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Notes on the Churches of East and West Hendred, Ardington and Lockinge.

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A walk of about one mile will land us at Ardington, another very pretty and picturesque village, with black and white houses embowered in the trees. William Nelson Clarke, the author of the *Parochial Topography of the Hundred of Wanting*, was a native of this village, and naturally collected a great deal of information as to the history of the Manor and a record of the principal owners of land in the parish and of the patrons of the Church. The number of distinguished personages of noble families who mainly through succession in the female line were connected with Ardington is remarkable. At the Domesday Survey we find that the Manor with patronage of the Church was in the possession of Robert d'Oilly, the builder of Oxford Castle, and owner of a large number of manors in South Oxfordshire and elsewhere. The Manor became at an early date a member of the Honour of Wallingford, "and so "continued till the transfer of all its rights and privileges to Ewelme

"in Oxfordshire by Act of Parliament in 1540." Under the Honour of Wallingford the Manor was held by three members of the Basset family. Gilbert Basset left an only daughter, who married Richard de Camvill. His daughter Idonea married William Longespeé, Earl of Salisbury. His son left several daughters, one of whom, Margaret, married Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, one of the most eminent nobles of his time. Their only daughter Alice married first Thomas Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster, secondly Eubule le Strange, and thirdly Hugo de Frenes, all of whom successively enjoyed the Earldom of Lincoln in her right. She died without issue in 1349. Before this date the Manor passed by grant or sale to the Cobhams, as it was held by Ralph de Cobham in 1326. His widow, who married Thomas de Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk, died seized of it in 1362, having held it as stated in the record of the Honor of Wallingford. Sir John Cobham granted it to the King, Edward III., who returned it to him for his life and then settled it on Alice Perrers. She, however, was deprived of all her goods and lands by Richard II., who granted it to his brother, John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon. It descended to his son and grandson, and then in 1482 was granted to Sir Richard Grey, son of Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV. He, however, was beheaded by order of Richard III. in 1483. Shortly afterwards it came to John Clarke, who was buried at Basildon in 1497, and remained in possession of that family till quite recent times. It has since been acquired by Lady Wantage, who is now Lady of the Manor and owner of the whole parish. Robert Vernon, who in 1847 bequeathed his splendid collection of pictures to the nation, resided at the Manor House.

A portion of the tithes were given by Robert D'Oilly to his Chapel of St. George in Oxford Castle, and this was afterwards transferred to Oseney Abbey. The remainder, with the Vicarage, was given by Gilbert Basset in 1182 to the Priory at Bicester which he had founded. At the dissolution of the monasteries the whole were granted to the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church in Oxford. The patronage of the living is now in the hands of Lady Wantage.

The Church (Fig. 47), dedicated to the Holy Trinity, consists of a north tower and spire, nave with north porch, south aisle, Chancel, and north and south Chapels. It is mainly of the Early English period, with later insertions. It was rather drastically restored in 1867, and again in 1887, when an additional bay was added to the nave (Fig. 46), the north Chapel was rebuilt, and a great deal of

renovation carried out on the tower and elsewhere. The Chancel has been decorated, but the design, by the late C. E. Kempe, is too large and dark, and not a very happy example of the work of that accomplished artist.

