

with the stiff leaved foliage on the east and the acanthus on the west side. There is a plain chamfered inner arch and jambs. In the porch wall are inserted portions of three stone coffin lids, one with a Maltese Cross dates probably from the 12th century, the other two from early in the 13th century.

The tower is lofty (fig. 16) but somewhat narrow in proportion to its height. The upper stage has been added. It is embattled and with nice two-light decorated belfry windows on each face. To the next stage is a stringcourse and Early English corbel table, and on each face a two-light window with a quatrefoil within a circle in the head. In the upper part of the lower stage on north, west and south, is a trefoil-headed lancet, and on the lower level on west another trefoil-headed lancet with a head above. The tower seems to be of about the same date as that at Harwell.

*(To be continued.)*

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## Bishops' Transcripts.

*By the Rev. Canon Oldfield, D.D.*

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**W**HAT are known as Bishops' Transcripts are copies of the entries in the Parish Registers sent annually to the Diocesan Registry, in obedience to the order of the Constitutions of 1597, Canon 70, and the Act of 1812. Peculiars did not send their transcripts to the Diocesan Registry until after 1812.

The Oxford Diocesan Registry has 25,001 transcripts from 246 parishes and chapelries in the Archdeaconry of Oxford, all carefully endorsed and arranged. Ninety-nine parishes begin in the 17th Cent. 25 of them in 1639, the earliest date; but there is no general succession of copies before 1720, and the latest date is 1906. Of these 25,001, 2,344 are on paper, the rest on parchment of every possible size, and shape, and substance, from the coarsest skins to the finest vellum, until 1812, when a prescribed form came into use. In many cases the backs of old deeds are used for the purpose; Bladon (1750) and Clanfield (1753) use portions of the Manor Rolls of those Manors, the former dated 1679; St. Peter le Bailey, Oxford

(1786) uses a portion of a page out of an old Burials Register ; North Aston (1744 & 1751) portions of the Vicar's Letters of Deacon's Orders conferred on him in 1707 by Bishop Bull ; Tadmarton (1760) is on the back of a Will ; while Broughton (1765) is on " A Terrar of the halfe Quarterne Land purchased by Richard Fretton of . . " Those previous to 1813, 13396 in number, contain records of 183,944 baptisms, 138,201 burials, and 43,806 marriages, or a total of 365,951 entries to the end of 1812.

The object of these transcripts is to act as a check upon any possible tampering with the Parish Registers, and they have been found effectual for this purpose in suits at law, and are always liable to be called for in such cases. They also frequently supply gaps in the Registers, as well as supplementary information.

The measure of time varies with different parishes, and with different periods in the same parish. Sometimes the year is reckoned from Easter to Easter, at others from Lady Day to Lady Day, or the Calendar year is taken, or the period between one Visitation and the next. The Constitutions of 1597 fixed Easter, Canon 70 Lady Day and the Act of 1812 Dec. 31 as the limits.

They were required to be attested by the Minister and Churchwardens ; hence such notes as the following :—

Broughton, 1763.—N.B. The Rector not being at Broughton its humbly hop'd the preceding acct will be accepted, being faithfully taken from the Parish Registers.

Toot Baldon, 1783.—N.B. No Clergyman and Neither of the Churchwardens could write. N.W.Regr.

South Weston, 1723.—This Account from John Jackson Rector, who desires to be excused for non-Attendance by Reason of Colick-Pains.

Westcot Barton, 1765.—Mr. Shepherd (the Curate) has ye Ghout and cannot wright.

But many of the transcripts are unsigned, and many more by a Churchwarden only, sometimes by the parish Clerk only, who often makes the copy, as at Minster Lovell, where several at the beginning of the 19th Cent. are described as

'taken by John Dalton, Clark of the parrish, as a copy from the Holey Registr.'

while St. Thomas', Oxford has (1757)

'A Coupey Tacken from the Orignel Rugestr of Sant Thomas Parish of beath and buerls and Mariges.'

"beath" is used several times as the spelling for births.

As the Visitation was the time for making presentments we sometimes get these recorded on the Transcripts :

Alvescot, 1734.—A List of names of residents over 16 who did not communicate at Easter.

Broughton, 1680.—Our Curch and Curchyarde is in good repaire we have noe presentments.

Lower Heyford, 1681.—Richard Day, sen. to be presented for being absent from divine services and refusing to pay the clerkes wages. John Marsh, jun. to be presented for being absent from divine service, keeping the quakers meetings, refusing to pay the clerkes wages and to have his son baptized.

Rotherfield Peppard, 1745.—Moses and Aaron twin bastards (owned by William Brown and begot on ye Body of a Sister of his late Wife's for which he was presented last Visitation, but noe Notice has been hitherto taken thereof) bap. 26 Dec. Other "incestuous" children are born of these parents in 1747 & 1749.

South Weston, 1726.—No dissenters in this Parish,

Swyncombe, 1640.—Communicants of both Sexe in the whole Parish, 100.

Among local notes are the following :

Ambrosden, 1765.—The Rev. Mr Thomas Cockerill, Vicar, a worthy good man, bur. May 17.

Bodicote, 1731.—Paid 10s. for coming over to perform the office of burial in the chappel and 6s. 8d. for breaking the ground | Paid 20s. for preaching and performing the office here and 6s. 8d. to the Vicar for liberty to break the ground | These four had no Christian burial for the yard they say is not holy ground.

Brightwell Baldwin, 1747.—The reverent Mr. Curants, rector, bur. Oct. 6, aged 48. [His name was Allen Corrance.]

Burford, 1758.—190 persons died of the small-pox.

Charlbury, 1773.—A Travlers childe died at the Pest House.

