

# WRIGHT'S

(SANDBACH) LTD

PRINTERS and STATIONERS

9 MIDDLEWICH ROAD - SANDBACH - CHESHIRE

Telephone: Sandbach 2416 (2 lines)

The Archdeacon of Macclesfield,  
Gawsworth Rectory,  
MACCLESFIELD,  
Cheshire.

9th April, 1970.  
Our ref: WEP/KO

**Estimate 1748**

Dear Sir,

We thank you for your enquiry ~~of~~  
and we have pleasure in submitting our estimate as follows:

2,000

Booklets, size  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ", 80 pp and 4 pp cover  
Inside pages printed in Black ink on White art  
paper. Cover printed in one colour on outside  
only on tinted cover paper.

Saddle stitched two wires and trimmed flush.

Blocks supplied by you.

Book to be a reprint of text matter only of  
pages 63 - 148 of 'The Manor of Gawsworth'  
plus 8 pp illustrations plus additional matter.

£371. 4s. Od.      The Lot

(These booklets cost out at  $3/3\frac{3}{4}$ d. each)

We trust the above information will be a guide to you, and should  
there be any further information you require, we should be glad to let  
you have this on request.

Yours faithfully,

*W. E. Parsons*  
Managing Director.

Directors:

F. W. Conn, *Chairman*; W. E. Parsons, *Managing*; F. D. Hayward, F.C.C.S., A.A.C.C.A. P. M. Bennett

A Brief Guide  
and architectural notes  
on  
Gawsworth Church.

- - - -

Gawsworth church dedicated to St. James with its incomparable setting by the Silent Pools is entirely Pre-reformation, and is the second church to occupy the existing site.

The first church of Norman date survived until 1482 when the present chancel was erected over and around the ancient Romanesque building. After completion by Sir Thomas Fitton and during the rectorship of George Baguley, the little Norman chapel was taken down revealing a "through church" of nave and chancel.

Previously the present nave built of ironstone, and the widest in the Diocese without arcades, was erected in 1430, and remains of the window heads are to be seen above the screen. Also on the North and South walls are remains of the Holy Water Stoups which served the side altars which formerly stood on either side of the Norman arch leading into the apsidal 11th century chancel.

The noble roofs of the church are magnificent examples of the art of the medieval craftsmen, and the splendid ribbed barrel beam oak ceiling over the nave, 30 feet in width, still richly decorated in original colour and gilt, is the only one of its kind in Cheshire and dates from 1430. Although much faded, figures of angels and saints are still to be seen on the faces of three principal nave roof timbers.

The chancel roof dating from the end of the 15th century

Continued ...

is of three bays each of twelve panels of equal size. The ridge, purlins and rafters being elaborated with an arabesque of fretted enrichment. All the beams being beautifully carved with tracery and elegant bosses.

The present oak screen which divides the chancel from the nave, and occupies the site of the original Pre-reformation rood-screen was erected last century in memory of the Rev. Edward Massie who was responsible for the drastic restoration of the church in 1851. It was this priest who destroyed the medieval wall paintings found on the north and east walls when the white-washing which had accumulated since the early 17th century was removed. Suspended from the cresting of the screen is a pelmet of arms of past and present manorial Lords of Gawsorth. Reading from left to right the arms exhibited are those of -

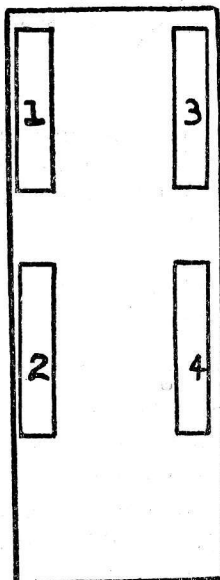
1. Neville, 2. Stafford de Suthwick, 3. Sir Bartholomew de Badlesmere, 4. Baguley, 5. Welwick, 6. Harbottle, 7. Bechton, 8. Orreby, 9. Siddington, 10. Fitton, 11. de Warwicke (Newburgh), 12. Charron, 13. Manboucher, 14. Legh, 15. Beauchamp, 16. Holcroft, 17. Stanhope, 18. Richards.

