

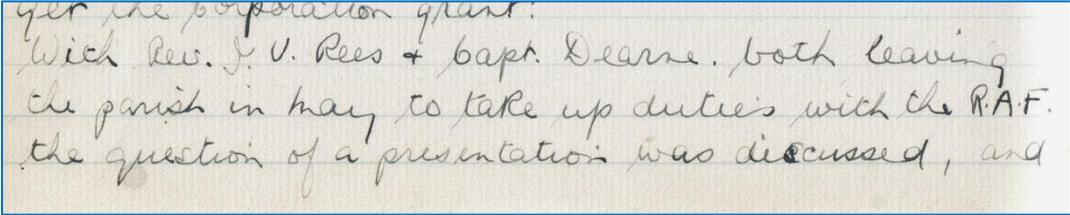
1941-1949: Effects of the Second World War on the church and community

Minutes from the Twerton Parish Church Council Meetings in the 1940s, give some insights into the effects of the Second World War on the church and community in Twerton.

During the war

One obvious effect of the war, would have been the loss of church members as men were called into service. Minutes of the meeting dated 29th July 1941 tell a small part of that story:

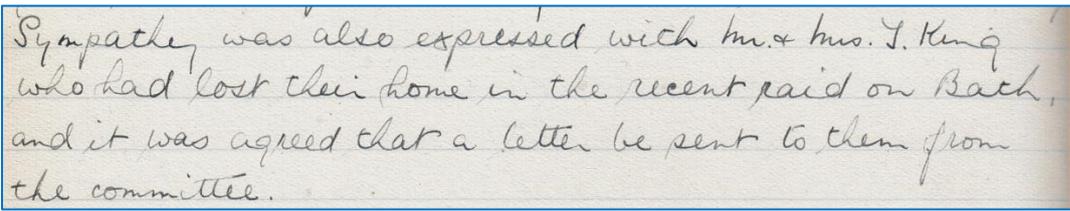
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Then there were the air raids. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 1942 record a casualty of the Baedeker Blitz that hit Bath on 25th and 26th April 1942. The text reads:

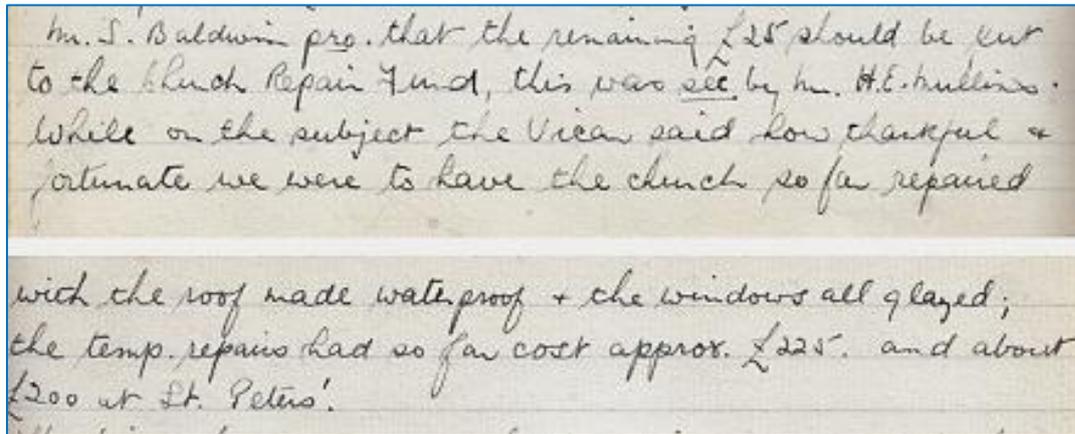
“Sympathy was also expressed with Mr & Mrs King who had lost their home in the recent raid on Bath and it was agreed that a letter be sent to them from the committee.”



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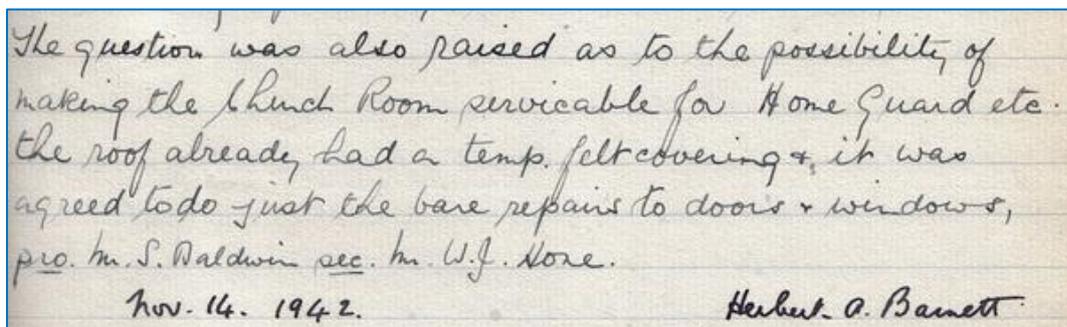
St Michael's Church also sustained bomb damage and minutes of the aforementioned meeting make reference to a "Church Repair Fund". The text goes on to say:

"While on the subject the Vicar said how thankful & fortunate we were to have the church so far repaired with the roof made waterproof & the windows all glazed; the temp repairs had cost £225 and about £200 at St Peter's."



