

ALDERMASTON CHURCH. WEST DOORWAY.

ALDERMASTON CHURCH, BERKSHIRE.

By CHARLES E. KEYSER., M.A., F.S.A.

It is rather a dangerous thing to invite anyone to read a paper on the subject of the parish church in which he is personally interested and which he has been chiefly instrumental in restoring; and one might reasonably fear that a detailed description of the new heating apparatus and other useful objects introduced into the church under his direction, as well as of the various additions, such as a new organ chamber, &c., still in prospect, might occupy no inconsiderable space in dealing with so congenial a subject. It will, however, be the endeavour of the writer not unduly to try the patience of his audience by any attempt at self-laudation in referring at length to improvements and necessary renovations which have been made to the fabric and furniture, but rather to point out all the objects of architectural and historical interest, with a short notice of the recent and present condition of the church, in the hope that approval may be elicited at the care and respect which have been paid to every minute detail in connection with it.

Before however commencing this description, it may be as well very briefly to refer to the history of Aldermaston generally to enable us the more easily to comprehend the various points as they arise with regard to the dates of the several portions of the church. And here it will be advisable to mention that an admirable account from the pen of that distinguished antiquary, Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A., is to be found in the *Transactions of the Newbury District Field Club*, Vol. IV, pp. 122-138. This deals chiefly with the history of the manor, and the various distinguished personages in whom it was vested, and who in former times held large estates in Aldermaston and elsewhere in the county.¹

¹ Some account of Aldermaston is also to be found in the *Transactions of the Newbury District Field Club*, II, 111-118, and the *British Archaeological Association Journal*, VIII, 362, and XVI, 62-69, and 95.

The name Aldermaston or Aldermanton (=the Alderman's town) points to the early importance of the parish; and accordingly, in the Domesday Survey, it is mentioned as having been one of the possessions of Earl Harold, and consequently, after his death, of William the Conqueror. Both William the Conqueror, William Rufus, and Henry I are said to have occasionally resided here, until the last-named monarch, soon after the year 1100, granted this and four other lordships to one of his knights—one Robert Achard, with the advowsons of all the churches, fisheries, and other very extensive manorial rights, of which the principal (except this) was Sparsholt near Wantage. His son William, in 1166, gave the church of Aldermaston, with other property, to the alien Priory of Monk Sherborne, Hampshire, of which a considerable portion of the chapel, now used as the parish church of the village of Pamber, still remains.

The manor of Aldermaston remained in the possession of the Achard family till about 1360, when the daughter and heir of the last male representative of the family, Sir Robert Achard, married Sir Thomas De la Mare, a member of the family of the De la Mares, of Nunney in the county of Somerset, who thus, through her, became the owner of this estate and the "other faire landes in Barkshire," mentioned by Leland in his Itinerary. The manor and property continued in the De la Mare family till about the end of the fifteenth century, when Elizabeth, the granddaughter and heir of the last Sir Thomas De la Mare, brought this and the other estates to the Forsters by her marriage with Sir George Forster, of Harpsden in the county of Oxford. Their noble monument remains in the church, and will shortly be described.

The Forsters continued to possess this property till it came by marriage, in 1711, to Lord Stawell, of Somerton, whose family seat was at Cothelstone in Somersetshire, an interesting old house, still remaining as in his day. Their daughter married as her second husband Mr. Ralph Congreve, of Congreve in Staffordshire, in 1752. The Congreves held the estates for nearly a century, when, after the death of Mr. William Congreve, the estate was purchased out of Chancery by Mr. Higford Burr, and

continued in his family till his son sold it, in 1893, to Mr. Charles Keyser, the present owner. The ancient house is said to have been a fine quadrangular structure standing close to the church. In 1636 Sir Humphrey Forster erected a noble mansion on the same site, which was unfortunately partially destroyed by fire in the year 1843. After the death of Mr. William Congreve, it was sold to Mr. Higford Burr, who proceeded to build a new house from the designs of Mr. Philip C. Hardwick, some 200 yards from the site of the earlier ones, and on higher ground. The fine old staircase, with numerous mythological and other figures, and a portion of the heraldic glass, is preserved in the new house, and the dedication stone of the house erected in 1636 has been placed in the wall within the main entrance porch.

The fine brick chimneys are thought to be relics of the house existing prior to that erected in 1636, and are excellent examples of their style. Considerable additions have been recently made by the present owner. The old stables are certainly as early as the 1636 house, and probably earlier. The situation of the present mansion, standing above a fine piece of ornamental water, and surrounded by some of the oldest trees, and one of the finest parks in the kingdom, is greatly admired.

Many of the oaks especially are of great size and age, and said to be as much as 2,000 years old. One, which boasts the name of The Conqueror Oak, from some traditional connection with William the Conqueror, unfortunately collapsed in February, 1897; but as it is only a bare shell, it has again been set up. The advowson of the church was, in the year 1166, vested in the Alien Priory of Monk Sherborne; but, as an evidence of the troublous times, the presentation to the living was constantly being exercised by the Crown, and in the year 1461 it was given to the Domus Dei at Southampton. It appears to have been granted at the time of the Reformation to Queen's College, Oxford, who leased it for 500 years to William Forster in 1567. Mr. Congreve purchased the reversionary rights from the College under the Gilbert Act, and it is now attached to the estate. The living is a donative, a charge on the property having been established for the endowment of the Incumbent.

The parish church stands close to the manor house, the ancient brick wall, of about the 1636 date, forming a boundary to the churchyard on the south and east, and separating it from the "pleasaunce" of the former mansion. It is some distance from the pretty village, situate just outside the old park gates, and with its ancient inn still commemorating the Forsters by its sign, the Hind's Head—the crest of that family. A church is mentioned as being in existence here at the time of the Domesday Survey, but apparently no portion of the present edifice is earlier than the Norman period. As we now see it, it consists of a west tower with low shingle spire, nave with transept or chantry chapel on the south side, and chancel with vestry also on the south side. There is no division between the nave and chancel, and it is uncertain how far westward the chancel extended. As will be noted the church is most irregular in its form, the narrowest part being in the centre and opposite the transept or chapel, and it has clearly been enlarged and altered at several different periods. The approximate dimensions are as follows: Full length, internal measurement, from east wall to the interior west wall of the tower, is 103 feet. The tower is 11 feet east to west by 10 feet 2 inches north to south. The nave is 57 feet in length to present step to the chancel by 20 feet in breadth opposite the transept, and 25 feet at the west end. The chancel is 30 feet in length by 22 feet in breadth; the transept or chapel, 18 feet 3 inches from north to south by 15 feet 3 inches east to west, and the vestry 12 feet 8 inches north to south by 15 feet east to west. The earliest part of the church seems to be the eastern portion of the nave facing the transept, and the narrowest section of the church. This is clearly the original Norman, as a doorway of that period remains closed up on the north side. The first enlargement appears to have been towards the east during the Early English period; and there are some indications, which will shortly be referred to, of the church having extended further to the east than it does now. Towards the latter part of the thirteenth, or early in the fourteenth, century the church was extended towards the west, and the transept or chantry chapel was added on the south side. The tower arch may be of Decorated date; but the

west window is of the fifteenth century, and probably the tower was reconstructed at that period, and the fine Norman west doorway reinserted in the west wall. In the latter part of the seventeenth century the vestry was added, no doubt over a new vault for the Forster family, and a new south door to the chancel inserted; and at the beginning of this present century the restoration of the church was taken in hand, with the usual disastrous results attendant thereupon at that degenerate period. The roofs were underdrawn with plaster ceilings: solid deal battens were placed against the walls, with laths, and 4 inches of mortar fixed over them; and in some instances, where, as in the chancel, the walls have settled outwards, reducing the width of the church by nearly 2 feet.¹ The floors had been laid with similar deal battens with plain stained boards nailed over them.

