

### 3. THE SEATING

Originally the church would not have had pews nor, indeed, seats, as most people stood around for services as in the Orthodox church today. The weakest went to the wall where a stone ledge was provided. Gradually benches came into the body of the nave, but pews did not arrive until the 16th century, after the Reformation. The seats were very hard. There are occasional notes of expenses for cushions, presumably for the readers or vicar.

The right to have a pew was jealously guarded, because it had to be paid for and went with a property of status. When such a new property was built, the owners would have applied for a permission (called a faculty) to have a new pew. This happened for both Goodrich House and Goodrich Court. In 1754 a faculty was confirmed to George White of Goodrich House for a 'seat' in the south corner of the chancel on the north aisle of the church, having a 'raised tomb that lay between two isles of the said church on the south part and continuing in length nine feet six inches and in breadth four feet nine inches.' This was a good size pew. In 1803 James Powles of Huntsham was allowed a 'seat' between those of Wm Foskett and Mrs Roberts. Samuel Meyrick of Goodrich Court applied for a pew; for more notes on this see The Tomb.

In June 1757 it was agreed that £60 should be laid out in new seating for the church, replacing the previous pews or seats in the same place, so that people could find their new seats easily. The material used was to be deal, the same as Mr White's pew. George Sneade made the seats, as well as a new 'Great Door' for the church and a new belfry door. It took him well over a year. In the 1870 renovations these seats were to be replaced and the Seddon plan shows them at their greatest extent. Those at the eastern end of the north aisle have been removed and choir seats made at the eastern end of the chancel, but otherwise they follow Seddon's plan.