴⁴ Robert Selwood (rector 1690–1750) held an additional house to the east of the church, though apparently not as part of the glebe.⁴⁵

In 1793–5 the churchwardens repaired both the rectory house and barn, and the 17th-century buildings were probably still in use in 1805 when the 2-a. grounds included a

³⁶ TNA, IR 18/7667.

³⁷ Young, *Oxon. Agric.* 39.

³⁸ OHC, tithe award; *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (1860–1906 edns).

³⁹ *Lond. Gaz.* 11 Aug. 1908, p. 5892; *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (1924–48 edns); Berks RO, D/P 161/3/2.

⁴⁰ For an accidental death at the priest's house in 1247, TNA, JUST 1/700, m. 2.

⁴¹ H. Salter (ed.), 'Visit Oxon. 1540', *OAS Rep.* 75 (1930), 304–5.

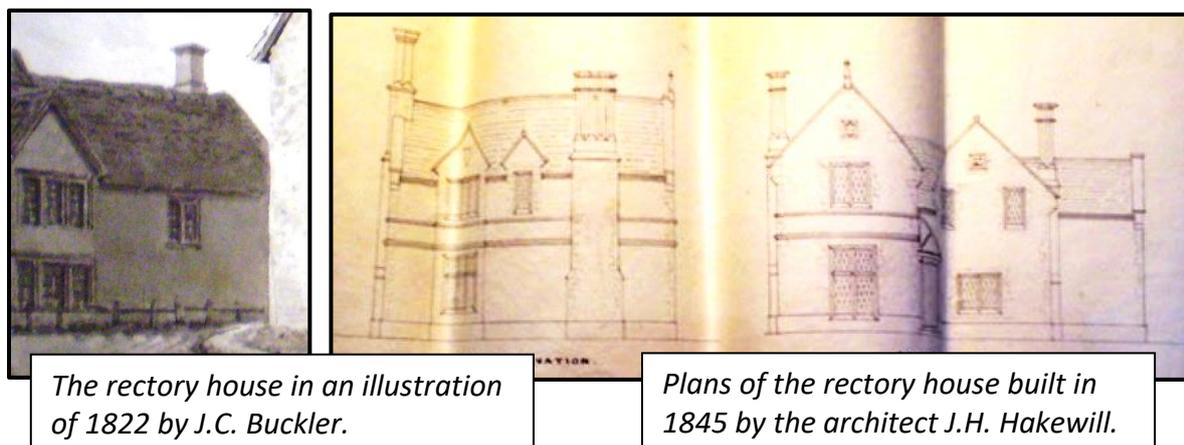
⁴² Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. d 282, f. 172; *Hearth Tax Oxon.* 1.

⁴³ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 454, f. 183.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.* MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 141, ff. 25, 29.

⁴⁵ Later called The Limes and since demolished: Bodl. MS Maps Oxon. a 1; Pedgley, *Crowmarsh*, 57–8; cf. *Secker's Visit.* 48.

brick-built house and a partly weather-boarded stable.⁴⁶ In 1815 the curate claimed that the house was too small for his 'numerous family', however, and in 1844 (since it had 'fallen into such decay') it was recommended that it should be 'entirely rebuilt'.⁴⁷ An illustration of 1822 showed a two-storeyed building with a stone stack and an apparently tiled roof, incorporating a gabled bay with three-light stone-mullioned windows to the ground and first floors.⁴⁸



The rectory house in an illustration of 1822 by J.C. Buckler.

Plans of the rectory house built in 1845 by the architect J.H. Hakewill.

The replacement house (completed in 1845) was designed by John Henry Hakewill and built by Richard Clack of Wallingford, the £625 cost met by a £500 mortgage from Queen Anne's Bounty, £100 from the former incumbent David Durell (rector 1793–1844), and £25 from the patron, Viscount Barrington.⁴⁹ Constructed of coursed dressed stone lined with brick, and roofed in Welsh slate, the house features mullioned and transomed windows, multiple gables, and tall stone chimney stacks, one of which breaks forward from the south front opposite the church. Twin stone bands demarcate the first and second storeys on both the south and the eastern entrance front, which is twin-gabled with a narrow entrance porch.⁵⁰ A two-storeyed projection on the north front is original, although its eastern extension (matching the southern bay) was added probably by Allen Dams (rector 1898–1909), who created a new driveway to the house.⁵¹

In 1978 a modern house at 34 Thames Mead was bought for the incumbent, and the following year (when Crowmarsh was incorporated into a Wallingford team ministry) the

⁴⁶ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 63, ff. 184–7; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. c 448, f. 45; cf. *ibid.* tithe award and map.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. b 32, f. 106; *ibid.* b 107, no. 8.

⁴⁸ By J.C. Buckler: Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. a 66, no. 201.

⁴⁹ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 107, no. 8.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.* (plans and elevations dated 1845); cf. illustrations in OHC, HT1514 (photo 1875); newspaper cutting (1954) in *ibid.* ORCC CROWb/082 (showing an added canted bay window on the east).

