

This land, which was partly built over, she had bought from Nicholas 'le Buteylier,' of Reading, and Juliana his wife (who had bought it from Roger Wylard) for fourteen marcs (£9 6s. 8d.)* In 1256 William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, granted to Maud for the term of her life, the *dominatio* of her son Roger and his heirs, which possibly means that they were to hold her lands for her. This Roger was grandfather of that Thomas de Rydeware for whom the cartulary was compiled and who, with Margaret his wife in 6 Edward II. (1312-13) settled, by fine, the manor and advowson of Frilsham and the manor and advowson of Kettlebaston on Walter, their son and heir, and Joan his wife and their heirs.†

J HORACE ROUND.

* Ibid. pp. 281-2.

† Ibid. p. 297.

The Church of Blewbury.

APPARENTLY the earliest mention of Blewbury occurs in a grant of land by King Edmund to Aelfric ⁽¹⁾ (probably Bishop of Ramsbury. The date of the original document is A.D. 944, and it confers upon Aelfric one hundred plots of land ("*centum terrae mansas*"). Aelfric in turn presented the land to the Abbey of Abingdon. It is almost impossible to estimate the area included in this grant, for although the description given ⁽²⁾ is extremely minute, the boundary marks are in many cases trees, ponds, and other physical features which have long ago disappeared, the only name which can be unmistakably identified being "Ichenilde wege"—the Icknield way. King Edmund's grant refers to Blewbury in the following words:—"Centum terrae mansas et stilo perhenuv (?) trado, quodam in loco venerabili antiquitus et adhuc cognomine noto, Bleoburg appellato."

(1) "Historia Monasterii de Abingdon." Pub. in Rolls series. Printed from a M.S. of the 13th Century.

(2) "Metae de Bleobyrig" attached to the above grant.

Nothing further has been found concerning Blewbury earlier than the account given in Domesday of the tenure of the land. From this it appears that the King himself held the Manor of Blewbury (Blitberie); previously this had been held by Edward the Confessor, and, that of this Manor, the Church, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ hides, was held by William Belfou, the second and last Bishop of Thetford; the Saxon holder of this part was Alvríc or Aluric. ⁽¹⁾

It would appear, therefore, that a Church existed in Blewbury in pre-Norman times, but of this building little or nothing can now be traced. The earliest portion of the Church now extant is the wall on the north side of the nave. The eastern portion of this has been cut through in later years forming a north aisle, but the western part and a few feet at the extreme east of the nave still remain. At the west end of the north wall is an original window, which, deeply splayed inwards and with a shallow chamfer on the outside, is of a type characteristic of the buildings of the end of the 11th or beginning of the 12th century. The Church as it then existed was probably a rectangular building, of the same length as the present nave, with a small sanctuary on the site of the present arches of the "central tower," with south and north doorways.

In 1091 the tithes and other revenues of the Church were appropriated by St. Osmund to the Capitular body of the Cathedral of Sarum, ⁽²⁾ and the Church, ⁽³⁾ together with Marlborough, became a prebend of that See. ⁽⁴⁾ As the Churches of both Blewbury and Marlborough were held by Belfou, it is very probable that it was he who granted them, with their appurtenances to St. Osmund.

While the original conditions held, the whole of the tithes of Blewbury, as of all other appropriated Churches, was paid to the Capitular body of Sarum. They did not at first form an endowment of any particular stall, but were paid into the "Communa" or

(1) It will be noticed that no land in Blewbury is assigned by "Domesday" to the Abbey of Abingdon.

(2) The dioceses of Ramsbury and Sherbourne were united in 1058, and in 1075 the See was removed to Old Sarum, where Herman, then Bishop, commenced building a Cathedral. In 1078 he was succeeded by St. Osmund as Bishop of Sarum. The See included Berks, Wilts and Dorset.

(3) In early documents the Churches of Blewbury are always mentioned, this doubtless refers to those of Aston Upthorpe and Upton which were probably dependent upon Blewbury. In 1331 H. de Clyf is referred to as priest at Blewbury, Aston and Upton.

(4) Register of St. Osmund (Rolls Series), p. 198. Carta Osmundi.

general exchequer of the Chapter. The Parish Church was, therefore, without income, but the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral undertook all parochial responsibilities.

