

A Brief History of Old St Andrew's Church, Kingsbury

**by Philip Grant of
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**The history of this area goes back a long way –
Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman period.**

The name Kingsbury dates from Saxon times, and this part of the parish was given to St Peter's Abbey in Westminster, around 1050.

There was a priest here by the time of the Domesday Book.



MIDELSEX.
lasta ad pec' uille. Silua. xl. porc. 7 molun. de. v. sol.
h' tra ual. xxx. sol. Sdo recep. similat. l. h. l. xl. sol.
hanc tra tenuit 7 tenet indmio s pet' westmon.
In hunc de Gare. ten' Wills canegari' sub abbe
s petri. ii. hid 7 dim' in Chingelberie. Tra. ii. car'
Indmio. i. car. 7 uilli. i. car. lbi. v. uilli. qsq. de. i. uirg.
71. coc. Silua. cc. porc. h' tra ual. xxx. sol. Sdo recep.
similat. l. h. l. lx. sol. hanc tra tenuit Aluun' horne
teign' regis. E. in uadimomo de qda hoo s petri.
Handone. ten' abb s petri. p. xx. hid se defend.
Tra. vi. ar. Ad dnu pan. x. hide. 7 ibi sunt. iii.

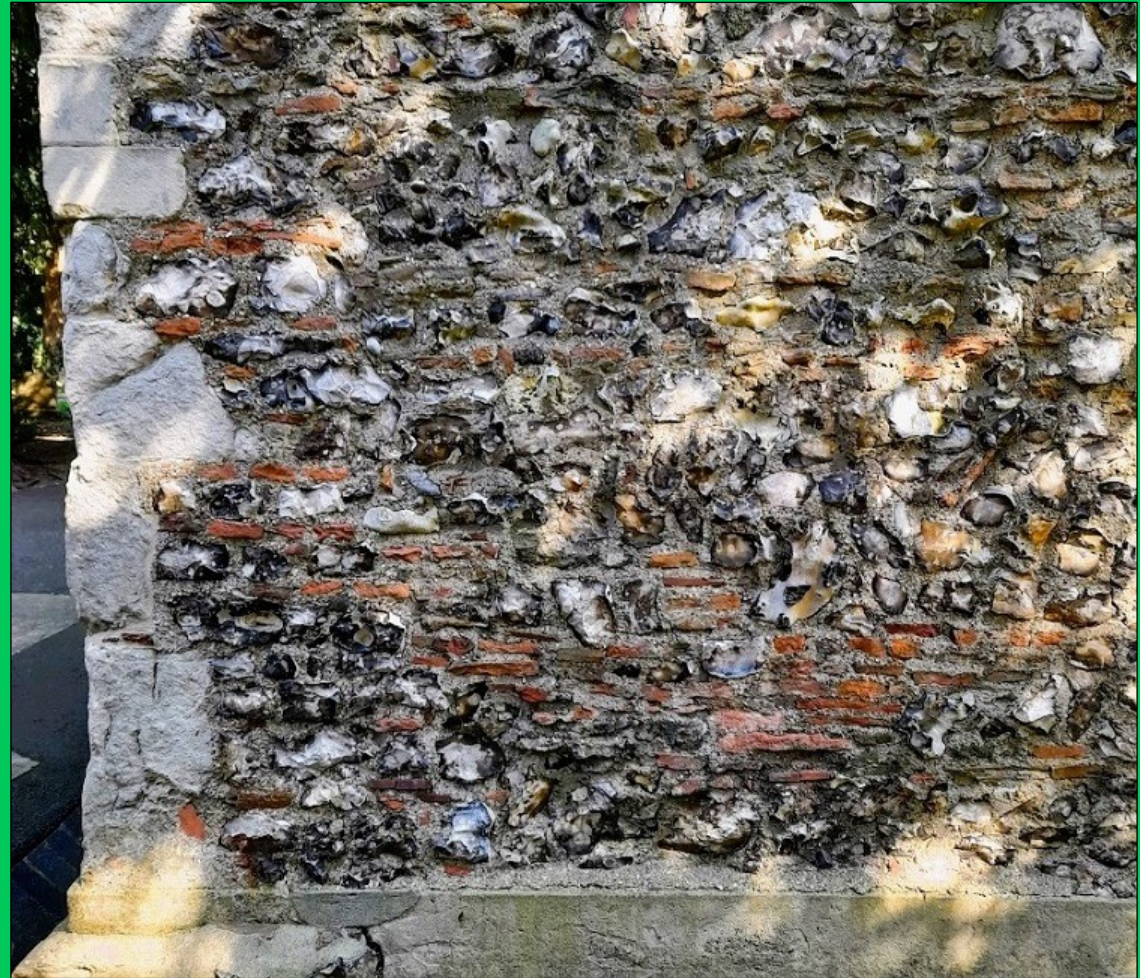
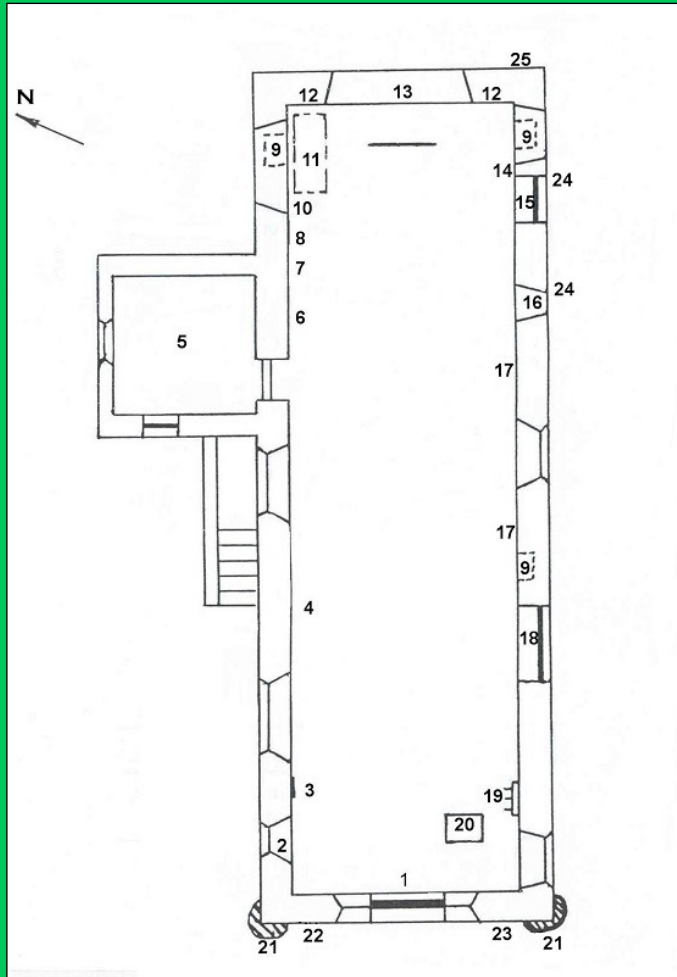
**We don't know exactly when St Andrew's Church was built,
but archaeological work in 2006 suggests a date
no later than 1100.**

