

THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, NEWDIGATE SURREY

BY
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SUMMARY OF CHURCH HISTORY

THE earliest dateable features in the church are of *c.* 1200; the church then consisted of chancel, nave and south aisle. The south-west window in the chancel and the priest's door are of *c.* 1250.

Early in the fourteenth century the south aisle was extended eastwards to form the Cudworth chapel. The tower was probably built early in the fifteenth century and at about the same time the south arcade was rebuilt, retaining only the original central pier.

The north arcade and north aisle date from 1876-7, when the porch was built and a small vestry added. The latter was enlarged in 1906.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE PARISH

Like many Wealden parishes, Newdigate has always had a comparatively small population scattered over a large area. Its name is probably a contraction from its old spelling of *Newoodigate* from *on-Ewood-gate*, i.e. the road to Ewood (situated in the north of the parish). This road, leading from Reigate through Ewood to Rusper and beyond, served as a link between the Surrey and Sussex lands held by the Norman family of de Warrenne from the eleventh century onwards. The church stands on a slight eminence adjoining this same road, and because of its position, can be seen from many outlying parts of the parish. Because of the difficulty of clearing the dense woodlands here, land has been annexed as and when it was fit for cultivation, and this rather haphazard settlement led to the boundaries of the parish being ill-defined for a long time. It was even divided between the hundreds of Copthorne and Reigate. In a community of isolated farmsteads, more or less self-sufficient, the church was, and is, the only unifying factor, supplying both spiritual and temporal needs.

Newdigate and its church are not mentioned in Domesday Book, and it is presumed that this church, together with others in the Weald, was a chapel dependent on Reigate, then called Cherchefelle, and containing the seat of the de Warrennes at Reigate Castle. In the earliest known document¹ which mentions it individually by name, it is referred to as *Capella de Neudegat*; this is a charter of Hamelin de Warrenne confirming a previous grant of the living to the Priory of St. Mary Overie, Southwark. (Plate IX(b).) The

¹ British Museum, Cotton MSS. Nero C III.

probable date of this was 1163, the year in which Hamelin acquired his title and estates through his marriage; an earlier grant in 1106 of Reigate to St. Mary Overie probably included Newdigate.

The seat of the Newdigate family, who, according to John Aubrey,² settled here in the reign of Henry I (1100-35) was about 1½ miles to the south (now Home Farm), suggesting that there was already a church or chapel on this site at the date of their arrival, or it would have been built nearer their residence.

In the Taxation of Pope Nicholas, 1291, the living was valued at £8 and the tithe was 16 shillings. For a time the advowson was in private hands (William de Newdigate held it in 1357), but by the time of the Dissolution it had again passed to St. Mary Overie. In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, 1535, the assessment of monastic property on the eve of dissolution, the living was worth £8 18s. 4d. and the tithes 17s. 10d. It then came into the hands of the Crown, where it has remained, the present patron being the Lord Chancellor.

The inventories made in the reign of Edward VI (1547-53) give some idea of the church and its goods in pre-Reformation times. For example, there were 'Candylsteckes of pewter which stood before the rood-loft', and of the two vestments listed, one was 'Off crimson satten off bridges [Bruges]' and the other 'Off grene satten.' There was also a cope 'Off crymsyn damask.'

THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH (FIG. 1)

Although the upper parts of the east and south walls of the chancel (and probably of the walls of the south aisle also) were rebuilt in 1876-7, the faculty then granted specified that the original material should be re-used. Building stone is rare in this part of the Weald; such small seams as exist are quickly exhausted. This accounts for the use of a variety of stone, each kind in small quantity. The main kinds are: Paludina Limestone or Sussex Marble, and Tilgate Sandstone. The former was probably quarried near Stanhill, Charlwood, and the latter about one mile east of the church. There is also some Bargate Stone which outcrops near Halesbridge, and some fragments of iron-pan from the plateau gravel at Henfold. Reigate Stone was also used, and can be seen in the unrestored parts of the south-west chancel window, the east window of the south aisle and the quoins to the south of it. All these stones could have been obtained within a radius of six miles. The east and south windows of the chancel were heavily restored in 1876-7, using a harder, brown stone, but the faculty stated that their original design was to be followed. The triplet of lancets which form the east window and the single, widely-splayed lancets to the north and south of it may therefore be dated c. 1200. The original rear arches and quoins can be seen inside. A piscina occupies part of the recess of the south lancet, which has also been adapted as a simple seat for the priest. To the west of it is a two-light window with a plain circular light above of about 1250 and a priest's door of the same

