

A GUIDE

TO THE

ARCHITECTURAL ANTIQUITIES

IN THE

NEIGHBOURHOOD OF OXFORD.

PART II.

Deanery of Woodstock.

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CONTENTS AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

<p>Map of the Route to face the title-page.</p> <p>KIDLINGTON—</p> <p>General View of the Church p. 57</p> <p>East End of South Chapel ib.</p> <p>The Ground Plan 58</p> <p>Poppie in the Chancel 59</p> <p>Pew in the Chancel ib.</p> <p>North Door of the Nave 60</p> <p>East Window of South Chapel ib.</p> <p>East Window, &c. in the North Transept ib.</p> <p>Piscina in South Chapel 61</p> <p>Mouldings of the North Door 62</p> <p>————— South Door ib.</p> <p>————— Outer Door of the Porch ib.</p> <p>Impost Mouldings of the Tower ib.</p> <p>Label of Arches in Nave and Tower-Arch, ib.</p> <p>Label and Jamb of the East Window of South Chapel ib.</p> <p>Crocket on Piscina in North Transept 63</p> <p>Niche in the Nave 64</p> <p>The Font ib.</p> <p>Roof of South Aisle 65</p> <p>South Porch ib.</p> <p>Crocket ib.</p> <p>The Almshouse 72</p> <p>WATER-EATON—</p> <p>The Chapel 69</p> <p>The House 70</p> <p>The Plan of the House ib.</p> <p>SHIPTON-ON-CHERWELL 72</p> <p>TACKLEY—</p> <p>The Chancel 73</p> <p>Piscina 74</p> <p>Section of Arch of West Window ib.</p> <p>Impost ib.</p> <p>Dripstone Termination 75</p> <p>ROWSHAM 77</p> <p>STEEPLE ASTON—</p> <p>View of the Church 79</p> <p>The Ground Plan 80</p> <p>Decorated Piscina 81</p> <p>Open Seats 82</p>	<p>NORTH ASTON p. 85</p> <p>DUNSTEW 88</p> <p>SANDFORD, NEAR WOODSTOCK—</p> <p>East Window of Chancel 90</p> <p>WESTCOTT BARTON—</p> <p>Door-Handle 94</p> <p>STEEPLE BARTON—</p> <p>Corbel in Chancel 95</p> <p>Window on the North side ib.</p> <p>Dripstone Termination 96</p> <p>WOLVERCOT—</p> <p>View of the Church 98</p> <p>Impost of Chancel-Arch, with Hour-glass Stand ib.</p> <p>The Pulpit 99</p> <p>Battlement ib.</p> <p>Corbel of Tower-Arch ib.</p> <p>Part of Roof of Tower 100</p> <p>GODSTOW—</p> <p>Perpendicular Gateway 101</p> <p>Small Bridge ib.</p> <p>YARNTON—</p> <p>Cross in the Church-yard 106</p> <p>Plan of the Cross 107</p> <p>BEGBROKE—</p> <p>View of the Church. 111</p> <p>BLADON—</p> <p>The House 114</p> <p>WOODSTOCK—</p> <p>West Porch 115</p> <p>Capital on South Side of Nave 116</p> <p>Mouldings of South Window ib.</p> <p>The Font 117</p> <p>Window on the South side ib.</p> <p>Interior of ditto ib.</p> <p>Chimney on a House in Old Woodstock 121</p> <p>WOOTTON 122</p> <p>GLYMPTON 124</p>
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KIDDINGTON—

Moulding of South Doorway	p. 125
Roof of South Chapel	126
The Font	ib.
Stringcourse	127
Window at west end of Nave	ib.

CASSINGTON—

View of the Church	131
Capital of a Shaft in the Chancel	132
Ground Plan of the Church	133

ENSHAM—

View of the Church	137
Plan of ditto	138
Mouldings of Capital of Chancel-Arch	139
Capital of Pillar	ib.
Section of Pillar	ib.
Window on the south side	140
Buttress	ib.
The Font	ib.
Dripstone Termination	141
Cornice of the North Aisle	ib.

HANDBOROUGH—

View of the Church	145
The Roodloft	146
The Font	147
The Pulpit	ib.
Norman Window	148
Interior of ditto	ib.
Perpendicular Niche on south side	ib.
Plan of the Church	149
Ancient Head-stone	150

COOMBE—

Chancel Door	153
Stone Pulpit	154
Sanctus-Bell turret	155
Cross on East Gable	ib.

STONESFIELD—

Window in Chancel	p. 157
Window, North Chapel	158
Interior of Window, North Chapel	ib.

WILCOTE—

West End of the Church	160
----------------------------------	-----

NORTHEIGH—

View of the Church	162
East Window	ib.
South Door	163
Belfry Window	164
Cross on East Gable	ib.
Plan of the Church	166

SOUTHLEIGH—

Head of Chancel-door	167
Piscina	ib.
Head of South Window in Chancel	168
Head of a Light in the North Window	ib.

STANTON HARCOURT—

View of the Church	170
Window-Shaft in Chancel	171
Rood-Screen	173
Base of Shafts	ib.
Capital of ditto	ib.
Section of the Arch	ib.
Parapet of the Nave	175
Shield, with the Harcourt Arms	178
Pope's Tower, &c.	181
The Kitchen	182
The Domestic Chapel	183



KIDLINGTON.

PATRONAGE
OF
EXETER COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

St. Mary.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

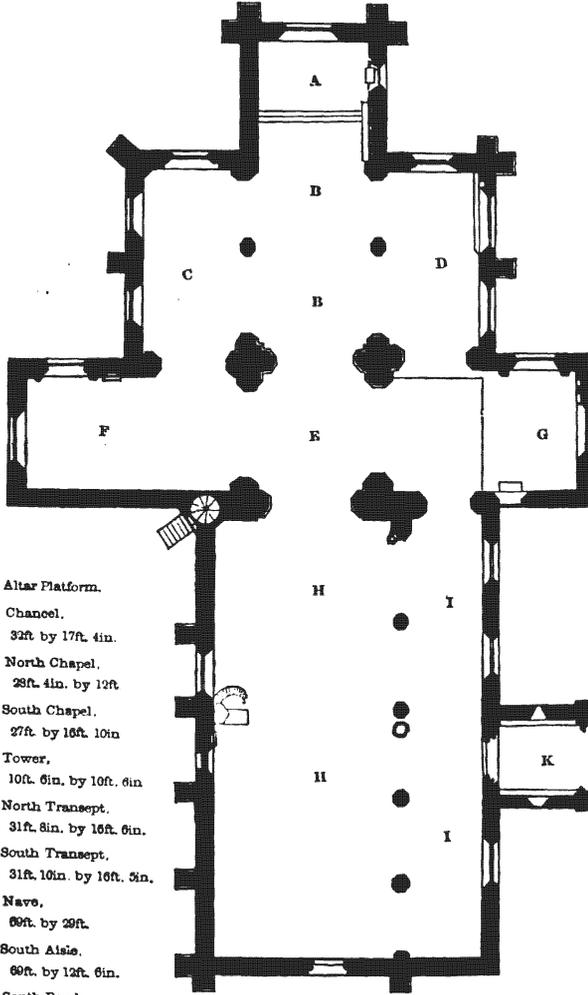
THIS CHURCH is a large and fine structure, with a lofty and taper spire: the general style is Decorated, very good, with parts Early English, the clerestory and some windows Perpendicular: the ground-plan is a Latin cross, with an aisle on the south side of the nave, and chapels north and south of the Chancel, not extending the whole length of it: the tower and spire rise from the crossing.

The Chancel is Decorated, of three bays: the eastern bay has a good Decorated window of two lights on the south side, with a piscina under it, and three sedilia; these are under a square head, the recesses shallow, with pointed arches, cinquefoiled, and the mullions chamfered; they are plain Perpendicular work. The east window is Perpendicular, inserted in the arch of a Decorated one, the dripstone of which remains on the outside, consisting of the roll-moulding, terminated by heads: this window is filled with stained glass, collected from various parts of the Church, and unskilfully put together; some pieces are good



East End of South Chapel. c. 1320.

THE GROUND PLAN.



- A. Altar Platform.
- B. Chancel.
32ft by 17ft. 4in.
- C North Chapel.
28ft. 4in. by 12ft.
- D. South Chapel.
27ft. by 16ft. 10in
- E Tower,
10ft. 6in. by 10ft. 6in
- F. North Transept.
31ft. 8in. by 16ft. 6in.
- G South Transept,
31ft. 10in. by 16ft. 5in.
- H. Nave,
60ft. by 29ft.
- I. South Aisle.
60ft. by 12ft. 6in.
- K. South Porch.



Height of West End of Nave, externally	- - -	39ft. 9in.
.. Tower	- - -	26 4
.. Spire, with Weathercock	- - -	107 6
Total height of Spire		<u>173 7</u>

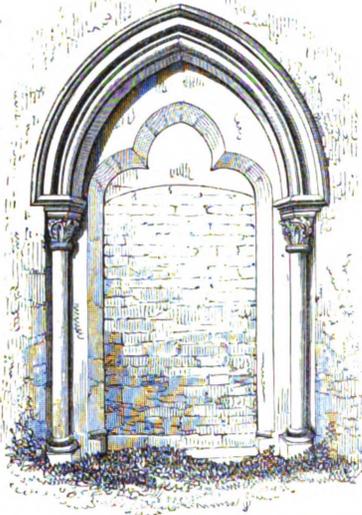
Early English, and some Decorated; the south window is also filled with stained glass, but mostly modern shields of arms. The masonry of this eastern bay is worthy of notice; it consists of small square stones, with layers of long thin stones, as of tiles, between them. The two western bays of the Chancel have Decorated arches on each side; these are plain, pointed, and recessed, with the edges chamfered off, dying into the piers, without any imposts; they have Decorated labels: the piers are octagon, quite plain, without caps or imposts; in the splay of the south-east respond there is a Decorated piscina, with an ogee head trefoiled, a narrow stone shelf and basin. The Chancel is enclosed with good Perpendicular screens, some of the tracery in which is in Decorated forms, but the cornice and mouldings are Perpendicular: there are some Perpendicular stalls, with carved finials, and with desks in front of them, made out of good bench-ends of the same style, richly panelled with a variety of emblematical designs, the "Pelican," the "I.H.C.," &c., and good buttressesets, some placed diagonally, others not so; and some encaustic tiles in the pavement, of various patterns. The Chancel has a high-pitched roof, but this is concealed by a flat boarded ceiling, cutting off the head of the east window.



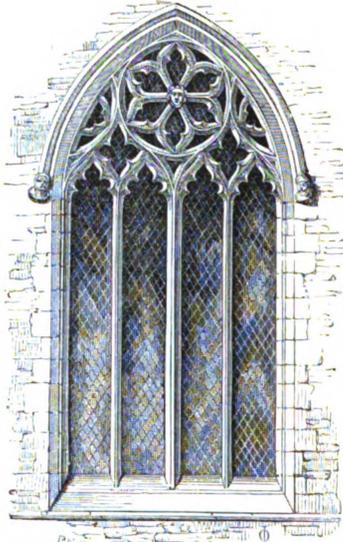
Piscina in the Chancel, c. 1500



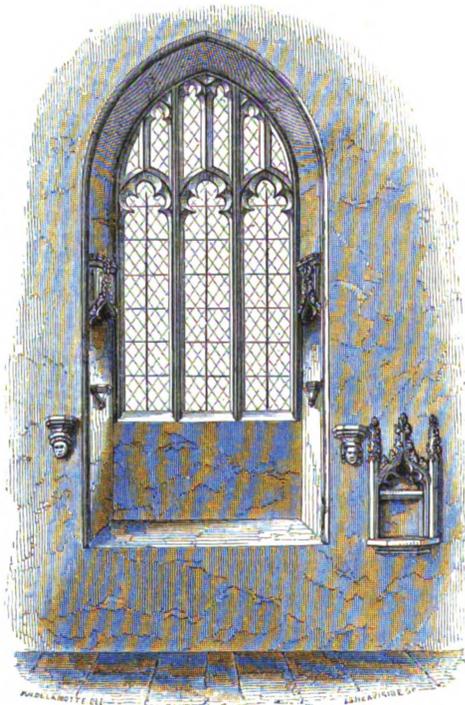
Pew in the Chancel, removed from the Nave, c. 1500.



North Door of the Nave, called Bachelor's Door, c. 1320

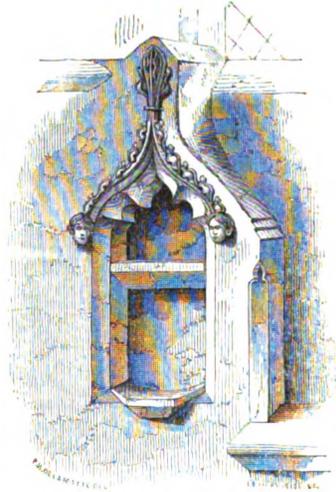


East Window of South Chapel, c. 1320



East Window, set in the North Transept, c. 1450.

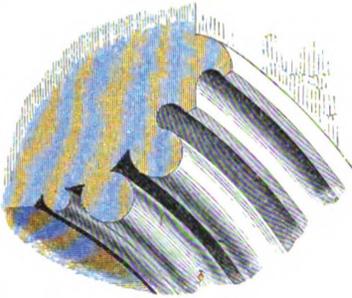
On each side of the Chancel are good Decorated aisles, of two bays, the eastern part of which is enclosed by a screen, forming a parclose, or chantry chapel. The south aisle has at the east end a fine Decorated window of four lights, of geometrical tracery; the labels are the roll-moulding, terminated on the outside by half-length figures, one of them with a mitre on; in the inside they are whole-length figures, one a female, with a chin-cloth, the other a man with the hair and costume of the time of Edward II. The south windows are of three lights, with flowing tracery and Decorated mouldings; under the south-east window is a Decorated piscina, standing out a little from the wall, with an ogee head cinquefoiled, and a crocketed canopy, and in the sill of the window a stone bench, evidently for the purpose of sedilia; the Altar itself, under the east window, has been destroyed. The roof is high-pitched and open, but rough, and appears unfinished, the tie-beams and wall-plates only being moulded. This aisle and some other parts of the Church correspond exactly with the south aisles of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Aldate's, in Oxford.



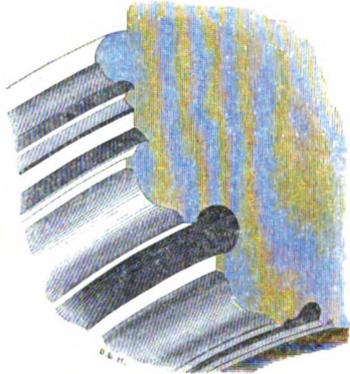
Piscina in South Chapel, c. 1320.

The north aisle of the Chancel is very similar to the south, but the east window has flowing tracery instead of geometrical, and it has a Perpendicular boarded ceiling, nearly flat; the rafters and principals moulded, resting on good carved corbels; it has also a Perpendicular battlement and cornice. The arches from these aisles into the transepts are similar to those on the sides of the Chancel.

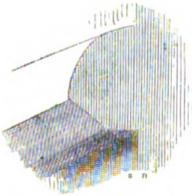
The tower-arches are Early English, pointed and recessed, with the edges chamfered, resting on very massive piers; the capitals, or rather impost, are boldly moulded; the label is



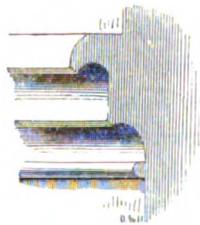
Mouldings of the North Door. c. 1220.



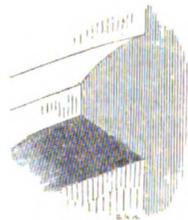
Mouldings of the South Door c. 1330.



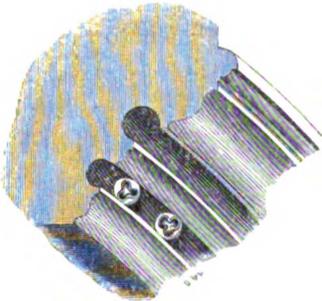
Label of Arches in Nave.
c. 1320.



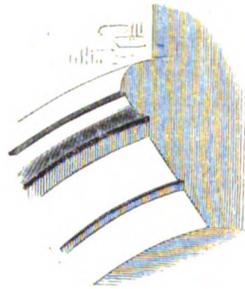
Impost Mouldings of the Tower
Arches. c. 1220.



Label of Tower Arch.
c. 1220



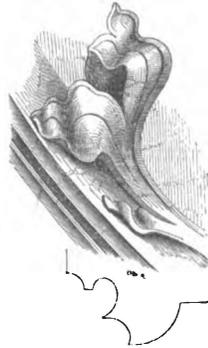
Mouldings of the Outer Door of the Porch
c. 1330.



Label and Jamb of the East Window of South
Chapel c. 1330

simple, but of Early English character. The first floor of the tower is Early English, with thick walls, and in each face a lancet window with a trefoil head. The belfry has a Perpendicular window in each face, and squinches across the angles. The spire is Perpendicular, octagonal, remarkably taper, with a round head on the angles, and a finial; the spire lights are plain, with trefoil heads; there is a Perpendicular open parapet round its base which very much injures the effect. The tower contains six bells, the five larger ones re-cast in 1715, the smaller one added in 1800.

The north transept has two lancet windows on the west side, and an Early English string along the west and north wall under the windows; the north and east windows are Perpendicular, of three lights. The east window has good niches in the jambs, and on each side brackets, supported by heads; on the south side an elegant piscina, with ogee head cinquefoiled, crocketed canopy and pinnacles; the crockets on this canopy are very good specimens of the style. The clerestory is Perpendicular, with small square-headed windows, of two lights. The roof good Perpendicular open timber, with tie-beams and king-posts, and springers supporting the tie-beams at each end, with foliated openings; these and the rafters are all moulded, resting on plain stone corbels.

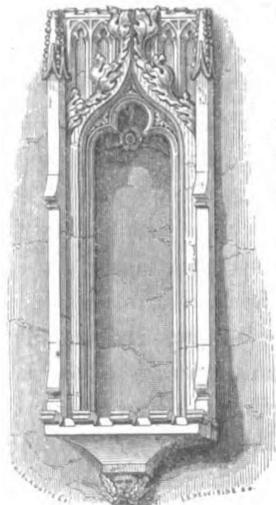


Crocket on Piscina in North Transept, c. 1450.

The south transept has Perpendicular windows of three lights; under the east window has been an Altar, of which the brackets remain; and in the north wall is a Decorated piscina, with an ogee head and crocketed canopy; by the side of this is a Decorated recess for a sedile; on the west side of this transept is a small Perpendicular door, with a stone penthouse over it.

The nave is lofty, with a Perpendicular clerestory and roof; on the north side the wall is Early English, with tall buttresses in three stages, a good Early English door, with a trefoil head,

under a pointed arch, now blocked up, but still called the Bachelor's door, a Decorated window, of three lights, with flowing tracery, and a good Perpendicular niche. The clerestory is evidently an addition, and the corbels of the old roof remain below it: the present roof is Perpendicular, of low pitch, with boarded ceiling; the principals and rafters well moulded, and the corbels good Perpendicular; the springers are open, with Perpendicular panelling. The west door and window are late Perpendicular, but there are remains of two Early English windows in the west wall. On the south side of the nave are five Decorated arches,



Niche in the Nave, c. 1450.

of unequal height and span, becoming gradually lower and narrower as they approach the west end; this appears to have been done for the perspective effect: the arches are plain, dying into octagonal piers, without any imposts; the label is equally simple, but different from that of the tower-arches, and is Decorated; there is a plain piscina in the splay of the east respond. The font is plain round Decorated, on a moulded base, lately restored to its original position under the arch nearest to the south door; the pulpit, Elizabethan carved oak.

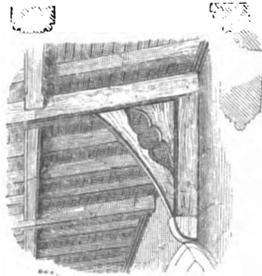


The Font, c. 1320.

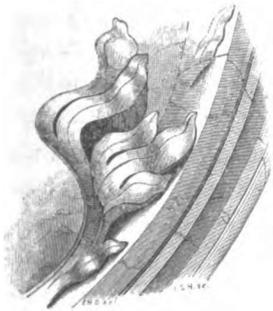
The south aisle of the nave has three good Decorated windows, with

flowing tracery; the roof is a lean-to, nearly flat, with springers, having foliated openings through them; these appear, by the mouldings, to be of the fourteenth century. The south door is Decorated, with bold mouldings.

The south Porch is also Decorated, with stone benches, and a plain opentimber roof : the



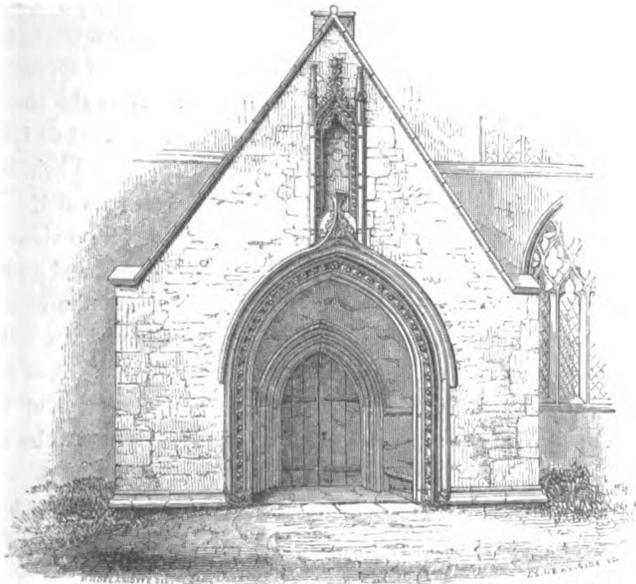
The Roof.



Crocket on the Porch.

outer door is Decorated, richly moulded with the ball-flower ornament; over this door there is a good Decorated niche, with a rich crocketed canopy, pinnacles, and finials. The crockets are good specimens of the form generally used in this style.

I.H.P.



The South Porch, c 1320

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

At the Conquest the manor of *Kidlington*, in Domesday Book written *Chedelinton*, formed part of the grant to Robert de Oily, a follower of the Conqueror^a. He was appointed to keep Oxford, and built a castle there, within which he erected a chapel, dedicated to St. George, and established there a fraternity of secular priests, whom he endowed with several rights and possessions in those parts. He gave them the churches of *Cudelinton* (*Kidlington*), Weston^b, &c. This grant conveyed the appropriation of two parts in three of the tithes, together with the advowson or right of patronage to this body.

Robert de Oily died A.D. 1090, and was buried at Abingdon, on the north side of the high Altar. As he left no heirs male of his own body, his brother Nigel succeeded to the Castle of Oxford and the *honor* of d'Oily, which included the manor of *Kidlington*, and of which the capital seat was Hook-Norton^c.

Nigel dying about A.D. 1120, was succeeded by his son Robert de Oily, jun.^d, who at the solicitation of his wife Edith founded Oseney A.D. 1129, for a priory of Canons Augustines, and twenty years after its foundation transferred thither the church and college of St. George in the castle, with all its endowments, including the advowson and appropriation of two parts in three of the tithes of *Cudelinton*^e. Thus the church of *Kidlington* became annexed to Oseney, A.D. 1149. Robert de Oily the younger died, A.D. 1157, and was succeeded by his son and heir Henry, who was sheriff of Oxford from the third to the sixth year of Henry II. A few years later in this reign, upon an inquisition with a view to the scutage or tax, he is returned as holding 32 knights' fees, and an half of the old feoffment, and one fee and a half part of a fee of the new feoffment. Among these possessions Kidlington must have been included, as appears from a grant which he made to Oseney A.D. 1192, of certain property in Weston, with offer of exchange in the manors of Hook-Norton or of *Kidlington*, in consideration that his body was to be buried

^a Domesday B. *Ozenacire* Terra de Oilgi.

^b Dugd. Monast., tom. ii. p. 136.—
Leland's Itin., vol. ii. f. 17.

^c Kennett, vol. i. pp. 97, 98.

^d Regist. Oseney, ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 119.

^e Carta Rob. de Oilii, jun., Dugd. Monast., tom. ii. p. 137.

before the high Altar in Oseney^f. He dying was succeeded by his son Henry, the second of that name, who confirmed the grant of his ancestors to Oseney; and among other grants of his own, which he added, is mentioned "purprestura gardini sui (i. e. canonicorum) de *Kidelinton*g." On his death, A.D. 1232, he also was interred in the church of Oseney, for which he stipulated in his charter of confirmation. He left two sisters heirs, of which Margery, the elder, was the wife of Henry Earl of Warwick, who had issue by her Thomas Earl of Warwick, who in the 17th of Henry III. paid £100 and two palfreys for the relief of his uncle, Henry de Oily's, (the second) lands, including the manor of *Kidlington*h. From Thomas Earl of Warwick, *Kidlington* passed by marriage into the family of de Plesssets, the founder of which, John de Plesssets, a Norman by birth, and domestic servant in the king's court, raised himself by marriage with Christian, daughter and heir of Hugh de Sandford, and became sheriff of the county of Oxford, A.D. 1240ⁱ.

He was in great favour with Henry III., and by the king's earnest intercession obtained in marriage (on the death of his first wife) Margery, the widow of John Mareschal, sister and heir of Thomas Earl of Warwick, whose mother was Margery, eldest daughter and heir of Henry de Oily, the elder, Baron of Hook-Norton; by which means he came into possession of the manors of Hook-Norton and *Kidlington*, held from the king by barony, and afterwards had the title of Earl of Warwick^k. He was also made constable of the Tower of London, and had many other honours conferred on him. He was buried in the choir of Missenden Abbey^l. On his death, Feb. 26, 1263, he was succeeded by Hugh de Plesssets, son by his first wife, who in April next ensuing, doing his homage, had livery of the manors of Hook-Norton and *Kidlington*, paying for his relief £100. He married Isabel, daughter of J. de Ripariis^m, cousin and one of the heirs to Philippa Basset, sometime Countess of Warwick. By a demise of land in Mussewell to Sir Richard le Pouvre, dated *Cudelinton*, Saturday after Epiphany, the 7th of Edward I., it appears that Sir Hugh de Plesssets resided at the manor house of *Kidlington*ⁿ; to which a chapel was attached by the permission of the Abbot and Convent of Oseney, who in the compact made on this

^f Regist. Osen. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 208, 209.

^g Carta Hen. de Oilii, Dugd. Mon., tom. ii. p. 139.

^h Dugd. Bar., tom. i. p. 461.

ⁱ Dugd. Bar., p. 772.

^k Dugd. Bar., Kennett, i. pp. 327, 367.

^l Kennett, vol. i. p. 367.

^m Dugd. Bar. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 367.

ⁿ Kennett, vol. i. p. 414.

account with the said Hugh Baron of Hooknorton, stipulated that the capellane should not pretend to any parochial dues or jurisdiction, but all should be adjusted sine præjudicio matricis ecclesiæ^o. He served in the first expedition of Edward into Scotland^p. He died A.D. 1292, and was succeeded by his son and heir Hugh, then twenty-five years of age, who on doing his homage had livery of the manors of Hook-Norton and *Kidlington*^q.

This Hugh de Plessets appears in the roll of the summons to Parliament among the Barons of the realm in the 25th of Edward I., and in the following year served in the expedition into Scotland. He died A.D. 1301^r. The manor of *Kidlington* was settled by Hugh de Plessets before his death on his son Thomas^s, and it continued in the same family at least till the middle of that century. In the inquisitiones post mortem, there occurs mention of two Hugh de Plessets after this, the former of whom died A.D. 1338^t, possessed of *Kidlington*; the latter A.D. 1350^u, who at the time of his death, besides *Kidlington* and Water Eton, held 22 other manors.

From this Hugh de Plessey it passed probably in the female line to John Lenneysey, who in the inquisition held after his death, A.D. 1361, is returned as having died possessed jointly with Eleanor his wife of the manors of Hook-Norton and *Kidlington*^x. He was succeeded by his son Sir John, who died A.D. 1380, also possessed jointly with Elizabeth his wife of the manors of Hook-Norton and *Kidlington*^y.

The next owner of the manor of *Kidlington* that has been discovered is Thomas Chaucer, supposed to be a son of the great poet, in whose

^o Regist. Osen. ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 281.

^p Like other powerful barons of the time, he exercised nearly an absolute sovereignty within his domain, as appears from the following extracts from the Hundred Rolls, vol. ii. p. 873 :—"Hugh de Pleci holds of the king in capite the manor and village of Cudelington of the fee of Doily, for military service, and has view of Frankpledge over his own men, without the sheriff and other bayliffs of the crown, and has *gallows* on his land, by what warrant we know not," &c. Then follows a list of the villanes, 41 in num-

ber, holding a half virgate^o or virgate of land, the rent for which is uniformly at the rate of 5s. a virgate, but then they were bound to certain feudal services.

^q Inquisit. post mortem, vol. i. p. 113.—Rot. Hundred, ii. 46.—Kennett, vol. i. p. 450.—Dugd. Baron., vol. ii. p. 773.

^r Dugd. Summons to Parliament, Barony, Inquisit. post mortem, i. 169.

^s Kennett, vol. i. p. 502.

^t Inquisit. post mortem, vol. ii. p. 78.

^u Ibid. 1 pars Edw. II.

^x Inq. post mort. 3^d Edw. III.

^y Ibid. 3 Rich. II.

^o A yard land, an uncertain quantity, varying from 15 to 40 acres, according to custom.

possession it appears to have been by an inquisition held at the time of his death, A.D. 1436^a. From him it passed to William de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, by his marriage with Alice, daughter and heir of the said Thomas Chaucer. He was afterwards created Duke of Suffolk, and acted a very conspicuous part in the reign of Henry VI. He was the founder of the Hospital of Ewelme, where he sometime resided. He was afterwards attainted, and being intercepted in his passage into France, he was beheaded. His remains were conveyed to the Collegiate Church of Wingfield in Suffolk, and there buried. Alice his widow was buried at Ewelme, on the south side of the high Altar. There is an engraving of her monument, which is very splendid, in Skelton's Oxfordshire, as well as of that of her father, Thomas Chaucer^a.

By an inquisition after the death of the Duke of Suffolk, he was found to have died possessed in Com: Oxon: jointly with Alice his wife, of twelve messuages, fourteen virgates of land, and twenty acres of meadow, with their appurtenances in Thorp, *Cudelinton* and Sulthorne, now Thrup, *Kidlington* and Souldern^b. All which, with many other large possessions, continued to Alice his widow, in her own right of inheritance, who lived to a good old age in her mansion-house at Ewelme, and died there, A.D. 1475^c.

She had issue by her last husband, the Duke of Suffolk, one son and heir, John, who married Elizabeth, sister to King Edward IV., and for this honourable alliance was, by letters patent, dated March 23, 3rd of Edward IV., restored to the title of Duke of Suffolk^d. He inherited, among other possessions from his mother, the manor of *Kidlington*, which must have continued in his family to the Reformation, as certain manorial payments to the Duke of Suffolk and his heirs, are stated among the perpetual reprises to which the Rectory of *Kidlington* was liable, at the time of the surrender of Oseney^e.

