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Notes on the Churches of Stanford-in-the-Vale, Hatford and Shellingford and the Chapels of Goosey and Baulking.

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A drive of about two miles will bring us to Goosey, a hamlet in the parish of Stanford. The Manor was granted by King Offa to the Monks of Abingdon, in exchange for the isle of Andresey in the Thames near their convent, which the King wanted for the purpose of building a palace. In the reign of Charles I. it was in the possession of the Matthews family, and several memorials to them still remain in the Chapel. This stands, with other picturesque buildings, on the edge of Goosey Green, one of those typical old English village greens of which, alas ! too few remain to the present day. The Chapel (Fig. 17), dedicated to All Saints, is a small structure, though large enough for the needs of this small hamlet, and consists of a nave with modern west turret and chancel. A new vestry has recently been added. The dimensions are given in Murray's handbook as $53\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $14\frac{1}{2}$ feet in width. The chancel is 17 feet 3 inches wide internally, though, owing to the greater thickness of the nave wall, the nave appears on the outside to be wider than the

chancel. The length of the chancel is about 20 feet. The Chapel (Fig. 18) seems to have been built early in the 13th century, though one round-headed window on the north of the nave may indicate an earlier date. Various windows have been inserted in the 16th century. Starting at the east end (Fig. 19) we notice that the east window is of three lights plain oblong debased perpendicular. We are informed by Parker in the *Ecclesiastical Topography* that below this was a "flat perpendicular tester painted with emblems of the Crucifixion and with a shield bearing the arms of the Hydes," or Fettiplaces. This has unfortunately disappeared in one of these so-called restorations, as has also a painting of the Crucifixion above it, and a row of trefoil-headed panels on the wall plate of the chancel roof. This is high pitched and partly old. In the usual place, projecting from the south wall, is a semi-octagonal bowl of the piscina. There was formerly a square locker to the east of this, but this, too, has disappeared. On this side is a plain oblong two-light debased window. On the floor are several ledger stones to the memory of the Matthews family, namely, to William Matthews, died 1747, and Mary his wife, died 1718, to Mary, wife of William Matthews, died 1760, and others. There is no division between the nave and chancel. The nave roof is a good specimen of timber work, high pitched with tie beams and king posts. It is supported on wall pieces resting on stone brackets (Fig. 20); at east end on head of a king on south and bishop on north, and further west on the head of a lady on the south and a man on the north, probably the benefactors of the Church. They are said to be of Early English date. The turret (Fig. 21) is supported on a very massive tie beam at the west end. On north side of the nave is one lancet restored. On the south is one rather large semicircular-headed widely-splayed lancet, then two more lancets adjoining each other, and then a single lancet near the west end. In the semi-circular-headed lancet is in old glass a beautiful little figure (Fig. 22), which in Parker's time was in the east window. It represents a female saint kneeling, with golden curly hair, yellow robe and border to her cloak. She holds a book in the right hand, and has the left clasped to her breast. She stands on a yellow mound with various flowers depicted on it. She has no emblem to explain her identity. The window is made up of white glass with a diaper of oak leaves in yellow. Part of a stringcourse of transitional Norman character remains below the window. The west window is a large widely-splayed lancet, probably of the decorated period. The font is of rather uncertain

character. It has a large octagonal bowl on slightly smaller stem, and has at some comparatively modern time been embellished with paint. The pulpit is Georgian. Over the north doorway are the Royal Arms of George III. To the east of the north doorway is an oblong recess with a projecting octagonal basin for the holy water stoup. The north doorway, within a modern porch, has a four-centred late 15th century arch with two fluted orders to the arch and jambs. The door key is very old, and is alleged to be Early English work. The exterior walls are covered with roughcast. The turret and porch are new, and the windows are much renewed. There are angle buttresses at east and west end, and others supporting the nave and chancel. The west window has an external hoodmould.

