

WHEATLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HISTORY

- 1794/97** First community of Dissenters met in people's houses
- 1842** New chapel converted from William Waine's old tannery barn, which was about 50 years old. Over the years the chapel has been condemned, repaired and adapted many times, but retains the 1842 outline and simple interior.
- 1997/98** Latest refurbishment included removal of pipe organ, which had originally come from Thame, and some pews but retains simplicity with the addition of artefacts given by the congregation at commemorative times and displayed as appropriate.

Please take this guide with you round the building and note the following:

- Porch** *Stained glass window* by Pat Jeffs, a local artist
Jardiniere given in memory of Marion Hutton in 1997
- Chapel** To your right (south wall) original entrance clearly seen from outside but blocked up later for safety reasons
Stained glass window, date unknown but possibly Art Nouveau period
Icon by Siobhan Shipton, a local artist and donated by Eddie Evans
Font given by sister of Minister, Mr Fry in 1936
Stained glass blue cross by Anita Edmondson, a local artist and former member of the church
Side panels on east and west walls used to display in art the seasons of the church year
Communion table: *King James's Bible* presented in 1875.
Two modern versions of Bible used in services today
To your right (west wall):
Wooden cross from beams and used since the 1960's for the Good Friday procession through the village
Trap door in floor between pews has a well below, used when a tanning barn.
Turn round to view: the *Gallery* installed in the mid 1870's, with *memorials* on walls moved from the south wall during the latest refurbishment
- Vestry** Through window on the right view:
Sculpture by Bernard Hickey, a local artist.
Carving of St Anne by local artist?
Altar cross from the Military Hospital Chapel, Holton Park following the Second World War
2 commemorative brass vases
- Schoolroom** Now used as a hall by many local organisations
Built in 1898, originally had a stage at the south end.
Note the *clock* over the door
Displays of activities to view and refreshments available

If you would like to know more about the history to 1997, "Tanning-barn to Church" by John Fox is available to purchase at £3.00 per copy.

**Please return this guide to the Porch so that others may use it.
Thank you**