

PLATE I.



WEST CLANDON CHURCH, from East, as in 1823.
From CRACKLOW'S Churches of Surrey.

WEST CLANDON CHURCH.

BY

PHILIP MAINWARING JOHNSTON, F.R.I.B.A.

WE are safe in assuming that there was a church at West Clandon before the Norman Conquest, from the fact that in the *Domesday Survey* (1086 A.D.) occurs the entry under CLANEDUN, which is generally identified with West Clandon: "There is a Church."¹

The place then was doubtless well wooded: a wood is mentioned in the *Domesday* account, and it is highly probable that, down to the last twenty years of the twelfth century, the Church remained one of those humble timber-built structures (such as the still-remaining nave of Greenstead Church, Essex, formed of split tree-trunks), which were the rule rather than the exception with our Saxon forefathers. Certainly, in support of this conjecture, it is the fact that the materials of the present building show no trace of having formed part of an earlier flint and stone church. They appear to have been brought together and used for the first time towards the close of the twelfth century.²

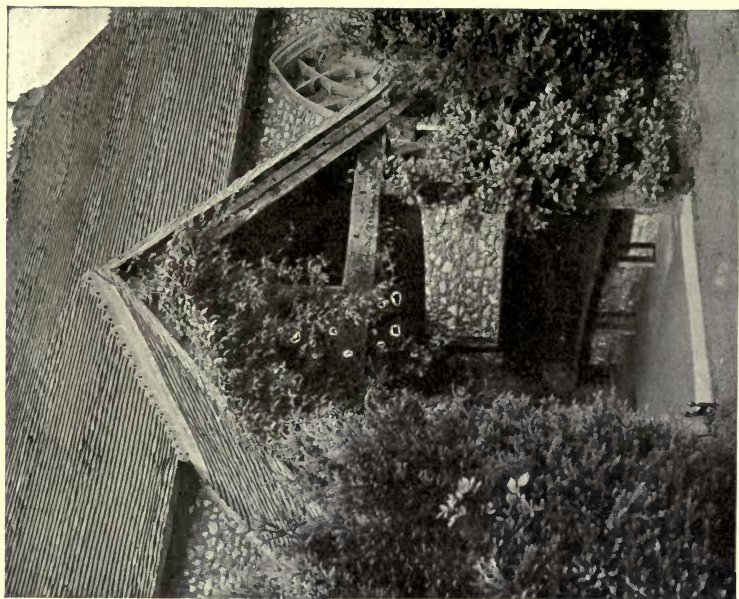
¹ West Clandon has from an early date been known as Clandon Regis, to distinguish it from East Clandon, or Clandon Abbatis, so called from its having been a possession of the Abbey of Chertsey. West Clandon is not *known* to have been a royal manor, but the title implies some right or ownership on the part of the King. See the *Victoria History of Surrey*, Vol. I, p. 325.

² It is not, perhaps, generally known that down to the year 1825 there survived in Surrey one of these timber churches—Frimley Chapel—built in the latter part of the 15th century, which represented the normal pre-Conquest method of building.

The church must always have been closely connected with the great house of the parish, Clandon Park. There has been from a very early date a house of some importance on the site of the present eighteenth-century mansion, and it is probable that in the twelfth century it was used as a hunting lodge by one or more of our kings. This would explain the distinctive name of Clandon Regis. In the latter part of the thirteenth century one Matthew de Boville was in possession of the manor, and his daughter and heiress, Alice, carried it into the Weston family, of Weston, in Albury, by her marriage with William de Weston, who died seized of the manor in 2 Edward II, 1309. In this family it continued till some time previous to the year 1441, when Ann, the daughter and heiress of John de Weston, who had married Thomas Slyfield, of Slyfield House, in Great Bookham, and was his widow, was in possession and presented to the living. The manor passed through the hands of the Slyfields, Vincents and Duncombes, and about 1691 was sold to Sir Richard Onslow, ancestor of the present noble owner.

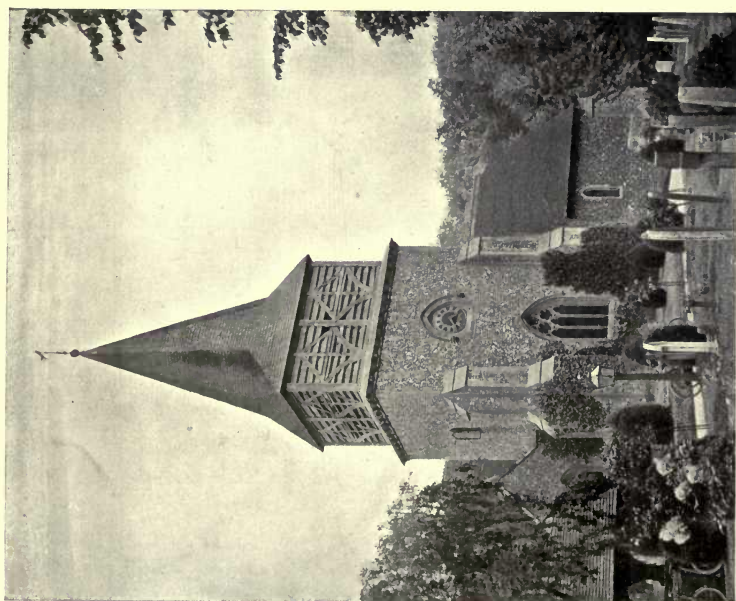
The dedication of the church is to St. Peter and St. Paul. My late friend, Mr. J. L. André, F.S.A., gives it as to St. Martin, but I cannot find any authority for this. Figures of the two Apostles, with St. Thomas of Canterbury, are painted on a piece of fifteenth-century woodwork—perhaps originally part of the rood-screen, or a reredos—preserved in the church.

