

## CHURCH NOTES, CHIEFLY IN BERKS, WILTS, AND OXFORD, WITH A FEW IN SOMERSET AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

These notes were taken between 1835 and 1840, before English Church Architecture had been made the subject of critical study, before the days of local Archæological societies, and before Rickman's classification of styles had made much way. The vale of Berks at that time was in a very primitive condition. The road to Bath lay up the Kennet. The cross roads, in wet weather, were almost impassable. Cuchhelmsley Knowe was being carted away for top dressing. Pre-historic stones were employed for building cottages. The Churches, with few exceptions, were uncared for; sheep pastured unheeded in the churchyards; and the Sunday duties were in many cases discharged by men who rode over from Oxford on the Saturday, arriving on Sunday morning. This neglect was not unfavourable to the study of the buildings, which have since been restored, reseated, repaved, and sometimes rebuilt.

These notes were printed in 1843 in the appendix to a large and long forgotten folio account of the Great Western Railway. They have there slumbered peaceably and in an inaccessible form. Their writer, who still survives, has permitted their resurrection, of which our readers will, we hope, approve.

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ABINGDON, ST. HELEN.—A large, fine church, having a nave and chancel of equal breadth, two aisles, and a south chapel. In fact four parallel aisles of equal length, forming a spacious rectangle, from the north-east corner of which rises a fine tower, carrying the lofty spire for which the town is so well known.

The prevalent style is Perpendicular. The window tracery of the chapel is better than the rest, but the plinth and parapet mouldings are of the common date, the tower base is early English, of good design but roughly executed. There is much of good Perpendicular roofing and tabernacle work, and one brass.

ABINGDON, ST. NICHOLAS.—Appears to be the eastern part of a larger structure. The present west front has a good round-headed doorway with early English mouldings. The church is chiefly Perpendicular.

ABSTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—A fine church. Tower Perpendicular with a west door beneath an ogee canopy richly crocketed, with finial, flanking pinnacles, and deep mouldings, one of which contains the square four-leaved flower of the fourteenth century. The west window is good. The parapet embattled, with a niche in the central merlon, and a turret at the south-east angle. The nave has some Norman parts. The chancel is chiefly early English. The font fair Perpendicular, and there is some good curiously carved tabernacle work in wood.

ALDWORTH, BERKS.—A tower, nave, south aisle, chancel, and south

porch, tower at west end of nave, broader from north to south than from east to west, and opening to nave by a large and probably an early Decorated arch. The tower is small and low, at present with a ridge roof, but the walls appear to have been lowered. Windows, small and plain; buttresses flat, set on each side of the angle and about four or five feet high. Clearly early Decorated.

The nave is lighted from the tower west window, east end open to chancel, but no dividing arch. In north wall a door and window, but chiefly occupied by three monumental recesses, door probably late Decorated, as is a buttress towards the tower. The window blocked up and disfigured, but shews Decorated mullion; the wall is rough cast. Traces outside of a building or buttresses, and the recesses are later than the wall. One encroaches on the door.

The south aisle is Decorated of about 1320, and separated from the nave by three arches on their piers. There are east and west windows of three lights, with geometrical tracery, and a similar one on the south side. The monumental recesses are original, as is the south door, and of large size.

The chancel has two south windows and one north. The east window is dated 1750, and is what might be expected at that date. The south window next the nave is late early English, say 1290. The other south window is probably late Decorated, and seems an insertion, as is the north window, now blocked up. Of this date is a piscina with stone shelf and cinque-foiled head.

The chancel screen is perfect, in good but late Perpendicular work in oak. The font is a rude cone with a base moulding early English or Decorated. The nave seats and poppy heads in the chancel are Perpendicular. The panels in the latter of the linen pattern. The pulpit and reading pew rather richly carved, of the date of James I. and said to have come from a church in Reading. A modern gallery at the west end of the south aisles. Several enamelled tiles, and a coffin-shaped gravestone. A Decorated cross, dug up in the churchyard, evidently capped one of the gables.

Here are ten sepulchral effigies in stone of rather different dates, but of the fourteenth century, representing, no doubt, the de la Beche family whose castle, still to be traced, stood near. Of these three occupy recesses in the north and three in the south wall, and three rest on low later altars in the nave. These recesses had canopies with crockets and finials. Those to the south are by far the best.