In the last century it belonged for some time to a family of the name of Smith, of whom was Dr. Joseph Smith, Provost of Queen's, A.D. 1730. It is now the property of the Duke of Marlborough; but the manor-house was detached from the manor some few years since, and belongs to Thomas Robinson, Esq.

The Church is named in honour of the Virgin Mary, and the feast-day of dedication is the Sunday after the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin. O.S.

^a Kennett, vol. ii. p. 322.

^b Dugd. Baron., vol. ii. p. 189.

^b Dugd. Baron., vol. ii. p. 189.

^c Kennett, vol. ii. p. 380.

^d Dugd. Baron., vol. ii. p. 189; Kennett,

vol. ii. p. 380.

^e Valor. Eccl.

The following few scattered notices respecting the Church are sub-joined. The presentations are chiefly taken from the Registry at Lincoln.

A.D. 1226. The Abbey of Osney presented in this year to the Vicarage.

A.D. 1300—1320. *Bishop D' Alderby*. Johannes de Ottington Capellanus ad Vicariam per Abbatem et Conventum de Osney præsentatus per mortem Guli. ultimi vicarii vacantem.

A.D. 1347—1363. *Bishop Grindwell*. Wilhelmus de Ottingdon per Abbatem et Conventum de Osney ad vicariam præsentatus per mortem Henrici Wylby vacantem.

During this century a considerable portion of the Church was rebuilt, probably through the influence of Thomas de Cudlington, a native of *Kidlington*, who died Abbot of Osney, A.D. 1383^f, and was distinguished as a builder. He built Hythe-bridge, and the Lady Chapel at Osneye. The south aisle of the Church very closely resembles that of St. Mary Magdalene, which was built A.D. 1338^g.

A.D. 1405—1420. *Bishop Repingdon*. Mag^r. Johan^s. Welkes per Abbatem et Conventum de Osneye ad vicariam de *Cudlington*, præsentatus per mortem Willihelmi Odyngton ultimi vicarii vacantem.

A.D. 1431—1435. *Bishop Grey*. Willihelmus Bushell per Abbatem et Conventum de Osneye ad vicariam præsentatus per resignationem Johan^s. Welkes vacantem.

A.D. 1435—1450. *Bishop Alnwick*. Johannes Bradstone, per Abbatem et Conventum de Osneye ad Vicariam de Osneye præsentatus per resignationem Willihelmi Bushell vacantem.

Item—Ludovicus North ad vicariam per Abbatem et conventum de Osneye præsentatus per Johannis Bradstone resignationem vacantem.

During the incumbency of this last-mentioned vicar, a new endowment of the vicarage was made by the Bishop. The parishioners complained that the parish, which is very long, wide, dispersed, and large, was not duly served, and the vicar, that the portions of the said vicarage were so scanty, that they were insufficient for the proper sustentation of him, and the support of the charges imposed upon him. Whereupon the Bishop, having heard the various parties by their proctors, totally annuls the existing endowment, and ordains a new and more sufficient one, assigning to the vicar the present vicarage house, and certain

^f Leland's Itin.

^g Peshall, p. 224.

portions of the abbey land, tithes, offerings, &c., and binding the vicar to serve and minister continually to the said church by himself and one fit chaplain, who, at his own cost and charge he shall have continually dwelling with him.

A.D. 1471—1480. *Bishop Rotherham*. Johannes Lane, presbyter, præsentatus per discretum virum Leonellum Wydeville Archidiac. Oxon. ad vicariam perpetuam Ecclesiæ parochialis de *Cudlington* Linc. Dioces. per resignationem Magⁱ Ludovici North ultimi vicarii in manus Reverendi Patris Linc. Ep. vacantem.

A.D. 1495—1514. *Bishop Smith*. Mag^r. Rogerus Sandeford, in utroque jure baccalaureus presbyter præsentatus per religiosos viros Abbatem et conventum monasterii de Osney per mortem Johannis Lane ultimi vicarii quam per liberam renunciationem Magr. Ricardi Inglesent, vacantem, 21mi April, 1499.

Item—Mag^r. Johan. Croston A.M. præsent: per Abb. et Conven. ad vicariam de *Cudelynton* per resign. Xtopheri Lathum 22 Sep. 1503.

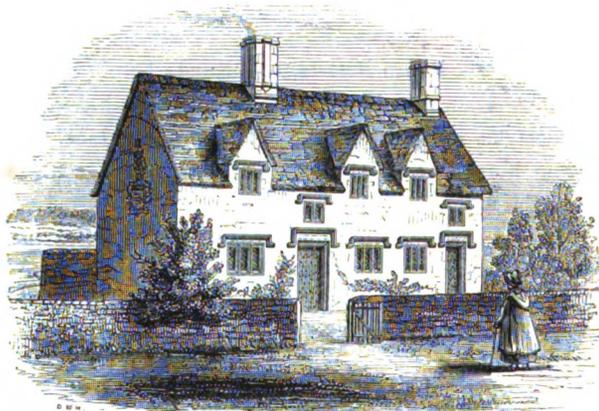
The surrender of Osney bears date Nov. 17, A.D. 1540, and on the erection of the see of Oxford in the year following, the appropriation of *Kidlington* became part of the endowment of the new chapter at Osney, consisting of a Dean and six Canons, styled the Dean and Canons of the Cathedral Church of Christ and of the Blessed Virgin; but within three years this foundation was dissolved, and a new one erected at St. Frideswide's, as it now exists, under the style of the Cathedral Church of Christ in Oxford.

Kidlington then, with many other of the possessions of Osney, remained in the hands of the Crown. In A.D. 1565, it was granted by Q. Eliz. to Sir W. Petre, and by him given to Exeter College. By his ordination, confirmed afterwards by Act of Parliament, the vicarage was permanently attached to the headship of Exeter College, and the Rectors of the College from that time have been the successive vicars of the parish ^h.

“ At Gosford, in the parish of *Kidlington*, there was an house of Sisters of the order of St. John of Jerusalem, who were removed about A.D. 1180 to Buckland, in Somersetshire. The estate was given to them by Robert de Oily and Henry his son, and continued in the hands of the Hospitalers (who built an oratory or chapel here about A.D. 1234)

^h Tanner's Notitia, Q. Elizabeth's grant to Exeter College in the Archives of the College.

till the dissolution. It was granted 34th Henry VIII. to Anth. Stringer and John Williamsⁱ."



"Close to the Church at *Kidlington*, in the County of Oxford, is a small hospital or alms-house, containing six rooms. Upon a tablet at the north end, is the following inscription :—

" TO GOD, AND THE POOR OF KIDLINGTON, AND TO THE PIOUS MEMORY OF THE VIRTUOUS LADY, ANN MORTON, AND HER DECEASED CHILDREN, SIR WILLIAM MORTON, KNIGHT, LATE ONE OF HER MAJESTY'S JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, DEDICATED THIS FOUNDATION, ANNO DOMINI 1671."

Extract from the Founder's will :—

" Whereas I have built and erected an hospital at *Kidlington*, in the County of Oxford, for the habitation, and maintenance, of three poor men, and three poor women, that are impotent and decrepid, who are to be single persons, and whose labour and work is done. And in remembrance of the piety and virtues of my dearly beloved wife, and my dear and dutiful children, John Morton, George, William, Ann, and Magdalen Morton, deceased, which I had by her, I will, and appoint, that the said building, or Alms-house, shall be called, and knowne, by the name of ' the Lady Anne Morton's Alms-house' for ever. And that the poor people, that shall be placed, and put in, by me in my lifetime, and for ever hereafter, shall be called the Lady Ann Morton's Almsfolke, and shall be stiled, and incorporated, by that name^k." J.L.R.

ⁱ Tanner's Notit. Monast.

^k See Mr. Markland's Remarks on Sepulchral Memorials, p. 225.

WATER-EATON CHAPEL.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Nave	29	0	by	20	0
Chancel	16	9	by	15	10

THIS is a remarkably good specimen of the revived Gothic, of the time of James I., having at first sight the appearance of a much earlier date; it is a simple oblong Chapel, with a high-pitched roof, open to the rafters, and of good plain character, without tie-beams.



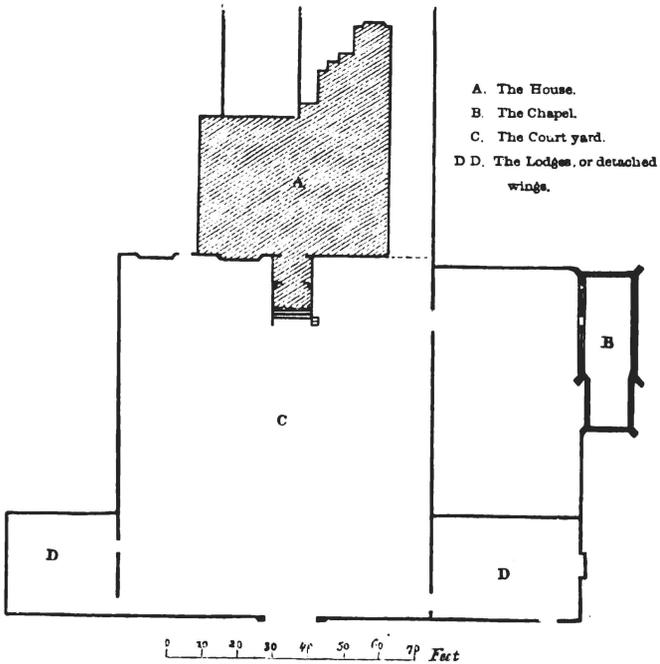
The windows are wide, of three lights, with foliated heads, but without tracery, very much resembling a window often found in Decorated work, but the mouldings are quite late Perpendicular; the window arches are very much depressed, with a slight point; the door is late Perpendicular, with a square head over it: the north wall is quite blank; on the south side there are three windows and a door, and one window at each end. The pulpit and screen are of good Elizabethan work, and the pews are all open, with poppy-heads of the same character. The bell-gable is a modern imitation, and not a very happy one.

The house adjoining, and to which this Chapel belongs, is of the same age and character; a remarkably good and perfect specimen of the Elizabethan style, with its court-yard, entrance-gate, detached wings and chapel, all in their original state, and all apparently built at once from the same design.

WATER - EATON.



Water-Eaton House, from the Court-Yard, c. 1610.



HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Eton, by which is to be understood *Water Eton*, is mentioned in Domesday Book¹ as part of the possessions of Robert de Oily. It was given to Oseney by Robert de Oily the second, the founder. There is also extant a MS. in English in the Exchequer, supposed to be about the time of Edward IV., which contains a further confirmation of this grant by Henry de Oily, and also by Robert Chesney, Bishop of Lincoln, and Pope Eugene III.^m The words of this original endowment in this MS. are as follow: "*Eton* all my towne the which long to hit, outetake the mill, the which I haue gife to another Church." Within this hamlet is *Fryse's* farm, lying between the Banbury and Woodstock roads. The grant of this is included in the great charter of Robert de Oily the second, and the words of the grant in his charter are thus rendered into old English in the Exchequer MS.: "And the Chapell of *Frees* with the mansion and londe against the Chapell towards the west with Fedynge and pastures and his other purtenances." Here, in Antony Wood's time, was standing nothing but a shepherd's house and no remains of the Chapel.

By an inquisition taken 23, 24 of Edward III., it appears that the Abbot of Oseney held the manor of Weston and *Water Eton* by the service of two knights' feesⁿ.

By original letters patent under the privy seal and by authority of Parliament, Henry VIII., on the 24th of September, 34th of his reign, granted to Robert King, Bishop of Oxford, divers estates, parcels of the possessions of Oseney Abbey, and among them, *Water Eton*, to the said late monastery lately belonging.

It remained but a short time in the possession of the Bishop of Oxford and was resumed again by the Crown, and the King (Henry VIII.) by a deed of exchange dated September 1, 37th of his reign, made between him and William Burg, Merchant of the Staple at Calais, in consideration of the manor of Calchill, in the county of Kent, gave to the said William Burg all that his manor of *Water Eton*, in the county of Oxford, and all that his Graces pastures, called *Fryse*, in Water Eton, &c.^o

¹ Oxenscire terra de Oilgi.

^m Carta Rob. de Oilii, Dugd. Monast. ii. 137, Chartulary Cotton. Libr.

ⁿ Doda. MS. vol. ix. f. 188. ap. Kennett,

vol. ii. p. 102.

^o Valor. Ecclesiast. Extracts from grants, Archives of Exeter College.

The manor is now in possession of John Sawyer, Esq., of Waywood Lodge.

During the civil wars the Manor House was the abode of the Lord Lovelace, and evidently considered as a place of importance. It is now only used as a farm house. Lady Lovelace was seized here by a party of the Parliamentary troops from Banbury, forced into her carriage, and driven to Middleton, where she was turned out and compelled to walk back.

J.L.R.

SHIPTON-ON-CHERWELL.

PATRON.	St. <i>M</i> ary.		DEANERY	
W. TURNER, ESQ.			OF WOODSTOCK.	
			HUNDEED	
			OF WOOTTON.	
	FT.	IN.	FT.	IN.
Chancel	16	0	by	20 10
Nave	35	0	by	21 0
Tower	5	2	by	5 4

A SMALL plain Church, the nave and tower modern, the Chancel original: the Church stands in a very picturesque situation on a cliff, on the banks of the Cherwell.

The Chancel is Decorated, late in the style; the east window is transition from Decorated to Perpendicular, of three lights, cinquefoiled, with flowing tracery, the dripstone returned horizontally: the side windows are Decorated, of two lights, trefoiled, with a quatrefoil in the head. The Chancel-arch is equilateral, pointed, with chamfered edges, and a Decorated label. In the north wall is a sepulchral arch, cinquefoiled, having a stone coffin, with a coped lid with a cross upon it.

In the Church-yard there is the shaft of an ancient cross, surmounted by a cross fleuree.

There is a vignette of the old Church in Skelton's Oxfordshire, Wootton Hundred, p. 21.

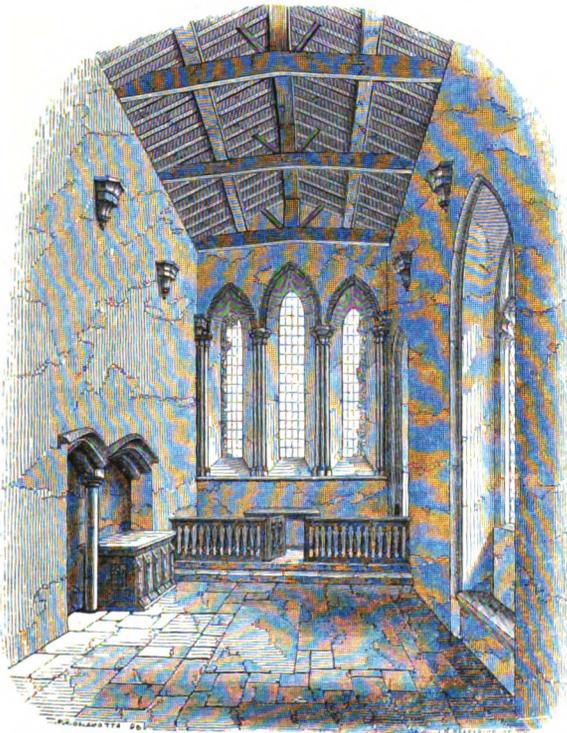
B. BEVAN, Ch. Ch.

TACKLEY.

PATRONS.
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

St. Nicholas.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

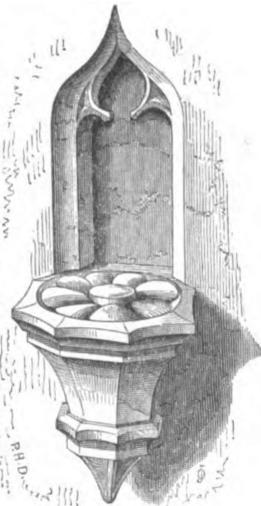


	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	29	4	by	13	7
Nave	51	0	by	17	0
Aisle	51	0	by	12	0
Tower, exterior . . .	20	0	by	8	0
Tower, interior . . .	13	0	by	5	0

L

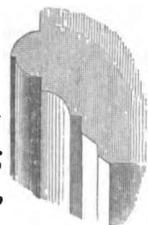
A CRUCIFORM Church, of mixed styles, with a tower in the centre, mostly Perpendicular.

CHANCEL—The east window is a very good Early English triplet, three lancet lights combined into one composition, with shafts attached: on the south side are two Perpendicular windows, with stone benches under them in the recess; and a good piscina in the angle. The corbels of the old roof remain, and are good octagon Perpendicular; the present roof is modern, of low pitch, and bad. In the north wall of the Chancel is an Early English recessed arch for a tomb, with a doorway by the side, and a detached shaft of purbeck marble between; the label of this arch is very bold, with a deep hollow under: the tomb is Perpendicular, with flat-arched panels and buttresses between, and an incised slab, with a cross fleury, very simple.



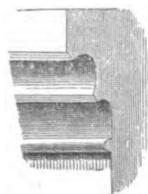
Piscina in North Transept c. 1450.

NAVE—The west window is good Decorated, of three lights, the mullions intersecting, with foliations: on the north side, an aisle, destroyed, two Norman arches filled up, and a small Norman door, rebuilt, under the western arch; on the south side, three Early English arches, the pillars with good caps, having the stiff-leaf foliage; arches pointed and recessed, the edges chamfered, with early labels and terminations. The clerestory and roof are plain and late.



Section of arch of West Window. c. 1350.

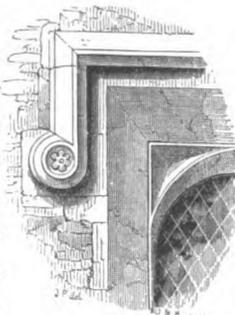
The TOWER-ARCHES are Early English, very plain and massive, pointed and recessed, with the edges chamfered off; the piers semi-octagon, caps or imposts plain, the mouldings deep and undercut: in the spandril of the north arch of the tower there is a square-headed window cut through the wall, with an iron grating in it; the use of



Impost. c. 1230.

this window is not very clear, but it seems to have been connected with the rood-loft. The upper story of the tower is Perpendicular.

The NORTH TRANSEPT and window are Perpendicular, early in the style, the window-head rather of transition character. The roof is plain: there is a good small piscina and a square manorial pew, with Elizabethan carving, and the date 1613: The south transept is also Perpendicular; the roof of the same style, plain open timber work; the south aisle has Perpendicular windows, of late character, one of which has a good termination of the label, or dripstone.



I.H.P.

Dripstone termination. c. 1520

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1226, 10, 11 Henry III., Genteschive le Povre presented a clerk to the Church of Ottindon, and three years before had with Emma de Podus, his wife, presented to the Church of Tackley^a.

A.D. 1314. On the morrow after Michaelmas day, 8th of Edward II., John de Wythulle, son and heir of Sir Walter de Wythulle, by deed dated at Kirtlington, did release and quit claim to Hugh le Duke of Wretchwike, within the parish of Burcester, all his right and claim in eighteen perches of arable land in length, and four perches in breadth, in the field of Tackle, in a parcel of ground called Wytstandelf, to remain to the said Hugh and his heirs for ever^b.

This manor and estate belonged to Henry Lord Beaumont, an eminent man in the reigns of King Edward II. and King Edward III., in whose reign he died. He was in the 11th of king Edward III. constable of the king's army sent into Scotland, and in consideration of his great services, obtained, among other things, a charter of free-warren in all his demesne lands in this place. He left this manor, 14th Edward III., to his son

^a Rog. Dods. MS. vol. cvii. p. 42. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 282.

^b Kennett, vol. i. p. 526.

John, Lord Beaumont; but he enjoyed it not above two years, and then dying, left it to Eleanor his wife, who, 17 Edward III., procured another charter of the king for free warren for her demesne lands in this place. She left it to her son and heir, Henry Lord Beaumont, who, being born beyond sea was legitimated by Parliament 25 Edward III. As to the Church here, we may observe that upon a vacancy of the vicarage, one Mr. Rogers, who was then Rector of the said Church, affirming that the vicarage was not regularly ordained, with the consent of all parties concerned, did petition Oliver Sutton, then Bishop of Lincoln, that the said vicarage might be consolidated with the rectory; whereupon the Bishop having made a due inquisition about it, did so consolidate them, ult. Octob. 1299^c.

George Powers Knight, who died 1424, was Lord of this manor.

1483, April 22. Oliver Sompnour resigned the living of Oddington and accepted that of Tackley^d.

A.D. 1499, May 17. John Hulse was presented to the living of Tackley on the death of Oliver Somner, on the presentation of Clementina Newere, widow of John Newere, gentleman^e.

Peter Ailworth, Esq., who died 1595, and was buried in the Church, also possessed this manor; subsequently it became the property of the Harborne family. John Harborne built here a handsome manor house, of which an outer gate of entrance is now all that remains. A mural monument of the Harbornes is attached to the east wall of the north transept. The advowson of the Rectory was purchased by St. John's College, Oxford, in 1719.

The Register commences 1559. The manner in which it is preserved, being substantially bound in russia, is worthy of general adoption^f.

^c Magna Britannia, vol. iv. p. 382.

nett, vol. i. p. 526.

^d Reg. Russel, Kennett, vol. i. p. 496.

^f Skelton, Wootton Hundred, p. 21.

^e Reg. Smith, Ep. London, ap. Ken-

ROWSHAM.

PATRON.
C. COTTRELL DORMER,
ESQ.

St. Mary.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

A PLAIN Church, mostly Decorated, but with parts transition Norman. Plan oblong, with one aisle and a tower at the west end.

THE CHANCEL is Decorated, the east window bad, having no foliations; the north window tolerably good, of three lights, foliated; a good Decorated piscina. The Chancel-arch is transition Norman, pointed, very plain, and not recessed, with Norman shafts in the angles of the square pier on the west side.

THE NAVE—The western arch is transition Norman, with good Norman caps, arch pointed, not recessed, but the edges chamfered off; the other two arches are different, pointed and recessed, with the edges chamfered, on octagon pillars, with moulded caps of the Decorated style, but very plain. The south aisle is Decorated, with a good west window.

THE TOWER is Decorated, the arch deeply recessed, chamfered, with moulded caps to round shafts: the windows on the first-floor, lancets, small, and recessed; the belfry windows, on the south side, of two lights, with octagon shaft, round-headed, on the north side, pointed, on the west side, square-headed; the west door has a Decorated dripstone; the buttresses are very small, not more than four feet high; there is no staircase.

I.H.P.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Domesday survey, Rowsham formed part of the grant of Robert de Oilgi, and of Roger de Iveri^s.

— A.D. 1149, 14, 15, Stephen, in the charter of Robert d'Oily, of
 5 assignment to Oseney, Rowlesham formed a part of the barony of Hoke-
 norton.

A.D. 1227, Dec. 5, the king presented to one moiety of the Church of Rollesham, com. Oxon.

A.D. 1229, we find the other moiety of the Church of Rollesham was in the patronage of Walter de Fontibus.

Within the year 1280, Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, presented to the Church of Rollesham (now Rowsham^h.)

A.D. 1635. The manor of Rowsham with its appurtenances was conveyed by a deed bearing date 1st May, 1635, from the Hawtreys to Sir Robert Dormer, of Dorton. By the will of General James Dormer, who died 1744, or thereabouts, Rowsham descended to Sir Clement Cottrell, Knight, Master of the Ceremonies, who took the name of Dormer. He is the first bearing that name who is interred in the parish church at Rowsham, as it was not the ancient burying-place of the Dormers. There are many inscriptions to the memory of the Martens, who possessed a part of Rowsham. This part of the estate was purchased, by the present owner, of the late Benjamin Holloway, Esq., of Lee Place, in this county, A.D. 1828.

Near to the Church is the handsome embattled residence, in the Elizabethan style, of C. Cottrell Dormer, Esq., of which there is a view in Skelton's Oxfordshire.

^s Kennett, vol. i. p. 90, 91, 142, 284, 291.

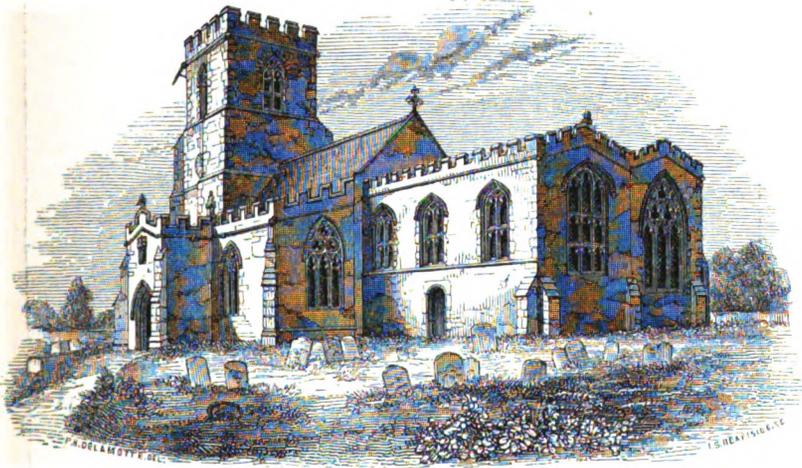
^h R. Dods. MS. vol. cvii. p. 144. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 418.

STEEPLE ASTON.

PATRONAGE
OF
BRASENOSE COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

St. Peter.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

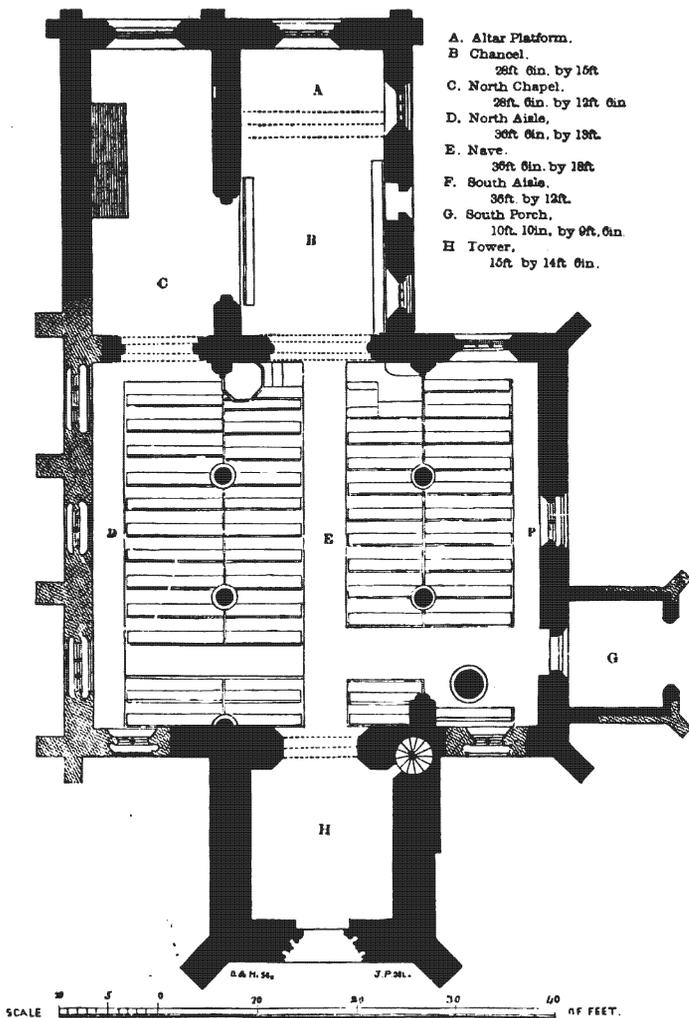


A MIXED Church, with a tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL is debased Perpendicular. The east window is of three lights, with two transoms, each light foliated, but no room for tracery in the head: three side windows on the south side, of two lights, with transoms. The Chancel-arch is Early Decorated, pointed and recessed, with the edges chamfered, springing from the caps of triple-shafts attached to the jambs: a good Perpendicular Chancel-screen has lately been restored: the roof is plain, low, and bad.

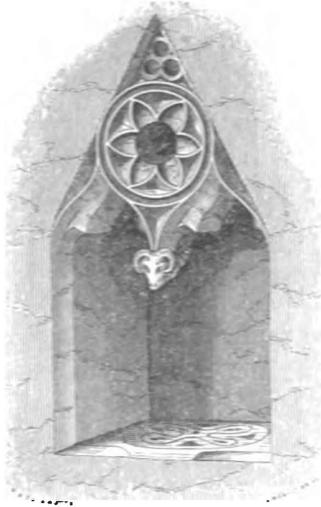
The north aisle of the Chancel has a fine Decorated east

THE GROUND PLAN.



The parts left light were rebuilt in 1842.

window of three lights, with flowing tracery and a good label, with singular terminations, and the mullions are moulded. In this aisle there is a small Decorated piscina, with its drain perfect, and a foliated circle in the head, the cusps of which terminate in the centre in a ram's head. The arch between the Chancel and aisle is Decorated, with good bold mouldings continuous to the ground. The north wall of this aisle has been rebuilt without windows, to accommodate the monument of



Sir Francis and Lady Page, 1741. The arch between this aisle and that of the Church is Decorated, springing from corbels: this arch, as well as that on the side, had been built up for many years, but were re-opened in the recent improvements: the roof is still hid by a flat plaster ceiling.

The NAVE is of three bays, with Early English arches, having moulded caps and label, rather early in the style: the roof is modern imitation of old work. A canted ceiling, divided into panels: the work is well executed, and the design tolerably good. A clerestory was removed at the time this was put on, in 1842; but it was a late addition to the Church, and scarcely worth preserving.

The north aisle is Perpendicular, lately rebuilt.

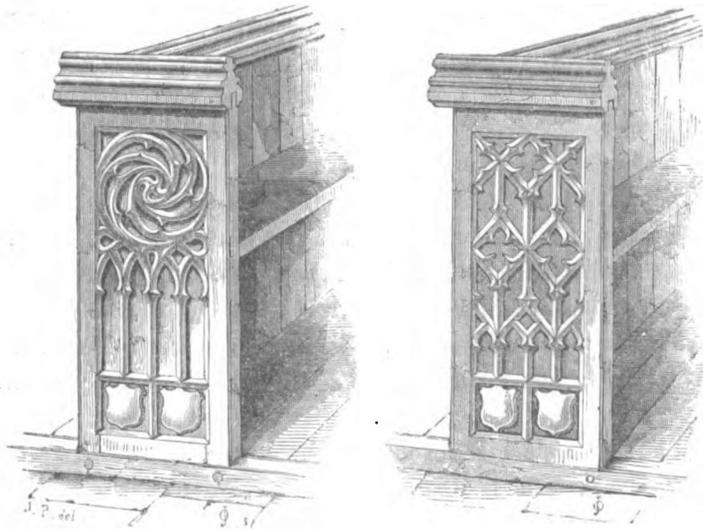
The south aisle is Decorated, the windows chiefly modern imitation. It has a good Perpendicular boarded ceiling, with moulded ribs, pierced springers, and stone corbel-heads.