² Aubrey, John, *Natural History and Antiquities of Surrey*, IV (1718).

date. The position of this window between the single lancet on the east and the door to the west, with very little space left on either side, suggests that it might have replaced an earlier, smaller window, and that about 1200 the chancel was extended eastwards. The north wall shows signs of disturbance and patching almost opposite, and there could have been a window there also. According to John Aubrey³ there were in the east window 'Three sharp escutcheons of Warren.'

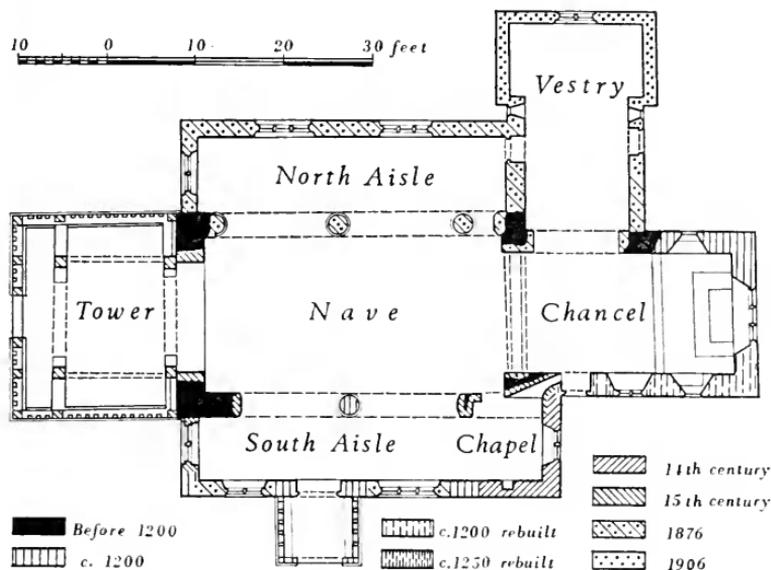


FIG. 1.—NEWDIGATE CHURCH. GROUND PLAN.

Before 1876 the chancel roof was constructed of trussed rafters; it was replaced by the present one which differs only slightly in form. On the exterior it was re-roofed in 1876-7 (as was the whole church) with Horsham stone, 'Incorporating old material.' Before the major restoration of that date, there were numerous inscribed gravestones set in the floor. One of these is now under the tower where it has been placed at the foot of the larger gravestone of William de Newdigate. The indent of the brass plate (see *Memorials* below) can easily be seen. The faculty of 1876 also provided for the rebuilding of the chancel arch which was more rounded and a little lower before that time.

Although the double-chamfered arches of the south arcade (Plate XI) seem to be of fifteenth-century date, the stone of the massive circular pier shows diagonal tooling which, together with its size and shape, point to a date not later than that of the east end of the chancel. The south aisle itself is narrow, and therefore early, so it seems probable that the arcade was rebuilt with wider and higher arches and new responds. The octagonal capital of the central pier

³ Aubrey, *ibid.*, p. 263.

dates from this remodelling, and probably the much smaller arch to the east of the main arcade. The early-medieval nave roof of trussed rafters with three tie-beams, one supporting a post under the collar, has been left exposed since the restoration of 1876-7. The tie-beam at the west end is chamfered on the east side only, indicating that the west wall was complete before the tower was added. Before 1876 the returned ends of this wall were very irregular in shape, and each had a piece of timber, 20 inches wide and $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, inset in it. When the north aisle was added in 1877, the arcade was planned to correspond with that on the south. Its building meant the destruction of a late fifteenth-century wall-painting of St. Christopher which faced the south door. This had been discovered in 1859 by the Curate-in-Charge in the course of repairs to the fabric; when the Surrey Archæological Society visited the church in 1872, it was stated to be 'Much obliterated by the injudicious, though well-meant, use of an oil varnish.'⁴ A drawing of it appears in the *Surrey Archæological Collections*⁵ and there is a copy under the tower. The two north windows in the new aisle were copied from those of late fourteenth-century date formerly in the north wall of the nave. (Plate IX(a).)



