

The Rebuilding and Repair of Berkshire Churches during the Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries.

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THIS article is an attempt to show how some of the church fabrics of one English county were treated by their custodians during the two hundred years before the Tractarian revival and the Ecclesiological Movement.

This is a period about which the average guidebook has nothing to say. We are told that a church has a Norman doorway, that the rest is Dec. and Perp., and that it was restored in 1865. That is true as far as it goes : but it tells us nothing about what happened between the fifteenth century and 1865, and leads us to suppose that nothing did—or nothing worth mentioning. But that is not the case. The church, after all, was continuously in use for worship during those years ; and that meant that the fabric had to be adapted, kept in repair, and often enlarged.

It had to be adapted because post-Reformation worship was not the same as the mediaeval worship for which it had been built. Cranmer meant the Book of Common Prayer to be “ most easy and plain for the understanding both of the Readers and Hearers,” and “ commodious for the plainness of the order, and for that the Rules be few and easy.” Many of the seventeenth-century churchmen adorned the Prayer Book rite with considerable ceremonial. But they did not forget Cranmer’s ideal ; and what they were aiming at was something very different from the worship of the unreformed Church. It was also different, in many ways, from the worship which the churchmen of the nineteenth century tried to promote—which is what we are used to. And that is why so many people find it hard to understand its character and to appreciate its architectural consequences. In recent years, however, the architectural interest of the Stuart and Georgian church has at last been recognised,¹ and Canon Addleshaw and Mr. Etchells have shown us that the private pew and the galleried aisle are as characteristic of Anglican piety as piscinas and stave-lockers are of mediaeval ritual.²

Buildings which are in regular use require regular repairs. Some churches were neglected in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as others had been in the Middle Ages. But no congregation willingly worships in discomfort, and there is plenty of evidence, both pictorial and documentary, to show that the average village church was not allowed to fall into decay by its Stuart or Georgian churchwardens. Visible traces of post-Reformation repairs have often been removed by nineteenth-century restorers. But they were there once : and it is certain that much stonework that looks pre-

¹ See especially Marcus Whiffen’s *Stuart and Georgian Churches* (1948).

² *The Architectural Setting of Anglican Worship* (1948).

Reformation is nothing of the kind. After reading the accounts of a church such as that of Newbury, where a detailed record of the expenditure on the fabric has been preserved, one wonders whether any of the visible detail is the authentic work of the mediaeval mason. Much of it is undoubtedly due to his successors of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, whose ability to copy Gothic mouldings and ornaments was greater than is often supposed.

And churches were also enlarged. We may find it hard to understand the point of view of the man who, having built a new house in the parish, applied for a faculty to build a burial place on to the church, with a pew above to provide accommodation suitable to his station ; but it was a normal thing to do in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. We may find it harder still to sympathise with the efforts made in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries to provide accommodation for the poor, sometimes by moving the pulpit and the desk into the middle of the church so as to make room for more seats, sometimes by building yet another gallery in the aisles. But there it was : people did attend church—or, if they did not, they were expected to—and room had to be made for them.

So the churches were adapted, repaired and enlarged. Much of what was done during these years has perished. But the documentary evidence of vestry minutes, churchwardens' accounts, and faculty petitions remains, and it shows that if there was little need for new churches until the very end of our period—and then only in the towns—far more was done to keep Berkshire churches in repair during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries than is sometimes supposed. Every year the churchwardens levied their customary rate "for making the necessary repairs of the church," and if fire, wind, or past neglect brought ruin to roof or steeple, then able and experienced workmen declared their estimates on oath before the Justices in Quarter Sessions assembled, so that a brief might be obtained authorising a general appeal throughout the whole country. But the commercialisation of briefs in the eighteenth century began to make this an uncertain way of raising money, and some parishes, like that of Beenham, preferred to organise their own appeal. In 1818 briefs were abolished by Act of Parliament, and the Incorporated Church Building Society was founded in order to assist in the building and enlargement of churches on the lines of a public charity. In whatever way the money was raised, the work was usually entrusted to local master builders, and it was not until the coming of the railway that the London architect appeared with plans, elevations and sections with which to impress the country vestrymen. Local builders used local materials, and in a county not plentifully provided with freestone, brick was regularly used for towers and porches as well as for repairs and patching. The brick towers of Berkshire are, indeed, one of the most characteristic features of its ecclesiastical architecture, and the almost complete brick church of Ruscombe

shows that the bricklayer could at times attempt work as elaborate as that of his fellow craftsman, the mason. Some fifteen brick towers were built in Berkshire between 1600 and 1800, and they show every variety of design, from the traditional silhouette of Bradfield to the fashionable classicism of Brimpton (now faced with flint and Gothicised). In the interior the skill of the joiner and carpenter was engaged to provide the chancel with altarpiece and communion-rails, while in the nave the importance of hearing both sermon and Liturgy demanded that careful attention should be paid to the arrangement of pulpit, pews and galleries. The painter, the plasterer and the upholsterer contributed in their respective ways to the comfortably furnished atmosphere which the Georgian churchman thought appropriate to the House of God, but which his Victorian successor rejected in favour of the cold propriety of bare stone walls, encaustic tiles and open rafters. Whether we like it or not, their work has its place in the history of every parish church, and it is as a contribution to parochial history that these notes have been compiled.

Sources And Abbreviations.

1. Unless otherwise stated, the churchwardens' accounts and vestry minutes quoted are preserved in the churches to which they belong. In many cases no records have survived: sometimes they have eluded discovery, and the writers do not pretend to have examined the contents of every parish chest in Berkshire.
2. The faculty papers referred to are among the Oxford Archdeaconry Papers in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. Some, however, still remain in the Diocesan Registry at Salisbury, Berkshire having formed part of that diocese until 1836.
3. The records of the Incorporated Church Building Society, Queen Anne's Gate, London, which we have been allowed to make use of by the Society's kind permission. Cited as I.C.B.S.
4. John & J. C. Buckler's drawings of Berkshire churches in the early nineteenth century, preserved in the British Museum (*Additional MSS.* Nos. 36356-7).

ABINGDON, ST. HELEN

The mediaeval spire became insecure early in the seventeenth century and was rebuilt in 1632-3. Among those who were called in to examine it were the "King's Surveyors," whose entertainment is recorded in the churchwardens' accounts. The King's chief surveyor at this time was Inigo Jones, and it is therefore probable that the rebuilding of the steeple was undertaken on his advice. The principal entries in the accounts are as follows:

1630 Item pd. to one Draper for his charges and paines
in coming over to Abingdon to vew the Tower
& Steeple.

iijs.

Item pd. for our charges at Oxford when we were
presented concerning the Steple.

vs. vjd.

	Item pd. for two strang workemens' dinners wch. cam to vew the Tower and Steeple the wch. came wth. Smyth.	ijjs.	viijd.
1631	about ye Steeple.		
	Item pd. to Whichilow for a gabell wayinge fifty pound at li.	xxs.	xd.
	Item pd. for x bushells of Lyme at Sandford ferry at ixd. the bushell.	vijjs.	vjd. vd.
	Item pd. for beare for the workmen.		
	Item pd. to Anthony Wise for a new ladder and for making of two more.	iijs.	
	Item pd. to Richard Kent for viij ferr pooles to make a Cradle and two ladders.	viijs.	
	Item pd. for board to make the Cradle.		xijd.
	Item pd. for the King's Surveiers at the King's head and at the Tavorne for Wyne.	iijs.	ivd.
<i>Marginal Note</i> :— Those did survay the tower the 13 of October.			
	Item pd. to Ralph Day for ij daies work about the steeple.	ijjs.	
	Item for mending ladders for the same business.		vjd.
1632	Item by the appoyntment of Mr. Checkins then mayor and Mr. Johnshon that William Kent the elder [should ?] look out one Draper a workman and the next day one of us the said accomptants did go likewise to seek him, then pd. for my horse hier to Watlington.		xxd.
	Item after we had found him for our dinners at Watlington.	iijs.	vjd.
	Item pd. for the workman's dyate when he was come over.	iijs.	jd.
	Item pd. to him by the appoyntment of Mr. Mayor for his paynes for comyng over.	xs.	
	Item pd. for the said workman's second coming over.	xs.	
	Item pd. to Parsons mason for coming over to vew the Steeple by Mr. Mayor's appoyntmt.	xs.	
	Item pd. for Parsons' diatt at the Lamb.		xviijd.
	Item pd. for coming over to vew the Steeple to Robert Smyth by the appoyntmt. of Mr. Mayor.	vs.	
	Item pd. to Parsons for his second coming over appoynted by John Tesdale.	ijjs.	
	Item pd. to Thomas Head for writing the articles and Covenant and a bond for performing the articles.	xs.	
	Item pd. to William Kent for looking for Draper at Watlington beinge out ij dayes for him & his horse.	vs.	ijjd.
	Item pd. to William Kent for fetching Draper the ij tyme, & from Britwell for him & his horse.		xxd.
	Item pd. to Humphry Smyth Robert Smyth and Thomas Mathen at severall tymes.	lxx li.	
	Item more pd. to the said workmen	x li.	
	Item to Humphry Smyth and the rest the some of	x li.	
1633	Item pd. to Mr. Docter Sweat of Oxford for his advice consarning the parsons' tithes taxed to the rebuilding the Steeple.	iijs.	vjd.

Item pd. for wood candle and paper when the tax
 was made for the Steeple in the Hospitall Hall. vij*d*.
 (f.242v) The Money Payd the Workmen Robert Smythe Humphry Smythe
 and Thomas Mathen at Sundry tymes in full payment for the
 rebuildinge of the Steple a hundred and Tenn pounds.

In June, 1703, the churchwardens made an agreement with Robert Robinson of Horspath, Oxon., mason, for the repair of the tower for the sum of £80 (Vestry Minute Book No. 1, *sub anno*).

In 1886 the spire was again reconstructed, though without altering its design.