⁵¹ OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XLIX.11 (1878–1912 edns); OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1037, faculty (1906); Berks RO, D/P 161/5/4; for later repairs, *ibid.* D/P 161/3/2.

former rectory house was sold.⁵² The tithe barn was probably sold c.1845 following tithe commutation.⁵³

Church Fabric Endowment

In 1685 the rector reported that 2 a. in Crowmarsh's fields belonged to the church, the income to be used for repairs.⁵⁴ The endowment's origins are unknown, and by the 18th century it was worth only £1 a year, rising to £2 in the early 19th.⁵⁵ The churchwardens let the land to local farmers until 1903, when it was sold and the proceeds invested in stock.⁵⁶ In 1950 the capital was worth £113 6s. 4d.⁵⁷

Pastoral Care and Religious Life

The Middle Ages

The parish church existed by 1139, when King Stephen fortified it against Matilda's forces.⁵⁸ The first known incumbent, Hugh the priest of Crowmarsh, gave land to Wallingford priory before 1212 and possibly in the 1180s,⁵⁹ while his likely successor as rector, Robert the chaplain, was instituted only a few years before Goring priory appropriated the living c.1215. He was enjoined to be resident, and to minister to the inhabitants in person.⁶⁰ Thereafter until 1488 the church was served by poorly paid vicars who probably resided but did not always stay for long. Most were apparently minimally educated,⁶¹ and in 1296 one (called Simon) was forced to resign following 'repeated fornication' with a local woman.⁶² Some (like Robert of Goring in 1223 and John of Crowmarsh in 1235) were local men, though others were probably from further afield, among them John of Devon (instituted 1264) and John

⁵² OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1037; Berks RO, D/P 161/7/9; Pedgley, *Crowmarsh*, 71; above (paroch. organization).

⁵³ TNA, IR 18/7667.

⁵⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 141, f. 29.

⁵⁵ Ibid. MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 555, f. 159v.; d 549, p. 27; *8th Rep. Com. Char.* (Parl. Papers 1823 (13), viii), 515.

⁵⁶ OHC, tithe award; *ibid.* Macc. House, no. 61; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883–1939 edns).

⁵⁷ Berks RO, D/P 161/25/10.

⁵⁸ K.R. Potter and R.H.C. Davis (eds), *Gesta Stephani* (1976), p. 95; Hedges, *Hist. of Wallingford*, I, 235.

⁵⁹ *Book of Fees*, I, 111; *Oseney Cart.* IV, p. 416; H.E. Salter (ed.), *Thame Cartulary*, II (ORS 26, 1948), p. 120.

⁶⁰ *Rot. Welles*, I, 68.

⁶¹ Below (this section).

⁶² *Reg. Sutton*, V, 158.

Mauduit of Hartlebury (instituted 1318).⁶³ Those dying in office included Alexander (1239–58), William of Woolstone (1296–1305), and Roger of Bordeshale (1306–18), though others such as Richard of Woodford (1258–64) resigned in favour of another living.⁶⁴ Bordeshale's institution was contested by the king, who had presented a rival candidate (Robert of Tring) during a vacancy of Goring priory,⁶⁵ and the Crown perhaps also influenced the presentation in 1344 of Robert Daventry of Stanford, vicar of Coppenhall in the royal free chapel of Penkridge (Staffs.).⁶⁶ Daventry died in 1349 probably from the Black Death.⁶⁷

Thereafter late medieval population decline may have made it more difficult to recruit and retain vicars in such a poorly endowed parish. Daventry's successor William White of Crowmarsh probably resigned in 1352,⁶⁸ and following the death of Stephen Lawrence (vicar 1352–65) neither William Morgan (1365–8) nor William Pulley (1368–9) stayed long. In the 1440s the bishop twice presented to the church 'by lapse',⁶⁹ and around ten incumbents are known between 1441 and 1474, their rapid turnover perhaps influencing the decision in 1488 to reinstate the rectory and to allow Goring priory only a reduced annual pension.⁷⁰ As earlier, few of Crowmarsh's late medieval incumbents seem to have received a university education, the first known being John Lumbury (vicar 1467–8), who also served Great Rollright.⁷¹ Otherwise the only other known pre-Reformation graduate was the long-serving William Lancaster (rector 1519–50), who in 1526 employed a curate at £6 a year. In 1540 he suffered a temporary sequestration of the living, possibly for his neglect of the rectory house.⁷²

An anchorite mentioned in 1271 lived presumably in a cell by the church.⁷³ More general lay involvement in religious life is poorly recorded, however, and though the Bolbecs or Goring priory may have added the church's north transept c.1200, the building was otherwise little altered during the Middle Ages.⁷⁴ Even so the fabric was presumably

⁶³ *Rot. Welles*, II, 12–13; *Rot. Grossesteste*, 443; *Rot. Gravesend*, 217; Lincs. Arch. REG/2, f. 170v. (possibly Hartlebury in Worcs.).

⁶⁴ *Rot. Grossesteste*, 460; *Rot. Gravesend*, 213, 217; *Reg. Sutton*, VIII, 193; Lincs. Arch. REG/2, ff. 149v., 170v.

⁶⁵ Lincs. Arch. REG/2, f. 149v.; *Cal. Pat.* 1301–7, 361.

⁶⁶ Lincs. Arch. REG/6, f. 84; for Penkridge, *VCH Staffs.* III, 298–303.

⁶⁷ Lincs. Arch. REG/9, f. 243; *Archaeol. Jnl* 68 (1911), 355.

⁶⁸ Lincs. Arch. REG/9, f. 255v.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.* REG/10, ff. 344 and v., 346; above (advowson). No institutions have been found between those of John Dun (1369) and Henry Nevill (1423), however.

⁷⁰ Lincs. Arch. REG/18, ff. 173v., 176v., 177v.; REG/20, ff. 229, 230v., 238v., 243v., 246; REG/21, f. 81; above (paroch. organization).

⁷¹ Emden, *OU Reg. to 1500*, II, 1177.

⁷² *Ibid.* II, 1089; *Subsidy 1526*, 251; *Visit. Dioc. Linc.* II, 68; H. Salter (ed.), 'Visit Oxon. 1540', *OAS Rep.* 75 (1930), 304–5.

⁷³ *Oseney Cart.* II, p. 563; E.A. Jones, 'The Hermits and Anchorites of Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia* 63 (1998), 57, 65.