The south door and porch are Decorated; the door moulded, with the roll-moulding for a label; the windows of the porch are rather singular, loops on the outside, widely splayed within. The south porch, aisle, and Chancel, have Perpendicular battlements, with cornice, having heads at wide inter-

vals, over which were formerly pinnacles, some portions of which still remain.

The Tower is good Perpendicular, the lower part plain, but with a good west door, very deeply recessed, with bold ogee and hollow mouldings, continued nearly to the ground; a window in the first floor of two lights, plain, with an opening in the head and a Perpendicular label; the upper windows of two lights, with flamboyant tracery and Perpendicular labels: the parapet battlemented, and cornice plain Perpendicular, with heads at the corners, having spouts out of their mouths, and another head in the centre of each front. The buttresses are placed diagonally, and have oblong panels let into the face, engrailed round the edges, with a shield in the centre.

The seats are all open, good carved oak, late Perpendicular



work, with a variety of patterns on the ends; those which had been damaged have lately been restored in very good taste. The font is round, with flat patterns of a diamond shape, of various sizes; from the shallowness and character of the work, it appears to be an imitation of the time of Charles II., but

may possibly be, as many persons consider it, genuine work of the twelfth century.

In the parish chest in this Church is carefully preserved a very valuable relic of the olden time, consisting of part of the hangings of the Altar, of the fourteenth century, richly embroidered with the martyrdom of saints in small divisions; and, considering its age, it is in a very perfect state. There are the steps and base of a Perpendicular cross in the Church-yard.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1362, four acres of land in Stepelaston, and the advowson of the church, were granted to Robert, by Divine permission, Prior of Cold-Norton, by Ricardus de Abberbury (Adderbury) Chivaler, 1362; and Thomas de Abberbury¹, Lord of Steeple Aston, granted the same, at the same time the convent engaging to find four canons to pray for the soul of *Thomas Abberbury, Clerke*^k.

In 1366, 40, 41 Edw. III., William de Liwte, parson of Steple-Aston, made a release of all claim to the manors of Borstall, Musewell, &c.¹

A.D. 1496. The Priory of Cold Norton escheated to the crown, 11 Hen. VII. 1496; and in the 22nd Hen. VII. (1506-7), Hugh Croft, Esq., released to the king, for himself and his heirs, all right and title to the Priory. The lands were then worth £50 per annum. It was given the next year to the Dean and Chapter of St. Stephen's, Westminster. Bishop Smith, the co-founder of Brasenose College, Oxford, and who was Dean of St. Stephen's College in 1492, purchased in the 4th of King Hen. VIII. of Thomas Hobbys, then Dean, and the Chapter, all the lands, tenements, and revenues of the Priory, and gave the whole to his College of Brasenose, in the 5th of Hen. VIII. The lands so given have belonged to that society ever since. Wood says

¹ It is a reasonable conjecture that this Thomas Abberbury, lord of Steeple Aston and clerk, is the person described by Ant. Wood, as a parson out of remembrance, whose monument of alabaster

was removed with others to make room for Sir F. Page, &c.

^k Yate, p. 56; vid. Churton's Lives of the Founders of Brasenose College.

¹ Kennett, vol. ii. p. 143, &c.

that Bishop Smith had some thoughts of founding his College on the site of this Priory.

A.D. 1596, 14th June, Joh. Buckfold, cl'ic. S.T.B. ad eccl. de Steple Aston ad pres. Tho. d'ni Buckhurst prænob. ord. Garter. mil. ratione advocat. concess. per principal. et scholares aul. reg. et coll. de Brasenose^m.

About 1622, some Roman tessellated pavement was dug up in this parish.

Samuel Radcliffe, D.D., Principal of Brasenose College, who had been Rector of this parish, endowed a school here in 1640. He likewise founded two Scholarships in his College, to be supplied, if possible, from his school at Steeple Aston. He was ejected from the headship of Brasenose College by the committee of the Lords and Commons, for the Reformation of the University, on the 20th of January, 1647. He died 26th of June, 1648, and was buried in the chancel of St. Mary's Church. He likewise endowed an almshouse for the poor in this parish, but the building which bears his name was erected by the College. Dr. Radcliffe, having left a sum of money for the purpose, his heirs-at-law disputed the bequest, and according to an arrangement made, two-thirds only of four hundred pounds was retained by the College for building, endowing, &c.

Daniel Greenwood, D.D., uncle to the Rector of Steeple Aston of the same name, is buried in the Chancel of the Church by the side of the grave of his nephew. He was voted Principal of Brasenose, in the place of Dr. Radcliffe, by the Parliament committee, and was put in possession of it by the visitors in 1648. He was Vice Chancellor of Oxford in 1650, and was ejected by the King's commission in August 1660.

^m Kennett, vol. ii. p. 416.

NORTH ASTON.

PATRON. C. O. BOWLES, ESQ.	<i>St. Mary.</i>	DEANERY OF WOODSTOCK. HUNDRED OF WOOTTON.
	FT. IN.	FT. IN.
Chancel	37 6	by 13 10
Nave	27 0	by 21 0
Tower.	9 6	by 8 2
North Aisle of Nave. . .	27 10	by 8 6
South Aisle of Nave . .	29 2	by 11 0
South Aisle of Chancel .	20 2	by 11 0

A MIXED Church, with a tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL is of the Decorated style, with a modern east window: on the north side are three windows, of two lights, trefoiled, with a quatrefoil in the head: on the south side is one similar window, and an arch opening to the south aisle: westward of this arch is a square opening through the wall, divided by a thick mullion, and more splayed towards the east than the west. The Chancel-arch is blocked up above, and a Grecian screen inserted, painted in perspective^a.

The NAVE is of the Decorated style, having plain arches on octagonal pillars, with moulded capitals. The south aisle and the sepulchral chapel on the south side of the Chancel^o, are Decorated, with good windows. The north aisle is also Decorated, with two windows of that style, and a Perpendicular one inserted. The roof is formed of plain oak beams and rafters, and is almost flat: there are two small clerestory windows on each side.

The pulpit is of very fine oak, with the Howard coat of arms well carved in front, being the gift of Lady Howard about 1720.

^a As soon as the requisite funds can be obtained, it is contemplated to take down the present plaster ceiling of the Chancel, which now comes down far below the apex of the Chancel-arch, to remove the Grecian screen, and throw it quite open; and to substitute a pointed stained window in lieu of the present *round-headed* unsightly-looking light.

^o Called the Lord's Aisle in MSS. collections in Colonel Bowles's library.

There are some good open seats, of oak, with carved ends. The Font is of the time of Charles II.

The walls of the mansion-house approach to within a yard of the tower: no view whatever can be got either of the tower or of the Church till you come near to the church-yard gates. The tower, overgrown on all sides with ivy, is a beautifully picturesque object: the tower-arch is lofty, of the Perpendicular style, with well-moulded capitals. B. BEVAN, CH. CH.

Under the arch, on the south side of the Chancel, is an altar-tomb of alabaster, supporting the recumbent figures of a knight in armour, and his lady, in fine preservation. The knight has a collar of SS. arms: party per pale: dexter, argent, on a bend sable three martlets of the first, a crescent of the second for difference; sinister, gules, three lions passant argent. These arms occur also in the east window of the south aisle. As weepers round the tomb, there are "fourteen little statues in monastic habits, carrying staves, beads, &c., and three plumed figures, supporting shields, within Gothic niches." These surround three sides of the tomb. This monument has no name upon it, but is thus described at p. 67 of "The Gatherings of Oxfordsher A^o. Dom. 1574," by Richard Lee Portcullis, MS. Wood 14. D. in the Ashmolean Museum. "In North Aston Church

a man in armour wth a woman
in a baron's robe very ancient
Johns Ann & Alicia uxor ejus,
ob. 1416."

The arms are tricked as above, together with another impaled shield, which perhaps then also existed on the monument^p. At p. 66 of the same MS. these coats appear among the shields of alliances which Lee gives as being "in the ancient house of Anne^q in Northaston."

^p Ant. Wood repeats Lee's account of this monument. MSS. E. 1. fol. 113.

^q This is the surname of the very ancient Catholic family of Anne of Frickley, in the parish of Hooton Pagnel

in Yorkshire, who took the name of Tasburgh in 1810. Their arms were gules three bucks' heads caboshed arg. attired or—but in the family chapel there was formerly a stone with three martlets on

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Domesday Survey, Aston (Etone) formed part of the grant of Robert de Oiley.

The next mention of Aston is in 1262, 46, 47 Hen. III., when the name of William de Montacute occurs as Lord of the manor^r.

In 1295, the advowson of the Church of Aston Cantelua, was given by John de Hastyng to the Prior and Convent of Stodley, together with certain lands in that parish^s.

In 1336, Sir John de Molins, lord of the manors of Brill and Ludgarshale, did now obtain licence from the king to make a castle of his manor house at Aston, and to impark his woods in Ilmere, with one hundred acres of pasture in Bekkenesfeld, Burnham, and Chippenham; and to have free warren in Bekkenesfeld, Chalfhunt, &c., being now engaged in the wars of Scotland of the retinue of William de Montacute^t.

In 1425, Sir William Molins, died July the eighth, seized of the manors of Henle, Aston, &c. &c., leaving William, his son and heir, 19 years of age. Of which manors, Laurence de Scaccario held two carucates of land in Abbeford, within the parish of Aston, com. Oxon, in 13 Edw. I., by the serjeanty of being marshal to the justices itinerant through all England, and to the justices of the King's Bench, and barons of the Exchequer^u.

In 1411, this manor, with others, became the property of Robert Hungerford, Esq., as part of the lands of inheritance of Alianore, daughter and heir of Sir William Molins.

This estate and manor were left to Mrs. Henrietta Fermor, sister of Mr. Fermor of Tusmore, by Madam Brooke, who died in France in 1716^x.

a bend, and this inscription, "Hic jacet Alyssa de Anne, quæ obiit xx die Februarii, A^o Dⁿⁱ millesimo cccc, cujus animæ propitiatur Deus." Dr. Nathaniel Johnston, who describes the mansion at Frickley in his topographical collections, says, that over the door entering into the court before the house is a shield, with three martlets on a bend, which tradition says are the arms of the family from whom Frickley came to the Annes. On an old stable-door the same, quartering an eagle displayed. Over the door, carved in wood,

"God save Martin Anne and Frances his wife 1572."—Vide Hunter's South Yorkshire, vol. ii. p. 148.

^r R. Dods. MS. vol. xxix. p. 103. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 366.

^s Pat. 24. Edw. I. Nov. 15. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 461.

^t Dugd. Bar. tom. ii. p. 100. ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 33.

^u Blount's Antient Tenures, p. 72. ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 247.

^x Dr. Hutton's MS. Collections in Bibl. Bodl.

Lady Howard, the great benefactress to the church, was the widow of a Sir Robert Howard, afterwards the wife of Dr. Marten, sometime rector of Somerton. She held a life interest in the estate by virtue of a lease from one of the Fermor family, about 1716.

It appears to have come into the possession of a Mr. Oldfield about 1746; from him into the present family. 1st. Charles Bowles; 2nd. Oldfield Bowles; 3rd. Charles Oldfield Bowles.

DUNSTEW.

PATRON.
SIR G. DASHWOOD, BART.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel.	39	0	by	14	0
Nave.	50	6	by	18	6
North Aisle	57	0	by	9	6
Tower	13	0	by	13	0

A PLAIN Church of mixed styles, with tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL has a Perpendicular east window of three lights, with brackets for images on each side of it; on the north side is a lancet window; on the south side are two plain square windows and a door. No piscina or sedilia. Chancel-arch Decorated, plain, with moulded imposts; arch into north aisle also Decorated, quite plain, with roll-moulding for impost; no other capital, and the recess and chamfered edges of arch are continued to the ground in both these arches. Across the Chancel-arch a screen, of Early Perpendicular work, the pattern quite Decorated. In the jamb of the Chancel-arch on the west side is a Decorated niche.

The **NAVE** on the north side has three Decorated arches, on tall octagon pillars, with moulded caps, ornamented with heads. The south side has two windows, and a small plain round-headed door, with Decorated mouldings. The north aisle is Decorated, with two windows of this style, and a door, stopped up; the other two windows square Perpendicular. The roof is plain, and not original. The font is a clumsy imitation of Norman, probably of the time of Charles II. There is a cross on the east gable; no parapet to either nave or Chancel.

The south porch is Perpendicular.

The **TOWER** is Perpendicular; the west door very deeply recessed, and well moulded, with ogees and hollows; the windows are square headed, of two lights; buttresses, diagonal, in stages; parapet, plain, with pinnacles at the angles, and a stair-turret at the north-west angle.

This Church is much overgrown with ivy.

I.H.P.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Domesday survey, Duns Tewe (Tewa) is enumerated as part of the land of Robert de Oilgi. It formed part of his gift to Oseney Abbey, confirmed by his nephew in 1149^v.

In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, temp. Hen. VIII., it is described as a Vicarage of the annual value of viijl. xiijs. iiijd., belonging to the priory of Merton, John Andrewes being then vicar. The priory of Merton was in Surrey; how this living came to be taken from Oseney, and given to this distant priory does not appear. At the Dissolution it passed into the hands of lay impropiators, and in 1690 was the property of Sir John Read, Bart.; in 1746 of Dorothy Dashwood, widow; and in 1768 of Sir Henry Dashwood, Bart; the certified value being then £75. 12s. The present value, according to the returns to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, is £237.

^v Kennett, vol. i. p. 90, 142. and Dugdale's *Monasticon Ang.*, vol. ii. p. 138.

SANDFORD,

(NEAR WOODSTOCK.)

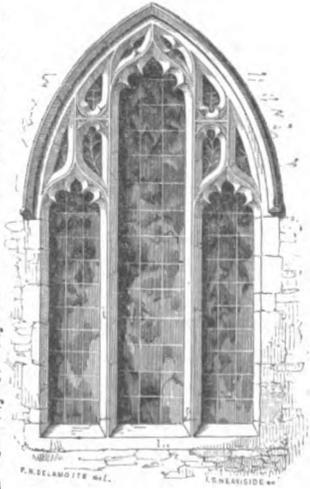
PATRONS.
DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH,
AND
MRS. MARSHALL HACKER.

St. Martin.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

A MIXED Church, with a Perpendicular tower at the west end.

CHANCEL—the east window is transition from Decorated to Perpendicular, of three lights, foliated, with a Decorated label, the tracery a curious mixture of the two styles: on the north side are two small lancet windows, recessed and chamfered externally, one of them blocked up in the inside: on the south side are two plain square-headed oblong windows, and a small round-headed door; the walls are of rubble, with ashlar dressings, without buttresses: close to the west end of the south wall is a low side-window, now blocked up; it has been a plain square-headed opening like the windows. There is a plain round-headed small piscina, with part of its basin, of late Decorated work, and a stone seat in the sill of the south-east window: in the north wall is a plain oblong locker: there are three steps to the Altar. The roof is poor, and not original. The Chancel-arch is Early English, with plain shafts attached to the jambs, having moulded caps. The screen is Perpendicular, with some good panels on the lower part. The space above it in the arch



East Window.

is boarded up, and painted with the arms of Elizabeth, and the date 1602 upon it. The painting is curious, the ground being a sort of ermine pattern; the screen itself has retained the paint of the same period, blue, red, white, and yellow.

The NAVE has on the north side three transition Norman pointed arches, recessed and chamfered, on octagon piers, with rude Norman caps, very plain, with thick abacus; on the south side are three plain Early English arches, on round pillars, with moulded capitals. The clerestory windows are good Perpendicular, of two lights, square-headed: the roof of the nave is plain Perpendicular, open timber. The font is octagon, cup-shaped, on an octagon shaft, the upper part ornamented with zigzags, and some other Norman ornaments.

The north aisle has plain square-headed windows and door.

The south aisle has an east window of three lights, pointed, with curious tracery, transition from Decorated to Perpendicular; near it is the head of a very rich Decorated piscina, almost hid behind a deal pew: the side windows are of two lights, also transition from Decorated to Perpendicular, as is the south door, which is well moulded, and the dripstone terminated by heads; the south porch is of the same character, having a plain groined vault, very low, with a room over it; and a plain niche for a stoup, with part of the stone basin: the outer door of the porch is plain, with a Perpendicular dripstone. The pews are mostly plain old oak. The pulpit is Perpendicular, with oak panelling, having a stone foot, which is Decorated, ornamented with the ball flower. The reading desk, of Perpendicular panelling, is probably made out of part of the screen.

The Tower-arch is plain, chamfered, dying into the walls: the west door of the tower is Perpendicular: the west window, of three lights, with good tracery, is transition from Decorated. The upper part of the tower is Perpendicular, with belfry windows of two lights, and a battlement.

The parapets of the nave and aisles are plain Perpendicular, with a cornice moulding, but no ornaments.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Domesday survey, Sandford formed part of the grant of "Terra Epi' Baiocensis in Levecanol Hund."^a

A.D. 1104, 4th and 5th of Henry I., Nigel de Oily, constable of the castle of Oxford, and lord of the barony of Hooknorton, held at this time in feudatory service from the abbot and monks of Abingdon, one meadow at Oxford, one hide at Sandford, and one hide in Ernecote, or Arncot, within the parish of Ambrosden, which had been all given to that Abbey by Robert de Oily his brother and predecessor^a.

A.D. 1264, 48 and 49 Henry III., Roger de St. John, lord of Staunton, slain in the battle of Evesham, had confirmed to the canons of Oseney that gift which his father had made to them, of a mill and five yards' land in Weston, near Burcester, called Simeon's land. He likewise confirmed the grant of the church of Great Barton, with the chapels of Sandford and Ledwell^b.

A.D. 1273, 1 and 2 Edw. I. On July 12, Reginald, Bishop suffragan of Gloucester (who was substituted by Richard, Bishop of Lincoln, to visit these parts of the diocese of Lincoln, and to consecrate new churches), consecrated the Chapel of St. Martin's, in Sandford, belonging to the parish of Great Barton^c.

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp. Hen. VIII., it is described as a Vicarage of the annual value of vijl. xjs., belonging to the abbey of Oseney, Robert Draycote being the vicar. At the Dissolution it passed into private hands, and in 1695 belonged to Alice Croker, widow; from 1731 to 1750 to Joseph Taylor, Esq.; and in 1784 to the Duke of Marlborough. The certified value at that time was £25; the present value, according to the return to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, is £200.

^a Kennett, vol. i. p. 91.

nett, vol. i. p. 371.

^b Kennett, vol. i. p. 102.

^c Kennett, vol. i. p. 393, 395.

^d Dug. Bar., tom. i. p. 539. ap. Ken-

WESTCOTT BARTON.

PATRON.
REV. S. Y. SEAGRAVE.

St. Edward.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

THE exterior of this Church presents the appearance of a neat little Perpendicular building, with a tower at the west end of the same age and style, but in the interior there are portions of Norman work.

THE CHANCEL has a Perpendicular east window of three lights, with a pointed arch; the side windows are of two lights, Perpendicular, square-headed, with good jamb mouldings, tracery, and labels; there is a small Perpendicular door on the south side; a very small Perpendicular piscina, and a stone seat in the sill of the south-east window. The Chancel-arch is transition Norman, acutely pointed, square-edged, not recessed, with plain square jambs and Norman imposts: there is a good Perpendicular screen across the arch, but much mutilated; the lower part is perfect, with the door, consisting of good panel work, with remains of the old painting, red, blue, and yellow.

THE NAVE has on the north side three Perpendicular windows, the same as the side windows of the Chancel, the remains of the rood-loft staircase and the arch of a doorway; on the south side two plain Norman semicircular arches, with labels, the central pillar round, with a square scalloped cap and a square base, the responds plain, square, with imposts only.

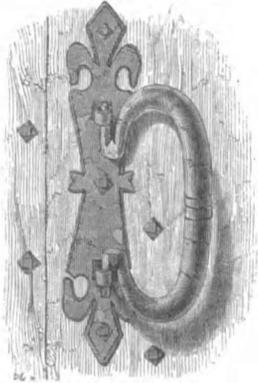
THE south aisle has also Perpendicular windows, the east window has good curling terminations to the dripstone; the porch is neat Perpendicular, the south door is also Perpendicular, with ogee and hollow mouldings, but the old oak door

has been preserved, with hinges of the Norman C form, and other old iron work. The font is plain round, on a square base, probably Norman, but of no marked character. The seats are mostly old oak benches, but some have deal pews built upon them. The pulpit and desk modern and bad. The roofs are all concealed by plaster ceilings.

The Tower is plain Perpendicular, terminated by a battlement; the belfry windows good Perpendicular, pointed, of two lights, with transoms, and the heads foliated: the tower-arch is good plain Perpendicular, but has a singers' gallery built across it; one of the bells is broken, and lies on the ground in the tower.

There are the steps and base of a Perpendicular cross in the church-yard.

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp. Hen. VIII., this living is described as a rectory of the yearly value of *vijl. xs. vijd.*, D. Fever, rector. In 1712 and 1749, it belonged to John Welchman, Gent.; in 1760 to Constance Welchman and others; in 1763 to John Welchman and Samuel Seagrave; being then of the certified value of £75. The present value, according to the return to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, is £179.



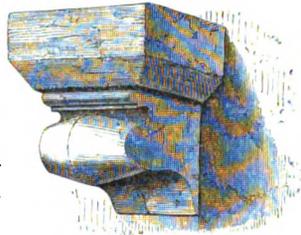
Door Handle

STEEPLE BARTON.

PATRONS.	<i>St. Mary.</i>		DEANERY		
W. AND M. MISTER.			OF WOODSTOCK.		
			HUNDRED OF WOOTTON.		
	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	20	4	by	18	6
Nave	49	1	by	39	0
South Aisle	49	0	by	9	5
Tower	13	10	by	13	10

A PLAIN Church, of mixed styles, with a square tower at the west end: Chancel has been patched in a Debased style, but the walls are Decorated. The east window has a Decorated arch in

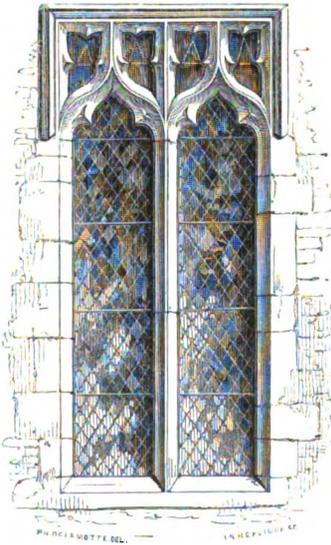
the inside, but the window itself is a plain square-headed insertion of three lights, with flat segmental heads not foliated. The two windows on the south side are similar, but they all have Decorated dripstones of the roll moulding. The north window is original, two lights, with ogee heads trefoiled, the eyes open and foliated; it is transition from Decorated to Perpendicular, and has also the roll moulding for a dripstone. The roof is modern, flat, and poor. The corbels of the old roof remain; they are good Decorated masks, cut in oak. The communion-table and rails, plain. Several monuments in the Elizabethan style to the families of Blundel, Humfrey, and Dormer.



Oak Corbel in Chancel.

The NAVE has on the north side two Decorated square-headed

windows, one of which is partly blocked up; two modern windows and a small plain door blocked up. On the south side are five good Decorated arches, pointed and recessed, with the edges chamfered off, and the labels united by heads. The pillars octagon, slender, with good Decorated caps, ornamented by heads, resembling those at Woodstock and Hampton Poyle. The Chancel-arch is Decorated, with a label; the jambs quite plain. This arch is boarded up, and the arms of James II., supported by curious figures with wings, are painted on this boarding, with the date, 1686, and this text under them in Black letter:



Window on the North side.

“ My son feare thou the Lord and the King and medle not with
them that are given to Change.”

This boarding might be better removed from the arch, but the painting should be preserved and placed against the blank wall.

The roof of the nave is plain and bad, not original; the corbels of the old roof remain, and are Decorated. The south aisle has an east window of four lights, transition from Decorated to Perpendicular, the head of which is filled up. On the south side are two square-headed late Decorated windows, of two lights, with good dripstones, the terminations of which consist of half-length figures of animals; the west window is also Decorated, but filled up; the roof flat and poor; the south door is Decorated, with a well-moulded arch, the dripstone terminated by heads, shafts in the jambs, with a fillet on the face, the caps moulded. The south porch is also Decorated; the outer arch bricked up, and a square door inserted; there is a trefoil-headed niche for the stoup; the wooden door is the old one cut down and patched, with the old iron-work preserved. The tower is plain Perpendicular, with tolerably good west door and window; diagonal buttresses in stages, and a plain battlement. The inside is finished with ashlar-work, and the tower-arch has evidently been open to the Church, though now boarded up, and a singing gallery built across it. The font is plain, round, but the sides are fluted with very shallow flutes; the base moulding is Decorated. The pewing consists partly of open seats, some old, some of the time of James II.; all the enclosed deal pews are of quite modern date. The pulpit and reading-desk are modern and bad. The walls of this Church are sound, but the roofs are in a very bad state; it appears to have been principally built in the fourteenth century, and to have had new roofs and other alterations in the time of James II.



Dripstone Termination.

Steeple Barton manor-house is situated about a quarter of a mile east of the Church, a part of this building is yet remaining; it was built, according to Wood's MSS., E. 1. p. 100, Ash. Mus., by John Dormer, circa 1524. The Dormers were merchants of the staple, and the arms of the staple merchants were to be seen in Wood's time in two or three places on the

walls of the court before the house. Over the door leading to the stables and to the house, were written, "Thinke and Thanke, ann. 1570." In the upper part of the house were several rooms of large dimensions, which were perhaps formerly used as dormitories; but there was one about 92 feet long, which appears to have been the ball or banquet room, as the walls were ornamented with paintings in fresco, chiefly of allegorical designs, but better drawn and executed than most specimens of that period. In 1678, and 1679, Ralph Sheldon made considerable alterations within the house. Many adjoining remains prove the whole to have been an extensive establishment. There is a vignette of that part which is now standing in Skelton's Oxfordshire, Wootton Hundred, p. 3.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The name Berton did signify a granary, or store place for corn^d.

In 1082, Barton, part of the possessions of Rogerii de Iveri^e.

In 1360, Simon, son of Walter de Wodeham, in Surrey, released to Nicholas de Loveym, Knight, and Margery his wife, all his right in the manors of Staunton St. John, Barton, &c., com. Oxon^f.

Roger de St. John, lord of Staunton, slain in the battle of Evesham, had confirmed to the canons of Oseney, that gift which his father had made to them of a mill and five yards land in Weston, near Burcester, called Simeons land. He likewise confirmed the grant of the Church of Great Barton, with the Chapels of Sandford and Ledwell^g.

The living is a discharged vicarage, valued in the king's books at 7*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.* At the time of the Dissolution it belonged to Osney Abbey, and then passed into lay hands; in 1712 it belonged to John James, Esq.; in 1729 to the Earl of Godolphin; in 1772 to the Duke of Marlborough, in turns with Francis Page, Esq., and Dr. Taylor, being then of the clear yearly value of 31*l.* According to the late returns to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, the present value is 78*l.*

^d Kennett, vol. i. p. 37.

^e Kennett, vol. i. p. 91.

^f Kennett, vol. ii. p. 126.

^g Dug. Bar., tom. i. p. 539; ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 371.

WOLVERCOT.

PATRONS.
MERTON COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

St. Peter.

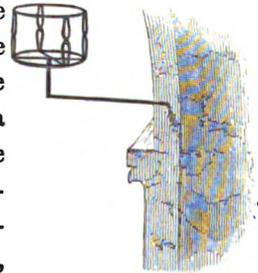
DEANERY
OF OXFORD.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.



Wolvercot Church.

A **SMALL** plain Church, mostly late Perpendicular, with a tower at the west end.

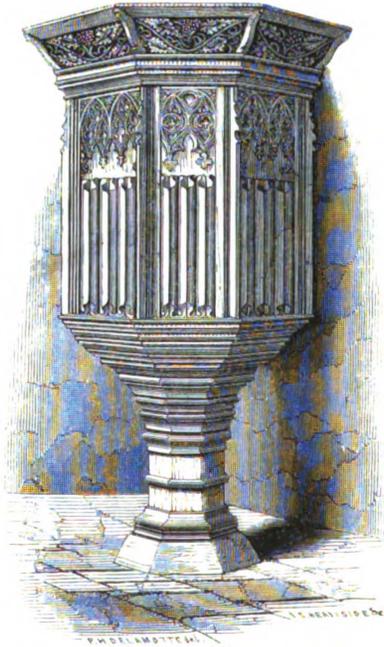
The **CHANCEL** is of two bays, the east window modern Perpendicular, not good. On the north side the wall is blank; on the south side are two small Perpendicular windows, square headed, of two lights, foliated, and a small door. The roof is ceiled; the Chancel-arch is transition Norman, pointed, the edges slightly chamfered, springing from Norman imposts, on plain jambs, across it are the remains of what has been a good Perpendicular rood-screen. There is an hour-glass stand by the side of the pulpit. The font is plain, round, ornamented with a diamond pattern, cut very shallow, and nearly effaced.



Impost of Chancel-arch with the Four glass Stand.

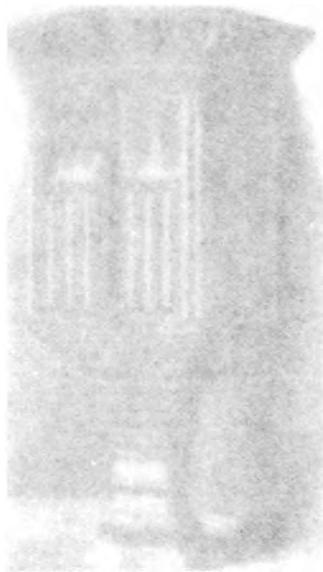
The **NAVE** is of five bays; on the south side are two square-headed Perpendicular windows, of three lights, cinque-

WOLVERCOT.



THE PULPIT Restored.

This fine Pulpit is of the time of Henry VIII., and is at present in a sadly mutilated condition: the stem and base entirely concealed by deal boarding, and the upper part equally hidden by modern velvet hangings.



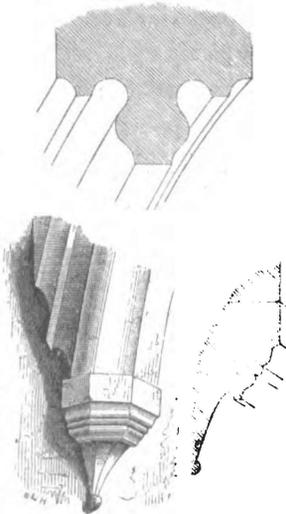
foiled, under a square dripstone, and one bad modern imitation: the south door is good Perpendicular, it has a pointed arch, under a square head, with foliated circles in the spandrels; the oak door is old, and has good iron hinges of the fifteenth century; the north wall is blank, except the arch into a chapel. The roof is late Perpendicular, open timber, rather flat, but with the springers pierced with open-work, resting on good stone corbel-heads, these are Decorated, rudely carved, but of good character.

