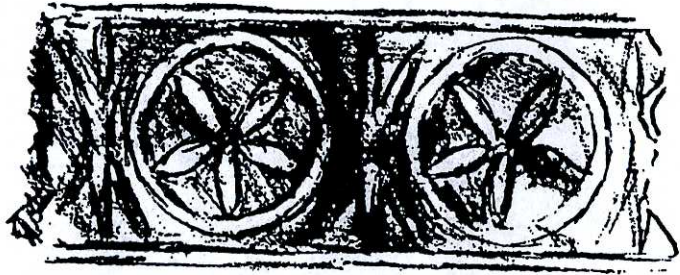




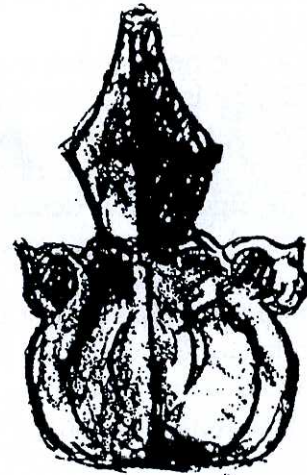
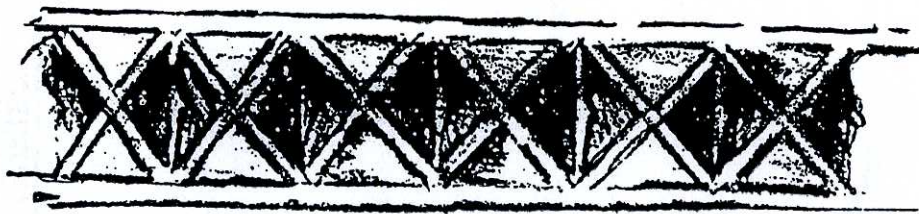
**St Peter's Church
and Village
Upper Slaughter**

KEY TO PLAN OF CHURCH

1. Tomb of Rev. F.E. Witts
2. Spiral staircase to organ loft (not in use)
3. Organ
4. Easter Sepulchre (filled in)
5. Piscina
6. Slaughter family arms
7. Lectern
8. Pulpit
9. Remnants of Norman Tympanum
10. Copy of original font
11. Original font
12. Roll of Rectors of parish



*Remnants of Norman Tympanum of which fragments
can be seen in the porch*



*Norman Corbel found loose in the
tower*

THE CHURCH TODAY

The Tower

The lower part of the tower is Norman. The vaulting may be a replacement, but stands on four good Norman corbels. The archway opening into the nave is one of the finest aspects of the church.

The Fonts

The present font is a Victorian copy of the old one. The old one having been removed from the church. It was later found (where history does not relate) and replaced in the church.

Bells

There are five bells, three are nineteenth century and one eighteenth century. The fifth is the reputed 'Eleanor Bell'. It is stamped with the heads of Queen Eleanor of Castile and Edward I. Queen Eleanor died in 1290.

Plate

This includes a beautiful Elizabethan chalice in regular use. A small paten commemorates the fact that Upper Slaughter is one of the few so-called 'Thankful villages', there were no fatal casualties in the first or second world war. A communion set consisting of chalice, paten and flagon was given by Mr Vernon Dolphin of Eyford in 1821.

Monuments

There are three brasses to the memory of the Slaughter family, and a small shield with the Slaughter arms dated 1698. The original Easter sepulchre is filled in with the baroque tomb of Frances and Andrew Wanley of Eyford dated 1682.

There are a number of attractive headstones in the beautiful churchyard. Of particular interest is the figure of a woman mourning over a tomb. The inscription (which is nearly lost) is of Thomas Merrifield, churchwarden died 1909. The figure was designed and executed by his son, Leonard, and was exhibited at the Royal Academy.

The stained glass window in the Witts chapel was installed in 1995 as a memorial to General and Mrs. Witts. It depicts a local Cotswold scene based on the 23rd psalm. The work was designed and carried out by Tom Denny.

HISTORY OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH UPPER SLAUGHTER

The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book, but there is no mention of a church.

12th Century

The small round headed window in the tower is attributed to this century.

There exists a letter of the troublous times of King Stephen when we know this part of the country was involved in the Civil War. Between 1139 and 1148 the Abbot of Gloucester wrote to the Bishop of Worcester, about the state of the church. He talks of the roof torn off by sacrilegious hands, defensive works built within the church. He goes on to talk of wolves lurking within the walls and tearing in pieces the simple flock of the Lord.

14th Century

The chancel was rebuilt very much in its present form.

The west window of the tower.

15th Century

The upper of the tower was rebuilt, and probably the tower archway.

16th Century

The church at Eyford was demolished. The two parishes were not legally combined until 1935.

18th Century

The clock was installed.

