



# The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.

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## An Architectural Account of the Churches of Buckland, Hinton Waldrist and Longworth.

*By Charles E. Keyser, M.A., F.S.A.*

*Read before the Berkshire Archæological Society,  
November 19th, 1906.*

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### I.—BUCKLAND.

**I**N bringing to the notice of the Members of our Society the architectural features of the Churches of Buckland, Hinton Waldrist and Longworth, I do not profess to have discovered anything of unusual interest, but am simply following up my plan of taking my friends, by the aid of my illustrations, to a cluster of Churches in a somewhat inaccessible corner of the County, seldom visited by those living in and near Reading. It is true that on the occasion of our excursion to Faringdon in 1901, we journeyed in the afternoon to Buckland, and many of us have a pleasurable recollection of the kindly hospitality accorded to us by the Vicar, the Rev. W. Bulmer, after we had inspected the venerable church.

The three villages are situate to the east of the town of Faringdon, and to the north of the old turnpike road leading from

Faringdon through Abingdon to London. Assuming that we start from Faringdon, a drive of about three miles, passing the clump on the right, and the hamlet of Littleworth, and the Manor Houses of Barcote and Carswell, and Buckland Park on the left, brings us to the village of Buckland. It is situated on high ground sloping away on the north to the Thames or Isis, and commanding beautiful views of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire on the north, and the range of the Berkshire Downs, White Horse Hill, and Uffington Castle on the south. A great deal of very interesting information on the history of the several manors and the important families who possessed them, was collected by the Rev. Dr. Rawbone, vicar here at the end of the 18th century, and these collections, which have been handed down to the present Vicar, were thoroughly examined by the Rev. Daniel and Mr. Samuel Lysons, and included in their account of Buckland in the Berkshire volume of the *Magna Britannia*. I am greatly indebted to the Vicar for the loan of these notes, and extracts from them will be found in this paper. These memoirs throw little light on the history of the Church, and, as usual, we must simply supply the dates of the fabric and the subsidiary details from the architectural evidence presented to us.

The Church of St. Mary, Buckland (plate I.) is a simple cruciform structure with central tower, nave, south porch, transepts, chancel, and a sacristy on the north of the Chancel. It is a spacious edifice, and worthy of the important parish of which it is the centre. The exterior was formerly covered with roughcast, but this has mainly been removed, and the rude and widely jointed masonry, especially in the nave, is now exposed to view. The nave is the most ancient part of the building, and is of early Norman date, the two lofty doorways and the windows all exhibiting early features of that style, indeed some herringbone work in the west wall may even be of the pre-Norman period. The central tower was added early in the 13th century, and about 50 years later the Chancel and transepts were probably re-built, and the west window, similar to the very puzzling windows in the Chancel and transepts, inserted. Towards the end of the 15th century a late perpendicular window was inserted on the south side of the nave, and new roofs to the Chancel, south transept and nave were introduced. There are subsidiary details of the 14th century, which will be referred to in our perambulation round the Church.

Let us now enter the Church and, as has been our custom on other occasions, commence our observations in the Chancel (plate II.).

The present reredos and communion table stand out about four feet from the east wall, leaving a space behind for an additional vestry. Here is preserved an old helmet, also a small library of ancient theological works. There is a copy of the "breeches" Bible, which appears to have been used in the Church services for many years.

The east window is an exceedingly singular one, and of the same character as those on the north and south sides of the Chancel, in the transepts, and at the west end of the nave. It has a large arch and is divided into five plain compartments by four massive mullions carried up from the sill of the window to the head of the arch, without any cross transom or ornamental tracery. The effect is not pleasing, but there does not seem to be any reason to suppose it was the work of some unsophisticated village mason. It is more rational to assume that we have here a very early attempt at the introduction of larger window openings in place of the lancet windows, which are characteristic of the first sixty years of the 13th century, and that either the varied tracery had not then been invented, or it was considered too costly to be provided for this country Church. Mr. Parker, in the *Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography of England, Berks*, No. 13, calls these windows good Early English, and states that "the tracery has been cut out of nearly all the windows." I venture to differ from him, as I do not believe that even in the most barbarous times of Church restoration, the restorers would take the trouble to hack out and obliterate the tracery from all these windows (and there are nine in the Chancel, three in each transept and one in the nave), nor are there any remains of the cusping, which would almost certainly have been the case, had it existed. I am, therefore, of opinion that they belong to the transitional period between the Early English and decorated styles, and date about the years, 1260—1270. In the east window are now inserted five large shields in old glass, which were formerly in the north and south windows. In the upper part of the central compartment the armorial bearings are gules, three lions passant in pale argent, a label of five points azure, which Papworth, in "*An ordinary of British Armorial*," assigns to Gifford le Bef or de Bef, or John Giffard de Bef. Below is the same shield without the label. Placed in a row between the last two are three more shields, on that on the north side is vert a lion ramp guardant or, on the next the same with a bend sinister gules, and on the third the same again, with over all a label of five points gules. Ashmole mentions all these, and several more, but does not attempt to identify them.

One of the shields, which has disappeared, though it is painted in several places on the roof is that of Edington College, viz., or on a cross gules five roses arg., Edington, Bishop of Winchester, having obtained this Church, and given it as part of the endowment of the College of Bonnes Hommes he had just founded at Edington in Wiltshire.

On north and south of Chancel are four windows of three lights with the mullions carried straight up and without any ornamental tracery, as in the east window. The second window from the east on the north side now forms the north window of the modern organ chamber, which, with the organ, was erected at the cost of the late Mr. William West, of Barcote Manor, a most generous contributor to the restoration, beautifying and maintenance of the Church. On the south side of the Chancel is a very beautiful trefoil headed piscina and three graduated sedilia with rich trefoiled canopies (plate III.) of the same date as the windows. The piscina has a projecting basin, and at the back has been inserted an interesting piece of sculpture, probably a portion of a reredos, brought from Italy, and representing the Adoration of the Shepherds (plate IV.). The Infant Christ is lying on a cushion with a sheep and ox adoring Him and three shepherds regarding Him with reverential aspect. On the north side of the Chancel is a plain aumbrye, and farther west a curious triangular recess. This encloses a small wooden box, containing the heart of William Hulcote, or Holcot, the last member of a family who had been settled at Barcote Manor since the latter part of the 13th century. He died in 1575, and Lysons in the Berkshire volume of the *Magna Britannia* gives the following account of him : "This William Hulcote was a man of very singular character ; he "was imprisoned for his religion in the reign of Queen Mary, but, "to escape the fire, subscribed the articles. After the reformation, "he became a zealous lay preacher, and was accustomed to mount "the pulpit in a velvet bonnet and damask gown, and sometimes "with a gold chain. His will, which is very quaint and whimsical, "directs his heart to be buried at Buckland."

