

GODALMING CHURCH.

BY ALFRED HEALES, Esq., F.S.A.

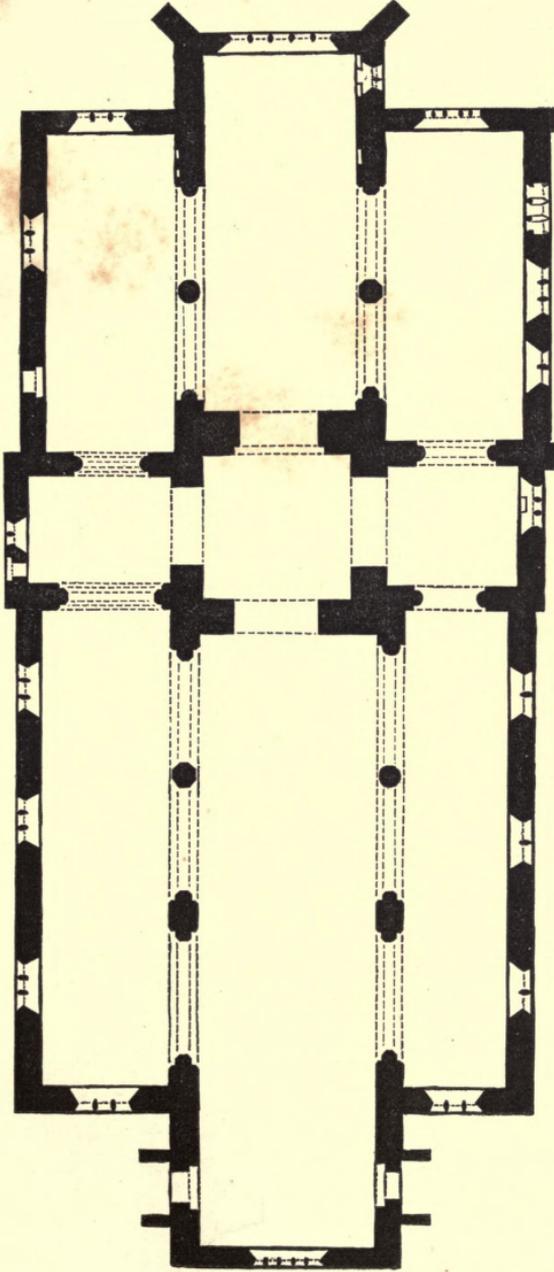
GODALMING, like most other English villages, may be traced back to the Saxon period. The character of the name, indeed, would indicate such an origin, but its precise meaning is still open to conjecture. Aubrey,¹ the old county historian, derives it from words meaning Goda or Godiva's alms—indicating the generosity of that lady to some ecclesiastical or monastic community; but inasmuch as there appears a very strong presumption, if not proof, that it always remained in lay hands, and that the lady Goda or Godiva here mentioned, is not known to have existed except in Aubrey's imagination, his theory carries little weight; and we are prepared rather to listen to Manning,² the more recent and great historian of the county (who was for thirty-seven years, Vicar of this parish), when he attributes the derivation to "Godhelm's Ing," or meadow. The word was spelt at an early date Godelming, with an *e* instead of an *a* as now; and more recently it was usually varied to Godliman. The town was incorporated in the 17th year of Queen Elizabeth, 27th January, 1574-5, by the style of "The Warden and Inhabitants of the town of Godelming."

The Church is dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul;³ its orientation, or deviation of axis from the east, is $4\frac{1}{2}$

¹ Aubrey's *Natural History and Antiquities of Surrey*.

² Manning and Bray's *History of the County of Surrey*.

³ Liber Regis; Aubrey says, St. Nicholas.



116
He del.

Godswams Church.

Scale 1/4" = 1 inch

degrees to the north. The fabric is described by one topographer as a "neat building," but that expression does not convey a correct or adequate idea of its appearance, and it suffered so terribly from alterations made a quarter of a century ago, that it is difficult for an archæologist to speak of the injury in moderate language.

The ground plan is cruciform, with central tower and spire; nave, now longer by a bay than the aisles; small transepts; and spacious chancel and chantries; the former being the longest. The walls are substantially built, partly on account of the nature of the materials, and are almost free from buttresses.

The dimensions are as follows:—

	ft.	in.		ft.	in.
Nave	68	6	long by	20	6 wide.
North aisle	59	7	" "	14	4 "
South aisle	56	6	" "	11	8 "
Tower (within)	16	9	" "	16	9 "
North transept (within)	16	5	" "	12	1 "
South transept	14	3	" "	13	1 "
Chancel	40	7	" "	16	11 "
Vestry space	35	5	" "	14	9 "
South chantry	35	2	" "	16	3 "
Extreme interior dimensions	133	5	" "	54	6 "

So far as one can judge by appearance (in the absence of records), there are no remains of the church which existed in the time of King Edward the Confessor, but the earliest part of the present structure dates from c. 1170 or 1180, that period of transition when the pointed arch, being introduced, speedily superseded the round arch, and opened out into that glorious style termed Gothic. Godalming Church shows a series of architecture far more continuous than is usual in any church under the size of a cathedral or large abbey.