FIG. 2.—NEWDIGATE CHURCH. WOOD-CARVING ON GALLERY FRONT.

The stone of the south pier has been deliberately flattened on its south face, and there are deep holes for some kind of fixture. This could have been an image or picture, or the holy-water stoup of latten mentioned in the inventories of 1551. There are also various incised marks, mostly crosses and compound crosses whose origin is obscure. One at least approximates to the Templars Cross; the Knights Templars held property here, and had an establishment at Temple Efold, in Capel, about two miles away. There are similar marks on the exterior walls of the south aisle.

Until 1876 a gallery covered the west end of the nave, extending as far as the south door. This was 'Builded by Henry Nicholson, gent. Anno Dom. 1627,' according to the carved inscription on its front which is preserved under the tower against the south wall. (Fig. 2.)

⁴ *Surrey Archæological Collections*, VI (1874), 57.

⁵ *ibid.*, opposite p. 57.

The original south aisle of thirteenth-century date has probably been completely rebuilt in the course of time, though on the old foundations. However, the eastern part which overlaps the chancel, was added in the early fourteenth century by the de la Poyle family (of Cudworth from at least 1298),⁶ to serve as a chantry or family chapel. The west jamb of the south door of the chancel has been cut away, and the south pier of the chancel pierced, in order to make a squint, thus opening up a view of the High Altar from this chapel. Several bequests⁷ by the Newdigate family and others in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries show that there was once an altar dedicated to St. Mary (Our Lady) which was presumably here. The east window of two ogee-headed lights, and the piscina near it in the south wall, belong to the Decorated style of the fourteenth century, and the west window is about a century later. Both these windows, especially the latter, have been much restored; those in the south wall are completely modern. Aubrey refers to the Warrenne Arms 'In a south window,' and according to the Heralds' Visitation of Surrey in 1623,⁸ 'The chapel of Codford in Surrey' contained, among others, 'The arms of de la Poyle repeated.'

Later records⁹ mention only 'The Cudworth Pew' or 'The seat belonging to Cudworth,' and plans drawn just before the restoration of 1876 show seats surrounding the former sanctuary on east, south and west, thus obscuring the east wall and the piscina, and showing that it was no longer in use as a chapel. Today (1965) it is again in regular use.

THE WEST TOWER

The tower is the church's most distinctive feature (Plates VIII, X), and that which gives it vernacular interest. Only one other tower in Surrey, built wholly of timber, retains its original plan—that at Burstow. This one bears a strong resemblance to that at Great Greenford, Middlesex, where another branch of the Newdigate family owned the neighbouring manor of Harefield from about 1350 to 1585.

It consists of three square storeys surmounted by an octagonal spire;¹⁰ its main weight being carried by four great oak timbers 16–17 inches square and 11 feet apart which stand on massive slabs of wood. The aisle which runs outside them serves as a buttress, and between the main posts is an elaborate system of cross-bracing. The smaller upright timbers surrounding the ground floor are set close together, 6–7 inches apart. This lowest section is covered externally with weather-boarding, the sloping section above it with oak

⁶ Inquisition Post Mortem 27 Ed. I.

⁷ e.g. William Manne 1489, who also requests burial in the churchyard of SS. Peter and Paul. Archdeaconry of Surrey. Spage register, 315. Also Thomas Newdigate 1516; Alice Newdigate 1533.

⁸ The Visitation of Surrey made A^o 1623 by Samuel Thompson, Windsor Herald, and Augustyne Vincent, Rougecroix, Marshalls and deputies to Wm. Camden Esq., Clarenceux King of Armes.

⁹ Parish Records. Manning and Bray, *History of Surrey*, II, 176.