The remaining effigy occupies a recess on the outside of the south wall. Two of the figures are those of females. The others are in armour. There are no inscriptions or armorial bearings. They have not been identified, and deserve careful study in the minute details of the armour.

**APPLEFORD, BERKS.**—This very small church is composed of nave, chancel and south porch. The nave carries a low wooden belfry. North, west and south doors are Norman. The west window Decorated. One south window is a Norman loop, the other a Perpendicular insertion. The only north window is a modern square hole. Outside the south door, on east side, is a water stoop. The chancel is Decorated. On north side and east end are pointed loops. On south side a small pointed door, and two modern windows. The chancel arch is slightly four-centred, but certainly Decorated. Font octagonal, with a Decorated base.

ARDINGTON, BERKS.—But little known, but deserves close attention. Tower, nave, south aisle, chancel, north and south chapels, and north porch. The tower stands on north side, near centre of nave, and is a curious example of transition from early English to Decorated, square in plan, elevation heavy and dwarfish: two buttresses cap the north angles. Upper windows spherical isosceles triangles, curiously six-foiled. Above is a heavy corbel table of heads, rudely cut, resembling Norman work. Nave early English. A beautiful but peculiar doorway, round headed with detached columns, hollow mouldings, and dog-tooth ornaments. Heavily whitewashed, but seems uninjured. Nave opens into tower by an early Decorated arch. Aisle Decorated, with an excellent doorway, with a band of ball-flowers, doubled over the head. Windows Perpendicular insertions. Chancel and its chapels of date of tower. Chancel arch excellent early English. South window good double loop of early English proportions, but Decorated details. North and east windows Perpendicular insertions, a Decorated piscina. North chapel has a small north door with heavy mouldings, and a detached corbel head over the centre of the drip. A good piscina; a Decorated stall, and a later niche under the east window. The two arches into the chancel are early English, and the pier cap of one has a spear-head moulding of great beauty.

The south chapel opens into the chancel by a Decorated arch, and into the aisle by a four-centred Perpendicular arch, springing from early Decorated corbels. Font, plain octagonal bowl, with a handsome ball-flower band round its lower margin. Tower, chancel, and chapels seem of one date, having an exterior string, common to all. If this be so they present some uncommon combinations, not only of different steps in the Transition style, but of pure Decorated and equally pure early English.

There is a cross in the Churchyard, north side.

ASHAMPSTEAD, BERKS.—Belfry, nave, and chancel. Belfry of timber, with a low spire. It rises out of the nave on upright posts. The work of nave and chancel probably early English, with Perpendicular insertions, including the north and south doors. The font seems to have been an apothecary's stone mortar.

ASHBURY, BERKS.—A large church in excellent repair, and very creditable to Mr. Chambers, the Incumbent. Tower, nave, chancel, north and south transepts, north and south aisles, and north porch.

Base of tower looks Decorated. Upper part Perpendicular. South side a half-road projection for a belfry staircase.

West piers of nave, both north and south sides, shew Norman work and springing stones of Norman arches, parts of an earlier nave of same breadth with the present, which is late Perpendicular; chancel arch Norman, with some Decorated features. Its north pier has recently settled, and the arch has been taken down and replaced with care, but not, it is said, on precisely the old pattern. North transept early Decorated with a 'vesica piscis' in the window tracery. South transept early Decorated with Perpendicular additions, among them a singular opening into the south aisle, filled with tracery. Each transept opens into its aisle by a good early Decorated arch.

The north aisle early Decorated with a good Perpendicular door and other insertions. The south aisle has Norman walls and a highly

enriched south door, the drip of which has a sort of rudimentary toothed ornament, the teeth at longer intervals than usual. The drip corbels resemble those at Sparsholt and Farringdon. There are both early Decorated and Perpendicular windows. The north porch is of stone, with a vaulted roof and an upper chamber entered by a side stair. Over the outer doorway is a canopied niche.

