

RELIGIOUS HISTORY

Trull church belonged to Taunton priory before the Dissolution and then to lay rectors.¹

Nonconformity failed to get a lasting stronghold until the late 19th century when a Baptist chapel was built. The parish church has been evangelical since the later 20th century and involved in outreach at Orchard Grove in the 2020s. Its registers date from 1538 but are missing for 1574-1656.² Sherford camp chapel kept a baptism register from 1964-74.³

ALL SAINTS

Origins and endowment

The earliest fabric is late 13th century. In 1308 and 1314 the vicar of Taunton St Mary Magdalene was made responsible for serving Trull but by 1468 it had its own chaplain.⁴ No vicarage was ordained, the priory took all the tithes and paid the chaplain's stipend.⁵ In 1537 the stipend was £6 13s. 4d.⁶

Tithe farmers, later lay rectors, paid the stipend, £10 in 1575 but augmented by the parish in the 18th century.⁷ In 1833 after paying £30 to his assistant the curate's net income was £98.⁸ Gifts and grants through Queen Anne's Bounty 1742-1897 totalled £2,600 invested in land in Wellington, West Buckland, Milverton and Stoke St Mary, which produced £75 in 1851. The land was sold in 1917.⁹ The living became a vicarage in 1868 and remained a sole benefice until 1978 when it was united with Angersleigh. The vicar then became a rector but

¹ *Cal. Papal Letters*, V, p. 362.

² SHC, D/P/tru/2/1/1-14.

³ TNA, WO 156/443.

⁴ SHC, D/P/tau.ja/22/23; E. Hobhouse, *Bp Drokenford's Reg*, p. 69; Maxwell-Lyte, *Reg. Bps Stillington and Fox*, pp. 130—1.

⁵ *Valor Eccl.* I, 170.

⁶ TNA, E 315/400, f. 22.

⁷ C. Brett, S. Hobbs and R. Dunning 'Enquiry into subsidies payable by stipendiary priests', *A Centenary Colln*, p. 320; SHC, DD/SPY/2; D/P/tru/4/1/4.

⁸ *Rep. Com. Eccl. Revenues* (1835), 156-7.

⁹ C. Hodgson, *An account...of the Bounty of Queen Anne* (1826), pp. 192, 233; TNA, HO 129/315/1/4/17; SHC, DD/CH/90/3, 97/7; D/P/tru/3/1/1-3, 7; 3/3/7; 24/30.

the parishes remain separate.¹⁰ By 1904 the incumbent received £8 6s. 8d. from the Ecclesiastical Commission and £246 8s. 6d. from other sources.¹¹

Houses By c.1526 the priest rented a chamber, and possibly a parlour, and the churchyard grass. He paid to brew in the church house and donated ale for the church ales.¹² By the mid 16th century both the church and priest's houses, said to have been built on the lord's waste, were let to laypeople and the curate rented a house.¹³ In 1655 the churchwardens were forced to surrender £5 they had retained ostensibly to provide a house.¹⁴ In 1675 the curate occupied a comfortably furnished house. His successors until 1864 rented houses or lodgings.¹⁵

In 1864 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners gave £1,000 to secure Wild Oak on Old Lane south-west of Batts Park.¹⁶ Now called the Old Vicarage it is a five-bay, rendered cob house under a slate roof, possibly built c.1783. The east wing, also cob was originally detached.¹⁷ In 1908 a larger house west of Wild Oak Lane, now the Old Rectory, was completed. It was replaced in 1992 by the New Rectory across the road.¹⁸

Advowson

After the Dissolution the Crown let the rectory and in 1543 sold the reversion in fee simple to Humphrey Colles of Corfe.¹⁹ The advowson descended with the rectory to Jennifer Newton

¹⁰ SHC, D/D/Vc/88; D/P/tru/5/2/3.

¹¹ SHC, D/P/tru/3/3/4.

¹² R.W. Dunning and M.B. McDermott, *Church Accounts 1457-1559*, 246-303.

