



WINDOW ON THE PAST UPTON GREY

Notes on the John Jenkyns Collection of Papers and Photographs By Patrick Symington

(Draft 3, 23 November 2021. Areas for further research highlighted in yellow)

Introduction and provenance

Trevor Hart was a local historian who collected historical information on Upton Grey for around 30 years until his death in 2020¹. Amongst his papers, which are now in the WINDOW ON THE PAST (WOTP) archive, was a collection of papers and around 50 photographs which for which he had prepared an index headed 'The Revd. John Jenkyns papers and photographs' (see Additional File 2 (AF2) uploaded with this Entry). John Jenkyns was vicar from 1985-1998 and he probably passed the collection to Trevor Hart around the time of his leaving in 1998².

The context of these papers imply that John Jenkyns had collected some of the photographs himself. There is correspondence indicating that he was trying to collect a gallery of photos of former incumbents of St Mary's Church to display in the church. It doesn't appear that he got very far with this. However, other documents and most probably most of the photos appear to have been passed down from former incumbents. Several documents date back to before his time as incumbent, the earliest ones being 1933.

Most importantly, there is a collection of around 15 very early photographs of the church and the village dated to around 1880 (see below), which provide an invaluable record of the village at that time and are the oldest photos we have of the village. (See notes below on the 'vestry photos' and the 'mounted photos').

There are other sundry photos from the early and mid-20th century. These include:

- a photo portrait of a lady 'thought to be Miss Bodington daughter of Rev H J Bodington'³ (vicar 1898-1918).
- photos of the dedication of the church bells in 1933 (see below)
- an assortment of around 12 pictures (some in the form of postcards) mainly of the church but some of the village more generally. These date from c1905 to c1960 and may have been collected by John Jenkyns or one or more of the earlier vicars. These are highlighted

¹ See WOTP database Entry ID 529 for a biography of Trevor Hart

² This is the recollection of Sheila Hart, Trevor's wife. The index Word document is internally dated as no later than 2000. Trevor also left a folder of copies of 'Copies of documents in John Jenkins [sic] Parish History file TJPH – 21/6/96'. The originals of these documents are still in an old blue folder hand labelled 'Parish History' which appears to have been pulled from a parish filing archive (or similar) as it has a reference '26/ADM/BEN/PH' handwritten on it with a note underneath saying 'Opened Jan 89', presumably by John Jenkyns.

³ According to a handwritten note on the reverse

green in the index at AF2, and most of them have their own Entry in the WOTP database [a few still to be processed]

- pictures of Henry Sewell (vicar 1922-37) apparently obtained by John Jenkyns from his family⁴.

Other photos are comparatively modern showing views inside and outside the Church. The photos of the new gallery can be dated to around 1991 when it was built, in John Jenkyn's own time. Other similar looking photos were probably taken by JJ or one of his parishioners around the same period. Trevor Hart did not appear to consider them of historical interest⁵.

The reverses of some of the photos have references (e.g. '408P8/9') and other handwritten notes which appear to be (mainly?) in the same hand but it is not known who made these notes, how old they are and what the reference numbers refer to. They are probably not in Trevor Hart's handwriting. They may have been made by John Jenkyns or earlier. 'Police Cottages', written on photo C-1, is what Spinners was called around 1900 and probably for some time afterwards, but probably not in John Jenkyns' time. This might indicate that the notes are older. The references have been noted on Trevor Hart's index (AF2) and the notes have been transcribed in my table describing the 'mounted' photos below.

Further notes on the rest of the collection have yet to be prepared.

The early vestry photographs (some not mounted)

There are 6 framed photos, all of the Church itself, currently hanging in the vestry (see picture below)⁶.



⁴ See correspondence in the John Jenkyns collection (to be reviewed)

⁵ He has not attempted to date them and did not include them in his generally comprehensive collection of historical photos of the village.

⁶ Picture taken at the time of writing, October 2021. They have probably been hanging there since at least the time of John Jenkyns' incumbency.

They all appear to be original photographs, although in a variety of frames some of which appear to be newer. The two photos on the right appear to be part of the mounted set (discussed in the next section), with what appear to be original mountings inside frames (which also look old).