⁷⁴ Below (church archit.).

maintained, and no disrepair was reported in 1530.⁷⁵ Two of the local Skinner family were commemorated by an inscribed gravestone in 1518,⁷⁶ and land given for obits and the provision of lights suggests support from wealthier inhabitants.⁷⁷ In 1552 the church was amply provided with plate and vestments, including a silver chalice, a brass pyx and censer, a latten cross, two candlesticks, four altar cloths, three corporals, two copes, and a surplice.⁷⁸ Fragments of early 16th-century stained glass may indicate further investment, but could have been brought from elsewhere in the 19th century.⁷⁹ A parishioner was summoned in 1540 for allegedly failing to attend church services.⁸⁰

Crowmarsh's medieval leper hospital was established in the early 12th century nearly opposite the parish church, on the southern side of the Wallingford–Henley road close to Wallingford bridge.⁸¹ The founder was conceivably one of the Bolbecs, but no evidence survives, and in the 14th century the patronage belonged to the lord of Newnham Murren,⁸² despite the hospital's inclusion in Crowmarsh parish. Empress Matilda granted it lands c.1142,⁸³ and further gifts and endowments followed during the 13th and 14th centuries, amongst them the gift (in 1232) of an oak tree to repair the building's shingled roof. By then the hospital and its chapel were dedicated to St Mary Magdalene, and the warden (also called master or chaplain) presided over a mixed community of 'brothers and sisters'.⁸⁴ The hospital's wider role within the village community (if any) is unclear, and by the 16th century it was closely associated with Wallingford's hospital of St John the Baptist, with which it shared a priest.⁸⁵

The Reformation to 1840

The Reformation led to suppression of the leper hospital, the sale of lands given to maintain obits and lights, and the apparent removal of much of the plate and vestments listed in 1552,

⁷⁵ *Visit. Dioc. Linc.* II, 68.

⁷⁶ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. d 282, f. 172 (Thos and Joan Skinner).

⁷⁷ *Chant. Cert.* 38; *Cal. Pat.* 1549–51, p. 83.

⁷⁸ *Chant. Cert.* 97.

⁷⁹ Newton, *Oxon. Glass*, 76; below (church archit.).

⁸⁰ Salter, 'Visit Oxon. 1540', 305.

⁸¹ For brief accounts: *VCH Oxon.* II, 155–6; Pedgley, *Crowmarsh*, 104–6; P. Preece, 'Crowmarsh Leper Hospital', *SOAG Bulletin* 62 (2008), 34–5; N. Christie, O. Creighton, et al., *Transforming Townscapes: From Burh to Borough: the Archaeology of Wallingford, AD 800–1400* (Soc. for Medieval Archaeol. Monograph 35, 2013), 290–1.

⁸² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* VI, p. 471.

⁸³ *Book of Fees*, I, 104, 588.

⁸⁴ *HMC 6th Rep.* (1877), 581, 585, 589; *Close* 1231–4, 75; *Cal. Pat.* 1225–32, 105, 140; *Reading Abbey Cart.* II, p. 166; *Oseney Cart.* V, p. 202; Bodl. MS Ch. Oxon. 149.

⁸⁵ *VCH Berks.* II, 99–101; Hedges, *Hist. of Wallingford*, II, 371–4; *Cal. Pat.* 1557–8, p. 134; TNA, LR 2/224, f. 3v. For the site's post-Reformation history, above, manor (other estates).

leaving only a chalice, four altar cloths, and two bells.⁸⁶ William Lancaster's successor Richard Bristow (rector 1550–7), from a local farming family, left 10s. to the church along with several vestments, a pair of censers, and two candlesticks, perhaps replacements for those removed in 1552–3.⁸⁷ His will suggests that he retained Roman Catholic beliefs, but those of his parishioners point to more divided religious sympathies,⁸⁸ and by the 1560s most wills (despite the presence of some prominent recusant families) were generally Protestant in tone.⁸⁹ Bristow's successors Richard Watson (rector 1557–76), John King (1576), Jenkins Walker (1576–7), and Evans Roberts (1577–1615) all subscribed to the Elizabethan settlement, and probably resided: Roberts witnessed parishioners' wills and, since he was styled *magister*, was presumably university educated, although in 1593 he (or his curate) was said to be 'of mean ability', and in 1582 he survived an apparent attempt to oust him, mounted for unknown reasons.⁹⁰ A silver chalice and paten hallmarked 1606 were donated during his incumbency.⁹¹

The successful imposition of Protestant worship was achieved despite the continued presence of recusant gentry and others, led by the Hildesleys of Howbery manor. William Hildesley (d. 1576) was buried in the parish church, where he was commemorated by a brass,⁹² but his son Walter (d. 1596) and daughter Cecilia Bigg (d. 1626 or 1627) were charged heavy recusancy fines, and members of the Cheyney, Cumber, Joiner, White, and Williamson families were similarly penalized.⁹³ The Hildesleys' departure probably reduced local Catholic influence, although a few recusants remained during the 17th century.⁹⁴ Protestant Nonconformity was minimal, only one Dissenter being reported in 1676 and possibly one or two others a few years later,⁹⁵ while continued attachment to the parish

⁸⁶ *Chant. Cert.* 132; for the bells, below (church archit.).

⁸⁷ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 181, ff. 108v.–109; Pedgley, *Crowmarsh*, 69–70.

⁸⁸ OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 180, ff. 81 and v., 198v.–199; 181, ff. 182v.–183.

⁸⁹ e.g. *ibid.* 184, ff. 40 and v., 55v., 364 and v. For recusancy, below.

