

# The Village

*By Ainsworth History Society*



About  
1860



Church before Bradley Fold Rd houses built

# Church Street at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Ainsworth History Society





1911. Church Street decorated for the Coronation  
of King George V.



The sign about half way down on the left  
could be the pub sign for the Crown Inn









# Post-War Church Street





Number 1 Church Street was once a tavern – Church Tavern - and has also been a confectioners, a chemists and an electrical shop



As well as the Post Office, this row has had a number of shops – including a cobblers, a florists, a hardware store,





The co-op occupied the final houses in this row



The Jolly Carters was once on this site.  
As well as this shop, there has recently been a restaurant here



The newsagents was on the corner and there was also a doctors and greengrocers in this row



This was once a grocers and has been a chippy with a café at the back. Next door was a doctors and at the end of the row Nora Greenhalgh had a shop





Fred Lord's brother fishing in the Delph



Filling in the Delph circa 1950



The flat roof houses (munitions houses) on Church Street



Demolition of the houses





Building new houses and flats on Church Street



The Petrol Station

# Oaks Nook and Knowsley













DAIR'S NOOK. AINSWORTH.

A10507.







Building bungalows on Knowsley Road



# The Recreation Ground



Taken from Ainsworth Hall Road, circa 1900



Photo taken on Recreation Ground in 1905  
(arrow shows Brian Flower's mother)

Cannon and frames for swings can be seen.

In background are the houses on Cotton Broad Row







The public toilets on the recreation ground – and these were also used by those attending church



Circa 1980

# Bury Old Road and Delph Lane



The Methodist Chapel





Methodist Sunday School on Bury Old Road – opposite the Methodist Chapel (a bungalow now stands here)



Shop on Bury Old Road: second house down (towards Bolton)  
from the old Methodist Sunday School



Hey Club Row





Hey Club Row



# Ainsworth Hall Road



Ainsworth Vicarage in 1905



1910.



