

With W. Parker's Comp.

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(3)

A GUIDE

TO THE

ARCHITECTURAL ANTIQUITIES

IN THE

NEIGHBOURHOOD OF OXFORD.

PART III.

Deanery of Cuddesden.

RIDE I.

PUBLISHED FOR THE OXFORD SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE STUDY OF
GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE.

OXFORD,

JOHN HENRY PARKER:

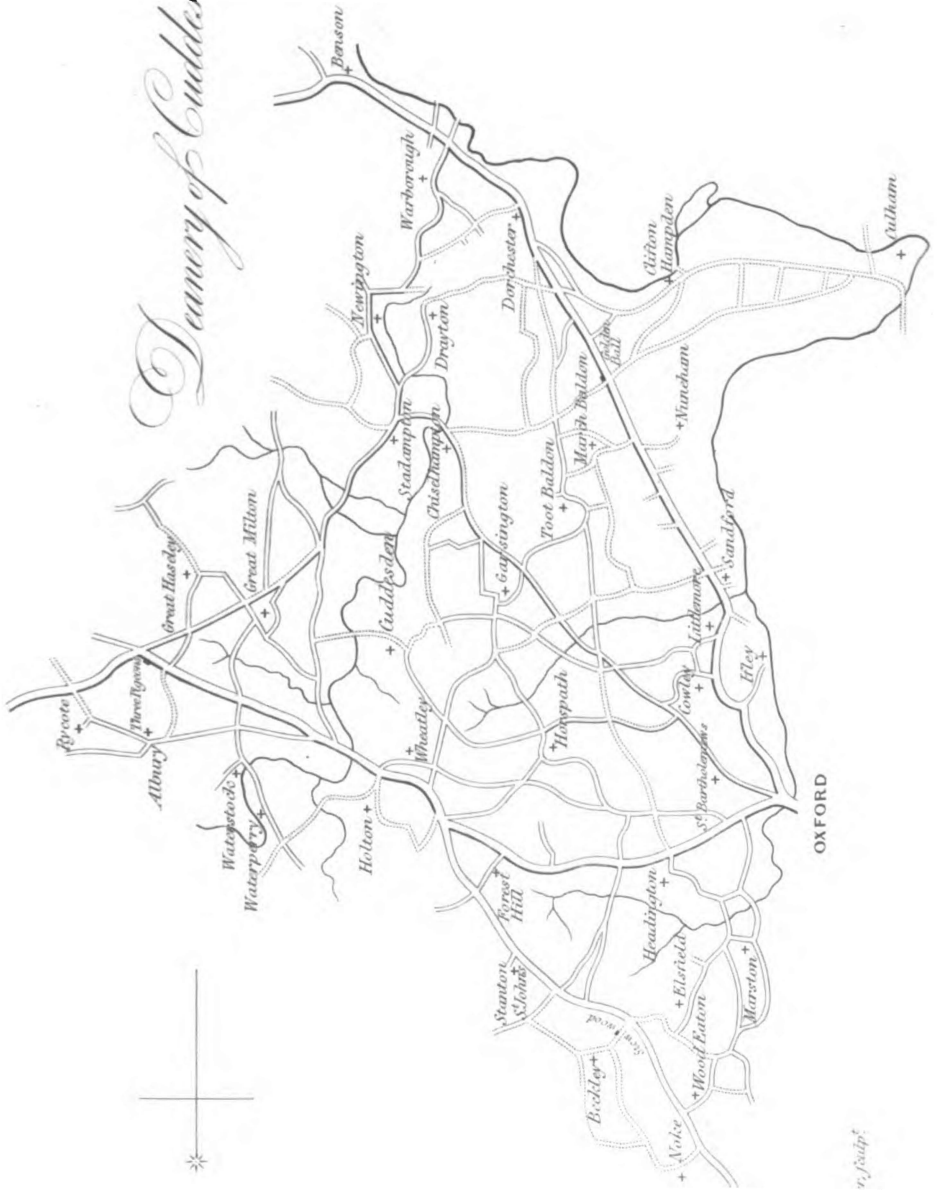
RIVINGTONS, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD AND WATERLOO-PLACE;

G. BELL, 186, FLEET STREET, LONDON:

STEVENSON, CAMBRIDGE.

MDCCCXLV.

Sanery of Cuddesden.



J. Fisher, sculp.

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OXFORD :
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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Third Part of THE GUIDE was intended to have comprised the whole of the Deanery of Cuddesden, consisting of thirty-five parishes, but the remains in this district have been found so numerous that more space and time are required for the proper illustration of them than was contemplated; in order to meet the wishes of our members, the first ride, comprising thirteen parishes, is now published separately; the remainder will follow as soon as it can conveniently be got ready.

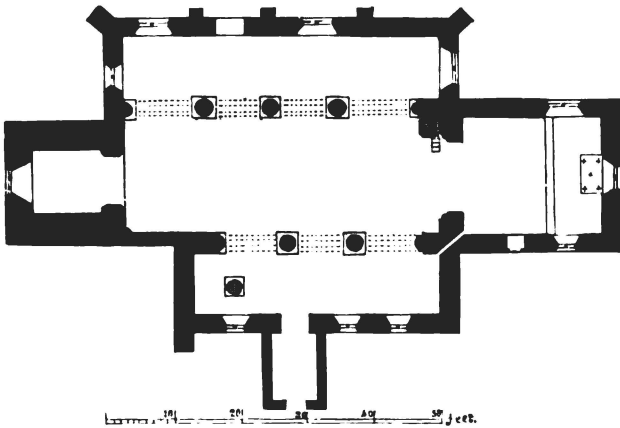
The thanks of the Society are due to several members for the assistance they have afforded in this part of the work, especially to Sir Henry Ellis, and the Rev. J. Baron; also to Lady Croke, for the woodcuts of Studley Priory and of the old Rectory of Stanton St. John.

MARSTON.

PATRON.
REV. T. WHORWOOD.

St. Nicholas.

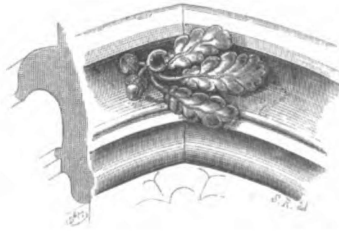
DEANERY
OF CUDESODON.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.



Ground Plan of the Church.

A PLAIN Church, oblong, with aisles to the nave only; a well-proportioned chancel, and a low tower at the west end.

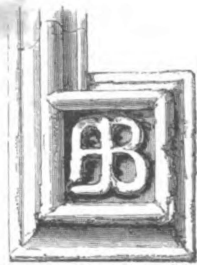
CHANCEL.—The east window is late Perpendicular, of three lights, with good dripstone terminations of octagonal form, and a piece of foliage sculptured at the point, in the hollow of the dripstone; this is an uncommon feature, and a very elegant one. The side windows are of two lights, late Perpendicular, square-headed, with cinquefoiled heads to the lights;



Sculpture over the East Window.

the dripstones have bold square terminations, enclosing ornaments, some of which are the monograms IHS and IHC. There are some good quarrels of painted glass in the heads of these windows. The recess of the first window on the south side is carried down to a stone bench, which served as the seat for the priest; eastward of this is a small square piscina, with the basin and drain perfect. On the south side is also a small door, square-headed within and quite plain, but ornamented on the outside with a pointed arch, carved spandrels, and a dripstone with square terminations. There is a late Perpendicular basement-moulding all round the walls of the chancel. The roof seems to consist of good arched timbers, but is concealed by a plaster ceiling just above the springing. The stall-desks are late, but preserve the old arrangement, having returns at the west end. The chancel-arch is transition Norman, pointed, square-edged, with plain imposts; by the side of it there is an opening into the south aisle, or hagioscope; this is now boarded up at the west end, but might be re-opened with advantage.

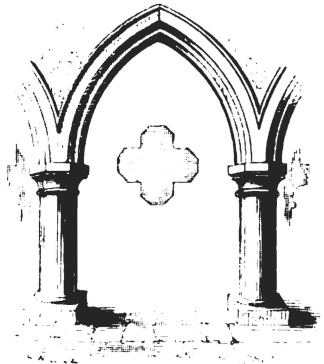
The NAVE has four bays, the arches are transition Norman, pointed and recessed, with the edges chamfered, with labels over them, those on the south side differing from and of rather earlier character than those on the north.



Dripstone Termination.



Chancel Door.



Arch, south side of Nave.

The pillars are round, with moulded caps, having thick abaci, but not all alike, the bases are Norman; the clerestory windows are late Perpendicular, square, of two lights. The roof is of the same age, of poor work, and nearly flat. The walls of both the aisles are also late Perpendicular, with square-headed windows, of two lights, without labels. The roof of the north aisle is a lean-to; that of the south aisle is very high pitched, open to the rafters, with tie-beams, and queen-posts, and cross springers; these and the cornice are moulded, but the mouldings are late Perpendicular, and of quite a debased character. The north door is late Perpendicular. The south door is transition Norman, but quite plain. The porch is late, but with stone benches. There is a good iron strap and scutcheon on the south door. The Font is modern imitation of Gothic. The seats are mostly good old open benches, but many of them have sloping book-boards added, which would be better taken away again, and others have modern deal boxes built upon them.

The Tower is late Perpendicular, square, with a good three-light window and arch, open to the nave, but partly hid by the singers' gallery, which should be removed. The belfry-windows are square-headed, of two lights; the parapet is battlemented with a Perpendicular cornice, and gargoyle heads at the angles.

In the Church-yard there was formerly a cross, which was taken down to mend the wall with in the year 1830; and in the village another cross, which was used about the same period to mend the roads with !!

I. H. P.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1082. The manor was given by the Conqueror to Miles Crispin^a.

A.D. 1132. It was granted by charter of Henry I. to the priory of St. Frideswide^b.

A.D. 1156, 2nd Henry II. About this time Hugh de Plagenet

^a Kennett, vol. i. p. 93.

^b Reg. S. Frid. in C.C.C. ap. Dug. I. 174.

granted to the priory of St. Frideswide the tithes of his own demesnes and of his tenants in this manor¹.

A branch of the Croke family had a seat here, which seems to have been acquired by the marriage of Unton Croke, Esq., serjeant-at-law, to Anne, daughter and heiress of Richard Hore, Esq., of Marston. Unton Croke occupies a conspicuous place in the history of the civil wars, as a staunch supporter of the Parliament. In Thurloe's State Papers there is a letter of the 2nd of October, 1655, from Dr. John Owen, the Dean of Christ Church, to the Protector, in which he strongly intercedes in Serjeant Croke's favour, that he might be made a judge : it seems however that the recommendation was not attended to. But in 1656 he was appointed one of the Commissioners under the authority of an act of parliament for the security of the Lord Protector, with power to try offenders for high treason without the intervention of a jury. He acted likewise as a justice of the peace, and there are some entries in the parish register of marriages performed by him in that capacity during the Great Rebellion. He resided chiefly here, and died in 1671, at the age of seventy-seven. His wife had died a few months previously, and they were both buried in the chancel, where there are inscriptions on a flat stone and on a brass plate to their memory. They left ten children. In May 1646, this house was made use of by the Commissioners for the King and the Parliament army in the treaty for the surrendering of Oxford^k. This house was pulled down in 1843.

The vicarage was valued in the time of Henry VIII. at 40s. In the last century it was valued at 26*l.*; the present value is 195*l.* Population, 364.

The advowson of the vicarage has been in the possession of the family of Whorwood since about the year 1600, when Sir W. Brome of Holton, whose daughter and heiress married a Whorwood, exchanged land at Haseley and Albury, for the advowsons and parsonages of Headington and Marston, and the manor of Headington, Marston, and Bolshipton. In 1685 Dr. Edward Masters presented as trustee to Thomas Whorwood, in 1705 Robert King presented (*hac vice*), and in 1718 the Bishop of Oxford collated.

¹ Kennett, vol. i. p. 475.

Book I., p. 481; Kennett, vol. ii. p. 488.

^k Wood's Annals of Univ. Oxford, Croke's History of the Croke Family.

WOOD EATON.

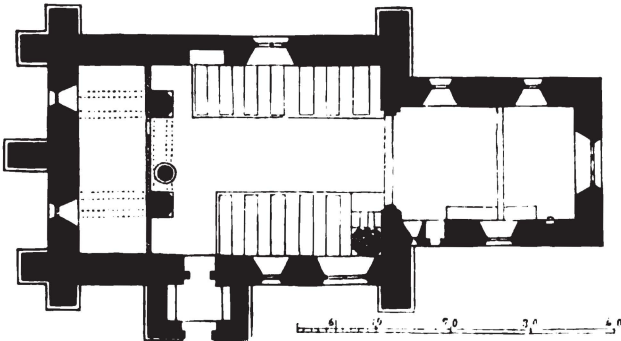
PATRON.
RICHARD WEYLAND, ESQ.

Holy Rood.

DEANERY
OF CUDDSDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.



North west view of the Church

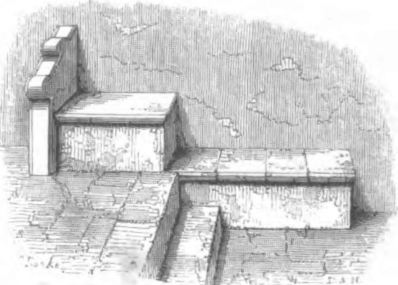


Plan of the Church.

THE CHURCH is situated about four miles from Oxford, in a very picturesque spot, and indeed the whole village is quite like what all English villages used to be, for the Church is made the chief feature, standing out in an open space surrounded by a low wall and shaded by trees, and on the north side of it lies the green, with a fine old tree in the centre, under which stand the stocks, and near to it the old cross raised on its three steps, though the shaft is now deprived of the sacred emblem of our holy Faith; in another part of the green is the common well with its sweet crystal water; on the east side lies the rectory hard by, with its gable ends and porch, and massive chimneys; on the west is the manor-house, well shaded by stately trees, with its usual companion, the rookery, and all around are scattered the neat cottages, each with its garden bright with gilly-flowers: but the Church is the building of which an account is here to be given.

The present structure is Early English, though different insertions and additions have been made.

In the CHANCEL, the east window has been destroyed, and a modern Perpendicular one of three lights has been inserted very high up in the wall; in the north wall are two lancet windows, three-foiled; in the south a large Perpendicular one of two lights, five-foiled, has been inserted towards the east end; there is a small Early English priest's door of elegant design, on the west of which, lower than the other windows, is a low side window, being a small lancet window, about four feet from the ground, but commanding hardly any view of the interior, on account of the straightness of its splays, and the thickness of the walls. The chancel-arch appears to be Early English; in the south wall is a piscina with projecting basin, and three-foiled arch. The ascent to the Altar is by two steps, and on the south side is a small and curious stone seat, with a



The Sedilia

carved elbow on the east side ; a similar stone bench, but without elbows, is carried from the Altar-steps some feet towards the west : these were the sedilia for the officiating priests. The roof is flat and ceiled, but covered with lead.

The NAVE has two Early English windows in the north wall, one a large one of two lights, the other a lancet, three-foiled ; there is a north doorway, now blocked up ; in the south wall, two lancet windows, three-foiled, and a large square-headed Perpendicular one of two lights, five-foiled and transomed, towards the east end ; there is also a Decorated doorway and a modern porch ; in the west wall there have been two lancets with a buttress between them, one of which is now blocked up ; originally, no doubt, there was a bell-turret, but a small Perpendicular tower of one stage, with a window of two lights on each side, has been added, and two pillars with north, south, and east arches support it inside, but they are all shut out from the Church, and the north and south ones have given way considerably, and wooden centerings have been constructed under them as supports, but apparently it will all come down soon ; the roof is of a good high pitch, but plastered off flat inside ; it is covered with stone tiles. A stringcourse of the roll-moulding runs round the nave and north wall of chancel, under the windows. The Font is Early English, plain round. The pulpit is slightly carved, Grecian, and painted. In the nave, the seats are old with one or two poppy-heads remaining, but doors have been added to turn them into pews, and they are all painted : there is a great unsightly gallery, (as indeed all galleries are,) shutting out all the west end. The rood-screen is remaining, but is of late Perpendicular work. In the chest is an old altar-cruet, which is not now used ; it appears to be made of bell-metal, and in shape, is something like the one in the Chapel of St. Apolline, Guernsey, figured in "Specimens of Antient Church Plate, &c."



Altar-Cruet.

S. ROOKE, ORIEL.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In a charter of K. Athelstan, given at Dorchester, A.D. 938, this village is called Wdetun¹. In a deed of gift to the abbey of Egnesham, executed by Thomas de S. Walery in A.D. 1196, we find mention of W'deaton^m. And in the inquisition made into the state of the forests of Shotover and Stowode, at Brehul, (Brill,) A.D. 1363, it is named Wodeton. Hence came the present name.

John Whytton, who was rector of this parish about 1380, was a benefactor of Merton college, and seems to have been the intimate friend of John Bloxham, the seventh warden; they were both buried in Merton college chapel, and the brass plate, with their effigies united under one canopy, still remains, with an inscription, stating that the brass was executed at the expense of John Whytton, who appears to have survived his friend.

This village was formerly the estate of the Taverner family. It belonged to Sir Rd. Tavernerⁿ, High Sheriff for this county, A.D. 1569, who built the manor-house in 1554. He died there July 15th, 1575. This Richard Taverner, although a layman, obtained a special licence from K. Edward VI. to preach in any part of his dominions. He was the author of the *Postils*, lately reprinted at the Oxford University Press. A short account of him and his works is given in the *Beauties of England and Wales*, Oxfordshire, p. 263, and a more complete one in *Wood's Athenæ Oxoniensis*, by Bliss, vol. i. p. 419. From the Taverners the estate passed to the Nourse family, and from them, by marriage, to its present possessors, the Weylands. The old manor-house was pulled down in 1775, and the present one built.

In 1676 some ancient British coins were found here, one of Cunobeline, coined at Camulodunum, (Maldon in Essex,) as appears from the inscription, on one side is the figure of a horse and the ear of corn, and *camu*, on the reverse; another has a chalice and a crooked lineation, under which is a forked kind of figure and a small crescent. Some Roman urns have likewise been discovered in this neighbourhood^o.

The rectory was valued in the time of Henry VIII. at 10*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*; it is now valued at 169*l.* The population is 86.

¹ Kennett, vol. i. p. 217.

^m *Ibid.*, vol. ii. p. 140.

ⁿ Vide Skelton's *Antiq. Oxfordshire*.

^o *Mag. Brit.*, vol. iv. p. 512.

ELSFIELD.

PATRON.
LIEUT.-COL. J. S. NORTH.

St. Thomas à Becket.

DEANERY
OF CUDESSEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.

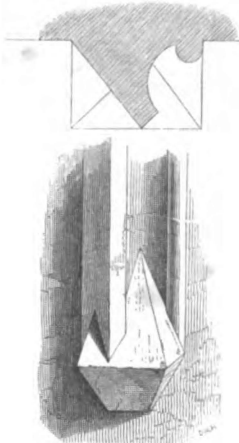


South West View of the Church.

THIS village is prettily situated upon a hill about three miles from Oxford, and commands an extensive view. The Church is an interesting specimen of the Early English style, but is in bad repair.

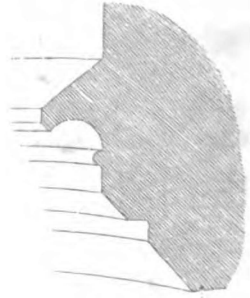
The **CHANCEL** has an open roof of tolerable but not the original pitch. The east window lately repaired, is Decorated, of three lights. The Altar is plain oak, raised on two steps

above the level of the chancel, which descends with two more into the nave. Over the Altar is an oblong tablet, with a square dripstone of Decorated date, probably for the reception of some piece of sculpture now destroyed. There is an Early English

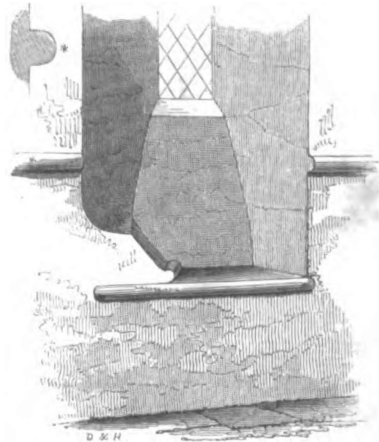
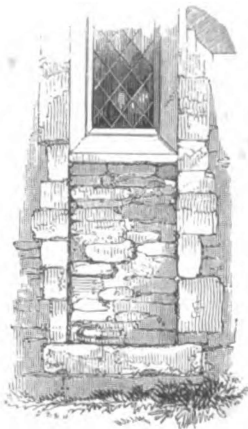


Dripstone to Tablet in Chancel.

piscina, of the pointed trefoil form, but broken. On the north side of the Altar is a plain bracket. On either side of the chancel are three elegant lancet lights, with a string-course running below them. The south-west window had a low side-opening under it, which is plainly visible on the outside, and in the inside the sill is brought down to form a seat, with a sort of elbow or stone desk, for a book.



Section of East Window.

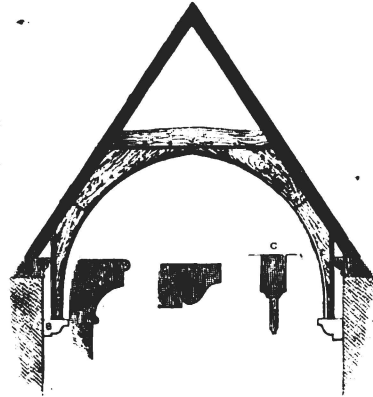


Exterior and Interior of the low Side Window.

The CHANCEL-ARCH is pointed, transition Norman.
The SCREEN, Debased, about James I., painted stone colour.

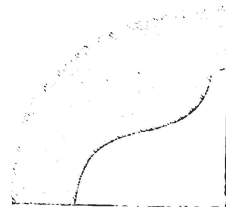
The NAVE has a flat ceiling, which conceals an oak roof of good pitch, and of early character, though plain ; it appears to be of the fourteenth century.

On the north wall are two large arches and a smaller one, which formerly opened into an aisle now destroyed. On the south side are two square-headed windows of three lights each. This side is said to have been rebuilt in the sixteenth century. At the west end are two elegant single lancets, now concealed inside by an ugly gallery.

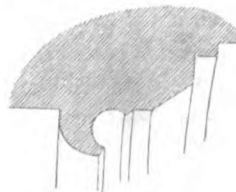


Roof of Nave.

Near the west end, on the north side, is another lancet window blocked up. The pulpit is of the same date, and in the same style as the screen ; the hourglass-stand remains. The seats are mostly open, of plain oak ; there are a few large deal pews, one of which contains a stove. The Font is plain Norman, of good dimensions, with a circular basin ; it rests on one step. The porch, which is on the south side, is late and bad ; it is surmounted by a plain Latin cross, and entered by a square-headed door. At the west end is a belfry of lath and plaster, containing two bells, on one of which is inscribed, in Lombardic characters, "Sancta Maria ora pro nobis." The design of the west front with its two lancet windows, divided by a tall buttress up the centre, with two small buttresses at each of the angles, has been often and justly admired.



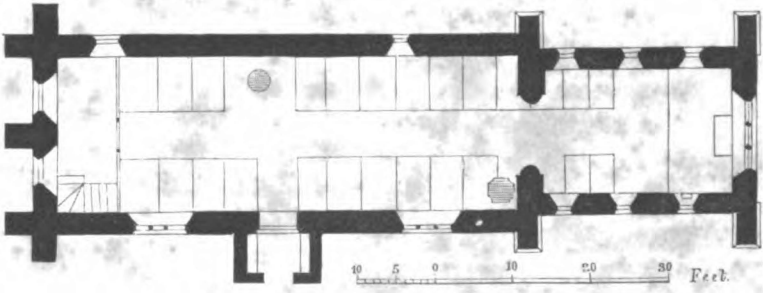
Section of South Door



Section of Lancet Window

In the Church-yard is a fine elm tree.

G. S. MASTER, B.N.C.



Ground Plan of the Church.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

From the Gentleman's Magazine, October, 1799, communicated by Sir Henry Ellis, and here reprinted with his kind permission.

Ellesfield lies about three miles and an half from Oxford, on the summit of a hill, and is remarkable for little else than the beauty of its situation. In the Domesday Survey it is written Esefeld, perhaps from the Saxon hept-felb, as it overlooks its neighbourhood. Allowing this, we have here a flagrant instance of the contempt with which the Norman scribes treated the Saxon names of our towns and villages. With politic and capricious views, they frequently miswrote them. In the Monasticon Ang. it is spelt Helsefeld, and Elsefeld.

This church of Elsefeld had been consecrated in the year 1273, by R. bishop of Cloyne, in Ireland, delegated by the bishop of Lincoln.

