THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AND PARISH OF NEWBOLD DE VERDUN



by

Dorothy Fox

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

The first thing that you notice as you approach Newbold Church is the beautiful little Sussex steeple but this is a late addition to an interesting history which goes back over seven centuries.

I would like to thank the author of this booklet, my wife Dorothy, for all her research and hard work and also the people of Newbold who assisted with valuable information.

The Parish Church of St. James is full of life with organizations for young and old and we have about three thousand communicants a year. So as you admire, and read about, our beautiful Church remember that the Church is more than a building. It is the family of God and the Body of Christ.

May God's blessing be with you all.

CHARLES E. FOX.

DEDICATED

to the people of Newbold de Verdun, past and present who have kept the lamp of faith burning in this parish.

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When I first planned to write this book I felt that I might have some difficulty in finding material for it. However when I appealed to the people of the parish I was overwhelmed with offers of information, old papers, books, notes and research carried out both by people now dead and also by present inhabitants, who know much more about the village than I do. In fact I could have produced a large volume about the village, although there are, of course, some large gaps in our knowledge about the Church building.

I have tried to keep this book as a short and simple outline of the history of the village, a more detailed account of the history of the Church and as a guide book to the present church. Inevitably people will feel I have omitted many interesting things.

I should like to thank the many parishioners who produced old magazines, cuttings and information, especially the following :—

Mr. B. Clinton who provided much research done by the late Thomas Carter, one time Headmaster of the school, and articles written by the late Mary Fisher.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Preston for an abundance of old papers and cuttings about the church and village.

Mr. M. Harding and Mr. D. Preston for information and the loan of material and photographs.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Selkirk for information and documents about the Hall.

Mr. R. Astill and Mr. J. Vernon for the photographic work.

DOROTHY FOX.

THE HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON

Although there have been one or two isolated finds in the area, showing that there was some human activity here even 6,000/4,000 years ago, the earliest evidence that people actually may have lived here is in the Iron Age (700 B.C./43 A.D.) Field systems have been located by aerial photography, which also found a rectangular enclosure which might have been the site of a farmstead.

There were several Roman (43 A.D./410 A.D.) settlements in nearby villages and the Roman Road from Leicester to Mancetter was only two miles away. To the north of the village evidence has been found that roof tiles were made in kilns in the second century A.D., which was when there was much building in Roman Leicester.

After this we know little of the village until the 11th century, although there may well have been a late English settlement in the 9th or 10th centuries. The area would have been under Leofric of Mercia.

Newbold, Niwebold, Newbolt or Neubot, means literally a new building, although this does not necessarily mean there was an old village before.

The village is however mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086) Huard, a Saxon, held two carucates of land (a carucate is the amount of land one plough and animals could cultivate in a year) from Hugo de Grentemaisnell, who owned land at Newbold and Brascote. Brascote was then known as Brocardescote, which means 'the hut of the badger hunter.'

After the Domesday Book we hear little of the village until the 13th century. The name of the village was changed to Newbold Verdon or Newbold de Verdun because of the Verdun family (named after the place in France from which they came). The Verduns got possession of the manor, but it is not evident how they gained it. Some books say it came through the marriage of Bertram de Verdun with Maud, daughter of the Earl of Ferrars, but there is confusion over this. There is another Newbold, near Worthington, and it is more likely that this is the one referred to, as Worthington itself was also part of the dowry. Also we do not know that Newbold ever belonged to the Earl of Ferrars. The land may have passed from the de Grentemaisnell family at the beginning of the 12th century at the time of the Crusades.

Bertram de Verdun was the second man with that name, the first being a knight at the time of the Norman Conquest. The second Bertram went to the Crusades and died abroad at Joppa in 1192, being buried at Acre. His second wife was Lady Rohisia de Verdun, who had two sons. One of these, Nicholas, was the man who presented the first Rector. We know from the Registers at Lincoln that this Rector was instituted in 1209. In 1220 Newbold is mentioned in the records of Leicester Abbey, who held land here.

In 1316 Theobald de Verdun died, leaving four daughters, the last born posthumously. When Theobald's widow died, the lands were divided among the daughters. The advowson of the church passed to Thomas Furnyvall, who married the daughter Joan. After that it passed through marriage to John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, and again through marriage to the Howard family, ancestors of the present Duke of Norfolk. One of his titles is Baron Verdun.

One of Theobald's daughters, Margaret or Margery, married John de Crophull as her second husband. The manor passed to the Crophull family and then by marriage to the Devereux family. Walter Devereux, husband of Agnes Crophull, held the lordship of Newbold in 1559. He became Earl of Essex and transferred his lordship to the Earl of Huntingdon. This was the end of all connection with the Verdun family.

From the Earl of Huntingdon's family some land was sold to William Mountney in 1608 and the manor and the rest of the land was sold in 1610 to Nicholas Herne who in 1625 sold it to Sir Thomas Crewe, sergeant at law. From him it passed to his son and then grandson, John Crewe who gave it to his brother Nathaniel.

Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham was a famous man, although Horace Walpole was very disparaging about him. He was first Bishop of Oxford and then Bishop of Durham. He was a candidate for the Archbishoprick of Canterbury but as there were two candidates each supported by great families, a third compromise candidate was chosen. Lord Crewe twice refused the Archbishoprick of York. He had no children and died in 1721 aged 88, so the title became extinct. By his will the Bishop left £30 to build a schoolroom at Newbold and £20 a year for a schoolmaster.

His estates were left to his nephew James Montague, who was looked upon as an adopted son. James died in 1748 and was buried under the chancel floor, close to the south wall. His tomb was left intact when the church was rebuilt. He left £100 for the poor which was invested in land. Before 1786 an unknown donor left £25 and it was decided in 1792 to build four cottages on the Bridge meadow with it. In 1825 two more cottages were erected. These almshouses were pulled down in 1910 and the money left from their rents was invested. The Montague Charity now uses the income from the original land and from the invested money.

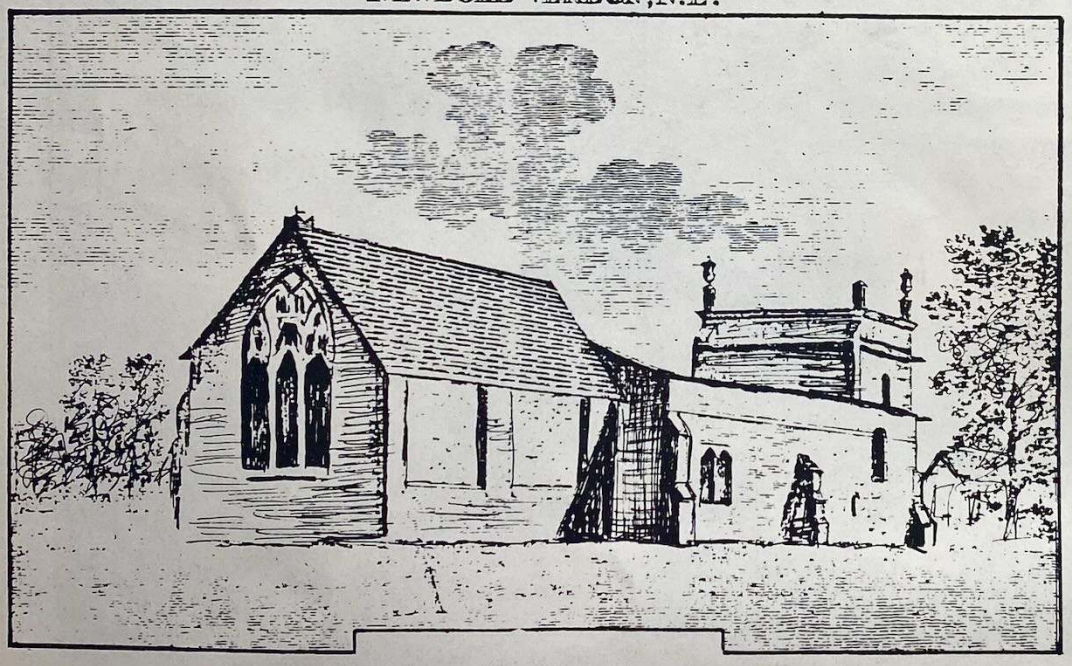
There is some confusion over the Montagues. Some books say that the estate passed to Edward Wortley-Montague, whose wife, the famous Lady Mary Wortley-Montague, introduced smallpox vaccination into England, and that from him it went to his son, another Edward, a great disappointment to his father. He lived abroad and sold the estate.



Photograph of Painting of Village Street
by June Heighton owned by Mr. M. Preston.
The fence is that of the present rectory.



NEWBOLD VERDON, N.E.



Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham
and
The Church in 1792.

Taken from pictures in "History and Antiquities of Leicestershire"
Nicholls (1811)

However research has suggested that it was Edward Montague, brother of James who inherited the estate, and that his wife was Elizabeth Montague, the famous 'blue stocking.' It is felt that they were only relatives of the Wortley-Montagues. Certainly in connection with James Montague's bequest it is Edward Montague who is mentioned.

Nevertheless the person who sold the estate in 1764 was an Edward Wortley-Montague, obviously the younger one, since his father had died.

The estate was sold to Thomas Pares and Joseph Burney. It then passed to their successors Edmund Cradock-Hartopp and John Pares. After passing to Sir Charles Cradock-Hartopp it then changed hands several times and was farmed by various families. Since 1965 it has belonged to Mr. J. G. Selkirk.

THE HALL

The present building was obviously erected on the site of an older dwelling. Near it a terrace descends to the level of a moat which encloses the three other sides of a quadrangle. The moat was about 28ft. wide.

The Hall as it now stands is about a third of its original size. It was built about 1680 by one of the Crewes. The doorway was added about 1725. The hall inside has arches and the fine staircase is richly carved. There are beautiful friezes and upstairs there is a floor of gypsum plaster.

It must have been an imposing place, with stone pillars and lodge buildings on the Bosworth Road entrance, which no longer exist.

In a letter Edward Montague's wife describes the estate as " one of the most charming places I ever saw. The gardens are delightful, the park very beautiful, the house neat and agreeable and everything about it in elegant taste. It was a very bad place when Lord Crewe left it to him (James Montague) and had no ornament but fine wood ; now there is water in great beauty, grand avenues from every point, fine young plantations and in short everything that can please the eye."

