



The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.

Notes on the Churches of Boxford, Abington, Ashbury, Affington and Longcot.

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Read before the Berkshire Archæological Society, February 22nd, 1910.

(Continued from page 40.)

THE Chancel arch of Ashbury Church is in the Decorated style, but looks new. On either side of the nave is an arcade of four arches; the eastern one on each side opening to the transepts is in the Decorated style and rests on a bracket in the east wall. The other three are very good (Fig. 18) Perpendicular of the latter part of the 15th century with continuous hoodmould and two recessed orders, resting on piers having an engaged shaft with large well moulded capital attached to each face. The north transept is shallow with a long two-light Decorated window on the north side and a trefoil-headed lancet in the east wall. A plain pointed arch for the piscina recess also remains in the east wall. An arch apparently altered in the 15th century opens to the north aisle.

The south transept is much larger with a two-light window in the south wall, a square-headed three-light Perpendicular window on the east and a two-light of same date on the west side. In the

south wall is a founder's tomb with cinque-foiled canopy cut flat back to the wall. Within it has been placed a stone coffin, and here are preserved some fragments of the old Norman Church, found in one of the tower buttresses, viz., two scalloped capitals, a portion with a beading of small pellets, two heads, etc. To the east of the tomb is a rounded trefoil-headed piscina recess of 13th century date, and part of the bowl of the former pillar piscina. There is an arch opening to the south aisle of the Decorated period, and to the south of it also opening from aisle to transept is a large arched squint with window tracery. This transept was probably the Lady Chapel in pre-reformation times. The roof is low pitched with tie beams resting on stone corbel heads. The nave roof is also low pitched with tie beams and king-posts, and is supported on stone head brackets. These and the other roofs, where old, are of 15th century date, and it is hoped to be able to repair them as soon as possible, that of the nave having already been taken in hand. At the west end of each aisle the old Norman masonry remains (Fig. 19), and the west respond of the 12th century arcade with grooved and chamfered abacus, engaged shaft with scalloped capital, has been left in situ. The aisle walls are probably in the main of this date with later windows inserted. In the south aisle are two two-light windows, and a three-light above the doorway between them. All are square-headed and coeval with the arcade. At the west end is a single lancet. In the north aisle are two very nice two-light windows in the north wall of either late Decorated or early Perpendicular character. The font is of 15th century date with large octagonal bowl having a rose within a quatrefoil on each face and a plain stem. There is in the north wall a small 15th century doorway opening to the steps leading up to the parvise over the north porch. There is also near the west end a stone fireplace in the wall, apparently of the same 15th century date, and a most unusual feature within a church. By the north doorway inside the Church is a plain arched recess for the holy water stoup. The tower arch is massive, probably Early English, with hoodmould and two plain members dying into the wall on either side. The west window is of three lights debased Perpendicular. There is a plain semicircular headed arch on the south side of the tower leading to the staircase. A fine old chest is preserved here.

On the exterior of the Church, which is wholly built of stone, there is a good deal which is worthy of note. The north doorway within the porch is plain in two orders, with four-centred arch, and

ASHBURY CHURCH.

