

Droxford Church Rectors Flip-Books

Author: Michael Collins

www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk



Peter Rusciniol

A letter of 1231 from the Pope to Master Peter Rusciniol of Drochoneford is the first reference to a Rector of the parish. Four years later Master Rusciniol appointed a vicar in his place, being too busy to reside in the parish himself.

John de Berwyk (Berewyk, Berewick)

According to the Calender of Patent Rolls, John de Berwyk was presented to the Church of DORKENSFORD, on 1st December 1280, which was in the gift of Edward I by reason of voidance of the See of Winchester.

From 1283 to 28th November 1290 was Treasurer & Keeper of Queen ELEANOR's gold & her Wardrobe (Sept. to 28th November 1290 only). JOHN DE BERWYK was formerly Clerk of the King's Bench - King's Clerk from 1279 - 'not a university man' - in 1291 Edward I granted him the Manor of WEST BETCHWORTH in Surrey - at his death in 1312 JOHN DE BERWYK was then still holding it of the Earl of Gloucester. Before NOV. 1290 Q. Eleanor granted JOHN DE B. houses in Seving Land, London (which he still held at his death). 'Eleanor of Castille' by John Carmi Parsons, 1995)

Nicholas de Audeby

1298 Richard de Audeby

29th May 1289 Bishop John of Pontoise (Bishop of Winchester) by letter from Supplice near Milham (?) in Gascony collates Master NIHOLAS DE AUDEBY to the Rectory of DROXFORD. Investiture by Bishop's Ring.

(Reg. Johannis de Pontissara – Hants C.R.O.)

1298-1308

NICHOLAS DE AUDOBY –

1291:Dispensation to Master N. De Audoby who before the Council of Lyons held the church of Fawele (??) with the chapel of Exbury and after it the Rectory of Droxford without papal dispensation. (Cal. Pap. Reg. I, f.546)

1298: Protection for two years for N. de Audoby (per Miss F.B. Collins)

2nd Sept. 1308: The benefice of DROXFORD is vacant, following the death off Nicholas de AUDEBY (Reg. Bp. HENRY WOODLOCK – Hants C.R.O.)

John de Drokensford

28th September 1308: Sir John de DROKENSFOD, clerk, is presented to the benefice of DROKENSFORD by its patron, the Bishop of Winchester (Reg. of Bishop HENRY WOODLOCK – Hants C.R.O.)

25th Dec. 1308: JOHN DE DROKENSFORD is nominated by King Edward II as Bishop of Bath & Wells (Dictionary of National Biography).

Philip de Drokensford

5th November 1310: Mandate from the Bishop of Winchester to induct HILI DE DROKENSFORD to the Rectory of DROXFORD.

Same date: Licence to PHILIP DE DROKENSFORD, Rector of D., for 7 years' study.
(Reg. of Bishop HENRY WOODLOCK – Hants C.R.O.)

1322 Michael de Drokensford, 1322 – 1367(?)

On 21st December 1315 Michael de Drokensford, clerk, is presented to the benefice of Drokensford by its patron, Henry Woodlock, the Bishop of Winchester.

In 1309 he had received a Dispensation, being under age and not in orders, to hold two benefices without being ordained until the proper age.

1322: Rector of Droxford (per Miss .B. Collins)

Sir Richard de Hamptone, 1367 – 1374

Parson of Droxford

(Miss F.B.Collins)

John Dounye, 1374 – 1375

John Dounay was appointed to the Church of Droxford on the death of Richard Hamptone in 1374.

1375/6 = John Dounay clerk to the church of Abyngewathe on a lapse. Richard Gomfrey clerk to Droxford on resignation of John Dounay.

(Per Miss F.B. Collins)

1375 Richard Gomfray.

RICHARD GOMFREY.

1375/6: Collated to the church of Droxford on the resignation of John Dounay.

1377: Instituted to the canonry and staff of Shareshull in collegiate church or free chapel royal of Penkeith on exchange with Roger Briclesworthe: under com: (??) of Roger Archbp. Dublin, dean of the said collegiate church. (Per Miss F.B. Collins)

1377 Roger de Bryclesworthe

1390 John de Swafham

1390: Collated to Droxford. Was William of Wykeham's private secretary. (Wykeham Reg., f.203)

1392: rector of Droxford (Winchester Coll. MSS. 13239/64)

1394: Died.

