Chancel Text repainted 3/9/1991

On the nave side of the chancel arch there was painted in bold black letters "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord".

Decoration

At the redecoration in the 1920's this text was obliterated by the workmen who distempered the church and was not again repainted, though prick holes were marked to indicate the extent and position of the letters. Some of them can still be faintly distinguished.

Restoration 1925

This text can be clearly seen in photographs taken during the restoration when the church was reseated and repaired about 1925.

Taken from "Pulmans Weekly News" 2nd June 1959
One hundred years ago.

1859

Extracts from "Pulmans" of 1859.

Leyfitt.

Chapel

The foundation stone of the Free Chapel was laid at Beacon, in this parish on Thursday by Mr R.B. Evans of Bolyton. After the ceremony an excellent tea was provided by Mrs Hurford assisted by several other ladies. About 120 sat down. A chapel was much needed in this part of the parish. The site was kindly given by Mr Hurford, who, with his family is deeply interested in the good work.

Incumbents of Luppitt

Rectors

1247 Henry le Flemmyng
1266 Baldwin de Mohun
1267 Robert de Toneworth
1272 John de Godeleigh
1273 Robert de Pentelowe
1312 William de Leycestre
1327 John de Whyteby
1336 Robert de Grymestone

1793 Samuel How
1796 John Cabbell
1856 George Watts Grainger
1880 William Thomas Perrott
1918 Ralph Bleaw Alexander
1923 Francis Thomas Maydew
1927 James Frederick Prowse
1984 Basil Arthur Finn
1955 Alfred John Robjohns
1958 James Frederick Prowse

Vicars

See P. 137

1344 Walter de Spekyngtone
1349 Richard de Westone
1351 Robert Farmanstone
1381 Vincent Hill
1403 John Basyngham
1403 John Vyan
1416 William Stephens
1438 Richard Somerwylle
1464 John Hembry
1467 Richard Saint
1467 Thomas Stephyn
1469 John Pulsford
1478 John Schaper
1489 John Rymer
1528 Richard Hyckes
1569 Richard Skawe
1573 Walter Knotte
1608 Humphrey Johnston
1639 Thomas Wellman
1662 Jonathan Battishell
1668 Henry Abs Hierome Alley
1671 Thomas Palfrey
1705 Nicholas Lockyer
1754 John Windsor

In remembrance of the work of the Revd W. T. Perrott, Vicar of Luppitt 1880 – 1917.

P15. P131.

1923 Restoration of Luppitt Church

Page 202 Cutting from "Sunday Circle" September 15th 1923

A Worthy Task.

In these days of high prices and dear labour, many of our churches and chapels have had perforce to do without even necessary repairs.

Mayden Vicar

However the Rev. Mayden, Vicar of the famous old Luppitt Church (nr Honiton, Devon), has solved the difficulty so far as his own Church is concerned, by doing the work of restoration himself, aided by his parishioners, most of whom are farmers and farm labourers. So enthusiastic are these villagers, and so eager to help, that though they cannot do the actual work themselves, they send spades, barrows, stones, and other implements necessary for the work.

The Vicar can be seen trundling the barrow whilst his helpers are busily repairing the ground floor of the Church. Well done, Mr Vicar. The excellent example set by you and your parishioners is worthy of the highest praise, say I.

Photo

"Western Weekly News" Saturday September 1, 1923.

Seating

The whole of the work of renovating and reseating Luppitt Church has been done by parishioners. On the left the villagers, led by the Vicar (seen with a pole in his hands) are engaged in clearing away the old seats. On the right the work has been completed, the new oaken seats having been fixed, and the church made ready for the reopening, which has since taken place.

Copyright Photograph by E. F. Flint
234 High St. Exeter. District photographer
for the Western Morning News.

3/9/89

14

Verses

This framed poem hangs in the Vestry at East Budleigh.
It was given to the minister there when leaving his former parish.

Sermon

I'd rather see a sermon
Than hear one any day
I'd rather one would walk with me.
Than merely show the way.

The eye is a better pupil.
And more willing than the ear
Fine counsel is confusing
But example's always clear.

The best of all the preachers
Are the men who live their creeds
For to see good put in action
Is what everybody needs.

I soon can learn to do it.
If you'll let me see it done
I can watch your hands in action
But your tongue too fast may run.

The lectures you deliver
May be very wise and true
But I'd rather get my lessons
By observing what you do.

I may not understand
The high advice that you may give
But there's no misunderstanding
How you act and how you live.

Lent by Mrs Hoopes

Cutting from The Western Morning News 3rd August 1923

Luppitt's Ancient Church
Loving work of Restoration.
Vigorous efforts by Parishioners.

