

The old Church was a simple stone building consisting of a nave and square ended chancel with a narrow round-headed arch connecting the two parts. There were a few narrow lancet windows. The roof was probably of thatch. A three light window was inserted in the south wall of the nave at an unknown date. Once a year the Church was whitewashed inside and out, a process known as “cleaning up for Easter”. From the early Mediaeval period until 1923 the Parish Churches of Gower came under the authority of the Bishop of St. David’s, but the right to appoint the Rector remained in the hands of private landowners such as, in the case of Reynoldston, the Vernons in the 16th century and later the Talbots of Penrice. In managing the affairs of the Church the Rector was assisted by two churchwardens who had, and still have, special responsibility for the property and upkeep of the Church, and were often made responsible for seeing that people came to Church regularly. There was also a committee of local people known as the Parish Vestry who were responsible for what would now be called social services in the village such as caring for the poor and the sick and the maintenance of law and order by the appointment of the village constable. Nowadays the place of the Vestry has been taken by the Parochial Church Council whose work is confined to Church affairs. The Rector was remunerated by receiving “tithes”, originally a tenth part of the agricultural produce of the parish and he also farmed the Church-owned Glebe which in Reynoldston comprised about 41 acres of arable and pasture land south west of Castle Ditty lane. In many parishes, though not in Reynoldston, the right to receive the Rectorial tithes was appropriated by the Bishop towards the general expenses of the Diocese, and in such cases individual Rectors were no longer appointed and the Church arranged for a deputy or “Vicar” to run the parish.