

## The Parish

The name Runwell is said to be derived from 'Running Well' but there is no certainty as to derivation. It appears as Runweolla or Runewella about 940 in the ancient collection of documents, Cartularum Saxonicum, and as Runewella in **the** Domesday Book 1086. Scholars have speculated that the first element is the lost Old English 'hruna' – a tree-trunk – but Professor Ekwall prefers the Old English 'run' – a mystery or secret which could refer to a wishing well/or some notable meeting place (P.H. Reaney, The Place-names of Essex, English Place-name Society Vol. XII C.U.P. 1935).

The historian of Essex, Rev. Philip Morant in his History and Antiquities of Essex, 1816, took a more robust view – Runwell '...undoubtedly received its name from the considerable running well in the parish.'

Frederick Chancellor in 1896 agreed, and wrote 'There is still a remarkable spring of water on Poplars' Farm, about one and a half miles north-east of the church. Perhaps, the bolder traditional view can be accepted, despite possible etymological doubts.

Little is known about Runwell prior to the Domesday Survey which gave an account of the situation in 1066 and 1086. There was an established settlement in the area in Anglo-Saxon times and a probability of Roman settlement. The Victoria County History refers to a Roman stone coffin having been found in Runwell but no substantial traces have been found. However, the Roman settlements at Wickford would make some settlement in Runwell possible and there are signs of Roman tiles being used in the construction of the church tower.

Reverend J.E. Bazille-Corbin advocated an idea that people during the Mediaeval period would come to the Running Well as a pilgrimage. Another possibility is that the well was not so much the destination of the pilgrim's but a shrine which people would visit along the route. These ideas are supported by a letter attributed to Robert Durden that was rediscovered and quoted in Bazille Corbin's "Runwell Tales":

"On the XVIII day of July in this yeare 1602, I. Robert Dureden a?, as bid of my Lorde Bishoppe in hys letter, did ride, by the bridel path and greene lane to visit the place of the shrine of the Bl. Virgin of the Runnyng Welle, to the ende that I might advertise my Lorde as to the condition and repaire therof.

"My testimonie to my Lorde is that the little stone Chappelle is muche decayed , the more so than when I was laste come thither. The rooffe be now fallen inne and the easte walle muche broken down and the pavement of collorded tyles utterlye taken away.

"The Holye Springe, methinks, is yet supersticiously misused by some in the parisshe, who resorte thither for purposes divers other than for to drawe water for drynkge, of for there beastes.

"The cherrie-trees and the oakes, one tyme about the welle be all raized a long whyle gone.

“The nunnerie house of timber and plaister is dwelled inne by Sr. Edwd. Sulliard hys bayliffe , to whom I did alsoe that same day ate “Flemyngs” paie my respectes ere I goe home.

“Atte the manoir is lodged, by Sr. Edwd. and hys Layde, Mistress Bridgette Forster hys aunt, though Sr. Edwd. Avowes that she be aged fulle ninety and foure yeares. Thys Mistresse Bridgette be the lasteheade, or prioress, of the nunnes’ house, and hath yette her pensionne of our soverign ladye the Queen, albeit a recursante and stiffe in Papystrie”

We are fortunate in that Runwell is included in the ‘Little Domesday’, the survey of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk which contains a much greater wealth of detail than in the larger Domesday Survey.

A manor<sup>1</sup> in Runwell was held ‘in King Edward’s time’ (Edward the Confessor, died 1066) by one Lefstan as a manor with 1 hide<sup>2</sup>. Also by Edeva as a manor with 4 hides. Both were later annexed by one Ingelric, a favourite of Edward the Confessor and founder of St. Martin’s-le-Grand in London. Little is known of these shadowy Anglo-Saxon figures. In Domesday Book these manors are held by one of the great continental grandees, Adelof de Merc, related to the ‘Vicontes’ of March and Calais. The family held much land in Essex and their name survives, for example, in Marks Tey, near Colchester. This is a small but vivid demonstration of the advance of the ‘Feudal system’ into England before the Norman Conquest and of the complex network of feudal relationships on both sides of the English Channel.