Taking up our position in the interior of the Chancel, we notice that the east window is of three lights in the Perpendicular style. On the north side is a debased square-headed two-light window within segmental-headed containing arch. On the south is a decorated piscina (Fig. 47) with a trefoil-headed canopy, stone shelf and round basin. On the south side is a double lancet with a fillet band on the mullions, within a segmental-headed containing arch also having the fillet moulding. In the north Chapel the reredos (Fig. 48) of 14th century date remains in the east wall, with stone frame having an upper and lower cornice enriched with roses in a hollow all round, and with three large eightfoils sculptured on the back. In the south wall is a piscina (Fig. 49) with trefoil-headed canopy, and groove for the former shelf, but the basin is now gone. Adjoining it is a trefoil-headed sedile rounded at the back of the lower part for the seat, the upper part now opening to the Chancel. Both of these are under a triangular hoodmould with the fillet moulding resting on the modern head of a bishop between them, and of the late Queen Victoria on the west. In this Chapel is a beautiful effigy of a lady by C. H. Bailey, R.A. (Fig. 50). She is represented kneeling and with her hands raised on her breast. An inscription on the pedestal does not record her name, and it is singular that no record of it has been preserved. Mr. Vernon obtained a faculty in 1848 to use this Chapel as a mausoleum, and it is thought that he purchased this beautiful statue as suitable for this situation. One would naturally have thought that it commemorated some member of the Vernon family, but of this there is no evidence. In the south Chapel the east window is concealed by a large monument to Sir Edward Clarke, who died in 1630. On the south side are two lancet windows within containing arches. On the north, opening to the Chancel, is a large and very elegant trefoil-headed squint (Fig. 51), and to the west of it, and also opening to the Chancel, is a plain arch with chamfered rib. There is a four-centred arch supported on modern brackets opening to the aisle. On the floor are some very good encaustic tiles (Fig. 52) with varied designs, fleurs-de-lis, scroll foliage, and three with the double "ichthus" pattern enclosing a rose. The Chancel arch has been much renewed (Fig. 53). It has three recessed orders on

engaged shafts and responds; the inner capitals are foliated. There are four arches between the nave and aisle (the western one modern) with plain chamfered edge (Fig. 54) supported on cylindrical columns with stiff-leaved foliage on the capitals, of the same character as that at East Hendred. The east and west responds are plain and octagonal on plan. They are early examples of the Early English style (Parker, in the *Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography* describes them as transitional Norman), and date from soon after 1200. The carving of the bunch or stiff-leaved foliage (Fig. 55), varied in each instance, on the capitals is very good. In the east respond is a curious little piscina (Fig. 56) with plain arch and projecting round cup-shaped basin. The east window on south of the south aisle is of two lights square-headed and debased. Farther west are two double lancet windows, each within single containing arch. There is a small lancet at the west end. Over the Chancel arch is a large rood beam now repainted. The arch opening from nave to tower space is modern. On north of nave is a small lancet light, and further west a double lancet within a containing arch (? old). The west window is modern in the Decorated style. In north-east corner is a large wooden pulpit with sounding board of Jacobean date. The font (Fig. 57) at west end of nave has a plain octagonal bowl with a course of the ball flower in a hollow below, and is of 14th century date. There is a very large oak chest. On the end of the front pew on the south side is an armorial shield, argent fretty azure, and motto, "Ver non semper viret," no doubt placed there by Robert Vernon. The roofs have been renewed throughout.

The interior arch of the north doorway is lofty and segmental-headed. The exterior arch within a porch (Fig. 58) is very fine semi-circular-headed, of date circa 1200, with a hollow between two half-rounds on the hoodmould, then a roll on the angle with two undercut half-rounds on the face and soffit of the outer order, and then a course of the dog-tooth in a hollow and a small half-round on face and soffit on either side. This rests on a small grooved and chamfered abacus. To the outer order is a detached shaft with mutilated capital enriched with stiff-leaved foliage. There is a plain chamfered jamb to the inner order. The doorway is a fine example of the Transitional period, blending the semi-circular arch with the dog-tooth ornament, the distinctive moulding of the first pointed period. It may be compared with the west doorway of St. Nicholas Church, Abingdon, and the two doorways at the old Manor House

Chapel at Sutton Courtenay, though a little later in date than these examples.

