

## AN ARCHITECTURAL ACCOUNT OF SWALCLIFFE CHURCH, OXFORDSHIRE.<sup>1</sup>

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

Swalcliffe is a large village and important parish in the northern part of Oxfordshire, adjoining the county of Warwick, about six miles from Banbury, on the old turnpike road to Shipston-on-Stour. The parish is very extensive and is situate in three different hundreds, namely, Banbury, Bloxham and Dorchester, and contains in addition to the main village, the Chapelries of East Shutford and Epwell, each with a very interesting church, and the townships of West Shutford, Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower. There are many objects of antiquarian interest in the parish, for instance, a strongly entrenched camp on Madmarston Hill, and what is reputed to have been an important British village at the foot of the hill, on a site known in former times as the city of the Lees, where coins and other remains of an early age are being constantly ploughed up. There are numerous ancient houses, one close to the church, which will shortly be referred to, and another at East Shutford which dates back to about the year 1300. In later times the inhabitants must have witnessed and participated in many of the stirring events during the period of the great Civil War, the village being nearly midway between Banbury and Edgehill, and close to Broughton Castle and Compton Winyates, which were so closely identified with the history of those exciting times, and as evidence of this were preserved in the church, until the recent restoration, two stone cannon balls, which had been dug up in the parish, and had been utilised as weights for the tower clock.

On the west side, close to the church, is an ancient

<sup>1</sup> Read at the Meeting of the Institute, 1st April, 1903.

house, which now has no distinctive name. It was evidently an important residence, and seems to have been closely associated with the church. Could it originally have been a priests' house and afterwards the grange or country residence of the Warden of New College, Oxford, to which it now belongs? There is a large vaulted chamber with groined stone roof resting on a central circular column of date about 1200, and parts of the hall, with two stone doorways having fluted mouldings to the arches, incorporated in the modern house, and two very nice arches leading to the former buttery, all of early fifteenth century date. To the west of the farm buildings is a very fine stone barn, 127 feet 11 inches in length by 22 feet 10 inches in breadth, with two porches or annexes on the east side, and numerous buttresses, also of this later period. Plans and elevations of the barn, and of some portions of the church, by the late Sir Henry C. L. Dryden, Bart., will be found in the Report of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Society for 1887.

It will be impossible to conclude these superficial remarks about the parish, without a reference to William of Wykeham, the great architect, and Bishop of Winchester. The family of Wykeham of Swalcliffe have been settled in the village for many centuries, and Swalcliffe Park still belongs to the representative of that family. Considerable controversy has arisen as to the connection of the Bishop with the Wykehams of Swalcliffe, but in an elaborate paper by Mr. Charles Wykeham Martin, M.P., F.S.A., published in Vol. III. of the *Topographer and Genealogist*, it is fairly established that he was related to this family, and that his armorial bearings corresponded with those which had been previously borne by the Wykehams of Swalcliffe. When Archdeacon of Lincoln, he was presented by de Buckingham, Bishop of Lincoln, to the living of Swalcliffe, but he never acted as Rector or Vicar. He, however, purchased the advowson and with land, which he had acquired in the parish, gave it as part of the endowment of his new foundation, New College, Oxford, and it is probable that the ancient house close to the church was enlarged under his superintendence soon

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EXTERIOR S.E.

