



Pony and trap and Rector: Source: Bucks County Council website

Rev. John Cross became Rector in 1860. He lived in the Rectory with his wife Anne Maria (nee Russell, granddaughter of artist John Russell) until his death in 1884.

In September 1982 Rev. Stuart Wilmot, Rector of St Mary the Virgin Church 1981-1992, found a copy of a poem "Lines written in 1874 in Mursley Rectory by Rev. J. S. Boucher", who was taking the services during the incapacitation, through accident, of the then Rector, Rev. John Cross, in the Rectory files. He passed it on to Mursley School. It was passed on to be included in the memories in 2006.

To Mursley in the shire of Bucks, where grow the famous Aylesbury ducks,
our party from Caernarvon went, and pleasantly we some weeks spent, in July '74.
Poor Mursley had sustained a loss, through accident to Rector Cross
Who suddenly had been struck down, by vicious horse in London Town, concussion of the brain.
A neater Church none could desire, with daily Service, surpliced choir.
Six sweet-toned bells from tower rang out to all the country round about, the Sunday hours of prayer.
The School was pretty, good and new, the Master, Massey, children few.
We catechised them twice a week and found it hard to make them speak, except just one or two.
Thatched dwellings lined the Mursley street, with flowery windows, gardens neat.
One pub, The Wrestlers, but no shop, except a very small Co-op, and Foster's smaller store.
No paupers. Men engaged to plough, feed sheep and pigs, hens, horse and cow.
The women everywhere we saw on pillow lace and plaited straw, with hands and tongues at work.
Then Foster, Bowler, Lambourne, Grace, Dickens and Walters fill the place.
Simonds, Kirby, Bennet, Carr, Lovell and Richardson are not far from where the Rectory stood.
On front a lawn edged round with trees, and orchard garden at the back
Small show of flowers, but no lack of fruit, potatoes, beans and peas, a pump at farther end.
Two Blacksmiths, Wards, are at the gate where always busy soon or late
Across the fields the Windmill, Carr sent beer and helped to journey far by kindly loan of trap.
These idle lines I've idly writ while lying down, I couldn't sit, lumbago came upon spec.
I trust my back with quickly mend. I must on Sunday be at church.

1 postcard sent March 1917 Photos: C P Dobbs

2: Photo: C North

3 postcard W F Piggott Leighton Buzzard
Photo: C P Dobbs

4 Photo: C North

From the Church Booklet:

A C15th tower gleams white above the C14th church, which is built of limestone.

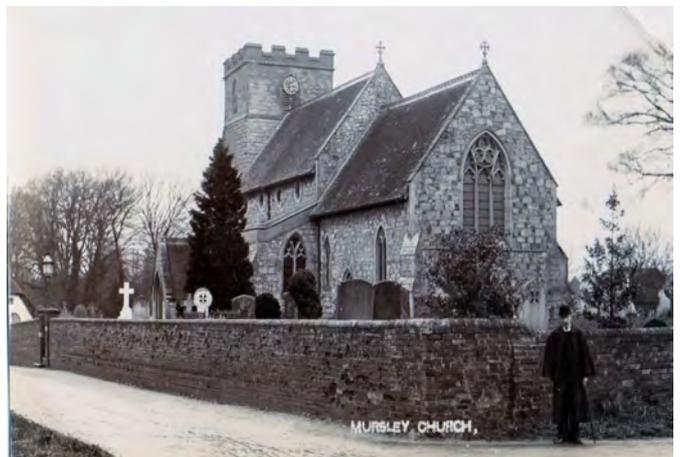
Dedicated to St Mary the Virgin, the church was originally granted by Richard Fitzniel to the Prioress of Nuneaton before the year 1166. Confirmation of this grant was later made by the Lords of the Manor of Mursley and Salden, Warren Fitzgerald and his wife Agnes.

The church was held by Nuneaton Priory until the Dissolution. The chancel, the arcades of the nave and the two side aisles were built in the C14th in the Decorated style. The West tower was added in the C15th. The clerestory and South porch were added when the church was restored by Charles Buckeridge of Oxford between 1865-70. He gave it new buttresses and renewed many windows (some retain fragments of the original Decorated tracery), the furnishings and floorings. (E. Godwin's tiles).

