

**Huxham – Historical Summary**  
**based on ‘Notes on the History of the Parish of Huxham’**  
**By Peter Gordon, 1960**

Date	Event
Saxon times	Manor formed part of the administration unit of the <b>Hundred of Wonford</b> (which also included Poltimore, Rewe and Stoke Canon)
Norman Conquest	Following the Norman Conquest, the tenant in chief was <b>Ralph de Pomeroy</b> , who had fought alongside William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings and who originally hailed from La Pommerie in Bayeux, Normandy
1086	<b>Domesday Book - Hoksham</b> (alternative spelling include Hokesham, Hoxam, Hoxham), not until 17th century did Huxham become established.
1086	Passed into the Lordship of Henry de Pomeroy. The manor of Poltimore, part of the Honour of Plympton, was held separately by Bristic and Scirewold,
1086	Fourteen households (representing about 50 to 60 people) were recorded. Total acreage of the manor was 508 acres, enlarged to 830 acres by 1850.
before 1166	Came into the possession of <b>Nicholas de Hokesham</b> , son of Richard Vidal & grandson of Vital's de Collumpton, who held Brampford Speke
1166	" <b>Robert de Hoxham</b> held the fame in King Henry II tyme, and contynued in the names of William and Robert until King Edward II tyme."
1166	Manor - Quite certain the de Hokesham resided in the Parish, suggested that was at one time the Manor House.
1199	<b>Henry de Pomeroy</b> sold the feudal services due from him to William Briwere
1241	<b>Richard de Hokesham</b> held Huxham for "half fee".
1256	William succeeded his father Richard, and in turn succeeded by his son William
1265	<b>Walter de Exon</b> - first recorded Rector of Huxham, instituted the Bishop.
1274	William convicted of "re-deseising of Thomas Brother of one common pasture in Huxham" by the Jury of the Hundred of Wonford and imprisoned in Exeter Castle by Roger de Predyas, then Sheriff of Devon, until a fine of 40 shillings was paid.
1303	the <b>third William de Hokesham</b> succeeded, the last of the male line of the main stem of the de Halkesham family.
1314	William presented Giles de Hokesham to the Rectory of Huxham and later that year to Robert Francels (assuming Giles died during that year)
c1330	<b>Marriage of John Bampfyld to Johan</b> (Jone), only daughter and heiress of William de Hokesham. They had no children.
1349	William dies and the manor of Huxham passed into the hands of the Baunfelde (or Bampfield, later Bampfyld) family through his daughter & her marriage.
1349	<b>Richard de Sobcombe</b> presented by John Baunfelde to Huxham Rectory.
1558	<b>Rev. Thomas Gage</b> , Rector, in his Will desired to be buried in the Chancel of Huxham, and his property disposed of "for the welfare and profyft of my sawle and all my ffriends sawles"
1613	<b>Rev. Richard Bowden</b> , Rector from 1606, the 1613 Terrier of the Houses and Glebe Land belonging to the Parsonage of Huxham", the first record of tithes in the Parish, indicates he resided in the Parsonage House at Huxham and not Poltimore
1614	First entry in Parish Register, includes record of marriage of <b>Richard Narraways</b> to Alice, the baptism and subsequent burial of their son Richard "reputed to have been begotten on her ... before ther marriage".
1617	In the Nave, there was a memorial to <b>Dorothy Wolcott</b> , died 1617, "wife of John Wolcott, Gent, daughter of Giles Bampfyld Esqr."
1622	In the chancel, a stone inscribed "here lyeth the Body of <b>John Acland</b> , of Huxham, who was buried February 1622"
1631	<b>John Bampfield</b> established a charity of his wife, Elizabeth Bampfield, and of his son, John (who died in Padua in 1629) with the objective to be the relief of "fower poor people of Poltimore" but otherwise "as many as shall be wanting out of the Parish of Huxham"
1635	<b>Kathryn Bampfyld</b> , died and was buried in Huxham, perhaps as they may have living in the "dower" house, the old de Hokesham manor, in Huxham whilst Poltimore House was being built.
1662	<b>Rev. Ambrose Clare</b> , Rector from 1647, was deprived of their livings as they refused to conform to the Liturgy of the Church of England
1737	<b>Rev. Edward Bradford</b> , last Rector of Huxham to reside full-time in Parsonage House, died in 1737 aged 57, a memorial is on the external north wall of the Chancel.
1744	Visitation to the Parish by the <b>Rev. Richard Heath</b> , population recorded as 11 families, 1 Presbyterian, 6-8 Communicants
1759	<b>Rev. James Mitchell</b> , the last Rector of Huxham only, in 1768 he became Rector of Poltimore also, since when the Livings have been held jointly.
1764	Visitation to the Parish by the Bishop, population recorded as 10 families, besides a few Cottagers.
1766	A plaque in the floor of the Nave commemorate the ' <b>long-lived' Bussell</b> , born 1669 (in Charles II reign) and died in 1766 (in George II reign)
1779	Bishop's Visitation by Mr. Ellicombe, the Curate, "I think everything is in good repair but the Chancel". Population of the Parish recorded as 16 families. Services attended by "seldom more than 9 or 10".
1821	Visitation by the Rector, Richard Warwick Bampfyld, "my Church and Chancel are in excellent repair", Rev. Bampfyld served Poltimore in the morning and Huxham in the afternoon, "there were generally 15 or 16 Communicants".
1837	<b>Tithe map of 1837</b> gives total acreage of the Parish (excl. Glebe lands) as 688 acres all in the ownership of Lord Poltimore, apart from the woods and brakes and land occupied by the 'Lower Mill' divides between five tenant-farmers; <b>Bussells and Steers</b> (by 1902 known as Barnhayes & divided into 2 small farms in the 1920's), <b>Huxham Barton, Jarmans, Palmer, Hopkins and Harils, and Pims (or Pynes)</b> . Two mills, Higher Mills and Lower Mills, on either side of Bussel's Cottage in Higher Huxham were in the hands of the Mathews family. By 1873 there was only one mill and shortly afterwards the other closed.
1851	Billing's Directory of 1857 recorded a population of 156 (7 voters) in 1851.
1865	P.O directory for 1886 records that in 1865 the building had been "restored chiefly at the expense of the Rector", then the Hon. John Fortescue)
1878	Kelly's Directory records the population of the Parish of Huxham as 90 (the lowest point of all records)
1883	The medieval glass in the East Window was replaced by a new window presented by Rev. T.B. Melhuish (Curate in the 1850's) in memory of his wife.
1889	Kelly's Directory refers to <b>Roland and Sons Paper Mills</b> "a small paper mill which has lately been re-opened and employs about 20 persons". It was finally closed shortly afterwards.
1911	Kelly's Directory of 1914 records the population of the Parish of Huxham as 116
1921	Rectory sold to Col. Martyn for £1,140, the Glebe lands were sold off at the same time.
1965	The Old Rectory, as it was then known, was sold by Col. Martyn's daughter to P.M. Gordon and in 1971 was sold by him to A.R. Midwinter, JP
1991	The Old Rectory was sold to Dr. & Mrs. Joyner.