The arch into the north chapel is Decorated, pointed and recessed, with the edges chamfered off, having shafts attached to the jambs, with Decorated moulded caps and bands; this chapel has square Perpendicular windows on the east and west sides, and two small round windows on the north side, to throw light under the canopy of a splendid marble monument, in the style of Charles II.; on a raised tomb under this canopy are three recumbent effigies, of a judge, in his robes, with a collar of SS., and his two wives; at the head are three daughters kneeling, and at the feet three sons; these smaller figures are kneeling on the slab of the monument; the whole has preserved its original painting and gilding. The judge is John Walter, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and Groom of the Chamber to King Charles II.

The TOWER is Perpendicular, of three stories, terminated by a battlement, but it is evidently built partly of old materials: the belfry windows are Decorated, of two lights, trefoiled, with a quatrefoil in the head, preserved from an older church, and built in: the tower-arch is Decorated, with ogee and hollow mouldings, and good corbels: the west door is

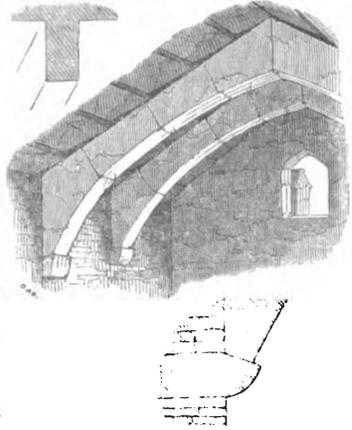


Battlement.



Corbel of Tower Arch

Perpendicular, having a pointed arch, moulded under a square head and dripstone, the spandrils sunk and ornamented with a flower of four leaves: the west window is of three lights, late Perpendicular, with a flat arch: the buttresses are placed diagonally. The roof is of stone, supported by stone ribs, forming a pointed vault, but not groined; the ribs are square, springing from plain corbels: this roof appears to have been rebuilt of the old materials: from which it may be gathered that the original tower, built in the fourteenth century, had a saddle-back roof, and when it was rebuilt in the fifteenth century, this was partly preserved, but concealed by a battlemented parapet, according to the fashion of that period.



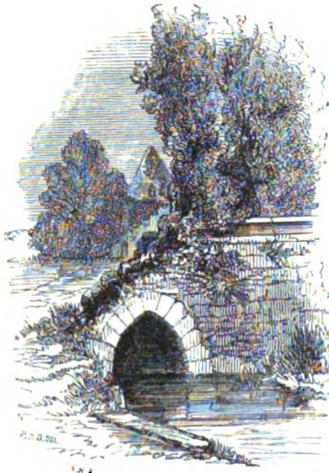
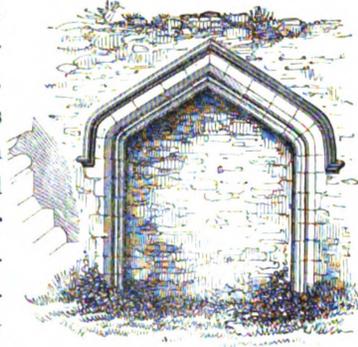
Part of Roof of Tower

This Church is much encumbered by galleries, and consequently very dark, and the tower-arch is boarded up, which shuts out the west window. The pewing is partly square and high, partly open seats with plain poppies cut out of solid oak, but not moulded; these are of the time of Charles II., or later. The west gable of the north chapel is lofty and well proportioned, with the shaft of a cross upon it; the parapet and cornice of the nave are late Perpendicular.

GODSTOW.

THE remains of the Nunnery of Godstow consist of a considerable part of the boundary wall, and at one corner the ruin of a domestic building of the fifteenth century, with a Perpendicular window of three lights, having a flat obtusely pointed arch, two small square-headed, and two small round-headed ones: the

wall is of considerable extent, and great part of it has Perpendicular basement mouldings. By the side of a modern barn, is a small bridge, of the fifteenth century, consisting of one pointed arch over a ditch. In another part of the wall is a Perpendicular gateway, with a four-centred arch, recessed, with hollow mouldings, and a good dripstone. The bridge over the river, at a short distance from the ruin, has two arches, one pointed, the other round; part of it is ancient, but much altered by modern work.



HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The village of Wolvercot is written in old evidences Wlgaricot, having been without doubt the habitation of Ulgarus, or Wolgarus, a Saxon, (temp. Saxonum.) The said village, by the name of Wlgaricot, was given to Godstowe nunnery (much about its dedication, an. 1138) by Bernardus de S. Walerico, for in the reg. book of the said Nunnery (cited by Dugdale, *Monast. Anglic.* vol. i. p. 526) it appears y^t Thom. de S. Walerico did confirme the gift of his father made to Godstow nunnery concerning the village of Wlgaricot, whether all the village, or some part of it I know not, because in the confirmation charter of K. Rich. I. of all the gifts before his

time made to the said Nunnery, is confirmed the said village of Wlgaricote given to that Nunnery by his father K. Henry. The church or chapel of Wolvercote is a chappell of ease to the church of St. Peter in the East, Oxon^b. King Henry III. gave the Rectory of St. Peter, with the chappel thereto belonging, to the House of Walter de Merton, an. 1266, by virtue of which gift, the warden and Scholars of y^t house became rectors of this chapel. In the year 1292, the said warden and scholars, with leave from the V., C. Oliver, Bp. of Lyncoln, did appropriate the said Rectory to their house. By virtue of w^{ch} appropriation, this ch. or chapp. of Wolvercote was appropriated also. So y^t thereupon the said church of St. Peter being made a vicarage (served by Merton coll. Fellows) the vicar of y^t place, or his substitute, served here at Wolvercote, and had the lesser tithes for his paynes.

In the principal foundation charter of Osney Abbey by Rob. de Olleyo, the founder, he does give to y^t Abbey tota decima de Wlgarikote.

Robert de Oiley, this founder, had the patronage of St. Peter's Church in the East, . . . so consequently the chapp. of Wulvericote with it¹.

Edith, an eminent and devout matron, at her own proper charge built the Monastery of Godestow, near Oxford, which, at the latter end of December, 1138, in the 4th King Stephen, was dedicated by Alexander Bishop of Lincoln, to the honour of the Virgin Mary and St. John Baptist. King Stephen, and his Queen Maude, with their son Eustace, were present at laying the first stone, and were each a benefactor to it. John de St. John gave the site of the Abbey, and one mill of £4. in Wolvercot, and two houses and a parcel of land before the gate of the Church, in the island between the two rivers; and half a meadow, called Lambey, of which the other half was given by Robert de Oiley. Various other benefactions are recorded in the Monasticon, vol. i. p. 525, and in Kennett, vol. i. p. 129.

This Edith, the foundress, seems to have been the same with Edith, wife of Robert de Oiley; she being called "*Memorabilis Matrona Deo devota,*" and was buried in Oseney Abbey, in a religious habit, as Mr. Leland, an eye-witness, reports. "There lyith an Image of Edithe of Stone in th abbite of a Woves holding an Hart in her right Hond on the North side of the High Altare^k."

A.D. 1171. 17, 18, Henry II. Bernard de St. Walery, Lord of the Manor of Ambrosden, seems now to have fallen into the King's dis-

^b Vide Dugdale, Bar., vol. i. p. 459. b.

^k Leland, vol. ii. fol. 19.

¹ Ast. Wood's MS. E. 1. p. 72.

pleasure, and to have his lands seized, and the rents paid into the Exchequer; for Hugh de S. Germans, sheriff, accounted for £50. of the fee of Bernard de S. Walery. But he soon made his peace, and it seems a condition of it, that he gave to the King the manor of Wolvercote, near Oxford, and his right of advowson or patronage of the Nunnery of Godstow. The which village of Wolvercote, and site of the abbey, the King gave to those nuns by a charter wherein he acknowledges to have received them from Bernard de St. Walery, who seems to have become possessed of them in right of his second wife, Avoris, daughter of John de St. John, lord of Stanton, and to have brought in frank marriage the advowson of Godstow and the manor of Wolvercote, in which place some lands and the site of their house were at the foundation given by her father¹.

King Stephen, by his charter, granted to these nuns [of Godstow] a fair to be kept for the space of three days' space, at St. John Baptist. Multitudes of people resorted thereunto.

Walter Ld Clifford gave to this nunnery, for the health of his soul, and for the souls of Margaret his sometime wife, and Rosamund his daughter, the mill of Frantom (Frampton) in com. Gloc., and a little meede laying near it, called Lechson, and a salt pit at Wychi.—Walter his son, confirmed the gift of his father.—Rosamund his sister, was in the flour of her youth concubine to K. H. II., and afterwards a nun here, and dying about the year 1175, was buried in the church here, over whose grave was this written.

Hic jacet in tumba Rosa mundi, non rosa munda,
Non ridolet sed olet, quæ redoleri solet^m.

The story of her being poisoned by Queen Eleanor is of modern date. Brompton, Kington, and Higden, say she died a natural death soon after she was enclosed in her bower. Her parents buried her before the high Altar, at Godstow, her royal lover lavishing great expense on her tomb. About twenty years after, Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, visiting this nunnery, took offence at the immoral tendency of this, and ordered her corpse to be removed into the Chapter-house. Here it was again disturbed at the Reformation, as we read in Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum*, vol. i. p. 528. "Rosamunde's tumb, at Godestowe Nunnery was taken up a late; it is a stone with this inscription—'Tumba Rosamundae.' Her bones were closid in lede and withyn that bones were closid yn letter (leather). When it was opened there was a very swete smell came out of it."

¹ Kennett, vol. i. p. 175, 176.

^m Ant. Wood, MS. E. 1. p. 74.

YARNTON.

PATRONS.
SIR G. DASHWOOD,
AND
WARDEN AND FELLOWS
OF
ALL SOULS' COLLEGE.

St. Bartholomew.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Nave	45	0	by	15	9
South Aisle	48	0	by	14	0
Chancel	23	9	by	13	0
Chapel	31	0	by	18	9

AN Early English Church, with late additions: the plan is singular; a nave and Chancel with a south aisle; this south aisle has a tower at the west end, and a chapel, called the Spencer Aisle, at the east end, and a south porch, built in 1616, as appears by the churchwardens' accounts, *sub anno*.

The pillars and arches are good Early English: the roofs of the nave and south aisle are open Perpendicular work; and there are some Perpendicular benches. The Chancel-arch has for its support three slender detached shafts, with bands: on the north side the arch has sunk considerably, by reason of interments on that side: the grooves and mortices for the insertion of the rood-loft beams are perceptible in and about the archivolt; the Chancel-roof was plastered about thirty years ago; the east window is of three lights, each lancet-shaped, the middle one being the highest, but all without any sort of tracery. The late Mr. Alderman Fletcher, out of his stores of painted glass, composed the east window, as also all the other painted glass windows of the Church: the large figure in the centre of the east window was, with its inscription *Stus Bartholomæus*, inserted at the same time: some few pieces of the *original* painted glass of this Church escaped the fury of the Puritans in

1645, when the Parliament army was quartered in the neighbourhood: two Benedictine monks, remarkably well designed and coloured, a bishop, with the name *Nicholaus* on a label below, and an archbishop, in like manner subscribed *Thomas*, are still safely lodged within the mullions of the tracery-work at the top of the large north Perpendicular window, and serve to shew the old connection of this church with the Benedictine monastery of Ensham, to which it belonged, and whose cure was always supplied by the monks of that abbey. The side windows of the Chancel consist of two on the north side, both small, one pointed, the other round-headed, and both deeply recessed from within, and splayed; there are also two round-headed windows, of the same sort, in the south wall near the tower; externally they are pointed.

William Fletcher, Esq., mayor of Oxford, gave some Scripture pieces in sculptured alabasterⁿ, of the early part of the fifteenth century, representing—1. The Wise Men's Offering; 2. The betrayal with a kiss; 3. The Bearing of the Cross; 4. The crucified Saviour in the lap of the Virgin Mother; they are over the Altar.

The tower-arch was built in 1611, when the tower, into which it opens, was erected by Sir Thomas Spencer. In the chapel is deposited the old Norman font, rescued by the present vicar, thirty years ago, from the adjoining farm-yard; in the south aisle is the Perpendicular font, now in use, with a modern foot; it is said to have come from St. Michael's church, Oxford, and was presented by Mr. Alderman Fletcher.

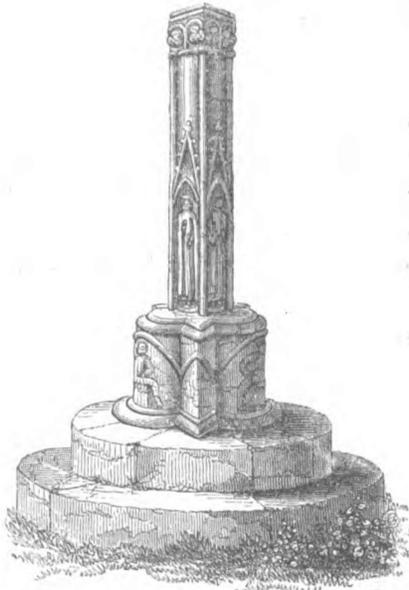
Sir Thomas Spencer did not only erect the tower, (the masonry of which is remarkable for the exactness of its courses and the truth and finish of the work,) but he also built the chapel before-mentioned (the burial-place of his family, hence called the Spencer Aisle), and contributed to the south porch, which has within it a plastered cornice of scroll-work of the date of James I.;

ⁿ This sculpture was discovered some years since secreted under the floor of a house in the parish of St. Peter's-in-the-East, in Oxford, near St. Edmund's Hall, purchased by Alderman Fletcher, and given to this Church.

the inner doorway is late Norman. Sir Thomas did so much to the Church in other respects, as to make it difficult to say, in many parts of the interior and exterior, what are the dates of their architecture respectively. It seems probable that all the Early English work was completed in the time of that great instaurator of churches and church discipline, Bishop Grosthead, who came to the See of Lincoln in 1235, and who soon after compelled the abbey of Ensham to convert their *capella de Erdynton* into a *Vicaria perpetua*. The Institution Rolls at Lincoln will shew, not only Grosthead's interference at Yarnton with the monks of Ensham, but that it was his practice to make all the monasteries do their duty by their churches.

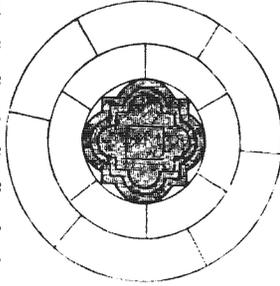
The Spencer aisle contains, besides mural tablets, a bedstead monument of Sir William Spencer, the first of the Spencers of Yarnton, being third son of Sir John Spencer, of Althorp, who bought this manor of the Durants, of Cottesmore, Rutlandshire, for the settlement of this son: it also contains a monument of the last of the family, the second Sir Thomas Spencer, exhibiting the statues of Sir Thomas and Lady Spencer, their only son William, and four daughters, who, by the death of that son, became co-heiresses, and ultimately possessors each of a fourth share of this estate, from whom the property was purchased by the Dashwood family, one-fourth share (that of Jane, who had married Robert Spencer, Earl of Tiviot, brother of the Earl of Sunderland, killed at Newbury fight, 1643) not having been sold with the rest of this property.

There is a curious Early cross in the church-yard,



Cross Yarnton Church-yard.

which may be cited in further evidence of the ancient connection between this church and the abbey of Ensham, for at Ensham there is a cross of the same form and character, and sculptured much in the same manner: the upper half of the shaft at Yarnton is missing, that at Ensham is complete. Between the crosses at Ensham and Yarnton there were, within the memory of man, others at and near Cassington, (Cassington, like Yarnton, having formerly been a *capella* and afterwards a *Vicaria* of Ensham Abbey,) at each of which crosses, on solemn processions, the abbot and monks were wont to perform the appointed services.



Plan of Cross.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Yarnton, a village four miles from Woodstock, and nearly the same from Oxford, was originally called Eardungton, a name which Somner in his Dictionary translates *dwelling town*, and illustrates by Eardung-hus, dwelling-house,—Eardung-stow, dwelling-place. This name has been variously moulded in different records into Erdintune (as in the Ensham abbey charter), Eardington and thon, Aerdinton, Ardington, Hardintone, Yearingtone, Yarington, Yarnton. It is singular that the name of the village of Erdington, in the parish of Aston, juxta Birmingham, has also, by the same sort of process, been changed into Yarnton. Its capital mansion-house, the property of the able, upright, and benevolent Earl Howe, is called in the Index Villaris (ed. 1751) Yarnton Hall; it also bears its old name of Erdington Hall. The farmers of Yarnton, Oxfordshire, in turning their cattle into the meads of the parish, distinguish them by the letter E and not Y, that is, by the initial of Eardungton and not of Yarnton.

With respect to the descent of the manor and landed property of the parish, it will be best to throw events into chronological order.

A.D. 1005. King Ethelred confirmed the grant of Ethelmar, or Ailmer, earl of Cornwall, to the abbey of Eynesham, which grant, *inter*

alia, consisted of 10 mansions of common field at *Erdintune*. It is added, that for these mansions Ailmer had given his kinsman Godwin 5 mansions at *Stodeley* and 10 at *Cestertune*.

A.D. 1072. Upon the death of Wulwin, bishop of Dorchester, Remigius, a monk of Fescamp, and follower of the Norman William, succeeded, and thinking Dorchester too insignificant a place for his See, determined to transfer it to Lincoln.

A.D. 1091. Remigius, having effected his purpose, wished to obtain Slatford (Sleaford) of the monks of St. Mary, Stow, near Gainsborough, for his residence, where he afterwards built a palace; he therefore gave the monks of Stow, Ensham abbey, and, *inter alia*, Yarnton, as a compensation for what they had surrendered, or rather he incorporated them, being Benedictines, with their Elder Brethren of Ensham. To effect all this, Remigius (being one of the king's commissioners under the Inquisition to take an account of the Saxon property in these parts) contrived to insert his own name into the Doomsday record, as owner of Yarnton (*Hardintone*), and then dealt with it as his own, and consequently as land which he had a right to exchange in this way; he died soon afterwards.

A.D. 1092. Robert Bloet succeeded to the bishopric of Lincoln, a firm friend of the monks of Ensham, in whose abbey he ordered his bowels to be buried. By his powerful patronage the monks of Ensham again became possessed of Yarnton, and all their other property; they were restored, A.D. 1109, by the grant of King Henry I.

A.D. 1123. Bishop Bloet died.

A.D. 1154. Henry II. seized the manor of Yarnton, and gave it to Bernard de St. Valery (de Sancto Valerico), who, like Remigius, was a Norman and a king's favourite. He attended Richard I. to Palestine, and fell at the siege of Acre.

A.D. 1190. Thomas de St. Valery succeeded his father, but not without opposition from the monks of Ensham.

A.D. 1206. There was a trial by jury whether *Yarnton* was the lay-fee of Thomas de St. Valery, or the Frank Almoigne of Ensham abbey. The abbey gained nothing by the verdict, as appears by the sequel.

A.D. 1219. This Thomas died.

A.D. 1224. The earl of Dreux, a French nobleman, of the blood royal of France, had livery of Yarnton, as having married Annora, daughter of Thomas de St. Valery.

A.D. 1227. All the earl of Dreux's property was forfeited to king Henry III., as adhering to his enemies beyond seas; he died soon after in France.

A.D. 1229. Henry III. having seized the earl's property, gave it to his brother, the earl of Cornwall, first for custody, but afterwards by donation; the grant is dated A.D. 1229.

A.D. 1272. The earl of Cornwall died in this year; he was a firm and faithful crusader, and afterwards made king of the Romans.

A.D. 1281. Edmund, son of the earl of Cornwall, succeeded to Yarn-ton, and the rest of his father's possessions, and soon after, in fulfilment of his father's intentions, founded the Cistercian monastery of Rewley, near Oxford, and endowed it, *inter alia*, with the manor of Yarn-ton.

It is to be observed, that in all these successions to the property of Yarn-ton, the rights of the abbey of Ensham had been constantly disregarded. Although every fresh transfer had produced new appeals to justice, and although abbot after abbot had prosecuted the cause of his convent, still the property continued to descend wrongfully, and no sooner had Yarn-ton been annexed to the neighbouring abbey of Rewley, than the abbot of Ensham again had recourse to the king's court at Westminster. Without entering upon the pleadings before the Justices in Eyre, at Oxford, 13 Edward I. (A.D. 1285), it will be enough for the present purpose to state the end of this long litigation, or rather of this system of violence and oppression. The abbots of Ensham and Rewley at length came to terms, and entered into a composition. The deed of agreement is dated A.D. 1294. By virtue of this compact, Rewley was to continue in possession of all the Yarn-ton land, but was to pay great tithes throughout its extent to the abbey of Ensham, and small tithes to the vicar of Yarn-ton; an important concession, when it is remembered that, as a Cistercian monastery, Rewley was exempt from all such payments. After this the property experienced no more vicissitudes, and continued peaceably in the possession of the Cistercians, till the suppression of their monastery under Henry VIII.

A.D. 1536. The Cistercian abbey of Rewley was dissolved.

A.D. 1538. The manor of Yarn-ton was in the hands of Henry VIII., in which year the king's accountant returned a statement of his receipts and disbursements to the Augmentation Office, together with a list of the tenants, and their respective rents and holdings.

A.D. 1540. The manor is found in the hands of Geo. Owen, Esq.,

of Merton College, the king's physician, in consideration of his professional services, and of the sum £676 by him paid into the Court of Augmentation.

A.D. 1544. John Durrant, Esq., of Cotsmore, Rutlandshire, bought it for his son.

A.D. 1575, 1579. In each of these years there are entries in the parish registers of Yarnton, shewing the residence of the Durrants in the parish.

A.D. 1584. In and from this year the baptisms, burials, and marriages of the Spencers begin, after which the name of Durrant ceases. Yarnton was probably bought of the Durrants, by Sir John Spencer of Althorp, for his third son, Sir William Spencer, sometime between 1579 and 1584. The Spencers possessed the property from 1584 to 1714, about 130 years.

A.D. 1684. The second Sir Thomas Spencer, Bart., died, his only son having died before him, when (as before stated) three out of his four daughters agreed to sell their three-fourths of the property to Sir Robert Dashwood, Bart., Lady Spencer their mother enjoying it for her life; the remaining quarter was sold by the representatives of the fourth daughter, Lady Teviot, to Benjamin Swete, Esq.

A.D. 1712. Lady Spencer died, when the above purchasers respectively came into possession, the one of three-fourths, the other of one fourth of the property which belonged to the Spencers.

A.D. 1843 This ancient estate still continues three-fourths in the hands of the Dashwood family, and the remaining fourth in the heirs and successors of Benjamin Swete, Esq. The descent of the manor has been thus traced from 1005 to 1843, nearly 840 years.

VAUGHAN THOMAS, Vicar.

BEGBROKE.

PATRONS.

SIR GEORGE DASHWOOD,
(THREE TURNS.)
BRASENOSE COLLEGE,
OXFORD,
(ONE TURN.)

St. Michael.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.



	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	21	4	by	14	9
Nave	33	0	by	17	9
Tower	10	10	by	11	10
Walls	3	0	thick		

A SMALL Church, consisting of Nave and Chancel, with a western tower: originally Norman, with many modern alterations. Considerable improvements were made about the year 1820; the windows in particular were all enlarged, or renewed, and those on the north side of the nave first made. There is some good stained glass.

The CHANCEL is Norman, has a small modern Norman east window, filled with stained glass by Williment, and two on the south side: one has a round moulding to the arch and shafts, the capitals of which are sculptured with rude foliage; this is filled

with shields of arms. The Altar platform is raised one step, and there is a modern Norman arcade of wood as a reredos: the roof is concealed by a flat ceiling with ribs.

The Chancel-arch is Norman, with zigzag and embattled mouldings; on the west side are two ornamented shafts under a plain tablet, which is continued to the side walls. A beam seems to have crossed the arch below the soffit to support a rood. This arch is horse-shoed from a settlement in the foundation, commencing probably at an early period; the courses of stone are not level, and there are considerable fissures in the arch, though concealed by plaster.

The NAVE has modern windows, in imitation of a good Perpendicular example in the cloisters of Christ Church, Oxford. The roof is of high pitch and open, with a tie-beam and collar-beam. The south door is good Norman, with zigzag mouldings round the arch, supported by a recessed shaft on each side, one ornamented with the spiral moulding, the other with the chevron; the abacus on the capitals is continued for some way along the walls, as a string or tablet.

The FONT is plain, octagonal, Perpendicular, no ornament remaining but three or four quatrefoils on the stem: it now stands in the tower, but was several years in the rectory garden, having been removed there to make way for a modern Norman basin, which stands in the Chancel, and is still used. The old font was removed from its proper position opposite the door, at a *restoration* of the Church, about the year 1828.

The TOWER is of three stages, diminishing with a saddle-back roof; it seems to be originally Norman, with some Decorated windows inserted; it has no staircase and no tower-arch; the door is plain, round-headed. The three gables of tower, nave, and chancel, have a very good effect together.

Near the south door there is a stone coffin with a coped lid, said to be the Founder's tomb. There is the base of a cross in the Church-yard; it is octangular, on a square plinth.

W. T. PARKINS.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

This parish is memorable for a fortification, commonly called Round Castle, which is situate indeed near Begbroke Church on the west, but is in the parish of Bladon, and Lineham Barrow, between it and Pudlicot, a seat of the antient family of Lacies. On what particular occasion they were made we have no history to inform us, but in general we think it probable that they were made by the Danes, because they are both in figure round. The Annals of Morgan tells us that there was a fight in this place, A.D. 1069, but mention not between what parties °.

At the time of forming the Domesday survey, Bechebroc, as it is there written, was held under Roger de Laci, and was valued at £4. From the Rotuli Hundredorum it appears, that in the time of Edward I., Richard de Lions held the fourth part of the township of "Bekebrock of Richard of Wylamscode;" he also held in demesne half a caracute of land with the advowson of the Church P.

RECTORES ECCL'IAE DE BEGBROOK COM. OXON.

[Ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 415.]

1231. Serlo capellanus . . . ad pres. Rog. de Leonibus. Rot. Hug. Well, pont. 23.

1249. Will. de Bathon capellan . . . ad pres. Rog. de Lenns laici. Rot. Rob. Grosthead, anno 15.

Nich. de Lyonns acol. pres. per Joh. de Lyonns . . . vac. per mort. Hen. Rot. Dalderby, pont. 4.

2. non. Mart. 1320. Will. Malesovres p'b'r pres. per Joh. de Lyonns . . . vac. per resign. Nich'i de Lyonns nomine permutationis quam idem Nich'us cum eccl'ia de Foxcote quam præfatus Will'us titulo institutionis prius tenuerat. Reg. Burgwersh.

4. kal. Jun. 1334. Will. de Pershore cl'icus pres. per dom. Joh. de Lyonns . . . vac. per resign. d'ni Tho. de Stoke. Ibid.

7. id. Maii 1336. Adam de Assheby canonicorum p'b'r pres. per dom. Joh. de Lyonns . . . vac. per institut. Jacobi de Kyngeston ad eccl. de Rothewell. Ibid.

1409. Joh. Chetwode miles fuit patronus eccl'iae de Begbroke. Reg. Repyngdon.

1431. Tho. Chetwode miles fuit patronus eccl'iae de Bekkebroke. Ibid.

22. Sept. 1447. Tho. Chetwode miles patronus eccl'iae de Bekkebroke. Reg. Alnewyk.

20. Apr. 1499. Dominus Ric. Sutton p'b'r pres. per Fulconem Wodehall arm. . . . per mort. mag. Galfr. Tydder. Reg. Smith.

° Beauties of England.

P Skelton's Oxford, Wootton Hundred, p. 3.

BLADON.

PATRON.
DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

St. Martin.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

THE Church was rebuilt in 1804, and is an attempt at Gothic.

In this parish are the remains of a house of the 15th century, with two bold round chimneys, which appear to be of the same age, although the tradition of the village assigns them to a much earlier period.



HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Bladon, a village famous only for their loyal parson, Dr. Matthew Griffith, who for his zeal to the established Church, and regal prerogative, endured seven violent assaults, and five imprisonments, but lived to the restoration of Charles II., and having recovered his living of St. Magdalen, Fish-street, and his rectory here, died at this last, Oct. 14, 1665, ætat 68. He fought in defence of Basing-house, and his daughter courageously lost her life there^a.

A vignette of the demolished Church of Bladon is given in Skelton's Oxfordshire, Wootton Hundred, p. 5.

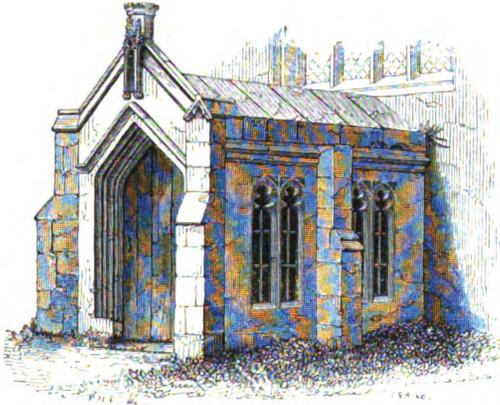
^a Magna Britannia, vol. iv. p. 377.

WOODSTOCK.

PATRON.
DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.
A CHAPELRY TO
THE RECTORY OF BLADON.

St. Mary.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDED
OF WOOTTON.



The West Porch

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	39	0	by	19	10
Nave	70	0	by	26	0
South Aisle.	70	0	by	9	0
West Porch.	9	2	by	8	2
West Wall	3	0			
Wall of Porch.	1	2			

*Prob. and
modern
service*

THE CHANCEL is originally Decorated, the east window of five lights, with mullions crossing in the head; the Altar-screen, of Grecian wood-work: the north wall, modern, with no windows: the south wall has two good small Perpendicular buttresses, and a good three-light Perpendicular window, with a flat arch: there is a stone bench on each side. The roof is Elizabethan and bad.

THE NAVE on the north side was rebuilt by public subscription in 1785. It is modern plain work, with three large plain round arches and windows, and a large gallery: it exhibits a melancholy

and most ungainly contrast to the south side, which forms the original part of the building. On the south side are five Early English arches on plain round pillars, with good caps, having foliage and heads intermixed, the bases octagonal. The clerestory windows are Perpendicular, of three lights, square-headed.

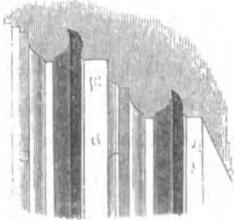


Capital on South Side of Nave.

The pewing, both in the galleries and body of the Chapel, is as bad as can be. In 1678, Lord Lovelace erected a gallery for the Corporation upon the scite of the rood-loft. The old half of the roof on the south side is good Perpendicular work: the pulpit has some Perpendicular panels. The font is a modern marble pillar and basin. The old font, which is a good Decorated one, is at present in the garden of Mr. North, but it is hoped that it will speedily be restored to its proper place in the Church.

The western gallery has some Elizabethan carving in front, and the posts have caps of that age. The west door is Decorated, with a good suite of mouldings, the roll, ogee, and hollow, the labels terminated by heads, partly cut off by the porch. The west window is Decorated, of five lights, with quatrefoils in the head; the arch flat, segmental, pointed, with a plain label terminated by heads.