¹³ Dunning and McDermott, *Church Accounts*, 254, 275; SHC, DD/SP/325/113; D/P/tru/4/1/1.

¹⁴ SHC, D/P/tru/23/54.

¹⁵ SHC, DD/SP/1675/33; D/P/tru/24/42; D/D/Va/1/12; TNA, HO 107/1922.

¹⁶ SHC, tithe award; D/P/tru/3/3/1; D/D/ord/24/8.

¹⁷ SHC, Q/REI/35/28; DD/CT/22-3; Som. HER 32660

¹⁸ SHC, D/P/tru/3/4/3-6, 8/4/3.

¹⁹ *Valor Eccl.* I, 170; *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, XV, p. 561; XVIII (1), pp. 196-7.

(d. 1990) but on the death of her husband Michael Spurway in 2007 it was vested in the parochial church council, with responsibility for the chancel.²⁰

Parish life before 1550

In the 1470s, when two local men were ordained priest, the parishioners objected to carrying their dead to St Mary's in Taunton, presumably for the funeral mass, and then to the priory for burial. They secured their own cemetery, paying 1*d.* offering to St Mary's for each burial.²¹ In 1531 they paid £14 to the prior for 'burial off the churchyard' followed by an annuity of 6*s.* 8*d.*, possibly for the churchyard extension, settled after the Dissolution by payment of 35*s.* The wealth of late medieval woodwork and glass indicates a flourishing church. The 15th-century pulpit and roodscreen survive with parclose screens erected in memory of Thomas Keene, vicar 1500-25, and carved bench ends, probably by John Beny *c.*1536. Carvings include figures in a religious procession, possibly originally marking a processional way around the church. They have been moved and the accompanying foliage panels have been lost since 1844.²² Other panels have faces and heads and the instruments of Christ's passion.²³

There were usually three churchwardens in the early 16th century, possibly one for each tithing, and three Lady wardens, keeping separate accounts, and two ale wardens. The church was furnished with four bells, a clock, rebuilt *c.*1532, and 'organs' by 1539. The aisles were roofed with lead but the main roof was apparently tiled. A new reading desk was

²⁰ Above landownership; *Nat. Prob. Cal.* (J.G. Newton, J.H. Spurway); www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/1567971/Michael-Spurway.html: accessed 31 Mar. 2026; *Dioc. Dir.*; SHC, D/P/tru/5/2/3.

²¹ R. Dunning, *Bath and Wells Ordination, 1465—1526*, 32, 59; *Cal. Papal Letters*, XIII (2), pp. 561-2.

²² SHC, D/P/tru/5/2/3; Dunning and McDermott, *Church Accounts*, 265-6, 268, 270, 273, 275-6, 283; M. McDermott, 'Supplementary notes on the bench ends in All Saints Trull', *PSAS* 142 (1999), 329-30.

²³ SHC, D/P/tru/8/4/1.

provided c.1537 and the roodloft was rebuilt or repaired.²⁴ The early 16th-century parish chest was restored to the church in the 20th century.²⁵

The church house and the clerk's or priest's house were held of the bishop of Winchester. The church house, its brewhouse and its kettle were hired out and used for church ales. It was timber-framed building, rebuilt and tiled c.1546, in the south-west corner of the churchyard. It was reroofed with thatch in 1717-18, used as a poorhouse and later a school and demolished in 1886. The priest's chamber and the clerk's chamber in the 1530s were presumably in Chantry Cottage north-west of the churchyard.²⁶ It was a late medieval, two-roomed, thatched house of roughcast over cob and rubble. The now exposed south end includes dressed Ham stone and lias blocks. The long cob walls were replaced by colourwashed brick from the 17th century. New doors and windows were inserted in the mid 20th century including a west dormer. A spiral stair beside the stone and timber fireplace of c.1500 indicate an attic storey then. There is no evidence for a cross passage but part of a stud and plank screen with pointed arched doorway divides the rooms. The north room has a heavily-moulded, framed compartment ceiling, possibly moved from the south room, which also has an inserted ceiling. The jointed-cruck roof at the north end has no windbracing so is possibly a replacement.²⁷

After the Dissolution one farmer refused to sheave his tithe corn, or even cut it in future and reputedly gave his worst fruit c.1540.²⁸ Traditional payments like Peters pence went to the king. In 1541-2 a new bible and surplice were bought but in 1544-5 a procession

²⁴ Dunning and McDermott, *Church Accounts*, 256, 259, 265, 283, 293-6.