Oswald Wood with the Vicarage pony trap with Alice and Eliza Tilley



Alfred Wood on the steps into the church yard

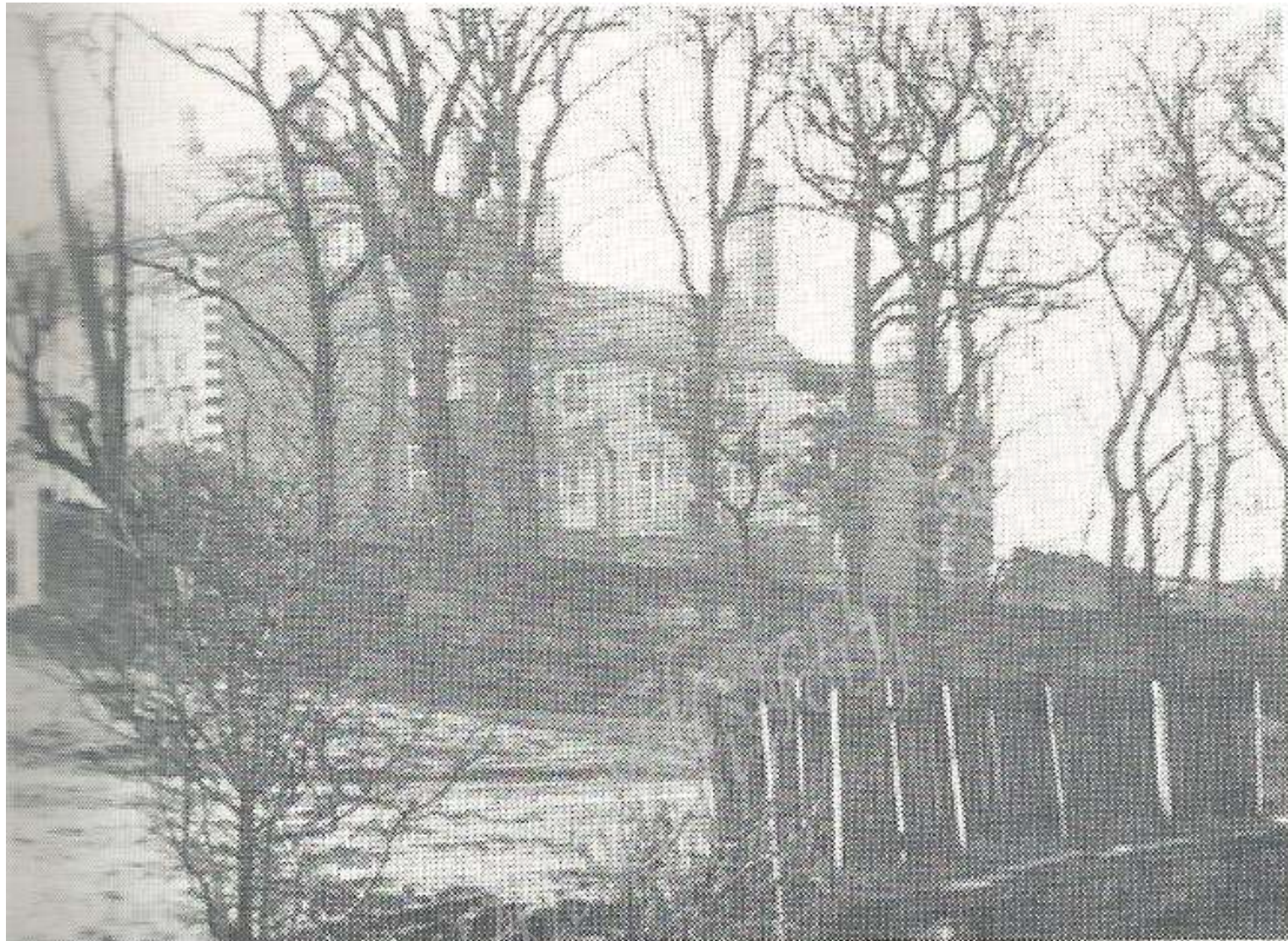


Bankfield House (on the Corner of Ainsworth Hall Road and Greenside)





Ainsworth Hall circa 1900



Ainsworth Hall circa 1960





Ainsworth Hall circa 1960

# Ainsworth History Society

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# 500+ years in Ainsworth

The Parish Church of Christ in  
Cockey, otherwise Ainsworth



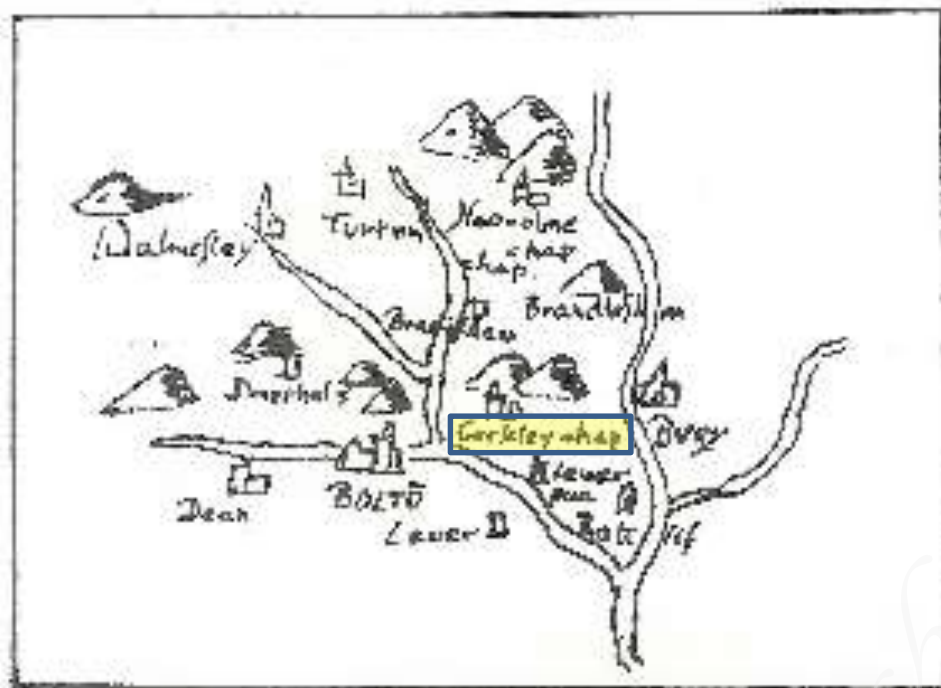
The earliest mention of the church building known so far is in an old court document dating from 1515.

There was a dispute over trespass between the Lords of the Manor of Middleton and Radcliffe and some of the witnesses mentioned the chapel.