A gallery remained at the west end projecting some distance into the nave, and entirely hiding the view of the tower arch and west window. A tortoise stove occupied the centre of the nave, with an iron pipe carried up to and through the roof. Such was the state of the church in 1893, well and reverently cared for by the vicar and churchwardens, but too much like a barn to inspire that feeling of awe and reverence for the Divine object for which our sacred temples were erected. Within the arch between the chapel and nave had formerly been situated the squire's pew, approached by a staircase in the east wall of the chapel. This fortunately had been removed some years ago.

The restoration, about which it will not be fair to say much to those not personally interested in the church, has, under the able guidance of Mr. E. Doran Webb, F.S.A., and the constant supervision of the vicar and churchwardens, and of the squire (at whose expense the whole work has been carried out), been completed, it is hoped, in a thoroughly conservative spirit. No unnecessary change has been made, and everything of value or local association has been most carefully conserved. The chief work has been the removal of

¹ Dovecourt Church in Essex, now (1897) undergoing restoration, has been treated in an exactly similar fashion. A date, 1811, chalked in several places

on the original walls, seems to indicate the date at which this beautifying process was carried out.

the various accumulations and additions to the walls, providing new roofs for the chancel, chapel, and east part of the nave, repaving the chancel with white marble, and the nave with a wood-block floor; rebuilding the arch between the nave and chapel, removing the west gallery, adding a new heating apparatus in place of the old stove and stove pipe, thoroughly repairing the roofs within and without, rebuilding the east gable and fixing a new gable cross, substituting oak seats and choir stalls for the painted deal ones, supplying a new ringer's gallery, besides minor alterations, which will be referred to in the course of the architectural description. A system of decoration for the walls will shortly be carried out of simple character and in imitation of masonry and other patterns found on the removal of the whitewash, except at the east end where a more elaborate scheme is contemplated. It has further been arranged to fill most of the windows with stained glass. The east window has already been carried out by Mr. C. E. Kempe,¹ and that on the north of the nave by Mr. P. H. Newman, as a memorial to the late Mr. Higford Burr, the somewhat unusual subject of Adam naming the animals having been treated with great success. A very handsome eagle lectern sold from Newbury parish church some years ago, and recently purchased, will also shortly be again restored to its original use in this church. It is also hoped that it may be possible to reinstate the screen. The main beams with traces of the original decoration have been preserved, and other portions are incorporated with the framework of the bells. This will tend to neutralise the present room-like appearance of the church, and more clearly accentuate the division between the nave and chancel. It will also make the difference between the centre of the nave and chancel less apparent, the ridge of the nave roof being between 1 and 2 feet to the south of that of the chancel, thereby producing an unsatisfactory effect to the eye of anyone standing at either end of the church.²

¹ Five more windows by Mr. Kempe and two by Mr. Newman have been added in the present year (1898).

² A handsome old brass candelabra

has been introduced in the chancel, and a triptych by A Van Orley, representing the Adoration of the Magi and Shepherds, placed above the altar.

So much for what has been, or is being, done. Let us now make a perambulation of the church, starting with the interior and examining in detail its various architectural features. The east window has three plain lancets, the central one being higher than that on either side. They have chamfered heads, and are separated by plain chamfered mullions. In this window were, till the recent restoration, two very fine panels of old glass, probably as early as the window itself, with representations of the Annunciation and the Coronation of the Virgin. They did not appear to fit into their then position, and have been taken out, carefully repaired, and are now reinstated within the lancets on the north side. There were also eight shields of arms with the various alliances of the Forster family, which were clearly out of place in this situation. Two of these shields, occupying the most prominent position in the window, had been put in upside down, an evident proof that they had been brought from elsewhere and carelessly fixed in by the local glazier. They have also been carefully repaired, and now occupy a more suitable situation in the large north window facing the chapel or transept.

On the north of the chancel are two large widely splayed lancets. In the sill of the east one were found traces of a water drain, and a piscina has been here inserted, though perhaps on inadequate authority, as it is unusual to find a piscina on the north side of the church. The head of the western of the two lancets is composed of old tiles, perhaps brought from the adjoining Roman town of Silchester. Some alteration seems to have taken place with regard to these two lancets, as on the exterior side some moulded stone fragments now form the angle of the sill, with remains of decoration in red and black still visible on them.

On the south side of the chancel near the east end is a semicircular-headed brick arch opening to the vestry, and probably dating from about 1660. Ashmole, in *The History and Antiquities of Berkshire*, states that "on the south side of the Chancel is a Chapel, having a vault under the same lately made." It is probable, therefore, that an earlier building was reconstructed at this period. Above the arch was found in the wall the hoodmoulding

of the window or doorway formerly existing here, and apparently of the Decorated period.

On the south of the chancel was a large plain Palladian window, set within the original Decorated containing arch. The base of the mullion still remained in the sill, and the turn of the arch of the original window could be clearly made out. It was therefore thought that here an attempt might be made to restore the original, and a segmental two-light window of Late Decorated character has been constructed. Farther west, and now to the west of the step leading up to the chancel, but probably within the former chancel, is one of the curiosities of the church, viz., a low and high side-window on either side. On the south the containing arch of the early low window remains, but a debased semicircular-headed light has been inserted; while the upper light, now a plain oblong, has been also altered: indeed, the whole south wall of the chancel appears to have been reconstructed at some comparatively recent period. During the restoration a circular space was found in the wall, probably for the staircase leading up to the roodloft.

On the north the low side-window has a cinquefoiled head, and appears to be of Late Decorated date. The upper window has a plain semicircular light, apparently an insertion of the early part of the sixteenth century. Both are set within plain square openings having a wooden frame or lintel across the upper part, partially old. The chancel roof dated probably from the 1660 period, with the exception of the tie-beams and king-posts of the earlier structure. These, three in number, have been carefully preserved, and a low-pitched oak-panelled ceiling has been introduced below the higher-pitched roof.

The head of the east window is formed by another tie-beam continued in the wall to the wall-plate of the north and south walls: and it seems possible, as has been suggested, that the chancel has been curtailed, and the east wall and window reconstructed. The pulpit is of varnished oak, a very good specimen of Jacobean work, with nicely-carved panels and sounding-board. A boss in the form of a rose showing remains of gilding and colour, now fixed to the centre of the sounding-board, appears to have belonged to one of the earlier roofs.

On the north of the nave, opposite the chapel or transept, is a large two-light window of Late Decorated character, with flowing tracery and a quartrefoil in the head. The lintel of the containing arch is of wood, and apparently old. A little to the west is a Norman doorway now closed up. It has a segmental arch in the inner wall, and a lower chamfered arch on the interior side of the outer wall. The recess in the wall has been utilised for a seat, and a small oval window has been pierced through the head of the wall blocking the doorway to light the occupant of this favoured situation. To the west of the doorway is a small niche for lamp or figure, and a similar one remains in the opposite wall on the south side. It is doubtful if these are in their original position. Above the Norman doorway has been inserted a stone corbel head of a bearded male figure, probably of the Norman period, discovered in the wall during the restoration. The roof above this portion is high-pitched and old, but it was in a bad state, and had not, it appeared, been ever open to the nave. It was therefore carefully repaired, and a low-pitched panelled oak ceiling, similar to that over the chancel, introduced below it.

Some nice oak panelling, formerly in the chancel, now forms a dado to the western portion of the nave. It is said to have been brought from Ufton Court, and is of late sixteenth or early seventeenth century date. To the west of the Norman doorway, and at the east end of the broader part of the nave, is another low side-window, almost identical with that in the chancel, with cinque-foiled arch and flat timber lintel to the containing arch. On the verge are painted a series of chocolate or deep red crescents, and some traces of these appear within the window head, thus proving the early date of these wooden frames. The situation of this low side-window is certainly unusual. It seems to have been inserted to enable any one from outside to get a view of the painting of St. Christopher on the south wall of the chapel, which can be well seen from this position.

To the west again is a large and rather singular window within square-headed containing arch, having two cinque-foiled ogee-headed lancets. It is probably of early fourteenth century date.

On the south side, but not quite facing it, is another large two-light square-headed window, of good Decorated character, and of early fourteenth century date. The roof over this part of the nave is wagon-shaped. It was formerly concealed by the whitewash, but this has been removed; and this interesting late fifteenth century work now adds an attractive feature to the church.

