



A HISTORY

DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



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Introduction

This report, completed in 2016, was largely researched and written by Jane Root in 2015 in response to a brief prepared by English Heritage (Historic England) in 2013. It is based on the results of extensive but not exhaustive documentary research and a visual inspection, and no archaeological investigation has been carried out. Faculty records for the dioceses of London, Rochester and St Albans which successively included Southchurch before the formation of the Diocese of Chelmsford in 1913 have not been seen. The Bank of England Inflation Calculator is quoted in this report to give some indication of current price equivalents but the figures given should be treated with caution.

For the purposes of this report, liturgical orientations are used.

The assistance of staff at Essex Record Office, Lambeth Palace Library, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and Southend Museums Service, and advice and guidance from Mike Penry, Stephen Perry and Paul Schurer is acknowledged with thanks.

Historical Introduction

In the words of an anonymous writer in 1924:

The Church of the Holy Trinity is in itself an epitome of the history of the parish, and indeed of the whole surrounding neighbourhood. Untouched for centuries, except so far as necessary repairs had to be made, it is now three times its original size, and is still incomplete. (Anon 1924, 5)

The present church building is Grade II* Listed; it has twelfth-century origins, and was restored by William Slater in the mid nineteenth century (NHLE List Entry no 1112723). It was extended in response to dramatic growth in the local population in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; a new nave was built to the designs of Ninian Comper in 1906 and a new chancel by FC Eden in 1931 (NHLE List Entry no 1112723). The enlargement scheme remains incomplete.

No original research into the early history of Southchurch has been undertaken for this report. The origins of its name have been the subject of much debate and speculation, and the consensus is that south is a geographical designation (*eg* Roessler 1920, 13; Kemble 2007, 81). It has been suggested that the name, in common with the names of other early churches around the Thames estuary, is 'directional', and describes Southchurch's location in relation to its parent minster at Wakering (Blair 2005, 215). There is charter evidence that Southchurch was granted by Leofstan, a Saxon thegn, to Christ Church Canterbury in the eleventh century in the reign of Edward the Confessor (Brooks 1984, 308).

The manor of Southchurch was listed as the property of the monks at Canterbury in Domesday Book (Rumble 1983, 2, 8). The Southchurch property was tenanted and by custom its occupants adopted the name 'de Southchurch' until the death of Sir Peter de Southchurch in 1309 (Anon 1924, 3; NHLE List Entry no 1306880). Southchurch Hall is a Grade I Listed thirteenth-century

manor house with earlier origins which is of particular interest because of its early date (NHLE List Entry no 1306880). The Southchurch property was seized at the dissolution and granted to the new Dean and Chapter of Canterbury as part of their endowments in 1542, but they were soon compelled to exchange it for property elsewhere: the Manor of Southchurch was granted to Richard, Lord Rich, and subsequently descended through a succession of private owners (VCH 1926 [Kent II], 113-121; Anon 1924, 4). The parish remained an ecclesiastical peculiar under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury (VCH 1907 [Essex II], 82).

Until the late nineteenth century Holy Trinity was the parish church of a small settlement which had a population of 291 and only 36 inhabited houses in 1801 (ERO D/P 120/8/3). This rose slowly to reach 494 in 1861, and then as a result of the growth of Southend nearly doubled to 932 in 1891 and increased by almost as much again to 1622 in 1901 (VCH 1907 [Essex II], 351). The church building was the subject of antiquarian interest from at least the early eighteenth century, and was recorded in some detail during periods of change in the mid-nineteenth century and the early 1920s. The later history and development of the church building within the parish context has been researched from primary sources.

Summary Description

The nave of the 'modest Norman church' is *circa* mid-twelfth century and conforms to an established local pattern (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 708):

Late 11th or early 12th-century churches are unusually common in Essex and in nearly every case they follow certain well-defined conventions. The proportions of the nave of the Norman parish church in Essex were commonly two squares (*ie* the length was double the width), and where this proportion is departed from by a large increase of length there is *prima facie* evidence of the former existence of a central tower. (RCHME 1923, xxxiii)

The south doorway, with one order of colonettes with one- and two-scallop capitals, and zigzag and roll mouldings in the arch, remains *in situ* (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 708 *cf* RCHME 1923, 145). The twelfth-century north doorway was rebuilt in 1906 as the west doorway to the new nave (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 708). It is similar in design to the south doorway, with the addition of a billet-decorated hood-mould (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 708 *cf* RCHME 1923, 145).

The church was remodelled in the thirteenth century, when the original chancel was rebuilt (RCHME 1923, 145). Again, this conforms to a local pattern: Norman parish chancels in Essex were originally either square- or apsidal-ended but there is little evidence to show which was more common as the east ends have generally been rebuilt (RCHME 1923, xxxiii). The chancel has thirteenth-century lancets on the north and south sides (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 708). There is a thirteenth-century lancet window in the south wall of the original nave, and a two-light fourteenth-century window with a segmental head (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 708 *cf* RCHME 1923, 145).

The principal fixtures in the church include a late fourteenth-century combined Easter sepulchre and funeral monument in the north wall of the old chancel (NHLE List Entry no 1112723; RCHME 1923, 146). The RCHME inventory index lists three possible fourteenth-century Easter Sepulchres in the county, at Colchester, Felsted and Ramsey, in addition to the Southchurch example which is unquestioned, and one probable sixteenth-century example at Frating (RCHME 1923, 236). The surviving lower part of the rood loft stairs is now partly covered by a mid-eighteenth century monument (NHLE List Entry no 1112723).

The chancel arch is fifteenth-century and the timber belfry, which is of a similar date, is described in detail below (NHLE List Entry no 1112723). The church interior was remodelled in the mid-eighteenth century but this work was effectively undone by the mid-nineteenth century restoration by William Slater. The 'light and spacious' new church on the north side of the old is in a 'loosely Perpendicular style' (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 708; NHLE List Entry no 1112723).

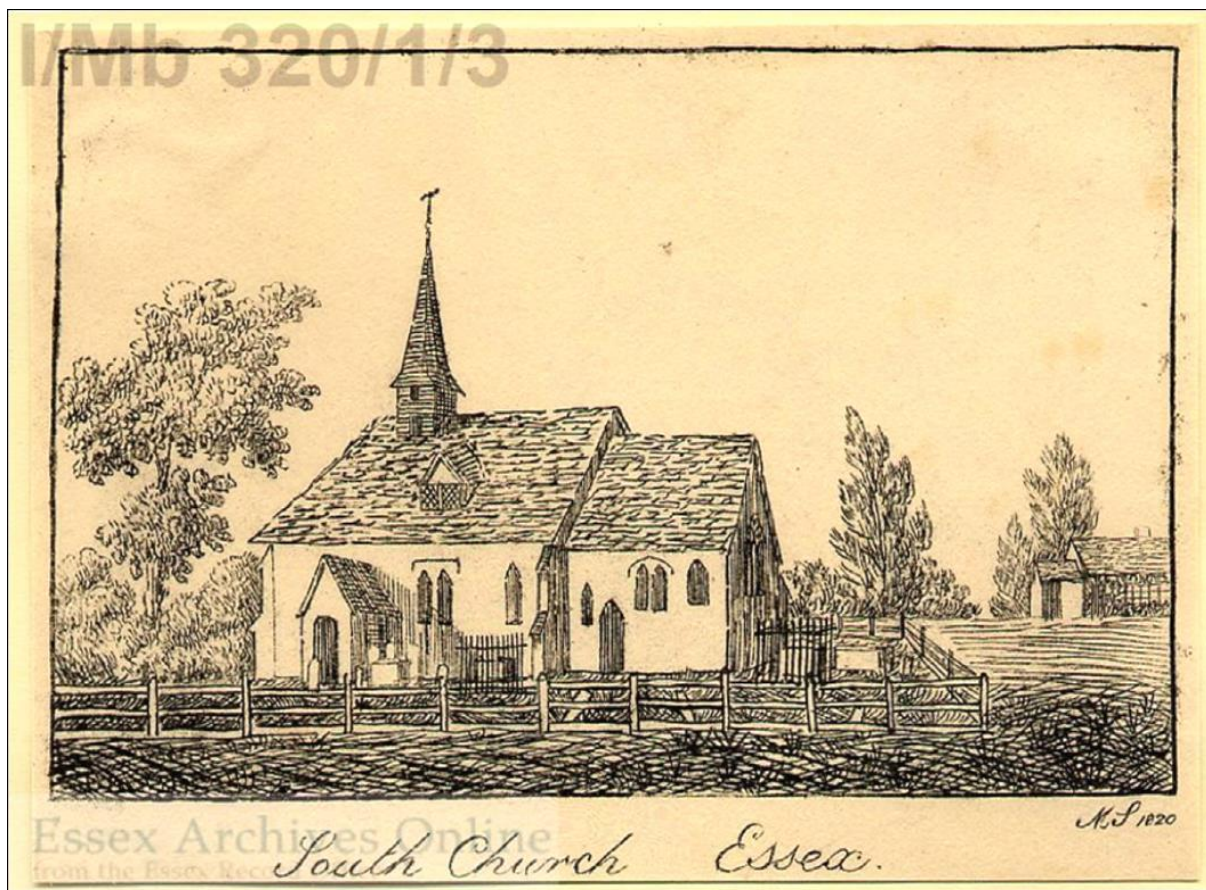


Fig1 The church from the south, 1820 (ERO I/Mb 320/1/3)

This consists of a nave, partially-completed north aisle and chancel, with a vestry on the north side (NHLE List Entry no 1112723). In addition to the former north doorway, three windows from the original nave were reset in the new nave. The new chancel was added by F C Eden 1931-2 (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 708). Interior fittings principally by Carøe and Partners were completed in the following decades.

