

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT
MARY, LEWISHAM, KENT: ITS
BUILDING AND REBUILDING: WITH
SOME ACCOUNT OF THE VICARS
AND CURATES OF LEWISHAM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649486618

The Parish Church of Saint Mary, Lewisham, Kent: Its Building and Rebuilding: With Some Account of the Vicars and Curates of Lewisham by Leland L. Duncan

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

LELAND L. DUNCAN

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT
MARY, LEWISHAM, KENT: ITS
BUILDING AND REBUILDING: WITH
SOME ACCOUNT OF THE VICARS
AND CURATES OF LEWISHAM**



Lewisbam Church, 1892.

©
The Parish Church
of
Saint Mary, Lewisham,
Kent,

Its Building and Rebuilding;

with some account of the
Vicars and Curates of Lewisham.

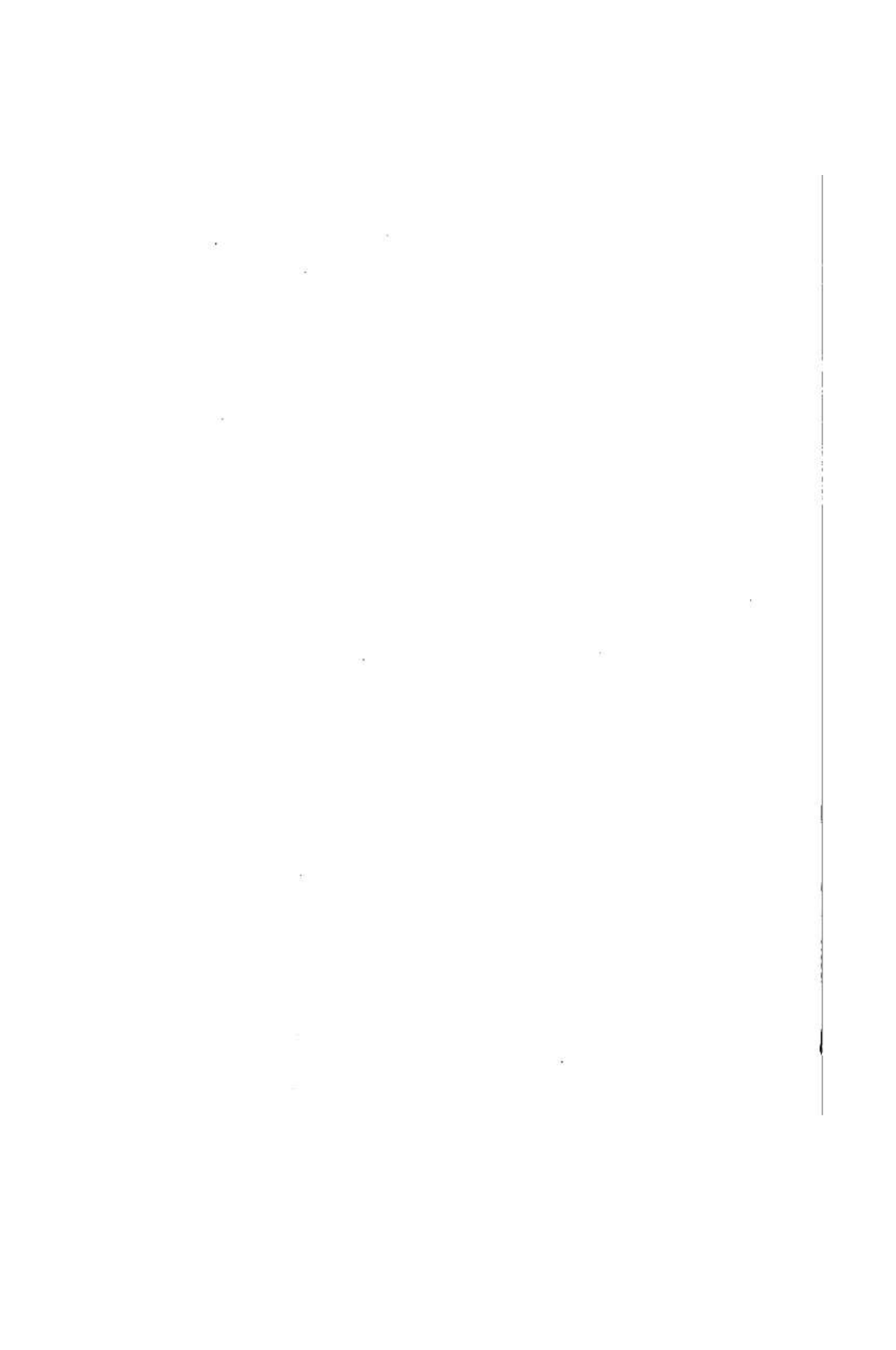
^{Lewis}
Leland L. Duncan, F.S.A.
Honorary Secretary of the Lewisham Antiquarian Society.

