

Kemble Church Before 1876 and the Restoration: As seen in images by John Buckler, HE Relton, Henry Taunt and an Anonymous 19thc Watercolourist.

John Buckler 1809

In 1809 John Buckler (1770-1851) painted a watercolour of the church from the SE which is in the collection of the Wiltshire Museum in Devizes. Shortly after 1800 John Buckler was commissioned by Richard Colt Hoare of Stourhead to produce ten volumes of drawings of churches and other historic buildings in Wiltshire. He painted all the Wiltshire churches and there are paintings of Poole Keynes, Somerford Keynes and Shorncote which were then in Wiltshire. This is the earliest image of the church. There are three main differences with the church today. Firstly, the tower windows have changed. This is the result of repairs to the spire and tower after it was damaged by lightning in 1823. The squared off eastern lancet window and the metal bracing are there today and were there in the print by HE Relton in 1843. Secondly, the windows in the Chancel, especially the east window, appear to be Perpendicular in style like those in the Ewen Aisle, however in the watercolour of the interior makes the window look earlier of the Decorated Style. In the restoration of 1876-7 they were replaced in the Early English style. Finally, the porch looks to be a bit askew. This will be obvious in the prints by Relton.

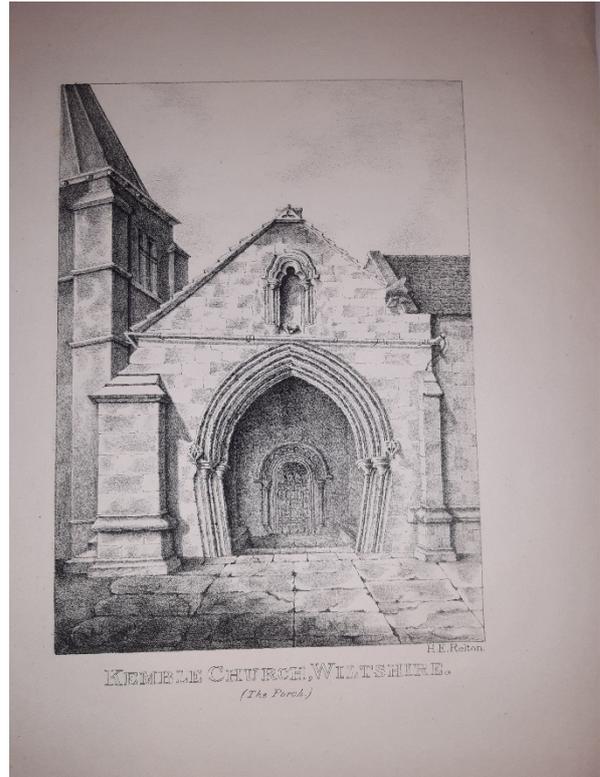
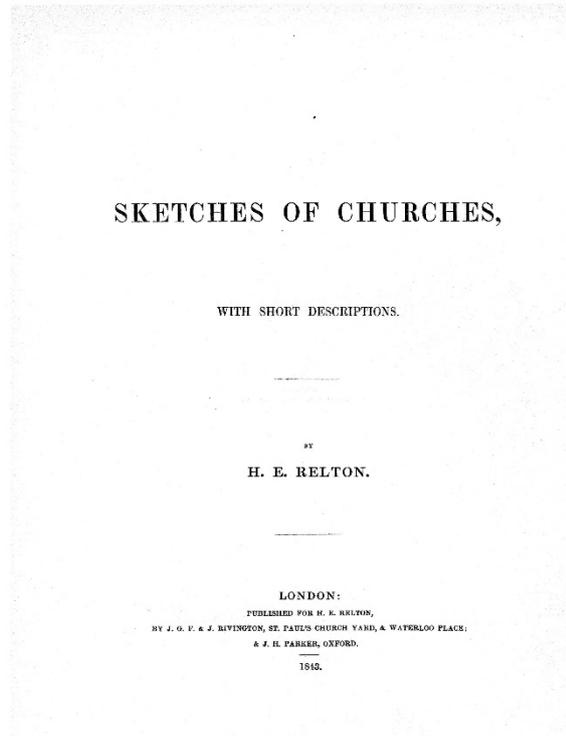


## H. E. Relton 1843

These two prints are from 'Sketches of Churches, with Short Descriptions' by H. E. Relton; London (1843). He visited quite a few churches in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Berkshire and he wrote a few notes on each of the churches. However, I haven't as yet found any information about him. The prints are zinc lithographs. The view of the church from the SE has been coloured unlike the originals. The red roof is obviously the wrong colour for Cotswold stone tiles. The second print is a portrait view of the porch.

