

Droxford Church in 1903

1903

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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.

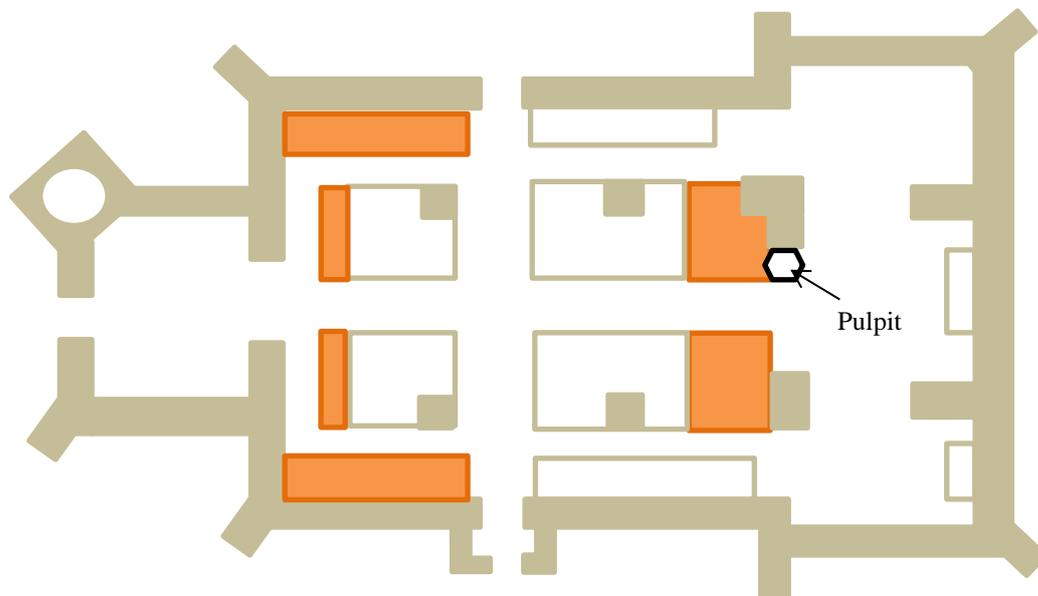
The most obvious difference from today is the script running round the chancel arch. Close inspection of the photograph shows that there were also scripts running round the inside of the arches of the south arcade.

Oil lamps are fitted either side of the chancel arch. The fixing holes for these can still be seen. There are two suspended lighting coronas in the photograph, one in the chancel, and the other in the nave. The fixings for these still exist in the ceilings and roof beams. There also appears to be an oil lamp on the pulpit.

The rood loft access was opened up in Canon Vaughan's time, so does not show in this photograph.

The pulpit itself is the one we have today, and was given in 1882 by the parishioners of St Matthew's, Denmark Hill, to the Reverend Stephen Bridge, who had previously been vicar there, when they commissioned a new pulpit. St Matthews was built in 1846, so the pulpit is presumably of that date. In this photograph the pulpit is not in its present position, but inside the chancel arch, and turned through 90 degrees.

The pews are those present today, and replaced the earlier Georgian box pews in the middle of the 19th century. But whereas there are now seven rows of pews in front of the cross aisle, and five rows behind it, this photograph shows ten rows in front of the cross aisle, and six behind. The front pews would have extended right up to the chancel arch. The western ends of both the side aisles would probably have contained more pews, providing much more fixed seating than we have today.



The brass eagle lectern in the photograph is not the same as the one we use today.

There appears to be only one step up to the altar, whereas now there are two. The panelling behind the altar in the photograph was replaced with the present panelling during Canon Vaughan's restoration. The photograph shows texts inscribed on it, which would probably include the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer. There appears to be a simple altar table, set against the east wall, with a book on its left hand end, but with no obvious sign of candles or a crucifix. There may be a rail running across the sanctuary.

The glass in the East Window, which is very difficult to make out in this photograph, would have been that which was damaged during the Second World War, and replaced with the present glass as a memorial to members of the Hulbert family.

The church has been decorated in this photograph. The hymn numbers appear to be 384, 387 and 514, which from Hymns Ancient & Modern of the time would suggest that this was for Harvest Festival.