



STRATTON HISTORY STOLEN FROM CHURCH

In these days churches have to be kept locked when not in use. Such has been the case at St. Margaret's, Lower Stratton: but when left open for parishioners to go in and out to decorate the church for a funeral, a mean miserable thief crept in threw flowers under the altar and stole a pair of pewter vases. These were part of an altar set of cross, candlesticks and vases on the altar in the south side.

Dr. Fuller tells us that this pewter set was placed there in 1949 as a memorial to Frederick Blake J.P. a long serving member of both Parish and Church Councils, a Churchwarden and organist for many years. At the beginning of the Civil War in England, the Revd. Christopher Jole gave a chalice and other silver plate to be melted down for Cavalier funds. King Charles presented Stratton with cheaper items of pewter. The pewter chalice and patten were renovated for use in 1949, but a large flagon and two large pattens (plates) were too far gone for restoration. These were melted down and helped to provide the pewter used in the making up of this altar set. Poor Christopher Jole was later turned out of Stratton Church and Vicarage by Oliver Cromwell's Roundheads, but he did come back at the Restoration of Charles II.

So a valuable bit of Stratton's local church history has disappeared. Maybe the thief has a conscience and will find some way of returning the vases.

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