¹⁰ See drawing in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, VI (1874), opp. p. 278.

shingles. Above these are the weather-boarded belfry and shingled spire. Its total height is 60 feet.

It probably dates from the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century, the time when Newdigate family fortunes seem to have been at their height, agriculture prospered, and the demand for timber (a major resource here) for ship and house building was considerable. That the tower has survived has been due to constant vigilance. Many of the original timbers have been replaced, the cross-bracing has been reinforced on the north side, and timbers inserted in other places; but much of the original timberwork still survives, with joints secured by wooden pegs. When the number of bells was increased to six, and even more when the clock was added in 1897, some strengthening of the framework would have been structurally necessary. Nevertheless, the original design remains unchanged.

THE CHANTRY CHAPEL

A chantry chapel dedicated to St. Margaret once stood in the churchyard. Thomas Newdigate, who died in 1482, directed in his will that he be buried 'In the chapel of St. Margaret at Newdigate.'¹¹ His son, Thomas, expressed the same wish, and requested 'An obit for his soul to be held in the chapel of St. Margaret yearly for twenty years with the profits . . . of Kymbers Meadow . . . in Newdigate.'¹² The will of another Thomas, as quoted by Bray, states that the chapel is *in the churchyard* of Newdigate.¹³ It is unusual in this country to find a chantry chapel detached from the church, but foundations are said to have been seen during grave-digging to the south-east of the chancel. It was certainly gone by 1576, when the head of the family expressed a wish to be buried 'In the middle pavement before the glass window where the Newdigates Arms are sett.'¹⁴ (See *Glass* below.) Aubrey heard the chapel mentioned, and says it gave place to the building of a farmhouse. Possibly material from it was used in the building of Dean House Farm, or of the tithe barn which formerly stood in front of the Rectory.

REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS IN THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES

In the time of George Steere, Rector 1610-1660, several repairs and alterations are mentioned in the registers. 'The Chauncell was ceiled An. Dom. 1614 at charges of George Steere, parson of Newdigate'; in 1626 'The pulpit was made at my order, and set up in its place,' and in 1627 the gallery was built (see above), followed by two windows, 'Ye one against the pulpit, ye other against ye gallerie,' in the same year. Also in 1627 the church was 'Seeled and trimmed by ye benevolence of well-disposed people.'

¹¹ *Surrey Archæological Collection*, VI (1874), 261.

¹² Archdeaconry of Surrey. Mathewe register, 110.

¹³ Manning and Bray, *History of Surrey*, II, 171.

¹⁴ Will of Thomas Newdigate, Esq., a copy inserted in *Inquisition Post Mortem*, 18 Eliz. (1576).

