

CHRONOLOGY OF ST LUKE'S

- 1865** **Foundation stone laid** Ceremony performed by **Samuel Wilberforce¹, Bishop of Oxford** on 4 November. Expenses of ceremony included printing special service sheets, the hire of a tent and the hire & portage of a harmonium (from exhibition at Berkshire Record Office to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Bishop's birth-see BRO records D/P181/5/3,7,8)
- 1866** **ST LUKE'S consecrated by Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford**
New church dedicated 23rd August 1866. Church in early english style - cost £3500. The architect was George Row Clarke of London and the builder James Griffiths of Eldersfield, Worcs (*Illustrated London News*, Supplement Nov 10 1866 p 461 No 1398 vol XLIX).
Drawings by Clarke in Berkshire Record Office (5/P/181/6/2) show that the font was originally to be west of the entrance from the tower into the church. The base of the tower itself is marked "children". On the north east corner of the church was located the organs with the vestry to the east of it. For list of subscribers to 2 March 1867 see BRO D/P 181/5/2/2. Altar given by Mr Alfred Kent, pulpit by Mr Clarke, the architect, font by Mr Griffith, the builder, choir seats & eagle by Rev W.B. Hole, the Vicar (S.N.).
- 1867** **First memorial window inserted on south side of chancel**
In memory of Dr Bellis (M.Ad Dec 12 1894). Taken out 1952 - now lost.
- 1868** **Nave completed** (S.N.-has list of subscribers)
- 1870-1** **Tower added** (S.N.)
BELLS: Calling Bell - *Mears & Stainbank , Founders, London ?1870*
 Clock Bell - *Gillett Bland & Co, Croydon - London 1878.*
- 1871** **East window and north window of chancel added**
Latter taken out in 1952, though upper tracery, of winged bull of St Luke, remains. East window by O'Connor (N. Pevsner 1966, "Berkshire"). A second two light O'Connor window inserted on the north side of the nave: Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane and Christ the Shepherd
- 1872** **Chancel decorated**
Reredos gift of Rev G.H. Hodson, Rural Dean (S.N.) late incumbent of Cookham Dean (not sure when put in - probably already there in 1872). Reredos removed in 1952.
- 1879** **Clock added**
- 1883** **Model of St Luke's** made by W.E. Harper
This model is still kept in the church. In 1883 St Luke's did not have a spire. The spire was added to the model, almost certainly by Harper c. 1894, the original case being

¹ *Third son of William Wilberforce, the philanthropist and advocate of the abolition of the slave trade. Wilberforce born 7 Sept 1805 was Bishop of Oxford from 1845-1869. His birth was commemorated on 7 Sept 2005 at a service in The Minster Church of St Mary the Virgin in Reading to which representatives of the churches he reopened or consecrated were invited.

modified to take it. The present case (of perspex and oak) was made by Richard Burdett, PCC Treasurer, in 1991 after the arson attack, refixing the original brass plaque.

The plaque has the following inscription.

Maidenhead Working Men's Club
Exhibition 1883
W.E. HARPER
1st Prize – Model of St Luke's Church

William Harper was parish clerk of St Luke's for forty years (see inscription on his grave stone on the west side of the churchyard). The Working Men's Club was based in what is now St Luke's community hall.

1885 Fresco tile painting, *Jacobs Ladder*, on chancel arch dedicated at Advent in memory of mother of Thomas J. Nunns

See brass plaque on side of arch. Fresco made by W.B. Simpson and Sons of St Martins Lane, London; painter unknown, though has been suggested might be W.J. Neatby. Rev. Thomas Jackson Nunns was Headmaster of Cordwalles College (the forerunner of St Piran's) from 1873-90 (M.Ad Nov 27 and Dec 18 1992).

Scroll *This is none other than the House of God, this is the Gate of Heaven* painted by Jeseoph Rust (Platford)

1887 St Peter's Iron Church opened (S.N.)

1888 West Window on north aisle *Christ teaching people out of the ship* by Clayton & Bell given in memory of Admiral the Right Honorable Astley Cooper Key G.C.B. Donors include W.H.Grenfell Esq who gave 5 guineas and Rev T.J.Nunns who gave 2 guineas (M.Ad. 28 Nov 1888 p3). List of subscribers in S.N.