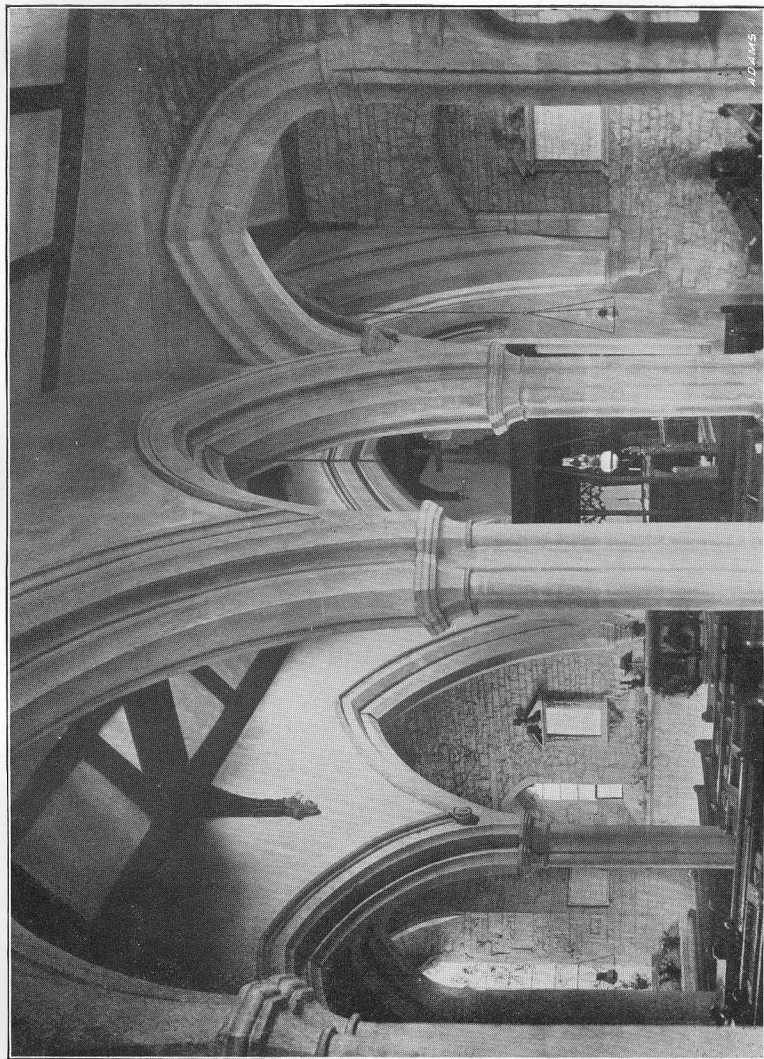


Fig. 18.

VIEW ACROSS THE NAVE.

ASHBURY CHURCH.

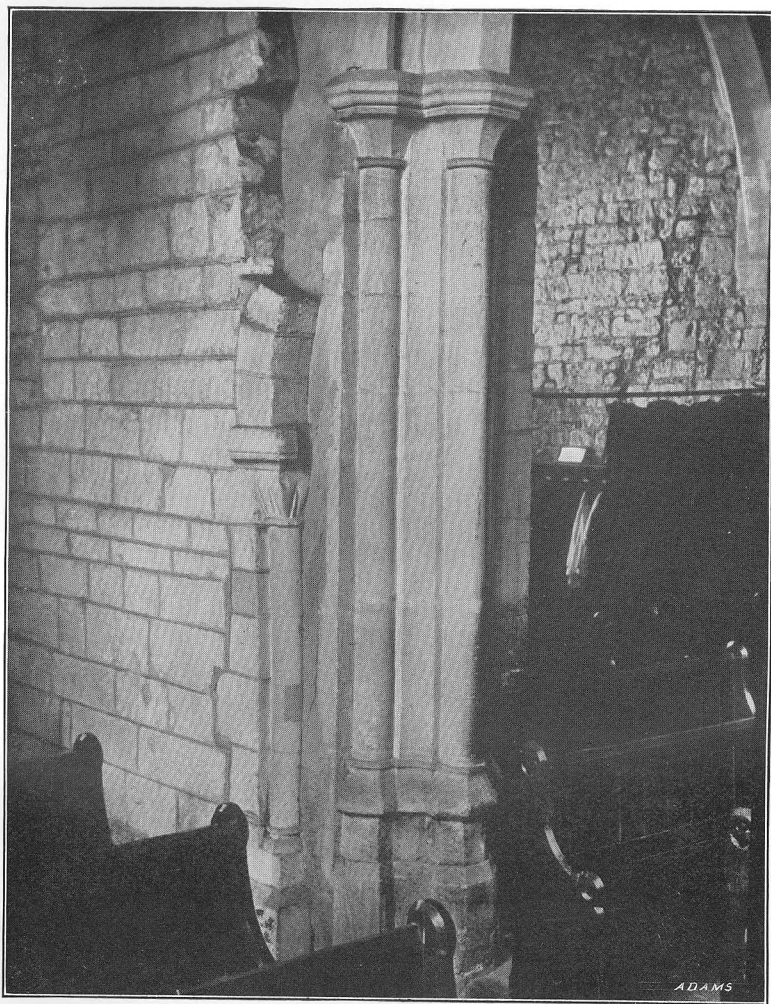


Fig. 19. WEST RESPOND OF SOUTH NAVE ARCADE.

ASHBURY CHURCH.



Fig. 20. CENTRAL BOSS OF NORTH PORCH.

ASHBURY CHURCH.