Between 1144 and 1147 the Royal Manor of Blewbury was conferred by Matilda upon the Abbot and Monastery of Reading ⁽¹⁾, and a similar grant was made by Stephen between 1142 and 1148 ⁽²⁾. The grant was confirmed by Henry II. about 1157 ⁽³⁾, and *inter alia* by the Popes Adrian IV. and Alexander III. about 1154 ⁽⁴⁾ and 1164 ⁽⁵⁾ respectively. From this time until the dissolution of the Abbey, the Abbot and Monastery of Reading were the landowners, but this did not include the right of presentation to the Prebend, which was vested in the Dean and Chapter of Sarum ⁽⁶⁾.

The influence of the change of ownership of the Royal Manor seems to have soon made itself felt, for between 1165 and 1190 great alterations were made in the fabric of the Church, alterations which were probably carried out by the Abbey of Reading. The building of Reading Abbey was completed in 1164, and it is possible the artificers employed in this work were used by the Abbey authorities in improving the Churches in the district. There is nothing however to prove this statement and it is equally possible that the enlargements were made by the Dean and Chapter of Sarum to whom the Prebendal Manor—the $1\frac{1}{4}$ hides held by Wm. Belfou—belonged. At any rate, Blewbury, between the dates mentioned, was transformed into a Cruciform Church with a central tower. The tower no longer exists, but the presence of holes for bell-ropes in the vaulting between the tower arches suggests that it was completed and that bells were at some date hung in it. The changes in the Church included the pulling down of the old Sanctuary, the site of which would be indicated with some degree of accuracy by the position of the town piers. These piers are massive and are ornamented at their corners by nook-shafts, with capitals of slightly varying patterns, some of them being of an ordinary stiff-leaf pattern, and others with the ends of the leaf

(1) British Museum.	Add. MS. 19577, 19579	} The dates given are those in the Index to the Brit. Mus. Manuscripts, in the Reading Free Library.
(2) " "	" " 19581	
(3) " "	" " 19581	

(4) Cartulary of Reading Abbey. MS. in Reading Free Library.

(5) " " " " " " " "

(6) "The Canons receive institution from the Bishop, but possession of their Prebends from the Dean with the consent of the Chapter." Register of St. Osmund, R.S., p. 5.

curved over inwards, a form of ornamentation which was largely used in the middle and the latter part of the 12th century. ⁽¹⁾

Eastwards of the central tower was erected the present chancel; its walls are 3ft. 4in. thick; they are supported by thin buttresses of two stages, and perforated by circular headed windows of larger dimensions of those in the older church; one of which windows remains in the north side of the Chancel. Around the Chancel wall, at a height of 6ft. 5in. from the present flooring, ran a boldly moulded string-course, which descended to the lower edge of the sills of the windows. This string-course is almost complete on the north side of the Chancel, and portions remain also on the south side. The Chancel is vaulted with boldly ribbed quadripartite vaulting, and above it is a room, which is lighted by a single circular window in the east wall, visible from the outside of the Church. The room can be entered by a doorway in the north transept, above the tower arch. That the transepts were also built at the same time as the foregoing alterations were made is clear from the structure of the central tower piers, which are finished with nook-shafts on the transept sides of the central tower space. At the end of the twelfth century, therefore, the Church was cruciform with central Tower, Nave, Chancel and North and South Transepts.

In the year 1148, after the death of Gaumerius de Sanford who had held the Prebendal Estate, Bishop Jocelin of Sarum made a specified grant of the Prebend of Blewbury and Marlborough to the "Communa" of the resident Canons of Sarum. ⁽²⁾

The rights of the Abbot and Monastery of Reading in regard to Blewbury were entirely of a temporal nature, and as the holders of the Manor they were subject to the usual obligations. Scutage was levied upon them in respect of their property, ⁽³⁾ and they were required to pay tithes. Apparently these were not paid to Sarum for some time after the Manor came into possession of the Abbey, for a demand for them, by Jocelin Bishop of Sarum, dated 1175, exists, in which the Abbot and Monastery of Reading are urged to pay them "*secundum constitutionem generalis concilii*

(1) It is generally known as "Water-leaf." 'In England its vogue was limited to a quarter of a century, 1165-1190.' F. Bond.