Universis presentes literas, &c. R. miseratione divina Clonen. episcopus, &c. Noveritis nos vice venerabilis patris R. Dei gracia Lincoln. episc. ecclesiam de Elsefeld septimo id. Julii, anno Dom. m̄cclxxiii. dedicasse, et recepisse a procuratore rectoris dicte ecclesie duas marcas nomine procuracionis, racione dedicationis ecclesie, &c.^p

In . . . William, son of William de Stratford, with consent of Benet his wife, and William his son, gave to the priory of St. Frideswide the

^p Ex Chartular. S. Frideswidæ in Æde Christi, Oxon. ap. Kennett, p. 106. Parochial Antiquities, vol. ii. p. 164.

third^a part of the village of Elsfield, and afterwards his whole possessions in that manor, excepting one messuage, which he gave to the nunnery of Stodley^r. Henry the First confirmed^s in 1132 William de Stratford's gift of a fifth of this manor, and granted to the priory the chapels of Hedington, Marston, and Binsey to which the Empress Maud added the chapel of Ellesfield. King John confirmed these^t, and his charter adds, "in Elsefeld unam virgatum terræ cum pertinentiis suis, et de molendino ejusdem villæ quatuor solidos." The chapel of Elsfield, however, seems, by a deed here copied from Dugdale's *Monasticon*^u, to have been originally given to St. Frideswide's by Hugh de Ellesfield. "Omnibus, &c. Hugo de Elesfeld, salutem. Sciatis me reddidisse, &c. Deo, & beatæ Mariæ, et sanctæ Frideswidæ, de Oxeneford, &c. capellam de Elsefeld, quæ ad ecclesiam beatæ Frideswidæ pertinet, &c. et ipsi canonici invenient mihi & capellæ de Elsefeld imperpetuum capellanum qui assidue ibi sit & capellæ deserviat. Iidem etiam canonici concesserunt mihi et capellæ de Elsefeld imperpetuum, ut pauperum quæ in villa de Elsefeld moriuntur corpora in cimeterio capellæ de Elsefeld sepeliantur, & aliorum, qui ibi sepeliri voluerint de eadem parochia. Testibus," &c.

Possessions at Elsefield were given, with other places, to the chapel of St. George, in Oxford castle, by its founder, Robert de Oilgi, or Oilli, the elder. But, in 1149, Robert de Oilli, his nephew, made a new assignment of his uncle's gifts, and what the elder Robert had given to the seculars of St. George's, the younger transferred to the regulars of Osenev^r.

In 1240, Roger de Ellendon was presented to this vicarage by the prior and convent of St. Frideswide. The prior and convent presented another vicar in 1251.

In the hundred rolls temp. Edward I. the following persons are enumerated as holding land in Elsefield:—The prior of S. Frideswide, the fifth part of the manor; the prioress of Stodley, three farms; Lady Margaret de Rollright, part of the manor, probably the other four-fifths. Among the names of tenants, which it is not necessary to repeat here, occurs Roger le Despenser, holding under S. Frideswide's.

^a It was but a *fifth*, according to Henry the First's confirmation, *Mon. Ang. i. 175.* from the Register of St. Frideswide's in the library of C.C.C.

^r *Paroch. Antiquities*, vol. i. p. 462.

^s *Mon. Angl. i. 175, 981.*

^t *Ib. i. 982.*

^u *Ibid. i. 176.*

^v *Parochial Antiquities*, vol. i. p. 142.

In the valor of 1291 (usually called Pope Nicholas's) the vicarage of Elsefeld is valued at viij marks⁷; and in the Liber Regis Henrici VIII. at 6*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.*

In 1295, the vicarage having suffered much depreciation in value, in consequence of some years of scarcity, the prior and canons augmented the portion of the vicar by a quarter and a half of bread-corn, and the same quantity of barley, at the feasts of S. Michael Our Lady, and Pentecost, till the living should return to its old value.

Pateat universis, quod cum dominus Willielmus de magna Rollyndriht perpetuus vicarius ecclesie de Elsefeld, quam religiosi viri dominus prior et conventus monasterii S. Frideswide, Oxon. tanquam propriis usibus appropriatam detinent, reverendo patri Domino Olivero Dei gracia Lincolnensi episcopo super vicarie sue exilitate conquestus fuisset, tandem inter dictum vicarium querulum ex parte una, et prefatos religiosos ex altera, memorata querela in forma subscripta amicabile compositione quievit. Videlicet, quod dicti religiosi cognito quod porcio dicte vicarie propter quosdam annos steriles parochianorumque inopiam jam de novo diminuta fuisset, compassionis et caritatis intuitu, tria quarteria bladi apud S. Frideswidam Oxon. seu apud grangiam suam de Elsefeld, sine contradictione vel impedimento quolibet exsolvenda subscriptis terminis concesserunt, videlicet, ad festum S. Michaelis dimidium quarterium frumenti, et dimidium quarterium ordei, ac tantundem ad festum beate virginis, ita que tantundem ad festum Pentecostes, de bono blado ac etiam competente sine fraude qualicunque. Ita tamen quod si contingat dictam vicariam sic ad statum redire pristinum, ut ad ipsius vicarii congruam sustentacionem sufficiat, ut solebat, occasione concessionis prefate ad solucionem dicti bladi memorati religiosi nullatenus teneantur. In cujus rei testimonium sigilla dicti prioris et conventus et vicarii huic scripto in modum cirographi confecto sunt alternatim appensa, et ad majorem rei evidenciam sigillum domini archidiaconi Oxon. eidem est procuratum apponi. Dat. Oxon. xv. kalend. Febr. an. Dom. millesimo ducentesimo nonagesimo quinto*.

A.D. 1363. 37, 38, Edward III. An inquisition was taken at Brill about the state of the forests of Shotover and Stowode, and the trespasses committed in them, on the oaths of Robert Gannage, locum tenens for John Appulby keeper of the forest, J. Thorlton, W. Doffeld, T. Man, &c.,

⁷ MS. Hatton in Bibl. Bodl. LXXXIX. folio 142.

* Ex Chartular. S. Frideswidæ in Æde Christi, Oxon. p. 106.

who say that William Wyke of Ellesfeld, came by night within the bounds of the forest of Stowode, on Palm Sunday of the previous year, with bow and arrows, for the purpose of poaching the wild animals belonging to the king, and Henry Burstall forester, caught him. And they say that certain villages, of which Ellesfeld is one, are out of the forest, and have no right of common in the forest, but they take their pigs into the woods of the king, in certain proportions, Oke (Noke) 12 pigs, price 18*s.*; Islep 20, price 32*s.*; Wodeton 6, price 9*s.*; Ellesfeld 8, price 12*s.*, &c. And they say, that where the foresters have been accustomed of old to have their pasture on the manors of their lords, as at Ellesfeld, &c., the value thereof is to be deducted from the value of the manors. And they say, that in the time of Robert de Ildesle, the trees were prostrated for the expences, and for the hospice for boys at Abingdon, of the foundation of the king^a.

In 1381, a dispute arose between the prior of St. Frideswide's and the vicar of Elsfield. The vicar entered a suit against the prior and convent, for keeping in their hands the whole right of the said church of Elsfield. Upon this the convent made an exemplification of an agreement made between their predecessors in the year 1295, by which the prior and canons, appropriators of the church, agreed to augment the portion of the vicar by additional allowance of one quarter and an half of bread-corn, and the like quantity of barley, at three seasons yearly.

From Dr. Rawlinson's MS. Collections for an History of Oxfordshire, I have extracted the following *memoranda*, which throw some light on the history of property there. "Ellesfield.—This place gave a surname to an ancient family that sometime lived here, for I find that one Gilbert de Ellesfield lived here in King Edward the First's time, who married Joan, the daughter of Sir William de Bereford, knt., living at Brightwell, in this county; but it did not long continue in this name, for William, a grandchild of the aforesaid Gilbert, dying without male issue, it came to . . . who married Anne, co-heiress of the said William; and Juliana, the other co-heiress, was married to one Thomas de Loundrers (as appears by the descent), but I suppose that this lordship by partition, came to Anne, who also dying without male issue, it came to John Hore, of Childerley, co. Cambridge, who married Joane, the daughter and heir of Anne. This John, and Gilbert, his son, resided altogether there. Not long after this, about the beginning of the reign

^a Ex Cartul. de Borstall, f. 111. ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 140.

of Henry VII., their male line failed, and this lordship with other lands came to the Pudseys, for Edith, niece and heir to the last Gilbert (being the daughter of John Hore, his brother), residing at Ellsfield, taking a particular fancy (being then a widow without issue) to Rowland Pudsey, a younger son of Henry Pudsey, of Barford and Bolton, in Yorkshire, then a student at the University of Oxford, and a gentleman finely accomplished, married him, by which means their posterity have ever since enjoyed it."

Of this family was Hugh de *Puteaco*, or *Pudsey*, bishop of Durham, 1153, who for 3000 marks purchased of Richard I. the earldom of Northumberland for his life, but was, not long after, deprived of it, because he contributed only 2000 pounds in silver towards the king's ransom at his return from the Holy War. See Gibson's *Camden*, II. 960, 1104.

In 1645, Michael Pudsey, Esq., died here at the age of 84, and was buried in the chancel, and there is an inscription on a brass plate to his memory, with his coat of arms, inserted in the middle of an old gravestone brought from Ensham Abbey, round the margin of which are the remains of this inscription in black letter :—

"*Hic jacet : frater : Johannes : de : Chilttenham : quondam : Abbas : hujus : loci : cuius : anime : propicietur : Deus :*"

John de Chilttenham was elected abbot of Ensham in 1316, and resigned in 1330^b.

Sir George Pudsey, knt. recorder of Oxford in 1685, was the last of the family who resided here. He sold the manor and estate, of about 1200*l. per annum*, to Lord North (father of Lord Guildford) for 25,000*l.*^c

Among the later vicars, Mr. Francis Wise, eminent as an antiquary and a Saxonist, should not be forgotten. A short life of him may be seen in the *Lives of Leland, Hearne, and Wood*, vol. i. part ii. p. 26. Some additional anecdotes may be found of him in Mr. Nichols's *Anecdotes of Bowyer*; and a singular account of Dr. Johnson's visit to him at Elsfield, in Mr. Boswell's *Life of the Doctor*, 2nd 8vo. edit. vol. i., p. 236.

In the last century it was in the patronage of the Earl of Guildford, and still continues in the same family. It was certified to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty to be of the yearly value of £20. In the returns to the Commissioners in 1832 it is valued at £215, and the population is reckoned at 185.

^b Willis's *Mitred Abbeyes*, vol. ii. p. 177.

^c MS. Rawl. in *Bibl. Bodl.*

N O K E.

PATRON.

DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

St. Giles.

DEANERY

OF CUDDSDEN.

HUNDRED

OF PLOUGHLEY.



Noke Church.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Nave	36	0	by	16	0
Chancel	14	0	by	14	3

THIS is a small Church, consisting of a Chancel and Nave, with a small bell-turret at the west end. It was originally Early English, but has been so much modernized that hardly any of the Early English features are now visible.

CHANCEL—the east window is square-headed, of two lights, modern, but with the *sill* of the Early English window. In the south wall is a plain double lancet, under one square head inside. The chancel-arch is apparently Early English, ill proportioned, and misshapen from the settlement of the side walls. The roof is ceiled.

NAVE—there is one obtusely-arched lancet window at the west end. The bell-turret is square, built of wood, and plastered

on the outside, with a stone-tiled capping. There is a north door stopped up, and a south one with porch, of plain Early English work. On the north side of the chancel-arch is a Perpendicular niche, low down. The roof is of good construction, and appears to be early, though the timbers are roughly finished off: it is covered with Stonesfield slates.

The Font is Early English, of a cylindrical form, larger in circumference at the vertex than at the base, and it stands on a round base, the upper edge of which is chamfered. Its position is between the north and south doors, a little to the west; it is lined with lead, and has a drain, but a pewter basin is used.

The Pulpit is of carved oak, in the Italian style of James I. The seats are old, open, of oak, with square ends and good mouldings, with book-boards. There is a great gallery shutting out all the west end. In the splay of the north-east window is an iron hourglass-stand.

In the chancel is a mutilated recumbent figure of a man in stone, of the time of James I., which, together with a small brass now let into the wall just above, used to be in a chapel which formerly stood on the north side of the chancel, but of which no vestige now remains, though an account of it is given below in the Historical Notices. The brass is to Johanna Bradshawe and her two husbands, William Manwayringe and Henry Bradshawe. She rebuilt the chapel, and died A.D. 1598. In the chest is an old Bible in black letter, not now used.

S. ROOKE, ORIEL.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Noke is usually spelt in ancient writings Oke or Ake. Within this parish was a considerable estate comprehended in the original grant of the liberties or fee of Islip, made by Edward the Confessor to the Church of St. Peter, Westminster, and those inhabitants did suit at the Abbot's court.

The manor of Noke was granted by the Conqueror to William Earl Warren; from him it passed, through a series of undistinguished pro-

prietors, to Sampson Foliot, in the time of Henry III., who was sheriff of Oxfordshire and Berkshire, and one of the commissioners to enquire into the tenure of all the lands in Oxfordshire. From him the manor and advowson of the church descended to Henry le Ties, a nobleman who had also obtained a grant of Sherborn, and was summoned to Parliament 15 Edward II., but having joined in the northern insurrection, he was taken prisoner and suffered death at London. The hamlet of Noke, with his other estates, descended to his sister and heiress, Alice, wife of Warine de Lisle. From this family it came by marriage to Thomas Lord Berkley, who was married at the age of fourteen to Margaret de L'isle, aged eight years, A.D. 1366, at Wengrave, Bucks. At his decease it passed to Elizabeth, his only child, the wife of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. On the division of his estates, after his decease, Noke was sold, and passing through several hands became the property of the Fermours, by whom it was sold to Benedict Winchcombe, before mentioned, who, having no children, devised it to his nephew, Benedict Hall, Esq. His descendants continued to enjoy these estates till the following century, when they were alienated to Sarah Duchess of Marlborough, who pulled down the family mansion, or manor-house.

In the 1st Edward VI., according to the Chantry-roll, Noke contained "sixty houselying people," [or persons accustomed to receive the Holy Communion, probably at that period about a third of the population,] and that there were certain lands of the annual value of twopence, given by some unknown person towards finding a lamp-light at the Altar within the Church, but that no ornaments, plate, jewels, or stock, belonged thereto.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Joan Bradshaw, a lady then resident in the village, and the grandmother of the lord of the manor, repaired the Church, and erected a chapel on the north side of the chancel, for a burying-place for herself and her descendants of the Winchcombe family. Here she was afterwards buried, anno 1598, and a sumptuous monument was erected. In the same chapel was a fair raised altar-tomb of black marble, on which was the effigy of a man lying on a cushion, for Benedict Winchcombe, who died 1623, bequeathing a sum of money for the repair of the Church, leaving one sister, Mary, his heiress, who married William Hall, Esq. This chapel being considered private property, and neglected by the descendants of the Halls, after the alienation

of their estate in the parish, it fell into decay, and was taken down by the consent of the feoffees of the Winchcombe charity. The materials were used for the repairs of the chancel, and some parts of the monuments affixed to the walls, where they still remain ; but the tomb of Benedict Winchcombe was entirely done away with except part of his effigy, the figure being broken off at the knees^d.

RECTORS.	PATRONS.
— Walter, died 1272.	
1272. John de Draycote.	Sampson Foliot.
1293. Richard de Scireburn.	Henry Ties.
Richard de Southampton, died 1320.	
1320. John de Okele.	Henry Ties.
Henry de Emberton, died 1345.	
1345. Richard de Engleby.	Gerrard de L'isle.
1511. Edward Halsall,	Collated by the Bp. of Lincoln, by lapse.
William Ashfield, died 1529.	
1549. John Donyell.	Hy. Bradshaw, Esq., Attorney-General.
Robert Warland, died 1636.	Benedict Hall, Esq.
1636. Hugh Holden.	Benedict Hall, Esq.
John Gilder, died 1697.	
1689. Richard Vesey, B.D.	Martha May, of Kidlington.
1732. Charles Hall.	Francis Earl Godolphin, and Duchess of Marlborough.
1739. Gilbert Stephens, died 1773.	Charles Duke of Marlborough.
1773. Alexander Lichfield.	George Duke of Marlborough.
1804. Edward Turner.	George Duke of Marlborough.
1840. J. Carlisle.	George Duke of Marlborough.

At the general valuation of ecclesiastical benefices, 26 Henry VIII., the Rectory of Noke was valued at viij*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* In Bacon's Liber Regis, 1786, the clear yearly value is stated at 42*l.* In the returns to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners it is valued at 90*l.*, and is in the patronage of the Duke of Marlborough. The population is 187.

^d Alderman Fletcher's MSS., at Oxford, ap. Dunkin, vol. ii. p. 85.

BECKLEY.

PATRON,

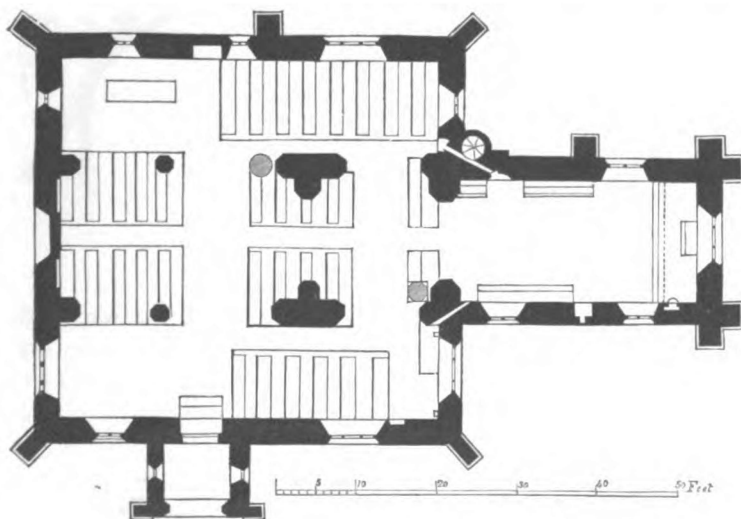
THE REV. T. L. COOKE.

DEANERY

OF CUDDSDEN.

HUNDRED

OF BULLINGTON.

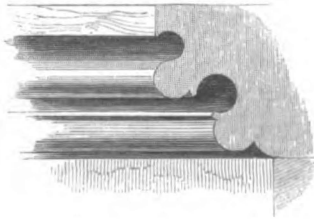


Ground-Plan of Church

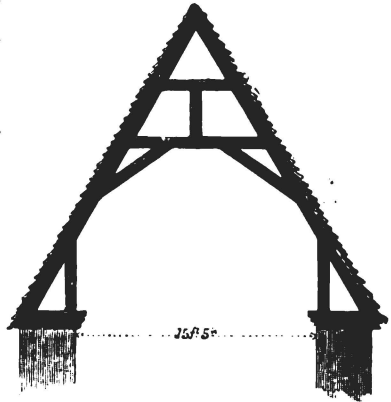
THIS Church is chiefly of the fourteenth century, but the nave was rebuilt late in the fifteenth. The tower is placed between the nave and the chancel, and the work is so plain that it is difficult to assign a date to it, but most probably it was built at the end of the fourteenth century, the period of transition from the Decorated to the Perpendicular style.

The CHANCEL is good Decorated, very similar in style to the south aisles of St. Mary Magdalene and of St. Aldate's churches in Oxford, which were built about 1320. The east window is of three lights, of flowing tracery; the side windows of two lights, in the same style. In the heads of these windows are some beautiful remains of painted glass of the fourteenth century. On the south side are two windows and a small

door, and a string, which is carried over the head of the door, forming a dripstone. Near the east end is a small plain piscina, with the projecting basin restored, and a narrow stoneshelf. The Altar-platform is raised two steps; the Communion Table is of



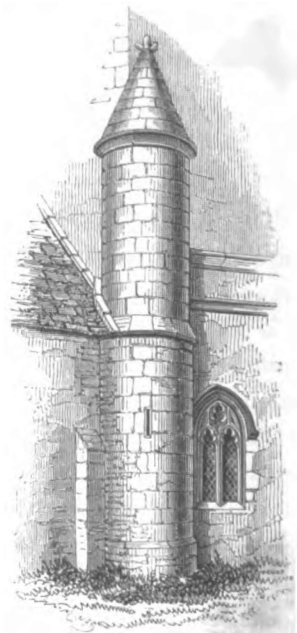
Wall plate in Chancel



Roof in Chancel.

plain oak; the enclosed pews have lately been cleared out of the chancel, and re-placed by open seats against the walls, with desks in front of them. The roof is of plain timber, of the canted form, open to the ridge and ceiled to the rafters; it has only one tie-beam, and the wall-plates have Decorated mouldings. On the north side there is only one window, and an opening like a doorway, but not reaching to the ground.

TOWER—The chancel-arch and the other three arches of the tower are quite plain, recessed, and chamfered, the chamfers dying into the piers. The belfry windows are of two lights, quite plain, but these, as well as the masonry, appear to be Decorated work. The parapet and cornice are Perpendicular. The sanctus-bell hangs in a small opening, with a foliated

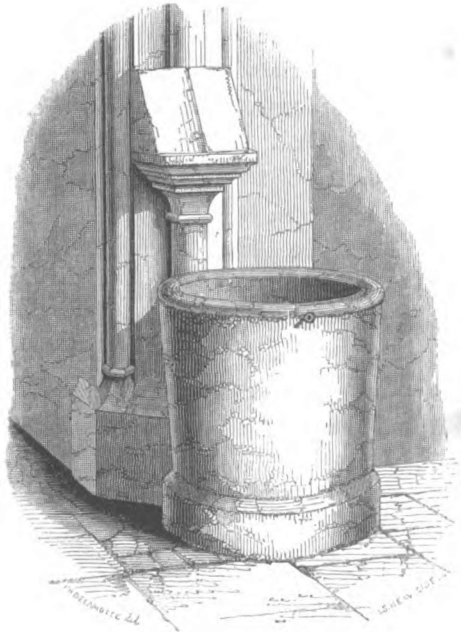


Turret North-east Angle

head just below the cornice and above the level of the windows. The staircase to the tower is in a very good round turret at the north-east angle. This appears to be early Perpendicular work.

The NAVE is Perpendicular, about the time of Henry VII. ; it has only two arches on each side, plain, on clustered pillars, with moulded caps. The clerestory windows are square-headed, of two lights. The roof appears to be original, but is partly hid by a plaster ceiling. The west door is good Perpendicular ; over it is a Decorated window of three lights, quite plain, with mullions crossing in the head, but with a Decorated drip-stone : this window appears to have been preserved when the nave was rebuilt.

The FONT is plain, round, and massive ; it is placed against the north-east pillar of the nave, attached to which is a small stone desk, supported by a shaft of Perpendicular work ; this appears to have been made for the purpose of carrying the book for the priest at a christening. There is also a wooden desk attached to the south-east pillar, probably for placing the book of Homilies upon.



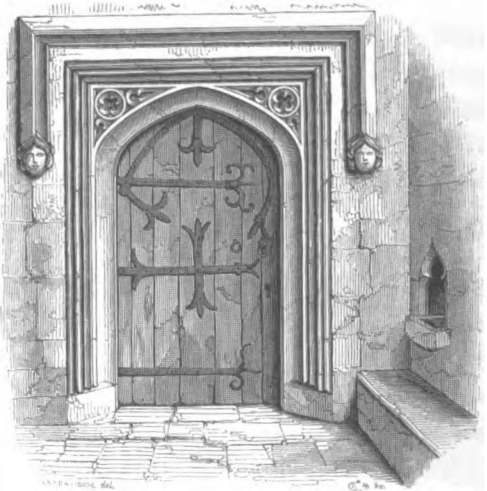
Font and Stone Desk.

The North Aisle is Perpendicular, but earlier than the nave, the east window being in a style of transition from Decorated ; and the roof is below the points of the arches ; the windows are early Perpendicular, rather clumsy ; the north door, of the same age, is now stopped.

The South Aisle is partly Decorated and partly Perpendicular; the two western windows are of the same style as the chancel; the two eastern ones are Perpendicular, of three lights, with the heads nearly flat. On each side of the east window are corbels for images, marking the site of an Altar. In the head of this window are some good old painted quarries.

There has been an opening from each aisle through the wall by the side of the chancel-arch in an oblique direction towards the high Altar, of the kind called a squint, or lately a hagioscope; that from the south aisle is of the usual size and form, and about level with the eye; that on the north side is more remarkable, the opening in the chancel being of the size and form of a doorway, but not reaching quite to the ground, and there is a shallow projection on the outside to make room for the squint; the opening from the aisle is an actual doorway, giving access also to the tower staircase. Both these openings are blocked up, and partly concealed.

The South Door and Porch are Perpendicular, with a good small window on the east side, and a niche for a stoup, with the square stone basin remaining perfect on the east side of the door. The Pulpit and Reading-desk are of plain oak, painted red; this paint should be cleaned off. The hourglass-stand remains. The seats are mostly good old open ones, of solid oak, but a few have had deal boxes built upon them, which ought to be removed. There is a very ugly west gallery and staircase, with two absurd wings to it, filling up half an arch on each side, for



South Door.

the purpose of keeping the singers warm and comfortable. The points of the tower-arches are concealed by a ringing-loft, which is so rotten that the ringers are afraid to stand in it, and obliged to ring from the ground, and which is therefore merely a great deformity to the Church, without being of any use whatever.

Few Churches could be restored to their original beauty at so trifling a cost as Beckley. The chancel has already been done, in a great degree, and in good taste, and the thanks of our Society are due to the incumbent, especially for restoring to view the valuable original timber roof, which may serve as a useful model.