The church consists of chancel and nave, without aisles, a tower on the north side of the nave, occupying the position of a transept, a south porch, and a modern vestry on the north of the chancel. Internally, the chancel is 24 ft. 1½ in. long on its southern side, by 18 ft. 5 in. at its western end, the corresponding measurements at the east and north sides being rather less, owing to irregularity in setting out. The width is somewhat exceptional in proportion to the size of the building. Still more is the width of the nave—23 ft. 4 in. at its western end—which is nearly half the length, 50 ft. 8½ in. on the north side. Such a wide span is



SOUTH PORCH.

Photo, by J. F. East.

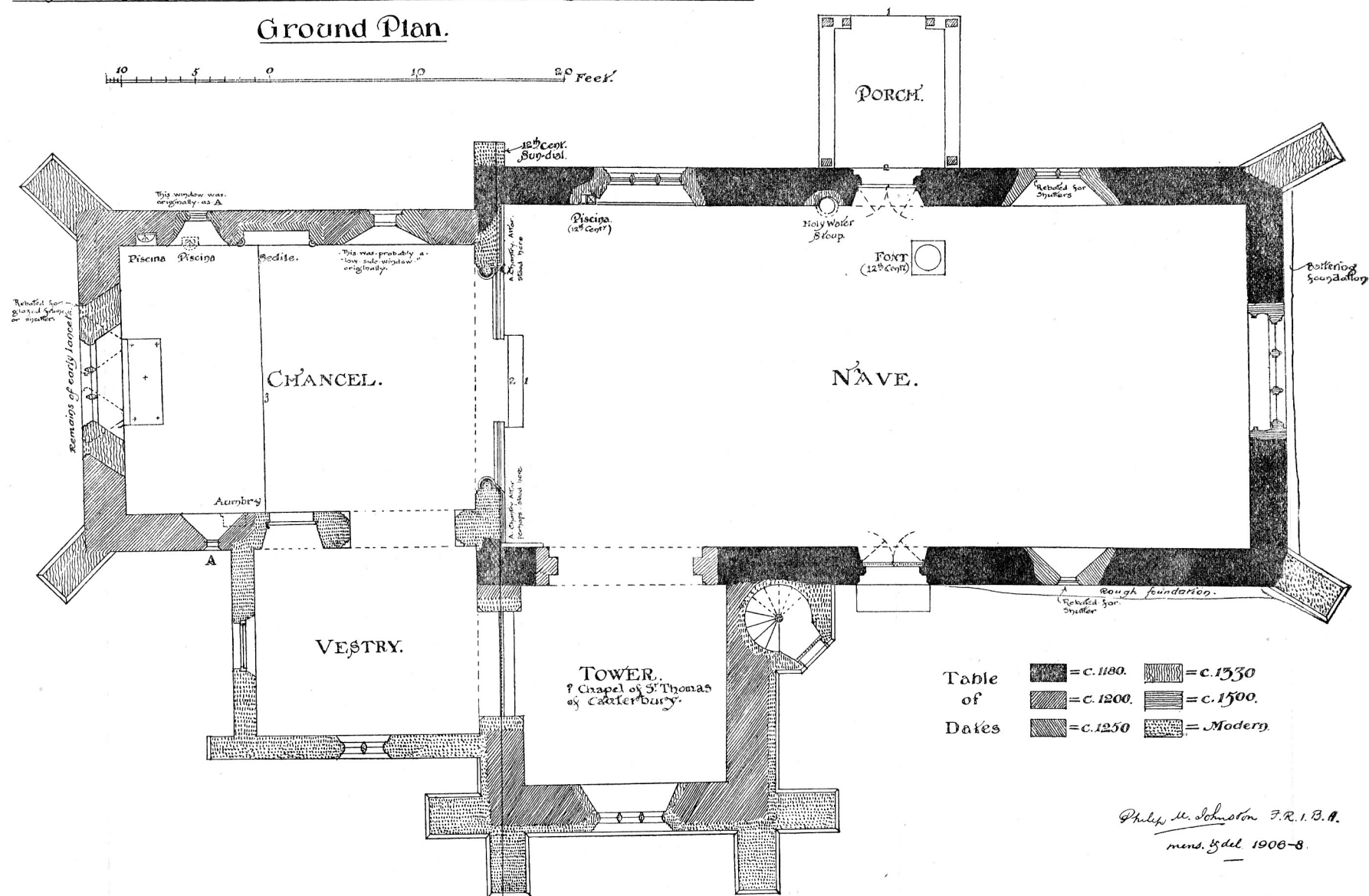


WEST CLANDON CHURCH, from the North.

Photo, by J. F. East.

Church of SS. Peter & Paul, WEST CLANDON, Surrey.

