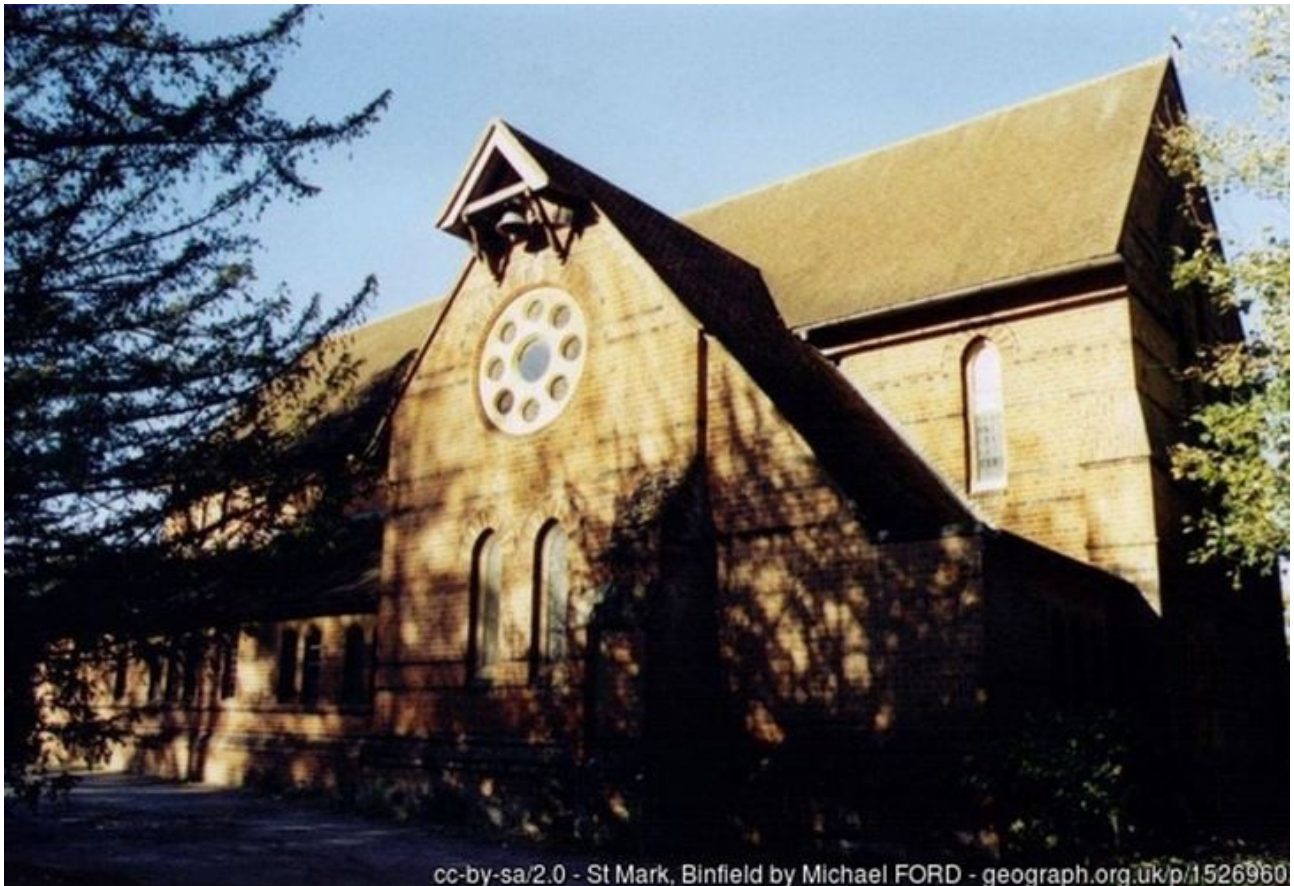


St Mark's Church, Binfield



The Church was built to provide for the spiritual needs of the community. It was built as a “Chapel-of-Ease”, which is a building other than the parish church but one built within the bounds of the parish for the attendance of those who cannot reach the parish church. In Binfield's case, the parish church, All Saints, is at the far end of the village, one mile and a half away.

At the time of building in the 19th century, the people of Binfield were farmers or worked in the brickworks. This involved raising large sums of money by Canon Savory and the Church Wardens. By 1867, enough money had been raised to build the church which was dedicated by Bishop Wilberforce on the 29th April.

From then on the building of the church continued. In 1875 it was enlarged with the addition of a South Aisle and an organ built by Hill and Son. A handsome reredos (ornamental screen) was placed in the Sanctuary. This was a legacy from Mt Hutchinson Browne of Moor Close. A finely carved oak panelling was placed either side of the reredos. To continue with the ornamentation of the church, a brass lectern and four brass candle standards were placed in the choir stalls.

Three lighted stain-glass windows were in the South Aisle in memory of Mrs Fred Smith. Others were placed in the North and South Aisles and the remaining windows filled with painted glass. The Nave was paved with encaustic tiles (ceramic tiles decorated by a process that burns in colours, using pigments melted in wax and then burnt into clay). Later the transept and aisles were similarly paved.

A brass font was given by Canon Savory, and a kneeler by Miss Savory, a service book by Miss Aylmer and more kneelers and alms bags by Miss Smith. A jewelled cross on the altar was given by Captain Gerald and Mrs Liddell and was dedicated by the Bishop of Reading.

In 1885 a window with three lights was installed, representing St Augustine, Edward the Confessor

and St Frideswide, patron saint of Oxford. The St Augustine window was broken by burglars in 1932 but restored. On the south wall are two windows representing The Good Shepherd and The Light of the World, given to the church by Mrs G Liddell. In the vestry are two stained glass windows, The Raising of Jairus' Daughter, in memory of Ann, wife of Penn Campbell, and Our Saviour Martha and Mary, in memory of Reverend Frederick Smith. The Rose Window depicts the Presentation in the Temple. The East window in the Sanctuary represents the Ascension, that on the South Wall St John the Baptist, and on the North Wall St Stephen.

In 1924 Colonel L and Mrs Radcliffe presented a richly carved oak screen at the Chancel entrance. The family of Colonel William Godfrey Faussett added oak candle standards on either side on the altar and hangings were presented by the Mothers Union in 1926. Also that year an inscription was put on the altar in memory of Colonel W G Fausett for 66 years connection with the parish.