19th Century

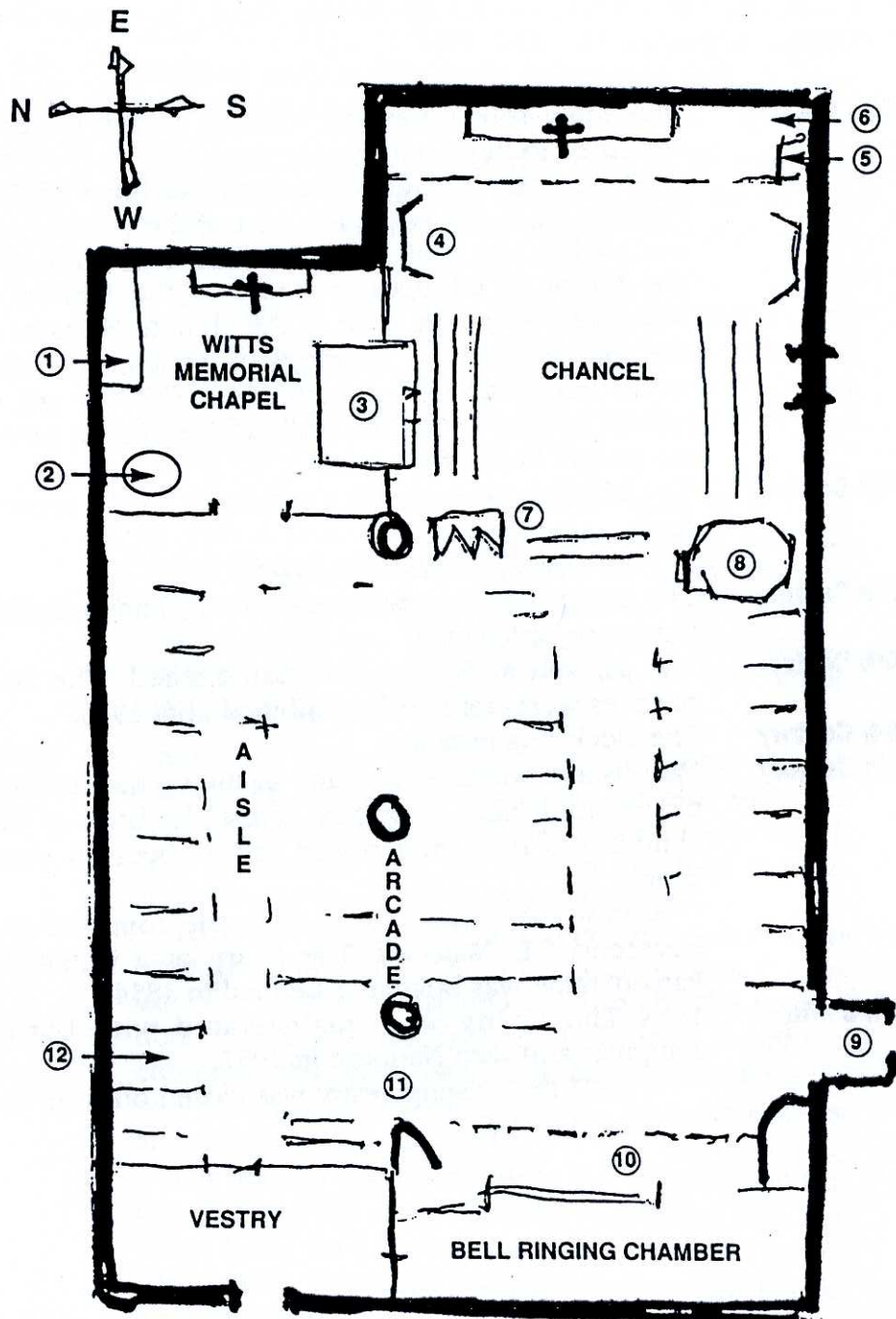
Various alterations were made including the addition of the north aisle. A gallery across the back of the church was built, and pulled down about 50 years later.

A mortuary chapel to house the tomb of the Reverend F.E. Witts of 'The Diary of a Cotswold Parson' fame was built after he died in 1854.

20th Century

1954 The Living was amalgamated with Lower Slaughter and with Naunton in 1957.

In 1977 the existing vestry was closed off from the rest of the church.



THE VILLAGE

The village consists of typical Cotswold stone houses with dormers mullions and dripstones. There have been few new buildings this century.

What is known as the 'Castle Mound' lies to the east of the church. Excavation has revealed a wellshaft and pottery shards dating from the 12th century. The Norman castle appears to have consisted of wooden buildings with stone walls around the keep and around the Bailey on lower ground. There are stories of a tunnel between the church and the castle. These have not been authenticated, but as the church seems to have been used as part of the defences of the village in the 12th century, it is not entirely unlikely.

The Manor House was built in the late 16th century over a rib-vaulted basement of the 15th century. In 1854 the then Rector became the Lord of the Manor and what was his rectory became known as 'The Manor'. It is now 'The Lords of the Manor Hotel'.

The tiny Methodist chapel down by the brook dates from 1865 and was sold by the Methodists in 1954, it is now a pottery.

The cottages which comprise what is known as 'The Square' were reconstructed by the well-known architect Sir Edward Lutyens in 1906. The village hall was built in 1920. The school has been converted into a private dwelling.