Ground Plan.



quite unusual in a small aisle-less church. There would be difficulty in obtaining tie-beams of a sufficient span, as, allowing for the thickness of the walls—2 ft. 6 in.—they would be over 28 ft. in length. Probably this excessive span was a source of weakness to the roof from the start, for it appears to have been renewed in the fifteenth century (as may be seen from the battlemented cornice fixed to the wall-plates), and it is recorded to have fallen in and to have been reconstructed, mostly with the old timbers, in 1716.

An interesting point in the building is, that its ground plan has remained substantially unaltered since the date of its original building in the end of the twelfth and the early years of the thirteenth centuries. The only question open to doubt is as to whether the chancel, which is slightly later than the nave, may not have been preceded by an apse. On the whole, however, it seems more probable that the wooden chancel of the Saxon church was left standing for a generation after the nave was rebuilt in stone and flintwork.

The present chancel arch is modern, of wide span, and entirely out of harmony with the style of the church. It replaces a narrow obtusely-pointed arch, of plain character, the record of which is fortunately preserved to us in a water-colour drawing in the possession of Mrs. Butler, of Guildford.

Of twelfth-century features remaining in the nave, the north and south doors, a pillar-piscina, and a sundial, are the most noteworthy. All the original windows have disappeared. The two doorways, with circular outer and inner arches, plain except for narrow chamfers on the exterior arch, which is of two orders, continuous with the jambs, remain much as they were first built. Both were worked in hard chalk, or clunch, which was used for all the ashlar work in the several periods until our own days, when that very unsympathetic material, Bath stone, took its place. The jambs of the south doorway and the frames and tracery of several windows were repaired in this alien material. Some early dial marks occur

on the internal jamb of the south doorway. It is unusual to find north and south doorways of the same

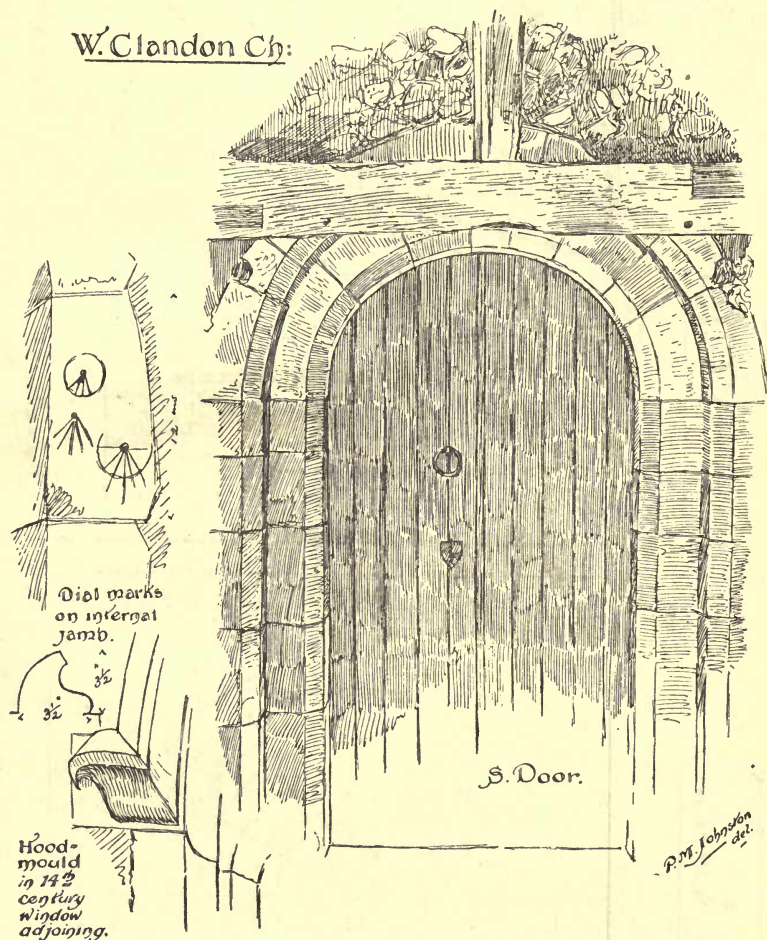


FIG. 1.

size and importance as they are here, the north door is nearly always the smaller and less marked feature.

Built into a modern buttress between the nave and chancel, on the south side, is a very remarkable sun-dial of late twelfth-century date. Its original position was probably somewhere in the neighbourhood of the south

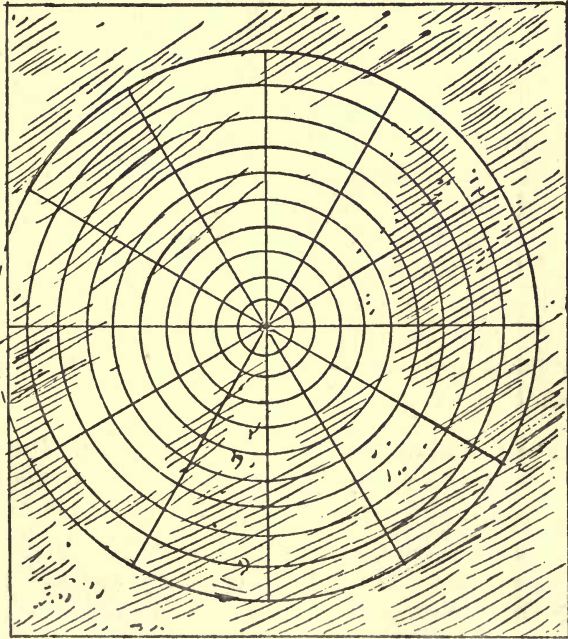
Yapton Ch: Sussex.