A small but detailed picture is given of the social and economic organisation. There were, for example, eight borders. These were cottagers who cultivated small plots of land as subsistence farmers and enjoyed other rights, like common grazing, in return for work on the lord’s land. Some practised trades and sold their labour as shepherds or cowherds. There was one serf. There was ploughland, meadow, woodland for swine and an assortment of domesticated animals, cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, about 280 in all. Sheep were the largest in number.

The chief manor, was, however, held by the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul’s Cathedral and had been since King Athelstan’s time (895-939). The Dean and Chapter had been dispossessed sometime before 1066 but the manor had been restored to ‘God, St. Paul and their servants’. It remained until 1546 when Morant, with robust disregard for historical minutiae, says King Henry VIII ‘got it by somehow or other’ and granted it almost immediately to Sir Anthony Browne (founder of Brentwood School). This was not soon enough, for the King died before the Grant became effective and it remained in the possession of St. Paul’s until exchanged with King Edward VI in 1547 for other properties worth £37.10s.

The chief manor of Runwell, and the other manors, did not long interest kings and aristocracy or have connection with State matters. It passed to Edward, Lord Clinton , a courtier of Edward VI and a

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<sup>1</sup> A manor consisted of a parcel of land granted to the holder by the lord and usually containing a manor house where peasants might pay their taxes (geld). The inhabitants of the area might be bound to the manor by labour or other service or even rent in return for use of strips of land for subsistence farming. There might be serfs or slaves attached to the manor. The village unit could be a series of manorial units.

<sup>2</sup> A hide was a unit of land which varied in size according to locality. It could be 120 acres (Cambridgeshire and the Eastern Counties) or 40 acres (Wiltshire and the South-west).

Protestant Reformer. Lord Clinton lost it when an attainder (an Act of Parliament) was passed against him, stripping him of his possessions, when Catholic Queen Mary ascended the throne in 1553. It was granted to Sir John G?ate. It then passed through several hands, finally to Simon Rogers, a merchant of Milend, London, and to his son George Rogers. It was purchased by Thomas Nash Kemble in 1824, 'the father of the present popular and genial owner', as described by Frederick Chancellor in the Essex review in 1896. The Kemble family occupied the present Runwell Hall until the death of Augusta Frances Kemble in 1951, the last surviving child of Thomas Nash Kemble.

The present house, now a hotel and country club, was built in 1850 and stands on the main road from Wickford to Rettendon Turnpike. The original Runwell Hall stood to the north of the church and was 'approached by a picturesque chaseway'. This appears to be the present Runwell Chase, which lead to the old Runwell Hospital which occupied the site of the old Runwell Hall, now a housing development St Luke's Park. . This is clearly shown on a map dated 1777 and is said to be owned by Thos. Boddington Esq<sup>3</sup>. It is said that the fine oak panelling surrounding the dignified staircase in the present Runwell hall came from the old mansion house.

There were two other manors. One, Sandon has disappeared. It is mentioned as being held by Simon de Merk in 1210-1210 and was possibly granted to cardinal Wolsely by Henry VIII.

The other, Flemings, survives today as Flemings Farm, to the north-west of the church. No one knows how it came into the Fleming family but Robert Fleming presented it to the living of Runwell in 1324. It remained in the Fleming family until the death, without issue, of John, son of Sir Thomas Fleming in 1464. John's three sisters were co-heirs and the manor passed through marriage of Anne, sister of Blanche and Constantia, to the Sulyard family. This was an ancient family from Eye in Suffolk. It produced a Justice of the King's Bench (one of our puisne judges, i.e. High Court judges), Sir John Sulyard, born 1485. Edward Sulyard, 'the last of his house and family' died without children in 1692.