## Details of the Victorian RennovaBon

- Meeting on 9 April 1870 at the Parsonage House, presided over by Lord Poltimore. Also present were Rev. F. Sterry (Rector of Poltimore & Huxham), his Curate, Rev. J.L. Francis (then living at the Parsonage House), Messer's Fisher (Churchwarden) & Franklin. The Church was "in a dilapidated condition and unfit for the celebration of Divine Worship".
- Plans, prepared by Mr. Ferrey (an Architect) were approved. Estimated costs not to exceed £400
- Subscription list opened, main contributors being Lord Poltimore (£100), Rev. F. Sterry (£150) and Rev. & Mrs. H.J. Fortescue (£50)
- Contractor was Richard Inch of Crediton. The building work and payments were quite acrimonious! Work was overseen by Mr. Philip Lang of Poltimore.
- The work principally involved; rebuilding the Nave (using Thorverton stone), erecting the present pitch-pine roof (arched principals & purlins in the Chancel, Trussed ralers in the Nave), minor repairs to the Chancel, painted & varnishing of the screen, a new base of Portland stone for the font, Victorian tiling for the floor, pews only 'altered'. Final cost of restoration was £458
- Sentence of Consecration after the restoration completed was performed by the Bishop of Exeter on 18 April 1871, dedicated the "new Church to Almighty God and Divine worship and to consecrate the same as and for the Parish Church of the Parish of Huxham aforesaid by the name of the Church of Saint Mary"