The Belfry

Description

There is a timber bell-turret with an octagonal shingled spire above the west end of the original nave roof, repaired in 2015. This is shown with varying degrees of accuracy in illustrations from the early nineteenth century onwards (Figs 1, 2, 4-8). The bell turret has saltire bracing and is supported on a heavy timber frame consisting of eight chamfered oak posts with curved braces within the church at the west end of the nave. There is clear evidence of repair to these posts, which are now very dark in colour. A date of 1666 with the letters 'I A' and other marks including '+ 1' are carved into one of the posts, and 'W D 1747' is cut into one of the timbers in the bell chamber. The significance of these dates is not clear.

The Southchurch belfry is generally accepted to have fifteenth-century origins and this is consistent with the dating of other similar structures (*eg* Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 708; NHLE List Entry no 1112723). In 1923, the RCHME identified the thirteenth century as a period of depression in Essex, although there was some recovery of building activity in the county in the fourteenth century. The great wave of church building in East Anglia in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries extended into north Essex, for example at Saffron Walden, Dedham and Thaxted (RCHME 1923, xxxiv). There is no freestone in the county, so stone was imported or other building materials were used. The timber framed belfry is a characteristic local feature and there are more than 100 timber-framed belfries and bell towers in Essex, built using limited resources when timber was the most readily available and economic material (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 25-6):

Some are small and largely concealed from inside the church, but many are imposing structures, supported on massive frames at the W end of the church, carried on tie-beams resting on the walls often reinforced by posts. From these beams a square tower, with saltire and sometimes arched bracing, rises through the middle of the roof, buttressed by the rafters which lean against it. At the top stage of the tower is the bell-chamber, which originally usually had traceried windows. From the top of the tower, there rises a timber spire, typically with a central mast with saltire-bracing between it and the rafters. (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 25)

Most of the examples which have been dated were built around the first half of the fifteenth century; this may correspond to a peak in building activity, and similar belfries continued to be built into the sixteenth century (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 26). In the mid-nineteenth century, H W King suggested that the Southchurch belfry was built in the reigns of Henry VII or Henry VIII, *ie* between 1485 and 1547, and the current Listing description refers to it as 'C15 (or later)' (ERO T/P 196/2; NHLE List Entry no 1112723). There are some examples of timber belfries which have been superseded by masonry towers, for example at Great Clacton (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 25-6 *cf* NHLE List Entry no 1317259).

According to the RCHME in 1923, the timber towers

...form a somewhat remarkable group, which it would be difficult to equal in any other part of England. The finest of these towers are at Blackmore, Margaretting, Navestock and Stock. In the most usual type the tower rests on massive angle posts with cross-beams, braces and framing, and is surrounded on three sides by a lower 'aisle' with a pent roof, and of which the framing serves to support and buttress the main structure. (RCHME 1923, xxxiv)

The RCHME volume illustrates parish churches with wooden bell-turrets and the timber construction of fifteenth- and sixteenth-century belfries at West Hanningfield, Laindon, North Benfleet, Mountnessing and Horndon-on-the-Hill in a series of photographs (RCHME 1923, between xxxviii-xxix).

Documented History of the Southchurch Belfry

It is evident that a series of alterations have been made to the Southchurch belfry structure, but neither the sequence of changes nor earlier forms is entirely clear and there are gaps in the documentary record. The belfry now houses a single early fourteenth century bell, but the 1552 Exchequer inventory of church goods recorded two bells in the steeple (NHLE List Entry no 1112723; *TEAS* v124).

The accounts of the churchwarden Josiah Willows record substantial expenditure on alterations and repairs to the church in the early years of the eighteenth century. In 1710, a new pulpit was built and the church repaired at a total cost of £17.7.0 (ERO D/P 120/8/2). In 1717-18, £53.2.8 was spent 'Repairing ye body of ye chc &c' and in 1720, Willows was allowed the 'expences for ye 2 last years – The Repairing the Steple &c' totalling £36.18.0. William Holman visited Southchurch and wrote an eye-witness description of the building shortly after this work was completed, describing 'a Spire at y^e West end on a Tower of Stone Shingled, the rest Tiled...' (ERO T/P 195/5/5). The reference to a stone tower is disconcerting, although repeated without question by later writers such as Morant in 1768, but the reference to shingles on the spire and tile on the other roofs seems likely to be accurate.

Further work which must have impacted on the lower stages of the belfry structure was undertaken in the mid-eighteenth century, commissioned by the Drew family:

This Church hath been lately new pewed, ceiled, and beautified: and a gallery was erected at the west end, in 1756, at the charge of Thomas Drew Esq; and Elizabeth his wife. Their arms are in the front. (Morant 1768, 300)

The use of the family arms suggests that this gallery could in fact have been a private pew; there is no evidence to suggest any significant population growth in the parish at this date, meaning that

it is unlikely to have been needed to provide additional congregational seating, but alternatively it may have accommodated musicians. It is not clear whether it was attached to, or within, the timber frame or where the staircase was sited. At St Nicholas, Laindon there was a gallery set within the lowest stage of the timber framed tower illustrated by the RCHME in 1923 (RCHME 1923, xxxviii-ix). It is not clear from the current Listing description if this is still extant (NHLE List Entry no 1338377).

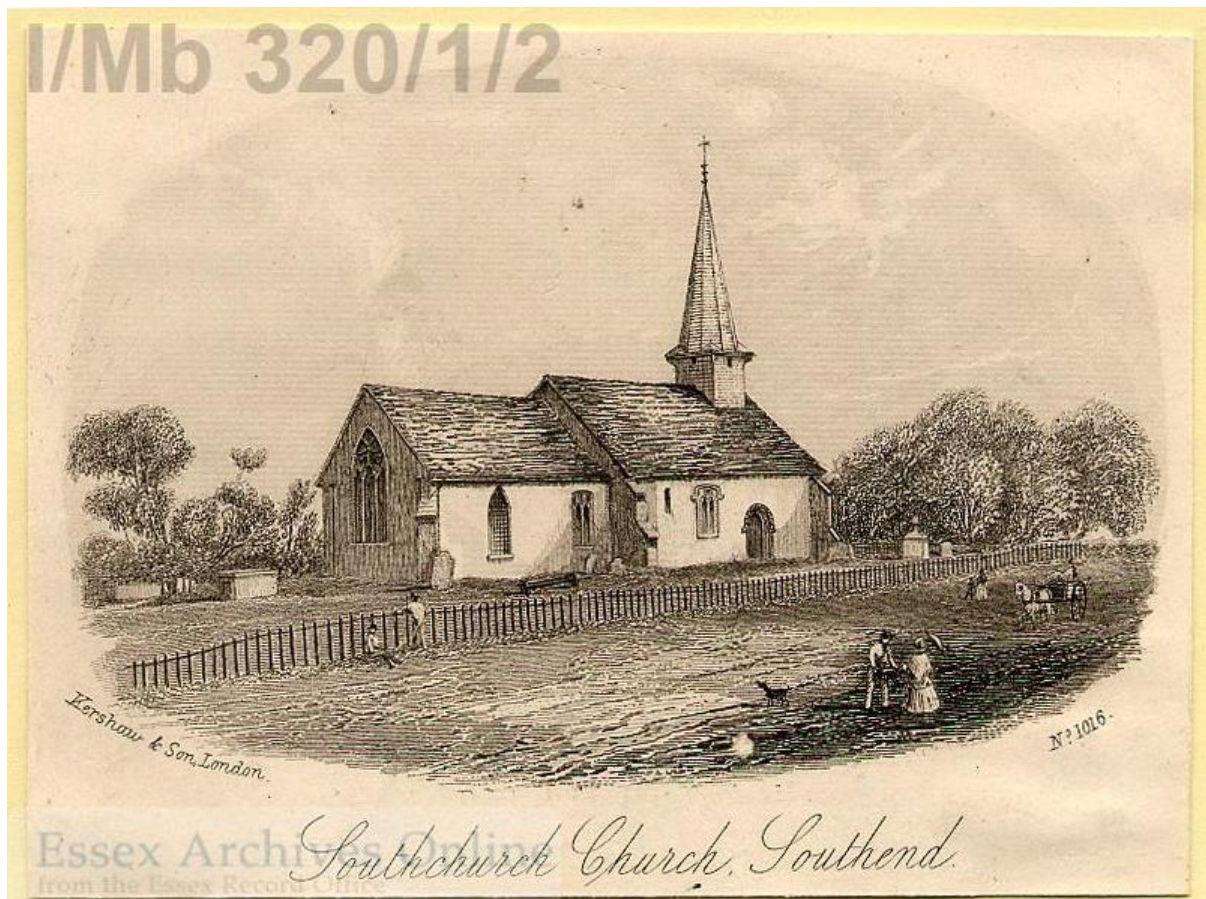


Fig 2 The church from the north, early-mid nineteenth century (ERO I/Mb 320/1/3)