**ASTON TIRROLD, BERKS.**—A large and somewhat curious church, tower, nave, south transept, chancel, south porch. Tower late Perpendicular. Nave seems on a Norman base. South door plain Norman, rudely executed, outside its east jamb a small stoop, probably early English. North door, if there be one, is plastered over. North window flat-topped, late Perpendicular. South window rather early, with something like Decorated tracery. Transept Decorated, probably once a private chapel. On the east side two brackets for images, at south end a plain but good piscina. Arch into nave seems of date of transepts. Chancel has some Norman work at south-west angle, and a blocked up Norman door. Also trace of a Norman window past the transept. On south side a small early English door. South window modern. North, closed up. East window curious. Its frame is in the Transition style from early English to Decorated; the tracery seems later. The porch modern. The font, a rude cylindrical bowl, with four-sided pedestal with chamfered angles. Pulpit of wood, good design, rudely executed.

**ASTON UPTHORPE, BERKS.**—The nave is of Norman foundation, with a wooden belfry. North and south doors small, rude, and plain, are original and Norman. North window, a Norman loop. South window, modern. West window, Perpendicular and good. The chancel is either Decorated or Perpendicular. East window late Perpendicular, with a transom. The exterior of the building much disfigured by buttresses. The font stiff Perpendicular with an octagonal bowl. The seats Perpendicular and well carved.

**MARCH BALDON, OXON.**—The tower, ivy covered, is Decorated, with a good west window; and the nave seems of the same date. The north aisle or chapel is Perpendicular, and has one large window. The chancel is good Perpendicular, and has a piscina with a credence. There are two brasses and some stained glass.

**TOOT BALDON, OXON.**—A small church with a bell gable, probably Decorated, with a west window. The nave is small, in excellent order. The northern arches spring, with one exception, from flowered pier caps. The southern piers have bell caps. The north aisle is Decorated with a Norman door with plain impost, and a flat-topped Decorated window. The south aisle is probably early Decorated, as is the south transept. The chancel is the same. The south porch, modern. The chancel contains a few coloured tiles, and in the churchyard, south-east, is a cross.

**BASILDON, BERKS.**—A good late tower. The nave is transition Norman, pointed, with an excellent south doorway. There is a late north aisle. The chancel, of excellent squared and coursed flint work, is a fine example of transition from early English to Decorated. The arch shows the transition pier and cap, the side windows have three lights each, trefoiled, with a large cinque-foiled circle in the head. The east window shows the passage of the early English shaft mullions into the stiff geometrical tracery of the early English style. The chancel south

door has a rich canopy of tabernacle work, much like the tomb canopies at Aldworth. The south porch is modern.

**BATH EASTON, SOMERSET.**—A noble and chiefly late Perpendicular church, having tower, nave, north aisle, chancel, vestry, and south porch. The tower is large, lofty, well proportioned, with an open embattled parapet, and the usual stair turret on the southern side, no west door, but to the east a niche with a figure, probably of St. John, to whom the church is dedicated. The nave Perpendicular with a drop chancel arch, and remains of a rood staircase on the south. South door seems Decorated. North aisle modern, but in good taste. Chancel, in its present form late Perpendicular, but its east end seems older, and there is a curious exterior recess behind the altar, as at Bathampton, but walled up. Inside, south of the altar, is a bracket for a figure. A good plain piscina, with a corbel supporting a quater-foiled bowl. South door Perpendicular. Between nave and chancel, in the gable, is a small recess for a sacring bell, of which the supports remain. Vestry, on north side, Perpendicular. South porch excellent Perpendicular. The doorway mouldings charged with heraldic ornaments and flowers; above is a niche, and on the east side a stoop. In the church is a white marble slab to J. J. Conybeare, Saxon and poetry professor at Oxford, with a good inscription of which the letters are in relief and the ground in intaglio.

**BATHFORD, SOMERSET.**—Tower, nave, three transepts, chancel, south porch. Tower new Perpendicular but good. Nave has a Norman north door with chevron and bead mouldings and hatched drip. The rest flat topped Perpendicular. South aisle and chancel in the same style. North porch Decorated. Font fluted Norman. Pulpit of age of Elizabeth or James, with a text carved round the sounding board.

