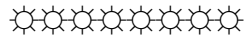


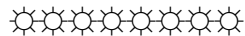
**COAT OF ARMS AND PICTURES** - The royal coat of arms on the South wall is an unsigned, undated, painting. The arms themselves are of George I (1714-1724), but above it is written G III R (1760-1820). A similar painting hangs in Stockton church, which has been linked to Kemberton for many years. On the opposite wall, the two pictures are by Joseph Farmer, his impression of the building he designed.

**FONT** - The font was presented by Elizabeth Wild of Denmark Hill, Camberwell in memory of "the pastoral charge of many years" of the Rev. Anderson (1869-1893).

**BELLS** - There is a peal of four bells on a wooden frame. The bells are dated: 1596, 1621, 1671 and 1753. New ropes in 1913 cost £2.10s, but in 1984 new ropes from Worcester were £123.79p.



We hope you have enjoyed your visit to our church.  
Details of current events and services are in the newsletter  
and on the notice boards.



May God bless you  
on your journey and in your home  
and on your journey of faith with Him

St. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
and  
St. ANDREW'S  
CHURCH

# KEMBERTON



## A Guide for Visitors

The VILLAGE

The main street has some fine buildings as well as the row of seven cottages built in 1810. The school, built in 1857, closed in 1964 and is now a well equipped village hall. There was also a mine here from 1864 employing about 750 workers in the 1950s. It closed in 1967. WALL HANGING - The hanging at the font at the back of the church was created by the people of the village during the Kemberton festival year 1989. The squares of embroidery, worked by or for individuals, each depict an aspect of their lives, trades, families, memories, or just designs. The coat of arms at the base is of the Kenyon-Slaney family of Hatton Grange, who were long-time benefactors of the church and village. A book explains each square, giving an insight into Kemberton and its inhabitants in 1989.

### **The CHURCH**

Chenbritone's (Kemberton's) entry in the Domesday Book 1085-86 does not mention a church, but there is evidence of a Chaplain called Gilbert being here in 1230.

The dual dedication is unusual: the chancel to St. John the Baptist, and the nave to St. Andrew. The present building is the sixth or seventh church here. When a previous one was demolished in 1780, fragments of a 13th century style church were discovered.

In 1880, with an unsafe gallery and many previous repairs proving to be unsightly, it was decided to rebuild the church. Mr. Joseph Farmer, then living at "The Cedars", Kemberton, was the architect, and Mr. Whittingham of Newport the builder. Local sandstone was found to be unsuitable, so stone was purchased from Cosford at 6d a foot and delivered to Kemberton by horse and cart.

The main part of the building was completed in 1882 and when a further sum of £162-10s was raised, the porch was added in 1889. At this stage the old red brick tower was left in situ, but in 1908 it was announced at a service that the villagers had at last raised enough money to add a new tower. The cost was £1836-6-5½d

**TILES** - During the last rebuilding, medieval tiles were unearthed. These tiles, made originally in Wales, were a series of three hunting scenes: three hounds in chase; a man blowing a horn; and a stag and dogs. Craven Dunhill of Jackfield reproduced them for the floor

of the new church, but for reasons unknown, only the last two scenes were used.

**ORGAN** - 1889 saw the completion of the organ chamber to Joseph Farmer's plans, and a more powerful organ was obtained from Norwich for about £77. In 1914 the organ was rebuilt by Nicholson's of Worcester. The oak framework was carefully made to the original design, and the £300 bill was generously met by Mr. W.H.Foster of Apley Park.

**CHANCEL SCREEN** - This was the gift of T.Tempest-Radford, Esq. J.P., of Bevere Manor, Worcester. It was dedicated on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 1891.

**ALTAR TABLE AND REREDOS** - The altar table is a fine example of local craftsmanship. It is the work of Mr. W.Pointon of Shifnal, and is dated 1840. (It is signed in carving underneath.) The reredos is a 14th century design in modern stone. The canopies house sculptures of the Ascension and four Old Testament saints.

**WINDOWS** - The East Window portrays a crucifixion scene. Christ is enthroned with the two Marys either side. Notice the rainbow in the top roundel This window was presented by the Rev. Blaby in memory of his son who was killed in the First World War. The smaller window on the South side is to the memory of the Rev. Matthew Anderson, M.A., Rector 1869-1893.

**PULPIT** - The impressive pulpit of pink and white marble and alabaster was erected to the memory of two sisters, one of them being the wife of the Rev. John Watson, Rector of Kemberton 1860-1867. A figure of St. John the Baptist stands on the front.

**WAR MEMORIAL** - Beneath the memorial tablet are the two chained books of memory, designed, written and illustrated by the church architect, Mr. Joseph Farmer. One contains a little of the lives of the fourteen men who died; the other, perhaps not so tragic, has short biographies of the one lady (Joseph Farmer's sister) and the men who returned.