Saint Andrew's Old Church,
Kingsbury.



**It is Brent's oldest
surviving building,
and the borough's only
Grade I listed building.**





The church building was a long, narrow rectangle in shape. It's walls were made of rubble (including from a Roman period domestic building) and mortar, faced with flints.



By 1244 the church, and the Chalkhill manor land, had been given to the Knights of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

Brothers from this religious order farmed the land, which became known as Freren (or Fryent) Farm.



PETRVS + DE + WESTON + ME + FECIT



By the 1340s, a bell had been installed at the church,
to summon the brothers to prayers.
The priest used a rough sun dial to tell when to ring the bell.



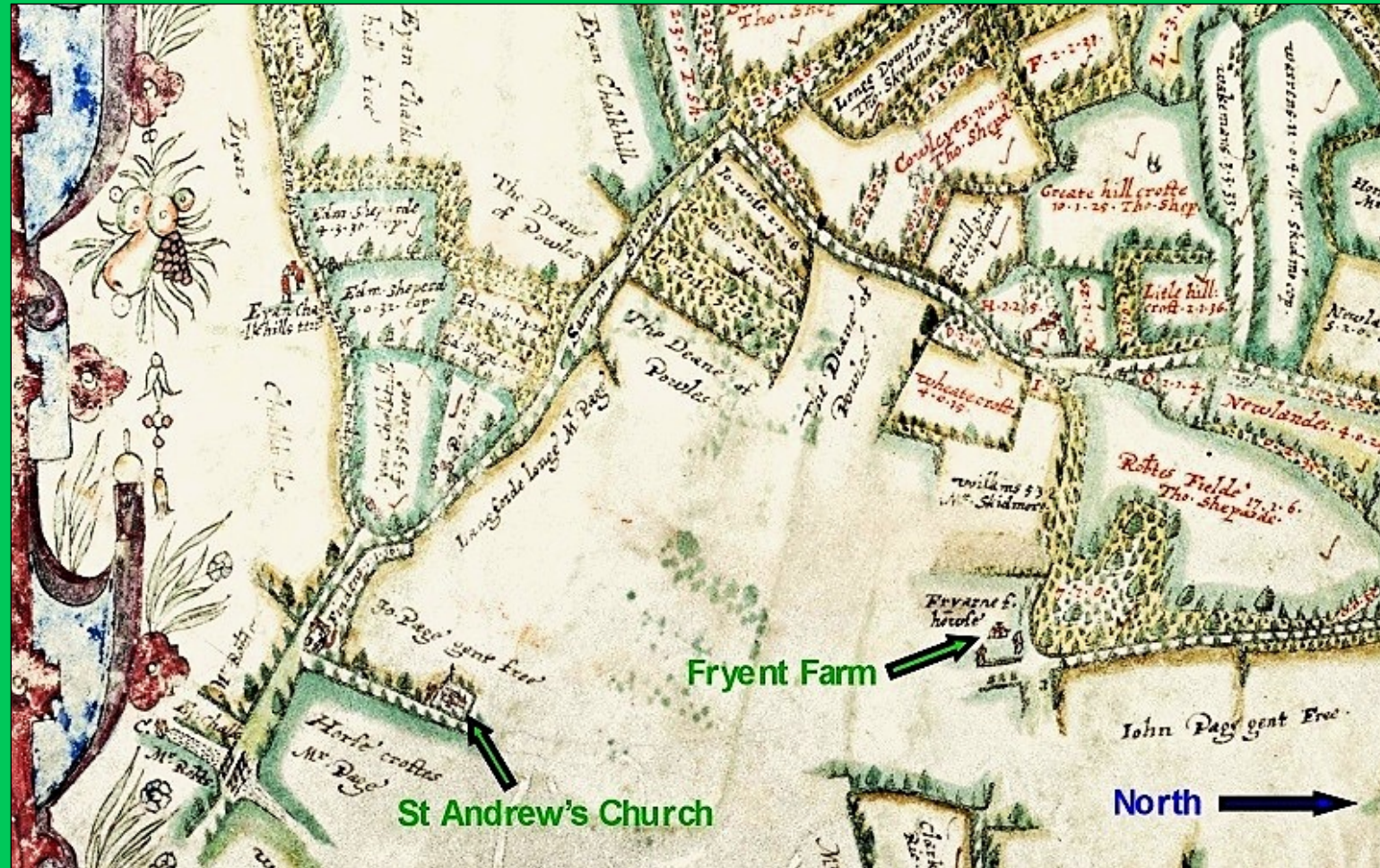
Various improvements to the church were made in the 15th and early 16th centuries, possibly paid for by wealthy local farmers.

The oldest tomb memorial
in the church is for one of
these, John Shepard, of
Hill Farm in Salmon Street,
who died in 1520.

The brasses also show his
two wives, Anne and Maude,
and the eighteen children
they had by him!



King Henry VIII seized the assets of the Knights Hospitaller in 1540, and gave their Kingsbury land to St Paul's Cathedral (shown as "The Deane of Powles" on this 1597 map extract).

