



# Dorset Historic Churches Trust

*Conserving the past – enriching the future*

## **DHCT Church Crawl - 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2018** **Longburton area**

Small area: huge interest. This final Crawl of 2018, starting at Longburton, epitomized many of the churches of Dorset and, more specifically, many of the activities of their Friends in the DHCT.

After a welcome by Jeremy Selfe on behalf of the Chair of DHCT, Simon Pomeroy, Dr Tim Connor, our resident architectural historian opened his comments by pointing out that St James's church represented quite a rare period for church building in Dorset – the seventeenth century. While there are some remains of an earlier church building at Longburton, and there was a Victorian restoration in the 1870s, much of what is to be seen dates from the time of the much-admired west country mason William Arnold (1595-1637). Hence we were able to admire features of the church which looked back to the Middle Ages and Gothic, and forward to the Renaissance and Jacobean architecture. The impressive tombs were also observed, as well as beautiful windows by Heaton, Butler and Bayne, as well as by Clayton and Bell, as described by our glass expert, Sue Smith.

At St Lawrence, Folke, by contrast, the chief interest lay in the internal woodwork and the font, both of a similar period and by the same designer. It was of special interest to note the way that in place of a Catholic Rood Screen, two simple and more transparent, though strikingly handsome, Protestant screens marked the transitions between nave and chancel, and nave and north aisle. Here Roger White, a historian with a special interest in this period, was able to point out further detail and to put Arnold's work into its context of other buildings in this county.

A splendid lunch at the Rose and Crown, Longburton, fortified us for a rare chance to visit the Chapel of the Holy Trinity at Leweston. Here we saw the church of John FizJames who had taken over the estate following the death of the last Leweston in 1584. This small and jewel-like structure, never a parish church and so virtually unaffected by clerical fashions through the ages, impressed by its strongly Protestant layout, with the dominant pulpit and reading desk for propounding the Word of God.

For our final visit of the day, the party of some 50 'crawlees' squeezed along the lanes to Lillington. We heard the remarkable barrel organ, looked at impressive chest tombs (especially that to dissenting preacher Josiah Banger), and noted a particularly beautiful First World War memorial window by Thomas Curtis of Ward and Hughes. Finally we gathered to thank our diligent and kindly leaders Sue Smith and Sue Bruce-Payne and to toast another summer Crawl season with a cup of refreshing tea. Our next event will be on 24<sup>th</sup> October at Lady St Mary, Wareham.

See this link for details

<http://www.dorsethistoricchurchestrust.co.uk/images/PDFandWordFiles/PDFs/20180810-Notice-of-Annual-Friends-Meeting.pdf>

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