The Southchurch churchwardens' accounts record further work to the belfry in the early nineteenth century. In September 1818 William Bragg was paid £26.8.6 for repairing and painting the steeple (approximately £2000 in today's terms: Bank of England Inflation Calculator accessed 31.7.2015). Bragg was a carpenter who undertook regular maintenance work and, for example, in January 1819 he was paid £7.12.0 for 'Carpenter & painting fence Ch yd' (ERO D/P 120/8/3). The primary purpose of painting this timberwork was to preserve it and it is likely to have been in a neutral colour; a series of illustrations, which should be interpreted with caution, suggest it may have been a dark colour in 1820, but others show a pale colour and in photographs and two oil paintings dating from around 1900 the spire appears to be white (LPL ICBS file reference 10422; Figs 1, 2, 4-8).

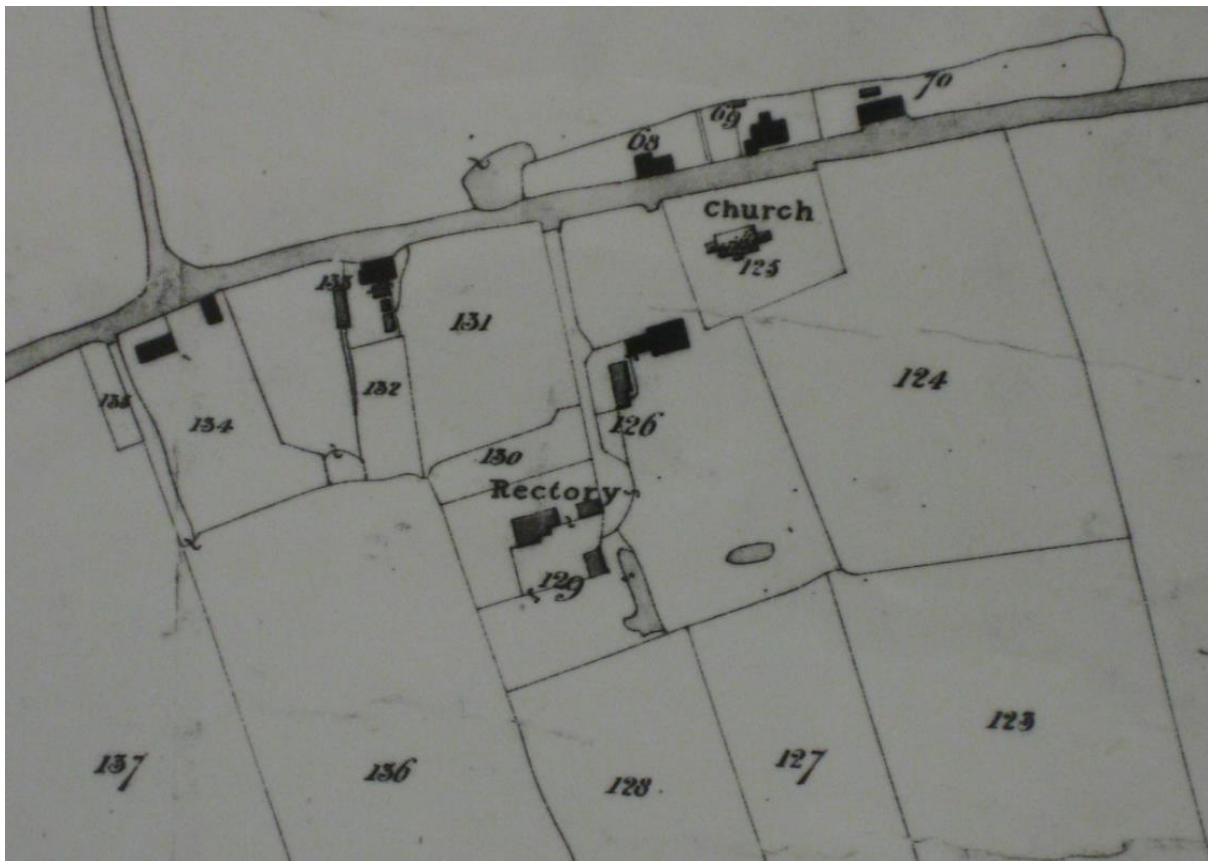


Fig 3 Detail from Southchurch tithe map, 1839 (ERO D/P 120/27/2)

When H W King visited the church in 1846 and 1848 he noted, and drew, the timber spire which he believed to contain a single bell, and a dormer on the south side of the nave roof (ERO T/P 196/2; Fig 4). He did not comment on the lower stages of the belfry frame inside the church which were significantly altered shortly afterwards. The 1923 RCHME volume provides some useful context for understanding this: it is clear from the photographs of similar structures that some had mouldings on elements of the frame suggesting that they were intended to be seen, for example at West Hanningfield and Mountnessing (RCHME 1923, between xxxviii-ix; NHLE List Entry nos 1236738, 1208238). Other frames, for example at North Benfleet, were unmoulded but open to the body of the church in 1923 (RCHME 1923, between xxxviii-ix). At Southchurch, the timber frame seems to have been entirely filled or covered until after 1856, when the architect William Slater recommended that the

... Gallery and partitions at West end should be removed so as to make the whole floor of the Church available and considering the expense which must be incurred in rebuilding the West end it is advisable to extend the Church in that direction. (ERO D/P 120/8/7)



Fig 4 The church from the south-east, H W King 1848 (Anon 1924)

According to H W King, on his third visit to Southchurch:

The nave is in process of restoration, and the closet pews will give place to open benches. The west wall of the nave in which were found portions of the Norman font of Betherston marble, is rebuilding, and a new window will be constructed opening into the nave by the removal of the belfry partition. The timber work of the belfry erected circa temp Hen VII or VIII, is undergoing the necessary repair. (ERO T/P 196/2)

There is physical evidence that the present first floor belfry partition is not the first one, and it appears to be coeval with the nave roof boarding; repairs and piecing in on the posts below also suggest alterations. It is not clear how the proposed westwards extension of the nave to provide additional congregational seating would have related to the belfry (ERO D/P 120/8/7).

In 1923, the bell-turret was described as 'weather-boarded', and this appears to be the covering shown in an early twentieth-century photograph in the Historic England archive (RCHME 1923, 145; Historic England 'England's Places' Archive Image 1382_165 accessed 14.6.2016: cf Fig 5). Repairs undertaken in 2015 replaced mid-twentieth-century cedar shingles with oak.



Fig 5 The church from the south c1920 (private collection)

The History and Development of the Church Building

The Late Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

A series of parish account books provide some limited information about the church building, and a useful insight into the state of the parish. For example, in 1682, a poor rate assessed at a farthing in the pound per month (or 6d a year) produced a return of £18.0.2 (ERO D/P 120/8/1). In 1704, 17 individuals were liable, of whom two were widows and the others were men; they were assessed for the poor rate at 6d in the pound and the total income was £18.4.0 (ERO D/P 120/8/2). On Easter Monday 1730, 17 individuals were again assessed for a 6d rate which produced £18.3.0. The volume starting in 1704 ends with a 9d rate assessment made in September 1751, when 28 individuals were liable and more than £33 was collected (ERO D/P 120/8/2). This may indicate some fragmentation of property ownership, but also demonstrates only a modest increase in the value of property in the parish in seventy years.