To the west of this is a very beautiful recessed arch (plate V.) with an ogee headed canopy resting on the heads of two ladies, and with a band of the ball flower ornament carried round the arch and a cinquefoiled fringe. It is somewhat later than the Chancel, not earlier than about 1330, and was probably the Easter sepulchre, though situate rather further west than usual. It is of about the same date as the one at Sparsholt. It is now occupied by the lower

portion of the new organ. That there was an Easter sepulchre here is proved by the extract from the following will proved in April, 1505. Dadson, vol. iv., page 98. "8 Feb., 1504. Ego D<sup>nus</sup> Nicholaus "Latimer lego corpus meum sepeliri in Ecclesia S<sup>te</sup> Marie de "Bockland juxta altare summum & in loco ubi solet sepulchrum D<sup>ni</sup> "scituari. I Lord Nicholas Latimer bequeath my body to be buried "in the Church of St. Mary, Buckland, near the high altar, and in "the place where the Lord's sepulchre is accustomed to be situated." On the opposite side of the Chancel is another large monumental recess (plate VI.), segmental headed, and of rather solid and rude workmanship. At the apex of the arch is a crowned female head. On the face of the outer order of the canopy are a series of three and four leaved flowers or leaves on a stem, and on the soffit six leaved roses and lilies alternately. There are heads supporting the canopy, and a large bracket in the wall at the back. Within it is a raised stone with a cross engraved upon it. There is no record of the personage whom this monument commemorated, but probably it is a founder's tomb placed there to contain the remains of the benefactor at whose cost the Chancel was re-built. The Chancel roof is of wood, low pitched with tie beams, and numerous shields and bosses re-painted. On some of the shields are the arms of Edington College, but not correctly blazoned. There is a beam across the Chancel above the present altar and about four feet from the east wall. Its object is not clear. On the north wall of the Chancel are small tablets to the Rev. John Rawbone, D.D., who died in 1825, and to his son, the Rev. Charles Bertie Rawbone, B.C.L., who died in 1828. The four arches of the tower are of Early English character, with foliage on the capitals, but are entirely new, having been inserted at the time of the restoration.

The south transept or Barcote aisle, has a three-light segmental headed window on the south side, and a three-light window on east and west, all of the same type as those in the Chancel. In the south wall is a plain piscina, and inserted in the west wall, and partly hidden by the modern oak panelling, a large stone commemorating the members of the family of Holcot, or Hulcote, of Barcote, commencing with John Holcott, who died in 1292, and terminating with William Holcott 1570, whose heart is buried in the Chancel wall. There is a shield in the centre, and below it a date 1560 denotes the time when this memorial stone was erected. Various texts from Romans VIII., Ezekiel XXXVII., St. John and Job XIX., are inscribed round the stone. In the collections made

by the Rev. Dr. Rawbone is the following note :—“ In the year 1784, when that part of Barcot Isle, which is now the Vestry, was repaired and new floored, two cells in the Wall for holy Water were discovered, which makes it probable that [a] chantry was founded here by some of the aforementioned ancient Family of Holcot. At the same time the Lids of two Stone Coffins were found broke and turned with their Faces downward, on one of which was a Cross embossed, and an Inscription, which is now illegible except the following words in Saxon Characters, round the edge, ‘*qualis iste erimus.*’” This was one of those rhyming moralities, of which good examples still remain on early cross slabs at Pamber Priory Church. This transept, for some time utilised as a vestry, has again become the Barcote Aisle, and has been very richly embellished with elaborate Mosaic work, illustrating the “*Te Deum,*” with a good south window by Powell, and with nice oak stalls, all carried out at the cost of the late Mr. William West, of Barcote Manor, in memory of his late wife.

The north transept, the aisle or chapel attached to Buckland Manor, has been only partially restored ; the roof is poor, of a late period, and the walls have been liberally coated with whitewash. There is a three-light segmental headed window on the north side, and a three-light in east and west walls, all similar to those in the south transept. In the east window are some fragments of old glass. Mural paintings are said to be concealed beneath the whitewash. In the east wall is a piscina with rounded trefoiled arch and stone shelf. On the floor is a large blue stone with the matrix of a very beautiful cross, and an inscription in Norman-French, now difficult to decipher, but given by the Rev. Dr. Rawbone as follows :—

“*Vous Q. par yci passez Pur dame Felice la Blonde Priez Re Marie la mere Jesu Seit alalme verre salut.*” Which may be thus translated :—“ You who pass by, pray for the lady Felicia White (or the fair one), that the Queen Mary the mother of Jesus may cause her soul to see salvation.”

The cross has had a long stem, and is of very elegant design. It dates from the first half of the 14th century.

To the north of this is another stone also bereft of its brass, with the outline of a knight and lady with scrolls coming from their mouths, four shields at the corners, and their sons and daughters below. Above their heads and between the scrolls has been a sacred subject, probably the Blessed Trinity. The date is about 1500 or early in the 16th century. On a large black stone, formerly

on a table tomb, but now set up against the north wall, are brass figures of a gentleman in civilian costume, his lady, their five sons and seven daughters, five shields and the following inscription :—

**“Here lyeth the Bodes of John Yate esquier late Lorde of this Towne and of Marge his wyfe daughter and heir to William Justyce late of Readinge in the county of Berkshire esquier, whiche John & Marge had between them v sonnes and vii daughters and ye said John beinge of the adge of 66 changed this lyfe the XXVith of January Ao d’ni 1578, and Marge his wife decessed the day of 15.**

On the four shields are, according to Dr. Rawbone, the arms (1) of Yate impaling Goddard, (2) Yate impaling Fetiplace, (3) Yate impaling Justyce, and (4) Yate quartering Fetiplace, and another. Ashmole gives the details of the shields, but does not attempt to identify them.

The Manor of Buckland was granted to the Yate family in 1545 ; and Edward Yate the fourth in descent of the Yates of Buckland was created a Baronet in 1622. Mary, sister and heiress to Sir John Yate the last baronet, brought this property to the Throckmortons of Coughton Court, in Warwickshire, by her marriage with Sir Robert Throckmorton, Bart., who died in 1721, and it is still vested in the representative of that family.

In the north wall is a large marble monument with a shield bearing the Yate arms, and on a white slab the following lengthy inscription :—

In pious Memorie of  
S<sup>r</sup> Edward Yate Baronet  
Patron of this Church & Lord of this Manour  
Here w<sup>th</sup> his Auncestors y<sup>e</sup> Lady Katherine his  
Wife & Elizabeth their daughter interred  
He tooke to Wife Katherine daughter of S<sup>r</sup> John  
Baker of Sissinghurst in y<sup>e</sup> County of Kent K<sup>t</sup>  
Both lived lively examples of Conjugal  
Paternal, Maternal, & Religious Vertue,  
Died Christianly  
Weere blessed w<sup>th</sup> Children worthy such parens  
S<sup>r</sup> John Yate K<sup>t</sup> & Baronet who married Marie  
Daughter & Coheire of Hump<sup>r</sup> Pakington of Chad-  
sey Corbet in y<sup>e</sup> County of Worcester Esq  
James Yate Esq,  
Marie married to Charles Paris of Linsted

In y<sup>e</sup> County of Cambridge Esq,  
Elizabeth & Katherine

Reader

This smalle monument instead of a greater deserved  
Further presents thee with his praise and thy  
Instruction in these following lines

Ecclesi	{ The fame of them who just & righteous live }	C. 7
astes	{ Excels y <sup>e</sup> odor sweetest ointments give }	V. 1

On a black slab on front of the lower part

And

{ In this black marble that each sex may finde }  
{ White and faire presidents to guide the minde }

Men Women know remember

The Baronet particularly honored for  
Morall Economical Prudential Merit  
The Ladie revered for  
Sanctimonious Zeale, Humble and Constant Patience  
Abundant Charitie, & Admirable Justice  
Their daughter Elizabeth (who died a Mayde  
Her Parents lyving)  
Belovde admired for  
Devoute, chaste, modest & discrete demeanour and  
Fervent Charitie

Reader

Depart

Imitate

1648.