I.H.P.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The village of Beckley is situated about five miles north-east from Oxford, on the borders of Otmoor. The Roman road from Allchester to Dorchester passed through this parish, and considerable remains of it may still be distinctly traced, particularly across Otmoor and in some arable land on the hill in a direct line from it, full particulars of which will be found in Mr. Hussey's excellent account of the Roman remains in the neighbourhood of Oxford, lately published by the Ashmolean Society. The British saint Donanverdh^a is recorded to have been buried at Beckley, which may be considered as proof that this part of the country had become Christian before the invasion of the Saxons. The parish of Beckley formed part of the hereditary possessions of King Alfred, bequeathed by him to his kinsman Osseth, in his will, which is still extant, and has been printed by the University of Oxford^b. In the time of Edward the Confessor it belonged to Wigod de Wallingford. After the Norman conquest, Beckley being the capital seat of the honor, which afterwards bore the name of its possessors, De Iveri and De S. Walery, formed part of the grant to Robert de Oily, on his marriage with the daughter of Wigod de Wallingford, and was transferred by him to his sworn brother in arms, Roger de

^a Kennett, vol. i. p. 30; and Leland, Collect., vol. ii. p. 369.

^b Will of King Alfred, 4to. p. 17.

Iveri^c. In the Domesday survey it is thus entered, as translated by Bawdwen :—"The same (Roger de Ivery) holds Bechelic. There are six hides there. Land to seven ploughs. Now in the demesne two have ploughs and six bondmen, and eleven villanes, with six bordars, five ploughs. There are twenty acres of meadow ; and pasture one mile long, and two quarentens broad. Wood one mile long, and a half broad. It was worth one hundred shillings, now eight pounds^d."

Previous to this transfer to Roger de Iveri, Robert de Oily had however given two parts of ~~the~~ the tithe of Beckley, and half a hide of land in Stodeley, belonging to Beckley, to his new foundation of a college, dedicated to St. George, in Oxford castle. This grant was confirmed by Roger de Iveri, and they were considered as joint benefactors, the whole foundation being afterwards merged in Osney abbey^e.

Roger de Iveri died in 1079, and the honor of Beckley became the property successively of his three sons, Roger, Hugh, and Jeffery^f, who all died without issue, the last named Jeffrey in 1112, and the property then fell to the king, who granted it to Guy de S. Walery, who was related by marriage to the family of the Conqueror^g. He died in 1141, leaving his possessions to his son Reginald, a supporter of the Empress Maud, for which he was deprived of part of his possessions by King Stephen : but these were restored to him by Henry II.^h He was one of the barons convened to the council of Clarendon, being an opponent of S. Thomas of Canterbury, and was sent with other nobles to Lewis King of France, and to the Pope, but without success. He died in 1166, leaving his possessions, including Beckley, to his son Bernard, who being beyond the seas at the time of his father's decease, the king issued a precept to secure his rights and properties till he should return, which is printed by Kennettⁱ. Reginald de S. Walery also left one daughter, Maud, wife of William de Braose, a potent baron, who "for her bold and resolute behaviour to King John, was miserably famished, with her eldest son, in Windsor Castle," in 1210.^j

Reginald de S. Walery granted the church of Beckley to the Preceptory of Knights' Templars at Sandford, as appears by the charter which is printed from Wood's MS. in Bibl: Bodl. 10. in Warton's History

^c Kennett, vol. i. p. 75—77.

^d Ap. Dunkin, vol. i. p. 102.

^e Regist. Osney, MS. fol. 1.

^f Domesday Book, and Osney Reg.

ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 85.

^g Kennett, vol. i. p. 113.

^h Ibid., p. 156.

ⁱ Ibid., p. 169.

^j Matt. Westm., sub an.

of Kiddington, p. 34, and again by Dunkin, vol. i. p. 95 ; but it seems to have been speedily restored to his family, as in 1226 it was given to the prioress and convent of Studley in this parish.

A.D. 1184, 30, 31. Henry II., Bernard de S. Walery founded a nunnery at Stodley in this neighbourhood, which he endowed with half a hide of land in Horton.

A.D. 1189, 1. Richard I., on the return of Bernard de S. Walery from Normandy, his lands, which had been disseized, were restored to him by the new king : who at Christmas, after his coronation, passed over to Normandy, to prepare for his expedition to the Holy Land, in which pious adventure he was attended by Bernard de S. Walery. For the better success of his expedition to the Holy Land, in his passage through France, he, with his wife Alianore, laid the foundation of a monastery called Godstow, the name derived from that in this county, built on the land which he gave for that purpose to Henry II. His new monastery was situated on the river Breston, between Picardy and Normandy, in the duchy of Eu.

A.D. 1207, 8, 9. King John, Thomas de S. Walery gave to the nunnery of Stodley, of his father's foundation, three shillings a year rent in Beckley ; and by another charter he gave to the said nuns, in every week, one carriage of dead fuel in his wood of Horton [in this parish].

A.D. 1226, 10, 11. Henry III., Robert Earl of Dreux, [and ex-duce of Lorraine,] lord of the honor of St. Walery, i. e. the manors of Ambrosden, Horton, Beckley, &c. and Allanore [daughter of Thomas de S. Walery] his wife, gave to the nuns of Stodley the church of Beckley. After this date frequent entries occur of presentations to the church of Beckley, by the prioress of Stodley^k. But the advowson returned for a considerable period to the lords of the manor (see p. 213), though the priory afterwards recovered it.

A.D. 1227, on the sequestration of the estates of Robert ex-duce of Lorraine, &c. for high treason, the manor of Beckley, together with the whole honor of S. Walery, were committed to the care of Richard Earl of Cornwall, the brother of King Henry III. ; and in 1230 the same was granted to him in perpetuity, the king specially covenanting that if it should so happen that it should be necessary to restore these lands to the said duke, for the sake of peace, the earl or his heirs should have a

^k Mon. Ang., vol. i. p. 487.

reasonable compensation in proportion to their value at the expense of the crown¹.

In consequence of this charter it is probable that Earl Richard enlarged or rebuilt the ancient mansion in this village, heretofore belonging to the lords of S. Walery, in a style of magnificence corresponding to his princely fortune and the ideas of the age, as it is evident, from several charters and other instruments dated from this place, that both he and his son Edmund made it one of their principal residences. It is also probable that at this period the extensive park eastward of the village was enclosed or enlarged. A considerable tract of country is still known by the name of The Park.—[Of the house here mentioned as the residence of Richard King of the Romans, brother of Henry III., some portions were standing within a few years, and the site may still be traced with tolerable clearness by the moat and earthwork. The last piece of masonry which remained was a round tower, long used as a pigeon-house, of which there is an engraving in Mr. Dunkin's work.]

A.D. 1231, Richard Earl of Cornwall was married to Isabella Countess of Gloucester, sister of William Mareschall, Earl of Pembroke^m.

A.D. 1253. The king passing over to Gascoign committed the custody of his whole kingdom to Richard Earl of Cornwall and Walter de Grey, Archbishop of York; which Earl Richard granted to the monks of Okeburry a release of suite and service within his honor of Walingford, which charter has a seal appending, bearing an impress of the said earl, armed on horseback, with a lion rampant crowned on his surcoat, inscribed "Sigillum Richardi Comitum Cornubiæ."

A.D. 1256. Richard Earl of Cornwall was elected King of the Romans on St. Hilary day, at Francfort. To secure this honour he had compounded with the electors for large sums of money: the Archbishop of Cologne 12,000 marks, the Archbishop of Mentz 8,000, the Duke of Bavaria 18,000, and some of the other electors 8,000, computing each mark at twelve shillings [making the enormous sum of £27,600 in the money of that day, equal to nearly a million sterling of our money.]

A.D. 1257, 41, 42. Henry III., Richard Earl of Cornwall, lord of the manors of Ambrosden, Beckley, &c., having been elected King of the Romans in the preceding year, the Archbishop of Cologne, the Bishop of Liege, the Bishop of Utrecht, the Earl of Holland, and other nobles, came over to conduct him to his new kingdom; upon which he set sail

¹ Placit. de quo Warrant., 13 E. I. rot. 25. ^m Leland's Collectanea, vol. i. p. 425.

at Yarmouth, April 29th, with forty-eight ships, and May the 5th arrived at Dort in Holland, thence to Aquisgrane, where on Ascension-day, May the 17th, he was solemnly crowned, with Senchia his lady empress, by Conrade Archbishop of Cologneⁿ. An account of his voyage and coronation is given in a letter from himself to Prince Edward, dated from Aquisgrane, May 18.^o

A.D. 1258. Richard King of the Romans having his treasure this year computed, was found able to expend a hundred marks a day for ten years, besides his standing revenues in England and Almain^p.

A.D. 1261, 45 and 46 Henry III. At this period we find Richard King of the Romans residing at his house in Beckley, and acting as umpire in a dispute between Roger de Amory and the abbey of Oseney, respecting the manor of Weston, which he settled by a compromise, the abbey retaining the manor but paying 300 marks for it.

The same year, Nov. 9th, died Senchia wife of Richard King of the Romans. About Candlemas there was a Parliament held at London, where the king and barons referred their differences to the arbitration of the King of France, and Richard King of the Romans. [From this period the history of this great man is so much mixed up with that of the country and of Europe, that it is not necessary for our purpose to attempt to follow it. He was reported to be the wealthiest man in Europe at that period. He died in 1272, at Berkhamstead, after a long paralytic illness. He had been so great a patron of Walter de Merton, that this munificent prelate, in 1274, founded his college in Oxford, “pro salute animarum Henrici quondam regis Angliæ nec non Germani sui Ricardi Romanorum regis inclyti et hæredum suorum.”]

A.D. 1268. There was now, by the king's assent, an aid imposed on the inhabitants of Beckley, and all other tenants of Richard King of the Romans, to raise the money he had expended for his redemption when a prisoner to Montfort's party; and this illustrious prince sailed over again to his kingdom of Almain, and there on June 16, married [his third wife] Beatrice niece to the Archbishop of Cologne [and daughter of Theodoric de Falkemonte^q.] On August 3rd he arrived at Dover, where the nobility with great honour received him^r.

A.D. 1272. After his death, on Wednesday before Palm Sunday, an inquisition was taken of his lands in these parts, and it was returned upon

ⁿ Chron. Thos. Wikes, sub an.

^o Annal. Mon. Burton., p. 376, ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 356. Sandford 95.

^p Kennett, vol. i. p. 358.

^q Leland's Collect., vol. ii. p. 419.

^r Kennett, vol. i. p. 378.

oath, that the manors of Beckley, &c. were held by barony of the honor of St. Walery; that the advowsons of the churches of Beckley and Ambrosden belonged to the said manors; and the advowson of the church of Mixbury to the manor of Willarston; (and indeed it was seldom seen that the possession of the manor and patronage of the church were in several hands, before the perpetual advowsons were given to the monks;) . . . that his son Edmund was next heir, and on the feast-day of S. Stephen last past was of the age of twenty-two years. This Edmund Earl of Cornwall having succeeded to the large possessions of his father, continued to make Beckley a frequent place of residence. He died at his convent of Asherugge, on the 1st of October, 1300, without legitimate issue; his honours and lands fell to the king, Edward I., whom he had before declared his heir. In his treasury were found infinite sums of gold and silver, and great store of jewels.

The following account of the honor and village of Beckley is given in the Hundred Rolls, 7 Edward I., A.D. 1279:—

The honor of St. Walerie de Becklyee.

The jurors say, that the lord Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, holds the honor of S. Walerie, which descended to him in hereditary right, after the death of his father, Richard Earl of Cornwall, as his son and heir. Of which honor the said Edmund holds several manors in the hundred of Bolendon.

Beckley. Also the said Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, holds the manor of Beckeley, with the advowson of the church in demesne of the lord the king in capite, with all the appurtenances, by military service, whereof he holds in demesne two carucates of land, with a certain park, and one outwood, which is called Horhemewood. Also there are holden of the same earl, in the said vill. three virgates and a half of land, in villenage of the said earl, doing service yearly to the said earl, at his will.

Also there are holden of the same earl, at the will of the said earl, nine cottages doing service yearly to the said earl, at the will of the said earl, and they are holden of the lord the king in capite.

Free tenants. Also there is holden freely of the same earl, one virgate of land, paying yearly eight shillings suit to the court of Beckley, from three weeks to three weeks, and royal service as much as pertains to the same tenements. Also there are two carucates of land, and eight cottages pertaining to the church, doing royal service, as much as pertain to the same tenements.

A.D. 1301, 29, 30. Edward I., the king presented to the church of Beckle, as having the honor of S. Walery escheated to him*.

A.D. 1308, 1, 2. Edward II.† Within the first year of his reign, the king made a grant in fee of the whole earldom of Cornwall, the honour of St. Walerie, with Beckley the capital manor, and all other lands which Edmund Earl of Cornwall held at the time of his death, as well in reversion as possession, to Piers de Gavestone, who held them for some years, notwithstanding the strong remonstrances of the barons, who eventually put him to death in 1312. On his death, the barony of S. Walerie reverted to the crown, when the king immediately granted it to his new creature, Hugh Despenser, senior, who accordingly obtained a charter for the manor and park of Beckley, to be held upon the same services as Edmund Earl of Cornwall had performed for them.

A.D. 1315, 7, 8. Edward II. Sir John de Handlo, of Borstall, presented a clerk to the church of Beckley, the head of the barony of St. Walerie: which was granted to him by his potent friend and relation, Hugh Despenser, senior‡. [From the style of the chancel and some other parts of this church, it would appear to have been rebuilt during the time that this Sir John de Handlo held it.]

A.D. 1337, 11 and 12 Edward III. Sir John de Handlo holding the manor of Beckley during his life, William de Montacute, earl of Salisbury, obtained now from the king a grant in fee of the said manor of Beckley, in reversion after the death of Sir John de Handlo*. This Sir John died in 1346, leaving Edmund de Handlo his grandson (by Richard his eldest son, who died in his father's life, and Isabel his wife) his next heir, at this time seven years of age‡; he died in his minority, in 1355, and his manors descended to his sisters Margery and Elizabeth. Margery was married twice, first to Gilbert Chastelein, secondly to John de Apullby. Elizabeth was married to Sir Edmund de la Pole, younger son of Sir William de la Pole, of Kingston-upon-Hull*. But several of the manors of Edmund de Handlo were held for her life of Isabel his mother, daughter of Almaric de S. Amand, who attended the king at the battle of Cressy, and did good service there. In 1357 we find this Almaric lord of the adjoining manors of Beckley, co. Oxon, and Grendon, co. Bucks, which having formed part of the possessions of Edmund de Handlo, were probably held in trust by Almaric for his daughter Isabel and her chil-

* Kennett, vol. i. p. 494.

† Ibid., p. 509.

‡ Ibid., p. 532.

* Ibid., vol. ii. p. 69.

‡ Ibid., p. 89.

* Ibid., p. 114.

dren. It does not appear that the grant to the Earl of Salisbury was carried into effect.

A.D. 1352, the prioress and nuns of Studley procured licence to appropriate this church to their convent from John Bishop of Lincoln. A vicarage was then instituted, and an annual pension allotted to the vicar, while all oblations, Easter offerings, &c., together with all tithes in Beckley, and in the hamlets of Horton, Studley, and Marlake, were reserved to the prioress and convent^a.

A.D. 1363, 37 and 38 Edward III. An inquisition was held at Brehull (Brill), of the state of the royal forests of Shotover and Stowode. At this period John de Appulby was keeper of the forest. The jurors say that certain villages, of which Beckley is one, are out of the forest, and have no common in the forest, but they take their pigs into the woods of the king, in certain numbers, of which Beckley ten, price fifteen shillings. And they find that where the foresters have been accustomed of old to have pasture on the manors of the lords, as at Beckley, &c., the value of their pasturage should be deducted from that of the manors.

A.D. 1379, 1 Richard II. From an inquisition taken at Woodstock in this year it appears that this manor, with its appurtenances, was held by Sir Nicholas Bonde, Knight, of Edward Prince of Wales, and Joan, his wife, the father and mother of the king; and that the said Nicholas again enfeoffed the said prince thereof, who, in 44 Edward III. enfeoffed the king of England with the same^b. This estate appears to have then remained for a considerable time in the immediate possession of the crown; for in 1385, Richard II. granted letters patent to Richard Forester of Beckley, empowering him to take customs of all wares that shall pass through the north street in the parish of St. Clement, near Oxford, to repair the highway between that city and Headington hill^c; and in 1457, King Henry VI. presented Archbishop Chichele with twelve trees from his park at Beckley, towards building All Souls College^d.

From this period we have been unable to trace any particular notice of this manor, until the time of Henry VIII., when it became the property of Lord Williams, probably by a royal grant, as he was one

^a *Appropriatio eccl'ie de Bekkelegh priorisse et conventori de Stoddo 18 Kal. Maii 1352. Reg. Gynwell. ap. Dunkin, vol. i. p. 97.*

^b *Inquisit. post mortem, 1 Ric. II.,*

No. 81.

^c *Peshall's Oxford, p. 286.*

^d *Spencer's Life of Chichele, vol. ii. p. 169.*

of the courtiers of that monarch, and a tool of Thomas Cromwell. From the inquisition taken at his death, it appears that he died in possession of the manors of Beckley and Horton, jointly valued at £24. 9s. 1d., with all reprisals, and that the same were held of the king, but by what services the jury were ignorant.

This estate then became the property of Henry Norreys, in right of his wife Margaret, the daughter and co-heiress of Lord Williams.

In the 40th of Elizabeth, Lord Norreys, and Margaret his wife, obtained licence of the queen to alienate the manors of Beckley and Sydenham to Sir Anthony Powlett and others, for certain uses; these, no doubt, related to a settlement of the same upon Francis his grandson, to whom his chief estates devolved on his death, A.D. 1601. The estate at Beckley comprised the manor, with 20 messuages, 10 tofts, 20 gardens, 200 acres of land, 400 of meadow, 600 of pasture, 600 of wood, 4000 in fields and plains, and £3 in rents*. By Bridget his wife, he left one sole daughter and heir, named Elizabeth, who became the wife of Edward Wray, Esq., of Glentworth, in the county of Lincoln. From an inquisition taken during the lives of these parties, it appears that this gentleman and his wife held the manor of Beckley of the king *in capite* by military service, and the park of Beckley for the fortieth part of a knight's fee. Their only daughter, Bridget, who inherited the title of Baroness Norreys, married Edward Sackville, Esq., second son to Edward, earl of Dorset: but the civil wars commencing, her husband ranged himself under the banners of King Charles and was wounded in the battle of Newbury, Sept. 20th., 1641. In 1646, accompanying a party to Kidlington, three miles from Oxford, he was taken prisoner by the parliament forces, and afterwards cowardly stabbed to death by a soldier at Chawley, near Abingdon, from whence he was taken to Witham and buried: he left no issue. His widow Bridget, by a second marriage, carried her numerous estates to Montague, earl of Lindsay, another noted partisan of the king and one of his privy council. He departed this life at Lord Camden's house, in Kensington, 25 July, 1666. By the before-mentioned Bridget, his second wife, he had issue, 1, James Lord Norreys, 2, Edward, who died young, 3, Captain Henry Bertie, and a daughter, named Mary, who married Charles Dormer, second Earl of Caernarvon, and died Nov. 29, 1709. In consequence of a previous settlement, the hereditary estates of the baroness

* Lethieullier's MS., No. 4701, B. 6, Ayscough's Catal.

Norreys devolved to her children after her decease, and the greater portion, including Beckley and Horton, became the property of James Lord Norreys, created by King Charles II., Earl of Abingdon, in which noble family the estate still remains^a.

In Pope Nicolas's taxation, A.D. 1291, the Church of Beckley was taxed at 10*l.* ; and in the Inquisitiones Nonarum, taken A.D. 1342 (15 Edw. III.) at 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* ; and at the valuation of ecclesiastical benefices, 26 Hen. VIII., this Church was valued at 16*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*

The rectory impropriate, valued at £8., was granted by King Henry VIII. to John Croke, Esq., and alienated by his grandson to William Shillingford, alias Izode, or Izard, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The latter gentleman, a person of very considerable property, formed the rectory-house into a commodious habitation, which continued to be the principal residence of himself and his descendants for several generations, one of whom sold the impropriate rectory of Beckley to the duke of Bedford, whose successor again alienated it about 1700 to Edward Bee, Esq. The rectory devolved to the Rev. Dr. Leigh, Master of Balliol college, Oxford, by his marriage with the daughter and only child of Mr. Bee, from whom it descended to the Rev. T. L. Cooke, the present proprietor.

In 1718 this Church was served for £10. 10*s.* per annum, being an impropriation, as appears by a letter from the Rev. Mr. Watkins, minister there, quoted in Bacon's Liber Regis, but it was not certified into the Exchequer, or to the governors of Queen Anne's bounty. It is now valued at £112 ; population 776.

In this parish are the hamlets of Horton and Studley, which together contained in 1811 sixty-two houses, inhabited by seventy-five families, chiefly engaged in agriculture^b.

HORTON.

THE hamlet of Horton chiefly consists of some farm-houses and cottages erected on the verge of a common or piece of waste land on the border of Otmoor, and is two miles distant from Beckley.

At a very early period a church or chapel was built for the use of the

^a Dunkin, vol. i. p. 112, 4to.

^b Dunkin, vol. i. p. 124.

township, which was given by Wacheline Hareng, who then held it of Bernard de St. Walery, to the abbot and convent of Eynsham^c, in the reign of Henry II.

From the endowments of this chapel the monks of Eynsham afterwards reserved a pension of something more than four shillings per annum, as appears by the deed of confirmation granted by Hugh Wells bishop of Lincoln.

How long it continued to exist as a place of worship is uncertain ; it is not mentioned in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas, nor in the Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp. Henry VIII. A tradition exists respecting its site, which is said to have been in a field still called Chapel Close. The inhabitants of the hamlet now usually attend at the chapel at Studley House.

In the year 1764 Margaret and Stephen Wheatland gave by will 230*l.* 10*s.* 11½*d.* 3 per cent. consols, for teaching ten children of Beckley and Horton ; which sum in 1823 appears to have been vested in the names of Thomas Nichols, — Stephens, and William Ledwell^d. This is recorded in the Parliamentary Digest of the Reports of the Charity Commissioners, published in 1841.

STUDLEY.



The Priory

STUDLEY is situated on a hill, a short distance above Horton, and is partly in the second division of the three hundreds of Ashendon, county of Bucks, and partly in the hundred of Bullington, in the county of

^c Reg. Eynsham MS. cartg. 102. ap. Kennett, and ap. Dunkin, vol. i. p. 125.

^d Dunkin's Oxfordshire, Appendix, No. 8.

Oxford: it is a chapelry of the vicarage of Beckley, and has been denominated such ever since the erection of a chapel here by Sir George Croke. The hamlet is fifteen miles west of Aylesbury, and seven miles north-east by east of Oxford. In 1803 that part in the county of Bucks was only assessed at 2s. 6d. in the pound, while the Oxfordshire portion was rated at 5s. 8d.

In the reign of King Ethelred, Studley, or Stodileye, or Estodeley, was the property of Ailmer, earl of Cornwall, said by Dugdale to be a nobleman of "singular piety^a," and given in exchange to his kinsman Godwyne, A.D. 1005, for some lands in Eynsham, where he founded an abbey of the Benedictine order, and was buried in the church of the monastery^b.

At the Norman invasion, it was included in the honor bestowed upon Robert D'Oilly, who gave half a hide of land therein towards the endowment of St. George's church in Oxford castle. This donation was subsequently transferred to Oseney abbey, with the other estates belonging to that church, and confirmed by Jeffrey de Ivery, the superior lord, in the fourteenth year of King Stephen.

About the middle of the reign of Henry II., Bernard S. Walery, lord of this manor, and of the late barony of Ivery, founded a Benedictine nunnery in this place, which he dedicated to St. Mary, and endowed with half an hide of land.

For the history of this priory our limits compel us to refer to other works. It will be found in the *Monasticon Anglicanum*, vol. i. p. 486; *Tanner's Notitia Monastica*, p. 426; *Dunkin's Hundred of Ploughley*, vol. i. pp. 130, 179; and in the *History of the Croke or Le Blount family*, by Sir Alexander Croke, vol. i. pp. 408—437.

At the dissolution of the smaller religious houses, 26 Henry VIII., the excellent character of the inmates of this priory procured it the special recommendation of the Commissioners to royal favour. This averted its impending fate for a few years, but in 1540, 31 Henry VIII., it fell in the common ruin, Sir Jobson Williams having obtained from the affrighted sisters, assembled in common chapter, a deed of surrender on Nov. 9. of that year: this deed is printed by Dunkin, with a translation. The prioress and nuns were allowed pensions for their lives; that of the prioress was £16. 5s. 8d., equal to at least £325 of our money: those of the nuns varied from 26s. 8d. to 40s., and for

^a *Baronage*, vol. i. p. 3, 254.

^b *Mon. Ang.*, vol. i. p. 229.

shillings we may safely read pounds in reducing them to our present standard. Of these pensions only one continued to be claimed fifteen years after the dissolution.

In a little more than three months after the afflicted sisters had been driven forth from their habitation, the king, by letters patent, bearing date Feb. 26, in the thirty-first year of his reign, granted to John Croke and his heirs (*inter alia*) the site of the priory of Studley, the manor of Studley, the rectory of Beckley, and the advowson of the vicarage of Beckley, as fully as the prioress of Studley held them at the time of the dissolution.

Some fragments of the ancient buildings of the priory were dug up a few years since by Sir A. Croke, who made drawings and etchings of them, which he published in the *History of his Family*, vol. i. p. 437, and also presented a copy to our Society; they are chiefly of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and were apparently parts of the chapel.