⁹⁰ Pearce, 'Clergy', 141–2, 153; Pearce, 'Cert. 1593', 153; Peel, *Register*, II, 131; OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 10/5/58; 50/2/11; 11/2/39; 11/5/3.

⁹¹ Evans, *Ch. Plate*, 50–1.

⁹² OHC, par. reg. transcript; Stephenson, *Brasses*, 403; T. Hadland, *Thames Valley Papists: from Reformation to Emancipation* (2004), 40; above, manor.

⁹³ *Recusant Rolls 1581–92*, 21, 83, 92–3, 100; 1592–3, 255–6; 1593–4, 123–6; 1594–6, 71–2; H.E. Salter, 'Recusants in Oxfordshire 1603–33', *OAS Rep.* (1924), 17–58; E.R. Brinkworth (ed.), *The Archdeacon's Court: Liber Actorum, 1584*, I (ORS 23, 1942), 105; M. Gosling, 'Berks. and Oxon. Catholics and the Lenten Assize of 1588', *Oxoniensia* 58 (1993), 261–2; M. Hodges, 'Aspects of Recusancy in Oxfordshire: the Case of Owen Fletcher of Woodstock (1553–c.1635)', *Oxoniensia* 72 (2007), 8.

⁹⁴ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 424; *Cal. Treas. Bks 1685–9*, p. 454; M. Sturge Gretton (ed.), *Oxon. Justices of the Peace in the 17th Cent.* (ORS 16, 1934), 8, 17.

⁹⁵ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 424; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 708, ff. 154v., 155.

church was reflected in inhabitants' bequests towards its repair,⁹⁶ and in the ongoing installation of memorials.⁹⁷

Crowmarsh's 17th- and 18th-century rectors were generally Oxford-educated men, although as most were pluralists the church was sometimes served by stipendiary curates. Edmund Trewlocke (rector 1615–69) was also rector of Wallingford St Peter, and during the Interregnum survived a government attempt to deprive him of Crowmarsh and to intrude the curate of Horspath, James Barron.⁹⁸ Though he occasionally employed assistants he probably resided, and was buried in the parish.⁹⁹ His successor Henry Savage (rector 1670–2) was master of Balliol College, Oxford, and may have had looser ties, holding Crowmarsh with other benefices including Bladon,¹⁰⁰ and appointing a curate who was buried in the parish in 1671.¹⁰¹ Thomas Harrison (rector 1672–3) and William King (1673–9) probably both resided, however,¹⁰² and under King (who may have remodelled the rectory house) the pulpit was moved from the north side of the nave into a large reading pew on the south side, where it benefited from greater light.¹⁰³ The long-serving Robert Selwood (rector 1690–1750) also resided, combining Crowmarsh with nearby Mongewell; in 1738 he served the latter himself and employed a curate for Crowmarsh, who received a £26 stipend. Services at Crowmarsh were performed twice on Sundays, with holy communion (attended by c.20 inhabitants) celebrated five times a year.¹⁰⁴

Selwood reported no Roman Catholic or Protestant Dissent in the parish, despite one habitual absentee occasionally attending an unspecified nearby meeting house.¹⁰⁵ A Catholic woman was reported in 1706, and another (then elderly) during the 1750s–70s,¹⁰⁶ but otherwise there was little Nonconformity of any kind until the 19th century. Dissatisfaction with the Anglican church may nonetheless have increased under Selwood's non-resident successors James Lea (rector 1750–70), Matthew Whitehead (1770–8), Thomas Davison (1778–93), and David Durell (1793–1844), of whom Lea lived at Lambeth (Surrey). In 1759 he paid a curate £24 a year to serve Crowmarsh, where there was a single Sunday morning service followed by an afternoon sermon at Newnham Murren, and holy communion four

⁹⁶ e.g. TNA, PROB 11/130/398; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 22/3/14.

⁹⁷ *Par. Colln*, I, 105–6.

⁹⁸ *Alumni Oxon. 1500–1714*, IV, 1513; *Calamy Revised*, ed. Matthews, 30, 559; *VCH Oxon.* V, 186.

⁹⁹ Oldfield, 'Clerus'; OHC, par. reg. transcript, s.a. 1618, 1620 (baptisms), 1622, 1630, 1669 (burials); above (rectory ho.).

¹⁰⁰ *Alumni Oxon. 1500–1714*, IV, 1317; *ODNB*; *Cal. SP Dom.* 1668–9, 532; 1670, 307–8; *VCH Oxon.* XII, 32.

¹⁰¹ Thos Hancock: Oldfield, 'Clerus'; OHC, par. reg. transcript, s.a. 1671.

¹⁰² *Alumni Oxon. 1500–1714*, II, 663, 855; OHC, par. reg. transcript.

¹⁰³ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 104, f. 58; c 454, ff. 183–4; above (rectory ho.).

¹⁰⁴ *Alumni Oxon. 1500–1714*, IV, 1333; *Secker's Visit.* 48–9, 105; OHC, par. reg. transcript, s.a. 1695, 1699, 1750 (burials). For Selwood's tomb, below (church archit.).

¹⁰⁵ *Secker's Visit.* 48–9.

