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Notes on the Churches of Hanney, Wyford, Denchworth and Charney Bassett.

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THE Chancel arch (fig. 11) is very acutely pointed with two plain chamfered orders, the outer continued without imposts to the ground, the inner resting on engaged circular shafts with conventional foliage on the capitals, and supported on brackets with the head of a king on the north and a queen on the south. The Chancel screen is of oak rather poor late 15th century work. It is divided into three open sections on each side with carved canopies. The doors and most of the carving on the lower panels are new. The pulpit (fig. 12) is of oak hexagonal, with carving on the panels divided into three horizontal compartments. In the upper is a griffin, on the middle is a foliage design, and on the lower scroll foliage. The door is gone but it is said that there was a date on it 1619. Clarke, in the History of Wanting, states the date as 1649, which seems to be rather later than the design would suggest, though this is the date on the panel in the Chancel, preserved from the old gallery.

On the south side of the Chancel arch is a blocked recess, and above the upper doorway of late perpendicular date to the rood loft

steps. On this same wall is a large tablet with white marble frame and festoons of fruit, flowers, etc. Above is a shield with the arms of Yate, arg. a fesse between three gates sable, impaling sable on a bend, three lions passant guardant arg, with a crescent for difference. These were the arms of a younger branch of the Brownes, Viscounts Montacute. On the central blue marble is the following inscription :—

D. O. M.

Here in HOPE of a joyfull Resurrection to Everlasting life Resteth
y^e body of John Yate of Lyford in
y^e County of Berks Esq Whose entire
Cathelicke FAITH love to God
CHARITY towards all may safely
ground that HOPE he departed
this life on y^e 26th day of January
in the yeare of our Lord 1671.

HOC IN MEMORIAM PII CONJVGIS VXOR
MÆRENS PONI CVRAVIT.

Tu qui hac transis Lector illū deligenter
Imitare & de tuo pariter itinere
Ad foelicem Æternitatem
frequenter cogita.

On the floor at the east end of the nave is a large blue marble ledger stone with the following inscription to Charles Yate :—

D. O. M.

Here in hope of a Joyfull Resurrection
to everlasting life resteth the
Body of Charles Yate of Lyford
in y^e County of Berks Esq whose
Entire Cathelicke Faith Love to God
Charity towards all may safely
Ground that hope He departed this
Life on the 10 day of April in y^e year
of our Lord 1696 aged 37 years.

It is rather singular to find on these two monuments in the Church the assertion that the deceased had continued to embrace the Roman Catholic, or as they name it the "entire Cathelicke Faith."

The south transept or chapel has been very much renewed since the Church was described by J. H. Parker in the Ecclesiastical Topography. On the east side are two trefoil-headed lancets with a cinquefoiled fringe to the containing arches. Mention is made of some old glass in these windows. This was removed from the Church, but has been fortunately recovered, and is now in the south aisle. There is a similar lancet window on the west side, and a large new three-light window in the geometrical style in the south wall. In the north (fig. 13) east corner about eight feet

from the ground is the lower arch and six steps leading up to the roodloft formerly over the Chancel screen. There is an oblong recess, probably an aumbrey in the wall below. Here are preserved two large stone coffins, one of which was found under the floor of the Church, and the other in the Churchyard. The north transept has been shut off from the nave by a deal partition, and is in a most neglected condition. The arch opening (fig. 14) to it is partly occupied by the organ. It supports the south wall of the tower, and has been very seriously crushed out of its proper position. It is low and wide of late transitional Norman date, circ 1200. It has a chamfered hoodmould, and three recessed orders with chamfered ribs and abacus, the two outer supported on plain chamfered jambs, the inner or semicircular respond shafts all terminate on a plinth about two feet above the present floor level with fluted capitals. There is a small lancet, set in the middle of an exterior buttress on the west side, and a larger lancet on the north. The east window is very excellent decorated work of geometrical design. There is a small ogee-headed piscina with stone shelf in the east wall. A flight of oak steps of early and massive character leads up to the belfry stage. The stem of an old wooden lectern is preserved here.