THE VILLAGE

Throughout the centuries as the lordship and the manor changed hands the village was slowly developing.

In 1317 Newbold Verdon had no meadow but 57 acres of arable land. In 1333 there were 30 acres of meadow and 210 acres of arable land. In 1377 there were 69 inhabitants to pay Poll Tax.

The first evidence of enclosure was in 1509. In 1563 there were 16 households in the village and two at Brascote, while in 1603 there were 100 Communicants. In 1669 the Rector reported that there

were "noe conventicles" within the parish — in other words there were no non-conformists. In 1670 at the Michaelmas Hearth Tax, 34 paid and five were exempt and in 1676 the Ecclesiastical Census said there were 115 people.

We can well imagine the village as it would be then — the Manor, the Church and about 30 or 40 houses.

In 1801 it was reported that there were 900 acres of general pasture, 300 in plough and 700 heath and wasteland. On the arable land the crops grown were — Wheat 81½ acres, Rye ¾, Barley 63¼, Oats 76¼, Potatoes 6, Peas 18½, Beans 18¼, Turnips 4½ — a total of 329¾ acres. By then the population was 339.

There is mention of framework knitters being here in 1812. In 1844 there were 60 frames but this had decreased to 20/25 by 1845. Collieries had been started in the area providing more employment.

The village had kept many of its same buildings although they were altered or re-built — the Hall, the Church, the Parsonage, the School, Inns, Windmills, almshouses, the smithy and cottages were all to be found in the mid 19th century. Cob Cottage which is still standing is dated 1650.

Besides the Mill in Mill Lane there used to be a windmill near the present Windmill Inn. It was brought from Syston in 1812 and pulled down at the beginning of this century. A millstone from it was at Market Bosworth Mill in 1945. Another mill stood in Desford Road but was pulled down in the 19th century. There is no trace of it on the 1884 Ordnance Survey Map.

The Toll House stood on Turnpike Lane now Barlestone Road. The George and Dragon stood at the end of Dragon Lane. Apparently a bureau which came from there had a secret drawer in which was found a fragment of silk said to be from the Battle of Bosworth. Another Inn, the Sun Inn stood at the other end of Dragon Lane until 1818. It is now converted into three houses though part of it was once a bakery. The Swan Inn opened in 1823 and had a court-house attached with the stocks suitably nearby at the corner of Dragon Lane. There were other inns too in the 19th century — the Engine (now the Butcher's shop) the Red Lion and later the Jubilee.

In 1833 a Baptist Chapel was built at a cost of £300. In 1870 a schoolroom and outbuildings were added. A Primitive Methodist Chapel was built at a cost of £100 in 1859 and rebuilt in 1894.

The population continued to grow slowly. In 1851 there were 712 people, in 1901 there were 851 and even in 1951 there were only 1217.

It was not unitl after the 2nd World War that rapid development began. The 1217 of 1951 became 2253 in 1961, 3452 in 1971 and 3543 in 1981.

Although the George and Dragon (now the Dragon) was rebuilt because of subsidence, the fact that there was little mining subsidence at Newbold contributed to its expansion. First council houses were built at the Sparkenhoe and Preston Drive areas and then there was a great amount of private building.

More and more buildings were pulled down or converted. Hellfire Terrace, Freeman's Row and Abell's Row — all had gone To the villagers it seemed that everything was being destroyed. Mr. Michael Preston has tried to preserve some of the history by having paintings done of the old views of the village, whilst the Local History Group tries to collect old postcards and photographs.

Today the village is a thriving place with people working in many occupations. Although there are still some who work in the mines they have been largely replaced as employers by T.I. Tubes and Caterpillar Tractors. There is still a good mixture of jobs — Farmers, workers in the shoe and hosiery trades, shop workers and professional people commuting to Leicester — all live here. The village has its churches, a school, about 20 shops and four pubs. The War Memorial is a block of granite from Mount Sorrel Quarry. The Hall is still occupied. The people have many interests to absorb them for in addition to Church organisations there is a W.I., Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies and other groups, while Leicester is not far away.

THE SCHOOL

The School was founded by a bequest from Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham, who died in 1721, leaving £30 to build a schoolhouse and and £20 for a schoolmaster. (The endowment was subsequently doubled). The future owners of the estate were to appoint the Master, the salary being paid out of his lordship's estates in Northumberland.

The first school, with the master's house attached, was built on the narrow strip of ground on which the War Memorial now stands. The first master was Nathaniel Ball who died in 1754 and was buried in the churchyard.

When it was decided that a larger building was needed, there was no land on which to extend the school, so the site on the other corner of Brascote Lane was acquired. In 1874 "commodious school buildings" were erected, with a Master's house attached at a cost of £1234, raised chiefly by voluntary subscriptions and it was enlarged in 1884 at a cost of £171. It was reported in 1877 that it was a Public Elementary school with an average attendance of 104. Half the endowment was paid to assist the education of deserving scholars. In 1904 the endowment passed to the Leicestershire County Council.

That school building is now the Church Hall and the present school was opened on 21st March, 1910, and stands in Dragon Lane.

The well-known Thomas Carter was Headmaster from 1884–1914 and did much research into the history of the village.

