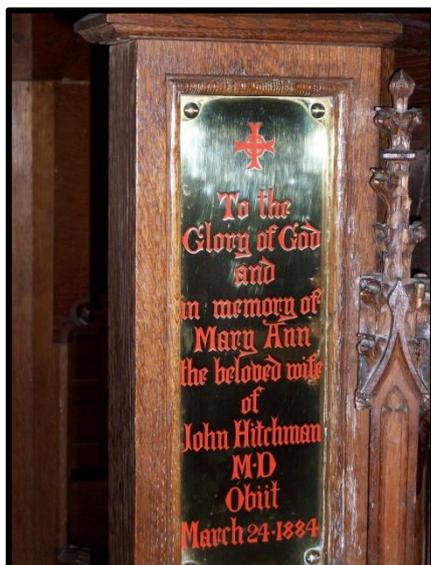


## THE MONUMENTS OF St MARY'S CHURCH, FAIRFORD - 24 OTHER MEMORIALS

In addition to the wall monuments, brasses and tombs in and on the outside of St Mary's Church there are a number of other artefacts which serve as memorials to some of Fairford's past citizens.

### Mary Ann Hitchman

The church pulpit has a small brass plate which indicates that it was donated to the church by Dr John Hitchman in remembrance of his wife Mary who died on 24 March 1884.



John was the son of John and Mary Hitchman and was baptised at Northleach on 27 May 1815. John the elder was a maltster and baker but his son chose a different career when he was apprenticed to Dr Charles Cornwall, surgeon and physician of Fairford. John later moved to London for further training at Guy's Hospital and St Thomas's Hospital but returned to Fairford to assist Dr

Cornwall. On 18 October 1839 John married Mary Ann the daughter of Alexander Iles who had founded The Retreat asylum in Milton Street in Fairford in 1821. John Hitchman worked at The Retreat with Dr Cornwall thereby starting a lifelong specialisation in the treatment of mental illness. His work at Hanwell Asylum in Middlesex in the treatment and pathology of mental patients is regarded as pioneering. He later became the Superintendent of the new Derby County Asylum at Mickleover with his wife being appointed as matron. He became the President of the Medico-Psychological Association in 1856 and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1871. After a very successful career John and Mary Ann retired to Fairford in 1875 and lived in The Laurels in the Market Place. John survived another nine years after Mary Ann's death and was buried alongside her on 8 April 1893.

### Arthur Smart Loxley

St Mary's wooden altar was presented in 1921 to commemorate the Reverend Arthur Smart Loxley's tenure as vicar of Fairford from 1879 to 1888. Born 1846 at Clapton, Middlesex Loxley succeeded Lord Dynevor as vicar of Fairford having been curate at Lamport with Faxton, Northamptonshire. He was a minor canon of Gloucester Cathedral and served as Cathedral Librarian from 1876 until his institution at Fairford in December 1878. In 1887 Canon Loxley instigated an appeal for funds to renovate the lead of St Mary's famous stained glass windows and the project was continued by Arthur's successor the Reverend F R



Carbonell. Arthur Loxley died in the vicarage on Easter Day 2 April 1888 at the age of 42, his wife then moving into Little Cloisters close to the cathedral in Gloucester where she died in 1928. The altar was designed by the church architect Sir Ninian Comper.

### **Richard John Bailey**

An oak credence table designed by Norman Jewson commemorates the young life of Richard Baily who, as the inscription carved on the side of the table states, was a chorister at St Mary's who was born on 29 June 1911 and died 25 July 1924 age 13. He was the son of Richard & Agnes Bailey; Richard was a farm bailiff of Farhill Farm when he died on 28 July 1914. The table was paid for by public subscription in 1926 after the teenager's death.

### **Dorothy Winifred Anne Dowglass**

A brass plaque on a prie-dieu (prayer desk) commemorates the long life of Dorothy Dowglass who was born in 1882 and died in Barbados on 18 Jan 1988 at the age of 105. Dorothy lived in The Virgills from the 1950s but went to live with her son in Barbados in 1998. Dorothy's husband was Arthur Pollock Dowglass an architect who died in Bath in 1945. The couple had lived in South Milton, Devon and Cirencester before moving to Fairford.

### **Denys Hodson**

Two small tables commemorate the life of local resident Denys Fraser Hodson, CBE. Born in Northleach in 1928 Denys served in the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment and then the Palestine Police Force. In 1970 he became controller of arts and recreation for Swindon and came to live in Manor Farm House in Fairford. Denys was a director of the Oxford Stage Company, the Brewery Arts in Cirencester as well as deputy chairman of the British Film Institute and vice-chairman of the prestigious Arts Council. He was Chairman of the Friends of Fairford Church from 1994 to 2010 during which time he was instrumental in raising the funds required to restore St Mary's windows. Denys died on 13 January 2013.

### **Peter and Rosemary Yells**

In 2009 a new moveable altar together with a lectern, a credence table, two chairs and a candle stand were presented to the church in memory of Fairford's long-serving Church Warden Peter Yells and his wife Rosemary. Peter had been baptised in St Mary's on 7 June 1931 the son of Wilfrid and Rose Yells. Building was a family tradition, Peter's father was a builder, as was his grandfather Edward while his great grandfather was a road surveyor for the Fairford and Kempsford district.

Peter's wife Rosemary died in October 2008 and Peter died in May 2009 having been the Church Warden at St Mary's for a total of 39 years. A few weeks before his death Peter asked the then vicar, the Reverend Brian Atkinson, to be allowed to donate funds for the new church furniture, a fitting end to a lifetime of service to St Mary's.



### **Jones Family**

The altar surrounds including the brightly-coloured riddel posts and angels were presented in 1946 in memory of Walter Hugh Jones of Morgan Hall, formerly of Williamstrip House. His wife Gladys Mary Baron Jones who died in 1980 is also commemorated on a brass plate fixed to the wall nearby.