

# Devon County Sites and Monuments Register

Parish <b>RINGMORE</b>	National Grid Reference <b>SX 65284599</b>	Number (leave blank) <b>SX 64 NE / 17.</b>	
Subject <b>HALLONS</b> <b>ALL SAINTS CHURCH</b>	Measurements (Sketch with scale overleaf if possible)		
<b>Description</b> , history, field notes and other information. (Please fill in a separate sheet for each separate item)		<b>Reference</b> for each piece of information	<b>Date</b> of each entry
<p>An all-round early church - an exception in Devon. C 13 steeple standing S of nave - low with lancet windows exclusively, diagonal buttresses not reaching high up, battlements and a tiny spire. The S Porch with a pointed tunnel vault inside. Nave, two transepts and a chancel. Some of the windows renewed. No window details later than C 1300 - i.e. lancets with plain pointed or pointed trefoil heads. No tracery proper at all. No furnishings of interest.</p>		<p>Buildings of England South Devon Peysner 1951</p>	
<p>The Church is a small stone building consisting only of one aisle with a low steeple with three miserable bells.</p>		<p>History of Devonshire Polwhele 1797</p>	
<p>The Church of All Saints is an ancient building, chiefly of the thirteenth century, but the North Transept is of Early Norman or even Saxon date. A complete restoration was carried out in the years 1861 - 64 including the erection of many stained-glass windows, two being in memory of members of the Hingeston family and a handsome organ by Bevington. The bells were rehung and one of them re-cast in 1870.</p>		<p>Kellys Directory of Devon 1873</p>	
<p>A northern aisle with a small Norman style chapel was built behind the organ at the time the church was restored.</p>		<p>Letter from Rev. Hingeston-Randolph 24.9.1908 (Exeter City Library Miss Creswell's Bequest. 1940)</p>	
<p>The Church tower stands on the south side of the Nave, the base forming the porch entrance to the Church. A narrow doorway from the nave communicates with the first floor of the tower by a winding stone staircase. The first floor of the tower consists of a room with a fire-place in the south-east angle, the flue of which is carried up the leads of the tower where it emerges behind the battlements. There is another little room above, approached by a ladder through a trap-door, and over this the bell chamber. The windows are little more than slits and were originally filled in by thick sheets of lead, pierced with holes.</p>		<p>Various writings of Rev. Hingeston-Randolph. Rector of Ringmore 1860 - 1910</p>	
Please continue overleaf if necessary			
<b>Owner/ Tenant</b> Name and address  Present Incumbent.  Rev. G. Corbett		<b>Recorder</b> Name and address  Mr. R. G. Hussey Wychwood, Ringmore	

## Devon County Sites and Monuments Register

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ECCLESIASTICAL

<u>No.</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>REFERENCES</u>	<u>SMR</u>
58	All Hallows Church (All Saints)	SX65284599	C13 Restored 1863 Listed Grade 2	Polwhele 1797 Kelly 1873 Cresswell 1940 Hingeston Randolph 1888 Hoskins 1964	SX64NE/17
59	Sundial	SX65284599	C18		SX64NE/17/1
60	Font	SX65284599	C12	Cresswell	SX64NE/17/2
61	Chancel Arch	SX65284599	Late C14	Hingeston Randolph Perry	
62	Windows	SX65284599	C19 Horwood of Mells	Hingeston Randolph	
63	Bells	SX65284599	C15 C17 and C18	Inventory of Church Goods 1553 Ellacombe Scott	
64	Church Institute	SX65284599	Early C20	Trust Deed 1908 Kingsbridge Gazette 1934 Deanery Paper 1926	

# Devon County Sites and Monuments Register

<b>Parish</b> Ringmore Near Kingsbridge	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 6528 4599	<b>Number</b> (leave blank)
<b>Subject</b> Chancel Arch	<b>Measurements</b> (Sketch with scale overleaf if possible)	