Unspecified repairs to the church were undertaken at a cost of £11.13.4 in 1682-3 (ERO D/P 120/8/1). It is likely that some roof repairs were undertaken between 1689 and April 1691, when the churchwarden Christopher Parsons submitted his accounts for two years including nearly £20 of unspecified disbursements and a credit of two shillings for the sale of 22lb of lead (ERO D/P 120/8/1). In 1710, the newly-appointed churchwarden Josiah Willows was granted a 6d rate to cover routine expenditure and the cost of building a new pulpit and repairing the church at £17.7.0 (ERO D/P 120/8/2). Willows, who also held other parish offices, served as churchwarden until 1712, and then from 1714 to 1720 when he was succeeded by Francis Willows who was apparently his son. Josiah Willows' accounts presented on Easter Monday 1718 included exceptional expenditure

of £53.2.8 'Repairing ye body of ye chc &c' (ERO D/P 120/8/2). In 1720, he was allowed the 'expences for ye 2 last years – The Repairing the Steple &c' totalling £36.18.0. The churchwardens' expenses were in some years only a few pounds, but Willows seems to have been unusually energetic, commissioning the equivalent in today's terms of more than £20 000 of building work in ten years (Bank of England Inflation Calculator accessed 31.7.2015). Willows paid the rates for two pieces of property in the parish, Samuels and Palsgraves, but his mark in the book shows that he was illiterate; from 1720 the rates on these properties were paid by Francis Willows, who could write his own name (ERO D/P 120/8/2).

William Holman visited Southchurch in June 1721 shortly after these works were completed:

Southchurch als Seachurch visited Wensday 14 June 1721 –

This church & chancell is of one pace of equall Size & Bigness a Spire at y^e West end on a Tower of Stone Shingled, the rest Tiled: the porch cuting into y^e Door is indented y^t shows its antiquity

In the north wall of y^e chancell is an Arch in the wall with a Tomb raised a foot from the ground very old In the south wall opposite to this is another Arch. (ERO T/P 195/5/5)

The remainder of the lengthy description chiefly concerns monumental inscriptions. Philip Morant's description of the church, published in 1768, repeats some of the information originally provided by Holman:

The CHURCH, and Chancel are of one pace; and of equal size, and bigness: both tiled. On a Tower of stone, containing Bells, is a Spire shingled. The Porch, at the entrance into the Church, is indented, which shews its antiquity. This Church hath been lately new pewed, ceiled, and beautified: and a gallery was erected at the west end, in 1756, at the charge of Thomas Drew Esq; and Elizabeth his wife. Their arms are in the front. (Morant 1768, 300)

There is no obvious surviving evidence of the eighteenth-century remodelling which was effectively undone by the nineteenth-century restoration. Elizabeth Drew's 1761 monument is placed over the rood loft stairs (NHLE List Entry No 1112723).

A note in the back of the churchwardens' account book records:

The Account of the Population of the Parish of Southchurch taken by Michael Saward & Mordecai Nuttman Overseers, March 10th 1801 was Males 162 & Females 129 total 291 persons Inhabited Houses 36 & Occupied by 56 families (ERO D/P 120/8/3)



Fig 6 The church from the north, A B Bamford, late nineteenth century (ERO I/Ba 65/1)

The Nineteenth Century

There are no surviving churchwardens' accounts for the period from 1751 to Easter 1806, when the disbursements of M Saward are recorded (ERO D/P 120/8/3). On 30 September 1806, he paid £1.10.3 for 'Stubbing and Carting 11 Loads of Gravel for the walks in the Church Yard' (ERO D/P 120/8/3). On 14 January 1807, Saward paid Mr Warram's £80 bill

... for painting the Church &c and Writeing the Commandments, Creed, Lords prayer &c, & Scripture pieces... (ERO D/P 120/8/3)

On 30 March he paid a carpenter's bill for £10.16.0, bricklayer's bill £1.8.0 and two small tradesmen's bills for unspecified work (ERO D/P 120/8/3). A further 12 loads of gravel were delivered for the churchyard walks in November of the following year, and in the spring of 1808 Saward paid for killing 9 dogs and printing and displaying hand bills 'Concerning Mad Dogs' during a rabies scare (ERO D/P 120/8/3). The accounts record minor payments for bricklaying and mending a church window, but in the year 1807-8, Saward's disbursements totalled less than £23. In June 1808, Saward paid £2.1.0 for two dozen hassocks, and a further two dozen were purchased in June 1813. In April 1809 he paid Mr Bragg's bill for mending the churchyard fence '& doing some of it new' at a cost of £5.12.3 (ERO D/P 120/8/3).

Saward and his successors continued to pay small amounts for maintenance work on the church building, for example in October 1812 when Saward paid 17s 6d 'A Bricklayers Bill for work done to the Church' (ERO D/P 120/8/3). There were frequent payments for mending windows, and in May 1814 an iron chest was purchased at a cost of three guineas (ERO D/P 120/8/3). There is some evidence relating to church music, for example in 1817 when one shilling was paid for a bassoon reed in May and in June, Mr Cobb was paid a total of one pound for 'instructing singers at 2/-', the first of a series of payments which continued for over a year until the account ends (ERO D/P 120/8/3). The musicians may have been accommodated in the west gallery.

In September 1818 William Bragg was paid £26.8.6 for repairing and painting the steeple; other entries show that Bragg was a carpenter who undertook regular maintenance work (ERO D/P 120/8/3). In January 1819 he was paid £7.12.0 for 'Carpenter & painting fence Ch yd' (ERO D/P 120/8/3). In May 1819, it was agreed that the paupers in the workhouse, including children, should attend the parish church, and would not be allowed to attend 'any dissenting place of worship'. It was also agreed that the church interior should be whitewashed, a new cushion provided for the pulpit and a new cloth for the Communion Table (ERO D/P 120/8/5).

The production of three early-mid nineteenth century illustrations of the church was apparently prompted by both the early development of Southend and the growth of antiquarian interest (Figs 1, 2, 4). The footprint of the church building on the 1839 tithe map is puzzling and the illustrations do not offer any explanation for it (Figs 1-4). They show the building with varying degrees of accuracy before the mid-nineteenth century restoration, when the walls were rendered and there was a dormer on the south side of the nave roof.

The restoration of the church in the mid-1850s is described in some detail in the surviving documents. A Vestry Meeting on 1 April 1853 unanimously resolved to appoint a committee to report on the cost of a 'stove and funnel' for the church by the end of August (ERO D/P 120/8/7). This matter was not referred back to the Vestry for eighteen months, but in the meantime the Revd William Vallance had been instituted as Rector and he quickly embarked on an ambitious restoration (Roessler 1920, 31). H W King visited Southchurch for a third time whilst the restoration of the nave was in progress, and described the work already undertaken by Vallance to restore the chancel:

Accompanied in my present examination by the Rector, the Rev W Vallance, at whose expense the entire chancel has been renovated, and through whose example and exertions the rest of the church is under repair and restoration; and aided by his information respecting the discoveries, I record the following account, written however entirely from memory, as I took no notes on this occasion.

... The restoration of the chancel is already perfected, and here it was that various interesting features have been brought to light. A beautiful Decorated east window, from which all the tracery had been barbarously cut away during the present century, has been restored to, apparently, its original design, and filled with well-executed painted glass.

Another window upon the south side of the same period, being greatly decayed, has also been faithfully restored. A pointed 'low side window', blocked, has been opened and glazed. There is a stone seat in the recess, and indications of the fixings of the wooden shutter in the stonework, all carefully preserved. A plain sedile in the wall, once blocked, is again disclosed, and a square aumbry has been found in the north wall. The Piscina in the south wall is of very early date. The Founder's Tomb, either that of Richard de Southchurch, 1294, or Peter de Southchurch, 1309, long hidden by masonry and pewing, has been thoroughly renovated. It consists of a stone coffin, with trefoil-headed arcading in front, set in a recess within the north wall. The arch of the recess has evidently been altered and repaired about the time of Edward IV, and immediately over it a second niche of the same period of greater width and height has been formed, obviously for the Easter Sepulchre. The tomb was filled to the top with rubbish and numerous human bones, no doubt removed from a neighbouring vault and other parts of the edifice; but upon carefully removing them, the Skeleton of the Founder was discovered at the depth of about three feet. A new lid has been placed upon the coffin by the Rector, sculptured with a cross upon griesces, its head and arms terminating in trefoils. A later niche in the south wall, perhaps, is the tomb of one of the family of Bruyn. (ERO T/P 196/2)

With regard to the rest of the church, a Vestry Meeting was summoned for 22 January 1856 to discuss a report from Mr W Slater, architect

... as to the state of the Roof and Walls of the Church; the rearrangement of the internal fittings and reseating of the Church; the removal of the Gallery and extension of the Church at the West end and other matters relating to the repairs and improvement of the Church (ERO D/P 120/8/7)

The Rector as chairman read Slater's report to the meeting:

The walls are of very ancient date parts of them probably as old as the beginning of the Twelfth Century. The greater part of the exterior has been covered and disfigured in modern times by cement and plaster.

At the West end some serious and extensive settlements have occurred causing openings from 2 to 4 inches wide in the walls and fracturing the timbers of the belfry; and otherwise endangering the stability of the Church.

The whole West wall of the Nave must therefore be rebuilt at once with new buttresses and a new stone window the masonry of the old one being completely decayed. In order to prevent further injury to the Church it is very desirable that these works should be commenced forthwith. The cost would be about £90.