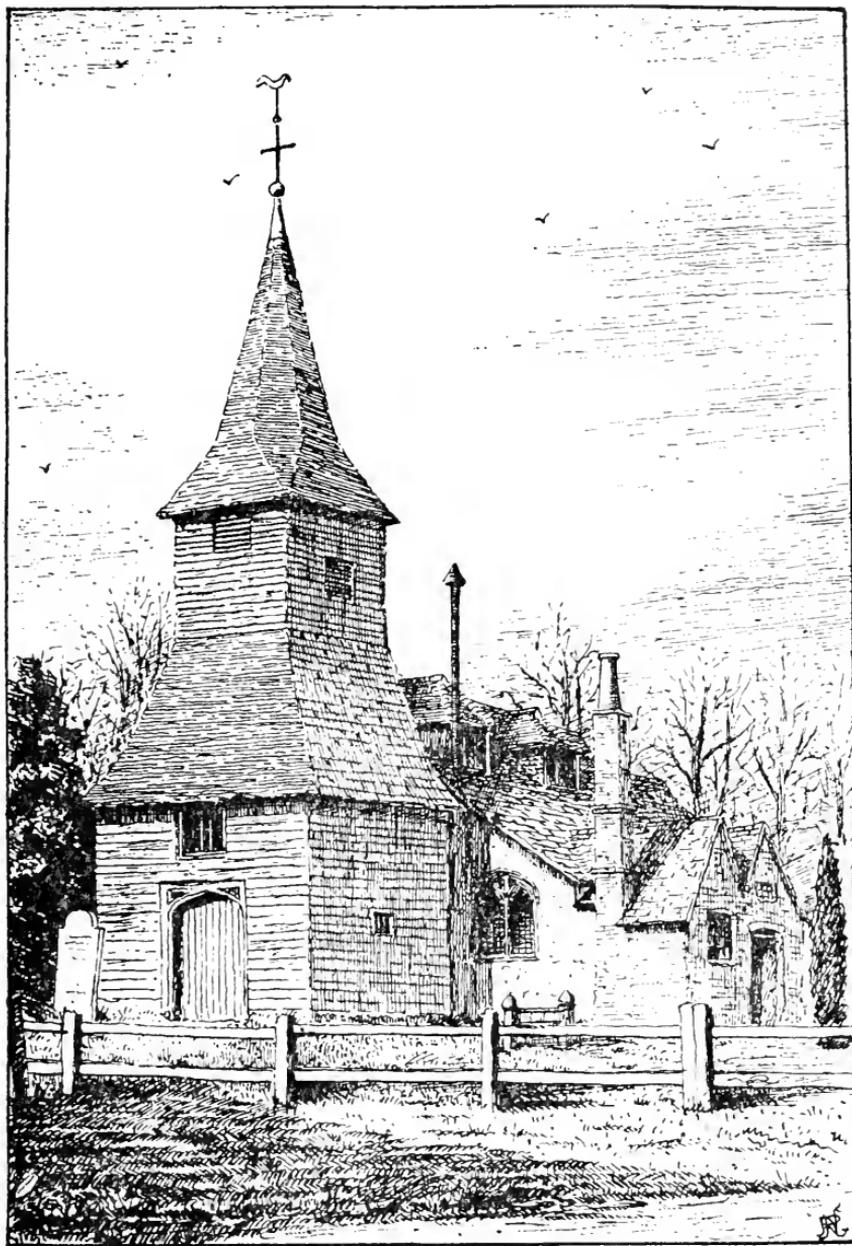


FIG. 3.—NEWDIGATE CHURCH IN 1872, SHOWING BRICK PORCH (1701) AND DORMER WINDOWS (1627).

Illustrations of the church before 1876 (Fig. 3) show a south porch with vestry adjoining, both built of brick. In one of the few Churchwardens' Accounts to have survived we find the following entries for 1701:

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|--------|
| for a six hundred of bricks | 00 | 08 | 00 (?) |
| for six bushells of lime | 00 | 02 | 00 |
| for fetching of the bricks lime and sand | 00 | 11 | 00 |

thus confirming the date of their erection. Aubrey says there was a board on the north wall with the inscription, 'This church was beautified 1702 when Ed. Budgen, gent. and George Bather [should be Boshier] were Churchwardens.' Apart from this building, expenses concerning the bells frequently occur in these early eighteenth-century accounts.

On 9 June 1786 a Vestry Meeting was called for the purpose of 'Making a book to defray the Expence of Repairing the church which accordingly was done at one shilling in the pound.' In the Overseers' accounts for July appear payments to various persons for work done in the church. This included new seating, glazing and painting, pointing, repairing the porch door, whitewashing the church and some iron work. In the following year the same accounts mention a payment to 'Master Wonham toward repairing the church.' Thomas Wonham was a Churchwarden.

THE CHURCH IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND AFTER

The eighteenth century was a time of great poverty here, to which the decline in agriculture, an excess of births over deaths, and the practical cessation of house building all contributed. This continued into the nineteenth century and was reflected in the state of the church. Reports of the Rural Dean from 1829 onwards contain expressions such as 'The parish is wretchedly poor,' 'the furniture of the altar is of the meanest description,' 'The chancel should be underpinned,' 'The damp gets into the spire among the curious framework,' and so on. In 1859-60 'The parish church was repaired and partly restored' (his own words in the register) by Samuel Mayhew, Curate-in-Charge, in the absence of the Rector.

