

It is stated by the writer of "Warfield Church and Parish," in the "Transactions of the Berkshire Archæological and Architectural Society" for 1879-80 (p. 63), and also by the author of "The Rise and Fall of Reading Abbey" (p. 32, 1906), that Warfield was in the patronage of the Abbots of Reading, but this is quite incorrect.

Warfield Church was taxed at the Taxation of Pope Nicholas, in 1291, at £8.

An entry in the Calendar of Patent Rolls, Richard II. (1385-1389, vol. iii., p. 524, published in 1900) runs:—"Westminster—Nov. 6, 1338. Revocation of the presentation of Rob. de Warthecop, chaplain to the church of Warfield, obtained by fraud, and of all subsequent proceedings in prejudice of the right of Master Nicholas de Risshton, whom the Pope had provided to that benefice upon its voidance when he became Archdeacon of St. David's, it being in the patronage of the prior of Hurle."

F. T. WETHERED.

HURLEY VICARAGE, BERKS,
June, 1913.

Warfield Church.

WHEN restoring this Church the Architect (Mr. Street) retained all the features of interest, every portion of old work that could be discovered, and endeavoured to put the fabric back, so far as possible, into the form and condition in which it probably was in 1350, when it was almost rebuilt, as far as can be ascertained, by the Prior and Monks of Hurley, who wished to use it as a kind of cell to their Priory.

Before this rebuilding, it is probable that a small Norman Church stood on the site of the present nave, with the lower portion of the present tower as its tower, low and massive as was the characteristic of Norman architecture. There is a curious window in the first floor of the tower, which has an exceedingly deep splay commencing from the inside, and terminating in a small opening with a perfect Norman arch which looks into the nave of the Church as it now stands, but which—as the present roof of the nave is

undoubtedly higher than that of the original Norman structure—was probably originally free to the open air.

On to the original Norman nave there seems to have been built, about the middle of the 12th century, a north transept, of a low lean-to character, which still stands (though the roof has been considerably raised to correspond with that of the present nave) and which had originally four deeply splayed lancet windows, and a door of late Norman or early English design. Of these, one lancet window and the door are still *in situ*. Norman pillars probably then separated this transept from the nave.

Edward II. wrote to the Prior of Hurley begging that the living of Warfield might be given to John de Bohun. Shortly after the Prior and Convent besought the King: "That out of reverence to the Lady Edith, sister of Edward the Confessor there buried (*i.e.* at Hurley Church) and inasmuch as the said place is distressed by flooding of the river Thames, because of houses laid in ruins, and the deaths of the inhabitants, and in consideration of the expense of housing the survivors of the Monastery, and inasmuch as the Monastery was poorly endowed, It might please the King to appropriate to them the Church of Warfield, in the Diocese of Salisbury, of which they are and have ever been the patrons." The grant was made.

The Prior and Convent probably entirely pulled down the original Norman nave and built it up again, not, however, interfering much with the north transept, except so far as to raise the roof considerably, and to re-cut the pillar between it and the nave, so as to make them correspond to the style of this period. The marks of this cutting are still visible.

A much larger and more imposing chancel was built than is usual in parish churches, as the Church was now to be used for regular Priory services.

The chancel has three levels, each rising by a step, and the altar, raised two steps above the sacrarium, is set against a reredos of elaborately carved white stone, with a small ambulatory or priest's chamber behind it.

South of altar are three sedilia, the carving of canopies of which is in original 14th century rectilinear work.

Remains of elaborately carved piscina and beneath it a small chamber in the wall, probably for the vial of holy oil to be kept in.

On north side of altar are remains of what probably was the Prior's throne.

On north side of chancel are what seem to have been stalls for the chapter, running mostly in threes, and above in the wall are three niches for statues.

Low side window.

Hagioscopes or squints.

One looking up to altar.

One looking on to seats of monks and Prior.

The second chancel—Rood Screen—Rood Loft. This chancel formed burial place of the Staverton family.

Warfield Church presents a very fine example of a priory church and an ordinary parish church standing side by side under one roof.

East Window—stained glass in upper lights is undoubtedly of the 14th century.

At east end (south angle) is an Angelus tower now carried up to the level of the roof, though before the restoration it went only half-way up. The east window is a fine specimen of the "Flamboyant" style of architecture.

Present door and porch are on south side. Two dates cut on door posts (1161 and 1693).

Stoup by W. door is fitted apparently to be filled from inside. Could this have been like the low side window for use of lepers?

Two fine mural tablets in side chancel :—

(1) Richard Staverton, d. 1636.

(2) Henry Neville, who married last heiress of the Stavertons.

Slight trace of mural painting is to be seen on the pillar just opposite the main door, on which the words "Christus Redemptor" are just decipherable, where a crucifix either was painted in or hung on the pillar.

Restoration (1874-77).

Many farm-houses and cottages in the parish date from Tudor times. When one old cottage was pulled down a short time back, a small hoard of silver coins was found in one of the upper chimneys, most of which coins were of the periods of Elizabeth, James I. and Charles I., possibly hidden there by someone who took part in the civil wars, and never came back to reclaim his store.

Old Church House or Parish Room—Plantagenet or Early Tudor. Old open fire-place, ancient iron chest, old churchwarden's account book dating from 1589.

RECOLLECTIONS OF A FORMER WARFIELD BOY.

Looking back half a century, I feel sorry that at that date, some

view of the quaint interior had not been preserved.

On the east side of the present porch a small Clergy vestry stood (now demolished). As soon as one entered, over the door was the text "Surely this is none other than the House of God, and this is the Gate of Heaven."

On the left hand of the door there was a large framed copy of the Table of Affinity.

Looking westward were some six or seven benches, set apart for agricultural labourers, who at that time, I believe, were under some moral obligation to attend divine service once on the Sabbath, and it was a pleasing sight to see these clean shaven men clad in green or dark smocks joining heartily in the service. Behind them, and running entirely across the nave were pews, one above another under the gallery which were filled with Sunday school children.

Gallery extended right across the west end of the church. The organ was stationed there, and was a barrel organ. As the number of tunes was limited, they were naturally very familiar, and the whole congregation joined in singing most heartily.

Pews were of various dimensions, some being six or seven feet square, with seats all round, so that some sat with their backs to the altar, some sideways, and others facing. The warden's pew was not embellished, but roomy, as after every Sunday morning service a number of poor were given a two-penny loaf.

The clerk was much in evidence as he intoned or repeated loudly the whole service, and announced the singing thus: "Let us sing to the praise and glory of God, the 100th Psalm."

OLD CORRECTION HOUSE OR LOCK UP.

Lying between Crown Inn and property of Messrs. Lawrence, High Street, Bracknell.

Letter.—My uncle William Lewis when he kept the Crown Inn used to hold the keys and supply the prisoners with bread, cheese and beer, by order of the parish constable. Often the prisoner's friends would supply him with beer by passing a long clay pipe through the bars on the top of the door; he would then suck the liquor out of a mug.

There were some stocks fixed on the wall to hold a prisoner's wrists if he was refractory.

Later on, the place not being needed, the door was left open, and so it got into a filthy state. Then a man named Surcombe, a builder, put a lock on and kept lime in it. Afterwards Mr. Phipps used it for bill-posting and let the interior to Mr. Collins to sell fish.

The well was one of the sources of supply to the village prior to the coming of the Wokingham Water Company into the place.