The other walls should have the plastering removed and the stonework restored and carefully pointed, this including repairs to the windows would cost about £60.

The roof is in a very bad condition both as regards the timber and covering. It should be re-covered using the old tiles and much of the timber should be exchanged for new which would amount almost to reframing the roof. The cost of this would be £105.

The accommodation afforded by the present internal arrangements is inconvenient and capable of great improvement.

The Gallery and partitions at West end should be removed so as to make the whole floor of the Church available and considering the expense which must be incurred in rebuilding the West end it is advisable to extend the Church in that direction.

By these means an increase of accommodation for about 40 persons would be obtained. The cost of reseating the Church and other works consequent thereon would be about £150.

The extension of the Church would cost about £45 but to meet part of this expense the additional accommodation would entitle to a grant from the incorporated Society of about £25.

Excepting the latter suggestion nothing is recommended in the foregoing report but what is absolutely necessary to put the fabric in substantial repair and to restore the Church to its original state. (ERO D/P 120/8/7)

Vallance then read a further report of his own:

According to the Architect's report now read the cost of rebuilding the West wall £90 repairing the roof £105 repairing the other walls & windows £60 is estimated at £255. This is considered necessary to put the fabric in substantial repair. The reseating the Church and other works consequent thereon £150 and the extension of the Church £45 with the repairs make a total of £450. According to the plan – a new Porch is described which is estimated at £65 – and a new vestry £65, and other works to the Belfry £20 – a new Font £12 to £15 It is contemplated to warm the Church with hot water pipes and taking all these works together the costs may be set at upwards of £600. Being desirous of seeing these works carried out and the Nave as completely restored as the Chancel and feeling assured that it will tend to the promotion of God's honour as well as to the comfort and convenience of the Worshippers in God's house and be the means also of saving a certain expenditure for a long period by making the Church almost new whilst preserving its ancient character

I am willing to undertake the charge and burden of and to be responsible for the expence of the work provided the Rate Payers will assist so much towards it as a 1/- Rate will produce extending over 3 years.... (ERO D/P 120/8/7)

Vallance set out how the scheme would be financed, using the powers granted to the churchwardens under the 1819 Church Building Act to borrow money against the rates. He

thought that the westward extension of the church was worth considering, since the additional accommodation it provided would allow some of the cost to be met by a grant from the Incorporated Church Building Society. The additional nine feet in length would provide 40 more seats but Vallance did not consider it 'indispensable' since the accommodation could be increased without it. There is no evidence that the parish applied to the ICBS for grant aid at this date.

Vallance, doubtless aware that opinion in the parish was divided, was prepared to resort to moral blackmail to achieve his aims:

Having no other object in view than making God's House worthy of His Name and of benefiting the Parishioners I think it right to take this large share in accomplishing the complete restoration of the Church. On this account I confess it would be gratifying to me that my offer should not be rejected. Should the present opportunity be thrown away it will not be in my power to give another. (ERO D/P 120/8/7)

The meeting was adjourned until 8 February 1856, when a vote was taken. There were 19 votes in favour and 15 against accepting the Rector's offer, and it was decided to put the matter to all the rate-paying parishioners. The result, 21 in favour and 15 against, was declared on 11 February; it is not clear whether there were others who did not exercise their right to vote, but if not it must have been apparent before the second vote that the first would not be overturned.

On 11 February the adjourned meeting voted unanimously to accept the Rector's offer of £152.5.5 towards the church repairs, and to contribute £102.14.7 from the Church Rates. The Rector and churchwardens were appointed as a committee to oversee the repairs, improvement and alterations according to Slater's recommendations, and he was appointed as architect. The committee were empowered to enter into all necessary contracts, provided that the parish's liability was limited to the agreed amount.

William Slater had a fairly extensive practice in Essex in the mid-nineteenth century: he was responsible for the former Southchurch National School and teacher's house adjoining the church, built in 1851 and enlarged 1894 (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 62, 709). In 1855 he completed the restoration of St John the Baptist, Little Maplestead – where the timber belfry was rebuilt – after the death of his partner R C Carpenter (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 58, 558; NHLE List Entry no 1338017). Slater restored and reseated St Andrew, South Shoebury c1857, restored St Andrew, Rochford in 1862-3 and restored and reseated All Saints, Barling Magna in 1863-4 (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 710, 646, 109; NHLE List Entry nos 1322327, 1112585, 1365617).

The nineteenth century restoration at Southchurch had a significant impact on the character and appearance of the church. For example, H W King described the work done to the masonry:

The church is of Norman foundation, with north and south doorways having chevron and billet mouldings, but differing in their details, the billet appearing only upon the north. The bases of the shafts have long been buried beneath the soil, which will soon be removed, and the moulding plentifully coated with whitewash, will be restored almost to their original sharpness. From the kind of materials with which the walls of the majority

of the Essex churches are composed, the Mediaeval architects no doubt generally roughcast them. The roughcast has now been stripped from these walls, exhibiting in this case a style of masonry which could never have been intended to receive plaster, and which, when newly pointed, will resume its original character. (ERO T/P 196/2)

The dark colours in the old church interior, including the boarded ceilings and congregational seating, are also a product of the nineteenth century restoration. The congregational seating at Southchurch is very similar to that designed by Slater for the much larger church of St John the Baptist, Devizes in Wiltshire c1857-61 (Root 2015; NHLE List Entry No 1262359).



Fig 7 Holy Trinity from the north c1900

(Southend Museums Service SOUAG.TS500)

At a Vestry Meeting on 17 March 1857, the proposed vestry room was reconsidered: Mr Vallance had offered to build a wall on the north side of the churchyard, replacing the existing dilapidated fence which was the responsibility of the parish, instead of the vestry room. The wall would become the responsibility of the parish once completed, and this offer was accepted.

The last instalment of the parish contribution was voted in the form of a 6d rate on 18 February 1858. Thereafter, the minutes record much routine business. For example, on 2 April 1870, the Vestry agreed that the outgoing churchwarden, Mr Killworth, should be reimbursed by a subscription for outstanding expenses of more than £5. It was also agreed that on one Sunday a month, the offertory – subject to the provision for alms for the poor – should be applied to church cleaning and repairs and the expenses of maintaining the services. At a Vestry Meeting on 29 March 1873, thanks were returned to Mrs Mudge ‘for her presentation of a Harmonium and for her great kindness in conducting the Musical Services of the Church’ (ERO D/P 120/8/7).

The Revd Josiah Bateman succeeded Vallance as Rector in 1873 and signed the Vestry minutes for the last time on 2 April 1892 (Roessler 1920, 31; ERO D/P 120/8/7). Bateman’s incumbency seems to have been a period of relative stasis in the parish, but the arrival of his successor the Revd John N Philpott, who signed the minutes for the first time on 3 April 1894, marked the start of further period of major change (ERO D/P 120/8/7). This was driven by the dramatic growth of Southend.

In April 1894 Philpott offered a piece of the glebe to enlarge the churchyard (ERO D/P 120/8/7). A note was added to the minutes of the next Vestry Meeting in October 1894, stating that:

On account of the passing of the Local Government Act 1894 creating the Parish Council no Vestry Meetings were held until the parish of Southchurch was incorporated with the borough of Southend-on-Sea, on November 9 1897 (ERO D/P 120/8/7)

The duties of the Overseers were increased in 1894, and they subsequently became key players in the parish’s determined resistance to the encroachment of Southend (ERO D/P 120/8/7). In April 1898, a solicitor was appointed to act for the Overseers ‘to resist the demand of the Southend Town Council for the payment to them of the sum of £130:13:3 raised from the Parish to resist the inclusion of the Parish in the Borough’ (ERO D/P 120/8/7). It is not clear from the minutes how this issue was resolved. On 24 October 1902, the Assistant Overseer

... explained the desirability of having Boundary Posts in order to perpetuate the limits of the Parish which were becoming undefined owing to the constant alterations through Building Estates being developed and the Overseers were authorized to take the necessary steps ... and to obtain an Ordnance Map of the Parish and mark the posts thereon (ERO D/P 120/8/7)

The Assistant Overseer also asked for an increase in salary, producing evidence to show that the population had increased by 75% since it was last reviewed in 1898. The rateable value of buildings in the parish and the number of assessments had both increased by around 50%. The Assistant Overseer’s salary was promptly doubled to £50 with immediate effect.

The minutes for this period are intermittent and there is a gap from 1902 to January 1905, when the Vestry met to consider their response to a Parliamentary Bill being promoted by the Southend Corporation (ERO D/P 120/8/7). It was agreed that the proposed Southend on Sea Corporation Act – ‘whereby (amongst other things) the extinction of this Parish is proposed’ - should be resisted by all possible means. In July 1907, the Assistant Overseer applied for a further increase in salary, on

the grounds that the number of assessments and the rateable value had increased 'practically 100 per cent' since it was last reviewed in 1902. He was unanimously voted a doubling of his salary to £100, backdated to 25 March. However, in November 1911 it was reported that the Assistant Overseer had left the district without resigning his office; it would not be necessary to replace him as Southend Town Council would now take over the duties in accordance with the Local Government Board Order (ERO D/P 120/8/7). His appointment was accordingly revoked by the Vestry.