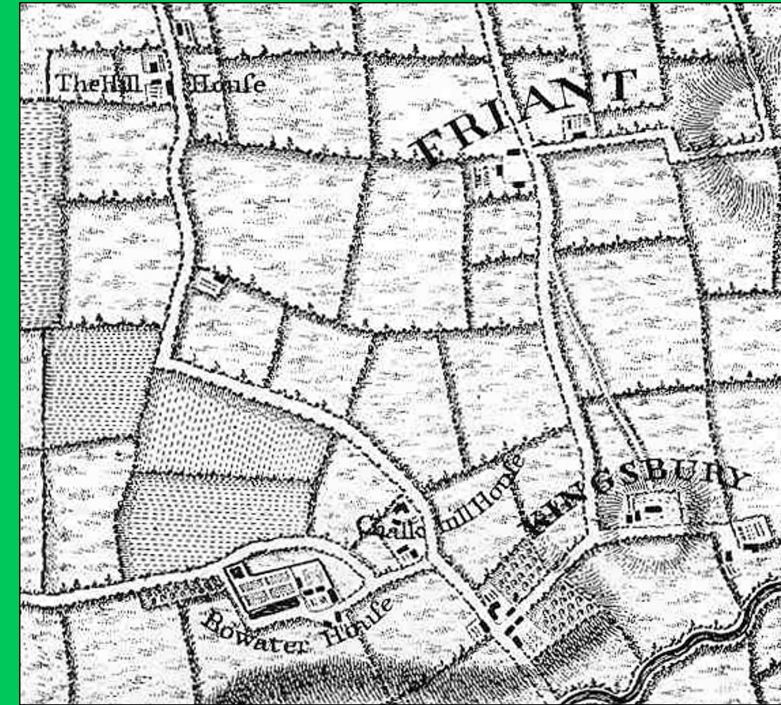


SUSAN LATE WIFE OF THOMAS GAWEN AND
DAUGHTER OF THOMAS SCUDAMORE BY FRANCIS BORNE
LYES BURYED HEERE BY DEATHS UNPARTIAL HAND.
REFT FROM HER DEAREST FRIENDS, THEY LEFT TO MOVRE
THEIR LOSSE OF HER WHO WAS THROUGH ALL HER LIFE
A LOYALL DAUGHTER AND A LOVING WIFE.
SHE DIED A^O DNI 1607.

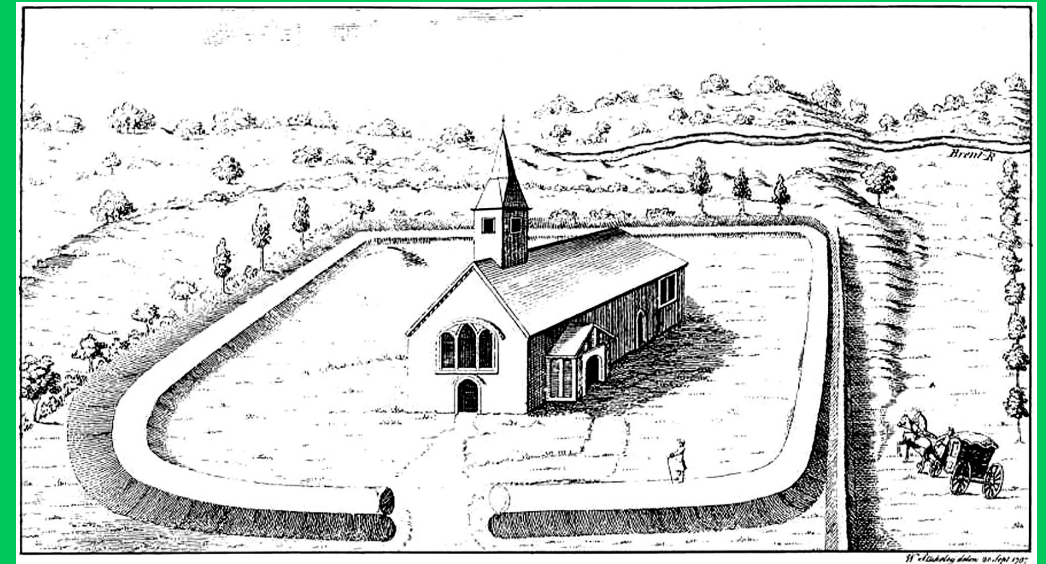
HERE LYETH THE BODY OF THOMAS SCUDAMORE GENT. SER-
VANT VNTO QUEENE ELIZABETH & K^E JAMES, 47 YEARES.
WHO HAD TWO WIFES SUSAN & FRANCIS & HAD ISSVE
BY THEM 6 SONNES & 5 DAUGHTERS & CHANGED HIS LIFE IN
THE FEARE OF GOD THE 10 DAYE OF SEPTEMBER 1626
BEING OF THE AGE OF LXXVII YE

The Reformation meant that the church was now Protestant, not Catholic, and this was reflected in these plain tomb memorials from 1607 and 1626, for members of the wealthy Scudamore family.