The other 4 photos (i.e. excluding the two mounted photos on the right), listed in the following table, do not have cardboard mounts and have newer frames:

| Ref | Year | Entry ID* | Short description |
|-------|-------|-----------|--|
| E-4-2 | c1860 | 492 | The Church [Top left in above picture] |
| E-4a | c1870 | 493 | The Church (coloured picture probably from a photo) [Top centre] |
| E-4c | c1880 | 497 | Interior of Church showing font and boiler [Bottom left] |
| D-2 | c1880 | 231 | Church and cottages in Church Meadow [Bottom Centre] |

*This is the WOTP database Entry ID, where a high-quality copy of the photo can be viewed

The first two in the table can be dated to before the renovations of around 1879 when, amongst other changes, the ivy was cleared and the access to the bell tower changed. Also, the old ‘cupolo’ on the top of tower⁷ appears to have been removed around this time. Photo E-4-2 shows the clock with a diamond shaped face, which is not seen in any other photos, so is dated even earlier than E-4a. There appears to be at least a few years’ ivy growth round the porch between E-4-2 and E-4a and further growth in E-4aa (see below, also pre-renovation, dated to c1877). Trevor Hart dated them as c1860 and c1870 but they could be slightly later (but no later than c1870 and c1877). This dates the oldest photograph to the earliest days of landscape and architectural photography which didn’t start until the 1850s⁸.

Photo E-4c shows the font and boiler inside the Church. There is no information to specifically date this photo, but it appears to be from around the same time. In 1905 Miss G F (Georgiana) Martin completed some notes on the history of the church. Copies of these, taken by Trevor Hart in 1996, indicate that this photo (along with mounted photos E-4aa and E-4b, see below) illustrated her description of the renovations of the church c 1878⁹. It is likely that these photos were taken around the time Mr J Oldrid Scott, a London architect, was commissioned to make a complete survey of the church for the purpose of restoration, in 1877. She would have been involved in and witnessed the restorations herself as the daughter of the Lord of the Manor, having been born in 1851¹⁰ and lived in Upton Grey House from around 1870 until 1902¹¹. Trevor Hart does not mention the installation of a boiler¹² (which is clearly the main feature of this photo and would have made a big difference to worshippers!) in his history of the Church, but it seems likely that it was installed as part of the renovations c1879.

Photo D-2 (which appears to be actually two photos overlapped to make a broader panorama – see copy below) is a view of the Church from the top of Church Street.

⁷ The ‘cupolo’ is referred to in the inscription on the clock as having been donated at the same time as the clock, in 1761

⁸ <https://www.britannica.com/technology/photography>

⁹ Source: notes of conversation with Trevor Hart in 2017. Miss Martin’s notes are in the Hampshire Record Office [add ref] and there is a copy in the WOTP archive. See Entry ID XX for further details on Miss Martin’s work. Further research in this area could throw more light on the connection between these photos and Miss Martin.

¹⁰ Source, Trevor Hart

¹¹ These were the dates her father bought and sold the Upton Grey Estate – see Entry ID 650 History of Upton Grey House (1996) and other sources including sale particulars from both dates.

¹² Further research into Miss Martin’s history and other records could probably confirm this

