

## All Saints' Church, Mackworth.

BY F. J. ROBINSON.



AT the time of the Domesday survey, Hugh, Earl of Chester, held the Manor of Markeaton, to which were attached the hamlets of Mackworth and Allestree.

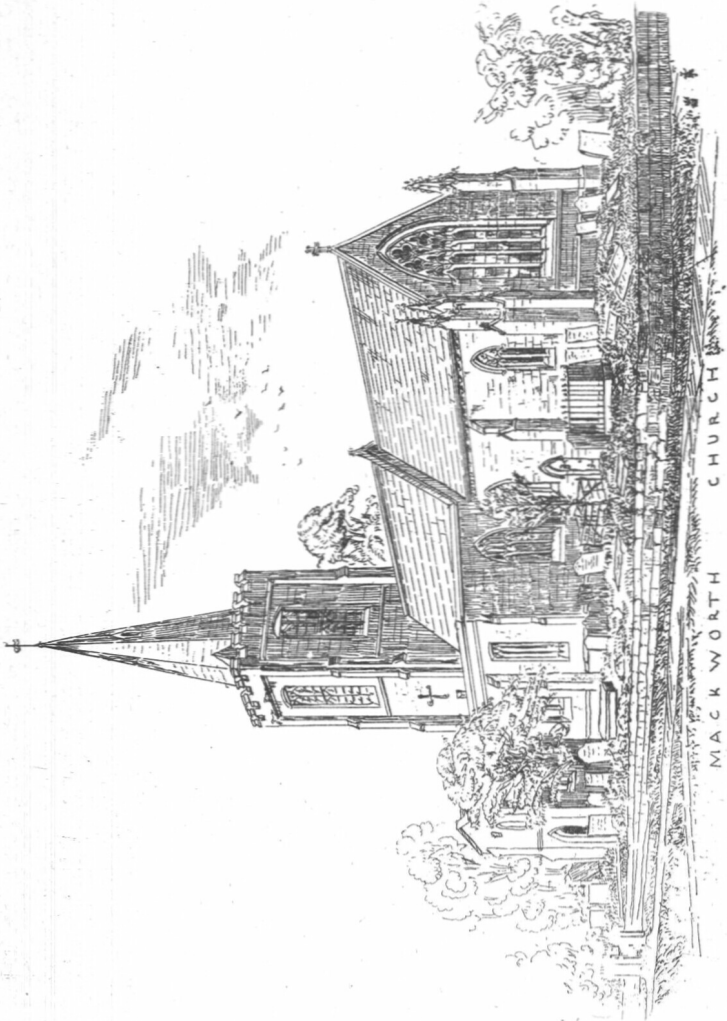
Record is made in this survey of a church and a priest on the Manor, though this was probably at Markeaton, where tradition points to a site where there are still some traces remaining of ancient walls and buildings.

The Manors of Mackworth and Markeaton were held by Thomas, son of Robert Touchet, under the Earl of Chester, in the reign of Henry III.

From a very early period Allestree was a chapelry of Mackworth, and was served by the mother church—portions of a Norman building are still to be seen in the present church.

The Chartulary of Darley Abbey affords early proof of the connection of the Touchet family with these Manors. About the year 1200, Matthew Touchet was rector of Mackworth, and, in 1238, Simon Touchet was rector, on the presentation of his father, Thomas Touchet. In the time of Edward I., Sir Robert Touchet was succeeded in his estates, including the advowson of the church of Mackworth, by his son Thomas.

About the year 1497, the Rectory of Mackworth was appropriated to the Abbey of Darley. The Abbot took the whole of the tithes, but undertook to pay £9 per annum to the Vicar of Mackworth, and three shillings and sixpence to the poor of the parish, at Christmas.



The Abbot of Darley only enjoyed a single presentation to this vicarage, and, foreseeing the probable dissolution of monasteries, sold the next presentation to William Ragg. The advowson of the Vicarage afterwards changed hands once or twice, but eventually it came to the Mundys, who were lords of the Manor, and with them it has remained about three centuries. In Dr. Cox's *Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire*, from which I have derived much of the information contained in this paper, may be found a record of the rectors and vicars of Mackworth, from about the year 1200 to the appointment of the late Vicar, the Rev. William Gilder, in 1858.