Increased population in the decade after 1861 made more accommodation imperative, and in 1873 T. E. C. Streatfeild, architect, submitted plans for renovations and extensions involving the addition of a new north aisle. The work was carried out in 1876-7 at a cost of £2,100. The north arcade was built to correspond with that on the south, and the original north windows copied. The gallery was removed, the parish chest and the records it contained were moved from it to the Cudworth Pew. The stone slab marking the burial place of William de Newdigate (see *Memorials* below) was taken up and is now set in the ground floor of the tower (on the south side, underneath the chest). The south porch and vestry of brick were removed and the present porch erected. A new vestry to

the north of the chancel, with an entrance to the new north aisle, was also added. The two dormer windows (1627) and the pulpit of 1626 (which stood in the north-east angle of the nave) were removed, and all the old pews which were 'Much decayed.' For a time the pulpit was a third of a circle of stone which projected from the south side of the chancel arch.

The present carved wooden pulpit and the chancel screen were donated by Mrs. Janson of Newdigate Place in 1906, and in the same year the small vestry added in 1877 was enlarged northwards. Mrs. Janson started a wood-carving class at her home in 1902, and the schoolmaster, Mr. Hackwood, joined in the teaching. The angels on the choir stalls, the poppy-heads on the front pews, and the symbolic designs on the bench-ends were all their work. The altar in the Cudworth chapel was also carved by them in memory of Mr. Hackwood. Details of work done by members, some of whom are still alive, are set down in a booklet to be found under the tower. Mrs. Janson herself is commemorated by the north-west window, depicting Jesus in the carpenter's shop.

In 1964, in an endeavour to lighten the church, stained glass was removed from the two lancet windows in the chancel, the chancel roof painted, and the whole of the interior whitewashed. The effect is successful, although some of the features referred to above are now difficult to distinguish.

FURNISHINGS AND FITTINGS

Bells

The will of Alice Newdigate of 1489¹⁵ mentions five bells, and the inventory of church goods in 1553 lists 'Four bells and a sacring bell.' All the surviving Churchwardens' accounts at the beginning of the eighteenth century contain items of expenditure relating to the bells. Those of 1707 give details of a loan of ninety pounds borrowed from Richard Bax (a Quaker incidentally), 'And the said money paid for casting the bells and other repairs.' The latter included 'Mending the bell wheels and fastning the Gudgeons and fastning the bell frame,' payment to the local blacksmith for 'Eighteen iron wedges to fasten the gudgeons with,' and 'Other iron work used about the bells.' There remained five only until 1803, when the six bells now hanging were cast by Thomas Mears.

On the walls of the tower are records of marathon bouts of change-ringing; the Overseers' Accounts of 1786-90 mention payment to the ringers on various national occasions, such as the recovery of George III from illness in 1790.

Memorials

A gravestone of large Sussex marble, which until 1877 lay in the centre of the nave pavement, is thought to be that of William de Newdigate, Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex in 1372, who died in 1377. The figure in relief and the two shields above were possibly filled in

¹⁵ Manning and Bray, *op. cit.*, II, 171

with latten in the time of Edward VI when 11 lb. of brass and latten was sold for twenty-two pence. The shields represent the Newdigate arms of three lions' paws. Last century it was described as being in-filled with lead, of which some remains. Immediately adjoining it on the west is a stone containing the indent of the small brass plate now in the chancel wall west of the Priest's door. Under a skull and crossbones is the inscription, 'Here lieth ye body of Joane daughter of Thomas Smallpeece and late ye wife of George Steere Parson of this parish. Shee died Dec 7 An. Dom. 1634 and expecteth a blessed resurrection.' Her burial on December 10th is recorded in the register.

The wife of a later Rector has a marble tablet on the north wall of the chancel. The reference in the inscription, 'Transported from her native soil . . .' is to the fact that she was the daughter of a merchant of Königsberg. She married William Bickerton, Rector 1725-40, and, dying in 1734, was 'Buried in the chancel within the rails, about the middle,' according to the register.

