

This is a place where prayer is wont to be made
(original inscription above Church door)

O God, our heavenly Father, make the door of our Parish Church wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship and a Father's care, and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and uncharitableness. Here may the tempted find succour and the sorrowing receive comfort. Here may all thy children renew their strength in Thee and go on their way rejoicing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Acknowledgements:

Text preparation:

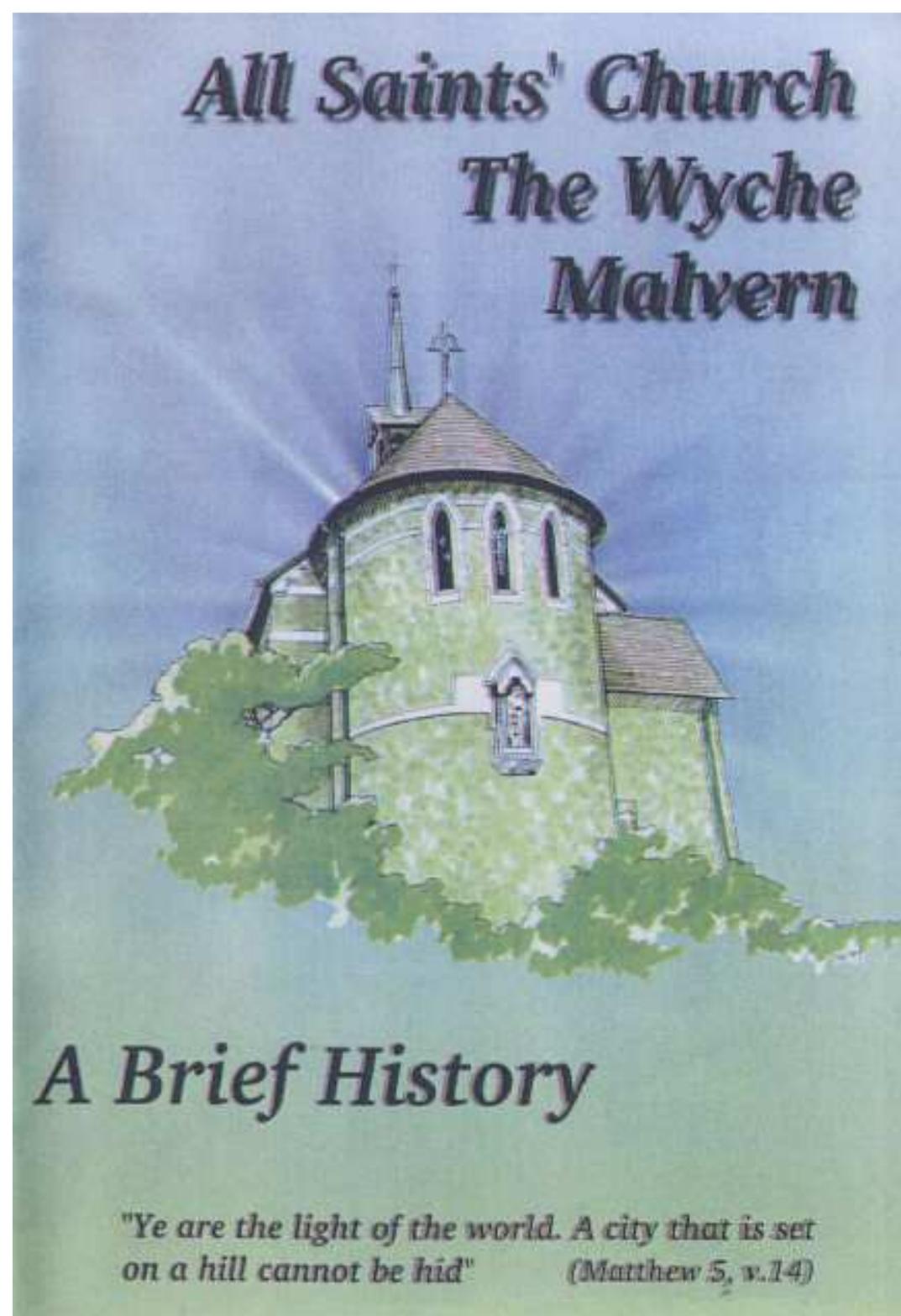
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The offer of the gift of the original manuscript of the oratorio presented a problem however in that Elgar and 'The Apostles' were both Roman Catholic in origin so the Anglican authorities rejected the offer though it could be said that they came close in naming the Church 'All Saints'. Interestingly, though, Troyte designed the Church on the lines of traditional Roman Catholic basilicas and with superb acoustics for music.

He is remembered as No 7 in 'The Enigma Variations' and in a memorial plaque at the east end of the Church, on the left side of the chancel wall.