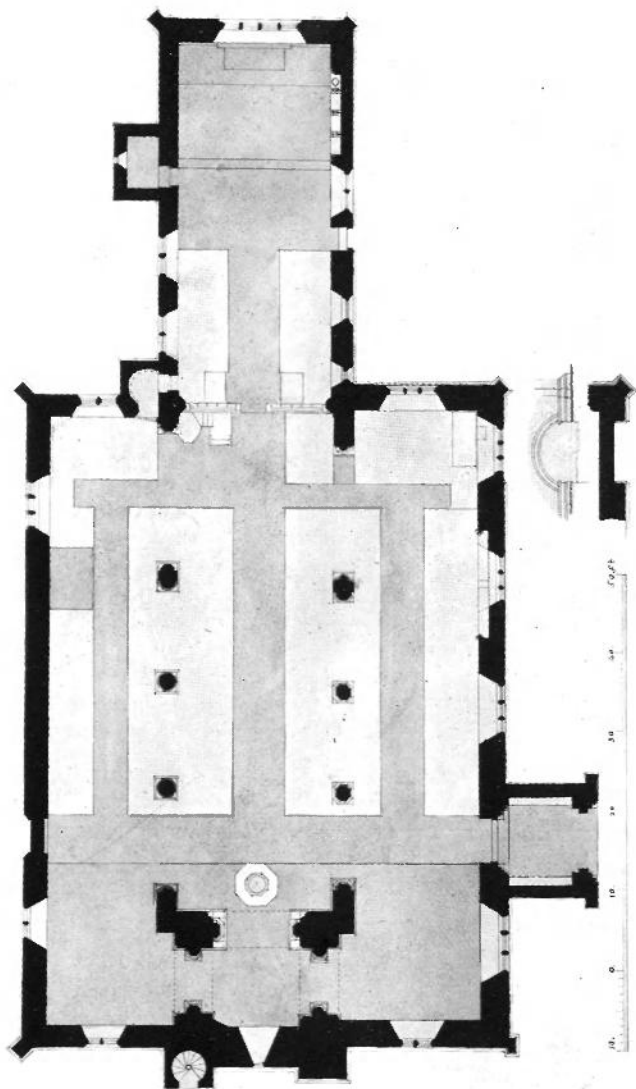
after this date, to serve as a country residence for the Warden of the College, who is still the patron of the living, and the owner of considerable property in the parish. It is alleged that the barn was also built by him. In 1377 the Bishop purchased Broughton Castle, about three miles from Swalcliffe, his object being, it has been suggested, to buy back an estate formerly belonging to his family. He placed his great nephew, Sir Thomas Wykeham, there long before his death, which occurred in 1404, and this most interesting domain is now the property of Lord Saye and Sele, the lineal descendant of the said Sir Thomas. In describing the parish church, we shall be able to point out some portions which probably owe their origin to some restoration undertaken under the supervision of the great architect during the period when he was Archdeacon of Lincoln. It is now, however, time to come to the main subject of this paper, namely, the architectural description of the parish church.

The church of St. Peter and Paul, Swalcliffe, stands on high ground. It is built entirely of stone, and is in every respect an edifice of the highest interest, and its architectural details are worthy of the most attentive study. Even in a district renowned for the beauty of its ecclesiastical buildings, as for example Bloxham, Adderbury, Wigginton, Hook Norton, Broughton and many more, this church may command especial notice both on account of its size and elegant proportions, and from the fact that all styles of English architecture are here represented. Owing to the very meagre amount of published information as to the history of this and the various parishes in the county of Oxford, it will be impossible without resorting to the most laborious research to obtain an account of the personages by whom or at whose charges the several additions to the church were carried out, and we must therefore be satisfied to attempt to point out from the evidence of the architectural details themselves the different periods at which the church has been rebuilt or enlarged, up to the time when it was completed as we now behold it. It will be the most convenient plan first to endeavour briefly to point out the various changes which the fabric has undergone, and

then to describe in detail the excellences of its several portions. It may, however, be at once stated that from a somewhat superficial view of the church, it is only possible to assume that the dates of its various parts agree with the styles of the ornamental decorations, such as the windows, etc. In this particular church, the rebuilding in each instance seems to have been completely carried out, and it does not appear that, with the exception of the nave arcades, later work has been inserted within or incorporated with the earlier structure, as we so often find in numberless instances which might be cited.

The church, as we at present see it, consists of a west tower, nave, aisles, south porch, chancel, and vestry on north side. The dimensions are as follows : full internal length, 123 feet 8 inches. The chancel is 45 feet 3 inches in length by 19 feet 2 inches in width. The nave to the east tower pier 63 feet in length, the width of the nave and aisles being 54 feet, divided as follows : of the north aisle, 14 feet 9 inches ; of the nave, 22 feet ; of the south aisle, 17 feet 3 inches. The tower internally is 15 feet 5 inches from east to west by 13 feet 10 inches from north to south. What the original church was like we cannot tell, but at the time of the Doomsday survey there was evidently a stone church existing here, as is conclusively proved by the small partially blocked window opening on either side of the nave, and the upper part of the nave walls are doubtless of this early date, and are the remains of a simple structure probably consisting only of nave and chancel, and covering no more ground than that occupied by the present nave. The foundations of the eastern wall and possibly of other portions of the early buildings were very probably brought to light at the time of the restoration of the church forty years ago, and if any record of these discoveries had been preserved, the various changes to the fabric could with more certainty be demonstrated. The first addition to the Saxon church was the insertion of the north aisle, of which the three western arches of good plain Norman character and probably of early twelfth century date, still remain. It is of course more than likely that more extensive alterations were made at

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GROUND PLAN.

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LOOKING E.

