

Saint Dunstan's

The Parish Church of Feltham



A short history for the use of visitors

The Parish Office
39 St Dunstan's Road
Feltham
TW13 4JY

Welcome to our Parish Church, dedicated to Saint Dunstan, a former Bishop of London and Archbishop of Canterbury. As one of the oldest buildings in the area it bears witness to the history of Feltham over the past 200 years, and more.

We are grateful to Eddie Munday, MBE, for preparing this latest guide to the church and to Feltham Rotary Club for their generous support in its production. We hope that it will add to the enjoyment of your visit and give you an insight into the life of the close-knit village community that Feltham once was.

But the church is far more than a monument to times gone by. It is the home of the present-day Christian community of the Parish. For the best part of a thousand years, prayer and worship has been offered on this spot Sunday by Sunday. As you look round this building, and see the names of those who worshipped here in former years, please spare a thought for those who still come to make their prayers here – and perhaps add your own as well.

With best wishes

Churchwardens

**God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at my end, and at my departing.**

The first mention that we have of Feltham or *Felteha* is in a document of AD971 which confirmed the grant of lands to the new Abbey Church of St Peter – the Westminster Abbey of today. The old name is translated as *field home* or *home in the fields*, thus describing the country nature of this little village set on a huge heathland. It is thought that the Parish was dedicated to St Dunstan in AD 988, the year of the saint's death, and that this is evidence that a place of worship stood in the village at that time.

In the Domesday Book of 1086 AD *Felteha* is given as Land of the Count of Mortain who was half brother to King William. There were two manors, and the entry goes on:

It answers for 12 hides. Land for 10 ploughs. In lordship 6 hides; 1 plough there; a further 3 possible. The villagers have 8 ploughs. 14 villagers with 1 virgate each. 5 other with ½ virgate each, 2 slaves. Meadow for 10 ploughs, pasture for village livestock. In total, value £6, when acquired £4, before

1066 £8. Two thanes held this manor, one of them, King Edward's man, had 5 hides as 1 manor; the other, Earl Harold's man, had 7 hides as 1 manor. They could do what they would with them.

In the 12th century a document records that the church was given to St Giles in the Field by Hawise de Roumane, Countess of Lincoln. This was also confirmed in 1221 by King Henry II and Eustace Bishop, of London. The first recorded Vicar was Peter de Whyt of Lincoln who was appointed in 1322.

The first building that we know of is described as a small structure consisting of a *Chancel, nave and north aisle*. It is build of flint and stone, chiefly lapis composites, commonly called plum-pudding stone. At the west end is a wooden tower and spire, almost covered with ivy..... This building, it would appear, stood for many years, and was saved, together with the vicarage, from a fire which swept the village in 1634. Houses and barns were

destroyed, and the people made homeless. Lord Cottington was Lord of the Manor, and he saw that the people were housed and fed until new accommodation was built.

In 1800 the old church was getting into a bad state of repair and it was decided that a new church be built. A petition stating that *the church being greatly out of repair* was heard at the Middlesex Sessions on Monday 27th October 1800. This petition was successful in that permission was granted by the Bishop of London the following year, on the understanding that the old church would be demolished and a new one build within ten months of the agreement. In the meantime, marriages and other important services were held for parishioners at St George's Church in Hanworth.

Much of the material of the old church was reused for the construction of the new one. The old box shaped pews were replaced, and much of the wood in the tower, and parts of the floor, came from the old

building. The new church was consecrated on 21st October 1802 by the Bishop of London. Following the service the choir and others repaired to the old Rose and Crown to celebrate the new church. The first baptism took place on 24th October 1802 to Peter, the son of Peter and Mary Pullen, and the first marriage took place the following January.

What was then the vicarage is a 17th century building, probably the oldest building left in Feltham. It was enlarged in Queen Victoria's reign with a new front parlour, and dining room at the rear. This building now houses the Parish Office and Church Centre, and also provides accommodation for a curate and a caretaker.