At one time the school had as many as 533 pupils and needed temporary buildings adding but with the falling birthrate it now (1985) has 292 scholars. The present headmaster is Mr. M. Mould.

In the 19th century there was another school founded by Lady Byron of Kirkby Mallory, which was for boys from Newbold Verdon and the surrounding villages. Gardening was taught, with the boys having plots of 100 sq yds. to cultivate. Consequently it was known as the Agricultural school. Fees were charged. The old room still exists at School Farm in Desford Road.

THE CHURCH

This area was in the Diocese of Leicester from the 7th century and later in the short-lived Archbishoprick of Lichfield. The Bishop of Leicester fled from the Danes in 870 and so the diocese disappeared. Shortly after the Norman Conquest Leicestershire became part of the Diocese of Lincoln. In 1092 the Archdeaconry of Leicester was established. In 1837 this Archdeaconry was transferred to the Diocese of Peterborough. In 1926 the Diocese of Leicester was revived.

Throughout the centuries of growth and development of the village the Church has existed here. We do not know the date of the actual building of the first church. It is likely that a building was erected by Lady Rohisia de Verdun and possibly her son, Nicholas, perhaps on the site of an earlier church, late in the 12th or early in the 13th century.

We know from the Registers at Lincoln that Elyas, the first Rector, was appointed in 1209. In the Matriculus of 1220 we read, "Ecclesiae de Newbolte, patronus Nichs. de Verdon, persona Elyas institutus per W. archid. vacante sede." Elyas had been instituted by William, Archdeacon of Leicester, the see being vacant, to the benefice of Newbold Verdon whose patron was Nicholas de Verdun.

At that time the parish was in the Deanery of Sparkenhoe as it still is, although the deanery was divided in the 19th century.

There are today some remains of the early church at Newbold. The base of the tower may be part of it, the window at the west end of the North aisle came from it (where it was in the south-west instead of the north-west corner). The archway from the tower into the nave is old and the old font is still in the church.

The East window in the North aisle was the main East window at one time and is perpendicular. The church must have been improved as the years passed and was probably a fine building by the end of the 14th century. When the church was rebuilt in 1899 two windows were found covered up in the south wall of the Chancel,

in such a bad state that they had to be destroyed, but the top of a narrow lancet window found at the same time has been preserved in the south wall of the Sanctuary.

In 1344 the Rectory was taxed at 15 marks and in 1534 it was worth £5 6s. 8d. The Church Registers were begun in 1542. In 1617 the value of the Rectory was returned as £62 19s. 3d.

The Church is lucky to possess a fairly acurate list of Rectors from Elyas onwards (see later in this book). Apart from this we have little information about the church for several hundred years, but this list is a useful document. It tells us who the patrons were and includes other facts.

One Rector Cuthbert Nicholson, was appointed in 1626, ejected in 1649 and returned in 1653. He was obviously ejected for supporting Charles 1 against Cromwell for we read that one of the accusations against him was that "he exorteth the people to glorify God after the Parliamentary defeat at Newark."

In 1661 there was an agreement between John Crewe, Lord of the Manor, and the other inhabitants on the one hand and the Rector John Pate on the other. They were to rate and tax each other to raise a further sum of £10 p.a. to be paid to the Rev. John Pate to "encourage the said John Pate to bee and contynue their Minister."

In 1666 Newbold Verdon sent a subscription towards the re-building of St. Paul's Cathedral in London after the Great Fire.

Obviously the church was repaired and altered from time to time. It is interesting to know that the tower used to be built of bricks similar to those used to build the Hall (c. 1680) which may be a guide to when it was built or repaired. In 1749 there was a bill for £18 1s. 1d. for work on the roof while the Churchwarden's Vouchers for 1750 include a bill for work done to the Church. It is an interesting document — the total cost was £6 7s. 1d. and included 29 days work at 1s. 4d. a day — £1 18s. 8d. Church treasurers today would leap of joy if their repair bills were like those!

In 1753 we find that the boys were paid 18s. 6d. for sparrows — presumably for killing them. In the parochial visitation of 1778 there is a list of repairs which needed to be done. They included, "The King's Arms, Creed and Lord's Prayer and 10 Commandments be set up against the walls — the pews and seats to be put into decent repair — a new pulpit and new covering to the cushion — the leaves in the Bible and Common Prayer Book to be made fast . . . " etc.

In the 1797 Visitation, "Weather boards to be put up to guard the belfry windows and the mound of earth on the north side of the Chancel to be lowered — the churchyard to be cleared of stone and rubbish and kept more neat. The cracks and crevices in the walls of the Church to be filled with mortar and new pointed — the Lord of

the Manor's pew to be repaired — the linen bands round the pall to be taken off, well-washed or cleaned and sewed on again."

In 1810 George Greenway, Gentleman of Attleborough Hall, Nuneaton, purchased the advowson of the church from the Duke of Norfolk. From him it passed to the President and Fellows of Trinity College, Oxford, with whom it remained.

