



Church of the Holy Cross, Seend / Information portal

The Chancel Information



Rebuilt in 1876 (except for the lower four feet of walls) to the designs of A J Style, on the initiative of Canon Thynne, who was vicar from 1873 to 1916, a kinsman of the Marquess of Bath and a man of private means and forceful personality. It replaced the 18th century chancel, which Thynne described as ‘a specimen of poor workmanship and utterly debased detail’. Style’s design follows the perpendicular stonework of the nave and aisles. Thynne encouraged his parishioners to embellish the rebuilt chancel in memory of their loved ones, and the results can be seen in the windows, reredos and oak sedilia. One unfortunate result of the rebuilding was that several of the old memorial tablets were refixed so high on the walls they are virtually unreadable. One of them commemorates Lady Mary Biscoe, the only sister of Lord William Seymour and daughter of the eighth Duke of Somerset, who lived at Seend Green House (now Seend Park), the large house on the brow of the hill at the south-east corner of the village. Lady Mary is also remembered by a brass plaque in the centre aisle. The brass standard lights and altar rails were cast by Mr Singer of Frome in 1876.