The present appearance of Studley priory is that of a very picturesque Elizabethan house, beautifully situated. THE CHAPEL is attached to one end of the house, and is quite of a domestic character, with square-headed transomed windows; it has a wooden bell-turret on the roof. Some of the seats are open, with carved poppies of Elizabethan work, among which is a cock: they are unusually tall, being five feet high. The Communion-table is plain, of the same age, with the slab still detached, according to the custom of that period: the pulpit with its canopy is of the same character. The hourglass-stand remains attached to one end of the reading-desk. At the west end of the chapel is a gallery with a screen under it, with balustres both above and below, all of the same style. This chapel has a flat plaster ceiling, and there is a loft over it, which appears to be the original arrangement. It was built in 1639.

The house may be generally described as a long range of buildings, constituting a centre and two wings; the latter divided into offices, stables, and other conveniences. Some portions of the interior of the building belonged to the old priory, as is indicated by the great thickness of the walls, one of which is seven feet thick. The central division, now formed into a handsome mansion, is considerably elevated, and the front commands an extensive view of the surrounding country, comprising Beckley, Otmoor, &c.

On the eastern side of the priory two bay windows have been lately

added. The principal entrance is by a porch on the west side, ornamented with Doric pilasters, surmounted by others of the Ionic orders. Four shields, exhibiting the armorial bearings of the several families into which the first lay possessors intermarried, are placed above the arch, inscribed with their several names, Croke and Cave; Croke and Unton; Croke and Blount; and Croke and Bennett. Over them is the motto of the Crokes, *Virtutis amore*. Between the three first is the date 1587, and under Croke and Bennett 1622. On the centre of the pediment over the door is a rose under a crown, between the initials E. K., for Ed. VI., and over it the following inscription:—"Fear this glorious and fearful Name, THE LORD THY GOD. Honour the King." Over this is a book open between two cherubs' heads, and upon its pages the Greek word ΘΕΟΣ.

The chapel was built by Sir George Croke in 1639. The stables have the date of 1666, and the initials of Alexander Croke.

Without, and nearly opposite the park-gate, is a range of alms-houses, erected by Sir George Croke, for four men and four women, A.D. 1636; for the better regulation of which he drew up a code of orders, which are now in full force, and the presentations made accordingly. He also settled a rent charge of twenty pounds a year for a clergyman who should preach once every Sunday, there, or in the chapel at Horton, [since destroyed.] This was a great convenience to his own family, the poor people in the alms-house, his tenants and neighbours; the parish church being at Beckley, at the distance of two miles^d.

One of these orders is, "That from henceforth public prayers shall be read in the almshouse in their several chambers by course, or in the chappell belonging to the mansion house of Studley *every morning and evening*, at certain hours, and that the same prayers shall be the Confession of Sinners, and such other prayers now used in the Church of England." Provision is also made for payment to the *curate* or schoolmaster, if any such shall be *resident* in Horton or Studley. The poor men are to be called together by a bell, and any that are absent without just cause are to be fined^e.

^c Par. Antiq., vol. i. p. 141.

^d Sir A. Croke, vol. i. p. 587.

^e Sir A. Croke, Appendix xxx., vol. ii. p. 860.

STANTON ST. JOHN.

PATRON.
NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD.

St. John Baptist.

DEANERY
OF CUDDSDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.

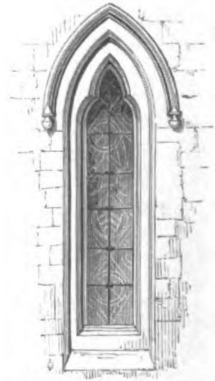


View of the Church from the South East.

THIS Church appears to have been built in the time of Edward I. The Chancel is a fine and valuable specimen of that age, the period of transition from the Early English to the Decorated style. The Tower was added or rebuilt in the fifteenth century.

The **CHANCEL**, which is the most important feature of this Church, is a composition of singular character and great beauty ; the north and south side are each in two divisions with a buttress between ; the two divisions on the north, and the eastern one on

the south side, each contain two very beautiful lancet windows with delicate mouldings and trefoiled heads; these are widely splayed within, and with beautiful suits of mouldings; the interior arches are depressed, and the arch-mouldings at the corners cross in a very elegant manner; the corbel-heads between are well cut: the accompanying engravings will, however, explain better than a description. The south-west division consists of a small door and one window, which is wider than the rest, but in other respects similar; the



Side Window of Chancel.
(Exterior.)

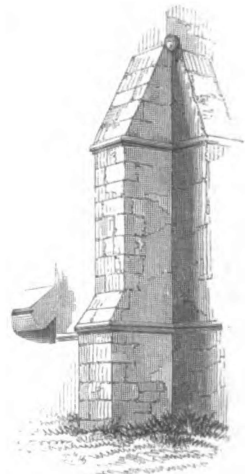


Corbel Heads, North side of Interior of Chancel.

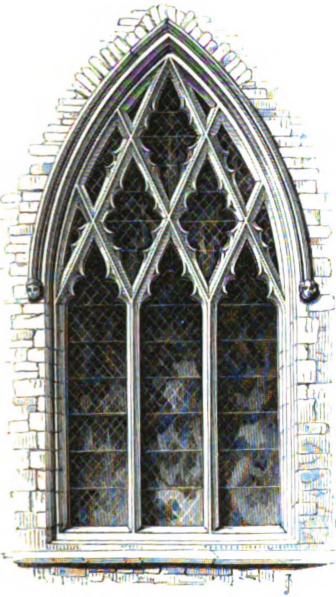


Female Head, South side.

dripstones over these windows are well moulded, and terminated by the peculiar ornaments called Masks, or Notch-heads. In the interior the terminations are heads, elegantly carved, among which are a king and a bishop very similar to those of the east window of Merton college chapel, and female heads with the chin-cloth, very characteristic of the period. The buttresses are of two stages, and bold projection; the tablet-moulding under the lower stage runs quite round the chancel, and is remarkable for its singular character, and the curious hollow, which however does not add much to the effect,



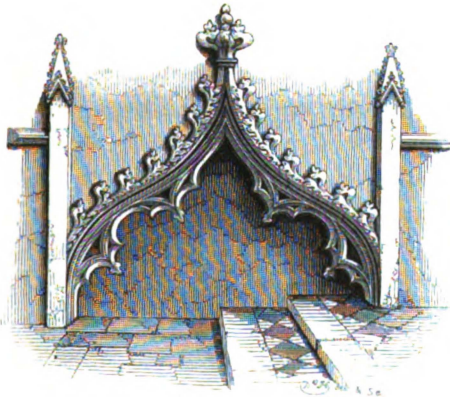
Buttresses of Chancel.



East Window.



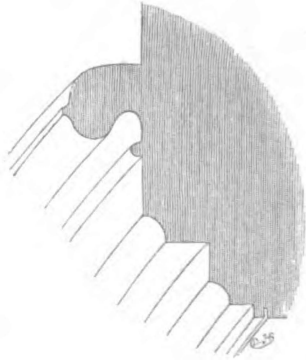
Side Window of Chance! (interior)



Recess for Easter Sepulchre

in consequence of its small distance from the ground, that under the upper stage runs round the buttresses and stops against the wall.

The east end is a very beautiful but singular composition, remarkable for its window, which is a large one of three lights, the head is formed by a straight-sided triangle inscribed in a lancet arch, and straight lines drawn parallel to these sides from the summits of the two mullions, the lozenge-forms in the tracery are very beautifully feathered; the dripstone is good and characteristic, terminated by heads; the



Mouldings of East Window

inside is still more beautiful, the arch-mouldings are the same as those of the other windows, except that they are a trifle larger, the mullions have small attached shafts terminating in heads instead of the common foliated cap; the mouldings of the tracery are very delicate and beautiful. This window was once evidently filled with painted glass of the same date as the chancel; some of which yet remains in the tracery to attest its excellence; the north-east window is still filled with it, of the common geometrical character, and the arms of Clare occur in it; two more of the north windows are half full of painted glass, the remainder are filled up with brick, and one whole window by a large marble monument; in the south window there is a beautiful remnant of painted glass, the subject seems to be two persons carrying a shrine, which is censed by two angels, while two men are prostrate in adoration before it; the canopies in it are of early Decorated character; on the north side there is the arch of an Easter sepulchre; the crockets and bases of the pinnacles have been cut away. On the south is a plain piscina. The ceiling of the eastern division of the chancel, over the Altar platform, is canted, and divided into square compartments by wooden ribs, with bosses at the intersections; these

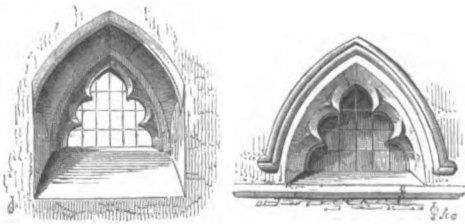
are alternately square four-leaved flowers, and shields of arms; they are painted blue, red, and white, and on them occur the arms of New College, shewing that it was put up by that Society after their purchase of the Church, soon after the Dissolution. The chancel door has a good dripstone terminated by masks, and united at the top with the moulded string, which is carried over it so as to form a square head.



Chancel Door.

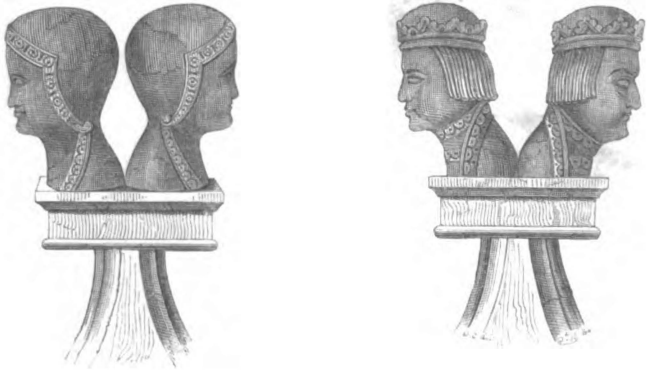
The chancel-arch is transition Norman, pointed and quite plain: the arch not recessed, and the impost square, not even chamfered, and it has no labels.

The NAVE is divided from the aisles by three arches on each side, those on the north are of much ruder workmanship than those on the south; the piers are square and massive, and the arches pointed with a mere chamfer; they belong to the period of transition from the Norman to the Early English styles, having Norman imposts and labels: those on the south are Decorated, having good labels, the roll-moulding terminated by, and meeting in a head, the costume of which is the same as those in the chancel; the caps have Decorated mouldings of not bad character. The clerestory windows are over the piers, and not over the centre of the arches.

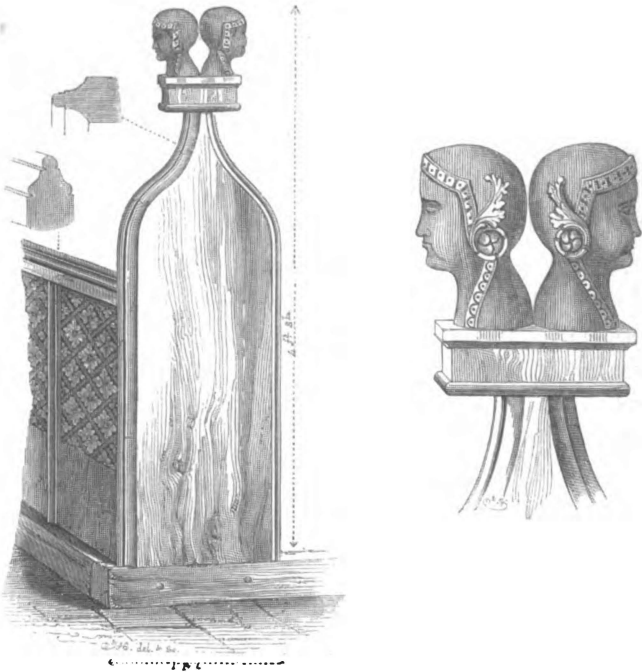


Interior. Clerestory Window. Exterior.

Some very good old pews, or as they are more usually called open benches, remain, with very curious carved poppies, consisting chiefly of small heads, two on each standard joined back to back. Some of these are heads of horses, others grotesque figures, but some are human heads, with costume of a very



Popy-heads in Nave, c 1330.



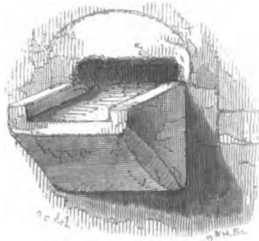
Beuchends and Popy-heads in Nave, c 1530

marked character of the time of Henry VIII. The exterior of the nave is of Decorated character; the south aisle small and low, and the clerestory windows above are spherical triangles, the interior mouldings cinquefoiled; the entrance to the Church is in this aisle; a plain Decorated doorway, unprotected by a porch.

The north aisle is much wider, with a high-pitched roof almost as high as that of the nave; this aisle is Perpendicular, but the south-west window is Decorated, preserved from an earlier structure, the rest square-headed Perpendicular; there are some fine and large buttresses to this aisle. On the east gable of this aisle is a very good Perpendicular cross, canted and ornamented with a four-leaved flower near the extremity of each of the arms, the base ornamented with trefoils on each face; on the east gable of the nave is the base of a sanctus-bell niche. In the north aisle there is a chantry surrounded with very beautiful oak open screen-work, which retains many traces of its former brilliant colouring; there is a beautiful early Decorated piscina on the south side, in a singular projecting mass like a buttress, and a locker on the north side: in the eastern wall another water-drain, like a piece of a stone spout through the wall, this is on the north side of the Altar, and low down, so as to be convenient for pouring into. From these remains it would appear that this inclosure was most probably a vestry, in which, according to custom, there was an Altar for rehearsing the service, with all its appurtenances. It is lamentable to see this curious and interesting inclosure now filled up with new deal pews, of the most approved box form. The Font is octagonal, quite plain, and remarkably low, standing on the ground without any steps. The wall above the Altar was covered with paintings.



Cross on East Gable.



Water-drain at East end of North Aisle.

There is a current tradition that this aisle was built for the inhabitants of Woodpery, in place of rebuilding their church after it had been destroyed, with the whole village, by an accidental fire in the fifteenth century. There was also a chantry in the south aisle; the piscina remains, as also some wood-work, on which are some very good paintings of angels.

The Tower is of Perpendicular date, with a staircase-turret on the south side, not at the angle, but nearer the south-east than the south-west angle; it contains five bells and a clock. The tower-arch is of simple and bold character, and of good proportions. In the west window there is a very curious small circular panel of painted glass, on which is represented a man in a fighting attitude, with sword and shield, in a remarkable costume of the time of Edward I., so that this piece of glass must have been preserved from an earlier window, as is frequently the case.

The old Rectory-house, which was standing until within these



Rectory-House, in 1835

four years at the south-east corner of the Church-yard, was a valuable specimen of the domestic architecture of the fourteenth century: its destruction is very much to be regretted. We are indebted to the zeal and taste of the late Sir Alexander Croke, of Studley, for this representation of it. T. SIMPSON, ORIEL.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

In Domesday Book, it is written Stantone, and was held by Ilbert de Laci, of the Bishop of Baieux.

A.D. 1141, 6, 7, King Stephen. This church was granted to the

convent of St. Mary, at Reading, by the empress Maude; the deed of presentation, and the confirmations of it are printed in Kennett's *Par. Ant.*^a, Stanton St. John, so called because the family of St. John of Lageham, in Surrey, were lords of it so early as King Henry III.'s days, and continued so to the 25th of Edward III. and after, for we find the Lord St. John of Bletsho, Earl of Bolenbroke, in possession of it 1st of Eliz., as being a branch of that antient family of St. John of this place^b.

A.D. 1181. A composition was made in the Church of Stanton, and afterwards fully confirmed at St. Frideswide's, in Oxford, between the Abbot and Monks of Ensham, and the Prior and Canons of Bicester respecting the tithes of Stratton^c.

1184, 30, 31, Henry II. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, confirmed to the Abbey of Ensham, the Church of Stanton; the gift of John de St. John.

A.D. 1229, 13 Henry III. Roger St. John, of Stanton, did remit and quit claim (as his father had before done) to a mill and five virgates of land in Weston, adjoining to Burcester, called Simeon's land, which had been granted to the abbey of Oseney^d.

A.D. 1254, 39 Henry III. By the hundred Rolls^e of this date we find that Lady Emma de St. John held the manor of the value of 20*l*. [about 800*l*. of our money] as her dowry, with ten hides of land held under the king by the service of the third part of a knight's fee.

A.D. 1290, aut circiter, temp. Edward I.^f At this period John de St. John held the manor of hereditary right, and had three plough lands and two meadows called Sideleme and Hildesden, and common pasture in Menemers and Bernwood, also two woods called Hornle and Sidele, and two mills which paid 22*s*. a year. The abbot of Ensham was patron of the Church.

A.D. 1323, 16, 17 Edw. II. John de St. John, lord of the manors of Staunton St. John and Great Barton, departed this life, leaving John his son and heir fifteen years of age; and Alice his widow, who after married to Reginald de Pavely, lord of the manor of Wendlebury^g.

A.D. 1340. Sir Richard d'Amorie assigned over fifty acres of land in Staunton St. Johns, to Matthew Clyredon, with other property. In trust for himself, and for Richard his son and heir, on occasion of his joining an expedition in Flanders.

^a Kennett, vol. i. p. 132.

^b *Mag. Brit.*, vol. iv. p. 411.

^c Kennett, vol. i. p. 201.

^d *ib.*, p. 290.

^e P. 38.

^f *Rot. Hand.*, p. 713.

^g Kennett, vol. i. p. 563.

A.D. 1390. Simon, son of Walter de Wodeham, in the county of Surrey, released to Nicholas de Loveyn, knight, and Margery his wife, all his right in the manors of Staunton St. John, Barton and Lageham, com. Oxon; from which family of Loveyn, the possessions passed to that of St. Clare; of whom Sir Philip St. Clare, knight, died possessed of the manor of Staunton, as demesne of the king in capite, 10 Henry IV., and left John his son and heir a minor in ward to the king^b.

The manor and rectory were purchased by New College immediately after the suppression of monasteries: we find that in 1534, 26 Henry VIII., William Fleshmonger gave £200. towards the purchase of the manor of Stanton St. John's; and in 1535, Thomas Milling also gave 300 marks towards the same purchase¹.

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII. the manor with its appurtenances belonging to New College is valued at 22*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*

The living was valued in the Ecclesiastical Taxation¹, A.D. 1291, at 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; in 1341 it was still valued at the same sum², though assessed at 6*l.*: in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII.¹ it is reckoned at 16*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.*, net value. It is now valued at 287*l.*, and the population is 470.

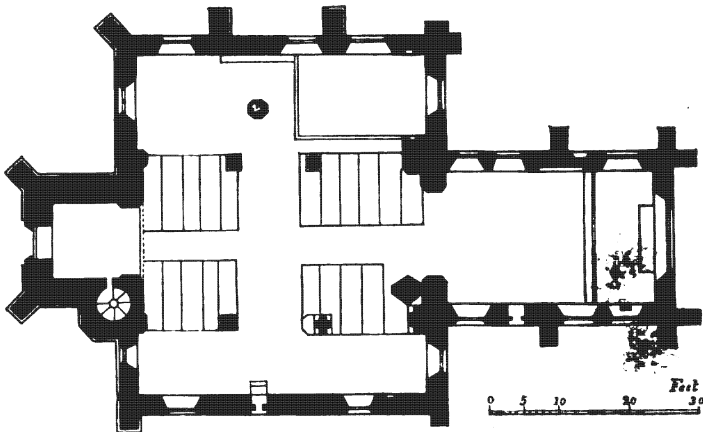
^b R. Doda MS., vol. xxxvii. and xli.,
ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 126.

¹ P. 31.

² P. 134.

¹ Wood's Oxford, by Gutch, vol. iv.,
p. 185.

¹ P. 171.



Ground Plan of the Church

WOODPERRY.

AN ECCLESIA DESTRUCTA.

THIS, which from long acquiescence, and in some degree perhaps, from unity of possession in the hands of the same proprietors during three centuries, has, for many years past, been considered a hamlet or tithing of Stanton St. John, appears to have been once a distinct parish or district, possessing a place of worship and cemetery of its own.

For, in the Valor of Pope Nicholas, the abbot of Oseney is stated to have a portion of tithes worth 6s. 8d. per annum, in ecclesia de Wodepyrie indecimali. This portion, as will appear below, consisted of two-thirds of the tithes, which, having originally been granted by Robert de Oily the elder, to the secular priests of St. George's chapel within the castle of Oxford, were transferred by Robert de Oily, the nephew, to his new foundation at Oseney in 1129. The only inference, however, attempted to be drawn from the use of the word "Ecclesia" in this passage, is, not that there was then a church at Woodperry, but that there existed in it a rectory, or property in tithes, distinct from those of its neighbour Stanton; and this is placed beyond a doubt by the "Ecclesia de Staunton" being afterwards separately noticed in the same record, and estimated to be worth £6 13s. 4d. a-year. In the inquisitiones nonarum, in the 15th year of Edward III., (1340,) the following entry occurs:—"Wodepirie. *Ecclesia Parochialis* ejusdem cum omnibus suis porcionibus taxatur ad xiiis. iiiid. cujus nona prædicta assedetur ad xiiis. iiiid. et non plus, per juratores et inquisitores prædictos." King Henry VIII.'s commissioners, in their return of pensions and portions due and unpaid to the monastery of Oseney, have

under the title Woodperry, "De xs. de portione decimarum infra *parochiam* ibidem per annum, nil:" and in their account of the possessions of New College, they carefully distinguish the lands in Wodbury from the manor, &c., of Staunton Seynt John. Farther, the Studley chartulary expressly calls this a parish^a. "Fines et limites parochiæ ecclesiæ de Beckleye. Sepe vocatum Arnegravchegh quod est inter quondam campum vocatum Borstallfelde dividit parochiam de Beckleye a parochia de Brehull. Et per illud sepe extendit se parochia de Beckleye, et ducit idem sepe recte ad quendam rivulum Denebrooke nuncupatum, qui quidem rivulus pertendit usque ad clausum Domini Richardi Damori. Qui quidem clausus dividit parochiam de Beckley a *parochiâ* de Woodperrye." In the preamble to the Stanton Inclosure Act, passed in 1777, it is mentioned, and evidently with some doubt as to its proper description, as "a certain farm, estate, or tithing, within the said parish, called Woodperry, which is free from tithes;" and though now rated together with that parish for the repairs of the church and support of the poor, it still retains its own surveyors of the roads, does suit and service to a different court, at which, previous to the late change of the law, the tithingman was always appointed, and came into the possession of its present owners by a title altogether distinct from that of the other.

With regard to the existence of a church or chapel here, there had always been a tradition in the neighbourhood to that effect; and it was added, that upon its being destroyed, the inhabitants purchased for themselves the privilege of attending divine worship at Stanton St. John, by building the north aisle of the present church. Of the truth of the latter assertion, there is not known to be any proof^b. About twenty years since, a labourer, felling a tree which stood near the S. E.

^a F. 5. quoted in Sir A. Croke's History of the Croke family, vol. i. p. 432. note.

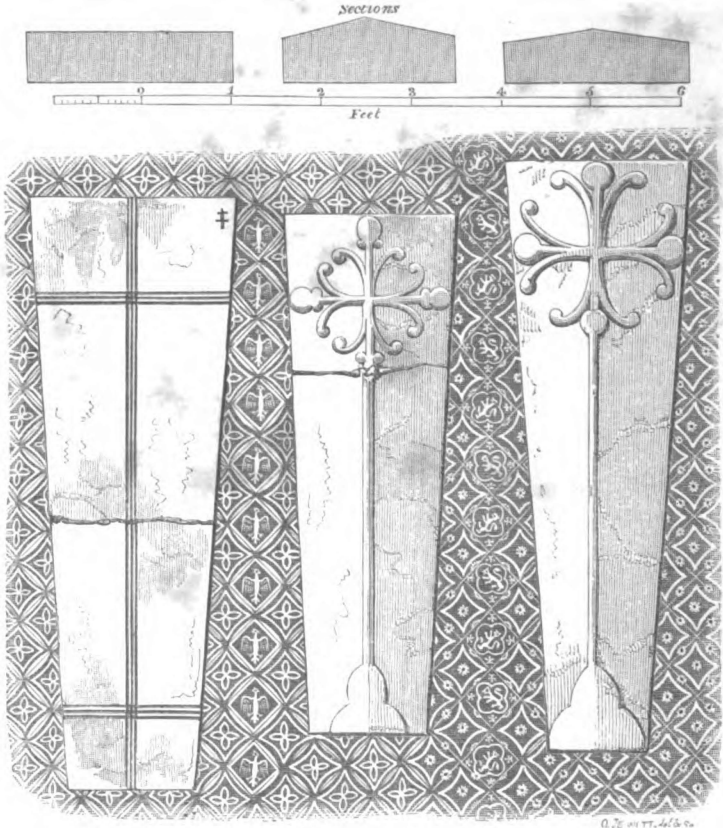
^b Circumstances seem rather to confirm the tradition; the aisle is unusually large, and has clearly been rebuilt and enlarged in the 15th century, while no

account of the church of Woodperry brings it down to so late a period, and the fragments discovered all belong to an earlier period. It seems therefore, most probable, that the fire which destroyed the village and church, took place early in the fifteenth century.

corner of the wall of the kitchen garden belonging to the mansion-house, in a field called Upper Ashen Close, found beneath the root of it the skull and part of the bones of a man. The singularity of the circumstance attracted his attention; and considering what chance, (for it could hardly be design,) had placed these relics of mortality in such a situation, it occurred to him that the spot on which he was at work, must be part of the church-yard of which he had often heard, and subsequent researches proved this to be the fact. As far as can at present be ascertained, along the highest part of the mound below the garden wall, stood the church, (or whatever it was called), and around it, to a considerable extent, was the cemetery. The hollow near it, running up to the garden wall on one side, and on the other winding with a gentle curve towards the water, is said to have been the "town road;" and over the whole extent of the field are scattered the remains of the village houses and buildings, extending nearly down to the little stream below, and reaching through the small close beyond it, up to the Horton road.