The monuments, situated within the sacrarium, are all of the Fitton family, formerly Lords of the Manor, and date from 1608-1664. The small numbered plan is a reference to the accompanying notes:

The Monuments, situated within the sacrarium, are all of the Fitton family, formerly Lords of the Manor, and date from 1608—1664. The small numbered plan is a reference to the accompanying notes:

No. 1. The monument in the north-east corner commemorates Sir Edward Fitton, the first baronet, 1572/1619, and his wife Anne, daughter of James Barrett, of Tenby. Observe the rebus on the inscription placed against the east wall reading "Fittons to wear a heavenly diadem." This tomb was formerly canopied and is constructed entirely of alabaster.

No. 2. This monument was set up to the memory of Sir Edward Fitton, Knt., died 1606, but his effigy is lost. The seated figure is that of Dame Alice Fitton who died in 1626, and the kneeling figures are of their four children; the two sons are Edward and Richard and the daughters Anne and Mary, the latter a Maid of Honour to Elizabeth I, and the alleged "Dark Lady" of Shakespeare's Sonnets.



No. 3. This monument commemorates Sir Edward Fitton, second and last baronet, who died at the Seige of Bristol 1643, and his wife Jane, daughter of Sir John Trevor of Plas Têg, Co. Flint. The small figure is that of their daughter Margaret, who pre-deceased her parents in 1631 at the age of 7. The tomb was formerly canopied.

No. 4. The altar tomb of Francis Fitton, died 1608, married Katherine, eldest daughter of John Neville, Lord Latimer, widow of Henry, 7th Earl of Northumberland. The tomb, constructed of freestone and alabaster, is the earliest example of Renaissance work in Cheshire. Note the cadaver at the base of the tomb. The floral elaboration seen on the strap-work of the armour is all original, and came to light when the monuments were restored in 1954.

The Font with its octagonal basin is original 15th century work, parts of the base are new.

The Belfry contains a ring of eight bells. The original pre-reformation "Rynge of three bells" with a fourth (cast at home in 1619 by "Sir Edward Fitton who made ye 4 and least bell"), were recast in 1776, and with additional metal converted into a ring of six. The two trebles were added in 1907, the entire ring being re-hung on ball bearings in 1956.

The Registers date from 1557. The original manuscripts were fully transcribed and indexed in 1955 by Dr. Robert Dickinson, B.SC., F.R.I.C.

#### Exterior.

The magnificent Tower 103 feet high to the pinnacles and built of red sandstone was erected immediately prior to the construction of the present nave, and it is believed that when the west wall was pierced to insert the great Tower arch, the ironstone removed from the wall area was used to lay the lower courses of the present chancel. Certainly the lower courses of dressed stone seen in the chancel differ from the main structure which is entirely of sandstone and coeval with the great Tower.

The exterior of the church remains virtually unchanged since the 15th century. The building is unusual in having five doorways. The splendid entrance in the west face of the tower, and double doors to the south porch, and the curiously small arched doorway in the North wall indicate that at some period the principal entrance to the church may have been from the South. The chancel is also unusual in having two doorways, the Rector's entrance being on the North, and the patron's door on the South.

Magnificently carved corbel drip stones adorn the exterior windows, each carved differently, and the figures include,

musicians, the village scold, a mermaid, the hall jester, and faces of many villagers living in Plantagenet times.

When Sir Thomas Fitton erected the Tower in 1480, shields of arms were added of Fitton and family alliances. Over the west window a canopied niche was provided for St. James, but his figure has long since disappeared. Surmounting the tower with its fine embattled parapets are eight giant gargoyles of fearsome aspect with wide open mouths to spew rain water from the pyramidal roof. At the east end of the chancel, the 15th century bell-cote is of exceptional beauty, so are the yard gate piers erected early in the 18th century.

The draped urn on the yard wall overlooking the church pool was carved by Thomas Thornycroft (1815-1885) when a young man in memory of his elder brother Isaac who died young. Thomas Thornycroft later married Mary Francis, herself a noted sculptress, and their son Sir W. Harno Thornycroft brought lasting fame to the village.