In tracing the history of the church by its architecture, we find the earliest date in the massive arches which support the tower; two are semicircular and two pointed, but they only measure 16 feet from the crown

of the arch to the floor; all except the easternmost (which is recessed on its inner face), have the same flat soffit, or under surface, as if cut straight through a solid wall, and rest upon like plain impostes with the lower edge chamfered. The four immensely massive piers supporting these arches and the weight of the tower, are characteristic of this and the earlier period; their structure no doubt is a shell of masonry filled in with mortar, bits of stone, flint, and rubble. The south-east pier is thickened at the back, perhaps for strength, perhaps to contain a staircase. Some little, lancet-headed windows, light the upper part of the tower, which terminates in a row of corbels supporting a leaded octagonal spire, of the variety called a broach, that is to say, covering the top like an extinguisher, instead of rising from within a parapet, as was usually the case at a later period of architecture. The tower is considered to be one of the best existing specimens of the date in the county.¹

It contains a fine peal of eight bells of no archæological interest, six having had the misfortune to be recast in the last, and the other two in the present century. In the inventory taken by the commissioners in the sixth year of King Edward VI. there are mentioned five bells in the steeple, the largest estimated at 20 cwt., and also a sancte-bell. The latter, recast in 1724, formerly hung outside the spire, near the base,² a position probably unique in this county, though there appear to be several examples in Cambridgeshire;³ but it was removed in 1840 and now does duty at the new cemetery chapel.

The transepts indicate the same date as the tower. In the north transept is a small plain doorway in precisely the same style. In the south transept there is a small recess, no doubt a piscina, but suffering from plaster. In the ancient walls have been formed arches from

¹ *Handbook of Ecclesiology*, xci.

² Apparently represented in Cracklow's *Surrey Churches*.

³ *Handbook of Ecclesiology*, p. 191.

the transept to the aisles and chantries : that on the west side of the south transept (Fig. 1) is not very much later, though the work and materials are incomparably superior

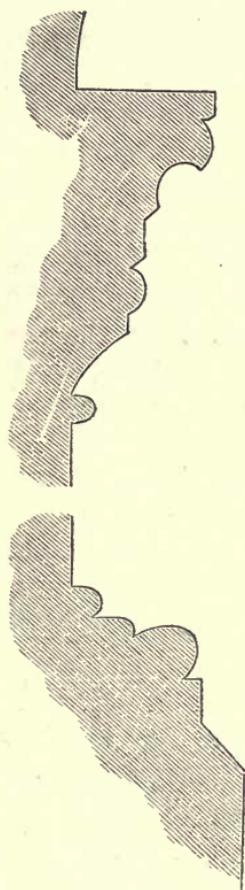


FIG. 1.

Cap to W. arch of S. transept.

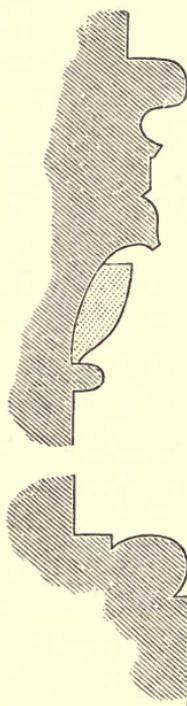


FIG. 2.

S. arcade of nave.



FIG. 3.

N. arcade of chancel.

to those of the tower ; the arch is twice recessed, with a bowtell worked in each angle, and rests on a semi-circular pillar on each side.

Next in point of date are the two nearest arches on the south side of the nave (Fig. 2), twice recessed and chamfered, and resting on massive circular pillars ; the mouldings and rudely-carved foliage remaining on the westernmost cap, and the characteristic base, which may

be seen on the south, indicate the commencement of the 13th century. These two arches mark the original length of the nave; but when the opposite or northern

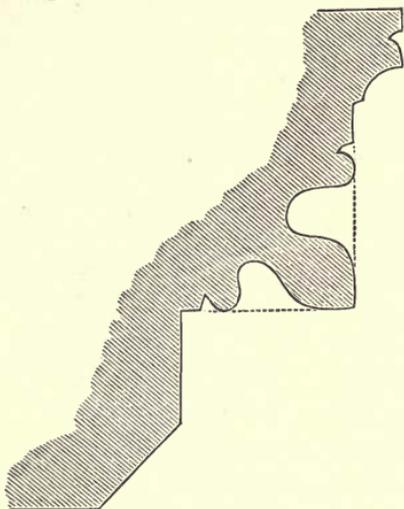


FIG. 4.

E. arch of N. transept.

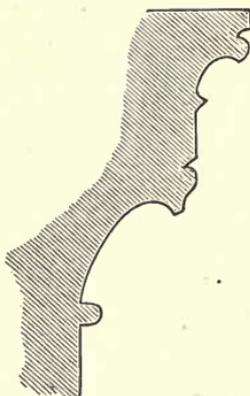


FIG. 5.

*Cap of E. arch of N. transept
(base destroyed).*

arcade was built at a later date, the nave was extended by another arch.

