

A POSTCARD COLLECTION  
OF BOOKHAM

By

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Album 1  
(Pages 21 - 40)

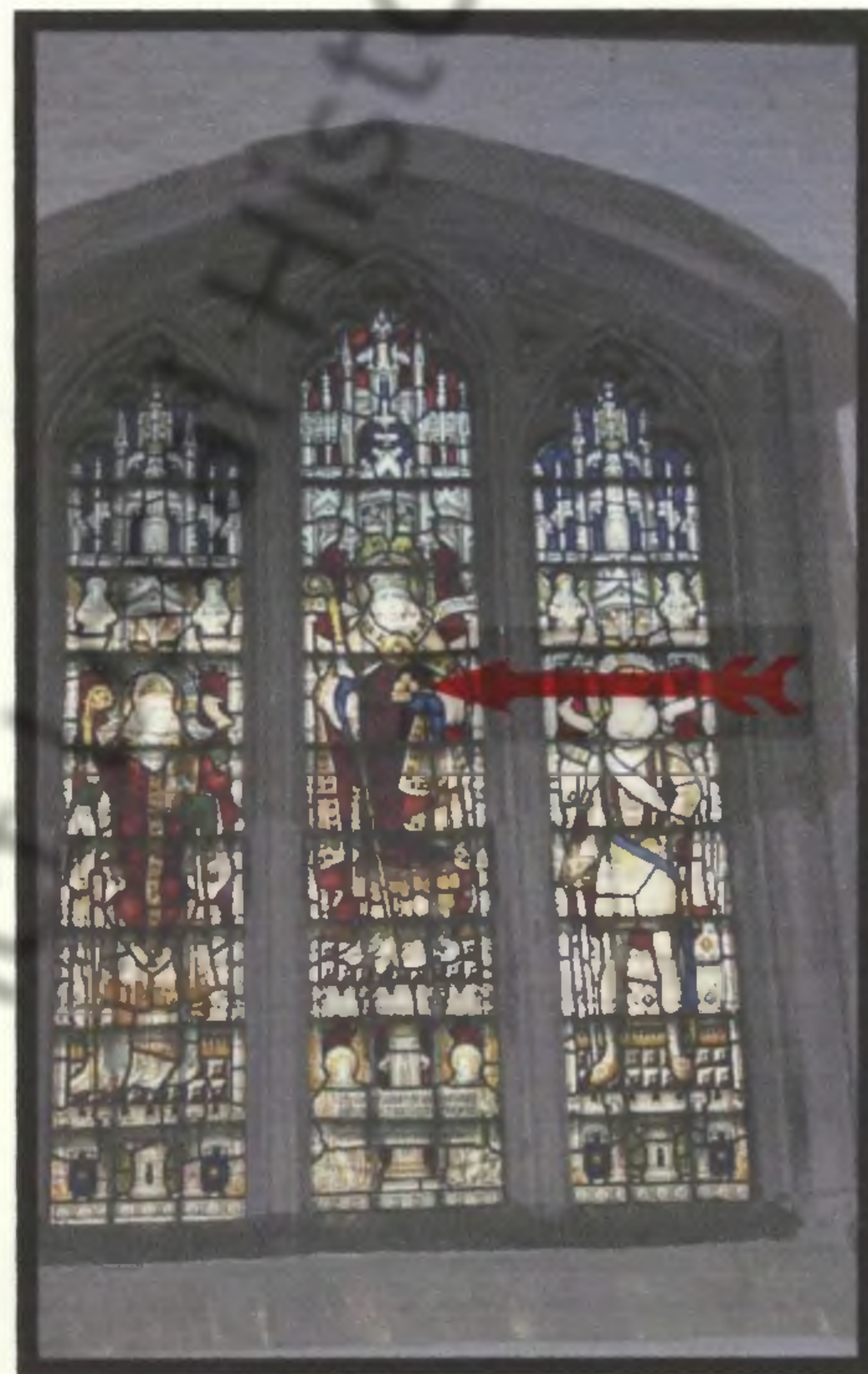


## The Bookhams

### St Nicolas Church

The Church is believed to be dedicated to St Nicolas, Bishop of the Mediterranean seaport Myra. In 325AD Nicolas joined more than 300 other bishops at the first Council of Nicaea from which originated our Nicene Creed. Bishop Nicolas died c326. But, it is more likely the original dedication was both to St Mary the Virgin and St Nicolas. There is reference to an endowment to the church in 1292 of two candles for the alter of St Nicolas which could imply that this was a lesser alter and stood at the East end of one of the Norman aisles. From the 14th Century the dedication to St Nicolas only appears to have subsisted.