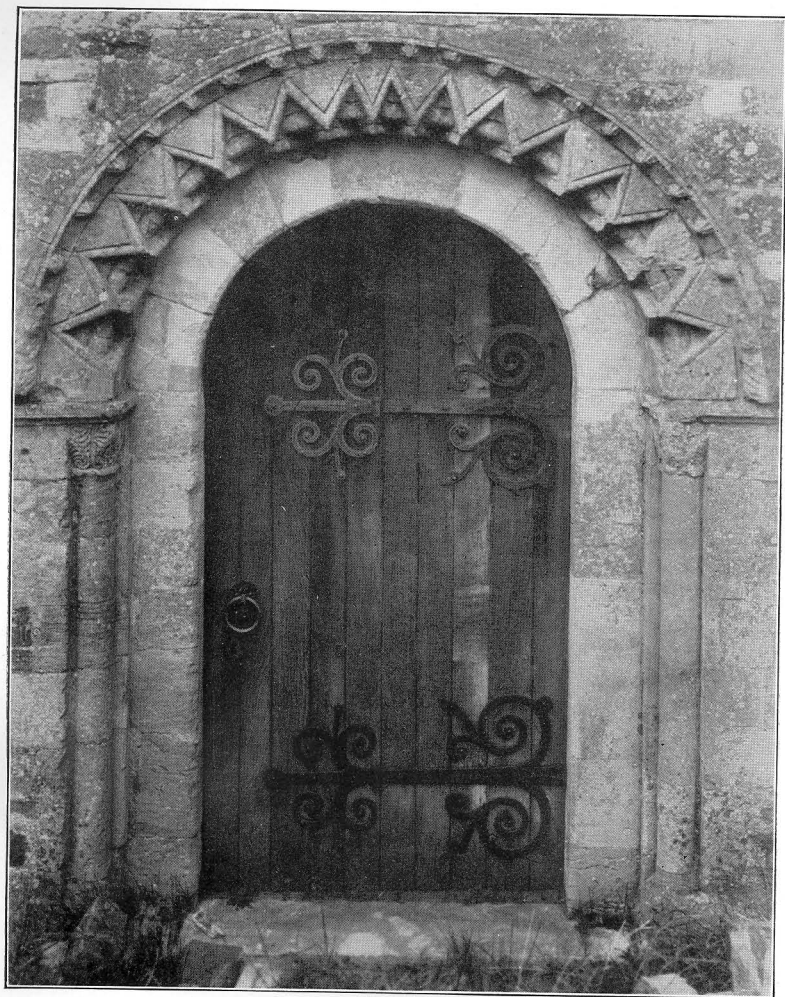


Fig. 21.

THE SOUTH DOORWAY.

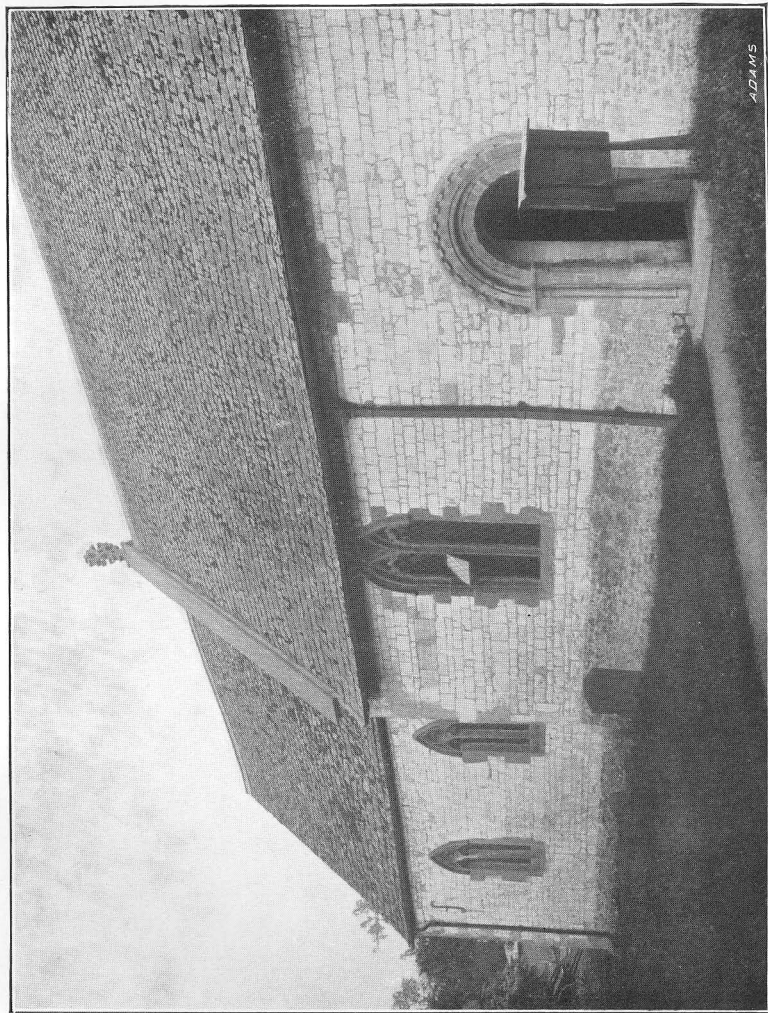
without imposts. The porch is of stone with rich fan tracery roof, having numerous groining ribs supported on four angle shafts. These meet in a large central boss (Fig. 20) with a rose (this is modern) having a leaf on each side within a quatrefoil enclosed within a circle. It is a fine piece of carving, and if in danger immediate steps should be taken to ensure its safety. The outer arch of the porch is also four-centred perpendicular, with two orders and square label with roses within quatrefoils in the spandrels. Above is a canopied niche with pedestal for figure, and at the side a quatrefoil opening to light the parvise. There is an oilette on the west side. The old cross remains on the gable. On east side of porch is a small two-light window and a single oblong opening on the west side. On the parapet of the north aisle near the west end is a very grotesque gargoyle with a monkey holding a human head with the mouth wide open.

