

Transactions  
OF THE  
Cambridgeshire and  
• • Huntingdonshire  
Archæological Society.

(ESTABLISHED A.D. 1900).

---

VOLUME II. PART I.

[ISSUED TO SUBSCRIBERS FOR 1904-1905.]

---

EDITED BY THE REV. C. H. EVELYN-WHITE, F.S.A.,

*Founder of the Society and Honorary Secretary.*

---

Ely :

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY BY

G. H. TYNDALL, THE MINSTER PRESS,

1906.

PRICE (NON-MEMBERS) TEN SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE.

Contents of Part 1., Vol. 2. (pp. 104).

Papers.

	PAGE
I. BRAMPTON, HUNTS., by <i>S. Inskip Ladds</i> , A.R.I.B.A.	I
II. THE PRIORY AND CHURCH OF ST. NEOTS, HUNTINGDONSHIRE, by <i>Wm. Emery</i> , (illustrated) .....	16
III. STOW LONGA (St. Botolph), HUNTS., by <i>the Rev. G. E. Sharland</i> , R.D., (illustrated) .....	25
IV. EYNESBURY AND ITS CHURCH, by <i>Wm. Emery</i> , (illustrated) .....	29
V. GREAT PAXTON, HUNTINGDONSHIRE, by <i>the Rev. A. G. Cane</i> , M.A.....	33
VI. THE CARVED BENCH-ENDS IN EYNESBURY CHURCH, HUNTINGDONSHIRE, by <i>the Rev. C. H. Evelyn White</i> , F.S.A., <i>Hon. Sec.</i> , (illustrated) .....	46
VII. THE STORY OF COTTENHAM, CO. CAMBRIDGE, by <i>the Rev. C. H. Evelyn-White</i> , F.S.A., <i>Hon. Sec.</i> .....	55
VIII. SOME NORMAN DOORWAYS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE, DISPLAYING <i>TYMPANA</i> , by <i>the Rev. C. H. Evelyn-White</i> , F.S.A., <i>Hon. Sec.</i> , (illustrated).....	98

Illustrations.

	PAGE
ST. NEOT'S CHURCH (St. Mary), Hunts., Exterior ..to face	21
ST. NEOT'S CHURCH (St. Mary), Hunts., Interior ..to face	22
STOW LONGA CHURCH (St. Botolph) Hunts., (1) Exterior, (2) Interior.....to face	25
Silver Paten (15th Century) and <i>facsimile</i> of Hall Mark ..	27
EYNESBURY CHURCH (St. Mary), Hunts., Ground Plan to face	30
Plan of Nave Arches and Columns .....	31
GREAT PAXTON CHURCH (Holy Trinity), Hunts., Saxon work ( <i>conjectural</i> ) in Nave .....	40
EYNESBURY CHURCH, CARVED BENCHES in, Plan .....	46
Some details .....	48
NORMAN <i>TYMPANA</i> :	
Pampisford, Cambs., .....	99
Stow Longa, Hunts., .....	100
Little Paxton, Hunts., .....	101

## GREAT PAXTON, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

It appears from the Saxon Chronicle in the tenth century that a certain Earl, Toli by name, obtained the Province of Hundedune by force against the King. If, as seems probable, Toli is the same as Toglos he was slain in battle at Tempsford in 921 and since it is found in Domesday book that King Edward the Confessor owned Toseland it would follow that the King became possessed of Tolis estates, of which Toseland and Great Paxton would have been part. After the Conquest, Great Paxton was handed over by William I., to his niece Judith, widow of the Earl of Huntingdon, by whom it was owned when Domesday book was written.

Judith's daughter, Maud, married David, son of Malcolm III., King of Scotland, who founded Holy Rood Abbey at Edinburg. Thus the Church and advowson of Great Paxton became the property of the Kings of Scotland, and as early as 1155 had passed into the hands of the Abbot and Convent of Holy Rood. In the *Harleian MSS.*, is recorded a decision by Hugh de Wells, Bishop of Lincoln, that the Church of Paxton belonged of right to the Abbot and Convent of Holy Rood. About 1274, Richard, Bishop of Lincoln, gave the Church and advowson to the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln, who, in 1285, paid 200 marcs sterling to the Abbot and Convent to buy off a yearly pension that had been reserved to that body. In the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln the living now remains.