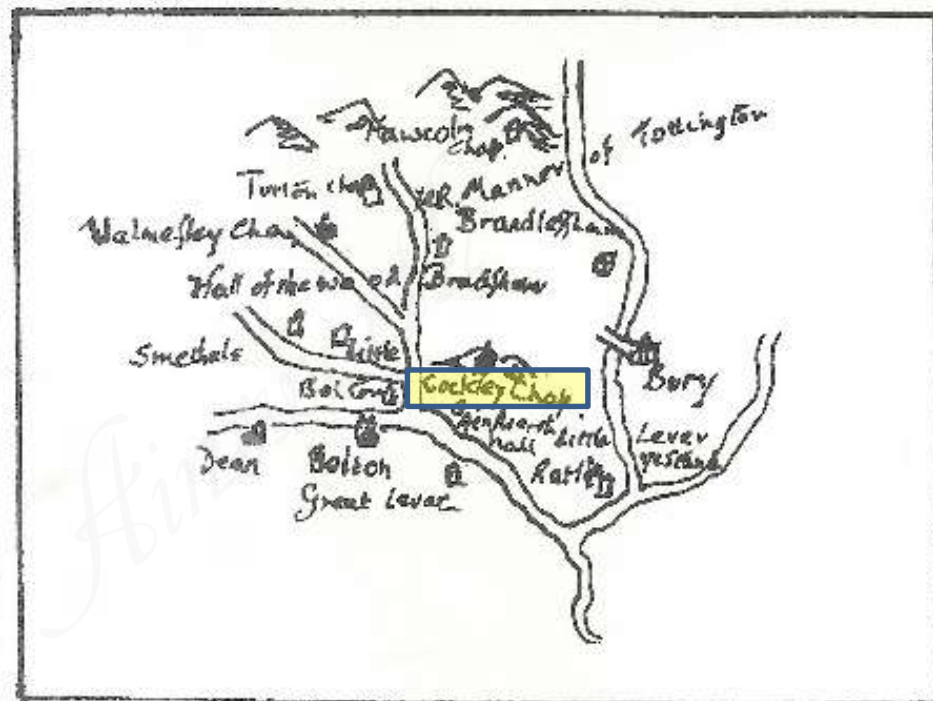


Sir Olvy Issherwode, testified that he had been the parish priest of Middleton for 37 years and had heard the confessions of the “crustun pepull of the Hamell of Aynesworth.”

William Mandevell, Proctor of Middleton, also mentions the “Chapell of Cokkeymore”.



Saxton's map 1577



Speed's map 1610

It is thought that the church was a Chantry Chapel built by the Lord of the Manor, who then allowed his tenants to use it.



The evidence for this is a Patent Roll of 1589 which refers to a grant of land that was originally in the tenure of Ralph Assheton, Lord of the Manor of Middleton, including 'all that our late chantry in the chapel of Chokeney alia Cockey alias Cockley.'

In 1586, the Elizabethan writer William Camden,  
wrote

As I was seeking eagerly near the Irwell for Coccium,  
I saw Cockley, a wooden chapel set round with trees”