In the south aisle are two Early English windows of two lights, foliated, with a quatrefoil in the head; the mouldings inside very good, the outside plain; the dripstone is at some distance from the head of the window: there are the remains of a rich Norman doorway.

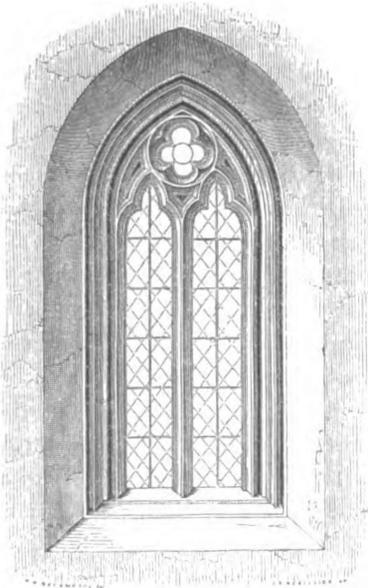


Mouldings of S. Window

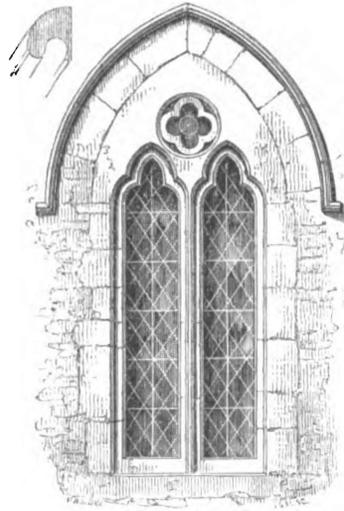
The Porch is very low under the west window; it has a wide flat Perpendicular outer door, with a small niche over it in the parapet; the buttresses diagonal, with good terminations; the roof is of stone, quite plain, without ribs or groins; it has two Perpendicular windows of two lights on each side. The Tower, modern. I.H.P.

Probably some of the more of the porch

26



Interior.



Exterior.

WINDOW ON THE SOUTH SIDE



THE FONT

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Saxon Vuberzoc, q. d. woody place; where King Ethelred A.D. 1009, held an assembly of the states and enacted laws. Here was a magnificent royal mansion built by Henry I., who added to it a spacious park, enclosed with a stone wall, and according to John Ross, the first in England; several villages were destroyed to make it, and it was seven miles round, and made the 14th of Henry I. The king had here a menagerie of wild beasts sent him by foreign princes^r.

Through the park runs the Akemanstreet, entering it at Wotton gate, and going out at Mapleton well. Its course is from Alchester to Bath; it passes near Stunsfield pavement and Wilcot, and is very fair for near a mile through a long lane, south-west from Ramsden, through Wiche-wood forest.

A.D. 1123. King Henry I., at Christmas, held a council at Woodstock, where, three days after the Epiphany, riding out with Robert, Bishop of Lincoln, at a distance from all other company, the bishop fell from his horse, and being carried home speechless, died the following day.

Our historians relate that Henry II., was enamoured of Rosamond Clifford, a lady of such exquisite beauty as to drive all other women out of the prince's thoughts, whereby she acquired the common name of "*Rosa Mundi*," the rose of the world. In order to conceal her from his jealous consort, he built in this palace a labyrinth with the most intricate turnings and windings backwards and forwards, now entirely gone^s. (See the account of Godstow, p. 103.)

A paved bath, or large clear beautiful spring, under an old wall, goes by the name of Rosamond's well, and a spot in the park, on the south-west side of the palace, is still called her bower, which literally signifies only a chamber.

Henry II. was frequently at Woodstock. Edmund, second son of Edward I., was born here and took his name from it, and so was his brother, Edward the black prince, and Thomas, duke of Gloucester; the latter was also surnamed from it^t.

A.D. 1163. Henry II. The king held a great council at Woodstock, where he confirmed the foundation of Nun-Eaton, com. War. Henry II.

^r Malmsb. v. 91.

^s Camden, vol. i. p. 286.

^t For a variety of minute particulars respecting the residence of the kings at

Woodstock, see Kennett, vol. i. p. 63, 117, 119, 120, 124, 133, 164, 175, 179, 182, 199, 238, 309, 311, 321, 354, 410; vol. ii. p. 16, 113, 405.

here received Rhys, Prince of Wales, when, in 1163, he came to do homage.

A.D. 1170. Prince Henry, by his father's order, crowned king at Westminster, on the 14th of the calends of July, kept his Christmas at Woodstock, to which place, Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury, was coming to him; but was stopped by express messengers at Southwark, on the 15th of the calends of January.

A.D. 1178. The old king was this summer at Woodstock, where, on the 8th of the ides of August, he knighted Jeffrey, his younger son, duke of Britain.

A.D. 1186. In September the king was at Woodstock, where, in his royal chapel within the park, William, king of Scotland, with great solemnity married Ermengard, daughter of the Lord Beaumont, on Friday, the nones of September.

A.D. 1207. King John was at Woodstock in this 9th of his reign, where, on the 5th day of August, he confirmed several donations to the abbey of Neth, in the county of Glamorgan.

A.D. 1235. Henry III. The king spent a great part of this year at Woodstock, where, on the 24th of July, he confirmed the endowments of the nunnery of Tarente in com. Dorset. And on November 3rd. he ratified the charters and privileges of the priory of Daventre in com. Northamp.

A.D. 1238. Henry III. The king was at Woodstock about the feast of St. Matthew, where a pretended priest, feigning himself mad, got in by night at a window of the king and queen's bedchamber, with an intent of murder, but a discovery and noise being made by a devout and noble woman, Margaret Byset, the fellow was apprehended and torn in pieces by horses at Coventry, or at Oxford.

A.D. 1256. At the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the king came to Woodstock, and invited thither Alexander, king of Scots, and most of the English nobility, whom he entertained there with great variety and pomp.

A.D. 1330. Edward III. This country was perhaps no less affected with that patent of the king, which granted that a flagon of wine in Oxford should be sold but one halfpenny dearer than in London. But they were most concerned in the honor and the joy for the birth of the king's eldest son Edward, at Woodstock, on Friday, June 15, at ten in the morning, whose nurse was Joan de Oxford, to whom the king after-

wards gave a pension of £10 yearly; the rocker was Maud Plumpton, to whom was given an annual pension of 10 marks.

A.D. 1354. These parts were much concerned in the joy and solemnity occasioned by Queen Philippa's delivery of a 7th son, born at Woodstock, on January 6th, who being at the font named Thomas, bore the surname of this his place of nativity, afterwards earl of Bucks, and duke of Gloucester. The king to express his joy and affection had solemn jousts and tournaments at Woodstock, to which the nobility resorted in great numbers.

A.D. 1459. Henry VI. The king by letters patent granted to George, Archbishop of York, in consideration of his many faithful services, the manors of Wodestocke, &c., &c., with their several members and hamlets, as also the hundred of Wotton, and the chattels of all felons, fugitives, condemned and outlawed persons, within the said liberties to hold during his life.

THE CUSTOME OF THE MANOR OF WOODSTOCKE.

First, the sayd Mannor of Woodstocke, with all the Members thereunto belonging, is an auintient Demaine, and so hath been knowne reputed, and used, time out of man's remembrance.

And there belongeth to the sayd mannor seaven severall Villages, or Parishes, which are commonly called The Demaines of Woodstocke, viz., Hordeley, Wootton, Combe, Stonisfield, Hanborough, Bladon, and old Woodstocke.

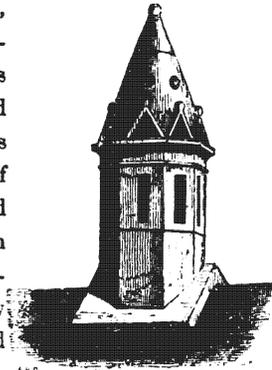
Which sayd Mannor, and other aforesaid Members thereof, have such Lyberties and Priviledges as other auintient Demaine Lands have used, and by the Lawes of this Realme ought to have ^u.

Elizabeth, when princess, was imprisoned here, and when queen resided much here, and was a considerable benefactress to the town. The town of Woodstock was chiefly supported by the resort of our kings and queens, on failure of which a statute was passed, 18th of Elizabeth, to make it a staple of wool. The old mansion-house was demolished in the civil wars; it stood on a flat spot, just within the park gate, opposite the great water, and now planted with sycamores and other trees.

There is an old house in the lower part of the town, which is com-

^u Out of Bishop Barlow's MSS. in Bibl. Bodl. num. 9, p. 125. ap. Leland's Itin., vol. viii. p. 40.

monly said to have been part of the palace, but neither the situation nor the appearances agree with this vague tradition; it is situated in that part of the town called Old Woodstock, but the site of the palace was within the boundary of the park; part of it is, however, of the fourteenth century, and it has retained one of its old fire-places, with a plain segmental arch, and the roll-moulding over it, and its chimney, which is a very elegant one, having a spiral termination, and openings for the smoke in the sides.



Chimney, Old Woodstock

The park and manor continued in the crown till the 4th of Queen Anne, when she by act of parliament granted the honour and manor of Woodstock, and hundred of Wootton, to John, Duke of Marlborough, and his heirs, as a reward of his eminent and unparalleled services, as they were deservedly styled by the voice of the nation in parliament, and for perpetuating the memory thereof. The field of this glorious victory being at or near Blenheim, that magnificent house, erected at the public expense by Sir John Vanburgh, within this manor of Woodstock, "as a monument of his glorious actions," to use the words of the act of parliament, is called the house or castle of Blenheim, in which his conquests are further recorded in beautiful tapestry. It is to belong to one of the Duke's descendants, male or female for ever, who are to bear the arms of Marlborough, and by way of homage, present the sovereign every year with a standard, in commemoration of the battle of Blenheim, August 2nd ^x.

Woodstock is a chapelry to the contiguous parish of Bladon; the original place of worship was a chantry, founded in honour of our Lady by King John. At the dissolution, Henry VIII. granted the Church to the corporation of the town; but the patronage is now in the gift of the Marlborough family. In the tower there are eight bells, with mellow and pleasing chimes, which go every four hours, and have a different tune for every day in the week ^y.

^x Continuation by Gough to Camden's *Britannia*, vol. i. p. 296, 297.

^y *Beauties of England*, vol. xii. p. 383.

WOOTTON.

PATRONS.
WARDEN AND FELLOWS
OF NEW COLLEGE.

St. Mary.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

A PLAIN Church, with one aisle on the north side, and a Perpendicular tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL is of the Decorated style, but very plain and poor; the east window of four lights, with a segmental head; the Chancel-arch pointed, plain, with shafts, the caps of which have the roll-moulding.

The NAVE has four arches on the north side, very plain and clumsy work, Early English, pointed and recessed, the edges chamfered, with plain labels: on the south side the windows are of two lights, Early English, with pointed trefoil-heads; two of them have square Perpendicular dripstones inserted over them. The doorway of the porch is good Early English. The clerestory and roof are late Perpendicular.

The Tower is plain Perpendicular.

The Font is plain octagon, Early English.

The Aisle has Decorated windows and a door, tolerably good, but rather clumsy; the side windows are of two lights, with a quatrefoil in the head; the east window is of three lights, with rather peculiar tracery.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1226. 10, 11, Henry III. Ela, countess of Sarum, widow of William, earl of Sarum, did within this year present a clerk to the church of Wootton, county of Oxon².

A.D. 1291. 19, 20, Edward I. The general^a taxation of Church dignities and benefices was this year completed and registered: the

² Rog. Dods. MS. vol. cvii. p. 1. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 282.

the king the tenth of all spiritualities for six years in *subsidiū terræ sanctæ*.

^a On occasion of the pope's granting

abbot of Oseney and prior of St. Catherine's, appointed collectors for this diocese of Lincoln, deputed Ralph, rector of Wotton, and Richard, rector of Gilling, to be taxers in the archdeaconries of Oxford, Bedford and Bucks, excepting the deanery of Rotland ^b.

A.D. 1310. 3, 4, Edward II. An inquisition was taken, July 19, in the neighbouring parish of Wendlebury, wherein it appeared that Laurence de Preston held two knights fees in Preston, Hacklington, Horton, Pidington, Quenton, and Wootton ^c.

A.D. 1396. 19, 20, Richard III. John Clompe of Borstall, and Agnes his wife, daughter of John Howes, granted to Thomas Palmer of Wootton, and Joan his wife, one messuage to curtilage adjoining, in the village of Borstall, which fell to them on the death of John Howes ^d.

A.D. 1440. By patent, dated 2nd August, 18th Henry VI., p. 3. the king gave the abbot and convent of Bruern, the advowson of the parish church of Wootton, by Woodstock, with licence to appropriate it ^e.

A.D. 1459. 37, 38, Henry VI., the king, by letters patent, granted to George, archbishop of York, in consideration of his many faithful services, the manors of Wodestocke, Handburgh, Wootton, and Stonesfeld, with their several members and hamlets, as also the hundred of Wootton, and the chattels of all felons, fugitives, condemned and outlawed persons, within the said liberties, to hold during his life ^f.

A.D. 1647, the advowson of this living was settled upon New College, by Robert Pinke, warden of that society; the person presented to be a fellow of the College, not holding a benefice at the time of presentation ^g.

^b Kennett, vol. i. p. 445.

^c Kennett, vol. i. p. 512.

^d Kennett, vol. ii. p. 180.

^e Kennett, vol. ii. p. 241, 404.

^f Rog. Dods. MS. vol. lxxv. p. 152.
ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 405.

^g Skelton's Oxford, Wootton Hundred,
p. 25.

GLYMPTON.

PATRON.
E. WAY, ESQ.

St. Mary.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

THE greater part of this Church is modern, and very bad, but the Chancel-arch has been preserved, and is good transition Norman, pointed, with shafts in recessed nooks, having cushion caps and the star-moulding on the abacus. The tower-arch at the west end is also transition Norman, but the tower itself is late Perpendicular. In the Chancel a fine monument of Maude Tesdale, 1616, two figures kneeling at a faldstool; it retains some of the old painting and gilding. The roof of the nave is plain Perpendicular. There are some good old pews with panels; they have Decorated patterns, but the mouldings are late; some of them are turned into enclosed pews by being built upon, and having doors of deal inserted.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Thomas Tesdale, Esq., resided here, and by his last will, dated 30 June, 1610, bequeathed £5,000 to purchase lands and tenements for the maintenance of certain fellows and scholars, to be chosen from the free-school at Abingdon, into any College in the University of Oxford; Archbishop Abbot, and other great men, with the mayor and burgesses of Abingdon, being made trustees, who, after some difficulty, settled them in Pembroke College ^h.

The said Thomas Tesdale was liberally beneficial to Pembroke College, and to the free-school at Abingdon, and his wife Maude, who survived him six years, was a woman of a very charitable disposition, and is said in her epitaph to have lovingly anointed Jesus Christ in his poore members at Glympton, Charlbury, Ascott, and other places ^l.

There is a very curious spring, which riseth in a wood about a mile south-west of the Church, in a place where there are stones in the form of cockles. The ebullitions of it are three, and the most southern makes a humming noise, like that of an empty bottle held with the mouth against the wind ^k.

^h Magna Britannia, vol. iv. p. 180. p. 456.

^l Beauties of England and Wales, ^k Magna Britannia, vol. iv. p. 380.

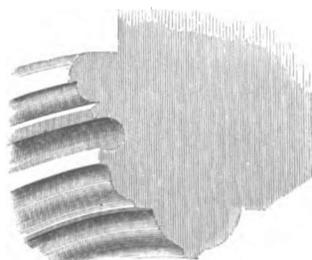
KIDDINGTON.

PATRON.	St. Nicholas.				DEANERY			
VISCOUNT DILLON.					OF WOODSTOCK.			
					HUNDRED			
					OF WOOTTON.			
		FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.		
	Chancel	18	4	by	14	4		
	Nave	45	0	by	23	0		
	South Chapel . . .	15	6	by	14	4		
	Porch	8	4	by	7	6		

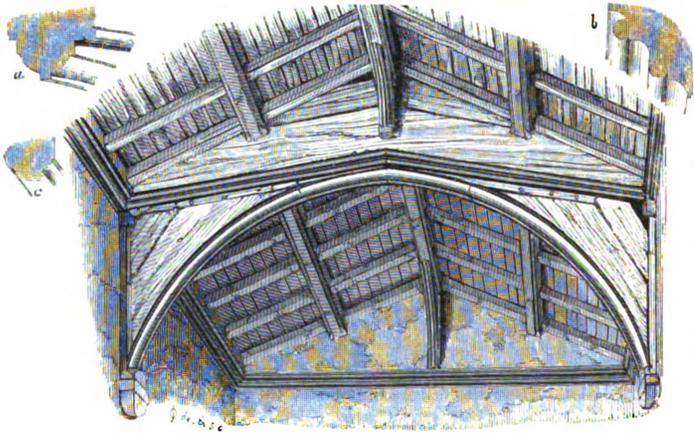
THIS Church consists of a Chancel, Nave, and south Chapel, or semi-transept, a western tower, and a south porch; it is mostly Decorated, with some Norman portions.

The CHANCEL has been longer; it has a Norman Chancel-arch at the east end, filled up with a Perpendicular window under it: the present Chancel-arch is Decorated, with short shafts springing from square piers, which have good mouldings, and a hollow moulding filled with ball-flowers as a stringcourse: on the south side of the Chancel-arch is a small Decorated trefoil window, with a low seat under it. In the north pier of the arch a Decorated piscina, with a trefoil head: the walls of the Chancel are Norman, with a bold corbel-table.

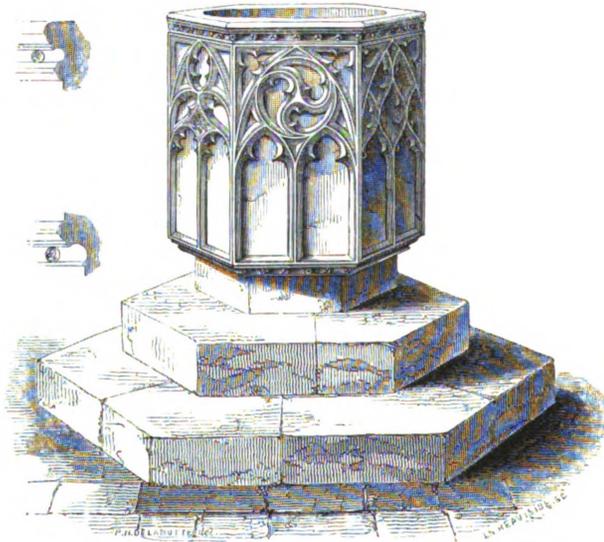
The NAVE on the north side has the walls mostly blank, but there is a good Decorated square-headed window. On the south side is a Decorated arch, opening into a large chapel or semi-transept; and the south door, which is plain, but well moulded, with a plain porch attached to the west side of the chapel; also a Decorated square-headed window. There is another small Decorated piscina and bracket on the west side in the north corner of the nave, where an Altar has stood. The rood-loft stairs remain under the north window,



Moulding of the South Doorway.



Roof of the South Chapel. c. 1350

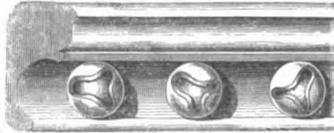


The Font, c. 1350

on the west side of the Chancel-arch; and part of the rood-screen remains, with good Decorated mouldings in oak.

The Font is good Decorated, hexagon, with panelling like patterns of the tracery of Decorated windows on each face, and good mouldings.

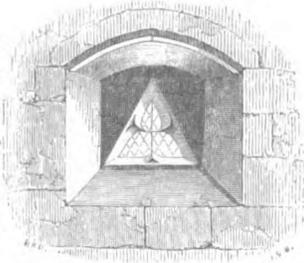
The south chapel has a Decorated open timber roof, but of very plain work; there is a bold Decorated stringcourse, with ball-flowers, all round this chapel, and a Decorated square-headed window on the east side.



Stringcourse. c. 1350.

The Tower is Decorated, small, and very plain, looks as if intended for a spire: the arch is small and plain.

At the west end of the nave are two small triangular Decorated windows, widely splayed within, and with a segmental inner arch.



Window at the west end of the Nave

EXTRACTS FROM WARTON'S HISTORY OF KIDDINGTON, 4to. 1783.

Kiddington, or Cuddington, anciently and properly according to its British etymology written Cudenton or The Town among the Woods, is a small village pleasantly situated on the river Glym, twelve miles from the city of Oxford to the north-west, four from Woodstock, and seven from Cheping-Norton, market towns in this county. It is divided by the river Glym into the upper and lower town, or Over-Kiddington and Nether-Kiddington: the first is in the Hundred of Chadlington, the second in that of Wootton. Both parts contain not more than forty houses.

The Church, situated in Lower Kiddington, is said by Browne Willis, not always successful in his laborious investigations of patron-saints, to be dedicated to St. Nicholas: but the annual wake is celebrated on the Sunday following the festival of St. Peter.

The seating of the body of the Church is probably the same that was there before the Reformation; consisting, as was antiently the fashion, of a regular arrangement of plain benches, low and open, without distinction, and on one plan, running at right angles from either side.

Moveable stools were sometimes used. Pews, according to the modern use and idea, which destroy the beauty of our parochial Churches, were not known till long after the Reformation. They would have obstructed processions, and other ceremonies, of the Romish religion.

This Church, in common with most other parish Churches, retains marks of the sordid devotion of its possessors under the dominion of Cromwell. But many of those disgraces to divine worship which Calvinism had left behind, have been lately removed by a generous benefactor, with the addition of new improvements and ornaments. When a country Church has been beautified, to use the technical phrase on this occasion, it is customary for the grateful topographer minutely to display the judicious application of some late pious legacy, and to dwell with singular satisfaction on the modern decorations of the communion-table, consisting of semicircular groups of bloated cherubs, tawdry festoons, gingerbread pilasters, flaming urns, and a newly-gilded decalogue, flanked by a magnificent Moses and Aaron, in scarlet and purple, the work of some capital artist, who unites the callings of painter, plumber, and glazier, in the next dirty market-town. I do not regret, that the present edifice, which yet has not been without its friends, can boast none of these embellishments.

Just within the entrance of the great south door, which has a spacious porch, there is a brass plate on the floor, the only ancient monument in the Church, exhibiting the effigy of a priest habited, with this inscription in the Gothic character.

Orate pro anima magistri Walteri Goodere quondam rectoris istius Ecclesie, qui obiit Decimo octavo Septembris Anno Dom. MCCCIII. Cujus anime propitietur Deus.

Above the head, on a brass tablet also, are his arms almost obliterated, which I think I have seen in some drawings from the windows of the stately old mansion house, now destroyed, of the family of Walter, at Sarsden, in this neighbourhood, viz. Gules, a Fess between two Cheverons vary, Argent and Blue. Near it are the marks of another brass plate, which has long ago disappeared. Monuments of brass in our Churches, notwithstanding the boasted proverbial durability of such memorials, have proved far more perishable than those of stone. But these losses are not so much owing to time, as to fanaticism, a more powerful, at least a more furious destroyer.

A catalogue of the Rectors of the Church, from 1232 to 1782, is given by Warton, pp. 9—13.

In that division of the parish, called the upper town, is the ruin of an old parochial cross, containing part of a shaft and base, built of stone. It is still known by the name of the cross. I know of no county which has more frequent or more curious remains of parish crosses than Oxfordshire. To this circumstance, the plenty of stone, with which the whole county abounds, greatly contributed.

Among the fields and woods of this parish, detached at almost half a mile's distance from Over-Kiddington, to the south-west, is a single farm-house called Asterley, which also denominates a manor. Here was once the parish of Asterley, of which the memory now scarcely subsists in tradition. But there is a large field, called Chapel-breke, now covered with bushes and high trees, in which the Church, long since decayed or destroyed, may probably be supposed to have stood. The inequalities of the ground seem also to denote the site of an ancient and considerable mansion-house. Here have been dug up pieces of the mouldings of lancet windows, and other fragments of antique masonry in stone. Other buildings, or houses, seem also to have been once standing hereabout. The Church, called the parochial Church of Asterley in the Registers of Lincoln, was dedicated to St. Peter. It was a Rectory, and was valued in 1291 at seven marcs and a half, and is recited under the Deanery of Cheping-Norton.

In the year 1466, and on the twenty-second day of October, John Chedworth, bishop of Lincoln, judicially seated in the monastery of the Dominican friars at Oxford, united and incorporated the church of Asterley with that of Kiddington.

A catalogue of the Rectors of Asterley is also given by Warton, pp. 21—25.

An interesting account of the ancient British, Roman, and Saxon remains, in this parish and neighbourhood, and of various military transactions on this ground, from the sixth to the eleventh century, will be found in Warton, pp. 46—71.

King Offa, about the year 780, gave Kiddington, together with the neighbouring village of Hethrop, to the episcopal priory of Worcester, from which, within a few years, they were both taken away by the Danes, nor were they ever afterwards restored. . . . The Monastery of Winchcombe, in Gloucestershire, also founded by King Offa, had lands or tythes in this parish before the Conquest. . . . At the Conquest, among other fees of Roger de Iveri in this neighbourhood, was a part of the

village of Kiddington. . . . Some lands at Kiddington were of the fee of Earl William Fitzosborne, Earl of Hereford, as appears by Domesday. . . . Soon after the Conquest, about the year 1130, and in the reign of King Henry the First, the Norman family of De Salcey, or Saucey, seem to have become proprietors of the manors of Kiddington and Asterley, with other large estates in the neighbourhood. They presented to the Churches of both places, as early as the years 1221 and 1232, and it is perhaps from the defect of the Lincoln registers, that we do not find much earlier presentations from that family to those benefices. They probably built the old Church of Kiddington: and I am of opinion, that they had a large capital mansion at Asterley, the marks of which yet remain. . . . About the year 1220, Kiddington and Asterley became (by marriage) the inheritance of the family of De Williamscothe. . . . In the reign of King Henry VI., the family of Babington (a branch of the Babingtons of Chelwell, in Nottinghamshire), acquiring these estates, appear to have been established in the capital seat at Kiddington. . . . In the year 1613, or thereabout, the Babingtons sold their estate here, that is, the manors of Upper and Lower Kiddington, and the manor of Asterley, with the advowson of the Church of Kiddington, to Sir Henry Browne, Knight, third son of Antony Browne, the first Lord Viscount Montague.

The family of Browne have constantly resided on their estate here, from the beginning of the reign of King James the First. The present mansion-house was for the most part built, or rebuilt, by Sir Henry Browne, the first Baronet, in 1673, on the foundations of the old one, to which belonged a walled park. The situation is remarkably pleasing, on the summit of a gentle semicircular slope, with great advantages of wood, water, and crossing declivities. On altering the windows of an old fashioned dining-room on the west side of the house, about the year 1750, some beautiful armorial shields in painted glass were removed; perhaps the same that were once in the Church. In this house are preserved many valuable and capital portraits of the family of Browne, and their honourable intermarriages, by Cornelius Jansen, and other eminent masters of the reigns of Mary, Elizabeth, James, and Charles the First.

The property in 1840 changed hands again, and is now possessed by M. Ricardo, Esq., who has altered and improved the house both internally and externally.

CASSINGTON.

PATRONS.
DEAN AND CANONS
OF
CHRIST CHURCH,
OXFORD.

St. Peter's.

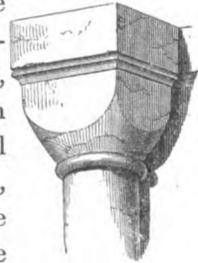
DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.



	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Nave	51	6	by	24	4
Tower	21	9	by	16	7
Chancel	18	10	by	16	7

An oblong Church, without aisles, the tower and spire in the centre. The general appearance at first sight is Decorated, but the main structure is Norman. The Chancel has Norman walls and a stone vault groined, with bold round ribs springing

from Norman shafts, with plain cushion caps: the window on the north side is original small Norman; on the south side a Perpendicular square-headed window is inserted: the east window is Decorated, of two lights, evidently inserted in a Norman wall. On the south side of this window, but still in the east wall, is a Decorated double piscina, with a stone shelf and one basin only; on the north side a Decorated bracket. On the outside of the Chancel is a good Norman corbel-table, with masks on some of the corbels. The high-pitched roof remains above the vault.



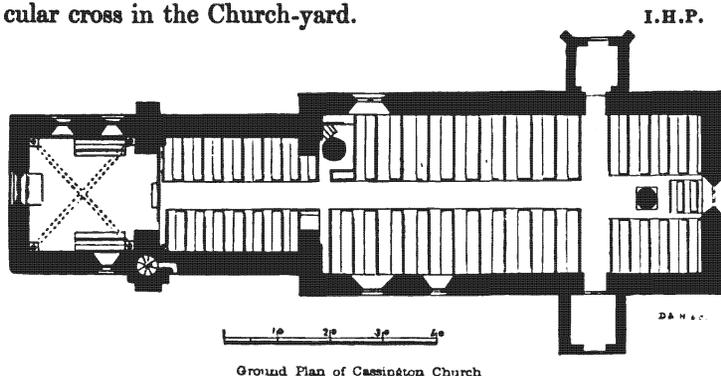
Capital of a Shaft in the Chancel.

TOWER—The lower part is Norman, with a plain Norman doorway on the north side: the arches east and west are good Norman; the western arch is richly ornamented, the flat soffit being covered with painting; the eastern arch is plain. A good Decorated spire has been built upon the Norman tower, and an upper story added to the tower itself, the Norman corbel-table being raised to the top of the new part at the springing of the spire. There were some curious paintings on the walls in the inside of this tower and on the timbers of the roof previous to the improvements in 1842; these are now whitewashed over, but sketches of them are preserved among the Society's drawings¹.

¹ **DISTEMPER PAINTING**, as it appeared in 1842.—“On the soffit of a Norman arch a series of circular wreaths, from which spring leaves, filling up the external spaces. Within the one in the centre is the Holy Lamb, bearing the cross and banner; then one on a shield, containing the cross of St. George, and another containing the cross of St. Michael; the adjoining ones on each side the monogram I.H.C.; and next to them, at the lower part of each end of the arch, two keys, in saltire, as the emblem of St. Peter, to whom the Church is dedicated. The face of the arch towards the west has been painted with a representation of the last

judgment, and on the jamb of a window adjoining, on the south side, is rather an elegant figure of a female, holding in her right hand a cross, and in her left what appears to be the battlements of a tower. This may be intended for a representation of St. Barbara. On the upper part of the south door inside are painted the cross, ladder, spear, and other implements of the Passion, above which are the remains of an angel, with expanded wings, on one side of which are the letters I.H.C., and on the other M.I.A. There are some very imperfect remains on the south wall of the Chancel, which appear to have represented the Annunciation. No part of

The NAVE has Norman walls, and three of the original windows; the other three windows are Decorated insertions. The roof has been lowered, and has a flat plaster ceiling: there is a good Norman corbel-table, with a projecting parapet, on both sides. The north porch has an open wooden roof, the outer doorway is transition Norman. The south porch is turned into a vestry; on the inner door in the Church are painted the emblems of the Crucifixion. The west window is Decorated. The font is plain round, probably Norman. On the floor of the nave is a good brass, a cross to the memory of Roger Cheney, and a brass fixed in the wall near the pulpit to Thomas Neale, Professor of Hebrew at Oxford, 1590. There is the base of a Perpendicular cross in the Church-yard.