## The Netherexe Parishes

Netherexe parishes are a community of churches in the Diocese of Exeter serving the communities of Brampford Speke, Cadbury, Newton St Cyres, Rewe with Netherexe, Stoke Canon with Huxham, Thorverton and Upton Pyne. The churches of the Netherexe parishes together form a 'Mission Community', which commits itself to maintaining a worshipping, witnessing community within all our parishes and making the gospel known to people of all ages and backgrounds.

The Netherexe Parishes  
 website: [www.netherexe.org](http://www.netherexe.org)



Produced by  
 Brian Please



## THE PARISH CHURCH of ST MARY THE VIRGIN, HUXHAM

WELCOME to Huxham Church. We are delighted that you have taken the time to visit our church.

The name 'Huxham' derives from two old English words: HOC meaning 'bend' or 'spur of a hill'; and HAM, commonly meaning 'village' but also 'manor' or 'low lying meadow near a stream'. In the case of Huxham, clearly any one of these meanings would be applicable.

From the outside, our Church retains its essential 14th century English decorated style. As you enter the Church, you see the impact of extensive Victorian reconstruction around 1870 to recreate an environment fit for Divine worship.

Following the Norman Conquest, the tenant in chief was Ralph de Pomeroy, who had fought alongside William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. The manor of Hoksham (Huxham) is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. It came into the possession of Nicholas de Hokesham in 1166 and passed into the hands of the Bampfield family (of Poltimore fame) in 1349 through marriage of the heiress, where it stayed for 600 years.

Throughout this time, the local people have found the Church a place of worship, comfort and peace and it has been at the heart of the farming community of this small Parish situated on the banks of the River Culm north east of Exeter.

We hope you enjoy your visit today and ask that you join with all those who have passed through our doors by pausing to say a prayer before you leave.

*God of heaven and earth  
 we thank you for your grace and mercy  
 that has shone through the lives of the saints in  
 Huxham in many years past.  
 We pray that this church may always bear witness  
 to your redeeming love, that all who enter these  
 doors may be filled with your presence  
 and may come to know and love you,  
 through Jesus Christ. Amen*

*O Be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;  
Serve the Lord with gladness and  
come before his presence with a  
song.  
Know that the Lord is God;  
It is he that has made us and we  
are his;  
We are his people and the sheep of  
his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
Give thanks to him and bless his  
name.*

*Psalms 100. 1-3*



PEWS – 19<sup>th</sup> century pews lining the Nave



MEMORIAL – Honouring those who gave their lives in WWI



PULPIT – installed post 1870 restoration



CHANCEL WINDOWS - There are fragments of ancient (possibly 13th century) glass in the windows in the north and south sides of the Chancel