Domesday book states :

"In Pachstone with its 3 Berewicks, King Edward had 25 hides paying geld. There is land for 41 ploughs. Here the Countess (Judith, of Huntingdon) now has in demesne 5 ploughs, and 60 villeins and 8 borderers having 34 ploughs. There is a Church and a priest, and 3 mills worth 64 shillings and about 20 acres of meadow. Pannage in woods half a mile long and half a mile and one furlong broad, and another wood half a mile long and

3 furlongs broad. Of this land one hide belongs to the Church. In the time of King Edward worth 29 pounds and 4 shillings, now 33 pounds and ten shillings."

It is an interesting conjecture which were the three Berewicks. The Parliamentary Writs in 1316 state that "Great Paxton, Little Paxton and Toulesland are one town," and in the *Lansdowne MSS.*, is found a reference to Great Paxton "Parish Church to which Little Paxton and Toseland, which hath both chapells of ease, do belong, and therefore the minister is called the Vicar of the three steeples." Hence it must be assumed that the separation of the third berewick from the Mother Church must have been before the fourteenth century. Now the *Lansdowne MS.* speaking of Abbotsley say:—"This Town, as some think, was in the Parish of Great Paxton;" and it adds, "Great Paxton being Mother Church and burial place to this." Is it not then probable that Abbotsley was the third berewick? If we had here the only clue to such a surmise it might be dismissed since Abbotsley has no record or tradition in its support. But it is very different when we come to Great Paxton. Here we have an instance of a village tradition handed on from father to son, without any help from written records, for centuries, and talked about among the people as if the events were a matter of yesterday.

Until within the memory of those now living there remained portions of an old road running through the parish in the direction of Abbotsley called "the Abbotsley balk." Old inhabitants can point out several fields through which it ran, and remember gaps in hedges, which indicated the line of the old road. It skirted the Vicarage on the east and north, passed along the north boundary of the orchard and ended on the north side of the Church at what is still called the "Abbotsley door": this door has been filled up for many years but its outline is distinctly marked. There appears to have been no right of way over the "balk"; it has long been closed and for the most part ploughed up. Labourers often, even now, find large stones beneath the surface which formed its foundation. There is no mention of it in the

“Award.” Everyone in the village will tell how the dead were carried along this balk, brought into the Church through the Abbotsley door and buried in the churchyard. Tradition adds a little further support, for it was incumbent on each of the parishes to keep in repair a certain portion of the churchyard wall and hedges, and Abbotsley is said to have once borne its share of the burden. On the other hand there is no entry in the Register of anyone from Abbotsley being buried in the churchyard or any item of a contribution from Abbotsley in the churchwardens’ accounts. If, however, the separation took place before the fourteenth century no such entry could be expected. Until further evidence is produced the possibility of Abbotsley being the third berewick must not be dismissed as legendary.

The churchwardens’ accounts take us back to the reign of Edward VI. Some of the early records relate to the disputes that arose between Little and Great Paxton over the subsidies that the former had to pay towards the maintenance of the mother church. In one instance the churchwardens had to bring these passive resisters before the court of the Bishop of Lincoln. They submitted that :

“Whereas the inhabitunts of Little Paxton (time) out of mynde have bene and are bound to stand to the parte of the charges of the sayd Church of Much Paxton all manner of repacons as was approved . . . . when the two Iles weare latlie made the inhabitunts of Much Paxton bare two parts the inhabitunts of Little Paxton the third and the inhabitunts of Towsland within the pish . . . . aforesayd the 4th pte” and “inasmuch about xxx yeares past the inhabitants of Little Paxton and Towsland came unto Much Paxton and there theye for there pte chose one Thomas Towsland and the inhabitunts of Muche Paxton chose one Thomas Jarmyn” [as churchwardens].

The remainder of the MS., is torn away, but as a result the defendants presented the following petition :

“The humble petition of the Churchwardens and inhabitants of Little Paxton in the Countye of Hunts to the Reverend Father in God the Lord Bishoppe of London and the rest of the highe Commissioners his associats.