West Clandon.

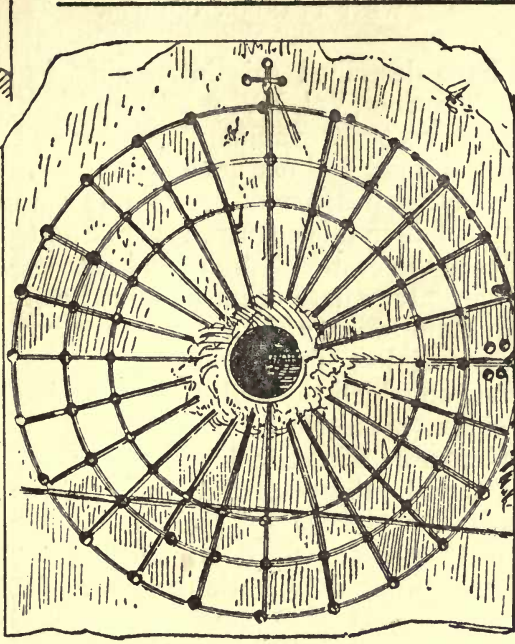
$\frac{1}{4}$ Full Size.

sect 2
of hole
for
gnomon

sect 2
of lines full size
through



? Dial marking on E. respond of N.
Arcade.



Dial built into buttress on
S side of Nave.

sect 2
of hole
for
gnomon

3.5 from original floor

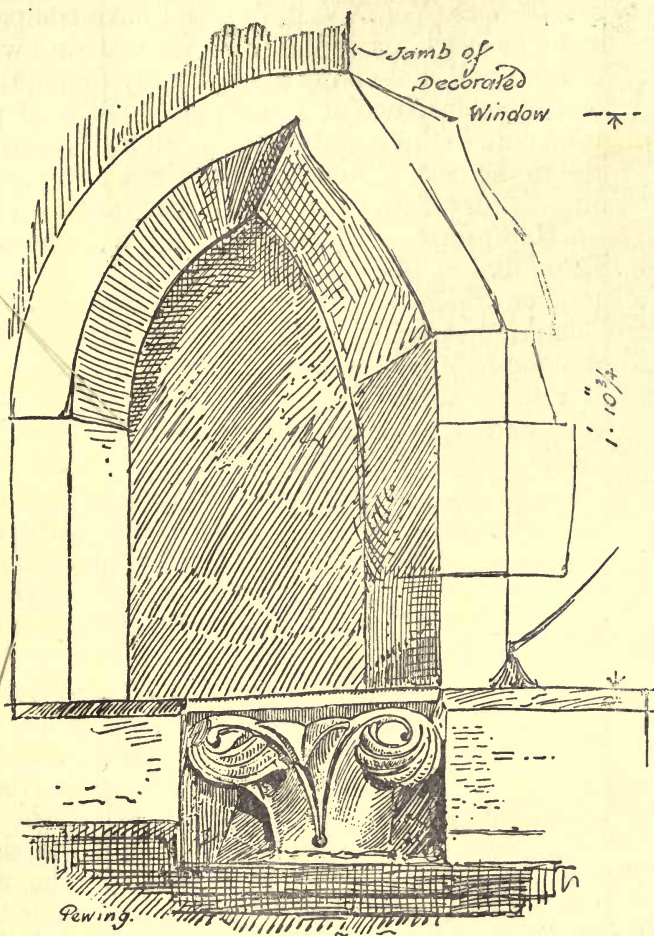
door. I have described this interesting feature in our Society's *Collections* (Vol. XV, p. 74), and have compared it with analogous early examples.¹ So far as I am aware, excluding the small dial-marks so commonly found, there is only one other instance of a veritable sun-dial of pre-Reformation date in this county, viz., at Stoke d'Abernon, a few miles to the east, although two or three of eleventh- and twelfth-century date occur on churches in the same diocese, in Hampshire, and in Sussex we have the well-known Saxon dial at Bishopstone.²

The stone on which the dial is cut is a piece of clunch, or hard chalk, measuring 1 ft. $\frac{1}{2}$ in., by $10\frac{7}{8}$ in. The central gnomon-hole is very deep and regularly cut, and around it radiate three circles, very precisely divided into twenty-four spaces by incised lines of V-shaped section, little cup-shaped dots marking the points of intersection. Four dots mark the hour of 12 midday, and a small ✠ that of 6 p.m. A line, not quite vertical, cuts through the left-hand part of the dial, and is apparently unconnected with the purpose of the dial.

In the cill of the large early fourteenth-century window on the south of the nave is the bowl of a late twelfth-century piscina, of unusual beauty and interest. It has formed part of a pillar-piscina, the bowl being sunk in the capital of the little column, which capital is enriched with conventional foliage of the palm-leaf type. Above it a rude pointed-arched recess has been formed in the angle of the later window-splay. No doubt the shaft and base of the pillar-piscina are blocked in the wall behind the panelling, and they ought to be exposed to view. This is one of the very few pillar-piscinæ remaining in Surrey. One of Early Norman date has lately been brought to light at Compton, near Guildford, and another at Thames Ditton.

¹ As at Covenham, St. Mary, Lincs., and an unfinished dial, built into a respond of the nave arcades, Yapton, Sussex—the latter shewn upon the accompanying illustration. Both dials are set out on the twelve-fold division of time.