The three bells which hung in the tower of the old church, were recast in 1803, and are still rung today before worship on Sundays. The church had a barrel-organ, but in 1826 a subscription list was raised for funds for a hand-pumped organ. The present organ dates from 1903.

In the years following the dedication of the new church the building was found to be too small for the growing local population. Additional space was made by adding the south aisle in 1885 and the north aisle in the following year, giving the pillars and arches that we see today.

In January 1955, it was found that damage had been done to much of the old woodwork by death watch beetle and fungal decay, and that the old wooden pews had wood-worm and had to be destroyed. So the wood panelling and affected timbers and pews were taken out and burned, and the whole interior of the church changed. However, sad though the loss was, it has enabled the church to be fitted in a more modern manner, with comfortable seating and carpeted floor. The wood panelling in the sanctuary adds to the beauty of the interior. In the refurbishment the floor has been concreted over and has

sealed forever the vaults under the church.

The stained glass windows are mainly early 20th century, though that at the east end, above the sanctuary, is Victorian. There are number of memorials on the walls, and one is 17th century from the old church. On the south side of the sanctuary the stonemason has made a mistake and, not able to rub out his error, has altered 99 to 79. The church records must have been lost in the fire of 1634, for the present records start from that date.

There are a number of old grave stones in the church yard, including one to the headmaster and mistress of the old school that stood in Feltham High Street. Also, close to the path, is the grave of the last man to be hanged at Tyburn, William Ryland, who was a brilliant engraver but took to forgery. He is buried with his parents, although his name is not recorded on the stone.

A Guide to the Church & Stained Glass

On entering the church you find a light and airy building which has been renovated in recent years. It retains a stillness and quiet from the busy traffic outside and the noise of nearby Heathrow Airport.

The stained glass windows in the north aisle are all from the early part of the 20th century. The first being of St Paul of Tarsus in memory of Henry Lee-Uff (died 1927). He was the local School Board Attendance Officer.

The next in memory of Emma, wife of Henry Lee-Uff is dedicated to Dorcas, a seamstress and early follower of Christianity, and to be *full of good works*, and was brought back to life by St Peter (*Acts chap 9*).

St Barnabas is illustrated in the next window in memory of Harry Lee-Uff, son of Henry. He was a School Teacher and organist of the church from 1893 to 1910.

St Cecilia, Patron Saint of Music is next depicted, in memory of Catherine Palmer who died in December 1924.

The window to St Catrina or Katherine of Alexandria is in memory of Elizabeth and John Daines of Manor House, Manor Lane. The next one is dedicated to the Church's Patron Saint, St Dunstan in memory of John Pickering, who was organist from 1910 to 1923.

In the Sanctuary the stained glass is Victorian. The window in the north wall is in memory of Edward Thrupp, a former Vicar (1848), and his daughter Elizabeth. Over the altar the window depicts Christ the Good Shepherd with sheep in the fold, and a lamb on his shoulder. The four Gospel writers, St Matthew, St Mark, St Luke and St John are included, with verses of scripture and the Greek signs *Alpha and Omega – the Beginning and the End*. The window in the south wall is now of clear glass, the original having been destroyed by vandalism.

In the south aisle we have two windows in memory of members of the Squire family. The first to Elizabeth (died 1878) is a colourful depiction of Elizabeth of Hungary, a much loved German Saint. The next in memory of William Squire, (died 1883) is of William of York, one time Bishop of that city.

Facing south we have two windows of modern glass; one to Abbess St Hilda of Northumbria in memory of Lucy Parker (died 1947), and the next to Thomas James Parker, a local businessman and one time chorister and sidesman. This is of 7th century James of York, a deacon and singer.

In the sanctuary are a number of memorials of note. The oldest, from the old church, to Nathaniel Crewe is dated 1688. The next is to Lieut Col Sir Henry William Carr who married Jane, widow of the Hon Spencer Percival, the only British Prime Minister to be assassinated. His father was The Rev Colstan Carr, Vicar of Feltham in 1771.

There is a poignant plaque to John Hamilton Mackie, aged 16 years, who died while bathing at Sunbury, presumably in the River Thames.

