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

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

(Continued from page 71.)

The four central tower arches (fig. 30) have three fluted orders with continuous undercut abacus and half round respond shafts. The eastern arch is rather more ornate than the others. The western arch dies into the wall on either side. The east and west arches are somewhat larger than those opening to the transepts. The north transept has three lancets in the north wall, corresponding with those in the chancel. There is a pair of similar lancets on the west side. A stringcourse runs round the walls above and below the windows. In the north wall is a large aumbrey or reliquary divided into four partitions, a stone shelf separating the upper from the lower pair. It is recessed to allow space for the doors, the hinges for which still remain. In the east (fig. 31) wall of this transept are two chapels about 4 feet in depth, with two arches opening to them from the transept. These arches have numerous roll mouldings, one with a fillet band, and rest on a cluster of

engaged shafts to the central pier, with a half round respond and small filleted shaft at the south, and a cluster of three small engaged shafts at the northern end, all with undercut abacus and rounded capitals. The hoodmould of the south arch terminates on heads. This arch is narrower and loftier than that on the north. In the east wall of each chapel is a curious triple lancet, the central light triangular headed, and the sides half triangular within a triangular headed containing arch, and with a roll moulding down the jambs and mullions. On the south side of each chapel is a beautiful piscina with trefoil headed canopy with deep hollow in the middle separating it into two orders. There is a plain single lancet in the north wall of the north chapel. In the west wall of the transept is a rather singular trefoil headed doorway now blocked, but formerly opening to the staircase leading up to the roodloft. In the north wall is a tomb with flat Italian canopy on shafts with Corinthian capitals, with shield in the middle with three arrows impaling a coat of arms not now decipherable. On the west side is the following inscription in poor capital letters :—

Here lieth the bodie
of Edward Archer Es
Quier buried the 27 daie
of Julie and in the first
yere of the reigne of our
Sovereigne Lorde King
James and in the yere of
our Lorde God 1603.

On the east side

The Lord is mercifull
and righteous and
our God is full of co
mpassion precious in
The sight of the
Lorde is the death
of his Saints. Psalm
116 vers

A very large iron bound chest is preserved here, also three long oak benches with very good panelled ends of 15th century date. One more panelled end is lying about loose here. The south transept has windows in the south and west walls in every way corresponding with those in the north transept. On the east side is a chapel similar to those in the north transept with an arch opening to it,

having a hoodmould terminating on a mask on south and a rose on north, two well moulded orders, the outer resting on slender shafts enriched with a fillet band, the inner on semi-circular responds. The east window is similar to those in the north chapels, as is the piscina in the south wall, perhaps with remains of colour, and a cross fleury carved on lower jamb on the north side. To the south is a doorway with segmental containing arch having a hoodmould on masks, and good mouldings. There is a shaft supporting it on the north side, and plain inner arch. The door looks very old.

In the west wall is a monument with circular canopy ornamented alternately with cherubs and roses on the underside and with remains of gilding. Within is the figure of a gentleman in civilian costume, all black, except a white ruff, lying on his side with his head supported on his left hand, while his right clasps a scroll. Below him, on a brass plate, is this inscription, which was formerly on a gravestone in the nave, and does not belong to this monument at all —

Here lyeth buried the bodies of John Saunders and
Anne his wife both borne in this Parish w^{ch}
John had twoe wives the other named Joane
and had issue by his first wife v sones and 11
Daughters who departed his life the xxvith day
of December Ano Dni 1599.

On another panel (?) of brass is the following inscription, which belongs to the monument :—

Reader this monument preserves the
Memory of John Saunders of Wolston in y^{e}
County of Berks Esq. Justice of Peace in
that County and well experienc'd in y^{e}
Comon lawes of England. He rendred his
Soule to God ye 29th day of April 1638
And this portion of Sacred earth preserves
His body which is sequestered for ye resurrection.
He was happy in his marriage with Margaret
one of ye daught^{rs} of John Evelin of Godston
In ye County of Surry Esq at whose charge
This monument was erected and by whom
He had children Elizabeth, Margaret,
Thomas, Elizabeth & Lettice.

On the west wall close by is a white marble tablet with the following inscription typical of a period when people were apparently much more virtuous than they are now :—

To the memory of
Frances Senior
Widow of Nassau Thomas Senior
of Hoddesdon in the County of Hertford, Esqr.
For maternal Affection conjugal Fidelity
And all the Charities of social life
She was well known and
respected by her Acquaintance.
To the World
Her Son forbears to set forth
the Virtues of her Character
resting in pious Hope
that they will be hereafter manifested
in the solemn Assembly of Men and Angels.
She died August 24th 1790
Aged 57 years.

There is another tablet in the south porch with an equally flattering epitaph. In the south wall within a frame in three compartments are the Lord's Prayer, Commandments and Creed in gold letters on a black ground, of date about 1700. The panelled ends of one more bench are preserved here. The roofs of the transepts may be partly old. In the nave is a triple lancet in the west wall and double lancet near east end on north and south sides. The heads of all seem to have been cut off, perhaps when the Church, after serious neglect, was repaired, as proved by the following inscription on a marble tablet in the north wall :—

This Church Long
Ruined repaired by
Richard Saunders
and Thomas Lockey
Churchwardens
In the yeare 1678.