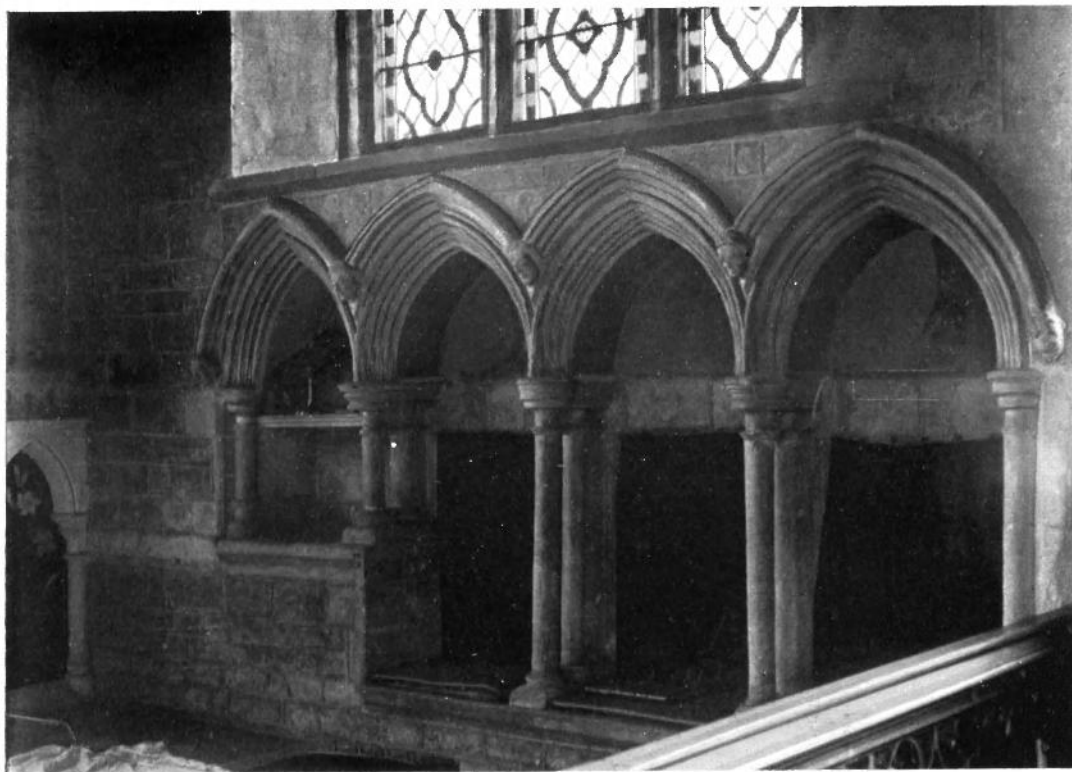
this time, but that the Norman has again been pulled down to make way for the grander designs carried out at a later period. Towards the end of the twelfth century, the south aisle was added, and a little later again the lower part of the west tower. About the middle of the thirteenth century the south aisle was probably widened, and the present triple lancet windows were introduced. At whatever time the chancel may have been rebuilt, it was not deemed worthy of being preserved, as at the end of the thirteenth century an important enlargement of the church was commenced. The chancel was erected at this period, and an additional bay at the east end of the nave. About the middle of the fourteenth century, the north aisle was enlarged, the eastern arch of the nave arcade, and the windows being of this period. It has been suggested that this portion of the work was designed by William of Wykeham, and there are some peculiarities in the details, which will shortly be pointed out. The clerestory of the nave was also added at this time. The structure was completed early in the fifteenth century by the addition of the two upper stages of the tower. The chancel screen, pulpit, and some old bench ends also date from the fifteenth century. Slight alterations were afterwards made in the furniture of the church, some quaint cresting having been affixed to the top of the screen in the Elizabethan period. A new case to the pulpit, several pews, and the south door were provided between 1637 and 1639. The church was carefully restored in 1863, Mr. H. Norris of Swalcliffe Park being the chief contributor to the restoration fund, and presenting the handsome Communion plate to the church.

Let us now make our perambulation of the church, and commence our observations in the interior of the chancel. This, as has been already stated, belongs wholly to the Decorated period of architecture, and presents us with a very fine example of that style. The east window is of four lights with curvilinear tracery. This seems to have been renewed, query is it a copy of the original window? but the containing arch resting on jamb shafts with bell-shaped capitals, and the hoodmould are old, and no doubt parts of the original work. On