(2) Register Osmundi (R.S.), p. 216.

(3) Monachis de Readinges, Blebury, pro Lxj ℥ numero. (Red Book of the Exchequer).

apud Westmonasterium novissime celebrati." ⁽¹⁾ The Council of Westminster referred to was evidently that held on May 18th, 1175. ⁽²⁾

We now come to the second enlargement of the Church, which took the form of the addition of a South Aisle. The old south wall of the Nave was cut through, leaving four piers, which were then finished by addition of half circular columns on either side. The style is that of the early thirteenth century, the mouldings of the arches are plain, and the capitals of the half columns somewhat rudely carved. The arcade was obviously made in two portions, the eastern part consist of three bays, each 8ft. 7in. wide, and the western portion of two 27 feet in length, divided into two unequal bays. The division was probably caused by the position of the old south doorway, which doubtless stood at the western end of the eastern part of the arcade. The westernmost arch is supported on the west wall by a boldly cut corbel. Although this South Aisle was built in two portions, these portions were built at almost the same time. The windows in the aisle were probably single lancets, traces of one can still be seen under the plaster in the south wall, and a well known engraving of Blewbury Church shews this window visible from the outside, just to the west of the south porch. The addition of the south aisle necessitated the cutting away of the west wall of the south transept, but apparently this was not done until after the aisle, or at any rate its eastern portion, had been built, for the wall of the transept and that of the aisle are not in perfect alignment. The arch between the aisle and transept is of somewhat unusual form, as in order to carry it into the roof it has been made of the form of a pointed horse-shoe. This portion of the Church is supported by thick buttresses, on one of which can still be traced the remains of a "consecration cross," inscribed in a circle five inches in diameter.

It has been already stated that Blewbury and Marlborough together formed a Prebend, in the See of Salisbury, i.e., a provision for the maintenance of a Resident Canon at the Cathedral. By the year 1220 part of the title was apparently generally dropped, and in a document dated in this year, the Prior of the Hospital of St. John at Marlborough professes canonical obedience to the Bishop of Salisbury and to the Prebendary of Blewbury.

(1) *Sarum Charters and Documents* No. XLVII. *Carta quad Atbas et Conventus Rading persolvent decimas ecclesiae Sarum.*

(2) *Gervase of Canterbury*. R.S. Vol. I., p. 251, et. seq.

The duties of the Canons of Sarum in the Cathedral Church were at first somewhat onerous, at any rate they were such as to keep them from their prebend for a greater part of the year,⁽¹⁾ and therefore vicars were appointed to look after the spiritual needs of each parish. The appointment to these vicarages was in the hands of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral, and it would appear from the following, that the vicars were nominated by the Canon holding the Prebend. "But if any vicarage become vacant when the Canon be absent, from any cause, beyond the sea, the Dean of his own authority, *independently of the assent of the Canon himself*, may confer it on any fit cleric that he may please."

The advowson to the Church of Blewbury belonged in the 12th century to the family of Sanford and was given to the Knights Templars by Thomas de Santford by a deed,⁽²⁾ the date of which I am unable to find. Thomas de Santford was treasurer to King John,⁽³⁾ and Prebendary of Blewbury.⁽⁴⁾

J. W. DODGSON, B.Sc.

(1) Register of Osmund. "Nothing may excuse the Canons from being themselves resident in the Church except the work of Schools or the service of the King, who may have one in his Chapel, and the Archbishop one, and the Bishop three. Nevertheless if there be necessity, and this be evident, a Canon for the common benefit of the church or his own prebend may be absent for one third part of a year."

(2) "Ex. cod. Vet. MS. penes Anton Wood, Oxon, fol. 2, b.

(3) Richardson gives 1218. (2) Richardson. Newbury Field Club, 1886-95, p. 63.

(4) In "Carta Jocelini Episcopi Sarum." Register Osmund, p. 216. A.D. 1148, Govarnerii de Sanford is mentioned as Prebend of Blewbury and Marlborough, and Richardson states that in 1223 Hugh de Sandford held the Prebend.

(To be continued).