In searching over the ground once occupied by the church and church-yard, very numerous interments were found in the latter of bodies lying side by side, in the usual direction, at no great depth, which had apparently been buried in ordinary wooden coffins. What had been the site of the body of the church was still clearly distinguishable by the different colour of the soil, or rather rubbish, found in it, and by the absence of interments, three only excepted. But the walls of the edifice had been entirely removed, save only a small portion of the foundation of that on the south side, and another not so large of what was possibly part of the church-yard wall. These were purposely suffered to remain still undisturbed. The first of them is about eighteen feet long, by somewhat less than three in thickness, and seems to have had two clumsy buttresses: the second is nearly 14 feet long by $2\frac{1}{2}$ wide. The three interments already mentioned to have been within the body of the church are further to the west, and are

marked by three stones, lying side by side, two of which are ridged *en dos d'ane* as it is called, having raised ornamented crosses along the top; the third, that to the south, is flat, scored



Monumental Sials.

down the middle with three lines, and crossed by similar ones near the top and bottom. The two latter are broken across. The bodies were found beneath, and had been buried in wood only, but there was neither trinket or any thing else to denote who these personages were, or at what period they had been so deposited. Indeed, from the fashion of two, at least, of the stones, it might have been supposed their corresponding stone coffins had disappeared, and they had been used a second time to protect bodies to which they did not



ENCAUSTIC TILES, WOODPERRY.





ENCAUSTIC TILES, WOODPERRY.

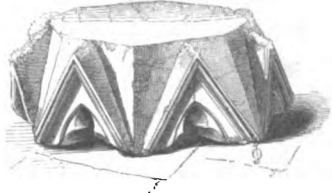
belong, were not such an idea at once disproved by the fact, that the intervals between them were carefully filled up with encaustic tiles (many more fragments of which kind were found dispersed), shewing that no previous removal had taken place. These tiles have been carefully preserved, and one of each pattern deposited in the Ashmolean Museum, they are of the thirteenth century, as indicated by the patterns, which present remarkably good specimens of that age; among them are the badges of Richard, earl of Cornwall, and king of the Romans, who resided principally at his mansion in the adjoining village of Beckley, and was proprietor of this manor; they are a lion rampant, crowned, his arms as earl of Poitou, and this badge is found on his seal, as mentioned under Beckley, p. 212, the other is the spread eagle of Germany, his badge as king of the Romans. In the course of the search, some portions of the building were brought to light, which, though inconsiderable, are curious and interesting, as tending to shew



Fragments of the ancient Church

its style and date. They consist principally of parts of a Norman arch or doorway, and two mullions and jambs of windows, and all the fragments seem to be either of the twelfth, thirteenth, or fourteenth centuries. There is also one perfect

stone of an elegant Gothic canopy, which possibly may either be part of a cross, or perhaps of a building over some holy spring, for it was found away from the church, in the close adjoining the Horton road, and near the brook, the source of which is not far off.



Fragment of ancient Cross.

No endowment of the church having been traced, and one, at least, of the fragments of the building indicating that it was of early date, it may not be unreasonable to hazard the conjecture that its authors were the abbot and canons of Oseney.

There remains, however, one question which will naturally suggest itself, which is, why a spot so pleasantly situated, and once apparently so populous, should have been deserted. Tradition says, this was owing to an accidental fire, which burnt the whole village, and compelled the inhabitants to take refuge in Stanton; and undoubtedly the quantity of charred wood found amongst the ruins, with the paucity of slates, shewing that the general covering was of thatch, would seem to give weight and authority to the suggestion. On the other hand, the builder of the mansion, which is of the early part of the last century, may have thought his neighbours too many and too near, and transferred them, as in the case of Nuneham, elsewhere. But inquiry has failed to throw light on the real circumstances of the case; and the buildings having been originally constructed for the most part of flat stones uncemented by mortar, their remains have offered a most convenient stone quarry, which has been used probably in the first instance for constructing the walls of the garden and pleasure ground, (not those of the house,) and for many years past in the repairs of the roads, till every thing which could furnish a date has disappeared, and, what is more to be regretted, almost every thing has been disturbed. In clearing and levelling the ground in the course of the last few years, a well has been found still in good preservation, about twenty feet deep, the water flowing through it and not standing

in it; and a number of keys, which must have been tied together, with a heap of cinders near them, seemed to indicate the site of a smith's shop. But the most curious fact which these researches have disclosed, is the indubitable evidence which they have afforded as to the inhabitants of the spot at a remote period,—of a previous settlement or villa of the Romans. Traces of that extraordinary people may be found over the whole neighbourhood, but nowhere more abundantly than here. They consist of fragments of pottery in great variety of patterns, and many similar to those preserved in the museum at Bonn; of the fine red ware called Samian, both plain and elegantly embossed with figures; of pieces of cinerary urns, yet bearing distinctly the marks of fire, and in one case containing what appear to have been the burnt ashes of a human being; together with an almost inexhaustible store of the coarse tiles used for supplying warm air to apartments^c. Added to these, a few trinkets in bronze, arrow-heads, and other instruments in iron, and brass coins of Domitian, Hadrian, Maximian, Constantine, and Claudius Gothicus, have been dug up.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

Woodperry, Wodpary, Wode-pire, pirie, piry, or pyri, (for it is found spelt in all these forms,) would seem to denote a town or village in a wood. But in the great charter of Robert de Oily to Oseney abbey, we find him granting a portion of tithes "de Wode Pire et de Pyria," which words so connected almost imply that the epithet Wode was used to distinguish it from some other Pire or Pyria, in which the etymology of the name must be sought.

The notices respecting it are scanty. There were originally a manor and lay rectory here, and the former was a part of the barony of S. Walery. Robert de Oily the elder, after founding his chapel of St.

^c In some instances they are found to mortar by the succeeding inhabitants of have been pounded and used to make a later period.

George, afterwards made a parochial church, within the precincts of Oxford castle, endowed it (amongst other things,) with two thirds of the tithes of this place. From this time it formed part of the honor of S. Walery, (for which see Beckley, p. 210) and is frequently mentioned as such; it occurs in inquisitions of the 39th Henry III., 7th Edward I., 28th Edward I.

1296. 24-25 Edw. I. Robert Bell de Wodepirie appears as a witness to a deed of grant and quit claim^d.

Circa 1303, 32 Edw. I. Robert de Wodepyri is one of the jury upon an extent of the manor of Ambrosden, taken on an inquisition^e.

1315. In a return of the limits of Bernwood forest, made upon oath, Wodeperie wood is stated to belong to Richard de Aumarie^f. This must have been as tenant only.

1317, May 24, 10 Edw. II. The king grants to Richard D'Amory and his heirs, free manor in all his demesne lands of Bokenhalle, Blechedon, Stoke de l'Isle, Wodepiry, and Bix Gibwyn, co. Oxon, with other lands in Somerset and Bucks^g.

4 Edw. III. Richard D'Amory died possessed of Woodpary manor^h.

1330, 4 and 5 Edw. III. John de Eltham, second son of Edw. II., having been advanced to the title of Earl of Cornwall, has now a grant from the king, his brother, of the manor of S. Walery, &c.ⁱ, but dying unmarried without issue in 1336, it again reverts to the Crown^k.

1360, 34-35 Edw. III. The king grants to John Chaundos the manor of Wodepery, co. Oxon, to hold by the accustomed service. This was said to be the celebrated Sir John Chandos^l, slain ten years afterwards in France, whose death is mentioned with so much interest and feeling by Froissart. He was of kin to Sir Richard de Amerie^m, which may have been one reason of the grant.

2 Henry IV. February 11. The king grants to William Willicotes, Esq., and his heirs, free warren in all his demesne lands of Willicote, or Alvescote, in the county of Gloucester, and in the manors of Ipwel, Walcote, and Wodepary, in the county of Oxonⁿ; and in the 12th Henry

^d Kennett, vol. i. p. 466.

^e *Ib.*, ii. p. 411.

^f *Ib.*, i. p. 529.

^g P. 537. 1 Rott. Chartt. sub anno.

^h Inquis. post mort., vol. ii. p. 30.

ⁱ Kennett, vol. ii. p. 15.

^k Pp. 32. 159.

^l Kennett, vol. ii. p. 157.

^m P. 154.

ⁿ Cat. Rott. Chartt. p. 195. His name was not derived from Wilcot, co. Oxon, but from a property in Gloucestershire, *ibid.*

IV. he is returned to have died seized of *ness 'tur et reddit'* in Northlye, Wealicott, Wodeparye, and Ypwell, co. Oxon^o.

24 Henry VI. Elizabeth Blaket is found to have died seized of this manor^p, and also to have held Madecroft, and Horley's close^q.

Early in the sixteenth century, the estate was purchased by the Warden and Scholars of New College, Oxford, from Sir John Brome, of Holton, an ancestor of the Whorwood family, and was conveyed as a lay rectory, with lands appurtenant to it, a peculiarity not easily to be accounted for, but by supposing that the manor had become extinct for want of the requisite number of tenants to support it.

It may not be uninteresting to add that this spot is noticed by the celebrated antiquary, Thomas Hearne. In his diaries preserved in the Bodleian Library, he gives us the following particulars in his account of a walk which he took to Studley, on Saturday, March 31st, 1716. "Having done at Borstall, I returned homewards, and stopping at the Royal Oak, at Stowe Wood, (on this side Beckley,) Master Haynes, the tenant of the house, told me that his mother was living (somewhere about Woodbury Farm, I think,) being about 102 years of age.

"The said Woodbury Farm is above a quarter of a mile from Stowe-wood, and Haynes gave several reasons to shew that it was formerly a town. He says many foundations of buildings appear continually, and that in a plain below the farm houses many human bones have been dug up at different times, and that this was the Church-yard, and that therefore the Church stood there."

He also gives some account of the building of the mansion-house in his diary for the year 1732, vol. 137, p. 100, saying that "Woodbury house was built by Mr. Morse, a bachelor of 74 years of age, that he was worth £300,000 and was purchasing estates. I have heard that he was a partner in Child's house." That respectable firm, upon being applied to, confessed their belief that they had once had a partner of the name; added to which, "Mr. Morse's exōrs." are found rated in the parish books of Stanton for the year 1750^r. And in the iron-work on the gate in front of the house are the initials I. M. or T. M. with the crest, a battle-axe, which probably may have been the crest of the Morse family, as Edmondson blazons their arms thus:—Argent, a battle-axe in pale gules, between three pellets.

^o Cal. inq. p. mortem, vol. iii. p. 334,
No. 41.

^p Vol. iv. p. 226. No. 33.

^q P. 306. No. 55.

^r Constable's Book. The rate is upon property in Stanton.

HOLTON.

PATRON.

St. Bartholomew.

DEANERY

OF CUDESSEN.

MISS BISCOE.

HUNDRED

OF BULLINGTON.



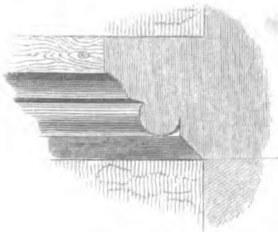
North east view of Church.

	FT.	IN.		FT.	IN.
Chancel	20	6	by	14	0
Nave	38	0	by	15	0
North transept . .	16	7	by	10	4
South transept . .	15	0	by	10	0
Tower	11	10	by	9	0

N.B. Both nave and chancel are narrower at the east end than the west.

A SMALL cruciform Church without aisles, the tower at the west end. It appears to have been originally built towards the end of the twelfth century, but the chancel rebuilt in the fourteenth, the nave remodelled, and the tower added in the fifteenth.

CHANCEL.—The east window is Decorated, of three lights, with flowing tracery: on the north side is a Decorated window of a single light and a small door: on the south side are two windows in the same style, and a small round-headed piscina. The Roof is ceiled, but the wall-plates have good Perpendicular mouldings; the chancel-arch is transition Norman, pointed; the upper doorway to the rood-staircase has lately been opened, over it is a Decorated sanctus-bell turret, surmounted by a cross, and with the roll-moulding as a string under it; on the east gable is a good Decorated cross.



Wall plate in Chancel.

The arches of the transepts are transition Norman, pointed; the north transept has one Norman and one Decorated window. The south transept was rebuilt, and probably the nave remodelled, by William Brome about the middle of the fifteenth century, as appears by the following inscription, formerly existing in the south transept, and preserved in Wood's MS. E. I., and also in the parish register, but destroyed previous to 1819:—"Hic jacet Willielmus Brome, qui hanc capellam fieri fecit et multa bona huic ecclesie erogavit, obiit 17 die mensis Decembris, An. Dom. 1461. Cujus anime propitietur Deus." It has one Perpendicular window, and a modern one.

The NAVE has square-headed Perpendicular windows of three lights. It has lately been refitted with plain open seats. The roofs are all ceiled, but the moulded wall-plates of the fifteenth century still remain. The Font is Perpendicular, octagonal, plain, unusually large, and solid. The north door is transition Norman, with very good mouldings, the zig-zag and tooth



North Door in Nave.

ornaments, and has shafts with Norman sculptured caps; it has recently been carefully cleaned from the whitewash with which it had long been choked up.

The Tower is Perpendicular, plain, with a good small west door, and a good tower-arch, pointed and recessed, the inner arch resting on good corbel-heads. This had been long concealed, and has lately been re-opened and exposed to view. It is much to be regretted, that at the same time the western gallery was rebuilt and enlarged to such an extent that it was found necessary to introduce a window under it within the west door, and to build a staircase on the outside of the tower with a square-headed door. Fortunately, however, the fabric itself has not been injured in these alterations, so that the original design can be restored at any future time. There are no buttresses to any part of this Church.

In this Church is the burial-place of the family of Schutz, of Shotover-house, and also those of the families of Brome and Whorwood.

In the Tower are three bells thus inscribed:—1. Richard Wise, William Willins, C.W., 1662. 2. "Sancta Anna ora pro nobis," in letters of the fifteenth century. The third having been recast, the inscription is not legible.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1084, Holton, is in Domesday Book, written Eltone. It is there reported, in the Hundred of Peritune, and held by Godfrey of Roger de Iveri, to whom it was given, with several other lands in this neighbourhood, by Robert de Oilgi his sworn brother in the service of the Conqueror. It thus became part of the district afterwards called the Honor or Barony of St. Walery, an account of which will be found in the Historical Notices of Beckley the head of that Barony.

A.D. 1166^a, Bernard de St. Walery paid to the king two marks for

^a Reg. Dods. MS., vol. ii., et Rot. Pip. ap. Kennett.

livery of his lands in "Haltona Oxenfordscire," as accounted for by Adam de Catmer, sheriff of Oxon and Berks.

A.D. 1319, Roger, uncle to Richard d'Amorie lord of the manor of Bucknell, having married Elizabeth, third sister, and one of the co-heirs to Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, niece to King Edward II., had a grant from the king to him and his said wife, and their heirs in general, entail of the manor of Halghton in com. Oxon, late the possession of Edmund earl of Cornwall, which grant was confirmed in the parliament held at York, 13 Edw. II., by which means the said manor of Halghton passed to their eldest daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married 10 Edw. III., to Thomas Lord Bardolf; and so in 45 of Edw. III., to their son and heir, William Lord Bardolf; and in 13 Rich. II., to Thomas Lord Bardolf; who having joined in rebellion against King Henry IV., with the Earl of Northumberland and others, and being attainted in parliament, his lands were given by that king to Thomas Beaufort his brother: howbeit, Sir W. Clifford, knt. in right of Anne his wife, and William Phelip in right of Joan his wife, daughters of the said Thomas, representing to the king that King Henry II. had by his letters patent given to Thomas Bardolf, ancestor of their father, and to the heirs of his body, many of the said manors, the inheritance of them did of right belong to them, the king being convinced of the justice of their claim, granted them the reversion of the said lordships, and so they and their posterity came at length to have this manor divided between them, and we find Joan the wife of William Phelip died possessed of a moiety of it 25 Henry VI., leaving it, and her other estates, as her husband (which was styled the Lord Bardolf in her right) had done, to Henry the son of John Viscount Beaumont, by Elizabeth their only daughter and heir^b, and 6 Henry IV. to Anne his daughter and heir, married to Sir William Clifford^c.

A.D. 1538, in the Ecclesiastical Survey of Henry VIII. the rectory is valued at 12*l.* 19*s.* It is now valued at £390. The present number of inhabitants is 277.

In Wood's MS. E. I., is the following information respecting the Church and the later history of the manor. "At the upper end (under the sanct. bell-cot) of the Church, without side are the arms of Baldington, quartered with a chevron both cut in stone, whether the chevron

^b Magna Britann., vol. iv. p. 408, 9.

^c Reg. Dods. MS., vol. xl. p. 159, ap. Kennett.

was charged with three sprigs of Brome I cannot perceive, because weather has worn away the stone. This Church at the foundation, as the inhabitants say, was dedicated to St. Bartholomew, because his picture is painted on the door thereof, with a saltier or his armes. This door did stand, when I took a copy of the monument, in the belfrey. I have been told here that this lordship was formerly in the possession of the Baldingtons whose heiress was married to Brome, and the heiress of Brome was married to Sir Thomas Whorwood of Sandwell in Staffordshire." It remained in that family until 1801, when the estate, manor and advowson, were sold by Henry Mayne Whorwood, Esq., of Headington, to Elisha Biscoe, Esq., in whose family they now remain. The old manor-house was a large stone edifice surrounded by a moat; this was taken down, and the present house built on another site in 1815. The feast of dedication is held on St. Bartholomew's day, old style.

In the parish register of Holton, is the following remarkable entry :—

WEDDINGES,

Henry Ireton, Commissary General to Sir Thomas Fairfax, and Bridget, daughter to Oliver Cromwell, Lieut. Genl. of the horse to the said Sir Thomas Fairfax, were married by Mr. Dell, in the lady Whorwood her house, in Holton, June 15, 1646. ALBAN EALES, RECTOR.

RECTORS OF THE CHURCH OF HOLTON.

A.D. 1263, Nov. 19. The Lord Bishop admitted John Chaplain of the King of Almain, to the Church of Halghton, at the presentation of the same king, by the death of Ada, and it was given him to hold lawfully together with the Church of St. Nicholas of Sanderdon, in the Archdeaconry of Bucks.—(Roll of Richard Gravesend, 6th year).

A.D. 1319, July 20. William de Luteshull, priest, by Sir Roger Damory, Knt., to the Church of Halghton, vacant by the death of Philip de Waltham.—(Reg. Dalderby).

A.D. 1323, March 29. Will. de Carleton, clerk, presented by the king to the Church of Halghton, (by reason of lands which were the property of Roger Damory, being in his hands), vacant because Will. de Luteshull has entered into the order of Minors.—(Reg. Burgwersh).

A.D. 1345, March 4. Stephen de Bretham, priest, presented by Lady

Elizabeth de Burg, Lady de Clare, to the Church of Halghton, by death of Sir William atte Halle.—(Reg. Beke).

A.D. 1418, July 9. An exchange between Sir Nich. Byllyngdon, Rector of the Church of Halton, in the Deanery of Rysbergh, of the collation and immediate jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Michael James, Rector of the Church of Wendilbery, at the presentation of Rob. Andrew.—(Reg. Reppingdon).

A.D. 1479, Sept. 27. Master John Coldale, priest, presented by Sibilla Quatermayne, relict of Richard Quatermayne, deceased, to the Church of Halton, by death of Master Edw. Byrt.—(Reg. Rotherham).

A.D. 1494, March 19. Sir Robert Occulshawe, priest, presented by Johanna Fowler, widow, to the Church of Halton, by resignation of Master John de Coldall.—(Reg. Smyth).

A.D. 1508, March 30. Sir John Kale, Chaplain, presented by Richard Fowler, Knt., to the Church of Halton, by death of Sir Robert Okilshawe.—(ib.)^d.

1534. Sir Richard Lose, Rector ^e .	1723. Rev. Edmund Whorwood.
1633. Rev. John Normansell ^f .	1735. Rev. Thomas Finch.
1645. Rev. Alban Eales.	1751. Rev. James Whorwood.
1665. Rev. Edward Rogers.	1758. Rev. John Coxe.
1684. Rev. William Master.	1768. Rev. Freeman Gage.
1702. Rev. Dr. Thomas Dunster,	1794. Rev. William Stratford.
presented by Mr. Whorwood.	1819. Rev. George Thomas Tyn-
1720. Rev. James Birt.	dale.

J. B.

^d Kennett, vol. ii. p. 18.

^e Valor Ecclesiasticus.

^f Parish Reg.

WATER - PERY.

St. Mary the Virgin.

PATRON.

J. W. HENLEY, ESQ.,

M.P.

DEANERY

OF CUDESSEN.

HUNDRED

OF BULLINGTON.



Decorated Cross in the Church-yard.

THIS Church is of mixed styles, and is so covered with luxuriant ivy that its external features are considerably obscured.

The Chancel, level with the Nave, is Early English, of about A.D. 1200, with a Decorated east window of three lights, in which are some confused fragments of stained glass, and the head probably of the patron saint. The lancet windows at the sides are small, and of long proportion, unequally placed, three being on the north, and on the south side originally four, of which

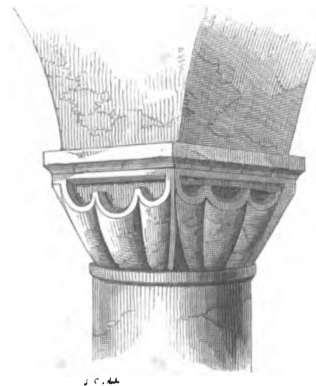
the two easternmost have been removed to make room for a monument and a modern window. In the lancet windows are some fragments of stained glass of simple Early English design. The priest's door, now stopped, was on the north side. Two heads fixed into the wall on this side were the terminations of a Decorated hood-moulding, one represents a bishop of the fourteenth century, the other a religious lady, or benefactress.



Corbel-heads in Chancel.

The roof is of high pitch, covered with slates, but ceiled within. The walls have been so altered by plaster and battening, that in many parts their former features are completely obscured. The mouldings of the chancel-arch terminate in Decorated corbels.

The NAVE is Decorated, of about A.D. 1300, it has three bays opening into the south or Lord's aisle, one supported on an isolated transition Norman column and cap, a similar impost-moulding to that on the cap is continued on the other piers: the arches above have no mouldings whatever on their soffits. The roof of this part of the Church is of oak, open, flat, Perpendicular, and covered with lead. It was probably constructed at the beginning of the sixteenth century.



Transition Norman Cap in Nave.

On the east gable is a simple sancte-bell cot, much mutilated. The Font is quite plain, and of different dates. The lower part or present stem is of about A.D. 1300, and appears originally to have been the Font, on which has been placed during the Perpendicular period an octangular basin, lined with lead. The marks of the staple-bolts remain.

The Pulpit is of the time of Charles the Second, with arabesque panelling of the period. The date, A.D. 1677, is carved on the sounding-board. The letters G. M. surmounting the date are explained by the fact that George Measey was churchwarden that year. The Reading Pew is similar but earlier; in front is cut the date 1632. A Perpendicular bracket is unevenly set in the north wall, between the windows.

The Rood-turret, with the staircase leading from the nave to the loft, remains nearly perfect.

The south or Lord's aisle was remodelled at the beginning of the sixteenth century, but must have been built long before that date. Formerly the only entrance into the Church (unless a door existed where is now a modern vault on the north side) was through a Decorated doorway, remaining in this aisle. The mouldings of the arch die rather curiously on the face of a larger moulding, forming the jambs. Another door at the west end of this aisle was made about 1820.

