

of a bishop, at north-east corner the head of a lady, both of the early part of the 15th century. There is a square aumbrey on the north side exterior of the Chancel, also a blocked up doorway. There are buttresses at the eastern angles of the Chancel. The windows of the north Chapel and transept, and the single light on the north side of the nave all have the usual external labels. The tower is low and not embattled with square two-light perpendicular belfry windows, and angle buttresses on north side. There are small oblong openings on the lower stage, north and west, which also are of 15th century date. The tower is now quite shut off from the nave, but there is a blocked doorway on south of tower, which was once open to the nave, and a blocked window above it. The north doorway of the nave is now blocked up, and within a coal shed erected against this side of the Church. It is of good perpendicular character, with undercut label and small roll and chamfered order to the arch and jambs. There is one gargoyle head on west of nave, and two graduated buttresses support the west wall.

There are four bells in the tower, one with date 1624, and a small, query, sanctus bell. In the east wall of south transept and elsewhere in the Church is some rude masonry, and some large stones, which appear to have belonged to the earlier structures. On the south side of the Church is the Cross which has been restored.

Farnborough, near Wantage, Berkshire.

(This Paper is copied from Notes made by the Rev. J. WHITEHURST,
Rector in 1886, since dead.)

THE name of this village was written in the last century as Farnborough, or Farmborough. In the time of Henry III. we find the word spelt Ferenburgh. But as there are nineteen different ways of spelling the name of the adjoining Parish of Ilsley, we may as well rest content with our own present fashion. The former is probably the true name, although on the church plate, and in an Enclosure Act the latter form is used. The name has no connection with fern, for furze, and not the bracken, cover the unbroken

parts of the downs. It is probably derived from the Saxon tribe of the Feringas, traces of whose occupation of places near here remain in Faringdon, or Ferendun, Fernham, Vernham, Farnham and Farncombe. In the year 1541 the Manor was granted by Henry VIII. to Edward Fettyplace. It was conveyed by him to John Winchcombe, a recusant, a descendant of the celebrated clothier, Jack of Newbury, so on to Raymond's, and it then passed into the hands of the Craven family, and then to the Wroughton's of Woolley Park. The Rectory was granted by Henry VIII. in the year 1545, to William Gryffin, who conveyed the same to Chidcock, Lord Pawlett, his son William Pawlett to William Dunch, whose grandson E. Dunch of Little Wittenham, conveyed it to John Price. In this family it remained until the year 1873, when it came into the possession of J. Whitehurst, the present rector (1886).

The original style of the Church was Norman. On the north side there were four Norman windows and a doorway. Three windows were built up and one altered into a Tudor window with large splays to give more light. They were probably closed to make the church less cold. In the Chancel at the east end there is a Perpendicular window. An Early English piscina was found in three pieces, built up with rubble above the Chancel; it has now been replaced in its original position. There is some interest attached to the tower, which tradition reports to have been built with stone brought from the ruins of Poughley or Poffley—this was a small monastery, suppressed by Cardinal Wolsey in 1524, to endow the College of Christ Church, Oxford. The stones have many marks which show that they have been used before, and the stone itself is of a different description to any that can be obtained in this neighbourhood. Much was done in 1849 by members of the Price family when the Church was re-seated. A lectern and prayer desk of oak, each bearing an inscription on brass plate, have recently been presented by some members of the same family. The plate for Holy Communion was given by Sir Jemmett Raymond on Easter Day, March 30th, 1746. A silver paten by Professor Bartholomew Price in 1844. The registers of the Parish are modern dating from 1740. The Parish was at that time in the diocese of Salisbury, so that copies may perhaps be found at the Registrar's Office there of any previous entries. The Prince of Orange passed through this village with his whole army on December 11th, 1688, on his way to Abingdon.

On a brass plate affixed to the lectern and prayer desk is the following inscription :—

“To the Glory of God and in loving Memory of Ralph Charles Price, who died March 1st, 1868, aged 59 ; and of Edmund Price, his son and rector of this Parish, who died September 15th, 1872, aged 36.” *

FARNBOROUGH CHURCH, NEAR WANTAGE, BERKS.

Memorial Stone on the Floor of the Nave.

“Here lieth the Body of Thomas Mott, gent, who departed this life April 22nd, 1763. The 73rd year of his age. He was born at Wheatley in Oxfordshire, and married to Mrs. Mary Stevens of this place, by whom he had one daughter.”

* Both the above mentioned were Patrons of the Rectory, Ralph Charles Price and his son Edmund Price, of Farnborough.

History of the Parish of Beenham.

CHAPTER I.

BEFORE THE REFORMATION.

MR. Stenton, the author of a small publication on “The Place-Names of Berkshire,” gives the derivation of this name Beenham, or, as it has been variously spelt at different periods, “Benam,” “Benham” or “Beneham,” and in its earliest form “Bennan Hamme” (A.D. 956), as Benna’s Meadow, the terminal “hamme” signifying an enclosure or more particularly meadow land, or sometimes as the equivalent of the modern English “home,” but whether as homes or meadows, the Saxon Benna seems to have been possessed of much land and many settlements in Berkshire ; for, besides the subject of the present notice, there are no fewer than four ancient manors bearing this name in the western district of the County, Benham Valence (properly so called), Benham Lovel in the parish of Welford, Hoe Benham and Marsh Benham by the river—all of