Who sheweth that whereas the said Churchwardens and inhabitants, as sued before this Honorable Court for Contribution towards the Repacons of the Church of Great Paxton as being their pish and Mother Church, and whereas it doth appeare unto

us since our repayre to the Towne, both by Anntient customes, as also by diverse orders, that the said inhabitants of Little Paxton ought to pay a fourth part towards the said Repacons, in manner and forme as by one Order last of all made by Mr. Doctor Hill Commissiarye to the Lord Bishoppe of Lincolne is ready to be exhibited to this Court, of wch said order as also diverse other circumstances yor supptts were utterly ignorant, as being seduced by sinister Counsell in the Countrye. Maie it therefore please yor Lordship and this honorable Court, that since wee yor Ldps humble supptts being better instructed doe fynde that of right wee ought to paye the said Contribution, in such manner as is alledged, as to our Mother Church, and likewise are readye to stand to the said last Order made by Mr. Doctor Hill, that wee maye without our severall examynacons and further charges being very poore men, and having been at great charges in towne more then a weeke, be dismissed, upon this our Confessions and the decree of this Honorable Courte, which done the said inhabitants yor poore and humble supptts will both paye the charges spent in the said cause by the said Churchwardens of Great Paxton, and likewise the Aererages of fiftye fower shilings for the Laers, (? Levies) to wch they have not contributed, and this the said Churchwardens of Great Paxton are consent to condescend unto, soe as this Court upon these our Confessions doe make a fynall decree therein according to the said last order, and this granted wee yor poore suppliants shal be bound to praye for yor Lordships lief long to continewe."

After this the contributions seem to have been made peacefully for in the early part of the seventeenth century the Churchwardens' Accounts show repeatedly receipts from Little Paxton and Toseland for repairs to the roof, bells, etc. of Great Paxton Church. The last contribution was made in 1875, when Little Paxton and Toseland each repaired a portion of the churchyard wall.

The Rev. E. Giles, when Vicar, discovered a thirteenth century MS. in one of the books of parish notes. He had it carefully transcribed by Mr. J. A. C. Vincent of the Public Record Office. Mr. Vincent expressed an opinion that the writing is not of the date A.D. 1235 but later by fifty years at least and that the document is transcribed from an earlier one. The only word which he was doubtful is "oracone" but "in praying for the dead" is required by the context. The following is a translation:—

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY GHOST AMEN. A dispute having arisen between Master Reginald de Baa, Rector of the Church of Paxton, of [the

one] part, and his parishioners of Towlislond of the other part, upon certain points relating to the mother-Church of Paxton, and the question upon the same . . . . . having at length been referred by consent of either party under a penalty of one hundred marks in the arbitration on each point, namely, to the Prior of the Preaching Friars of Northampton and the Rector of the Preaching Friars of Cambridge and the Parson of Southo and the Dean of Bourne; the said arbitrators, having heard the arguments of either party, awarded in form and manner following upon the first point, that is to say, that when the Rector of the Church aforesaid should demand of the said parishioners of Towlislond help for the repair of the mother Church when needed, then, in order that the said parishioners of Towlislond be not overburdened by the maintenance of their own Chapel and the repair of the mother Church, for the future they shall be held liable to assist the mother Church along with other parishioners of the same in their proper proportion, namely, that, if the lands of Paxton have been taxed to help the same Church, then the lands of Towlislond shall also be taxed, and the parishioners of Towlislond shall be held liable for half of the tax along with the parishioners of Little Paxton, and they shall be severally held liable, and this same method shall be followed in whatever other manner the tax may be levied. And, whereas the same Rector demands that some legacy be left to the mother Church in the last wills of the dying, it is awarded to him that the best animal in the homestead, or, if there be no animal, then some other thing, be given by way of legacy according to the custom of the diocese. The bequeathing of anything else over and above this to the mother Church is voluntary, not obligatory. Also as to the providing of the torch, tapers, linen cloths, and other ornaments of the said church, except the chief wax candle at Easter, this shall be left to their devout liberality. And whereas he demands that the said parishioners of Towlislond shall attend the mother Church three or four times a year, it is provided by the said arbitrators that whereas no loss ought to be sustained by the mother Church in the matter of revenue or of offerings on the three chief feasts, which offerings they have been wont to make in their own Chapel in lieu of keeping the feast of the dedication of the mother Church which they have not kept hitherto, in future they must go to the mother Church with their offerings to do her honour on the feast of the Holy Trinity. Also as to Baptism, Anointing, and the taper at Easter and the celebration of the first mass in the Prayers for the dead, let the practice henceforth be such as it was wont to be hitherto. And as to the providing of a Chaplain in the said Chapel on three ferial days in the week and on all customary feast-days in the year when they surcease from field-labour according to notice given in Church, except the feast of the Holy Trinity, it is determined that the said Rector shall provide a Chaplain after the aforesaid manner. Given at St. Neots, in the Church of the Blessed Mary, in the one thousand two hundred