the south side of the chancel are three windows, the two eastern of three lights, the west of two lights, all of very good Decorated character. The sill of the eastern window is at a higher elevation than the other two, to admit of sufficient space for the insertion of the piscina and sedilia beneath it. A continuous hoodmould is carried above the arches of the piscina and triple sedilia, and rests on a head between each of the arches. These all have small half-round mouldings, with fillet band to the outer order, and chamfer stops. At the east and west extremities the canopies rest on one angle engaged shaft, while slender detached shafts support the other canopies, and an engaged shaft is introduced within, being attached to the stone projections dividing the piscina and sedilia into four recessed partitions. All the shafts have well moulded round capitals with band below. On the south side of the chancel is a priest's doorway with segmental-headed containing arch. At the west end on the south side is a single light square-headed window with the quarter round moulding on the inner splay, and segmental-headed containing arch. It occupies the usual position for a low side window. On the north of the chancel is a simple doorway leading to the former sacristy, which must have been of considerable size, as evidenced by the fact that there is a large blank wall space to the east of the doorway. In the south-west corner of the present vestry, which occupies part of the site of the sacristy, are remains of the doorway leading to the upper floor. On the north of the chancel are two windows of three and two lights respectively corresponding with those on the south side, except that the cusping to the upper tracery is now gone, if it ever existed. In the north wall at the west end is a shouldered arched doorway which formerly led up to the roodloft, the steps still remaining in the wall. The chancel roof is low pitched and new. The chancel walls have been scraped and the stone relieved of the plaster with which it was once overlaid. The chancel arch is fine and lofty of the Decorated period, with a chamfered hoodmould and two chamfered members, the inner resting on semi-octagonal responds. On the north side in north-east angle of the nave is the upper roodloft doorway. Beneath the

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S. SIDE CHANCEL, SEDILIA PISCINA.

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VIEW FROM S. AISLE.