²⁵ SHC, D/D/Va/21/12; D/P/tru/5/2/3, 8/4/1.

²⁶ Dunning and McDermott, *Church Accounts*, 247, 249, 254, 257, 259, 265, 267, 275; SHC, D/P/tru/4/1/1; above, soc. hist.

²⁷ SHC, DD/V/TAR/29/9, 14; Som. HER 40652.

²⁸ TNA, E 321/3/18.

book and a trendle with candles for the patronal feast of All Saints [1 Nov.] were acquired. In 1546-7 the parish apparently paid workmen to take stone from Taunton priory.²⁹

Our Lady's store and parish lands

The store of Our Lady belonging to a well-endowed medieval lay fraternity received many gifts included valuable clothing and paid £6 to a resident stipendiary priest, providing him with vestments and a chalice until 1548. Other income came from ales, especially the Rood mass ale [3 May], collections, bequests, knells rung for its members and hiring out a cider wring and an anvil. Its income was higher than that of the church in the 1520s when it owned land in Trull, Pitminster and Taunton. In 1542 it bought part of Rixham meadow, Bishops Hull. Lady Land, north of the church and used to enlarge the churchyard in the early 16th century and in 1904, and Lady Liscombe, later called Parish Field, were cultivated either by the fraternity or tenants. The last accounts for 1547 are headed the brotherhood of Trull and in 1548 the lands passed to the parish church and eventually became the parish lands charity.³⁰ The Pitminster land was sold in 1803, the Taunton houses were sold in 1805 to buy Totterdell's (18 a.) in Taunton St James, sold after 1851, and Rixham was sold in 1910.³¹ The Lady altar is lost but in 2006 a 15th-century piscina was found in the south wall of the south chapel, possibly marking its site.³²

Parish Life 1550-1800

²⁹ Dunning and McDermott, *Church Accounts*, 241, 247, 257, 290-8, 300-2.

³⁰ *Valor Eccl.* I, 170; SHC, D/D/Vc/20; Dunning and McDermott, *Church Accounts*, 241, 246-303; above, soc. hist.

³¹ SHC, D/P/tru/5/1/2, 17/1/1; DD/SAS/C795/TN/15 (1734); DD/DP/43/14/15 (1805); tithe award, St James; Dunning and McDermott, *Church Accounts*, 241.

³² M. McDermott, 'Piscina in All Saints Trull', *PSAS* 150 (2007), 186-7.

In 1550 the churchwardens removed altars, defaced the cross and set up the ten commandments, presumably on the tympanum where they remained until 1863.³³ In 1554 the parishioners disputed who should pay for vestments and altar cloths.³⁴ Linenfold panelling at the west ends of aisles, dated 1560 by Simon Warman of Bicknoller, may have been part of a re-seating arrangement as S and W appear on some benchends and by 1579 the church was filled with pews.³⁵ The largest regular expenses were visitations and the bells. Four men collected money for the church at the Rood mass, Lammas and All Saints ales in the 1570s. The three female wardens in 1573 paid for the chalice to be converted into a communion cup but communion was only celebrated at Christmas, Easter and All Saints. In 1586 the tower was repaired, including ironwork to stay the pinnacles, and roughcast and the clock was apparently replaced.³⁶

Three early 17th-century curates apparently had no licence to preach. Clerical neglect and absence, sometimes with the loss of Sunday services might account for failure to attend church or send children to be catechised. In 1617 a woman was accused of lodging strangers who received Easter communion and in 1620 Easter communion was disrupted by two women brawling in the churchyard.³⁷