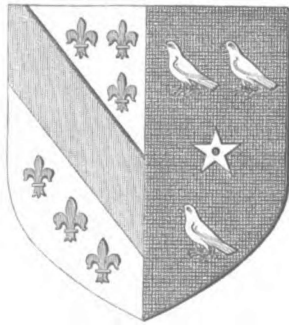
The west window, of three lights, is Perpendicular, about A.D. 1520. It bears marks of having been once filled with stained glass, but it is impossible from what remains to form any idea of the original design. On the north side of the nave are two very good and boldly cut Decorated windows, precisely similar in architectural features, except that one of them has been removed and unskillfully replaced. In the upper



Early Decorated Window. North side of Nave.

part of that towards the west is a small medallion of Decorated glass, representing our Saviour sitting on a couch or throne, the left hand holding a book, the right hand raised in the attitude of blessing; beside the throne is a kneeling figure:

the rest of the window appears to have been filled up with painted quarrels, chiefly oak-leaves and acorns, of which a considerable number remain : in the lights below are two figures of worshippers, one a male the other a female, both in dresses of the fourteenth century. The corresponding window near the pulpit contains glass of a monumental character, inserted at a later date ; in the light to the right hand is a man in armour kneeling, on his surcoat a bendlet between six fleurs-de-lis, which are the arms of the Fitz-Elys family ; on his breast is the minute effigy of a stag lodged or recumbent. In the centre light was the figure of the Virgin Mary, now completely destroyed^a. In the remaining light is depicted the lady of the knight, also kneeling, and behind her kneels their only daughter. The former has several rings on her fingers, and has a cross pattée attached to her necklace ; the latter has also rings, and wears the sacred monogram **I H C**. The fragments of arms recorded as formerly existing may still be distinguished. In the spandrels formed by the arches of the lights are the letters R. F. which are the initials of Robert Fitz-Elys. Robert was a favourite name among the descendants of William Fitz-Helias, Elias, Elye, Elys, &c., but the costumes of the above figures belong to the latter half of the fifteenth century and it is certain that the person here depicted with his wife and daughter is "Robert Phisseles," reported as deceased A.D. 1470. In Legh's Visitation of Oxfordshire, 1574, wherein are traced the arms then existing in Waterpery Church, the annexed coat is ascribed to Robert Fitz-Elys, Esq.



Arms of Robert Fitz Elys Esq.

On the opposite side, in the south aisle, is another obituary window. It is square-headed, Perpendicular, of three lights. The glass here is sadly mutilated and misplaced, but with the help of the MSS. referred to the original design may be understood in all its detail^b. On the left is Walter Curson

^a Wood's MS., E. I.^b Harl. MS., 4170 ; Wood's MS., E. I. and D. 14.

clad in armour, and in a kneeling posture; behind him are his eight sons, also kneeling: before him in the centre light, but originally in that to the right, is the mutilated figure of his wife Isabella, daughter of Robert Saunders, Esq., of Harrington, Northamptonshire; behind her are their seven daughters, also kneeling. In the remaining light may be perceived remains of the figure of the Virgin Mary displaced from the centre; one hand embraces the Holy Infant, the other is offering the fruit of promise; her purple robe is *semée*, with her appropriate monogram. Below are the arms of Curson and Saunders. Under all is the following inscription in the glass:—

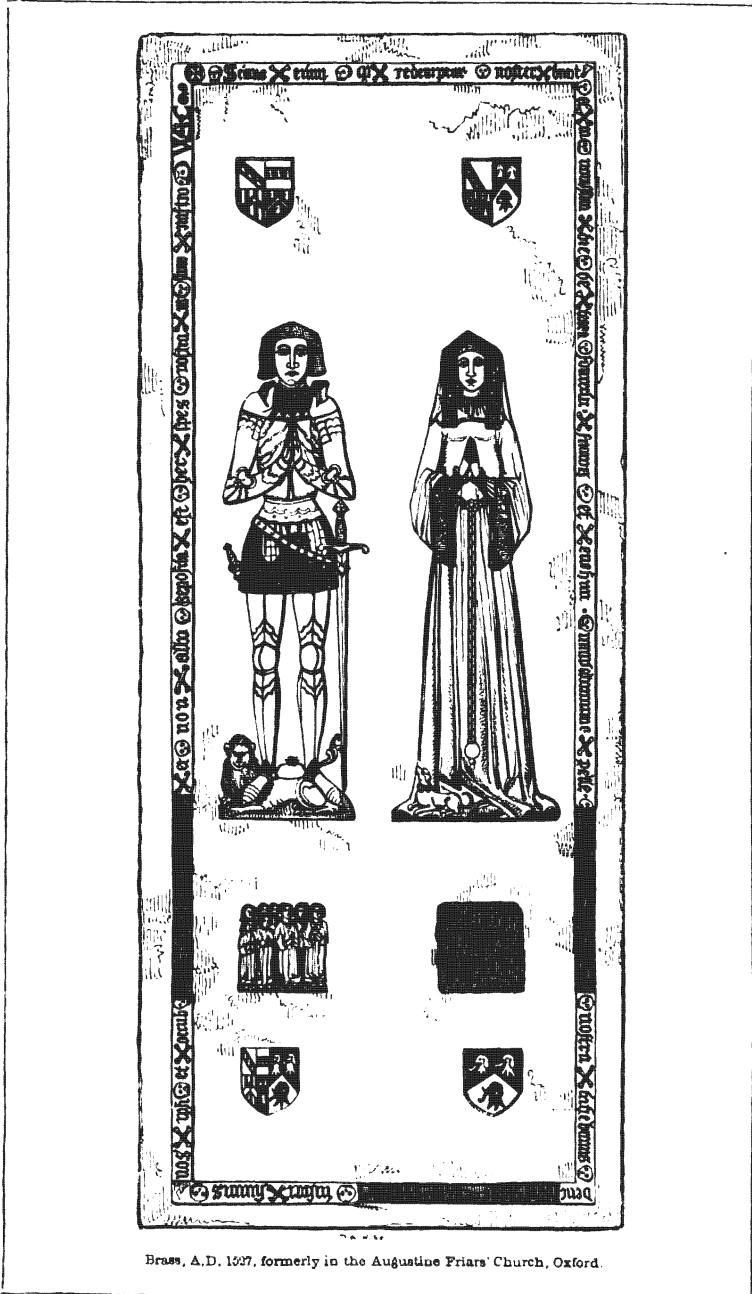
Pray yee for the soule of Walter Curson and Isabel hys wife, whose goodys as well the rooffe of this Church and the roof of this Lordys Ile and the covering of leed of all the same, as also this window were made, whose bodys rest in the Augustin Freers Church yn Oxford, which Walter died the 7th day of Apryle yn the year of our Lord God MCCCCXXVII. On whose &c.

Between the west and south doors is a square-headed Decorated window, partly blocked up, but formerly reaching nearly to the ground on the exterior.

On the south wall of the chancel the monument of Sir Francis Curson, who deceased A.D. 1610, Oct. 31, is a good specimen of the mural style which prevailed in the time of James I. He was the son of Vincent, the son of Richard, the son of Walter. His son Sir John Curson, was married to Magdalen, the second daughter of Sir Robert Dormer, of Wing, Bucks. This lady is the subject of the quaint epitaph on the opposite tablet, above the two corbel-heads already noticed.

AN EPITAPHE.

She that lyes heere wth in this gloomy grave
 Enioyd all virtves that a minde covlde have
 Let this svffice thee then in breife to know
 She once was svch as thov mayst reade belowe.
 Lord Dormer's daughter, Sr John Cursons wife
 To whome foure sonns & daughte^{rs} twoe she bore
 Belou'd of all she liud yet chang'd this life
 For such a life as neuer shall change more
 A MAGDALEN by name, a Saint by grace
 Dy'de much bewaylde & buried in this place.
 Then happye she who svch a life did leade
 As she nowe lives anewe though she is deade.

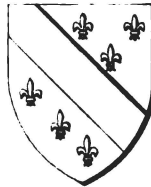


Brass, A.D. 1327, formerly in the Augustine Priars' Church, Oxford.

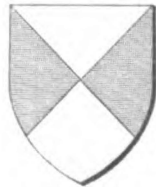
In the centre of the north wall is an exquisite piece of sculpture by Sir Francis Chantrey, to the memory of Mrs. Greaves, only daughter of Joseph Henley, Esq., who succeeded the Curson family in the ownership of Waterpery. On the floor of the chancel is a grey marble stone with an inscription roughly cut, of which the following words remain :—*Exaudivit Dominus deprecationem meam.*

At the entrance of the chancel is a brass in good preservation, representing Walter Curson, and Isabell his wife, with their arms and children (see previous page), as in the south window before described, but the plate containing the seven girls is lost. Near this stone in the year 1660 was a brass monument of a female figure bearing the following inscription : “*Isabell Beaufo ja dis la femme . . . nolin gist icy : dieu sal.*” Legh in his Visitation of Waterpery Church, A.D. 1574, writes upon a blank shield “*Her lieth Beaufo, sometyme the wyfe of Sir Bertholme.*” There is a loose fragment of a brass of the fifteenth century still preserved in the Church, which may possibly be a part of the monument thus noticed.

The brass in the Lord's aisle was hopelessly mutilated before A.D. 1660. It consisted of a knight in plate armour, with his lady, their arms and children, eight boys and nine girls. Under a Perpendicular canopy in this aisle, is the recumbent effigy of a knight in plate armour (see opposite), of about the year 1420. The figure is well proportioned and the carving good. There can be little doubt that the person here represented was one of the Fitz-Elys family, as he formerly bore on his shield three fleurs-de-lis on each side of a bendlet. His name has been stated as Ledwell, but this may have arisen from his having lived in a part of the parish so called, and which is said at one time to have contained several houses. This monument is particularly noticed in



Fitz-Elys.

the wyffe.^c

^c Wood's MSS. D. 14.

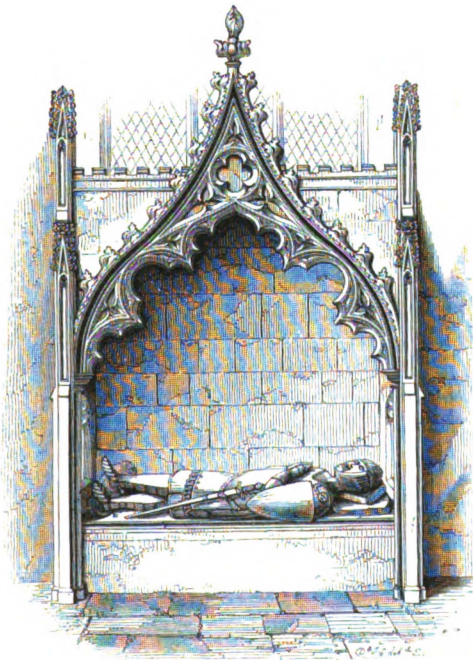
Legh's Visitation, who calls it very ancient, and gives a sketch of "the hound" behind the upper corner of his shield. The arms which he attributes to the lady are the same with one of the shields still remaining in the upper part of the Curson obituary window. In the wooden tower of the Church are two bells, one of which in letters of the beginning of the thirteenth century, bears the inscription, "Ave Maria Gracia Plena Dominus



Specimen of Inscription on Bell.

Tecum." The other, "E. Hemings, fecit. Thomas Rippington, churchwarden, 1732."

JOSEPH CLARKE, ARCHITECT, 1, *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields.*



Effigy of a Knight in Plate Armour, Lord's Aisle

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The name of this place is in Domesday Book written PEREIVN^d. It was soon abridged of its termination, and at an early period received its present prefix. The name itself has undergone almost every variety of change in its vowels as transcribed in ancient documents. In these it is found written Peri, Perya, Pery, Pirie, Fire, Piry, Pyrye, Pori, Pury, but the doubling of the r appears to be a variation of modern days for which there is no early precedent.

In Domesday Book PEREIVN is reported as part of the land of Robert de Oily, and in the hundred of Peritune. For the general history of the honor of de Oily to the year 1350, and also of Oseney abbey, to which the church of Water Pery became attached, the reader is referred to the Historical Notices of Kidlington in the Deanery of Woodstock.

1190 (circa). William^e, son of Elias, by the wish and entreaty of his wife Emma, daughter of Fulk Lovel, gives the church of Water Pery to Oseney abbey. This appears to be the same William Fitz-Elias, who in the year 1199 gave the neighbouring church of Wormenhall, with consent of Emma, to the prior and canons of St. Frideswide in Oxford, was received into their fraternity, and directed his body to be buried in their church^f. It is also recorded that Ledehale grange was given by William, son of Elye, and Emma his wife, to the abbey of Stratford Langthorne, Essex, which was founded A.D. 1136. To this last-named abbey was also given Thomele by Jordan and his brother Rualdus^g.

1195. William Fitz-Elias, as the agent of Emma de Pery, puts in a claim against William Basset for one knight's fee in Corfton, and another in Aceia (Oakley), as the right and inheritance of the said Emma, which descended to her from Luvet de Brai her grandfather, who held that land in the time of Hen. I., and after him Fulk, son of Luvel, her father, who held that land in the time of Hen. II.^h

1198. William de Pori, son of Emma de Pori, appears on behalf of his mother to resist the claim of John Morell, heir of R. Morell, who had married the daughter of Lupellus de Braiⁱ. This appears to be William Fitz-Elias II., who confirmed his father's grant of the church of Water Pery to Oseney.

^d Bp. Kennett, *Par. Antiq.*, vol. i. p. 90.

^e Osen. MS., Bp. Kennett, vol. i. p. 394.

^f Wyrley's MSS. ap. Lipscomb's Bucks, p. 578.

^g Dugdale Mon., vol. v. p. 588.

^h Kennett, *Rot. Cur. Reg.*, vol. i. p. 22.

ⁱ Placitor X. Ric. I. ap. Kennett.

1205. Ric. de Bellofago^k gives to King John 20 marks and 1 palfrey, and finds a surety in order to take possession of lands in Peri, given him by his brother Henry, and of which he had been dispossessed on account of the disaffection of the said Henry.

1209. Hugh Wells, Bp. of Lincoln, orders an endowment of Water Pery and other churches belonging to Oseney^l.

1222. William Fitz-Elye, Umfry de Rokele, Richard de Greinvill, and other knights, required to furnish timber for repair of the king's house at Brill^m. About this time Emma confirms her husband's grant in the following form:—"Notum sit fidelibus Sanctæ Ecclesiæ quod ego Emma de Pery, filia Fulconis Luvell, postquam dominus meus Willielmus filius Helix ad religionem transiens a me ex toto discessit, cum liberam et plenam potestatem hereditatis meæ haberem, et donaciones inde faciendæ ad me solam pertinerent, ratam habeo donacionem predictam &c. Teste Willielmo de Mesinherm fratre meo, Willielmo filio meoⁿ."

1227. On July 13th, William, son and heir of William Fitz-Elias, did his homage and paid 100 shillings for his relief of one knight's fee in Oakley, held of the honor of Wallingford^o.

1236. A suit arose between William, son of William Fitz-Elias II., and John Leech, abbot of Oseney, concerning part of the advowson, and issued in the surrender of the whole to Oseney. This William Fitz-Elias III. afterwards gave a messuage and curtilage for the use of the vicar^p.

1246. Ric. de Bellofago reported as seized of Pirie and Ledhalle^q.

In the time of Hen. III., Richard de Bello Fago, and William, son of William Fitz-Elye, hold in Pirie and Ledhale two knights' fees of Reginald Fitz-Herbert, and he of the heirs of Hen. D'Oyly, and he of the king in capite^r.

1273. The town of Wat' pri' with the hamlet of Ledehale held for two knights' fees of Reginald Fitz-Peter, of the honour of D' Oylli, held of the king in capite by Hugh de Plesssets.

Ric. de Bellifago hath a third part of said town and hamlet. Robert, son of Thomas Fitz-Elye, holds 1 manor with 4 carrucates of land, and a wood within Bernwood called Ledehalewood.

^k Rot. de obl. et fin. temp. Johan., p. 249.

^l Ducarel's Repertory of Vic. and Lincoln Reg.

^m Close Rolls, Hen. III.

ⁿ R. Dods. MS., vol. 39. f. 97.

^o R. Dods. MS., vol. 68. f. 109, ap. Kennett.

^p Reg. Osen. MS., List of Abbots of Oseney, Dugdale Mon.

^q Inquisit. post mort., vol. i. p. 4.

^r Testa de Nevill, p. 105.

The abbot of Oseney hath the church of Wat' pir' by gift of ancestors of Ric. de Bellifago, and of the ancestors of Robert, son of Thomas Fitz-Elye; who also holds two parts in Wat' pir' and Ledehale: and one messuage and three cottages of the abbot at will.

Richard de Bellifago does service for the whole. Reginald Fitz-Peter, and Robert, son of Thomas Fitz Elye, are in Wardship to Ric. de Bellifago, and are under age. The abbot of Dorchester held messuages and lands in Thomele by service of presenting a rose to Robert, son and heir of Elye de Thomele⁴, who held this town of the Earl of Lincoln.

1273. On July the fifth of this second year of Edward I., Reginald, Bishop suffragan of Cloyne in Ireland, acting as the substitute of Richard Gravesend, Bishop of Lincoln, consecrated with suitable honours the church of St. Mary the Virgin at Water Pery, with the altars thereof. The charter of dedication is transcribed at length in the Oseney Register.

1284. Oliver Sutton, Bishop of Lincoln, in a charter issued at Ludington, recites and enforces the ordination of vicarages belonging to Oseney, which had been made by his predecessor, Hugh Wells, in 1209, and of which the following is the purport: "Every vicar presented by the said abbot and convent, and instituted by the bishop, was to have two marks yearly for his clothes, every second legacy or mortuary to the value of sixpence, and one half of it if beyond that value: and out of all oblations to the altar at every mass one penny, if the oblations were worth a penny: and whatsoever else by devotion of the faithful should be reasonably conferred upon him. As also a sufficient exhibition of victuals at the table of the canons whenever they staid within his parish: and the canons should find a clerk to serve and obey him, who should take an oath of fidelity to the vicar, saving his fealty to the said canons, who should likewise find a boy to wait upon him, and maintain the boy in all expenses. And when the canons were not resident, then the clerk, who as before appointed should attend the vicar, was to have the key of the canons' house, therein provide for the diet of the vicar sufficiently and honourably. The canons should further furnish the said vicar with a horse, whenever he should have occasion to travel upon the concerns of the convent or the church, as well to the meetings of the rural deanery as to others: and should finally bear all burdens, i. e. first-fruits, tenths, procurations, and all taxes whatsoever⁴."

1291. The Taxation Book of Pope Nicholas contains the following

Hundred Rolls, Ed. I.

⁴ Bp. Kennett, vol. i. p. 428-9.

entries: p. 31, Abbatis Oseneye Ecclesia de Wat. Pyrie 6l. 13s. 4d.; p. 44, Abb' Osen. h't in Wat pir' in t'rris redd' mol. 1l. 18s. 0d.

1314. About this time numerous writs were issued to Richard de Bellafago and Robert Fitz-Elys, joint owners of Purie and Ledehalle. They were both summoned to perform military service in person against the Scots, and, by general proclamation, to attend the Great Council at Westminster on Wednesday next after Ascension Day, A. D. 1324. The latter, who held the title of Banneret or Knight, was also appointed Conservator of the Peace, Commissioner of Array, and Leader of the levies in the counties of Oxford and Berks. The oath of office was administered to him by the Bishop of Lincoln and Abbot of Oseney, who were also directed to assist him in his duties^u.

1341. (circa.) In the Nonarum Inquisitiones, Ed. III., is the following:—Waterpirie. Ecclesia parochialis ejusdem cum omnibus portionibus suis taxatur ad 7 lib. cujus nona predicta asseditur ad 6 lib. 13s. 4d. et non plus, per juratores et inquisitores predicta que gleba valet. 10s. nec sunt ibidem catallarii ut dicunt, &c.

1343. Robert Fitz-Elys, Sheriff of Oxford and Berks^v.

1350. Hugo Plascy died seized of this manor and 23 others^z.

1376, 1382. Margaret, wife of Robert Fitz-Elys, is reported as possessed of Wormenhall, Ocle and Waterpyrie manors, and one messuage in Thomley^y. Also in the latter year, of "Beaupo manor," by which it appears that the possessions of Ric. de Bellifago had passed to Fitz-Elys.

1413. By a deed dated at Waterpery John Fitz-Elys grants to Thomas Chaucer and others his manor of Oakley, on condition they should enfeof Joan his wife in the premises during life, with remainder to Maud his sister, then to Robert James, of Borstall^z, who married first Catharine de la Pole, secondly the said Maud Fitz-Elys, and deceased A.D. 1431, leaving the manor of Oakley in possession of Maud, who retained it till her decease A.D. 1437. By this and other notices it appears that John Fitz-Elys was a friend, if not a kinsman, of Thomas Chaucer, (son of the poet), M.P. for Oxon, and one of the heroes of Agincourt, and if associated with him in the service of Henry V. is probably the person represented by the stone effigy in the Lord's aisle.

1470. Margaret, who was wife of Robert Phisseles, alias Fittyelis, deceased, is reported as possessed of Waterpery and Ledehall manors^a, with possessions in Wollampton, Inglefield, Aldermaston, and Redyng.

^u Parliamentary Writs, vol. ii. div. 3.

p. 36.

^v Clark's H. of Wanting.

^z Chartulary of Borstall, ap. Kennett,

^y Inquisit. post mortem.

vol. ii. p. 222.

^y Inquisit., vol. ii. p. 341, and vol. iii.

^a Inq., vol. iv.

The Robert and Margaret Fitz-Elys here mentioned, are the persons depicted in the north window of Water-pery Church, near the pulpit, and whose arms are engraved p. 249. Margaret was the daughter of William Fawkenor of Kingsclere, knt., and in her right Robert Fitz-Elys received from certain trustees the above possessions in Berkshire. Their only daughter Margeria did not survive her mother, for upon the decease of the said Margaret, the above Fawkenor as well as the Fitz-Elys possessions descended to Sibilla, daughter of Margeria, who at the time of the Inquisition, being six years of age, was betrothed to George Ingleton^b, who became Lord of Thornton, Bucks, about the year 1472, and was afterwards High Sheriff for the counties of Buckingham and Bedford^c. The issue of this marriage was an only son Robert, who upon his father's decease in 1494 succeeded to the Ingleton estates, his mother retaining in dower those of her own inheritance. In 1503 Robert Ingleton deceased, leaving an only daughter Jane, of the age of nine months^d. The wardship of the infant heiress was by King Henry the Seventh committed to his favourite Sir Richard Empson, on whose attainder at the accession of Hen. VIII. she was entrusted to George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, who in the year 1514 assigned the wardship of her to John Bradbury, of London, and James Bodley, of Walden, Essex, which Bodley in the year 1519, married her to his kinsman Humphrey Tyrrell, son of William Tyrrell, of South Ockington, Essex. This Humphrey, the fifteenth in descent from the well-known Walter Tyrrell, on making proof of the marriage, had livery of the lands of his wife's inheritance, and died 1550, leaving an only son George, twenty years of age^e. After three years of widowhood, Jane Tyrrell, contemplating a second marriage, with Alexander St. John, Esq., by a deed bearing date May 17th, in the fourth year of Edward VI., secures to her son George, upon payment of certain sums, all her manors and estates, reserving to herself the issues and profits during her life^f. The union which followed upon the execution of this deed was of short continuance; for it appears that Jane St. John died A. D. 1557, leaving Sir George Tyrrell, her son, her sole heir^g. He is reported to have "impaired the family estate very much, and squandered away several manors," among which were Waterpery and Ledall, which, by a deed bearing date May 20th, 1562, he conveyed to Thomas Typpling, Esq., of Shabbingdon, on consideration of receiving

^b Inq. p. m. R. F., A.D. 1470. in Tower of London.

^c Fuller's Worthies.

^d Inq. at Rolls Chapel, 73, 74.

^e B. Willis H. of Buckingham and Lipscomb's Bucks.

^f MSS. of J. W. Henley, Esq., M.P.

^g Thornton Brasses.

four hundred pounds "at the sealing of these presents," and a residue of fourteen hundred at the Feast of Pentecost or Whitsuntide next ensuing, to be paid in or near the porch of the parish church of Thornton. On the seal appended to this document, are the initials G. T., with the arms of Ingleton, viz., 3 tuns, with flames issuing from their bung-holes.

In the parish church of Thornton are still preserved two very fine brasses, one of Jane Ingleton, and the other of her ancestor, Robert, the first of his family at Thornton, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the reign of Edward IV. These are accurately described by Browne Willis in his Hundred of Buckingham, and, with the exception of the bells and the effigies of John and Isabella Barton, are the only remains visible of the ancient church and chantry of Thornton. Neither Sir George Tyrrell or his mother seem to have borne the arms of Fitz-Elys, but they appear in the quarterings of Sir Edward Tyrrell, who was member for the town of Buckingham, and who was the eldest son of Sir George by his first wife, Ellen, second daughter by a third wife of Sir Edward Montague, Lord Chief Justice of England and of the Common Pleas in the time of King Henry VIII., and Edward VI.

1527. April 7th died Walter Curson, the first of his family at Waterpery. He held a lease of the estate of Waterpery and Ledall, granted four years previously to this date, which is mentioned "as enduring for several years yet to come" in the time of his grandson Vincent. He was descended from the ancient and honourable house of the Cursons of Derbyshire^b, being the third son of Walter Curson of Kedleston. He married Isabella, daughter of Robert Sanders, Esq., of Harington, Northamptonshire, by whom he had eight sons and seven daughters. At his death was erected, in the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin, at Water Pery, the monumental window described above. He seems to have been a considerable benefactor to the house of Augustine Friars, in Oxford, which stood on the present site of Wadham College. Like their founder, Sir John Handlo, he was interred within their chapel, where was laid down to his memory the handsome brass monument, also described above, which was "piously removed to Waterpery at the Dissolution¹."

1534. In the Ecclesiastical survey of Henry the Eighth, are the following returns :—

<i>Waterpery</i> ^k .	£.	s.	d.
Sir Roger Watkyn, Vicar there,	vij	—	xvj

^b Queen's Coll. MSS., Harl. MS. 4170, Wood's MS. E. I., Legh's Visitation, Wood's MS. D. 14.

¹ Dugdale Mon., in August. Friars, Ox.