On the west wall is another large tablet with the arms of Yate  
impaling Pakington above, and the following inscription:—

Near this place lieth inter'd y<sup>e</sup> Body of S<sup>r</sup>  
John Yate of Buckland in y<sup>e</sup> County of Berks  
K<sup>t</sup> & Bar<sup>t</sup> Lord of this Mannor, & Patron of  
this Church, who died y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> of Jan. 1658

Aged 53 years

He Married Mary one of y<sup>e</sup> Daughters & Coheires  
of Humphry Pakington of Chadsley-Corbet in y<sup>e</sup>  
County of Worcester Esq. By whom he had issue  
2 sons & 3 Daughters Edward y<sup>e</sup> elder died at y<sup>e</sup>  
age of 12 years Charles y<sup>e</sup> younger survived & was  
afterwards S<sup>r</sup> Charles Yate Bar<sup>t</sup>. Abigall y<sup>e</sup> eldest



daughter married the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Charles Lord  
 Faifax of Gilling & Castle in y<sup>e</sup> County of York &  
 Viscount Emula in y<sup>e</sup> Kingdom of Ireland, Appo-  
 -lonia y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> unmarried Ann y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> married ye Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
 Thomas Talbot of Longford in y<sup>e</sup> County of  
 Salop Esq

Prædicta Maria vere Vidua quam mæstissima in  
 charissimi sui Conjugis in Sanctæ Romanæ Ec-  
 clesięe comunione pie defuncti memoriam hoc

∞ erexit Monumentum ∞

∞ Requiescant in pace. ∞

It is interesting to note that the latter part recording the fact that Sir John died having been received into the Roman Catholic communion is in Latin, suggesting the idea that it was not deemed advisable at this period to make this fact too generally known. There are two iron helmets and three funeral achievements still preserved in this transept. The original string-courses run round the walls.

The nave (plate VII.), as has already been stated, is the earliest part of the Church, the walls being of early 12th century date. Three of the original Norman windows remain on the north side and two on the south, all quite plain. Those on the south side were discovered under the lath and plaster in 1892, and were opened out and restored at the expense of the late Mr. William West. The west window is of five lights, divided by the upright mullions, and of the same character and date as those in the Chancel. On the south side near the east end (plate VIII.) is a large four-light window, semi-circular headed, with very good tracery of early 16th century date. It has been filled with modern stained glass, but there are also some remains of ancient glass incorporated with it, the word *merci*, &c., and four shields with somewhat complicated armorial bearings, all of which I hope to be able to identify. On the first is the armorial shield of Edington College, on the next a very complicated coat impaling Buckland, on the third De la Pole impaling Wingfield, and on the fourth, Guy, Earl of Warwick impaling Peverell. There were also the arms of Sir Thomas Chaucer, but these are now gone.

Above the west tower arch is a small gallery leading from the turret on the south side of the nave to the belfry. The font (plate IX.) is large, octagonal, with window tracery and quatrefoils alternately on the bowl of late 14th century date.

There is a large tablet on the south wall of the nave to Richard Southby of Carswell Manor, who died in 1648. The nave benches are of oak, very good, with high backs but of early date, and there are also nice Communion rails of Jacobean character, and a wooden pulpit of 18th century date. There is a very large and ancient chest in the Vestry. There are reputed to be paintings concealed on the nave walls, which with the roof were cleaned and coloured in 1891, the roof having been previously repaired in 1847, and renewed in 1768.

On the exterior, the tower and nave (plate X.) were formerly covered with stucco, but this was removed, and the walls were pointed in 1890. At the west end (plate XI.) is some herring-bone work of early character. There are also eight voussoirs of a Norman cornice or string-course with the billet ornament, now forming the base-moulding to the west window.

The north doorway (plate XII.) is fine, and early Norman, with lofty arch having a chamfered hoodmould with the star ornament on the upper portion, two orders, each with a bold roll-moulding on the angle, chamfered abacus, and a nook-shaft to each order with cushion capital. There is a massive lintel and plain recessed tympanum. The door, of rather nice design, was put up in 1790. The south doorway within a porch, is the counterpart of that on the north, a very rare occurrence, as in Norman work there is almost always some slight variation in the size and ornamentation of the doorways where more than one remain. There are two votive crosses on the jambs, and slight traces of colour on the arch and shafts. In a note by Dr. Rawbone, made in or about 1784, we read the following :—“Upon repairing the Church Porch about 40 years ago, a Painting of the Virgin Mary (to whom this Church was dedicated) was found concealed under a piece of wainscot over the Church Door. This Picture I have been informed was richly gilt and ornamented, and was taken down and destroyed at that time, and a verse of the Prophet put up in the place where it stood.” The south door (plate XIII.) is possibly coeval with the arch, and has very richly moulded hinges and iron-work of the same date.

The tower, which contains six bells, is embattled, with two lancet windows on each face of the upper stage. The weather moulding of the former high-pitched roofs of the nave, transepts and chancel still remain on the four sides of the middle stage. A lancet window, now blocked, formerly opened to the Chancel.

There is a blocked-up semi-circular headed doorway on the north side, which may be a relic of the original structure. On the north of the vestry is a Decorated doorway, with fillet-band on the hood-mould and double quarter round on arch and jambs, moved to its present position from the north side of the Chancel. There are low graduated buttresses on either side of the east angles of the Chancel (plate XIV.), and of the north and south angles of the transepts. At the east end of the south aisle is a low, square turret with small lancet windows, containing the staircase leading up to the belfry. The nave and south transept have an embattled parapet.

The old Buckland Manor House stands close to the Churchyard on the north side, and has been converted into stables. The present mansion stands farther away to the west, and was built by Sir Robert Throckmorton, Bart., about the year 1757. Portions of the old Manor Houses of Barcote and Carswell also remain.

*(To be continued.)*

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## The Wilcotes Family.

*By W. F. Carter.*

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**I**N January, 1898, Dr. F. N. Macnamara contributed to this Magazine (Vol. III., No. 4, pp. 97—107) a very interesting and valuable paper on "The Wilcotes Family." I put together some notes bearing on what he had written, but laid them aside in consequence of his death. I am afraid they will interest no one, but as they concern in part one of the most beautiful monumental brasses in Oxfordshire, I may perhaps be excused for recording them briefly in these pages.