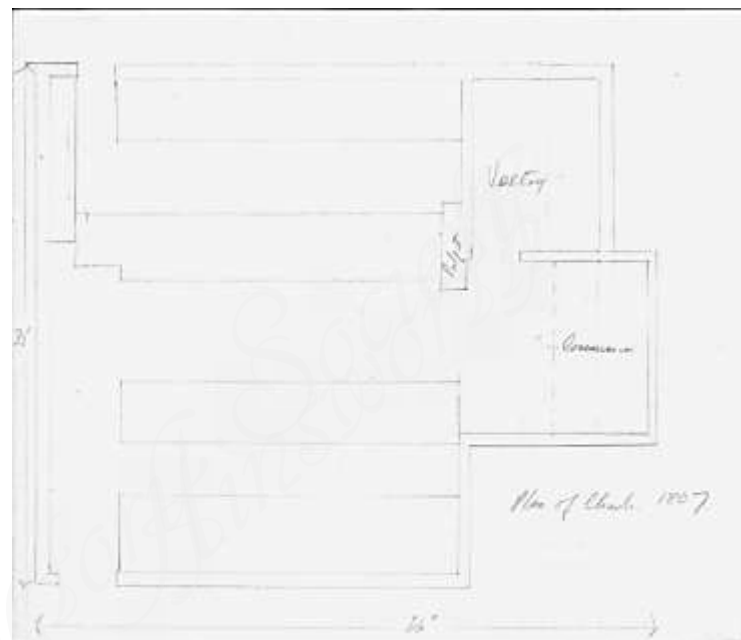
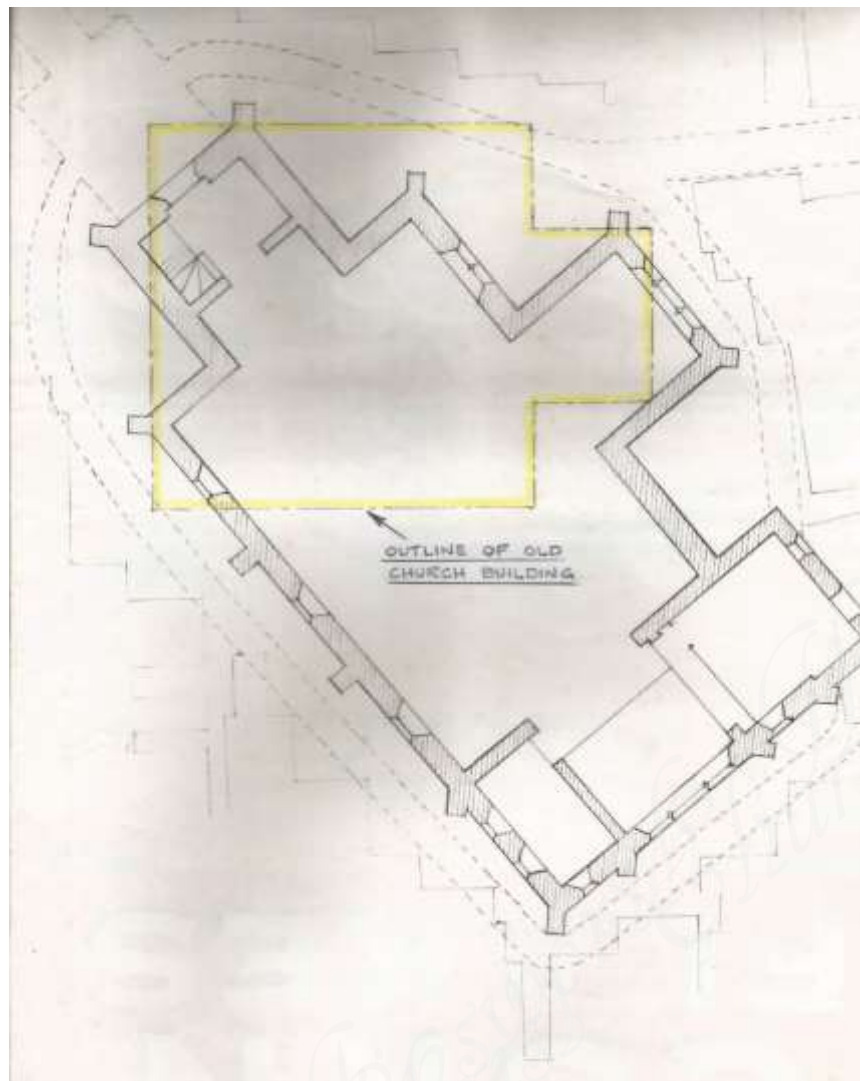


The church was in the centre of a common and at some point the churchyard was surrounded by a moat. Whether this was defensive or just to keep cattle out, we don't know but some evidence of a moat can still be seen today.

In about 1640, the wooden chapel was replaced by a stone building.

(The date is based upon a comment by a vicar, Robert Evanson who in 1867 said that the old church had stood for 200 years before it was replaced in 1831)





C1640 - 1831

What was this new stone church like?

In 1909 Mrs Hardman, an elderly resident said that she remembered the old church prior to the alterations of 1831.

She described it as a plain building with a small ornamented bell tower.

This description was supported by the Parish Magazine of 1912, adding that it had lancet windows and was ornamented with stone balls.

The Church was dominated by Presbyterian ideas during the reign of Charles 1 (1625-49) and the Commonwealth (1649-61).

In 1640 the (unnamed) parish priest of Cockey Chapel was ejected because he was “a scandalous and ignorant prelatist whose preaching led to popery.”

In other words he used the Book of Common Prayer and was inclined towards church rule by bishops, both of which were detested by the Presbyterians.

He was replaced by a succession of Presbyterian ministers, some of whom had not been episcopally ordained.

Three of the ministers, who had served at Cockey – Goodwin and Lever from Bolton and Peter Bradshaw, then at Ainsworth, were ejected during the 1660s for refusal to comply with the Act of Uniformity 1661. This required all ministers to conform to the Established Church or lose their livings – a reversal of what had happened in 1640!

The sympathies of the people were doubtless with their pastors and for a while Presbyterians continued to use the Chapel.