This work was very shortly followed by the erection of the arcade of two arches recessed and chamfered, with a circular pillar (Fig. 3) on the north side of the chancel. In the north chantry is a round trefoil-headed piscina and an aumbry.

After an interval came the arch from the north transept eastwards, which has very good and boldly undercut mouldings of the finest period of Early English work (Fig. 4). The shafts supporting the lower order do not correspond with the caps (Fig. 5), but are quatrefoil in section, and appear to have been removed from elsewhere.

The south side of the chancel and the south chantry,¹ and the arch from the latter to the transept follow in the third quarter of the 13th century

(Fig. 6), though the base-mouldings have an earlier character. In the chantry are three sharply-pointed lancet windows (*see Illustration*) united in the interior into

¹ Formerly belonging to the Westbrook family.—*Manning and Bray.*

one group, with detached shafts of Sussex marble, though the caps (Section, Fig. 7) are but clunch, an example of the practice of mediæval architects to avail themselves of the materials ready to hand. The east end of the chancel formerly had a group of five graduated lancets under one dripstone arch, as shown in Manning's Illus-

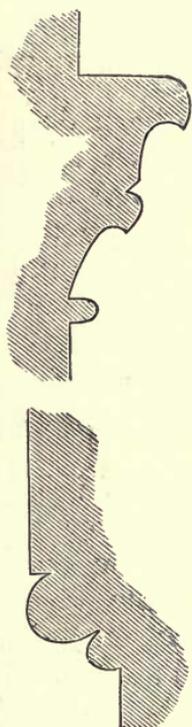


FIG. 6.

*Respond of
E. arch of S. transept.*

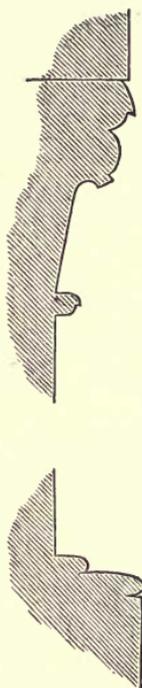


FIG. 7.

*Cap and base of
window of S. chancel.*

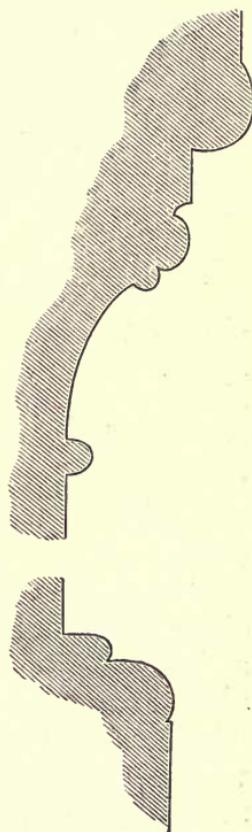
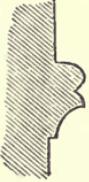


FIG. 8.

N. arcade of nave.

tration, but now superseded by a large and not very elegant window of a later type, and filled with pattern stained glass. In the south wall are a mutilated piscina and two sedilia, far apart, and evidently, from the space between them, two out of a row of four, those in the centre being blocked up by a 17th century mural monument.

At the east end of the chantry is an example of tracery in its earliest form, being a window of five lights, the centre much the widest and highest, on which rest three circles; the whole unfoliated (*see* Illustration). It is singular and interesting, and though not elegant for a model, was copied some years back for a new east window to the vestry or north chantry.¹



Dripstone of
arcade.
S. side of
chancel.

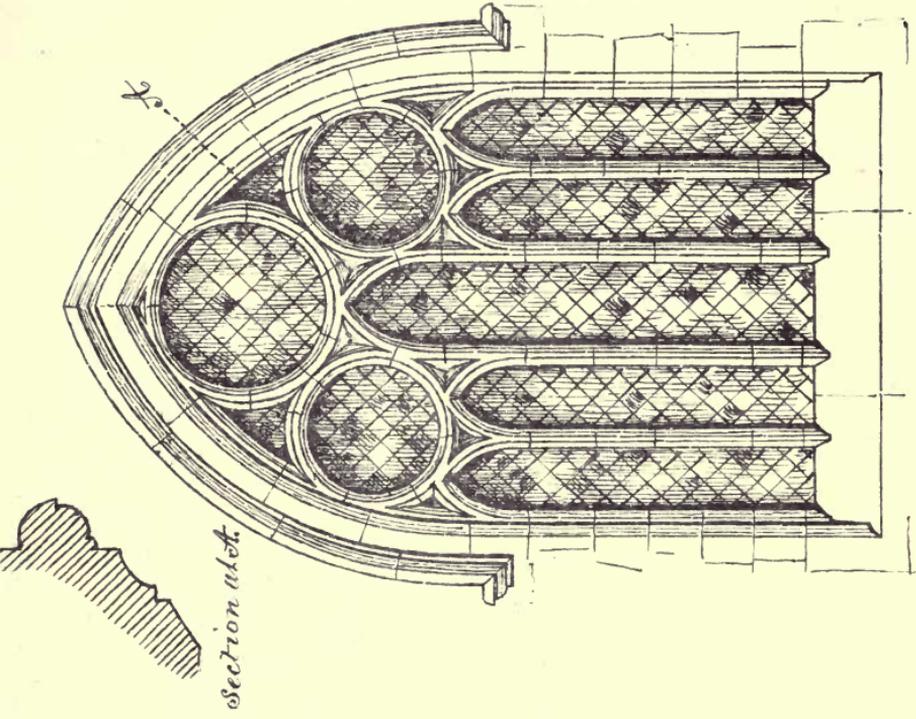
Next we find that early in the 14th century, the north side of the nave was built, and the south side extended westwards another arch; the mouldings of the caps and bases (Fig. 8), which are octagonal, are simple but not ineffective.