The tower arch is probably of the Decorated period, with two chamfered orders, the inner dying into the jambs, and the outer carried down without impost to the ground. There is solid oak framing formerly, though apparently not now, supporting the timber work within the tower. The west window is of Perpendicular character, of two lights, with large quatrefoil in the head. On the north side of the tower is a small four-centred arched doorway, opening to a newel staircase, leading up to the belfry of late fifteenth century date. There are six bells—two dated 1681, one 1787, two recast in 1860, and one presented in 1896. A board with the Royal Arms of Charles I, with date 1632, in excellent preservation, is fixed to the nave wall over the tower arch.

The south transept seems to have been a chantry or the lady chapel, and to have been for many years specially attached to the adjoining court or manor house. It has been the burial place of many of the former lords of the manor, and their monuments will shortly be described. It opens to the nave by an obtusely-pointed arch, which was thought to be of Transitional Norman date; but, on the removal of the yellow wash, it was found that the upper part of the arch was of wood, and a brick arch had been thrown across the wall above it to support the roofs. The jambs and the lower portion of the arch remained, and have been carefully preserved, and are probably of late thirteenth century date, and of the same period as the rest of the chapel. It is traditionally reported that some years ago this arch fell down, seriously injuring the beautiful monument erected below it. The arch has been restored in stone in the style of the lower portion, which remains *in situ*.

The chapel has a nice two-light south window of good Early Decorated character, and a single trefoil-headed lancet in the east and west walls. There is a large niche

for an image in the east wall near the south side, and a trefoil-headed piscina in the south wall of the same date as the rest of the chapel. The roof is of the same date as that over the eastern portion of the nave, and has been treated at the restoration in the same way.

The vestry on the south side of the chancel has been recently (in 1898) restored. It is entered through a semi-circular-headed brick arch, and was added or altered, as has already been suggested, partly to cover a vault of the Forster family, about the year 1660. It is composed of brick plastered over, with a high-pitched roof, and nicely moulded wall plate, a two-light window on the south, and single lancet on the east and west. In the head of the south window is a Hebrew inscription within a halo. There is also in the upper part of the eastern light a patchwork shield with the Achard, Kingsmill, and two other coats-of-arms, probably coeval with the chapel. A tablet recording various benefactions to the church is here preserved.

Before proceeding to describe the monuments, mural paintings, and old glass, it will be as well briefly to point out what remains of interest on the exterior. The church walls are composed of rough materials—flints, &c., and are covered with a coating of rough-cast of a yellowish colour, which has been carefully preserved. The roof is formed of red tiles, and is high-pitched throughout. The Decorated window on the south of the nave has a square label, and those on the south of the chapel, and north of nave facing it, have the usual arched hood moulding.

The window on the north side of the nave has a continuous hoodmould carried round each of the two lights. The small, high side-window on the north is set within a square frame with spandril spaces on either side of the head of the main light. There are nice angle buttresses at the east end of the chancel, and two large buttresses on the north of the chancel and nave, erected within recent times to support the walls which have given way on this side.

The north doorway, now blocked up, has a plain semicircular arch, with chamfered edge to the arch and jambs, and stops at the base of the jambs. The west

window has a hoodmould terminating on the head of a gentleman on the south, and a lady with horned head-dress on the north.

The west doorway is a very good specimen of Norman work, and is figured in Lyson's *Magna Britannia*. It has two reveals with a hollow and bold cable moulding on the outer order. This rests on a massive chamfered abacus, with a shallow pattern of saltires within squares scratched on the upper part. The shafts are ornamented, the north with the chevron, the south with the cable, pattern. On the capitals on either side are two doves in relief pluming, apparently of the same date as the rest of the arch. A shallow ornament similar to that on the abacus is incised above them. The inner order and jambs are plain. On both the outer and inner jambs are numerous small crosses, probably of a votive character, and commemorating promises of gifts to the church by former residents, when about to embark on a journey or other dangerous undertaking. They are to be found on most Norman doorways, and sometimes, as in the case of one at St. Margaret Roding, of an elaborate character. This doorway probably dates from the time of Henry I or *circ.* 1120, and is a good specimen of the Norman style, though not so ornate as those at Padworth, Bucklebury, and Tidmarsh in the same neighbourhood. It has clearly been shifted from its original situation, and the voussoirs of the outer order have been carelessly put together, so that the cable is not continuous, as it was of course originally designed to be.

The old glass formerly in the east window is certainly worthy of mention. The two early medallions have been carefully repaired, and now occupy the two lancets on the north side of the chancel. Rich scroll and other decorative patterns fill up the window, the work having been designed and carried out by Mr. P. H. Newman. In the east, within a circular medallion, is the Annunciation. St. Gabriel is on the west, with a yellow cloak having a kind of feathering on the upper part and green under garment; the right wing is painted red, white, and yellow, while the left wing is coloured white and yellow, and is extended over the scroll, with the words "Ave Maria Gra," which he holds in his left hand, while the



THE ANNUNCIATION.



HEAD OF THE VIRGIN AND PART OF SCROLL. FULL SIZE.



THE CORONATION OF THE VIRGIN.
FROM PAINTED GLASS IN ALDERMASTON CHURCH.

right is raised in attitude of benediction. He has bare feet and a crimson nimbus. The Blessed Virgin has a white kerchief over her head, red nimbus, yellow dress and red cloak, and holds a book in her left hand, while her right is upraised. The Holy Dove, painted white, is descending towards her left ear. The ground on which they are standing is green. A scroll border in white on a black ground is carried across the centre of the medallion. The general groundwork is a very rich blue. In the western lancet is inserted the second panel within an octagonal border, and representing the Coronation of the Virgin. The Deity, to the east, with golden crown ornamented with three strawberry leaves, and brown hair, white vestment and red cloak, and with bare feet on either side of the orb, is seated at one end of a yellow settee, with left hand holding a book, and his right placing a crown on the head of the Virgin, who is also seated, with light hair, yellow dress, and green cloak, and both hands clasped and upraised in a devotional attitude. There is a small portion of green below the figures, but the general groundwork is the same rich blue as on the other panel. The date of these is probably of the latter half of the thirteenth century.

The coats-of-arms, eight in number, are now placed in the large window facing the chapel. Six of them have the various heraldic bearings assumed by the Forsters, viz., Achard, Delamare, Popham, Harpsden, St. Martyn, Zouch of Deene, Milborne, and one other—Roches quartering Brocas of Beaurepaire.¹ Two of the shields impale the arms of Sandys of the Vyne, and prove conclusively that this glass was put in by Sir Humfrey Forster, the son of Sir George Forster, who married a daughter of Lord Sandys of the Vyne, Hampshire. He was a man of considerable importance, and a member of the bodyguard of Henry VIII, who was entertained by him at Aldermaston in 1540. Each shield is enclosed within a circular border or wreath, and is a fair specimen of the heraldic glass of this period. In the quatrefoil in the head of the window are preserved some fragments of old glass, formerly in the south window of the chapel, namely the head of a bishop

¹ See Appendix A.

(probably St. Nicholas), and portions of heraldic and ornamental patterns. The repairs were carried out, and the new glass filling up the window designed by, Mr. P. H. Newman.

