

ENLARGEMENT of HIGH LITTLETON CHURCH, 1842.

The following Specification and Plans produced by Jesse GANE, architect of Evercreech are those referred to in Vestry Minutes of 19 June 1841 and 3 July 1841. GANE's original Plan of the enlargement, for which he estimated £198, was considered not to afford sufficient accommodation. A revised Plan and estimate of £265 was subsequently accepted.

It appears that the Plans and Specification were later sent to the Society for Building & Enlarging Churches, from whom financial aid was sought. The Society obviously made certain comments, as witness the marginal note against "Roof" in the Specification below. On the reverse of the Specification is a note apparently for JRM (John REES-MOGG) "The Specification referred to in my Agreement dated 1st November 1841, James PARFITT.

Further comments were made on the Plan of the Transverse Section from A to B shewing the timbers of the Roof, viz: "A a common King-post roof, being the most simple, w'd probably be the best construction for this Build'g". Scribbled on the Plan was a note: "It will be necessary, to enable me to report on the proposed construction of this roof, for the Architect to furnish a drawing of the same, to a scale of ½ an inch to the foot." J.H.G. This was folded into a letter addressed to Mr Jesse GANE, Evercreech, near Shepton Mallett, Somerset, which was postmarked Bath May 9 1842. A new sectional Plan was subsequently received.

Aid was also sought from the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Inscribed on the Plan of the Ground floor is a note:

"At the quarterly meeting of the General Committee of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Church Building Association held on Tuesday Jan'y 4 1842, it was Resolved, That the sum of Thirty five pounds be granted to the Rev. H.H. MOGG towards the proposed addition. William GUNNING, Hon'y Diocesan Sec'y."

After the work had been completed the Private Pews in the new Gallery were appropriated to various Farms and Houses in High Littleton and Hallatrow, as set out in two Vestry Minutes of 8 October 1842. The location of these Pews can be clearly seen on the Plan of the Gallery floor. This Plan had been folded into a letter addressed to The Rev'd Mr MOGG, High Littleton, Nr. Bristol and was postmarked Bath ?Jun 7 1842.

SPECIFICATION

Specifications for the performance of the several Artificers' works in taking down the North side of the Parish Church at High Littleton and building a new Aisle to the same.

The works to be executed in all respects agreeably to the description contained in this Particular or Specification and conformably with the Plan and Drawings.

The Contractor shall, at his own proper cost and charge, take down the North side wall, he is also to carefully prop the Roof and provide all and every kind of materials and labour that may be required for completing the several works.

All the materials to be of the best quality of their several kinds. The Oak to be of English growth and free from sap and other defects. The fir to be of Memel or Riga growth.

Any alterations from the Plan and Specifications or any additional works, that in the progress of the building shall be deemed necessary, will only be made by the approbation of the Committee, and the expence of any alterations or additions, the amount to be added or deducted from the amount of the contract, as the case may be. The Contractor is to stand all risk and damage that may be done in taking down the old buildings: he is also to carefully take down the Monuments and fix the same in some place in the Church as may be directed.

Roof

The Roof to be constructed in every respect to correspond with the south Aisle. A deal beam 14 x 12 " to carry the Roof. Principals 9 x 3". 3 pair. Bracing pieces 6 x 3" halved together, the post 6 x 2" to be double and bolted with ¾ In. iron bolts. Side timbers 5 x 3" to be hung with Iron straps. Rafters 3 x 3". Ridge pieces 6 x 2". Wallplates for the front 9 x 2". Plate for inside 9 x 3". Ribs for ceiling 4 x 2". 3 blocks to receive wallplate 6 x 12" secured with iron bolts to the beam. [*Marginal note* - An Horizontal tie Beam to be provided, according to the Society's desire.]

Ground floor

The floors of the pews and aisles to be laid with 1 Inch deal on Oak joist 4 x 2½". The Pews to be fitted up with framed doors, partitions, seats, kneeling boards, capings and proper fast[e]nings, as shown on the Plan, to correspond with the fittings of the present pewing.

Gallery floor

The Gallery continued round the north side wall and to be fitted up with framed doors, partitions, seats, kneeling boards, capings and proper fast[e]nings, to correspond with the South Aisle. The front of the Gallery to be moulded and framed with cornices and carved brackets, to match the present front. All carpenter's work, required to be removed, is to be carefully taken down and refixed, the deficiency made good. Sashes for the windows to be made of Red deal, the same sort and size as those in the South Aisle. Staircase to Gallery to be made of 1¼ In. deal, enclosed with 1½ Inch doors with proper fast[e]ners - deal door frames with mouldings & stops.

Digger

Dig out the foundations for the walls 6 ft. below the level of the present floor and remove in the Church yard any superfluous earth to such place or places as may be directed.

Mason

The walls to be built 3 ft. thick below the level of the floor and the description of work as the present walls, to be left neatly pointed and cleaned down. The different set offs and mouldings to correspond with the south side. The freestone windows in the North side, the cornice and door case to be carefully taken down and reset and, any deficiency, the contractor will have to make good. The Main Aisle to be paved with the same sort of stone and work'd to correspond with the old floor in the South Aisle. Provide in the east end a window to correspond with the one in the South Aisle. To make a drain from the bottom of the foundation, to be carried a proper distance from the Church, so as to have a Current of 1 Inch in the Yard.

Slater and Plasterer

The Roof to be covered with good slate, the same size and quality as the south Aisle, to be laid on battens 2¼ x ¾", to be pointed underside with hair mortar and the lap to be not less than 3 Inches. The Gutter to be of 1 Inch deal on deal bearers 3 x 3" to give a current of 2 Inches in 10 ft. and 3 Inch drips. The walls to be plastered 3 Coats, Ceiling to be lath and plaster, proper cornices to match the South aisle, to be left clean'd down, stop'd and coloured as required. To board and secure the North side of the Church between the Tower and Chancel, so that the Church may be made use of during the progress of the work.

Ironmonger

Provide 4 Iron Columns, 4 Inches diameter, to support front of Gallery.

Plumber, Painter and Glazier

The old Glass, Stone windows and all materials to be used again, as far as they are sound, and the deficiency made good. The lead for gutter to be 8 lb. to the square foot. All the Wood and Iron work to be painted 4 Coats.

The work to be completed in 3 Months from the commencement, under a penalty of Five pounds for every week that shall intervene from that time and its completion.

The money to be paid after the rate of 75 per Cent on the amount of work done, by Certificate sign'd by the Surveyor, who will not certify for any sum less than £100 and the balance of the contract to be paid within 3 Months of the completion of the works.

PLANS

The following Plans were attached:

1. North Elevation of the Church.
2. Ground floor.
3. Gallery floor.
4. Tran/s/verse Section shewing the timbers of the Roof (before revision).
5. Tran/s/verse Section of the roof timbers, as revised.