

Quiz - St. James's Church History



Above: St. James's Church 1864. from a painting by Mary Hayes



Left: Rev. Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram, first vicar of St. James's Church



Above: St. James's Church in the 1890s



Left: The old vicarage, about 1914, facing down St. James's Road



Above: St. James's Church in 1921



Left: Repairs to the Spire in 1947

During the 1850s the population grew as labourers arrived to build the Hampton Waterworks and the railway. They lived in shacks with no facilities and so, poverty, drunkenness and violence were widespread. So, in 1862, a simple church was built to serve this scattered village called New Hampton with the Rev. Fitzroy John Fitzwygram as its Vicar. The building was consecrated (made holy) in 1863.

The Rev. Fitzwygram and his wife devoted their lives and much of their fortune in improving the living conditions and prospects of the parishioners. Consequently, matters speedily improved and people started flocking to worship in the little church.

By 1872 the population of the parish had greatly increased. The church therefore needed to be enlarged and so during the next twenty years there were many alterations and extensions: the addition of the north aisle and west porch, an organ chamber and a splendid organ, the vestry, the beautiful stained glass windows and the enlargement of the chancel. The south aisle and porch were the last of Rev. Fitzwygram's additions as he died in 1881. The parable windows in the south aisle were added as a memorial to him.

To celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 the tower was raised and the spire finished. In 1893 the clock and bells were installed.

Originally the churchyard was the area immediately around the church. However it became too small as the population grew, and so in 1882 the vicar of Hampton gave an acre of land next to the church in Park Road to be used as the parish burial ground. The War Memorial was erected in 1920.

1994 saw the building of the new hall and finally in October 2005 the new west porch and entrance doors were added.

▪ Answer the following questions using the above to help:

1. Why did the population grow in the 1850s?
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2. What was this scattered village called?
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3. When was St. James's Church consecrated?
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4. Who was the first vicar?
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5. What did he and his wife do?
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6. Name four things that were added to the church.
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7. What was added as a memorial to Rev. Fitzwygram?
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8. What was done to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee?
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9. What was added in 1893?
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10. Who gave some land to increase the size of the churchyard?
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11. When was the new hall built?
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12. What was the last addition to our church?
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