Most pews in 1633 were private, rigidly divided between men and women, the latter mainly at the back with the few parish seats. Despite the many seat holders there the Bakers of Hamwood later claimed the south aisle where John Baker (d. 1677) had built additional seats and repaired the windows. The parish successfully resisted the claim.³⁸ In 1731 both aisles were filled with parish seats and only eight pews, presumably private, were recorded in

³³ Dunning and McDermott, *Church Accounts*, 303; SHC, SANHS colln, S.G. Tovey, watercolour 1846.

³⁴ SHC, D/D/Ca/23, f. 27.

³⁵ SHC, D/P/tru/24/5.

³⁶ SHC, D/P/tru/4/1/1.

³⁷ SHC, D/D/Ca/151 (1606), 160 (1609), 206, 220, 235; DD/SAS/C795/TN/26, f. 44.

³⁸ SHC, D/P/tru/24/6, 42.

the 1780s.³⁹ In 1722 the lay rector sold Robert Lucas of Batts the right to a family vault in the chancel where he erected a monument to his father, also Robert (d. 1722).⁴⁰

The parish let former fraternity land and the churchyard herbage, protecting and selling the apples. In 1635 these were accepted as parish and not rectory property and produced c.£39 annually by the early 18th century.⁴¹ There was a salaried parish clerk by 1692 when the churchwardens, reduced to two, kept separate accounts. Mr Wroth recast a bell at Wellington in 1696-7 and another in 1711.⁴² In 1727-8 over £9 was spent on a pulpit cushion, cloth and canopy. In 1734-5 the tower was repaired and 4,000 Cornish tiles were bought for the church roof, which had been retiled in 1723-4.⁴³ The church acquired a 1731 silver flagon but only celebrated three communions annually and only 16 communicants were recorded c.1776.⁴⁴ In the 1780s some woodwork was gilded and the chancel had a ceiling in squares with blue ribs but the aisles were open to the roof. In 1786 a gallery was built.⁴⁵

Parish Life 1800-1900

From c.1790 until 1827 Trull was served from Pitminster with one Sunday morning service and a fortnightly evening service reduced in 1827 to one service alternately morning and evening.⁴⁶ Despite having a resident assistant curate by the 1830s there was only one Sunday service and four communions annually by the 1840s. The parish clerk lived in the clerk's house, received £1 a year and was paid for washing the surplice and preparing bread for the

³⁹ SHC, D/P/tru/24/7; McDermott and Berry, *Rack's Survey*, p. 285.

⁴⁰ SHC, DD/SPY/2.

⁴¹ SHC, D/P/tru/4/1/1, 3-4; Dunning and McDermott, *Church Accounts*, 243.

⁴² SHC, D/P/tru/4/1/2.

⁴³ SHC, D/P/tru/2/1/2, 4/1/3.

⁴⁴ SHC, D/D/Ri/4; D/P/tru/4/1/4, D/D/Vc/88.

⁴⁵ McDermott and Berry, *Rack's Survey*, p. 285; SHC, D/P/tru/4/1/6.

⁴⁶ SHC, D/D/Rb 1815, 1827.

sacrament.⁴⁷ The sexton, recorded from the 1520s, received a regular annual payment from 1870.⁴⁸ By 1851 there were morning and afternoon Sunday services with an average attendance of 160 and 220 respectively in addition to over 50 Sunday school children.⁴⁹

The 16th-century organs were lost but in 1809 the parish had singers, a violin, base viol and hautboy. Music was bought in 1812, c.1827 a barrel organ was provided, probably in the gallery, and an organist was employed from 1829.⁵⁰ Box pews were built for the minister's family in 1826, and for the lay rector's family and Batts House before 1846. In 1843 a man who did not attend church was asked to surrender his seat due to shortage of accommodation.⁵¹ In 1851 there were 200 private seats, 110 free seats and 50 for children but some were only 16 inches wide.⁵² An 1822 almsdish, two chalices of 1847 and a paten of 1848, all apparently bought by the parish, perhaps indicate increasing communicants.⁵³