The Churchyard Cross in front of the South Porch is of interest, being of the same date as the Church, with carvings of animal grotesques representing the expulsion of evil spirits.

The Yew Trees in the Churchyard may well date back to Norman times.

The Old Rectory, now privately owned, was built by Rector George Baguley in 1470, on the site of a more ancient Parsonage, and is an interesting 15th century Glebe House. The present rectory situated at the foot of the church steps was built in 1707 by Lord Mohun and was used as the village school until 1832. It was remodelled in 1949 when the porch which formerly graced Lady Jane Stanley's house in Knutsford and mentioned in Mrs. Gaskell's "Cranford" was added.



The Boundary wall to the east of the church encloses the Park of Gawsworth Hall, and was erected in 1580, the private entrance doorway is still used by the family.

The following is a list of Rectors of the Parish Church of St. James, Gawsworth.

### The Rectors of the Parish Church of St. James, Gawsworth

Rector	Date	Patron
John de Birtles - - -	1262	
Adam de Wetenhal - - -	1312	
Edmund Fytton - - -	1332	
John Fytton - - -	1332	Thomas Fytton
Richard del Sherd - - -	1349	Thomas Fytton
John Caton - - -	1359	Thomas Fytton
Robert Bukhard - - -	1383	John Caton and John Gaze
Thomas de Bately - - -	1383	John Caton and John Gaze
John Caton - - -	1383	John Gaze
Griffin de Davenport - - -	1391	Thomas Fytton
Geoffrey de Davenport - - -	1394	Thomas Fytton
Reginald Lightclyffe - - -	1394	Thomas Fytton
William Prydyn - - -	1396	Thomas Fytton
John de Kyngesley - - -	1424	Sir Laurence Fytton
John de Bosden - - -	1432	Sir Laurence Fytton
Robert Heuster - - -	1433	Sir Laurence Fytton
George Baguley - - -	1470	William Stubbs
Randle Fytton - - -	1497	Edward Fytton
William Legh - - -	1536	Sir Edward Fytton
Robert Rogers - - -	1565	Sir Edward Fytton
Thomas Keyll - - -	1595	William Stubbs
William Brownell - - -	1597	William Knollys
William Hutchins - - -	1630	Thomas Drinkwater
Thomas Brooke - - -	1643	
Henry Newcome - - -	1650	The Lords Commissioners
Thomas Edge - - -	1657	The Lords Commissioners
Matthew Smallwood - - -	1662	Lord Gerard of Brandon
Hugh Hollinshed - - -	1664	Charles, Lord Gerard
Arthur Jeynson - - -	1665	Thomas Jeynson, Vicar of Prestbury
John Hammond - - -	1683	Charles, Earl of Macclesfield
William Hall - - -	1724	Charles Mordaunt
Miles Lonsdale - - -	1769	Elizabeth Parrott
John Tickell - - -	1786	Charles, Earl of Harrington
Henry Forster Mills - - -	1803	Archbishop of York, by lapse
The Hon. Henry William Stanhope - - -	1827	Charles, Earl of Harrington
The Hon. Henry Augustus Stanhope - - -	1872	Charles Wyndan, Earl of Harrington
John Trevenen Penrose - - -	1880	Charles Wyndan, Earl of Harrington
Alexander Robert Goldie - - -	1898	The Earl of Harrington
Herbert Edward Polehampton - - -	1904	The Earl of Harrington
Alfred Thomas Fearon Sidney Stephens - - -	1925	The Earl of Harrington
John Raymond Harrison - - -	1946	The Earl of Harrington
William Edgar Clarke - - -	1953	Raymond Richards
Harry Patrick Saunders - - -	1964	Raymond Richards
Francis Harry House - - -	1967	Raymond Richards

Before you go, will you offer this prayer in our lovely church:-

O God, we thank Thee for the devotion of our forefathers, who built this church for Thy worship; we thank Thee for the artists and craftsmen who made it reflect Thy Beauty, and we ask Thee to help us to hallow to-day the things that they in their generation set apart for Thy Honour and Glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.