The church was largely refitted in 1706, when John Huett, joiner, agreed to take down all the seats in the "outmost" aisle and to build in their place a gallery 6 ft. in width the whole length of the place where the seats stood, with stairs at each end, for which he was to receive £25. At the same time Thomas Fletcher, carpenter, agreed to take down certain seats in "Read's Isle,"¹ to rebuild them uniform with the seats which Huett had agreed to build, and to erect over them a gallery, 8 ft. in width, 3 seats deep, "the ffront to be done with Spanish Oake according to A designe to be given by Mr. Townsend [a well-known Oxford master-builder] which said Gallery is to stand upon fflower good cleane oaken pillars," while Robert England of Abingdon, joiner, agreed to "take down all the seats belonging to the Mayor Bayliffes & Burgesses of the Borough of Abingdon & erect new ones of good Flanders oak to the good liking of the said Mayor, Bayliffs & Burgesses as they shall direct and appoynt him, the freese or carved worke about the said seats not to exceed the value of £5." (Vestry Minute Book I, *ad finem*.) In 1724 it was agreed to erect a gallery over the west door "for the use of the Singers" (*ibid*, *sub anno*), and yet another gallery was built in 1795-6 to the designs of an unidentified architect, whose account-book, preserved in the Public Record Office,² contains a copy of his charges for making the drawings and specifications, directing the workmen, and passing their bills. The builder employed was Bartholomew Norrington, and in order to raise money to pay him, it was decided to let the seats in the new gallery for 21 years (Vestry Minute Book No. II, Jan. 5th, 1796).

APPLETON

The north aisle, having become ruinous, was taken down and rebuilt in 1600. The cost of the work was met by a tax of 12d. on each yardland, which was resisted by some of the inhabitants, and led to proceedings in the Archdeacon's Court at Oxford on November 19.³ The new aisle was ceiled at his own expence by one of the churchwardens. It is lighted by simple mullioned windows with

¹ i.e. the southernmost of the two south aisles, also known as the Holy Cross aisle.

² P.R.O. C 217/82/1, f. 5.

³ The evidence given by the Rector on this occasion is printed in the *Proceedings of the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society*, New Series, VI (1894-1900), 69.

flat soffits. The adjoining Southby Chapel on the north side of the chancel appears to have been built at the same time, and is of similar architectural character. It is separated from the chancel by a wooden arcade with semi-circular arches.

ARBORFIELD

When the old church was dismantled in 1863, the glass from the east window was taken out, damaged, and nearly all thrown away. It was the work of John Rowell of High Wycombe, and had two compartments with half-length figures of Moses and Aaron. In 1802 it was said, "The colours of the drapery are crimson, blue and purple; all very rich; the breastplate of Aaron remarkably brilliant." Underneath was an inscription, in Latin and Greek, stating that the work was done in 1744, when John Waterman was Rector. He bore the cost, and beautified the chancel.¹

A faculty was granted in 1862 for the demolition of all the church except for an aisle. The old walls are still standing: the rebuilt aisle has been allowed to decay.

The new church was designed by James Picton of Liverpool. It is extremely poor and unattractive. Part of the figure of Aaron survives in a window on the south of the nave.

There is a view of the old church based on a sketch made in 1842 in the Bodleian Library (*MS. Top. Berks.* b-8).

ASTON TIRROLD

Small sums were paid for miscellaneous pieces of work on the church in 1716, 1724, 1726, 1727 and 1748.

In 1751 Edward Field was paid £30 16s. od. for making a new roof, and £9 4s. 4d. for other work. The tower was reroofed in 1785 at a cost of £13 6s. 4d.

There were further minor repairs in 1802, 1828, 1830 and 1843.

There was a gallery in the south transept where the musicians and the boys sat. This was removed at the restoration of the church in 1852 under Wyatt of Oxford (£461 10s. od.).

In 1863 there was a second restoration under John Colson of Winchester, when the north aisle was built. The builder was Glanville of Benson.

AVINGTON

In 1765 the interior was repaired, paved and pewed; a new reading desk and pulpit were provided.

There was a restoration in 1848-1853 by Butterfield.

BASILDON

The brick tower was built by subscription in 1734. It is of the usual Thames Valley type. T.W. is carved on the keystone of a blind window on the west side.

¹ There are a few payments for repairs in the churchwardens' accounts, including one of £30 18s. Od. to "Peter Cook Carpenter," in 1742-3, but this does not, of course, relate to Waterman's work in the chancel.

There was formerly an 18th century south porch.

The Rev. George Bellas D.D. (died 1802) wrote a few notes at the beginning of one of the registers "for the amusement of his successors." He recorded that the west gallery was built by Francis Sykes, Esq., in 1772, and the north gallery, "to make room," by subscription in 1773.

"The Font was given by me Geo. Bellas Vicar, 1774. The Design was mine own—the *Marble Cross* & Bason were executed by the ingenious Mr. Hill of Reading, and cost £1 16s. od."

There are also a few later notes, such as the following in 1825 :—

"The seats in the Church appropriated to the use of the Poor being in a dilapidated state, it was resolved at a Vestry that the same should be repaired by public subscription, and also that a new Gothic stone window frame should be fixed near the Pulpit in place of the one made of wood which was old and much decayed. And it was resolved that the Church should be washed and painted at the expence of the Parish. The estimate of the repairs done by public subscription was Forty Eight pounds, which sum was raised by the following contributions . . . At the same time Sir Francis Sykes consented to colour and paint the Chancel."

There was a restoration in 1846, principally at the expense of James Morrison of Basildon Park.

BEENHAM

In October, 1725, a faculty was obtained in order "To build an Altar piece, & Rails & Balisters before the Communion Table," to convert "the seat the parish Clerk now sits in & a seat adjoining to it called the churching pew . . . into one seat for the Vicar's family," to provide "a new seat for the Parish Clerk under the Minister," and to make the vicar's seat and one adjoining it into a new seat for Madam Anne Blackmore, who had promised "to give . . . a considerable sum of money to new seat & beautify [the] parish church." The faculty also provided for the erection of a new gallery at the west end "four or five seats deep for the better convenience of servants & other young persons, who have at present no convenient place in our said Church to sit in."¹

A memorandum preserved among the parish documents records that "The wooden Steeple of Beenham Church was struck by Lightning, set on fire, & the same with the Gallery & a great part of the Church destroyed : the Bells in the Steeple entirely melted, on Sunday evening the sixth of July, 1794. The Lightning struck the Tower about seven o'clock in the afternoon, the Ringers having left it about an hour before.

Joseph Cave, Churchwarden."

The estimated cost of rebuilding the church was £600, exclusive of the old materials. An appeal was circulated in the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, stating that the

¹ *Archdeaconry Papers* c. 160, ff. 44-6.

parishioners were anxious to raise the money "without the assistance of a Brief, which must be some time in collecting, and to which but too many have lately refused their contributions." Nearly every parish in Berkshire contributed, and a total of £579 14s. 11½d. was collected. With the aid of this the church was rebuilt, retaining the old chancel, and the brick porch which had been added earlier in the eighteenth century. The total cost of the new church was £638 5s. od., but owing to the disappearance of the churchwardens' accounts, the names of the builders have been lost.

The brick tower remains, with a plain parapet and small pinnacles. It was given a Gothic arch and west window in 1859, when the rest of the eighteenth-century work was destroyed and a new nave was designed by Henry Woodyer. The chancel was rebuilt in 1871.

BESSELSLEIGH

This is one of the least "restored" churches in the country. The nave and chancel are divided by a timber lintel supported on two posts, with a plaster tympanum above. On this is painted the following inscription:—

"This Church was Beautified and Repaired in the Year 1632 by the Honourable William Lenthall Master of the Rolls and Speaker of the Parliament of England and Again by his Descendant William John Lenthall in 1788."

The nave has a seventeenth-century cornice with wooden cherubs holding shields with the Lenthall and other arms.¹ There are eighteenth-century box pews, cut down in the nave.

BISHAM

In 1818 the singing gallery was removed from the chancel to the west end of the church at a cost of £30, raised by subscription.

On July 1, 1829, a faculty was petitioned for in the following terms: "In order to extend the Accommodation of the Pews and sitting Places therein the Vicar and Churchwardens of the said parish propose to enlarge the said Church by taking down the wall on the South Side thereof extending from the Wall of the Aisle belonging to the Estate of the late George Vansittart Esquire to the Tower and building a Wall extending in length from the South West Corner of the said Aisle forty four feet and in depth twenty one feet to enclose a small part of the Churchyard and in the Area or Space to be inclosed and taken as aforesaid to erect and build on the Ground floor a number of free and open Sitings for the use of poor people and others resorting to the said Church and above the same Sitings to erect a Gallery extending over the whole Area to contain on the East Side a Pew or Seat of the length of Eleven feet and of the breadth of nine feet to be appropriated to the sole use of Owen Williams Esquire and his family Occupiers of Temple House in the said Parish of Bisham

¹ cf. *Berks Arch. Jnl.* XXXV (1931), 47.

in lieu of the Pew or Seat now occupied by him situate on the South Side of the said Church and behind the said last mentioned pew or Seat to build a small Room to be enclosed with Wainscott Boards and used by the Minister as a Robing Room and the remainder of the said Gallery to convert into Pews or sitting Places for the use of the Inhabitants of the said Parish and to new roof the body of the said Parish Church now in a State of decay."

The estimate of £819 had been made by Mr. William Lane of Eton, whose plans, approved at a Vestry held on May 4, 1829, are preserved with the petition in the Salisbury Diocesan Registry.¹ They are poor drawings of a poor piece of work. Lane was also the contractor. The church was reopened on April 4, 1830.

On December 13, 1839, a new barrel organ was put up at a cost of upwards of £70.

In September, 1841, the Countess of Plymouth presented a handsome crimson velvet cover for the Communion table, with IHS on the front.

In October the royal arms were removed from over the altar to the front of the arch over the singing gallery. In November the railings enclosing the monuments were taken down.