After that little seems to have been done, beyond the insertion of a few windows in the 15th century, and the roofing of the nave, part of north aisle, and south chantry, in the time of King Henry VII., as Manning says; but the chantry, only, shows much trace of it, and a number of panels with arms, which he mentions in detail, have disappeared. In the north transept is a three-light window, in which is a fragment of stained glass with a *rose en soleil*.

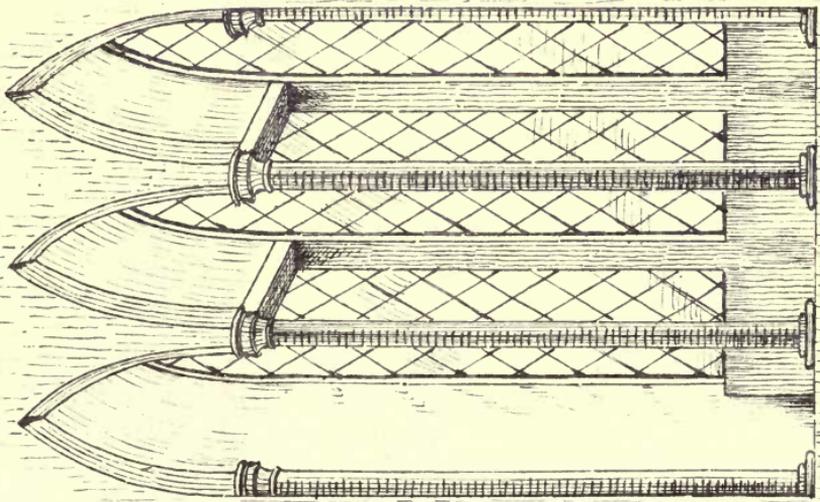
The church has witnessed little but wrong and injury since that date; capacious galleries spread over the aisles and west end, for the sake of which the south aisle roof was raised (as appears by a little lancet window over the west arch of the south transept, now within the building and blocked), and the north aisle roof blistered with dormers.

But in the year 1840 a large sum of money was raised for the repair of the church, and a duplication of the accommodation in point of numbers; with what judgment can be seen by the present state of the church. An additional bay was added to the west end of the nave (but not made any use of); the north aisle rebuilt of rather wider dimensions; a deep gallery covers the west end of the nave, while the aisle galleries almost

¹ Its peculiarity is referred to in the *Handbook of Ecclesiology*, p. 89.



E. Window in S. Chantry.



S. Window in Chantry.

Godalming Church, Surrey.

enclose the nave pillars; terrible galleries cover in the transepts; and nave, aisles, transepts, and chancel floor. are so blocked up with pews that a stranger naturally concludes that the parishioners must all be thin, for no unusually stout person could pass down the narrow passages; the north chantry has been rebuilt and serves for a vestry: a south porch disappeared, while a door of late Perpendicular date was removed from the west end of the nave to the east end of the south chantry.

This completes the architectural history of the church; it presents many features of interest, and an unusual sequence of work and variety of mouldings. From the cruciform plan with central tower standing on massive piers, and small low arches, it is necessarily ill adapted for a large congregation; and the galleries and pews lend a powerful aid in blocking up the little communication left between the chancel and body of the church.

The old chest is a plain, massive structure, 5 ft. 7 in. \times 1 ft. 9 in. Failing anything else to fix a date, we know that it is early from the way in which the lid, shutting over the ends, works upon a wooden pin passed through the ends of the lid and the end of the chest, serving in lieu of a hinge.

Some Perpendicular woodwork now employed to ornament the front of the north transept gallery, was probably part of the rood-screen.

The table in the vestry is a massive Jacobean structure measuring 6 ft. 4 in. \times 2 ft. 8 in. and 2 ft. 8 in. high; it is slightly inlaid, and no doubt was formerly the altar-table, and dates from the time when Dr. Andrewes was vicar.

By the inventory of church goods taken by the commissioners in the sixth year of King Edward VI., it appears that Godalming possessed one gilt chalice of the estimated weight of xi. oz.; two chalices, parcel gilt, weighing xxvii. oz.; and two cruets of silver. The oldest plate now remaining is a silver alms-basin, on which is engraved this inscription: "This bason was made for Godleman Parish: Anno Dom̄i: 1633: John Wood & John Haman beinge Churchwardens." The Hall-mark consists of the following: W.S: (King's) head; lion; P.