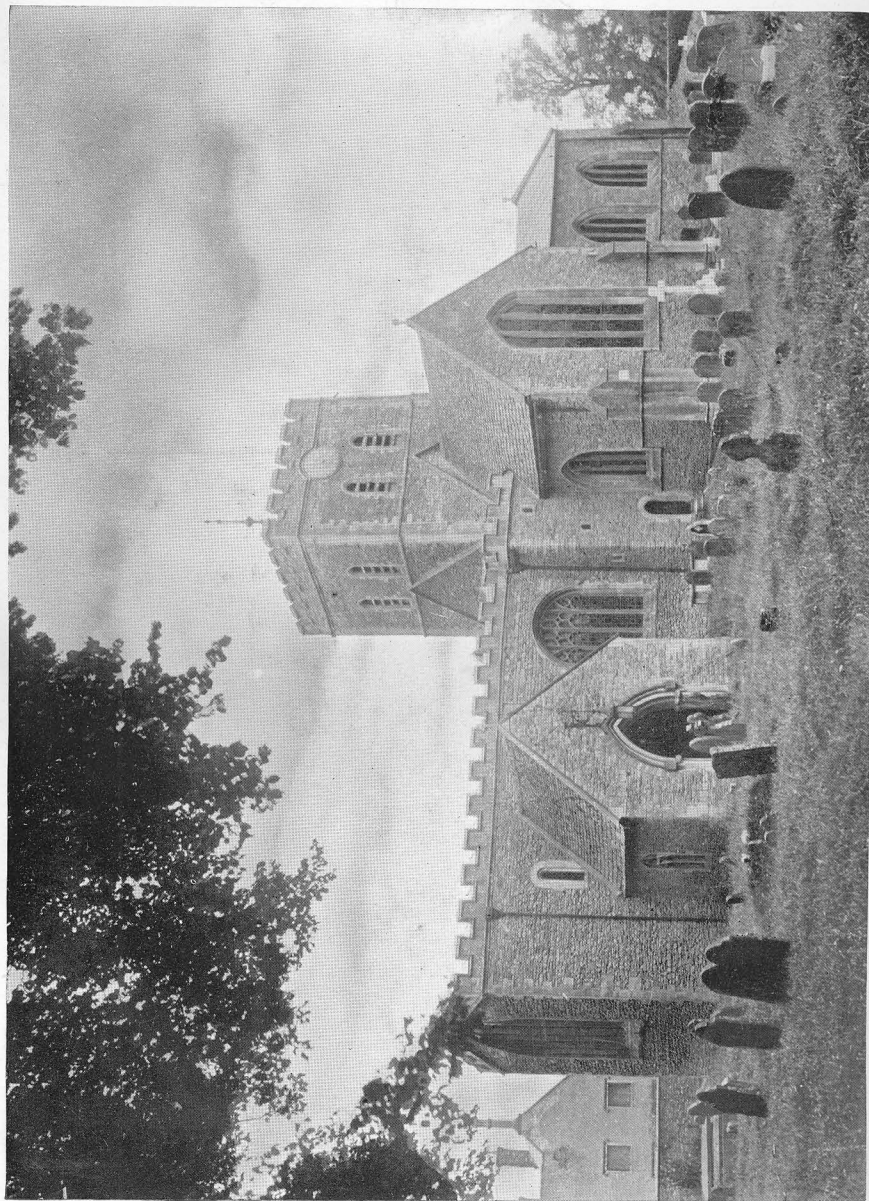
Dr. Macnamara's paper may be divided into three parts as follows:—

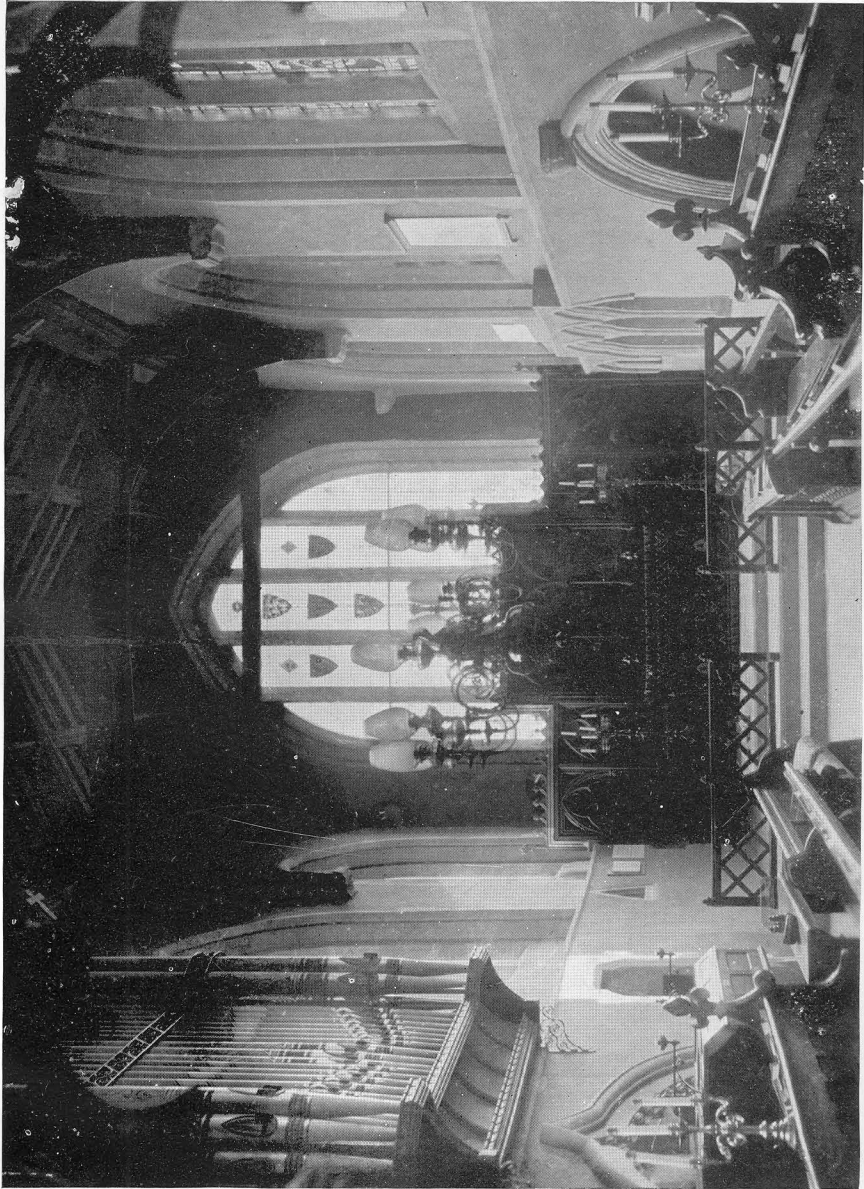
Part I. (p. 98—l. 12 of 101):—Sir William Wilcotes, Kn't,  
of Headington and Northleigh.\*

Part II. (p. 101—106):—John Wilcotes, Esq., of Great Tew.

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\* In which latter parish is Wilcotes, from which the Family is presumed to have taken its name.