The parish church of Great Bookham is one of 412 Anglican churches in England dedicated to Saint Nicolas. Nicolas was born at Patara in Asia Minor, the only child of a noble and Christian family. Nicolas was famous for his acts of charity - the best-known story concerns three teenage girls whose father did not have enough money for their dowries. Nicolas came three times secretly by night to throw bags of gold money through a window or down a chimney of their father's house. The three golden balls became the sign of St Nicolas, as in the east window of Gt Bookham Church, and also the trade sign of pawnbrokers - see centre of window picture below.



S & W series postcard dated early 1900s



## The Bookhams

### St Nicolas Church

The church is usually the oldest building in the village and Great Bookham Church is no exception. It is most probable that there was a church on the present site in the 5th or 6th Century and that there are Saxon remains in the foundations. There was a church standing at the time of Domesday in 1086. Described in the Domesday Book, it is noted that "the Abbot of Chertsey hold Bocheham" and that there was church in the village. The church is a grade one listed building set in a two-acre churchyard in the centre of the village what is now known as Bookham crossroads.

The picture below was taken before the Lychgate was built in 1897. The pollarded tree was an elm recorded as having been planted by Churchwarden Ralph Hilder in 1627; it was felled in 1977 after being affected by Dutch elm disease. The tree on the right was one of five planted by the Revd Samuel L'Isle in 1733.



Several changes have occurred in this Canon series postcard dated 1905 compared with the 1890 photo. The lychgate was erected in 1897 by public subscription to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Not only has the lychgate appeared, but also a telegraph pole. The gas lamp has been moved from inside the churchyard to the pavement by the signpost which is also new.





## The Bookhams

### St Nicolas Church

This was a church without aisles or chancel, so for 1300 years Christians have worshipped God at St Nicolas Church. The eleventh century Nave occupies the probable area of the original Saxon church. The Normans extended the Nave to the south around 1140 and around 1180 when the stonework of the Tower was built.

Also in 1180 an arcade of pointed arches and the north aisle built pierced the North wall. The pillars are octagonal except the central one which has six sides, one being wider than the others, perhaps to accommodate the Norman Front made of Petworth marble which now stands in the centre of the nave on a new stem and base. The present north aisle was constructed in 1841 to 1845 to provide extra seating accommodation and the present windows are copies of those in the south aisle. There is a local tradition that the North aisle formerly housed the chapel of the Norbury family who were 15th Century owners of Polesden and the aisle has long been known as the Polesden aisle.



A Frith's postcard dated 1905 and below a local E J Bates postcard dated 1907





## The Bookhams

### St Nicolas Church

In 1341 John Rutherwyke completed the chancel. Abbot of Chertsey, as commemorated by an inscription in fine Lombardic letters on a stone in the East wall. *'Hec domus abbate fuerat constructa johanne de Rutherwyka, decus ob sancti Nicholai anno milleno triceno bisque viceno primo, Christus ei paret hinc sedem requiei.'* The coffin slab on the pavement North of the alter, worn and disfigured by nails but still showing a cross Fleury, is believed to be the tomb of Abbot John himself.



An early Frith's postcard postally used dated 1903 when you could only write on the front as the back was for the address only. Below is a Real Photo postcard dated early 1900s.