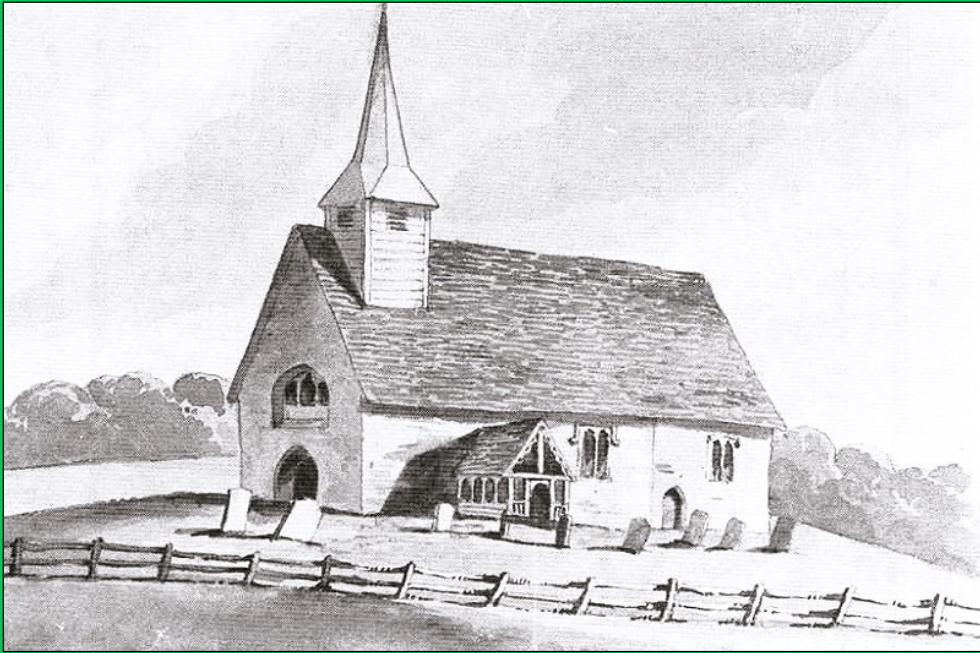
By the 18th century, the footpath to the church across the fields from the farm still existed.