<b>Description</b> , history, field notes and other information. (Please fill in a separate sheet for each separate item)	<b>Reference</b> for each piece of information	<b>Date</b> of each entry
<p>Opinions differ about the date of the painted pattern over the Chancel arch in All Hallows Church.</p> <p>In 1884, the Rev.F.C.Hingeston Randolph writing about restoration work reported:-</p> <p>"I cannot refrain from telling of the surprise and joy with which, under three sets of the Commandments, painted on successive coats of plaster or whitewash (the innermost of which, in black letter, and bordered with Arabesque scrollwork, was evidently of the date of the ordinance), I found, and with my own hands helped to uncover, a unique and beautiful mural painting, in perfect condition contemporaneous with, and covering the whole of, the east wall of the nave, above the chancel arch".</p> <p>In 1990 D.A.Perry, of the Perry Lithgow Partnership of Chipping Norton, estimated the date of the painted plaster as probably late C14 and undoubtedly medieval.</p>		1992
Please continue overleaf if necessary		

**Owner/ Tenant** Name and address


Present Incumbent:-  
Rev.A.Drowley  
The Rectory  
Ringmore

**Recorder** Name and address

Lt.Col..G.Grimshaw  
Middle Manor  
Ringmore



# Devon County Sites and Monuments Register

<b>Parish</b> Ringmore Near Kingsbridge	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 6528 4599	<b>Number</b> (leave blank)	
<b>Subject</b> Church Bells	<b>Measurements</b> (Sketch with scale overleaf if possible) Diameters:- 28½" ; 30½" and 32½"		
<b>Description</b> , history, field notes and other information. (Please fill in a separate sheet for each separate item)  All Hallows Church has three bells. According to Rev.G.M.Scott, who inspected them in 1962, they were at that time hung in the following way:- "The second and Tenor were hung in a medieval or early 17 <sup>th</sup> -century type frame and the Treble in a lash-up arrangement above them in the base of the spire." Subsequent to his visit the bells were rehung dead for chiming by Taylors of Loughborough. The second bell, which was recast in 1869, has an unusual foundry-mark(See picture below.)   Historical notes on the bells, written by Rev.G.M.Scott, are attached.		<b>Reference</b> for each piece of information  Inventory of Church Goods 1553.  Rev.G.M.Scott (Letter to Ringmore Historical Society 20.9.1988)	<b>Date</b> of each entry  1992
<b>Owner/ Tenant</b> Name and address  Present Incumbent Rev.A.Drowley The Rectory Ringmore		<b>Recorder</b> Name and address  Lt.Col.G.Grimshaw Middle Manor Ringmore	

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# Ringmore Church Bells: Some Historical Notes

Before the great surge of enthusiasm for bellringing in the 17th century, most churches had rings of three or four. At Ringmore the ring of three which is recorded in the Inventory of Church Goods of 1553 remained, though two of the bells have been recast, one of them twice.

The Treble, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter, was cast by the Exeter foundry in the middle of the 15th century. It bears the mark of a founder whose initials were i.t. or l.t., flanking a bell and surrounded by a rope circle. There is an initial cross, followed by the inscription:

Voce mea viva depello cuncta nociva  
[with my lively voice I drive away all hurtful things]

Until the last century there was a belief that ringing church bells would avert thunderstorms, floods and epidemics, and this motto was a popular one on bells cast by the Exeter founders.

This bell has had the "cannons" [the loops on the head from which it was originally hung] removed, but is otherwise in its original state, and sounds the note C sharp. It is one of about 140 pre-Reformation bells from the Exeter foundry in the county of Devon; there are others in Somerset, Cornwall and Dorset and a few elsewhere including Guernsey.

The Second was recast in 1692 by Mordecai Cockey of Totnes, and was (according to H.T. Ellacombe) inscribed:

NICHOLAS HOOPPELL CH: WARDEN MORDECAI COCKEY CAST ME IN TOTNES 1692

The story goes that the clapper of this bell fell out when the bells were to be rung for a wedding in the last century, and the blacksmith was recruited to go into the belfry and hit it with a sledge-hammer, which not surprisingly broke it. It was in pieces in 1865 when Ellacombe saw it, but was recast at Whitechapel in 1869. The inscription on the new bell is:

Defunctos ploro - plebem voco - festa decoro  
[I mourn the dead, I call the people, I honour the festivals]

The lettering is a 19th-century version of gothic "black-letter". There is a cross and a foundry-mark preceding the inscription, and the foundry-mark is interesting because it has the initials R.S., for Robert Stainbank. He was taken into partnership by George Mears of Whitechapel in 1865, and from then on until after World War II the firm was known as Mears & Stainbank, but Robert Stainbank's name seldom appears on their bells by itself, and I have never seen this very handsome mark or even seen it illustrated.