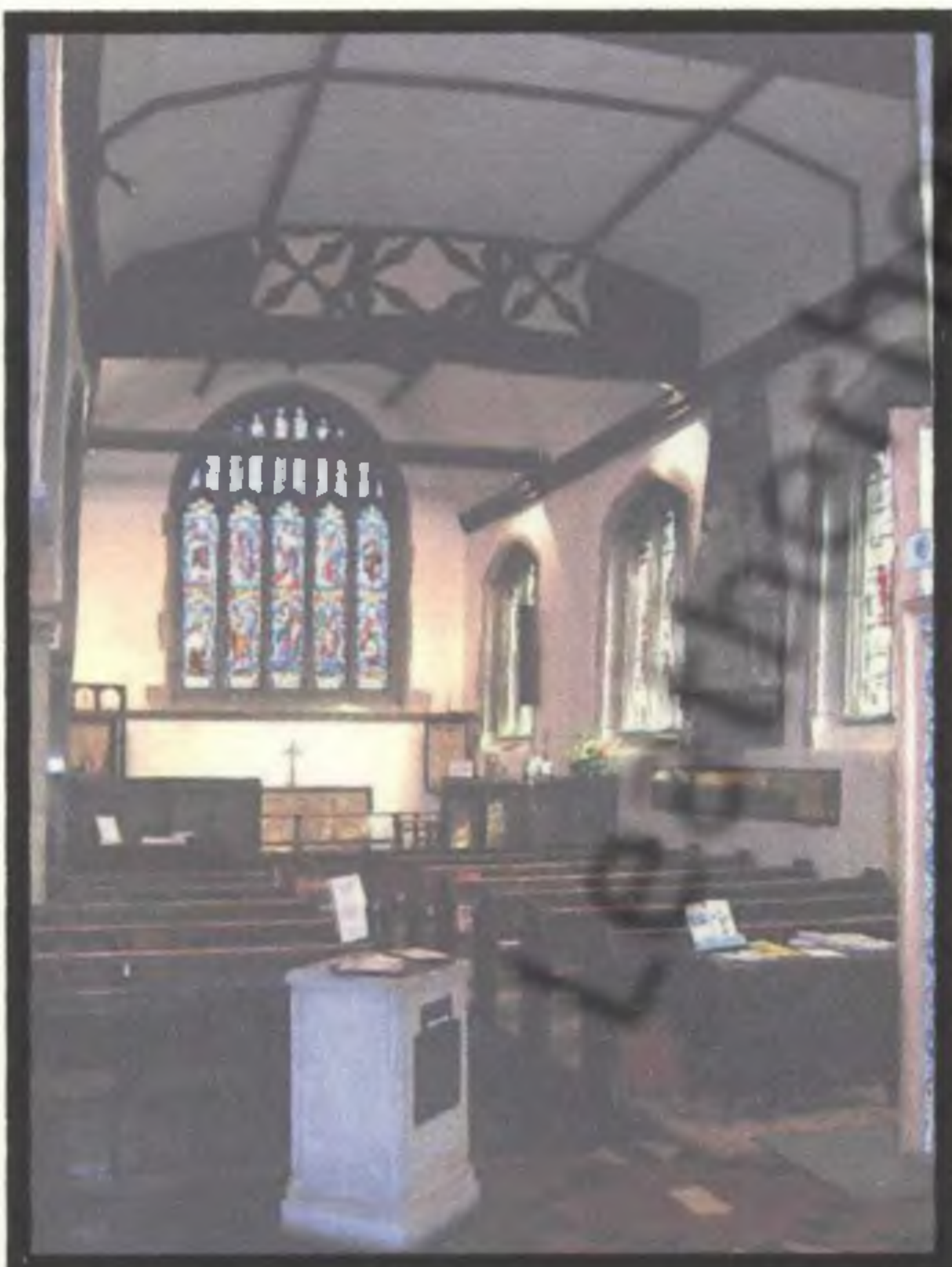
## The Bookhams

### St Nicolas Church

The South Aisle and Slyfield (Lady) Chapel were built around 1440, when the stone Tower was buttressed and the timber Tower and Spire were built. The timber framework of huge oak beams within the walls of the tower is believed to be 15th Century work. This framework carries a low-shingled spire and weather boarded belfry. On one of the timber upright on the North side are carved the initials T.I.1749. At one time this tower contained four bells but only two bells remain, one of which bears the inscription 'William Eldridge made mee 1575' and there are only two complete frames for the ring of the bells, there is a frame for a third bell and part of a frame for the fourth. The two other bells, which were cracked, were sold in the middle of the nineteenth century. The Tower door and north-facing window in the Nave were created in the seventeenth century. The roof of the south aisle is Horsham stone tiles and the rest of the roofs are tiled.



A local W.G. Jones postcard c1930s. A picture of St. Nicholas Lady Chapel - South Aisle and the ladies mowing the grass in the churchyard in 1916.





