

St. Mary's Church, Sutton Maddock

The church continues to be
a place of regular worship on Sundays
with communion at the altar bible readings at the lectern
and hymns of praise accompanied by the organ
As well as church festivals in the year
there are the more personal family occasions of
baptisms weddings and funerals
Church buildings have traditionally been special places
for local people and for visitors
and even if less so now in the 21st Century
the symbols and atmosphere of a church
can remind people of God and his good purposes
for us and his creation through Jesus Christ

Details of current events and services are in the newsletter
and on the notice board

We hope you have enjoyed your visit



A Guide for Visitors

www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/shifnal/beckbury

Welcome to St. MARY SUTTON MADDOCK

History of Sutton Maddock

Sutton Maddock is mentioned in the Domesday Book as Sudtone. It was probably part of Iteshale (Shifnal) and the name Sudtone means "south town". The Maddock was added in the 13th century, and has Welsh connections. Sutton was granted by Henry II to Iorweth Goch (son of Haredudd ap Bleddyn ap Cynfryn, the ruler of Powys) in recognition of interpreter services between England and Wales. Sutton passed to Madoc, the son of Iorweth Goch, but it is believed that it was a later member of the family, also named Madoc, who gave his name to the parish – though a communion chalice which is owned by the church and dated 1662, calls the parish "Sutton Maddox". This later Madoc was a man of note who took a great part in the business of the County, although perhaps he was not so interested in Sutton itself as he sold it to John le Strange, the third Baron of Ness and Cheswardine.

In 1186/7, ecclesiastical rights to the parish were given by Madoc to Lord of Sutton to Wombridge Priory. This was sanctioned by the Bishop of Coventry in 1206. In 1291 the Prior of Wombridge received £3.6s.8d per annum in tithes.

In 1871, Sutton Maddock was described as a village, and Brockton as a township. Today, Sutton Maddock is a dispersed parish. It consists of Sutton Maddock itself, bisected by the A442, Brockton (which is about the same size as Sutton Maddock), Sutton Wood and Sutton Common, together with some more outlying areas with small populations. The total population of the parish is around 300.

The Church Building

The original church may have dated from as early as the 11th century, though this may have been a chapel annexed to Shifnal. The present church building dates largely from the 19th century. It replaced a previous church built in the 16th century. The only remaining part of the 16th century building is the tower.

The remainder of the church was pulled down and rebuilt in 1887 at a cost of £2,528.

Also in the 19th century, along with many other parish churches and under the influence of the Prince Regent, Sutton Maddock acquired an organ. It

was given in 1889 by Mrs. Orm Foster of Apley Park, and is still in use today, though it has been completely overhauled, the last time being in 1968 (by W.Hawkins of Walsall Wood).

There is a good ring of 5 bells here, which are regularly rung. The bells were tuned and rehung in a metal frame in 1963 by John Taylor of Loughborough, who made provision for a sixth bell to be added at some time in the future. Also in early 1963, in the very severe winter of that year, the heating pipes that ran along the church were split from end to end by the heavy frost, and the coal-fired heating system was replaced by an electrical system, which is still in use.

In 1974, a screened room was added by the late Mr. Higginson (then Choirmaster) and the late Mr. Ted Lewis of Norton. It was constructed from the roodscreen from neighbouring Stockton church.

An early Incumbent was Ralph the Clerk, 1184, who was the last to have the title of rector. He was followed by chaplains, curates and vicars whose source of income differed from that of rectors. For many years, Sutton Maddock had been linked with Kemberton for its ministry. In 1973, Stockton was added to this group. In 1989, these three parishes were linked with the parishes of Badger, Beckbury and Ryton, to form a United Benefice of Six Parishes.

The Memorial Plaques: note particularly the plaque in the tower to William Farmer and his wife, Elizabeth. Elizabeth Farmer was a descendant of Francis Yates of Donnington, who helped Charles II during his stay at Boscobel (and it is said that Charles II passed through Brockton on his way from his defeat at the battle of Worcester to hide at Boscobel). William Farmer emigrated to Canada with his family, his servants, and all his livestock.

The East Window: over the altar. This magnificent window was given in 1908 by Mr. Charles Bruff of Coalport China Factory in memory of his mother Mrs. Harriet Deborah Bruff who lived to be 102. In 1923, the wooden reredos behind the altar was presented by Mr. Farmer Jones of Brockton Cottage. Unfortunately, the screen obscured part of the east window, and the Bruff family never came to this church again, even though a few inches were eventually sawn off the screen to make the whole window and inscription visible again.