The nook shafts remain at the west, and the shafts and capitals to the windows on north and south, similar to those in the chancel. It has been pointed out that the weather moulding on the west face of the tower shows that the pitch of the original roof was nearly the same as that of the present one, and that therefore the original parapet was not lowered at the time of the 1678 restoration. If this was so the heads of these lancets were never completed, though one cannot understand why this part of the detail of this beautiful Church was left in this unfinished and unsatisfactory condition. The interior

arches of the north and south doorways are segmental headed with undercut hoodmould and double roll mouldings. Above the north doorway (fig. 32) is a large circular window with two well moulded orders, enclosing a sixfoil opening. On south of nave near the west end is a shouldered arched doorway leading to the steps up to the parvise, and a shouldered arched window opening from the parvise to the nave.

There are numerous ledger stones on the floor to the Saunders of Woolstone, one with a brass plate and inscription as follows —

Here lyeth buried the body of
Thomas Saunders of this Parish
Who departed this life the 31st of
May 1644 and left behind him
Martha his wife by whome he had
Issue 8 sonnes and 6 daughters
and in the yeare of his age 51.

All in plain capital letters. This is let in to a blue stone with shield above, a chevron between three elephants' heads, and a similar elephant's head for the crest. Below on the stone is an inscription to his grandson Thomas Saunders, who died November 6th, 1689. On another ledger stone is the following —

Here lieth the Body of
Henry Cook
late Butler to Mrs. Richards of Compton
His service (of twenty eight years)
He discharg'd
with the most singular Prudence
The strictest Probity
The most singular Sobriety
The most inviolable Fidelity.
Neither was he less attentive
To the performance of his Duty
In every other Relation of Life ;
An obedient Son, a kind Brother,
A true Friend, an honest man,
And a good Christian.
Think not Reader, that a life thus spent
shall go unrewarded.
He died June 5th 1756. Aged 43.

The south doorway within a porch (fig. 33) is fine Early English in two orders, the outer divided into four members, two enriched with

a fillet band, resting on a shaft with bold conventional foliage on the capital and undercut abacus, the inner order with two engaged roll mouldings to the arch and continued without imposts down the jambs to the ground. The south door is very old, and the hinges and other ironwork on it furnish us with an excellent and early specimen of this department of art. The porch has stone groining ribs springing from shafts with rounded capitals in the four corners. The outer arch (fig. 34) is very fine, with central and side orders on each face divided into several small roll and filleted mouldings with deep hollows between. These rest on shafts with rich conventional foliage on the capitals. There is a small shaft between the two main ones. On either side of the arch s a buttress with trefoil headed niche and pedestal for image, and above, within a recessed canopy, the bust of a small figure. There is a pilaster above each buttress, which was formerly capped by a large pinnacle. There is a parvise above the porch with shouldered arched south window, and above in the gable a lily plant with lizard on one side and another animal on the other. There is a turret at the north-west corner of the porch, containing the steps leading up to the parvise. The tower is octagonal, the lower part with a lancet on each face. The upper part is embattled and comparatively modern, having been built when the spire was destroyed by lightning some years ago. There is a turret with conical top for the staircase carried up to the middle stage, and with three tiers of lancet windows, on the north-west side of the tower, and in the angle between the chancel and north transept. It is supported on an arch resting on heads thrown across the angle. The west windows (fig. 35) are now segmental headed externally. It is difficult to decide whether this was the original plan, or whether the heads of the lancets were cut down at the restoration in 1678. In the west wall are three circular medallions for the original consecration crosses. There are three more at the east end, and one more on north and south sides respectively of the chancel, transepts and nave. [One has been removed from north side of chancel.] It is uncertain whether the crosses were sculptured, of metal, or painted. Very few remain on the exterior of our Churches, indeed the only other instances we can call to mind are at Salisbury Cathedral (of about the same date as Uffington) and North Repps Church, Norfolk.

The north doorway (fig. 36) has an undercut hoodmould, and two recessed orders, each with two engaged roll mouldings dying into the jambs. The wheel window above has a well-moulded frame

and chamfered edge to the sixfoil within it. There are nice buttresses and a stringcourse round the outer walls. The double and triple lancets all have continuous external dripstones or hoodmoulds. The exterior (fig. 37) sides of the chapels in north transept show triangular stone roofs with a roll moulding along the gable, and to the jambs and mullions of the windows. On north side of chancel the weathermould of the old high pitched roof of the sacristy still remains. The missing consecration cross was no doubt in the north wall of this projection. The east pair of lancets on north side are rather more ornate than the west. The hoodmould above the east windows is continued as a stringcourse along the east wall, and carried down by a series of crowsteps to meet the buttresses at either side. The keel-shaped moulding is introduced on the east lancets, and the eastern pair on south side. The large decorated window has a hoodmould terminating on heads, and is a very fine specimen of this style. The south chancel doorway has a hoodmould and two recessed orders on engaged shafts with foliated capitals. It is set within a stone projection with triangular pediment above. The exterior of the chapel to the south transept is exactly similar to those on the north. On the east (fig. 38) side of the south transept is a doorway within a porch with outer arch having a hoodmould terminating on masks, and the moulded orders resting on engaged shafts. Above is a triangular pediment enclosing a quatrefoil shaped niche. The inner arch has a hoodmould and two recessed orders divided into numerous mouldings, the outer supported on detached shafts with circular capitals, the inner with the mouldings continued without imposts down the jambs. There is a well carved cross fleury on each inner jamb, and other plain crosses on the walls of the porch. There are traces of a rude sundial on the south-east buttress of the transept, and the head of a lady on a stone below the gable.