1891 Lectern given

1893 Great West Window inserted and west wall decorated with fresco

Both done by Clayton & Bell. Inscription on a brass plaque under the window reads:
To the Glory of God and in affectionate remembrance of the late Francis Goolden F.R.C.S. of the Wilderness, Maidenhead. Churchwarden of this parish from the consecration of the church Aug: 23rd 1866, until his death Feb: 15th 1892. The above window has been inserted and this wall decorated by his friends and relatives in the year of our Lord 1893.

Dr Goolden is said to have been a major donor in the building of the church and his profession may be why it was dedicated to St Luke who was a doctor.

The stained glass of this window is arranged as follows.

Top in the centre the Lamb of God holding a pennant. Below the Lamb and on each side roundels bear an angel with multicoloured wings holding a scroll with the words "Holy, Holy, Holy"

The rest of the window, above and below the transom, is arranged into five lights.

Above the transom from the New Testament

1)Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin;2)the Last Supper with the institution of the Eucharist, 3) the Crucifixion;4) the Resurrection; 5)the Descent of the Holy Spirit..

Below the transom from the Old Testament

1)Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden;2) the Falling of the Manna;3)the Brazen Serpent; 4) Jonah delivered from the Whale;5) the Giving of the Law.

(SPLM April 1893, p3)

Some of this window was put up before Goolden's death in 1892. By Nov 1883 the centre light had been filled with painted glass by Messrs Clayton & Bell (The Brazen Serpent and the Crucifixion), the cost of the light being £74 10s (The Gospeller for S. Luke's, Maidenhead, p 4). It seems the early glass may have been too thick/dark for in 1892 "Mr Bell of the well known firm of Clayton & Bell visited the church to inspect the west window and has promised to send a design for carrying out the work which will include a lightening* of the part already inserted and to complete the window following the original plan" (SLPM June 1892 no 18 p6). The Goolden Memorial Fund closed at £427. 10. 3 (SLPM Aug 1892 no 20 p6). Details of Goolden's funeral in SLPM March 1892 p3.

* other early glass in the chancel may also have been too thick, possibly why chancel re-ordered see 1952.

The fresco underneath the window was of the four evangelists (St Matthew, St Mark, St Luke and St John)

Also inserted in **south aisle**, a smaller **window** by Savell & Co. Window given by Mrs Cope in memory of her late husband, Charles West Cope R.A., and designed from his own drawings - **Theme 1) Our Lord as the Good Shepherd 2) The Prodigal Son** (SLPM April 1893 p 3 & 7).

Note: Charles West Cope R.A.(1811-1890) was a noted Victorian painter of historical, literary and biblical subjects. He took part in the competition to decorate the Houses of Parliament, winning in 1843 a prize for his cartoon of "Trial by Jury" *Bryan's Dictionary of Painters and Engravers*. The murals he created in the Peers' Corridor of the Houses of Parliament between 1856 and 1866 can still be seen by those lucky enough to visit. Cope and his wife are buried in the large cemetery off All Saint's Avenue, Maidenhead.

1894 Spire put up

Of Bath Stone, from designs by J.Oldrid Scott F.S.A.; built by Silver & Sons Ltd; vane and double cross on stone pinnacles at each angle of tower made by Barford & Norkett; both local firms (M.Ad Dec. 12, 1894). The architect, Oldrid Scott, was a son of that famous Victorian restorer of cathedrals, George Gilbert Scott and uncle to the architect of Liverpool Cathedral, Giles Gilbert Scott.

Note: Inscription on the springing of the spire:

“THIS SPIRE WAS BUILT 1894 - REV H. C. J. MEARA VICAR - J. FULLER, T.G. WYATT CHURCHWARDENS - J. OLDRID SCOTT ARCHITECT - SILVER & SONS BUILDER”.