From the 1660s until 1799 Cockey Chapel was served by a succession of curates appointed by the Rector of Middleton, or sometimes by the Rector himself.



And in 1842 the vicar at the time, Richard Heslop was suspended for three years for drunkenness.

## Organ & Transept



In 1842 a small transept was added to the North wall to provide extra accommodation and that's where the organ now sits.

In 1882 the clergy vestry was added to the South side and the organ was moved downstairs to the front of church.



*When the gallery was removed the coat hooks were left!!*

About  
1860



Church before Bradley Fold Rd houses built



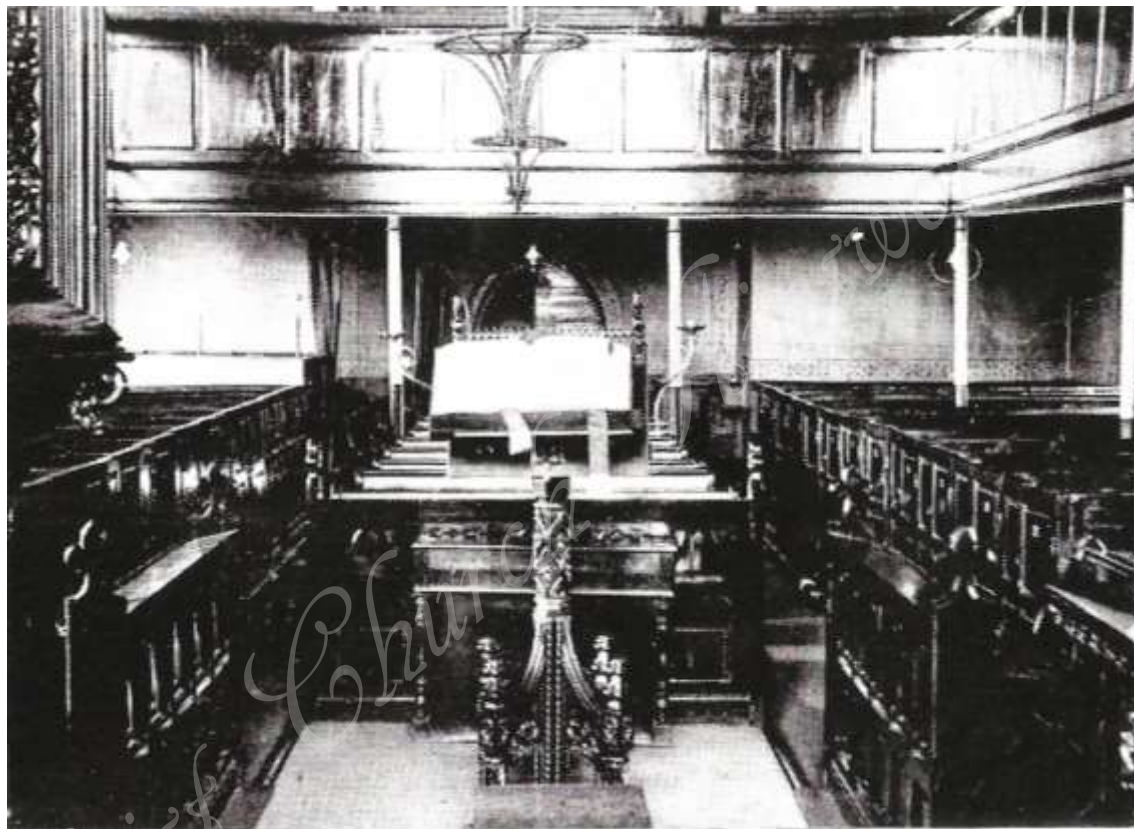
Rev Lauria 1899 - 1905





Photo – date not clear

There were straight backed pews with doors – some with baize – along the side walls and short benches up the middle



*The interior of the Church prior to 1906 from the east end*



Rev. A. WOOD,  
Treas.