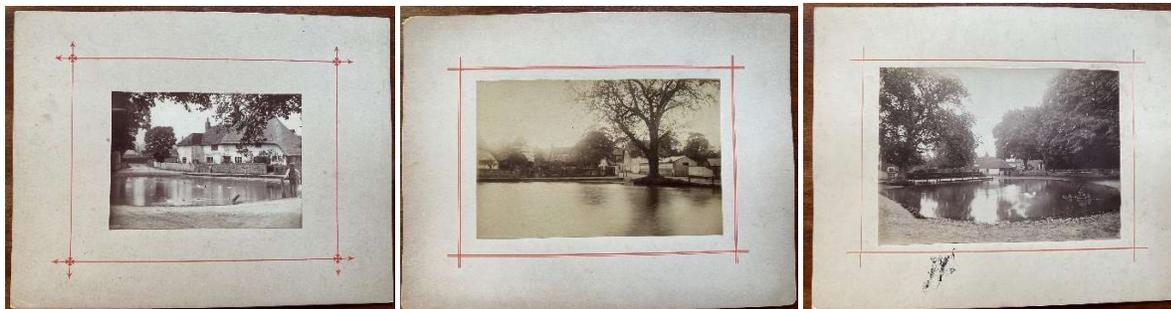


The field above the Church is now part of the Manor House gardens which were created around 1907. However, farm buildings were along this boundary until 1877 when they were pulled down and the churchyard was levelled and extended to the current position by the gift of Admiral Martin¹³. So this photo must be after 1877. Church meadow, on the right of this photo, shows a row of thatched cottages which are described in the 1870 sale particulars and are also shown in a map from 1887 (see Entry ID 709) but had been cleared away by Admiral Martin by the time he sold the estate in 1902¹⁴. A record from this time says that the cottages were cleared away after one of the occupants, 'Johnny' Woodman, died in 1884¹⁵, and implies that it wasn't long after this, so probably by 1890¹⁶. So this photo must have been taken between 1877 and around 1890. Trevor Hart dated it to c1880.

The early mounted photographs

The table below lists these 11 photos

There are three slightly different mounting designs ('A' to 'C' from left) as shown below:



They are all similarly mounted and framed with red lines but mounting 'A' has crosses and arrows in the corners, mounting 'B' a double red line and mounting 'C' a single red line.

The photos and hence mountings are also of differing sizes

¹³ See Trevor Hart's pamphlet on the history of St Mary's Church, p13. The farm buildings can be seen on the map (Entry ID 518) with the sale particulars of the Upton Grey estate in 1870.

¹⁴ See sale particulars of this sale [ref TBC] and accompanying map (Entry ID 619).

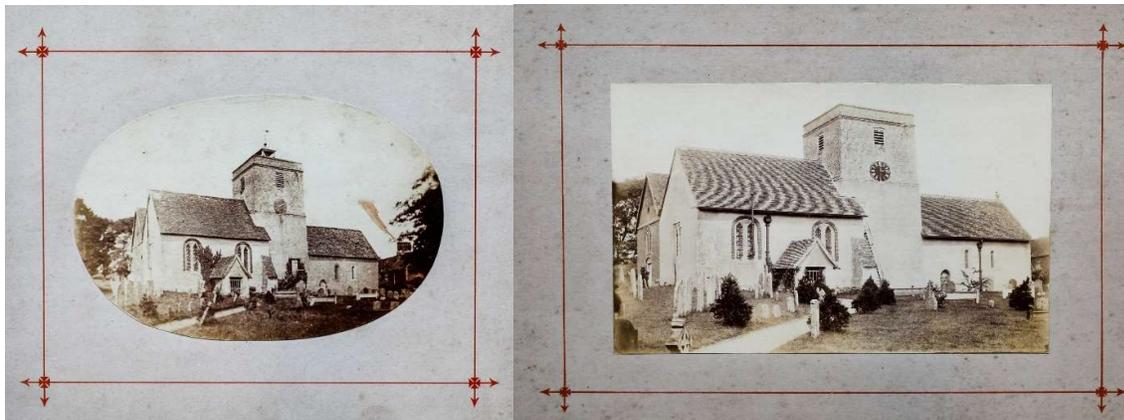
¹⁵ See Entry ID 594

¹⁶ And maybe as early as 1885 – the 1887 map may not have been right up to date.

The mounted photos are listed in the following table:

| Ref | Year | Entry ID | Description |
|--------|-------|----------|---|
| E-4aa | c1877 | 494 | [Vestry] The Church [Mounting A] |
| E-4aaa | c1877 | 495 | Interior of Church - chancel and arch <i>Note on reverse 'Upton Grey'</i> |
| E-4b | 1880 | 496 | [Vestry] The Church [A] |
| A-1 | c1880 | 144 | Pond, Willow Cottage and The Old School House [A] |
| B-1 | c1880 | 147 | Pond looking North up Church Street [B] |
| B-2 | c1880 | 149 | Pond, looking east to Village Farm House [C] |
| C-1 | c1880 | 151 | 'Police cottages' (now The Spinners) and Wayside [A] <i>Note on reverse 'Police Cottages'</i> |
| L-1 | c1880 | 523 | View of the village looking from Hoddington [C] <i>Note on reverse 'Village from Hoddington looking N'</i> |
| F-1 | c1880 | 317 | Cottages on the Weston Road looking from the Upton Grey side [A] <i>Note on reverse: 'Weston Rd from NE looking SW'</i> |
| D-3 | c1880 | 613 | The Old Vicarage (then Rectory) [C] |
| B-3 | c1890 | 249 | Mr M W Barnes, Sexton, and family in front of Gables House [C] <i>Note on reverse: 'Flemish bond bricks. 'The Gables' with M W Barnes Sexton'</i> |