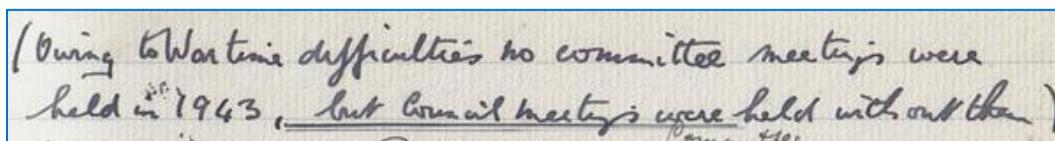
(St Peter's Church was another Anglican Church in the Parish of Twerton, situated at St Peter's Terrace on the Lower Bristol Road. It no longer operates as a church.)

The Church Room (today next to the Full Moon Pub) suffered damage as well, but "The question was also raised as to the possibility of making the Church Room serviceable for the Home Guard..."



The Home Guard had already been making use of Twerton Village Hall according to the minutes of the Church Council Meeting dated 29th July 1941.

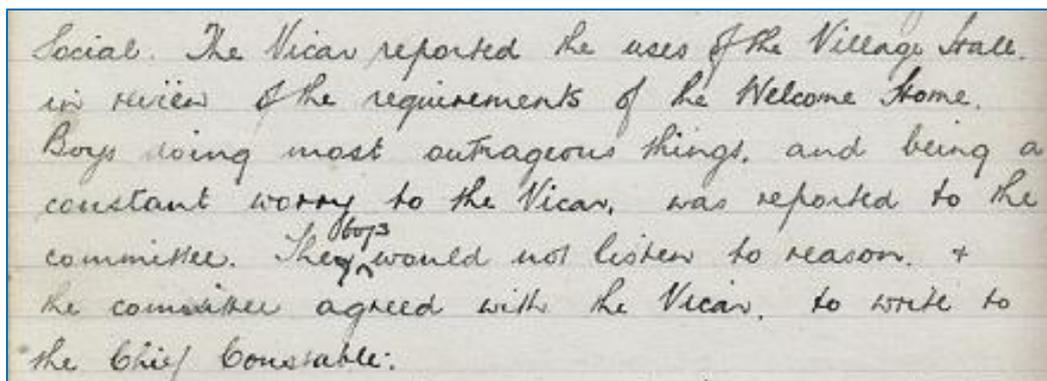
In 1943 the difficulties presented by the war meant that the church could no longer hold Committee Meetings, although the Parish Church Council Meetings continued.



Aftermath of the war

The next set of glimpses relate to the aftermath of the war. Minutes of the meeting dated 11th February 1946 contain a description of a group known as the Welcome Home Boys:

"The Vicar reported the uses of the Village Hall in review of the requirements of the Welcome Home Boys doing most outrageous things, and being a constant worry to the Vicar... The boys would not listen to reason & the committee agreed with the Vicar, to write to the Chief Constable."

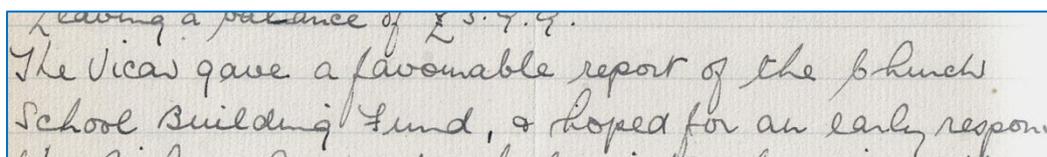


Social. The Vicar reported the uses of the Village Hall in review of the requirements of the Welcome Home Boys doing most outrageous things, and being a constant worry to the Vicar, was reported to the committee. They ^{boys} would not listen to reason, & the committee agreed with the Vicar, to write to the Chief Constable.