and thirty-fifth year from the Incarnation of our Lord, on the eighth of the Ides of August. [-6 Aug. 1235.]

The earliest Register is that of Little Paxton (1567). Great Paxton and Toseland begin in 1583. The Registers of all three parishes are almost continuous from these dates. There is the usual hiatus at the middle of the seventeenth century. One entry, however, is found in that period: "John Stooles and Cathurn Peete was married befoore William Pedlie Esquire and justice of peace the 20th day of February 1653 in Witness of John Smith and Robert Darlo."

There are several volumes of Churchwardens' Accounts in which many items of interest occur. The Rev. E. Giles, the last vicar has transcribed a large part of these MSS., and more was copied at his expense.

At the time of the Armada scare the following entry was made:

*A note what Furniture of Armor belongeth to Much Paxton taken the vijth Julie 1588.*

*First ij Jacks of plate wth sleeves.*

*Item ij bylls. ij skulls. & ij capps.*

*Item a bowe & sheafe of arrows. j dagger.*

*Item a courselett, wth a pyke & a hed pece sword & dagger.*

*Item j Qualever wth sworde & dagger, flask & tutch box & hedd pece.*

*Item a Qualever betwene Towseland & the Towne. flask and tutch box, sword & dagger, hedd pece.*

*Item an old allmon ryvett & the hedd pece.*

*Item an old qualever.*

*Item a crow of yron.*

*Item an old stythe wch wm gale hath for vjs. viijd.*

*Item a santey bell.*

*Item ij shoulder coots. one for the pykman & the other betwene Towseland & the towne.*

*Item the molde & wrest for the ptible qualever . . . . .*

*Magna Paxton.* These are in her maties name to require you the Constables there presently to collect iijte for her maties service & for you souliours cottess & more xs. for every soldier for conduct money and the same to be at Hunt. one Monday morning by xj of the clock, as also every pticular man to paye for his soldiers cote & xs for his conduct money at yor uttermost pell, dat the second of August 1588 in hast Dove & Page & that yor laborer be redy & yor horse & carte at an houre warndge."

An inventory of Church furniture is also given in the following form:—

“A true note of all the church goods delivered to Willm Sparrowe and Abraham Whitechurch Churchwardens of great paxton the xvijth of April 1624 from John Steele and Willm highway old Churchwardens.

*Impis* a fayre large bible *newelie bought 1627 in March.*

*Itm* a new comm booke.

*Itm* the old booke for the Clarke.

*Itm* a booke of the defence of the right of kinges.

Jewell & harding a great booke

*Itm* a booke of prayer for the fift of novebr & an act in print.

*Itm* a book of canons.

*Itm* one old homelie booke.

*Itm* a Register booke in parchement.

*Itm* a booke for the Churchwdens accompts.

*Itm* one old Registre booke in paper.

*Itm* bullaigers decades (?)

A booke for the fift of August.

A booke of prayers with an ordr of fasting in the time of the plauge & one other little prayer booke of thanksgiving to God for the staying of the plauge one other for the clarke.

*Itm* a comn cupp of silver wth a cover.

*Itm* a puthr stoope of a quart size.

*Itm* a boxe for the comn cupp.