E-4aa and E-4b (below), both now in the vestry, appear to be a pair to show the church before and after the renovations of c1879 used by Miss Martin for her notes on the history of the church (see above). Photo E-4aa shows the poor state of repair of the exterior of the Church. E-4aaa also shows the deteriorating state of the internal fabric of the Church at this time. It is likely that both these photos were taken around the time Mr J Oldrid Scott, a London architect, was commissioned to make a complete survey of the church in 1877 for the purpose of restoration. Renovations started in 1879 and finished around 1880¹⁷, which is the likely date of photo E-4b, which shows the church (newly?) painted, the ivy cleared, a new ladder access to the bell tower created and the cupola gone. The churchyard has also been tidied up with the leaning gravestones righted and the grass neatly cut.



Photos A-1, B-1 and B-2 are all of the pond, looking in different directions (these three photos are shown above where I have described the 3 different mountings). In each case they are the oldest

¹⁷ See Trevor Hart's pamphlet on the history of St Mary's Church, p14, particularly regarding the replacement of the external staircase with the ladder which was done in 1880. The likely date of the photos is according to Trevor Hart in notes he left.

photos we have of those views and are clearly older than the next oldest we have from c1900. There is evidence from the parish council minutes that posts and rail(s) were erected in 1896 to prevent cattle walking along the back of the pond and “messaging up the path for pedestrians”. In later photos these posts and rails can be seen blocking off either end of this path but in photos A-1 and B-1 there are no rails and in B-2 it looks pretty muddy round that side of the pond, so possibly still used by cows! The three photos have a similar look and feel and apparent age.

Photos C-1, L-1 and F-1 (copied below) complete the ‘tour’ of the village. C-1 is a view down the bottom of Church Street¹⁸, L-1 shows the main part of the bottom of the village looking down from Hoddington and F-1 is a view of the cottages along Weston Road, taken from around the area of Church Meadow. In each case the photos are clearly older than other photos with similar views from around 1900-1910 although nothing gives a more precise date. The size of the yew-trees (in front of Yewtree Cottage) in F-1 puts it earlier than a photo that can be dated to around 1905.



Photo D-2 is a picture of the Old Vicarage, where the incumbent vicar lived.

Photo B-3 shows Mr M W Barnes, Sexton, and family in front of Gables House. The sexton was an important person in the running of the Church. The descendants of the Barnes family carried out some extensive research on the family, several generations of whom lived in Upton Grey. This dated this photo to around 1890. The girl aged about 10 is probably Amelia Barnes, later Bowman (1880–1939)¹⁹.

Conclusions on dating of vestry and mounted photographs

Two of the vestry photos of the Church are very old indeed, dating from no later than c1860-1870 and 1877 respectively and may have originally been from a different source. It seems very likely that the mounted photos (two of which are in the vestry) were originally collected as a comprehensive photographic record of the village (with the Church as the main focus) and that they were all part of one collection. The other two vestry photos, although now framed without mountings, also appear to be part of the same collection. The photos have a similar ‘feel’ to them, and the photographer has composed them carefully creating atmosphere and, in some cases, capturing villagers going about their daily lives. On the Photo Gallery page of the WOTP website we have arranged the 10 outdoor pictures²⁰ to give an impression of an ‘1880 tour’ of the village.