On the gallery screen in front of the organ, is recorded the re-building of the church in 1802 and details of local charities set up to help the poor of the Parish.

As you leave through the base of the tower, on the left are boards recording donations to local charities and the subscription list for the re-building of the church.

(Text by Eddie Munday, MBE: First published March 1997, Revised June 2013, Sep 2022)

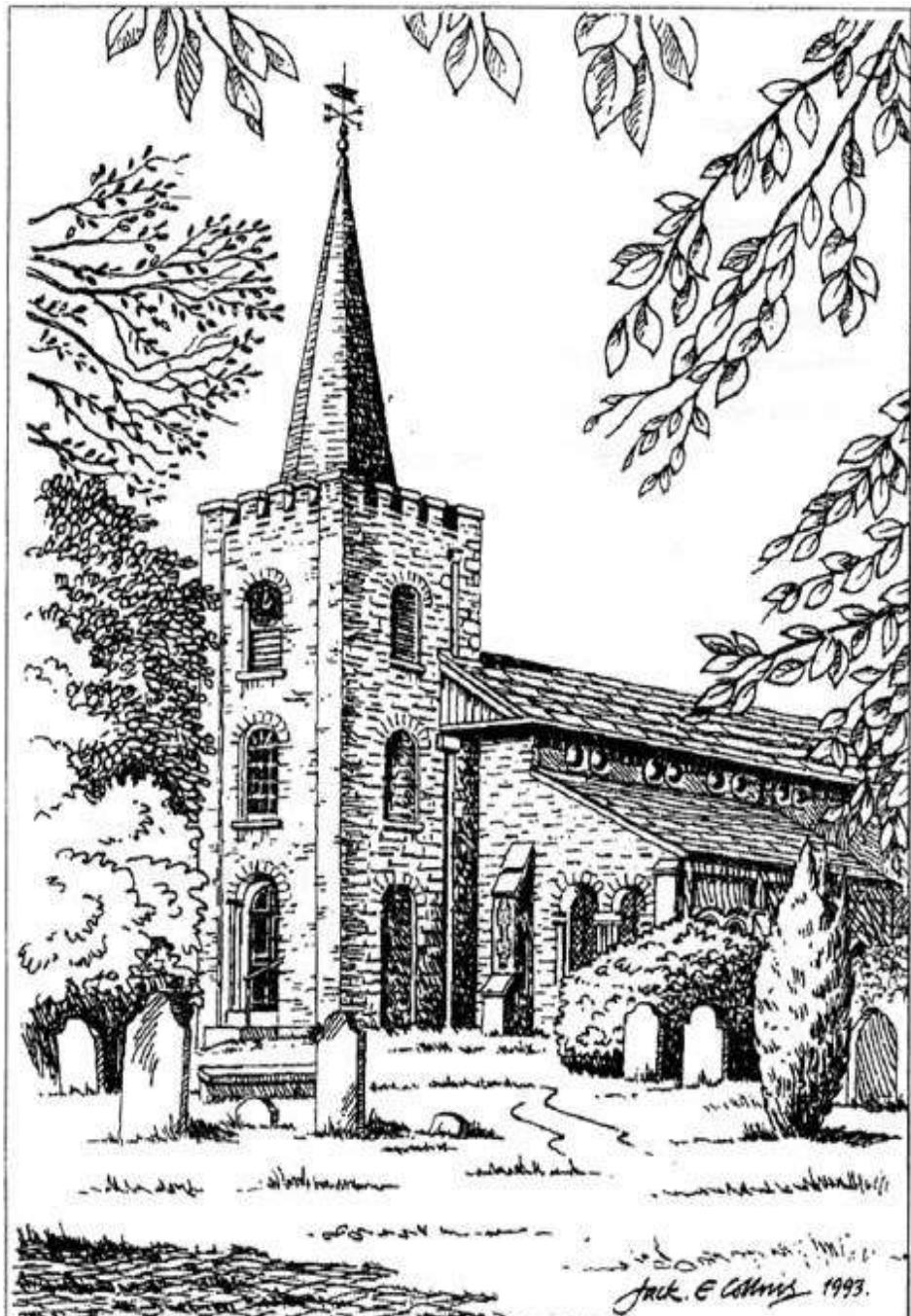
FELTHAM ROTARY CLUB

have been established in the community for many years, and they are well known for their work for charity. We are indebted to them for financing this publication.

