



Dating from 1792 the two warden's silver staff heads were made by Daniel Denney in the shape of a large open crown. Originally topped with crosses these were replaced in 19th Century with figures of the Virgin Mary. Around each neck is engraved the Royal Coat of Arms and in Roman letters "St Mary Abbots. John Edwards, Charles Barber. Church Wardens 1792. God Save the King".

CHURCH WARDENS

Church wardens are generally senior lay people of the parish and congregation. They represent the laity in the church and work closely with the incumbent on the day-to-day running of the parish. They are answerable to the Bishop or Archdeacon. The Canons of the Church of England describe the role as:

"Churchwardens shall be foremost in representing the laity and in cooperating with the incumbent; they shall use their best endeavours by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace among them. They shall also maintain order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service. The property, the plate, ornaments and other moveable goods of the church, is vested in them, and they should keep an up-to-date inventory of these items, and deliver them to their successors".

It is thanks to the diligence of previous Church Wardens that we have such a wonderful collection to show you today - both in their care and their generosity in donating objects towards the church's collection of plate, memorialising their time as Wardens by doing so.

During important ceremonies such as Civic Services, Confirmation or Remembrance Sunday the Wardens process holding their black staffs, topped with the silver crowns, in front of priests and then stand at the steps until everyone is seated. If anyone misbehaves in the church (or church yard) the wardens have the power to arrest and detain the offender!