¹⁰⁶ W.O. Hassall, 'Papists in Early 18th-Century Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia* 13 (1948), 81; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 555, f. 157v.; d 558, f. 176v.; d 561, f. 177v.; *Retn Papists 1767*, 114.

times a year.¹⁰⁷ The curate in 1768 (who received only £20) lived at Benson,¹⁰⁸ and in 1771 (when Lea's successor Matthew Whitehead resided in Yorkshire), the curate was based in Mongewell. Services continued as before, although the number of communicants at Crowmarsh halved to just ten.¹⁰⁹ Despite such neglect few problems were reported by the churchwardens, and only minor church repairs were ordered in 1759, together with provision of a new prayer book and other furnishings.¹¹⁰ Two new bells (since replaced) were hung in 1776 during Whitehead's incumbency.¹¹¹

Under Thomas Davison the living was sequestrated until his debts were paid, and in the early 1780s the church was served by the vicar of South Stoke at 20 guineas (£21) a year.¹¹² In 1789 Davison accepted a benefice in Hampshire, but retained Crowmarsh until 1793.¹¹³ His successor David Durell was yet another pluralist, dividing his time between his living of Mongewell and a prebend at Durham cathedral, and employing often non-resident curates.¹¹⁴ By 1802 Crowmarsh had just six communicants out of a population of 204 compared with Mongewell's 50 from a population of 125, and, with little improvement in the number of services, from the 1810s Dissent began to take hold.¹¹⁵ In 1811 Durell reported a 'few Methodists who attend chapel at Wallingford', and in 1814 'about eight or ten Independents and Baptists', while some inhabitants displayed an outright 'indifference to religion'.¹¹⁶ Even so the pattern of Anglican services remained broadly unchanged in the 1830s, with a single service at 2 p.m. except on the four Sundays a year when holy communion was celebrated by c.40 inhabitants. Meanwhile Dissenters of various denominations continued to attend chapels in Wallingford.¹¹⁷

Since 1840

Durell's final years were marked by a partial restoration of the church, paid for by William Seymour Blackstone of Howbery.¹¹⁸ The work may not have been carried out thoroughly, however, since by 1857 John Trollope (rector 1844–78) was complaining that the roof was in

¹⁰⁷ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 555, ff. 157–9 (Rob. Knight).

¹⁰⁸ Ibid. d 558, ff. 176–8; *VCH Oxon.* XVIII, 62 (Sam. Long).

¹⁰⁹ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 561, ff. 177–9 (Geo. Wall); c 327, p. 25 (1778).

¹¹⁰ Ibid. MSS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. d 13, f. 58; c 63, ff. 129 sqq; below (church archit.).

¹¹¹ *Ch. Bells Oxon.* I, p. 108.

¹¹² OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 2261, item c (1783); c 327, p. 25; *VCH Oxon.* VII, 106.

¹¹³ OHC, Cal. Presentation Deeds, nos. 230–1; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. c 327, p. 25; *Alumni Oxon.* 1715–1886, I, 352; *Gent. Mag.* 103.2 (1833), 185–6 (obit.).

¹¹⁴ *Alumni Oxon.* 1715–1886, I, 398; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 9, ff. 107v.–114.

¹¹⁵ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 9, ff. 105–106v.; d 566, ff. 99–100; d 567, f. 19v.; d 568, ff. 101v.–102; *Census*, 1801.

¹¹⁶ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 549, p. 27; d 574, f. 94v.

¹¹⁷ Ibid. b 39, ff. 113–14; b 41, f. 76 and v.

¹¹⁸ Ibid. MSS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 63, f. 257; c 37, ff. 529, 534, 541; H.E. Relton, *Sketches of Churches* (1843), s.v. Crowmarsh Gifford; below (church archit.).

'bad repair', and in 1868 the architect John Henry Hakewill considered the church to be in a 'very dilapidated state with unseemly pews of every size and height'. The cost of his proposed restoration (which included provision of open sittings) was £480, which was raised partly by subscriptions and donations, and partly by grants from the Incorporated Church Building Society and Diocesan Church Building Society. The bishop of Oxford attended the church's reopening, and reportedly declared himself satisfied with the improvements.¹¹⁹

Trollope, a distant cousin of the novelist, was typical of his Victorian contemporaries in displaying greater zeal than his 18th-century predecessors. He reintroduced two Sunday services, and in 1851 reported average attendances of 50 in the morning and 130 in the afternoon, claiming further improvement (to c.160) by 1869.¹²⁰ Monthly celebrations of the sacrament were introduced in the 1870s. Nevertheless Dissent, indifference, and the temptations of the public house continued to pose a serious challenge,¹²¹ and the problems persisted under his successor Richard Porter (rector 1878–93). Porter's introduction of weekday services and fortnightly communion may have increased attendances at a time of population decline, though lack of heating in church discouraged attendance on winter mornings, and by 1890 he had grown despondent at what he perceived as a lack of results for his efforts. He eventually retired after a period of sick leave.¹²²

Under Albert Ennor (rector 1893–8) the east end of the church was refitted (in 1894), and the following year the church benefited from gifts of a silver flagon and paten (hallmarked 1895), a ring of eight tubular bells (replacing the existing 'two small bells'), stained glass for the east window, and two sanctuary lamps, all given in memory of H.B.W. Williams-Wynn of Howbery and other members of his family.¹²³ Contemporary plans to reopen the south doorway, erect a south porch, and make other improvements seem not to have been carried out.¹²⁴ Allen Dams (rector 1898–1909) initiated further alterations (including installation of heating by Wilder's foundry) in 1902,¹²⁵ and oversaw the union with Newnham Murren in 1907–8, but resigned the following year to become vicar of Goring.¹²⁶ His successors Joseph Dyer (1909–12), Henry Fulford (1912–20), and Thomas Caspersz (1920–5) did not remain long, though their incumbencies were marked by increased

¹¹⁹ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. c 103, ff. 318–24; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 179, f. 132; d 797, f. 117; d 179, f. 132; LPL, ICBS 6745; *Bucks. Herald*, 21 Mar. 1868; *Oxf. Times*, 3 Oct. 1868; below (church archit.).

¹²⁰ *Ch. and Chapel, 1851*, no. 131; *Wilb. Visit.* 46; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 335, f. 109v. For Trollope, *Alumni Oxon. 1715–1886*, IV, 1441.

