

giftaid it

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, we get an extra 28 pence from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation go further.

This means that £10 can be turned in to £12.80 just so long as donations are made through Gift Aid. Imagine what a difference that could make, and it doesn't cost you a thing.

So if you want your donation to go further, Gift Aid it. Just complete this part of the application form before you send it back to us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

I want all donations I've made since 1st December 2004 and all donations in the future to be Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year.

HISTORICAL NOTES CONT'D (3)

This and other Comper glass can be recognised by a tiny design of a strawberry plant in one corner. Vernon Stanley is commemorated in the Comper window at the end of the south aisle, representing St Dunstan and the Venerable Bede; the figure of Bede is supposed to have Stanley's features.

AN ANCIENT GAME On the broad window sill of the triple window in the north aisle is scratched the frame for a game played for many centuries in England and mentioned by Shakespeare – Nine Men's Morris, a combination of the more modern Chinese Chequers and noughts and crosses. It was played with pegs and pebbles.

GILBERT SHELDON was Rector of Ickford 1636-1660 and became Archbishop of Canterbury 1663-1677. The most distinguished person connected with this church, he ranks amongst the most influential clerics to occupy the see of Canterbury. He became a Rector here a few years before the outbreak of the civil wars, and during that bad and difficult time he was King Charles I's trusted advisor and friend. Under the Commonwealth and Protectorate of Cromwell he helped guide and preserve the faithful remnant of loyalists. At the Restoration of the Church and King in 1660, Sheldon was the dominant figure in ecclesiastical affairs, ensuring for the Church of England a place in national life which remained largely unchanged until the 20th Century. As Primate, his unshakable honesty led him to oppose with equal bluntness both puritans and a lax monarch; his own religious outlook was reflected in his favourite saying – "Do well, and rejoice." It was largely through the insistence of Sheldon that Christopher Wren was commissioned to design St. Paul's Cathedral after the Great Fire of London. Wren had previously designed the Theatre in Oxford which Sheldon gave to the University and which bears his name.

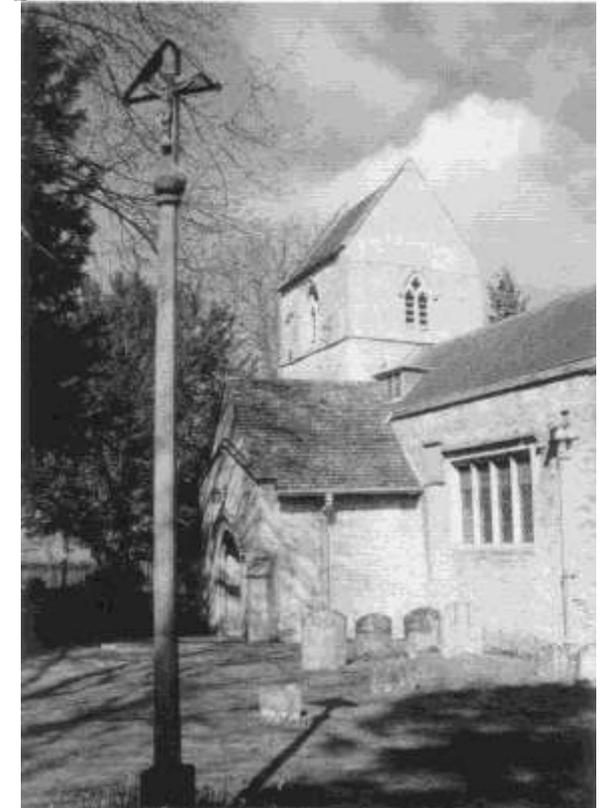
Ickford Church still possesses a splendid chalice and paten given to the parish by Sheldon in 1660; it is rarely used now but is on display in the Diocesan Treasury at Christ Church, Oxford.

St. Nicholas Church, Ickford.

ST.NICHOLAS, ICKFORD.

HISTORICAL NOTES ON OUR WONDERFUL CHURCH

And an invitation to help us preserve it.



Produced by the Friends of St. Nicholas, Ickford.

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH!

Thank you for picking up this leaflet. People visit churches for so many reasons – and whatever it is we're glad that you've come – you are most welcome!