^k Val. Ec., ii. 171.

p. 217. *Waterpery, Thomley, cum Ledall.*

Rectory, with demeane lands, meadows, feedings, pastures, let on lease to John Brown, Knt., is worth, per annum vj*l.* xiijs. iiij*d.*

In quit rent of the same John for certain lands in Ledehaull to the amount of vijs. vjd. per annum,

The Abbot prays to have the following payments allowed :—

Portion to the Prioress of Goring and her successors for ever, for tythes in Thomley per annum xs.

Perpetual pension to the Vicar of Waterpery, for a certain tythe per annum, as per account xxvjs. viij*d.*

Procurations paid to the Archdeacon of Oxford, yearly vijs. vij*½d.*

And the clear value is iiij*l.* ix*s.* — $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.*

The Abbot and Canons of Oseney had also lands and tenements in Ledehall, of the yearly value of 5*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

1538. When Henry the Eighth seized the possessions of Oseney¹, he granted the Rectory of Waterpery to Chamberlayne and Andrewes.

1543. Richard Curson, son of Walter, purchases the Rectory from Chamberlayne and Andrewes.

1562, July 1, Vincent Curson, grandson of Walter, purchases the manor and estate of Waterpery and Ledall from Thomas Typpinge, Esq., of Shabbington, who had bought them of Sir George Tyrrell, on the 20th of May previous.

The Cursons continued to own the estate, and in most cases to present to the Vicarage, till the close of the eighteenth century.

In Bacon's *Liber Regis*, p. 797, it is stated that Sir John Curson presented in 1682; Thomas Rowney, Esq., 1716; the King, 1719; and the clear yearly value was £35. In consequence of a munificent gift by the late Joseph Henley, Esq., an augmentation of £23. 15*s.* 2*d.* per annum was obtained from Queen Anne's bounty. The present value is £60 a year, and the population 243.

The last of the Curson family, in 1787 devised the estate, manor, and advowson, to the Honourable Francis Roper, uncle to the then Lord Teynham, who took the name of Curson^m. From the family of Roper-Curson, they passed by purchase to the father of the present proprietor, Joseph Warner Henley, Esq., M.P.

The feast-day of dedication is the Sunday after the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, old style.

¹ MSS. of J. W. Henley, Esq., M.P.

^m British Topog., vol. ii. p. 362.

The blazoning of the earlier arms in Waterpury church^a is as follows:—A. a bend between 6 fleurs-de-lis G., FITZ-ELYS. S. a mullet between 3 falcons A. belled, beaked and membered O., FAWKNER. *Per pale G. S. an eagle displayed A. beaked and membered O. S. a fesse dancetté A. Erm. 3 chevrons G.* Among fragments of early glass in the cinquefoiled arches of the lights of the Curson obituary window, *Per saltire A and B., PIPARD. 3 fusils in fesse G., MONTAGUR. O. 3 piles in point B.* Those in italics have entirely disappeared.

An extract from the will of Walter Curson^o is subjoined, as an interesting document relating to this church, and not generally accessible.

“ IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

“ The xxiiij day of the moneth of Nouembre the yere of oure Lord God mccccxxvj I Walter Curson of Waterpury in the countie of Oxforde gentelman hoole and pfyte in mynde and vnderstanding make by the suffrance of Allmyghty God my last will and Testament in maner and forme folowing / First I bequeth my soule vnto Allmyghty God his blessed mother Saint Mary and to all the holy company of heuen my bodie to be buried wii^y y^e church of eny suche pissehe or other religiouse house where I shall fortune to be at in the houre of my deptyng or deth. Also I will and gyue to the Church of Lincoln xvj^d Also I Woll to be gyuen to the rode light of Waterpury Church vj^e viij^d And to the helpe and mayntenēce of other lightes wiiⁿ the same church iij^e iiij^d Also I Woll and gyue to the iiij orders of Freers in Oxforde for iiij Trentalls to be doēn and had for my soule and my frends soules xl^e equally to be deuyded that is to Wit to every one of them x^e Also I woll that Isabell my wife and Richard my sonne doo and cause to be doon all suche Werkemanshipp and Coste as shallbe by their discretions bestowed vpon the taking downe of the leade and Tiles of the rofe of Waterpury church and the same Rofe to repaire in all places fawtye and couer it ageyn as they shall thinke necessarie by their discrecons Also I woll that Isabell my wife and Richard my Sonne for their tymes shall pay cōtinually euery yere to the prio^r of the Augustyne freers in Oxforde for the tyme beyng for the soules of me and my Wife my Father and Mother and all my Kynsefolks to be prayed for foreuermore x^e for the which x^e I woll that there be iij coletts sayed euery day yerely for euer at and in the high masse that is to Witt the Colet of Deus qui Charitatis dona pgram &c The colet in the secrets of the masse and the colet of Deus cui pprū And the saied Prio^r for the tyme beyng to bestowe iij^e iiij^d pcell of the said x^e vppon the Brithern of the said house in a repaste yerely and the other vj^e viij^d residue to be to thuse and supportacōn of the sayed house of Augustyns for eū. And if it happen the sayed memoriall prayers and Coletts not to be sayed informe aforesayed Than I woll that all suche psons as hereafter I have assigned to be charged w^t the doying thereof shall bestowe the sayed monney in the house of the Blake Freers in Oxforde the sayed prayers and Coletts there to be doon for the sayed monney in maner and forme afore sayed Also I woll Isabell my wife and Richard my sonne do cawse one honest preste to sing for me and for my frends immediatly after my decease, and to continue so by the space of one hole yere.”

The following charters relating to this parish are extant in the Oseney Register.

^a Wood's MS. D. 14.

^o In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

Bailiwick of Pyrye, Ledhal, Thomle, Draycot, Stoke.

1. A chart by which William son of Elye, by the wish and entreaty of Emma his wife, gives the Church of Waterpyrye to Oseney with its appurtenances.

2. A confirmation of the above by William son of William Fitz-Elye with one virgate of land.

3. Final concord upon a dispute with John Leech, Abbot of Oseney, respecting part of advowson in the 20th year of Hen. III. The party executing this deed is William, son of William, in the presence of his mother Roesia de Rokele, and he speaks of Emma as his grandmother.

4. Final concord together with a virgate of land, free passage and commonage in field of Pyrye. Same date and same witness.

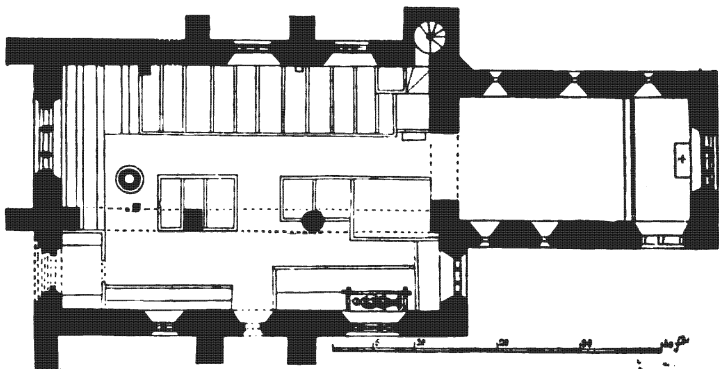
5. A charter of Richard Bellifago concerning certain islands near Stokes, alias Stokesham.

6. A charter concerning a certain messuage with a curtilage for the use of the Vicar of Pery, for building his house, by the last mentioned William and his wife Margery, for the benefit of his own soul and the souls of his wife and children.

7. The consecration of the Church at Waterpyrye.

N.B. The Chartulary or Register of Oseney Abbey, in the Archives of the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, was compiled in the time of William de Sutton, abbot of Oseney, about 1275, i. e. between 1267 and 1284. It was given to Christ Church in exchange for the *Annales Burtonienses*, by Sir Robert Cotton, as appears by a note in Sir Robert's handwriting on the first page. This valuable relique could not have been consigned to better keeping, for, while it has been preserved with all the care it deserves, great courtesy has always been shewn in affording an inspection of it for the purposes of antiquarian research, as may be seen by the large extracts and acknowledgments of Bishop Kennett and others.

J. BARON, VICAR.



Ground Plan of Waterpyry Church.

WATERSTOCK.

PATRON.
W. H. ASHHURST, ESQ.

St. Leonard.

DEANERY
OF CUDDSDEN.
HUNDRED
OF THAME.

THE present Church is a modern structure of the year 1792, with the exception of the north aisle and tower, which are of Perpendicular character. The west window of the tower appears by its mouldings to belong to the Decorated period. Rising from the eastern battlement of the tower, an unusual position, is a bell-cot of singular shape. The Font is early, cylindrical, and quite plain, remaining apparently in its original position, as the drain when cleared of the obstructions in the upper part in 1829 was found to carry off the water readily, and has been regularly used to the present time. Affixed to the south wall of the Chancel is the monument of Sir George Croke, who died A.D. 1641. It is figured in Skelton's Oxfordshire. Copious notes of the arms and stained glass in the old Church and manor-house, taken about 1660, will be found in Wood's M.S. E. I. in the Ashmolean Museum. From these the following are extracted as those which are principally interesting, and because some mutilated remains of the figures referred to may still be perceived in a window of the north aisle.

"In the north window two clergymen (perhaps one a laic) all in blew kneeling before desks. Over these, pictures of Saints, with their names under them, Ignatius, St. Maria, St. Swithin.—Under these, "Orate pro animabus Magistri Johannis Browne quondam rectoris istius ecclesiæ et Thomæ Browne et — llis uxoris ejus, parentum ejus qui me fieri fecit."

"In a north window pictures of St. Barbara, St. Trinitas, St. Anna. Under these a man between two women praying, and the arms of Danvers quartering Bruly. Under all, "Orate pro animabus . . . filię Jacobi Finys . . . qui istam ecclesiam (fecerunt?) anno gratiæ, MCCCCLXXX."

"In a south window, under the portraits and arms of Archbp. Nevill and Bp. Waynflete, "Orate pro animabus Georgii quondam Archiepiscopi Ebor. ac Willielmi Waynflete Winton. Episcopi, et Thomæ Danvers."

George Nevill was Archbishop of York from 1464 to 1476, and was translated thither from the see of Exeter. He held the office of Chancellor of the University of Oxford as early as 1456^a, and was a younger brother of the Earl of Warwick surnamed the King-Maker^b. The remains of the portrait of an Archbishop, habited in his pall, the right hand holding the crozier, the left in the attitude of blessing, may still be distinguished in the north window.

In the Tower are four bells bearing the following inscriptions and dates :

1. Sancte Niccolae, and a stamp, of which a cut is annexed.

2. Henry Knight made Mee 1615, G C. Probably the initials of Sir George Croke, as the donor of the bell, soon after his accession to the estate.

3. 1664. 4. I. W. 1736.



Stamp on Bell in Tower.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

For a detailed history of the manor of Waterstock, and memoirs of distinguished persons connected with it, see Sir Alexander Croke's History of his family, Bp. Kennett's History of Chilton, and Skelton's Oxfordshire. It was formerly one of the fees belonging to the Bp. of Lincolp. In the reign of Henry III. Henry de Colevill held half a knight's fee in Waterstock^c, the remainder was held by Bartholomew Foliott, into whose family the whole appears to have passed. In 1279 Henry Bruilly held Waterstock of the Bishop for one knight's fee, paying scutage and making suit to the hundred court^d.

^a Kennett, vol. ii. p. 401.

^b Sir Alex. Croke's Hist., vol. i. p. 564.
Godwin's Prelates.

^c Testa de Nevill, p. 120.

^d Skelton.

The changes in the ownership of the estate are indicated in the following list of Rectors^e, who seem in all cases to have been presented by the lord of the manor, "as was usually the case before the perpetual advowsons were given to the monks."

1235. Master John of Hadenham, subdeacon to the Church of Waterstock, at the presentation of Bartholomew Foliot. Roll of Robert Grosthead, anno 1.

1241. Master John of Hadenham, to the Church of Waterstoke, at the presentation of Bartholomew Foliot; witnesses Sir John de St. Ægidio, Archdeacon; Master R. de Campeden; Sir John de Dyam, canon, &c. Roll of Robert Grosthead, 7.

1268. Sept. 20. Alexander of Waterstock, subdeacon, presented by Sir William Foliot, knt., to the Church of Waterstock, vacant by death of Master John. Roll of Richard Gravesend, 10.

1326. Nov. 16. Thomas Breuly, clerk, presented by Sir John Breuly to the Church of Waterstock, vacant by death of Sir Richard. Reg. Burgwersh.

1411. Thomas Taylor, presented by William Bruly of Waterstoke, to the Church of Waterstoke, by death of John Umfrey, Jan. 30, resigned March 6, same year, and Sir Thomas Derecors succeeded. Reg. of Reppingdon, Bp. of Lincoln.

1422. March 16. John Kent, priest, presented by John Danvers, Esq., to the Church of Waterstoke, by death of Thomas Derecors. The inquirers say that the said John Danvers hath the right of presentation, in that turn to the said church, by reason of his feoffature in the manor of Waterstock with the advowson of the said church, by gift and concession of Will. Bruly, which William presented last time to the same. Reg. Flemmyng.

1467. Aug. 18. Master John Parys, "decr. bacc." presented by Walter Mauntell, Knt., and Joan his wife, to the Church of Waterstoke by death of John Kent. Reg. Chedworth.

1499. March 14. John Chapman, priest, presented by Thomas Danvers, Esq., to the Church of Waterstoke, by death of Master John Browne. Reg. Smith.

1501. Sept. 15. Robert Wright, priest, presented by Thomas Danvers, Esq., to the Church of Waterstoke, by death of Sir John Chapman.

1534. William Wylmoll, Rector.

^e Kennett, vol. ii. p. 389.

1580. Sept. 14. John Rider, clerk, to the Church of Waterstock, at the presentation of Edw. Cave of Bampton, Esq., resigned 1581. Reg. Grindall, Archbp. of Canterbury.

1609. John Stayning signs a terrier as Rector.

1616. Charles Croke, D.D., presented by Sir G. Croke in June, resigned in October.

1627. Henry Croke, D.D., presented by Sir G. Croke, died 1642.

Robert Turner, minister, died 1658.

1664. John Quarne, Rector.

1677. Charles Hinde, Rector, presented by G. Croke, Esq., buried 1725.

1725. Edward Lewis, presented by Sir Henry Ashhurst.

1784. Robert Bertie Broughton Robinson.

1827. Gibbes Walker Jordan.

The entry in the Book of Henry VIII.^f is as follows :—

WAT ^r STOKE.		£	s.	d.
Sir William Wylmott, rector there		xj	vj	vijj
Deduct for synods and promotions		—	x	vijj
Remainder		x	xvj	—j
	The tenth	—	xxj	vijj

It is now valued at £58. The number of inhabitants is 142.

J. E.

^f Valor. Eccles. Hen. VIII.

ALBURY.

PATRON.
EARL OF ABINGDON.

St. Helen.

DEANERY
OF CUDDSDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.



The old Church

THE old Church was picturesque, though without any very remarkable architectural features. The present Church is a modern building, in imitation of the Gothic style, with a bell-gable at the west end. The ancient Font has been preserved, and is a good specimen of Norman work, with some rather curious ornament upon it.

The Chapel of Rycote is situated in the park, at about half a mile from Albury, but is in the parish of Haseley. An account of it will be found in Mr. Weare's Memoir of Haseley Church and Parish, published for the Society.



The Font.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

ALDBURY OR ALDBURG.

The name signifies the old borough or town. It stands on the same ground where the ancient Roman station *Isurium* was. Dr. Plot will have *Henley* to be the ancientest town in this county, and grounds his conjecture much upon the derivation of it from the British word *hen*, which signifies old, and *ley*, a place; but vulgar tradition runs "that Aldbury was the mother of Henley, and consequently is older," which the Doctor thus far allows: that it is probable that Christian Henley may be younger than Aldbury in respect of a church built first here, but upon no other account^a. In Domesday Book it is written *Alwoldesberie* and *Aldeberie*, and formed part of the fee of earl William. Walter, son of Pony and Rainald, at the time of the Norman survey, held land here.

A.D. 1255. In the Hundred Rolls, 39 Henry III. p. 714, the village of *Aldebur* is held of the Countess de l'Isle by the service of half a knight's fee, and Sampson Foliot holds the manor in the name of the award which is between the countess and Roger Foliot; and the same Sampson held five virgates and a half of land belonging to the lordship. There are twelve tenants in servitude.

A.D. 1474. An inquisition was held respecting the advowson of *Aldebury*, from which it appeared that Geoffrey Gate had acquired the right of patronage by marriage with Agnes Brown, widow of William Brown, gentleman, and daughter and heiress of Thomas Baldynton, Esq.^b, the rightful patron.

^a *Magna Brit.*, vol. iv. p. 421.

^b *Kennett*, vol. ii. p. 414.

The following list of Rectors is taken from the Lincoln registers by Kennett, with some corrections and additions by Sir Henry Ellis, from the same source. It serves at the same time to shew the successive changes of the property of the manor:—

RECTORS OF ALBURY.

1225. John de Claveley or Claxeby, subdeacon, presented by Roger Foliot^c.
 1227. William de, chaplain, presented by Roger Foliot^d.
 1238. John de Cambes, subdeacon, presented by Peter Foliot^e.
 1278. Rad. de Bungeye, subdeacon, presented by Sampson Foliot^f.
 Hugh de Langele.
 1298. William le Despenser, clerk, presented by John de London^g.
 1327. Ric. de Babeham, priest, presented by John le Despenser^h.
 1411. Thomas Thame, upon whose resignation in 1411, Richard Seddon, presented by Walter de Walkestede, Rector of Charlton-upon-Otmoor, by concession of William Baldyngton, Lord of Alburyⁱ.
 John Byllyng, resigned in 1431.
 1431. John Anneys, priest, presented by William Baldyngton^k.
 1459. John Kendale, priest, presented by William Brome^l.
 1474. John Bowes, chaplain, presented by Geoffrey Gate, knight, and Agnes his wife^m.
 1595. Richard Wightwick, S.T.B., presented by Lord Henry Norris of Ricottⁿ.
 1670. William More.
 1712. Dr. William Tilly.
 1739. Dr. William Bertie.
 1758. — Harrington.
 1759. Christopher Robinson.
 1804. George Wasey.
 1813. John Curtis.
 1813. The Honourable Frederick Bertie.

The Rectory was valued in the time of Henry VIII. at 10*l.*, with payments out for synodals, &c. 10*s.* 7½*d.*, and to the prioress of Studley 6*s.* 8*d.*, leaving the net value 9*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.* It is now valued at 276*l.*, and the population is 239.

^c Reg. Hugh Wells, an. 16.
^d Ibid., an. 18.
^e Reg. Rob. Grosthead, an. 4.
^f Reg. R. Gravesend, an. 20.
^g Reg. Ol. Sutton.
^h Reg. Burghwersh.

ⁱ Reg. Repyndon.
^k Reg. Gray.
^l Reg. Chedworth.
^m Reg. Rotherham.
ⁿ Reg. Whitgift.
^o Parish Reg.

FOREST HILL.

PATRON.
LINCOLN COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

St. Nicholas.

DEANERY
OF CUDDSDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.



The Church

A SMALL oblong Church, without aisles, with a bell-gable at the west end; it is chiefly transition Norman work, probably built about A.D. 1200.

The CHANCEL has two lancet windows on each side widely splayed, and round-headed in the inside, with good simple Early English dripstones over them, and stringcourses under them: the east window is modern and very bad, with wooden tracery. The Chancel-arch is round horse-shoed, square edged, and not

recessed, the imposts are plain Norman with the edges chamfered off.

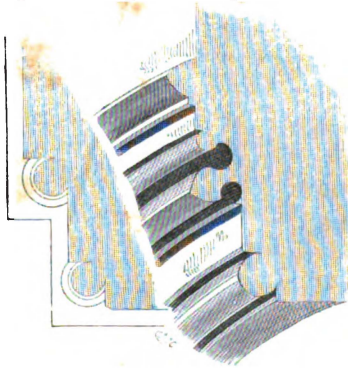
The NAVE has one Norman window remaining on the north side, round-headed and plain, and a similar one on the south side, the other is modern. The west window is late Perpendicular. On the north side is a small transition Norman doorway with a pointed arch, with a good bold dripstone and imposts. The south doorway has a plain segmental head, with the edges merely



The Porch.

chamfered off. The outer doorway of the porch is good transition Norman, approaching near to Early English, having shafts with capitals ornamented with the stiff-leaf foliage, but with square abacusses, the arch is also square in section.

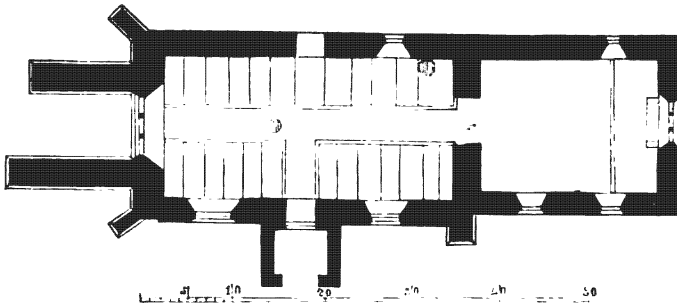
The bell-gable at the west end is a remarkably picturesque object, and from its situation is visible from a considerable distance, it has openings for two bells, and a smaller opening above; it appears to be part



Section of Door.

of the original building of transition Norman work, but has had two tremendous buttresses attached on the west side to support it, projecting one 14 feet, the other 11 feet 4 inches: this great irregularity arises apparently from the nature of the ground, this part of the Church being close to the brow of the hill; the buttresses are of comparatively late work, although not modern, the mouldings are of Italian character; there are also smaller buttresses at the angles, these are of Perpendicular work of the same age as the west window, which is evidently an insertion.

I. H. P.



Ground plan of the Church

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1273, 1 and 2 Edward I. On July 6th, the Chapel of Forest-Hull was dedicated to St. Nicholas the Confessor, by Reginald Bishop Suffragan of Cloyne in Ireland, substituted by Richard Bishop of Lincoln, to visit these parts of the Diocese of Lincoln, and to consecrate new Churches^a.

A.D. 1285. The Abbott of Oseney held one knight's fee in Forest-Hull^b.

The estate and Chapel of Forest Hill formed part of the grant of Robert D'Oiley to the Church of St. George in Oxford Castle, afterwards transferred to the Abbey of Oseney, and is mentioned in the foundation charter of that Abbey^c.

^a Kennett, vol. i. p. 432.

^c Dugdale, Mon. Ang., vol. ii. p. 138.

^b *Ibid.*

It remained part of the possession of that Abbey till the Dissolution. Since that period, the manor-house, with a considerable part of the estate and the patronage of the church, have become the property of Lincoln College.

The Poet Milton married his first wife from this place. The register of her baptism is yet preserved, and is as follows; "Maria Powell, the daughter of Richard Powell, baptized the 28th day of January, 1625." The house in which Mr. Powell lived has been in part destroyed, but there are yet existing against the west ends of two out-houses some very curious remains of ornamental plastering, which seem as old as the time of Milton, one of them is an allusion to the subject of Paradise Lost. An anchor is represented as an heraldic device on the other wall.

Another celebrated poet, William Julius Mickle, was yet more intimately connected with Forest Hill. He married the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Tomkins of this place, and lies interred on the north side of the Church, without any memorial over his grave. There are several tombstones in the Churchyard to individuals of the Tomkins' family, having upon them engraved lines in verse, some of which appear to be written by Mickle himself.

HEADINGTON.

PATRON.
REV. T. WHORWOOD.

St. Andrew.

DEANERY
OF CUDDSDEN.
HUNDRED
OF BULLINGTON.



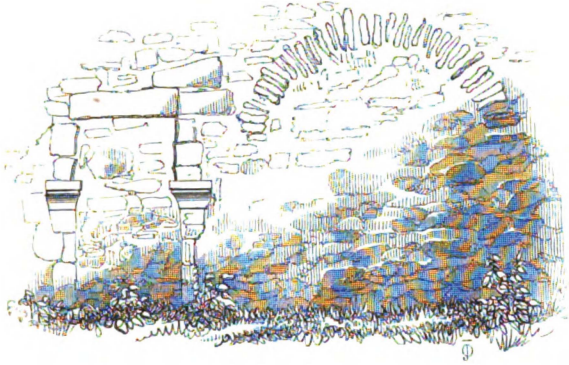
South east View of the Church

A **PLAIN** Church of mixed styles, but with good portions, particularly the Tower and Chancel-arch.

It consists of a Chancel, a Nave with south and north aisles, and a Tower at the west end of the south aisle.

The **CHANCEL**, which is the oldest part of the Church, is rather large in proportion to the Nave; the walls are Norman, and on the outside of the north wall are the remains of a Norman doorway, the imposts of which yet remain, but the

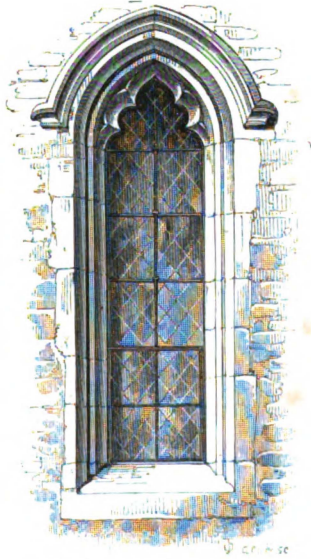
stones of the arch have been built into the wall, so as to make it square-headed. Near this is a large semicircular arch of rude



Doorway. North side of Chancel.

stones; eastward of this is a small foliated lancet window, which from its mouldings appears to be of the commencement of the fourteenth century, or end of the thirteenth; the quarries of glass in the upper part of this window, still retain their original painting.