On the east side of the porch is a blocked two-light window within square frame. Here is inserted a very interesting sculptured fragment in white stone (Fig. 59) with the head of a King having a rose above within a triangular crocketed canopy, having prettily carved leaves for the crockets, and finial. The lower part of the canopy terminates on either side in a large human-headed serpent, one with a curious conical cap. It is of 14th century date. The porch and outer arch are mainly renewed (the latter is described by Parker as trefoil-headed), but the outer jambs are old, of 14th century date, and on the east jamb are carved some very elaborate crosses (Fig. 60). A roll moulding with fillet band is carried down outside the jambs. The tower and spire have been much renewed. The lower part of the tower and the angle buttresses may be old. Most of the windows have been renewed externally. The north and east windows of Chancel have undercut labels. The south window of Chancel (Fig. 61) is interesting. The double lancets have fluted mouldings, and above is an undercut hoodmould terminating on head of a king or queen on west, on bishop in centre, and on a man on east. The blocked east window of south Chapel is a double lancet. The south doorway (Fig. 62) is very good. Decorated with hoodmould on modern heads of bishop and king, then a course of the ball flower joined by a twining stem in a hollow on arch and jambs. On inner order is a series of leaves in a hollow on arch and plain chamfered jambs. Above it is a two-light debased square-headed window. The tower and south Chapel are built of stone. The rest of the Church is covered with roughcast. Near the north doorway are the steps and shaft with modern head of the old Churchyard Cross (Fig. 63).

A short walk will bring us to Lockinge, another very pretty village, and since it has been the residence of Lord and Lady Wantage, is, with its neat well built cottages, a model of what a prosperous little country community should be. It is well worthy of a special visit by those who may have the responsibility thrown on them of resettling our discharged sailors and soldiers on the land. An account of the history of the Parish is to found in Clarke's *Parochial Topography of the Hundred of Wanting*, and an excellent monograph on East Lockinge Parish and Church was compiled by Mr. W. H. Hallam and published in 1900. As these two books are not generally accessible, it will not, it is hoped, be a work of supere-

rogation, to reproduce what has already been written, with the addition of my own notes, taken in 1917 and on the occasion of several previous visits.

East Lockinge, or Lachinges, as it was formerly called, was granted by Queen Adelswith or Ælswith to the Abbey of Abingdon, and the Manor and Patronage of the Church was held by the Abbey until its dissolution in 1538. In 1546 the Manor was granted to John Winchcombe, son of the celebrated Jack of Newbury, and was alienated by his son Thomas, passing to John Doe, and again by marriage to Edward Keate. There were several other changes till in 1853 the estates were purchased by Lord Overstone, and vested in his daughter and her husband, then Colonel Loyd Lindsay, and afterwards Lord Wantage, by whom the Manor House (erected by Matthew Wymondesold in 1720) was rebuilt in its present palatial form. Lady Wantage is now Lady of the Manor and sole owner of the Parish. There is a second manor of West Ginge, which was granted by charter of King Edwy in 956 to Abingdon Abbey, and it appears to have gone through the same vicissitudes as those of the more important Manor of East Lockinge. The third Manor of Betterton was anciently called Bedretone. There were originally two Manors, that of West Betterton only being in the Parish of Lockinge. At the time of the Norman Survey it was in the hands of Milo Crispin, who succeeded to much of the property of Robert D'Oilly. In the reign of King John it was in the possession of Thomas de Mazcey who gave it to the Prior and Convent of Poghele (Poughley), in the parish of Chaddleworth, Berkshire. Soon after this Ralph de Chesterton gave to the Prior of Burcester (Bicester), Oxon, all his right and claim in the said service in the Manor of Betterton, payable at the death of every respective Prior of Poghele. In 1494 the Collins family entered into the occupation of the Manor. Poughley Priory continued to possess the Manor till 1524, when John Somer the last Prior surrendered his house and property to the Crown, who granted it to the Abbot and Convent of Westminster, and in 1539, after the dissolution of the Monastery, it was re-granted to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. It continued the property of that body till it was purchased by the Rev. Ferdinando Collins, the last of that family, and on his death in 1889 was bought by the late Lord Wantage. As already stated the presentation to the living has always vested in the Lords of the Manor of East Lockinge.