To the south of the Church is the old School House, a stone building commemorated by Tom Hughes. It has a fleur de lis on each gable, and various dates, 1617, 1637, &c., the former within a circular medallion smaller than, but somewhat similar to, the consecration crosses on the walls of the Church. There is a Latin inscription and a segmental headed doorway. The Manor House, with three gables, has also an ancient appearance.

Between three and four miles away is the parish of Longcot, formerly a Chapelry to Shrivenham, with an interesting Church, which has been recently repaired, the chief work being the opening

out of the nave roof. The Church of St. Mary consists of a west tower, nave and chancel (Fig. 39). In the Ecclesiastical Topography, mention is made of a new south aisle with modern round arches, but this does not now remain. In the last edition of Murray's Handbook, we learn that the dimensions of the church are 97 by 20½ feet, that it has a modern south wall and has been well restored. On the occasion of a first visit to the church in May, 1907, one was impressed with the fact that the church was then in need of restoration. It appears to be mainly of Early English date, as evidenced by a lancet window in the chancel, the chancel arch, and the interesting north doorway. Most of the windows are later insertions, and the tower bears the date of its erection in 1721. Let us now make our perambulation, commencing as usual in the chancel (Fig. 40). The east window is of two lights Decorated, within a fluted containing arch. On the north side is a single lancet, the only original window remaining. In the south wall is a three-light square headed Decorated window, and further west enclosed within a square frame two pairs of two-light windows, each pair with a quatrefoil in the head and probably of early 15th century date. In the usual place on south of chancel is a mutilated trefoil headed 13th century piscina (Fig. 41) very low down in the wall. The projecting basin and canopy have been cut away flush with the wall. A series of holes round the trefoiled portion indicate that the canopy was cut out of a separate stone and fixed by rivets to the main wall. Within the piscina, when opened out at the former restoration of the church, was found the head of a Maltese cross richly carved, and probably of 12th century date. In the east wall on either side of the altar on a low level is a large plain square aumbrey possibly for the safe custody of relics. In the modern vestry on the north side of the chancel is a two-light Perpendicular window, formerly on the north side of the chancel. In the north-west corner of the chancel are the steps leading up to the rood-loft, starting from about three feet above the present level of the chancel floor, and with low segmental headed arch. The upper arch on the side towards the nave is now blocked up. Considerable remains of paintings were found on the chancel walls, but these have unfortunately not been preserved.

The chancel arch has been enlarged. It is Early English with chamfered edge to the main order supported on a chamfered abacus and jambs. On each side at east end of the nave is a small cinquefoiled single light low side window of 15th century date. There is

Fig. 30. VIEW FROM BENEATH THE TOWER.