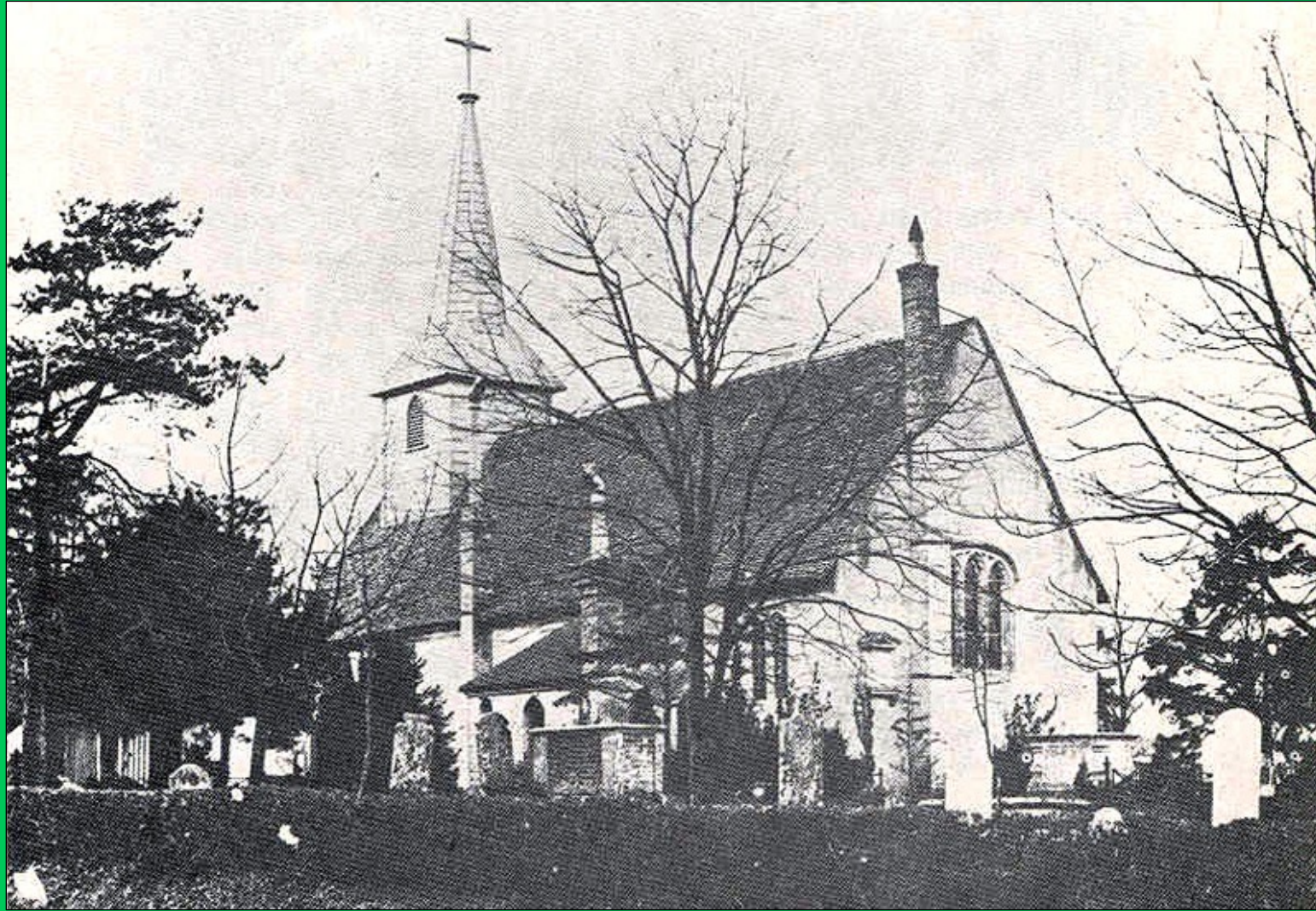


The church had become fashionable, and was used for worship and burials by people from neighbouring districts.



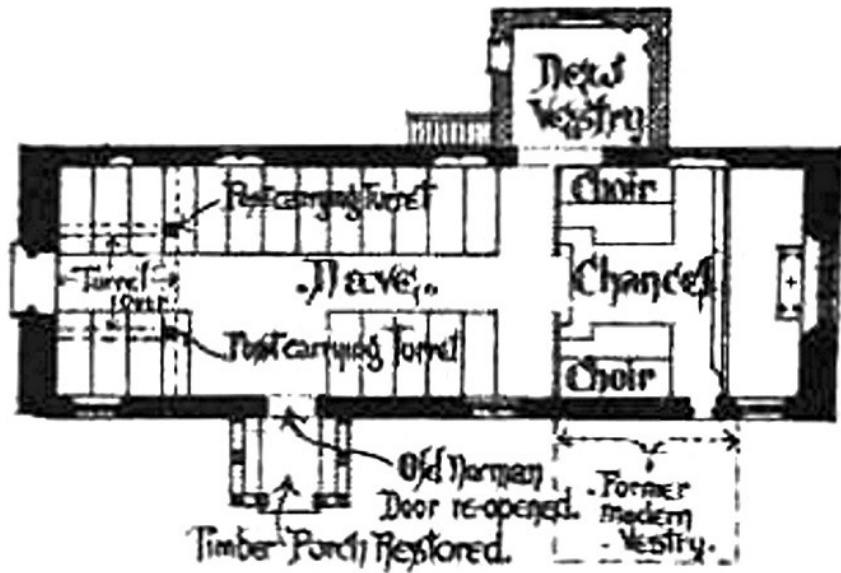
These are views of the church from 1807 and 1810, with the interior drawn in 1815.





