

VISITATION BOOK ALL HALLOWS' RINGMORE 1824 -1860

1824

A new surplice to be provided. The reading desk and railing for pulpit steps to be repaired. The flooring and sides of several pews to be repaired. Some 1cracks in the plastering of the northern ceiling to be filled up and whitened. The Churchwardens have carried [out?] my orders for sinking a trench round the walls to effect in the most complete manner and thus have rendered the interior dry and comfortable... I have only to require that the pavement of the porch and aisle may be relaid - that a paled gate may be put up at the outer door and that the present entrance door may be left open during the Summer months and thus keep up a free circulation of air within... I would recommend that the seats be covered with three good coats of oil paint (white lead and amber) after the winter is passed when any of the pannelling that is decayed should be renewed and the side of the pews which have sunk from the same cause should be raised by any simple means. The churchwardens are on no account to permit any further alterations in the forms of the seats or of their dimensions without authority from the Bishop. The rector must be required to relay the pavement of the chancel in a smooth proper manner.

R.H.Froude, Archdeacon, Totnes

May 6 1825

Visited this church and found it in compleat Repair excepting three vents in the northern aisle which must be repaired.

Benjamin Beyman, deputy Dean Rural

1826

The floor round the communion table to be repaired...

The floor and the Wainscot round the North Aisle to be repaired...

Theof the Chancel Window to be repaired and the Window to be....

February 1827

The church is in very good repair.

3.2.1828

Rails of the communion table to be repaired and painted. Three seats in west end of church to be repaired.

24.4.1830

Many of the pews, particularly those behind the door require new boards to be laid in the floor: it would appear that the pews have been presented before but without attention paid to the order. The gallery and staircase must be immediately repaired.

One of the Bells is imperfect and some expense might be provided for its repair.

12.3.1831

It is highly necessary that the seats according to the Archdeacon's recommendation in his parochial visitation be forthwith covered with three good coats of oil paint also those parts already blowing paint require repainting, would recommend wainscot as the most appropriate culler. The late Dean's orders for the repair or recasting of the imperfect Bell to be

immediately attended to - all the Frames are much out of repair and require to be new. The Church yard wall requires some repair and the churchyard gates require repainting.

17.4.1832

East window must be repaired - many of the pews and floors in a bad state. Must be repaired. The Bible and prayer books in a bad condition. Should be repaired as new provided ... Wheel of one of the bells to be repaired.

6.5.1833

The books and bell wheel have been repaired. The east window has been very badly done. Several panes of glass are still broken and some of the leadwork in a bad state - an entirely new window appears necessary. The panning of open seat near chancel and also near the font requires repair. The windows should be well stopped round the frame.

12.5.1834

The last orders have been complied with - the slates require to be fixed on the south side of the Chancel roof and the plaster repaired in the window. The window frames should all be repainted and the Church whitewashed.

5.4.1840

The pews in the Church have undergone partial repair and although in better condition than in former years much more remains to be executed. A new surplice is much needed - although ordered three years since has not been provided. The cover of the communion table is exceedingly shabby.

14.5.1844

...a cover for the communion table ordered as long ago as the year 1835 should be provided immediately.

4.4.1845

New Prayer Books are required for the Reading desk and the Clerk together with a new Bible - the present books being much dilapidated and dirtied and unfit for use.

19.5.1846

The prayer Book in the Reading Desk has been repaired - will be replaced by a new one and a new Bible will be provided. Some paint has been bestowed on the seats and the Church generally whitewashed and made to look decent. The windows have been newly glazed and repainted.... one of the bells is broken and the wheel and fitting of another requires repair. A shoot and pipe should be supplied over the tomb of Mr Froude.

17.5.1847

The dean Rural regrets to see that in all important particulars the state of the Church is not improved since the last year. It is expected that the Churchwardens will report at the Visitation that the orders of last year will be completed with. Other repairs are now required e.g. the window near the Pulpit and some damaged portions of the roof.

Painting is required externally.....and weather stones in the tower windows. It is necessary that the Church yard be kept more free of weeds. One of the surplices is torn, both of them shockingly spotted.

15.5.1848

The Rural Dean has to thank the Churchwardens for the care with which the gutter has been cleared and to express his gratification at the clean

appearance of the Church..... Two bell ropes need to be provided. It is required that the surplices should be cleaned and the spots which render them unseemly. The Pewter Flagon and Paten used for the Communion to be polished and kept scrupulously clean.

23.4.1849

The windows in the South side of the Church need to be repaired. The Chalice is broken in the stem and in the bowl and must be immediately repaired. The Churchwardens will provide a new linen Cover and napkin for the Communion Table and take care that the wine supplied for the Communion be of the description commonly used. The surplices to be cleaned if possible otherwise a new on to be required. The Dean requires that the bell which is unhung may be refitted and a rope provided to make it serviceable.

2.2.1850

With the exception of the chalice the orders of the last year remain to be completed.....The gallery to be repaired together with the boarding under the Gallery floor....

5.5.1851

The parishioners will provide a new cover for the pulpit cushion and the new linen cloth and napkin for the Communion Table. The surplices are exceedingly spotted.

5.5.52

A new cover to be provided for the pulpit cushion... The Tower Bell to be fitted with a new wheel.....

14.4.1853

The Church has been whitened to a clean and neat appearance. The door to the Tower and the door to the Belfry to be painted. The wheel of the Tower bell will be refitted before the Visitation. The surplices are very much spotted and the altar clothe moth eaten.

2.6.1854

The Church looks clean in general but in very many points repairs are necessary..... In the Parsonage Pew there are signs of dry rot. Under the Gallery there is a hole in the floor of one of the seats.

The grass of the Churchyard should be cut more frequently walks to be cleared.

10.5.1855

In many points defects noted in the last year have been remedied. The roof is dry. The church looks clean.

The Service Books are in a very tattered condition. The cover of the Communion Table is moth eaten and falling to pieces. The surplices are covered with spots and certainly not seemly nor fit for use.

26.5.1856

Windows in the north transeptthe cover of the Communion Table is destroyed by moths and the surplices in the state complained of last year.

6.4.1857

The Church windows (North Transept and Chancel) to be cleaned. The outer fence of the Churchyard to be pinned under in some places The Dean

Rural is pleased to find the Church and Churchyard in cleaner and nicer condition than usual.

19.5.1858

In addition to the orders of last year (which have not been executed) Napkin for Communion coarse and much worn. Surplices in very bad condition. Altar cloth only ten or twelve years old is moth eaten and quite unfit for use. Flooring at altar unsound. Dry rot in parsonage pew. Pavement before reading desk unsound. Some slates loose in Chancel roof. Walks to be cleaned.

13.5.1859

A new cover required for the Communion Table. The drain round the Church should be cleaned. In consequence of its having been neglected, the dry rot has affected the Church in many places which now require repair, especially about the floor throughout. The surplice is much affected with iron mould. The pavement in front of the desk has been repaired. The Church path is covered with weeds - the sexton having neglected his duty there. Belfry soon to be painted.

17.4.1860

A new cover for the Communion Table. The drain round the Church must be cleaned. The floors of several pews require repaired. The North and South main windows are in a shattered state especially the South window frame. A new surplice is wanted. The Belfry room should be painted and the Church paths kept clear of weeds.

(Frances Hingeston-Randolph became Rector at All Hallows' in the autumn of 1860. His own accounts of the state in which he found the church tally accurately with the Visitation reports of the 1850s.)