Kelly's Directory 1891 records: The church of St. Mary the Virgin is a building of stone in the Decorated or Third-pointed style, consisting of chancel, clerestoried nave of four bays, aisles, south porch and an embattled western tower, of much older date, containing 6 bells; the stained west window in the tower was presented by the late Mrs. Pitkin in memory of her husband, William, who died in 1862. The nave is separated from the aisles by arcades of four arches on either side: the chancel has an elaborate reredos adorned with fresco paintings: in the chancel are monuments to Sir John Fortescue kt. MP Chancellor of the Exchequer, *ob.* 1607; to his son, Sir Francis Fortescue *KB.*, MP sheriff of Bucks, and others of that family; and there are some brasses: the church was thoroughly restored in 1867 at a cost of £1,950: the chancel retains a piscina and sedilia: there are also piscinæ in the north and south aisles: the new chancel lights were given by the executors of the late Sir Richard Causler bart.: there are 215 sittings. The register dates, from the year 1578. The living is a rectory, yearly value about £350, including 241 acres of glebe with residence, in the gift of the trustees of the late W. Selby-Lowndes esq. of Whaddon, and held since 1889 by the Rev. Octavius William Cotton Selby-Lowndes.

Kelly's Directory 1939 additionally records:

The first known rector, John . . . d'Eston, was appointed in 1239. The living is a rectory, net yearly value £356, with 240 acres of glebe and residence, in the gift of the Church Association, and held since 1938 by the Rev. George Oliver, of the London College of Divinity. Outside the church is a granite pillar and cross mounted on a pedestal which bears the names of the men of the parish who lost their lives in the Great War, 1914-18.



This article written in 1867 describes the re-opening of the church. Article: M Cole

Jackson's Oxford Journal (Oxford, England), Saturday, May 25, 1867; Issue 5952 WINSLOW. The re-opening of St. Mary's Church. This event, which had been looked forward to by the parishioners and their friends with great interest, took place on Saturday week, May 11th. The day was beautifully fine, and thus a large number of visitors were enabled to be present. As the hour appointed for the opening drew near, the bells of the church rang out a joyous peal, and persons could be seen coming from various directions to enter once more their Parish Church.

At half-past eleven the Bishop of Oxford, Clergy, and the Choir formed in procession in front of the Rectory, and went to the Church, singing as they walked the 164th Hymn, from Hymns Ancient and Modern, commencing, "We love the place, O God." The Church was by this time filled in every available place, chairs having to be placed in the aisles to afford sufficient accommodation. The service was a full choral one, and the prayers were intoned by the Rev. S. Cross, the Rector, the Bishop pronouncing the absolution. The first Lesson was read by the Rev. S. H. Russell, of Charlbury, the second Lesson by the Rev C. F. Travers, of Stewkley.

The Communion service was read by the Bishop, the Epistle by the Rev S. T. Adams, and the Gospel by Archdeacon Bickersteth. The sermon was preached by the Bishop of Oxford, from 1 Kings, 18 c., 3v., "And he repaired the altar of the Lord, which was broken." His Lordship's discourse was listened to with rapt attention. The points principally dwelt upon in the sermon were the necessity of beauty and order in God's house, and the sin of idolatrous worship. After the sermon the Holy Communion was administered to a large number of communicants. The following Clergy were present at the service: Archdeacon Bickersteth, Revs. S. T. Adams, Rural Dean, C. T. Travers, Vicar of Stewkley, A. Baker, Curate of Addington, B. Spurrell, Rector of Drayton Parslow, W. Bennett, Rector of Bletchley, E. Hill, Rector of Woolston, W. Glen, Curate of Stewkley, J. A. Foot, Curate of St. Mary's, Paddington, London, S. F. Athawes, W. Morrison, Curate of St. Philip and St. James, Oxford, J. Niven, Vicar of Swanbourne, J. W. Hayward, Vicar of Grandborough, H. A. Gibson, Incumbent of Linslade, E. Williams, St. John's College, Cambridge, J. Hurnall, Leighton, etc.

The Church, which consists of a western tower, nave, two aisles, a well developed chancel, and a south porch, has been thoroughly restored, under the guidance of Mr Buckeridge, architect, of Oxford. A high pitched roof (the original form of the building) now replaces the old low roof, and clerestory windows have been put in. The facings are of Bath stone, the floor is paved with Godwin tiles, the chancel pavement being particularly beautiful.

Care has been taken to preserve the original character of the church, and old corbels, piscina, and sedilia are all faithfully restored. The windows are glazed with cathedral rolled glass: the west window is the gift of Mrs. Pitkin. The reredos is of alabaster, in three panels, the centre one representing the Crucifixion, all those on either side the "Annunciation," the Church being dedicated to



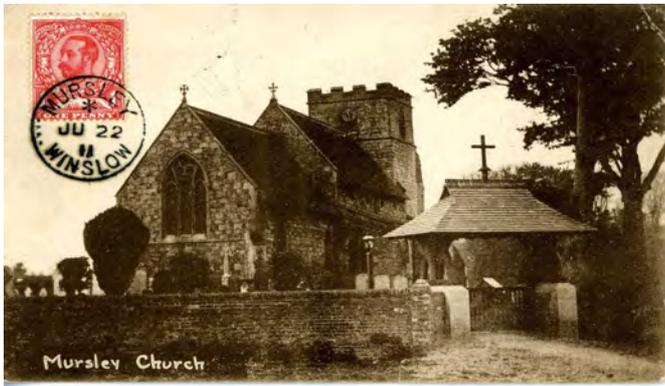
1 postmarked 1960 Photo: C P Dobbs

St. Mary. The altar was presented by S. B. Dudley, Esq., of Winslow and the beautiful altar cloth was worked at the Rectory by the ladies of Mursley, under the superintendence of Mrs Cross.