Your links with our church may be regular, occasional or even a one-off whilst visiting the area. If you have enjoyed visiting St. Nicholas then I would ask you to take a moment to consider helping us preserve this wonderful building for others to benefit from in the future. The work involved in maintaining a building of this age is immense and many do not realise that the P.C.C. and Churchwardens receive no central funding or support to upkeep this wonderful building. If you would like to help there is a donation box in the wall by the door, or alternatively please consider joining the Friends.

The Friends of St. Nicholas is a non-religious organisation specifically established so that anyone who appreciates this building and its history can help maintain it for future generations. You don't need to be a local to help and by joining the Friends, or making a small donation you will be doing your bit to preserve a piece of our heritage.

If you're curious to learn a little more about St. Nicholas the please do read on, we are delighted to be able to share with you a little of the history of this magnificent building.

Keith Tattersfield. Chairman, Friends of St Nicholas.

HISTORICAL NOTES (1)

ARCHITECTURE. We do not know the date of the first church here, probably a wooden structure built in Saxon times. The earliest part of the present church – the chancel, the centre aisle of the nave and the lower parts of the tower – date from about 1170-1190.

About half a century the earlier work a great change was made; the nave walls pierced with six arches and the side aisles were built. By this time (about 1230) architecture was moving out of the "Norman" or Romanesque style in to Early English, and we have an interesting combination of the two styles here. No major alterations have been made since about 1230.

Notice the two round-headed windows in the north aisle; both are probably survivals from the first nave wall, re-used when the wall was demolished to open the north aisle.

HISTORICAL NOTES CONT'D (2)

The black diamonds in the glass of the larger of the two windows are very ancient – about 1250 or earlier.

Ickford Church escaped the wholesale "restoration" inflicted on so many mediaeval churches in the 19th century – in this case poverty proved to be a blessing, and it was not until the early years of the 20th century that money could be raised for sensitive repairs to the building.

MONUMENTS. By far the most impressive monument in the church is the great Tudor structure in the chancel put up in 1595 by Thomas Tipping. This is a simpler version of the earlier Harman monument at Burford with its remarkable design of strapwork and "Red Indian" figures apparently based on drawings of spoils brought back to Europe by Cortez. The graceful inscription carries no reference to the fact that Tipping owed his wealth and position to monastic property received from his father and wife!

Two Phillips monuments near the main door recall a family still remembered in Ickford for a clothing charity founded in 1683. A later member of the family, a Roman Catholic, was chaplain to Prince Charles Edward, the "Young Pretender".

WOODWORK AND ORNAMENTS Many visitors to the Church notice the fine woodwork with which it is furnished. The pulpit and some of the pews are of the 17th century, but the greater part of the fittings are the handiwork of Canon Vernon Stanley, Rector 1911-1933. The elaborate font-cover, the tester above the altar, standard candlesticks altar rails, lectern, stools and benches were all made by Stanley in his workshop at the Rectory. In addition he gave to the church many other items including a Silver chalice and paten, candelabra and the Royal Arms of King George V on the front of the gallery. The Royal Arms are those used since the accession of Queen Victoria in 1837. The colouring was applied by Stanley's son during his last leave before being killed in battle. The stained glass window in his memory is by Sir Ninian Comper, and outstanding church architect and designer. *(notes continue on back page)*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Please enrol me as a Friend of St. Nicholas Church. (please tick all that apply):

- I enclose £10 annual subscription
- I wish to enclose a donation of £_____
- I wish to set up a standing order and enclose the completed form.
- Please reclaim tax using Gift Aid. I have completed the GiftAid form on the reverse of this application.

(Cheques payable to "Friends of St Nicholas Church, Ickford")

Please send your completed application form to:

The Secretary, Friends of St Nicholas.
7, Bulls Lane, Little Ickford, HP18 9HR.
or e-mail: neilspiers@btopenworld.com for details of other ways to donate & join.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE GIFT AID DECLARATION ON THE REVERSE!

By completing this application form you acknowledge that Friends of St. Nicholas will store personally identifiable information about you. This information will be used solely for the purpose of informing you about activities of the Friends, and will not be passed to any other organisations or individuals.