



# The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.

---

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

*By Charles E. Keyser, M.A., F.S.A.*

(Read before the Berks Archæological Society, March 26th, 1914.)

*(Continued from page 72).*

---

Continuing our round we arrive after a two-mile drive at Hatford, where a new Church was erected in 1873. As usual, the history of this parish is very meagre, there being no source available to the ordinary student to acquire any detailed information on the subject. We learn from Lyson's *Magna Britannia* that in the time of Henry III. the Manor belonged to Sir Robert de Hatford. At a later period it belonged to Thomas Chaucer, son of the poet, and was probably part of the inheritance of his wife, who was an heiress of the family of Burgherst. Alice, the daughter and heir of Thomas Chaucer, brought it in marriage to William De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and her sumptuous monument still remains in Ewelme Church. It became vested in the Crown by attainder in the reign of King Henry VIII., and was soon afterwards granted in fee farm to Sir Alexander Unton, in whose family it continued till the death

of Sir Henry Unton in 1596. Of late years it has undergone "considerable alienations," though the Pigott family seems to have been the leading residents and Lords of the Manor in the 17th and 18th centuries.

As has been already stated, a new Church has been erected here in 1873, presumably because the old Church was not sufficiently large for the requirements of the parish, though the population is still under 100. The ancient Norman font (Fig. 43) has been moved into the new Church. It has a very large plain circular bowl, and is now supported on engaged shafts. The old Church (Fig. 44), dedicated to St. James, is stated to be 67 feet long by 15½ feet wide. We are told that in it was celebrated the marriage of Sir Edward Unton with Anne Seymour, widow of the Earl of Warwick, daughter of the Protector Somerset, and first cousin of King Edward VI. The Church (Fig. 45) consists of nave and chancel. The nave is roofless except at the west end, where an Egyptian mausoleum has been most inappropriately erected. The chancel is quite denuded of its former furniture and fittings. Some years ago, on a previous visit to the Church, it was found to be in a most neglected state, but steps have, it is believed, been recently taken to rescue it from its forlorn condition, and to stop the further ravages of decay. It appears to have been wholly erected rather late in the Norman period, the only subsequent alterations being the insertion of larger windows chiefly in the latter part of the 13th century.

Let us as usual commence our survey in the interior of the chancel (Fig. 46). The east window is of three lights, with three trefoil-headed lancets under a single containing arch. Here are preserved some fragments of heraldic glass, viz., sable 3 pickaxes arg for Pigott, impaling arg a chevron ermine. The gates of the Yate family also appear, illustrating the alliance between Robert Pigott, of Collwick, and Maria, daughter of John Yate, of Lyford. This east window has had a large containing arch, but the head has been cut away. On the south wall in the usual place is a rounded trefoil-headed piscina (Fig. 47) with plain circular basin of the transitional Norman date. To the west is a two-light early decorated window, with two trefoil-headed lancets and a quatrefoil in the head, within a very widely splayed containing arch. Within the quatrefoil are four ancient diamond quarries, two with delicate foliage on them. The south chancel doorway is plain segmental-headed on the interior side. On the inner jamb on each side is inserted a stone with a row of small beads on it, and there is a similar one let into the north

splay of the east window. These must have belonged to a former Norman arch. Cut out on the east jamb of the doorway is a small Maltese cross and a rose. At the west end, on the south side, is a single trefoil-headed lancet low side window widely splayed on the interior side. On the north of the chancel (Fig. 48), near the east end, is a widely splayed Norman window, semi-circular headed, and with a roll moulding round the containing arch. At the west end is a plain oblong light. In the centre, on the north side, is a founder's tomb (Fig. 49) with segmental-headed canopy in two recessed orders, and the quarter round moulding. The terminations of the canopy have been cut away. At the apex is let in the head of a priest, and there is a stone bracket within the canopy, but neither of these seem to belong. Below lies the effigy of a civilian with bare head and curly hair, and long single vestment down to the ankles. The garment has open sleeves, showing the hands and arms up to the elbows. His head rests on a pillow, his feet on a dog lying on its side. He holds a heart clasped to his breast in both hands. The effigy is about six feet three inches in length. Ashmole mentions this, as does Lysons, who states that it is supposed to be that of the founder, who is said by tradition to have been Sir Robert de Hatford. Parker, in the *Ecclesiastical Topography*, calls it a priest, which is clearly wrong. It is undoubtedly the monument of a civilian of the early part of the 14th century, and probably commemorates the good man who provided the cost for the Early Decorated windows late in the 13th century.

It is, however, difficult to attempt to identify the personage whom this effigy commemorates. His heart, and not his body, was probably interred here, and that he was a civilian and not a soldier is evidenced by his having a dog, instead of a lion, at his feet. The costume is not that of the ordinary merchant or business man of the early part of the 14th century, and it would be hazardous to suggest what had been his walk in life. In the series of De la Beche effigies at Aldworth Church the latest one on the south side of the nave has somewhat similar costume, and in the very fine collection of drawings of monumental effigies made by my late grandfather, Mr. Edward Blore, are two examples of figures corresponding in their costume with the one under notice, namely, at Darley Church, Derbyshire, and Edenham Church, Lincolnshire. He does not seem to have known of this example at Hatford. Perhaps it may be possible to throw some further light on this subject from documentary evidence which no doubt can be obtained to elucidate the

history of the parish. On the floor is a blue slab with the following inscription in capital letters :—

Here lyeth buried the Body of Francis Piggott  
Esq<sup>r</sup> Sonne and Heire of Robert Piggott of  
Colwicke in the County of Bucks Esq<sup>r</sup> He  
Married Margaret one of y<sup>e</sup> Daughters of Alban  
Butler of Aston in y<sup>e</sup> wales in y<sup>e</sup> County of  
Northampton Esq<sup>r</sup> by whom he had issue vii soñes  
and iii daughters. he deceased the third day [effaced thus]  
Day of December An<sup>o</sup> Dm 1614 Ætatis suæ 68.