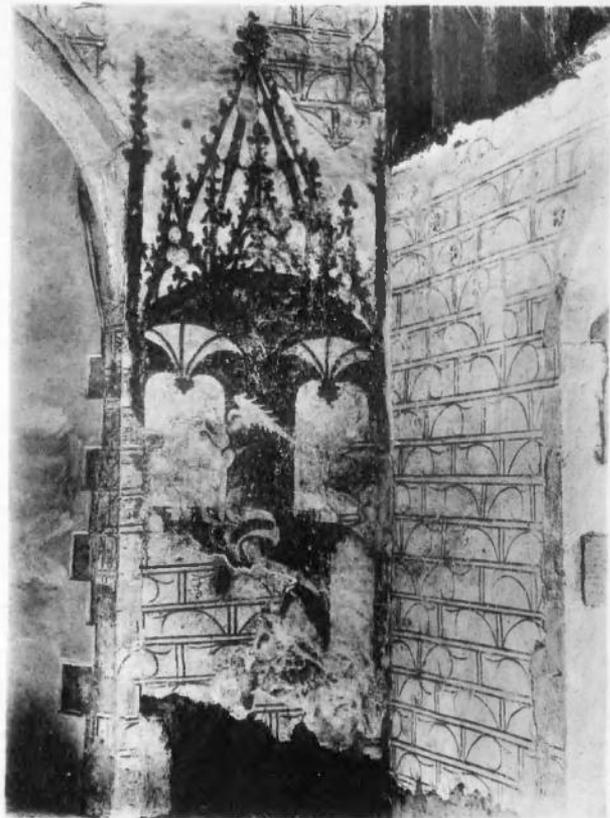
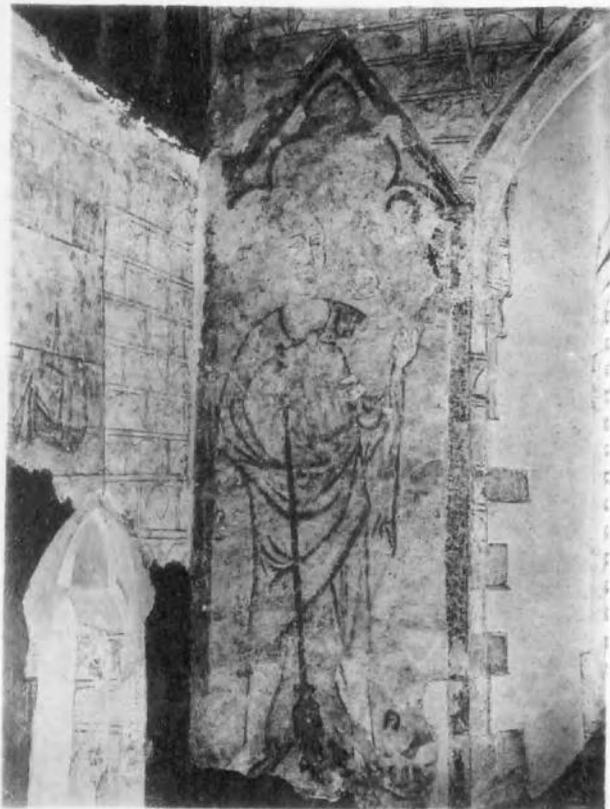
It will next be convenient to describe the paintings discovered during the recent restoration, of which brief mention has been made in the paper on recent discoveries of mural paintings read before the Society in 1896.¹ Colouring was found, more or less distinct throughout the church, on the jambs of all the windows and the arch opening to the chapel. On the arch itself is a kind of festoon ornament in red, and at least two courses of decoration on the splay; a very nice scroll border in red remains on the north wall of the nave near the west end, and parts of other early designs elsewhere on the walls. There is an early text much defaced within a red ornamental border, probably of sixteenth century date, on the north wall of the nave at the east end, and a similar one over the low side-window.

Three sets of the Commandments painted over each other were found over the blocked north doorway, and between the low side and adjoining window a record, twice depicted, of a sum of money bequeathed to the parish by Messrs. Blackman and Holliman in 1721. But the most interesting are those in the transept or chapel, which were found in 1896, and have been carefully preserved.

The whole of the chapel, except the portion occupied by the figure of St. Christopher, has been decorated with double masonry lines in Indian red, and with a rose or some other conventional flower on a stalk within each compartment. This ornamentation has been executed on the window splays, and at the back and sides of the piscina and niche for image. On the lower part of the jambs of the south window is a pattern of red blotches, not uncommon on arches of this same date. The decoration seems to date from about 1300.

On the south wall to the east of the window, and in full view from the low side-window in the nave, is a very large and early portraiture of St. Christopher. He is represented beneath a triangular-headed canopy in

¹ *Archaeological Journal*, LIII, 175.



ALDERMASTON CHURCH. PAINTINGS ON SOUTH WALL OF SOUTH CHAPEL.

bands of red and yellow with a cinquefoiled fringe in red. He is apparently bare-headed, with cloak and tunic outlined in red, and bare below the knees. He has the Infant Saviour held to the west of him on his left hand. Our Saviour, with dark hair, holds the orb in His left hand, and is giving the benediction with His right. St. Christopher is advancing westward, and holds a curious sort of eel or fish spear with teeth on the lower part in his right hand. An eel and two or three fish are disporting themselves in the water, and a mermaid, with deep crimson hair, is introduced on the west side of the picture. The painting is a very early representation of this Saint, probably not later than 1350. A still earlier one was found not long ago at the church of Stanford Dingley in the same neighbourhood, which unfortunately has been destroyed. Part of a scalloped border in red and white alternately remains below the picture.

On the opposite side of the window is a later painting executed over the masonry pattern, and unluckily imperfect. We have here a very rich canopy with finials in yellow ochre, surmounting a chapel or other edifice, with two windows or compartments and a central shaft or pillar in deep red. The underside of the canopy has two pendants, and is painted a delicate pink. On the lower part is an altar with embattled verge, in front of which can be made out the head and shoulders, apparently, of the kneeling figure of a young man with yellow hair and cloak, low red cap with ostrich feathers, and the nimbus. Above can be discerned the wings and head of an angel descending with a mitre to the kneeling figure. It is uncertain to whom the painting refers, though probably either to St. Hubert, who no doubt would be honoured in this well wooded and sporting district, or it may possibly commemorate the miraculous restoration of his episcopal robes to St. Nicholas, after he had been unfrocked for boxing Arius on the ear at the Council of Nice in the year 325. This incident is represented by Paul Veronese, and other early painters, but not, it is believed, in mural painting elsewhere in England. The date of this Aldermaston picture is probably late in the fifteenth century. On the east wall above the image recess are three scenes, possibly alluding to St. Nicholas,

painted over the masonry pattern. In the lower tier are two ships, apparently tossed by the waves, with figures visible within them. In the next tier are two ecclesiastics with croziers, and above again two knights in armour, and what may be an altar. May this be intended to portray the aid of St. Nicholas being invoked, his appearance to the distressed mariners, and the grateful travellers making a thank-offering at his shrine? It is somewhat indistinct, and probably of fifteenth century date. The whole has a powdering of crimson cinque-foils, and a nice scroll border in red. A much earlier portraiture of St. Nicholas, and the miracle of the restoring the three students to life, still remain at the neighbouring church of Padworth.

With regard to the monuments in the church, it may at first sight seem curious that, considering the importance of the family residing within a stone's throw of the church, we do not find more memorials of the early members, who no doubt were regular worshippers in the church in the days of old.