In 1832, the population having grown because of the nearby collieries, a meeting was held at the school house to plan the enlarging and repairing of the church. This was quite a substantial undertaking for which a faculty was granted on 3rd October, 1833. The belfry and chancel was left alone but the seats were to be increased from 69 by another 225. The North aisle was rebuilt, the south wall raised and the roof renewed, a gallery was added, the floor raised, the belfry arch bricked up, a new inside door to the belfry made, and the old one removed to the tower. The walls were still filled with rubble at this time. The walls were stuccoed and there was a new pulpit and reading desk, the woodwork was being done by Mr. J. Gilliver. The cost of this great undertaking was just £700! Of this £200 came from the Society for Promoting the Building, Enlarging and Repairing of Churches and Chapels. At this time the octagonal font was replaced by a marble basin on a wooden support.

However, in spite of all this work, it was reported in 1843 that "The foundations of the Church throughout being much injured by the wet lying thereabout, a drain composed of blue brick should be laid round the Church to convey away the waste water from the walls thereof. That the road leading to the Church door being wet and miry and causing much dirt to the Church floor as well as inconvenience to the inhabitants; generally such road shall be laid with blue brick."

Until 1860 there was a choir of Male and Female voices, accompanied by stringed instruments but in that year a harmonium was purchased at a cost of £30.

Many furnishings were acquired for the church at this time. An altar cloth (1875), a Glastonbury chair (1877), an altar, lectern, font and pulpit from All Saints, Dunsden, Berkshire (1886) and altar candlesticks of solid rosewood (1887). All this was during the long incumbency of Rev. W. G. Cole who was also responsible for the present building.

In 1898 a Directory reports that the Church had services on Sundays at 11 a.m., at 3 p.m. in winter and 6-30 p.m. in summer, with Holy Communion on the first Sunday in the month.

This then was how the Church — its Rector, its people and its building fared up to the end of the 19th century.

THE PRESENT CHURCH

It was in 1898 that a meeting was called at which the Rector explained that he wanted to rebuild and restore the church in celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Towards the estimated cost of £2786 the Rev. H. E. Hutton of Boreham Manor, an old friend of the Rector, gave £1000, the parishioners and friends raised £500 and the Rev. W. G. Cole and his sister gave the rest. The architect was Mr. H. Goddard of Leicester and the contractors Scurr and Jowett of Barrow on Soar. The building was to be made of granite blocks and in the Gothic style. Certain parts of the old building were to be incorporated into the new one. So, our present church was built. The Church was dedicated by the Bishop of Peterborough on 1st August, 1899. In the Leicester Illustrated Journal of the 4th August we read, "The Dedication Service at the Parish Church on Tuesday was that usually followed at the re-opening of a Church after Restoration. The Bishop of Peterborough took part in the services was assisted by the Rev. W. G. Cole, Rural Dean and Rector of Newbold Verdon and the Rev. H. E. Broughton, Vicar of Hugglescote . . . Having robed at the schools the Bishop, accompanied by the Clergy and Choir proceeded to the Church singing the psalm, "Open me the gates of righteousness" and on arriving at the principal door the Bishop knocked on it and repeated the first words of the psalm. The Churchwardens and the Congregation within responded "This is the gate of the Lord, the righteous shall enter into it." The door having been opened by the Churchwardens, the Bishop at the entrance said, "Peace be to this house and to all that dwell in it," the Congregation responding "Alleluia."

In 1900 the British Archaeological Association of Leicester visited the church and noticed "with some regret that the ancient font has been discarded."

Improvements to the Church did not cease. An organ (built in 1865) was acquired from Thornton Church in time for the Harvest Festival in 1911, and on Christmas Eve 1911 the surpliced choir met in the new choir vestry.

The Rev. W. G. Cole who had rebuilt the Church and done so much for it died in 1910 and a new East window was put in in his memory and dedicated on the 6th January, 1912. On the 5th October, 1912, the present Lady Chapel was opened and for the next day, 6th October, the font which the Rev. H. E. Hutton had given was moved to its present position.

A new organ was acquired during the Second World War and put at the north instead of the south side of the Chancel, the Priest's vestry being put on the south.

There had not been enough money to construct a tower at the time of the re-building but there were great plans for one with a peal of bells. The Church looked very incomplete with the brick structure resting on the old base.

The tower fund had languished through the years and costs continued to rise. In 1954 we read in the Illustrated Leicester Chronicle of the 31st July that the fund stood at £3370 and a Garden Fete raised it to £3500. The previous Rector, the Rev. Julius Bolton, had envisaged a tower with a peal of eight bells, which would cost £7000 but the next Rector, the Rev. R. N. B. Hunt decided "to have a smaller tower with three bells so that it could be built at once."

The new tower was to be 56ft. high with a facing of granite chips (it was previously 32ft.) Mr. Hunt was reported as saying, "It is remarkable that we have to pay around £4000 for the new tower when the rest of the Church was put up for £2900."

The tower was finally dedicated by the Bishop of Leicester in 1960. In the August magazine, the Rector, the Rev. John Morris, quotes from the Bishop's letter in the July issue. "I think for instance of the Ascension Night when we dedicated the new tower at Newbold Verdon. This represented the last of a valuable number of steps forward at Newbold Verdon. It is quite a new parish since I first knew it. It has a new Rectory and a Church completely re-decorated inside and now a fascinating tower and broad sloping spire which I believe to be one of the most attractive architectural improvements to our Church buildings. The architect and builders have done something really valuable for us. Instead of a flat depressing stump the Church now rises to take its rightful place and symbolically claims the village for the cause of Christ."