Note: Spire required because the roof of the tower was damaged (SLPM March 1894 p3).

Both W.W. Astor (William Waldorf Astor of Cliveden) and Mrs Robson subscribed £5 to the tower fund (SLPM no 47 Nov 1894).

1896 Architect's plans for construction of the daughter church of St Peter's

Approved and money begins to be collected. Amount to be raised £1400 (SLPM Feb 1897 p3, March p3).

1898 Linenfold oak seats for south west porch given in memory of the Duncan family of Hampstead and Maidenhead.

1901 New organ given by Mrs Cope -"£1100 for 1100 pipes"

Provided by Wm Hill & Co of Islington (M.Ad, June 19 1901). See above 1893.

1902 Choir stalls given in memory of Elizabeth Meara, sister of Rev. Meara

Original choir seats gift of Rev W.B.Hole.

1910 Wrought iron and gold leaf screen dedicated

Made by local firm of Edward Norkett (given by Rev Meara - M.Ad March 16 1932). Edward Norkett was one of St Luke's choristers (Platford) and played the violin in church (see SLPM Nov 1892 p 4).

1917 Font cover

Given by Miss(es) Spindler as a memorial to Eustace Spindler who was baptised in the font and whose father had been a sidesman (SLPM Dec 1917).

To the Glory of God in loving memory of Eustace L. Spindler wh died on active service Easter Day 1916

1918 Death of Mrs Cope (benefactress)

SLPM Nov 1918.

1923 War memorial chapel dedicated

Old vestry enlarged & remodelled: builder Messrs J.K. Cooper (local firm - SLPM Aug 1922), architect Mr Cheadle (SLPM Aug 1923); Lord Desborough* gave 5 guineas and Lady Desborough 2 guineas (SLPM March 1923). Oak Altar presented by Sawyer family (SLPM Aug 1923). Carved oak altar rails given by Mrs Bird in memory of her father, Rev W.R. Rogers, Vicar of Cookham at the time St Luke's parish was formed (SLPM Nov 1923). East window of three lights with figures of St Luke, the Virgin Mary and St Martin of Tours, given in memory of Canon Meara by 500 parishioners and friends.. Made by A.K Nicholson, 105 Gower St, London. Names of the fallen carved on the wooden panelling.

*William Henry Grenfell of Taplow Court whose grandfather, Charles Pascoe Grefell, by March 1867, had subscribed £100 to help build the church (BRO D/P 181/5/2/2).

1927 West screen ordered
SLPM Sept 1927.

1928 Money raised for memorial to churchwardens Lemon and Wyatt
SLPM March 1928; used to obtain a **south screen** for the chapel.

1930 War Memorial Chapel completed
Cost of £2500 built, furnished and decorated the chapel. The third screen and gates dedicated by Bishop Shaw on Sunday 24th August 1930, given by the sons in memory of Thomas Charles Fry, 1846-1930, Dean of Lincoln, and Julia Isabella, his wife, 1846-1928. J.O. Cheadle of New Square, Lincolns Inn designed the chapel and practically everything in it. He designed also the screens worked by Messrs Bowman & Sons of Stamford; the chairs made by Messrs Wake & Dean of Yatton, Somerset and the wrought iron gates produced by the Widney Manufacturing Company, Maidenhead (SLPM Sept 1930). Sanctuary lamp given by Mr Oakley (Churchwarden when the memorial chapel and new vestry were completed) in memory of his son killed in the Great War.

1932 New vestry built on south east corner dedicated Sunday Feb 21st 1932

As memorial to the late Basil Fry, brother of Canon Fry. At same time a new rotary duplex engine installed to provide wind for the organ, replacing one which was worn out. Vestry, like chapel, designed by J.O. Cheadle of Lincons Inn. It is of Chilmark Stone with Bath Stone plinth and coigns to match the church. Builders Messrs J K Cooper & sons, Maidenhead. Figure of St Luke, work of Esmond Burton of Holborn who also made the bronze tablet, fixed to wall of tower inside vestry (SLPM March 1932).