The church was restored in three stages :

(1) 1849. The church was closed on May 6 and reopened on August 19 : the cost was between £1,600 and £1,700. The architect was Benjamin Ferrey. The faculty declared that it was proposed that the chancel and south burial chapel should be entirely restored, the chancel extended about 8 feet, a chancel arch erected and an arcade running east and west separating the chancel and chapel ; and a vestry built on the north side of the chancel. It was also intended to erect a new altar, pulpit, reading desk and clerk's desk, and to fit up the whole with open seats. It was also wished hereafter to extend the improvements to the rest of the church, and to remove the galleries and erect a western organ gallery if it should be deemed expedient.

(2) 1856. Further alterations were begun on March 21 : the church was reopened on October 5. Thomas Peers Williams had given permission for the removal of his faculty pew in the gallery. The south aisle was rebuilt, with an arcade of three bays between it and the nave ; the west wall of the south chapel was removed, a south porch was erected, and a gallery was placed at the west of the aisle in place of the Temple family pew.

(3) 1878-79. The north wall of the nave and chancel taken down, and an aisle built. The cost was £2,300 and the architect was Richard W. Drew. The organ was moved, new seats were provided, and the Temple pew was transferred to the new aisle.

¹ See also *Oxford Archdeaconry Papers*, Berks. c. 160, ff. 63-64.

BOXFORD

The tower fell in 1667, and was rebuilt in flint and brick about 25 years later. The date-tablet on the south side is now vacant.

The west gallery was dated 1759.

The north aisle was added in 1841, for the use of the poor, by the Rector, the Rev. John Wells. The chancel arch was rebuilt at the same time.

The pews, gallery, etc., remained until 1908, when the church was restored by J. O. Scott.

The pulpit dated 1618 survives.

BRADFIELD

The west tower appears to have been built or rebuilt in the seventeenth century, but the exact date is unknown, and there is no documentary evidence among the parish records. It is mediaeval in design, with off-set buttresses and battlemented parapets. The material is rose-coloured brick relieved by panels of squared and knapped flints—an unusual and most effective treatment. The dressings are of stone, and set in the buttresses are two stones bearing the initials W.A. and S.H. The west window is a Victorian insertion.

The church was almost entirely rebuilt in 1847-8 by Thomas Stevens, the rector and lord of the manor. He employed Gilbert Scott as his architect, and they planned the work together. In Stevens' mind—as in that of so many Gothic Revivalists—architectural design ranked as a moral exercise: so close, in fact, was the connection between morals and aesthetics that, having a liking for square abaci, he came to use the term as a personal epithet. To be “a square abacus man” was to be “manly, straightforward, real and honest,” while in his vocabulary “ogee” was the sign of a weak or dishonest character. So most of the church is Square Abacus.¹

BRAY

The churchwardens' accounts are complete through the 17th century, and contain a good many small items for repairs to the church. The following is a selection.

1602

It. paid to Milam for masons worke about the church iiis. viiid.

Receyved of ye Exchequer for repaying of the high
chancell iii l xviii.

layd out as foloweth

In subsequent years there are payments to Milam and to Wilks for work about the church, and to Edward Plumridge for bricks, tiles, lime, etc.

1621-22

Ite to Edward Mountague for worke aboute the Chapell 0 10 0

Ite to Humfry Barnard for xiii dayes worke 0 12 0

Ite to John Hill one of hys laborers 0 2 0

¹ Its previous appearance can be seen from J. Buckler's drawing in *Add. MS.* 36, 356, f. 118, made in 1819.

Ite to Edward Plumridge for bricke sand lime and other stuffe about ye Chaple	1	10	0
Ite more to Edward Mountague	1	0	0
Ite to Edward Mountague	1	8	0
1636-37			
pd to Wall the Joyner for the fframe of the Comunion Table and for finishing by (?) a little Table for the Vestrie	xs.		
pd to Hen. Miland for worke which hee did about the Church			viid.
pd to Robt ffeilder ffor measuring a timber being a dayes worke			xviid.
pd to hime for three dayes worke about the Steeple	iiis.		vid.
pd to Henry Miland the 15 of October for woorke about the Church	xs.		xid.
pd to Henry Milam the 14th day of November for woorke done a bout the Church	xs.		viiid.
pd to Simon Bowyer for bringing of Timber and Pales ffor the Comunion Table at two severall times the 4 of Aprille	iiis.		iiid.
pd to the Joyner the 7th of April ffor Palinge the Comunion Table	30s.		
1645-46			
ffor glazinge ye Chansell windows	2	6	0
paid to the Glazier ye 15th of December 1646 for 73 foote of New Glasse at vid the foote	01	16	06
And 77 foote of New Leddinge at iiid. ye foote	00	19	03
And 49 foote Repaired at ii the ffoote	00	08	02
And for 331 Quarries at one peny ye Quarry	01	07	07
1647			
Itt paid to Mr. Winch of ffyfield for the new phant	1	12	3
Itt paid to Waul the Joyner for carrieing home ye Phaunt to his house	0	-	6
Itte paid more to Waul for ye cover of the Phaunt ; & the Piller and for Carveing Painting Gylding & setting up the same Phaunt	2	2	0
Itt paid to Henery Mylam for seaven daies worke for himselfe And his man for Paveing & other worke about ye Church	0	16	0
Itt paid to Jno: Plumridge for xii bushells of Lyme ha: a load of Bricks And for Gutter & Ridge Tyles	0	9	10
1653-54			
To Henry Miland for repaire of the Vestry & other worke ffor the Common wealthe armes	0	17	0
	1	3	0
To William Lambden for setting them upp	0	1	0
1660-61			
To Val: Cox by his bill for worke done about the bells &c	1	6	6
pd to Jo: Saunders for worke done in the Church	1	13	0
At a public meeting held on April 3, 1661, the seats in the Church were allocated.			
1661-62			
pd to Humphrey Young for worke done about the Church	0	13	0
1667-68			
pd by Mathew Pettifer to severall workemen about the Church & Leaze and other things as by his bill appears	26	9	5
pd by ffra: Larkin to other workmen as by his bill appears	8	7	10

Henry Knight¹ of Reading supplied a new treble bell, which was first cast in July, 1677, the cost being £42 6s. od.

There was a second casting in July, 1678, "for an addition of half a hundreded & three pounds of meatoll cast into hir" : the cost was three guineas. Frame and workmanship, smith's work and carriage, cost £11 10s. 9d. William Lambden was paid £9 19s. od. for work.

In 1679 "Sr William Paule Kt did demollish and take downe two ancient seats in the north Eyle of the pish Church of Bray . . . And in the Roome of the said seats did at his own propre cost and charge with the consent of the then Churchwardens erect and build one new seat in the said Eyle over against an ancient seat belonging to Philberts Which seat It is the desire of the said Sr William Paule should Remain a seat unto him & his new erected house at Braywick," etc.

A faculty for repewing was granted on April 27th, 1832. The work was done by Billing of Reading.

A faculty for restoration was granted in 1858, and it was carried out in 1859-62 under T. H. Wyatt.

In 1859 the gallery was removed, and the chancel restored. Arches were built at the west of the chancel and chapels, and thick masses of masonry were removed from the entrances to the chapels. The south chapel was restored in 1860-61, the style being altered from late to early Perp. Then the nave and aisles were restored, the north wall was rebuilt, the pillars were renewed, the west entrance was reopened, and a new roof provided.

In 1864 the cupola of the tower was removed, and the top of the turret was raised. The tower was restored in memory of the Rev. J. E. Austen Leigh, who died in 1874.

BRIGHTWALTON

The altar rail now forming a screen on the north of the chancel came from Compton Church.

BRIGHTWELL

The MS. Diary of the Rev. Thomas Wintle, preserved among the parish records, contains the following entry : "In the spring of the year 1796, when ye Tower of our church was begun to be repaired, on removing ye North-West Buttress, that corner fell down, just after ye Men had left off work : . . . a few hours after, ye bells all fell & brot down another large Portion of ye Tower with them, upon wch it was found necessary to take down ye Remainder, wch was done accordingly."

The foundations and the east wall of the tower were found to be good, but the rest had all to be taken down, and the materials were laid round the churchyard by one of the wardens. An estimate for £330 was received. "The tower was begun to be rebuilt in the

¹ cf. *Berks. Arch. Journl.* XLIII (1939), 101.

month of May, 1797," but little progress had been made by July, 1799, when Wintle was writing, and it was not completed until the spring of 1802. The bells were hung in 1808.

In 1815 the church was extensively repaired and the nave and chancel ceiled by Richard Clarke, builder, and John Hewett, carpenter. Their bills survive : Clarke's work was certified by John James Cooper, the Reading surveyor, and Hewett's by John Phillips.

The church was restored in 1858, and again in 1884. The plain plaster ceiling of the nave survives, and the simple red brick tower has not been altered. There are no churchwardens' accounts for the period of its erection.

BRIMPTON

A petition for a faculty was presented in 1748, and is preserved in the Salisbury Diocesan Registry. The belfry was an old timber building, greatly decayed. It had been surveyed and carefully examined, and had been found to be in so ruinous and weak a condition that it was in danger of falling, and not capable of being repaired. It must be taken down and rebuilt. The Vestry agreed to take it down and rebuild it in brick on a new foundation at the west end of the church, 20 feet square "from out to out," and 50 feet high from the ground, according to the plan annexed.

The 'plan'—which is, unfortunately, not signed—is in fact an elevation. It shows a bold tower, with Roman Doric pilasters rising from a podium, and a complete entablature. There are flaming urns at the angles, and a turret in the centre. The windows have keystones.

The Vicars of Bucklebury, Beenham and Thatcham, and the Rector of Wasing, were appointed a committee to inspect the belfry and the place where the new tower was to be, and to certify whether it would be beneficial or prejudicial. Three of them did so, and declared that it would be "highly beneficial & Ornamental, and in no way Detrimental, to the Church or Parish of Brimpton." The faculty was granted on July 21st, 1748.

The tower still survives, but it has been faced with flint, gothicised, and given a spire. Its original appearance can be seen in Buckler's drawing (*Add. MS.* 36356, f. 124v).