The Church (Fig. 64), dedicated to All Saints, now consists of a

north-west tower, nave aisles, chancel and north and south chapels. Till recently the Church consisted of a west tower, nave, south aisle, chancel and south chapel. It had fallen into sad dis-repair, but in 1853 considerable restoration was carried out under the direction of Mr. Street, R.A. The walls and roofs were renewed and north and south porches were added. In 1886 more extensive alterations were carried out at the sole cost of Lord and Lady Wantage. The aisle and chancel chapel were widened and converted into the nave and Chancel, and a new aisle added on the south side, and so the Church was completed as we now see it. The earliest parts of the Church, the old nave and Chancel were Norman, the north doorway, a window found on south of Chancel, and the font being of that date. The original Chancel Chapel has some Early English work, and the arches between nave and aisle are of this date. The arch between the original nave and chancel is of the Decorated period, as are some of the windows. There are and were some Perpendicular insertions, and the tower was rebuilt in 1564. As shown in the illustration, the Church is close to the Manor House. Taking our stand in the original Chancel, which is 26 feet long \times 14½ feet in width; this appears to have been reconstructed in the 14th century, though portions of the earlier Chancel have been preserved. The east window is a double lancet with a quatrefoil in the head, within widely splayed containing arch, and is of 13th century date. On the north side is a square-headed Decorated window within segmental-headed containing arch, and farther west a larger two-light Decorated window also square-headed and within similar containing arch. It has some fragments of old glass in the head, and parts of the canopies of the two main lights, with white fleurs-de-lis and yellow castles on a red ground, and some pretty little diamond quarries with oak leaves and acorns outlined in black on a white ground. On the south side is a plain square recess for the piscina (Fig. 65), which has a circular basin and stone shelf above. To the west of this is a plain arched recess containing a squint from the original south Chapel. These are all of 13th century date.

The adjoining arch opening to the south Chapel (now the Chancel) is of similar date. It has two chamfered orders, the inner resting on very quaint corbel heads (Fig. 67). Here is preserved a large oak chest, possibly of 13th century date. The altar pace with step up to it remains with several old encaustic tiles. At the west end on either side of the arch to the original nave is a

beautiful recess (Fig. 67) with ogee-headed arch and cinquefoiled fringe. There has been a misfit here in the erection of the main arch and these two recesses, and part of the south wall has been cut away to provide space for the one on that side. It is very doubtful as to what was their original use. The top of the canopy is on a level with the abacus of the Chancel arch, and they are carried down to the present ground level. Mr. Hallam considers them to have been the entrances to the rood-loft, but the wall at the back is solid and they are too small and low for any one to have got through without considerable inconvenience. It may be hazarded as a more probable interpretation that they were sedilia in connection with low side windows in the adjoining wall. On the outside the west window on the north side appears to have been brought down lower, so as to form one of these low side windows, and, as suggested, the priest may have sat here while in communication with some one outside the church. The stone or wooden seat could easily have been removed. At Stanwick in Northamptonshire, is a very beautiful sedile in this same position, though unfortunately the adjoining wall has been rebuilt and the low side window destroyed, but at Wigginton in North-west Oxfordshire, a similar sedile with richly carved canopy remains, and immediately adjoining it is a good example of a 14th century low side window in the south wall of the Chancel. At Lockinge, unless as has been suggested, the Chancel arch and the two recesses had been brought from elsewhere, there could not have been this arrangement on the south side, and that sedile may have been introduced to match and harmonise with the one on the north. In any case the situation of these two recesses is very uncommon, and possibly some better interpretation as to their use can be vouchsafed.

The arch from the original nave (Fig. 68) is good Decorated work, circ. 1330, with well-moulded hoodmould, and two quarter round orders continued down the jambs both on east and west sides, and with a large well-carved abacus. On the west side are two stone corbels formerly supporting the roodloft. On the south side opening to the old south aisle are three arches with two chamfered orders, the outer continuous to the whole arcade, the inner supported on low columns without capitals or abacus. On the north side is a three-light and two-light square-headed window, both of the Perpendicular period. The tower arch has two plain chamfered orders, the inner supported on modern brackets. The west window is debased. The font is very large (Fig. 69), with plain

circular tub-shaped bowl and square plinth, and is certainly of Norman date and probably the earliest relic in the Church. It has undergone many vicissitudes, but has fortunately been reinstated in the Church.