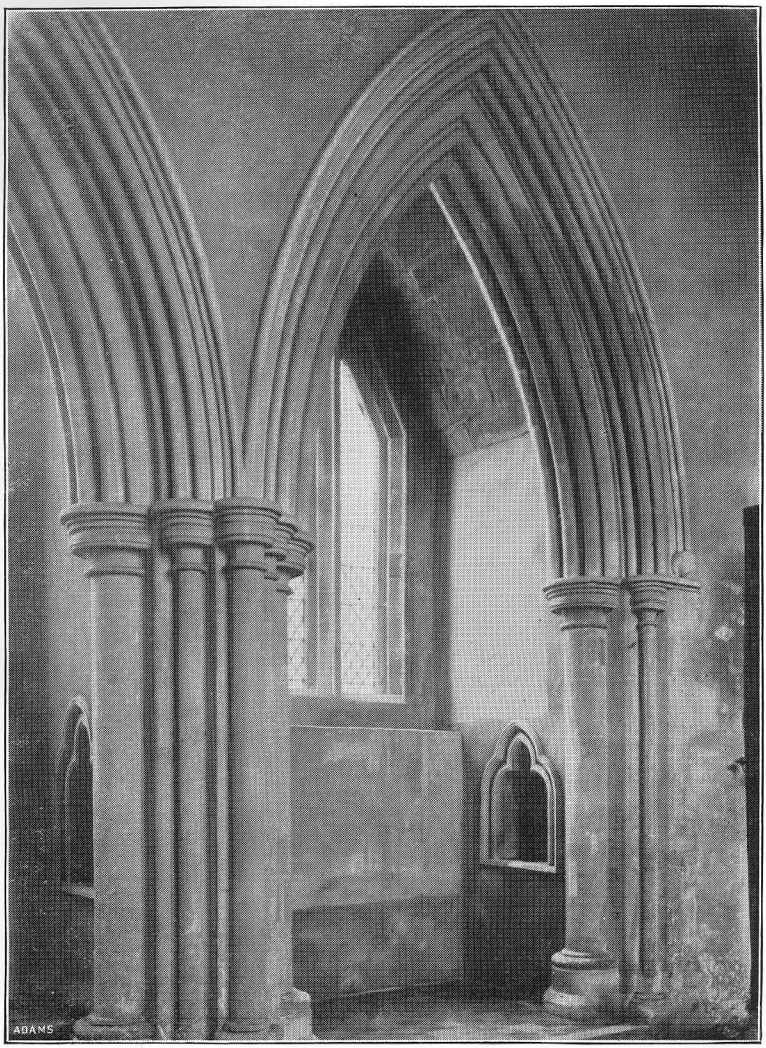

Fig. 31. CHAPELS IN NORTH TRANSEPT.

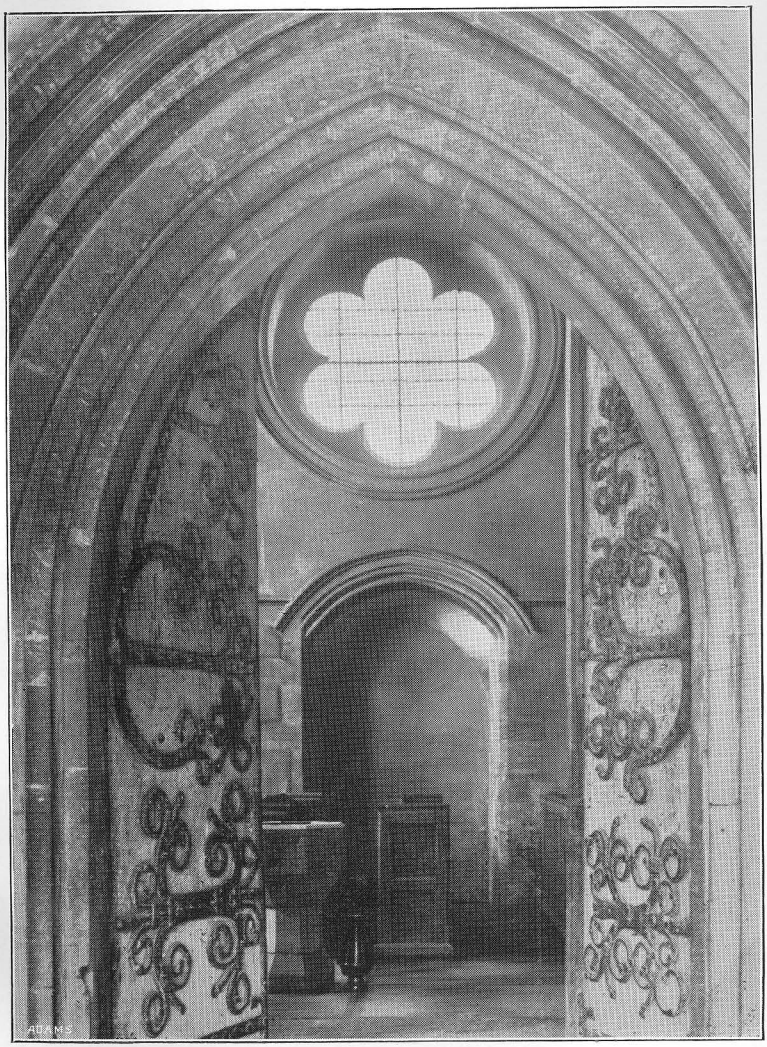

Fig. 32.
NORTH DOORWAY AND WINDOW, FROM SOUTH PORCH.

