

In 1829:

over £600 was contributed towards the repair and pewing of the Church.

£100 was received from the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement and Repairs of Churches.

£100 from John Jackson Blencowe Esq.

£50 from Revd Thomas Blencowe

£200 from Gillett and Tawney

£87 by 1 shilling levy

£38 by the sale of the old lead.

The expenses that year were over £470 and included nearly £64 for repairing the roof and nearly £250 for pewing the church.

The Accounts include a memorandum written in 1830.

*The Parish Church of Marston St Lawrence was repaved and the accommodation enlarged in the years 1829 and 1830 by which means 115 additional sittings were obtained ... 77 of that number are declared to be free and unappropriated for ever in addition to 193 formerly provided. A schedule of the number of free sittings and a plan describing their situation in the Church signed by the churchwardens are deposited in the Parish Chest.*

Sometimes it was resolved that expenditure should be defrayed by voluntary subscriptions and the subscribers are listed. This is what happened on Easter Monday 1st April 1872. Thomas Blencowe, a son of John Jackson, was vicar and subscribed £2.10s., J. A. Blencowe Esq subscribed £3.10s. and John Kilbey, appointed churchwarden that day, 10s.6d. A descendant of his, a Miss Grace Kilbey, left Marston St Lawrence church a legacy in excess of £100,000 in the year 2000.

The frequent lists of subscribers are a marvellous source for family genealogists. I recommend a perusal of these accounts not only to local historians but to anyone who thinks their kith and kin may once have lived in Marston. Ideally this primary source should be transcribed in total.