

THE HOARE FAMILY

Sir Richard Hoare (1648-1718) was the son of a successful horse dealer, and apprentice in a goldsmith firm. By 1672, he was in business on his own, and in 1673 he took over his master's firm. Its income was used to found Hoare's Bank in Fleet Street, which has flourished ever since. Sir Richard represented the City of London in Parliament for four years from 1709. In 1712, he became Lord Mayor of London.

Henry Hoare I (1677-1725) his son, bought the old Stourton family estate and manor house in Wiltshire in 1717. The Manor was demolished to make way for Henry's new home. "Stourhead" was one of the first country houses to be built in the new Palladian style. Henry died when the House was just completed.

Henry Hugh Hoare (1762-1841) his great-grandson, lived in Wavendon until he became the 3rd baronet and moved to Stourhead. His eldest son, Hugh Richard Hoare (1787-1857) became 4th baronet and succeeded him there, while other members of the family continued to live in Wavendon and later arranged for the refurbishment of St.Mary's by the eminent architect, William Butterfield in 1848.

WILLIAM BUTTERFIELD (1814 – 1900)

William Butterfield, one of the most important Victorian Gothic architects, was born in London in 1814. His parents were strict Nonconformists and ran a chemist shop in the Strand. One of nine children, William was educated at a local school, and at sixteen was apprenticed to Thomas Arber, a builder in Pimlico. When Arber went bankrupt, Butterfield decided to set up business as a professional architect. He was virtually self-taught. After an apprenticeship with an architect in Worcester, he opened his own office in 1840 in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

He became a friend of certain leading figures of the High Church Movement, and quickly built up a large architectural practice. From his office came designs for over 100 churches, new and restored, as well as schools, colleges and several large houses.

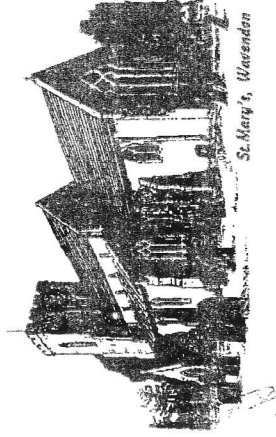
Butterfield was throughout his life a devout Christian of high church Anglicanism. Church buildings and worship were the chief part of his life. He designed Gothic churches, typically making a strong feature of the building materials, and often favouring polychromatic decoration inside and out.

GRINLING GIBBONS (1648 – 1721)

Master wood carver Grinling Gibbons was born in Rotterdam in the Netherlands and moved to England in about 1667. Very little is known about the first 20 years of Grinling Gibbons's life. He was a Quaker and an extremely talented wood carver. His carving was so fine it was said a pot of carved flowers above his house in London would tremble from the motion of passing coaches.

Sir Christopher Wren introduced Gibbons to King Charles II who gave him his first commission - still resting in the dining room of Windsor Castle.

Gibbons was employed by Wren to work on St Paul's Cathedral, and later was appointed as master carver to George I. Many fine examples of his work can still be seen in the churches around London - particularly the choir stalls and organ case of St Paul's Cathedral. He is buried at St Paul's, Covent Garden, London.



Welcome to St Mary's Church Wavendon

St.Mary's is the Parish Church for Wavendon, and is a member of the Walton Churches Partnership, a united benefice, which includes All Saints in Milton Keynes Village and Christ the King in Kents Hill,

This is a place of Christian witness and worship and celebrates the fullness of all that gives meaning to our lives. The notice-board shows when Services are held and gives details of other activities. We are always pleased to welcome visitors.

Take time to walk round and look at some of the key features described in this leaflet. When you have done so, spare a few moments to sit quietly in the side-chapel to reflect on the holiness of God, to pray for yourself, for those whom you love and for those who worship here.

We hope that you will enjoy your visit, meet with God, and go away refreshed.

HISTORY: St Mary's (or "The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary" to give the full and proper title) is the oldest surviving building in Wavendon, but there is nothing identifiable earlier than the 13th c. We know that the nave was extended westward and the aisles added towards the end of that century, and that the west tower was added in the 15th c.

In 1848-49 the church was entirely restored and modernised at a cost of about £4000 by the eminent architect William Butterfield.

Renovations in 2011, using proceeds from the sale of the Methodist chapel in Phoebe Lane, were carried out. These were needed to meet the requirements of disability legislation and included work to the Chancel and the provision of facilities in the tower.

Features of interest

9: To the right of the altar is a stone bowl called a "piscina", with seats ("sedilia") alongside for the clergy.

The bowl was at one time used by the priest for washing the chalice and his hands after the people had taken Holy Communion.

There are piscinae also in the walls of both aisles, suggesting that there were originally side-chapels.

8: The high altar is the place from which the Holy Communion or Eucharist is distributed. Originally against the east wall, it was later moved forward so that the minister could stand behind facing the congregation.

The altar-table itself is a heavy single slab of blue lias stone.

The frontal can be white, purple or red at special times in the church calendar, but green is the colour most commonly seen. The pulpit and lectern falls match the frontal.

7: The pulpit is traditionally the place from which the sermon is preached, the Bible being read from the lectern on the opposite side of the Nave.