In the same inventory are specified eight copes, one being of red cloth of gold; and ten chasubles and suits of vestments, of which one was white tinsel, another green with images, and the rest blue, green, violet, red, black, or white. There were also three altar-cloths, and six hangings for the altar; three corporax cases, and eleven linen robes for children. These, together with five bells in the steeple and a sancte-bell, were committed to the custody of Arnold Champion, John Elliott, John Dunce, and Harry Chettye, 6th Oct. 1552.¹

Two pieces of carved stone forming a ring, and sculptured on the exterior with fretwork, in relief, may have been part of an early font, although the small diameter tells against that supposition.

THE MONUMENTS.

We next notice the monuments. The oldest is a high tomb in the south-east corner of the south chantry; it dates from about the middle of the 15th century, and formerly stood on the opposite side of the same chantry, and has been despoiled of the inscription, which was engraved on brass let into the upper edge, and also of the coats of arms; it was probably erected to commemorate one of the Westbrook family, to whom the chantry belonged.²

Next in date is a brass with this inscription in Black letter:—

“Orate p aiābus Thome Purvoche et Johanne ux’is eius qui quidem Thomas obiit xxii die Septembris A° dñi M° V. ix quorū aiābus propicietur deus amen.”

The effigies are habited in the ordinary costume of civilians of that period, and the engraving is a little worn. The surname has been read Purvdebe, but the

¹ A detailed description of the church goods will be found in a very important paper in the present volume, by J. R. Daniel-Tyssen, Esq., F.S.A., to whom I was indebted for these particulars.

² Manning and Bray.

above appears correct. The slab wherein the brass is set, formerly lay in the middle of the south chantry, but is now near the communion rails, with foot to the north.

Next is a monumental brass with inscription in Roman letter :—

MORS JANUA VITE.

HERE LIETH BVRYED THE BODY OF JOHN BARKER, ESQVIER, THIRD SONNE OF WILLIAM BARKER, LATE OF SVNING, IN THE COVNTY OF BARKS, ESQVIER. HE DEPARTED OVT OF THIS LYFE, BEINGE VNMAIED, VPPON THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF AVGVSTE IN THE FOWER AND THIRTIETH YEARE OF HIS AGE AND IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD GOD 1595.

Above is a small effigy in armour, without spurs; the face looks older than the age named. It lies within the chancel rails. The record in the register runs thus :—

1595. August the xv day was buried John Barker, gentleman.

The arms of Barker, of Berks, are, per chevron engrailed, or, and sable, a lion rampant, counterchanged.¹

The following inscription is in Roman letter, but without any effigy :—

NVPER ERAM, NEC SVM, NECIS AFFERO, NVNCIA NESIS
ES MODO, QVALIS ERAM, SVM MODO QVALIS ERIS.

HERE LYETH BVRIED THE BODYE OF MARY ELIOTT, ONE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM BARKER, ESQR., AND WIFE VNTO LAWRENCE ELIOTT, ESQ., WHO HAVING HAD BY HER SAYD HVSBAND 7 SONNS & 3 DAUGHTERS DEP'TED THIS LIFE Y^{re} 14 OF NOVEMB. IN Y^{re} YEARE OF O^B LORD GOD 1600, & IN Y^{re} YEARE OF HER AGE FORTITH. MATURA FATIS.

In the register appear these entries, the only two in the month :

A^o dñi 1600. November.

The v day was buried a child of Lawrence Eliot gent & Mary his wief, unbaptized.

The xvj day was buried Mary the wief of Lawrence Eliot gent.

William Barker, the father of the above-mentioned John Barker and Mary Eliot, was buried at Sunning, Berks, where there is a brass (of which his effigy is lost) to the memory of him and his wife Ann, who was one of the

¹ Burke's *Armory*.

Stoughton family; he died 25th August, 1575.¹ There is also a brass there, with effigies, to William, the father of the last, and his wife and family; he was steward and receiver of the lordship of Sunning, and died 18th September, 1549.² Several others of the family are also commemorated there. One of the Stoughton family was buried in Godalming Church in 1668, as appears by the register; it was a very ancient family, and bore azure, a cross engrailed ermine.³

Lawrence Eliot, the husband of the lady commemorated, was one of that family at Godalming which occupied the chief position in point of rank and numbers. To John Eliott, jointly with John Dunce and Harry Chetty, was consigned the care of the church goods, by the Royal Commissioners in 1553. One Lawrence Eliot of Busbridge, in this parish, received a grant from King Henry VIII. or Edward VI., of a chapel situated near his house and called the "Old Mynster," together with the cemetery round it; both have been desecrated and destroyed, for though the field is known by the name of the Old Minster Field, no other trace remains.⁴ Lawrence, to whose wife the brass was laid down, died on the 14th September, 1619. Sir William Elyott, Knight, a son of his, was one of the vouched witnesses, and the chief one in point of standing, to the articles (subsequently mentioned) against Dr. Andrewes; he was married thrice, had a family of twenty children, and died⁵ on the 7th December, 1650. Josias or Joshua, another of the witnesses, was his brother.