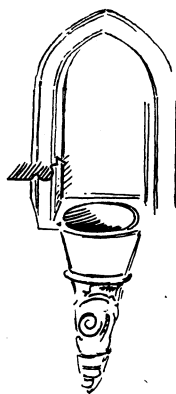
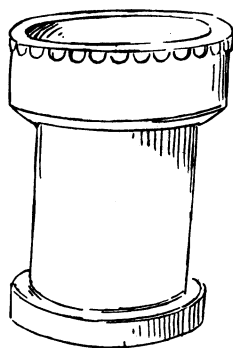
The churchwardens' accounts in the safe begin in 1771. The church was repaired in that year. The payments were .

Jos. Wyatts, carpenter	38	17	10
Thos. Smith, for Bricks & Lime	04	12	6½
Danl. Prince, for Church Books	03	07	6
John Adams for Glazg & Paintg	04	01	7½
Thos. Holdway, for timber	03	14	7
John Herbert, Mason	11	00	1½
Jos. Froom, Smith	00	14	3

In 1785 the church was new tiled. Payments include :

John Wigmore, Bricklayer	15	2	0
Wm Drewatt for lath	4	9	6
Henry Newman, Painting		13	8

Font in Brimpton Ch



*Water niche in S. wall
of ye Chancel,
Brimpton Ch.*



S. E. Brimpton Ch. Berks

Sep. 10. 1819

S.E. View of Brimpton Church 1819. From a drawing in the British Museum.

S. Smith, Glazier	3	1	3
Ths Smith of Brimpton	8	7	1
Ths Fidler for Tiles	2	12	0

In 1796 Soper of Aldermaston was paid £7 8s. od. for a new window frame for the chancel, etc., and John Wigmore for work done in the "Church, Chancel and Isle &c," £17 os. 6d.

The church was reseated, refloored and repaired in 1847-48 : the work was done by Edward Balding of Speenhamland for £160. It was entirely rebuilt and the tower altered beyond recognition, by J. Johnson in 1869.

BUCKHOLD

1836, by Sampson Kempthorne. 'Early English.'

BUCKLAND

The churchwarden's accounts (now in the County Record Office) show that the church was kept in good repair throughout the eighteenth century. The roof was repaired and releaded in 1768 at a total cost of £165 4s. 10½d.

In 1786 the archdeacon ordered (among other things) that a new door was to be made on the north side of the church : a new table of benefactions was to be put up : casements were to be made in some of the windows ; there was to be a new door on the north side of the church ; the earth was to be thrown away from the foundations ; the outside of the church and the chancel were to be rough-cast ; the pewing under the gallery to be repaired, and the church to be whitewashed.

The accounts show that in the following year £47 4s. 8½d. was spent on glazing, roughcasting, whitewashing and other repairs, and the date 1787 appears on the south transept. Some of the work appears to have been carried out by Sir Robert Throckmorton, who although a Roman Catholic and "quite blind," was reported in 1789 to have "done great things to preserve and restore Buckland (his parish) Church."¹ The windows in their present form, with plain mullions and no tracery, appear to date from this restoration.

An undated faculty among the Oxford Archdeaconry Records grants leave for the Barcott aisle to be made into a vestry in order that Parish meetings might be held "with more privacy and convenience than in the open church," and also to provide room for a parish library.² The churchwardens' accounts for 1783 contain a payment of £5 10s. for "Pewing Barcott Isle Oak Joists &c."

There was restoration in 1870 under Ewan Christian. The present vestry and organ chamber were built in 1890.

¹ J. Nichols, *Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century*, III, 698.

² *Oxford Archdeaconry Papers*, Berks. c. 160, f. 105.

BUCKLEBURY

The porch was built in 1603 : it was restored in 1895 by James M. Money of Newbury. In the window over the Winchcombe pew is glass inscribed "S.S. me fecit 1649," and "Th : S. & St."¹ The seats are simple old ones remodelled and added to in the 17th century. The pulpit is 17th century with an 18th century canopy.

The chancel was mostly rebuilt by Sir Henry Winchcombe² at the beginning of the 18th century. The windows and doorways were remodelled in the early 19th century, but the Winchcombe pew on the north survives.

The nave keeps its ceiling. The N.W. vestry is 18th century : so are the pinnacles of the tower.

In 1809 the Rev. W. H. H. Hartley gave the organ at a cost of £210. This organ is still in its west gallery, with a benefactions board in front, painted in 1824. He also gave a kneeling cushion and chairs covered with crimson cloth, and a marble font (£18 11s. od.) and bricks and timber for building the churchyard wall to the value of £60.

This is a very pleasant church. The chancel has some decoration and glass of 1912 : but otherwise it has been very little interfered with.

BURGHFIELD

A meeting was held on May 4th, 1842, to consider estimates and plans for rebuilding the church which had been approved by the Archdeacon and the I.C.B.S. It was stated that the population was increasing : the Church was dilapidated, and it was inadvisable to repair it. It must be rebuilt, and money was to be raised.

Subscriptions eventually amounted to £1,653 12s. 11d., £500 was borrowed, the I.C.B.S. grant was £230, and the Oxford Diocesan Church Building Society's grant was £200.

In 1843 Billing was paid £2,600 1s. 3d. for building the Church ; J. B. Clacy, architect, was paid £105 ; and Mr. Brown, assistant architect, £117.

CATMORE

A Norman church thoroughly re-normanised in the 19th century. The roof was built in 1607.

CHADDLEWORTH

The impressive pews which project from the north side of the nave were constructed early in the 18th century by members of the Blandy and Tipping families. A faculty for the erection of the eastern one was granted to John Blandy on July 10th, 1706 (Oxford Archdeaconry Papers, Berks, c.160, ff. 109, 110), and on September 13th,

¹ See Pl. 22 of Greening Lamborn's *Armorial Glass*. It came originally from one of the Stephens houses *via* Shellingford. *Ed.*

² See A. L. Humphreys, *Bucklebury* (1932), 165, 319-20. He died in 1703. *Ed.*

1717, Bartholomew Tipping of Woolley obtained licence to build an "aisle" 13 feet square against the north wall of the church as a pew and burying-place (Salisbury Diocesan Registry). A further faculty to build an aisle 13 feet square, and a burying-place, on the north side, was granted on April 20, 1765. So it seems that the work was not done until then.¹ This is now known as the Wroughton pew, Philip Wroughton (d. 1812) having married Anne, the niece and sole heiress of the last Bartholomew Tipping (d. 1798),² whose monument occupies the north wall. The window in the west wall is of modern date.

The inscription MBR 1637 AMP records the repair of the tower in that year. There are indications that the newel staircase formerly continued to a greater height than at present, and it is possible that in its present form the upper stage of the tower dates from 1637, though it evidently incorporates mediaeval material.

The handsomely framed Lord's Prayer and Creed were put up at the charge of Isabella Nelson, the lady of the manor, in 1757.

There is a small, unused, font inscribed TW 1814 HH.

The chancel was added in 1851 (G. E. Street, architect). There was a restoration under Ewan Christian in 1881, when the west gallery was removed.

EAST CHALLOW

The brick south aisle, dated 1707, was rebuilt at the restoration in 1858. The architect (of the restoration) was George Adam Burn: he made a sad mess of it.

CHIEVELEY

In 1674 the churchwardens were admonished by the archdeacon's official "to provide forthwith a convenient & handsome Cushion & Cloth for the Pulpitt . . . & to cause the . . . walls to be whited, & beautified, & the Sentences of Scripture to bee Inscribed & painted : & to putt the floore & pavements of the said Church in good Repayre . . ." "And whereas in the late times of Rebellion, there was an Isle built on the North side of the Church, wch. has not beene since his Matyes happy Restauration by any Ecclesiasticall Authority approved of & allowed, & a considerable parte of the said Church Wall pull'd downe, & the sd. Isle being now Ruinous & ready to fall downe, so that the Roofe & Walle of the Body of the sd. Church are in some danger of being subverted : & whereas in the said Rebellious Times there was a Wall wch. parted the Chancell from the body of the Church, wch. was by some of the Inhabitants of

¹ According to *V.C.H. Berks.* IV, p. 166, the Wroughton pew was built in 1810, but no evidence is given for this statement, and the dimensions of the existing pew correspond with those authorised in the faculties of 1717 and 1765. Moreover the fact (recorded in Bodleian Library, *MS. Top. Berks.* c. 26, f. 150) that the first interment in the pew was that of Mrs. May, the daughter of Bartholomew Tipping, and widow of D. May, Esqr., of Sulhampstead Abbots, whose husband died in 1753, shows that it was in existence long before 1810.

² For pedigree, see *Berks. Arch. Jnl.* XXXVIII (1943), 43.

the said Parish without Legall Authority pull'd downe, wch. hath much weakened & impaired the body of the Church, & likewise the Chancell, whereby the Impropiator is like to be much damnified," they were enjoined "either to take downe the said Isle & to Erect & build the Wall of the said Church in the same manner figure & forme as the sd. Wall formerly was in, as neare as possible it may bee : or to repayre the said Isle so firmly that no damage may thence arise to the church & thereupon to precure a Faculty for the Confirmation thereof, & that there bee a partition of Wainscott decently framed & sett up betwixt the Chancell & the body of the Church" (MS. Oxford Archdeaconry Papers, Berks, c.160, f.115).

In April, 1678 the church was still "out of Repair" and "very much weakened" by the aisle, but on January 25th, 1678/9, the churchwardens were able to certify that it had been fully repaired in accordance with the order of 1674 (ff. 116-117).

In February, 1705/6, a faculty was granted for the erection of a gallery "for the decency of *Singing* and other Religious uses" (f. 120).

The church was rebuilt in 1873 by J. W. Hugall, with the exception of the chancel and tower.

CHILDREY

The nave roof and the tower were repaired in 1741.

COLESHILL

The transept was repaired in 1750, and the chancel in 1780.

The lead roof of the nave has the dates 1715 and 1784.

In 1782 the Earl of Radnor repaired and decorated the church, erected a new pulpit, and put the pews into regular order. He also ornamented the chancel with an elegant painted window : the glass came from Angers. The circular window may be the one that was mentioned as existing in the south aisle in 1759.

18th century pews remain in the transept.

COMPTON BEAUCHAMP

The south transept was rebuilt in 1911. It had been altered in the 18th century.