Above is a large shield with 3 pickaxes for Piggott impaling a chevron between three cups for Butler. In the top left-hand corner is another shield, Piggott impaling a saltire engrailed and in chief two mullets for Evenby or Enderby, his grandmother, and in top right-hand corner another shield, Piggott impaling Yate for his mother. There are on the floor several black marble slips with inscriptions :—

- (1) to Margaret wife of Francis Pigott Esquier was buried January 30th 1667.
- (2) Martha wife of Alban Pigot Esquier buried February 12th 1620.
- (3) a white stone to Edward Pigott died 1707.
- (4) at east end to Judeth the eldest daughter of William late Lord Bishop of Oxon and late wife of Alban Pigott died April 10th 1667.
- (5) Alban second son of Alban Pigott "Lord of this Maner and Patron of this Parsonage." died April 3 1679.
- (6) Mary Maw died 1761.

There is a large white stone with long inscription to the Revd. Mr. Edward Cranke, who died in 1756. He was a distinguished man, and according to his epitaph, had he been ambitious, might have attained to higher honours. He was Rector of Hatford and Standford, formerly Fellow and Tutor of Trinity College, Oxford, where he provided instruction for many eminent men. There is a white stone to his wife Elizabeth, who died in 1729. On the north wall is a tablet to John Tyrrell, who died in 1762, and Elizabeth, his wife, who died in 1760. There is some Jacobean panelling along the east wall. The chancel arch (Fig. 50) is low Norman much depressed, as the piers on both sides have given way. It has two plain recessed orders with grooved and chamfered abacus, the

inner order supported on shafts, that on north side new, with scalloped capitals. The bases rest on plinths about 18 inches above the floor level. There are considerable remains of red colour on the inner order.

The nave is roofless except at the west end. The north window is of four lights, square-headed with four trefoil-headed lancets, and further west is a single lancet. On the south side is a four-light window also square-headed with late Perpendicular or debased lights, the same size as that on the north. Further west is a single trefoil-headed lancet. All these decorated windows have wooden lintels. The west end is blocked by a large mausoleum to the Rev. Samuel and Mrs. Paynter. The west window is long and narrow of two lights with quatrefoil in the head of the Early Decorated period. The old plaster remains on the west portion of the nave, with faint traces of colour. On the occasion of a previous visit in 1898, the following paintings were noted, and are mentioned in a paper published in the *Archæological Journal*, Vol. LVIII., p. 55. On the south wall to the west of the doorway is a masonry pattern and two figures under a canopy, probably portraying the Annunciation. The masonry pattern is continued along the west wall. Round the windows on the north and south of nave was a pattern of loops in red. There was then, and still is, the red colour on the soffit of the Chancel arch. There were roses in red within the splay of the Norman window on the north side of the Chancel, and red colouring round the interior arch of the south Chancel doorway. Very little of this now remains. In the *Reliquary*, vol. vii. (new series), p. 147, is an illustration of the subject of the Crucifixion, and it is stated that in 1892 it was still visible on the walls of this Church.

The north doorway (Fig. 51) of the nave is blocked up. It has plain chamfered arch and jambs, and probably is Early Decorated. The large four-light window adjoining it has clearly been cut down, parts of the quatrefoils above the lancet lights still remaining. The Decorated windows (Fig. 52) all have external hoodmoulds. The south Chancel doorway has a flat chamfered hoodmould and plain chamfered edge to arch and jambs. The south doorway (Fig. 53) is composed of much better stone than that used for the rest of the Church, and is a good specimen of late Norman work. It has a chamfered hoodmould and two recessed orders. On the outer is bold recessed and raised zigzag. This is supported on a chamfered abacus with the quarter round on the main face, and large detached shafts with scalloped capitals having bunch foliage at the angle of

that on west, and a head (Fig. 54) on the angle and an inverted trefoil on the inner west face of the eastern one. Plain inner order and jambs. On the jambs and shafts are a large number of votive crosses, especially good on the east side. On the outer east jamb is a rude sun dial. There is a much later sun dial with the gnomon remaining and part of a black letter inscription near the west end.

The Church is built of the local stone. The old Manor House remains close by to the west of the Church.

---

## History of the Parish of Beenham.

*By Mary Sharp.*

---

*(Continued from page 76.)*

---

### CHAPTER III.

It seems doubtful whether the Manor held by the Monks of Reading did or did not include the whole area of the parish ; such evidence as we have rather points to the contrary ; but whether this was the case or not, it is certain that after the Dissolution, besides many small freeholdings, two so-called Manors existed within its limits. That called the Manor and Farm of Beenham, as it is described "late the property of Reading Abbey," and its appurtenances, together with the Rectorial tithes, and (as we have seen) the advowson of the living, were granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Henry Norreys, afterwards Lord Norreys of Rycote.

The particulars of the Grant are specified as being "'parcel' (part) of the possessions of the late dissolved Monastery (of Reading) . . . and said Lordship lyeth VI. miles from the King's Man<sup>r</sup> at Redyng."\* The names of some of the woodlands are added,

---

\* The distance is about eight miles.