¹⁸ The annotation on the back, ‘Police Cottages’, refers to what Spinners was called around 1900 (and afterwards) because the village’s resident constable lived there [source: Trevor Hart, *Upton Grey and the Great War*]

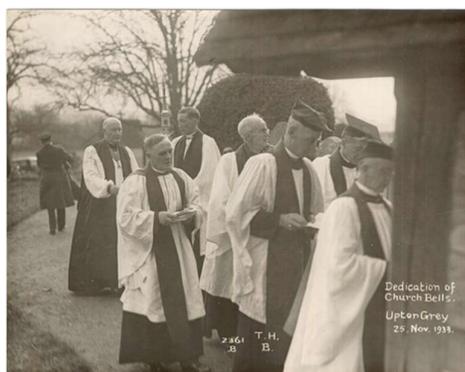
¹⁹ Source: Trevor Hart. **Cross-reference and ultimate source to be added when loaded onto WOTP database**

²⁰ This includes all the photos dated c1880 in the tables except the one of the interior of the church, and also the picture of Gables House dated c1890.

The 'before' and 'after' the restoration works photos can be accurately dated to either side of 1880 when these works were done. The pictures of the village are all almost certainly from before around 1900, and several can be dated to (variously) before 1890 (photo ref D-2), before 1896 (A-1 and B-1) and around 1890 (B-3). They appear to be of a similar age and have all been placed in similar mountings that appear to be old and probably from the time the collection was brought together. Trevor Hart dated all the photos that can't be more specifically dated to c1880. The evidence appears to strongly support this, and it is unlikely that any of them are later than around 1890. It seems likely that the collection had been assembled by around 1900, possibly by the then incumbent²¹ or possibly by Miss Martin, and then handed down to subsequent incumbents and/or stored in parish archives.

Dedication of the Church Bells 1933

These photos (copies below) are from the occasion of the dedication of the church bells after they were rehung in 1933. The main photo shows the celebrants for the dedication processing into the church. A fine collection of motor cars from that period can be seen parked in Church Meadow. A second photo shows a close-up of the celebrants (at the back of the procession in the main photo) as they entered the church porch. In the background a man, possibly a chauffeur, appears to be carrying an armful of coats back to the cars.



The initials 'T H B' on the photos stand for Terry Hunt, Basingstoke and his reference numbers (2361 A & B) are also on the face of the photos. Terry was most active in the first 2 or 3 decades of the 20th century, taking numerous photos of Basingstoke and surrounding villages on glass slides. Terry Hunt's original glass slides are in the Hampshire Record Office.

These photos are dated 25 November 1933 and the prints in the collection appear to be from that time. They are large (9"x6") professional prints: two copies of the main photo, one of which is embossed with Terry Hunt's business stamp and has "Copyright Terry Hunt Photographer, Basingstoke" printed on the reverse; one large print of the additional photo and a smaller (5"x3") copy printed as a postcard.

²¹ The most likely incumbent to have acquired the earliest photographs is George Jeudwine (1875-1884). The previous incumbent, Henry Rookin, died at an old age in 1875 and it seems unlikely that he took or commissioned photographs apart from possibly the very earliest one or two. If the photographs were collected a bit later this could have been done by John Kidston (1884-1889) or Robert Heanley (1889-1898). Another, later photo in the collection is thought to be a portrait of the daughter of the Revd Bodington (1898-1919), which points to a possible personal involvement by him.

The additional photo has handwritten notes on the reverse identifying the following: (at the back) the 'Bishop of Winchester, Cyril Garbett (later Archbishop of York)'; 'bearing the ... [next to him?] his Chaplain Rev Arthur Stretton Reeve (later Bp of Lichfield)'; and 'in foreground, LHS', Henry Sewell (the vicar at the time). The postcard copy has not been used as a postcard but also identifies Henry Sewell (but outlining his profile on the reverse side). The notes must have been added later as they have knowledge of the later careers of the celebrants²². They may be in John Jenkyns' hand [TBC].

It seems likely that the photos were commissioned by someone from either the local church or the diocese, most probably Henry Sewell. The second picture, particularly, looks as if it picks him out and he probably had the postcard printed (which would have had limited appeal to anyone else!).

²² According to Wikipedia Cyril Garbett (1875-1955) was archbishop of York 1942-55 and was born in Tongham near Aldershot. (Arthur) Stretton Reeve (1907-1981) was Bishop of Lichfield 1953-74 so the notes must have been written after 1953.