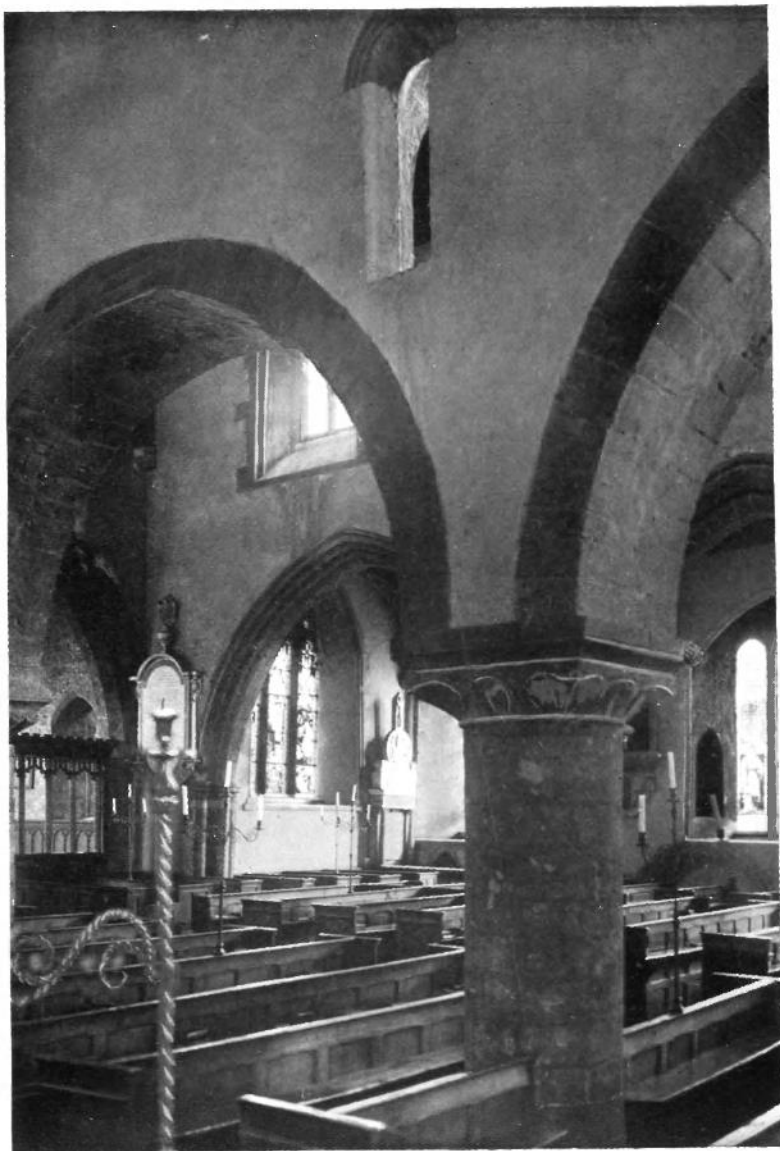


arch is the chancel screen of Perpendicular style, and probably dating from the latter part of the fifteenth century. It has plain lower panels, those on the south side renewed. The subsidiary mouldings have been repainted after the remains of the original colouring, with the barber pole device in green, black and gold, and red on the recessed portions, while the upper tracery has been enriched with gold, red and green. The doors with two open upper panels still remain. Some elaborate cresting added during the Elizabethan period, and painted blue and gold has been taken down, and placed at the west end of the south aisle. On the chancel floor is a brass plate with inscription to the memory of Thomas Merriott, a former vicar, who died in 1662. The pulpit stands by the north-east nave pier and has a date 1639 on it. This, however, only refers to the outer casing to the original fifteenth century pulpit, the panels of which still remain beneath those of the later date, and retain their original colour and gilding. Many of the pews are of the same seventeenth century period, and on the front of the east on the north side the date 1637 is inscribed, while in a similar position on the south side the date 1638 appears. Some of the pews in the aisles seem to be earlier than this. The nave arcade consists of four bays. The east arch on each side seems to have opened to a chantry chapel, as was usually the case, and there are traces of a screen having been placed across the nave and aisles at the eastern pillar on either side. The east arch on the north side is very fine and wide, semicircular headed with a hoodmould and two chamfered ribs on each face, the inner resting on a semi-octagonal respond with rich foliage, query oak-leaves, on the capitals. It is a fine example of the Decorated period, and coeval with the aisle windows. A small plain cross on a calvary is incised on a stone beneath this arch. The three western arches of the north nave arcade are Norman with chamfered hoodmould resting on heads above the columns on the side towards the nave. The arches are plain and are supported on circular pillars and semicircular responds with square capitals and chamfered abacus. The capitals are ornamented with a variety of scalloping except that of

the east column which is enriched with flat foliage. Nearly above the eastern pillar is a small deeply splayed round-headed window cut through by the Norman arch. On the nave side it is plain, but on the side towards the aisle it has two flat roll mouldings. It has also been splayed outwards, and there can be no doubt that it dates from pre-Norman times. Another one appears in the south wall, which has been similarly cut through by the later south nave arcade. The three western arches on the south of the nave are fine examples of early English work, early in the style, or perhaps even of the transitional Norman period. They have a continuous hoodmould, two chamfered orders, and are supported on octagonal columns and responds, with bold raised abacus, and octagonal capitals, the west one plain, the next enriched with scalloping, and the two east with bold conventional foliage. The eastern arch on this side is very fine and lofty Decorated, with hoodmould and two fluted orders resting on responds composed of three half-round engaged shafts, and the capitals and abacus of this period. On the east pier on the north side is a small piscina with drain, having a circular bowl and shaft attached to the pier. It is coeval with the arch, and points conclusively to the existence of a former altar against the southern portion of an earlier chancel screen. The nave has a clerestory with four two-light windows on each side probably of the later Decorated period. The nave roof is low pitched without any specially distinctive character.

The east window of the south aisle is of the same date as the eastern arch of the south nave arcade. It is of three lights with a hollow or groove on the containing arch and slender engaged jamb shafts with round capitals, the shafts being continued upwards and dying into the containing arch above. In the south-east corner is a large table tomb with long inscription on a stone tablet at the head to John Hawten, who died in 1598. Behind this in the south wall is a piscina, with the quarter round moulding and a hollow on either side on the arch. This is of the Decorated period, of the same date as the east window. On the floor is a brass plate with inscription to Joyce Newman, who died in

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VIEW FROM N. AISLE.

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N. SIDE. CHANCEL & EAST END OF N. AISLE.



1584. In the south wall, in what was the east bay of the Early English aisle, are two founders' tombs, namely, monumental recesses with semicircular arches having a chamfered hoodmould and a half roll moulding to each arch. They rest at their east and west extremities on a cluster of three engaged shafts much mutilated, semicircular and with semicircular capitals having a band of nailheads in a hollow on the abacus. In the centre the arches now terminate on a bracket, but this was probably not the original arrangement. They are of the Early English period, and of the same date as the lancet windows in this aisle. Within the western arch is a stone coffin lid with an early cross of rather unusual design carved upon it. There can be no doubt that there was a chantry chapel in this portion of the aisle, which was approached from the outside by a flight of steps in the thickness of the wall leading to an arch in the eastern splay of the window above the monumental arches. A similar arrangement may be seen at Deddington Church in this same county. The outer arch still remains, but is now blocked up. In the south wall of the aisle are four windows of the Early English period, each having three plain lancets within a single fluted containing arch. It is probable that the eastern one was formerly the original east window of this aisle, and was moved to its present position in the south wall, when the aisle was enlarged. The west window of this aisle is of two lights and of the same date. The roof of this aisle is low pitched, and partly old. There are faint traces of a chevron pattern painted on one of the beams. Some early bench ends are scattered about in the church, and one with a poppy head termination in this aisle probably dates from the fifteenth century. An ancient oak chest is preserved at the west end of this aisle, as is also the Elizabethan cresting with the old colouring formerly on the top of the chancel screen, which was taken down at the time the church was restored.