1394 William Nortone

WILLIAM NORTON.

1394: Collated to rectory of Droxford on the death of John de Swafham. Also canonries of Salisbury and Wells.
(Per Miss .B. Collins)

1423

13 Kal. March 1423: POGGIO DE FLORENCIA, papal writer and a member of the Pope's household, is the RECTOR OF DROKENESFORD.

(See Dr. Andrew's slips at HCRO)

Michael Clene/Cleue

26th April 1477: Letter of dispensation re. 'one other benefice', etc. to MICHAEL CLENE, Rector of the parish church of DROKENESFORDE in the diocese of Winton, I.U.B. (Cal. Of Papal Registers - Papal letters 1471 to 1484, Vol. 13, Part II, page 571).

9th September 1480: To MICHAEL CLEUE, Rector of CRAWLEY in diocese of Winton (formerly held with Rectorship of DROXFORD) - (he) 'now having resigned the sad church (of DROXFORD). (Cal. Of Papal Registers - Papal letters 1471 to 1484, Vol. 13, Part II, pages 728/729).

1480 David Persons

16 Sept: To DAVID PERSONS, Rector of DROKENNESFORD in the diocese of Winton, I.U.B. – dispensation to hold one other cure.

(Cal. Of Papal Registers – Papal letters 1471 to 1484, Vol. 13, Part II, page 787).

? - 1485 William Holden

1485: Lately rector of Droxford. (Ch. Comm. Acct. Roll for Droxford). (Per Miss F.B. Collins).

1533 – early 1559 (see WILL) Dr.
Cuffoldes

1533. Valar Ecclesiasticus. Vol. III,
p.23.
(cf. Newport Wills). (Per Miss F.B.
Collins)

1559 to 1582/3

JOHN WILLYAMS. (Corpus
Christi Coll., Cambridge, No.
122). Rector. Comp. Nov. 16.
1559. vice Will. Cowfold. Non
coningnatus. Mediocriter doctus.
Residet; hospitalis. Ibidem degst.
Non predicat. Null. All.
Beneficia.

Doctor Lewis Stephens, 1722 - 1745

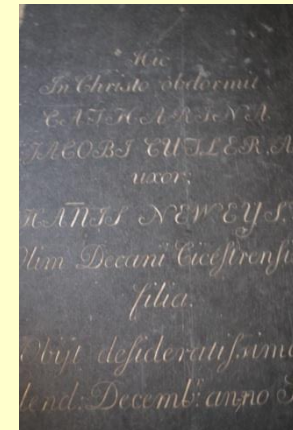
Doctor Stephens was a man of some private means, and Chaplain to the Bishop of Winchester. His unidentified grave is in the Churchyard. His monument is a circular slate tablet on the south wall of the Lady Chapel.



An extract of his will in the Parish Register bequeaths a chest of books ' ... to the Parish Church of Droxford to remain there for ever in a press made at my expense for that purpose to and for the use of the Curate of Droxford whenever the Rector of the Parish aforesaid does not reside in person', the press to be kept in one of the 'side isles' of the Church.

Doctor James Cutler, 1746-1782

On 14th December 1766 the Vestry Minutes record that Doctor Cutler provided 'The new Cushion of Crimson Velvet, together with a Crimson Cloth, laced and fringed, for the Pulpit and Reading Desk'. Doctor Cutler tried to move his predecessor's bequest of old books from the Church to the Rectory, but noted that 'The lawyers are of opinion that the press and books could not be removed into the Parsonage House, so that they will be in great danger of being damaged by the damp'. He was also Rector of Bishops Waltham. He is buried in the south aisle of the church, together with his wife and daughter.



1613 to 1628 Christopher Hurst.

1583 – Thomas BILSON, Rector of Droxford).

Incumbent of Droxford. Born at Marlborough. Married Margaret ALEXANDER, born 1586, daughter of John ALEXANDER of Hartley Wispall and Amy BILSON, 3rd. Child of Harmon BILSON (NB. 1583 – Thomas BILSON, Rector of Droxford). Memorial tablet to her in Broughton Church(nr. Stockbridge), full inscription given in the Hants Field Club Proceedings, Vol. XIX, pt. 1, pp.39/40.