**BATHAMPTON, SOMERSET.**—Tower, nave, south transept, chancel, south porch. Tower good example of the smaller class of Perpendicular towers in these districts. Of three stages, with a west window and a good west door with a four-centred arch under a square head, the spandrells filled with foliage. Buttresses diagonal; parapet embattled, with pinnacles at the angles. Stair turret on the north side, rising clear of the battlements. Chancel late Perpendicular, but the lower part of the east end seems earlier. Outside, behind the altar, in a round-headed niche five feet high, is embedded a very rude bas relief of an ecclesiastic, mitred, with remains of drapery on the shoulders. The right hand uplifted in blessing supports a crook, in the left a book. The south transept and south porch are late Perpendicular. In the latter are set up the remains of a knight and lady of the age of Edward. The lady has a peculiar corded bodice.

**BENSINGTON, OXON.**—A poor and much neglected church. The tower is modern, very ugly and further disfigured by an exterior pipe or chimney. The nave is pointed Norman, with heavy cylindrical pier and flowered bell-caps. The arch mouldings have something of Decorated character. The aisles and chancel are Decorated. There is a south porch. The font circular, large, plain, and probably Norman. There are two brasses, and one has been selected as a convenient standing place for a stove.

**BITTON, GLOUCESTER.**—A very fine church and well cared for by its resident curate, Mr. Ellacombe. The tower, good Perpendicular of three stages, has diagonal buttresses carrying pinnacles on each of the three

sets off. The west door is particularly good, and the drip corbels are thought to be heads of Edward III. and his Queen. The windows of the upper story are double and closed with stone lattice work, with quaterfoil apertures. The parapet is parallel and embattled, with a small pinnacle on each merlon, and larger ones at the four angles. The stair turret on the north side rises clear of the whole and also has pinnacles, completing the group very handsomely. There is a good west window and a lofty arch opening into the nave.

The nave has Norman north and south doors; the latter plain and good, but converted into a window, the drip of which has two peculiar leaf labels. The north door is more highly enriched. There is a rood stair in the north wall, and two arches now closed appear to have led into transepts. The chancel arch and the roof have been modernized. The north chapel is a rare and beautiful example of transition from early English to Decorated. The two arches into the nave are very good, and there are some enriched sedilia and a piscina. The east door may be modern. The west door, with its lateral recesses is original. This was the chapel of the Newtons of Barrs Court, now extinct. The chancel, spacious and lofty, is excellent Perpendicular with a ribbed and vaulted roof, a good east window, three level sedilia and a piscina. The vestry on the north side is also vaulted.

**BLEWBURY, BERKS.**—A large and ancient church. Tower late Perpendicular, rather heavy. Nave, five arches on the south and three on the north side. The former, pointed Norman, or Norman piers with later arches, but the two western arches are more lofty and of later date than the rest. The northern arches are good Decorated and the west wall is Norman with two loops. Both aisles are Perpendicular; the south perhaps the earlier of the two, and the roofs are original.

At the intersections of the nave with the transepts are four heavy Norman piers with pointed arches and vaulting, evidently intended as the base of a central tower. The north transept appears to be Decorated and has a good east window. The south transept is earlier, and its south window is early English. This transept opens into the aisle by a horse-shoe arch, evidently so constructed and perhaps early English. The chancel is pointed Norman, vaulted in two bays and groined. Outside is the regular Norman pilaster, but the east and one north window are Decorated insertions. On the south side are two Decorated arches, inserted into the place of the original windows, and opening into a chapel, within which the original Norman pilasters may be seen. Between the chancel and the transepts are hagioscopes, the northern plain, the southern ornamented as though to receive a figure. Behind the altar is a curious Norman recess. The chapel forms an aisle of the chancel, as at north Moreton, and is early Decorated. The font is either Decorated or Perpendicular. There are some brasses. The building is well cared for.

**Box, WILTS.**—Tower, Perpendicular, central, opening by two plain good arches to the nave and chancel. The parapet is not embattled, but is pierced by a line of small trefoiled arches, and capped with four pinnacles. The spire is eight-sided, and has a good finial. On the north side is a half octagonal projection carrying the belfry stair as high as the first floor.

The nave opens into the south aisle by four modern arches, and into the north aisle by very heavy drop arches and piers with octagonal

shafts and caps. The arches are peculiar, for while the inner moulding forms an ordinary drop arch, the outer mouldings rise a little, so as to form a stilted arch. These seem Decorated, and the west window has a Decorated case with Perpendicular tracery.