To the west respond of the south arcade of the nave is fixed a lead plate, possibly from a coffin, roughly engraved with an inscription in Latin to the effect that here lies Margaret, daughter of Edward Gage (of Firle, Sussex), and wife of Henry Darel of Scotney (Kent), who 'Lived always in the Holy Catholic Church,' and died in 1616. The Darells were owners from 1553 of the ironworks at Ewood (in this parish), the largest in Surrey. They were known to be recusants, hence the reference to the old faith. Henry Darell later married the widow of Thomas Newdigate.

On the south wall of the Cudworth Chapel is a tablet to Richard Morton who lived at Ewood from about 1733, and his wife Mary (née Ede of Cudworth). For a time he was the highest rated landowner in the parish. 'O cecidet Vir Sagax' follows the entry of his burial in 1768, but the same register later contains details of a dispute over payment for the grave, which was 'Within the church in the seat belonging to Cudworth,' and where his widow joined him in 1777.

The Chest

The Chest (Fig. 4) is of oak, hollowed out of a single log. It is difficult to date, but there seems no reason why it should not be as old as the Registers which begin in 1559.

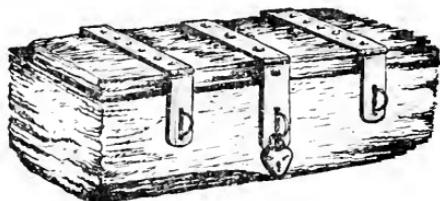


FIG. 4.—NEWDIGATE CHURCH. OAK CHEST.

Font

This dates from 1877 when it replaced a plain stone one which stood directly in front of the tower.

Glass

Although earlier writers describe various armorial windows, the only fragments of old glass now remaining are of late fourteenth- or early fifteenth-century date, formerly in the north-east window of the nave, and now re-set in the corresponding window of the north aisle. Fragments of the canopies and quarries remain. The design of the embattled tower is said to be akin to glass at New College, Oxford. Of most interest, however, is the shield of arms of Newdigate in the centre light; Gules three lions' paws erect and erased argent, within a quatrefoil combined with a lozenge. Unfortunately the arms were re-set the wrong way round. Aubrey must be speaking of this window when he refers to Gules three *eagles' claws*.

Plate

This consists of: a silver, bell-shaped cup on a short, thick stem, and a paten, both of 1699. Both have a contemporary engraved design of the Cross, nails and IHS within a star, and, in addition, the cup has an early nineteenth-century inscription, 'Newdigate Rectory,' on its side; also a solid silver chalice and paten given by William Farnell Watson of Henfold about 1893, and a silver-plated set given in 1886. The seventeenth-century silver bason was probably not used for alms originally, but rather for eating or drinking. The bowl is round and wide with a slight lip, and stands on a flat base. It is believed to be of Swedish manufacture.

The large brass dish, 18 inches in diameter, which stands in front of the north chancel window, is probably seventeenth-century German. The two bands of lettering are difficult to decipher and probably merely ornamental.

Records

The earliest Parish Register contains: baptisms 1560–1705, marriages 1565–1705 and burials 1559–1705. Entries from 1581 were transcribed 'Ex veteræ chartaces' in 1611 by George Steere, Rector; and the volume was 'arranged and stitched by Mr. Henry Trimmer, curate, July 26th 1827.' One of the earliest entries is of the baptism of a daughter of Thomas Newdigate in 1560. There are several references to unsettled parish boundaries, notably concerning the case of John Butcher, who in 1634 was authorized to receive the Sacrament 'this once,' it being disputed whether his tenement was in Newdigate or Charlwood. During the Commonwealth the living of Capel was sequestrated; in consequence there are many entries of persons from Capel at this time. At a later date, too, Capel parishioners' names appear, Newdigate Church being easier of access from the east and north parts of Capel than its own parish church.

Apart from details of repairs, etc., there is a note about the accession of Charles II, 1660, 'Whom God graunt long to reign,' by John Bonwick, Rector. He was known in other ways to be a staunch Royalist and was wounded fighting at the battle of Newbury. There are many entries in the eighteenth century of

travellers and gypsies, many without names given. Curious names which appear are Esau in 1788, Walsingham in 1586 (and at other times), brothers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob baptised together in 1742; surname Foriner 1742, Forreigner 1743. All the registers except those in use are now kept at the Muniment Room, Castle Arch, Guildford.