1604. Incumbent of Bimpton, Somerset.

1604 - Eling, Hants.

1609 – Chilbolton, Hants.

1612 – Hambledon, Hants.

1613 – Droxford, Hants.

1614 – Prebendary of Winchester.

1628 – Buried at Hambledon, Hants. (Three daughters)

(Per Miss F.B. Collins)

1596 to 1613 John Harmer

JOHN HARMER. RECTOR of Droxford. (Per Miss F.B. Collins)

1628 Richard Neile.

Doctor James Chelsum, 1782-1801



A cameo portrait of him is in the church vestry. He appears to have been a rather pugnacious gentleman who was not a 'persona grata' with his parishioners. He was presented to the Manor Court Baron in September 1785 for 'Digging Down the Church Way leading from Poppy Hill to the parish Church of Droxford and for Locking the Gate of the said Way'. In 1789 Dr Chelsum erected the stone monument at the end of the terrace walk in the Old Rectory Garden, in memory of Lewis Stephens, D.D. The Burial Register has this entry: 'Buried May 1st 1801 Rev. James CHELSUM, D.D., Rector of this parish, aged 63 years.' His grave is not identified, and no monument to him exists in the churchyard.

On 22nd July 1789 the Vestry resolved '.... That the offer of the Rev^d Dr Chelsum To present the Parish with an Organ (capable of being so fitted up as to need no Organist and to cause no Expense whatsoever to the Parish in general) be thankfully accepted'. It was an organ 'with two Barrels' and 'stood at the West end, on the floor. There was no entrance then to the Church through the Belfry. The West entrance was made at this time.' On 16th May 1791 Dr Chelsum asked the Vestry that the present Crimson-coloured Altar Cloth and Stools be now dyed purple 'as being more suitable.' The Burial Register has this entry: 'Buried May 1st 1801 Rev. James CHELSUM, D.D., Rector of this parish, aged 63 years.' His grave is not identified, and no monument to him exists in the churchyard.

Richard Neile, 1628 - 1642

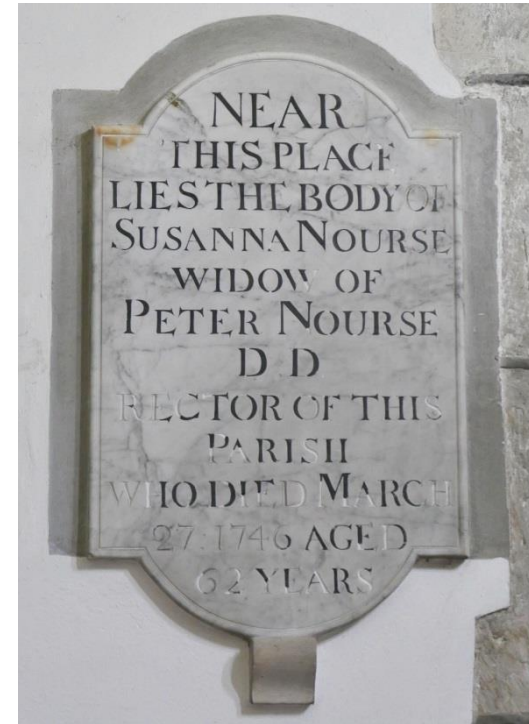
RICHARD NEILE. Rector of
Droxford. (Per Miss. F.B. Collins)

Parish Register 17th January 1642.
Buried 'Mr. Richard NEILE, Rector of
Drockenforde'.

Peter Nourse, D.D., 1701 - 1722

According to the Parish Burial Register, 'Peter Nourse, D.D., succeeded Thomas Goodwin in the Rectory of Droxford & was inducted June 4th, 1701'. He was also a Prebendary of Winchester, and Chaplain in Ordinary to Queen Anne. He died on 14th April 1722, and was buried beneath the altar of Droxford Church. His grave stone was moved from the altar to the belfry floor when the sanctuary floor was tiled between 1868 and 1886. The inscription is now badly worn by the feet of the bell-ringers but reads:-

HSE
P. NOURSE
S.T.P
Hujus Ecclesiae Rector
Obijt April 14
1722 Aetatis suae 59



There is a wall tablet to his widow Susanna, on the north wall of the North Chapel.