## The Bookhams

### St Nicolas Church

The North Aisle, Sacristy (Vestry) and Sexton's Shed were built in 1885, the Choir Vestry in 1923 and the Church Room was added in 1979. A Pastoral Centre was added at the northwest corner of the churchyard in 1996. In 1909 an oak screen was erected in memory of Queen Victoria and in 1913 Mr Arthur Bird added the south porch in memory of his wife. In the same year the Keswick family presented a new organ to the church in memory of their father, William Keswick. A year earlier his widow had installed electric lighting in the church.



An unknown postcard postally used dated 1910. Below is a Tuck's postcard c1950s.





## The Bookhams

### St Nicolas Church

There are two small windows above the arches of the north arcade in the Nave, which are possibly part of the original Saxon church. The Howard window, in the south wall of the Nave, was added in 1676 whilst the north-facing window was added early in the nineteenth century. The glass in the east window in the chancel was badly damaged in 1941 during WWII by blast possible from the bomb that destroyed the lodge of Southey Hall School (formerly part of the Eastwick Estate); six panels of 15th century Flemish glass were purchased as a replacement in 1954. The window in the north end of the south aisle is Norman but the glass was dedicated in 1875. The east window of the Slyfield Chapel is the work of O'Conner, completed in 1859.

The bowl of the Norman font (c1140) was moved from the north aisle to stand in its current position on a new base and stem when the pulpit, choir stalls and pews were added during the restoration carried out in 1885. The organ, built by Bishop and Son of London came from The Catholic Apolistic Church of Southwark and was rededicated at Bookham in 1968.



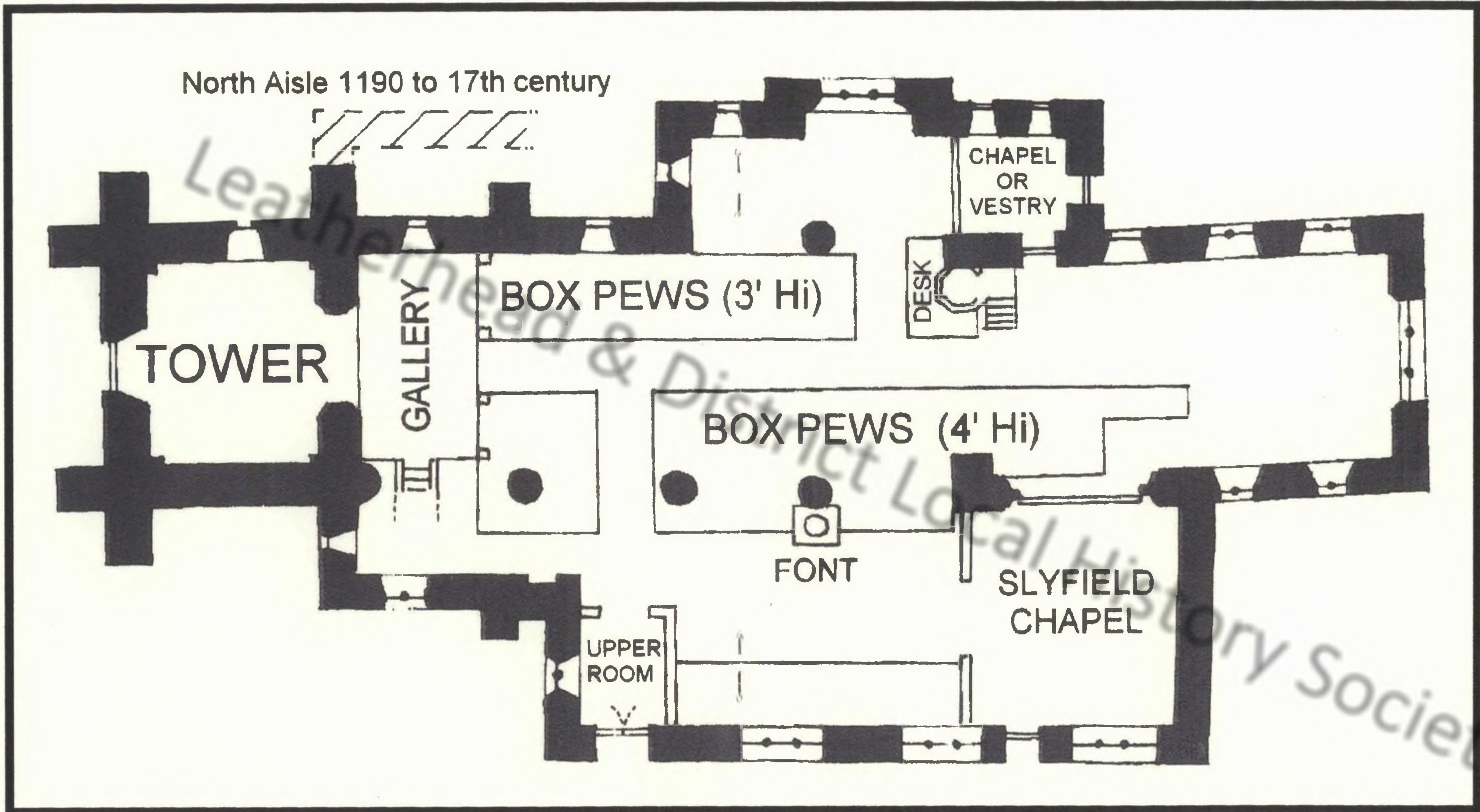
Two interior views (c1910 top & c1920 below) at slightly different angles showing the different style of arcades on either side of the nave; the south is late Norman (c1140) whilst the north is Transitional (c1180).



