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Illustrations

THE OLD CHURCH, STIBBINGTON, HUNTS.

WEST DOOR, STIBBINGTON, HUNTS.

NORTH DOOR, FOLKSWORTH, HUNTS.

THE CHURCH, LONG STANTON, ALL SAINTS, CAMBS.

WILLINGHAM CHURCH, CAMBS.

MATRIX OF BRASS AT GREAT STUKELEY, HUNTS.

GREAT STUKELEY CHURCH, HUNTS.

(continued from page 220).

passages, all in holes and, in places, dangerous to walk upon; these have been taken up and the whole area covered with concrete, upon which the old tiles have been re-laid in the passage ways, and floor boards laid on mastic under the seats. The floor has been lowered six inches in order to open out the bases of the columns, which were partially hidden by the old floor; that this alteration has brought the floor nearly to its original level is unquestionable, although it is still barely low enough; but it is already below the level of the churchyard and to lower it any more was not practicable; no sign whatever of an earlier floor was found, and probably it consisted simply of the bare clay. This floor, like that of the chancel, was carefully probed in order to discover any stones that might lie below, with the result that five were found, viz:—i., a large stone slab, 8 ft. 2 in. by 4 ft. 1 in., bearing the indent of a knight in armour, of about the middle of the Sixteenth Century, found in the midst of the nave at its eastern end just in front of the chancel arch, and doubtless the stone of Henry Torkington (died 1549), who willed to be buried “before the image of Christ upon the holie Rood in the middle alie or space;” ii., a small coffin-shaped slab, quite plain, and obviously not in its original position, found just west of the last; iii., a portion of a mediæval floriated coffin lid, found just south of number i; iv., a large and perfectly plain stone, 6 ft. 11 in. by 2 ft. 11 in., with a bold splay worked upon three of its edges, evidently the top of a table monument, found in the middle of the north aisle; and v., and most important of all, a large blue marble slab, 7 ft. 8 in. by 3 ft. 0 in., bearing the indents of a large floriated cross upon which had been imposed at a later date the figure of a man in armour of the extreme end of the Fifteenth Century, on either side of which were the indents of the figures of two women and two children, and round the whole had been a marginal inscription; this is none other than the matrix of the long-lost de

Stukeley brass, it was found just eastward of the last named stone, and lying as it were just in front of the altar of the north aisle. It was thirteen inches below the paving of the aisle, and, except that it has been raised to the level of the new floor, it lies in the same place still. All these stones lay on the bare clay, and they confirm the opinion previously expressed that there was no other flooring.

The font consists of an octagonal basin standing upon a large circular column surrounded by eight circular shafts all with good caps and bases, and the whole upon an octagonal base; it is of Early English date, and until recent years stood in the middle aisle, at the west end of the nave. In 1866 it was removed to the western end of the north aisle in order to make room for an organ, but has now been restored to its original position. The remainder of the furniture of the church is entirely modern and of no interest.

In the tower are four bells, inscribed :—

1. ✠ **Omnia fianet ad gloriam Dei 1622.** (27 inches diameter).
2. **Remember the pore and nede.** (29½).
3. **ROBT. TAYLOR ST. NEOTS FOUNDER 1797.**
ROBT. BOND CHURCHWARDEN. (33).
4. **TOBIAS NORRIS CAST ME 1635. JOHN DODSON VICAR J. WEBSTER. T. CLARKE C.W.** (36½).

The first is by William Haulsey, of St. Ives; the second by Newcome, of Leicester. Note the curious spelling. Mr. Owen, in his 'Church Bells of Hunts.,' says, that there is a tradition that Great Stukeley gave Little Stukeley a clock in exchange for a bell. It is rather curious that two of the Little Stukely bells are by Newcome, but otherwise there does not appear to be any confirmation of the tradition.

Practically the whole of the glass in the windows is modern, but there are a few old quarries in the east window of the south aisle, and a few other fragments in the western window of the north wall.

Of the many interesting stones found in the course of the restoration :—

i. The fragments of five coffin lids, now built into the west wall of the south aisle; the lower part of a coffin lid, now in the north-west corner of the north aisle; and the small piece of a coffin lid now fixed under the window near to the last named; all came from the south clerestory wall.

ii. The piece of a coffin lid bearing the stem and base of a cross, now under the west window of the north aisle, came from the gable over the chancel arch.

iii. The small fragments of a coffin lid with a cross on it, now under the north-west window of the north aisle, came from the east gable of that aisle.

iv. The piece of rounded moulding with spiral bands of bead ornament, now fixed in the sill of the western window of the north wall; and the three pieces of Norman work and the part of a small cross, now in the north wall; and also the four Norman voussoirs in the corners of the chancel, and those in the south wall of the south aisle; all came from the large buttress which blocked up the south window of the aisle, or were found in digging for new foundations for the south aisle.

v. The Early English cap, now fixed just west of the north door, came from the modern buttress which stood between the door and the north-west corner.

vi. The beautiful little fragment of Decorated carving, now built in on the north side of the east window of the north aisle, was found in digging for new foundations for the west wall of that aisle.

vii. The carved face, now built into the wall by the low-side window, was found below the floor of the Sacrament, near the south-west corner of the Altar.

viii. The plinth stones, base and fragments of circular shafts were found chiefly in the large buttress on the south side, and in digging for the new foundations on that side; they have not been built into the walls, but have been preserved loose.

ix. A small fragment of a good Early English

gable cross was found near the base of the north wall; it has been preserved loose.

x. All the stone slabs found in the floor remain in their former position, except number iii, which has been removed, for safety, to the north-east corner of the north aisle.

xi. A large, curiously shaped stone, lying half buried in the church-yard, was dug up, but it revealed nothing of the purpose for which it was formed, and it was left where it lay.

It may be interesting to briefly state what is known about the Stukeley brass. The Lansdowne MS. 921, records the inscription as it existed in 1669, ' . . . to God . . .
The soule of William Stewkeley to God . . .
. . . on whose soule Jesu Some fifty years later, viz. in 1721, Dr. Stukeley (and Mr. Torkington) took the brass of the Knight off the stone, but the inscription and the other figures had then been lost; he eventually fixed the brass on a mahogany board, and put it up in his house in Kentish Town, but since his death in 1765 nothing seems to be known of it. The stone itself, being covered by a modern tile floor, was completely lost sight of until it was found again in February 1910.

In Dr. Stukeley's Diaries and Correspondence, vol. II. (Surtees Society's Publications, Vol. 78.) will be found a drawing of the brass and stone as the Doctor saw it in 1721.

Dr. Stukeley thought that it commemorated Sir Nicholas de Stukeley, but the evidence of the Lansdowne MS. 921, is too strong to be contradicted, and we must take it as commemorating William Stukeley. The only possible William Stukeley of whom I have heard died about 1502, and, although the date seems rather late for the brass, there seems to be no alternative but to accept it. Whether the indents of the women and children belonged to the earlier or the later memorial is not clear, but I am strongly disposed to think that the cross alone was original and that all else belonged to the subsequent appropriation to William Stukeley.

S. INSKIP LADDS.