CUMNOR

The tower staircase was erected in 1685.

The Churchwardens' Accounts begin in 1687 : there are many small items for repairs, of which the following are typical :

1726, pd Wm Alley a bill for Timber and worke making ye bellferry Doors & other worke belonging to the Church & Church House	04	04	04
1733, pd Willm Alley his Bill	19	17	10½
1735, Pd Richard Stephens a Bill	02	12	0¼
Jo. Nicholls a Bill	33	05	8
1736, Pd Mr Green ye Painter	21	00	0
Pd Mr. Green ye Mason a bill	00	17	0
Pd Prickett ye Plasterer a bill	17	00	0
Pd Tho: Inns a Bill	03	02	9

Pd Jo: Nicholls for Glazing	04	06	7
Pd Bartho: Inns a Bill	14	05	3½
Pd Richd Stephens a Bill	01	13	11½
Pd Will: Capel a Bill	00	19	0
Pd John Adkins a Bill	03	06	2
Pd Robt Battin for Caring Deal	00	05	0
Pd Wm Alley a Bill	03	02	7½
Pd Wm Alley a Scaffolding bill	09	02	0
1749, paid William Alley a bill for Carpenters work	1	16	0
paid Thomas Innes a Bill for Masons work in laying Down the Above graves and other work in the Church	1	10	0
1750, paid Thomas Innes a Bill for Masons Worke Done in the Church and Church Charge	1	9	2
1751, paid Thomas Innes the mason In part of Account for Ruffcasting of the Church and Tower	16	3	0
1752, paid Thomas Innes a Bill in part of account for Ruff- casting of the Church and Tower	4	17	0
paid Thomas Innes the Mason another Bill in part for Ruffcasting of the Church and Tower	5	0	0
paid William Alley a Bill for Carpenters work Done at the Church and Tower	7	1	7
1757, paid Mr. William Alley a Bill for work Done in the Carpenters way in the Church & Tower &c	1	9	6½
1759, paid William Alley a Bill for work Done in the Church and Tower &c	2	3	9
1762, paid Thomas Innes the mason a Bill for Repairing the Churchyard wall as per bill	2	1	7
paid William Capell Carpenter a Bill for work Done in the Church and Tower	0	14	0
1763, Paid John Barry the slatter a Bill for work done at ye Church	0	11	2½
paid Richard Stephens the Black Smith a bill	0	6	9
paid William Capell a bill for work done at the Church and Tower and Church house and Timber and Nails and workmanship in Building of the Little House in the Garden as see the Bill	3	5	7
1765, paid Thomas Cox a Bill for Plumers work Done upon the Tower	0	5	2½
paid William Capell a Bill for work Done in the Church and Tower	0	11	8½
paid Thomas Innes the Mason a bill for work Done in the Church and Church House	0	19	11
1796, October 1, pd Mr King the Plumer for recasting the Lead on the Tower	6	18	6
2, Pd John Innes for Work done on the Tower Church & Churchyard Wall as by Bill	0	12	0
1805, December 6, Pd Jno Innes a Bill for work at the Walls &c	3	0	2
19, Pd Busby Godfrey a Bill for boards and Work at the Church	7	8	11
1806, April 4, Pd the Plumers Bill	13	7	7
July 10, Pd John Innes a Bill for New Roofing one Side of the Isle	4	14	2
Pd Francis Eaton for the Slates	0	5	0
1808, May 26, Busby Godfrey a Bill for Repairs at the Church	1	15	0
1812, March 30, Paid Busby Godfrey a Bill for Work done at the Church	2	5	7

1812, November 2, Paid John Petty as by Bill for Painting the face of the Clock the Font Church Doors &c	12	0	4
20, Paid Joseph Ostler as by Bill for Repairing and Colouring the Tower inside and outside of the Church	48	10	11
1813, March 19, Paid Richard Dawes for Cramping the Tower as by bill	12	9	0
Paid the Reckoning at a meeting at the Vine	0	8	6
Paid Mr. Leech Surveying to Pettys woork	0	7	6
April 17, Paid Wm Coster for Painting the Arms Writing the Commandments Beleif &c	20	1	6
Paid the Rekoning at a meeting at the Vine	0	5	6
25, Paid Willm Stephens for Cramps Repairing the Bells &c as by bill	1	1	4
May 4, Paid Jo Petty as by bill	11	7	0
1816, December 20, Paid John Godfrey a Bill for Carpenters work at the Church	1	11	9
1827, October 13, pd John Capell three Bills	4	15	1
1828, December 21, pd John Neal as by a Bill for Work at the Church	24	17	5
1829, John Capels Bill for work at the Church	6	4	4
Wm Stephens Bill for work at Do.	8	5	4
Glaizers Bill work at the Church	6	12	1
John Neals Bill at Do.	14	8	0
1834, John Capels Bill for work at the Church painting &c	2	—	—
1836, June 8, pd John Capels Bill for Work done to the Bellwheels and the Pews in the Church	6	3	2
1837, pd Mr. John Neals Bill for Masonry Work to the Church in the year of 1833	2	4	—

There does not seem to have been any large scale restoration in the 19th century. During the 40's the accounts continue to mention payments for work in the church.

December 2, 1848, Grimsley pd	20	2	3
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On February 7th, 1849, Luker was paid £50 on account, and C. Capel was paid £134 1s. 5d. Luker was paid further sums in 1849 and 1850, and the final balance of his bill—£37—on November 30th, 1850. There is no indication of what these payments were for.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* (1821, part 2, p. 489) says, "The entrance is formed by a plain pointed arch, before which is a large wooden porch constructed in the Doric style."

At a Vestry meeting on October 31st, 1856, the Churchwardens were authorised to make a rate of three halfpence in the pound for the erection of a new porch, and other necessary expenses.

On April 14th, 1857, the Vestry resolved that the new porch should be built by contract, for which sealed tenders should be sent to the Vicar.

On December 9th Messrs. Castle were paid £30 10s. for building the porch. On July 21st, 1859, the Churchwardens were empowered to collect a rate of 4d. in the pound for repairing the south transept. In the accounts of 1868–69 Wastie was paid £29 7s. od. for plastering the Church. And in 1873–74 £17 was paid for repairing the roof of St. Mary's aisle.

DENFORD

This small Gothic church was designed by J. B. Papworth for G. H. Cherry of Denford House as a private chapel, and was built between 1830 and 1834. The original designs are among Papworth's drawings in the R.I.B.A. Library.¹

EAST GARSTON

There is a stone inscribed 1684 which no doubt records the

WTR

TL

repairs to the tower and transepts which were carried out in brick at about this time.

There are two notes in the registers :

"Memdm Decr. 1757—

The Reverend George Berkeley B.A. Student of the Cathedral Church of Christ at Oxford, & Vicar of East Garston, erected at his own expence a new reading Desk, & two pews (for the Vicar's Family) in his Church at East Garston."

"Memdm

Easter Tuesday, 1758—the Vicar of ye Parish received from John Barrett the Sum of £1 2s. 6d. being one Years rent for ye Land belonging to ye Church of East Garston, due Apl 5th 1758—which money he received for to be laid out in purchasing Ornaments for ye said Church—To which use he is likewise to apply ye rent of ye Church House ; as he is the Lawfull Trustee into whose hands the profits arising from ye said Tenements are always to be Paid—and Whenever the Vicar, for the time being, shall expend any part of the said income for ye use of his Church, he shall enter a Memorandum of ye Sum so disposed of, & of ye manner wherein he shall dispose of it, in the Book wherein ye Parish accounts are kept."

EASTHAMPSTEAD

The church was rebuilt by J. W. Hugall in 1866-67. The tower is a recasting and heightening of the old brick one, inscribed HENRY BOYER 1664. A baptistery has been built against its south side.

The pulpit, (really a reading pew ?) now mounted on a stone base, is inscribed, "1631 Unto this place a zeale I beare to the widdows mit I may cumpeare. Per me William Aylward."

Royal arms 1660.

There is a view of the church before rebuilding in the Bodleian Library (*MS. Top Berks.* b.8).

ENGLEFIELD

The churchwardens' accounts (now in the County Record Office) show that the wooden spire was "new erected" in 1713 at a cost of £50. The carpenter employed was Robert Legg.

The church was largely rebuilt by Gilbert Scott in 1857 and later years. Old views show that there were formerly two eighteenth-century quatrefoil windows in the S. aisle, and a Gothick south porch (see Buckler's drawing of 1819 in *Add. MS.* 36,356, f.161, and Bodleian Library, *MS. Top. Berks.* b.8).

¹ The attribution to Wyatville in Murray's *Architectural Guide* (1949), is incorrect.

FINCHAMPSTEAD

In 1720 a faculty was granted to Thomas Johnes, gentleman, of Finchampstead, to rebuild the tower "in lieu of the steeple then lately taken down." This was done in 1720-1, the tower being of red brick, traditional in outline, but Georgian in detail. There is a panel with the following inscription :

The foundation of the Tower was laid Anno Domini 1720.
John Banister, Edward Ellis, Churchwardens. Finished
Anno Domini 1721. John Banister, Thomas Solmes,
Churchwardens.

(W. Lyon, *Chronicles of Finchampstead*, 1895, p. 34)

There are no churchwardens' accounts of this period and the name of the builder is not known. There were some alterations in 1855 under J. B. Clacy of Reading, including a new porch.

FRILSHAM

The small brick tower and west windows seem to have been built in about 1830, but there is no mention of them in the churchwardens' accounts, which are preserved from 1769 onwards.

FYFIELD

The church was seriously damaged by fire in 1893 and afterwards restored by an unknown architect.

The churchwardens' account-book for the years 1666-1794 is preserved among the muniments of St. John's College, Oxford, the patrons of the living, and it shows that almost every year small sums were expended on keeping the church in repair.