Relton focusses on the porch in the text. He comments on the 'horse-shoed' effect of the arch and this shows up well in the print. He assumes it's the result of settlement but he can see no evidence for it. Relton refers to the blocked double arch on the east side of the porch which went into the Ewen Aisle and the blocked arch on the inside in the chapel. What's also noticeable is that the buttress on the left hand side of the porch is larger. In the restoration they were both rebuilt to the same size. Also in 1843 the floor of the porch is below the ground level. Now you step up into it. Today there is a medieval stone cross possibly from a coffin lid built in to the wall above the door but not in the print. Finally the door is different. The present door has no decoration at the top unlike the one in 1843. I suspect this was a medieval door and that the decorative wood, which is like window tracery with small flowers, is now inside the church on the stone clergy seat in the south wall of the Ewen Aisle. Compare photograph with the print of the porch. Apart from these four changes the porch and the doorway into the church seem to have been rebuilt as they were.

In the view of the church from the SE the difference with Buckler's image are the changes to the tower windows.





#### Henry Taunt pre 1878

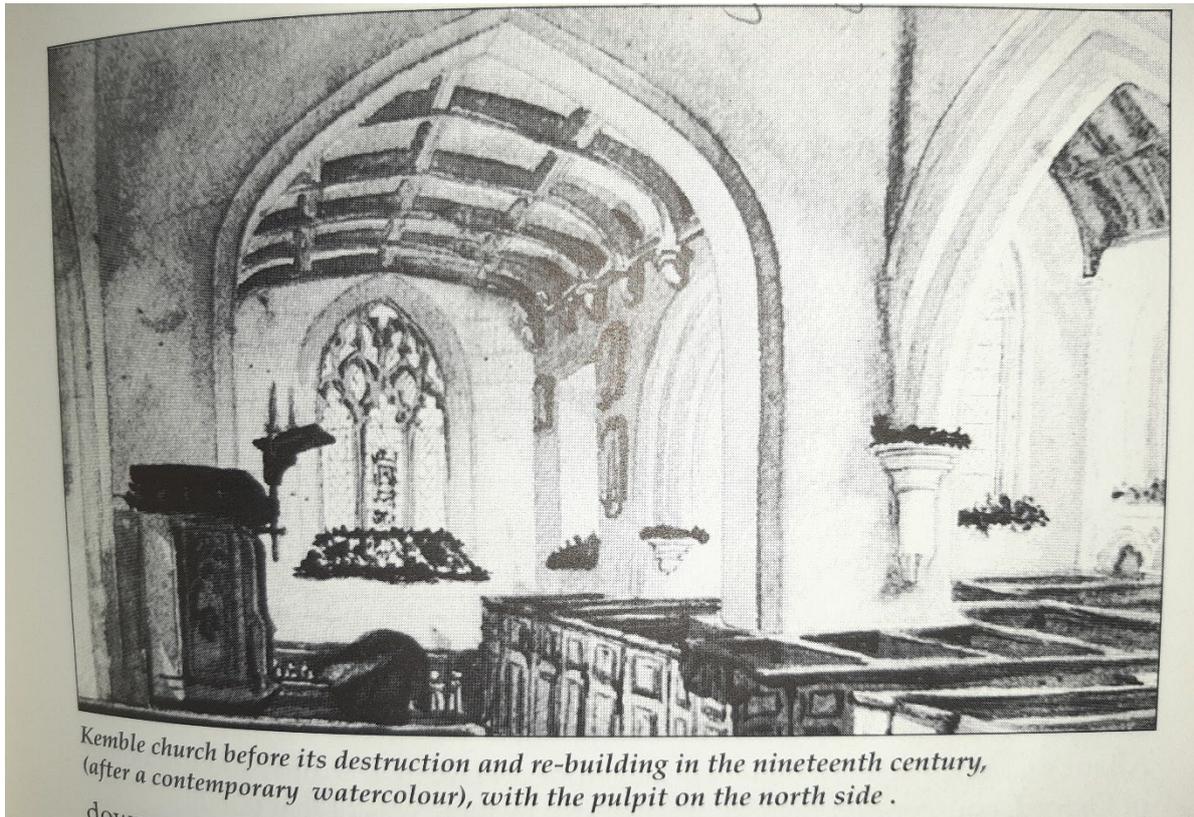
Henry Taunt (1842-1922) is a very famous professional Oxford photographer who specialised in the area in and around Oxford and also the River Thames. He visited Kemble at least twice; before the church was restored in 1876-7 and after the restoration. There are photographs of both in the Oxford County Libraries collection. The photograph here is the only view of the north side of Kemble Church before 1876. The tower wasn't touched in the restoration by the architects Medland and Son.

