

# Landkey, St Paul

Landkey is an ancient Christian site and it is likely that St Kea, a monk from the great abbey at Glastonbury, established a church here in the fifth century. The enclosed land of his settlement ('lan' in Celtic) gives the village its name lan-de-Kea.

The current church, the third on the site, is a late 15th-century building. Inside it has a typical West Country

wagon roof. There are four fine monuments; the earliest are three prone effigies in stone of the de Beaupel family, holders of the manor of Landkey, and date to c. 1320. In the Lady Chapel off the south aisle is the splendid and elaborate monument to Sir Arthur Acland consisting of Sir Arthur, who died in 1610, clad in armour with bird of prey clutching a gauntlet in his feet and lying above his wife and two children (Fig. 7)..



Fig. 6 (above) Landkeey, St Paul,  
14th-century oak bench support



Fig. 5 (left) John Allan, Adam Bowett  
and Jeremy Rycroft in awe and  
fascination of medieval statuary,  
Landkey, St Paul





Fig. 7 Landkey, St Paul. Sir Arthur Acland's memorial, 1610

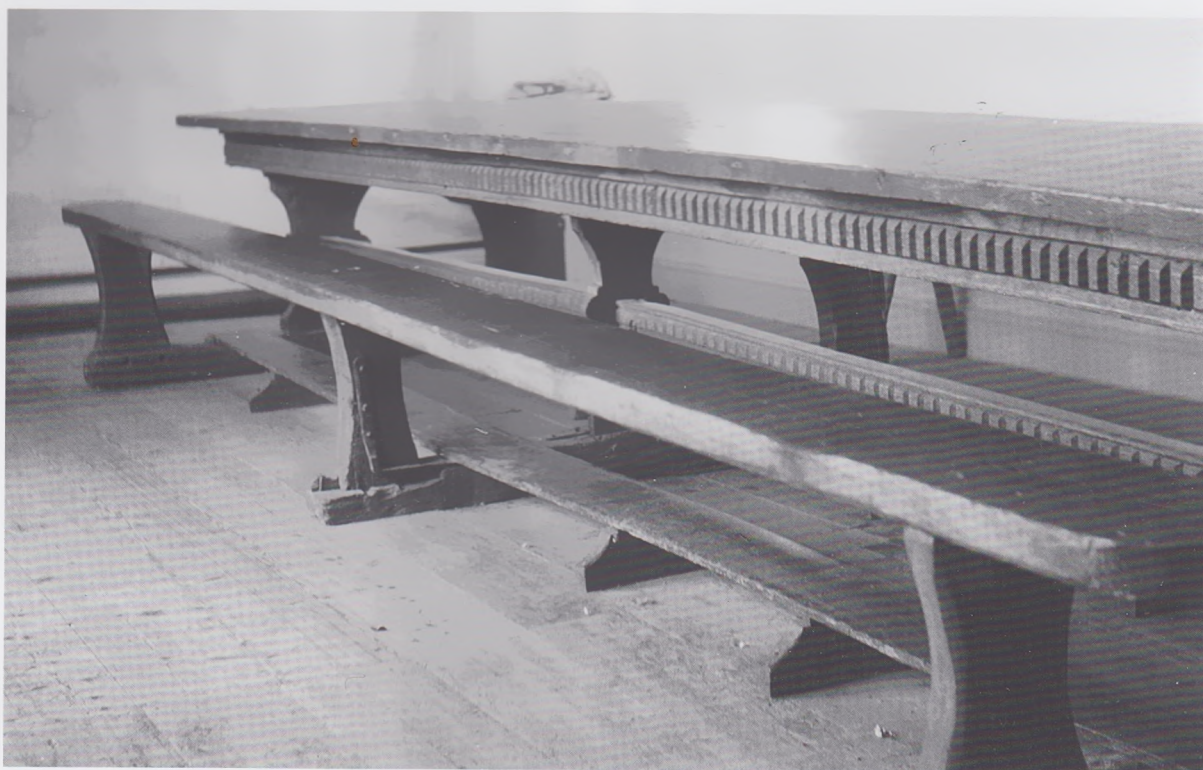


Fig. 8 Landkey, St Paul. Table in the Parish and Feofees Room photographed by Keith Robinson in 1994



**Fig. 9 Landkey St Paul. The dated pedestal of the table in the Parish and Feoffees Room**

Furniture-wise there is a good plain high-backed mahogany armchair with drop-in seat but the highlight was six blocks of finely carved oak that were discovered recently in the vestry and almost burned as useless firewood (Fig. 6). They are either pew-ends or pew supports, which were never used and the very fine carving is in extremely good condition. They pre-date the church and are probably 14th century.

A few steps down the causeway from the church are a row of cottages one of which is the Parish and Feoffees Room. On the first floor is a huge trestle table initialed and dated 'WL 1655 TG'. These are the initials of the churchwardens for 1655/56 who were William Lavercombe and Thomas Gould. It is thought that parts of the table are earlier than this date. Set onto three shaped pedestals the frieze has a dentil pattern and the mid-height stretcher a gadroon-like device. Interestingly the decoration is on one side and one end only, the sides facing the walls being plain and it is likely that the table was always in the position it now occupies against the wall. The bottom rails are extended outwards and the benches tenoned into them rather like a modern picnic table. There is a separate small bench that it is understood was for the chairman seated at one end. The table is illustrated in *English Furniture and Decoration of the Early Renaissance 1500–1650*, M. Jourdain (Batsford, 1924).