The church underwent unspecified work in 1803-4 and in 1812-13 a vestry was built north of the chancel.⁵⁴ By 1856 aisles had been ceiled causing problems and the church needed reseating.⁵⁵ In 1863 shortage of funds meant the gallery was not removed as planned and children's seats were left below the tower, the church having no west door, but uniform pews were installed with the old carved benchends attached. The font was replaced, the chancel tympanum and the pulpit sounding board were removed but there were successful

⁴⁷ *Rep. Com. Eccl. Revenues* (1835), pp. 156-7; SHC, D/D/Va/1/12, 2/12; D/P/tru/13/2/8 (1861), 24/2.

⁴⁸ Dunning and McDermott, *Church Accounts*, 247, 275; D/P/tru/4/1/5.

⁴⁹ TNA, HO 129/315/1/4/17.

⁵⁰ SHC, D/P/tru/4/1/B, 4/1/4-5; S. Glynne, *Church Notes for Som.*, 348.

⁵¹ SHC, D/P/tru/4/1/4; SANHS colln, S.G. Tovey, watercolour 1846; Glynne, *Church Notes*, 349.

⁵² TNA, HO 129/315/1/4/17.

⁵³ SHC, D/D/Ri/4; D/P/tru/5/2/1 (1948).

⁵⁴ SHC, D/P/tru/4/1/4, 6; 9/1/2.

⁵⁵ SHC, D/P/tru/8/2/1.

objections to replacing the pulpit.⁵⁶ Between the 1860s and 1890s stained-glass memorial windows were installed in the aisles.⁵⁷

By 1870 there were two Sunday services and monthly communion and in 1872 101 people received Easter communion.⁵⁸ In 1887 the peal of bells was increased to six.⁵⁹ In 1889 J. Houghton Spencer redesigned the interior, removing the gallery and moving the organ. The parish bought land opposite the church for a stable and carriage shed, replacing the older 'horse house', for those attending church. In 1895 the parish rooms were built adjoining.⁶⁰ In 1896 a silver almsdish was given in memory of Alexander and Juliana Ewing.⁶¹

Parish life 1900-present

In 1902 two bells were rehung and in 1907-8 the three-faced clock was replaced and the bells were altered for striking, electronically controlled from 1994.⁶² By 1903 there was a paid choir of ten boys, girls joined before 1924 and later adult women. The organist still received £30 annually as in 1861.⁶³ In 1904 a parochial church council was established comprising the vicar, churchwardens and eight sidesman, half nominated by the vicar and the rest elected by the vestry.⁶⁴ Easter communicants rose to 216 in 1907, when services were sometimes held at the Daw's Green mission. After c.1900 any seats could be occupied if empty at the beginning of services.⁶⁵ By the 1920s communion was celebrated twice on Sundays and evening and weekday services were held.⁶⁶ The church gave meat to the poor at Christmas from 1909 to

⁵⁶ SHC, D/P/tru/6/1/1; D/D/Ca/445; SANHS colln, S.G. Tovey, watercolour 1846.

⁵⁷ SHC, D/P/tru/5/2/3.

⁵⁸ SHC, D/D/Va/12/12, 14/12; A/DBL/133/1.

⁵⁹ SHC, D/P/tru/5/2/1.

⁶⁰ SHC, D/P/tru/4/1/6 (1813); 6/4/4, 8/3/1; D/D/Cf/1889/18; Hallam, *Trull*, 57.

⁶¹ SHC, D/P/tru/5/2/1.

⁶² SHC, D/P/tru/4/1/5, 5/3/2, 8/3/2.

⁶³ SHC, D/P/tru/2/5/1, 4/1/9 (1924), 5/2/3, 13/2/8 (1861).

⁶⁴ SHC, D/P/tru/9/3/2 (1904).

⁶⁵ SHC, D/P/tru/2/5/2, 9/3/3.