A curious ancient paten is used in the Communion service of this Church. The figures of Adam and Eve are embossed, projecting in high relief in the centre: an embattled wall is introduced as the wall of paradise, within which they are exhibited as partaking of the forbidden fruit. An inscription, now nearly obliterated by frequent rubbing, ran upon a scroll above the figures, the letters V. B. O. are all that can be satisfactorily made out. A remarkable style of letter is introduced in the inscription which encircles the figures; the character of it appears to be Gothic, but so strangely ornamented, that the meaning rests in conjecture. The same letters or words are several times

the painted decoration appears to be of earlier date than the latest part of the fifteenth century. With the exception of the soffit of the arch, the back of the door,

and the figure in the window-jamb, all is now too imperfect to make its preservation desirable in the repair of the Church." Communicated by T. Williment, Esq.

repeated, and probably are *Deus Creavit e.*, the last word *eus* being abbreviated. The metal of which this plate is composed is brass [or rather latten], and the little value of the material may account for its preservation. It is fourteen inches and a half in diameter^m.

There is also preserved the centre of another sacred vessel, which probably was an offertory basin, ornamented with two figures, carrying a bunch of grapes on a pole, in allusion to Numbers xiii. 23. It appears to be of the fourteenth century.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1155. Geoffry of Clinton, chamberlain to Henry II., (son of Geoffry of Clinton, chamberlain and treasurer of Henry I., founder of the monastery and castle of Kenilworth, and lord of Cassington,) built the Church of Cassington, on his own fee, at the request of Robert de Chesney, bishop of Lincoln, and of the abbot of Eynsham, about 1155. It was consecrated by the Bishop, and dedicated to St. Peter. The abbot of Eynsham was to find a chaplain or minister, with the advice and consent of Geoffry, the archdeacon. Cassington was before in the parish of St. Mary at Eynsham, and the new Church was given to Eynsham abbey. At the same time it was ordained, that as often as Geoffry de Clinton resided at Cassington with his family, the chaplain of this Church should receive half the oblations coming from his family, "*contra capellanos ipsius Galfredi.*" The said Geoffry also endowed his new Church with one yard land at Cassington, and all the tythes of the village in corn and cattleⁿ. Of this Church much of Geoffry's original building still remains, particularly a noble Norman arch on which the tower stands, and the roof of the choir yet retains four intersecting Norman ribs. In the register of Eynsham abbey is another particular relating to this Church. "*Galfridus de Clinton, concessit ecclesie S. Petri de Chersington unam virgatam terre in eadem Chersington quam Gulielmus de Clinton eidem ecclesie dedit pro restauratione turris ipsius ecclesie quam propter imminentia et suspecta sibi pericula dejecit, &c. Teste Agnete uxore ejus.*" cap. 108. Agnes, the witness here mentioned, and wife of the second Geoffry, was daughter of Roger, earl of Warwick^o.

^m See Skelton's Oxfordshire, Wootton Hundred, p. 5, where there is an engraving of this paten.

ⁿ Register Abbat de Eynsh. MS. ut supr. cap. 19.

^o Warton's Hist. of Kiddington, p. 45.

A.D. 1318. Sir William de Montacute, son and heir of Simon de Montacute, ancestor of the Montacutes, earls of Salisbury, high in favour with Edward II., obtained licence of that monarch, to make a castle of his mansion house at Kersynton, or Cassington in Oxfordshire^p. And the manor of Cassington was a part of the dowry of his wife, lady Elizabeth Montacute^q. Sir William Montacute had two acres of land in Cassington, by the gift, I suppose an exchange, of Maud de Upton, Abbess of Godstow, in 1318^r. Cassington appears to have been granted to his father Simon, by Edward I., in 1290^s. The arms of Montacute formerly were in the western window of the Church of Cassington. They also were in a window of the neighbouring Church of Bladon.

The mansion house of the Montacutes, at Cassington, perhaps stood where is now a large farm house, with a moat, and other marks of an antient manorial edifice. Here, however, originally lived the noble family of Clinton.

A.D. 1450. Carsington, Chersington, or Cassington, was the estate and demesne of William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, at his death, which happened 2 May, 28 Henry VI., after this manner; he was a great favorite of Queen Margaret, and had by his imprudent management of royal favours, incurred the odium of the nobility and people, insomuch that a general insurrection being feared by the king, he ordered his banishment, and accordingly the Duke, putting to sea at Ipswich, in Suffolk, with a purpose to sail into France, was taken by a ship of war, belonging to the Duke of Exeter, then constable of the tower, and had his head cut off upon the side of the cock boat he was in. His body and head were after found by one of his captains, and being conveyed to the collegiate Church of Wingfield, in Suffolk, was buried there. John de la Pole, then but seven years old, was left his heir.

The Church here is a vicarage, for an augmentation of which, Dr. Jasper Maine, archdeacon of Chichester, who died in 1672, gave by his last will £100 to purchase land with for that end. The parsonage, before the dissolution, belonged to the priory of St. Frideswide, Oxford; but being then seized by King Henry VIII., was settled on his newly erected college, Christ Church, to which it now belongs^t.

^p Pat. ii. Ed. II. ann. 11°. P. i. m. 24. 136.

^q Esch. 28°. Ed. II. n. 39.

^r Register Abbat. Eynsham, MS. cap.

^s Cart. 18°. Ed. I. n. 73.

^t Magna Britannia, vol. iv. p. 377.

Thomas Neale, Batchelor of Divinity, sometime fellow of New College, succeeded Dr. Bruerne as Hebrew professor, 1559; he died at Cassington in 1590, having then at the age of 71, erected his own monument with a brass inscription ^u.

FROM A. WOOD'S MSS. IN THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM.

On the S. E. side of this Church is an house, with a moat round all or most part of it, situated.

This house hath a fair homestall & 6 yard land belonging to it.

Wh. house & land were owned for about 2 or 3 generations by the names of Coventry.

The last of that name there, sold it Edmund Rainolds M. of Arts of Glocester Hall, about the latter end of Q. Elizab.

This Ed. Rainolds was a younger son of Rich. Rainolds of Pinhawes near Exeter in Devon, educated in C. C. Coll. of which he was fellow, but leaving that house because he was popishly affected, retired to Glocester Hall, where being a noted tutor, for sixty years or thereabout, grew very rich.

This said Edm. died (in Glocester Hall I think) 21 Nov. 1630, aged 92, and was buried in Wolvercot Chancel. He then left to Matthew Cheriton his nephew a farm at Wolvercote joining to the Churchyard there.

To Richard Reynolds eldest son of his younger brother Nicholas a farm at Einsham, who having onlie a daughter or daughters, that name there is worn out.

To Will. Rainolds 2nd. son of the said Rich. he left his chief farm in Cassington of 6 yard land mentioned before.

Wh. William having had three wives, left the said farm to Christopher his onlie son by his 2. wife (for he had none by his first) who now enjoyes it—and 'tis esteemed to be worth £100 per an.

The said William Rainolds who was bred in Glocester Hall under his uncle Edm. before mentioned was a R. Cath. & dying at Cassenton on the 5. Novemb. 1661. was buried in the middle of the Chancel there. Some years after his widdow a simple woman put a blew marble stone over his grave, whereon she caused to be engraven an inscription, but false according to time, viz. that he died 6 Nov^r. 1662 ^x.

^u Wood's Annals, P. ii. p. 849. For Hundred, p. 4.
the inscription see Skelton, Wootton ^x A. Wood's MS., E. 1. folio 160.

ENSHAM.

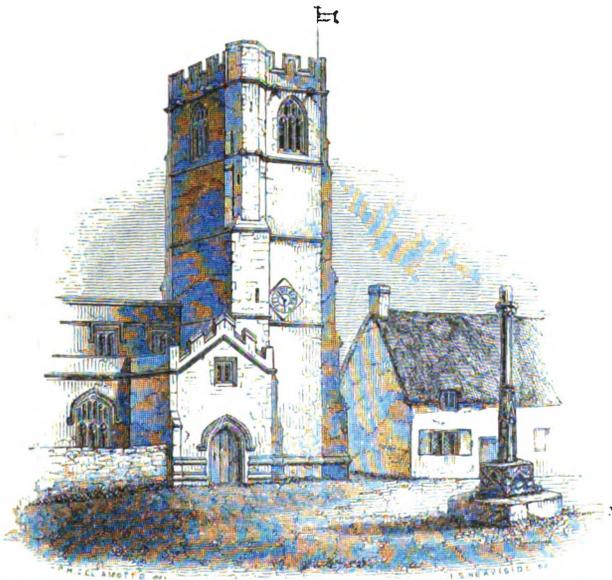
PATRON.

St. Leonard.

DEANERY

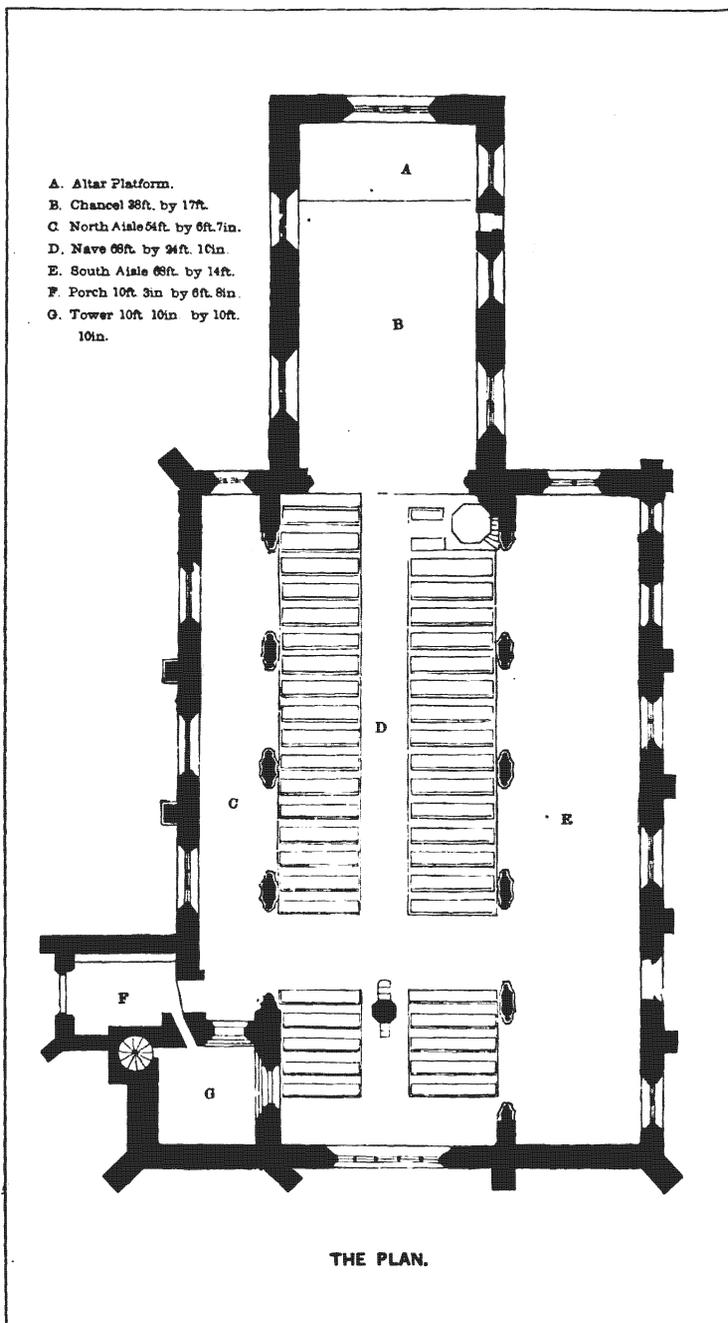
NASH SKILLICORNE
SKILLICORNE, Esq.

OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.



A FINE Church, mostly Perpendicular, with a Decorated Chancel, a nave with two aisles, and a tower at the west end of the south aisle.

The CHANCEL is Early Decorated, the east window of three lights, with the foliations cut out of the head, and the lower part concealed by a wooden Altar-screen in the Dutch style: the side windows are of two lights, with geometrical tracery; the three on the south side are perfect, with fragments of the original stained glass in the head. There is also a small south door. On the north side are two windows, one of which has the tracery



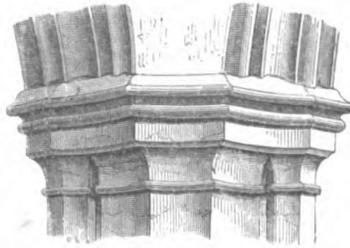
cut out. The walls are three feet thick, and have no buttresses; the roof is of a good high pitch, with part of a cross on the east gable; the timbers are concealed by a coved plaster ceiling; the Chancel-arch is Decorated, springing from corbels, richly moulded; there are the remains of a Perpendicular screen, but the upper part is all cut away.



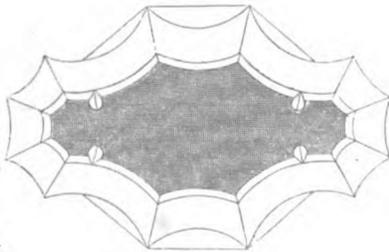
Mouldings of Capital of Chancel-Arch.

The NAVE is Early Perpendicular, of five bays, the arches on each side pointed and recessed, with hollow mouldings on octagonal piers, with each face hollowed, and octagonal shafts attached, with moulded capitals to both piers and shafts; the form of these is unusual,

but there are similar examples at Chipping Camden in Gloucestershire, and in some other places. The clerestory on the north side has six Perpendicular windows, of two lights, square-headed; on the south side there are only three small single lights, foliated, with square dripstones over them: the west window is of five lights, the head much subdivided with Perpendicular tracery. The roof is of plain open timber, with corbel-heads. The parapet is plain, not battlemented.

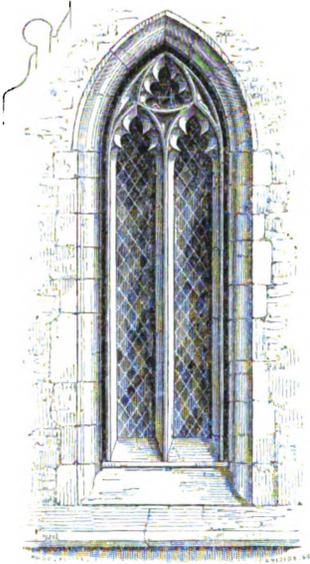


Capital of Pillar. c. 1400.

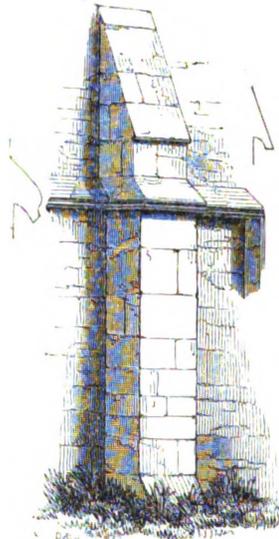


Section of Pillar.

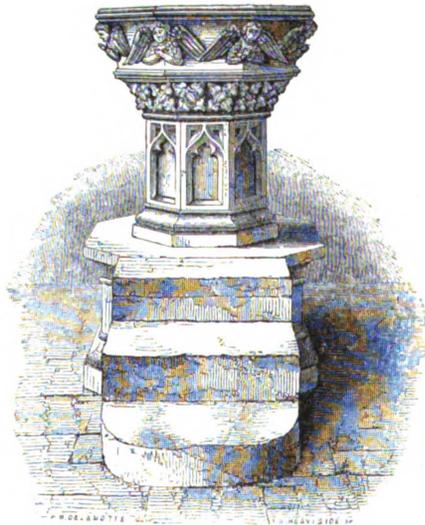
The north aisle is Perpendicular, with good windows, of three lights, the dripstones of which have curling terminations: the roof is a lean-to: the parapet plain Perpendicular, with a rich cornice, having flowers inserted in a hollow moulding: the north door and porch are plain Perpendicular, with a battlement.



Window. South Side c. 1300.

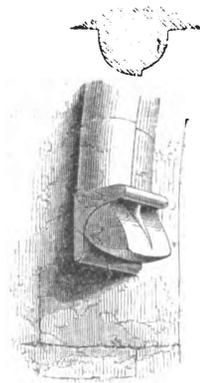


Buttress South Side. c. 1300.



The Font. c. 1450.

The south aisle is mostly Decorated, with a very good Early Decorated window at the east end, and another on the south side next to it; there are three other Early Decorated windows, of two lights, not foliated, with the roll-moulding for a dripstone, terminated by masks; between them are low flat buttresses, dying into the wall at about half the height of the windows; a good Decorated stringcourse along the wall under the windows continued round the buttresses; a fourth window is also Decorated, but shorter than the others, and with the lights foliated; the westernmost window on this side is Perpendicular, of three lights; the south door is also Perpendicular, with bold mouldings and a square head over it, the dripstone having shields for terminations.

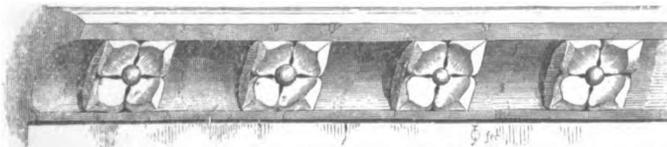


Dripstone Termination. c. 1200.

The Font, placed at the west end of the nave, is good Perpendicular, raised on three steps, and has been carefully restored; the seats are mostly open oak benches, with good carved ends, but there are some high deal pews, and the aisles are spoiled by galleries.

The Tower is situated at the west end of the north aisle; it is good Early Perpendicular, with battlement and cornice; the belfry windows are large, of three lights; the stair-turret attached to the north-east angle is square below and octagon above; there are arches opening into the Church on the south and east sides, but now plastered up, and small diagonal buttresses on the two western angles.

Opposite the Church are the shaft and base of a good Early Decorated cross, with figures under canopies round the shaft, and a foliated capital.



Cornice of the North Aisle. c. 1450

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In this part of the country the Britains did long resist the encroaching Saxons. After the kingdom of the West Saxons was established in the persons of Cerdic and Cynric, A.D. 519^γ, they made several attempts to enlarge their conquests in these parts, and after the death of Cerdic, A.D. 534, Cynric had a greater progress to his arms, and from 551, for five following years gave several defeats to our midland Britains, who in the year 556, united all their strength, and at Beranbyrig, now Banbury, in this county, they fought with king Cynric, and Ceawlin his son, to regain the honour they had lost in five succeeding years; where they were so numerous as to divide their army into nine battalions, placing three in the front, a like number in the flank, and as many in the rear, with their archers and horsemen disposed according to the Roman discipline; by which conduct they so well received the fury of the Saxons, that when the night parted them, the victory was still depending ^a, and though the Saxon historians conceal it, the event seems to prove a success to the Britons, who kept their fortified places in this county to the year 571 ^a, or as some writers say, to 580, when king Ceawlyn, and Cuthwulph his brother, fought with the Britons at Bedford, and after a defeat, took from them their strongest garrisons, of which three were in these parts, Egelesburh, Eilesten', now Ailsbury; Bennington, Benesington, now Benson; and Eymesham, Henesham, now Ensham. From which time, though this whole county was reputed within the district of Mercia, yet most of it was subject to the kings of the West Saxons ^b.

[There are still considerable remains of an ancient British earthwork on the brow of a hill, near Ensham, at a short distance from the Oxford road, and plainly visible from it, about half a mile from the bridge. This was probably the fortress here mentioned.]

In 626 the Britons were still powerful in these parts, the West Saxon kings had their frontier garrisons at Cirencester and Ensham, and there were continual conflicts.

The Isis having received the Windrush flows on to *Einsham*, Saxon Eignerham, antiently a royal rill among very pleasant meadows. It was first taken from the Britains on their defeat by Cuthwulf the Saxon, and embellished with a monastery (for Benedictines,) by a nobleman named Ethelman. His foundation was confirmed by Ethelred, king of Eng-

^γ Saxon Chronicle.

^a Saxon Chronicle.

^a Henry of Huntingdon, ed. Savile, p. 534.

^b Kennett, vol. i. p. 33.

land, A.D. 1005, who, in the words of the original, "signed the privilege of liberty, with the sign of the holy cross ^c."

The monastery is said in the charter of king Ethelred, to be founded "in loco celebri juxta fluvium qui vocatur *Tamis* constituto, quod ab incolis regionis illius Ennesham nuncupatur vocabulo ^d."

Here king Ethelred, by advice of Alphege and Wulstan, archbishops of York and Canterbury, held a council in 1009, wherein many decrees, both ecclesiastical and civil, were enacted. Spelman ^e calls the place where this council was held Eanham, but does not determine where it was ^f.

A.D. 1109. In the charter of renewal of Henry I. to Ensham abbey, among the possessions are enumerated the town of Ensham, and all that appertained to it in meadows, and waters, and woods ^g.

A.D. 1184. A general council was held at Ensham, at which Hugh of Grenoble was elected bishop of Lincoln, and several other solemn elections of bishops and abbots were made in the presence of the king and the archbishop ^h.

A.D. 1230. Upon a grant of the bishop of Lincoln, for observing of processions and other solemnities of Ensham Church, in obedience to the mother Church of Lincoln, in Whitsun week many of the Oxford scholars, repairing thither to see jovial doings, were assaulted by the country people, who killed some, and wounded others, and made the rest fly home in fear and danger of their lives. The bishop hearing it, excommunicated the authors and abettors of this sedition, in all the Churches of Oxfordshire, excluding them the society of all Christians, and depriving them of the benefit of confession till the feast of St. Bartholomew; the scholars also resented this injury so highly that they intermitted all lectures, and would not resume them till the offenders had undergone the severest punishments; and when they did, the bishop procured of the Pope a permission for the doctors and masters of Oxford to become lecturers and regents in any other University without any examination ⁱ.

Numerous benefactions to the abbey are recorded in Dugdale, Kennett, &c., which it is not necessary to repeat here. There is a catalogue

^c Camden's Britannia, vol. i. p. 285. p. 295.

^d Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. i. p. 259.

^e Spelman's English Councils, vol. i. p. 510.

^f Gough's add. to Camden, vol. i.

^g Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. i. p. 265.

^h Chron. Gervas., p. 1480. Kennett, vol. i. p. 199.

ⁱ Magna Britannia, vol. iv. p. 380.

extant of the abbots, twenty-eight in number : Miles Salley, the twenty-sixth abbot, was honoured with a visit at the abbey in 1501, from prince Henry, afterwards king Henry VIII. ; this abbot was subsequently bishop of Llandaff, and held the abbey *in commendam*. The last abbot was Anthony Kitchen, who with his prior, sub-prior, and thirteen monks subscribed to the king's supremacy, and surrendered the abbey in 1539, 30th Henry VIII., upon the promise of an allowance of £135 6s. 8d. *per annum*. He was soon afterwards promoted to the bishopric of Llandaff.

At the time of the suppression the revenues of the abbey were valued, according to Dugdale, at £441 12s. 2d., equal to about £9,000 per annum of our money. The site of the abbey was granted in the 35th of Henry VIII., to Sir Edward Northe, knight, and William Darcy. In the 37th of Henry VIII. it was again granted out to Edward, earl of Derby ; after passing through a younger branch of that family, it came to a nephew, Sir Edward Stanley, K.B., one of whose coheirs was Venetia, wife of Sir Kenelm Digby, celebrated for her beauty and accomplishments. Subsequently it passed, in 1626, to James Lord Strange, son to William, Earl of Derby, who married Charlotte, daughter to Claude Tremoville, Duke of Tours, who had with her £24,000 in portion, in consideration of £6,000 of which sum his father settled the manor of Ensham on Philip, Earl of Pembroke, Sir Ralph Crew, and Sir Thomas Posthumous Hobby, in trust for the said Charlotte. It was subsequently purchased by Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, and has continued in that family to the present day ; the Duke of Marlborough is the lay impropiator.

Of this once magnificent abbey the last remnant was pulled down by Mr. Druce, in 1843 ; it was a small but elegant doorway, with an ogee head, Decorated mouldings and dripstone. A part of the foundations may still be traced under the greensward of a meadow at a short distance to the west of the Church. A considerable portion of the buildings appears to have remained, though in ruins, up to near the end of the last century : there is an engraving of the west end, with two towers, and a large Decorated window of seven lights between them, and part of a Norman cloister, in the Description of England and Wales, 1769, vol. vii. p. 245.

HANDBOROUGH.

PATRONAGE
OF
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

St. Peter and St. Paul.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

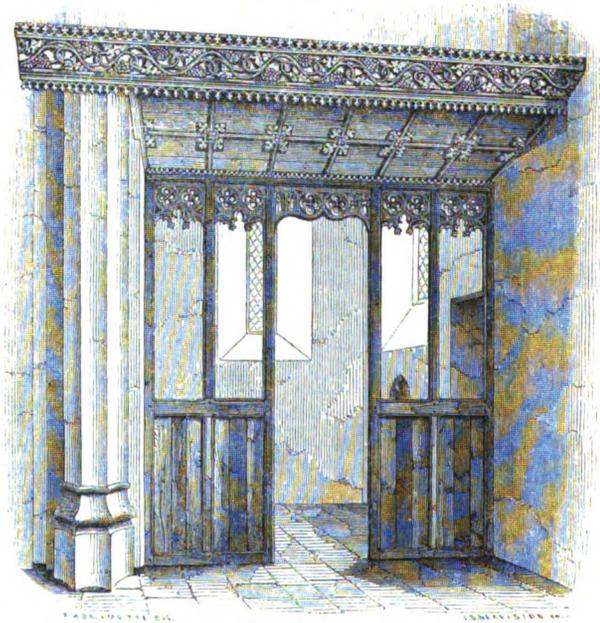


A FINE Church, mostly Perpendicular, with good tower and spire, plan oblong, with two aisles.

The CHANCEL is originally Early English, but the east window is an insertion of debased Perpendicular work, square-headed, with a transom, four lights, not foliated. There is a round-headed niche in the north side which was probably an aumbrye.

On the south side are two lancet windows, with the roll moulding as a string under them; and a sepulchral recess, under which has been inserted the brass of Alexander Belysre, the first president of St. John's College, with an inscription in Latin and English.

The Chancel-arch is Early English, with three engaged shafts, having round capitals well moulded. The roof is nearly flat, with purlins, and horizontal tie-beams. The aisles of the Chancel have square-headed Perpendicular windows; in the south aisle there is also a plain round-headed narrow light, and a piscina, with an ogee head, trefoiled. The rood-loft is perfect across the



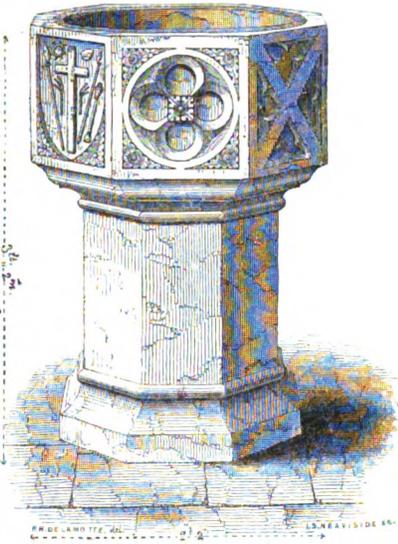
The Rood-loft, c. 1400.

aisles, with a staircase still open in the outer wall of the south aisle; across the Chancel-arch the rood-screen only remains, with a crest of the Tudor flower, and mouldings enriched with foliage; the portion across the north aisle is older than the others, which are rather debased imitations of it; the whole retains a good deal of the ancient painting and gilding.

The NAVE is Perpendicular, and has three arches on each side, the pillars slender, octagonal, and hollowed on the alternate faces; caps plain moulded, arches recessed, hollowed. The clerestory has three square-headed three-light windows on each side. The roof is of low pitch, with horizontal tie-beams and pendants resting on corbels.

The Font is good Perpendicular, octagonal, with quatrefoiled panels; one containing a cross, with the emblems of the Crucifixion, the others a square flower in the centre of the quatrefoil: two of the sides are plain, one has been so originally, the other has been repaired: the shaft is plain, with good base-mouldings.

The Pulpit is good Perpendicular, of oak, panelled; it is placed at the south-east corner of the nave. The seats are mostly good old open oak benches, but a few enclosed pews have crept into the south aisle of the Chancel, and a few doors to the old pews have been introduced at the west end of the nave.



The Font. c 1450.



The Pulpit c 1150

The outer walls are Norman, and have retained their original doorways, and some of the small Norman windows, but most of the windows are square-headed Perpendicular insertions. One of the Norman windows, near the north door, is a very small



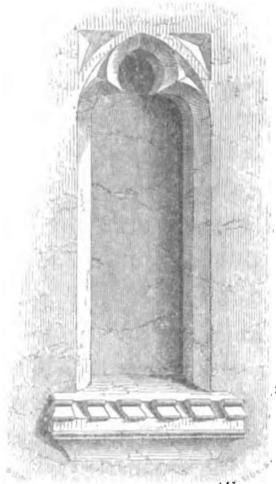
Exterior.

NORMAN WINDOW.

Interior

narrow round-headed light, widely splayed to a flat trefoiled inner arch.

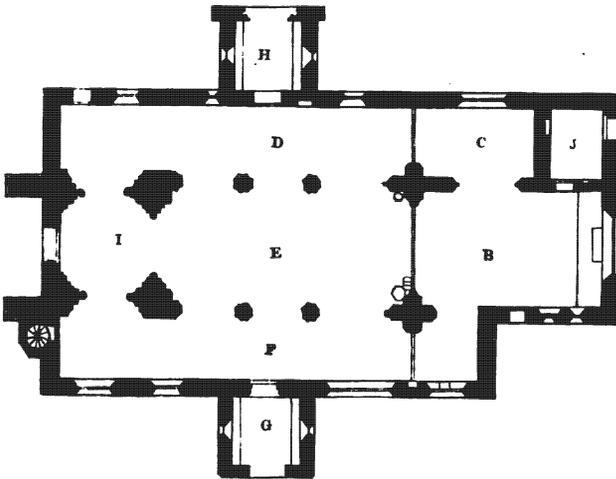
On the east side of the south door is an elegant Perpendicular niche, with a battlemented moulding along the sill of it. The outer doorway of the north porch is Early English, with three engaged shafts on each side, of which the centre ones are gone; the arch thrice recessed. The inner doorway is Norman, round-headed, with massive engaged shafts; the edge of the arch has a bold round moulding, and over that the zigzag. The tympan is filled with a rude sculpture of St. Peter sitting with a key in his right hand; on his left is the Lamb and Cross, on the right a lion. The inner doorway of the south porch is Norman, round-headed, with roll-moulding and large engaged shafts, the head filled up with an obtuse triangular door-head, the tympan plain. The vestry is at the east end of the north



Niche

Chancel-aisle, entered by a pointed door from the Chancel : there are the remains of a square-headed Perpendicular window at the east end, under which a door has been formed.