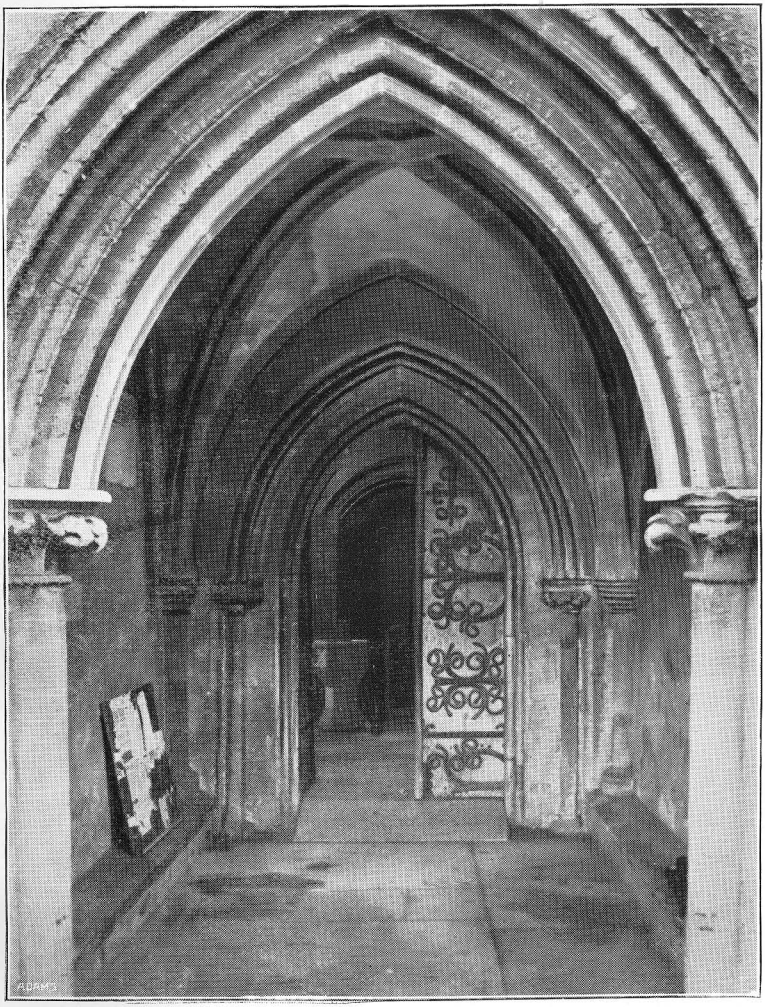

Fig. 33. SOUTH PORCH AND DOORWAY.

UFFINGTON CHURCH.

Fig. 34. SOUTH PORCH.

Fig. 35. WEST WINDOWS AND CONSECRATION CROSSES.

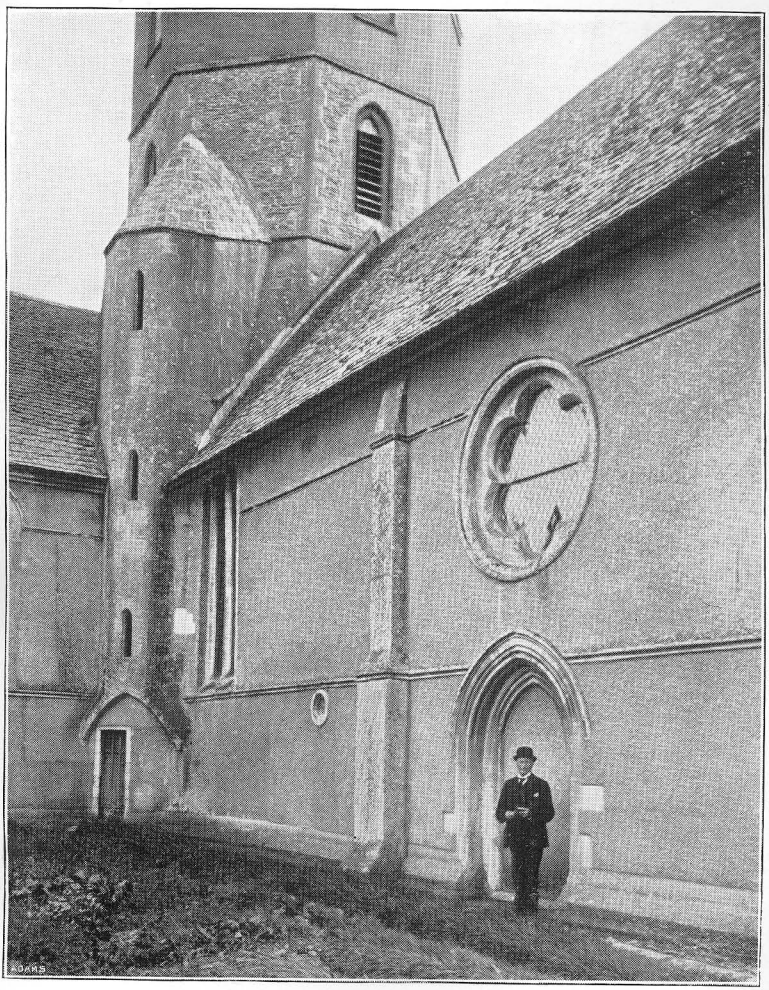

Fig. 36. NORTH DOORWAY AND WINDOW.