On Bronze Tablet on Tower:

In memoriam Basil Homfray Fry, natus XVI, Kal. Apr. A.D. MDCCCLXXXIV; obiit IX Kal Apr. MCMXXXI; schol. Berkhamstediensis MDCCCXCIV-MCMIII; artium magister ex Aede Christi Oxoniensi; Consvl; miles; poeta; philosophus; scientiae evitor; exemplar amicitiae; amicis deflendus (In translation, recording the dates of birth and death; his schooling at Berkhamsted; being an M.A. of Christ's College, Oxford; a Consul; a Soldier, Poet and Philosopher; a Student of Science; an example to all around him; deplored by all his friends) (M.Ad Wed Feb 24th 1932).

1940 Memorial chapel lamp given in memory of Arthur John Oakley R.A. killed at Dunkirk 27th May 1940

1952 Chancel altar reordered
By Rev Morcom-Harness in memory of Canon Fry; reredos taken down, Victorian wall frescoes white-washed, stained glass side windows taken out; that on the south side, the first memorial window of 1867, replaced with plain glass.

1953 Choir seats moved into east end of nave

Reasons: 1) acoustic 2) aesthetic 3) psychological (SLPM April 1953 p6).

Note: Present large brass candlesticks, on either side of chancel altar, consist in the main of ornate gas brackets which have been modified to take candles. Presumably this was done when the church switched from gas to electric lighting.

Subsequently choir returned to chancel.

1966 Centenary of St Luke's Celebrated

M.Ad Oct 21, 22 & 28 1966.

1977 Nave altar established as Jubilee project

1990 Organ refurbished with a new wind chest

1991 Arson attack

Vestry gutted and many records lost; interior of church cleaned except the west window; smashed window on north side repaired by Chapel Studios. See trail guide for details. Cleaning necessitated by fire damage reveals, in its full glory, the fresco tile painting, *Jacob's Ladder*, on the chancel arch (M.Ad Nov 27 1992).

1993 Within the outer shell of the vestry, a new parish centre is built

1996 Clock face renovated

2000 New lighting installed with help from the Prince Philip Trust Fund, the Mobbs Memorial Trust and many local people. **Church spire lit to celebrate Millennium.** Spire continues to be lit to date, sponsored by congregation as a thank offering.

2002 Memorial chapel reordered and dedicated on Sunday 16th June

Altar rails reused as part of screen to create a vestry area in the chapel (see above 1923). A spectacular new wall hanging is hung on the east wall in colours designed to complement and reflect the stained glass window above. Hanging, designed by Margaret McConkey, was made by the ladies recorded on the back of the quilt. Inscription reads:

Completed August 2002

by

Jill Bevitt

Ann Burdett

Sheila Hedges

Margaret McConkey

Mary Pennington

Win Reynolds

Ruth Sheppard

Jean Tyrwitt Drake

2004 West window restored : stained glass restored by Chapel Studios, stonework by A.F Jones

2005 Clock face repaired

2011 Church office moved from the Vicarage into the church.

2016 150th Anniversary of the consecration of St Luke's Church celebrated.

2017The church is reordered: the church office is moved into the parish centre together with the Vicar's vestry while retaining the kitchen; a servery and storage units of oak constructed at the west end of the nave; the screen in the memorial chapel is removed and the altar rails that formed the upper part of the screen reused to delineate the Taizé prayer corner in the nave (see above 2002 and 1923). Bronze memorial tablet to Basil Homfray Fry, formerly on the tower wall (see above 1932), fixed on a nearby wall.

2018Glass doors are fitted to the main entrance by ? who also fitted the servery ad storage units.
The reordering is dedicated on Thursday 8th March

Abbreviations

SLPM: St Luke's Parish Magazine

M.Ad: Maidenhead Advertiser

Platford: Platford W. 1952 *Memoirs in connection with St Luke's Church, Maidenhead* unpub ms
S.N.: Notebook of Rev W G Sawyer now in Berks Record Office

Ann Darracott

June 1998; revised October 2016 & February 2018