¹²¹ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 179, f. 131v.; c 332, f. 151v.; c 335, ff. 109v.–110; c 338, f. 130v.; c 341, f. 146v.

¹²² *Ibid.* c 347, f. 135v.; c 350, f. 114v.; c 353, f. 123v.; c 356, ff. 127v.–128; c 359, ff. 133–4.

¹²³ *Ibid.* c 1037, faculty (1895); c 362, f. 126; Berks RO, D/P 161/28/14; *Oxf. Jnl.*, 7 Dec. 1895; Evans, *Ch. Plate*, 51; *Ch. Bells Oxon.* I, p. 108; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1895–9 edns); below (church archit.).

¹²⁴ By the architect Samuel Johns of Wallingford: OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1037, faculty (1895); Berks RO, D/P 161/6/2.

¹²⁵ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1037, faculty (1902); Berks RO, D/P 161/6/2; below (church archit.).

¹²⁶ *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (1912), 368; above (paroch. organization).

attendances and numbers of services,¹²⁷ and by further improvements to the church fabric including installation of memorial glass.¹²⁸ John Dale (rector 1925–49) hosted childrens' clubs and other groups at the rectory house and produced a regular parish newsletter, besides upgrading the church's heating and converting the north transept into a second vestry (in 1932). Even so he could do little to counter the effects on attendance of increasingly popular Sunday excursions and of 'usual religious indifference'.¹²⁹

Oswald Roberts (rector 1953–77) continued to perform three Sunday services,¹³⁰ and in 1978 Martin Gillham was appointed team vicar in anticipation of Crowmarsh's unification the following year with two Wallingford benefices. Further enlargement of the ecclesiastical parish followed in 1998, although Crowmarsh retained a resident vicar, and weekly Sunday services continued in 2016.¹³¹ Changes to the sanctuary in 1950 were largely reversed in 1981, when the altar was moved to enable the celebrant to face westwards during the Eucharist, and the following year an aumbry was installed. In 1985 the north transept was enclosed with a timber and glass screen, and the organ was replaced in 1994.¹³² In 2008 a grant from the Historic Churches Trust paid for installation of an induction loop for the hard of hearing.¹³³

Church Architecture

Crowmarsh's small 12th-century church retains many of its Norman features, their survival reflecting in part a lack of later investment by the parish's lords, patrons, and parishioners.¹³⁴ The present building, sympathetically restored in 1840–1, 1868, and 1894–5, comprises nave, chancel, and north transept, the whole c.73 ft (22.3 m.) long,¹³⁵ and is constructed of rendered flint and stone rubble with stone dressings and tiled roofs. A tall wooden bellcote at the nave's west end, surmounted by a tiled pyramidal roof, is a 19th-century replacement of an earlier original.¹³⁶

¹²⁷ Berks RO, D/P 161/1B/1–3, service regs (1907–26).

¹²⁸ Below (church archit.).

¹²⁹ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1038, faculty (1932); Berks RO, D/P 161/8A/1; 161/3/3.

¹³⁰ Berks RO, D/P 161/1B/10.

¹³¹ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1274/3; *ibid.* DIOC/1/C/6/11/1; *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (1980/2–2014/15 edns); www.achurchnearyou.com (accessed Mar. 2016).

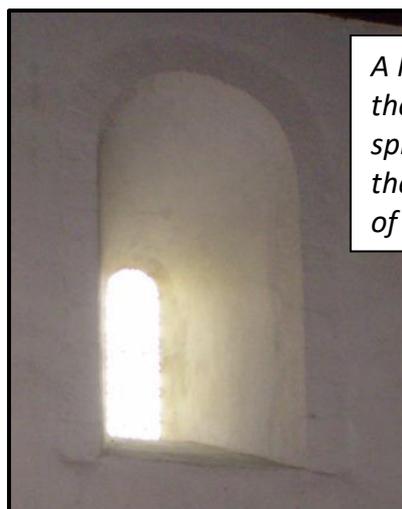
¹³² OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 1038, faculty (1950); c 1274/3, faculties (1981–94).

¹³³ *Ibid.* DIOC/1/C/6/11/1, faculty (2008).

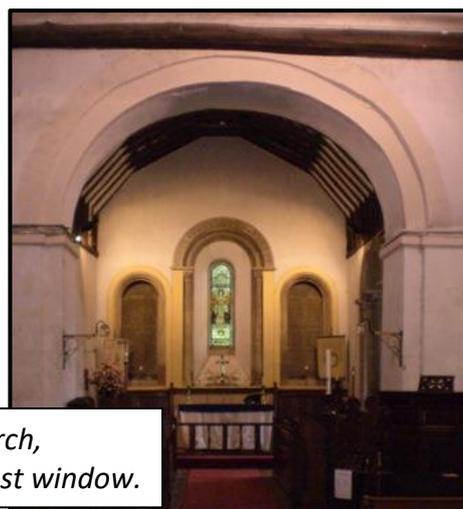
¹³⁴ Above (pastoral care). For other accounts, Pevsner, *Oxon.* 561–2; Bldgs List, IoE 247245; *Archaeol. Jnl* 44 (1887), 190; Sherwood, *Oxon. Churches*, 61–2; church guide-book (c. 1969 and 1984 edns): copies in OHC.

¹³⁵ H.E. Relton, *Sketches of Churches* (1843), s.v. Crowmarsh Gifford.

¹³⁶ Below.



A Norman window in the nave, its deep splay demonstrating the massive thickness of the church walls.



The Norman chancel arch, looking towards the east window.

