

HISTORY OF ST MARGARET OF ANTIOCH CHURCH HINTON WALDRIST



Hinton Waldrist Church is situated in Church Road, Hinton Waldrist near Faringdon, Oxfordshire. The Church is in the Deanery of the Vale of White Horse, in the Archdeaconry of Dorchester, and within the Diocese of Oxford. It is one of 7 churches in the United Benefice of Cherbury with Gainfield, the others being situated in the villages of Buckland, Charney Bassett, Littleworth, Pusey, Longworth and Lyford.

THE VILLAGE

Hinton Waldrist is an ancient village with a long and interesting history. The coat of arms is that of the St Valery family, Norman French knights who came to England with William the Conqueror in 1066. Their loyalty was rewarded with the granting of land at Hinton, together with the castle that once stood in what is now the grounds of Hinton Manor.

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Hinton is an Anglo-Saxon village name meaning “high settlement”. It was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1085 as “Hentone”, the lord of the manor being Odo of Winchester. Early in the 12th Century, ownership of the manor was granted by Henry I to Guy de St Valery. The manor remained in the St Valery family until 1327, and the village became known as Hinton St Valery – subsequently corrupted to Hinton Waldrist.

The de Bohun Family

In 1332, the manor came into the hands of William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton. His grand-daughter Mary de Bohun, who grew up in Hinton, later became the mother of King Henry V. On the death of Henry V, Hinton Manor was granted to his widow Catharine, and it remained in the hands of the crown for another two hundred years. The present house dates from that period – it was built by Dr George Owen, Royal Physician, in about 1550.

Mary de Bohun (c.1368 – 1394) was the daughter of Humphrey de Bohun, the 7th Earl of Leicester and Joan FitzAlan. Mary was a wealthy heiress but was prepared by her brother-in-law to enter a convent so that he might gain her inheritance for himself.



15th century window on south of nave with King Henry Vth coat of arms

At the age of 12 Mary was removed from Pleshey Castle and married to Henry Bolingbroke, the future King Henry IV. One of her 6 children was to become King Henry V.

Mary spent some time living in Hinton Manor after her marriage, and worshipped in our church with her infant son Henry. His royal coat of arms is shown in a glass window dating from the early 15th C on the south wall of the nave.

The Marten Family

In 1627, Charles I leased Hinton Manor to Sir Henry Marten, judge of the High Court of Admiralty. His son Henry Marten was a prominent republican and ally of Oliver Cromwell. Marten was one of the signatories on the death warrant of Charles I in 1649 – a so-called “regicide”. Although he owned Hinton Manor, Henry Marten’s principal residence was Longworth House. Perhaps surprisingly, he was not sentenced to death by Charles II after the Restoration, but was imprisoned in Chepstow Castle until his death in 1680.

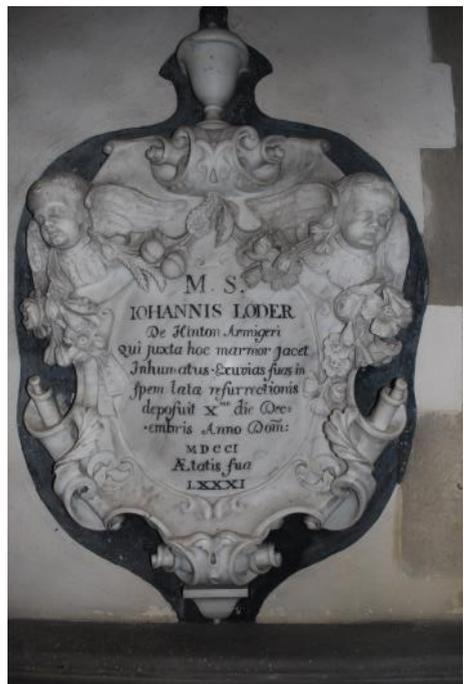
The Loder-Symonds Family

John Loder purchased Hinton Manor in 1668 as part of a deal by Henry Marten to clear his debts. The Loder family, which became the Loder-Symonds family after the property was passed down through a Loder daughter who married Robert Symonds, occupied Hinton Manor until 1934.

The family owned the entire parish of Hinton Waldrist and a large part of the parish of Longworth, and prospered as gentleman farmers through many generations. As well as being “lords of the manor”, three members of the Loder-Symonds family also occupied the position of Rector, namely Rev Seymour Loder (1717-1743), Rev John Loder (1749-1802), and Rev Robert Symonds (1802-1836). At least one descendant of the Loder Symonds family still lives in Hinton, a great-granddaughter of Captain F. C. Loder-Symonds.

Right; memorial to John Loder, Lord of Hinton Manor who died in 1701.

Below: Loder-Symonds coat-of-arms



THE CHURCH

There was a Saxon church on this site recorded in the Domesday Book, but the present building dates from 1250. The south transept was added in 1290, and the nave was widened some years later in the 14th C. The church has stood virtually as you see it today for some 750 years. This beautiful 13th century cruciform plan church was built in limestone with a stone slate roof. It is Grade II* listed.

*View looking east from
the nave towards the
chancel and altar*



One of the oldest parts of the church today is the three-storey bell-tower at its western end with a peal of six bells. Three bells date from 1709. They are rung every week on Thursday evenings starting at 7:30 pm by a team from the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers.

You entered the church through the Porch which was added in the 19th C. You can see the original stoup to the right of the door, originally used to hold holy water. On your left is the 19th century font used for baptisms, and dedicated to Elizabeth Tayler, aunt of the famous Victorian photographer T.R. Williams.



The 6-bay wooden truss roof was replaced in the 19th century. The Chancel has several 13th C windows with a one-light 19thC window



The South transept was added in the late 13th century and now serves as the Airey Neave chapel. There is a stained-glass window in memory of Airey Neave DSO OBE MC who was the local MP and lived in the village until he was killed by terrorists in 1979. He was imprisoned in Colditz Castle during WW2 and became the first British officer to successfully escape. He also helped to save Chartres Cathedral from bombing, and this window serves to remind us of these exploits.

The North transept serves as our vestry and has late 13thC windows. There was a major restoration in the 1880's when the present pulpit and font were added. In October 2016 the church was closed for 11 months for extensive re-roofing works; about 90% of the stone roof slates were replaced. A new lath and plaster ceiling was also completed which is more faithful to the original building methods.



Detail of an angel from the window at the east end, above the altar.

There are 23 on the church electoral roll, but services for major festivals attract twice this number. Normal services include both 1662 Prayer Book and Common Worship Communion. We hope you enjoy your visit to our church and you are most welcome to join our services.

Rector of the Benefice is The Revd Talisker Tracey-MacLeod;
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Associate Priest: Revd Jim Mynors;
email : jim@mynors.me.uk

You are most welcome at our Sunday services; for details please see:
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