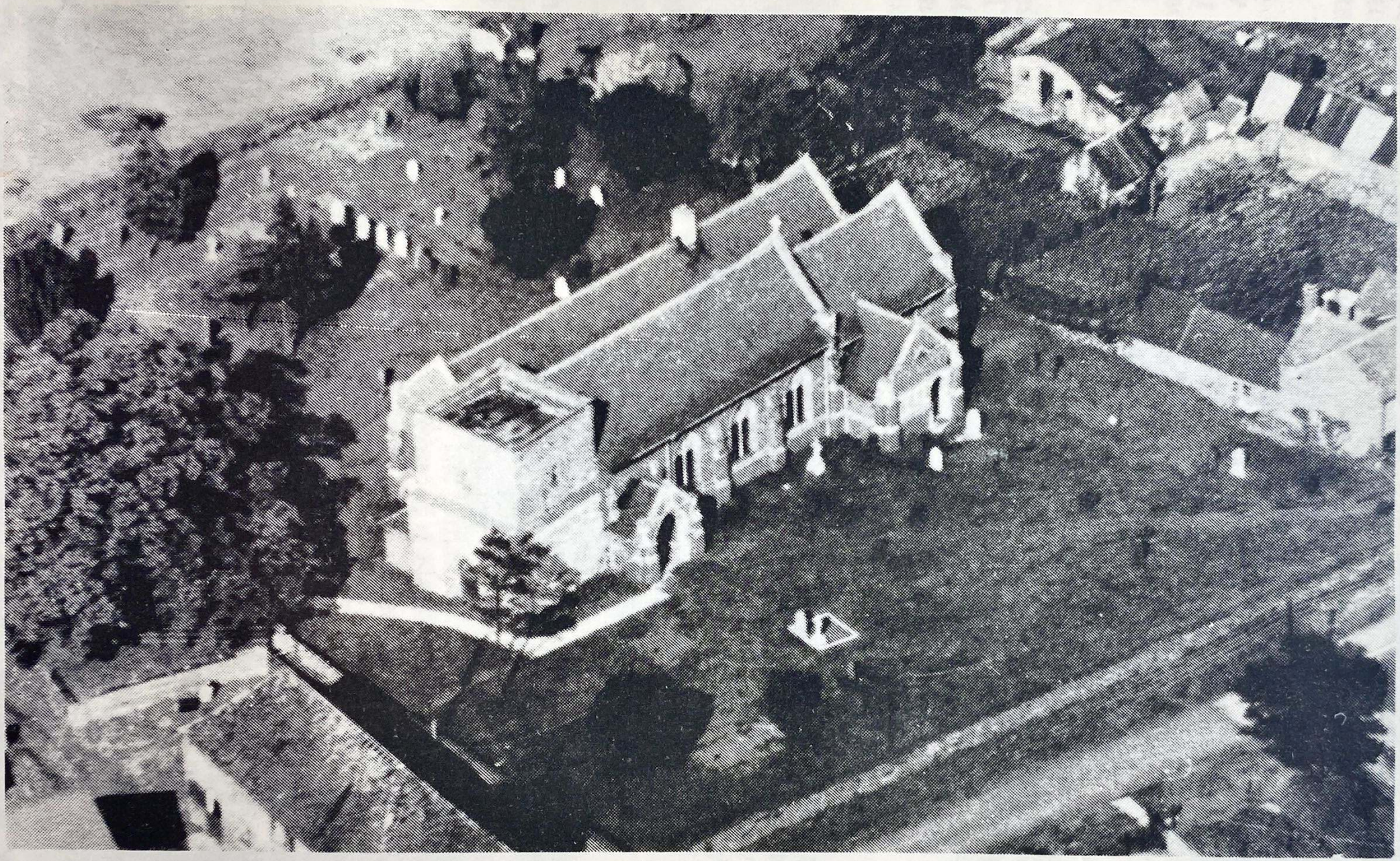
The two bells were re-hung in the belfry and dedicated by the Ven. R. B. Cole in 1961. One of the bells is inscribed "God save his church 1663" (rather an apt inscription after Cromwell's on-slaught on the churches) and the other "The Church is praise" (sic) "We sound all ways 1754." A pancacke bell used to be rung at 12 o'clock on Shrove Tuesday.

It is obvious that many plans came to fruition and much was accomplished at this time. The Rev. John Morris was Rector for the three years in which these schemes were completed.

This, then is the neat, well-cared for Church dedicated to St. James that we see today in Newbold Verdon. It is interesting that while the village is known as Newbold Verdon the title of the parish is Newbold de Verdun.

THE RECTORY

We know that in 1661 there was a dwelling normally called 'The Parsonage House' which was repaired and enlarged.



Aerial photograph of the present Church before the tower was built.



The interior of the present Church.

This may have been the house that we read was to be 'new thatched' and partly 'underbuilded' in 1778. Certainly a thatched rectory stood in Main Street. It is thought that it was the thatched cottage which later became a fish shop and was demolished in 1972.