The tower, which is said to have been in a very insecure condition, though now restored and underpinned, is embattled with debased pinnacles. There are two light belfry windows, perhaps early Decorated, on three sides, and a single trefoiled lancet on the west face. In the middle stage is a plain lancet on the north and trefoil-headed lancet on the south side. There is a curious semi-circular projection on the south side to accommodate the steps leading up to the belfry. There are two graduated buttresses on each side of the tower with a smaller one between on north and south, carried up as far as the middle stage. On the west on south side, and on two supporting the south aisle, are niches for images. There is a very elegant little pinnacle on the south-west corner of the south aisle. Most of the windows have external labels with a bead, which seem in some instances to have been added in the 15th century. The south doorway (Fig. 21), which is figured in the sixth volume of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archæological Journal, is not now used, as in consequence of burials the ground has been very considerably raised on this side of the Church. It is a very fine example of late Norman work, and perhaps the best specimen of a type and period of which other instances are to be found at Woolstone, Lambourne, Shellingford, and just over the border in Wiltshire at Bishopstone. The arch has a hoodmould and two recessed orders. The main face of the hoodmould is grooved, and in a hollow of the chamfered portion is a series of ornamental nailheads. On the outer order is a roll at the angle, with bold chevrons on either side, their points meeting and forming a series of deeply

undercut lozenges. The abacus is grooved and chamfered, and supported on an engaged shaft with varied foliage on the capitals, and a claw to each of the bases. The inner order is plain with chamfered angle to the arch and jambs. There is a small sundial on the lowest voussoir on the east side, and a larger one on the outer jamb on the west. The date of this doorway cannot be much earlier than 1170—1180. A portion of the Norman stringcourse still remains on the south and west walls.

A drive of about four miles, passing Woolstone, will bring us to Uffington. Woolstone is a chapelry to Uffington, and nestling as it does just below the White Horse Hill is itself full of historical and antiquarian associations. An old house here is reputed to have belonged to Abingdon Abbey, and to have been used as a residence for the monks, who in turn officiated at Uffington Church and its chapelries at Woolstone and Baulking. Woolstone Church, or Chapel, is well worth a visit, and contains earlier work than can now be found at the mother Church at Uffington. It is dedicated to All Saints, and consists of a nave with transept and chancel, and the dimensions are given as 72 feet in length by 35 feet in breadth, including the transept (Fig. 22). It is mainly of late and transitional Norman work, with windows and other insertions of the early part of the 14th century. It is composed of clunch, and has been thoroughly restored, with a new western bell cote, roof, &c. The walls, both within and without, have been denuded of any whitewash or plaster with which they were previously overlaid. Taking up our position in the interior of the chancel, we notice that the east window is debased, a relic of an 18th century restoration. On the north and south sides are two two-light decorated windows with a quatrefoil in the head, and segmental headed containing arches. In the south wall is a good ogee-headed piscina of the same date. There is a plain sedile within the sill of the east window on the south side, and a rude sundial incised on the jamb of the east window on the north side. There are two very beautiful bronze candelabra in the chancel, and another one in the nave. The chancel arch (Fig. 23) is obtusely pointed transitional Norman, with a hood-mould having a row of billets on the chamfer, and two chamfered orders both on its east and west face. These are supported on an abacus in the form of a roll moulding and plain jambs. The arch opening from the nave to the transept has two chamfered orders, probably of late 13th century date, and rests on the earlier transitional Norman semi-circular responds with scalloped capitals. The

WOOLSTONE CHURCH.



ADAMS

Fig. 22.

FROM THE NORTH.