Restoration

Love of church is wonderfully typified at Luppitt, a small village about six miles north of Honiton. The depth of the devotion of a congregation to their Church is generally indicated by the regularity of their worship. Such a noble spirit of unselfish service and sacrifice as that displayed by the parishioners of Luppitt in their pride and anxiety for their beautiful fifteenth-century old church is seldom met with. The parish contains 440 souls scattered over 6,000 acres.

Worship

Seating Tower Repairs

For several years the church has been in need of an outlay of over £1,000 on new seating and flooring and repairs to the tower. Two years ago a fund was opened, but up to March of this year only £80 had been collected. In March the parish was thoroughly awakened to the urgency of the need, and too much cannot be said of the enthusiasm and inspiration imparted by the new Vicar who was then instituted, Rev F. T. Haydon.

Haydon

Much has been the vigour of the efforts made since then that alone this small community of working farmers and labourers has raised over £300, an average per head men, women, and children of over 13s. The work inside the church will involve an expenditure of £500, and the funds now about £100 short.

Active Volunteers.

The parishioners decided that their church should be ready again for use within a month of the commencement of the work. Forthwith

to expedite labour and to save funds. Volunteers for carrying out the preliminary work were recruited. The response was even better than the most optimistic had anticipated, with the result that entirely by voluntary labour, the stripping of the church of all its old seating and flooring and the filling in a depth of 18 inches with rubble for the foundation of the new floor, commenced on Monday, was completed on Tuesday evening. There yet remains to be done the laying down of six inches of concrete, floated with cement on top of the rubble, the platform floor, and the fixing of the new oak pews, which have already been made in Taunton. A term of the contract was that the whole of the work should be completed within a month, and the parishioners are lending whatever assistance is necessary throughout the operations.

Floor Seating

Busy workers

It was an incongruous scene which the church of St Mary presented when our representative visited it on the second day after the commencement of the work. The centre stone aisle was a gangway for wheelbarrows, while about a dozen men and youths, including the two churchwardens, worked on either side with rammers, shovels, picks, and plastering tools, without coats, and with shirts open at the neck. Barrow loads of rubble, brought in two carts lent by farmers, from the vicarage, and dumped at the church wicket gate were wheeled in and stamped down, while a plasterer worked on the walls where stucco is to replace the woodwork which planks the pews. The vicar himself wearing nothing over a white sports shirt and trousers,

Churchwardens

had just left the wheelbarrow, in which the previous day he had been wheeling rubble from the gate up the church path into the church from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. with only breaks for meals, to lay the first trowel full of plaster on the walls at the request of his workers. His two sons, ages about 7 and 10, looked on delightedly, while Mrs Maydew also acceded laughingly to the request to try her hand at plastering. A half-dozen or more attached band of workers, seeming to enjoy the labour they were giving on behalf of such a fine object it would be impossible to find.

The women's part

Twenty to 25 men altogether were engaged on the work, most of them farmers, and several farmers sent labourers, more carts and horses were offered than could be made use of. The women folk of the parish are very sensitive about being outdone by the men in this effort, and they have resolved to take their share when the interior work is finished by undertaking the necessary cleaning. "What I feel," said Mrs Maydew to our representative, "is the wonderful atmosphere here in the place. Everybody is asking to work. They will do anything you ask."

Maydew

Seating

He explained that the provision of new seating became necessary through the presence of dry-rot in a very advanced state in the Yuletide pews, installed 50 or 60 years ago. The new pews would be of oak, and they were doing all they could to keep the damp out of the walls. They were following the plans and specifications of Mr Harbottle Reed, the diocesan architect. The church stands on the side of a hill, and the tower is exposed to the full fury of the south-west gales, so that wind and rain have eaten into the stone and plaster. Quite £200 will be needed

Reed

Tower

Roof for its adequate repair. The ancient cradle roof of black oak, which is the original roof is in need of treatment with solignum for preservation.

A beautiful Church

Luppitt's desire to preserve their fine church can be well understood. It is a beautiful piece of Gothic architecture, with a perfect cruciform shape, and their main pride is

Roof in the grand oak roof, which until comparatively recently, was obscured by lath and

Ceiling plaster — probably the work of the Bromwellian Puritans. A fine effect is obtained at the intersection of the transepts, where two massive

Font supporting ribs cross. The font is a remarkable piece of Saxon masonry and carving which was discovered about 40 years ago in a hedge near the church. It was evidently the original church font again probably thrown out in Bromwell's time. The quaint figures carved in unmistakable Saxon style round the sides were also plastered over when it was discovered.

1881 A former stone screen.

Bells The tower contains a nice set of four bells

Chancel The chancel was restored in 1881. As late as this

Screen there used to be a wonderful stone screen across the chancel but this was demolished. Portions have since been discovered in various

Head. parts of the parish, such as the head of the Virgin in the stump of a tree in a gentleman's garden, and several pieces had been made by one person into a fireplace. It is hoped to collect as much of the screen as possible, with a view to its reconstruction.