**St Nicolas Church**

An early 1800 map of the church by N. Fenner.

**The Bookhams**





### St Nicolas Church

There are several interesting monuments in the church and in particular, south of the pulpit, a brass to Elizabeth Slyfield 1443, with an inscription stating that she was the wife to Tomas Slyfield and widow of George Brewes and daughter of Sir Edward Saint John. On the South pier of the Chancel Arch are four lines of inscription to John Bramsdale and his wife Marion; and in the North wall of Slyfield Chapel is an inscription of 28 lines of rhyming verse to Edmund Slyfield and his wife Elizabeth, and below there is an effigy of Elizabeth with 13 lines of pedigree.

On the South pier of the Chancel there are also effigies of Henry Slyfield 1598 and his wife Elizabeth and six sons and four daughters all copies of their parents but only the eldest son wears a ruff.

On the floor on the south aisle is an effigy of Robert Shiers of the Inner Temple 1668, reading from the books?

The three white marble busts forming the monument in the North aisle are of Robert Shiers of Slyfield, who died in 1668, Elizabeth his wife died in 1700, and his son Sir George Shiers, Baronet, died in 1685; these busts are thought to be the work of Edward Hurst.



A postally used postcard dated early 1940s above and a Real Photo below c1940/50s





## St Nicolas Church

On the South Wall is the Cornet Francis GEARY Monument (below left) who was killed in action whilst fighting in the American War of Independence. On the right is a photograph of the memorial to Cornet Francis Geary in Flemington, Hunterdon Co, New Jersey. Richard Higgins who took the photos brought them to St Nicolas Church on a visit to the UK in March 2006. Legend says that Cornet Francis Geary haunted the wood where he was killed.

Francis Geary was the eldest son of Admiral Francis Geary and Mary Bartholomew. He was born at Polesden, Great Bookham and baptized on March 15th, 1752. He was educated at Balliol College, Oxford and had three sisters and one brother - Mary, born in 1749, Judith 1750, Elizabeth in 1754 and, William in 1756.

Starting his military career Francis Geary chose the illustrious 16th Light Dragoons, also known as the Queen's Light Dragoons, under the Colonelcy of General John Burgoyne. He obtained the rank of Cornet on March 4, 1773. He was twenty-one years old when the Cornetcy was purchased for him. In 1775, the unit received an order which would eventually lead Cornet Geary into harms way: "War Office 12th September. 1775 ...The King having been pleased to order the 16th /or Queen's/ Regiment of /Light Dragoons,... to embark for North America, in the ensuing Spring... The unit arrived in North America during the latter part of September and early October of 1776.

An article relating to the death of Cornet Francis Geary in the American War of Independence can be found at: [www.doublegv.com/ggv/battles/geary](http://www.doublegv.com/ggv/battles/geary). - The ambush of Geary's Dragoons. From Fact to Fantasy The British 16th Light Dragoons and the Raid on Flemington, New Jersey, December 14, 1776. Written by Gilbert RIDDLE, once of the 2nd New Jersey Regiment ( now moved to the Carolina's.)



To the memory of  
**CORNET FRANCIS GERY**  
16 (The Queen's) Light Dragoons  
Born 1752  
Killed in action here  
In the service of King George III  
December 14 1776  
Eldest son of Admiral Sir Francis Geary Baronet  
Erected in 1907 by his great nephew  
Sir William Nevill M Geary Baronet.





