

William Forth in 1605.

Two bells hung in the 'black flint' tower inscribed, 'Sante Petre ora pro nobis' (Saint Peter pray for us), and 'Eternis Annis Resonet Campana Johannis', (may the bell of John ring eternally). Only the latter survives today and was probably cast in London at the foundry of John Langhorne who died in 1406. The treble bell at Hawstead bears a similar inscription. The other bell may have dated to around 1445 when John Kervere left 6s 8d for new bells for the church. In 1476 Robert Hawfyn showed his concern for the bells when he left the same amount for repairs should 'grave damage' occur to any of them. Unfortunately his will was dismissed on account of poverty, so his estate could not meet the bequest!

Davy noted that prayers were read and a sermon preached every Sunday. It had been an impropriation<sup>2</sup> belonging to the priory and valued in 1578 at five marks per annum and paid no synodalls<sup>3</sup>.

In 1839 Davy paid another visit and noted that there was a stone at the east end of the nave, but the brass had gone. Likewise part of another stone, with a raised cross upon it, lay in the porch. It is odd that he didn't mention these when he was there in 1810. These must have been pre-Reformation, since the puritan Forths wouldn't have allowed 'Papist' inscriptions to remain in their church. In 1843 a gallery was inserted to accommodate the enlarged congregation.

The Forth arms in the east window were gone but Davy made a sketch of them, presumably during the 1810 visit. He sketched the interior showing the pulpit, font, and an enclosed seat in the chancel. There were very few pews.

### **Boyton**

Boyton church was completely rebuilt in 1870, except for the tower. In 1818 Davy measured the old church finding the chancel 18 feet 6 inches long by 16 feet wide and the nave 32 feet long with a similar



*Detail of Norman doorway (Boyton). Photograph: Diana Gaskin.*

width. The communion table was raised on a small step and railed round. Either side of the east window were tablets with the words of the Lord's Prayer, Belief (Creed) and the Commandments. In the north wall was a small trefoil head piscina. The small, white-painted pulpit stood in the northeast angle of the nave. The stone font had no distinct pedestal, and diminished from the top downwards. The faces were carved to resemble windows.

On the north wall near the tower were the arms of the King, presumably the current king, George III. The low flint tower contained one bell, inscribed 'John Darbie made me 1692'. On the north side of the nave opposite the porch was a door, the arch of which was externally ornamented with zigzag mouldings, which Davy sketched. This is clearly the Norman doorway inserted in a different place during the rebuilding in 1870.

There were memorial stones in the floor of the chancel to the rectors, John Lewis, 1764 and his wife Margaret 1756, Samuel Hingeston, died 1807 aged 77 and rector for 42 years and William Norfolk, who also died in 1807. Also here was the stone for Offley Lewis, gentleman, 1768, aged 32.

When Davy returned in 1830 he found nothing had changed within the church, but Mr Aldrich, the rector, pointed out to him in the southwest corner of the churchyard three or four graves of persons who had 'destroyed themselves'.