



A CELEBRATION  
OF THE  
700<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
CONSECRATION OF  
ST. MICHAEL  
AND ALL ANGELS,  
LITTLE BADMINTON





On 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1315, Walter Maidstone, Bishop of Worcester arrived at Little Badminton during the five month tour of his diocese.

History tells us that this Bishop of Worcester was a powerful and colourful character. His diocese covered the counties of Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. Bishop Maidstone

knew that many of the churches and chapels within his diocese were irregular, in that they had never been dedicated. As a result, mass (the country at that time following the Roman Catholic traditions) was being conducted without the authorisation of the church and was thus illegal under Canon Law. Bishop Maidstone sought to rectify the situation and set out, on his dapple horse, on a five month long tour of the diocese to consecrate all of the churches or altars, which were known not to be dedicated.

As we know, Little Badminton's Visitation took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1315. The Bishop's register records that the chapel and great altar "magnam altarem" were consecrated. This may need a little explanation:

In the pre-Reformation days a chapel was seen as being a secondary place of worship within the parish, which could even have come under the control of the local landowner, rather than the Church. Badminton's primary parish church was the old church in Great Badminton, hence Little Badminton being designated a chapel.

The Dedication Liturgy of the Sarum Rite for a whole church was a complicated and lengthy (five to six hours long) liturgy. The liturgy for dedicating just an altar was much shorter. The Dedication Liturgy for a church always included its great altar. However, some churches, such as

Little Badminton, were registered as having both church and great altar being consecrated. This indicates to us that the original altar may have been replaced at some time and therefore was not contemporary to the church itself. Hence Bishop Maidstone would have separately consecrated both the church and altar.

Today, on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2015, we are gathered here in the very same chapel of Little Badminton, dedicated by Bishop Maidstone to St. Michael and All Angels, to celebrate its 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Looking around the church we can imagine that Bishop Maidstone would still recognise the building, if he were to be here today. The only recognisable changes are the addition of the organ and more recently the addition of the glorious new altar rail and gate, which were so generously donated to us and fit so well with the simplicity and antiquity of our church.



*Much of this information is gratefully used  
by kind permission of the Dedication 1315 Project  
[www.dedication1315.org.uk](http://www.dedication1315.org.uk)*

# HYMNS

First Hymn	Who Would True Valour See <i>John Bunyan</i>	293
Second Hymn	The Church's One Foundation <i>S.J. Stone</i>	255
Offertory Hymn	Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven <i>H.F. Lyte - based upon Psalm 103</i>	365
Final Hymn	Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer <i>W. Williams. Tr. P. and W. Williams</i>	296
	The National Anthem	577



*Following the service drinks and canapés will be served in the churchyard, or at the back of the church if the weather is inclement. We hope that everybody will be able to join us to further celebrate this great anniversary of our little church.*