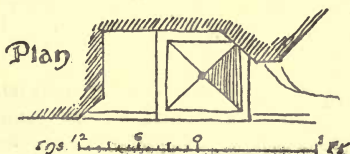
² There are several very interesting dials in Yorkshire, also of pre-Conquest date. The dial on the transept at Chobham, Surrey, is perhaps mediæval.



West Clandon.

Piscina,

S.E. angle
of Nave



P. M. Johnston
del. 19.12.08.

FIG. 3.

The font-bowl, of Sussex marble, square, with shelving sides, having an arcade of shallow circular-headed arches, which have been partly chiselled off, is also of this first period. The modern pillars and base are too high and of incongruous design. Fonts of this pattern, with the square basin, are extremely common in Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Middlesex and Essex, and are found also further afield.¹ They date between *circa* 1150 and 1220, and are executed in Sussex marble quarried in the neighbourhood of Petworth, or the analogous Purbeck and Bethersden (Kent) marbles. They were doubtless made at or near the quarries, and sent to various places as required.

It is impossible now to say whether or no the chancel arch which preceded the existing modern one was of the twelfth century. It appears to have been a perfectly plain pointed-arched opening, narrow and lofty in proportion. One cannot help regretting that in the restoration of 1874 the present incongruous arch, disproportionate in height and width to the Church, was substituted for the ancient opening.

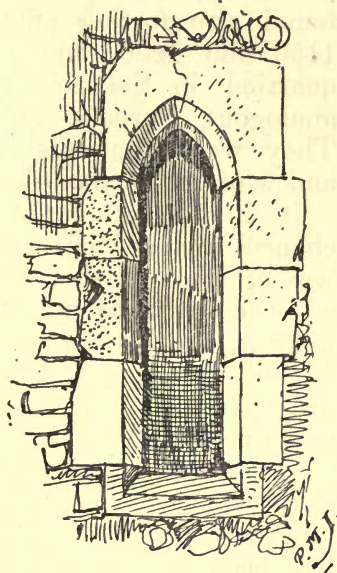
The chancel, which is raised by two steps from the nave, seems to have been built about twenty years later, *i. e.*, about 1200 A.D. Perhaps in the interval (as has been suggested above) the wooden church that probably preceded this did duty as a chancel. There is a slight deviation to the north in the axis of the chancel, a peculiarity of such constant recurrence in mediæval churches as to suggest a definite intention, rather than careless setting out. Only one of its original windows now remains in a perfect state, a short and somewhat narrow lancet in the eastern part of the north wall of the chancel. It is 9 in. wide and 3 ft. high (*see* Fig. 4), and has the internal arch splayed.² The

¹ Similar examples in Surrey are to be found at Beddington, Great Bookham, Capel (a fragment), Frensham, Godalming, Merstham, Mickleham, Ockham (a fragment), and Seale.

² The lancet windows of the Early Pointed period followed the Norman windows in this, the arched heads being splayed equally with the jambs. This treatment gave way to the escoinson, or drop-arch, about 1220. The lancet in the north wall of the nave aptly illustrates the later fashion (*see* Illustration, *post*).

corresponding window on the south side has been enlarged, and its internal head re-fashioned at a later date, probably about 1250: while the western window in the north wall was destroyed in throwing out the modern organ-chamber. Doubtless the chancel, as originally built, had two of these small lancets in each side wall and three in its east wall. Parts of the two outer ones are still visible, both outside and inside, to the right and left of the later east window, the insertion of which caused the blocking-up and partial destruction of the original group. It is possible that, as the internal splays remain on either side, coeval paintings may still exist upon them. They could be partially unblocked without disturbing the large east window between them.

West. Clandon-Ch:



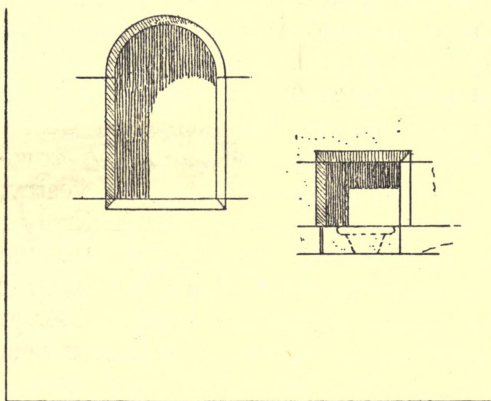
Lancet, N. wall of
Chancel.

FIG. 4.

Of the same period are an aumbry—plain, square and rebated, built of chalk, in the north wall, and two piscinæ in the south wall of the chancel. The former shows the holes for hinge-staples and bolt, and a curious deep hole in its head, which looks as though it had been drilled to receive an iron rod, perhaps for hanging a towel on. The existence of two piscinæ side by side in the south wall is somewhat of a puzzle, especially as they appear to be of the same date, or nearly so. The

eastern is set higher in the wall and is rather lofty, with a plain circular head, a chamfer being carried round. The western is altogether smaller and shallower and square-headed, the jambs and head chamfered: both

West Clandon Ch.



Piscinae in Chancel.