The window at the end of the North Transept is probably 18<sup>th</sup> century. The north facing windows are all Perpendicular but here are two exceptions. There is a blocked window next to the tower which is partly obscured by a pipe from a stove in the church. However it seems to be an arched window and not flat topped like the rest. The triple lancet eastern window of the North Transept/chapel was retained. All the windows in the chancel and in the new North Aisle were built/rebuilt in an Early English style like the window in the North Transept. The 18<sup>th</sup> century window in the north transept was replaced with a round window.

#### Anonymous Watercolour 1850(?)

This delightful and important painting, which hangs in the north aisle of the church, appears to show the church decorated for a festival. The tracery in the attractive east window looks to be in the Decorated Style of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and not the Perpendicular of the Ewe Aisle. There is some stained glass in the central light. The two monuments on the south wall of the chancel between the arch into the Ewen Aisle and the south window of the chancel are probably those of the vicar Thomas Holloway and of Mary Winstone (see Thomas Phillips, *Monumental Inscriptions of Wiltshire*, 1822). In 1876 they were removed to the west wall with all the rest of the monuments. The chancel arch seems to have the 'horse-shoed' shape of the porch arch. It's also difficult to decide its age. When it was rebuilt in 1876-77 it became an arch in the style of the two into the Ewen Aisle. Two final differences are the large number of box pews

and the fact that the pulpit is on the opposite side to where it is today. Is it the same pulpit? It looks very similar. In Kemble Church there would have been a separate pew for the residents of Kemble House. It's difficult to decide if it's one of those in the picture.



### Sources

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine LXXIX June 1893; All Saints Kemble in Notes on Churches by C E Ponting, pages 36-41. WANH website.

Gloucestershire 1: The Cotswolds (The Buildings of England Series) by David Verey and Alan Brooks; Yale University Press 2002 – page 422.

Dictionary of National Biography for John Buckler

Henry Taunt of Oxford: A Victorian photographer by Malcolm Graham; Oxford Illustrated Press, 1973

Kemble Church – old door decoration



POOLE.

Against the North Wall of Chancel.

Here Lyeth the Body of Frances Poole, Daughter of Edward Poole, Esq. Died at Poole, at 3 years of Age, the 11th of June, in the year 1644.

South Wall.

M. S.

Subtus requiescit Corpus Thomæ Myles, Artium Magistri, hujus Ecclesie Pastoris, qui obiit 6<sup>o</sup> die Novem. A<sup>o</sup> Dom. 1683.

Near this place lyeth the Body of Joseph Myles, Vicar of Prestot, who died May ye 30th, A. D. 1685. Also Mary, ye Daughter of Thomas and Ann Myles, who died May ye 5th, A. D. 1686. Also Thomas Myles, Gent. who died April ye 22d, A. D. 1715, Sons and Grand daughter to Thomas Myles, late Minister of this place. Also Ann, Wife of Thomas Myles, Gent. who died September ye 14, A. D. 1750, Aged 88.

Flat Stones.

The Rev. John Ferreebe, Rector of this Parish, died April 28th, 1662, Aged 88.

Also Margaret Ferrabee, his late Wife, died April 8th, 1665, Aged 87.

Here Lyeth the Body of Mary Myles, Late Wife of Thomas Myles, Rector of this Parish, who Departed this Life the 28 Day of April Anno Dom. 1702, Aged 87.

Hic jacet corpus Edwardi Poli, Armigeri, Qui in hoc mortali ævo vixit An. 48, et ex hac arumosa vita ad Dominum migravit, 28 die Aprilis, Anno . . . 1577. Elizabethæ 20

R N  
1686.