The Hoare family obtained this pulpit from St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, London, which was rebuilt in 1831 when Fleet Street was widened. It has the pea-pod trademark of Grinling Gibbons, a famous 17th century craftsman.

★ You are invited to :

Walk round the church with this guide, then sit quietly here in the side-chapel for a few minutes.

Think how old the church is.

Think of all the people who have been here.

Think of yourself here now in God's house. Just be still a while and say a prayer.

10: The drip moulding over an arch is known as a "label" and the small faces where the arches meet over the columns are called "label-stops".

There are similar faces outside the church on either side of both the west door and the porch entrance: the face on the left traditionally showed the Bishop, and the other on the right the King.

1: The mandorla-like pattern in the south porch floor tiling symbolises Christ as fully present in both the human and divine realms.

As you enter the church, the font on the left, is used for baptisms. This rite symbolises cleansing, re-birth and entry into the church.

The "stoup" on the other side of the door was used to hold holy water for the faithful to bless themselves on entering as a reminder of their baptism.

2: The oak chest behind the font is about 500 years old.

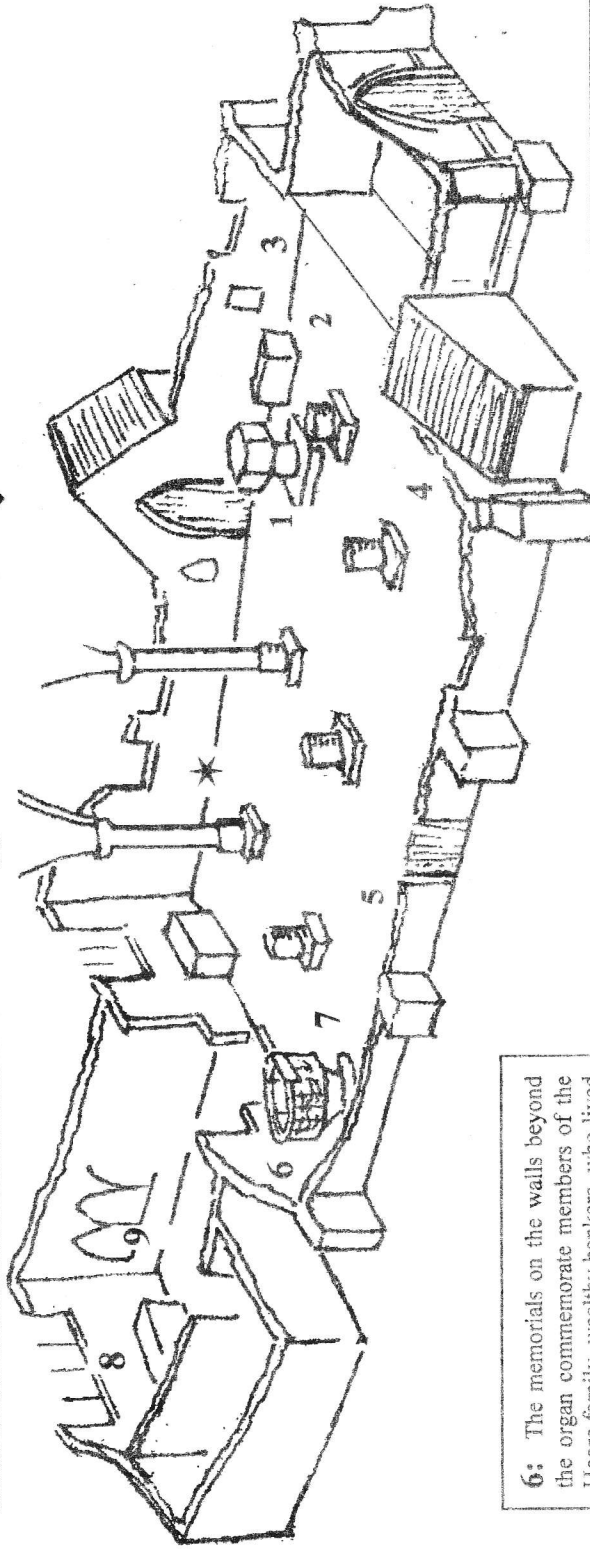
It originally had three locks. One key was held by the Rector and the other two by the churchwardens. All three had to be present to gain access to the valuable contents kept inside.

3: On the wall nearby is a list of Rectors.

For over 100 years from 1845 the church had only two: the Revd Henry Burney (d.1892) and the Revd Barrington Philipotts (d.1947).

Entrance Porch

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5: The windows at the back of the church contain some pieces of 15th c glass in the top tracery.

Most of the windows however are Victorian. Sir John Bejerman praised especially those by O'Connor at the chancel end for their brilliant colour. The face of the Revd Henry Burney can be seen in a window by Burlison & Grylls in the north aisle.

6: The memorials on the walls beyond the organ commemorate members of the Hoare family, wealthy bankers, who lived for a time at Wavendon House. Their family seat is Stourhead in Wiltshire.

With the Revd Henry Burney they commissioned renovation of the church in 1848 by the architect William Butterfield. The hatchments high overhead on the south wall of the north aisle were carried ceremonially at Hoare family funerals.

4: On the back wall is a memorial to George Wells.

This is the earliest we know of a school in Wavendon village.