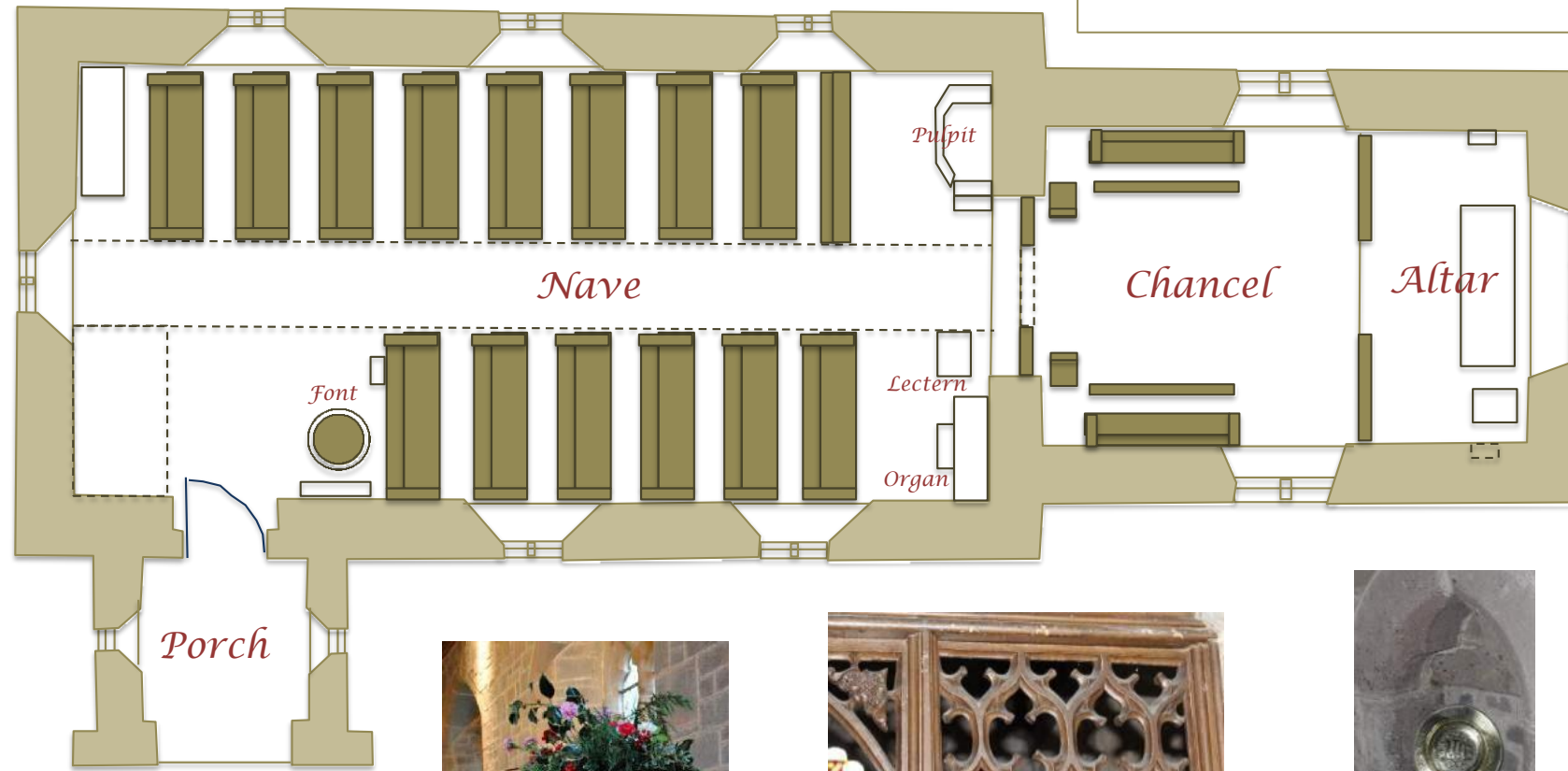


LECTERN – Brass lectern in the Chancel

*Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.  
C.S. Lewis*



ROOF – pitch-pine roof; arched principals & purlins in the Chancel, Trussed rafters in the Nave



Entrance



EAST WINDOW & ALTAR– In 1942 a land mine fell in the fields to the East of the Church, destroying the East and West Window. The East Window was replaced with the present window, designed by A.F. Erridge and dedicated by the Bishop in 1958



GRAVEYARD – the most poignant reminder of the individuals who have lived and served the village over centuries.



FONT - Described as "an exceptionally fine Norman font". The ornamentation indicates that it dates from the late 11th or early 12th century, the main motifs being Norman roses and five nails, possibly representing five wounds. It is lead-lined and stands on the Portland stone base installed during the 1870/71 restoration.



SCREEN - A charming example of a 15th century screen with good linenfold panels in the lower part



PISCINA - There is a Piscina in the north wall of the Chancel, probably dated from the early Middle Ages

*Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
Open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.  
Amen*



CHANCEL BENCH – of a pair of medieval benches in the Chancel



Detail from the stained glass in the East Window