On a brass plate against the north wall of the body.

Near this Place Lyeth the Body of Jonathan Fisher, many years Clerk of this Parish, who died Feb. 9th, 1795, Aged 62 years.

This Church was opened May ye 4th, 1777. The Parsonage-house is a small Cottage.

Register commenced 1632.

Dr. George Green Rector, 1761

John Hartley Green Late Rector.

The Rev. Mr. Dewell, present Rector.

Robt. Gord<sup>on</sup>, Esq. Lord of the Manor.

Extent of the Parish 1100 acres, Glebe 230.

KEMBLE.

On Monuments against the north wall of Chancel.

Sacred to Posterity

Be the Virtues of Richard Digges, Gent.

He died 22 Nov. 1742, Aged 70.

Obscure, yet known to God, a soul sincere,  
A heart unsully'd, and a conscience clear,  
Who knew no ill, nor ere betray'd his trust,  
True to his Friend, and obstinately just.

Also

Mrs. Martha, his Wife, died 9 Feb. 1739,

Aged 65 years.

And

William Digges, Gent.

Son of Richard Digges, Gent. and Martha, his Wife,  
Died 7 Feb. 1742, Aged 45.

This is erected by Mrs. Sarah Digges, Widow of William Digges, Gent. She is the only surviving

Also Mrs. Sarah,

The Wife of William Digges. She

Died March the 27, 1750, Aged 60.

Arms—Argent, on a cross, gules, five eagles displayed, sable.

Near this Place Lyeth the Body of Henry, Son of Henry and Beata Stevens, who died Feb. the 14th, A. D. 1724, Aged 24 years.

Near this place also Lyeth the Body of Henry Stephens, Father of the above-said Henry, who was Buried the 2d Day of Sept. 1731, Aged 72 years.

Against the South Wall.

Sacred

To the Beloved Memory of

Mary, Wife of John Winstone,

who died Feb. 17, 1811.

She was an affectionate

Wife, and most tender parent.

Religion's narrow path with care she trod,  
She serv'd her neighbour, and she serv'd her God:  
Full eighty years she sojourn'd here below,  
Gained many friends, and died without a foe.

M. S.

Pastoris hujus Ecclesie fidissimi,

Thome Holloway, A. M.

Qui Celebs Post vitâ in annorum sedula,

In studiis suis ad Dom. gloria promovendis,

Et in Pauperib. opitulandis,

Feliciter actam

Singulari suâ Charitate,

Numerosa præ semet ditavit,

In Cælum ascendit pars Cælestis,

In Terrâ Terrestris,

S. B. R.

Infra Requies est.

Obiit Xbris XII. Anno

Ætat. 84.

Salut. 1705.

On Flat Stones in Chancel.

In Memory of Robert Timbrell, of Ewen Green, who was a person of great Piety, Temperance, and Integrity. He lived beloved, and died lamented, of all his friends, May 21, Anno Dom. 1713, in the 60th year of his Age.

Also Amy, his Wife, Daughter of Thos. Grayle, Rector of Lassington, near Gloucester, who departed this Life the 24th of December, 1738, Aged 63 years.

Here Resteth the Body of Mary Timbrell, who Departed this Life the 22 Day of July, Anno Dom. 1685. And also the Body of Robt. the Son of Robt. Timbrell, was here Buried the 4 day of October, 1684.

Here Lieth the Body of Henry Stevens, who died Jan. 26, Anno Dom. 1737, Aged 70 years.

Also Mrs. Anna, the Wife of Mr. Henry Stevens, who died June the 29, Aged 77.

Also of Thos. Stevens, who died 7 Day of March, 1750, Aged 63 years.

Near this place lieth the Body of Anna, the Daughter of Henry Stevens, and Wife of Richard Selling, who Died October the 24, 1741, Aged 43.

Near this place lieth the Body of Richard Selling, who Departed this Life August 9, 1762, Aged 78 years.

Here resteth the Body of Joseph Stevens, who died April the 16th, 1779, Aged 70 years.

Elizabeth, Relict of Richard Stevens, and Wife of John Freeman, died January 19th, 1777, Aged 39 years.

Whilst thou art living, call for grace,

Thy Life is like a fading Flower,

Death cometh stealing on apace,

Thou knowest not the day nor hour.

