

Churchyard

There are tombstones and headstones in the old churchyard which pre-date the present church, confirming that the new church is probably on the same site as the old. The earliest is of Barbara Binche who died in 1736.

Many of the Denison family are buried in the vault, but in the churchyard there is the box tomb of John Denison (died 15 May 1819). There is also a Denison plot in the churchyard - marked by three large crosses - to the right of the path as it bends towards the door of the church, in which are buried William Evelyn Denison (died 28 Sept 1916), George Charles Denison (died 29 March 1939), Lady Elinor Denison (died 29 July 1939), and the Rev Hon Percy Arthur Amherst (brother of Lady Elinor) (died 3 Feb 1910). One Ossington incumbent is buried in the old churchyard: John Charlesworth (died 6 Dec 1821)

Colonel Max Denison, who inherited the estate from his aunt, Lady Elinor, gave the old rose garden of the hall, lying to the east of the church, to be a new extension of the churchyard. It partly occupies the site of the former mausoleum. In it stands the early sundial placed in its present position in 1845.

Well

In the trees to the right of the road just inside the park gates is a monumental well dated 1877. It is a memorial to the philanthropist Edward Denison who died tragically young at Melbourne, New South Wales, in 1870 aged only 30.

Welcome to the church of the Holy Rood Ossington

The present church, which seats about 140 people, was built alongside Ossington Hall by Robert Denison as a memorial to his brother William. It was then an estate church of the manor of Ossington and still retains the character of such – with most of its original Georgian features – although the hall was demolished in 1963.

In a woodland setting away from the village, it stands on the site of an earlier church, which dated back to the 12th century when Ossington belonged to the Norman family of Burun (ancestors of the Byrons of Newstead). The church was given first to the

abbey of Lenton and then to the Knights of the Hospital of St John.

After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Cartwright family became lords of the manor for the next 200 years until the estate was sold for £34,000 to William Denison of Leeds. Towards the end of his life in 1750 George Cartwright presented a large Book of Common Prayer, for use in the church; this prayer book still exists.

Some memorials from the first church are preserved in the present one. But the rebuilding to plans of John Carr of York between 1782 and 1785 was so thorough that no other



traces of the previous building remain. It is thought that the most part of £4000 was spent on completing the church and the accompanying mausoleum. Unfortunately, the structure of the mausoleum proved to be unstable, so in 1838 John Evelyn Denison, great nephew of William and Robert, decided on its demolition.

In the early 20th century, Lady Elinor Denison was a major influence on developments at Ossington; she and the estate joiner carved the majority of the wood in the interior. She also brought in the second of the two organs which this church now houses.



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The information in this leaflet is taken from comprehensive historical research, which may be found in full at <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk>
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4 Organs

There are two organs: a Victorian positive organ and a barrel organ, 1836. The positive organ is believed to have been taken from a London church in 1913 and paid for by the Ossington Estate at the instigation of Lady Elinor Denison. The barrel organ is on a wooden platform at the bottom of the tower where it is reached by a ladder. It was built by Robson and Son of St Martin's Lane, Charing Cross (organ builder to William IV) in 1836. It has its own set of pipes but is geared to the electric blower of the positive organ below. The barrel is rotated by hand. When the organ pipes were removed for restoration the original dedication of the church was revealed on an arch on the west wall.



5 Bells & Clock

Among the bells taken from the original church, is one dated 1694 and one, the gift of George Cartwright in 1733. Two bells by Thomas Hedderly of Nottingham are dated 1784, marking the dedication of the new church. The clock was made by George and Francis Cope, Nottingham. Presented by John Evelyn Denison, Speaker of the House of Commons (1857-1872). Said to have been inspired by hearing Big Ben.

13 Enoch Trees

Enoch Trees was the incumbent of Ossington 1858-1898. There is a stained glass window on the north side of the nave dedicated to him. It shows St John baptising Christ.

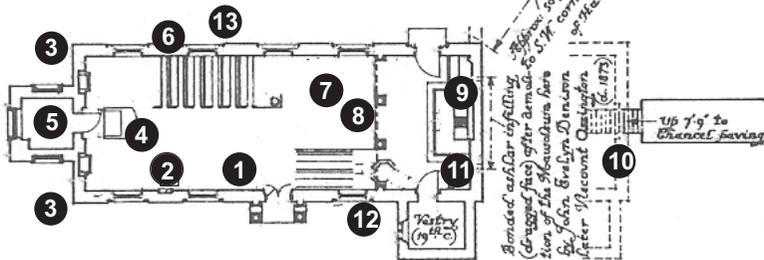
12 Glass

When the church was built in 1784 all the glass was clear. Coloured glass was inserted in seven of the nine windows between 1871 and 1946, most as memorials for the Denison family. Particularly striking is the window by George Cooper-Abbs of Christ with four archangels, in memory of Lady Elinor.



7 Pulpit, lectern, communion rails and wooden frieze around the nave

These items were all carved by Lady Elinor Denison and William Mawson, estate joiner in 1907.



3 Memorials to William & Robert Denison

Made by Joseph Nollekens, the most fashionable sculptor of his day. Notice on the base of William's statue the ship unloading in Lisbon harbour. William owed much of his considerable fortune to the arrival of one of his ships in Lisbon just after much of the city had been destroyed by an earthquake (in 1755).

6 W F Evelyn Denison Memorial

Lady Elinor's husband, W F Evelyn Denison died in 1916 and, tragically their only child was killed two years later in the last year of the First World War.



9 Cartwright tomb

William Cartwright and his wife, Grace with six male and six female child figures below them. Notice the children holding skulls: sadly these children died before their parents.

10 Vault

Thirteen members of the Denison family are buried in the twin-level vault to the east of the church.

John Wilkinson was the brother in law of Robert and William Denison, and it was his son, John, who became their heir, changing his name to Denison. This John Denison fathered a distinguished family of children including Edward, bishop of Salisbury, John Evelyn, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Sir William, colonial governor of Australia and Madra. Six other brothers also made their mark! It was probably the future Speaker Denison around 1850 who changed the name of the church from St Mary's to Holy Rood (Rood meaning cross).

8 Rood

This was brought back from Oberammergau, South Germany, by Lady Elinor in 1911.

11 Peckham tomb

Preserved from the earlier church building is the tomb of Reynald Peckham and his wife, Frances Cartwright, whose family acquired Ossington at the Reformation. Round the tomb runs an inscription taken from the Book of Job, Ch. 19, verses 25-27, but it has been broken up and improperly joined together. The brass on the top of the tomb has been "re-cycled": The two principal figures are cut out of a large fourteenth century Flemish brass which was originally made for a lady about 1360. In total one Flemish brass and four English ones appear to have been reused for Peckham's monument.



1 Charlesworth memorial

In memory of John Charlesworth, former incumbent of the parish during William Denison's time at Ossington.

2 Sanderson memorial

Notice the reference to the east window. This appears to have come from elsewhere as it refers to an east window which is absent in Holy Rood.