

# HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

Wallington—or Waleton as the spelling is in the Domesday Survey—was of great importance in Saxon times and gave its name to the Hundred. It was also a Royal Hundred, as Wallington was a Royal Manor. Before 1100 the Wallington Hundred included Croydon, Mitcham, Cheam, Sutton, Carshalton, Beddington and Banstead. In giving its name to the Hundred—which was a division of the County—Wallington must, at that time, have been a more important place than any of those mentioned.

The ancient Chapel of Wallington stood on a site to the North of the London Road, behind the brewery in the grounds of the Elm Grove Estate, and was demolished about the year 1791. A deed dated 1480 gives the information that the dedication of the Chapel was to Our Lady of the Moor. The foundations were discovered in 1921, and with them some carved stones which were parts of windows and arches. The remains of the vanished Chapel may be seen in the walls of this Church Hall in Elm Grove and the new Church of St. Patrick. The present Church was erected in 1866 by Mr. Nathaniel Bridges, Lord of the Manor.

The population of Wallington at that time was 650. At the last census it was 8,504. The area of the hamlet is 728 acres. When the Church was built, the hamlet was divided, and the southern portion assigned to the new Church. The area of this Parish is 560 acres, but some twenty years ago the portion south of Stafford Road and east of Woodcote Road was cut off and the population of the ecclesiastical parish is now about 11,000.

The Church was consecrated on the 28th September, 1867, by Bishop Sumner of Winchester. The parish at that time was in the Winchester Diocese. It was later transferred to Rochester. When the Diocese of Southwark was formed, it was transferred to it. At the building of the Church the Ecclesiastical Commissioners agreed to contribute an annual sum of £33 6s. 8d. as endowment, which continued to be the total endowment of the Church until 1924, when an effort was made to increase it. A capital sum of £1,400 was raised, which added £60 a year to the stipend. Further sums were raised in 1930 and 1933. The total endowment now is about £125 0s 0d.

The present Church was built to resemble the description of the old Chapel—after the style of the 14th century. The west window of the south aisle is similar to one in the Church of Little St. Mary's, Cambridge, which was erected about 1350. Each window has a tracery of a

different pattern. The stone used with the flints is Bathstone. The roof and floor are covered with Broseley tiles. The height of the spire is 110 feet. The interior of the Church gives an area of 105 feet long by 75 feet broad, and gives seating accommodation for 650 persons.

The first Vicar, the Rev. John Williams, M.A., died on August 5th, 1879, and was succeeded by the Rev. Richard Alexander Boyle M.A. He was Vicar for just over 28 years and retired on February 28th, 1908. During Mr. Boyle's vicariate; the Hamlet increased considerably, and in 1896 the Church Schools in Bute Road were erected to meet the growing educational needs of the district. The Rev. George Freeman Irwin, M.A., D.D., succeeded Mr. Boyle, and was instituted on March 24th, 1908, and he was succeeded by the Rev. The O'Shea of Kerry, who was instituted on March 7th, 1923, and died on 10th February, 1935.

Owing to the developments in the southern portion of the parish, the temporary Church of St. Patrick's was erected and dedicated on April 1st, 1911, the site and Church costing nearly £2,000. A Church Hall was added later. The permanent Church of St. Patrick's has now been erected.

Since the Parish Church was built it has been adorned with several stained glass windows. Those on the south side are memorials to former worshippers. The central window in the chancel is a memorial to the Rev. John Williams. The north window was presented by the relatives as a memorial to those who fell in the War, while that in the south side is a gift of the parishioners as a War Memorial. In 1926 the chancel was entirely re-furnished, and new Communion Rails—the gift of Mrs. Rand, in memory of her husband; a new Pulpit—the gift of Mr. W. J. Mallinson; a brass eagle lectern—the gift of Mrs. Cleverly; marble and alabaster Font—the gift of Mrs. Page; Oak Panelling in the Chancel and Sanctuary and new Oak Doors and Vestibule at the South Entrance—the gifts of members of the Landon family and Miss Roche; and new Choir Stalls (the cost of which was defrayed by subscriptions) were added to the Church.

St. Patrick's Church was dedicated by the Bishop of Southwark on November 12th, 1932. It has been enriched by memorial gifts of a finely carved oak Communion Table, two oak Chancel Chairs, and a Prayer-Desk. The Bell at St. Patrick's originally belonged to Woodcote Hall, which was adjacent, and bears the date 1815.