The massive stone walls of the nave and chancel were built probably in the early 12th century, forming part of the structure briefly fortified in 1139.¹³⁷ Notable interior Norman work includes the chancel arch of two plain orders, characteristically wide and high, while on the chancel's south wall is an exceptionally early piscina with round-arched opening and projecting fluted bowl. The cylindrical font is also early 12th-century, its bowl decorated with a blind arcade of spiral-fluted columns. A suggestion that the east end was originally apsidal and was enlarged in the 13th century remains unproven.¹³⁸



The 12th-century piscina.



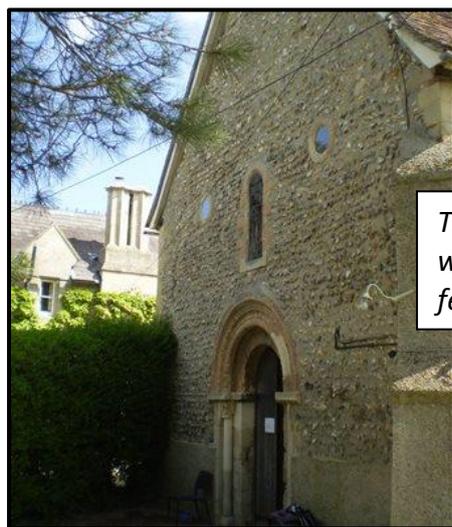
The 12th-century font.

The west end's fenestration is unusual but perhaps follows the original design, with two small circular lights at eaves level flanking a round-headed window directly above the central door. Externally, the doorway itself is a Norman arch of three orders, the inner plain, the central roll-moulded, and the outer with scallop decoration. The plain jamb shafts have

¹³⁷ Above (pastoral care: Middle Ages).

¹³⁸ Berks RO, D/P 161/28/16.

carved capitals, while the chamfered impostes and hood include star-in-square decoration.¹³⁹ In the nave's south wall a second Norman doorway (now blocked) has columns with a waterleaf capital to the east and an uncarved capital to the west, and is flanked by two short original round-headed lights set just below the eaves. A similar arrangement of lights survives in the nave's north wall, together with another blocked doorway of 13th-century type. Other windows in Norman style are modern insertions (below).



*The west end
with its unusual
fenestration.*



The west door.

A small north transept was added c.1200, with a pointed arch of two chamfered orders; its windows (a quatrefoil and two trefoiled lancets) are most likely Victorian insertions, however. Possibly it was designed to house a vault, since in the 19th century the transept floor stood 3 ft above that of the nave.¹⁴⁰ Later medieval work may include a three-light square-headed window (with hood mould and end stops) in the nave's south wall, and a predecessor of the current bellcote was called a 'steeple' in 1552, when it housed two bells.¹⁴¹ Stepped buttresses to nave and chancel are medieval or later. Early monuments include an elaborate brass commemorating William Hildesley (d. 1576), perhaps originally installed in the north transept before being moved into the nave, and later reset in the transept arch.¹⁴² The black marble altar tomb of Robert Selwood (rector 1690–1750) was removed from the chancel probably during its 1894 restoration, and its inscription reset in the north wall.¹⁴³

¹³⁹ Illust. in 1890 in OHC, HT4543.

¹⁴⁰ Berks RO, D/P 161/6/1.

¹⁴¹ *Chant. Cert.* 97.

¹⁴² Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. d 282, f. 172; *ibid.* MS Don. c 91, p. 125; *Par. Colln*, I, 106; *Oxon. Visit.* 183; Relton, *Sketches of Churches*, s.v. Crowmarsh Gifford; W. Hobart Bird, *Old Oxon. Churches* [1932], 65.

¹⁴³ Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. d 88, f. 182.

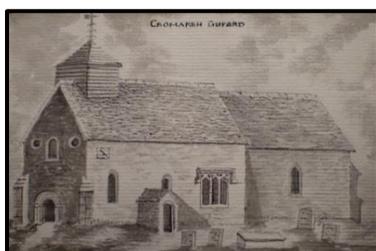


The blocked south door.



The chancel windows inserted in 1840—1.

In 1759 all three church doors remained open, the south door protected by a gabled and boarded porch in need of repair. Additional repairs were ordered to the church roof, windows, floor, and bellcote.¹⁴⁴ The porch was again in disrepair in 1796,¹⁴⁵ but survived in the early 19th century along with a sundial (since removed) on the nave’s south wall, and a squat wooden bellcote with weathervane. A drawing of the chancel in 1823 shows a two-light ogee-arched window in both the south and east walls, and (at the south wall’s west end) a small lowside window. Slightly earlier drawings, however, show the south wall with just a single lancet.¹⁴⁶



Crowmarsh parish church in an early 19th-century illustration by Henry Hinton.



Crowmarsh parish church in an illustration of 1823 by J.C. Buckler. In 1819 it was reported that funds from the church fabric endowment were to be used to ‘put [in] an additional window’.



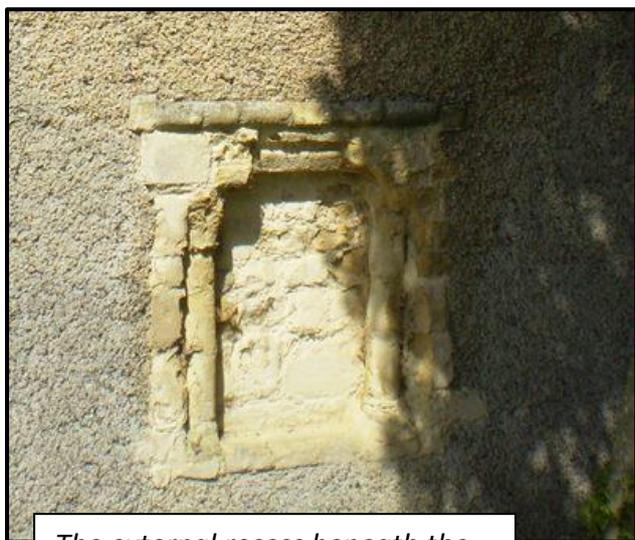
The chancel of Crowmarsh parish church in 2016. The windows were inserted during the restoration of 1840—1.