Between 1666 and 1675 the leading was stripped off, taken to Abingdon to be recast, and then relaid :—

1666	Imprimis for casting of 21c. 3qr. 25lb. of old lead at 5s. ye hundred	£05	10	00
	Item for 21 cwt. 3 qr. 11 lb. of new led at 20s. ye cwt.	21	17	00
	Item for 56 li. of Soder 12d. ye pound	02	16	00
	Imprimis for carriage of lead to Abingdon twice & three times backe againe.	00	15	00
	Item paid to Will. Munday for helping downe & up with the lead.	00	08	00
	Item paid to the carpinter for timber & workmanshippe	02	08	00
	Item paid to the Smith for nailes & spikes.	00	03	00
1670	Imprimis for casting of 1100½ & 5 li. of old lead att 4s. 8d. the hundred.	02	12	06
	Item for 500½ & 4 li. of new lead at twenty shillings the hundred.	05	10	08
	For soder & nailes for 3 dayes worke for his (i.e. the plumber's) man & hee & for 1 day for himselfe for 3 days for a labourer.	£01	17	00
	Spent when wee bargained with the plumer.	00	01	00

The masons, like the plumber, are usually anonymous, but two entries show that the churchwardens employed Bartholomew Peisley, a well-known Oxford master-mason, to do their repairs in the early eighteenth century :—

1713	Itim paid Mr. Pesley and his man	£00	14	00
1714	Imprimis Paid Mr. Pesley for Mending the Tower	18	01	00

The tower again required attention in 1786-8 :—

1786-7	John Jones Bill for Masons Work	£10	14	10
	Thos. Harts Bill for work and so Dear	3	7	4½
	Thos. Whitehorn for Carpenters Work & Timber	3	18	10
	Mr. Dalton for 20 foot of Oak Timber	1	0	0
	The Blaksmiths Bill for Iron and Work.	2	2	6½
	Thos. Herbert Bill for Paynting-Work.	2	5	0
	Turnpike and Expences fetching Stones from Witney	0	8	0
	Two load of Walling Stones	0	2	0
	Mr. Peers ¹ for the Valuation of the Tower	2	2	0
	Mr. Rowels for the Witney Stones.	£ 0	12	0
1787-8	Paid at Butler's Mr. Lord & Jones about ye Tower	0	5	0
	March 15 Paid Harts Bill for Plumbing & Glazing	2	14	4½
1788-9	The Expence of ye Tower & Church			
	Johnson's Carpenters Bill.	£ 5	0	10
	Barrett's Do. Bill.	20	2	0½
	Blacksmith's Bill	14	2	8
	Mason's Bill.	39	0	0
	Do.	1	7	3
	John Heath's Bill for Lime & Bricks	15	9	10
	John Owen's Bill for Deale &c.	2	17	6
	Thos. Hart's Bill for Glazing &c.	1	2	3½
	Mr. Jackson's of Windrush a Bill for Stones	7	18	8
	Mr. Sellwood's Bill for Stones	6	6	0
	Aker's a Bill for Stones	0	15	0
	Mr. Badcock's Bill for Stones	1	8	0
	Paid Mr. Lord for coming twice to inspect ye Tower	1	1	0
	Thos. Harts Bill for Glazing &c.	0	19	3
	Mr. Tombs's Bill for a cover for ye Cushion & making	0	15	0
	Paid John Dalton for Timber & Hurdles & Expences	2	5	4
		£120	10	7½

The tower was altered in the restoration of the Church after the fire of 1893, but its former appearance can be seen from a photograph reproduced in the *Berks, Bucks & Oxon. Archaeological Journal*, vol. XXIII, fig. 4. It had a wooden cupola which dated from 1788-9.

In 1831 the north aisle, containing Sir John Golafre's tomb, and commonly called "Sir Thomas White's Chapel," was repaired by John Hudson, builder of Oxford, at the expence of St. John's College.² His bill included :—

March 19th	<i>Masons Work</i>	£	s.	d.
	Taking up and relaying Marble Ledgers, and making good the Floor, Cleaning and repairing Tomb &c.	}	7	7
	Mason and labourer 21 days work			
	87 feet Super Northleig wrought paving—14d.			
	4 ft. Portland Stone wrought step.	1	5	4

¹ Probably James Pears, an Oxford mason who executed work under James Wyatt at Magdalen and New College.

² The bill is preserved in the College Archives.

<i>Carpenters Work.</i>			
Takeing down the Skreen. Spliceing and repairing & Makeing good do. repairing and laying floors &c.	}	86	12 6
Joiners 385 days			
Carveing 54 Gothic Flowers & Shields ..	2/6	6	15 0
Do. 6 with the Founders Arms ¹ ..	6	1	16 0

GREENHAM

Application was made to the I.C.B.S. in 1825. The accommodation was to be enlarged by taking down the north wall, extending it 8 feet, and building a gallery.

An old photograph of the interior shows a pleasing, humble building, with two Doric columns on the north.

The church was entirely rebuilt in 1875-76 by Henry Woodyer.

There are two views of the old church in the Bodleian Library (*MS. Top. Berks.* b.8).

GROVE

Built in 1832, through the exertions of Dr. Richard Lynch Cotton, Provost of Worcester.

"On Tuesday the new church at Grove, near Wantage, was consecrated by the Bishop of Salisbury, when the Rev. E. B. Pusey, B.D., and Regius Professor of Hebrew for the University of Oxford, preached an excellent discourse to a highly respectable auditory. There was a collection at the door in aid of the building fund, which realised 74l. The building will seat about three hundred persons." (*Berkshire Chronicle*, August 18th, 1832.)

The church became unsafe, and was rebuilt by Philip Robson in 1900-01.

The new church has in its turn become unsafe.

It contains the elegant wooden font from Pusey church.

HAMPSTEAD MARSHALL

The brick tower was built in 1622, and the church much altered at the same time. Restored 1893. Creed, Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments, rails, altar and ceiling are of 17th century date. The pulpit and desk are against the south wall. The pulpit bears the initials of Dorothy, widow of Sir Thomas Parry, and the date 1622.

West gallery and pews 18th century.

HAMPSTEAD NORRIS

The nave roof is dated 1635.

The small marble font was given by Benjamin Mathews in 1768. It took the place of an elaborately carved twelfth-century font which was seen and drawn by J. Buckler in April, 1867, in a garden at Newington, Surrey, "belonging to Mr. Mathews" (*Add. MS.* 36356, ff. 177-8). This is now in Stone church, Bucks.

¹ Sir Thomas White was the founder of St. John's College. He was buried in the College Chapel, but several of his family were buried at Fyfield.

WEST HANNEY

The churchwardens' accounts survive from 1760. They contain a few unimportant references to repairs.

In the accounts of 1829-30 there is a payment of £17 1s. 10d. to William Wicks for whitewashing the church.

There was a restoration in 1869.

An 18th century altarpiece survives as a vestry screen.

EAST HENDRED

The lead roof of the nave is inscribed "J. Cowdrey, W. Beasley, churchwardens 1798."

WEST HENDRED

Altar table, rails, pulpit and font cover are 17th century. The plaster on the tower is inscribed W.T. I.G. 1744.

HERMITAGE

Holy Trinity, formerly the Adelaide Episcopal Chapel.

Built by contract by William Elliott of Speenhamland in 1835. The cost was £428.

It is Norman, of brick, whitewashed, with stuccoed west front and porch.

1887, chancel by Maurice Hulbert : brick E.E. with oak panelling and stalls.

SOUTH HINKSEY

The chancel was rebuilt in the 18th century. It is an unpretentious building of stone, with round-headed windows, and there are now no traces of a Victorian attempt "to make this ugly appendix look a little more ecclesiastical in taste" by means of "large patterns and not very good contrast."

NORTH HINKSEY

There were very considerable repairs to this church in the late seventeenth century. In a faculty for the appropriation of a pew to William Fynmore dated May, 1696, it is stated that "at the time of the rebuilding of the church of North Hinksey," he "payd one part in three" towards the expences.¹ The chancel roof may date from this restoration, but the fabric as a whole is mediaeval, and to speak of a general "rebuilding" appears to be an exaggeration. The date 1786 incised in the plaster over the doorway is presumably the date of the south porch.

HUNGERFORD

The churchwardens' accounts contain the usual payments to workmen for work in the church. Thus in the accounts for 1684 Jehoshaphat Kimber was paid £26 18s. 6d. for timber and for work done at the church ; and Robert Mason was paid £13 3s. 0d.

¹ *Oxford Archdeaconry Papers, Berks.* c. 160, ff. 281-2. The tower was under repair in 1671 according to a churchwardens' presentment at Salisbury. We are indebted for this reference to Miss E. A. O. Whiteman.

In 1709 Mr. Jones and Daniel Hasell were paid £8 for beautifying. On September 10th, 1740, the Vestry agreed that on Mr. Henry Capps paying £20 into the hands of the churchwardens, to be laid out in ceiling and adorning the church, the wardens or overseers should undertake to pay him twenty shillings every year during his life.

A similar agreement was made on November 18th, 1750: Capps's £20 was this time to be laid out on erecting an altarpiece.

The new work at the east end is mentioned in subsequent accounts :

1751, Paid Mr. Pocock for a Communion Table	1	7	0
Paid Titcomb in part in Riteing ye Commandments	2	7	6
1752, Paid Mr. Agur's bill the Carvr	5	6	0

There are payments in connection with a repair in the accounts for 1785-86.