**St Nicolas Church/The Howards**

Between 1633 and 1857 some thirty-nine members of the Howard family appear to have been buried in the churchyard or within St Nicolas Church. Of these, at least six died in infancy and their burials do not seem to have been recorded. A Howard family vault was referred to in 1910 by E H Sharp, a churchwarden, who noted that seventeen Howards were laid to rest on the south side of the church.

The whereabouts of the Howard vault was unknown to living memory. The conversion of the church's heating system from solid fuel gas in 1985 required a gas pipe to be laid to the cellar, the entrance to which is within the church, a few feet from the south door. On the channel being dug, brickwork was stuck in the grassed area between the church and the footpath running parallel to the south wall of the church. A brick vault was discovered, and in July 1990 the vault was investigated and found to be 24 feet by 14 feet and 7 feet to the top of the rounded roof. It contained 16 coffins of the Howard family dating from the 16th and 17th centuries.



Valentine postcard c1950s



## The Bookhams

### St Nicolas Church/The Howards

The Howard family became associated with Great Bookham when the Lordship of the Manor was granted in 1550 to Lord William Howard, the first son by the second marriage of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk. He was created Baron Howard of Effingham in 1554 and Knight of the Garter, Lord High Admiral, Lord Chamberlain and Lord Privy Seal. He died in January 1573. And is buried in Reigate. His eldest son, Charles, commanded the English fleet against the Spanish Armada in 1588 and was created Earl of Nottingham eight years later.

The manor of Great Bookham was settled on William's second son, another William, and it was the latter's son, Sir Francis, who appears to have been the first Howard to have lived at Great Bookham. He purchased the Manor of Eastwick in 1626. Sir Francis married Jane, daughter of Sir William Monson of Kinnersly, Surrey; the death on 25 June 1633 of their 18 month old daughter, Frances, is recorded on an inscribed paving stone in the south aisle of the church. Sir Francis and his wife Jane had a stillborn son in 1635 and at least a further eight children, all of whom were baptised at Great Bookham or Lingfield.



A Real photograph postcard c1950s above and a postally used Valentine's postcard dated 1961





## St Nicolas Church/The Howards

The Lordship of the Manor descended to Sir Francis' eldest son, Charles, then in 1672 to his son Francis, who succeeded as 5th Baron Howard of Effingham. He was Governor of Virginia and died there in 1695. Since Lord Francis' eldest son, Charles, died before his father and the second son, Thomas, died in 1725 leaving no male issue, the Lordship of the Manor passed to his third son, General Francis Howard. He became the 7th Baron Howard of Effingham, and was created the 1st Earl of Effingham in 1731 and also Deputy Earl Marshal.

It would seem appropriate that the Earl of Effingham would wish to found his own lineage and adopt the symbols and prestige of his status. One of these could well have been the construction of the vault at St Nicolas, and this was probably built between 1731, the year of his being created an Earl, and 1743, the year of his death. The earliest inscription on the northern jamb of the entrance is 'B.M. 1743' which could well indicate the year of construction.



St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham.

A postally used postcard dated 1930s above and a postally used Frith's postcard dated 1953



GBK.37

LYCHGATE AND MEMORIAL, GREAT BOOKHAM

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## St Nicolas Church

A Stevens postcard dated 1926 of the War Memorial by the Lychgate celebrating those who fell in the First and Second World Wars.

**DESCRIPTION:** The memorial stands approximately 3-4 metres high towards the south corner of the churchyard, a few metres from the lychgate. It has a tapering octagonal shaft moulded at the base with an inscription. The lower two stages are octagonal, the upper bearing the names of the dead on all sides. All of the inscriptions, except for the names of the fallen which are in Roman script, are in Gothic lettering. At the top of the shaft is a crucifix, following the octagonal shape of the shaft, with a carved figure of Jesus Christ. The ends of the cross are embellished and the four angles within the cross have detailed carvings.

**HISTORY:** Very little is known of the history of the memorial. The minutes of the Vestry Meeting of 12 December 1918 record a decision that the people of Bookham should erect the memorial. The date of unveiling is unknown, but presumed to be the early 1920s. Plaques commemorating the names of the dead of both World Wars are displayed within the church. The designer is also unknown.

