

In about 1875, it would appear that a coke stove was installed. This involved the church in annual expenditure, which no doubt varied as a result of the weather. The winter of 1893-4 seems to have been particularly severe when nearly £12 was spent on coke. The normal annual amount was £3. The last mention of a coke bill was in the year 1920-21 when £10 was expended and in the 1934 entries there is the following note:

*Two slow combustion stoves were placed in the church to take the place of the old coke stove in the pit before the chancel steps.*

In the late nineteenth century, the church acquired an organ. In 1882, 12s.6d. was paid for tuning. The organ had to be handblown and there are entries every year recording the payments to various young boys for their labours. The rate was £1 a year until 1917 when the rate was raised to £1.10s. One of the present churchwardens remembers blowing the organ himself as a youngster but not being paid!

The church bells are very much older than the organ. In 1759, 13s 6d was paid for a set of bell ropes. New bell ropes were purchased every year. Marston bell ropes now last ten years! On 4th October 1761, there is an entry: *Allow'd the Ringers on the King's Coronation 5s.* On 18th May 1763, *the Ringers on the Thanksgiving 3d.* On 21st October 1771, *Ringers of 5 Nov 5s.* Five shillings were paid every year to the Ringers on the 5th November until 1779.

Another continuing expenditure was the maintenance of the church building itself. Major work was considered and authorised by the Vestry held at the church on 25th July 1829,

*to take into consideration the present state of the church and the propriety of paving and pewing and of repairing the roof and to determine upon some plan for carrying the same into effect. Present J. J. Blencowe Esq. [John Jackson Blencowe who died from dropsy in 1830, aged 50] and Reverend T. Blencowe [younger brother of J. J. Blencowe].*

There follow the names of the two churchwardens and five parishioners. The Blencowe family lived in Marston St Lawrence until 1988.

*It is resolved that the plan for flooring, pewing, putting up new pulpit and desk etc be adopted and that T. Hands, T. Allett and J. Webster be employed to lay fit and complete the same for the sum of two hundred and forty two pounds.*

*Resolved that the Porch Belfry passages and all parts of the church*