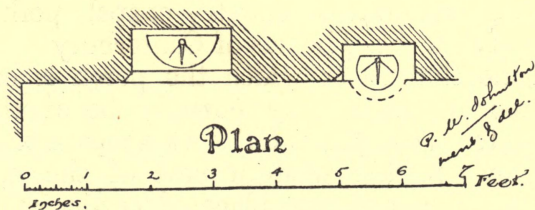


FIG. 5.

have a shallow, circular dishing, with three channels scored therein to conduct the water to the drain-hole. The eastern piscina may have been used for the priest's *lavabo*, and the other for rinsing the sacred vessels: the

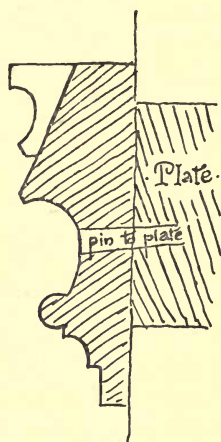
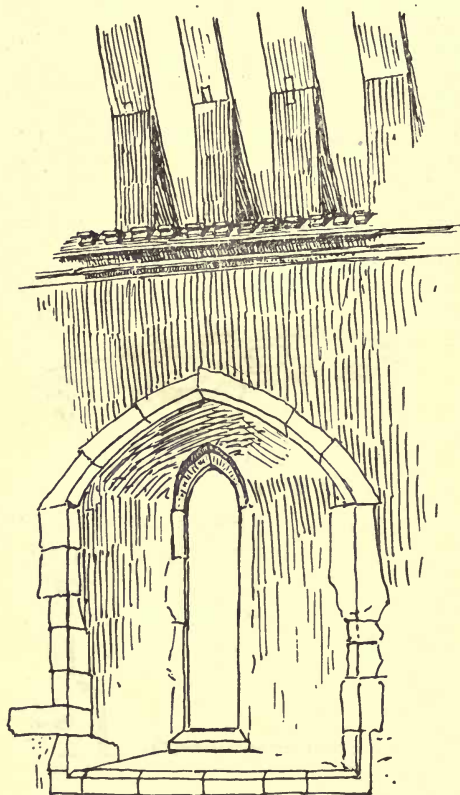
bowl of the latter projected originally, with a moulded rim.

Of the date of the tower, which is somewhat singularly placed on the north side of the nave,¹ we have only the character of the plain pointed arch by which it opens into the church as evidence. This is of chalk, in two chamfered orders, with no capitals or imposts, but having the chamfers carried down the jambs to a short distance from the floor, where they are terminated by pyramidal stops. In its northern wall is a window filled with modern tracery, but its internal arch and splays appear to have belonged to a window of the fourteenth century. In Cracklow's view, 1824 (*see* Plate I), a plain lancet window is shown in the east face of the tower, but this has been destroyed when the modern vestry was built, and the tower re-cased and heightened. The arch to the vestry, the buttresses, stair-turret and cornice, are entirely new. The flint walls of the old tower were carried up very little higher than the walls of the nave: above that height was a curious timber-framed bell-stage, and over this a shingled spire, but the two latter occupied only about three-quarters of the space from east to west, the eastern portion being roofed over by a sort of lean-to. Two raking buttresses of brick added to the picturesque irregularity of the old structure. The ground storey of the tower, now the Onslow Chapel, no doubt originally served as a manorial or chantry chapel, perhaps with the dedication to St. Thomas of Canterbury.

The rude timbers of which the porch is composed, though reconstructed, may possibly be of thirteenth-century date. (*See* Plate II.) At about A.D. 1250 the two windows in the western part of the nave were inserted, no doubt in the place of earlier and smaller openings. That in the south wall has twin-lancet

¹ The tower of Bramley church, Surrey, and that of Wonersh, hard by, are also on the north, while those of Fetcham, Godstone, Limpsfield and Lingfield, are on the south side of the nave. There seems to have been a fashion in this lateral position of the tower during the latter part of the twelfth and early half of the thirteenth centuries.

openings, rebated for a shutter on the inside, while that on the north, a single lancet, is rebated externally. Like the rest of the dressings, they are in hard chalk.



Section of
Moulded Cornice

West Clandon Ch:
Lancet in N Wall.
of Nave westward.
of door, in chalk.

FIG. 6.

In this period, also, the eastern lancet in the south wall of the chancel was enlarged, and a new widely-splayed trefoil-headed opening replaced the small early lancet to the west. Certain indications point to this having belonged to the class of openings known as "low side

windows." Between these two windows is a somewhat small uncommon feature for so small a church, a sedile of lofty height and unusual width, illustrated in the accompanying drawing (Fig. 7). The mouldings of the