The Christian name Lawrence has been continued in each generation of the family down to the present time.

In the chancel is a mural monument with a kneeling effigy of Judeth Eliott, wife of William Eliott, of Busbridge, Esquire; she died in 1615, aged 21.

The arms of the Eliott family are given as Azure, a fess or; also, Or, 2 bars gules, and in chief 3 crescents

¹ *Manual of Monumental Brasses.*

² *Ashmole's History of Berkshire.*

⁵ *Aubrey.*

³ *Burke's Armory.*

⁴ *Manning and Bray.*

of the field; and sometimes the 2 coats were borne quarterly.

One must not omit to state that the Rev. Owen Manning, B.D., author (jointly with Mr. Bray) of the admirable history of the county, was Vicar of Godalming for thirty-seven years; he was also Rector of the adjoining parish of Pepperharrow, and a Canon of Lincoln. He died on the 9th September, 1801, aged 81, and was buried here.¹

THE REGISTERS.

The Register-Books are very well kept, and in no part is there better writing or more care shown than at the beginning. The earliest entry (followed by two others in the same day), is—

Anno Dñi 1582, April.

The ffyth daye was baptized Margaret the daughter of Lawrence Chytty ande Constance his wyff.

And the first entry of marriage relates to one of the same family, which still inhabits the parish.

1583. May.

The vth daye was married Harry Chitty and Julian Jower.

The earliest recorded burial is this :—

Anno Dñi 1583, Aprill.

The vii day was Buryed Alice the daughter of John Roker and Alice his wyff.

From the regularity and apparent continuity of writing, the register would seem to be a transcript up to the year 1594. The water-mark for the leaves containing entries from 1591 to 1593, is a shield bearing three fleurs de lis, with a chief invecked, and a quatrefoil in place of a crest, and on a scroll beneath is the name "Simeon Nivelle." An excellent hand takes up the register until the end of March, 1599, and recommences in July, 1603, continuing to the end of March, 1605, when commences

¹ Manning and Bray.

a complete change in the style of writing, though not in form or spelling. During the interval between the periods of good writing, the register seems to have been much neglected; in 1600 there are no entries of burial in August, but one in September, two in November, and none in December. A different handwriting is perceptible in September, 1612, and a further alteration in 1619. These earlier changes are mentioned as being the most noteworthy.

Between the 19th and 21st March, 1609, there appears a note in the part of the register relating to burials—

Waltar Lowicke Came In too bee Clarke at this time.

And in the part relating to marriages, it states, as a marginal note, that

Waltar Lowick was chosen Clarke at this time.

The second volume begins 7th April, 1626, and a marked change of writing appears in March, 1636, whence, until 1642, each page is signed at the foot, "Nico: Andrewes, Vic. de Godalmyn." Against him Articles of Complaint were presented to Parliament by certain of the parishioners, from which (making reasonable allowance for the force of party feeling patent on their face), it would appear that a limitation in the supply of sermons was the main charge. His living was, however, sequestered by order of Government, and he was imprisoned, and died from the effects of barbarous treatment. The articles are given at length in a very interesting paper, which was contributed to this society by J. Evans, Esq., F.S.A., from materials amongst the family papers of More Molyneux, Esq.¹ Perhaps the persecution from which he suffered may partly account for the incompleteness of the register during his time; as for example in 1637, from December to April inclusive, there are no entries of marriages; and after his removal, from December, 1650, to June, 1652, inclusive, there are but five.

¹ *Surrey Archæological Collections*, ii. 210.

Volume three commences thus:—

February the eighteenth day, one thousand six hundred fifty and three.

Joshua Badger of the pish of Godalming was approved & sworne Register of the same according to a late Act of Parliament to that purpose made & provided. In Witnesse whereof we have heerevnto sett our hands.

RI. ONSLOW.
ARTHUR ONSLOW.
RIC. BLAGRAVE.

Sir Richard Onslow, Bart., resided at Cranley;¹ he died 19th May, 1664, aged 63; Arthur, apparently his brother, and afterwards baronet, also resided at Cranley, and died 21st July, 1688, aged 67. The Blaggrave family were of Bullnashe Court, Berks, but appear to have been connected with this neighbourhood; a brother of Richard, named Robert, described as of London, married one Anne Pyke, of Surrey.²

The first page in this volume states that it was purchased by George Bridger and John Keen, churchwardens. It is headed, "1653, Cristnings," and the next page, "1654, Births and Cristnings;" the dates of both events are frequently inserted, and there are many erasures and interlineations—saying little for the care or competence of Waltar Lowick.

In December, 1661, the part for burials is signed "Sam: Speed, Vicar;" and in December, 1663, the part for marriages bears the same signature and that of "George Marchall, Clarke;" the latter died in 1680, and his burial is thus entered:—

1680. March the eight, George Marshall Clarke.

Georgius Marshal Hierodulus sepultus fuit 8^{vo} die Martii
A^o dñi 1680.

In 1682, the character of writing, or court-hand, changed to the modern style.