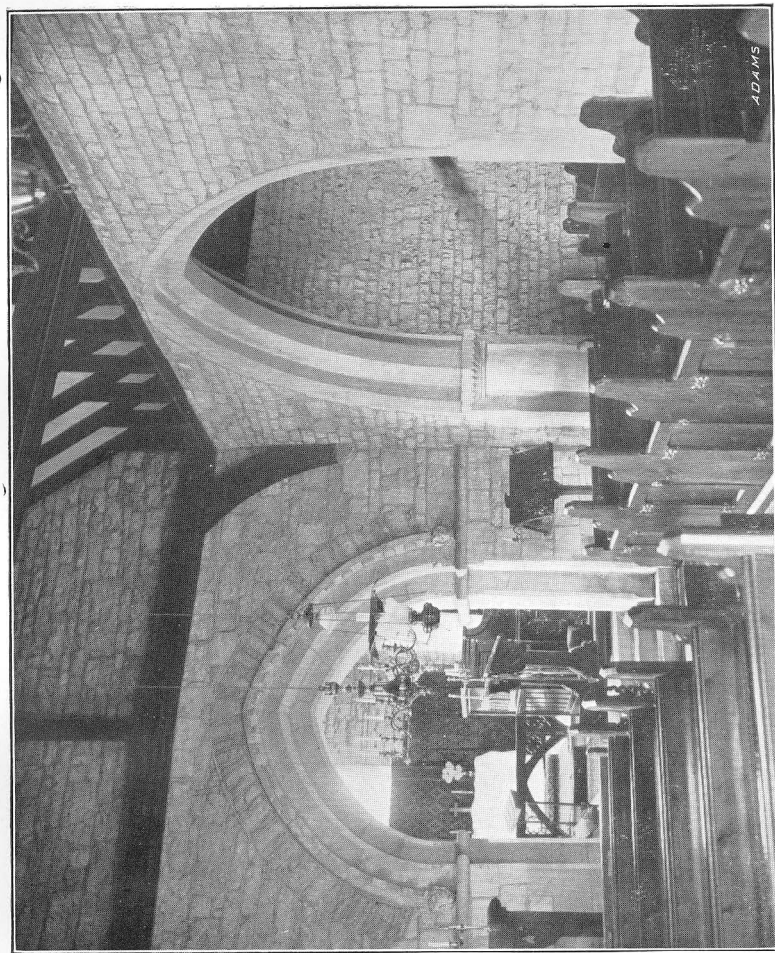


Fig. 23. CHANCEL AND TRANSEPT ARCHES.

WOOLSTONE CHURCH.



Fig. 24.

THE FONT.

WOOLSTONE CHURCH.