The Tower is square, and has three stages : the west window is Perpendicular, of three lights, cinquefoiled : the west door has a square dripstone, with trefoils in the spandrels : in the upper stage are four windows of two lights, trefoiled. The spire is octangular, with round mouldings on the angles : at the bottom, on the cardinal sides, are four ogee-headed windows of two lights, trefoiled : on the other sides are four small lancets, half way up the spire : the bells are five in number. The tower-arch is Early English, with the ringing-loft open to the Church, serving also as a western gallery.



The Plan

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
B. Chancel	27	6	by	16	8
C. North Chapel	17	10	by	10	3
D. North Aisle	50	0	by	8	10
E. Nave	34	0	by	15	0
F. South Aisle	50	0	by	8	10
G. South Porch	9	8	by	9	8
H. North Porch	9	0	by	9	8
I. Tower	14	0	by	14	0
J. Vestry	10	0	by	6	8

In the north-west corner of the Church-yard stands the ruin of a mausoleum of the Boucher family, built about the beginning of the last century, which now belongs to the Duke of Marlborough; it is without a roof, and in a dilapidated state. In the Church-yard, near the principal entrance of the Church, there is a small stone cross, used as a headstone to a grave; it appears to be of the fifteenth century, and is a valuable example for imitation: these small crosses are said to have been generally used in former times, but they are now very rarely to be met with.



HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Domesday survey, "Haneberge" is enumerated as part of the land of Gisleberti de Gand—"Hanborough".¹

The Church of Handborough was given to the abbey of Reading, by Simon de Sen Liz, earl of Northampton, in 1147.

Symon de Sen Liz comes Norhamtoniæ ep'o Linc. archid. baronibus, justiciariis, vicecom. ministris, clericis, laicis et omnibus sanctæ ecclesiæ filiis per Oxenefordsyram constitutis salutem. Sciant omnes tam præsentis quam futuri me dedisse et concessisse et in perpetuæ possessionis elemosinam confirmasse Deo et ecclesiæ S. Mariæ de Rading pro salute anime mee et parentum meorum ecclesiam de Hanebergha cum terris et decimis et omnibus ecclesiæ pertinentibus sicut rex Henricus dedit et concessit in vita sua. Unde volo et precipio quod ecclesia de Rading et monachi eam in perpetuum possideant, et in pace teneant. Hii sunt testes hujus cartæ. Ricardus de Camvil, &c.^m

Handborough, according to a patent of the 5th of Edward II., contained a messuage and carucate of land, which were held by the service of keeping the gate of the manor-house of Woodstock for the space of forty days in the year in time of warⁿ.

¹ Kennett, vol. i. p. 92.

^m Kennett, vol. i. p. 140.

ⁿ Skelton's Oxfordshire, Wootton Hundred, p. 8.

The living of Handborough was given to St. John's College by William Sandys, Esq., at the instance of Archbishop Laud. It is valued in the *Liber Regis*, temp. Hen. VIII. at £11 6s.; the present value, according to the return to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, is £353.

Handborough is noted for the Selenites, or moon stone, which have been found in great plenty in digging of wells near this place °.

THE FOLLOWING MONUMENTS WERE IN THIS CHURCH IN WOOD'S TIME.

Against the north wall of the Chancell a marble tablet to Margaret Clarke, wife of Humphrey Clarke, Esq., of Woodchurch and Kingsnoth, in Kent, who died September 18, 1542. This Monument was erected by Sir Simon Clarke of Salford, in Com. Warw., in memory of his grandmother, a°. 1632.

On the S. wall a Monument to the memory of Jane Culpepper, widow of Walter Culpepper, Esq., 1636.

On a brass plate on the ground under the former, Anne Culpepper, obiit 3^o Aprilis, 1580.

On another by the former, Walter Culpepper, obiit 13 Aprilis, 1616.

On another brass plate by this last, Mary Culpepper, died 19 Aug^t 1593.

Within a arch in the S. wall of the Chancel is a brass plate affixed: thereon the picture of a man lying along in his winding sheet, and under him this, Obiit Alexand. Belsire, 13 die Julii, Anno Dni 1567. (See p. 152.)

On a brass plate on the ground in the same Chancel, Johanna Mericke uxor Mauriti Merick Generosi, obiit 17 Apr. 1617.

In the body of the Church in the middle, is a brass plate upon the ground, whereon is a woman between 2 men, under them 3 boys and 4 girls, between them this inscription: Pray for the souls of Chr. Ford and Jane his wife, and for the soul of Thomas Wheeler, her first husband, and for all her children's souls: on whose souls Jesus have mercy.

In a Chapell on the S. side of the Church, in a window thereof, are the pictures of 3 men and 3 women: over them this inscription; Orate pro bono statu Ricardi Snareston ceterorumque qui reparaverunt istam fenestram, An dni 1453.

In the same window the pictures of 3 men and their wives, under them these: Willm Bayly ... uxor ejus. Richard Snareston ... Margaret uxor ejus. Thomas Roch ... Tibott uxor ejus.

In a S. window of the Church, the picture of a man praying; under it, Orate pro Johanne Sprot ^k.

° *Magna Britannia*, vol. iv. p. 380. these monuments, whether of brass or

^k *Wood's MS. E. 1. fol. 65.* Most of of glass, are now alike destroyed.

INSCRIPTION IN LATIN AND ENGLISH ON THE SEPULCHREAL BRASS
TO ALEXANDER BELSYRE.

Hoc quod es, ipse fui, mortalis, uterque perinde
Mortuus, ac fato tu moriere tuo.
Sic ergo vivas, ut cum moriere, superstes
Vita sit in cœlis non moritura tibi.

That thou art now, the same was I ;
And thou likewise shall suer dye :
Live so that when thou hence dost wend
Thou mayest have blysse that hath no end.

ON THE SOUTH WALL OF THE CHANCEL IS PAINTED THIS INSCRIPTION :

M. S.

Sanctissimi Regis et Martyris Caroli

Siste viator

Luge. Obmutesce. Mirari.

Memento Caroli illius

Nominis pariter et Pietatis insignissimi Primi

Magnæ Britanniæ Regis

Qui Rebellium Perfidia primò deceptus

Dein Perfidorum Rabie percussus

Inconcussus tamen Legum et Fidei

Defensor

Schismaticorum Tyrannidi succubuit

Anno

Salutis humanæ MDCXLVIII.

Servitutis nostræ } Primo
Fœlicitatis suæ }

Coronâ terrestri spoliatus Cœlesti donatus

Sileant autem perituræ Tabellæ

Perlege Reliquias, verè sacras

Carolinas

In Quéis

Sui Mnemosynem, ære perenniorem

Vivaciùs exprimit

Illa Illa.

ΕΙΚΟΝ ΒΑΣΙΛΙΚΗ.

COOMBE.

ATTACHED TO THE
RECTORY
OF
LINCOLN COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

St. Lawrence.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	32	10	by	16	12
Nave	48	0	by	27	10
Tower	14	6	by	11	0

A GOOD Perpendicular Church, with a tower at the west end covered with ivy.

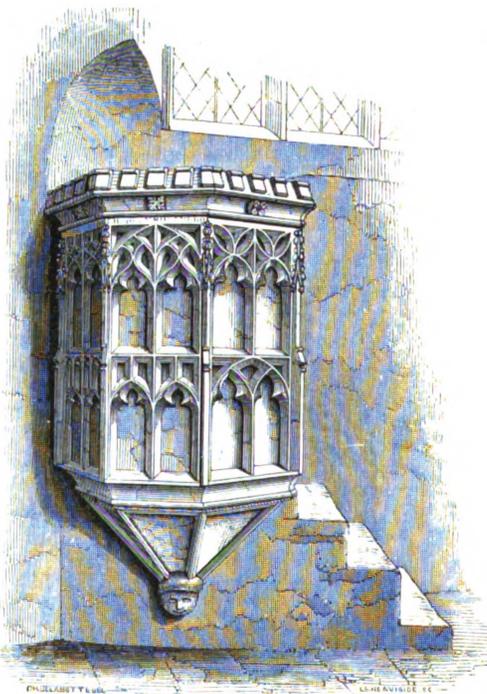
The CHANCEL is Perpendicular; the east window very wide, with a flat arch, five lights, with Perpendicular tracery, some good bits of old stained glass in the head, and good dripstone terminations; the side windows are square-headed, and on the south side there is a small Perpendicular door with a square label: the roof has a plastered ceiling, coved with ribs and bosses. The sedilia are good Perpendicular, with ogee canopies, the shafts detached, with trefoiled arches connecting them with the wall. A Perpendicular piscina, trefoil-headed, has the drain and basin very perfect. The rood-arch is plain but good, springs from plain corbels; on the north side of the rood-arch is the rood-staircase,



The Chancel door. A D. 1395

with its two doors; on the south side a good Decorated niche, with the ball-flower in the mouldings and an ogee head; this appears to have been built in, from an earlier building. The rood-screen has some good tracery remaining of Decorated forms, but is Perpendicular.

The NAVE has three Perpendicular windows on each side, all of three lights; most of them have remains of stained glass in the heads: the roof is of very low pitch, but open to the timbers and boards, covered with lead, the remains of old work, but much decayed and patched; one of the corbels has a shield, with the letter T upon it. On the north side of the nave, under the easternmost window, is a good stone pulpit, springing from a corbel-head; it is panelled and rich. The font is Perpendicular, panelled.



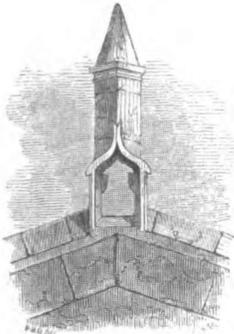
The Stone Pulpit. A. D. 1385

The Tower is Perpendicular, with square pinnacles on the angles; the windows have good dripstones, terminated by heads; the tracery of these windows is bold and well defined, the jambs recessed, and the mouldings deep, and more than commonly well wrought. They form a striking contrast to the windows of the chapel of Lincoln College, which are superficial and meagre. The doorway and door are good Perpendicular, with a square dripstone over, having good returns: the return is

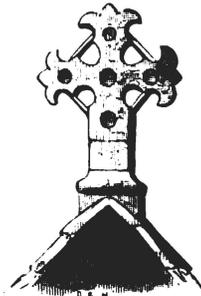
The Tower is Perpendicular, with square pinnacles on the angles; the windows have good dripstones, terminated by heads; the tracery of these windows is bold and well defined, the jambs recessed, and the mouldings deep, and more than commonly well wrought. They form a striking contrast to the windows of the chapel of Lincoln College, which are superficial and meagre. The doorway and door are good Perpendicular, with a square dripstone over, having good returns: the return is

in a diamond form, like that over the entrance into the common-room of Lincoln College, and such a return as is to be found in Eton College, all built in the reign of Henry VI. The tower-arch is fine, though now boarded up; it ought to be re-opened. The north porch is Perpendicular, with a stone roof, and arched ribs; the south porch is turned into a vestry.

On the east gable of the nave is a sanctus-bell turret, of a peculiar but not very elegant form; the finial is gone, and



Sanctus-bell turret.



Cross on East Gable

it does not appear to have had crockets: there is a good Perpendicular parapet to the nave, panelled, with quatrefoils.

On the east gable of the Chancel is an elegant cross of early Perpendicular work.

The Tower has a battlement and pinnacles; the windows are good Perpendicular. The Church is much covered with ivy, the situation and the general effect very good: in the Church-yard is an Altar-tomb, with quatrefoils.

Adjoining to the Church is the rectory-house, which has a battlement, and bay windows with foliated heads, in the style of the fifteenth century. The frontage towards the south was built by the late, and has been embattled towards the east and west by the present rector: it is of considerable extent, and the buildings towards the north and west are coeval, if not prior to the foundation of Lincoln College, of which Society the rectory of Coombe is not only an appropriate benefice, but part of the dotation of Rotherham, the second founder, and is subject to the

foundation statutes. The chaplain's house, in common with the rectory-house, is contiguous, and opens into the Church-yard; and the Church of Coombe, together with the rectory of Twyford, Berks, and the rectory of All Saints and St. Michael's, Oxford, and that of St. Mildred, Oxon, constitute the rectory of the Blessed Mary and all Saints, Lincoln.

There is a view of the Church and rectory-house of Coombe in Skelton's Oxfordshire, Wootton Hundred.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The word *Cwmm* in the British, signifying *vallis* or *convallis*, as doth also *Cumbe* and *Combe* in the Saxon, as at *Combe* in this county of Oxon., though the Church be now upon the hill, yet was the Church first built in the deep adjoining valley, at the east end of the water-mill, in a ground called *Bury Orchard*, where the foundations of buildings, and limits of the Churchyard are still visible, (in the time of *Kennett*.) from which place the materials were removed, and the present Church erected on the hill, A.D. 1395, which Church of *Cumbe* was given by *Maud the Empress*, to the monks of *Eynesham*, in this county ^p.

In digging a grave, May 17, 1823, were found some coins of *Queen Elizabeth's* reign, and a beautiful ring of pure gold, with a large ruby set on the top, weighing nearly a quarter of an ounce. It is in the possession of the *Rev. C. Rose*, then chaplain ^q.

^p *Kennett*, vol. i. p. 149.

^q *Skelton's Oxford*, p. 6.

STONESFIELD.

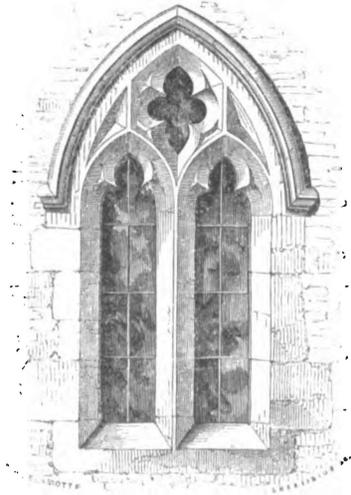
PATRON.
DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

St. James.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	25	0	by	14	0
Nave	23	4	by	20	0
South Aisle	24	0	by	7	11
North aisle of Nave, modern.					
N. aisle of Chancel	22	4	by	11	8
Tower	9	0	by	9	
Thickness of wall .	3	3			

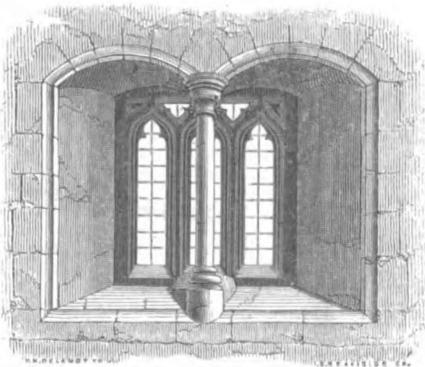
CHANCEL—The east window is Decorated, of three lights, good, with modern stained glass; on the south side are two good small Decorated windows, of two lights, with quatrefoils in the head, widely splayed within; one is of the regular Decorated form, the other has Perpendicular lines in the head, but is Decorated, and the labels of both are the same, consisting of a good Decorated roll-moulding, with short returns dying into the wall. There is a small piscina, with an ogee head, foliated. The Chancel-arch is Early English, pointed, trebly recessed, hollowed, with shafts in the jambs, two attached, the middle one detached; the caps ornamented with the stiff-leaf foliage.



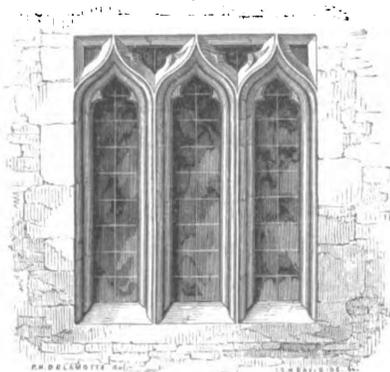
Window on the South side of the Chancel c. 1360.

The NAVE has on the south side two Early English arches, doubly recessed, pointed, chamfered, the central pillar massive, clustered, with plain moulded caps and bases; the western respond is the same; the eastern has the mouldings continued to the ground; the label is plain, chamfered, terminated by heads. The south aisle has two small Decorated windows, and a small trefoil-headed piscina. The north aisle is modern, the old arches having been cut away. The west window is a small oblong loop, widely splayed. The south door and porch are modern, and very bad. The roof of the south aisle is a plain lean-to, not original; the roofs of the nave and north aisle are concealed by a flat plaster ceiling;

the roof of the Chancel is also ceiled, but the high pitch is preserved. The pulpit is Elizabethan. There is a good piece of screen-work plastered up between the Chancel and aisle. The north aisle of the Chancel is Early English, now parted off as a school-room. The east window is a good triple lancet, with clustered shafts on the edges of the slips of wall which divide them, and are widely splayed; the caps and bases have good plain Early English mouldings. The north window is of three lights, Decorated, square-headed, with well-moulded mullions; on the inside, this window has two segmental arches on



North Window. Interior.



North Window. Exterior.

a detached Early English shaft; it has been a two-light Early English lancet window: the slip of wall cut away, and a Decorated Window inserted on the outside, but the inside preserved. The roof of this aisle or chapel is plain Perpendicular.

The tower-arch is Early English, with a square-headed trefoil door to the staircase. The walls are Early English, with late Perpendicular windows inserted, and a Perpendicular upper story added, with good windows and a battlement.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The most remarkable antiquity of this place is the Roman tessellated pavement, discovered in 1711 and 12; a description of which was published in 1713, by the Rev. John Pointer, chaplain of Merton College, who gives the following account of the discovery and situation. "On the 25th January 1711-12, as a country farmer, one George Hannes, was ploughing his land, his ploughshare happened to hit upon some foundation stones, amongst which he turned up an Urn, which made the farmer have the curiosity of searching further, whereupon he discovered a large and entire antient tessellated Roman pavement, 35 feet in length, and 20 in breadth, not above two feet under ground That part of the field where it was discovered is called Chest-hill-acre in some old leases of this land, being a rising ground about half a furlong from the old Roman Akeman street way, and about three furlongs off Stunsfield town." There is an engraving of the outlines of the chief figures in the pavement, as a frontispiece to Mr. Pointer's tract, which he concludes to be the youthful Bacchus, crowned with ivy, with his panther. Hearne has a long dissertation on this pavement, prefixed to the eighth volume of his edition of Leland's Itinerary; he imagines the figures to be Apollo, with his lyre in his hand, and a wild beast at his feet. [No remains of this are at present to be found, unless the Roman villa in the adjoining parish of Northleigh is that intended.]

In the time of Henry III., according to the Testa de Neville, the living of Stonesfield belonged to the king, and was valued at ij marcs.

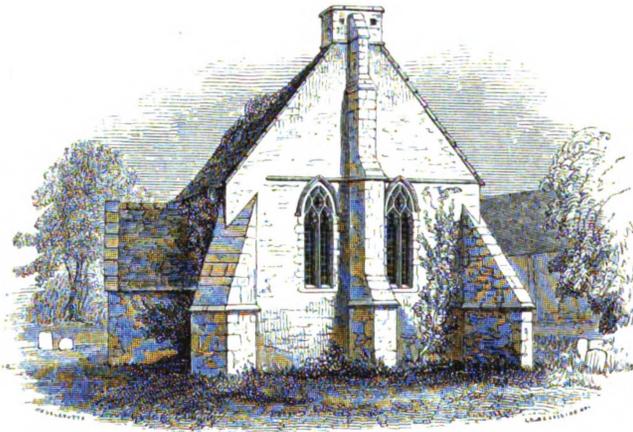
In the time of Henry VIII., according to the Valor Ecclesiasticus, it was a Rectory valued at *iiijl. xiii. viijd.*; Philip Aprice being then Rector. In 1731 it was in the patronage of the Duchess of Marlborough, and in 1771 of the Duke, being then valued at 40*l.* per annum. The present value, according to the returns to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, is £139.

WILCOTE.

PATRON.
MRS. PICKERING.

St. Peter.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.



West end of Wilcote Church

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	13	9	by	16	4
Nave	31	8	by	19	3
Porch	8	6	by	8	6

A SMALL Decorated Church or Chapel, without aisles or tower; it has had a bell-turret, or gable at the west end, which is now destroyed.

The CHANCEL is very wide, and the walls low, with a high gable; at the east end is a small Decorated window of three lights, with the heads foliated, and the spandrils pierced under one arch, obtuse, with the roll-moulding for a dripstone on the exterior; a plain string along the wall under the window; the walls are of rough stone, the dressings ashlar: in the interior this window

has a flat segmental arch with a deep hollow in the head. The south window is a small lancet, widely splayed through a very thick wall. The south door is small, with a flat trefoiled head. The Chancel-arch is small, pointed, doubly recessed, chamfered, springing from Decorated corbel-heads; one has the chin-cloth, the other the hair spread out and curled round in the style of Edward II.

The NAVE has at the west end, two Decorated windows of two lights, with a quatrefoil in the head, the eyes not open; the windows are of very good proportions, not much splayed, with a slight hollow in the head. The side windows, one only on each side, are of two lights, Decorated, with the eyes pierced on the sides of the quatrefoil. On the south side there has been a chapel, of which the arch remains; the window under it having been rebuilt. On the south side also is a Norman door, plain, with cushion caps and billets under the label: the north door is Decorated, with plain mouldings, two ogees, with an early label, almost Early English.

The Porch is quite plain, but original Decorated work, with stone benches: the exterior of the west end is very good, it has a buttress in the middle, and the base of a bell-turret, the upper part of which has been destroyed.

The Font is a modern marble basin and pillar, placed under the arch of the Norman door, which is blocked up. The pews are modern, partly open and partly plain enclosed; there is a raised place for singers, but no gallery. The roofs are concealed by coved ceilings, which, with the walls, are thoroughly whitewashed.

I.H.P.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The manor formerly belonged to the ancient family of Wilcotes; subsequently, to Sir William Pope, who was created a baronet by James I., by the style of Sir William Pope of Wilcot[†].

In the time of Henry VIII. the Rectory of Wyvelcote was valued in the Valor Ecclesiasticus at liijs. iiij*d*; John Leversage being then Rector. In 1682 the patronage belonged to John Cary, gent.; in 1733 to Richard Cary, Esq.; in 1761 and 1774 to Elizabeth Wellington, widow.

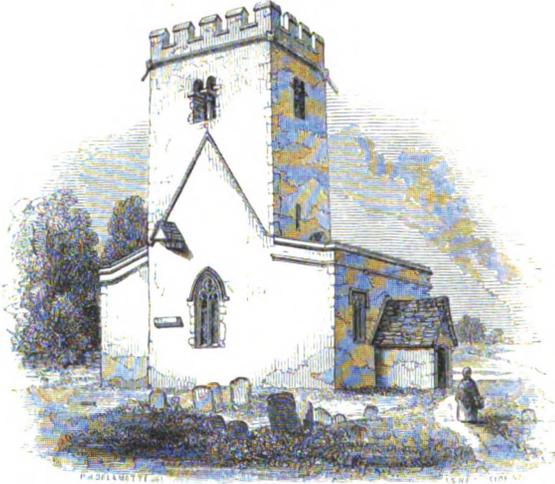
[†] Skelton's Oxford, Wootton Hundred, p. 6.

NORTHLEIGH.

PATRONAGE
OF
THE CROWN.

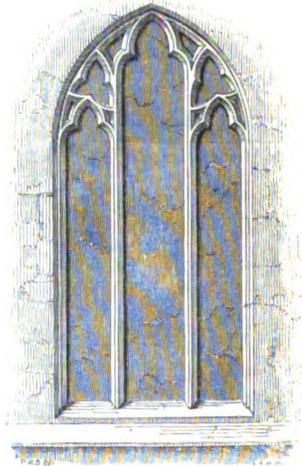
St. Mary.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.



A MIXED Church with two aisles and two chapels, and a tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL is modernized in the Italian style, with an Altar-screen painted and gilt. The east window is good Decorated, but entirely concealed by this modern work; two good Decorated shafts of the old Chancel-arch are preserved, but the Chancel is now extended further westward, and parted from the nave by a Grecian wooden screen; it has early ridge tiles, and a good Decorated cross on the east gable.

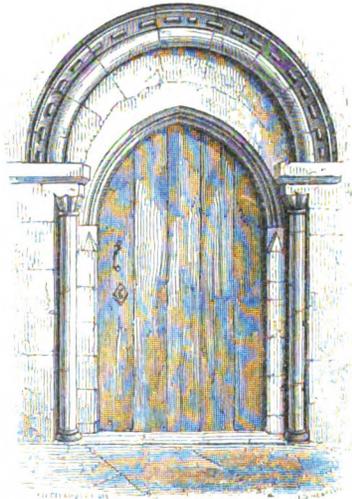


East Window

The NAVE has two transition Norman pointed arches on each side, the edges merely chamfered off; the two central pillars are round, with Norman caps and bases, but the responds are quite plain.

The old Norman Font, with a square basin, is in the Church-yard, on the west side of the porch, serving as a *water-butt*. The present font is of wood, square and panelled, with a Grecian cover, under which is a marble mortar, and inside of that a blue and white basin.

The south aisle has Perpendicular square-headed windows, one with good tracery, the others plain: the south door is good Norman, with a bold round bead, and the billet-moulding, and shafts with Norman caps and bases; under this round arch is a Perpendicular arch, with the ogee and hollow mouldings, and reversed chamfer terminations in the place of imposts; the jambs plain and square edged.

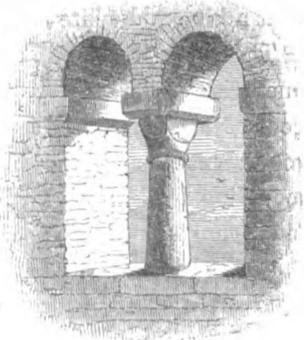


South Door.

The north aisle has a plain Perpendicular door, and a modern chapel of rich Italian work added on the north side, filled with monuments of the Perrot family; at the east end of the north aisle is a very rich Perpendicular chapel, with a fan-tracery vault; the windows late Perpendicular, with considerable remains of stained glass: there is a small Perpendicular piscina marking the situation of the Altar. On the south side of this chapel, under the arch, between it and the Chancel, is a very fine Perpendicular tomb, with two recumbent figures in alabaster, a knight in armour, with the collar of S.S.S.; the lady with a rich turban and reticulated head-dress, and also with the collar of S.S.S., &c.; the canopy over the tomb is a fine Perpendicular ogee, with bold crockets, pinnacles, and finial; the weepers are destroyed, but the niches remain, though mutilated; the figures are Lord and Lady Wilcot. Attached to this monument are two small figures of Angels, holding shields of arms; on one is

a spread eagle, on the other three cockle-shells, with an en-grailed band.

The TOWER has very massive walls of rubble, and seems of early character, with arches pierced through the walls under it at a subsequent period; there is some long and short work, but concealed by rough-cast; the western arch is fine Early English, richly moulded; the side arches are plain, many times recessed; the west window under the tower is Decorated, of two lights; on the first floor the windows are plain Norman loops; the belfry windows



Belfry Window.

are Norman, of two lights, with a balustre, supporting a long stone through the wall, corresponding with the impost; the arches are of rough stone. This tower is by some supposed to be Saxon, but appears to agree with other Norman work. The roof is modern, and there is a Perpendicular battlement: the tower contains four bells, and on each side of the tower is a small penthouse, as if for a bell, but long disused. On the east side of the tower are the weather-mouldings of the original high-pitched roof, and on the west side the same, shewing that the Church must formerly have extended further in that direction; the impost of a Norman arch in the wall also shews that this western part had an aisle.

I.H.P.



Cross on the East Garden.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Domesday survey, Lege, or Northleigh, formed part of the grant of Roger de Iveri ^a.

In 1149 we find Northleya mentioned as part of the barony of Hokenorton, transferred by Robert de Oiley to Oseney ^t.

A.D. 1227. 11 and 12 Henry III. Robert earl of Dreux in right of his wife baron of S. Walery, and lord of the manor of Ambrosden, presented to the church of North Leigh com. Oxon ^u.

A.D. 1277. 5, 6. Edw. I. Ricardus Linc. ep'us religiosus viris abb'i et conv. de Hegles, ord. Cisterc. salut. Cum nobilis vir d'n's Edmundus com. Cornub. cujus predecessores domum vestram fundaverunt et bonis propriis dotaverunt divine pietatis intuitu numerum monachorum ad augmentum divini cultus augeri desiderans in eadem nobis humilime supplicaverit ut de Hamelhamstede et de Northle n're dioc. eccl'ias cum capellis de Bovendone et Slaverdene dicte eccl'ie de Hamelhamstede spectantibus, quarum advocaciones vobis liberaliter concessit ut adjectione decem monachorum vestri conventus sacer numerus amplietur, domui v're appropriare curaremus—prescriptas eccl'ias vobis et succ. v'ris in pios et proprios usus—concedimus—salvis archid'o Hunt. 5. sol. annuis pro eccl'ia de Hemelhamstede et archid'o Oxon. 4. sol. ann. de eccl'ia de Northle—pro recompensatione juris sequestri sui in eisdem. dat. 7 kal. Mart. 1277. pont. 20^x.

Joh. Linc. ep'us confirmat 6. id. Jun. 1303. Ordinatio vic. de Northle sequitur. Reg. Dalderby.

Mr. Price, of the Bodleian Library, had a very ancient seal in brass, one inch broad, inscribed Sigillū Thome de Wylcote Armigeri, with his arms, viz., an eagle with wings, which had long been preserved at Wilcotehouse. The same coat occurs in the neighbouring Church of Northleigh, where is a beautiful chantry Chapel belonging to the family, containing an Altar-tomb highly embellished. Both Chapel and tomb appear to have been executed about the reign of Henry VI.⁷

There is a plate of "The Wilcotes' Effigies" in this Church, in Skelton's Oxfordshire.

^a Kennett, vol. i. p. 91.

p. 284.

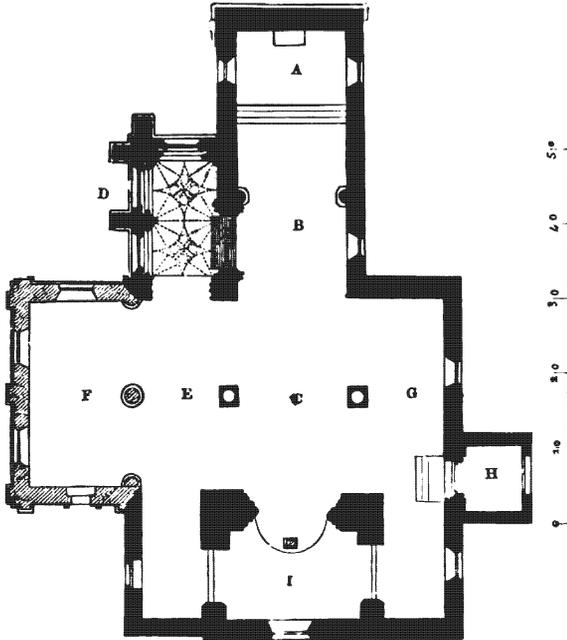
^t Kennett, vol. i. p. 142.

^x Kennett, vol. i. p. 408.

^u Ex. Regist. Linc. ap. Kennett, vol. i.

⁷ Warton's History of Kiddington, p. 38.

THE PLAN.