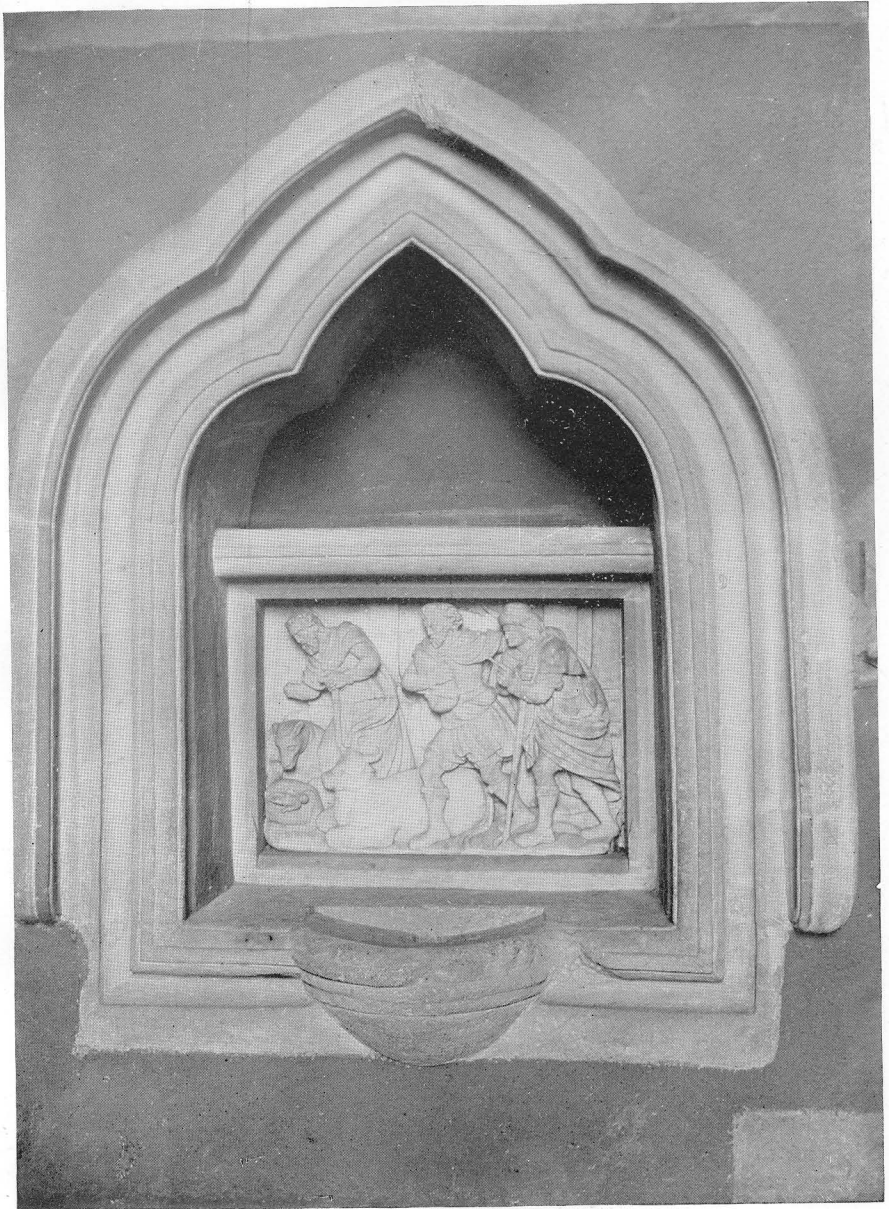


THE CHANCEL.

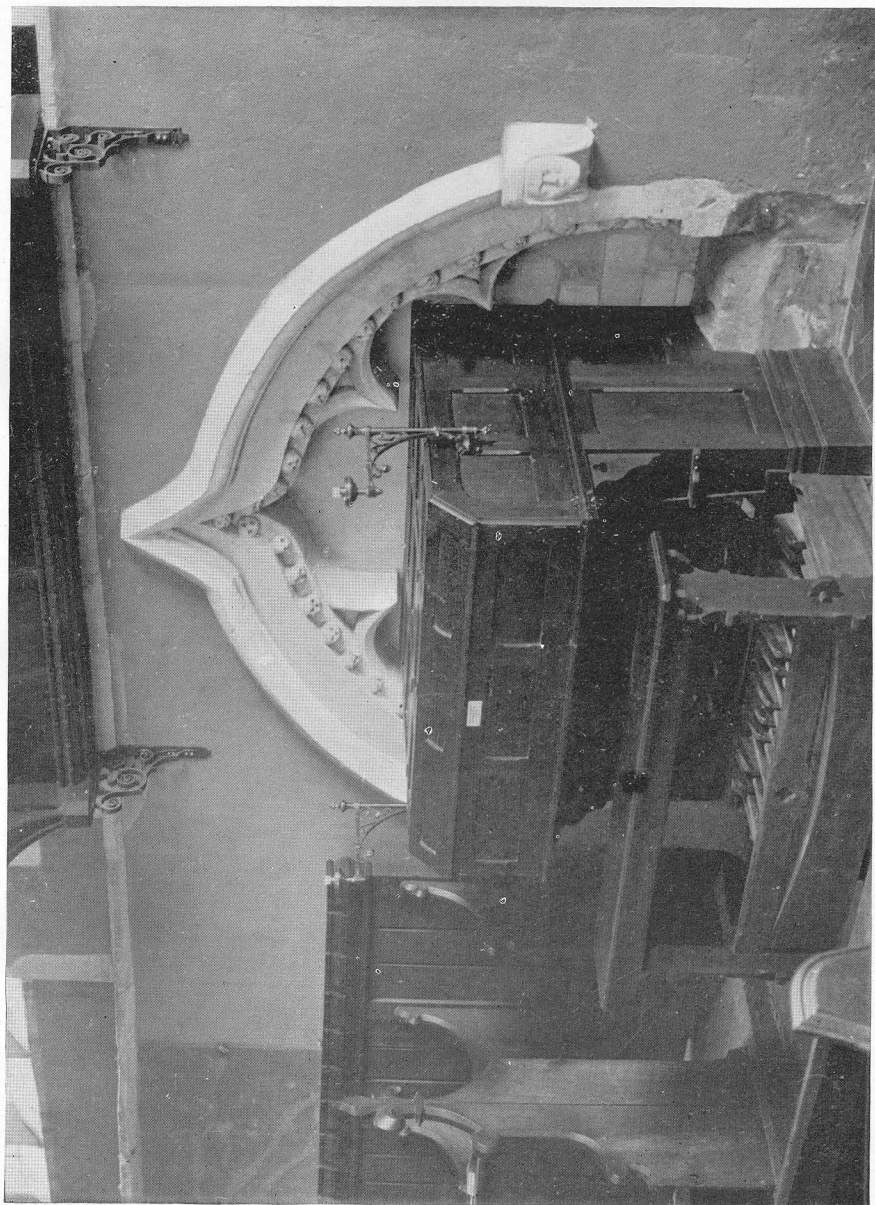


Plate iv.

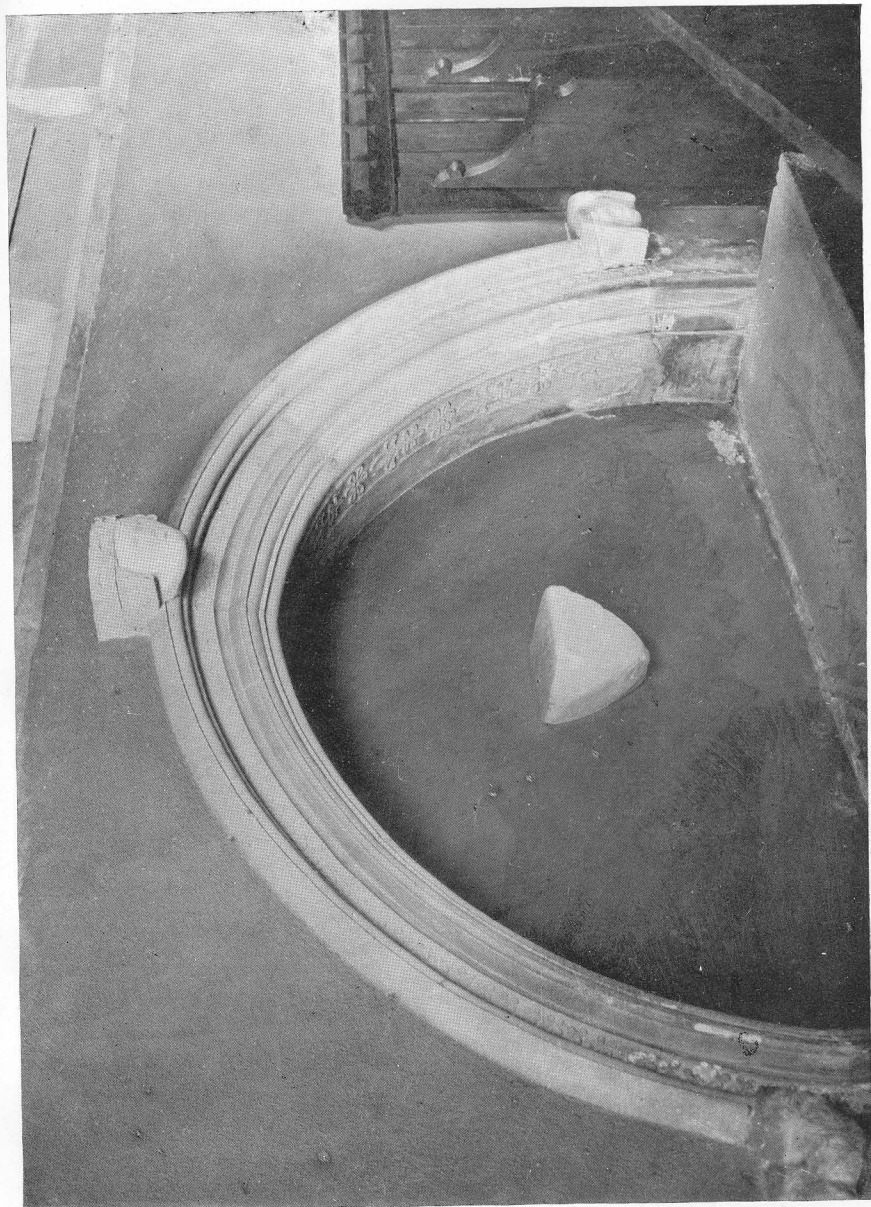
BUCKLAND CHURCH.