*Itm* a great chest with iij lockes and keyes.

*Itm* a comn table with a carpet of . . . . . and a fayre linen cloath.

*Itm* a surplece.

*Itm* a seate for service.

*Itm* a pulpit of woodd, cover with a cushin *A newe booke of homelies. 2 newe bookes of fasting 1628 April 21.\**

*Itm* a font with a covr to it.

*Itm* a poore mans boxe with ij lockes and keyes.

*Itm* a long ladder. A seate for ye clarke.

*Itm* v small bells wth fyve ropes.

*Itm* one Iron pulley.

*Itm* a beare wth an hearse uppon it.”

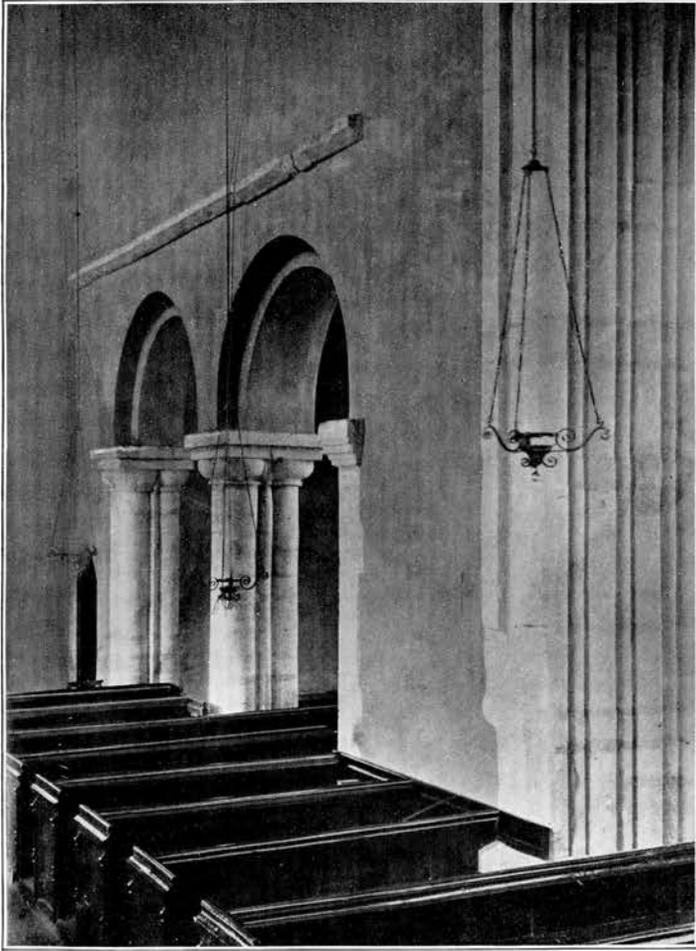
Almost all these articles have long since disappeared but the “great chest” still remains.

The Church of Great Paxton is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Originally it was probably cruciform in shape. The north transept now does not extend beyond the aisle but ends abruptly in a plain gable. On the south side the transept is only shown in the altered form of the roof at the end of the aisle.

\* These words in italics apparently added at a later date.

From the outside these features are perhaps more noticeable than from within. The nave is enclosed by two whole bays, and a third much shortened on either side at the west end; whilst a solid block of masonry, amounting to a wall, between the eastern bays and the transept arches, greatly obstructs the view from the aisles, but they were necessary in order to support the lofty transept arches, which have massive clustered columns, on the east side. While the nave arches are only 14 feet the north transept arch is as much as 28 feet from the floor. All this work is evidently Saxon of not very early date; the long and short work with the wide joints, in some cases about 2 inches deep, is well shown in the pillars of the crossing and on the west side of the masonry blocks. It is strange that these indications of Saxon work seem to have remained unnoticed until quite recently when Bishop Alwyne Compton was the first to call attention to them. There now remains no doubt among experts as to assigning the work to this early period. Although the chancel arch is in the decorated style, it rests on the earlier pillars, the abacus over the caps of which, are ornamented with very irregular billet moulding. The south transept arch is placed on the old capitals, but these are several feet lower than those opposite although of an exactly similar pattern. The late Precentor Venables conjectured that there was originally a central tower which fell. If this is a true explanation and the tower fell to the south so as to destroy that transept arch, it would account for the shortened pillars, the old caps being retained and placed in the lower position. On the other hand, Mr. Inskip Ladds, whose has studied the church closely, is of opinion that although a central tower was intended, it was never completed. On the nave walls to the extreme east may be noticed pilaster strips indicative of Saxon work, they have been cut away for about 6 feet from the floor no doubt to make room for high pews.