¹⁴⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. d 13, f. 58.

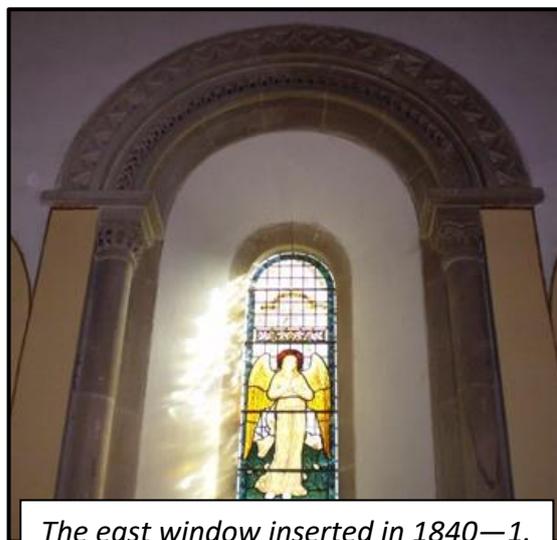
¹⁴⁵ Ibid. c 63, f. 189.

¹⁴⁶ Bodl. MSS Top. Oxon. a 66, nos. 201–2; b 220, f. 94; ibid. MS Don. c 91, p. 127; cf. *8th Rep. Com. Char.* (Parl. Papers 1823 (13), viii), 515.

By 1838 the church was ‘much defaced by damp’,¹⁴⁷ and a few years later it was partially restored. The west door (reportedly plastered over for some time) became the main entrance, while the south and possibly north doors were blocked, and the south porch removed. The chancel was remodelled, with three single round-headed windows in the south wall and an east window in similar style, below which an external recess was created from fragments of Romanesque sculpture.¹⁴⁸ Inside, the east window incorporates an unusual column decorated with acanthus leaves carved as though blown by the wind. Mention was also made of the fragmentary 16th- to 19th-century stained glass in the north transept, which may have been presented by William Seymour Blackstone as part of the restoration.¹⁴⁹



The external recess beneath the east window inserted in 1840—1.



The east window inserted in 1840—1. The left-hand column has a capital decorated with acanthus leaves.

A more thorough restoration was undertaken by J.H. Hakewill in 1868,¹⁵⁰ when the western gallery (of unknown date) was removed, and new north and south Norman-style lancets were inserted at the nave’s west end, replacing an earlier ‘unsightly window’ which had lit the gallery. Other structural changes included building of a vestry on the chancel’s north side and replacement of the bellcote, while extensive repairs were made to the floor, walls, and roof, including removal of the nave’s plaster ceiling.¹⁵¹ The chancel’s roof timbers were exposed in 1894 during rebuilding and redecoration of the church’s east end, which was provided with a new communion table, choir stalls, and tiled floor.¹⁵² At the same time

¹⁴⁷ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 41, f. 76v.

¹⁴⁸ Relton, *Sketches of Churches*, s.v. Crowmarsh Gifford (incl. illust.); Berks RO, D/P 161/28/17/1; illust. in Bodl. MSS Top. Oxon. c 521, p. 44; d 514, f. 17.

¹⁴⁹ Relton, *Sketches of Churches*, s.v. Crowmarsh Gifford; Newton, *Oxon. Glass*, 76.

¹⁵⁰ For background, above (pastoral care).

¹⁵¹ Berks RO, D/P 161/6/1; Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. c 103, f. 324; illust. in *ibid.* c 852, f. 45; OHC, HT1514; HT4541–2.

¹⁵² Berks RO, D/P 161/5/5; 161/5/7; 161/8/1; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 365, f. 127.

the church's walls were painted with floral patterns and figures.¹⁵³ In 1902 a furnace for the new heating system was built next to the vestry, and a new west door was fitted,¹⁵⁴ while a lych gate designed by S.S. Stallwood of Reading was erected as a First World War memorial in 1919.¹⁵⁵

New internal fixtures included memorials to the long-departed Clack family (by Honeybone & Son of Wallingford) in 1918, and stained glass by the Bromsgrove Guild in memory of Revd Caspersz's parents in 1924. New altar rails (by the Haddenham cabinetmaker Ivor Newton) were donated by parishioners in memory of the rector John Dale (1925–49),¹⁵⁶ while stained glass by Alfred Wilkinson (in 1956) and Charles de Vic Carey (1961) commemorated local inhabitants. General repairs to the fabric included rendering the walls externally and plastering them internally (covering the 1894 wall paintings), retiling the roofs, and maintaining the guttering and stonework. Repairs in 1962 were repeated at regular intervals thereafter, and included improvements to the heating, lighting, and water supply, the costs met by gifts, grants, and loans. In 1995 the parish council provided floodlighting for the church at night.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵³ Berks RO, D/P 161/28/14; illust. in Pedgley, *Crowmarsh*, 73.

¹⁵⁴ Berks RO, D/P 161/6/2; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1037, faculty.

¹⁵⁵ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1038, faculty; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1924).

¹⁵⁶ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1038, faculties (1918–50); Berks RO, D/P 161/28/7.

¹⁵⁷ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 1038, faculties (1956–62); c 1274/3, faculties (1983–95); *ibid.* DIOC/1/C/6/11/1, faculties (1999–2005).