George Fulham, 1691 - 1700

Thomas Goodwin, 1700 - 1701

Nicholas Preston, D.D. , 1642 - 1650 and
1660 - 1664

Nicholas Preston matriculated at Cambridge in 1625, became incumbent of Bishopstoke in 1640, and Droxford in 1642. In 1645 he was appointed a Prebendary of Winchester, but in 1650 was ejected by Parliament and replaced by an Independent minister, Mr Robert Webb. Nicholas Preston was re-instated to his living at Droxford in 1660 on the restoration of the monarchy under Charles II. Doctor Preston provided the Jacobean oak altar rails that are still in use today, and did much else to restore the damage that had been caused by the Puritans. He is buried in the south aisle.



Mr. Robert Webb, 1650 - 1660

Robert Webb, an Independent Minister, who was vicar of Hursley in 1645, and reputedly a good scholar and eminent preacher, became incumbent of Droxford in 1650 on the sequestration by Parliament of Dr Nicholas Preston. Mr Webb ministered at Droxford until the restoration of Charles II in 1660 when, according to the Rev. Calamy writing in 1775, 'The former incumbent ... came (immediately) to take possession of his living and thrust out Mr Webb and his family with their goods in a rough and violent manner. A gentleman in the neighbourhood (a Papist), out of humanity, was concerned at such severity and received them for the present into his own house, till in a little time the wife of Richard Cromwell, Esq., sent a coach for them and brought them to a house of theirs.'

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William Hawkins, S.T.P., 1664 - 1691

As well as Rector of Droxford, William Hawkins was a Prebendary of Winchester, and spent much of his time there. In 1676 his daughter Anne married the famous angler Isaak Walton, who had published *The Compleat Angler* twenty-three years earlier. Isaac Walton bequeathed to his wife 'All my books at Winchester and Droxford', and also made a bequest to Mr John Darbyshire, then Curate at Droxford. It is likely that Isaak Walton spent some of the remaining seven years of his life at the Rectory in Droxford, and fishing in the Meon.



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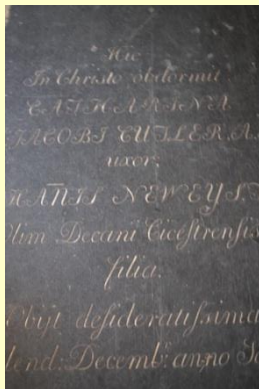
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Rev. William Garnier, 1801-1831



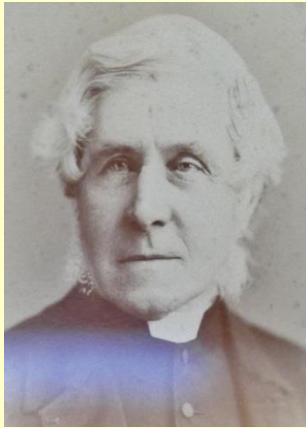
William Garnier laid out the Rectory garden. Together with the Rector of Meonstoke, a relation of his who was a great lover of trees and an expert in their culture, he also planted the Beech Walk in order that they might walk under pleasant shade to each others' houses. He was married to Lady Harriet North, daughter of John Brownlow North, Bishop of Winchester. Bishop North was half-brother to Lord North, Prime Minister from 1770 to 1782.

Rev. J.A. Griffith Colpoys, 1831-1868



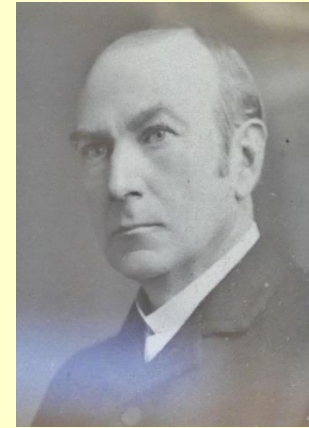
James Griffith Colpoys was a non-resident Rector for many years, living at St. Leonards-on-Sea for the sake of his wife's health. She was a daughter of John Bird Sumner, Archbishop of Canterbury, who married them in Droxford Church. Archbishop Sumner was an evangelical, and this may have had some influence on services here. Mrs Colpoys and son are buried near the east wall of the Church. The Rev. Colpoys died and was buried at St Leonards-on-Sea.