The nave is separated from the south aisle by an arcade of five arches. The columns are all new. Clarke in the History of the Hundred of Wanting states that in his time the pillars were in a deplorable condition, being patched up with timber. Assuming it was necessary to rebuild them, it is a pity that the old ones were not copied, as the western respond still remains, and has a semi-circular engaged respond shaft and a small member with a fillet band on the jambs on either side. There is a well moulded capital. The present columns are much plainer and not in the same style. The arches were replaced and are good examples of the Decorated period, with continuous hoodmould formerly supported on heads, but only (fig. 15) one bracket with a pair of heads now remains. There are two recessed orders with the quarter-round moulding. The nave walls were raised considerably at the time of the restoration, and a series of small circular openings enclosing quatrefoils inserted as a clerestory above the arcade. On the north of the nave is a two-light window with trefoiled fringe to the containing arch, and to the west of the doorway are two round-headed lancets. All these look new or much renewed, as does a half-round string-course carried along the wall and round the head of the Norman

doorway. At the west end is a five-light lancet window within a containing arch, and above a circular window enclosing a cinque-foiled opening, but this part of the Church has been quite renewed. The font (fig. 16) is very fine Norman, tub shaped, the bowl being about 2 feet 9 inches in diameter by 2 feet 4 inches in height, on a circular plinth and base of modern date. It has a series of parallel recessed bands down the sides, each having a row of eight leaved roses on the recessed portion. In three cases the row consists of twelve, in the others of eleven roses. This is one of the best features in the Church, but it is not mentioned in the Ecclesiastical Topography.

In the south aisle the west window is a single light with some tracery in the head. On the south side are two square-headed three-light windows within segmental headed containing arches, good examples of the decorated period. Some fragments of old glass remain, mixed up with some very poor modern glazing. In the east window are the finials of two canopies, the lower part of an ecclesiastic in an alb, and part of the interior of a building. In the west one is part of an ecclesiastic in rich crimson chasuble with yellow border and band down the centre, turned upside down, a portion of a kneeling figure in blue gown kneeling at a faldstool, and some crowns. Two portions of the old windows formerly in the eastern lancets in the south transept are here preserved, with foliage, roses, quatrefoils, &c., in black on a white ground. In the western (fig. 17) one is the upper part of a small female figure with white kerchief outlined in black over the head. She has a yellow dress and green cloak, and is holding a cup with bird on the top of the cover in her hand. It is not clear who is intended to be portrayed here. It is probably of 13th century date. The south aisle roof is a lean-to, supported on stone brackets, those on the south side having shields. There are several more in the north wall, and at the angles at the west end. It is said that there was a great deal of painting on the walls, but nothing has been preserved. On the exterior of the Church there are also many features of interest. The north doorway is within a modern porch in the Early English style with dogtooth on the arch. According to the Ecclesiastical Topography there was at that time a porch of the Early English period. The doorway (fig. 18) is large and very fine late Norman. It has a dripstone or hoodmould and two recessed orders. On the main face of the hoodmould are twenty-nine beaded semi-circles, and a band of raised zigzag on the

chamfer. On the outer order is first a course of the elliptic arched moulding, then a deep groove and bold engaged roll on the angle. The inner order and jambs are plain. The abacus is continued along both orders, with the star ornament on the upper, and groove and quarter round above the chamfered portion. There is one cylindrical shaft on each side to the outer order, moulded into the cable ornament, the design on each shaft being somewhat different. On the east capital is foliage of the antique pattern (fig. 19), on the west (fig. 20) scroll with two beaded bands. There do not appear to be any of the crosses so commonly found on the jambs of the Norman doorways. The tower (fig. 21) dates from the beginning of the 13th century. There is a doorway (fig. 22) on the west side having a chamfered hoodmould and roll on angle of arch, with a hollow on either side. This is supported on mutilated bell-shaped capitals, but the shafts are gone. There is an angle buttress on north, and another in the centre on the north and west sides. Inserted in the latter on the lower stage is a small lancet window. There is a larger lancet on the north side, and a small lancet light on the east and west face of the middle stage. The fine three-light window on the lower east face with hoodmould terminating on heads is an insertion of the early part of the 14th century. There was formerly an upper storey of 15th century date, but this has been taken down, and the present belfry stage is of brick debased. It is all covered with roughcast. The tower is said to be in a very unsafe condition. There are six bells. There are receding buttresses supporting the chancel walls. The late 15th century windows have the usual external labels, much renewed. The tracery of the two decorated windows on the south side of the south aisle is very good. There is a richly (fig. 23) panelled parapet to the aisle of the same date. The south doorway is also decorated with characteristic hoodmould, chamfered outer and quarter round to inner order, both continued without imposts down the jambs to the ground. There is a curious projecting stone canopy above supported on large corbels. There are contemporary buttresses at intervals supporting the south wall. The west front has been renewed. The two Norman windows on the north side have also been renewed.

The old Manor House of West Hanney stands to the north-east of the Church, but does not appear to be of much interest. A portion of the old cross was found inserted in one of the chimneys. This has now been incorporated with a modern cross and set up on the village green.

(To be continued.)