Flemings farm is probably the most interesting house in the parish. The present house is part of a large mansion of about 1600. One source says it had 100 rooms, another 50 rooms and a chapel. It was largely destroyed by fire in the seventeenth century. Its notable surviving features are a red brick two-storey bay window on the north side. This has 5-light windows on the ground floor with a transom and two transoms on the upper floor. The bay has gabled obelisks and there is a fine chimney stack with diagonal shafts, said to be correctly renewed - Pevsner **Essex (Buildings of England)** p. 331.

There are a few other notable buildings in the parish. Burrs, originally a pair of Elizabethan cottages, has been converted into a Tudor style house. Brett's Farm Cottages, opposite Runwell Hall, were lath and plaster Elizabethan cottages, now demolished.

The map, referred to above gives the 'Pot Inn' on the site of the present 'Quart Pot' public house.

The parish of Runwell is typical of thousands of similar parishes in England and discerning historians can perhaps see in such a village a microcosm of English history.

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<sup>3</sup> This map was loaned to me by the late Mr John Hayes, formerly landlord of the 'Quart Pot' public house, Runwell.

Runwell was touched by great events but developed into a stable rural society with little expansion until its development into a dormitory village serving London and surrounding industrial areas in the twentieth century

### Ecclesiastical History

The first recorded Rector was Radulphus , according to the manorial visitation by Dean Ralph de Diceto in 1181. Although Radulphus was almost certainly not the first rector, Runwell was rather unusual in that it had a Rector in person, appointed by the patrons, the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral. The Rector was often a corporate body which appointed a Vicar. After the two earliest recorded Rectors, Radulphus (1181) and John (1251) the list is unbroken from 1324 to 1961 when the last Rector was instituted. At his retirement in 1974, the benefice was under suspension although the rector of Wickford, the Rev. W.A. Randall became Priest in charge of Runwell in October 1975. It is now part of the United benefice of Wickford and Runwell with a Team Vicar.

The longest serving recorded Rector was Martin Pugh who served for 45 years (1721-1766), followed by John Edward Bazille Corbin, 38 years (1923-1961) and Simon Lynch, 32 years (1628-1660) and Thomas Ellys, 32 years (1456-1488).

Great historical events, even those concerning Church and State seem to have passed most rectors by. A possible exception is Simon Lynch who was a staunch Royalist in the Civil Wars (1642-6 and 1648) and who, although not dispossessed, during the Commonwealth (1649-1660) endured some troubles as recorded on his tomb in St. Lawrence 's Church, Blackmore:

Here lyeth the body of Simon Lynch, Rector of  
Runwell, who for fearing God and the King was  
Sequestrated, prosecuted and persecuted to the day  
Of his death by Gog and Magog and left.

**(Newcourts' Repertorium, Vol. 2)**

From Henry Pugh's institution in 1694 to that of Thomas Knox, Junior in 1844, all Rectors were absentees. There was no Rectory or parsonage house in the parish and the duties were performed by curates – frequently overworked and underpaid. An example is the Rev. Nash Kemble, a relation of the Kemble family who was curate from 1804 until his death in 1830 aged 57. His stipend in 1822 was £60 per annum, paid quarterly. He was responsible for both Runwell and Ramsden Crays and was buried on the side of the chancel in St. Mary's Church in that parish. There is no trace of his grave today.

The present-day appearance of the church owes much to John Edward Bazille Corbin who carried out many changes during his long incumbency. A very great debt must be, however, to Henry Kingsford Harris (1891-1912) for the restoration of 1907. This included essential structural remedial work on the south aisle, for example, underpinning the massive piers, and the rebuilding of the chancel. He was a considerable electrical engineer and a notable feature was the ringing of the bells by electricity, and the electric lighting of the church. He built an orphanage and the children served as his choir, also several cottages in the parish and St. Andrew's Mission Church, Chalk Street, on the northern edge of the parish. There was a lay reader's house but the chapel was never consecrated.

St.Andrew's Mission Church was sold early 1980's and proceeds were put towards the building of the present church hall.