Rev. Stephen Bridge, 1868 -1886



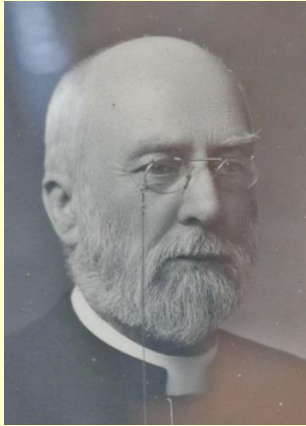
'For a long period the character of the Church services in Droxford Church was that of the extreme Evangelical type. The Rev. Stephen Bridge was of that type of Churchmanship, while he liked the services to be decently and reverently conducted and was jealous for the appearance of the Church'. The pulpit came from his former church, St. Matthew's, Denmark Hill, and the stained glass in the east window of the Lady Chapel is a memorial to Stephen Bridge and his wife Margaret.

Rev. Canon John Vaughan, 1902-1910



John Vaughan 'was a liberal Evangelical, a student, naturalist, antiquarian and one of the early pioneers of Biblical criticism'. His literary works include '*The Memorials and Monuments of Winchester Cathedral*'. He became a Vice-President of the Hampshire Field Club, and carried out a major programme of restoration in Droxford Church, with the re-discovery of many medieval features. He was Residentiary Canon of Winchester, and is buried in the Cathedral.

Canon Jacob Stephenson, 1910-1926



Canon Stephenson 'was an old-fashioned High Churchman who was accustomed to much more outward ceremonial than he was able to introduce into a parish where tradition was so strong on the other side. He adopted the Eastward position for celebrating, and wore the ecclesiastical colours in his stoles for the Eucharist, but beyond this he did not change the character of the Service'. During his time the church had big congregations, and a large choir.

Canon L.S. Etheridge, 1926 - 1945



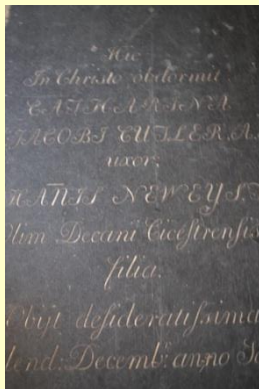
In his time Canon Etheridge introduced:

- Sung Evensong
- Sung Morning Service
- Lighted candles
- A robed choir - although two choir members left as a result, 'the congregation and parish soon came to appreciate ... that their Church was now no longer 'peculiar' in the ordering of its services'.

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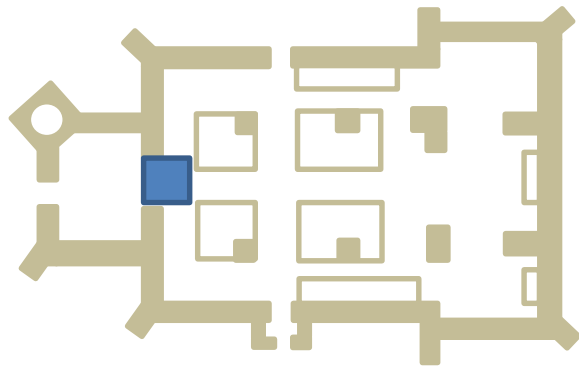


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The stained glass in the east window of the Lady Chapel is a memorial to Stephen Bridge and his wife, Margaret.