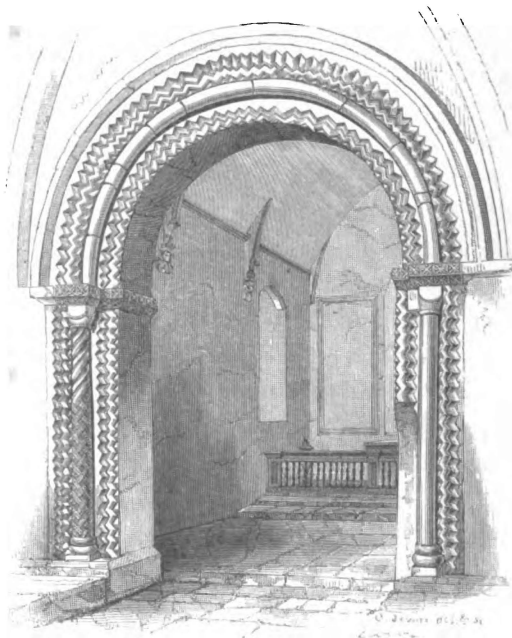
The gable at the east end has evidently been raised since the Norman times, and has on the point the base of a cross, the upper part of which is broken off. The greater part of this end has been taken down, the original window removed, and a modern round-headed one inserted, which very much injures the effect. In the south wall, two Perpendicular windows have been inserted:



Window, North side of Chancel.

these windows are divided by a mullion, running up to the point of the head; they are without labels, and are widely splayed within. In these windows are portions of stained glass, which have belonged to earlier windows, and there are also a

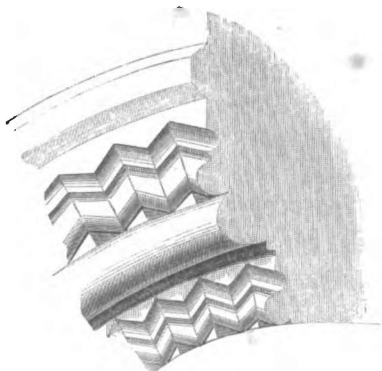
few painted quarries of the same date as the windows. The Altar platform is approached by three steps, and the Chancel itself by one. In the south wall is a projecting moulding, which marks the place of a piscina now filled up, and near this in the sill of the adjoining window, is a sedile for the priest. There has evidently been a good arched timber roof, which is now plastered over except the ends of the transverse ribs, and the pendants or wall-pieces on which they rest: these and the corbels have Perpendicular mouldings; two on the north side are supported by angels, one of which has a book; of the corbels on the south, one has a plain shield, another a head with long hair and beard, the third a bishop's head, and the fourth a shield charged with three escallops. They appear, as well as the roof, to be early in the fifteenth century, and are most probably of the same age as the windows.



Chancel arch the Jews removed

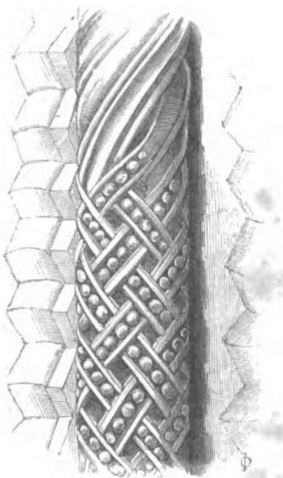
The CHANCEL-ARCH is plain on the east side, but on the west

it is recessed, and ornamented with a double zigzag with a bold round moulding between them, which rises from a shaft on each side. The zigzag is carried down the jambs; the shaft on the south side is plain, but that on the north is twisted for about a third of its length, and the remainder richly sculptured in beaded interlaced work.



Section of Chancel arch.

The capitals are slightly varied from the cushion-shape, and the abacus and imposts are cut with the beaded star-ornament. It is much to be regretted, that a great part of the lower part of the chancel-arch is entirely concealed by unsightly pews, and that a portion on the north side has been cut away to make room for a sitting.

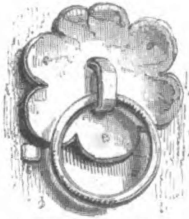


Shaft of Chancel arch.

Over the chancel-arch, both on the east and west sides, is a pointed arch, which seems evidently to have been formed as a discharging arch, to bear off the superincumbent weight from the Norman arch when the chancel was raised, and the Early English nave added: such arches being seldom so well built, as to bear much weight. Numerous instances may be seen in which the pressure from above has had the effect of depressing the arch, and widening the jambs, and consequently throwing them out of the perpendicular, and this is the case with the present one.

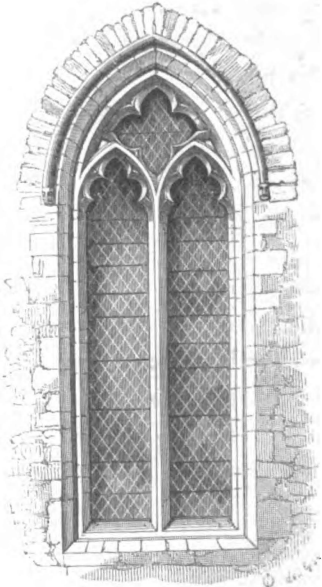
The NAVE and south aisle are Early English, and are divided by three arches, supported by massive round pillars, with good moulded capitals and bases. In the south wall are two lancet

windows, plain on the outside, but widely splayed within, with a hollow in the head. The east window of this aisle is rather singular, it consists of three trefoil-headed lights, with the head solid, and on the outside a label, enclosing all three. The label is a plain round moulding, and the edges of the lights simply chamfered. Near this window in the south wall, is a plain Early English piscina with a credence-shelf, but almost covered up by a pew. No trace of an Altar can be seen under this window, but in the north-east angle are the remains of an oblique opening, and also of the stairs to the roodloft, which have been cut through the solid wall. The south door is Early English, plain, but with good mouldings. The original door has



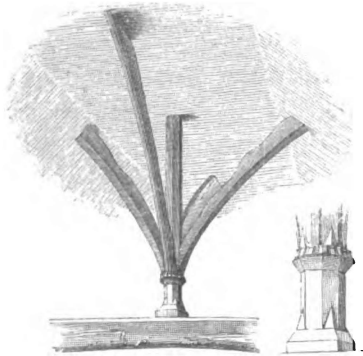
Scutcheon, South Door.

lately been replaced by a new one, copied from the old, and the original iron-work retained. Over this doorway, is a late plain porch. The west window is a good Decorated specimen: it consists of two cinquefoiled lights with a quatrefoil in the head. The label is a plain round, terminating in a head and a knop of foliage, and the jambs are plainly chamfered. The roof is of the fourteenth century, having a tie-beam supported by braces, and a king-post with base and battlemented capital, supporting longitudinal and transverse struts, and apparently with cross rafters; but this part is covered with a plaster ceiling. It may be here remarked, that *all* the roofs retain their original pitch; as may be seen on the outside, where the weather-moulds and gables still remain as originally built. On the gable of the nave, is a

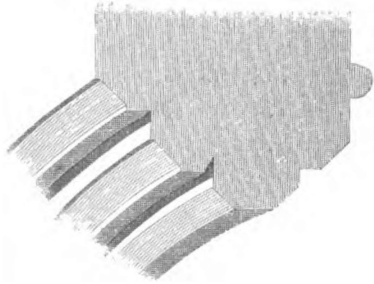


West Window.

small sancte-bell cot, and that of the south aisle is finished with

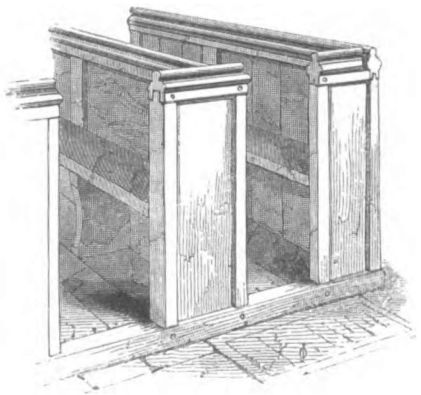


King post to Roof.



Section of West Window

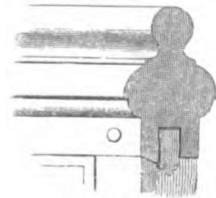
a cross partly mutilated. In the nave are a number of plain open seats, with good mouldings; but the rest of the nave and chancel are filled with pews of all sizes and heights. The Font, which is a modern one of painted wood, stood till lately at the west end of the nave, but is now removed to within the altar-rails. The north aisle is modern, and in a style not easily to be described : three



Open Seats in Nave

arches have been cut through the solid wall, in imitation of those on the south, but badly executed.

The Tower is placed at the west end of the south aisle, and on the east and north sides has Early English arches opening into the Church; these arches are plainly chamfered, but the capitals and bases of the pillars are well moulded, similar to



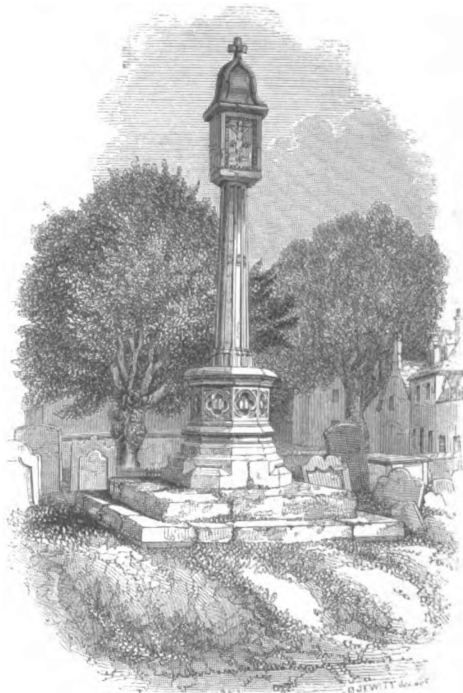
Upper Moulding of Open Seats

those in the nave: across the eastern arch of the tower is a piece of oak screen-work, good for its period, on which is

the following date: ($\begin{smallmatrix} \text{O}^{\text{A}} & \text{I}^{\text{C}} & 1635 \\ \text{M} & \text{W} & \end{smallmatrix}$). At the south-west angle is a square stair-turret, which rising above the battlements, very advantageously varies the outline of the tower. The lower story is Early English, the second apparently the same; the upper story, and the outer casing of the whole are Perpendicular. On the south-east side of the turret, a stone is inserted with initials, ($\begin{smallmatrix} \text{T} & \text{K} & \text{C} \\ \text{R} & \text{C} & \text{W} \end{smallmatrix}$ 1679) which mark the date and the name of the churchwardens when some repairs were made to the tower.

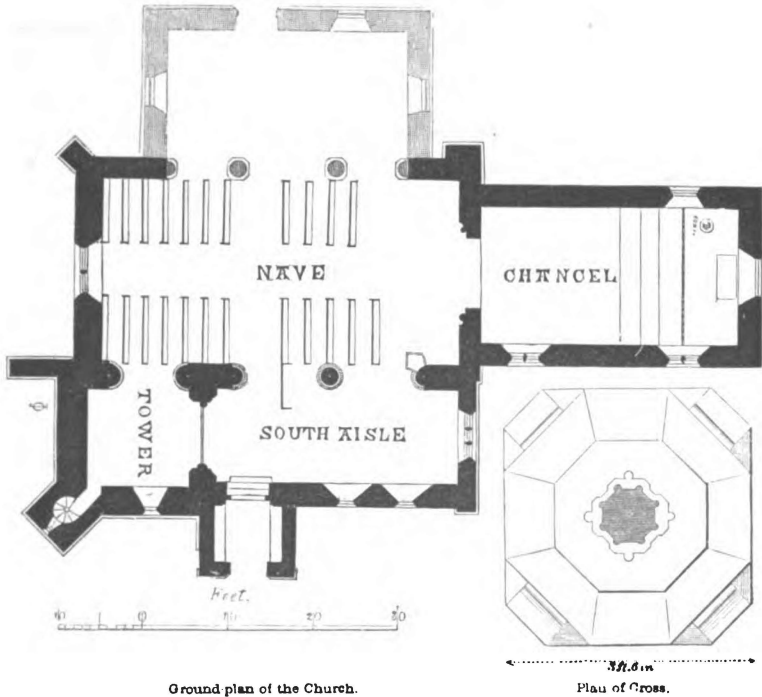
In the churchyard, a little to the south-east of the porch, stands a Cross raised on three steps; it consists of an octagonal pedestal, each side of which is ornamented with a quatrefoil enclosing an open book; and an octagonal shaft, up the angles of which run slender shafts, or round mouldings. The head is square and heavy, and evidently of later date than the rest; but on the west side are the remains of a crucifix, with the letters I N R I over the head, and a rose on each side, the whole enclosed in a square border. The head is surmounted by a small modern cross.

O. J.



North west View of the Cross.

HEADINGTON.



Ground plan of the Church.

Plan of Cross.

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

The old Roman road passes toward Headington Quarry pits^a.

A.D. 1009. King Ethelred kept the greatest part of his residence in this county, chiefly at Hedington and Islip, and concludes a charter granting privileges to St. Frideswide's here^b.

[The site of King Ethelred's palace is said to have been partly in Court Close, and partly in Mrs. Finch's garden, the present road to Marston running through it. There was certainly some old building of considerable extent on this site, part of which was pulled down about 1820, near Mrs. Finch's barn, and some remains of foundations may still be traced in the orchard, or Court Close, on the opposite side of the road.]

1066. Basset had the Lordship of Hedington.

1132. 32 and 33 Henry I. The King granted to the prior and canons

^a Kennett, vol. i. p. 23.

^b Mon. Ang., tom. i. p. 259, ap. Kennett, vol. i. pp. 62—64.

of St. Frideswide's, the Chapel of Hedington, Merston, and Benesey, exempt from all taxes and other dues^c.

1179. 25 and 26 Henry II. Thomas Basset, lord of the manor of Burcester, had the lordship of Hedington with the hundred of Bolendon, granted to him for his special services to the king in divers wars, from whence this branch of that great family had the title of Basset of Hedington.

1218, 2 and 3 Henry III. In the Sheriff's accompts, Petronilla, wife of Jeffery Fleccan, paid 50s. for a mill in Hedington, called King's Milne. Thomas Basset answered for £42. 10s. in Hedington, and £20 for the fee farm of the said barony^d.

In the Hundred Rolls, temp. Henry III. In Hedington are ten hides of the lordship of the King, and Philippa Countess of Warwick holds the said manor, with the hundred of Bulendon and the hundred without the north-gate of Oxford, in fee farm of the King by the service of one knight, and for £20 paid annually to the exchequer, and the manor without the hundred is worth £30, and the hundred of Bulendon is worth £8.

Item, in the same village is a certain hide whose heir is in the custody of the Queen, the son of Philip Muneton, and it belongs to the forest of Shotover and Stowood, and does not follow the hundred.

1292. 20 and 21 Edw. I. Hugh de Plessets had taken to wife Isabel, the third daughter of John de Ripariis, cousin, and one of the heirs to Philippa Basset, Countess of Warwick, and for the purparty of his said wife had the manor of Hedington, with the hundred of Bulendon, and to which Hugh de Plessit in 5 Edw. I. was impleaded by the men of Hedington for depriving and abridging them of their antient customs and privileges.

Within the said manor and in the King's court at Westminster, a memorable composition was made^e. These rights and privileges were confirmed to the tenants of Hedington by King Edward III. at Westminster, Oct. 20, regni 29. The same grants were renewed and ratified by Sir Richard d'Amory, lord of the manor of Hedington, 31 Edw. III. and again confirmed at Oxford by King Richard II. Oct. 4, regni 16^f.

Hugh de Plugenet, with consent of Josceus his son, had granted to the church of St. Frideswide's common pasture in his manor of Hedington, and a ground in the said parish called Godenthcroft, and thirty acres of

^c Kennett, vol. i. p. 125.

Aubrey, Bart., ap. Kennett, vol. i. p. 452-4.

^d R. Dods. MS. vol. lxxxix. f. 118.

^f Vide ex Regist. Borstall, penes

^e Ex Regist. Borstall, penes D. John

D. John Aubrey, Bart.

arable land, and all the tithes of his own demesne and of his tenants in Hedington and Merston, and the rent of Hakelingcroft, to find one lamp in the church of Hedington.

1305. 34 and 35 Edw. I. An inquisition was taken at Oxford on the Saturday before Easter Day, to enquire how the manor of Hedington alienated from the Crown. The jurors returned upon oath that Henry II. King of England, gave the said manor of Hedington with the hundred of Bolendon, and the hundred without the north gate of Oxford, to Thomas Basset and his heirs for ever, for his good services in divers wars, paying to the exchequer the yearly rent of £20 in silver. After him the said manor descended to Phillippa and Juliana, his daughters, the elder dying without heirs, the manor passed to Isabella, daughter of Juliana, by John de Ripariis. Isabella married Hugh de Plessets, who, after his wife's death, made an exchange with the King for the manor of Compton; by which means the said manor of Hedington was now in the King's hands. And the said Hugh de Plessets settled on Thomas, his son and heir, the manors of Kidlington, Hokenorton, and Missenden, in lieu of his right to the manor of Hedington, which he had given to the King.

1308. 1 and 2 Edw. II. Sir John de Handlo, of Borstale, was made governor of St. Briavel's castle, in Gloucestershire, and purchased from Philip Mymeken the Bailewick of the forest of Shotover and Stowode, with all appertinances in the village of Hedington, but for acquiring and entering upon the said bailewick without the King's licence, he was obliged to procure a royal pardon.

1316. 9 and 10 Edw. II. Alice, the relict of Philip Mymekan, in consideration of £10 received in hand, released and quitted claim to the said Sir John Handlo, all her right to the lands and tenements in Hedington, which her husband had conveyed to him.

1346. Sir John de Handlo deceased, leaving his possessions to Isabel, his son's widow, who had married after the death of her husband Robert de Ildesle, knight.

1347, 21 and 22 Edward III. Sir Richard de Amory paid a fine to the king for leave to convey his manors of Godington and Hedington, and the hundred of Bolingdon, in the county of Oxon, to Sir Otho de Holland.

1375, 49 and 50 Edward III. Sir Richard de Amory, late lord of the manors of Bucknell and Godington, and present possessor of several lands in Blechingdon, Hedington, &c. died, leaving Isabel, the daughter

of Margaret, sister of Sir John Chandos, and the wife of Sir John de Annesley, knight, his heir.

1377, 1 Richard II. An inquisition was made on the death of Sir Richard de Amory, by which it appeared that he held the manor of Hedington, &c. by gift of John Chaundos, knight, during the life of Sir Richard, whose heirs were the sisters of Sir John Chaundos, one of the greatest soldiers of his age, who in the 33rd of Edward III. for his many eminent services at the battle of Poitiers, and in other wars of France, was retained by the king to serve him in the office of vice-chamberlain during his life, and had a pension of 100*l.* per annum paid out of the exchequer; and among other lands and profits he now obtained the manor of Hedington and the two hundreds of Bolendon and Northgate, which coming formerly to Hugh de Plessets, in right of Isabel his wife, he, the said Hugh, in consideration of 200*l.* &c. conveyed them to king Edward I. in the 33rd of his reign.

The prior and canons of St. Frideswide, Oxford, had enjoyed a right of common for all their cattle within the manor of Hedington, and in the forest of Stowode; which right being denied or disputed, it was now determined, and livery of the said right of common was given to them by Richard Forster, the deputy of Sir Edmund de la Pole, keeper of the said forest.

The kings of England had a chapel in their royal manor of Hedington, which was afterwards appropriated to the said priory of St. Frideswide, and a vicarage was then ordained in this manner:—"Vicaria in capelle de Hedindon que est dictorum prioris et conventus S. Frideswide, auctoritate consilii ordinata consistit in omnibus obventionibus altaris cum minutis decimis totius parochie, exceptis decimis agnorum et decimus casei de curia domini provenientes quas prior et canonici, sibi retinebunt. Habebit autem vicarius domum et curiam in quibus capellanus manere consuevit. Et valet vicaria quinque marcas et amplius totalis autem Ecclesia xx marcas^g."

1399, 22 and 23 Richard II. The king granted to William Willicotes, Esq., in fee, the manor of Hedington, county Oxon, with the hundreds of Bolindon, and Northgate, Oxford, in farm for 40*l.* yearly rent, which premises had lately belonged to Sir John Chandos, and were now forfeited to the Crown for defect of payment of the reserved rent^h.

^g Ex chartular. S. Frideswidæ MS., p. 79. ap. Kennett, vol. ii. p. 158.

^h R. Dods, MS. vol. liv. f. 152.

1410, 11 and 12 Henry IV. By an inquisition taken in these parts it appeared that William Willicotes, lately deceased, held from the king to himself and his heirs, in socage, the manor of Hedington, &c. paying to the king the yearly rent of 40*l.*, and that Thomas Willecotes was his son and heir^l.

1415, 3 Henry V. Thomas Wilcotes, who held the manor of Hedington, &c. accounted to the king, in Michaelmas term, for the reliefs of Eliz. Chaundos, Roger Colinge and Alianore his wife, John Annesley and Eliz. his wife, for the manor and hundreds aforesaid, due upon the king's pardon to them^k.

1418, 6 Henry V. By an inquisition taken after the death of Sir Edmund de la Pole, it was found that he was possessed, in right of his wife, of three carucates of land in capite in Hedington, county Oxon, by the service of keeping the forests of Shotover and Stowood.

1427, 5 and 6 Henry VI. This manor, with other property, was resettled upon Robert James, Esq., lord of Borstall, for his life, with remainder to Edmund Rede and Cristina his wife, daughter of the said Robert James and Catherine de la Pole.

1435, 13 and 14 Henry VI. An inquisition taken at Oxford, when the jury found that the said Christina Rede assigned to Maud, the widow of Robert James, a third part of the moiety of the manors of Musewell and Hedyngdon, &c.

1445, 23 and 24 Henry VI. Thomas Harald released to Edmund Rede, Esq. all his right and claim to three acres of land in the field of Hedington, in the quarre of the said Edmund.

1459, 37 and 38 Henry VI. Edmund Rede, Esq. of Borstall, granted to William Craunford and Thomas Williams his manor of Hedington, &c. &c.

In the taxation of ecclesiastical benefices under Pope Nicholas, A.D. 1291, the church of Headington was valued at 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; in 1341 it was valued at the same sum.

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp. Henry VIII., the Rectory and Vicarage of Hedyngton, with Merston and Sydley [Suscot?], were valued together at 17*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, namely, the Rectory of Hedyngton and Merston, with its appurtenances, 12*l.*; the Vicarage of Hedington, 3*l.*; the Rectory of Merston, with the small tithes, 2*l.*; the rent of a tenement in

^l R. Dods. MS. vol. xxxvi. f. 81.

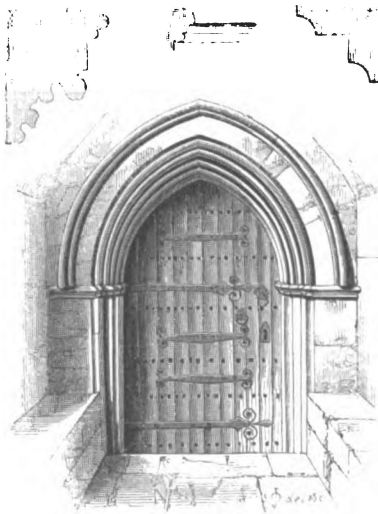
^k El. Ashmole MS. X. p. 350.

Hedington, 13s. 4d. They belonged at that time to king Henry the VIII.'s college in Oxford¹. This valuation took place about 1525, and the college must therefore have been the first foundation of Cardinal Wolsey, and this living was lost, with that of St. Clement's and many others, during the interval between the fall of the Cardinal in 1529 and the new foundation in 1532. In which time, says Wood, "most of the lands, tenements, revenues, &c. which belonged to the monasteries dissolved for the erection of this college, were either sold to, or begged by, hungry courtiers and others^m." The advowson of the vicarage has been in the possession of the family of Whorwood since about the year 1600, when Sir G. Brome, of Holton, whose daughter and heiress married a Whorwood, exchanged land at Haseley and Albury for the advowsons and pasturages of Headington and Marston, and the manor of Headington, Marston, and Bolshipton.

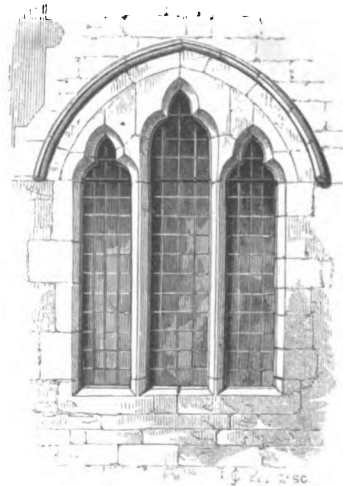
The vicarage is now valued at £118, and the population is reckoned at 1,388.

¹ Valor Eccles., vol. ii. p. 250.

^m Ant. & Wood, Colleges by Gutch, p. 428.



South Door



Window, East End of South Aisle.

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