## Rectors and Vicars of St Mary's

		Instituted
Radulphus	Rector	c. 1181
John	Rector	c. 1251
Robert de Rudeham	Rector	1324
John Vincent	Rector	1334
Robert de Wycestre	Rector	c. 1346
John Scott	Rector	c. 1356
John Ocle	Rector	c. 1378
John Silveroane (or Sylverton)	Rector	1389
Robert Marchall	Rector	1394
Robert Morecott	Rector	1399
James Gerneys	Rector	1409
Thomas Eleventh	Rector	c. 1427
John Emme (or Emmeth)	Rector	c. 1439
Thomas Ellys	Rector	1456
Reginald Bertland (or Bretland)	Rector	1488
John Robotham	Rector	1489
Robert Crauford	Rector	1492
John Gylde	Rector	c. 1522
Thomas Wylson	Rector	1551
Thomas Brown	Rector	c. 1553
Henry Wright	Rector	1559
Thomas Forster	Rector	c. 1562
Edmund Bicknell	Rector	1569
John Powell	Rector	1575
William Daniel	Rector	1577
Robert Durden	Rector	1604
Simon Lynch (son-in-law of above)	Rector	1628
Thomas Sulyard	Rector	1660
Ithiel Lynch (son of Simon)	Rector	1669
Henry Pugh	Rector	1694
Robert Pugh	Rector	c. 1704
Martin Pugh	Rector	1721
Philip Griffin	Rector	1766
George Duten	Rector	1772
Isaac Moody Bingham	Rector	1780
Vicesimus Knox, DD	Rector	1803
Thomas Knox, Snr., DD	Rector	1821
Thomas Knox, Jnr., MA	Rector	1844
James Henry Beresford Harris, MA	Rector	1872
Henry Kingsford Harris, MA	Rector	1891
Robert Frederick Burnett, MA	Rector	1912
Henry Mervyn Tyrwhitt, MA	Rector	1920
John Edward Bazille Corbin, MA	Rector	1923
Maurice Whitehouse Hickin, MA	Rector	1961
William Alfred Randall, B.D., A.K.C.	Priest in Charge	1975
David John Silk Lloyd, B.A.	Team Vicar	1981
Christopher Richard Colledge	Team Vicar	1988
Arthur Edwin Payne	Team Vicar	1991
William Paul Waters	Team Vicar	1995
Jonathan Hawke Delfgou	Team Vicar	1998-2018

## The Fabric

The church is an impressive structure of Kentish rag-stone with some pudding-stone and Roman tiles. There is a small step between the chancel and nave .. The imposing west tower has a round stair turret and shingled steeple. There is no evidence of Norman work and a church is not mentioned in the Domesday Book. The building is largely late fourteenth century but the massive pillars of the south aisle show that a considerable building existed in the thirteenth century.

## The chancel

The chancel was rebuilt with the nave in the late fourteenth century according to Frederick Chancellor. It was lengthened in 1907 and according to the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments 1923, it is entirely perpendicular in style. The original fifteenth century East window with three trefoiled lights in four centred heads with a moulded hood, was reset in the east wall when the chancel was lengthened.

The fifteenth century windows in the north wall each have two lights which are trefoiled.

The squint from the south chapel to the chancel is said to be fifteenth or early sixteenth century.

The vestry, to the south, is modern, being added during the restoration of 1907. Also in 1907 was added the three-bay sedilia, in the perpendicular style, with piscina.

The niche in the east wall of the chancel , now covered ,used to contain the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is modern and is a copy of a niche which existed before the rebuilding of the east wall chancel.

The chancel roof – at the same level as the nave roof- is largely modern, dating from the 1907 restoration. It is in oak with carved tudor roses on the bosses on the ribs.

The chancel floor dates from the 1907 restoration and is in brown and white chequered tiles, with one step to the sanctuary.

## The Nave

The nave is 37.5 feet long by 15.5 feet wide. It was rebuilt in the late fourteenth century and contains two windows each with two cinquefoil lights in square heads. The north doorway is fifteenth century with an almost square head. The oak door is modern. Note the **hagioscope**, or squint, in the north wall west of the north door. \*\*Think the external ones were referred to as a leper's squint or lychnoscope?