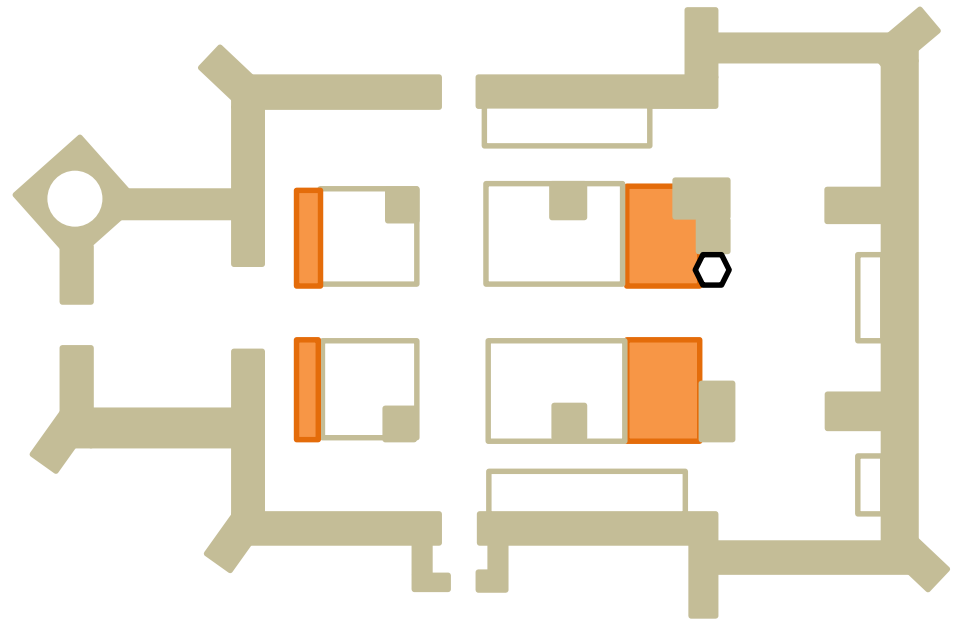
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Droxford Church during the late 19th Century



A photograph in the Vestry with the caption 'Droxford Church before the restoration which was made in 1903 by Canon Vaughan' gives some indications as to how St Mary & All Saints was furnished in the latter part of the 19th century.

Droxford Church during the late 19th Century



The photograph shows three more rows of pews at the front of the nave than there are now, and one more row at the back, providing seating for about 50 more people than the present number of pews.

The pulpit was not in its present position in front of the chancel arch, but located underneath it in a more prominent position, where it would have blocked the view of the altar for many in the congregation.

Droxford Church during the late 19th Century



Religious inscriptions have been painted around the chancel arch, and also around the arches of the arcades.

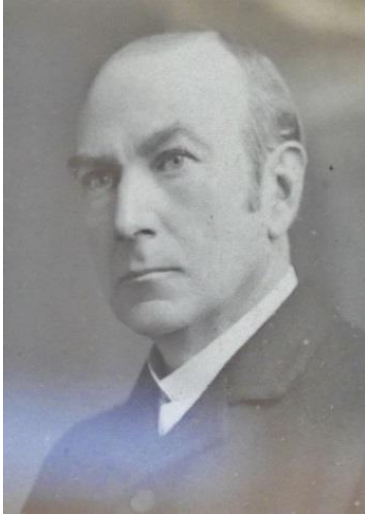
The panelling behind the altar is in the form of a blind arcade, with texts, which might have included the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Creed. There appear to be no candles on the altar, no sign of a crucifix, and only one book, presumably the Bible.

Rev. R.G. Harrison, 1886 - 1902

He 'was a stalwart Protestant & Evening Holy Communion prevailed in his day'.

He is buried in the Churchyard under the wooden paling of the Rectory garden.

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Remnants of the original windows of the church

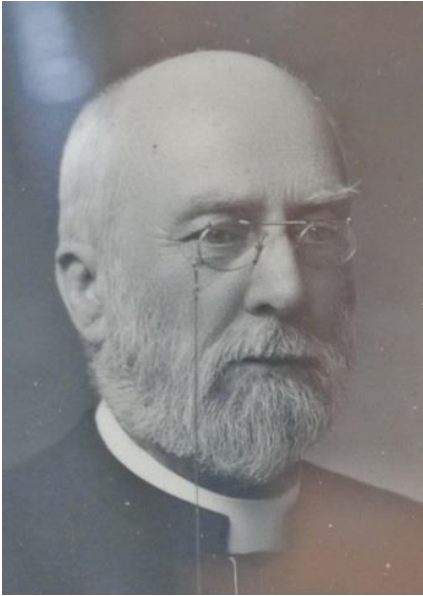


Access to a medieval rood loft above the pulpit.



A piscina in the Lady Chapel.

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