**SUMMARY OF IMPORTANCE:** This war memorial commemorates the men of Great Bookham who died during the course of the First World War. It has special interest as a war memorial and because of the Christian symbolism declared by the carefully sculpted figure of Jesus Christ on an embellished octagonal cross. War memorials with figures of Christ are relatively rare among the thousands of listed examples nationally. It has important local interest as the parish of Bookham were given the responsibility to erect the memorial which not only commemorates the fallen but possibly also the skills of local craftsmanship.



GREAT BOOKHAM WAR MEMORIAL STEVENS LIMITED NEMO 4



**St Nicolas Church**

The wording on the War Memorial with the names of the soldiers who died in WW1.  
A postally used Frith postcard showing the War Memorial and Church dated 1957.

1914-1919  
**TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO  
LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES:  
IN THANKSGIVING FOR THOSE  
SPARED TO RETURN: AND IN  
COMMEMORATION OF THE VICTORY  
THEY JOINTLY HELPED TO WIN:**

ERNEST MICHAEL BARNES : ERNEST BARTHOLOMEW :  
ALBERT GEORGE BUNGAY : JOHN STANLEY BARTON :  
ARTHUR CLAPSHAW : GEORGE THOMAS COOK :  
ALBERT DIMENT : WILLIAM EARLE : WILLIAM EDWARDS :  
DOUGLAS AUBREY EDSER : HENRY ETHERINGTON :  
FRANCIS HANDLEY : PHILIP HOLLAND : WILLIAM LIDBITTER :  
CHARLES REOBED LEWER : EDWARD WILLIAM LEWER :  
SAMUEL ROBERT JAMES LEWER : HARRY MILLARD :  
FREDERICK WILLIAM NOAKES : WILLIAM GORDON PENDER :  
FRANK PENFOLD : CHARLES RANGER : THOMAS REID :  
GEORGE HENRY ROLLINSON : GRANVILLE WALKER SMITH :  
ALRED SMITH : ARTHUR STEMPE : GEORGE SHEPHERD :  
WALTER SMITH : ALBERT TOMSETT : ERNEST TOMSETT :  
WILLIAM WILLIAMS : HENRY WOODS : ERNEST WYVERN  
**THEIR GLORY SHALL NOT BE BLOTTED OUT:  
THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE**





## The Bookhams

### St Nicolas Church

The WWI plaque, with the WWII plaque and underneath a list of Parishioners who served in the Second World War. The Parish Book of Remembrance, which contains memos of Parishioners whose families wish them to be remembered is kept on the east side of the nave under the list of incumbents.

A Frith postcard c1900s showing the War Memorial and Church.





## The Bookhams

### St Nicolas Church

A postcard from B.S.W & Co that has been postally used dated 1910. Below is a Frith's Series postcard of the Church Path with Church Cottages on the right and Aberdeen House and Gothic House at the end of the path.





### St Nicolas Church

#### **Our Church and the use of St Nicholas by the congregation and the wider community**

The church is used for regular worship on Sundays at: 8.00 a.m. holy communion; 10.00 am. Parish communion, but on first Sunday of the month Family Service and 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion; and 6.30 pm. evensong every Sunday. On Wednesdays there is a Pram Service at 2.00 p.m. and Said Holy Communion on Thursdays at 10.00 a.m.. The church has an active Sunday school. The church electoral role is 292 (in April 2004). About 250 people worship each week of whom around 160 take communion. The church is also used for baptisms, weddings, funerals, memorial services, flower and music festivals, a pageant and other celebrations. The local choral society regularly gives concerts and many other local organisations such as schools, scout troops and the British Legion hold services in church.

A Judges postcard c1960s.