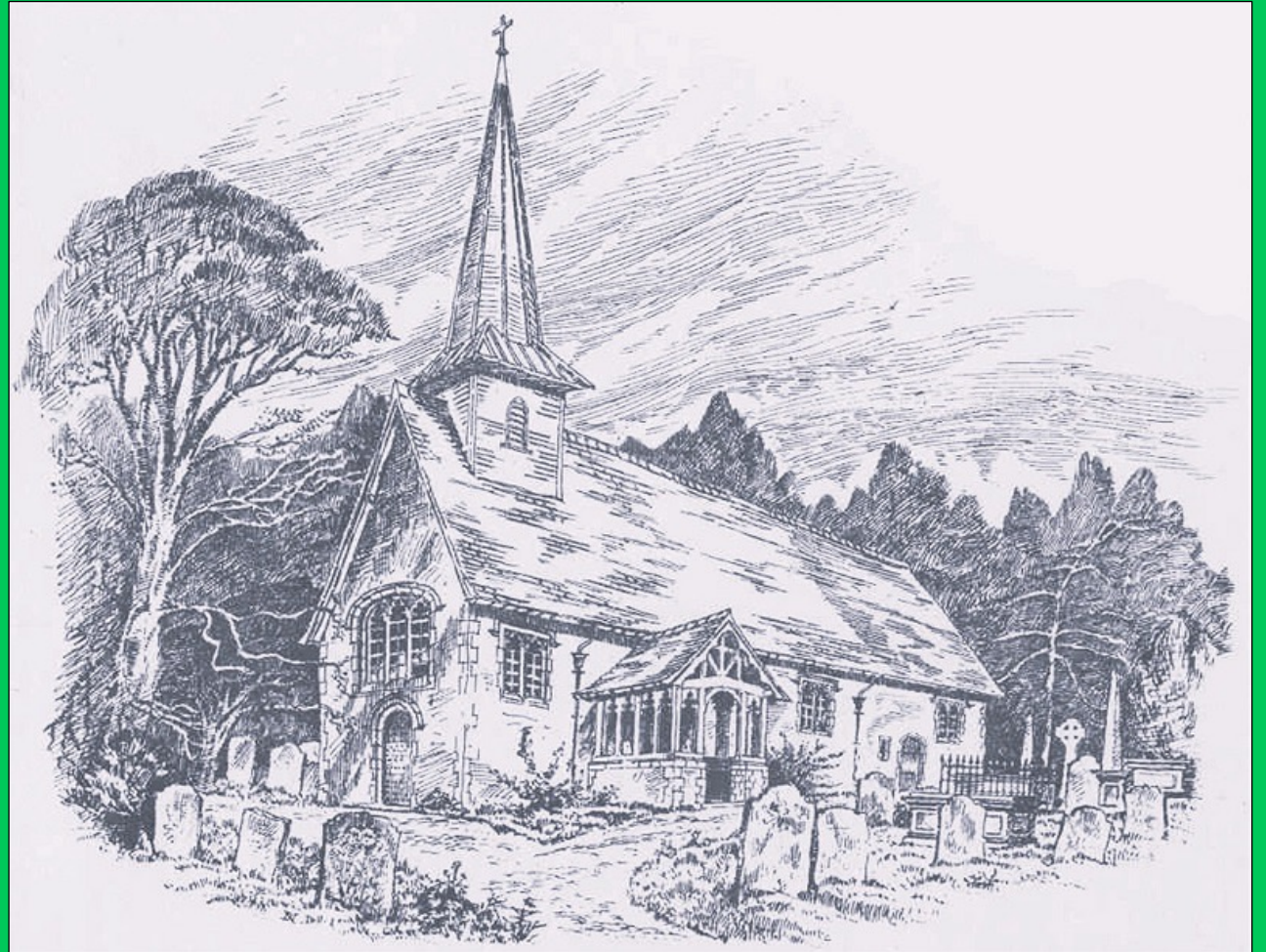
A “restoration” of the church in 1840 added a vestry and chimneys for heating, as well as other acts of architectural vandalism.