Twentieth Century



Fig 8 Holy Trinity from the south c1900

(Southend Museums Service SOUAG.TS499)

At a time when church attendance nationally was falling and there was an over-supply of seats in Anglican churches, local population growth led to a shortage of seats at Southchurch. It is evident that Philpott was actively pursuing plans to enlarge the building within the first five years of his incumbency, since a letter from Thackeray Turner, the Secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, written in 1906 stated that the proposed repair and enlargement had

'received the attention of my Committee in the year 1899' (LPL ICBS file reference 10422). Unfortunately there is no surviving case file in the SPAB archive, and the Society's objections are not referred to in the Vestry minutes. There is however a copy of the SPAB's letter to Philpott dated 7 February 1899 on the case file of the Incorporated Church Building Society at Lambeth Palace Library (LPL ICBS file reference 10422).

It appears that Philpott had referred his plans to the SPAB for their advice. The 1899 letter from Turner's predecessor Essex Reade acknowledged that:

This Church has undoubtedly suffered seriously from 'restoration', but nevertheless its fine roof and unaltered plan, and other points render it a valuable building. After the matter had been looked at from every point of view, the unanimous opinion of the Committee was that enlargement of the building could not, under the circumstances, be justified.

The only suggestion for an enlargement, which could be made by the Committee, would be effected by removing the south wall of nave from the porch to the east end of nave and widening it out for the width of the nave or even more, but even when this was done it would still be but a small church, and great destruction from the artistic and historical point of view would have been done. Any enlargement beyond this it was felt would mean the practical destruction of the building. (LPL ICBS file reference 10422)

The SPAB committee suggested that, given the continuing increase in the local population, any enlargement of the existing building would in any case soon prove inadequate and it would be preferable to leave the existing building unaltered and build a new church on another site. Reade returned a plan, photographs and a letter which Philpott had submitted.

On 19 September 1902, the architects Bucknall and Comper wrote to Philpott enclosing plans and a specification, with rough estimates of cost, for what was evidently the scheme which was subsequently partially executed (LPL ICBS file reference 10422). This had five elements: the new nave adjoining the old, new nave and aisle adjoining the old chancel, the remaining aisle and new chancel, two vestries and a turret. Philpott submitted a preliminary grant application to the ICBS on 26 February 1903, and on the following day Comper, who was a committed Anglo-Catholic, wrote to him explaining the characteristically careful thought which he had put into the creation of a fitting architectural setting for worship (*cf* Symondson and Bucknall 2006, 13-18).

It appears that the Diocesan Society had also recommended building on a new site, but this was not possible for financial reasons. In any case, Comper considered retaining 'the historical associations of the continuous worship of centuries' as an important benefit, and feared that the existing building could become an expensive liability if an entirely new parish church was built. He was however anxious to 'preserve all the features of the old church, and ... not unnecessarily, or unduly dwarf it' (LPL ICBS file reference 10422). His letter describes in some detail his thoughts about repositioning the north door and windows and the retention of the north wall of the chancel, drawing a distinction between the traditional reuse of architectural elements and the

retention of features which would lose their 'special interest' if they were rebuilt. It is clear from Comper's comments on the cost implications of extending the existing building that the intention was from the outset to complete the enlargement in stages. Comper also explained his architectural intentions for the new work:

The thrust of the old chancel arch is carried in the design across the new nave by another arch, which is similar to the new chancel arch eastward of it, and (since it is possible that in the future such a proposal would not seem extravagant), a third arch, immediately above the new altar, would not only complete the effect which such a sequence of arches would give, but it would afford in conjunction with the east wall, a base for some such turret as the plans suggest. Moreover being at this end of the building, the turret would not compete with, or dwarf, the old steeple at the west end; and the East Anglian examples of Wymondham (for position) and Lynn (for its form) may possibly be allowed as some precedent for such a proposal.

In these and in some other features of the plan, such as its irregularity somewhat in the manner of Blisland Church in Cornwall by which a very delightful perspective is obtained, it is hoped that the necessities of meeting the existing conditions imposed by the old church may produce an architectural effect which is reasonable, as well as pleasing to the eye, and one to which an entirely new building would not lend itself. (LPL ICBS file reference 10422)

The plans were considered by the ICBS' Committee of Honorary Consulting Architects and their response, initialled by J T Micklethwaite, was that, assuming 'the necessity of enlarging the church so much', some temporary arrangement should be made for the 'quire' until the new chancel was built (LPL ICBS file reference 10422). Bucknall and Comper responded with a plan showing how this would be achieved and the scheme was approved for future grant aid.

On 23 February 1905, the year in which Comper's partnership with Bucknall was dissolved, the Southchurch Vestry unanimously approved the plans prepared by J N Comper for the enlargement of the parish church (ERO D/P 120/8/7). In the same year, Mr A C Adams gave an organ to the church (ERO D/P 120/8/7). After an interval of three years, which was presumably occupied in fund-raising, Comper forwarded 11 sheets of drawings, the specification approved in 1903 and a further nine sheets of drawings showing a revision of the first phase of the enlargement to the ICBS on 30 January 1906. His covering letter explains the minor alterations which were proposed. In accordance with their usual practice, the drawings were not retained by the Society and the only one on the file is a seating plan confirming the additional seats in the new nave and aisle (Lambeth Palace Library image management system/ICBS archive 10422, accessed 14.6.2016). Comper's other drawings seem to have been lost and there is limited information about what was originally proposed. The elements of the building completed 1906-9 and the glass installed in the west window of the new church in 1918-21 as a memorial to Philpott are recorded in S A Bucknall's comprehensive 2006 gazetteer but not awarded a star rating, making them by implication not 'worth a detour' (Symondson and Bucknall 2006). Comper's partially-

completed scheme at Southchurch is nevertheless his only work in the county apart from some church fittings and minor additions (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 67).

Philpott formally applied to the Incorporated Church Building Society for grant aid towards the first phase of the church enlargement in February 1906 (LPL ICBS file reference 10422). The detailed application form explains the circumstances in the parish - tellingly, the occupation of the majority of the 2895 parishioners was 'building houses' - and the existing provision of 141 seats. The first phase of the enlargement would increase this to a total of 370 seats at a total cost of £3235; the parish had raised £2130 by subscriptions and the outcome of an application to the Diocesan Society was awaited. At this stage, all of the new seats would be chairs.

The SPAB wrote to the ICBS secretary, the Revd W B L Hopkins, drawing attention to their previous concerns, and he referred the matter back to Micklethwaite. The latter claimed not to remember anything about it; he agreed in principle with the SPAB's objections but assumed that the ICBS committee had considered the circumstances carefully and concluded that the work was justified. In March 1906 the ICBS offered a grant of £80 on condition that 370 free and unappropriated seats would be provided (LPL ICBS file reference 10422, Minute Book 30, 356). The SPAB was then formally notified that the General Committee of the ICBS had sanctioned the enlargement of the church (LPL ICBS Minute Book 31, 10-11).

On Easter Monday 1906, the Rector reported on behalf of the Building Committee that the tender of £2784 by Messrs W & G Leaney had been accepted and work on the first phase of the enlargement would begin immediately. The Vestry minutes provide little further information about the progress of building work but Philpott submitted the Certificate of Completion to the ICBS in February 1907 and acknowledged receipt of the grant of £80 in April (LPL ICBS file reference 10422). On Easter Monday 1907, the Vestry agreed to the installation of stained glass in the existing two-light window in the south wall of the church as a memorial to Charles Woosnam, JP (ERO D/P 120/8/7). On 4 November 1909, the Vestry unanimously approved Comper's plans for a new vestry and porch, and agreed to change the position of the font (ERO D/P 120/8/7). A 1910 faculty for the vestry and porch in the records of the Diocese of St Albans in Hertfordshire Record Office has not been seen and the date of execution is not known (HRO DS1/1/2/11cf Ordnance Survey 6" Essex nXCI.NW revised 1920-1, surveyed 1923).

In July 1910, a further gift of half an acre of glebe land to enlarge the churchyard was accepted, although the Rector noted that every parishioner did now have the right to burial in the Borough Cemetery (ERO D/P 120/8/7). Accounts, including the 'Church Enlargement' were passed at Easter 1911 (ERO D/P 120/8/7). A year later, Comper's plans for the completion of the church were approved by the Vestry (ERO D/P 120/8/7). The parish applied for faculty permission to complete the enlargement begun in 1906 by 'the addition of a Chancel, part of the North Aisle, and the North Porch' (ERO D/P 120/6/13). This would increase the accommodation to 520 sittings, at an estimated cost of £3000 to be raised by donations (ERO D/P 120/6/13).

