

the Hon. Secretary, and Mr. Ernest Ravenscroft, the Hon. Treasurer. The Right Hon. Sir William Carrington has written to the Hon. Secretary to inform him that H.M. King George V. has graciously consented to accept the office of Patron of the Society, which has previously been held by His Majesty's predecessors, King Edward VII. and Queen Victoria.

The third Lecture of the Winter Session was given by the Hon. Secretary on January 19th, on the Preservation of Historic Monuments, a report of which lecture is given in the present number of this Journal.

On February 17th, Mr. Gordon Hills gave an excellent lecture on Chichester Cathedral, of which he is the Surveyor.

On March 16th, Mr. Mervyn Macartney, F.R.S., one of the chief authorities on Domestic Architecture in England, delivered a very interesting lecture on "Notes on some Berkshire Houses." This was illustrated by an admirable series of lantern slides. He described Ockwells, Upton, Milton, Coleshill and others.

On April 6th the President gave one of his valuable lectures on Berkshire Churches, describing the churches of Aldermaston, Englefield, Tidmarsh and Padworth. His lecture was illustrated by about 80 lantern slides from photographs specially taken for the lecturer, which was much appreciated.

The Annual Meeting will be held on May 4th, and at the conclusion of the business Mr. Gordon Hills will lecture on "A Cathedral of the old Foundation," with special reference to Chichester.

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## The Registers of St. Margaret's Church, Westminster.—Churchwardens' Accounts.

*By the Rev. F. T. Wethered.*

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EVERYTHING which has to do with the Parish of Westminster is of interest to those who study the history of Hurley Priory, which was a cell to Westminster Abbey.

St. Margaret's Church stands close alongside of the Abbey, on the N.E. side.

Widmore, the well-known Westminster Librarian, who wrote his history of the Abbey in the middle of the eighteenth century, refers to the tradition that King Edward the Confessor was the builder of St. Margaret's, but, on his own showing, this may be traced to mere monastic gossip, and cannot be treated in any way as serious history. However, a charter in the Harleian Library makes it clear that there was a Parish Church at Westminster before the end of 1140, inasmuch as it relates the grant of sixty shillings of the profits of the Church of S. Margaret, standing in the Abbey Churchyard, for the service of the high altar of the Abbey; and, inasmuch as Abbot Herbert, by whom this grant was made, died on Sept. 3rd, 1140, we can limit the date of the building of the Church to some period not later at any rate than the fifth year of King Stephen's reign.

In 1222 we find a decree of Cardinal Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, in which he confirms the rights of the Abbey over St. Margaret's Parish Church "with all its chapels within the Parish aforesaid contained, together with all its tithes appurtenanting," as against Eustace, Bishop of London. Moreover, in this decree the boundaries of St. Margaret's Parish are minutely described, and are extremely interesting. The details of these parochial landmarks conclude thus: "Outside, in fact, the limits above-written the vill of Cnichtebrigge [Knightsbridge], Westeburn [and] Padintun with a chapel and with their appurtenances belong to the parish of St. Margaret referred to."

It is not surprising, then, under the circumstances, that St. Margaret's parish should be remarkable for the number and variety of its ancient Records, which are in the custody of the vestry of St. Margaret and St. John. Amongst others, the Churchwardens' accounts are of great historical interest, in the quaintness of their style and expression. There is scarcely any better source from which to pick up the manners and customs of by-gone England, in its national and social life, than the accounts and entries of Parish Registers. They teem with historical references and incidents.

I append a selection from the Churchwardens' accounts referred to. They were printed very fully in a catalogue by the Vestry Clerk (by order of the Vestry) in 1900.

