

Rodborough Church Council will shortly be beginning repairs to the Church roof, which is to be largely stripped, the battens ~~renewed~~ renewed and the tiles renewed or replaced. An internal roof-truss will also be renewed. The lead of the roof also requires attention, and the external north wall will be re-pointed.

Efforts are being made to raise £800 as soon as possible, which with funds in hand should cover the cost of the above work.

When all this has been done, further financial effort will not be delayed to deal with the heating apparatus, organ repairs, lighting, and interior decoration.

Former as well as present parishioners who would like to help the church can get in touch with the Rector or Churchwardens.

A few notes from a pamphlet by the former Rector, Rev. L.V. Miller, are added as a matter of interest.

There is a reference to a Chapel at Rodborough in a Tax Return of 1378. In 1398 a certain Hugh Notlin made a gift of an estate at Kings Stanley, for the holding of divine Service at Rodborough, whilst in the year 1430 Margery de Breshcombe made this bequest; "I give all my lands and tenements in the parish of Bisley, for Divine Service to be celebrated and done in the chapel at Rodborough, until licence be obtained from the Prince to erect a Chantry in the Chapel of Rodborough aforesaid." Then in 1434 Edmund de Rodborough granted an estate in Bisley, called Duryards, the income of which was to provide daily services.

For many years Rodborough remained in the parish of Minchinhampton and its Chapel was merely a Chapel of Ease to that village, the Rector having to provide a Curate to officiate. There was also a lectureship attached to the Chapel, in the gift of Brasenose College Oxford.

Much litigation about misappropriation of funds occurred in the 16th century; its present interest lies in the fact that we can give the date of the present Church Tower as about 1580.

By a decree in Chancery (2 James 1, 1605) the Rector of Minchinhampton was bound to set aside £40 a year for a Curate, and £5 for the repair of the Chapel.

The Church Pulpit is inscribed "The Gifte of Jasper Escourt of Light Pill Gent, Anno Dom. 1624". The Communion Plate still used today, was given by the churchwardens, Jasper Escourt and Michael Holliday. The two sanctuary chairs were given in 1657.

Originally four bells hung in the Tower, but three were probably melted down during the Civil War. The fourth and remaining bell weighs 25 cwt, and is said to be the largest in the district. It is inscribed as follows;

"The living I to Church do call,
And to the grave do summon all".