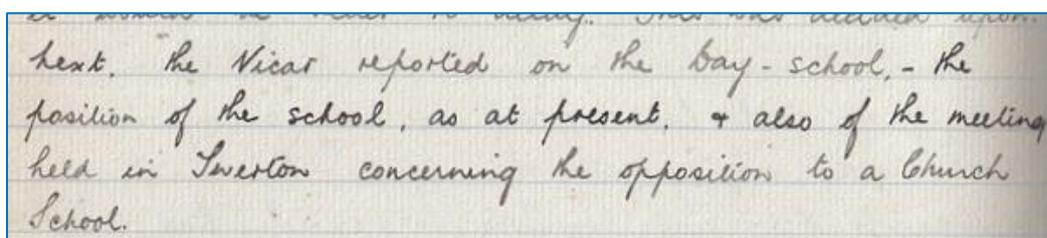
The Baedeker Blitz of 1942 had destroyed the Parochial School in Twerton, so classes were held in several Twerton churches and the Village Hall until funding was available for a new school building.

In the meetings of 9th September and 10th December 1946, the Vicar reported on the "School Building Fund" and the position of the now scattered "Day School" in Twerton.

Some people in Twerton did not want the new school to be a church school when it was to be built. The minutes mention "the meeting held in Twerton concerning the opposition to a Church School."



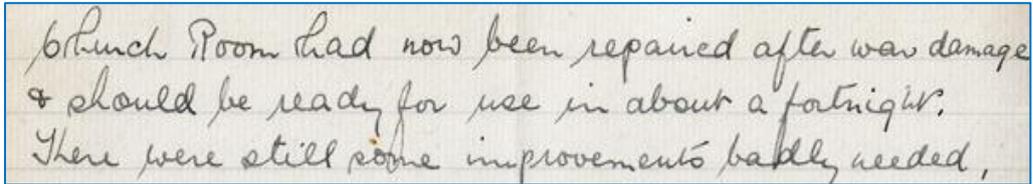
Leaving a balance of £5.7.9.
The Vicar gave a favourable report of the Church School Building Fund, & hoped for an early response



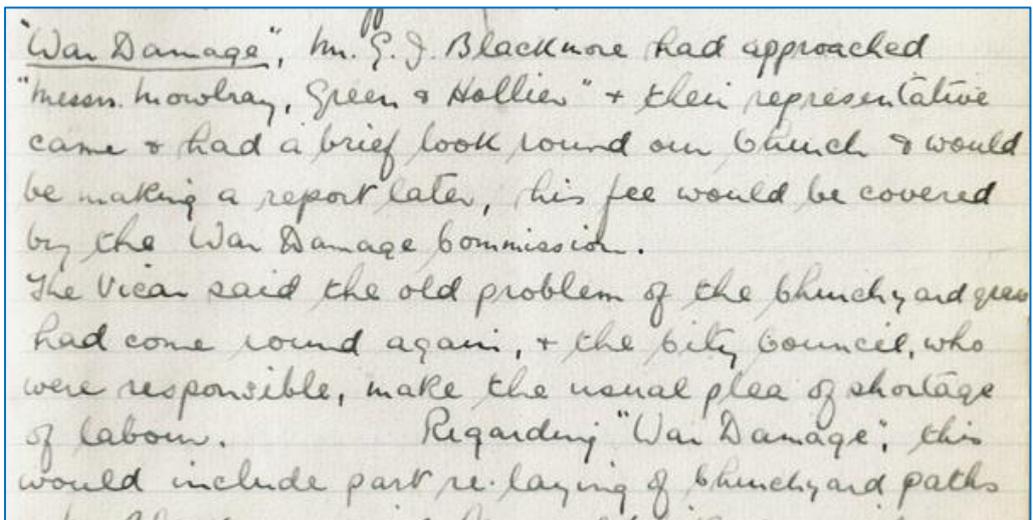
Next, the Vicar reported on the Day-school, - the position of the school, as at present, & also of the meeting held in Twerton concerning the opposition to a Church School.

The church records indicate that some wartime bomb damage took years to put right.

In the meeting of 21st January 1948, it was announced that "the Church Room had now been repaired after war damage." While the meeting of August 24th 1949 pinpointed repairs to the "churchyard paths" still to be covered by the War Damage Commission.



Church Room had now been repaired after war damage & should be ready for use in about a fortnight. There were still some improvements badly needed,



"War Damage", Mr. E. J. Blackmore had approached Messrs. Howley, Green & Hallier + their representative came & had a brief look round our Church & would be making a report later, his fee would be covered by the War Damage Commission. The Vicar said the old problem of the churchyard grass had come round again, + the City Council, who were responsible, make the usual plea of shortage of labour. Regarding "War Damage", this would include part re-laying of churchyard paths

The new school in Twerton was eventually built in 1951 as a church school – St Michael's School at Newton Road. By then, the children had been taught in makeshift classrooms for nearly ten years.