A drive of about three miles will bring us to Baulking (Fig. 23), now a picturesque village with its goose green, similar to that at Goosey, but formerly a place of some importance. It was anciently a market town; the market day was changed in 1219 from Thursday to Tuesday, and the market was confirmed by a subsequent Charter in 1253. This has been long discontinued. The Manor was comprised with that of Kingston Lisle, and belonged at an early period to the Lisle family. Baulking was a hamlet in the Parish of Uffington, and after being allied with Woolstone has within quite recent times been converted into a separate parish. The Chapel or Church (Fig. 24), dedicated to St. Nicholas, stands in the centre of the green, and consists, as at Goosey, of a west turret, nave and chancel. Its dimensions are given as $78\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length by 18 feet in breadth. It appears to have been built at about the end of the 12th century, the nave being of this date, with later windows inserted in the walls, while the chancel is Early English of the early part of the 13th century.

Commencing our survey in the interior of the chancel, we notice the beautiful Early English east window (Fig. 25), with triple lancets, having a continuous hoodmould resting on shafts with well-moulded circular capitals and bases, in front of and detached from the main jambs of the windows. There is a small roll moulding in the heads of the arches. On either side of the chancel are two plain lancets with segmental-headed containing arches. In the usual place in the south wall is an interesting piscina (Fig. 26) with a central shaft supporting one arch opening to the chancel, and another to the splay of the adjoining window. In the north-west corner of the chancel is the doorway and stone steps to the roodloft. The

chancel is separated from the nave by a solid stone screen (Fig. 27). It has in the centre a good early decorated arch with three recessed orders on the east end and two on the west face, the outer orders being carried down without imposts to the ground, the inner supported on half-round responds with well-moulded capitals and bases. On the north side (Fig. 28) is a plain squint through the wall, and on the south a double squint divided by a plain impost with a chamfer stop at the top and bottom. The screen is carried up to the level of the wall plate, and the old rood beam rests upon it. The nave roof is high pitched with tie beams, and is partly old. It seems to have been repaired in the 18th century. On the south of the nave are two decorated windows of two lights with a quatrefoil in the head, and widely-splayed containing arches. On the north of the nave is a three-light square-headed perpendicular window with good cusping and a wooden lintel. At the west end is the font (Fig. 29) with very large octagonal tubshaped bowl on a circular base. It is co-eval with the earliest part of the Church. On the north wall of the nave are considerable remains of mural painting. Between the window and the doorway has been a large subject within a very pretty red border. A tablet to George Champion, who died in 1722, has unfortunately been placed right in the middle of it. In the lower part of the west side can be made out the long tail of a serpent, and possibly the trappings of a horse above. This would suggest that the subject was St. George and the Dragon, which is often found in this position. The space above the door, which would have appropriately been occupied by a portraiture of St. Christopher, is hidden behind a large panel on which are painted the Ten Commandments. To the west of the doorway has been a subject in several compartments with several small figures (Fig. 30). A couch in the centre division suggests the story of the Nativity, but the plaster has been only partially removed, and it is difficult to hazard an interpretation. It seems to be of earlier date than the suggested St. George.

The pulpit in the south-east corner of the nave is good Jacobean. It is hexagonal in shape, and five of the sides, with well-carved panels, still remain.

On the nave walls are several tablets. On the north wall, near the east end, one to Robert Grove, died 1698, with the text from Job xix., 26, "Though after my skin, etc." Farther west, over painting of St. George, to George Champion, died 1722. On the south wall to Robert Grove, died 1758, Elizabeth his wife, died

1763. Elizabeth Garrard | and Ann Alexander | their daughters |
 in testimony of their dutiful regard | to their parents ; and of | their
 affection to their brother | caused this monument | to be erected. |
 John, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Garrard, of Wantage, grandson
 of Robert Grove, died 1793.

Further west, tablet to Thomas Champion, Vintner.

Near this Place
 Lyeth the Body of
 Mr. Thomas Champion
 late of London, Vintner.
 Who hath been a Benefactor
 To the Poor of this Place
 and likewise left
 The Sacrament Plate
 To the Communion Table.

He departed this Life
 The 23rd of March Anno Dom 172 $\frac{3}{4}$

This Monument was Erected at
 The Expense of his Widow.

There are also several old ledger stones on the floor to the Champions and others.

The south doorway is plain obtusely pointed transition Norman or Early English with plain chamfered arch and jambs, and rather late form of undercut abacus. The north doorway is also plain obtusely pointed with chamfered arch and jambs and the earlier form of grooved and chamfered abacus. There is no west window. The decorated windows on the south side have external drip-stones. There are buttresses at the angles at the west end, along the north wall, and at east angles of chancel.

(To be continued).