The Tenor, 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter in A sharp, was recast in 1740 by Ambrose Gooding of Plymouth. It is decorated with various little embellishments -- a dove, a crown, a head (possibly of George I) and an acanthus-leaf. The inscription is:

JAMES GILBERT + WARDN + (leaf) A + (bell) + GOODING + (2 leaves) 1740  
+ (dove) (crown) (head)

The omission of the "E" in Warden is Gooding's mistake.

Both the 2nd and Tenor have their cannons, but have been drilled for a centre bolt and two bell-bolts.

The three bells are not tuned to a modern diatonic scale, but the modern scale was not invented when Ringmore's original three bells were cast, and no doubt the two bells which were recast were recast to the same notes as they had before.

John G.M. Scott  
20th September 1988

*Handwritten signature*



# Devon County Sites and Monuments Register

<b>Parish</b> Ringmore Near Kingsbridge	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 6528 4599	<b>Number</b> (leave blank)	
<b>Subject</b> Church Windows	<b>Measurements</b> (Sketch with scale overleaf if possible)		
<b>Description</b> , history, field notes and other information. (Please fill in a separate sheet for each separate item)  <p>Preb. Hingeston Randolph stated in his records that, when he assumed office as Rector of Ringmore and began the restoration of the Church in 1861, the stone mullions and tracery of the windows had gone, but the splayed openings were unchanged. Wooden casements had been installed. However, he found enough fragments of the old windows to enable the original pattern of the mullions and tracery to be replaced.</p> <p>New windows were designed by Mr Horwood in a style appropriate to the medieval period in which the chancel was built. The picture occupies the middle third of the window; the upper and lower thirds are of 'grisaille' glass. This allows more light into the church than those windows which are all picture.</p> <p>The three windows in the chancel are all at different levels. The south window, which is in memory of Preb.Hingeston Randolph's father, who died in 1841, contains the missionary saints S.Endelient, S.Nectan of Hartland and S.Morwenna.The father of all three was Brychan, King of Brecknock.</p> <p>Also in the chancel is a window in memory of Mrs Mary Secker, of The Veau, who died on August 8th 1900. This window, installed after Rev.Hingeston Randolph's time, does not conform to the medieval pattern. It is all picture.</p> <p>The pulpit window conforms to the earlier design and is in memory of Thomas Hingestone M.D., who died in 1837.It represents two bishops, who are believed to have been great friends, S.Davida of Midevia(Wales) and S.Sennan, whose shrine is the most westerly in Cornwall.</p> <p>At the south west corner of the church is a window installed in 1873, in memory of John White of Ochenbury, who died in 1847 and of his wife Jane, who died in 1873.It represents S.Augustin and S.Alban.</p> <p>The two windows which were intact at the time of the restoration are in the north transept. The figures represented in these windows are two more missionary saints, with churches in their hands.</p> <p>Please continue overleaf if necessary</p>		<b>Reference</b> for each piece of information	<b>Date</b> of each entry  1992
<b>Owner/ Tenant</b> Name and address  Present Incumbent:- Rev.A.Drowley The Rectory Ringmore		<b>Recorder</b> Name and address  Lt.Col.G.Grimshaw Middle Manor Ringmore	

The window in the Lady Chapel is dedicated to Joannes (John) Gaskill, who was Deacon (Curate) at Ringmore when Rev.F.C.Hingeston Randolph first arrived and is the last on the list of curates of Ringmore.(1861-2) The figure is S.Maria Mater Dei.

The west window was re-established by Rev.F.C.Hingeston Randolph, after a period of about 100 years, during which it was blocked up and replaced by a large casement window to give light to the orchestra in the gallery.

The War Memorial window was designed and made by Beatrice Cameron, of Mount Street, London. It was consecrated by Bishop Lord Cecil of Exeter on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1919.



# Devon County Sites and Monuments Register

<b>Parish</b> Ringmore Near Kingsbridge	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 6528 4599	<b>Number</b> (leave blank)
<b>Subject</b> Sundial	<b>Measurements</b> (Sketch with scale overleaf if possible)	

<b>Description</b> , history, field notes and other information. (Please fill in a separate sheet for each separate item)  The sundial above the porch of All Hallows Church dates from the 18 <sup>th</sup> century. It is still perfectly legible.	<b>Reference</b> for each piece of information	<b>Date</b> of each entry 1992
Please continue overleaf if necessary		

**Owner/ Tenant** Name and address

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