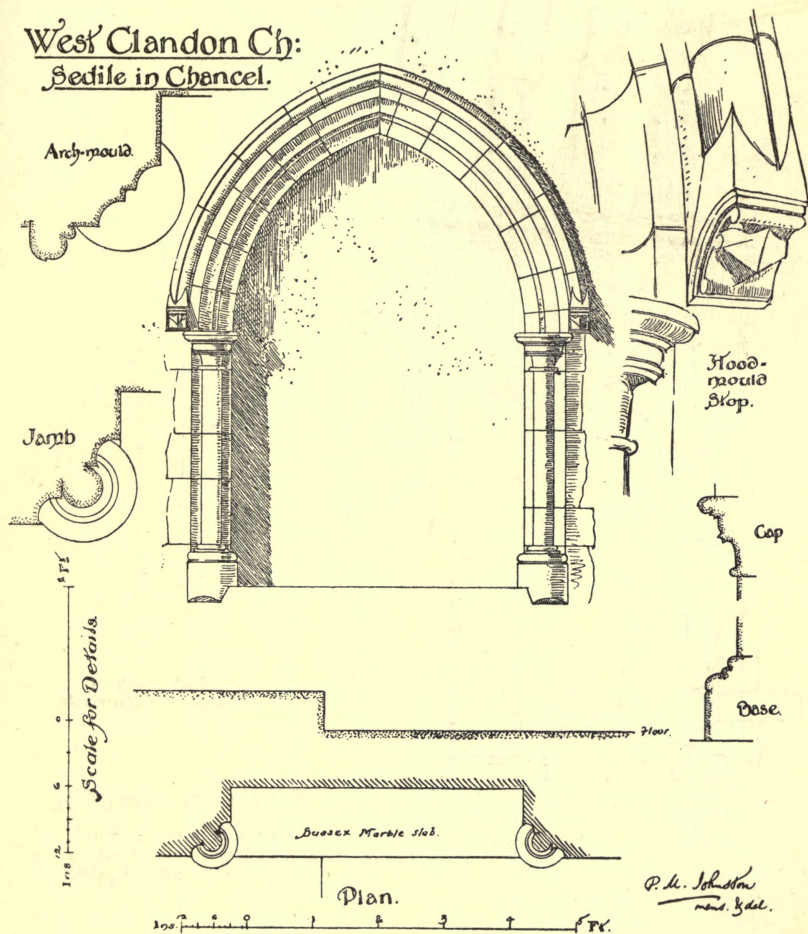


FIG. 7.

pointed arch, with its "mask" corbels and the capitals and bases of the angleshafts, are all good.

Next in order of date are the east window, with the massive diagonal buttress flanking it, another buttress at

the south-west angle of the nave, the stoup by the south door, and a large three-light window in the south wall.¹

West Clandon Ch:

East Window, c. 1330.

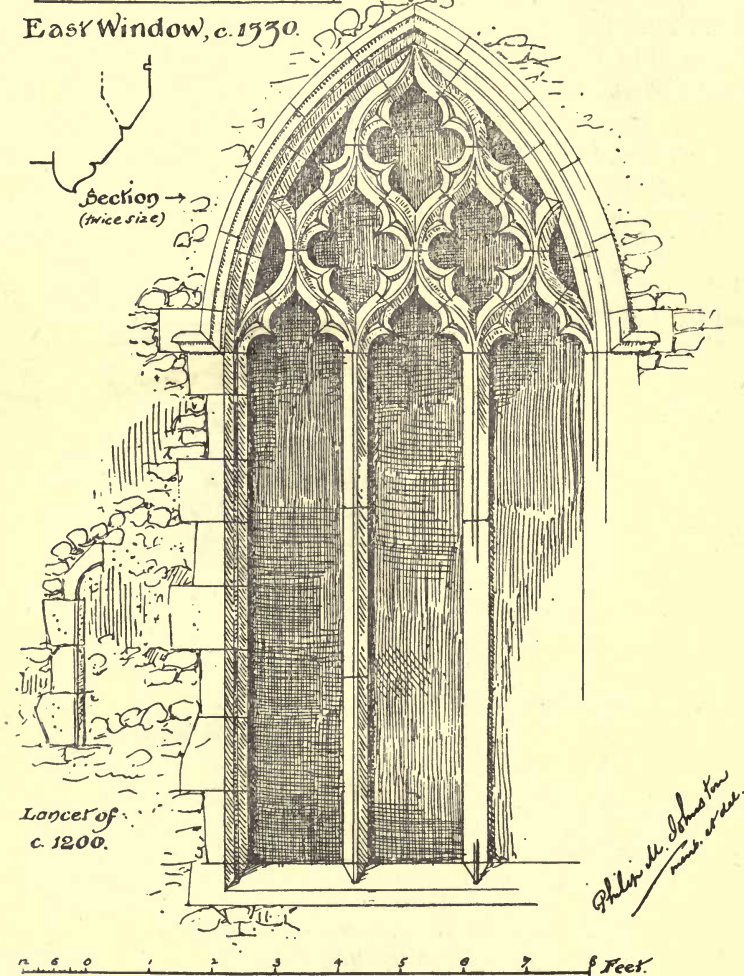


FIG. 8.

¹ The north-west buttress of the nave is modern, made to match that at the south-west angle. It is not shown in the little plan that accompanies Cracklow's view, nor in a sketch dated 1864 by my friend, Mr. Ralph Nevill, F.S.A.

The first of these, in about 1330, replaced the triplet of small lancets. It is of three lights, unusually tall for its position, and the tracery in its head is of the variety known as "reticulated," a singularity being the break in the pattern at the apex, which is best understood by a reference to the accompanying drawing (Fig. 8). Altogether this window is one of the most graceful bits of design that we have in Surrey. A good deal of the tracery has been renewed in Bath stone, but parts remain in the original clunch. The buttresses are good examples of the period.