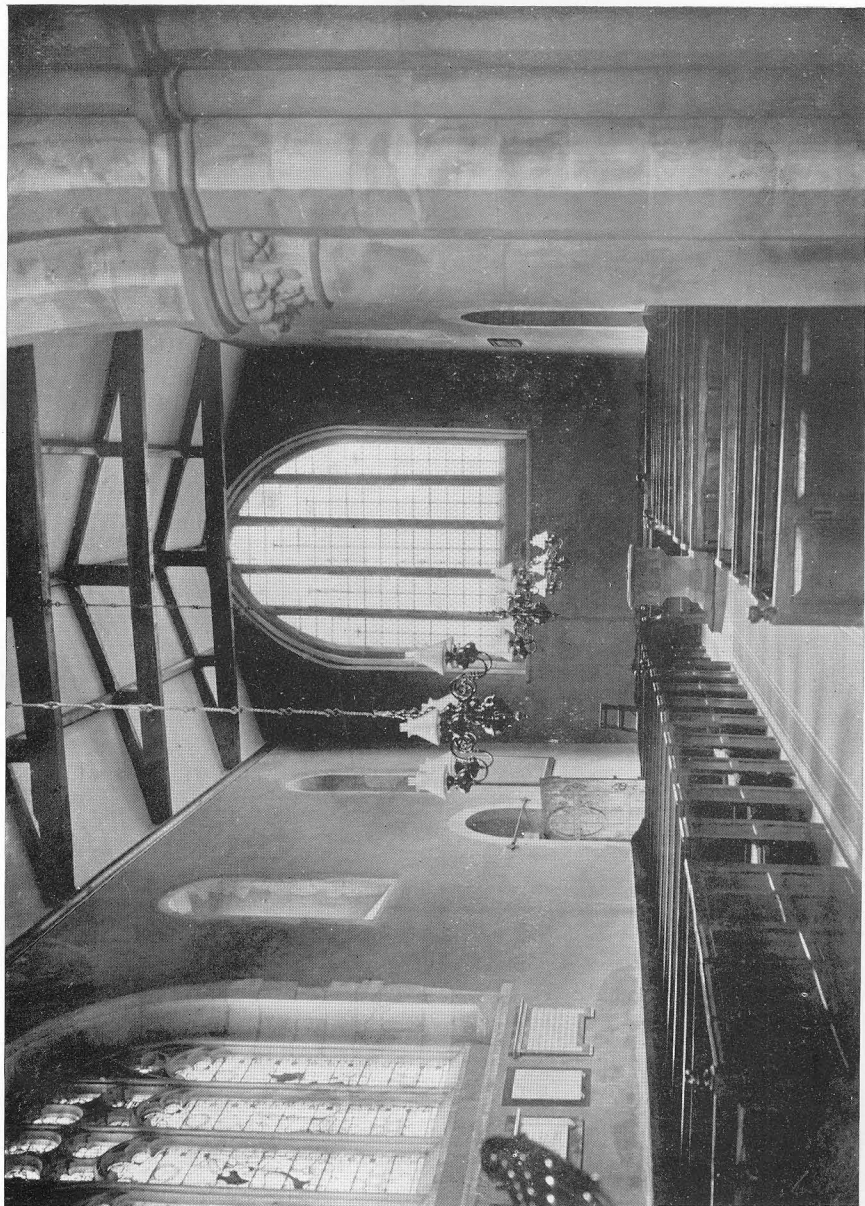


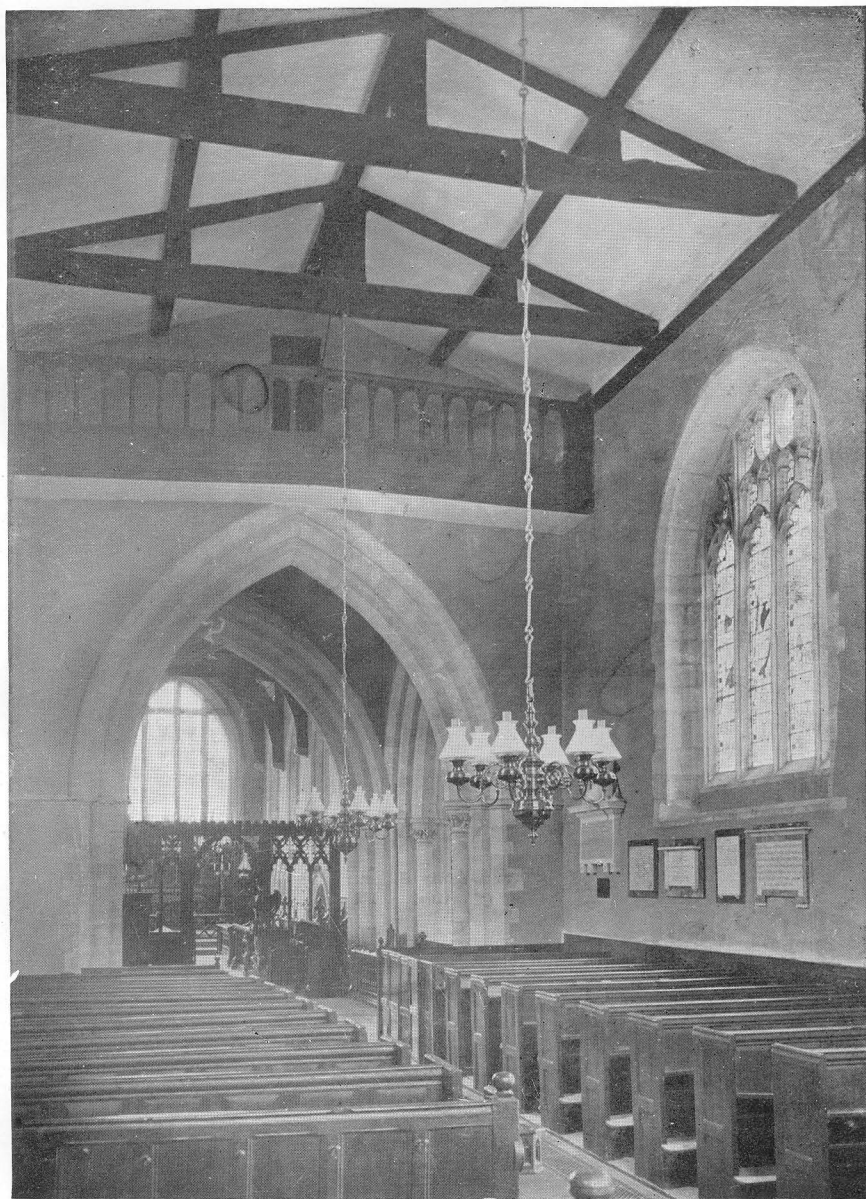
THE PISCINA AND PORTION OF REREDOS.