The entire cost of the restoration is about £1400; toward this the parishioners granted £500, to be raised by way of loan, and the remainder the worthy Rector has made himself responsible for, and the whole sum is collected to within about £150. The entire work has been nobly carried out, and is a standing memorial of the earnestness and liberality of the Rector and his parishioners.

After the service luncheon was served in a large tent on the lawn at the Rectory; about 150 guests were present, the Rector occupying the chair. The luncheon was an excellent one, and was well and elegantly provided by Mr W. Neal, of the Bell Hotel, Winslow. We regret that we have not space for the many excellent speeches, and the various toasts at luncheon. There was evensong at half-past six when the sermon was preached by the Rev. Luke Rivington, Curate of All Saints, Margaret Street, London. The collections amounted to £43 10s.

On the following Sunday three services were held, the sermons being preached by the Rev. J. Cross, Archdeacon Bickersteth, and the Rev. H. A. Gibson. During the remainder of the week there was Holy Communion daily at 7.30, and mattins at 8 a.m., with evensong at 6.30; the Litany was said on Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m. The preachers were as follows: Rev. B. Williams, St. John's College, Cambridge; Rev. Alexander Mackonochie, M.A., Incumbent of St. Alban's, Holborn; Rev. C. H. Travers, M.A., Vicar of Stewkley; Rev. A. Baker, Curate of Addington; Rev. S. M. O'Neil, M.A.; and Rev. E. M. Benson, Vicar of Cowley.



1 & 2 Postcard sent to Mrs G M Fletcher 250/17th Avenue East Hillcrest, Vancouver BC. Posted 22 June 1911 the day of the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary. Photo: S Brunton

Monday, So sorry not to have replied to yours before, am very busy now. Have a photographic business to look after and have lots of work. How do you like your new country. Am sending stamp picture side as a souvenir of this Coronation Day. I'm afraid our view isn't as fine as yours, just a brick wall and a skeleton apple tree. This is one of my own views I had printed. Mother sends her love and so do the rest. Will.

3 postmarked 20 August 1920
 'This is such a quiet place but some nice long walks around here and very pretty.' Photo: C P Dobbs

4 A list of Rectors of St Mary the Virgin Church. 1239 - 1992 Photo: M Cole

Photos on the previous page show the external appearance of the church didn't changed much over the years, save for the size of the trees and the loss of the cross on the nave roof.

The remaining nave cross crumbled and fell in 2009.

5 & 6 On 9th September 2010 a replacement cross was lifted into place by stone mason Nial Hemmings of CDL Stone Ltd. Hartham Park Quarry near Pickwick, Bath was the source of the limestone used to carve the new cross. Bath Stone has been used as a building material since Roman time. Nial had no idea what the cross weighed. He was relieved to find the scaffolding platform was just high enough to allow him to lift it into place.

Photos: M Cole



1239 John de Eston	1534 Alexander Hogston
1242 Robert de St. Dennis	1536 Edmund Holton
1275 Thomas Strkenbury	1580 William Smith
1276 William de Grafton	1621 Robert Wallis
1312 John de Badbourne	1629 John Burton
1370 Henry de Outhy	1638 Thomas Kyffin
1371 Stephen Coteley	1644 John Gardner
1371 Laurence Allerthorpe	1683 Robert Armistead
1372 Thomas de Dvere	1695 John Armistead
1372 John Oustel	1714 Edward Gataker
1379 Walter de Olson	1727 Cornelius Crawford
1379 William Boys	1733 Benjamin Langley
1379 John de Blackfordaby	1789 Thomas Rivett
1381 John Verleyn	1790 George Wagner
1391 John Leagy	1800 Thomas Pinnock
1392 Roger Mason	1831 Charles Childers
1394 Thomas Pike	1833 Thomas Horne
1397 William Bacon	1851 Warren Harries
1410 William Clethe	1860 John Cross
1412 John Wiltonhast	1885 Joseph Bradshaw
1417 William Symond	1889 Octavius Selby-Lowndes
1434 Thomas Alderwilde	1925 John Tradennick
1434 Richard Cloughton	1938 George Oliver
1438 William Kirby	1956 Heber Wood
1469 Thomas Grey	1970 Peter van de Katselle
1475 John Lumbrey	1981 Stuart Wilmet
1489 John Clayton	1992 John Kinchin-Smith