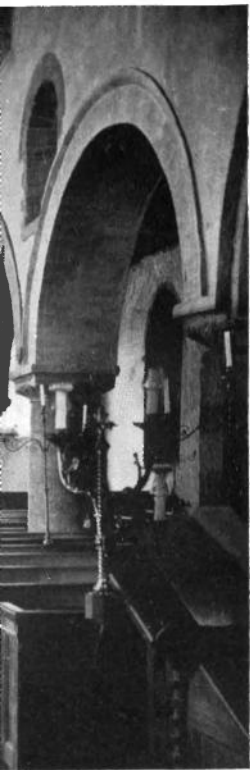
The north aisle is narrower than the south, and with the addition of the eastern bay, no doubt occupies the same space as the one built in the twelfth century. The eastern bay or Chapel seems to have been the burial place of the Wykeham family. None of the existing

monuments are earlier than the seventeenth century. The eastern arch of the north nave arcade opening to this aisle is of late Decorated work, and it has been suggested that this and the aisle generally was reconstructed under the supervision of William of Wykeham. All the aisle windows are of very late Decorated date, the eastern one being almost Perpendicular in its design, and are probably not earlier than 1360-70. The east window, and the east on south are of three lights, while farther west are two of two lights, and a two light window at the west end. All have delicate tracery, and there is a distinctive feature about them, which does not, it is believed, occur elsewhere. The main mullions, instead of being fixed directly into the sill of the window, rise from, or rather terminate on, large blocks or chamfer stops raised about six inches above the sill. The design is curious, and exemplifies the inventive genius of the architects of the middle ages. On the north wall near the east end are remains of a large painting, only partially relieved of the whitewash, and now mainly hidden by the organ, which has been placed in this part of the church. A series of battlements could be discerned and some decorative designs, and in the western portion of the picture, a lamb can be clearly made out. As the painting has been a large one, it seemed a reasonable presumption that here had been depicted the familiar subject of the combat between St. George and the Dragon. A more recent inspection of the portion not hidden by the organ revealed a somewhat obscure figure, but probably an angel holding a scroll, near the lamb, and this would hardly accord with the definition given above. In the south-east corner of this aisle is another entrance to the roodloft. It is of later date than that in the chancel. The north doorway, which is blocked up, has an interior segmental-headed arch. Several old bench ends are preserved in this aisle, one with a well carved poppyhead. At the east end are numerous monuments and tablets to the Wykeham family. On the north wall is a large mural tablet with kneeling figures of Richard and Anne Wykeham (he died in 1635, she in 1649) with colour and gilding on the monument and armorial shields. There is a very long

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NAVE LOOKING W.



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S. DOORWAY.

inscription recording the deaths of other members of the family. On the east wall is a tablet to Humphrey Wykham, who died in 1703. There is also on a ledger stone on the floor an inscription to Ferdinando Wykeham, who died in 1637, and on brass plates memorials of Humphry Wykham, died 1650, Martha Wykham, deceased 1663, and of Joane Harris and her infant, buried February 17, 1635.

The font stands at the west end of the nave. It is octagonal with gaudily painted ornaments (? of the time of Charles I.) on the bowl, which diminishes towards the stem. It stands on a well moulded plinth, and seems to belong to the Decorated period of the church. The tower stands within the church and is supported on arches opening to the nave and aisles, this western portion of the aisles having been at a comparatively recent period screened off from the rest of the church. The arches are Early English, somewhat early in the style. That opening to the nave, which has yielded somewhat to the weight which it has to support, is massive and fine with hoodmould and three chamfered orders, resting on octagonal responds and chamfered jambs, with grooved abacus. The north and south arches are similar with hoodmould and abacus continuous with that of the eastern arch. The west window is widely and deeply splayed, a plain single lancet, with round headed hoodmould and inner chamfered arch, with an additional round headed arch thrown across the centre of the soffit, all dying into the splay on either side. Under the tower is preserved a wooden tablet with armorial shield and long inscription in red and black letter, recording the gift of a bell by Richard Wykham in 1634, in the eightieth year of his age, the proceeds derived from the ringing at "Weddens Funerails and at other times for recreation," to be placed in a box, "for a perpetual relief of the poore of Swalclyf." The tablet seems to have been erected in 1673. A part of the old church roof of late fourteenth century date is also preserved under the tower. In the north-west corner of the tower is a shouldered arched doorway, and there is a window of similar design above the west tower arch now opening to the nave.