THE NAVE, LOOKING EAST.

Plate ix.

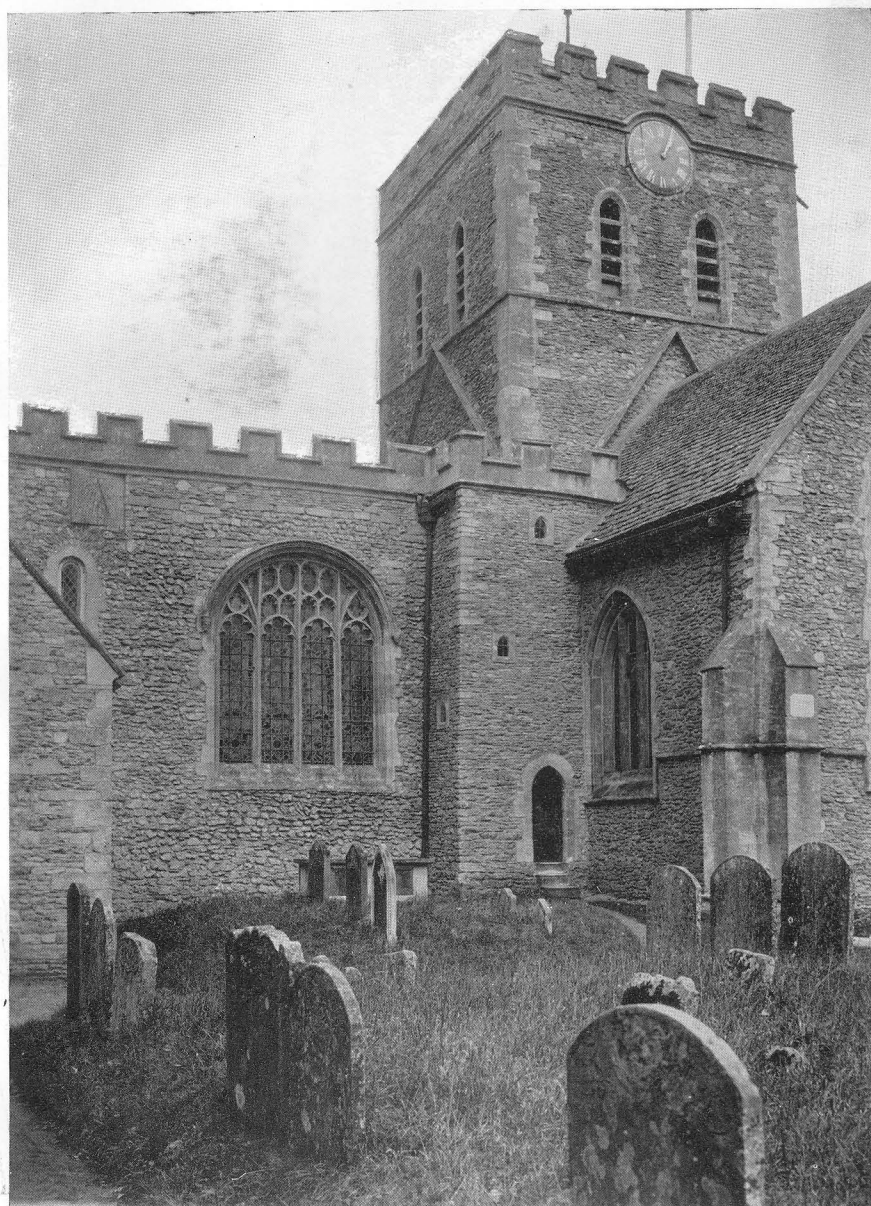
BUCKLAND CHURCH.



THE FONT.

Plate x.

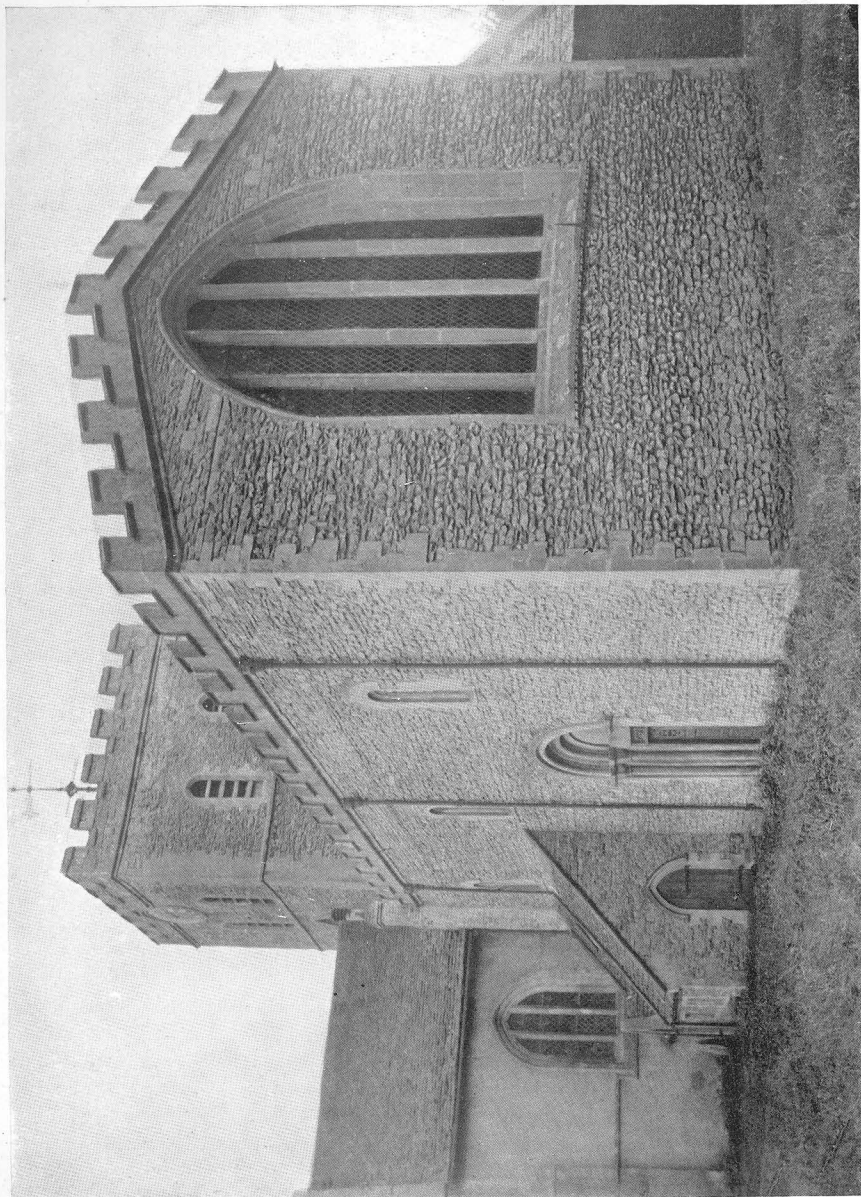
BUCKLAND CHURCH.