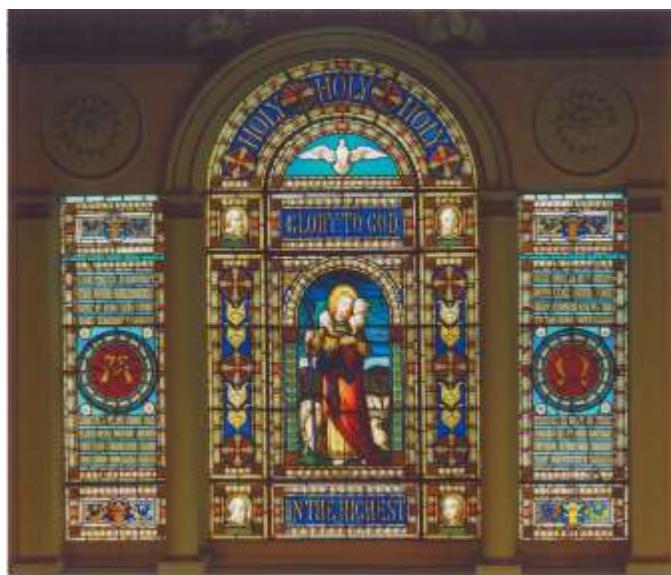
VICARS OF FELTHAM FROM 1322

(with year of appointment where known)

<i>Peter de Whyt</i>	1322	<i>Samuel Hill</i>	1593
<i>John le Fere</i>	1331	<i>Thomas Pratt</i>	1597
<i>William Carpenter</i>	1361	<i>John Ball</i>	1599
<i>John at Hale</i>	1370	<i>Obadiah Tangley</i>	1616
<i>John Bartelot</i>		<i>Job Eglantine</i>	
<i>William Holdham</i>	1406	<i>Paul Griffiths</i>	
<i>William Clement</i>	1407	<i>Henry Bignell</i>	
<i>William Berwgbey</i>		<i>Charles Rose</i>	1676
<i>John Byfield</i>	1410	<i>James Hunter</i>	1723
<i>Richard Ebsale</i>		<i>John Shepley</i>	1732
<i>Robert Broune</i>	1428	<i>William Hunter</i>	1742
<i>John Gysbourne</i>	1430	<i>George Horne</i>	
<i>William Gale</i>	1437	<i>Colston Carr</i>	1771
<i>William Tunder</i>		<i>Robert Burd-Gabriel</i>	1777
<i>William Bugden</i>	1455	<i>Bartholemew Sclater</i>	1778
<i>Stephen Fresshney</i>	1472	<i>John Hewit</i>	1783
<i>John Egerton</i>	1496	<i>Alexander Kilgour</i>	1798
<i>Thomas Ashfield</i>	1502	<i>Joseph Morris</i>	1818
<i>John Judson</i>	1502	<i>Edward Vale</i>	1833
<i>William Elvedon</i>		<i>Edward Thrupp</i>	1848
<i>Ralph Kempe</i>	1513	<i>John Francis Jemmett</i>	1877
<i>William Gregson</i>	1533	<i>Frederick Browell</i>	1911
<i>Thomas Norbury</i>	1537	<i>Percy Godfrey</i>	1931
<i>Richard Permentory</i>	1546	<i>Archibald Calder</i>	1951
<i>Ralph Whiteling</i>	1554	<i>John Perry</i>	1963
<i>Edward Percivall</i>	1555	<i>Leslie Sentance</i>	1976
<i>William Henshaw</i>		<i>David Chapman</i>	1983
<i>Thomas Rochell</i>	1578	<i>Peter Wragg</i>	1994
<i>John Gainsford</i>	1584	<i>Anne Dollery</i>	2015



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