

of the old parish church were used to enlarge the Priory church or chapel, and the parishioners were given the right to worship in it. Thenceforward there was only one church in Easton, namely the Priory church.

A.D. 1493

The Church houses and buildings of the Priory were largely destroyed by fire and the brothers received permission from the King Henry VII to beg for alms throughout the country in aid of their restoration.

A.D. 1536

Henry VIII 's commisioners, in connection with the dissolution of the monasteries at the time of the Reformation, reported that the church at Easton, as well, as the mansion & outbuildings of the Priory was in a condition of great disrepair.

The Priory & all its property passed into the hands of the Seymour family, who had succeeded the Estudmys as Hereditary Wardens of Savernake Forest and became the owners.

A.D. 1590

The Church being then almost in ruins, was finally pulled down.

The tombs & memorials that it contained of the Esturmy family who had been Hereditary Wardens of the Royal Forest of Savernake from the year 1083 to the year 1417, and of the Seymour family, who had succeeded them, had been "either whollie speyled or verie much defaced", and all traces of these have disappeared.

But the body of Sir John Seymour, who had been buried in it in 1536, was removed & entomed at Great Bedwyn by his grandson, Edward Seymour, Earl of Hereford.

A.D. 1591

The Present Church was built, more probaly on the same site by Edward Seymour; Earl of Hereford. Itv was one of the small group, built at that time, which did not contain chancels and it still retains that feature.

A.D. 1852-1853

The Church was extensively restored & the present tower, containing the vestry added by the Marquess of Ailesbury, whose family had succeeded the Seymours as Hereditary Wardens & owners of Savernake Forest. The restoration was so extensive that only a few traces remain of the Elizabethan church in parts of the walls, the porch, and the west door. The stained glass memorial window in the east end was unveiled in 1865.

ALL THE ABOVE NOTES ARE BASED ON EXISTING DOCUMENTS. HHB.

Recent discoveries have shown that the present church is probably standing on the site of the original parish church. Wilts Arch Soc. 1950.

In memory of Sir Henry Howarth Bashford 1880 – 1961 and his wife Margaret Eveline (Daisy) 1885-1955

Source: Holy Trinity Church