The oldest part of the entire building is the south arcade of four bays with short, massive circular piers with bold and simple capitals and bases. The capitals have two responds with abacus moulding. The piers support four pointed arches with double-chamfered ribs. The arcade dates from the late thirteenth century and is 'the only reminder of the thirteenth century in a church otherwise perpendicular' (Pevsner p. 330).

The nave contains some original, possible fifteenth century, timber, notably the massive oak tie beams. The struts and braces are modern.

## South chapel

This is locally known as the Jesus Chapel and was rebuilt with the rest of the church in the late fourteenth century. There are two two-light south windows with cinque-foils, also a slim one-light cinque-foiled east window high over the chapel altar. This contains the only surviving fragments of medieval stained glass. The most interesting feature of the chapel is the fifteenth century barrel roof which had been plastered over, but is now revealed. The south door 'unusually wide and large' has an original, fifteenth century oak door with original hinges and strapwork. The timber has a curious burn-like mark said to be the mark of the 'Devil's claw'. An interesting feature is the medieval scratched sundial on the west jamb of the doorway. The south chapel contains two original piscine and a squint.

## The tower

The massive west tower dates from the late fourteenth century. The walls are 3 feet 6 inches thick with diagonal buttresses and a recessed spire. The stair turret at the south-east corner is higher and like the tower, is battlemented. Inside the turret stair-case are 43 steps to the belfry, 14 more to the bell chamber and a further 14 leading out to the lead flats of the tower roof. The spire has 8 oak cross beams with an oak centre post, with rafters and braces. The whole covered with shingles and surmounted by a gilded weather cock.

The interior of the tower is remarkable for its lofty pointed arch reaching nearly to the ringers' chamber. It is triple chamfered on both east and west sides with slim columns set into the walls. The west window is three-light with trefoils and with chamfered jambs and a hood moulding. The fine west door has deeply moulded jambs and a hood moulding. The timber of the door is modern.

## Glass

Only fragments of the medieval glass remain. The rest of the stained glass is modern. It is entirely taken up with memorials to various members of the Kemble family with the exceptions of the east window of the chancel and the west window in the tower. This is in memory of the mother of the Rev. H.K. Harris, Rector 1891-1912. The figure of Gabriel, the Archangel is in the west window.

## Screen

The modern rood screen in the perpendicular style is by W.F. Unsworth (1909). The figure of Our Lord on the cross is suspended from a tie beam, west of the rood screen, is in memory of Paymaster Lieutenant John Rochester Graves, RNVR, who died in HMS Hood in 1941. The medieval screen formerly in the south chapel is now in Holy Trinity Church, Rayleigh.

## Font

This is early perpendicular with a plain octagonal bowl and plain base and shaft. It has a simple modern wooden cover.

## Other furnishings

Two statues – Our Lady **in a niche** over the High Altar – And Our Lord in the Jesus Chapel, the latter given as a thank-offering for the remarkable survival and recovery of a son of the Rev. J.E. Bezille Corbin, from injuries received during service in the 1939-45 war. Both are of olive wood and are modern.

The alms box, at the north door, which is of oak, hollowed out and iron bound, is said to be early Stuart. It has an interesting history. It was recovered, restored and presented to the church by Thomas Kemble after a chance conversation between Mrs Kemble and Archdeacon Mildmay of Essex. The Archdeacon mentioned the Stuart alms box being in a Chelmsford sale room. It was described as 'Rubbish from Runwell', among the sale of effects of the late Rector of East Hanningfield. Alms should not be placed therein now.

Among other furnishings are a handsome brass eagle lectern presented by the Rev. H.K. Harris in memory of his father, the Rev. H.B. Harris and his mother. There is a small but fine pipe organ by Norman and Beard (1914).