Mr. Halfey's bill Surveyor	5	5	0
for Stone & Car : by bill	5	15	6
Iron pillar	3	8	0
Mr. Palmers bill	14	14	6
Mr. Simmons for Car : of Stone		15	0

The accounts for 1795-96 contain :

The Disbursements of Wm. Smith and Wm. Webb Church Wardens to Easter 1796 on account of the reparation of the Tower

Mr. Emlyn Surveyor	7	7	7
Jno. Ellis's Bill	38	3	9½
Mr. Burch's Bill	14	10	6½
Mr. Robert Smith's Bill	29	19	1½
Jeht. Yorks Bill	47	7	0
Mr. Blandys Bill	17	17	4
Mr. Hutchin's Bill	8	17	4
Beer for Workmen	0	7	10
Fetching 4 Loads of Sand	0	12	0
Mr. Faithfull's Bill	10	16	3
Mr. Wentworth for 2 Loads of Stone from Box and one Load for Lime from Bristol	15	0	0
Wiggins for a Basket		6	0
Mr. Clarke for use of Scaffold Poles		14	0
Mr. Collins's Bill	2	15	2
Mr. Barlys Bill	1	19	6
Mr. Banister's Bill	2	8	10½
Mr. Halls Bill	1	12	0
	200	13	8½

Receipts 110 8 8

Due to the Church Wardens 90 5 0½

In 1811 an Act of Parliament was obtained to enable money to be raised for the repair and improvement of the church. In their petition the parishioners set forth "that the Church of the said Parish is an ancient Building, and the Tower thereof is in a most ruinous state, and it is expedient that the said Tower should be

rebuilt, and that the said Church should be taken down, enlarged and rebuilt, and the residue thereof repaired and improved." The Bill received the royal assent on May 25th. The trustees then advertised for designs for rebuilding the tower. Five architects competed—Messrs. Barker, Robson,¹ Rendall, Poole and Panchard.² The designs selected were those of John Lidbury Poole, a London architect who exhibited occasionally at the Royal Academy between 1802 and 1817. He drew up plans and specifications, but was dismissed in 1812, apparently because his estimate was considered to be excessive. His services were recognised by a payment of £34 2s. 6d. in 1813. A copy of his elevation for a tower in the Gothic style is preserved among the Treacher papers in the Reading Public Library, together with a copy of the specification signed "J. Pool Arch. Janry. 25th, 1812." Poole's place as architect to the Trustees was taken by John Pinch (1770-1827), an architect from Bath, whose designs were approved in June, 1812 as being "more satisfactory and less expensive" than those of "Mr. Poole the Architect lately referred to."

Meanwhile, part of the tower had had to be demolished "owing to the dangerous state thereof," and early in 1814, while it was being rebuilt, "a great part" of the church fell down.³ This disaster "fully discovered to the Trustees the very dangerous and dilapidated state" of the church, and after obtaining a report from two more architects, Mr. William Fisher of Oxford and a Mr. Higgs, they declared themselves satisfied that "no human means could have been used effectual to have supported it, however they lament with the Parish at large the necessity of increased expences." A meeting was held in December at which it was decided to apply for a further Act of Parliament in order to raise £6,000—the estimated cost of rebuilding. The Act received the royal assent on May 2nd, 1815, and a Brief for £5,854 8s. 9d. was also granted. The Dean and Chapter of Windsor, as patrons of the living, contributed £750, of which £650 was for rebuilding the chancel. The new church designed by Pinch was opened on August 30th, 1816. The contractors were Provis and Cambridge of Chippenham, who received £6,933 16s. 10d. in instalments between 1813 and 1817. Pinch's remuneration amounted to £557 4s. 0d.⁴

HURLEY

There are three most informative articles on the Church in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1839 (Part 1, pp. 257-263, Part 2, pp. 27-32 and 139-145) from which these notes on its post-Reformation fittings are taken. "The sanctuary or altar-place is spacious, and divided

¹ Probably J. Robson, who exhibited at the Royal Academy from London between 1797 and 1833.

² R. Panchard of Bath.

³ *Commons' Journals*, LXX, p. 16.

⁴ For information about the rebuilding of the church we are indebted to the late Mr. H. J. Morrish of Kintbury.

from the chancel by a wooden railing of well-turned spiral balustrades ; but we did not see any pulvinar or cushion for the convenience of communicants when on the genuflexorium, or kneeling-step, at communion-time. The holy table is neatly made, and stands at the extreme upper end of the chancel. It is of wood . . . The pallium is a decent blue woollen cloth, and so large as to completely hide the table . . .

The altar-piece is of mahogany-coloured woodwork. It is in the Roman style, and consists of a pedestal base, above which are two semicircularly headed panels and two lateral square-headed ones, all flanked by fluted pilasters, supporting a triglyphed and dentilled entablature, but with a truncated pediment. Between the heads of the central panels, surrounded with a glory of gilt radii, is an inverted triangular gilt space, on which are inscribed the four Hebrew letters signifying "Jehovah." In the central vacuity of the pediment is a small carved and gilded dove, symbolic of the Holy Ghost, in imitation of the gold vessel wherein the Eucharist was kept ; but which in primitive churches was suspended, as if hovering over the altar. In the two central panels, on a white marbled ground, is a copy of the Decalogue plainly written in small black Roman letters ; and in the lateral panels, on a black ground, are representations of Moses and Aaron standing on marble pedestals. Moses has a venerable beard, carrying under his right arm the two graven tables of stone, with his rod and left hand pointing upwards. Aaron is in the holy garments peculiar to his office as high-priest, namely, the linen trousers, the blue robe with golden bells at its lower border, the ephod or girdle, and embroidered breastplate, the precious stones upon his shoulders, and the mitre, with gold forehead-plate ; and from his right hand swings a golden censel . . .

Directly under the rood-loft beam, and dividing the chancel from the nave, is a well-designed open screen of lime or sycamore, or some such close-grained wood, too well, however, executed, to have been made at the public cost, unless in times more munificent than ours, and, therefore, probably the gift of some pious public-spirited parishioner. It is in the Italian taste, and was most likely erected in the early part of the last century. This screen . . . consists of a narrow central semicircularly-headed archway between two wide, flat-headed openings, flanked by rectangular ornamented pillars supporting a neatly-carved entablature, the console, or key, and spandrels of the central arch being adorned with finely-cut, flowing foliage. Against the north and south walls of the chancel is a continuation of this screen-work as a return arch, like that just described, but with a console embellished with a beautifully-carved cherub, thus giving to the backs of the manorial and vicarage pews somewhat the appearance of stalls in a cathedral . . .

The baptistery pew is under a north gallery, and near the western door . . . The font is placed in the south-west corner of the pew, which has a seat on its north side for the sponsors, that they may conveni-

ently turn to the west when renouncing the devil, and to the east upon their assent to the creed and promise of obedience . . .

The pulpit and reading-desks are conveniently situated on the south side of the nave, and were probably put up, as most of our wooden pulpits were, in the early part of James I's reign. This pulpit is neatly made of wainscot, and is of hexagonal form, as well as the sounding-board, a handsomely inlaid piece of joinery projecting from the capital of an oaken fluted pilaster attached to the wall. The pulpit cloth and cushion are of blue velvet, now much faded . . .

The pews extend on both sides from near the west end to the altar-rails. They are of one height, but of irregular dimensions, and mostly of plain deal or beechen panelling, their ends being painted to represent wainscot . . .

At the west end of the church is a small music-gallery, the front of which was formerly a series of balustrades, and also a plain narrow gallery returning on the north side."

The author—PLANTAGENET—then goes on to describe the monuments.

The church was restored in 1852, and the east end rebuilt. Nothing remains except for the paintings of Moses and Aaron, now attached to a 19th-century altar screen.

HURST

There is a good solid brick tower of 1612, gothicised, but retaining its original cupola. J. Buckler's drawing of 1818 (*Add. MS.* 36356, f. 192) shows that there was formerly a tablet on the E. gable of the chancel bearing the date 1638 or 1658, and that both the east windows were probably 17th century. This is confirmed by a view in the Bodleian Library¹ based on a sketch made in 1842, which shows the date 1658 over the southern of the two east windows and 1627 over the northern. Both were of a very debased Gothic character.

There have been very extensive restorations. In 1854-5 Ferrey renewed the walls and built a new vestry.

In 1872 the east wall was adorned with sculptured marble and stone by J. D. Sedding. The south porch was rebuilt at the same time. There were further alterations in 1875, when the south aisle was built to the designs of J. T. Morris, and in 1903, when the chancel was redecorated. A new vestry was built in 1908.

The pulpit, early 17th century on a 19th century Gothic base, has an hour-glass stand by it with very elaborate ironwork including the inscription "1636 E A." The screen is surmounted by the Stewart royal arms and angels supporting the Prince of Wales' feathers.

Thomas Willement mentions glass by himself (1838): "The upper parts of two windows in the chancel, presented by Captain Garth, of Haines Hill."

¹ *MS. Top. Berks.* b. 8.

EAST ILSLEY

The following inscription on the impost of the tower-arch—1625.WAS.BV.T.—probably records its reconstruction in that year. The responds themselves appear to be mediaeval.

The north aisle was added in 1845. It resembles that at Boxford.

WEST ILSLEY

The chancel was rebuilt of brick in “comparatively modern times” (1844).

The fine marble altar-slab given by John Head, who died in 1803.

INKPEN

The brick porch was dated 1686. The church was restored in 1896 by C. C. Rolfe : a north aisle was added, and the east end and the porch were rebuilt.

KENNINGTON

1828 Norman : Daniel Robertson, architect.

KINGSTON LISLE

The nave was reroofed early in the 17th century.

KINGSTON BAGPUIZE

This church was rebuilt in 1800.

The petition for a faculty (1799) stated that John Blandy deceased had left £2,000 for the rebuilding of the Church. Plans had been obtained and the estimate was £1,150 4s. 4d.

The architect was J. Fidel of Faringdon (*d.* 1806).

The petition was accompanied by plan, section and elevation of the south front and west end, and also by the architect’s “Particular for Building a New Church at Kingston Bagpuize Berks according to Design” (Salisbury Diocesan Registry.)