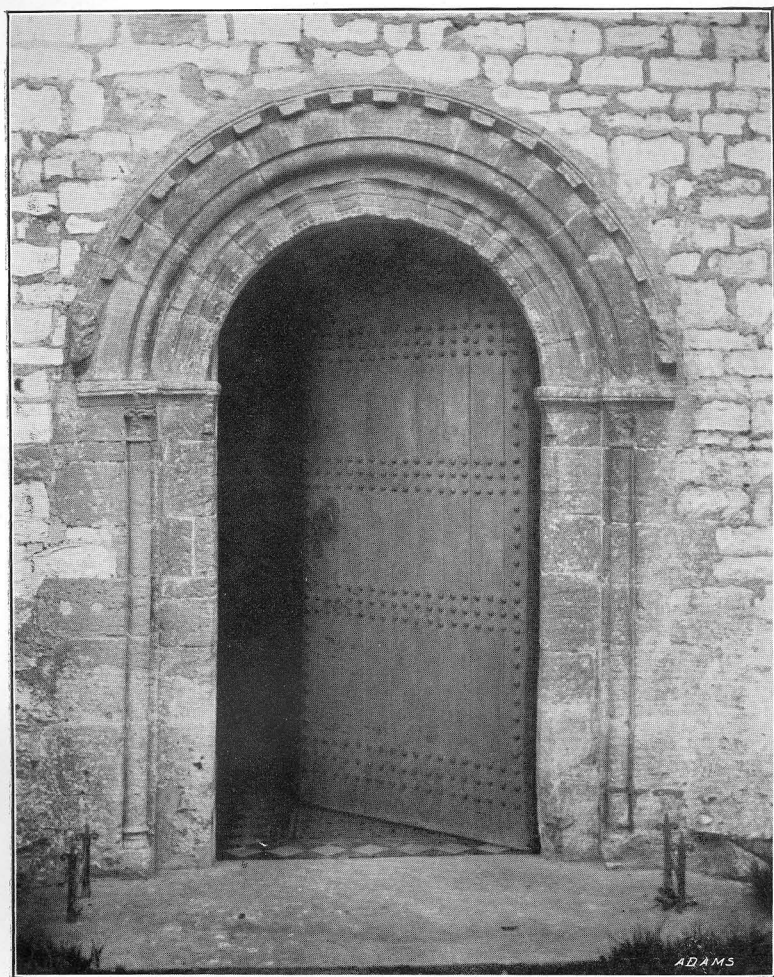
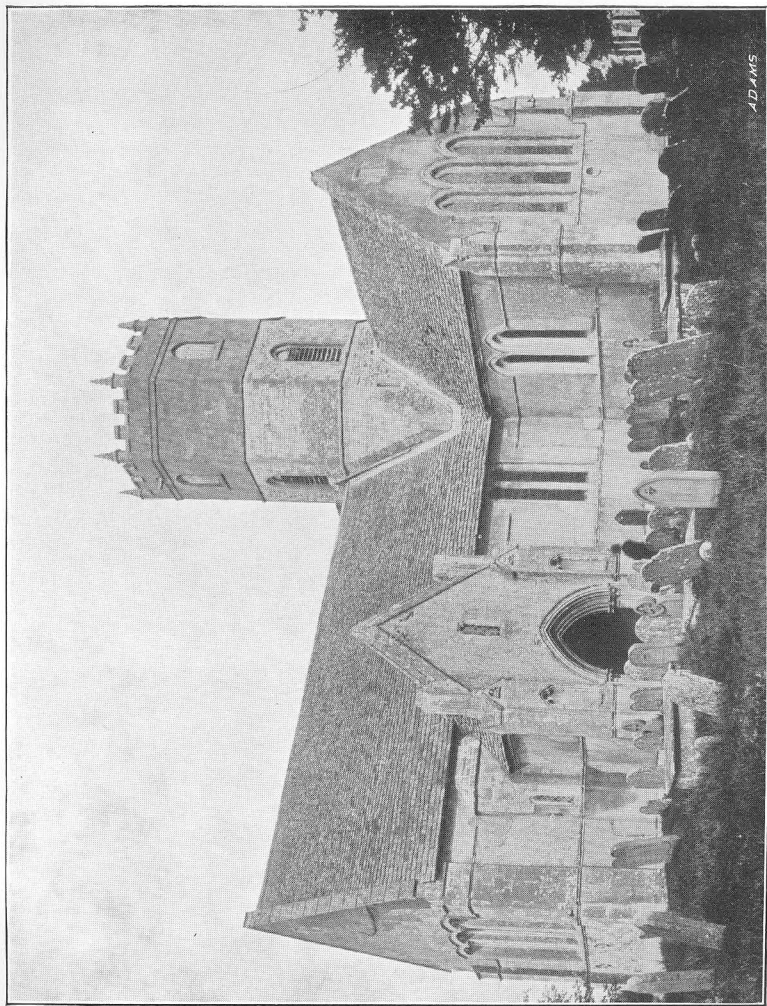


Fig. 25.

THE NORTH DOORWAY.



FROM THE SOUTH WEST.

Fig. 26.

south window is of two lights early decorated. In the east wall is a plain oblong recess with piscina basin and wooden shelf above.