Let us now briefly describe the exterior of the church. The south doorway within a porch is rich Early English with hoodmould and numerous raised and hollow mouldings, some having the fillet band, and others the keel shaped form. There are two shafts on each side to the outer orders, with rounded abacus and bell shaped capitals ornamented with deeply cut conventional foliage. The south door is of oak with some nice panelling and a blackletter inscription "THO CHABER-LAYNE ARMIG D A DÖ 1639." The outer arch of the porch, which has been rebuilt, has a hoodmould with head terminations, and then three chamfered orders; to the outer is an engaged shaft with large circular capital. Above the arch within a modern niche are modern figures of the patron saints Peter and Paul. The Early English windows in the south aisle all have the three lancets connected externally by a continuous hoodmould with mask terminations. In the south wall is a blocked doorway with chamfered hoodmould, formerly affording access to the staircase in the wall leading to the Chantry Chapel connected with the two founders' tombs. To the east of it, and beneath the south-east window, is a monumental arch recessed in the thickness of the wall, semicircular headed with chamfered edge, and with a hoodmould having the zigzag on the upper and under face, and forming a series of sunk lozenges on the angle of the arch. The south chancel windows and that at the east end of south aisle have plain hoodmoulds. The south chancel doorway has a hoodmould with head terminations, and two recessed orders enriched with the fillet band. One shaft on each side also has the fillet band. The capitals are new. The east window of the chancel has a hoodmould terminating on heads, that on the north being a portrait of a widow lady. There are the original angle buttresses remaining. Let into the east wall is a tablet to Richard and Margary Hopkins and their son William, who died in 1670, aged 33, with the following moral sentiment appended: "O youth repent, noe time delay, I in my prime, was tane away." In the angle of the chancel and north aisle is a turret containing the staircase leading to the roodloft and roof. The chancel, nave

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MONUMENTAL RECESS, S. WALL, S. AISLE.





and south aisle have coped parapets and are not embattled. There are small pinnacles remaining at the east and west angles of the south aisle and along the south side of the clerestory; those on the north side are now gone. The clerestory lights have square labels. On the east gable of the nave is a beautiful niche for the sanctus bell, with trefoiled fringe, finial and side pinnacles. It belongs to the later Decorated period. The windows of the north aisle all have hoodmoulds with plain stop terminations. The north doorway blocked up is decorated with hoodmould and a quarter round moulding in the arch and down the jambs.

The lower part of the tower is Early English with two massive flat buttresses on the west side. In that on the north is a staircase with a shouldered arched doorway, query old. The west window has a mutilated hoodmould. Above it is another small lancet. The two upper stages were added during the Perpendicular period, with square-headed western light on the lower storey, and in the upper stage, which is embattled, a large two light window on each face. A turret is carried up at the south-west angle of these two upper stages. The tower is rather narrow in proportion to its height, but this is no doubt due to the considerable addition made in the fifteenth century.

#### APPENDIX

The following are the full inscriptions on the earlier monuments, tablets and brasses still remaining in the church.

##### *In the North Aisle.*

On brass plate now placed in splay of the east window on north side :

“ Here lieth the body of Martha  
Wickham the late wife of  
Humphry Wickham Esqr. She  
deceased May the 25th 1663 and  
lieth buried by her husband.  
Mors mihi lucrum  
Vita et Corona Christus.”

On brass on floor :

“ Here lyeth y<sup>e</sup> body of  
Humphry Wykham Esqr. who  
departed this life De  
cember anno 1650.”

On a flat stone :

“ Here lyeth the body of  
Ferdinando Wykeham  
Gentleman who was buried  
May 10 1637.”

On east wall is a tablet with long Latin inscription to Humphry Wykham, who died in 1703.

On a small brass on floor :

“ Here lye the bodyes of Joane  
Harris (the wife of Peter Harris)  
and of her infant shee dyed in  
child bed and were buried both Feb. 17  
1635.”

On a large tomb with kneeling figures.

On an upper panel :

“ Here lyeth the body  
of Humphry Wykham  
Esq who tooke to  
Wife Martha the  
sole daughter of  
Rowley Ward Serjeant  
at law by whom he  
had 2 sonnes and  
3 daughters viz. Humphry  
Richard Anne  
Martha and Joyce  
He deceased Dece  
22nd an Dom̄ 1650 in  
y<sup>e</sup> 36 yeare of his age.”

Side by side with this on the adjoining panel :

“ Here lyeth the body  
of Martha Wykham  
the late wife of  
Humphry Wykham  
Esq. she deceased  
May the 25th 1663  
and lieth buried  
by her husband  
Mors mihi lucrum  
Vita et corona Christus.”

On panels below the kneeling figures and clearly referring to them  
(1) on left :

Here lyeth the body of Richard Wykeham Esq  
the sonne of Humphry Wykeham & Mary his wife  
who both lye buried neare this place he married Ann  
Holbrock w<sup>th</sup> whom after he had lived abot 50  
yeares he dyed without issue in the 82 yeare  
of his age 1635 and made Humphry the natu  
rall sonne of Edward Wykeham his brother his  
adopted sonne and heyre

(2) on right, in much larger letters :

Here lyeth the corps of Anne (late  
wife of Richard Wykham Esq) whome  
dyed issuelesse the 22 day of October  
1649 in the 89<sup>th</sup> yeare of her age.