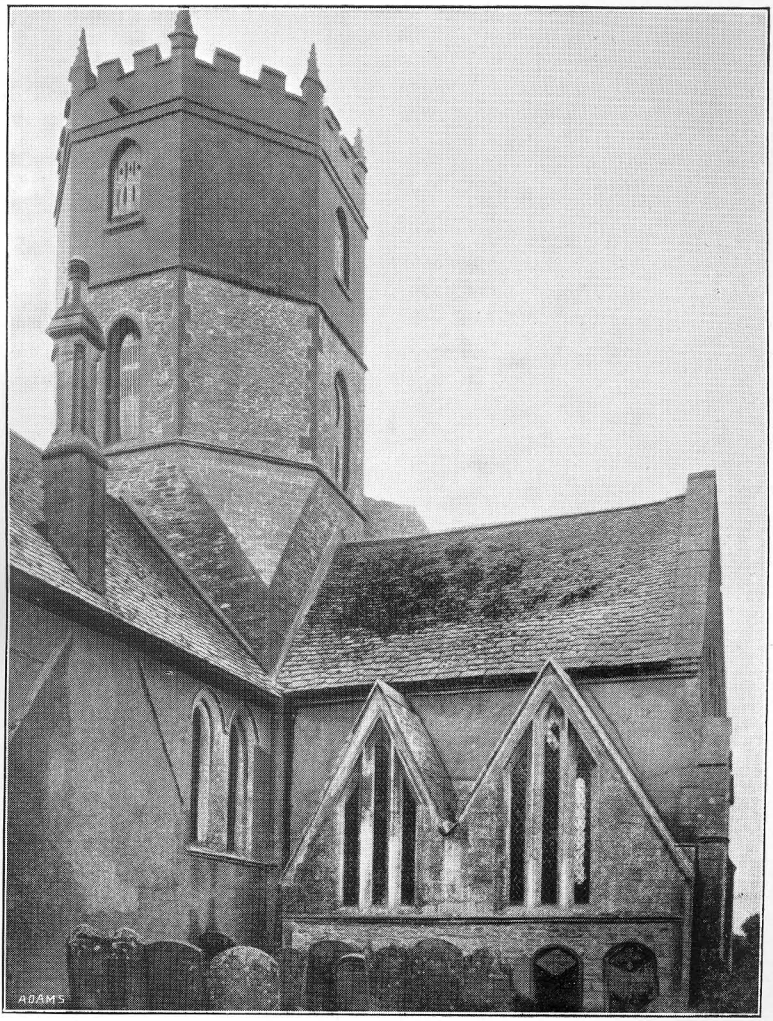

Fig. 37. EXTERIOR OF NORTH TRANSEPT CHAPELS.

UFFINGTON CHURCH.

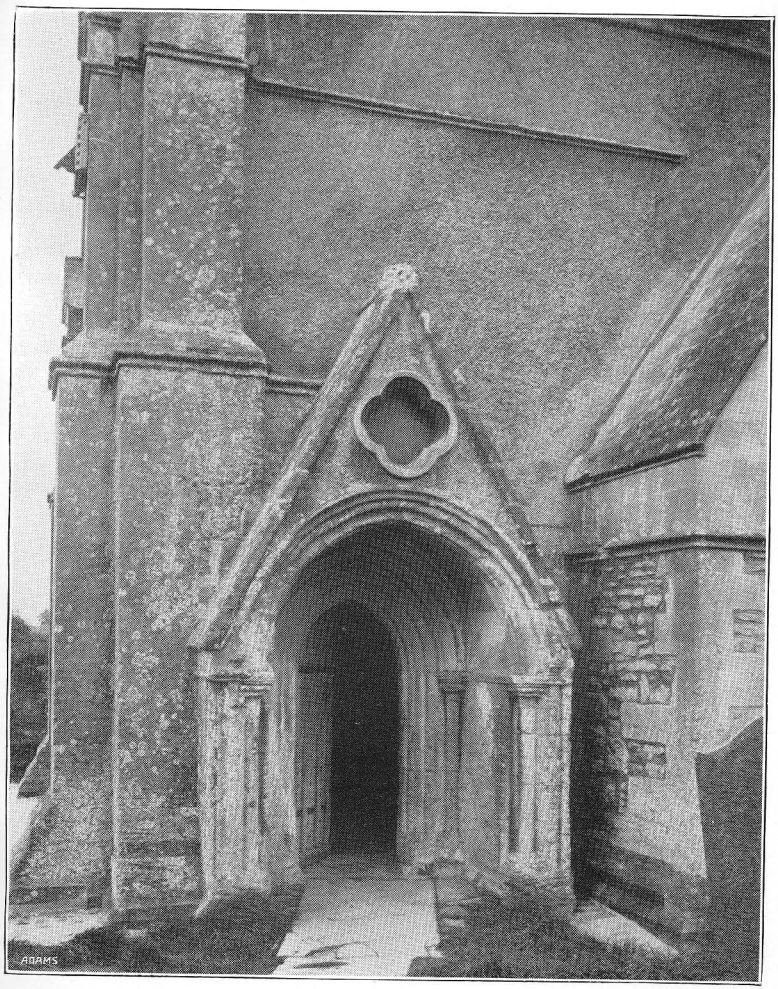

Fig. 38. SOUTH TRANSEPT DOORWAY.

LONGCOT CHURCH.

Fig. 39. FROM THE NORTH WEST.

Fig. 40. INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST.

