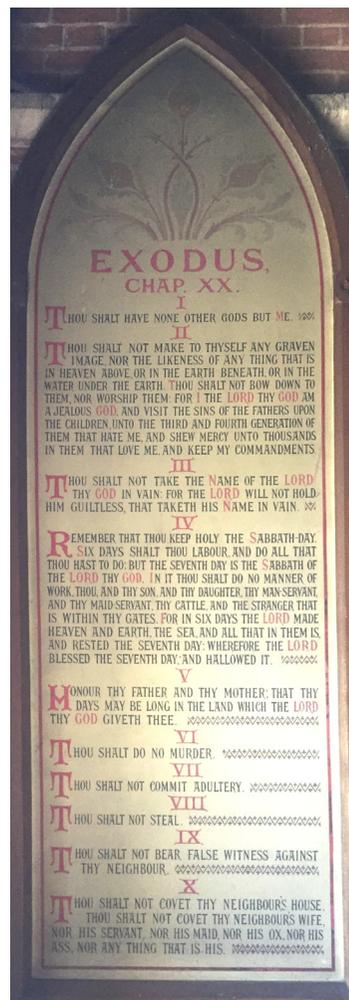


opportunities for healthy enjoyment, and set about its tasks and duties with equal zest. As he approached manhood his imagination was both stimulated and captured by flying, and when the time came for him to join up, the Royal Air Force was the one branch of the Service which he thought of entering. And now in and for that Service and for us he has made the greatest sacrifice of all.'

There is also a plaque to Lt Richard Haywarden of the Rifle Brigade, a member of Outwood Church, who died in Libya on 9 August 1942 and in the churchyard there is the war grave of Private W Hills of the Royal Scots Guards who died on 29 October 1940. Also in the churchyard is an unusual rock-shaped family grave with an anchor which mentions Second Lt Joseph Townsend, grandson, who was killed in action at Ypres on 9 October 1917.

Ten Commandments board

In 1604, the 'Constitutions and Canons Ecclesiastical' of the Church of England detailed the relationship between the Church and the State and how each Church and Parish should be run. The document also include the instruction: *'...that the Ten Commandments be set upon the East end of every Church and Chapel where the people may best see and read the same, and ther chosen sentences written upon the walls of the said Churches and Chapels, in places convenient. All hese to be done at the charge of the parish.'* This coincided with the spread of literacy, but was before most households had their own Bible. The boards became less popular in the 19th century but were nonetheless installed on either side of the altar in the new Outwood church. They are still by the altar in St Mary's, Horne but at Outwood they were subsequently moved to the back of the church.



St John the Baptist, Outwood Points of interest

Altar and reredos

According to *Kelly's Directory of Surrey* (1891) the marble altar and mosaic reredos in the church were the gift of Lachlan Mackintosh Rate esq, Justice of the Peace of Milton Court, Dorking'.

The richness of the mosaic work, is typical of the Eastern Orthodox churches.

This style had become very unfashionable but by the time the architect William Burges was working on St John' the Baptist, a Byzantine revival was under way, following the construction of a Byzantine Court for the Crystal Palace Great exhibition of 1851, and by William Morris and his Arts and Crafts movement. Burges himself enjoyed blending Byzantine, Islamic, Assyrian, Renaissance and Gothic styles in his work.

To enable the mosaic to reflect light to the maximum, the individual parts, or tesserae, are set at angles rather than in straight lines and not uniformly flat. The also move with the curves of the images they portray.

This reredos also draws on particular Christian symbols. The alpha (Α) and omega (Ω), the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet, are a reference to the words of God in the Biblical book of Revelation: "I am the alpha and the



omega, the beginning and the end." The use of the three-leafed trefoil symbolise the Holy Trinity, the three in one of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The lily is variously seen as a symbol of the resurrection and as the flower associated with Mary.

Stained glass

In the Middle Ages stained glass was included in churches to glorify God and played an important part in teaching Bible stories to illiterate worshippers, as well as bringing light and colour into their lives. However, the Reformation in the 16th century brought a dislike of any depictions of Christ in glass or statue and much medieval glass was destroyed. In the 19th century, the revival of the Gothic style led to some glass in medieval churches being reinstated and stained glass being installed in new churches such as this.

The first Christians inherited the general religious instinct of facing the place of sunrise for worship and used the imagery of the rising sun found in the Old Testament, such as 'the dawn from on high' and 'the sun of righteousness', to describe Christ, the light of the world. The east windows usually depict scenes of the crucifixion and resurrection (a local exception is St Bartholomew, Burstow where the east window depicts the Epiphany in memory of the first Astronomer Royal, John Flamsteed, who was Rector of the parish and is buried there).

The east window here also shows the birth and death of Christ, the Raising of Lazarus and the Miracle of



the Loaves and Fishes, with the infant Jesus and St John above.

The windows were commissioned in 1881 by Captain Arthur Mirehouse, some time churchwarden at St John's, in memory of his mother, Molly Mirehouse, who died in 1861, and his father Rev Thom. Henry Mirehouse, who died in January 1867, aged 76, and who are both buried at Easton-in-Gordano, Somerset, where Mr Mirehouse was Rector until his death. Captain Mirehouse lived at St George's Hill, Horley and in a report of his grand daughters' double wedding in the Surrey Mirror in August 1918, he is described as 'one of the best known and most highly esteemed residents in the district'.

Tuck pointing

Architect William Burges would have specified the high quality 'tuck pointing' of the bricks in the church. The effect is achieved by pointing the bricks in the ordinary way but by using pointing the colour of the brick. The bricks are then rubbed down to make them very smooth, before the tuck pointing is applied on top, very precisely and exactly to give the appearance of a very high quality finish. The coloured pointing has discoloured with the passage of time so the first layer is not longer exactly the same colour as the brick which means that the two layers can be seen. Tuck pointing is still done today but is extremely expensive, costing about £500 per square metre on top of ordinary pointing – in today's money the work on St John's Church would cost £100,000. The quality of the work is a testament to the time, patience and skill of the Victorian craftsmen.

Plaques and war graves

Behind the choir stalls, by the door to the vestry, there is a brass plaque commemorating Flight Sergeant Peter Lloyd Lowe RAF who died on 20 December 1944, aged 21. His father was the landlord of the Prince of Wales (now the Dog and Duck) and he had been a member of the church choir which is why he is remembered at this point, and why, outside the door to the vestry in the churchyard, his grave has been placed. His funeral took place in the church on 5 January 1945 and 'T', wrote in the Surrey Mirror at the time that Peter: *loved life and all its*