These pilaster strips are also found beside each of the four central pillars. A rude string course runs along the walls of the nave, about 3 feet above the arches, of the



*Photo by*

*A. E. Jennings.*

GREAT PAXTON CHURCH, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.



same date as the arches themselves. On the outside of the church on the south side a similar string course may be observed broken through by the three Norman clerestory windows. Mr. Ladds explains these two string courses by a very ingenious suggestion. He conjectures that the original church was begun on a much larger scale a triforium being intended in the nave, the base of which would be the interior string, whilst the outer string would be below the proposed clerestory windows where the aisle roof would reach the nave walls. He conjectures that the work was stopped for a time and that when it was again taken in hand a more modest design was adopted, by which the triforium was abandoned and the present clerestory was put in at a lower level, the aisle roof being lowered at the same time. The nave piers are most interesting, the section is very unusual, being made up of four round pillars with much narrower pilasters filling up the space between each. All the caps are rounded blocks only roughly finished off. The piers are built of deep and shallow stones carrying the principle of long and short work to an unusual extent. There were originally three and perhaps four bays in the nave. The third bay to the west has been shortened to admit a buttress to the more modern tower. The third clerestory window has been closed for the same reason. Other buttresses to support the tower have been built inside the aisles of the church. The position of the south door appears out of place also; instead of being, as would be expected, opposite the third bay, it is now at the extreme west end of the aisle. If there were originally a fourth bay, the door would be in its accustomed place.

The chancel was rebuilt in the Decorated period. On the north side a window of three lights with mullions carried through the head is part of the original work as are also the piscina and sedilia in the south wall. When the chancel was underpinned in 1902 it was found that the walls rested on made earth without any solid foundation. In the process of the work the base of a buttress was found near the Priest's door, probably belonging to the Saxon chancel. Most

of the windows in the church are more modern insertions in the perpendicular style. At the back of the north-east pier of the crossing a narrow staircase has been burrowed through the masonry to an opening where the pulpit now stands, this would be the approach to the rood loft. When the church was restored in 1867 the floor of the church was lowered, some two feet, to its original level: this has given a dignified appearance to the chancel which now stands so high that the base of the Altar is about 5 feet above the level of the nave. At the same time the oak chancel screen was moved and cut away to fit into the Tower arch. It has some fine carving, and above the central opening is a panel with surrounding rays of glory. A figure originally on this panel has been removed; its form is suggestive of a representation of the Blessed Virgin with the Holy Child in her arms (the Assumption). All this woodwork is now thickly covered with brown paint. The tower has been thrust into the west end, instead of being added to it; this is evident from the shortened bays to the west and the buttresses inside the church, mentioned above: it has had the effect of shortening the nave considerably. The upper windows of the tower are Perpendicular, that on the east side being encroached upon by the nave roof when it was raised to its present pitch. Above the chancel arch is carved in the timber of the roof the date 1637. In the Churchwardens' accounts there are details of the cost of this restoration. The amount was raised in three levies thus described "A leavi made in July for to pay Mas. Adkinson for the roofo of Church at vs a halfe yard (15 acres) land and I.s. vjd a house." There follows a list of names and amounts paid. Again "A leavi made in August for to pay for Towe Ton of lead and other Charges at vs a h.y. land and is vjd a house," and "A leavi made the fift of November to pay the plumer for running of the lead and other chariges at ijs vjd the h.y. land and vj the house . . . . . The whole sume of these there levies xxxxvj*li* xv*s*-vij*d*."