The transition from Latin to English, in keeping these Accounts, took place in 1467. The following specimens are all entered in English:—

1475	Item, at the burying of Wm. Broke, for four torches	...vjs. viij <i>z</i> .
	Item, for the Pytt in the Church	... ..vjs. viij <i>z</i> .
	Item, for the Knyll with the great bell	... ..vj <i>z</i> .
1475	Item, at the monthmynde* of William Broke, for four torches	... ..vjs. viij <i>z</i> .
1478	Item, for a pulpytte in the church-yard against the preaching of Dr. Penkey	... ..ijs. viij <i>z</i> .
1504	—To fader Yanne for the keeping of the whype for betyng the dogges oute of the chyrche	... ..xvj <i>z</i> .
1518	Item, given by the children of the Maygame	... ..viij <i>z</i> .
1537	Item, paid for ringing of bells when Te Deum [at the birth of Edward VI.] was songe, and again to the Queene [Jane Seymour] dirge...	... ..xij <i>z</i> .
1546	Also paid on Ascension-even, for bread, ale, beer, and wyne, for the prebendaries and quyer of the mynster after mass was done	... ..is. ij <i>z</i> .
1547	Also payd to the Ringers at King Henry the VIIIth his dirge in the Parish Church	... ..viij <i>z</i> .
1547	Also paid to the poor men that did bere the copies and other necessities to Knightsbridge, when that	

\*The "monthmynde" here means a memorial, often a Mass, a month after the decease of the person to whom it was devoted.—F.T.W.

	King Henry the Eight was brought to his burial at Winsor, and to the man that did ryng the bells ...	iijs.
1549	Also payd for Bred, Ale, and Wyne for the Gentelmen and Childerne of the King's Chapell for ther paynes in helpyng of the Divine Service at the Blessid Communion on Or. Lady's Day in Lent ... ..	
1549	Also paid to William Curlewe for mending of divers pews that were broken when Dr. Lattymer did preach	is. vjd.
1555	Item, paid to Low, fletcher, for fethering of iiij shaffe of arrowe and new trimming of the heads ... ..	ivs.
1559	Item, for bread, ale, and beer, on Tewisday in the Rogacion-weeke for the parishioners that went in procession ... ..	is.
1560	Item, at the buryal of my Lady Jane Semer ... ..	xs.
1567	Item, paid for the setting of two soldiers into the North parts, and for their coates, slops [loose trowsers], and other things, as it appeareth by a bill thereof ... ..	iiij. xijs. xd.
1575	Item, paid for netesfoot oil to liquor the belles ... ..	ijd.
1586	Item, paid for ringing at the beheading of the Queen of Scots... ..	is.
1605	Item, paid the ringers for ringing at the time when the parliament house should have been blown up† ... ..	xs.
1611	Paid to Goodwfe Wells for salt to destroy the fleas in the Churchwardens' pew‡ ... ..	vjd.
1626	Item, to the graves of 1447 poor people this year ... ..	iz.
1627	Item, paid for twelve bundles of rushes to fit the church-yard for consecration ... ..	
1637	Item, to Mrs. Stone, the wife of John Stone, for bad farthings which her husband had received when he was overseer of the poor, as part of the stock brought in by his predecessors ... ..	iz. vijs.
1638	Item, to William Lynes, for removing the stocks from the sheds in Tuttle [Tothill] ... ..	xijs.
1642	Item, Nov. 3, given to the officers of the Tower of London, and labourers that delivered the powder, bullet, and matche [a prepared rope for firing cannon]	xivs.
1658	Item, of Thomas Hamond, Francis Daye, Thomas Chandler, and Stephen Harebottle, for 240 foot of ground in the old church-yard lett unto them to build scaffolds at the Lord Protector's funerall at the rate of 1s. the foot ... ..	xijl.
1658	Item, to Richard May, for informing of one that played at trap-ball on the Lord's day ... ..	xvijs.

† What would Guy Fawkes have said if he had seen this entry in St. Margaret's Church Register?—F.T.W.

‡ Possibly the Churchwardens' pew was the only one that was flea-haunted; if not, it was rather unsporting on the part of the Church officers not to have allowed Goodwfe Wells a few sixpenn'orths more salt for the rest of the pews! —F.T.W.