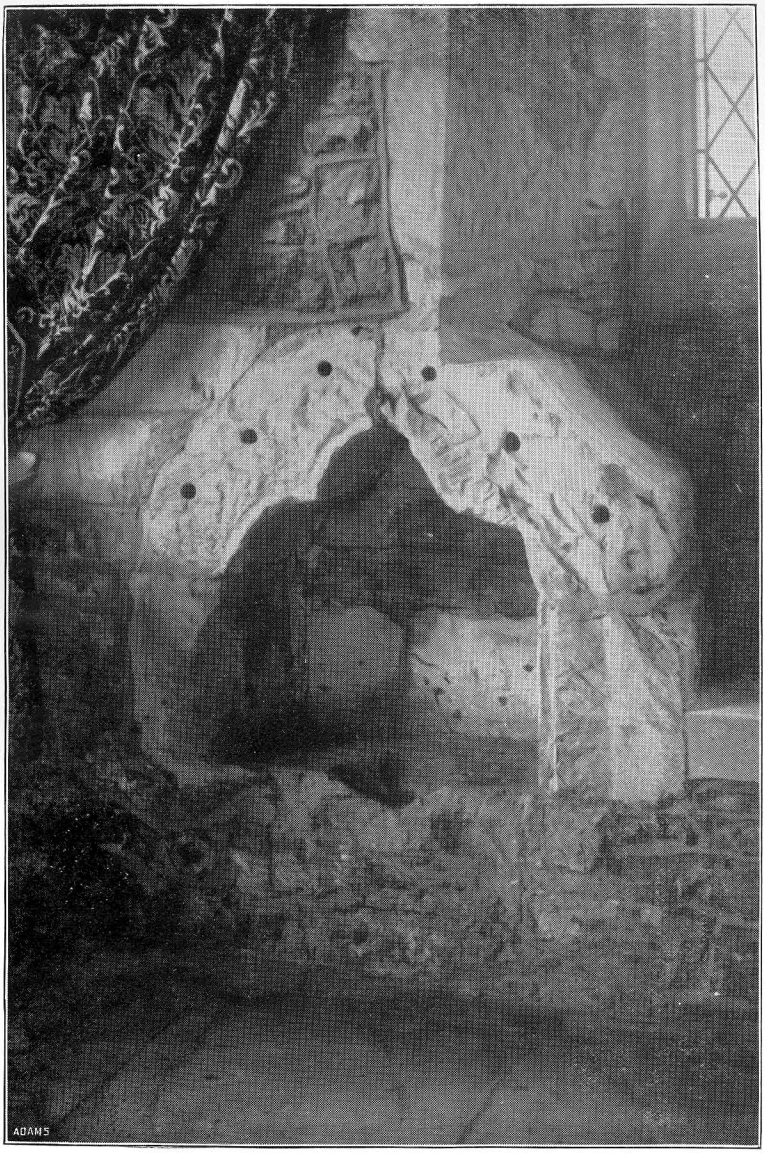

Fig. 41. PISCINA, SOUTH SIDE OF CHANCEL.

Fig. 42. SOUTH EAST CORNER OF NAVE.

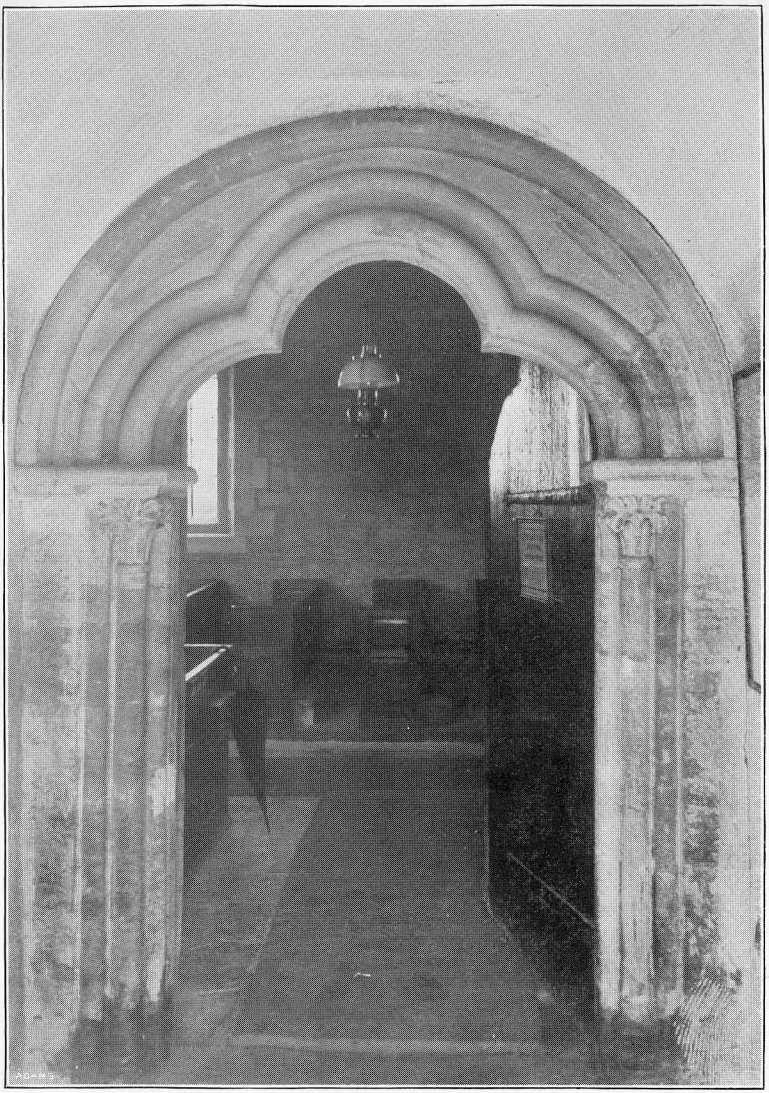

Fig. 43. NORTH DOORWAY.