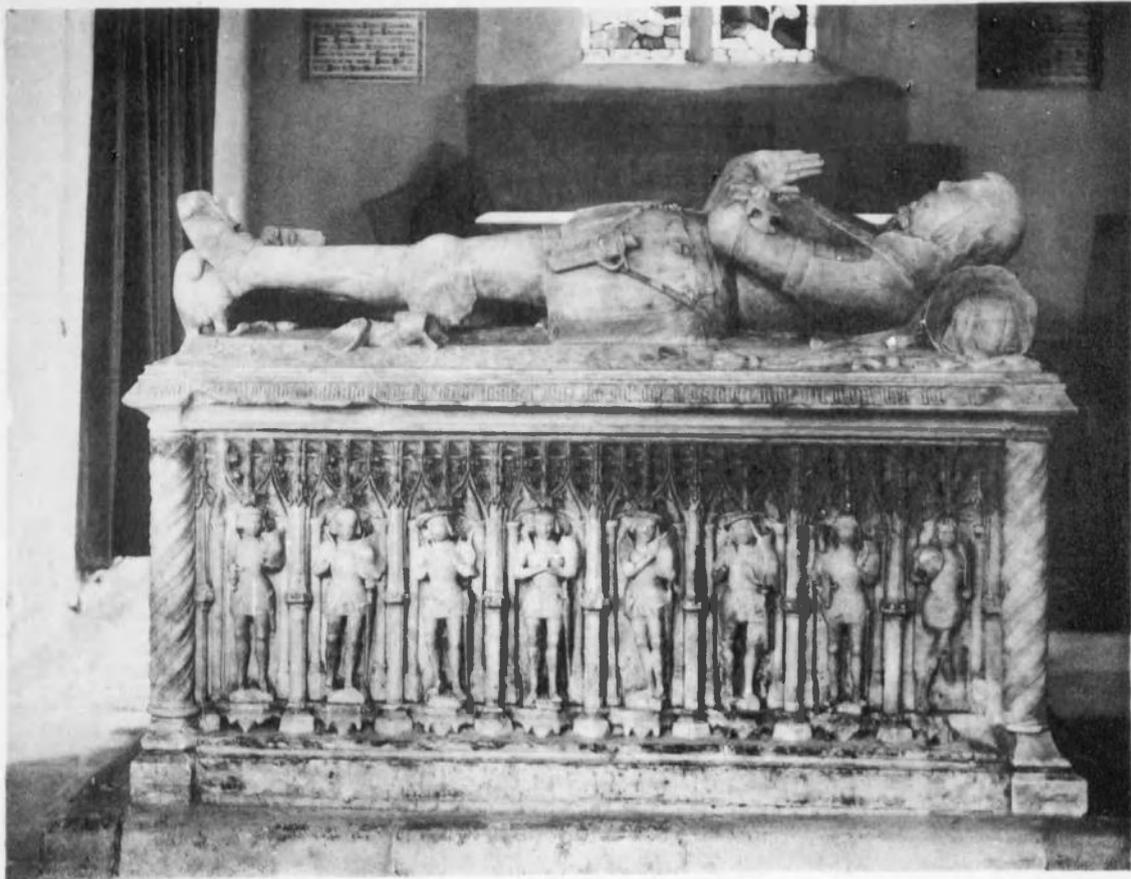
We must, however, remember that Aldermaston was only one of the residences of the Achards and Delamares, and that at an early date the rectory and other privileges annexed to the church were presented to the priory of Sherborne. It is therefore probable that the beautiful church of Sparsholt was from the earliest times selected as the final resting-place of the lords of Aldermaston; and we accordingly find there two noble cross-legged effigies under rich crocketed canopies, two knightly members of the Achard family, as well as wooden effigies of a knight and his two wives, probably commemorating the last of the original stock.

In many of the windows is the Achard shield (*or a bend fusilly sable*), and there can be no doubt from the excellence of the architectural features, mainly late Norman and Decorated, of the care and expenditure incurred by the lords of the manor on their parish church, which is one of the most interesting in the county. We do not therefore find any memorial at Aldermaston prior to the middle of the fourteenth century, the earliest being a large blue marble stone on the floor of the south transept or chapel. At three of the corners is a shield in brass

with the arms of Achard quartering those of Delamare (*gules two lions passant in pale argent*). The fourth shield has been torn away, as has a small brass plate from the centre of the stone, no doubt commemorating the name of the deceased. There is no record as to who was here interred; but from the armorial shields, it seems reasonable to conclude that here were laid to rest the remains of the lady, the last representative and heir of the Achards, who brought the possessions of her family to Sir Thomas Delamare by her marriage with him about the middle of the fourteenth century.

The next monument in point of date is very much later, and is the noble altar tomb to Sir George Forster and Elizabeth his wife, the last representative and heir of the Delamares, which stands in the south chapel beneath the arch opening to the nave. It is perhaps one of the most elegant and beautiful monuments of its period, and the wonderful attention shown to the most minute details, and the excellence of every portion of the carving, make it a work of art worthy of the most careful examination, and of a more graphic description than the writer is able to confer upon it. The whole of the monument and effigies is composed of alabaster of the finest quality. The effigies are of large size: that of the lady, who occupies the right or south side, being 6 feet 3 inches; while that of her husband is 6 feet 1 inch in length. They rest on a table tomb 6 feet 6 inches in length by 4 feet 3 inches in breadth and 3 feet in height. This is set on a stone plinth standing up about 4 inches above the present floor, and with a margin of about 7 inches all round the tomb. The lady lies with her head on two pillows, supported by an angel on either side. She has a kerchief in three folds round her hair, a long cloak carried in graceful folds to her feet, and fastened by a chain with a rose as a pendant across the chest. Her dress, also carried down to the feet, is cut with a square opening below the throat, showing the upper part of an under garment, or possibly a frill to the dress. This has slashed sleeves probably of velvet, with lace frills partly covering the hands. Another thin vestment, probably of silk, is shown, in some way fastened at the throat. She has a heart-shaped amulet attached to a

triple chain on the breast, and a girdle round the waist, with a buckle or fastening on the left side, to which was perhaps attached an ornament similar to that worn by the lady on the west face of the tomb. Her hands, now mainly broken away, are clasped on her breast. Her feet are shown enclosed in broad-toed shoes similar to those of her husband. A little dog wearing a collar is introduced on the north side, tugging at the bottom of her cloak. By her side lies her husband in complete armour. His head is bare, and rests on his tilting helm with the hind's head bearing a collar with chain and fetterlock attached as the crest. A cable band is carried round below the crest, and to this is attached the mantling, no doubt of silk, and in this instance unusually large. It is spread out in a very elegant fashion, the folds with two tassels on either side being carried down nearly to the waist on each side of the knight. The interior of the helmet is shown with the folds of the material, doubtless silk, forming the lining, probably to prevent the chafing of the metal. A very pretty border is displayed on the lower rim of the helmet, and the buckle with which it was fastened to the armour is also portrayed. The effigy presents us with a most complete specimen of the armour of this Transitional period. He has the steel cuirass, with the raised epaulieres fastened by a buckle on each side. The arm guards and elbow pieces of plate are clearly defined. The haubergeon, of link mail, appears under the cuissarts or thigh pieces, which are fastened by five buckles to the cuirass at the waist, and are folded back in front. The legs are encased in mail, with large genouillieres or knee guards. The sollerets are square-toed, and also of metal. Most of his sword, which is suspended at his left side from a belt attached to the back of the waist, is broken away. His gauntlets, also much damaged, lie on the tomb by his left knee, while his dagger is laid by his right side. He does not carry a shield; but on the cuirass on the right side is a loop, probably of leather, for the strap carried over the right shoulder as a support to the shield on the breast, as shown in the figures of the weepers below. His feet rest on a buck or stag, both the antlers being now broken away. His hands are bare, and clasped in



ALDERMASTON CHURCH. MONUMENT OF SIR GEORGE
AND LADY ELIZABETH FORSTER, NORTH SIDE.

attitude of prayer on the breast. He wears a very beautiful and remarkable collar of SS, with a portcullis and Tudor rose pendant, on which his hands are resting. It is probable that some colour and gilding was used to beautify parts at any rate of these figures, and traces are still apparent on the head-dress of the lady and the collar of SS of the knight.

The table tomb is divided on the north and south sides into eight compartments, with beautiful crocketed double canopies and central finial to each, and with a banded shaft forming a division between each compartment. On the north side are eight figures of knights, all in plate armour and varied in their attitudes. They all carry a shield on the left arm fastened by a strap over the right shoulder. Nos. 1 and 5 from the east hold the sword in their hands; the others have their swords in the scabbards at their sides. Nos. 1, 3, 5 and 6 have flat caps probably with plumes, the others being bareheaded. The western one is the most singular: He is represented as cross-legged and carrying a tilting helm in his right hand. The position of the hands is varied in each instance. The armour of the several figures is a miniature imitation of that of the effigy of Sir George. On the east side are three similar canopied compartments. The central one is now unoccupied, while in that on either side is the figure of a knight similar to those on the north.¹ On the south side are eight compartments similar to those on the north. There has been a female figure within each, but the fifth from the east has been removed. The effigies are all slightly varied in their attire and the pose of their hands, &c.; but they also are, in the main, miniature representations of the figure of the Lady Elizabeth above them.