At the end of Volume II is a list of Briefs 1686-91 containing details of collections made, mostly to relieve distress caused by fire or misfortune in other parishes, including such distant places as Thirsk and Morpeth. There is one for the relief of French Protestants in 1686 and for Irish Protestants in 1691. Following this sequence of entries one more is added of a much later date, when £1. 7s. 7d. was contributed for the relief of suffering in the Indian Mutiny, 1857.

At Guildford there are also Churchwardens' Accounts for 1700 (2), 1701 (2), 1707 and 1833.

Records of landowners' liability for upkeep of the church fence exist as follows: for 1733 and 1772 in the registers, Volume II, where they are headed 'An account of the Marks in the churchyard of Newdigate' and said to be copied 'Ex veteræ codices.' Those for 1817 and 1872 are on loose sheets, and that for 1878 is in an Overseers' Account Book. There is a record at the church of a collection for the same purpose in 1883 by which time the system seems to have broken down. The total length of the fence was 435 feet and landowners were responsible for lengths in proportion to the amount of land owned. Old views of the church show the fence divided into sections (Fig. 3).

RECTORS OF NEWDIGATE

The earliest so far traced is Ranulf de Brok *c.* 1271-*c.* 1285 mentioned in Merton Court Rolls. Matthew Belle, 1507-38, was a witness to several Newdigate wills where he is described as *Sir* Matthew. In the old Rectory there was a window with a rebus of a bell. In the time of the religious troubles on the accession of Mary Tudor, the Rector, John Morgan, was depossessed of his living, but returned to it after the accession of Elizabeth. At a later date, however, the Civil War and Protectorate had little effect; George Steere held the living continuously from 1610-60. He was, in fact, a member of the Presbyterian 'Classis' at Dorking. He was the founder of the village school, and of a scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge. He styled himself 'Parson,' whereas his successor John Bonwicke, 1660-99, always refers to himself as 'Priest.' Andrew Cranston, 1699-1709, was also Vicar of Reigate and founder of the famous church library there. None of the Rectors after Bonwicke seem to have lived here, until L. Studdert-Kennedy in 1869. The Rectory House was said to be almost ruinous before it was rebuilt in 1880. During the incumbency of Henry Jackson Close, 1787-9, large sums were spent by the parish in litigation concerning tithes, and he resigned. The Hon. and Rev. Henry Sugden was absent 'By leave

of the Bishop' from 1855-62, leaving three curates-in-charge. One of them, Samuel Mayhew, discovered the wall-painting. It was during the long incumbency of L. Studdert-Kennedy that the major restoration was carried out; a large proportion of the cost was raised by parishioners; nor has the present century seen a lack of benefactors to the church. Now that a Christian Stewardship scheme is in operation, it is hoped always to have sufficient funds to preserve this village church. For, with the ever increasing suburbanization of Surrey, and the uniformity of building which goes with it, each parish church is a unique heritage which must be preserved for future generations.



NEWDIGATE CHURCH, LOOKING EAST FROM THE TOWER.



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(a) NEWDIGATE CHURCH FROM THE NORTH-WEST. FROM CRACKLOW, VIEWS OF SURREY CHURCHES, 1823.

hs. Com̄ Warren. R. Archid Sur⁷ 7. p. decano sat Mando
 uob atq; p̄cor quaten⁹ dimittatis p̄ore 7 canonicos sc̄e marie
 de Suxweth 7 pace tenē elemosinā meā 7 Ancessoz meoz
 set capella de nudegar. 7 p̄oz iudico ne in placitū ioger
 sine me. q̄ p̄dictā elemosinā eis garentizare debeo.

hca hamelin com
 do warren. de ca
 p̄ll de nudegar.

| | |
|----|----|
| 11 | 11 |
| 8 | 0 |

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(b) CHARTER OF HAMELIN DE WARRENNE, c. 1163, WITH ENDORSEMENT (p. 109).



NEWDIGATE CHURCH, 1965.
(a) FROM THE NORTH-WEST.



(b) FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



NEWDIGATE CHURCH, LOOKING WEST.