The crucifix and six candlesticks in silver plate on the High Altar were given by Rev. M.W. Hickin, rector 1961-74 in memory of his mother. They are a reproduction of a graceful baroque set. A pair of Venetian style tall candle sticks decorated with roses, twining stems and foliage and animal heads, stand at the rear of the altar. Much work has been done in the interior during 1980-1981 including restoring of crumbling plaster work and whitening the walls. Also, the Jesus chapel has been refurbished in memory of the father of one of the congregation.

## Monuments

There are fragments of sepulchral slabs built into south and west buttresses in the aisle. But the most striking monument is the large sepulchral slab built into a recess in the north wall of the chancel. It has double-chamfered edges and a raised cross on the top. The cross is produced from a square and four circles with a long shaft. This suggests a crozier. The origin is unknown but there is a similar slab and decoration in Dorchester Church, Oxon. It is locally known as the Prioress's Tomb.

Set into the floor of the west tower are four grave slabs. One bears the inscription 'Hic est situs Edward Sulyard' and is said to have been originally placed in the chancel, over his grave and beneath his monument. The second is to Thomas Sulyard, Rector 1660-1667. The third is to Charles Parker, husband of Anne Sulyard, who was co-heiress with her sister Dorothy, of her uncle, Edward Sulyard. The fourth is probably to Anne, wife of Sir Thomas Sulyard. She died in 1620 and is buried in the church. The memorial has lost its two coats of arms and inscription.

On the north wall of the chancel is a brass to Eustace Sulyard (died 1547) and his wife Margaret (Ayloff) (died 1587). She was married three times and Eustace was her second husband. They kneel facing each other on faldstools between stone pilasters carrying the pediment. Opposite on the south wall is a handsome stone monument, coloured and surmounted with a coat of arms, to Edward Sulyard, 1620-1692, 'the last of his house and family.' The monument is signed by Thomas Cartwright Jnr.

## Porches

Sir Nikolaus Pevsner says that 'The best thing about the church is its two porches, timber structures of the fifteenth century' (**Essex**, pp 380-1 **The Buildings of England**). They are very fine, especially the south porch which is rarely used or seen. The north porch has some carved work and possibly the builder's initials but is slightly marred by the modern oak diagonal tongue and groove side panels. The south porch has the original side panels. Both have king-posts and sides with mullions and carved tracery heads. The north porch has quatrefoils and the south trefoils, in the spandrels of the arches.



## Bells

The four bells in the bell chamber are as follows:

Three have the inscription 'Robertus Mot me fecit 1591.' They have been hung for stationary chiming.

## Registers

The registers of the church do not commence until 1558 and there are several gaps. The first entries are:

Christinge Ano Dni 1558  
Frances Amye was baptized January 12.  
Marriages in Runwell Ano Dni 1558.  
Ihon Lake and Elizabeth Lowe were married Feb. 3.  
Burrials Ano Dni. 1558.  
Frances Amie was buried Jan 24.

The old registers are all stored at the Essex Records Office, Chelmsford.

## Plate

The cup and paten dating from 1562 have both been stolen. All present plate is modern.

An idea of the condition of the church can be obtained in the seventeenth century from the following:

### VISITATION OF THE ARCHDEACONRY OF ESSEX, 1686

RUNWELL - Mr Ithiel Lynch, Rect. Compt: |  
Inter Horas – Johannes Garrett 11 & 12 | Gards  
Matutinas – Robertus Enives |

There is a good Bible

There is a booke of Homilies, a booke of Canons and Articles.

There is a Carpet of green Cloth for ye Communion table, but there must be a new one provided.

There is a surplice and a linen Cloth for ye Communion table.

There is a silver Cuppe with a cover to it and a Flaggon of pewter.

There is a Pulpitt Cushion – not very good – but there must be a new one.

There are four bells.

The Bier in ye chancel and ye benches to be removed and ye Communion table to be set close to the wall under the East window and a Raile to be plac't before It.

The Piew on ye North in ye chancel to be taken away and sett on ye South side to make it uniforme with ye desk.