The fourth volume commences by informing posterity that it was bought on the 24th May, 1688, by John

¹ Manning and Bray.

² Ashmole's *Berks*.

Tofte and John Cheesman, churchwardens, at the cost of eight shillings; but it contains no entry of special interest.

There is little change in the form of entry in either portion of the register from the commencement, and the extract given above is the only instance in Latin.

Among the baptisms are no records of illegitimate children until 1606 and 1607, when three occur; and subsequently they are found, but not so frequently as in many parishes. In one example the paternity is very delicately hinted at:—

1645. October the 26th John, son of Thomas Finche's maide servant.

On the 5th November, 1600, was buried an unbaptized child of Lawrence Eliot and Mary his wife, the latter of whom was buried on the 16th of the same month.

On the 19th October, 1615, an unbaptized child of Bezaleel Redferne and his wife An; the latter died on the following day; in 1616, a son of his by Jane Waldred, was baptized by his Christian name, after which (it is presumed) he married again, and in February, 1617, had two sons, by his wife Martha, christened respectively George and *Elis*—perhaps intended for *Elias*.

From about this period and rather earlier, the entries of burial very frequently state that the person died unbaptized; but previous instances occur even in 1585 and 1586, amongst the very early entries in the register.

But few single entries are worth extracting; the baptisms and marriages are simple records of the fact, though a few examples from the burial register deserve to be noted. In 1585 was buried Thomas Twoorner, a sayler dwellinge in Portsmouth; and three years later, Thomas Yeale of the parish of Ports by Portsmouth; Godalming being on the high road to London:—

1608. April. The ix day was buried at lannaways Crosse a stranger w^{ch} hanged him selfe at John Denier's howse.

1613. Aprile. The last day was buried Gilyane Smithe, an ould maide.

1614. Marche the xxviiith day was buried ould Gooddy Peto, the widdo of Lawrance Peto.
 1617. Dec. The ii day was buried Richard Ogman a stranger, servant to M^r Thomas Cooper of Borlea, in y^e County of Berkes, who died at Fentmore by a fall from his horse.
 1630. 4 April. Johan Smith, singellwooman.
 1653. Three children still borne.
 1654 & 6. Persons described as of the Alme's house.

Then came the plague, which was very terrible, and lasted from the end of July to November, 1666. The first entries are these:—

1666. July 24, William Smith & his 2 children of y^e great sicknes.
 August the 3th, John Coston's wife, Mary Jesup, Martin Randall, Arnoll Edwards; distemper.

On the 15th was buried a child of John Coston's, from the Pest-house; on the 25th Ishell Coston, at the pest-house, and on the 19th October, at the same place, Henery Coston, the sexton.

On the 5th August, a child of John Randall, and the next day himself, and on the 14th Denis his wife; on the 12th August, Stephen Tickner, the next day his apprentice, and on the 23rd his children, the number not mentioned; these will serve as examples of mortality in particular families, showing the exceedingly contagious nature of the malady. There are several entries of burial "in ye garden," and in these months only the word "consumption" is added in several cases. The register does not always state that the deaths were occasioned by the "distemper," where such evidently was the case, so that the number recorded as arising from that cause is clearly but a portion of those to whom the plague was fatal, and the number 38 is an insufficient minimum.

In 1668, Cicilia Stoughton was buried in the church, which became a common practice from about fourteen years later.

1669. Aug^t 28 Mary Underwood } both by misfortune.
 29 Thomas Caringham }
 1672. October y^e 10th. Thomas Hood killed w^t a bull.

1684. Sept. 19 day Mr Peeter Cadman, a trooper, in the church.
 Jany 29 day Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Platt, knyght,
 & Rebecka his wife ; in the church.

The Platt family resided at Westbrook, in this parish ; Sir John was baptized 26th December, 1649, and died 17th June, 1705 ; his wife was the daughter of Sir Thomas Stringer, knight.

1685. October 31 day. M^s Jane Edwards Brought from London and Buried in this church.

Though not archæological in point of date, it is worth noting in evidence of the customs of the period, that in 1726, "Henry Porch, a stranger, had the Black Cloth ;" in 1748-9, at the burial of an infant of Thomas Musgrove, "candles paid ;" and in 1749 and 1753, "a sermon paid."

A few facts are recorded, inofficially as it were, in the margin and at the ends of the books ; amongst others is a licence to eat flesh in Lent, as follows :—

To all Christian people to whome this present writing shall come. I Nicolas Andrews, Vicar of Godalmyn in y^e County of Surry, doe hereby give licence unto Frances y^e wife of John Porter, of y^e town of Godalmyn aforesayd, who now lyeth in Childbedd sick, to eat flesh for & during y^e time of her present sickness. In Witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand y^e one and Twentieth day of February in the yeare of our Lord 1639.

NICO : ANDREWES, Vic : de Godalmyng.

Aprill the 26th 1658. Heare was taken a vagarant, one Mary Parker Widow with a Child, and she was wipped according to law, a bout the age of Thirty years, proper of personage ; and she was to goo to the place of her birth, that is in Grauesend in Kent, and she is limited to IIIJ days, and to be caried from Tithing to Tything tell she comes to the end of the s^d jerney.