THE TOWER.

BUCKLAND CHURCH.

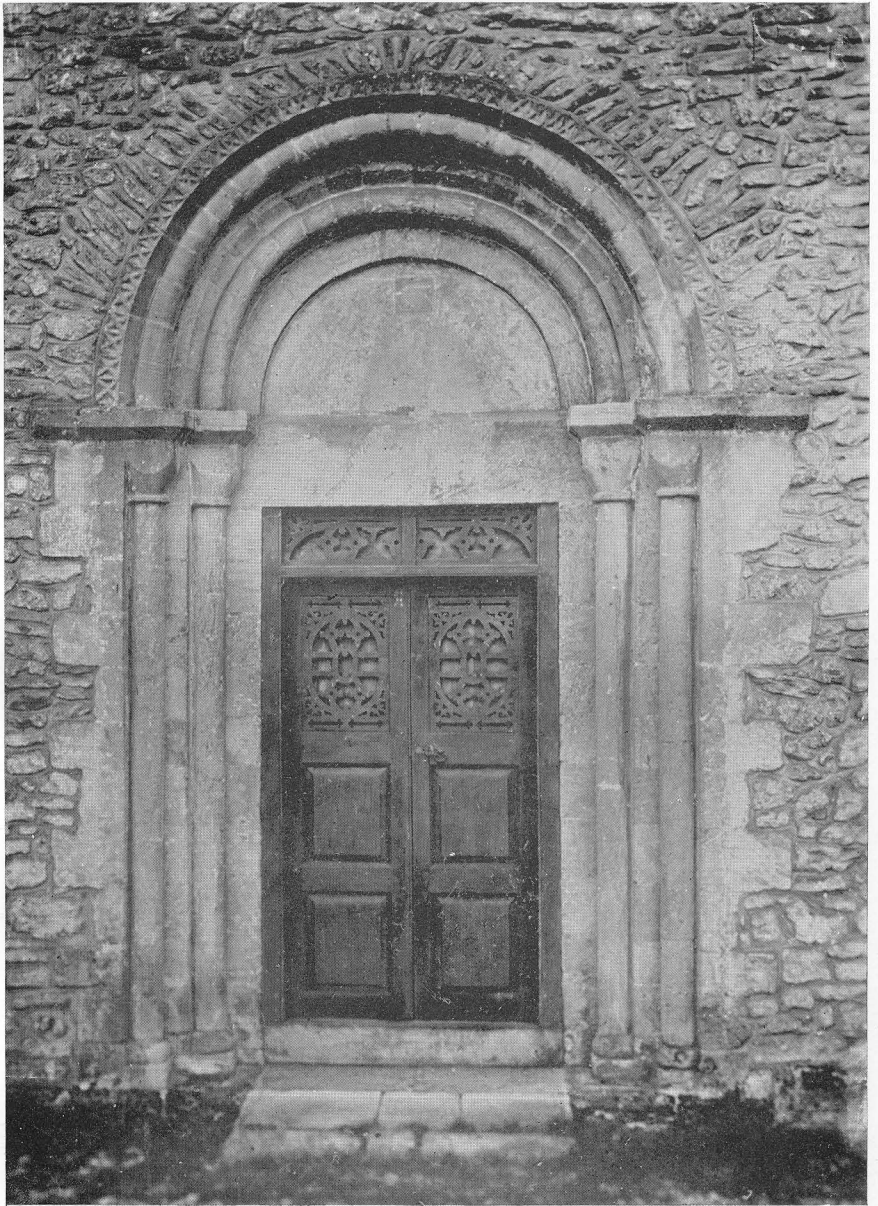
Plate xi.



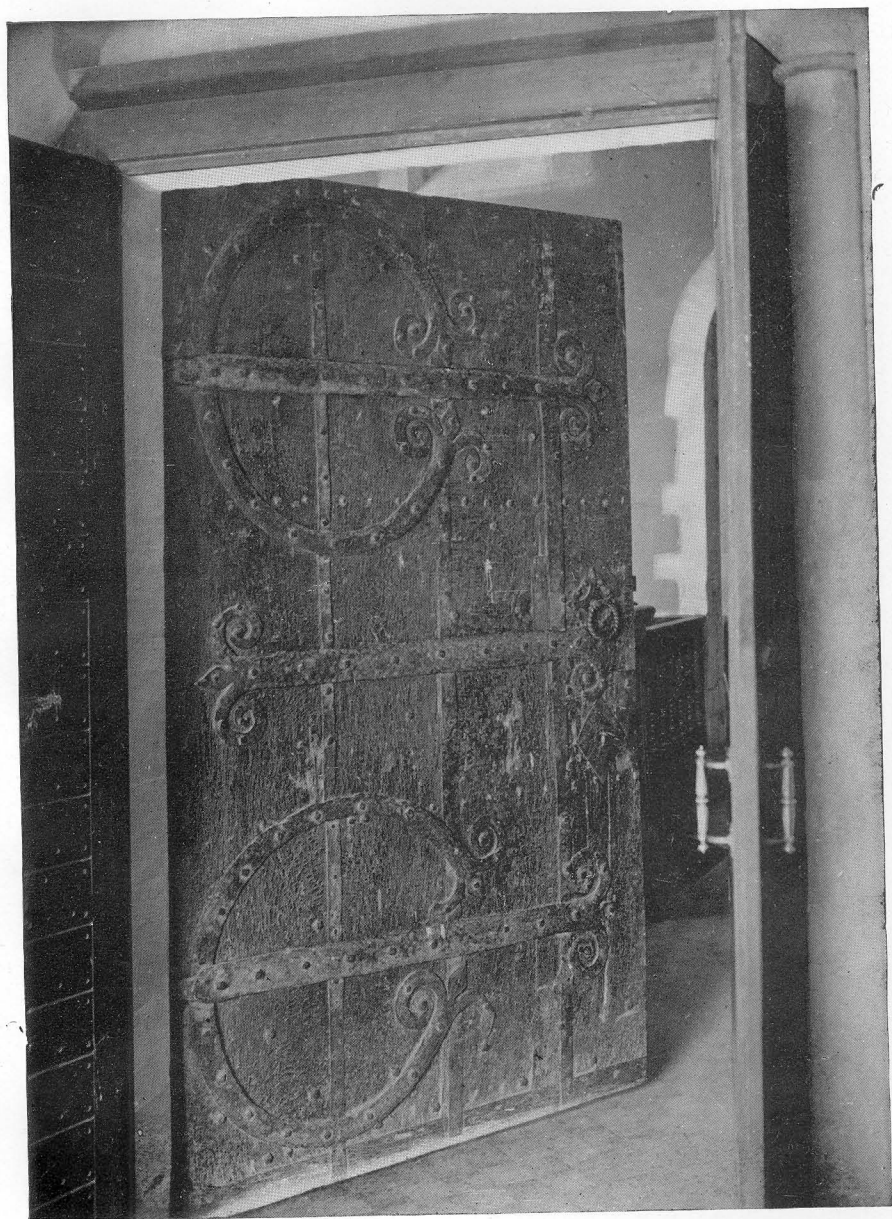
VIEW FROM N.W.

Plate xii.

BUCKLAND CHURCH.



THE NORTH DOORWAY.



THE SOUTH DOOR.