On the west side, within an oblong panel, is a large armorial shield from which the tinctures have disappeared. It has formerly been surrounded by a circular frame or garter, but the sides have been broken off. There has been a raised inscription thrown out by colouring, of which the words "Monsyr Forster" alone

¹ Neale, in his notice of this monument, in the *Views of Seats, &c.*, Vol. IV, New Series, states "that

there are also at the foot three more sons." Was this an assumption, or has the figure been removed since his time?

remain. Above the shield is a tilting helm with the crest, probably the hind's head with a ducal crown round the collar and the chain and fetterlock attached to it. There is the flowing mantling fastened by a cable band to the upper part, and spread out in four pieces with large tassels at the terminations.

On the south kneels, on two cushions, a lady with right hand raised. Her costume is similar to that of the main effigy, and she has a girdle round the waist, with a circular object attached to it by a chain. At her feet is a helmet with mantling and goat's head for a crest.

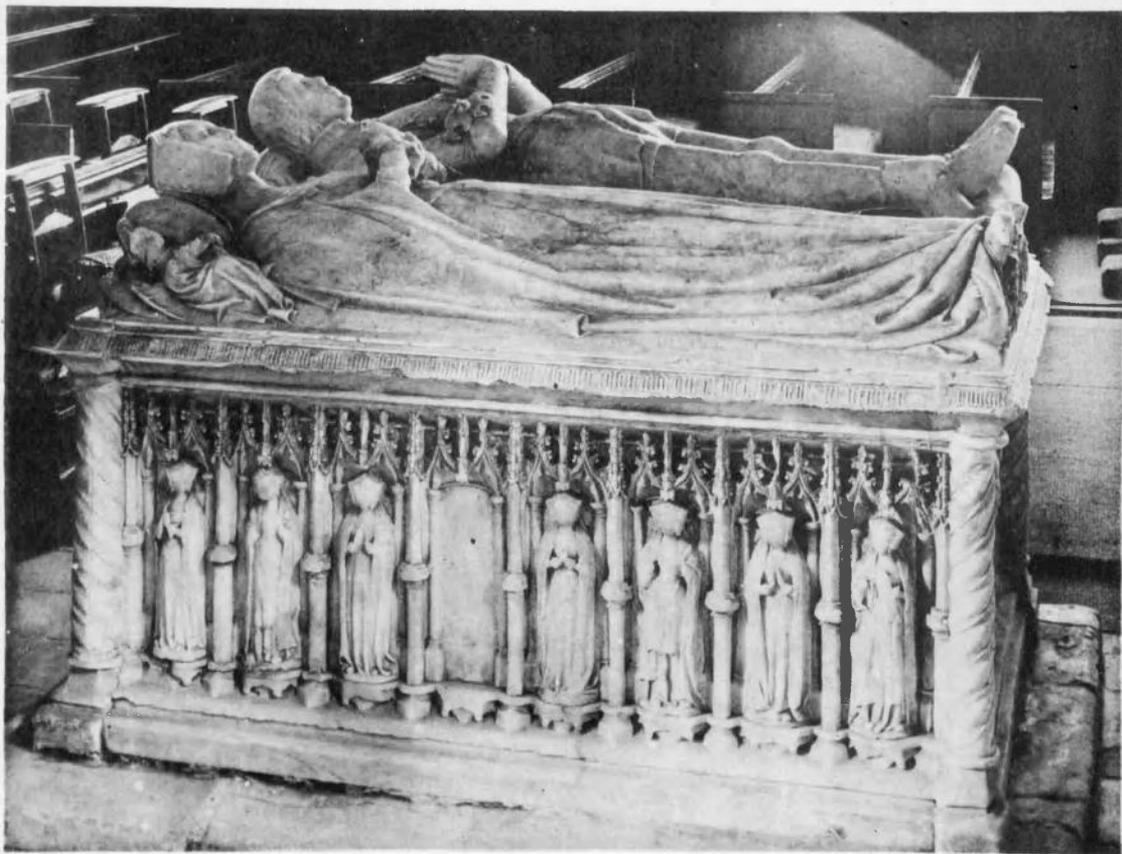
On the opposite (north) side, also kneeling on two cushions, is the figure of a knight in armour somewhat different to that of Sir George. He has a garment open at the sides over the armour and down to the thighs—the tabard. His hands are broken away. He is bareheaded, and his helmet with mantling and the hind's head crest, similar to that under the head, is placed on the ground in front of him.

It seems probable that these two figures on the west face of the tomb represent Sir Humphrey Forster, the eldest son and heir of Sir George, and his wife, the daughter of Lord Sandys of the Vyne, who have already been mentioned as having put in the armorial shields in old glass now placed in the north window of the nave facing this monument.

It has been thought by some that the figures round the tomb represent the children of Sir George and his lady, and the statement of Leland, in his notice of Sir George and Lady Elizabeth, that they had twenty children would support this contention.

In addition to the kneeling figures at the west face, whom we assume to be the eldest son and his lady, there are, including the missing figures, eleven more sons and eight daughters, which would make up the required number. It may, however, be possible that Leland, who probably saw this monument soon after its erection, may have jumped to the conclusion that these figures represented the children of the deceased, and not, as we usually interpret them, "weepers."

In most of the series assumed to be "weepers" we find religious personages introduced, and we should have



ALDERMASTON CHURCH. MONUMENT OF SIR GEORGE
AND LADY ELIZABETH FORSTER, SOUTH SIDE.

expected this to be the case here where there are so large a number of figures. It is possible, therefore, that the assertion that they are the portraits of the members of the family is correct. At the angles of the monument are engaged cable shafts of Italian character, and round the verge of the upper slab on which the figures rest is the following inscription, commencing at the west end of the south side :

“Here lieth Sir george forster knyght son and heire of humfray forster esquier coson and one of the heires of Sir stephyn popham | knyght and elizabeth wif of the Same sir george daughtur and heire of John dala mare esquier | son and heire of thomas dala mare knyght wiche elizabeth dyed the vii day of december in the yere of our lord god M^oCCCC^o | XXXI and wiche syr george dye in the yere of our lord god .”

The last date is left in blank, and no provision had been made to complete the inscription in raised letters, as in the rest of the legend. There are traces of colouring between the letters. The canopies above the smaller figures have been richly painted with blue and gold, and the backs of the several compartments have been similarly decorated. The monument is known to have been erected in the lifetime of Sir George, who died in 1533, and may justly claim to be one of the finest examples of monumental art to be found in any parish church in England.¹

On the tie-beam across the chapel is an iron bracket and spike, on which is fixed a helmet and crest said to have belonged to Sir George Forster. It has been carefully examined, and is pronounced to belong mainly to the period of the commencement of the sixteenth century, the vizor being possibly of rather later date. The crest, the hind's head, is of wood, and has been painted a delicate pink. It is somewhat worm-eaten, but otherwise in good preservation. Another of these wooden crests remains at Cobham Church, Kent, but it is believed they are very

¹ In the Rutland Chapel, on the north side of the nave of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, is the monument of Sir George Manners, Lord Roos, and his lady, who was the daughter of the Duchess of Exeter, and niece of King Edward IV. She died in 1526, in the same year as the Lady Elizabeth Forster. This monument resembles in a remark-

able manner the one at Aldermaston. The costumes of the main effigies are almost identical, and among the weepers or children is a small cross-legged knight corresponding with the figure at Aldermaston. Is it presumptuous to assume that these two monuments were executed by, or at any rate under the supervision of, the same artist?

uncommon. The banner of Sir George Forster also hangs from the king-post above the tie-beam. It does not seem to be so early as his times. It has his name and the following armorial bearings quarterly, viz. : (1) Forster, (2) Harpsden, (3) Popham, (4) Zouch of Deene.

