

Letter from K P-B to the Rev. B. Thackeray D. A., The Vicarage, Great Coxwell, Faringdon, Berkshire

Kilmington Manor
Warminster
Wiltshire
April 25 . 71

Dear Dr Thackeray,

To begin with, I forgot to pay my Quaternion subscription – I am so sorry – here it (belatedly) is.

Then – some weeks ago while I was abroad Kitty Williams wrote to ask some questions about the church restorations. I only had her letter on my return the other day, & this is the best I can do.

I don't think anything much structural was done to the church after Jacob Radnor (my great-great-grandfather (1750 – 1829) put in the weird credence table, filled the sanctuary with ancestors, put his coat-of-arms on the altar rail &, I imagine, chopped the window from Angers into a quatrefoil for the East End. That must have been about 1780 – 90, & from Kitty's extract from the Oxford enquirer's letter I think that all the structural work on the chancel must have belonged to that holocaust.

The Angers window was bought by Mark Pleydell (the last Pleydell at Coleshill) Jacob's grandfather, while on his travels, as far as I remember. But I will verify that. I have the cartoon and the particulars somewhere & will look for them: I think the date of the purchase was about 1730 and that the glass was 15th or 16th century. Jacob's son William (1770 – 1869) may have pulled the side chapel about a good deal, I imagine: there are some very odd things about it, as you know. He is certainly supposed to have scrapped all the box pews & put in the sideways ones. And his cousin (Rev. Edward Bouverie -1783 – 1874 – who was vicar for years, took out all the pews in the body of the church & put the present ones in. But I never heard that either of them did much structural alteration.

When we left Coleshill my sister & I turned over all the papers in the muniment room relating to William to the Berkshire Archives at Reading: it might be worth an enquirer's while to contact them as they have the whole lot tabulated I think.

I don't know if you can read my awful writing, or whether any of this is any use anyhow – I don't know anything about the lectern; but I have a sort of shaky recollection that someone told me the gallery had been made out of the old Priest's Room; & I think Jack Curley knows about the days when the choir used to sing up there. But I may have got this mixed.

How splendid that you are getting [???] together again: I am glad.

The best of wishes & forgive this scrawl.

Yours sincerely

Katharine Pleydell-Bouverie

(Transcription: Colin Evins, 21 April '24)