There was almost certainly another Rectory aftter this which was nearer the church but no one is sure exactly where. When a new Rectory was built in 1820 at a cost of £1500 it was said to be near the site of the previous house (obviously therefore not the one demolished in 1972). This Rectory, which is still occupied, was sold and replaced by the present rectory, built in its grounds in 1959.

THE CHURCH PLATE

The Church possesses some fine silver, kept in the bank. The oldest is a flagon, chalice and paten (Britannia Standard) dated 1697–8. There is a ciborium of 1698–9 and a flagon, chalice and paten (Britannia Standard) dated 1704–5. An alms dish (1707) was bequeathed by Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, and most of the rest was probably given by him.

THE CHURCHYARD

The old churchyard lay between the church and the road and at the east and west ends. It must have been used many times in the 600 years it has been in existence. The Rev. W. W. Greenway and Sir Charles Cradock-Hartopp (in 1899) gave land to the north to extend it.

THE CHURCH TODAY

The Church has continued to bear witness in this Parish, with faithful Rectors and equally keen lay people. Mr. J. Johnson, Churchwarden, worked for the church for over 50 years, until he died in 1983.

The parish was joined with the small neighbouring parish of Kirkby Mallory in 1984, the Bishop of Leicester and the President and Fellows of Trinity College, Oxford, now being the joint patrons. The present incumbent is the Rev. C. E. Fox.

The Church has a 10-30 a.m. Family Eucharist and 6 p.m. Evensong each Sunday, with an 8 a.m. Holy Communion twice a month. There is a weekday Holy Communion service on Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m. The services are helped by a keen choir and servers. There is a good Sunday School, a Mothers' Union, and a Tinty Tots Group for Mothers and Young children.

The Church building remains a bright, practical and suitable place with the advantage of not being too large to repair or heat. Its appearance both outside and inside is neat and attractive.

The Church has been in this village for more than 700 years. Just as the handful of people who lived here in the 13th century looked to their church so we today look to ours for help and strength.

WHAT TO SEE AT THE CHURCH

OUTSIDE — On the south wall of the vestry there is a sundial.

You can see the line on the tower where the new building began.

The tower has a Sussex spire.

INSIDE — On your left is the ARCH to the tower which is from the original church. The WOODEN SCREEN was given in memory of Henry and Amelia Beck in 1968. The VESTRY in the tower has a sundial face on the floor.

On the west wall is the Royal Coat of Arms (George III) and nearby is the octagonal stone FONT from the old church.

The present FONT was acquired in 1886, the cover was made in 1899 and it was moved to its present position in 1912. The WINDOW nearby on the West wall is from the old church but has been moved.

On the south wall is a list of Rectors, a picture of the old church (1792) and of Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham, a bras plaque in memory of George Arnold (1898) drowned in Canada and a tablet to Thomas Carter, the Headmaster of the School (1884-1914).

In the North Aisle there is a memorial to John Marriot and family and nearby is an old chest.

On the wall behind the LECTERN is an interesting tablet from the old church. It was made in 1667 in memory of Mrs. Mary Price, who is thus extolled :—

'Metalls may serve to blazon common worth,
But she exceeds all tearms to set her forth,
Let this suffice to say she had a mind,
Contain'd the quintessence of woman kind.'

'The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance."

James Montague is buried beneath the CHANCEL and there is a tablet to his wife Mary in the SANCTUARY.

In the SANCTUARY on the south wall is the remains of the top of a lancet window from the old church.

The EAST WINDOW (1912) depicts the dawn of Christianity in Great Britain. Christ is transfigured with Moses and Elijah, and Peter, James and John are watching. Around are Joseph of Arimathea (in legend supposed to have brought the Holy Grail to Britain), St. Aidan, who brought Christianity to Northern England, St. Augustine who brought Christianity to Southern England, and St. Alban, the first martyr in England. The words on it are, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."

There are tablets to the Rev. W. G. Cole (in whose memory the window is) and the Rev. H. Legge in the sanctuary.

The candles on the altar were given in memory of Charles Carter in 1912 and the book rest in memory of Lizzie Wildman who died in 1955.

The Mothers' Union Banner was embroidered by Mrs. M. Roberts in 1984.

The organ was acquired in the 1940's.

The LADY CHAPEL was furnished in 1912. The East Window was the main East window in the old church. The CROSS was given by Miss Cole (1899) and the candlesticks by the Rev. W. G. Cole (1887).They are solid rosewood. It was carpeted by the Mothers' Union in recent years.