*In the South Aisle.*

On a brass plate on the floor at east end :

Here Under lyeth the body of Joyce Newman one of the  
daughters and heyres of John Hawlthen of Swakcliff gent  
and late wife to Richard Newman of Eppwell gent ye sayde  
Joyce departed this transitory world the xxiv<sup>th</sup> of August  
in the yere of our Lord 1584 whose body restyth here in  
hope of a joyfull resurrectiō the w<sup>ch</sup> god graunt us all Ame

Against east wall :

Large monument to John Hawten.

Above is an hourglass, coat of arms and inscription :

Vivit post funera virtus.

On a panel in black letter :

A good life hath y<sup>e</sup> dayes numbered but a  
good name endureth for ever. ecclus 41. 13. for  
what is thy life it is even a vapour y<sup>e</sup> appeareth  
for a little tyme (& afterward vanisheth  
a way) James 4. 14. right precious in the  
sight of the Lord is the death of his  
saintes Psal. 116. 15 and though y<sup>e</sup> righteous  
be overtaken with death yet shall  
he be in reaste. Wisdome 4. 7

On main tablet at the head of the table tomb is the following long incised inscription in capital letters.

Here lyeth the body of  
 John Hawten of the Le  
 Gentleman who leaft this  
 world the 29 day of April in  
 the yeere of our Lord God 1598  
 he lead his life godlye and  
 died to live eternally leaving  
 behinde him Elizabeth Hawten his  
 only true faythful and loving wiif  
 who was the only daughter of Wil  
 lim Brent of Larkstok in the Counte  
 of Glocester Esquier the had alevē  
 children by name in order Edward  
 Hawten Elizabeth Hawten Jane Hawten  
 Amie Hawten Mary Hawten William  
 Hawten John Hawten Anne Hawten  
 Margery Hawten Richard Hawten  
 and Margarye Hawten though

(then follow three more lines, probably a text, effaced and now illegible).

On south wall between the two east windows is a large mural tablet with busts of a man and his wife, the lady on the east and husband on the west side. He holds his gloves in his left hand, she a book in her right. He has his right, she her left, hand on a skull. There is a long Latin inscription to John Duncomb and Elizabeth his wife. She died March 20th, 1645, and he in October of the same year.

*On Chancel Floor.*

On a brass plate :

Hic jacet expectans secundum adventu  
 Christi corpus Thomæ Merriott nuper  
 hujus ecclesiæ vicarii qui hanc vitam  
 exivit in meliorem 19<sup>o</sup> die Julii<sup>a</sup> a<sup>o</sup> Dni  
 1662 ætatis suæ 74<sup>o</sup>  
 Vita mihi Christus est mors lucrum  
 Patria et corona cælum

*Under the Tower.*

On a large wooden tablet, an armorial shield, argent two chevrons azure between three roses gules, crest, a bull's head sable.

Below the following inscription in red and black letter :

RICHARD WYKHAM of Swalclyf Esqr. in the year  
of our LORD 1634 and in the 80th year of his age considering  
the great poverty of many people in this place : as also that  
the ring of BELLS in this Tower to be imperfect gave TWE<sup>N</sup>  
TY POVNDS towards the buying of a new fore BELL con  
ditionally and for this end, that soe often as shee is Rung  
at WEDDENS FVNERAILS and at other times for recreati  
on that there be some ALMES given to this Box, For a  
perpetual relief of the poore of Swalclyf. Now for as much  
as the good intents of charitable benefactours be often  
frustrated unles there be an answerable chariti in others  
also whome it may concerne, Therefore he the saide Richard  
WYKHAM doth desier, that not so much this his condition  
= all Donation, as Peoples love and forwardness to works  
of mercy would binde them to A willing CONTRIBvtion  
of this intended ALMES.  
THis Table to be kept in ORDER at the charge of the  
Heyres of RICHARD WYKHAM Perpetually : 1673.

On a stone tablet let into exterior east wall of Chancel, in capital  
letters :

Here lyeth the  
Body of Richard  
Hopkins of Burdup  
He decesed decem  
ber the 20 anno  
1677

Here lyeth also  
Margery the wife of  
Richard Hopkins  
She decesed April  
the 2nd anno 1685

Here lyeth also  
The body of Willi  
am Hopkins the  
son of Richard  
Hopkins. he was  
buried december  
the 8 in the 33  
yeare of his age  
1670  
O youth repent  
Noe time delay  
I in my prime  
Was tane away