⁶⁶ SHC, D/P/tru/2/5/4.

1914 and in 1920s a sick poor fund of c.£300 provided coal and Christmas gifts, despite church income coming mainly from offerings.⁶⁷ In 1917 the churchwardens refused to pay the ringers for ringing on 29 May and 5 November but agreed to pay them 10s. 6d. on All Saints (1 November) and Ascension Day.⁶⁸ In 1933 the bells were restored and in 1937 plaques were removed from the east wall.⁶⁹ In 1938 a vergers received £30 to look after the church, attend services and maintain the heating, For £26 the sexton maintained the churchyard but received extra for grave-digging.⁷⁰

In 1941 there were a communion service, matins and evensong each Sunday, a morning military parade and 205 easter communicants. In 1946 weekday services were re-introduced having been suspended during the war.⁷¹ A chalice and paten, copying the medieval Nettlecombe plate, were given in 1953 and later gifts included a private communion set and a 1985 communion cup.⁷² A new altar was installed in 1954 and a vicar's seat and desk in 1957. Chancel panelling was removed in 1959.⁷³ By then Christmas communions at 276 had overtaken those at Easter a pattern that continued until the 1990s. The church moved to more evangelical styles of worship. Family services were introduced in the 1960s when there were four Sunday services and the church council met five times a year.⁷⁴ In 1967 stained glass by John Bicknell was installed in the east window and in 1968 new choirstalls were provided.⁷⁵ The 1969 ecclesiastical boundary changes reflected reality with the church

⁶⁷ SHC, D/P/tru/9/3/2 (1904, 1909, 1914); DD/X/CCE/3 (1926, 1928).

⁶⁸ SHC, D/P/tru/13/2/8 (1917).

⁶⁹ SHC, D/P/tru/6/1/1-2; D/D/Cf/1933/43.

⁷⁰ SHC, D/P/tru/1/5/1.

⁷¹ SHC, D/P/tru/2/5/7.

⁷² SHC, D/P/tru/5/2/1.

⁷³ SHC, D/P/tru/6/1/1, 8/4/3; D/D/Cf/1954/6/17, 1957/7/8.

⁷⁴ SHC, D/P/tru/1/1/1, 2/5/9-12; D/D/va/37/2/6.

⁷⁵ SHC, D/D/Cf/1967/9/15, 1968/4/8.

drawing its congregation from the immediate area including Haygrove, Eastbrook, Staplehay and part of Sweethay formerly in Pitminster and Comeytrowe being transferred to Wilton.⁷⁶

Church attendance probably peaked in the 1970s with nearly 300 people taking communion at Christmas, four or five Sunday services and a weekday communion. In the 1980s the parish paid two organists, a junior choir, a verger, a deputy verger and ringers and hosted youth services and several social groups. In 2001 there were three Sunday services and 197 Easter communicants.⁷⁷ In 2004 the church took over the village toddler group and provided a monthly weekday children's service. The choir, reduced to six people, sang services twice a month.⁷⁸

In 1986 a memorial window to Miriam Stansell was made from salvaged medieval glass and new Ham stone tracery.⁷⁹ The church stonework was repaired in 1991.⁸⁰ In 2006 the chancel was re-floored removing the choir stalls and encaustic tiles to allow weekday services to be held within the chancel.⁸¹ The parish rooms were demolished in 2013 to build the Trull Church Community Centre.⁸² Church attendance increased and in 2017 there were three Sunday services in church and two for families and young people in the centre. Weekday services were held in a nursing home. In 2026 the three Sunday services varied from traditional to contemporary and there was a monthly Thursday communion service. A married couple were curates taking responsibility for an evangelical outreach church at the Orchard Grove school, which had a Sunday service and social events.⁸³

Church fabric

⁷⁶ SHC, D/P/tru/22/2/1; D/D/Ord/110/2.

⁷⁷ SHC, D/P/tru/2/5/10, 12; 2/8/1, 4/1/19.