Also of the above-named John Freeman, who died Dec. 3, 1791, Aged 59 years.

In Memory of William, Son of Henry and Mary Stevens, who Departed this Life the 3d Day of August, 1771, Aged 33 years.

In Memory of Richard, Son of Henry and Mary Stevens, who Departed this life the 2d day of June, 1771, Aged 43 years.

In Memory of Thos. Stevens, who was Buried April 6, 1713, Aged 40 years.

And of Elizabeth, Wife of Thomas Stevens, who was buried August 25th, 1745, Aged 67 years.

Also Henry, Son of Thos. and Elizabeth Stevens, who was buried July 25, 1772, Aged 72 years.

Against South Wall of the Body.

Near this place Lyeth ye Body of Thomas Major, who died October ye 5, A. D. 1718, Aged 69 years.

On a monument against the north wall of the Body.

Near this Place Lieth the Body of

Sir Robert Westley, Kt.

Alderman of the City of London :

A Person of unblemished Integrity.

He was one of the Sheriffs of that City

In the year 1734,

And in the year 1744, Lord Mayor.

He filled up these eminent Stations

With unquestioned Ability & Honour :

And, during his Mayoralty,

was, for his known Loyalty and Steadiness

To the true Interest of his King and Country,

Knighted by his Majesty.

Having acted wisely, unblameably, and virtuously,

In every Character and Relation,

He Departed this Life Sept. 24, in the

Year of our Lord 1745,

And the 75 year of his Age.

Also

In the same Vault Lies the Body of

Dame Elizabeth Westley, third

Wife to the said Sir Robt.

who Departed this Life 1st June, 1746, Aged 58.

Also

The Body of John Westley, Esq.

Son of the said Sir Robt. Westley,

who Departed this Life the 10 of June, 1748,

Aged 39 years.

N n

On a Monument in the North Aisle.  
Erected to the Memory of Ann Cox,  
by her disconsolate Husband,  
Charles Westley Cox.  
Dormit non Mortua est.

Edward Poole, second Sonne of Edward Poole,  
Esquier, Being but two years of Age, was here Bu-  
ryed the 4th Day of March, 1651.

In a Vault near this Place  
Resteth the Body of Elizabeth Cox,  
Wife of Charles Cox, Esq.  
and youngest Daughter of Sir Robt. Westley, Kt.  
A Lady of unblemished Virtue,  
Properly attentive to her Family Concerns,  
and yet not unmindful of the  
Public and private duties  
Of a Christian.  
She Departed this Life Dec. 10,  
In the 67 year of her Age,  
and in the year of our Lord 1783.  
In Testimony of her Virtues,  
and his sincere esteem,  
This Monument is erected  
by her Affectionate Husband.

Against South Wall of S. Aisle.

Dedicated to the Memory of Beata and Edward, the  
Deare Wife and Son of Mr. Richard Pitt, both in-  
terred within these walls. Shee the 26th Day of  
April, 1650, hee the 29 Day of March, 1656,

who  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{conflicted} \\ \text{were buried} \\ \text{do reigne} \end{array} \right\}$  in ye Church  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{militant,} \\ \text{materiall,} \\ \text{triumphant.} \end{array} \right\}$

She died ith noone, he in the morne of Age,  
Yet Virtue (though not yeres) fill their ~~sines~~ <sup>lives</sup> page.  
Resurgemus.

Posuit maritus mœstissimus, paterque plorans.

In a canopy under the above inscription is a knight  
templar, with his right leg across his left, a dog at his  
feet, with the point of the sword in the dog's mouth.

The Church consists of a Chancel, Nave, and  
North and South Transepts. The Tower contains  
five Bells, with the following inscriptions—

*First*—Henry Evans, Rich<sup>d</sup> Timbrell, 1740.

*Second*—John Rudhall, 1790.

*Third*—

*Fourth*—1696.

*Fifth*—Thos. Mayor, Thos. Cone, Ch. wardens.

John Copson, Late Vicar.  
John Froud, present Vicar.  
Robert Gordon, Esq. Lord of the Manor.

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MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS  
OF WILTSHIRE

AN EDITION, IN FACSIMILE, OF  
*MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS*  
*IN THE COUNTY OF WILTON,*  
BY SIR THOMAS PHILLIPPS, 1822

EDITED BY

PETER SHERLOCK

TROWBRIDGE

2000