Charlton-on-Otmoor, 1758.—Ruth Bartlett, aged it was supposed 105 years, bur.

Cuddesdon, 1726.—Anne, d. of the Right Rev. the Lord Bp. of Oxford, bap.

Great Rollright, 1796, 1800.—deaths from small-pox, "from the pest-house."

Henley, 1792.—Mr. Robert Eling, aged 74, having been 52 years Writing Master of the Free School, bur.

Cath. Fullocks, aged 36, died in childbed with four children born alive.

Lewknor, 1755.—Maher Shalal Hash-Baz, s. of Adam and Mary Waklen, bap.

Oddington, 1729.—Richard Cook, a beggar boy run away from his Master a Brushmaker in Brumageham, bur.

Oxford, St. Thomas, 1679.—Thomas Turffrey, of Shilton, Berks a debter dyeing in ye Castle, bur.

South Newington, 1729.—William Buckingham of the Church House, bur. | 1760.—Robert Davis a traveling chimney sweeper from Aldersgate Parish, London.

Echoes of historical events :

Wootton, 1678.—Souldier-like-like Jones.

Dorchester, 1798.—Rev. Mich. Thoumite Descoupons, French priest, D.D., Archdeacon, Grand Vicar of the Diocese of Dol, Brittany, aged 62, bur.

Tackley, 1804.—John Hoare, a soldier who had served in Egypt, bur.

The Oxford transcripts have the terms "batteler" and "aledraper."

Corruptions of place-names :

Barford St. Michael, 1742.—addressed "For Dr. Barron in Sinmery Hall Lane."

S. Newington, 1724.—Wm Clift of St Toles, Oxford.

Clerical Schoolmasters :

John Russell, Rector of Wilcot and Schoolmaster of Swinbrook, d. 1774.

Lionel Lampet, Rector of Pusey and Schoolmaster of Aston, d. 1795.

Mr. Goodman, Vicar of Black Bourton, who (apparently early in the 17th Cent.), built a schoolroom "when he kept many boarders in the Vicarage," also a malthouse, carthouse, sheephouse &c., "for his own convenience when he held his great farm at Kencott." These were burnt down at a later period, and in 1681 the then Vicar petitions to be excused from rebuilding them on account of the smalness of the living, not exceeding £40 per an., which petition is granted in 1686.

Uncommon names among the clergy signing the transcripts :

Agutter, W., cur. Chislehampton, 1781-3.

Alt, Just, Rect. Mixbury, 1761-1801.

Boham, Hu : Rect. Harpsden, 1685.

Brideoake, John, Rect. Swerford, 1722-32.

„ R., Min. Gt. Tew, 1731-4.

Charnelhouse, Alex., Rect. Salford, 1680-6.

Churchley, Jos., cur. Salford, 1722-5.

Docwra, Wm., cur. Stratton Audley, 1721-7.

- Dockwray, Thos. Clarveato, Vic. Chip. Norton, 1749-57.  
 Dumaresq, Daniel, cur. Merton, 1744-5.  
 Ella, John Gaskwith, cur. Tadmarton, 1803-7.  
 Ernle, Ed., Rect. Harpsden, 1767-9.  
 P'on, Launcelot, cur. Leafield, 1804-6.  
 Knail, Wm., cur. Hampton Poyle, 1757-60.  
 Laserre, James, bur. at Deddington, 1759.  
 LaTour, Peniston, cur. Tadmarton, 1794-8.  
 Lernoult, Fran., min. Clifton Hampden, 1765-6 ; cur.  
     Swyncombe, 1767-71.  
 Mounstwen, Hender, min. Hook Norton, 1754.  
 Poate, Daniel, cur. Cuddesdon, 1763-6.  
 Polley, G., cur. Over Worton, 1729-31.  
 Prawde, Hen., Vic. Gt. Tew, 1669-70.  
 Priaulx, Peter, min. Fritwell, 1728-9.  
 Question, Aug., cur. Merton, 1730-1.  
 Sarrande, J., cur. Kidlington, 1766-85.  
 Schoen, G. L., D.D., Vic. Kirtlington, 1796-9.  
 Speidell, Thos., min. Northmoor, 1807-11.  
 Tesh, J., Vic. Yarnton, 1781-3.  
 Tookie, Paulo, Vic. Chalgrove, 1756-81.  
 Trewecke, Geo., cur. Fritwell, 1812.  
 Twopeny, Rd., cur. Cuddesdon, 1781.  
 Twynihoe, C., Min. Wolvercote, 1756-9.  
 Vatas, Peter, cur. Stratton Audley, 1745-7.  
 Whorwood, E., cur & Rect. Holton, 1722-32.  
     ,, Thos. Hen., Vic. Headington, 1804-12.

COWPER'S SUNDIAL.—It is not generally known that the sundial of the poet Cowper now marks time in a Berkshire garden. In 1786 the poet went to reside at the Lodge at Weston Underwood, the seat of Sir G. Throckmorton. In 1780, during one of his periods of melancholia, the poet was specially irritated by the clocks of the house not keeping correct time, and to humour him, his cousin John Johnson—Johnny of Norfolk—sent him a dial, which, on a stone pedestal, the work of Anderson the stone mason and his once drawing-master, was placed on the lawn of Weston Underwood Lodge. At the sale of this estate a few years ago by Sir W. Throckmorton, the sundial was cased up and sent to Buckland, the Berkshire seat of the family. Here the dial remained in the carpenter's shop of the mansion until the sale of the Buckland estate, when Sir W. Throckmorton presented it to Mrs. Eyston of that village, and it now adorns the garden of their residence "The Cottage," Buckland.—W. H. HALLAM, Lockinge.