⁷⁸ SHC, D/D/Cf/2006/5/7.

⁷⁹ SHC, D/P/tru/8/4/3.

⁸⁰ SHC, D/P/tru/8/4/3, D/D/Cf/1991/10/13.

⁸¹ SHC, D/P/tru/5/2/3; D/D/Cf/2006/5/7

⁸² SHC, D/P/tru/9/3/11.

⁸³ SHC, D/P/tru/2/8/4 (2017); trullchurch.org.uk: accessed March 2026.

The church, which comprises a nave with chancel and side aisles, north-east vestry, south porch and west tower, is built of lias and grey sandstone rubble, possibly from Castleman's Hill or Rumwell, with Ham stone dressings and some chert facing. On the advice of C.E. Giles, the render was removed after 1856, except from the vestry. That probably led to some refacing in chert but in the 1980s the parishioners rejected re-rendering.⁸⁴ The earliest part of the church is its late 13th-century tower, although the upper part may have been rebuilt later. There is no west door and the tower window, rebuilt in the late 20th century, and others, mainly three-light, are Perpendicular like the rest of the church. Window leaves and heads were bought c.1535.⁸⁵ There is no chancel arch the medieval screen being topped by a loft and rood, replaced by a tympanum hung below the ceiling and destroyed in 1863.⁸⁶ The south arcade is reputedly earlier than the north and only the south aisle had battlements. The south aisle's east chapel is probably the site of the medieval Lady altar and the north aisle houses the organ. The wagon roofs are ribbed with bosses.⁸⁷

The oldest furnishings are some late medieval glass, the roodscreen and the oak pulpit of c.1500 with carved images of St John, St Gregory, St Augustine, St Jerome and St Ambrose and damaged smaller figures. A few complete early benches with backs remain, probably those reserved for the poor, but many benchends survive attached to Victorian pews. Some were discovered during the 1863 restoration and others, now lost, formed a base for the pulpit, now on a stone pedestal. The restored, 15th-century fan-vaulted roodscreen, is richly carved and the roodloft was possibly cut up to decorate pews.⁸⁸

⁸⁴ SHC, A/DIF/116/233; D/P/tru/8/2/1; DD/WBF/20/472/4; TPAG, *New story of Trull*, 37.

⁸⁵ Dunning and McDermott, *Church Accounts*, 269.

⁸⁶ SHC, SANHS colln, S.G. Tovey, watercolour 1846.

⁸⁷ SHC, D/P/tru/8/2/1; J. Orbach, *S. & W. Som.* 644.

⁸⁸ M. McDermott, 'Early Bench Ends in All Saints Trull', *PSAS* 138 (1995), 117-29; 'Supplementary notes on the bench ends in All Saints Trull', *PSAS* 142 (1999), 329-32.

Medieval images of St Margaret and St George slaying dragons in the south chancel window, reputedly by a maker of glass in York minster, have probably been moved.⁸⁹ The east window contains a restored medieval crucifixion and a north aisle window includes medieval glass apparently taken out in 1863 and restored in 1885.⁹⁰ Among 19th-century windows are two by Kempe. The font is Victorian and wall monuments date from the 19th and early 20th centuries except those to John Baker (d. 1677) and Robert Lucas (d. 1722) but there are floor slabs of 1633 and 1716.⁹¹

The two oldest bells were cast by Thomas Purdue of Closworth (1660), two others were recast by Thomas Wroth of Wellington in 1711 and by Thomas Mears in 1860 and two by Llewellyn and James of Bristol were added for the 1887 jubilee. All six were repaired at Loughborough in the 2020s.⁹²

Churchyard

The churchyard became a cemetery in the 1470s and was enlarged in the early 16th century. It contained a well and a yew for which a bench was made in 1529.⁹³ The churchyard still had a bank and ditch on the west in 1657, possibly from a prehistoric trendle or enclosure.⁹⁴ In 1818 the archdeacon objected to cottage doors opening into the churchyard and from 1853 the parish spent nearly £100 on closing paths and fencing.⁹⁵ The churchyard, extended in 1887 and twice in the 20th century, remains in use. In 1949 £250 was left for its upkeep.⁹⁶ A chest tomb of the Keene family (1624-1779) is the oldest surviving memorial. The stocks

⁸⁹ SHC, A/DAS/9/125; D/D/Ri/4.