	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
A. Altar Platform.					
B. Chancel	36	0	by	14	9
C. Nave	24	2	by	15	6
D. Wilcote Chapel.	18	10	by	8	3
E. North Aisle	24	2	by	8	6
F. Perrot Chapel	23	11	by	15	7
G. South Aisle	25	5	by	10	3
H. South Porch	8	8	by	7	4
I. Tower	18	0	by	12	6

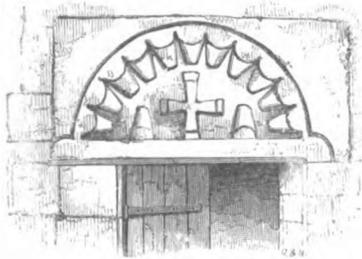
SOUTHLEIGH.

A CHAPEL ANNEXED TO STANTON HARCOURT VICARAGE.

PATRON.
BISHOP OF OXFORD.

St. James.

DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.



Head of the Chancel door.

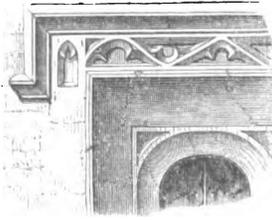
A NEAT Perpendicular Church, with some portions of early work in the Chancel; an aisle on the north side only, and a tower at the west end.

The CHANCEL walls are transition Norman, and one window of that character remains on the north side of the Altar; there are also Norman strings on all the walls; a transition Norman piscina on a column, and plain brackets for the Altar. The east and south windows are late Perpendicular insertions; there is a small door on the south side, over which are some singular Norman ornaments, cut on the face of the stone. The south window is Perpendicular, of three lights, the heads not foliated, with a square dripstone, under



Piscina.

which is a curious and rich piece of work, resembling a Decorated parapet of wavy lines, foliated; it seems probable that this window is imitation Gothic, of the time of James I. The Altar platform is raised two steps: on the



Head of South Window in Chancel.

north side there is a Perpendicular arch opening into an aisle. The Chancel-arch is Early English, plain, pointed, with moulded imposts. The staircase to the rood-loft remains.

The north aisle of the Chancel is Perpendicular; the east window of three lights, pointed; the north window square-headed, of three lights, cinquefoiled, with fragments of stained glass, consisting of stars, in the cusps; there are also some fragments of stained glass in the east window of the Chancel, and a Perpendicular screen across the entrance to both the Chancel and the aisle; over it is an Italian cornice, put on in 1710, and the arms of Queen Anne stuck up in the arch. The Chancel was ceiled at the same date. A poors'-box still remains near the font, with two locks.



Head of a light in the N. Window.

The NAVE has on the north side three good Perpendicular arches, recessed, with deep hollow and ogee mouldings, and shafts, with octagon caps and cases. There are two south windows, Perpendicular, of three lights; one has the tracery cut out. The south door and porch are good plain Perpendicular; the doorway has hollow mouldings, and the dripstone is terminated by heads; the door is of old oak, with Perpendicular hinges and iron-work, and a large wooden lock, with a curious key; the porch has a plain open timber roof, with the cornice moulded and embattled. In the porch are the remains of a niche or stoup for holy water.

The north aisle has three good Perpendicular square-headed windows; the east window pointed, Perpendicular, of three lights.

The roof is original Perpendicular work, a lean-to, with moulded beams, and good corbel-heads. On the south side of the nave is a good Perpendicular bracket. The roof of the nave is flat, put on in 1812.

The FONT is good Perpendicular, panelled, with two steps; it stands under the middle arch, opposite the south door. The seats are partly good old oak, and open, and partly modern enclosed deal pews.

The TOWER is Perpendicular, the arch plain, pointed, and recessed, with the edges chamfered, the chamfers continued to the ground, without shafts or bases: it is open to the Church, and has a very good effect: the tower contains three bells and a sanctus, and is surmounted by a battlement, with good Perpendicular cornice, and gurgoyles at the angles; there is a square stair-turret on the north side; the side walls have also Perpendicular battlements and cornices: there is a cross on the east gable of the Chancel.

The old manor-house, near the Church, has a good Perpendicular fire-place, some oak panelling, with good mouldings, and barge-boards to the porch. On the green, near the Church-yard, the remains of a cross are still visible, consisting of three steps.

John Wesley preached his first sermon in this Church. His friend, John Gambold, was the Vicar of Stanton Harcourt. The Wesleyans of the present day make frequent visits to the spot which was the first scene of his multifarious labours.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In the Domesday survey, Lege, or South Leigh, formed part of the grant of Roger de Iveri^a.

A.D. 1147. 12 and 13, King Stephen. The Chaple of South Leigh, in com. Oxon., was granted by Richard de Camvil, to the abbey of Rading^a.

^a Kennett, vol. i. p. 91.

^a Cartular. Abbat. de Radinges MS. b. 169. ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 140.

STANTON HARCOURT.

PATRON,
THE BISHOP OF OXFORD.

St. Michael.

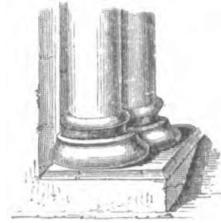
DEANERY
OF WOODSTOCK.
HUNDRED
OF WOOTTON.



	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	44	0	by	18	3
Harcourt Chapel	27	9	by	15	6
North Transept	24	0	by	20	0
Tower	17	0	by	16	3
South Transept	24	0	by	20	0
Nave	48	0	by	23	0
Porch	9	8	by	7	9

THIS Church is cruciform in plan, the Nave is of the twelfth century, the Chancel and transepts, with the tower-arches, of the thirteenth, but the upper part of the tower added in the fifteenth, and the Harcourt chapel, or aisle, attached to the south side of the Chancel, about the same period. The walls are of rubble or rag-work, with quoins of ashlar.

The CHANCEL is a good specimen of the style of Henry III., with a fine triple lancet window at the east end; this is united within into a single window of three lights, with triple shafts on the edges, connecting the splays; the window-arches, the capitals and bases of the shafts are boldly and well moulded; the two central caps are ornamented with foliage: on the outside the three lancet lights are detached, the centre one being the highest; the dripstones are, however, connected and continued along the wall as strings, arranged something like corbie steps; there are small original buttresses at the angles, reaching only up to the lower string beneath the windows; larger and higher ones have, however, been found necessary and added at a later period: the wall having been much cracked and the arches of the two side windows having given way.



Window-shaft in the Chancel

On the north side there are six lancet windows divided into two very elegant triplets, but one of the lights is blocked up to receive a monument; on the exterior the two triplets are very distinct, though the lancets, as at the east end, are united in the inside only; there is a small round-headed Early English door on this side, now blocked up. On the south side one of the triplets also remains perfect, the other has been destroyed in the fifteenth century to make room for two Perpendicular arches opening into the Harcourt chapel, but now closed with a plastered partition. The strings along the walls, both inside and out, are good and bold Early English mouldings. Under the window, on the south side of the Altar, is a very elegant Early English piscina, with a stone shelf, and a shaft from the ground to carry

the basin : there are two small brasses on the floor, near the steps to the Altar.

On the north side of the Altar is a small monument, about four feet long, by two wide, with a tall and very rich Decorated canopy over it, on the cornice of which are shields, with the arms of several noble families^b: much of the original colouring remains on this canopy. On the Altar-tomb itself are the emblems of the Crucifixion, and five shields, which are now blank : three of these are carried by figures with scales, or feathers, having small crosses on their heads, and the hair dressed in the fashion of Edward I. This structure is supposed to have been used for the Easter sepulchre, and it is stated in the Gentleman's Magazine (1841) that there are other examples in Germany of the same form. There has evidently been some alteration here, and there are remains of some previous structure in the wall. Westward of this, under an obtuse arch in the wall, is the monument of Maud, daughter of John Lord Grey, of Rotherfield, by his second wife Avice, daughter of Lord Marmion, and wife of Sir Thomas de Harcourt, deceased 17th Richard II. In the westernmost window on this side are remains of the original stained glass, of the thirteenth century. The roof of the Chancel retains its original high pitch externally, but within it is concealed by a plaster ceiling.

The Chancel-arch is good Early English, pointed and recessed, the edges chamfered off ; with shafts, having small fillets on the face, and well-moulded caps and bases ; and a bold roll-moulding for the label.

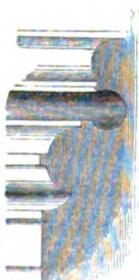
The rood-screen is perfect, and original oak-work, of the same age with the arch, the mouldings corresponding exactly with the stone-work ; the lock is also original, and worthy of notice. This is the earliest wooden rood-screen that has yet been noticed in England.

The other tower-arches are similar to the Chancel-arch ; their points are, however, cut off by a plaster ceiling : the first story of the tower is of the same age, and the approach to it is by a

^b See a further account of this in the Historical Notices.



ROOD-SCREEN.



BASE OF SHAFTS.



CAPITAL OF SHAFTS.



ARCH.

very elegant stair-turret in the angle of the Chancel and north transept: this has its original pyramidal roof and finial, and is an excellent model for imitation. The original door into it remains in the inside; the present door is external, and was made in 1789. The upper story of the tower is an addition of the fifteenth century, with a battlemented parapet; it contains five bells.

The north transept retains its lancet windows on the sides, with two moulded arches, supported by good shafts, four good heads as brackets, a piscina, and the platforms of two Altars on the east side; the north window is an insertion of the fifteenth century, but the string is perfect on the outside; that on the inside has been almost destroyed, but the remains of it, with those on the side walls, are good Early English, and there is a small acutely pointed door of the same period at the north-west corner, which, from immemorial custom, is used by the men only; the wooden door has Early English iron hinges, with scroll-work, but rather plain for that period; it has a stoup just within it: the roof is plain Perpendicular, of low pitch, but open; in this transept there are some early seats, with poppies of the fleur-de-lis form.

The south transept has two lancet windows on the west side, and one Early English arch on the east side, the other having been removed when the Harcourt chapel was added, and a Perpendicular arch opening into it was made through this wall. The south window is Perpendicular, and the roof plain open timber, of low pitch: the strings are Early English, and there is a small door, similar to that in the north transept, but blocked up.

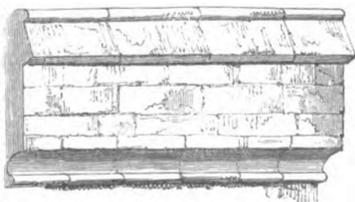
The Nave is Norman, and has still the two original doorways, north and south; these are simple, having semicircular arches, with a sort of rude zig-zag moulding, and attached shafts with bold capitals. By the side of the north door is a small Norman stoup; this door is used by the women only; the south door is not used, but the old wooden door remains and has Early English iron hinges, with scrolls; there are also four small

Norman windows, single lights, deeply sunk in the wall on the outside, with a bold round moulding continuous round the head and down the jambs, without capitals, and there are no labels. The west window is Perpendicular.

On the north side, close to the tower-arch, is a small low Perpendicular window, under a recessed Early English arch, in which there appears to have been another Altar. The dripstone of this window is ornamented with a four-leaved flower. On the south side of the Nave are two Early English brackets, and on each side of the arch are two others. There is a plain porch of wood and plaster over the north door.

The Font is good Perpendicular, tall octagon, panelled, with buttresses at the angles, with the Tudor ornaments, and the emblems of the Crucifixion on one of the panels, IHC on another, and the arms of Byron on another^c. This Font was carefully restored in 1833, but the original ornaments with their painting were preserved and placed on a tablet under the west window.

The Pulpit is plain; the seats in the Nave are good specimens of the old style, with solid square ends and moulded rails. The roof of the nave is very good open timber of the latter part of the fourteenth century, with tie-beams and king-posts, and springers to support the tie-beams, resting on good corbel-heads, the spandrels filled with open tracery: there are two struts on each side of the king-post to the rafters; these and the principals are engrailed: it is altogether a fine example of an open timber roof. The parapet is plain, of the same age as the roof.



Parapet of the Nave.

The Harcourt aisle is rich but late Perpendicular work, with an open quatrefoil parapet, and square-topped pinnacles; it was erected in the time of Henry VII., when the mansion adjoining was built, and it is filled with monuments of the

^c See Historical Notices.

Harcourt family extending from that period down to the present time. Near the east end there is an elegant Perpendicular piscina.

In the Church-yard there is the base of a cross.

The remains of the mansion of the Harcourts are highly interesting; the description of them by Simon, Lord Harcourt, which follows, is so full and satisfactory that it is only necessary here to refer to it. The recent publication by our Society of a complete set of drawings of this Church by Mr. Derick, also renders it unnecessary to repeat them here.

EXTRACTS FROM "AN ACCOUNT OF THE CHURCH AND REMAINS OF THE MANOR HOUSE OF STANTON HARCOURT IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORD." BY GEORGE SIMON EARL HARCOURT. NUNEHAM-COURTENAY, Nov. 1, 1808.

The manor of Stanton Harcourt has continued six hundred years in the Harcourt family. Queen Adeliza, daughter of Godfrey, first duke of Brabant, and second wife to king Henry I., granted the manor of Stanton to her kinswoman, Milicent, wife of Richard de Camvil, whose daughter Isabel married Robert [Richard^d?] de Harcourt; and from the time of that marriage it assumed the name of Stanton Harcourt.

The said Robert was sheriff of Leicester and Warwickshire in the years 1199, 1201, 1202, and the above-mentioned grant was afterwards confirmed to her and her heirs by king Stephen and king Henry II.*

In the Chancel, on the north side of the Altar, is a small but beautiful altar-tomb, with a rich canopy over it, which the arms carved and emblazoned upon it prove to have been erected to commemorate some person of the ancient family of Blount^f. [Camvil?]

^d Isabella filia Ricardi de Camvill uxor Ric. Harecourt de Bosworth in Com. Leic. & R. I.—Dugd. Bar., vol. i. p. 628.

* It was held of the crown by military service for some particular customs, for which see Lord Harcourt's Account, pp. 5, 6, and Rot. Hund. Oxon. 4th Ed. I.

pp. 34, 46, and p. 856.

^f Wood describes this monument as that of Isabel, daughter and heiress of Richard de Camville before mentioned; and has preserved sketches of the shields as they remained in 1622, which have all been ascertained, excepting one: these

On the south side of the Chancel is a large plain altar-tomb, without any inscription, but with the impression of a cross still remaining upon it; the brass has been torn away. [It is of the fourteenth century; the end that is visible is richly panelled; but it is almost concealed by the partition, as it stands under the eastern arch between the chancel and the Harcourt aisle.]

The ancient monument, under an arch in the south wall of the Chancel, is that of Maud, daughter of John lord Grey, of Rotherfield, by his second wife Avice, daughter and co-heiress of John lord Marmion, (which Maud, with her two brothers, assumed the name and arms of Marmion,) wife of Sir Thomas de Harcourt, son of Sir William and of Johanna, daughter of Richard lord Grey of Codnor; she died in the seventeenth year of Richard II. She has the reticulated head-dress, with a narrow gold binding across the forehead, a scarlet mantle, lined with ermine, and a deep cape of the same, scolloped at the edge, on either side of which are two small gold tassels, a broad band of ermine, with a narrow gold binding across the breasts; the upper part of the sleeves of the same; the lower part light blue and reaching to the knuckles, like mittens. On the surcoat the arms of Harcourt impaled with those of Grey. Those parts both of the arms and of the dress which are blue, are damasked: at her feet a small dog. On the front of the monument four shields with the following arms: namely, Harcourt; Harcourt impaling Grey; Grey; Marmion.

On a brass in the pavement is the figure of a priest in his vestments, in memory of Sir Henry Dodschone, vicar of the parish.

seem to shew that Lord Harcourt was wrong in ascribing it to one of the Blount family, and it seems probable that this monument may have been erected to her memory, though not until long after her death, as the monument itself is clearly of the time of Edward I. The extensive connections of the family may account

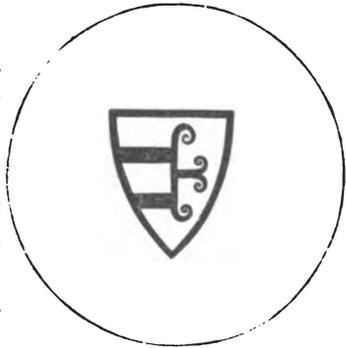
for the number of shields of arms upon it. This is not inconsistent with the idea of its having been used for the Easter sepulchre also, as it was a common practice to use actual tombs for that purpose, and was considered a very high honour.

“These armes on the Monument of the daughter and heire of Camville.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Camvile. | 5. Hovenden. | 9. Bohun. | 13. Earl of Gloster. |
| 2. Harcourt. | 6. Lovell. | 10. Brotherton. | 14. Percy. |
| 3. Harcourt impaling Camvile. | 7. Lovell, with bend for difference. | 11. Estotevil. | 15. E. Warren. |
| 4. Marmion. | 8. | 12. England. | 16. Lo. Dacrea.” |

Wood's MS. E. 1. f. 36. c. 1622.

In the north transept, on a small round blue marble, inserted in the pavement, is a brass which is worthy of notice from the manner in which the arms of Beke are united with those of Harcourt. Sir Richard de Harcourt, son of William and Hilaria, daughter of Henry lord Hastings, married Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of John lord Beke of Erealy, which said lord devised by his will, made twenty-ninth of Edward I., the remainder of his arms to be divided between Sir Robert de Willoughby and Sir John de Harcourt; and the above-mentioned stone is probably in memory of Sir John, son of Sir Richard Harcourt and Margaret Beke; he died 1330. [This brass is curious also from its consisting only of the outline of the shield and arms let into the marble in thick lines, and not a brass plate engraved.]



In the south transept is an altar-tomb, the monument of Sir Simon Harcourt, son of Sir Christopher and Johanna, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Miles Stapleton. He was knighted in the twenty-first year of Henry VII., and married Agnes, daughter of Thomas Darrell; he died 1547. At the head of the tomb the arms of Harcourt, and on either side three shields, with the following arms: Harcourt and Darrell; Harcourt and Stapleton; Harcourt; Harcourt and Darrell; Harcourt and St. Clair; Darrell.

THE FONT is octagonal; on the front is a cross, with letters in the Gothic character on either side of it. In each of the compartments are spread quatrefoils, except that on which there is a cross: within two of the large quatrefoils are two smaller, and more enriched; within the two others, a rose; and the remaining three contain shields, with the following arms: Byron; Francis impaling Harcourt; Harcourt. By a strange error, to have been committed in an age when the science of Heraldry was held in high estimation, the arms of Francis are placed on the dexter instead of the sinister side. Sir Thomas Harcourt, who died in 1460, married Joan, daughter of Sir Robert Francis; but no female of the former family married into the latter. It is probable from the style of the ornaments carved upon the Font, and from the arms of Byron being placed upon it, that it was erected by Sir Robert Harcourt, who married Margaret Byron, and was son of Sir Thomas, [and died in 1471.]

THE HARCOURT CHAPEL. Under the east window, where the Altar formerly stood, is a large monument of marble and alabaster, gilded, to the memory of Sir Philip Harcourt [who died in 1688], and his first wife Anne, daughter of Sir William Waller, the parliament general, by the lady Anne Finch, daughter of Thomas, first earl of Winchelsea. It consists of a pediment supported by two columns of black marble of the Corinthian order: at the top the crest of Harcourt, and on either side two boy angels holding a drapery, in the centre of which are the arms of Harcourt impaling Waller: below the cornice are two oval niches, containing the busts of Sir Philip and his wife, and under them two tablets on which are inscriptions in Latin to their memory.

The monument on the south side is that of Sir Robert Harcourt, son of Sir Thomas and Joan, daughter of Sir Robert Francis, and his wife Margaret, daughter of Sir John Byron, and widow of Sir William Atherton. Sir Robert was sheriff of Leicester and Warwickshire in 1445, governor of Vernon, &c., in Normandy, 1446, and elected High Steward of the University of Oxford the same year; knight of the garter in the third year of Edward IV.; commissioner with the earl of Warwick and others for the treaty between England and France in the year 1467; slain by the Staffords of the Lancastrian party 1471. He is represented in his hair, a gorget of mail, and plated armour strapped at the elbows and wrists; a large hilted sword on the left, and a dagger on the right; belt charged with oak leaves, and hands bare, and a kind of ruffle turned back at the wrists; shoes of scaled armour; order of the garter on the left leg, and over all the mantle of the order, with a rich cape and cordon; his head reclined on a helmet, with his crest, a peacock; at his feet a lion. His lady is in the veiled head-dress falling back; has a mantle and surcoat, and cordon; long sleeves, fastened in a singular manner at the wrists, and the garter, with the motto in embossed letters, above the elbow of the left arm, emblazoned upon it; her feet partly wrapped up in her mantle. On the front, four spread six foils, containing shields with the following arms: Harcourt impaling Byron twice, and twice Marmion; which Maud Grey, his grandmother, bore in right of her mother, heiress of the Marmions. At the head of the monument two shields; on one, Harcourt and Byron encircled with the garter; on the other, Harcourt single. The figure of this lady is extremely curious, from her being represented with the garter, and is one of the only three known examples of female sepulchral effigies having been decorated with the insignia of that order. According to Mr. Ashmole, Constance, daughter of John Holland, duke of Exeter,

first married to Thomas Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, and secondly to Sir John Grey, knight of the garter, and earl of Tankerville in Normandy, was thus represented on her tomb. The other similar example is the effigy of Alice, daughter of Thomas Chaucer, wife of William de la Pole, duke of Suffolk, on her beautiful monument at Ewelme, in the county of Oxford, still in perfect preservation, but on the last-named figure the garter is worn above the wrist, and has no motto. Of the three above-mentioned monuments, fine and accurate engravings have been given in Mr. Gough's magnificent and instructive work on the Funeral Monuments of Great Britain. [And of the one in the Harcourt Chapel a separate engraving was published by R. Wilkinson in 1813.]

Opposite the monument of Sir Robert Harcourt and his lady, is that of Sir Robert his grandson, son of Sir John and Anne, daughter of Sir John Norris. He was standard-bearer to king Henry VII. at the battle of Bosworth; knight of the Bath, 1495; knight banneret, 1497. On the front of the tomb are four monks in black, holding their beads, and two angels holding each a shield; at the head a red rose, the cognizance of the house of Lancaster. He is in his hair, plated armour, gorget of mail, collar of S.S., a large hilted sword, hands bare: his head reclines on a helmet, with the crest, a peacock on a ducal coronet.

On a stone in the pavement are the figures of two men engraved in brass, and two shields; on the one, Harcourt impaling Atherton; on the other, on the sinister side, the arms of Atherton only, the impalement on the dexter having been torn off. Underneath are inscribed the names of Thomas Harcourt, who died the third of February, 1460; and of Nicholas Atherton, who died the twenty-sixth of October, 1454. And under them the figures of three children, George Harcourt, Alys Harcourt, Isabel Harcourt. Thomas Harcourt was third son of Sir Robert and Margaret Byron, and it appears from the arms of Atherton being impaled with his, that he married one of that family.

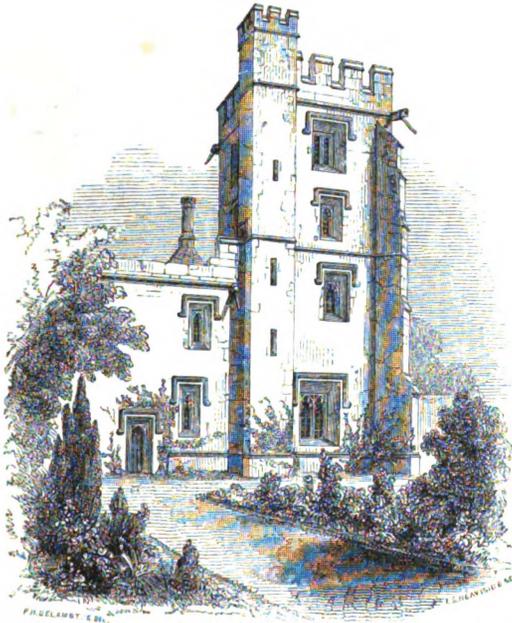
On one side of the Chapel is a large mural monument of marble, ornamented with flowers, to the memory of Simon, only son of Simon, first viscount Harcourt, on which is an inscription in Latin, composed by Dr. Friend; and below it the well known lines by Mr. Pope, which however differ in some respects from those published in his works. Near the head of the monument of Sir Robert Harcourt and Margaret Byron [is a good Perpendicular piscina with ogee canopy, pinnacles, crockets, and finial.]

This Church, besides its several ancient and curious monuments, is distinguished by two epitaphs by Mr. Pope, and one by Mr. Congreve,

viz., that inscribed on a tablet on the outside of the south wall, to the memory of the lovers killed by lightning; that on the monument of the Hon. Simon Harcourt; and that on Robert Huntingdon and his son, Esqrs., by the last.

THE MANOR HOUSE.

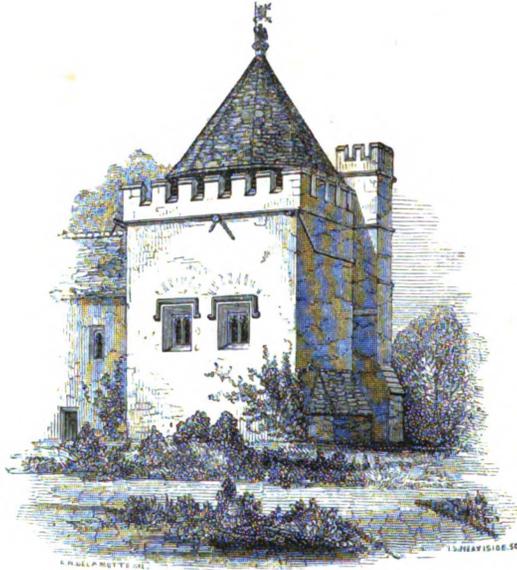
THE PORTER'S LODGE. The front of which towards the road remains in its original unaltered form. The arms on either side of the gate, in both fronts, Harcourt impaling Darrell, shew that it was erected by Sir Simon, who died 1547.



Pope's Tower, &c.

THE HOUSE. The principal apartments, the great hall, the great and little parlour, the Queen's chamber, (so named from its having been occupied by Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, when she made a visit there,) with other chambers, filled the space between the domestic chapel and the kitchen, and remained entire [until near the end of the last century.] Some upper rooms in the small remaining part of the house, adjoining the kitchen, and now occupied by a farmer, are nearly in their original state, and bear evident marks of antiquity. [In one of these rooms there is a plain stone fire-place, with a four-centred arch, and a good chimney of the fifteenth century.] But the time when they were erected is not

known, nor the date of that curious and remarkable building, the kitchen, [the whole, however, appears to have been built about the reign of Edward IV.]

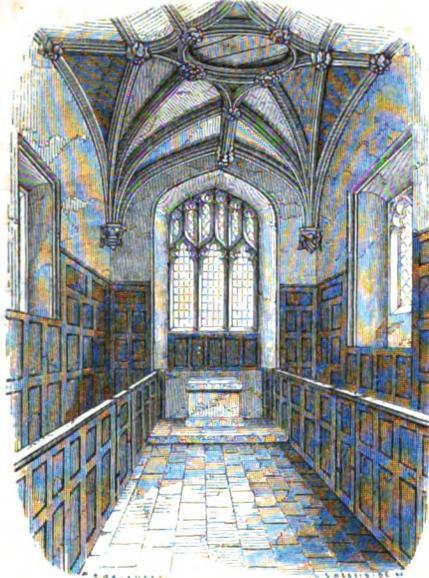


THE KITCHEN. In its form and general appearance it bears much resemblance to the abbot's kitchen at Glastonbury; and yet it differs considerably from the latter, which is an octagon, inclosed within a square, with four chimneys in the angles; whereas the lower part of this building is square, both inside and outside; [the upper part is octagonal, with squinches across the angles.] Moreover it is larger and much more lofty, and has no chimney; a winding staircase in a turret leads to a passage round the battlement; and beneath the eaves of the roof, which is octagonal, are shutters, to give vent to the smoke, according to the quarter from whence the wind blows. The height of the walls to the bottom of the roof, which in the centre rises twenty-five feet more, is thirty-nine feet: and the griffin on the point of the cone is eight feet. The turret that contains the steps is square, and rises nine feet above the other walls, which are three feet thick, and measure on the outside, from east to west, thirty-three feet, and from north to south thirty-one feet.



The abbot's kitchen at Glastonbury is said to have been erected so late as in the reign of Henry VIII.

THE DOMESTIC CHAPEL, with a chamber over a part of it, and the tower, containing three chambers, one above the other, each thirteen feet square,



The Domestic Chapel.

remains in good repair, and the uppermost retains the name of Pope's study: the pane of red stained glass, upon which he wrote the following inscription, having been taken out of a casement in this chamber, and preserved as a valuable relique at Nuneham Courtenay. "In the year 1718, Alexander Pope finished here the fifth volume of Homer." That great poet passed a part of two summers at Stanton Harcourt for the sake of retirement, where he was occasionally visited by Mr. Gay, from the neighbouring seat of lord Harcourt, at Cockthorp. And the former has recorded the story of the lovers, who were killed by lightning, in a letter dated from the place where that event occurred. The height of the tower is fifty-four feet six inches, and the turret that contains the steps is raised two feet nine inches higher. The part immediately under the tower, where the Altar stands, is twelve feet square, and fifteen feet ten inches high in the centre. Below the springing of the arch on one side are the arms of Harcourt emblazoned on a shield, on the other those of Byron. [This part is vaulted with fan tracery, and a small circular

opening in the centre; the ribs spring from good corbels in the angles. The arch between this and the outer Chapel is good Perpendicular, four-centred, with a square head over it, retaining much of the ancient red and blue colouring.] The outer part of the Chapel has a flat wooden ceiling, composed of squares with red and yellow mouldings, and a blue ground, with gilded stars in the middle of each compartment. It is 17 feet 5 inches by 14 feet 8 inches wide, and 11 feet 8 inches high. From the arms of Harcourt and of Byron being placed where they are, it may be conjectured that the tower was erected by Sir Robert in the reign of Edward IV. The house was never inhabited by any of the family since the death of Sir Philip, an. 1688, when his widow, who had been his second wife, and on whom the estate was settled in jointure, disposed of the furniture by sale, and suffered the buildings, from neglect of the necessary repairs, to fall into decay, and they were afterwards demolished by the late earl. The description given by Mr. Pope of this once large and curious mansion, in a letter written from thence to the duke of Buckingham, although it be ludicrous and witty, is in almost every particular very incorrect; the situation of the several buildings being exactly the reverse of that in which they really stood, as is demonstrated by a still existing plan.

At a short distance from the village are three large monumental stones known by the name of the devil's coits; these stones Mr. Thomas Warton, in his account of Kiddington, conjectures were erected to commemorate an engagement fought near Bampton in the year 614, between the British and Saxons, when the Saxon princes, Cynegil and Cwhicelon, slew more than two thousand Britons. The adjacent barrow has been destroyed. [The stones are of the sandstone of the country with red veins interspersed.]

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp. Henry VIII., Stanton Harcourt is described as a vicarage belonging to the Abbot and Convent of Reading. John Pereson being then Vicar, and the value of the Vicarage was xvij. xij*s*. iiij*d*. In Bacon's Liber Regis, 1786, it is valued at £34, and in the returns to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1831, at £136.

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