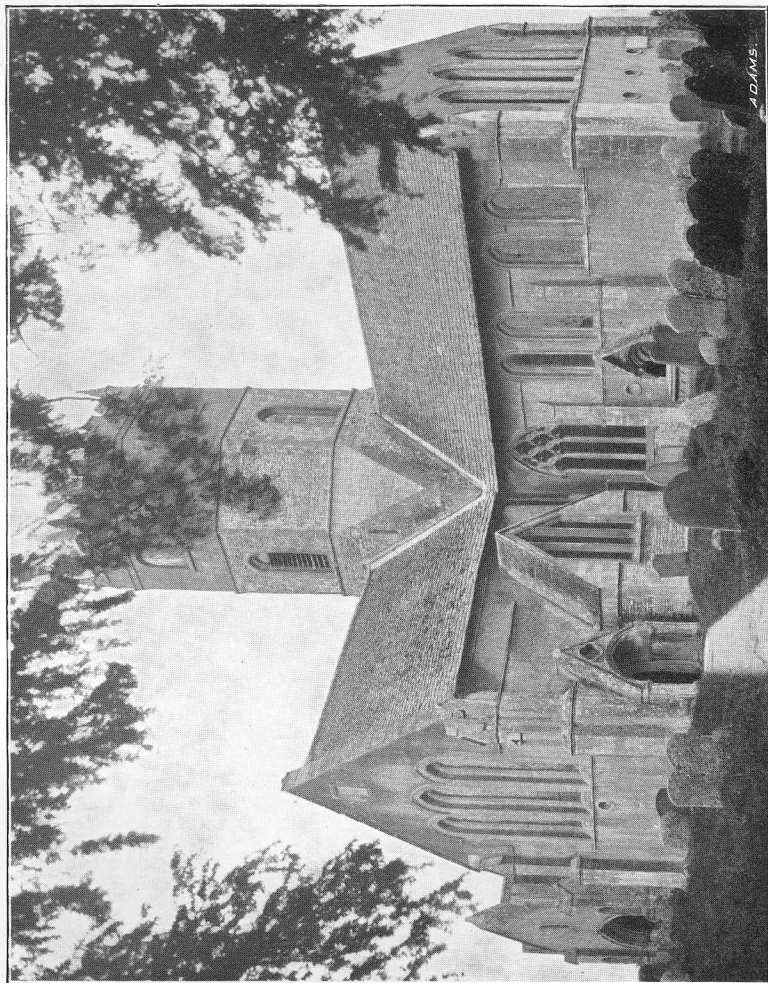
In the nave on the north is a two-light decorated window, and further west is a plain lancet in both north and south walls. The west window is debased. The nave roof with tie beams and king-posts is probably of 15th century date. The font (Fig. 24) is of lead, and of the same date as those previously described at Childrey and Long Wittenham. It is much smaller than these, and has a circular bowl divided by an encircling band into two uneven parts, and these are separated by irregular vertical bands into a series of compartments each containing a pair of leaves forming a pointed arch. A slender zig-zag band is carried round the lower portion. It stands on a circular stone stem and modern base, and dates from near the end of the 12th century. The north doorway (Fig. 25) is interesting late Norman, of the same type as that at Ashbury. It has a grooved and chamfered hoodmould with billets on the chamfer and dragons' heads terminations, and two recessed orders. To the outer is an engaged roll on the angle. To the inner is a band of recessed, raised, and beaded zig-zag. Both are supported on a grooved and chamfered abacus, and the outer order by an engaged shaft with the acanthus foliage on the capital. The inner jambs are plain, with a chamfer step below the abacus. There are traces of two crosses on the jambs. All the windows have external labels. There is a plain pointed blocked doorway, early English or Decorated, on the south side. The south chancel doorway now opening into a modern vestry is late Norman semi-circular, with grooved and chamfered hoodmould and abacus, and plain chamfered arch and jambs.

Let us now resume our journey to Uffington (Fig. 26), where it will be our endeavour to give a careful description of one of the most interesting Churches in the County. The history of Uffington is very meagre, but we learn that at an early date the great tithes were in the possession of Abingdon Abbey, and later on the Manor was granted to the Abbey of Reading, and it was probably due to the joint efforts of these two great monastic institutions that we can boast of the existence in our County of this grand specimen of the workmanship of the architects and builders of the 13th century. There is, I believe, a record of Uffington Church having been built by Abingdon Abbey about the year 1105, but though it is singular that a reconstruction should so soon have been deemed necessary or advisable, there can be no doubt that no part of the present edifice,

with the exception of a small recess on south of chancel, belongs to that date. Indeed, its history may be briefly summed up in one sentence, that with the exception of one window, the upper part of the tower, and some post Reformation restoration, it belongs entirely to the Early English period of the first half of the thirteenth century. It is a fine cruciform structure (Fig. 27) with central tower, nave, south porch, transepts with eastern chapels and chancel. The extreme length is said to be 123 feet, its breadth across the transepts 83 feet, and across the nave and chancel 23½ feet. The two first represent external, the last, internal measurement. Like so many other Churches in our Diocese, it is dedicated to St. Mary.

Let us without any further preface commence our survey of the Church, starting as usual in the interior of the chancel. In the east wall (Fig. 28) are three lancets with continuous hoodmould and a filleted order with hollow on either side supported on banded shafts with large circular capitals, those on either side of the central light enriched with conventional foliage. On either side of the east bay which forms the sacarium are two lancets with continuous hoodmould and the filleted order on central and side shafts with large well moulded circular capitals. On the south side (Fig. 29) is a small semi-circular arched recess, apparently for a pillar piscina, and possibly a relic of the former Norman Church, and then farther west is a beautiful scheme of piscina and three graduated sedilia, all trefoil headed, with continuous hoodmould, well moulded arches with a filleted order and hollow on either side resting on detached shafts with large circular capitals and undercut abacus. A string-course is carried along above them, but below the windows and groining shafts. The original groining shafts and the springers of the stone ribs remain in the east angles, and at the west end of the sacarium are the shafts resting on brackets with head of a king on north and of a lady on south, supporting the arch which now divides the sacarium from the western and larger portion of the chancel. Here on the north side are two pairs of lancets, the eastern pair blocked up, as the sacristy formerly abutted on this part of the chancel. They are in every respect similar to those in the sacarium. In the north wall is the closed up doorway with fluted arch and jambs, which formerly led to the sacristy. On the south side, on a lower level than the sedilia, is a trefoil headed piscina with plain basin, and the south chancel doorway with internal segmental headed arch. Above this are two lancets similar to those on the north, and farther west a large decorated window of three lights with

UFFINGTON CHURCH.