The Chancellor of the Diocese of St Albans asked for additional plans

... showing what is proposed for the interior of the Church, in particular, showing

1. The Chancel Screen and whether there is any loft at the top and staircase thereto
2. The stalls, and where the Minister will be when he reads the service.
3. The Holy Table, Reredos, Retable, ornaments, and what is the object of the four columns shown on each side of the Holy Table, and whether the Holy Table is on a raised platform. (ERO D/P 120/6/12)

These questions hint at the richness of Comper's scheme, although the Chancellor was clearly mystified by his characteristic use of riddel posts. In his correspondence with Philpott, Comper referred to drawings for the chancel screen and loft and asked if he should show the rood and figures in order to apply for faculty consent for these too (ERO D/P 120/6/10). He thought that since this work would not be executed for some time, it might be better not to risk refusal.

On 4 May 1912, the Bishop of St Albans gave his strong support (ERO D/P 120/6/7). He considered Comper's scheme 'excellent in every way' but his chief concern was the rate of local population increase. In the 10 years ending in April 1911, the population of the Borough of Southend-on-Sea had increased from 28 857 to 62 723. This was a rate of increase of more than 117% and only fractionally less than the rate of nearly 118% in the previous decade: Southchurch itself had 'grown from a village to be part of a large town' and the Bishop urged that Comper's scheme should be carried out.

Comper's sent his preferred contractor Mr Gough of J McCulloch Ltd to site and he provided an approximate estimate of £3227 for the work (ERO D/P 120/6/10, 11). Comper admitted that Gough would not be able to compete with any local builders on price, but nor could any others whom he would be prepared to recommend. Comper was still writing to Philpott about the scheme in March 1913, discussing the details of the communion rails and enclosing a drawing of a desk (ERO D/P 120/6/10). A loose statement in the Vestry minute book dated 15 July 1914 lists estimated expenditure in the year ending Easter 1915 including £3200 by the Church Completion Fund and £600 by the Rebuilding of Organ Fund (ERO D/P 120/8/7). There was a shortfall of more than £2500 for the two funds, to be raised by subscription. However, there is no further reference to the building scheme in the Vestry minutes until April 1918, when a balance of £1478.1.11 in the 'Church Completion Fund' was noted (ERO D/P 120/8/7). A year later, this had increased to £1594.12.6, although less than half of this had been raised from donations and the remainder was interest (ERO D/P 120/8/7). Fundraising efforts had presumably stalled because of the War. A view of the east end of the incomplete building in 1920 is included in Roessler's *Description* of the church (Roessler 1920, 21).

In December 1919, the Vestry agreed to the insertion of two stained glass lights in the north-west and west windows of the new nave, the erection of a war memorial in the church and the enlargement of the churchyard (ERO D/P 120/8/7). Canon E A Welch was appointed as Rector in 1918, and was instrumental in creating the separate parishes of St Augustine, Thorpe Bay in 1921 and Christ Church, Southchurch Beach in 1923 (Roessler 1920, 31; Macdonald 1936, 65-6).

The Parochial Church Council minutes from 1920-1933 have not been seen, but on 8 May 1930 the PCC voted unanimously to proceed with the construction of a new chancel (ERO D/P 120/29/1-2; ERO D/C Fa 1). By this date, population growth in the parish had all but ceased and in 1931 the population was said to be 'about 3000', only a modest increase on the figure of 2895 given for 1905 (LPL ICBS file reference 10422). Two-thirds were described as 'poorer inhabitants' and there were 'no rich or leisured people' (LPL ICBS file reference 10422). The estimated cost of the new chancel was £3500, £2500 had already been raised and subscriptions would be sought for the remainder (ERO D/C Fa 1). It is not clear why Comper was replaced by F C Eden, his contemporary and 'only serious professional rival' but both architects were pupils of G F Bodley and had 'a guarded acquaintance' (NHLE List Entry no 1112723; Symondson and Bucknall 2006, 113). Comper described himself as a 'sincere admirer of Eden's work' and had in 1903 cited the church of St Protus and St Hyacinth, Blisland – restored by F C Eden c1896 - as an exemplar for what he hoped to achieve at Southchurch (Symondson and Bucknall 2006, 113; LPL ICBS file reference 10422; NHLE List Entry no 1142367). It is possible that Comper's scheme was too expensive, and if asked, he may not have been willing to simplify it; the change of incumbent at Southchurch may also have been a factor.

Eden was supplied with copies of Comper's drawings but according to a letter he wrote in April 1931 in connection with his fees, the executed design is his:

For the use of Mr Comper's drawings, which were scarcely followed except as to the design of the E window, I propose to deduct £16-7-6.

Any sum now received would be deducted from the full fees falling due when & if the work is carried out (ERO D/P 120/6/3)

On 6 May 1931 the church building committee agreed to obtain tenders for the completion of the chancel (ERO D/P 120/6/3). The building committee met again on 21 May to discuss the prices received: Eden did not think it was practicable to ask for new tenders, but had seen Mr Longley who had offered a way forward. If the walls were plastered externally with stone dressings, the price would be £3519, and if the work was undertaken immediately so that the roof could be got on in fine weather, he could deduct £50, giving a total of £3469. Another suggestion made by the architect Sir Charles Nicholson to the Rector was to use red brick, but the committee decided against both red brick and external plaster, and a suggestion that the chancel be shortened was referred back to Eden. The Rector had no doubt that 'substantial grants' would be forthcoming from the Diocesan Fund and the ICBS (ERO D/P 120/6/3). When the building committee met again on 3 June, the Rector reported the Archdeacon's view that the ICBS would make a grant of £100, and the Diocesan Fund would also contribute.

Messrs Wingrave Junr & Ewart Membery brought forward a new scheme for completion of Chancel, together with plans which were considered by committee.

Briefly, the plan of church is kept as square as possible, 100 good seats are added, amply lighted and usefulness of old church is retained. (ERO D/P 120/6/3)

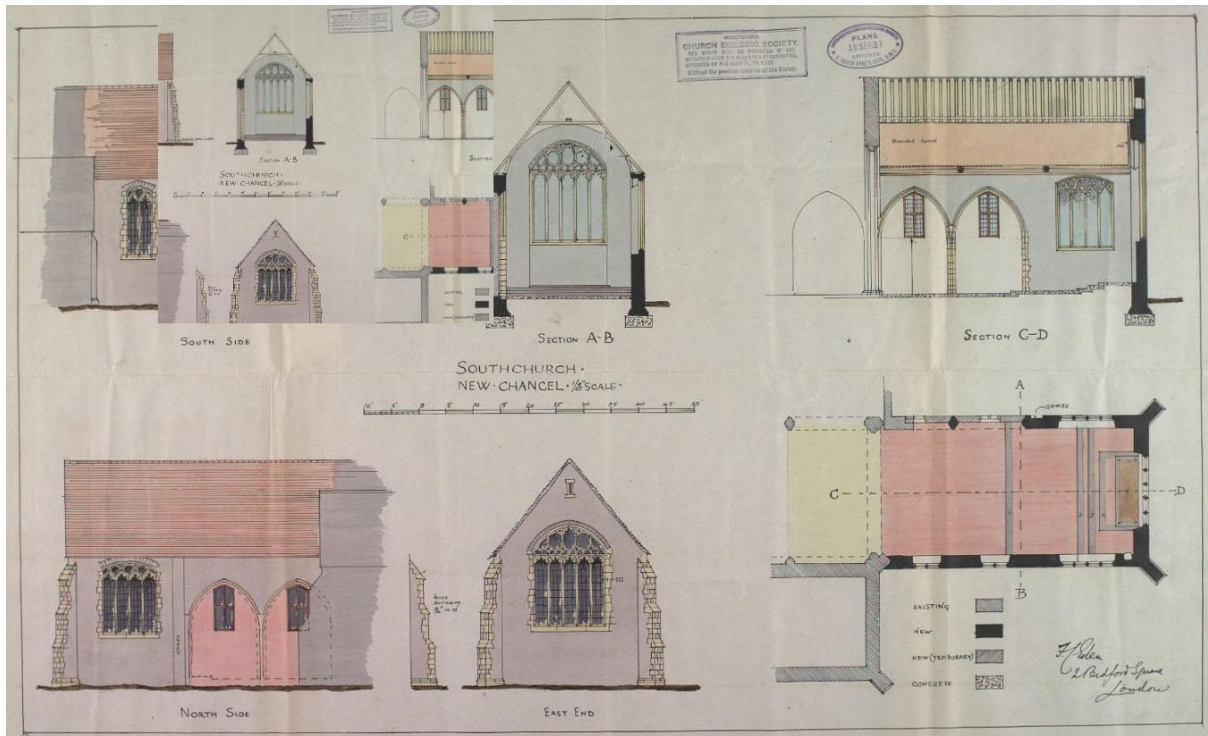


Fig 9 Design for new chancel F C Eden, 1931 (Lambeth Palace Library ICBS10422)

The committee decided to forward this to Eden for his response which is not recorded.

