

7. THE GALLERIES AND MUSICIANS

Originally the church would not have had a gallery but from the diocesan records of Seddon's 1870 restoration we know that a 'faculty' or permission was granted to 'remove all the galleries (except the Organ Gallery) and all the Pews Seats Pulpit Reading Desk and other fittings...'.⁷

From the churchwardens' accounts one gallery at least was built in July 1775, the faculty costing £2.7s.6d and the installation by Thomas Baker of Monmouth £40. When Sir Stephen Glynne visited in 1849 he noted that the interior was 'pued' and galleried on the south and west, the latter containing an organ. The Seddon plan shows steps in the far southwestern corner of the church, and this may locate the organ gallery, while the other gallery would then have stood over the pews and pulpit immediately to the right of the main door. The entrance to this second gallery may have been by the small door obliterated by the building of the new organ chamber. At this time the pulpit was on the north side of the chancel at the junction of the chancel and the nave and the gallery would have faced the pulpit in approved fashion.

In 1820 John Morgan's bill of £7 for boards and timber to erect an organ was paid. This is the only reference in the churchwardens' accounts for the materials necessary for building one. Galleries for musicians and singers were often at the west end of the nave. Before the organ was acquired there were musicians; in 1800 there is the record of the cost of mending the bass viol and a new string for it.