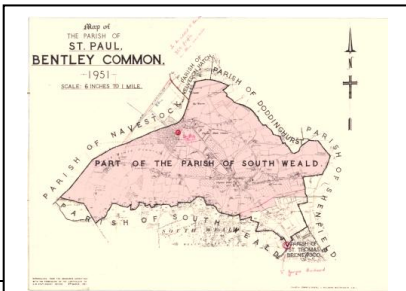
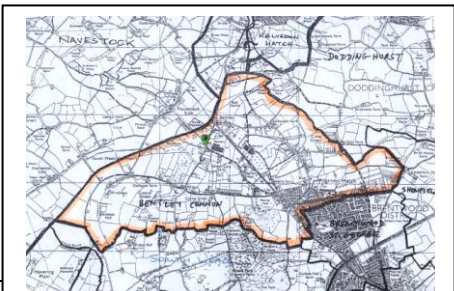








## History Time Line of St Paul's Church Bentley Common

1865	A school was built on land given by Henry Moss of Bentley Mill for the children of Pilgrims Hatch, Coxtie Green and Bentley
1877	Services were held in the school every Sunday evening for a large congregation Rev William Ripley (curate of South Weald) led the services
1878-1880	Bentley Church was built as a 'Chapel of Ease' in the Parish of South Weald
Revd Charles Americ Belli	Was the founder of the church and donated £20,000 towards it's construction.
Octavious Coope (Brewerer)	Gave £2,000
Christopher Hume Tower	He was the squire who resided at Weald Hall and presented the site for both the church and the parsonage house.
Architect	Ernest Lee of London. The building cost £8000 and the parsonage house cost £4,000. Lee was also the architect of St Thomas Brentwood
Builders	Joseph Hammonds of Romford
£10,000	Remained from the gifts of Belli and Coope to go towards the stipend
The Sculptor Thomas Earp	The reredos, capitals and figures of Peter and Paul were sculpted by Thomas Earp who also did work in the Foreign Office
The Foundation Stone, 9 <sup>th</sup> November 1878, set in the east wall, was inscribed;	<p><i>Glory be to god</i></p> <p><i>"This stone was laid by</i> <i>the Reverend· Charles Almeric Belli,</i> <i>late Vicar of South Weald</i> <i>&amp; Founder of this Church of St Paul, Bentley,</i> <i>the ninth day of November 1878",</i></p> <p><b>DUNCAN FRASER VICAR</b></p> <p>Two jars containing the current coins of the Realm, and a daily newspaper for the year 1878, and a Book representing the Lord Mayor's Show (The 9<sup>th</sup> November being the Lord Mayor's day) were placed in the centre of the stone and buried in the wall.</p>
1951 Bentley St Paul's became a parish in it's own right	 

	1951 Proposed parish	Actual parish today
	<p><b>The exterior</b> of the Church has many fine features including on, the east wall, an arched niche with a seated figure of St Paul holding a sword and book.</p>	
<p>Belli's rebus is enclosed in a gable over the bell tower door</p>		
<p>The Lych Gate And Yew Trees</p>		
<p>2017 The spire was reshingled</p>		
<p>The Bells 1880 1965</p>	<p>Made at Whitechapel Bell Foundry (Mears &amp; Stainbank) the tenor weighs 4 cwt 1qr. 17lbs 1oz. There were 5 bells A sixth, treble, bell weighing 2 cwt 1qr 13lbs. Was added 1965</p>	
<p>INCUMBENTS</p>	<p>1878 – 1918 William Ripley 1919 – 1924 Henry James Hensman 1925 – 1938 Leonard Benjamin Shephard 1938 – 1953 Derrick John Iorns 1954 – 1967 David Owen Raymond Parry 1968 – 1977 Peter Barry Martin Williamson 1978 - 1993 Colin Charlton 1993 - 2008 Robert Rose 2009 - 2019 Mark James 2020 - Julie Hardy</p>	

## The Interior

The Stained glass windows give a pictorial memory of the people who lived near to and worshipped at the Church.

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The first large window is the most recent and is a beautifully modern and colourful window in memory of Elsie Pepperell and her daughter and their husbands.

Elsie Pepperell was a Brentwood entrepreneur who left a large amount of money to the Church for use on the Church building and Churchyard. Elsie owned The Meads Ballroom in the 1970s and also much of Brentwood. The building close to the Chapel Ruins in the High Street Brentwood is named "Pepperell House" Upon her death her estate also gifted us with enough money to pay for the new room in the Church, which is now used as a crèche and meeting room, and money towards our sound system.

- *Depicts a rural scene with birds, animals and reptiles.*
- 

The Second window is in memory of Herbert Francis Chamen 1870-1947 and his wife Mary Louisa 1869-1948.

They lived at the house called Millfield. Their loves of animals, country life

- *Depicts St Francis of Assisi and St Cecilia.*
  - *Attributed to A. K. Nicholson Stained Glass Studios, St John's Wood*
- 

The Third window is in to "The memory of Tom Brown and Ada Elizabeth his wife, dedicated by their children ADMCMX-XXI" This family lived at Dytchleys for many years, the three unmarried daughters of the house combined country and sporting pursuits together with devoting work to the village and Sunday School. They were possibly the last members of the congregation to drive to church in a carriage or a smart trap.

- *Depicts John the Baptist and the Presentation in the Temple*
  - *Attributed to Kempe*
- 

The Fourth nave window is In memory of William Ripley who was the first Priest-in-Charge of this Church in 1878-1918. The wooden eagle lectern is also in his memory.

- *Depicts David with a harp and Christ with lamb and shepherds crook*
  - *Attributed to Kempe*
-

The two lower western windows are of St Peter and St Paul and show the connection with the mother church of South Weald.

The circular one above shows Christ enthroned.

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The East end Lancet windows depict the Crucifixion, scenes from the life of Christ, the Acts of the Apostles and the Pilippians.

- *Supplied by Clayton and Bell*

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The windows in the south wall also commemorate the memory of parishioners. From west to east.

- St Luke: David Graham Moore 1953-1976
- St John: Peggy Doreen Ellcock
- Madonna and Child: Selina Ann 1862 – 1926  
Minnie Rainbird 1906 -1969
- Archangel Michael: Marcella Mildred Crawshay 1866 – 1953  
with picture of her house Gilstead Hall
- St George: William Herbert and Florence Harriot Pennington \*
- St Stephen: Edward Compton Morgan \*
- St Mark: David John and Emily Morgan \*  
  
\*The latter three commemorate members of the family which occupied Bentley Mill House
- St Matthew: George Lagden, Churchwarden 1879-1911  
and his wife Caroline
- St Andrew: Edward Henry Riland Bedford

Pilgrims Hall is the only large house in the area not mentioned in the Church

Reredos	Estimated cost was £232 which was considered to be high " <i>but Bentley is a kind of Model Church and this will be the finishing touch and last expenditure</i> ". It depicts Christ carrying the Cross, assisted by Simon and attended by Roman soldiers.
The Pulpit	Is russet and cream alabaster. The central niche depicts the crowned head of a Christ enthroned and Evangelists occupy the other niches
The Font	Is cylindrical and made of stone. It has two bands of foliage ornament, a carved dove and moulded alabaster coping. Font cover is of oak and is tall and elaborately crocketed.