a small trefoiled piscina (Fig. 42) with modern shelf adjoining that on the south side. There is a very liberal provision for light in the nave. On the north side is a two-light Decorated window within square frame, then a good segmental headed four-light Perpendicular window, and another two-light window to the west of the doorway and on a higher level. The middle part of the south wall is new and the two large windows, no doubt originally in the south wall of the former aisle, are in the Perpendicular style, and good specimens of the work of the middle of the 19th century. To the east of these is a three-light window of doubtful age; and near the west end and on a higher level, the upper part of a two-light window of the 15th century date. The western window on each side seems to have been altered, when a gallery, which has now been removed, was erected. The pulpit is Jacobean, with excellent panelling. The font has a plain circular bowl and is probably a part of the original Early English church. The stem and plinth were also circular but are now octagonal. It has a wooden Jacobean cover. The roof has tie-beams and king-posts, on which appear the dates 1606 and 1702. It has been recently restored and opened out. The tower arch is debased and of the same date as the tower. On the north jamb of the west doorway is let in a large well carved stone cross of 13th century date. This may possibly have been one of the consecration crosses. On the nave walls were numerous paintings; on the north wall an ecclesiastic holding a cross and with a cross on his vestment, but all have disappeared. The north doorway (Fig. 43) within a porch has a segmental headed interior arch. The outer arch is semicircular with a hollow on the underside of the hood-mould, then a trefoil headed order with bold roll on the angle and hollow and roll on face and soffit on either side. There is one engaged shaft with foliated capital, and an engaged roll carried down the jamb on each side. It has a chamfered abacus and there is one good votive cross on the west jamb. This dates from early in the 13th century. The porch is of timber and of 15th century date, with outer timber arch and mutilated but well moulded bargeboard. All the windows have external labels. There are low buttresses at the angles of the nave and chancel. The tower is composed of large blocks of stone. On the north side are numerous concentric circles and other rough designs, probably the handicraft of the bell-ringers of the 18th and 19th centuries. The gable cross on east of nave, and another over the tomb of the wife of the parish clerk, were formerly on the gables of the north aisle, and are very nice

examples of 19th century Perpendicular work. The modern addition seems to have been a good specimen of its time, and one cannot understand the motive which justified its destruction. The aisle was probably erected for the accommodation of the residents of the adjoining hamlet of Fernham, and as this has now got a small and uninteresting modern Church, the need for the aisle may have ceased, but it certainly seems a piece of wanton vandalism to have pulled it down on that account.

Feet of Fines for Berkshire.

Transcribed by L. J. Acton Pile.

(Continued from page 48, Vol. 16.)

EASTER 17 GEO. II. *(continued)*.

(901.) John Wright, Esq. *and* Stephen Bishop and Mary, w; houses, etc., and land in Norcott. £60.

(902.) Thomas Burnett *and* Samuel Tolfrey; houses, etc., and lands in pshes of Tilehurst and Theale. £100.

(903). Mary Bolton, widow *and* Michael Beesley and Ann, w; land in Kingston Bagpuize. £60.

(904.) William Fuller *and* Thomas Justice, Charles Sunnibank Gyles and Mary, w and Charles Gyles; houses, etc., and lands, etc., in Sotwell and Brightwell. £220.

HILARY 18 GEO. II.

(905.) Robert Palmer, gent *and* Ann Hephzibah Whitton; house, etc., and lands in Shinfield. £100.

(906.) Henry Jackson *and* William Siney and Susanna, w, James Field and Sarah, w, Richard Challis and Elizabeth, w, Nicholas Fielder, James Siney, Mary Parker, widow and Sarah Siney, spinster; house, etc., in Hungerford. £60.

(907.) Mary Parsons, widow and John Snowden the elder *and* John Prince, clerk and Mary, w, Thomas Prince and George Reading and Ann, w; houses, etc., and lands in Marcham, Cotswell als Cottwell and Clewer. £60.

(908.) Willmot Baker *and* John Weedon, Alexander Willmot, Isaac Wane and Ann, w, John Kinch and Elizabeth, w and Timothy Kinch; houses, etc., and lands in Moulsford. £160.

(909.) Joseph Paine *and* Henry Woodam the elder and Henry Woodam the younger and Hannah, w; house, etc., in Cheping Lambourne. £60.

(910.) Christopher Laggett *and* Mary Adams, widow, John Trinder and Elizabeth, w, Martha Adams, spinster and Henry Bowles and Phebe, w.; barn, etc., and lands in Langford. £100.

(911.) James Morgan, Esq., *and* Robert Cook and Jane, w; houses, etc., and lands in psh Stratfield Mortimer. £60.