This sentence, merciless as it appears, was in strict conformity with the Act of Parliament, 39 Eliz. cap. iv.,¹ "For the Suppressing of Rogues, Vagabonds, and Sturdy Beggars." It first details who are included in these classes, beginning with all persons calling them-

¹ Statutes at Large.

selves scholars going about begging; all idle persons going about in any countrey either begging or using any subtil craft or unlawful games or plays, or feigning knowledge in physionomy or palmestry; patent-gatherers; common players of interludes, other than players belonging to any Baron of the Realm; juglers, tinkers, pedlers, and petty chapmen; and generally all wandering persons using, loytering, and refusing to work for reasonable wages, or pretending to be Egyptians. These are to be taken, adjudged, and deemed rogues, vagabonds, and sturdy beggars, and on apprehension, to be, by appointment of any justice of the peace, &c., being assisted therein with the advice of the minister and one other of the parish, stripped naked from the middle upward and openly whipped until his or her body be bloody; and then sent from parish to parish to his or her last residence, and in default of going there within a time to be limited, to be eftsoons taken and whipped again. But the culprit was to receive a certificate, to be entered in a book kept for the purpose by the minister of the parish, under a penalty of five shillings. Other penalties are enacted for defaults in carrying out the provisions of the Act, which came into operation at Easter 1597. It was continued and altered in subsequent reigns, and repealed by the 12th Queen Anne, stat. 2. cap. xxiii.¹

1668. Sept.

y^e 8th y^e bells did ring, his ma^{tie} going by.

y^e 14th y^e bells did ring when his ma^{tie} went by;

and a similar entry was made by the topographer, Mr. Manning, on the 22nd June, 1773, when the King went through Godalming on his way to Portsmouth at 6 o'clock in the morning, and returned on the 26th at 11 a.m.; also that he made a similar journey with the Queen on the 2nd May, 1778, returning a week later.

1668. May the 8th y^e lady Ford came thro' y^e Towne & p^d all dutye to y^e min^r clk & sexton for proffer^s to burie her.

When a corpse passed, in transit, the authorities, on

¹ Statutes at Large.

attending and offering to perform the ceremony, claimed to be entitled, by custom, to the fees which they would have received had the offer been accepted; but such custom has more recently been held to be void in law.¹

At the end of volume three (therefore presumptively *ante* 1688), is the address—"Mr. Will. Hawell at the Cocke pitt in shoo lane;" and also these memoranda:—

George Chitty sealed his Bond Sep^t 17, 1671.

1661. May the 6. Jo. Tonsley, & John Coston, Tho^s Snelling began to write.

In 1752. Here ends the old style:—

Henry Hooke, Clark,
September y^e 2 day.

Beyond these it only remains to note a few facts on names.

A very large proportion of families have continued to reside in Godalming from the commencement of the registers, in 1582, to the present period, though how long before that time they may have been settled in the parish there is nothing to indicate. Out of less than fifty names, taken at hazard from the earliest records, thirty exist in the parish at the present day; amongst which are Coston the present parish clerk, Mr. Eliot the rector of the adjoining parish of Pepperharrow, Billingham, Chitty, Woodyer, and similar examples.

On looking to the Christian names, we meet, as early as 1584, with baptisms by the name of "Godly," and two years after a mother of the same name. Zachary, Absolon, David, Sydrak, Abel, Elias, Jehoshua, Simeon, and last (not least), Bezaleel, of whom the most prominent is Bezaleel Redferne mentioned not very creditably; all these occur before the year 1600. Deodatus Champion was baptized in 1617. Lawrence was the most popular name for a boy. Among female names at the same period, are Deborah, Martha, Abigail, Priscilla, Patience, and Damaris. Julyan, as a female name, was very common

¹ *Jura Ecclesiastica*, ii. 354.

in the earlier period; and in 1606, a girl was christened Adrian.

We notice also that to a very large number of burials, there is added the significant word "unbaptized."

From these facts we learn that the Puritan element was, from a very early period, exceedingly strong in the parish, readily accounting for the persecution of Dr. Andrewes, the vicar, about the time of the great rebellion. It is thus, by coupling one fact with another, that points of history may reasonably be elucidated.

To revert, in conclusion, to the present state of the church. An archæologist, like an historian, is bound "nought to extenuate" if "nought set down in malice," and it is too often his duty to comment strongly upon that which he sees. So here, it becomes a duty to express most sincere regret that this fine church should still suffer from the ruthless treatment it received in 1840; but let us hope and anticipate that ere long the rising taste for art and propriety, and the good sense and feeling of the parishioners will set right the wrong done by their predecessors; and I trust that in the interval no accident may happen or conflagration take place, for it would be frightful indeed were the gallery-loads to rush, from danger or alarm, down the perfectly inadequate and unsafe means of exit, to block up the narrow passages below. Family comfort (if that is the theory of the present arrangement) should give way to public propriety, and the edifice be restored from its present state—a nest of private boxes—to a decent, suitable, and noble House of Prayer.