The Rector applied to the ICBS for grant aid on 15 September 1931 (LPL ICBS file reference 10422). Drawings and a specification were submitted and the ICBS Architects' Committee approved the scheme at the end of the month, but there was no immediate offer of grant aid. A copy of the contract for building the new chancel at a cost of £3746 is dated 28 August 1931, and in March 1932 the contractor James Longley & Co Ltd of Crawley submitted the architect's certificate no 4 for an interim payment of £845.12.10 (ERO D/P 120/6/3). In April one of the churchwardens wrote to the ICBS to say that the new chancel had been completed and consecrated and again asked for grant aid, pointing out that the Diocesan Board of Finance had made a grant of £100 (LPL ICBS file reference 10422).

The ICBS application form dated 13 May 1932 provides more detail about the finances of the scheme: the total estimated expense including Eden's commission and expenses was £3890.15 and £3502 had been raised, leaving a shortfall of

£388.15 (LPL ICBS file reference 10422). The scheme provided six additional seats for the clergy and choir, giving a new total of 36, and because it freed space in Comper's nave it also provided 80 additional seats for the congregation giving a total of 430 (LPL ICBS file reference 10422).

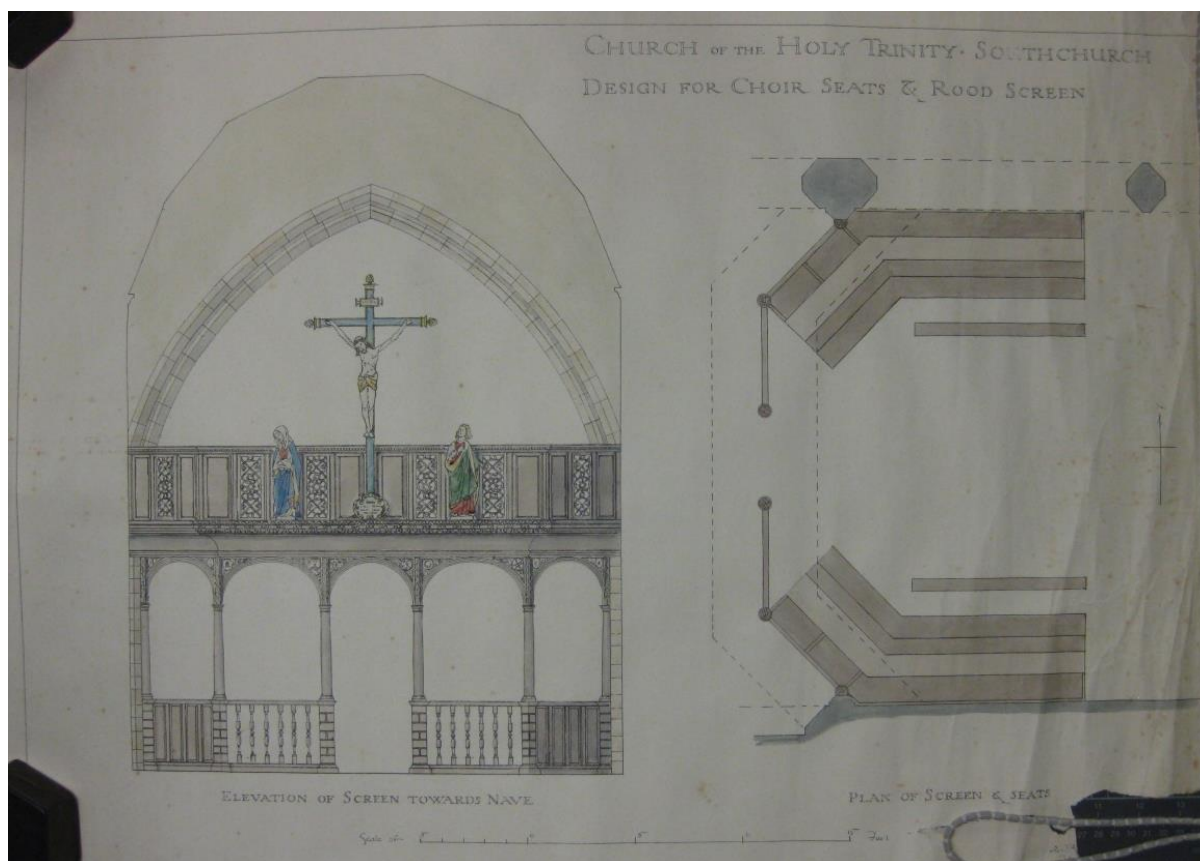


Fig 10 Unexecuted scheme for choir seats and rood screen F C Eden

(ERO D/P 120/6/4)

At the end of August 1932, Eden suggested to the parish that it would be a good idea to have the walls of the church and chancel whitened, but on 3 September he was informed by letter that the Church Council could not currently entertain any further expenditure on the church or the new chancel and asked to complete the ceiling. He replied on 5 September that all of the painting of the chancel roof in the specification had been completed (ERO D/P 120/6/3). An ICBS certificate confirming the provision of new seats was completed in August 1932 and a grant of £50 acknowledged in October (LPL ICBS file reference 10422). In December, Eden submitted a drawing of the new chancel to the Society (LPL ICBS file reference 10422: Fig 9). Another drawing in Essex Record Office shows Eden's unexecuted scheme for the choir seats and rood screen (ERO D/P 120/6/4: Fig 10).

The incomplete building was fitted out in stages in the 1930s and 1950s, largely by Laurence King and Carøe & Partners. King was a London architect who had local roots, and according to Bettley and Pevsner 'developed a bland style ... seen in many churches, particularly as far as interiors are concerned...' (Bettley and Pevsner 2007, 66-7). W D Carøe (1857-1938) was a major figure in the Arts and Crafts movement and a prominent church architect; he founded his practice in 1884 and was architect to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners from 1895 until his death (<http://www.caroe.co.uk/aboutDetail.php?History-1> accessed 9.8.2015).

In 1936, L A Turner designed an English oak memorial lectern to the late Rector, Canon E A Welch (ERO D/CF 75/62). In 1937 the church was completely rewired and a new electric light installation was provided (ERO D/CF 76/66). The existing chairs in the new nave were replaced with oak pews designed by Caröe & Partners in 1950, when some new glazing was also installed (ERO D/CF 89/112). The creation of a priests' vestry in the north aisle and installation of a new High Altar reredos in the same year, both designed by Laurence King, were authorised by separate faculties (ERO D/CF 89/114, 89/113). Caröe & Partners designed a new oak pulpit in 1951, and the existing pulpit was reinstated in the old church (ERO D/CF 90/97). In 1953, a faculty was granted for new oak panelling in the chancel and sanctuary designed by Caröe & Partners, and in 1955 they restored the mediaeval aumbry in the north wall of the sanctuary of the old church (ERO D/CF 92/72, 94/88). The work involved in refitting the aumbry was described by Terence Carr of Caröe & Partners:

There is no doubt that the recess on the north side is the original aumbry without its door. It should be a simple matter to put in a new door and shelf and a metal safe. (ERO D/CF 94/88)

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Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) [RCHME] 1922 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Essex Volume III (North East)* HMSO London

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) [RCHME] 1923 *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Essex Volume IV (South-East)* HMSO London

Rumble, Alexander (ed) 1983, *Domesday Book: 32 Essex* Phillimore, Chichester

Symondson, Anthony and Bucknall, Stephen 2006 *Sir Ninian Comper: An introduction to his life and work* Spire Books and the Ecclesiological Society, London and Reading

Online Resources

Art UK searchable database (formerly 'Your Paintings'):

http://artuk.org/discover/artworks/view_as/grid/search/works:holy-trinity-southchurch

Bank of England Inflation Calculator:

<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/education/Pages/resources/inflationtools/calculator/index1.aspx>

Historic England Archive photograph collection 'England's Places':

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/archive-collections/englands-places/>

Lambeth Palace Library image management system/ICBS archive:

<http://images.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk/luna/servlet/LPLIBLPL~34~34>

National Heritage List for England: <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>

RCHME glossary definitions:

Easter Sepulchre: A locker in the north wall of a chancel wherein the Host was placed from Good Friday to Easter Day, to typify Christ's burial after His crucifixion. A temporary wooden structure in imitation of a Sepulchre with lights, etc, was often placed before it, but in some parts of the country this was a more permanent and ornate structure of stone.

Aumbry: see Locker

Locker (*Aumbry*): a small cupboard formed in a wall

Piscina: a basin with a drain, set in or against the wall to the south of an altar.