On the floor of the chapel, close to the south side of the monument of Sir George, is a large blue stone with outlines of the figures of a civilian and lady with scrolls from their mouths, formerly represented in brass, but now removed, a goodly array of sons and daughters being now only shown in outline. The following inscription still remains :

“Here lyeth Willm Forster Esquier Lorde of Aldermaston sonne
and heyre of | Syr humffraye Forster knyght and Jane his
wiffe one of the daughters of Syr | Anthony hungarforde of
Dolone Amney knyght w^{ch} Willm deceased y^e xth daye of I
January Anno dni 1574 and his said wyffe the daye
Anno dni.”

There have been four large shields at the corners, but that at the south-east corner is lost. At the south-west is the shield of William Forster, divided into six compartments with the following arms: (1) Forster, (2) Popham, (3) Zouch of Deene, (4) Delamare, (5) Achard, and (6) Forster. On the other upper shield these coats-of-arms impale those of his wife with no less than three rows of quarterings, three coats in each row. The arms of Hungerford appear in the first field, and those of Courtenay are also included. The shield of the lady with the same quarterings remains below her effigy on the north-east corner of the slab. The brass figures were about 24 inches in height.

On a large ledger stone of polished black marble now let into the floor, but formerly, according to Ashmole, “on a raised monument adjoining to the South Wall of the said Chappel,” is a brass plate with the following inscription :

DEDICATED TO THE PRECIOUS MEMORIE OF FOURE VIRTUOUS
SISTERS DAUGHTERS OF S^r. HUMPHREY FORSTER B^x. ; AND OF
ANNA HIS WIFE, VIZ : ANNA, WHO DYED MAY THE 16
1638 AGED 18 YEARES 5 MONTHES, MARY DYED SEPTEMBER
THE 9th 1638 AGED 14 YEARES AND TEN MONTHES

BRIDGETT DYED MAY THE 29TH 1637 AGED 10 YEARES
AND ONE MONETH AND MARGARETT WHO DYED FEB-
RUARY THE 19TH 1623 AGED ONE YEAR & 6 MONETHS

LIKE BORNE LIKE NEW BORNE HERE LIKE DEAD T^X LYE,
FOUER VIRGINE SISTERS, DECKED WITH PIETIE,
BEAUTIE, AND OTHER GRACES, WHICH COMMEND,
AND MAKE THEM ALL LIKE BLESSED IN THEIR END.

Above, a square brass plate has been removed, mentioned by Ashmole as "having thereon engraven, the Pictures of four young Maidens, each less in Stature than the other." They were the daughters of the Humphrey and Anne Forster who built the fine mansion in 1636, which was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1843.

On another black marble slab to the east of this is an inscription to the said Anne or Anna Forster, viz. :

HERE LIETH THE LADIE
ANNE FORSTER WIFE TO
THE LATE S^R HUMPHRIE FORSTER
K^{NT} AND BARR^R
& HAD ISSUE 16 CHILDREN
SHE DIED OCTO^R Y^E 12TH
A^D 1673.

On a plain stone to the south of this is the following :

HERE LYETH THE BODY
OF ANN DAUGHTER OF
WILLIAM FORESTER
ESQUIRE WHO DYED IN
INFANCIE AND WAS
HEARE BURIED
JANUARI THE 12
1654.¹

On a black marble stone on the north of that of the four children is the following :

*Here lyes the body of
Rebekah the Daughter of
Sir Humphrey & Judeth
Forster who dyed aged
2 years A° Dom. 1676*

¹ This looks like 1654 altered to 1662.

On a plain stone to the north of the Achard heiress and to the west of that of William Forster, we find :

HERE LYETH THE
BODY OF M^r. JOHN
FORESTER WHO
DEPARTED THIS
LIFE DEC^{BR} Y^r 12TH
1674.

On another large black marble slab is the following :

ANNE CONGREVE
LADY OF THIS MANOR
DIED JULY Y^r 18TH 1780.

Against the south wall is a large altar tomb of white marble, which has been treated in some way to give it the appearance of cement. On the main north front within canopied recesses are the following shields from the east : Achard, Delamare, Harpsden, Popham, Forster, Stawell, and Congreve, and there are three more on the north and south sides. On a plain tablet let into the south wall under the window we read :

HERE LIETH RALPH CONGREVE, ESQ^r, ONLY SON
OF COLONEL RALPH CONGREVE, SOMETIME COMMANDANT
OF THE GARRISON OF GIBRALTAR ; WHO WAS 3RD SON OF
JOHN CONGREVE, ES^{QR} OF CONGREVE IN THE COUNTY
OF STAFFORD. HE MARRIED THE HONBLE. CHARLOTTE
STAWELL, (SOLE HEIRESS IN RIGHT OF HER MOTHER, OF
SIR HUMPHRY FORSTER, BAR^T) BY WHOM HE BECAME
POSSESSED OF THIS MANOR, OF WHICH FOR MORE THAN
SIX HUNDRED YEARS HER ANCESTORS HAD BEEN LORDS.
HE DIED ON THE 6TH OF DECEMBER 1775, AGED 57 YEARS.

Brass plates to the memory of—(1) James Scudamore Burr, died 1854, and Edward Burr, died 1875 ; (2) The Rev. James Henry Scudamore Burr, died 1852, and Mary Burr, died 1877, are inserted in the south wall.

The south window, erected as a memorial to the late Mrs. Higford Burr, has the following inscription :

In loving memory of Ann Margareta Higford Burr,
Born April 30th 1817 died January 22nd 1892.

In this chapel are preserved five achievements to members of the Congreve family, affixed to the north, east, and west walls.

On the south wall of the nave are white marble tablets to William and Mary Stephens, 1829 and 1832; and to Richard Keep, 1805; Elizabeth, 1836; William, 1846; and Sarah, 1857: also a brass plate to Mr. Richard Phillipps, died 1875.

On the north wall of the chancel is a plain blue stone with the following inscription:

*Near this place lyeth
the body of*
HANNAH STANTON
*second wife of John Stanton
late of this parish Gent
who died February y^e 23^d
ANNO DOM 170^e₇
aged 68 years*

Close to this is a large monument of various coloured marbles, the upper part of pyramidal shape. On a large white marble slab on the lower part is the following inscription:

In MEMORY of
The Honourable WILLIAM STAWELL,
only Son of the Right Honourable
WILLIAM LORD STAWELL,
BARON of SOMERTON,
By ELIZABETH his Wife, only Daughter of
WILLIAM PERT, of ARNOLD'S
HALL in the County of Essex, Esq;
and sole Heiress, in Right of her Mother, to
Sir HUMPHRY FORESTER
of this Place, Bart.
He died in FRANCE, and was here interr'd, A.D. 1740.
From a dutiful Regard to the Desire of
His much afflicted Mother,
(Who was buried near him, A.D. 1748.)
And a sincere Affection to Himself,
This Monument is erected
By the Hon. CHARLOTTE STAWELL his Sister
Now the Wife of
RALPH CONGRÈVE, Esq.
A.D. 1760.

On a sepulchral urn above is the following :

*On y^e 24th of July 1762, Died
The Hon^{ble} Charlotte Congreve
Whose Affection as a Wife, and
Whose sincerity as a Friend
Deserve the most lasting Remembrance.*

On a black marble slab under the Communion Table is the following :

*(Monogram R D)
In memory of
Robert Dixon M A
Tenth Son of
Percival Dixon of Fenwick
in Northumberland
He was buried Here A^D 1723
aged 75
He was Minister of Aldermaston
43 years
Att y^e same time
Rector of Woolhampton
28 years
Also the body of his Neice
M^{rs} Isabella Makepeace
obit 29th May 1743
Etatis Suae 66.*

Ashmole, when he visited this church, noted this monument; but the dates were left blank, as the Rev. Robert Dixon was then alive. He was the founder of four almshouses in 1706 in the parish, which still remain.

On a white freestone slab now beneath the organ is the following :

*M^{rs}
ISABEL LLOYD
WAS BURIED HERE, MAR. 12.
A.D. 1707. AGED 66.*

Now let into the south wall of the chancel, formerly above the entrance to the vault under the vestry are two stone tablets with the following inscriptions, no doubt to

the memory of those buried in the adjoining vault, viz., on the first :

Here lyeth Mary, the Daughter of S^r Mark Stewart married to S^r William Forster An. Dom. 1594 who had by him one Son and one Daughter. she was buried An. Dom. 1661.