The church consists of a chancel, nave, with north and south aisles, and western tower and spire. It is entered by a large porch on the south side, with a parvise over it. The building was re-roofed and renovated in the year 1851, when an organ aisle and vestry were added to the north of the chancel. The oldest feature in the church is the west window of the north aisle; this belongs to an older fabric than the rest of the church. The piscina in the south aisle is also of the same date—towards the end of the thirteenth century.

The nave of the church, with the arcade of three arches on each side, was built about the year 1320, and the chancel soon after this date. The aisles and tower are early fifteenth century work. The tower is remarkable, as having been built as a place of defence; the lower stages being without any outside entrance, and only lighted by very small windows at some distance from the ground. It is also provided with three cross-bow loopholes, placed below the string course under the belfry windows. The entrance to the tower is from the nave of the church through the large western doorway; the door opens inwards to the tower, and when closed is secured on the inside by means of a large beam of wood, for which provision is made in the thickness of the wall, the beam having to be pushed back into the bolt-hole before the door can be opened.

The canopy in the north aisle is curious. Some authorities believe it to have been an Easter tomb, but tradition names it the

Abbot's seat ; possibly one of the Abbots of Darley may have rebuilt or renovated this aisle, and may have provided an official seat for himself and successors. At present the panel under the canopy is filled up with a table of benefactions.

When the organ aisle was added to the Church in 1851, a two-light window of late date was removed from the east end of the north aisle to allow of an arch being made into the chamber ; the niches on each side of the window were left in their original position. Dr. Cox seems to be under the impression that they were on each side of the chancel window, but this was not the case.

The founder's tomb and piscina in the south aisle were brought to light in 1851 ; most of the projecting mouldings had been roughly cut away to allow of the plastering of the walls. The alabaster slab, now placed under the arch, was found near the east end of this aisle below the flooring. It is sculptured with the head and hands of a priest, the rest of the slab being occupied with an incised cross and inscription, now very imperfect, but sufficient remains to give the date 1409. This tomb is without doubt that of Thomas Touchet, the rector of Mackworth, who died in that year, and was a benefactor of the Priory of King's Mead. He held the rectory from 1381 until the time of his death.

The only other tomb of importance is at the east end of the south aisle, and represents a man dressed in a long cloak with hanging sleeves, and with ruffs round the neck and wrists. On the margin of the tomb is incised—"Here lyeth Edward Mundy Esquire. He dyed June y<sup>e</sup> 7, 1607, and of Jane his wife, daughter of William Burnell of Winkbourne Esquire. June y<sup>e</sup> 17, 1611."

This Edward Mundy was grandson of Sir John Mundy, to whom Lord John Audley sold the Manors of Mackworth, Mark-eaton, and Allestree about the year 1516.

Over the porch is a parvise or chamber, approached by a circular staircase in the south-west angle of the church. It, no doubt, was formerly used as a dormitory by the priest or sacristan,



MACKWORTH CHURCH  
CHANCEL DOORWAY

who through two cunningly contrived "squints" pierced in different directions through the masonry could see the two altars and watch over the valuables, ring the sanctus bell, or pray toward these altars.

At the renovation of the church, traces of a doorway in the south elevation were seen from the outside in this chamber, and on the parapet were the remains of a brick chimney. The Rev. George Pickering, who was then vicar, explained that he could remember a small house, formerly the vicarage, standing close to the porch, from which there was this entrance into the parvise. The room had been used as one of the chambers of the vicarage, and a fireplace put up in it.

The priest's door into the chancel was renewed at the restoration. It was a good example of early decorated work, with a ball-flower moulding in it; it seems to have been in a bad state of repair. The present stonework is an exact copy of the one removed. I am able to give a sketch of this doorway made previous to its removal.

There are three bells in the tower, inscribed—

1. "God save the King, 1662;" and with the bell mark of George Oldfield.
2. "Jhesus be out speed, 1612;" and the bell mark of Henry Oldfield.
3. "God save his Church, 1616;" and the bell mark of Henry Oldfield.

The earliest registers are dated 1611. "The Register Book of Mackworth bought by Xofer Bludworth and John Crashawe, Churchwardens A.D. 1611. iiij<sup>s</sup>."

In this book is a curious license for eating flesh in Lent, 1618. The license was granted at the request of Francis Mundy, of Markeaton, on behalf of Mrs. Dorothy Poole, gentlewoman, about the age of four score years, and was granted by Edward Hinchcliffe, clerk.