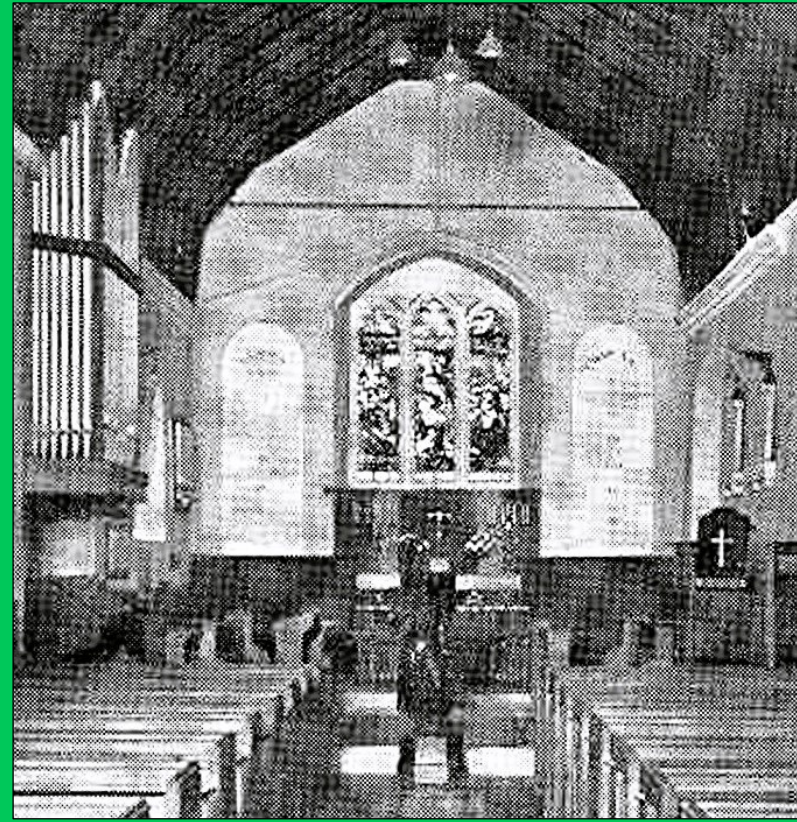
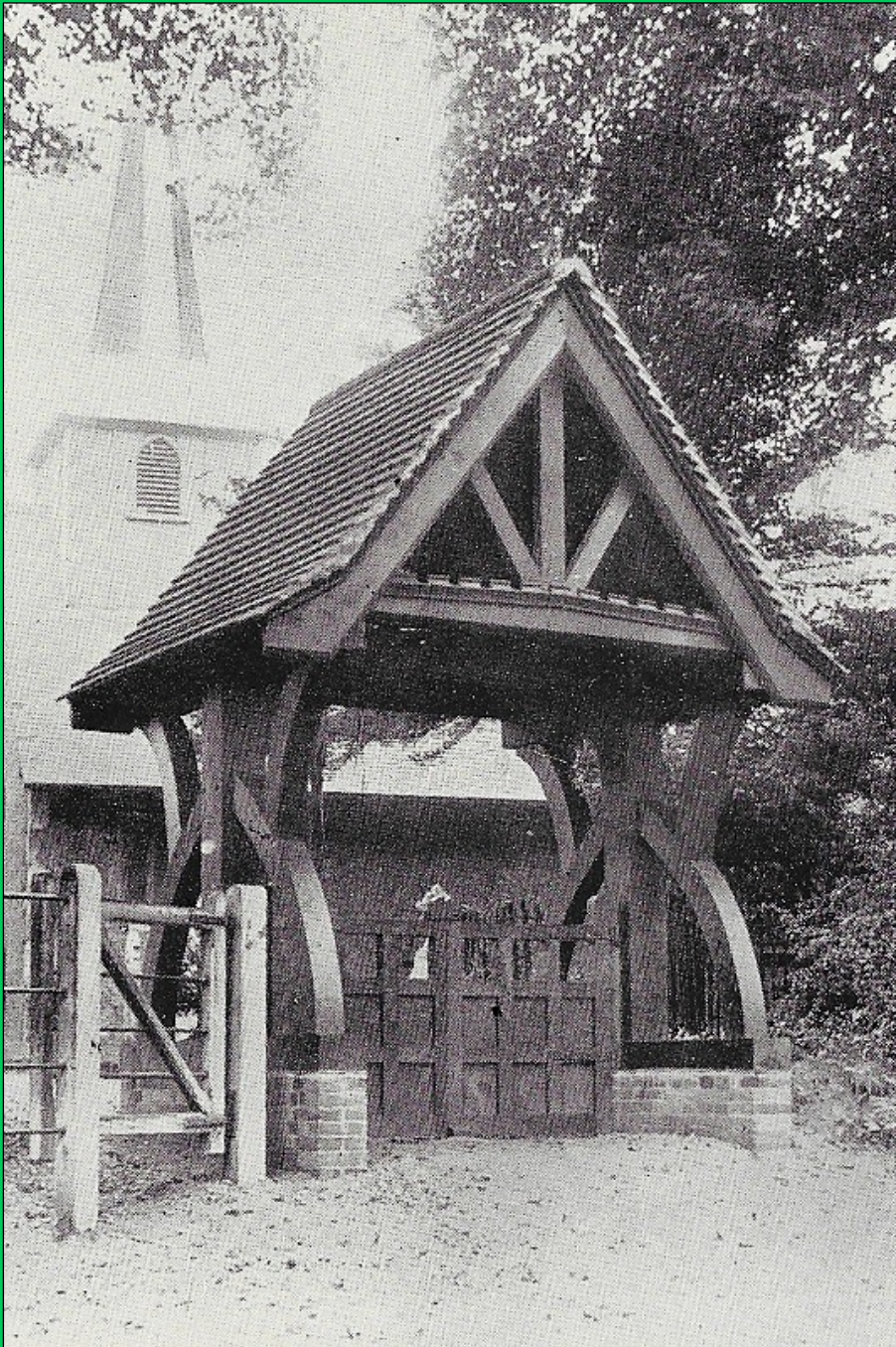
After the vicar had abandoned St Andrew's, for a new Holy Innocents' church, a better restoration was undertaken in 1889, for Neasden-cum-Kingsbury's parish church.



. Plan of Church as Restored.

. Newman & Newman.
. Architects.





By the late 1920s, the old church was too small for the rapidly growing local population, and after the new church was moved here, it was only used occasionally.

**The Church of England
declared it redundant in 1977.
It is now in the care of the
Churches Conservation Trust,
and since 2008 has been
leased to the Romanian
Orthodox Church.**