A rather unusual feature of the church is that there is not a single mural tablet.

The church is quite 700 years old and the

Incumbents record of incumbents of the living goes back as

far as 1266, when Henry le Fleming was the
Alexander incumbent. Mr Mayden succeeded Rev R C Alexander
1923 in March, and he has grown proud of his church
and proud of his parish, as indeed, he has cause to be.
His parishioners are scattered over so wide an area
that the average distance each person has to cover
to come to church on Sundays is two miles each way.
Yet there is an average attendance at the morning
service of 80, and at the evening service of over 150.
On special occasions there has not been room to seat
everybody though there is accomodation for 300. The
average Sunday collection for this year is £2. There
Choir is a choir of 25 men, boys and girls, and Mr Mayden
is preparing 17 candidates for confirmation. The usual
activities of the parish are by no means suspended
during the work of improvement. Services on Sunday
will be held in the open air at the Vicarage if the
School weather allows, and in the school if wet, whilst the
school is also being utilised for the various classes.

The Vicar's Record.

The vicar was assiduous in bestowing all the
credit for the wonderful work that is being done
upon the parishioners themselves, and without doubt
they are worthy of the highest praise. But despite
Mr Mayden's modesty it is obvious that he is the
source and centre of all the enthusiasm and
perseverance. The parishioners love to be led by a
man with such a genial personality and such
energy and optimism. He has a strong belief in the
interchange of ideas resulting from clergy working
in different parts of the country, from those in
which they were brought up, and certainly the
efficacy of this is apparent in his own case.

Mr Mayden is a Midlander, who has had a very
strenuous career. For some time he was working
India in the slums in London, and later went to India
for two years to take charge of a colliery parish
of 1000 square miles with eight church districts
at Chota Nagpur in the province of Bihar and

Orissa. His "war" work consisted of working down a coal pit eight hours a day. "So this is nothing fresh to me" he told our representative with a smile, as he surveyed his grimed and galled hands and muddy shoes.

A very serious illness enforced his return to England, and last year he was organising secretary to the Waifs and Strays Society. Now Luppitt has the benefit of his wonderful keenness and driving power. He has yet a Hall project in view for building a parish hall, to brighten the social life of the parish.

An appeal.

In an appeal which is circulating in the diocese the vicar says:— "We are venturing to issue an appeal to those who love the Church, and especially to those who care to see ancient fabrics kept from decay, to help us in our struggle to restore our Church. We have since March of this year raised over £300 in the parish itself, and it is only because we have tried to help ourselves that we feel justified in asking other Church people to come to our assistance."

Bishop The Bishop of Exeter adds the following note to the appeal:— "I heartily endorse this appeal and recommend it to the generosity of those who love our Devonshire churches. The vicar is doing an excellent work in this parish."

The vicar hopes to have the church formally Bishop reopened on August 29 by the Bishop of Crediton.

Printed Invitation Card

The Vicar and Churchwardens of Luppitt cordially invite the presence of ----- at S. Mary's Church Luppitt, at 2-30 P.M. on Monday, October 26th, 1925, for A GREAT SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING for the COMPLETION OF THE CHURCH RESTORATION.

Preacher: The Lord Bishop of Crediton.

Tea will be provided for all Parishioners and Friends.

Luppitt Vicarage, Honiton. R.S.V.P. to the Vicar.

Porch

Board in the Porch.

Restorations

1869
1886
1926

The Incorporated
Church Building Society
granted £35 AD 1869. £25 AD 1886 and
£20 AD 1926 towards re-seating and
repairing this Church upon condition that
all the sittings are for the free use of the
Parishioners, and that a collection be given
annually to the Society.

Cookson Memorial

To the beloved memory of
George Arthur Cookson
Major General C.B., C.M.G.
of Halsdon, who worshipped
in this Church for many
years. Thou wilt keep him in
perfect peace, whose mind is
stayed on Thee. 1869 — 1929.

1869-1929

Valentine Memorial 1939

1943

1939 1945
Reginald John Valentine
Royal Army Service Corps
Killed in North Africa
18th February 1943
PRO PATRI MORI

Thorpe Memorial

The chair in the chancel bears the inscription

In memory of
Edith Mary Stewart Thorpe.
for some years an earnest church-worker
in this parish and rural deanery who
1922 died 26th November 1922.
This chair was given by the subscriptions
of a few friends.

Mothers Union Photo

The framed photograph on the East Wall of the North Transept is of the Mothers Union Lady Chapel in Exeter Cathedral. It was provided by the Pulpitt Branch in 1953 and bears the inscription.

1953

In commemoration of
the coronation of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
2nd June 1953.

Reredos

The reredos bears the inscription

See Page 23A and 24A

In memory of
John Dagg
Churchwarden 1919 — 1943
This reredos was erected by his wife
1957 September 1957

The reredos was the work of Mr Herbert Read of Exeter.