LIST OF RECTORS OF NEWBOLD DE VERDUN

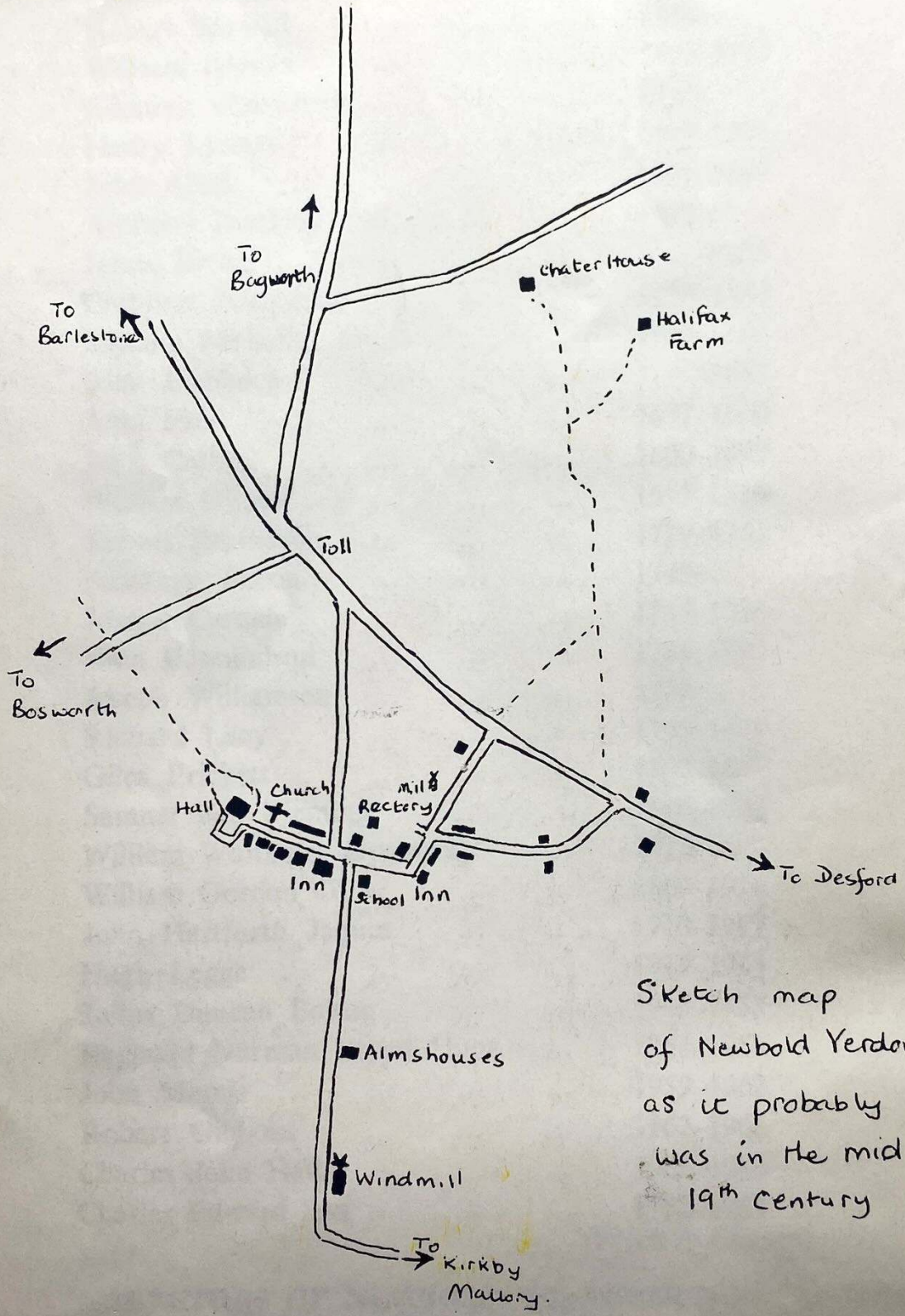
This list comes mainly from the one in Church, which contains much more detail, especially about the patrons. One or two dates may not be accurate.

Elyas	1209–
Robert de Alstone	1226–
Robert de Whitewick	1242–
Robert de Condecot	–1293
Adam de St. Bosco	1296–
Richard, son of Hugh	1346–
Robert atte Brigges	1349–1353
John Shirek	1353–
John de Boyleston	–1359
John Wodecok	1359–
William Savage	1361–
Robert de Sherwell	1368–1369
William Botiller	1369–
Robert Stibbarde	–1391
William Benete	1391–1398
John de Naneby	1398–
William Baslake	–1446
John Dalton	1446–1450
Roger Wheler	1450–
John Hudson	–1466

Henry Ryngold	1466–1485
Robert Cangner	1485–
Robert Barwell	1534–
William Alyson	1535–1543
Edmund Wolverston	1543–
Henry Lynney	1590–1591
John Abell	1591–1602
Anthony Dunkley	1620–
James Broke	–1625
Cuthbert Nicholson	1626–1654
Sapcote Nicholls	1654–
John Hubbock	–1657
John Pate	1657–1690
John Corbet	1690–1693
William Gilbert	1693–1719
Robert Sanderson	1719–1743
Montagu Bacon	1743–
Joseph Cardale	1743–1786
John Edmundson	1786–1793
Joseph Williamson	1794–
Richard Lacy	1795–1803
Giles Prickett	1803–1816
Samuel Bra Fleming	1816–1822
William Whitmore Greenway ...	1822–1869
William Gordon Cole	1869–1910
John Hartforth Jaques	1910–1917
Hugh Legge	1917–1944
Julius Duncan Bolton	1945–1953
Reginald Norman Bryan Hunt ...	1954–1958
John Morris	1959–1962
Robert Gibbons	1962–1966
Charles John Hall	1966–1982
Charles Edward Fox	1982–1984
	(Priest in Charge)

RECTORS OF NEWBOLD DE VERDUN AND KIRKBY MALLORY

Charles Edward Fox	1984–



Sketch map of Newbold Verdon as it probably was in the mid 19th century