The Raison over ye pulpitt to be repaired and the ceiling at the upper end of ye body of the church to be made new with wainscott as it was before. The South Isle at the upper end of ye church to be parted with Pallisades and painted and ye Piewes to be made handsome for ye people to sett in.

There wants a plate for ye offerings.  
There must be a Partition made betweene the church and belrey  
about 10ft high with deale bords.  
There wants Bases for the people to Kneel on.  
The Church to be whitened.  
The steple wants shingling.  
The porch on ye South side of ye church wants repairing and new  
pavings.  
Mr Edw. Suliard is Patron.  
Mrs ...Rogers is Lady of Ye Manor  
That there be a Chest provided with three locks and keys and the  
Register booke to be Kept in it according to ye Canons.

## Churchyards

There are two churchyards. The South Churchyard alongside the church the oldest gravestone is dated 1739 a 'Robert Surridg' followed by his wife in 1740. On the entrance gates there is a War Graves plaque that is for Sergeant E A Robinson killed in 1943 (tail gunner). An interesting gravestone is to a 'Edwys Ryerson' just outside the vestry door he was born in 1878 he served with the British Army in the Boer War and was awarded the Queens medal with two clasps. He was a second class steward on the ill fated Titanic but he was fortunate as part of his duties he was assigned to man a lifeboat- number nine (only thirteen lifeboats were able to be launched). The interesting thing here that distant members of his family (4<sup>th</sup> cousin) namely Arthur together with his wife son, two daughters, governess and personal maid were also aboard travelling first class but Ed would have been unlikely to know this. His distant family and servants all survived except for Arthur they were in lifeboat number four. Ed served throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and probably fought at both battles in the Somme in 1916 and 1918. At war's end his rank was Warrant Officer Class with the Royal Artillery Regiment. Ed's eventful life came to a close in December 1949 when he died at his home "Seaton" Church End Lane just up the road from the Church. This is now a retirement home.

The other churchyard North Churchyard over the road adjacent to the church hall was opened in 1959 to provide space for patients from Runwell Hospital this churchyard is now closed.

## Recent Works

Constant attention is needed to arrest decay in a building which has stood in almost its present form for six hundred years. Large renovations took place in the 1960's and 1970's, for example, the strengthening of the bell chamber and re-hanging of the bells, and the re-shingling of the spire. Major restoration also took place in 1979 when the stonework of the north-western angle buttress of the tower was restored and work of similar restoration to the south-western buttress was carried out in 1981.

In the period when Rev. Delfgou was the Team Vicar (1998-2018) extensive work was carried out to the fabric and furnishings. Stations of the Cross were crafted and placed around the church and an altar built and placed in the side chapel together with an inscribed cross on the side chapel wall; the craft work for all this was done by a local resident David Garrard. The floor of the side chapel was renewed with tiles. The interior of the church was redecorated.

Restoration work continues to this day with part of the wood block flooring to be relaid in 2020 and the organ to be restored after rainwater damage from a leaking roof.

THE ORIGINAL HISTORY WAS WRITTEN BY LESTOR CROOK AND PRINTED AS A BOOKLET CIRCA 1970'S. WITH HIS PERMISSION THE CONTENTS ARE CONTAINED ABOVE AND THE HISTORY HAS BEEN UPDATED IN 2020 BY ALAN VICTOR JONES.

PHOTOGRAPHS BELOW ARE BY ALAN VICTOR JONES.