⁹⁰ SHC, DD/X/MDT/328

⁹¹ J. Orbach, *S. & W. Som.* 645; SHC, D/D/Cf/2006/5/7.

⁹² SHC, D/P/tru/5/2/1, 8/2/2; TPAG, *New story of Trull*, 47.

⁹³ *Cal. Papal Letters*, XIII (2), pp. 561-2; Dunning and McDermott, *Church Accounts*, 243, 254.

⁹⁴ SHC, DD/SP/325/201.

⁹⁵ SHC, D/P/tru/4/1/5, 13/2/8, 24/18.

⁹⁶ SHC, D/P/tru/3/5/1-2, 6.

survive but part of a small cross was removed after the early 19th century. In 1920 a war memorial cross was erected.⁹⁷

Mission Room

A red brick and slate mission room was erected on ground at Daw's Green in the 1890s and was rented by the church for occasional services until 1945.⁹⁸ In 1946 it was converted and extended to form a dwelling called Meadow View.⁹⁹

NONCONFORMITY

Vicar Benjamin Berry, ejected in 1662, preached in Pitminster and in 1669 three preachers held conventicles in the area, the exact location was unknown. In 1689 two houses were licensed for Presbyterians but licences for the church and church house were refused.¹⁰⁰

A local Quaker attended quarterly county meetings in 1696.¹⁰¹ There were reportedly a family of Quakers and one or two Presbyterians in the parish c.1776.¹⁰² The Dymond and Hewitt tenants of Chilliswood were Quakers in the late 18th and early 19th century but Mary Hewitt became a Bible Christian preacher. Her husband William Mason reputedly preached at Daw's Green.¹⁰³ Methodism did not secure a foothold but Queen's College held occasional public Sunday evening services into the early 21st century.¹⁰⁴

⁹⁷ Som. HER 43696.

⁹⁸ SHC, DD/SAS/C/2273/1/T5/1; DD/CT/53; D/P/tru/2/5/2, 9/3/2-3.

⁹⁹ SHC, D/R/ta/24/1/452, 24/2/525.

¹⁰⁰ T. Crippen, *Nonconf. in Som.* 21, 26, 31; *Orig. Recs of Early Nonconformity* I, 5; II, 1100, III, 651, 653.

¹⁰¹ M. Costen, *Som. Quarterly Meeting*, 245.

¹⁰² SHC, D/D/Vc/88.

¹⁰³ SHC, C/WS/2/50, p. 86; A/EAQ/1/252/2; Q/RJL/35/27 (1820-32); L. H. Court, *The Romance of a Country Circuit* (1921), 23.

¹⁰⁴ SHC, D/N/tmc/3/4/7.

In 1895 a Baptist chapel was built by Thomas Penny on Comeytrowe Road for a congregation established at Staplehay, Pitminster by 1885. there was a Sunday evening service and in 1897 35 children attended the Sunday school. It was served from Silver Street, Taunton with which it united in 1914.¹⁰⁵ A deaconess was in charge in the early 1960s. By 1968 the congregation was four or five, the Sunday school transferred to Galmington and services ceased although a women's monthly meeting continued into 1969. In 1971 the chapel was sold and virtually rebuilt as Chapel House. Its tall traceried stone windows, circular gable window and entrance porch were destroyed and its banded brickwork covered by render.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁵ SHC, D/N/tau.b/4/2/3 (1895), 4/2/4, p. 15; Crippen, *Nonconf. in Som.* 50.

¹⁰⁶ SHC, D/N/tau.b/4/2/7, pp. 451, 479, 523; DD/WI/293/10/1; D/R/ta/24/1/107.