

Churches at Lyddington, Caldecott, and Stoke Dry since 1550.
Events, not including repairs and routine maintenance.

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Sources.

Faculties in the Northamptonshire Record Office.
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Victoria County History: Rutland, 1935.
Rutland Magazine. Vol 5. 1911-12.
Church guides.

Lyddington.

Since the 12th century Lyddington church had been a peculiar of Lincoln, administered by the Dean and Chapter of the cathedral, until the peculiar jurisdiction was abolished by Act of Parliament in 1836 and the responsibility for the parish was transferred to the diocese of Peterborough.

It is probable that the texts now revealed to have been inscribed over the medieval paintings on the nave walls were applied during the 16th century.

1635: The date on the altar rail, which surrounds the altar table close to the east end of the chancel. The rail was installed in this position as a compromise between the Puritan view that the altar should be positioned in the body of the church in such a way that the congregation could kneel all round it, and the traditional, or Laudian, requirement that it should be close to the east end of the church and railed off to prevent it being used in an irreverent manner. The rail bears the initials of the incumbent, Robert Rudd, and the churchwardens,

1639: Robert Rudd, vicar 1591-1649, was summoned to appear before the Dean and Chapter at Lincoln to answer charges of disreputable conduct. These charges included wearing disreputable clothes, preaching offensive sermons, neglecting services and refusing to administer communion. He was suspended and ordered to provide funds for a curate to act in his place.

1662: Altar table purchased.

1694-95: Five bells were cast for the tower. (A sixth bell was cast in 1978).

1803: The north and south doors were blocked up and the west door became the main entrance.

1805: Church repewed.

1849: Vestry built.

1862: Conveyance of vicarage for use as school. Rev T W Gillham, vicar.

1879: West gallery removed, pulpit and desk moved, organ placed on north side of chancel, two slow combustion stoves installed. Rector T W Gillham. Churchwardens Francis Stevenson and Edward Sharman.

1881: Collation of Rev Roscoe Hawthorn following resignation of Thomas Wheeler Gillham.

1885: Collation of Rev William Robert Frith following death of Roscoe Hawthorn.

1889-90: General restoration. Roofs of nave and aisles renewed in Stettin oak, lead covering renewed, chancel roof pitch raised, plaster removed from chancel interior and that in the nave renewed, new oak seats supplied [and box pews removed], new heating apparatus, font restored, new lectern, new clock. Increase of thirty new seats or chairs. Vicar W R Frith, churchwardens Edward Sharman and William James Brown.

1889: Licence to perform divine service in the Bede House while the church was undergoing repair. However no marriages to be performed.

1891: Collation of Rev William Reazon Mangam following cession of W R Frith.

1894: Collation of Rev Isaac Geo Packer following the death of William Reazon Mangam

1902: Tower struck by lightning. Tower restored and west doors provided.

1921: War memorial tablet installed on north wall.

1930: Old hot air heating apparatus replaced by hot water system.

1931: Union of parishes of Lyddington and Stoke Dry.

1934: Electric light installed following supply of electricity to the village.

1937: Wall paintings revealed.

1944: Concrete and tarmac paths laid down.

1946: Tablet commemorating Dr Astley Clarke installed on south wall of chancel, opposite the tablet to one of his ancestors.

1949: Wooden churchyard gates replaced by gates in wrought iron.

1950: Footpath and gate to [parish] cemetery to be provided. Gate to be closed (locked) once a year to prevent claim of right of way. File in Northampton Record Office containing faculty application includes correspondence 1941-52 re burial ground, and plans of the cemetery. Faculty application of 1950 repeated in 1952.

1953: Organ replaced. Lightning conductor and flagpole erected on spire. Royal Arms, Creed and Lord's Prayer which were removed from the gallery walls in 1890

and taken away for safe keeping were to be restored, but reinstallation was refused by the Home Office on the grounds that it was no longer permitted to erect Royal Arms.

1967: Union of the parishes of Lyddington and Stoke Dry with the parish of Seaton.

1975: The five bells were rehung on a new frame.

1976: A sixth bell was obtained.

1990: Floodlights to the tower were installed.

1991: Celebration of the 450th anniversary of the creation of the diocese of Peterborough. Cricket match held at Lyddington between clergy of Peterborough and Lincoln.

1991: Carved stone heads installed either side of the chancel arch.

1995: The central aisle from the tower to the chancel, and the chancel floor, were carpeted.

Caldecott.

The parish of Caldecott, which had been in the diocese of Lincoln, was transferred to the diocese of Peterborough on its formation in 1541. From the 13th century it was a chapelry annexed to Lyddington. In 1931 it was united with Rockingham, but since 1997 it has been part of a benefice of which the other parishes are Bisbrooke, Glaston, Lyddington, Harringworth, Stoke Dry, Seaton, and Thorpe by Water. Hence the entries in the section on Lyddington history referring to collations in Lyddington cum Caldecott in 1881, 1885, 1891 and 1894 refer equally to Caldecott.

1648: Porch added.

1696: Five bells hung. (A sixth bell added in 1985).

1724: Clock installed.

1797: Spire struck by lightning.

1862-63. Chancel rebuilt.

1863-64. Nave reroofed and reseated.

1865-66. Chancel repaired and north wall rebuilt.

1908: Organ chamber constructed.

1909: Organ installed.

1921: War memorial tablet placed in the nave.

1946: Electric light installed, in memory of Ernest John Ward.

1951: Bells restored and rehung.

1955: South aisle roof renewed and recovered with lead.

1962: New heating boiler.

1982: Rewired. Nine pews removed from south aisle and replaced with stackable chairs. Font resited.

1985: Sixth bell added. Installation of memorial plaque to Jeanette Singleton who funded the 1982 restoration.

1988: New boiler house.

Stoke Dry.

1590: Death of Kenelm Digby. A table tomb monument to him, his wife, and eleven children stands in the chancel, within the altar rails.

1694: The date on the bier.

1810: The date on the organ.

1890: Table monument to Kenelm Digby and his wife moved to its present position.

1898: Restoration. The chancel floor relaid, the roof renewed, wall paintings revealed.

1923: Memorial tablet to Conyers Peach placed on the west wall.

1931: Union of the parishes of Stoke Dry and Lyddington.

1965: North aisle roof and north porch roof replaced.

1969: Partition between chapel and south aisle removed.

1972: Murals restored. Report by E Clive Rouse in the Stoke Dry faculties file at the Northamptonshire Record Office.

1975: South clerestory wall and south aisle window restored.

2000: Tubular electric heaters installed.