In the new nave (Fig. 70), formerly the south aisle, the Perpendicular window at the west end has been destroyed. The western arch of the arcade is new. The arcade on the south, dividing this from the new south aisle, is new, being composed of octagonal timber columns, on which are placed upright piers beneath the wall plate supporting the nave and new aisle roofs. The windows of the south aisle are new. In north-east corner of the new nave is a good Jacobean pulpit. There is no arch between the nave and Chancel. This latter was formerly the mausoleum of the Lords of the Manor. Several monuments described by Ashmole, in the *Antiquities of Berkshire*, and by Clarke, have been removed. None were earlier than the 17th century. The most interesting of those remaining is a black marble slab with brass effigies to Edward Keat, third son of William Keat of East Hagbourne and Jane his wife, the eldest daughter of John Doe of this parish (Lockinge). They had four sons and seven daughters, and both died in the same year, 1624. The lady is represented as wearing a very large, quite a *matinée*, hat. The east window of the new Chancel is new in the Decorated style. On the south side has been inserted a small Norman window, found in the north wall at the time of the restoration of the Church.

On the exterior of the Church there is not much of architectural interest remaining with the exception of the north doorway. This is within a modern porch, and is a small and very ornate specimen of Norman work (Fig. 71). It has a semi-circular arch with grooved and chamfered hoodmould and a course of the billet ornament on the chamfer, and two recessed orders. On the outer is the bold double frette or embattled (Fig. 72) separated by a smaller band of frette, and the inner order is plain. It is supported on a chamfered abacus, with groove and half-round on main portion. There is a shaft on each side to the outer order, with leaf and scroll on east capital and scroll terminating on a lily on each face of the west capital. The inner order has plain jambs. This arch should be compared with that of the north doorway of Faringdon Church, which is rather more ornate, but apparently the work of the same hand. The doorway at Lockinge is certainly late Norman, probably of date circ. 1160—70. The ironwork on the door is interesting

and old. The tower (Fig. 73) is of debased character, embattled, with two-light belfry windows, and single light on middle stage, north and south. There are angle buttresses. On a circular panel on the north side is a date 1564, and part of an inscription. This would probably commemorate the rebuilding of the tower. The south porch and doorway are new, but the ironwork on the door looks old. The east window of the old Chancel is hidden by the luxuriant growth of a Virginia creeper. There is an external hood-mould to the western Decorated window on the north side, also one graduated buttress (Fig. 74). The old portions of the Church are covered with roughcast. There are five bells. The first has the following inscription round the shoulder: "PRAYSED BE THY NAME O LORD THAT HAS SENTE, 1578." Below, the Founder's Initials divided by a Bell. The second, Recast. The third, with inscription: "GOD BE OVR SPYD IN OVR BEGYNYNG." On the waist is a Cross Fleury, and on either side, the Initials, W. T. Date middle of 16th century. The fourth, tenor, inscribed "Robt. Wells, Aldbourne, Fecit 1793." The small bell is inscribed "Robt. & Jo. Wells, Aldbourne." A walk or drive of about two miles to Wantage will finish up a delightful day.

Stanford Dingley, 1864—1918.

By Miss A. L. Valpy.

WHEN I first went to Stanford Dingley in 1864 my Father had just assumed the duties of Rector of the place. The living was a family one in those days, and he was the fourth of the name to officiate in the little old Church. The village is very small, but, apparently, it had always been flourishing, as there had been a malt house, which had been closed before we arrived, and there had also been, and was still, a large tannery, belonging to, and worked by, Mr. George May, an intelligent man, who was always a sympathetic and helpful friend to the Rector of the parish, and acted as his churchwarden.

A small stream ran through the place and turned the wheel of the tan-yard, and filled the vats containing the skins, and then made