The traceried window in the south wall, also restored in Bath stone, is of the intersecting type, the spaces between the intersecting mullions being formed by cusping into irregular quatrefoils and trefoils. This window, which may be slightly earlier than the last, has a Kentish look, and may well have been executed by a mason from that county. Forming a keystone in the apex of its internal arch, is a curious heraldic shield,¹ bearing in relief the arms of the Westons—a chevron between three leopards' heads. The whole is rudely carved in chalk, and the heads (*see* the accompanying sketch) are very grotesque and rude: they might just as well be lions or dogs. I

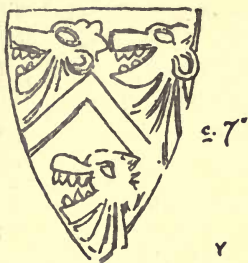


FIG. 9.

¹ Manning and Bray, in their *History of Surrey*, under West Clandon, refer to this shield, and throw doubt upon the coat being that of Weston, as the chevron did not originally form part of the arms of that family. A little later on, however, they state: "2 Henry V, 1415. William Weston of West Clandon makes an attorney to receive possession of the Manor of Halle in Sutton, near Petworth, dated at Sutton. The seal is a chevron between three heads erased, legend—*Sigillum Willm. de Westona*." This seems clearly to prove that the Westons had added the chevron (? through intermarriage with the d'Abernon family) to their coat by the fifteenth century. The three heads which M. and B. could not identify on the seal, were doubtless leopards—the cognizance of the family.

am not aware that the coat has been identified hitherto with that of the Weston family.

The stoup in the south wall has a depressed pointed arch and the remains of a large and deep bowl, originally corbelled out. (Fig. 10.)

Holy Water
— Stoup

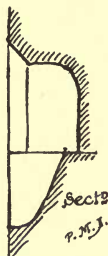
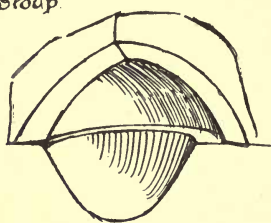


FIG. 10.

The chancel roof, of low pitch, and exceptionally massive timbers, may be of the same fourteenth-century period. It is in excellent preservation: the irregularities of some of the parts are very noticeable.

The roof over the nave is of late fifteenth-century date, although it appears to have been reconstructed, as above mentioned, in 1716. It bears evidence of this in the patchy state of its timbers, and the slender proportions of some in the upper part. Nevertheless, most of the rafters and tie-beams appear to be the original, as does the handsome battlemented cornice tacked on to the wall-plate (*see* Fig. 6).

During the same period the three-light window in the west wall of the nave was inserted, replacing, no doubt, an early lancet or lancets. It is also made out of clunch, and under the segmental head the three sub-arches are cinque-foiled; a suite of mouldings takes the place of the internal splay. This window is largely glazed with coats of arms, placed here by one of the Earls of Onslow in the eighteenth century, to show the numerous quarterings of the arms of his family; the earliest bearing date 9 Edward I, 1281.

For the rest of the painted glass in the church not much can be said. It is neither better nor worse than most modern work of its kind, but the chancel is rendered unduly dark by it, and also by the heavy and dismal grey colour with which the walls have been painted.



PAINTED PANELS, WEST CLANDON CHURCH.

P. M. Johnston, photo.

face 48.

The nave, on the other hand, has been fortunately left with plain quarry-glass in most of its windows, and the walls have been lately coloured in cream, so that the effect is pleasantly bright.

Much of the pewing in the western part of the nave is made up of rich carved work in dark woods, imported from abroad by a former Earl of Onslow.

Allusion has been made above to some ancient panels of oak, painted with figures of saints. (Plate IV.) These came to light, I believe, at the last restoration of the church; and have been wisely framed and glazed for their better preservation. Whether they formed part of a "table" over the high altar, or of the rood-screen, does not seem clear, but there is no doubt that they are of late fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century date, and there is no question that the three nimbed figures thereon represent St. Peter (left), St. Paul (right), and St. Thomas of Canterbury (centre). The two apostles bear their respective emblems, the keys and the sword. The martyred archbishop between them has his right hand raised in benediction, while the left holds the cross-staff. There are traces of gold in the nimbus of each saint, and the figures, which are on a light ground, are coarsely outlined in black. Poor though the style of art is, this fragment has a certain value to antiquaries from the fact that it is almost the only example of mediæval painting on wood remaining to us in Surrey. Painted screen-work is common in the western and eastern counties, but either the colour decoration has all been destroyed, or else there can never have been very much of it in Surrey, Sussex and Kent.

The two oldest of the bells bear the date 1741. One has the inscription: AT PROPPER TIMES MY UOICE IL RAIES UNTO MY BENNIFACTOR PRAISE R O THOMAS LESTER MADE MEE R o 1741.

The plate of the church, besides a seventeenth-century flagon and paten of pewter, includes a good Elizabethan Communion Cup and paten, or cover, of the date 1569: also another paten, inscribed "The gift of ye Right Honble. S^r Richard Onslow Bar^t to ye Parish Church of

West Clandon in ye County of Surrey, 1712." The donor, who was chosen Speaker of the House of Commons in 1708, was in 1716 raised to the peerage with the title of Baron Onslow of Onslow in the County of Salop, and of West Clandon. Dying in the following year, he was buried at Merrow.

The registers date from 1538.

My thanks are due to our member, Mr. J. F. East, for his excellent photographs of the church, reproduced in Plate II; also to our members, the Rev. G. F. Dalton, Rector of West Clandon, and his churchwarden, Mr. Arthur H. Wood, for much assistance most kindly rendered. The above account, originally written as the substance of a report upon the church, is here published by the courteous permission of the latter gentleman.