His Building has seen major repairs and improvements including re-roofing, a new heating system and a public address system, but the basic 'integrity' of the Church building is maintained. The entrance to the drive from the roadway was widened in 1998 and the gates remade.

In 1987 the Parish was united with that of Malvern Wells, but in 1994 when St Peter's was closed, All Saints became the sole parish church for the Parish of Malvern Wells and Wyche.

The organ was completed in 1909 by the firm of Nicholsons of Malvern, owned at that time by the philanthropist W H Winfield. The cost was £500, which was raised locally. The instrument was considered to be of special value.

The font had been used in the Wyche School Chapel where services had been conducted before the building of All Saints'. It had been given by Canon I Smith in memory of his wife who died in 1878.

The pulpit had belonged formerly to Emmanuel Church. (Now closed, it stands near the junction of Wyche and Wells Roads.) The pulpit was at the builder's yard of Mr Porter and was cleaned and fixed up by Mr H Shephard.

Troyte Griffith was a great friend of the composer Sir Edward Elgar, then resident in the Wells Road, at 'Craig Lea'. Sir Edward took a keen interest in the new Church and even offered to present to it the manuscript of his new oratorio 'The Apostles'. A letter from Elgar to another friend, August Jaeger, 'Nimrod' of the 'Enigma Variations', seems to lend some strength to the belief that Elgar composed some of the work in the Church. He wrote "Troyte is architecting this Church here and wants me to give it, or imbibe from it, local colour".

All Saints Church was built at the beginning of the twentieth century to meet the needs of the Wyche area that was in the parish of Great Malvern Priory.

The area had grown rapidly from 1894 and by 1901 most of the new Wyche Road was built up, as was all Westminster Road, followed by the Wells and Peachfield Roads. More gradually King Edward Road filled with houses. The district was thus completely transformed and became for some years quite wealthy.

Just when the need for a church was being more and more felt, the money to provide it became available from a number of benefactors. Among the donors was the Lady Emily Foley who, in her last public benefaction in January 1900, was to give a substantial gift to the projected new church, the site of which she had already given - or had she? Another account says, "The question of site was not easily overcome. Eventually Sir Henry Lambert Bart., under the Gifts of Churches Act, 1811, granted a site on the Common, subject to the consent of the Board of Agriculture, which in due course was given. Sir Henry had acted in his right as Lord of the Manor of Malvern".

Sufficient funds were raised to enable the foundation stone to be laid on 3rd November 1902 by Lettice, Countess Beauchamp. The stone with inscription, is still to be seen on the outside east end (apse) of the Church.

The new Wyche Church, dedicated to All Saints, was consecrated on Thursday 19th November 1903 by the great and much loved Bishop Dr. Charles Gore D.D. D-C.L., Lord Bishop of Worcester.

Even with its own Church now established and with priests-in-charge, the area remained, nevertheless, in, the Parish of Great Malvern Priory.

In the years that followed, however, the worshippers at All Saints' did not rest quietly and began to work to make the district a separate ecclesiastical parish. More work in the raising of money was undertaken and nearly all of this was raised locally and included donations and bequests.

At length, on the 5th November 1926, the Parish of All Saints, the Wyche, was established. The first Vicar, the Rev W R Buchanan Dunlop, was inducted by Archdeacon J F Peale on the 10th February 1927.

The Church had been built to the design of Troyte Griffith, who, for some years, lived at 'Fairview' on the Old Wyche Road. He had decided that the Church should be built with the Malvern granite, but with the inside walls lined with Hereford bricks that should be beautifully laid and pointed. Troyte was meticulous and among his many cares he personally selected at the quarry, every piece of the pink Malvern stone used for all the exterior wall surfaces.

The completed building was described by one as "The interior of the Church was rather unusual and striking, the buttresses being inside instead of out. This has the desirable effect on the acoustic qualities of the Church; there was no sound echo, and they should find the building excellent for sound...

Mr Porter, the builder (plaque at the back of the Church) had carried out his work in a solid and substantial manner and his workmen had done their duties faithfully with no signs of anything like scamping".

The figure of St. George, on the exterior of the east wall, was given in memory of Mr Malcolm Cathcart who lived at 'Hatherley' Peachfield Road (which later became a Youth Hostel).

A Church that had been worked for and much desired, naturally had, and continued to receive, many generous gifts. Among those were the East window, given in 1904, and the Apostle Window in 1905. They are by Payne of Acocks Green and were given anonymously, as was the Altar. The latter, however, was replaced by the carved wooden one brought from St Peter's Malvern Wells after its closure in 1994.

The Reredos above the Altar was a work of art carved and gilded to a design by the architect Troyte Griffith.