The adjoining parishes had to pay their share for

there is added "Reseaved fro Paxton xxv*li* xviiij *d.* Reseaved fro Toseland xxv*li* xviiij *d.*" On the receipts side is also entered "Reseaved for the plumers ashes ij*li*-ijs-0 "Reseaved for the old wood j*li*-viijs. Reseaved of Mr Dickman for lead o-*ijs*-vjd. Reseaved for lead o-*js*-viijd. (Total) ij*li* xiijs ij*d.*" The estimates seem to have exceeded the expenditure for there follows this receipt "Md. that the xviiijth daie of May 1638 John Archdeacon and Thomas Neave being Churchwardens for the yeere past did make theire accompt to John King, John Abbott, Rychrd Abbott and Thomas Whitechurche chief Inhabitants of Toseland for the building and Repayre of the church of great paxton as the highe Roofe plubing and casting of the leade for the same and mason work and the north Ile and the windowe and all things accompted and allowed there was dewe to the sayd inhabitants the sumn of xijs viiij*d.*

John King    A    John Abbotts     $\bar{\Lambda}$     Richard Abbots  
    marke     marke  
 Thomas Witch . . . . and we likewise James Clapham  
 and Willm Beale the churchwardens of little have  
 received the like some xijs and viiij*d.* of John Archdeacon  
 and Thomas Neave the said churchwardens uppon the  
 same daie 18 May

James Clapham            The mrke < of Willm . . . .  
    Churchwardens.

The bells were rehung and the bell frames renewed in 1896. At the same time the treble bell which was poor in tone and out of tune with the rest was recast, the old marks are reproduced on the new bell: they look like the letters

### MD X DV

The Rev. J. M. N. Owen interprets the marks as M.T. Xp T.V. and considers that *Mater Christi Virgo* is intended by them. There are other marks on the bell.\* The other four bear inscriptions:—

II "Russell made me 1720" with coins "Jacobus II. Dei Gratia" inserted.

\* Vide *The Church Bells of Huntingdonshire* by the Rev. J. M. N. Owen, pp 5, 6, 110.

III. "Jos. Eayre St. Neots fecit 1756."

IV. Sancta Caterina ora pro nobis."

V. "Praise the Lord 1758."

Some years ago in pulling down one of the churchyard walls the stem of a Churchyard Cross was found in the masonry, this has now been placed in the Churchyard to the west of the south door. The font is a plain octagon of perpendicular date. The font cover of carved oak was placed there by the friends of Miss Clara Towgood in her memory. The existing altar vessels at Great Paxton are of comparatively modern date. The Chalice bears the inscription "*Deo et Altare sacrum*" and "*The gift of Thomas Bowdler Esq.*"

The chalice and cover at Little Paxton are valuable. On the chalice is inscribed "FOR THE TOWNE OF LYTEL PAXSON" and the cover, which is of the same date has "1569" engraved upon it. The Toseland Chalice is of the same period; on it is engraved "TOWSLAND HUNDRETHE."

Any description of the Church would be incomplete which did not acknowledge the noble gifts of the Towgood family. The restoration in 1867 was mainly carried out at the expense of the late Mr. Edward Towgood who at the same time presented the organ. The three Misses Towgood, who succeeded their father at Paxton Hill allowed nothing to be wanted: the beautifully embroidered altar cloths etc. were worked under their superintendance and at their cost. The greater part by far, of the restoration of the bells and belfry was paid for by the family; the lamps designed and executed by Messrs. Barkentin & Krall to be in harmony with their surroundings, the altar and processional crosses were provided by the same benefactors, and when the last of the three sisters, Miss Eleanor Towgood, died in 1898, she bequeathed £500 for the lighting of the Church, £400 for the maintenance of the Churchyard and £2000 to provide an additional Sunday Service for Great Paxton and Toseland. These sums are vested in the Ely Diocesan Trust. The present representative of the

family, Mr. Hamer Towgood of Saintfoins, Cambridge-shire, not only restored the west window but has recently added the richly carved oak reredos.

In compiling these notes I must acknowledge the obligation I am under to Mr. Inskip Ladds, to the Rev. W. M. Noble and the Rev. E. Giles by whom almost all the information has been supplied.

A. G. CANE.