Printed by
Charles North at Blackheath, in the Parish of Lewisham.
1892.

+

*To my Mother, Caroline Ellen Duncan,
this story of the House
wherein we sometime walked together
is reverently dedicated.*

+



Preface.

THIS short history of the Parish Church of St. Mary, Lewisham, is an expansion of a paper prepared for the seventh annual meeting of the Lewisham Antiquarian Society, and which the members very kindly expressed a desire to possess in print. In acceding to the request I have taken the opportunity of adding certain details which would have been tedious on that occasion, but which are worthy of record—such as the notes on lights and images in mediæval times, the chantries, the inventories of church goods in 1552 and 1892, the vicarage-house, &c., &c.; and, lastly, some account of the vicars and curates of Lewisham, all of which I hope will prove of interest to parishioners.

In order that the pages should not be burdened with references—which, although desirable from a critical point of view, are apt to be troublesome to the reader—I subjoin here a list of authorities for the facts recorded:—

Notices of lights, images, gifts of ornaments, &c., and bequests to the building of the tower, to the church gilds, &c.—*Wills proved in the Consistory Court of Rochester and in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury*. These I have gone through carefully and have extracted all bequests to the church that were of interest.

Matters relating to the rebuilding of the church—*The Minute-book of the Trustees* (now in the vestry safe).

Monumental inscriptions in the old church—*Thorpe's "Registrum Roffense."* (These inscriptions were reprinted by the society in 1889, together with those in the churchyard and present church, and I have, consequently, not reproduced them in full here.)

The Papal Bull, printed on page 2—*Kimball's "Charities of Greenwich."*

The chantry certificate—*Public Record Office, Chantry Certificates, Nos. 28 and 29.*

The Parochial Registers have yielded a few interesting notes as to the interments within the building. So much of the registers from 1558 to 1750 as now exists was printed in 1891.

I am also beholden to a very useful article in the "*Messenger des Sciences Historiques de Belgique*" for 1842, by the Baron JULES DE SAINT-GENOIS, on the documents in the archives of Flanders relating to England, which appears to have escaped the notice of our local historians. Many of the charters quoted by him have reference to Lewisham, and among the witnesses are two early vicars of the parish whose names have not hitherto been recorded. Dr. DRAKE's new edition of *Hasted's "Hundred of Blackheath"* has also given me the name of another vicar in the reign of Henry V.—Richard Chapman; and for the general history of the parish I cannot do better than refer the reader to that work, which is full of detail of inestimable value to the genealogist.

The inventory of church goods, 1532, is (by permission) taken from Vol. IX, "*Archæologia Cantiana*," and the indenture at the head of the same has been communicated to me by my friend Mr. ARTHUR BARRON.

I desire likewise to express my best thanks to all those who have given me information on the various points here dealt with. Especially am I indebted to the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of LICHFIELD for many notes as to the changes during his vicariate; to the present vicar, the Rev. SAMUEL BICKERSTETE, and to the churchwardens, Messrs. T. A. WARRINGTON and R. HARDY SMITH, who have placed at my disposal all the records now in their custody.

In the following pages I have principally confined myself to matters relating to the fabric and ornaments of the church, but I may just refer here to the prominent part played by the building in the life of the people, of which there are many glimpses from time to time in the public records. There is, for instance, the scene, so tersely described in *The Assise Rolls, 1254*, in the reign of Henry the Third, when Geoffrey le Bidelede and Margery David, having beaten to death Agnes the daughter of one Roger le Biche, were brought before

the court of the Prior of Lewisham, as representing the lord of the manor, and imprisoned pending trial. Margery, however, effected her escape from the Prior's prison and fled to the parish church, and afterwards, before William Scot the bailiff, abjured the realm (*vide* DRAKE'S Hasted, p. 281).

Such incidents, perhaps, more properly belong to the general history of the parish than to that of the fabric of the church, and with others may possibly, on a future occasion, form the subject of a paper dealing with the customs of the manor and the life of the villagers.

If those into whose hands this book may fall can add anything, however seemingly trivial, to that which I have here recorded, or should they possess drawings or plans, either of the church or any portion of the parish, they will, by communicating with me, not only be doing me a kindness, but they will at the same time be helping forward the object for which our local society exists.

"Rorslair,"
Lewisham, 1892.

LELAND L. DUNCAN.