S^r Humphrey Forster her Son married to Ann Daughter of Sir William Kingsmill who had by her 16 children : was buried here An. Dom. 1663 aged 68.

William Forster Son of S^r Humphrey Forster Married to Elizabeth Daughter of S^r John Tirrell : who had by her 5 Children was Buried here, An. Dom. 1660. Aged 36.

Stewart Forster, Son of S^r Humphrey Forster left 2 sons was buried here An. Dom. 1680 aged 45.

On the second stone :

William Forster Son of William Forster was Buried here An. Dom. 1677 aged 25 { John Forster Son of William Forster was Buried here An. Dom. 1683, Aged 25.

*Humphrey Forster, Son of Sir Humphrey Forster, Bar^t eldest son to William Forster, who married Judeth eldest Daughter to Sir Humphrey Winche Bar^t was buried here 1682 aged 9
William Forster Second Son of S^r Humphrey Forster was buried here An. Dom. 1683 aged 7.*

In the churchyard are numerous old headstones. One has a date 1683, and the following legend :

STAY LOVING FRIENDS
AND THINK ON ME
AS I AM NOW
SO YOU MUST BE.

APPENDIX A.

The following Coats-of-Arms are displayed in the north window of the nave, facing the chapel :

- Achard—*Or a bend fusilly sable.*
 Delamare—*Gules two lions pass. in pale arg.*
 Forster—*Sable a chevron engrailed between three arrows arg.*
 Popham—*Arg. on a chief gules, two buck's heads cabossed or.*
 St. Martyn—*Sable six lions ramp. or*
 Zouch of Deene—*Gules a chevron between ten bezants or, 6 & 4.*
 Milborne—*Gules a chevron between three escallops arg.*
 Harpsden—*Gules a mullet or.*
 Sandys—*Argent a cross ragulee sab. on a scutcheon.*
 Roches and Brocas of Beaurepaire—*Quarterly 1 & 4 sable two lions pass. guard. or, 2 & 3 sable a lion ramp. guard. argent.*

A mistake has been made here in the tinctures ; the lions of the Roches should be argent, that of Brocas or.

They are arranged as follows :

In the left hand, or western, panel—

- (i.) Quarterly—(1) Forster, (2) Delamare, (3) Achard, (4) Popham.
- (ii.) (1) Forster, (2) Delamare, (3) Popham, (4) St. Martyn, (5) Achard, (6) Zouch of Deene, impaling Sandys of the Vyne.
- (iii.) (1) Forster, (2) Delamare, (3) Harpsden, (4) Achard, impaling (1) Popham, (2) St. Martyn, (3) Zouch of Deene, (4) Milborne.
- (iv.) Delamare impaling (1 & 4) Roches, (2 & 3) Brocas of Beaurepaire.

In the right hand, or eastern, panel—

- (i.) Forster impaling (1 & 4) Popham, (2 & 3) Zouch of Deene.
- (ii.) (1 & 4) Forster, (2) Popham, (3) Zouch of Deene, impaling Sandys.
- (iii.) (1 & 4) Forster, (2) Popham, (3) Zouch of Deene, impaling (1 & 4) Delamare, (2 and 3) Achard.
- (iv.) Quarterly—(1) Forster, (2) Delamare, (3) Achard, (4) Popham.

NOTE.—The second shield in the eastern light has a blue wreath, while the others are surrounded by a green wreath.

APPENDIX B.¹

LIST OF INSTITUTIONS to the Vicarage of Aldremanneston otherwise Aldremanston otherwise Aldermanston otherwise Aldermyston otherwise Aldermaston, Berks.

Date.	Patronus.	Clericus.
19 Kal: February } 1297/8 }	Prior and Convent of Sherborne	Willus de Appelby.
10 July 1332 ..	Ditto	Thomas de Appelby per resignation Willus de Appelby.
7 Kal: October } 1336 }	Ditto	Petrus Pax per exchange with Thomas de Appelby.
6 Kal: January } 1343/4. }	The King owing to the Priory of Sherborne being in his hands owing to War with France }	Ricus de la Mote per ex- change with Petrus Pax.
13 September 1344	Ditto as above	Robtus Done Wale de Ayles- bury per resignation Ric de la Mote.
14 Kal: July 1347	Ditto as above	Johes de Lavyngton per exchange with Robtus Done Wale de Aylesbury.
8 March 1345 ..	Ditto as above	Alexander de Chelseye per mort: Johis de Lavyngton.
12 March 1349/50	Ditto	Nichus de Audele per ex- change with Alexander Chelseye.
27 March 1351 ..	Ditto	Johes Scryneyn de Dorchester per resignation Nichi de Audele.
31 July 1353 ..	Ditto	Johes de Whitewell per ex- change with Johes Scryneyn.
13 October 1361 }	Prior and Convent of Sher- borne }	Robtus Atte Hethe per mort: Johis de Wothewell.
30 October 1393 ..	The King Richard II	Robtus Hoke.
26 December 1393	Ditto	Reginaldus Clifton per ex- change with Robtus Hoke.
12 March 1395/96	Ditto	Robtus de Burgh per ex- change with Reginaldus de Clifton.
6 January 1400/01	The King Henry IV	Johes Salyng per exchange with Robtus Burgh.
28 September 1401	The King Henry IV	Johes Belyng per exchange with Johes Salyng.
4 April 1411 ..	Ditto	Josephus Scovill per exchange with Johes Belyng.
18 December 1420	The King Henry V	Robtus Langthorn.
6 May 1425 ..	The King Henry VI	Thomas Bailly.
22 October 1449 ..	Ditto	Willus Borde per resignation Thomas Bailly.

¹ Extracted from the Registry of the Lord Bishop of Salisbury.

Date.	Patronus.	Clericus.
7 July 1488	{ Custos of the Hospital of Saint Julian called Domus Dei Southampton and the Chaplains and Brethren thereof. }	Jeronomus Sperkefeld per mort: Willi Porte.
23 April 1499	{ Christopherus Baynbrygge, Custodian of above Hospital as above. }	Karolus Carleton per mort: Jeronimi Sparkforth.
13 September 1502	Ditto }	Willus Lancastr per mort: Karoli Carlton.
2 September 1504 ..	Ditto }	Willus Lancastr per resignation of the same.
10 October 1509	{ Edwardus Rygge, Provost of Queen's Hall, Oxford, and Custodian of above Hospital }	Willus Langhorn per resignation Willi Lancastr.
9 June 1523	{ Provost of Queen's Hall, Oxford, and Custodian of above Hospital, and the Scholars of the same Hall, and the Chaplains and Brethren of the same Hospital. }	Johes Pant per mort: Willi Langhorne. ¹
12 November 1533	{ Ditto. Proprietarios Prioratus quondam alienigenarum de Shirborn Monachorum }	Willus Robertson per mort: Willi Batyson.
3 March 1574	{ Edwardus Hungerforde, Armiger }	Edwardus Chesshere per Cession Nichi Pullen.
25 November 1617	Willus Forster, Miles .. }	Georgius Bradshaw per mort: Johis Baulden.
1 June 1627	{ Humfredus Forster, Miles et Baronettus. }	Stephanus Rose per mort: Georgii Bradshawe.
13 August 1633 ..	Ditto }	Rodolphus Boder per Cession Stephani Rose.

License to the Perpetual Curacy or Vicarage of Aldermaston, Berks.

12 May, 1798.—John Churton, licensed on Nomination of William Congreve, of Iscoyd Park, Flint, Esquire.

¹ Will of Dominus Willielmus Langhorne, vicarius de Aldermaston—dat. Ad. 24, 1521: proved June 17, 1523,

“corpus meum sepelient in cancello ecclie de aldermaston coram ymagine Sce Margarete . . . do et lego ad picturam imaginis Sce Margarete x^{ls}.”