West tower



West door



Fifteenth century south porch



Fifteenth century north porch



Nave and chancel looking east





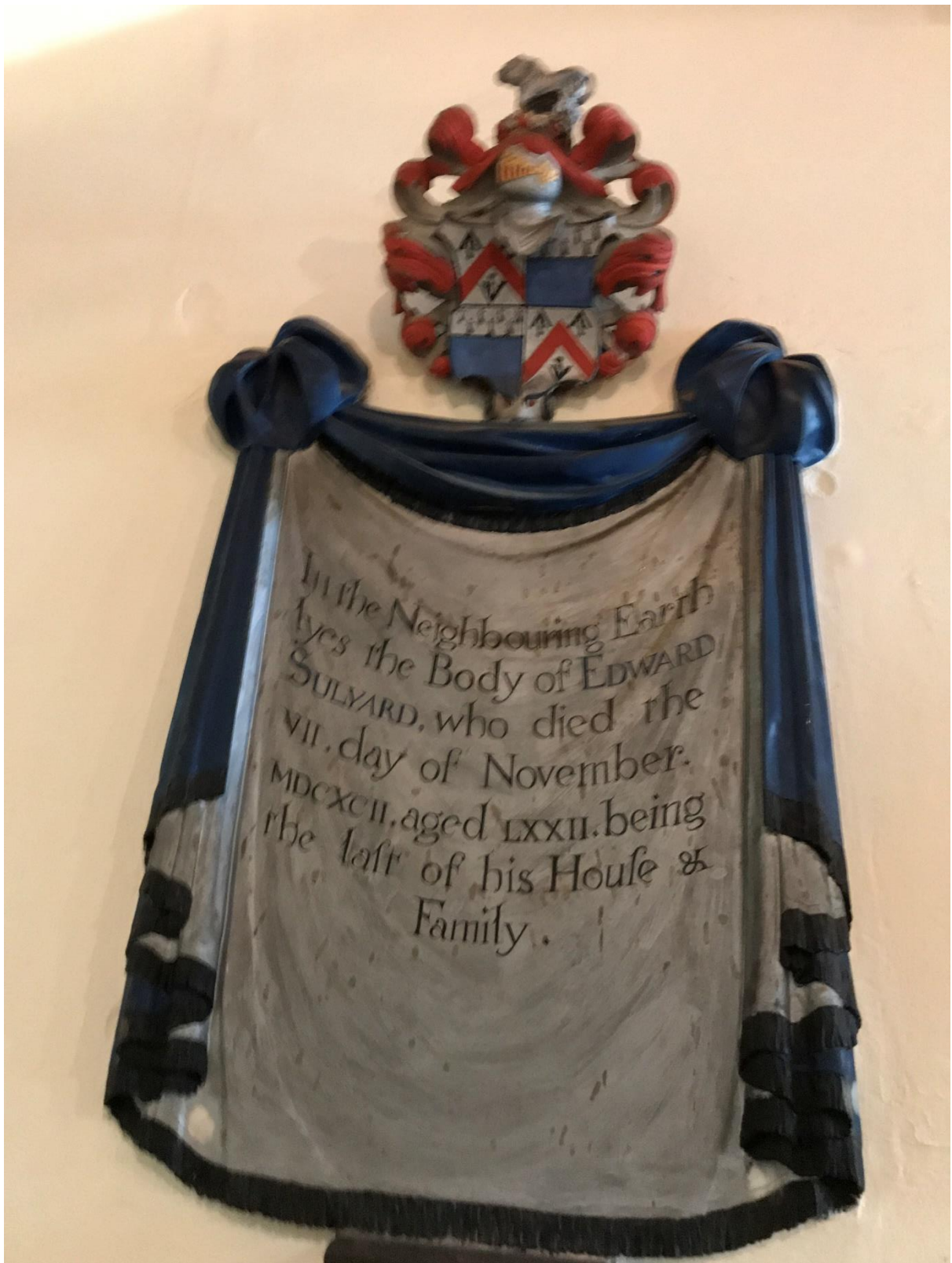
East window and high altar



Sedilia



Eagle Lectern



Memorial to Edward Sulyard



North window of chancel and sepulchral slab (Prioress's tomb)



Brasses to Edward Sulyard and wife



Pulpit and part of screen



Windows in nave, north side





Thirteenth century south aisle pillars from nave



Font



South Aisle Chapel (Jesus Chapel)



South Aisle pillars from south chapel



South Door



Squint in south wall



West tower arch and west window



West window