Reverend Wood (Daddy Wood) came to Ainsworth in 1905

He describes the “living” as not big (an income of about £260) nor deemed an important charge

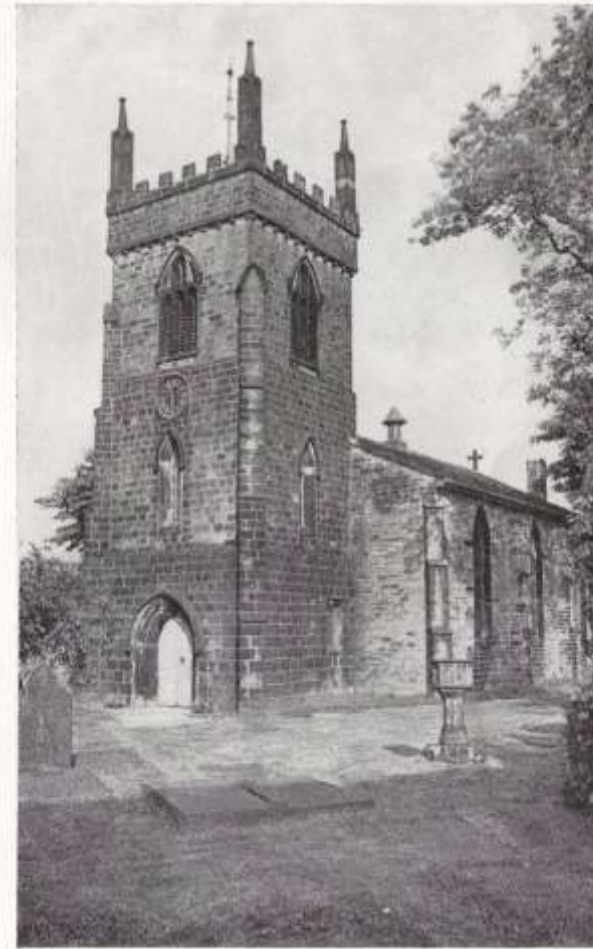


Alfred Wood with the representatives  
of the Church when he became vicar of  
Ainsworth in 1905



## THE CHURCH

He describes it as a small very plain rectangular meeting house with galleries, onto which has been added (in the 1830's) a tower at one end and a small chancel at the other



*The Church, showing the old font in the right foreground*

In 1906 the church was altered  
It had a central aisle (as it does now)  
and side balconies (now removed )

The reredos was also moved to  
underneath the sanctuary  
window and its position there  
explains why the stain glass  
windows only come down  
hallway.



## THE FURNITURE

Rev wood mentions the fine oak furniture – the pulpit, lectern, prayer desk, and communion table all bought by Henry Whitehead from the Old Bury Parish Church



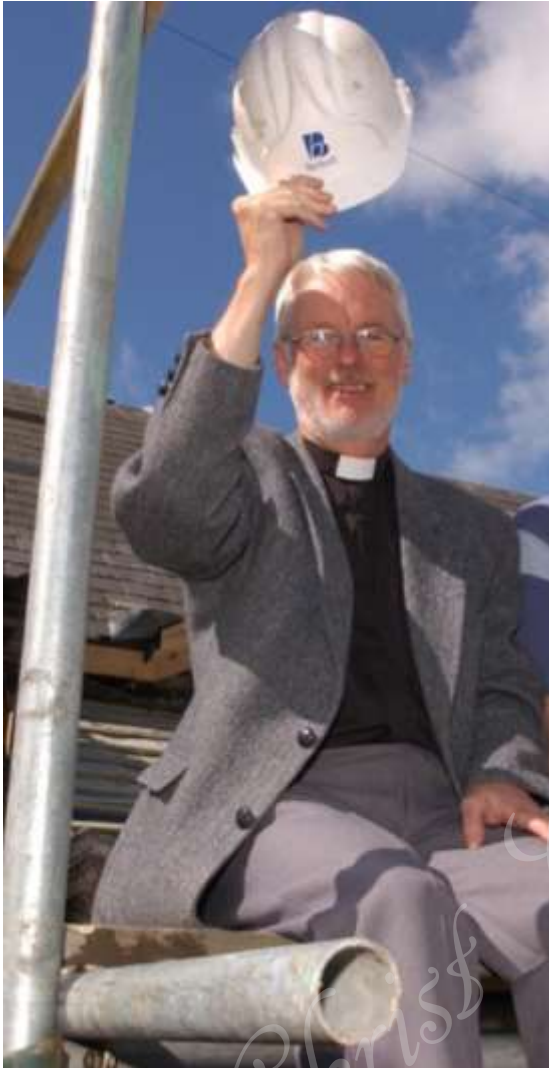
In 1964, under Ken Bullock's leadership a large amount of repair work was undertaken and the side galleries were taken down. At the same time the pulpit was lowered and moved.







The choir vestry was extended, the reredos moved to become a dividing wall between the choir vestry and sanctuary and alterations made to the clergy and choir stalls.



Rev David Griffiths – re-roofing of Church Hall

# Palm



Palm Sunday procession led by Rev Dave Thomson