GT. BOOKHAM ST. NICOLAS CHURCH

C-03074X



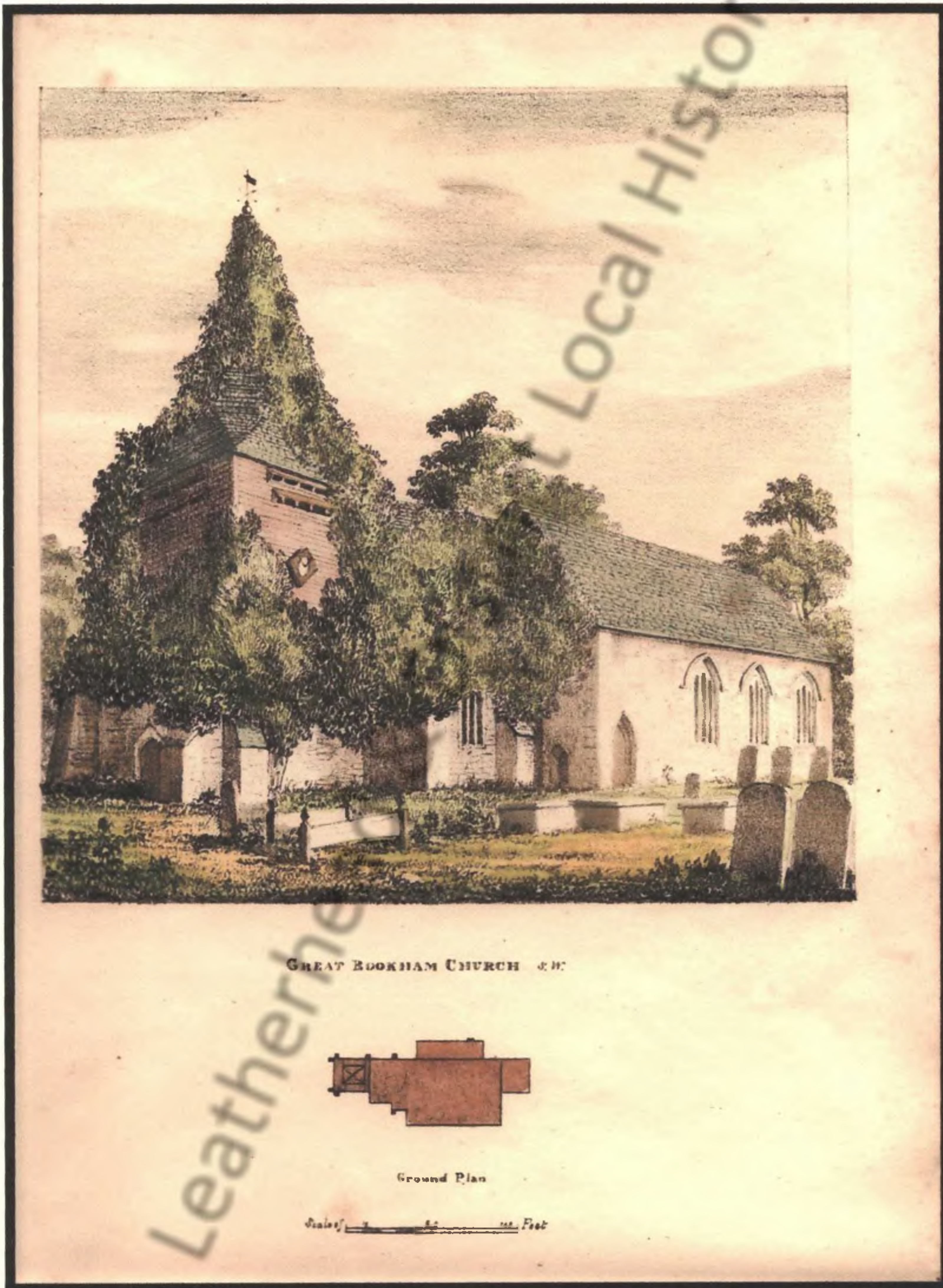
The Duke and Duchess of York (future King George VI and Queen Elizabeth) are leaving St Nicolas church on Sunday 29th April 1923 after attending morning service while on their honeymoon at Polesden Lacey, They are accompanied by the rector's Warden, Stanley Russell of Elmcroft, and the people's Warden, Sidney Madge, the butcher.



**St Nicolas Church**

A copy of the original colour lithographic taken from the book: Lithographic Views of Churches and Chapels of Ease in the County of Surry by Charles Thomas Cracklow published in 1827.

Charles Thomas Cracklow was an architect and surveyor who meticulously recorded Surrey's churches in beautifully detailed drawings and engraved them for publication using the relatively new invention of lithography – or drawing on stone. Each drawing is accompanied by a measured plan of the church and a description, providing important information for the appearance of the county's churches before later alterations.





# The Bookhams

## St Nicolas Church from 1790 to 1846

These images from left to right are dated 1790, 1811, 1820, 1823, 1829, 1846, 1866.

