



Silverware, Brasses and Other Notable Items of St. Pauls **Extracts from the Book by Pete Lavis**

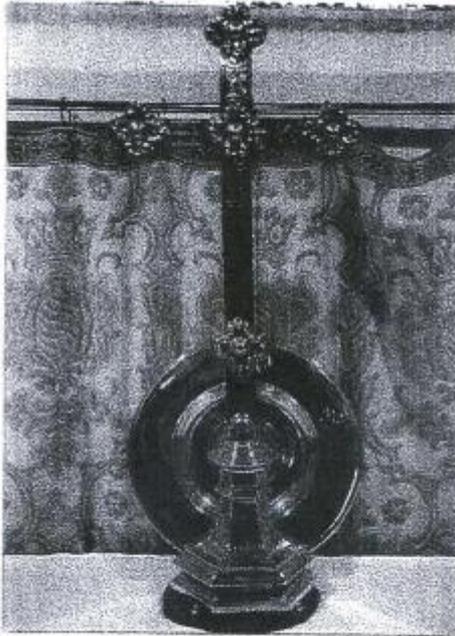
The chapel [at Staverton] had slowly recovered from the traumatic results of Henry's [Henry VIII] purge on the Catholic Church and some of its valuables had been replaced including the acquisition of a solid silver Elizabethan chalice made in 1577. St. Pauls still possesses this rare and priceless item of church 'plate' but because of its great antiquity and value it is kept safely locked away in the vaults of a local Bank and only taken out and used on very special church occasions. The cup used to dispense the wine during communion services in the church today is a silver replica of the 400 years old Elizabethan chalice which was presented to St. Pauls by Julia Blease in 1932.

Also that year [unsure which year], the growing concerns about the security of St. Pauls' priceless Elizabethan silver chalice, hallmarked 1577 which was always kept in the Vestry, resulted in the Church Council deciding that it should be deposited in the vaults of a local Bank for safe keeping. A replica was brought into use in 1932, purchased from a generous gift to St. Pauls by Julia Blease who, four years later, also provided the carved oak communion rails that were installed beneath the chancel arch.



The Elizabethan Chalice

The present altar cross was presented to St. Pauls in 1926 by Mr. And Mrs. Donald Rogers who dedicated it to the memory of Howard Purnell, a chorister of the church, and one of the village men who lost their life in the Great War. Donald Rogers was the Manager of the Nestlé and Anglos Swiss Condensed Milk factory in Staverton, formerly the old village cloth mill, where Howard Purnell had worked as a Tinshop Fitter before being enlisted for active service at the start of the war.



St. Paul's brass altar cross dedicated to Howard Purnell (above), a member of the Church Choir who was killed on the Somme in 1916

The altar cross, made of brass, is dedicated to one of the villages' war dead and its inscription reads:

In loving memory of Howard Purnell
A chorister of this Church
who gave his life in the Great War

Presented by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Rogers
Easter 1926

Howard Purnell was killed at the Battle of the Somme in 1916

By the end of the war, four years later, seven men from the Parish had made the supreme sacrifice and their names were recorded for posterity on the Church's' brass eagle lectern which from that moment on became the village war memorial.



St. Paul's brass eagle lectern
and village War Memorial

The Church's eagle lectern, a fine example in solid brass, is located in the south east corner of the Nave, and replaced an earlier, and much smaller one, made of oak. Besides its normal church function it also represents the village War Memorial and the engraving on it reads as follows:

In honoured memory of the men of this Parish
Who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1919

Captain Harold C. Clark
Private Howard Purnell
L/Cpl. Albert E. Ash
Private William H. Gay
Cpl. Alec J. Hudd
Private Frank R. Holloway
Seaman Stanley W. Gardiner

Also in World War 1939-1945

Private Reginald W. Carter, Wilts Reg.
P/O John H. D. Hammond, RAF
Sgt. Herbert F. Slatford, A/G RAF

Plain brass candlesticks decorate the altar top and the frontal for the holy table was presented to the church by Julia Blease.

Other valuable items of church 'plate' include a paten hallmarked 1855 and a plated flagon. The offertory plates are modern, made of brass, and inscribed with the words "Freely you have received. Freely give" on old English.

A small china font, from St. Mary Magdalene, Oxford, a Victorian illustrated John Brown Bible, and a Cambridge Press Bible, donated to St. Pauls by Philip Maddock in 1861, can be included in the church's list of 'valuables'.

Extracts taken from "A History of St. Pauls Church, Staverton by Pete Lavis