Fidel proposed to “take down the present Old Church take up the foundations and dig down 6 feet (for the Foundations of the new Church on the same spot of ground as the present church stands on) bring up Rubble stone foundation 3 feet thick to top of Ground, carry up all the outside walls 20 feet high above the Ground & 2½ feet thick. Put on a Windrush stone Moulded Cornice all round the Church and up the Pediment end to have a Windrush stone door Case to entrance with Collumns and Cornices compleat, and windrush stone window frames. To dig down 6 Feet and bring up a rubble stone foundation for fronts of pews—on each side of Aisle. To pave the Aisle & Chancel with good large hardstone rubed pavement putt in 2 hardstone moulded steps to entrance and Do. to altar piece put up a stone stair case to Gallery & a Iron Rail down Do. Put up a stone Vant under

Gallery—The quoins & round the windows to be rusticated and filled in between with range work. To put on a strong Fir framed trussed roof plates & King Posts of Oak. Cover in Do. with Countess Slates on Battens. . . . Make & put up a Neat deal pulpit value £20 & fit up the rest of the Desk in a neat Manner. To have a circular floated lath & plaister Ceiling on Fir Laths with a plaister Cornice all round the Church—To put in proper Iron Work to windows & 3 Iron Casements & Frames, Glaze all the Windows of the best Crown Glass in Lead. To put on a Circular Terratt for Bell with Collumns Cornices and Dome roof Lubber Boarding as Design with a Oak bell Frame for one Bell a floor under Do. covered with Lead the Top of the Terratt Covered with Lead. 7th to the foot Super. To recast & hang the bell paint all the Wood & Iron Work 3 times in Oil Comn Colour.”

This sufficiently describes the structure. But there was an unsympathetic restoration under Edwin Dolby of Abingdon in 1882–83. The work included the removal of the gallery and staircase and the wall under the gallery, desk, pulpit, stove, font, steps of the chancel and east window glass ; new tile floor and chancel steps, new seating, pulpit, font, altar, reredos and credence. The east window was filled with Cathedral glass.

There is a monument to John Blandy, 1736, and Elizabeth,¹ 1751, erected by John jun. in 1762. This is by Thomas Burnell. There is also a tablet by John Piddington of Oxford.

KINTBURY

The south transept was rebuilt in brick in 1713, and bears the names of

G. Elly	17
&	Church
J. Forty	Wardens
	13

The cost was £231 14s. 10d.

The lead roof of the tower is dated 1800.

There was a restoration under T. T. Bury in 1859. He left the pews and gallery in the north transept. They were removed at a further restoration under Bodley & Garner in 1882–84.

KNOWL HILL

The foundation stone was laid on July 20th, 1839. The church was consecrated on August 24th, 1841. The architects were J.C. and G. Buckler.

It is of red brick, very plain E.E., with a hexagonal turret and spire. The fittings were entirely non-ecclesiological ; there were pews from the west wall to the east, a plaster ceiling and a west gallery. Only the gallery with its seating, and the pulpit, remain. The small font is now in St. Paul's, Warren Row.

¹ His second wife. *Ed.*

The chancel was built in 1870 ; the architects were Champion and Rogers, and the builders Messrs. Wall and Hook.

The nave and the old chancel were reseated in 1890 by Messrs. Silver.

The church has never been secure, and has had to be patched up many times.

LAMBOURN

During the seventeenth century the central tower began to show signs of serious instability, and the churchwardens' accounts contain many references to " the huge timber props and supports which had been at some time inserted to relieve the tower-walls of the weight and oscillation of the bells," and to " the application of iron bands to hold the masonry together."¹ In 1731 the parish petitioned for a faculty to take down what they described as " a useless and inconvenient piece of Building called the old Bellfrey " standing " in the Middle Isle adjoining to the pulpitt."² Fortunately it was not granted, and " strong iron bands and stitches were once more plentifully applied to secure the tottering fabric."³ In 1736 more than £115 was spent in this way, and the tower survived to be restored by J. O. Scott in 1892.

Several galleries were built in the early eighteenth century. A faculty dated December 18th, 1711, states that the churchwardens had recently erected a beautiful west gallery and furnished it.⁴ A faculty for a second gallery was granted on March 27th, 1727,⁴ and in 1734 permission was sought for a gallery to be built on the south side of the church by Thomas Wilkins, carpenter, and for power to be given to him " to sell and dispose of the said Gallery and seats when built."⁵ These galleries were all removed in the course of alterations carried out in 1849-50 in accordance with the recommendation of T. L. Donaldson, Professor of Architecture at London University. The north porch, rebuilt in brick in 1625-6, was also destroyed at this time, and the classical font which had been introduced in 1666 " was sold to make a garden flower-pot."⁶

LETCOMBE REGIS

A new roof built in 1737 was replaced in 1863 at the time of the general restoration of the church.

¹ J. Footman, *History of the Parish Church of Lambourn* (1894). p. 119.

² *Archdeaconry Papers Berks.* c. 160, ff. 302-3.

³ Footman, pp. 127-8.

⁴ Salisbury Diocesan Registry.

⁵ *Archdeaconry Papers Berks.* c. 160, ff. 304-5.

⁶ Footman, pp. 142-148.

LITTLEWORTH

Consecrated in May, 1839. The architect was H. J. Underwood, and the church is a smaller edition of Littlemore. The I.C.B.S. gave £150, and the Provost and fellows of Oriel gave £1,000 towards the endowment.¹

The chancel was added in 1876.

LONGCOT

The west tower was rebuilt in freestone in 1721-1722, the latter date being cut on the jamb of the arch to the nave. The leading on the roof is inscribed as follows :—

IOHN : HEWES
AND : WALTER : TIRRELL
CHURCHWARDENS
WHEN : THIS : TOWER
WAS : BUILT
LAWRENCE LEWIS²
1721

The initials TP IW IF HW AW are cut on the exterior of the south side of the tower. There are urns at the angles of the parapet.

No parish records other than registers now exist, but among the notes made on the flyleaves of the Baptism Register of Shrivenham parish church in about 1800 is the following :—

Memoranda—from the books containing the accounts of the churchwardens of Longcote since the year 1721.

In 1721 a Tower of the old church fell down, and the Estimate for rebuilding it being 226*l* was raised by a Tax of 30 shillings on the Yardlands of Longcote & Furnham. The contractor for this was—Strong of Stanford, who not only finished the Tower for this sum, but added the flower Pots. He was a reputable Mason, and built Wadley House for Mr. Charles Pye.

In this Tower were 4 bells which being melted down, two were added by Ruddall of Gloucester, the principal Bell costing 40*l*.

John Strong of Stanford-in-the-Vale was a member of a famous family of masons which owned the quarries at Taynton in Oxfordshire.³ His father Valentine Strong, who died in 1662, and is commemorated by a monument at Fairford, had six sons, all of whom became masons. Thomas and Edward became well-known as mason-contractors in London after the Great Fire,⁴ while John and Timothy set up business at Stanford-in-the-Vale.⁵ Timothy appears

¹ See framed subscription list in the church. *Ed.*

² No doubt the plumber employed.

³ A long account of the family will be found in Clutterbuck's *History of Herts.* (1815), I, 167-9.

⁴ See Knoop & Jones, *The London Mason in the Seventeenth Century* (1935), 43-4.

⁵ Payments to them both "for mason work" at Wadley and Stanford in 1696-7 occur in some accounts formerly belonging to the family of Aston, of Aston, Cheshire, and now in the possession of Capt. R. H. Linacre. For this information we are indebted to Mr. J. H. Harvey.

to have left no children, but John was followed by his son John, junior, and their descendants were working as masons in Stanford in the early nineteenth century.¹ In 1866 it was still remembered that "some of the tombstones in Stanford churchyard . . . are said to be the workmanship of a family of the name of Strong, who for many years were masons at Stanford, and who were famous in the country round."² Wadley House was built by Mr. Charles Pye in 1768, and although the note in the Shrivenham Register is doubtless correct in stating that the mason employed by him was named Strong, it is scarcely possible that it was the same member of the family as the builder of Longcot church tower.

MAIDENHEAD

The present church of St. Mary is the successor of the mediaeval Bridge Chapel which survived until 1724. The Bridgemasters' accounts (preserved among the Corporation archives) contain no information about its rebuilding in that year, but J. W. Walker, in his *History of Maidenhead* (1931), 31-2, refers to an account-book in which payments are recorded to Messrs. Emblin, Meding and Cooper for masonry and bricklayers' work. The faculty granted on April 12th, 1726, was for the erection of a chapel "Sixty Feet in Length from East to West, Thirty Feet in Breadth from North to South and at the East end of the same a Chancell four Feet in Length from East to West and about Fourteene Feet in Breadth from North to South and at the West end of the same Chappell a small Tower for one Bell about Tenn Feet Square." The Corporation Minutes contain a memorandum of the agreement made on July 29th, 1726, between the Mayor, the Bridgemasters, and the major part of the Burgesses, and Ezra Brads, joiner, to frame all the pews in the chapel "in workmanlike manner at Four foot high and at and Under the prise of Two Shillings per yard." The new chapel consisted of a nave with round-headed windows, an eastern apse, and a low west tower with a cupola. The total cost of £838 11s. 2d., towards which George I gave £200.

In August, 1821, a committee was formed to consider the building of a new church. The first meeting was on August 16th. It was resolved "that it is highly desirable that accommodation for a greater number of persons in the chapel be provided; and that, to effect this object, either a new building, or a very considerable enlargement of the present chapel, is desirable." On October 28th, 1822, they resolved to remove the chapel, and rebuild on a more convenient site. The Corporation advanced £500 to begin the subscription.

¹ A Thomas Strong carried out repairs to Coleshill House in 1814-16.

² L. G. Maine, *A Berkshire Village, its History & Antiquities* (1866), 54.

The architects were Wilds and Busby of Brighton, but only Busby is mentioned in the committee's minutes,¹ and the design was undoubtedly his. The foundation stone was laid on July 22nd, and the church was opened on October 9th, 1825. The contractor was Charles Plumridge of Maidenhead.

The church is rather poor Gothic, with the suggestion of a vault. At the west is a shallow apse ; there was formerly a turret at the east, and there were entrances on either side of the altar.

The altar piece was painted and presented by Isaac Pocock. The east window is by Willement ; in his list of his works he mentions " A large window for the altar end of the chapel, containing various arms &c. ; and one window for the official pew. Both presented by the corporation."

The church was enlarged and improved in 1877-78 (£2,670) from designs by A. W. Blomfield. The faculty provided for the building of a chancel, lower part of the tower, and organ chamber, reconstruction of the organ, reseating, taking down of the gallery, and making a door in the south wall.

1882 pulpit of Caen stone and oak, and wrought iron lectern.

1894, church repaired and decorated at a cost of about £220.

(To be continued.)

¹ Preserved in the Maidenhead Public Library.