FROM THE SOUTH EAST.

Fig. 27.

UFFINGTON CHURCH.



THE CHANCEL LOOKING EAST.

Fig. 28.

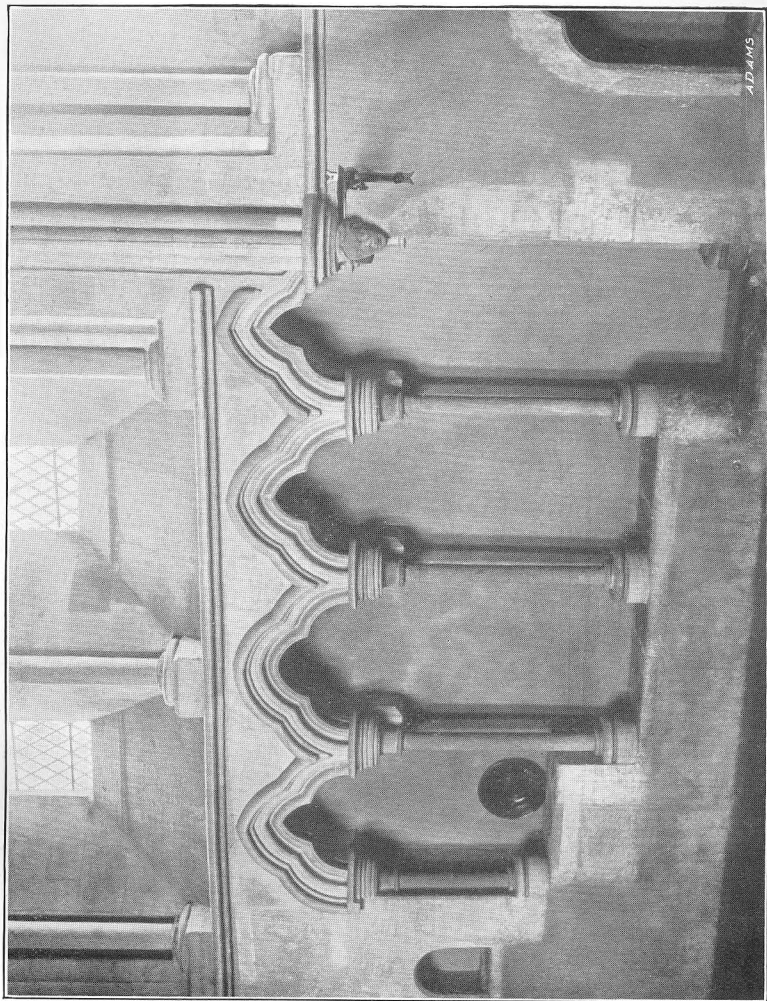


Fig. 29.

THE PISCINA AND SEDILIA.

quatrefoils in the head. The containing arch has the same mouldings as the lancets, and is supported on nook shafts with capitals, &c., exactly similar to the Earlier lights. Possibly these belonged to a pair of lancets, and were utilised for the new window. We find a parallel instance at Cholsey, where the beautiful decorated east window is similarly brought into harmony with the lancets on the north and south side. The sill of this window is brought down to a much lower level than those of the lancets to the east of it.

(To be continued.)

Extracts from the Parish Registers of Oxfordshire.

Transcribed by the Rev. Canon Oldfield, D.D.

(Continued from page 58, Vol. 16.)

PARISH OF HANBOROUGH, OXFORDSHIRE.

(From a list of Rectors 1598 to 1673 :—)

Rectores Ecclesiæ de Hanborough.

1638. Thomas Walker ejectus est a Delegatis Parliament :
1648 suffectus est ab iisdem.
1660. restitutus. ob. Dec. 5 1665 et sep. est in Eccl. S. Petri
in Oriente, Oxon.
1666. Ricardus Baylie. ob. July 27 1667. sep. est in Sacello
Coll. S. Joan. Bapt. Oxon.
1667. Petrus Mews. provectus ad Episcopat. Batho-Wellens :
resignavit hanc Rectoriam A.D. 1673.

(See Dict. of Nat. Biog).

Registru custodiendu in Eccliæ parochiali de Hanborowghe
infra diocoesin Oxon : confectu ex pergamento, Anno dni millesimo
quingentesi [mo] nonogesimo octavo, Ano Regni serenissimæ dnæ
nræ Elizabethæ dei gratia Angliæ Francæ et Hiberniæ Regina, fidei
defensoris et quadragesimo. Johan. Bates Rect. ibidem et Johan