The north aisle seems Decorated. The last compartment to the east is vaulted with cross springers, with an exterior buttress to meet the thrust. The windows are flat-topped Perpendicular. The north door modern; as is the south aisle.

The chancel is early Decorated, and its east window of three lights is a good example of the style. The south windows are cinque-foiled Perpendicular. On the north side is a locker with wooden shelf and door, not, however, very ancient. The vestry is on the north side of chancel, and late Perpendicular. The font, Decorated, with large octagonal base with quatrefoil panels, and a square vine leaf in each. No brasses, tiles, or stained glass. Against the west wall are two stone coffins without lids. Built into the south wall of chancel is a small stone coffin about a foot long. In the churchyard are some half-defaced effigies on slabs.

**BRADENSTOKE, WILTS.**—Clack or Bradenstoke Abbey was a considerable foundation, but a fragment only remains, converted into a farm house. This does not appear to have been part of the church. It is Early Decorated, with windows of two lights, trefoiled, with a large quatrefoil in the head. The central mullions are wanting, possibly there were none: but the effect is excellent. Between the buttresses are some curious semi-circular arches, either Decorated or later, or probably part of a cloister. There is a good Decorated door, and a flat segmental window of the same date, the recess of which is flanked with early English columns with bell cap. One slender Decorated tower remains. There is also a late Perpendicular arch with heraldic ornaments.

**BRIGHT-WALTHAM, BERKS.**—The tower has a Norman aspect, but may be Perpendicular, as are the windows. The north door of the nave is good Norman, slightly pointed, and the under side of the drip has a billet moulding. The drip of the south door forms part of a Decorated string running along that side of the nave, and upon which the windows rest. Inside the corresponding string is Norman. The upper part of the nave is either early English or early Decorated. The chancel seems in part Decorated. The font is cylindrical and Norman, with intersecting arches around it. There are some brasses, and in the churchyard the base of a cross and a *dos d'ane* coffin lid, with a bust carved upon it.

**BRIGHTWELL, BERKS.**—A large and handsome church, with modern brick tower. The nave is Decorated with a Perpendicular clerestory. The north aisle early Decorated with some peculiar cinque-foiled windows, with a splendid triangle in the head. The east window is in the same style, but not unlike those of Basildon and North Moreton. South aisle early Decorated, with good trefoiled window with quaterfoils in the head. The south door is rather early English than Norman, and a good example of Transition. Chancel Decorated, with remains of Norman work in the wall. The vestry on the north side is Perpendicular. The rood stair remains. There are three brasses, and in the churchyard a slab bearing a cross.

**BRIGHTWELL-BALDWIN, BERKS.**—A large, handsome, and somewhat peculiar church; tower Perpendicular, rather rudely built, and the west door and window are included within a large parallel recess, the effect of

which is rich. In the upper stage is a singular north window. Nave and aisles of one date, good Decorated. Arch piers octagonal, perhaps a little too slender. The buttresses of the north aisle good examples of the style. North door has a drop arch. The windows, all original, are either flat-topped or segmental. They are of two lights, trefoiled, and well suited for copying. The windows of the south aisle, also original, are pointed, with excellent stained glass in their heads. One is flat-topped and rudely executed. The chancel is Decorated, with much variety in its windows. The altar hangings are of Cordovan leather. North side of the church is a chapel, apparently Decorated, but later than the adjacent aisle, with some Perpendicular tombs and insertions. In the vestry is a Decorated water drain. In the chancel an original bracket bearing "3 stags heads cabossed," and in the east window "Azure, 3 stags heads cabossed Or."

BRIGHTWELL PRIOR, OXON.—Norman nave with Norman or early English bell gable. The north door a later insertion. The south door and a looped window are original, as is the chancel arch. The chancel is early English. Font probably Decorated. A small but curious church.

BRITWELL SALOME, OXON.—A very small church. Nave, Norman, with a wooden belfry. North door, plain. South door has a good billet moulding. The two north windows modern. South window, flat-topped Decorated. Chancel arch plain Norman. A Perpendicular west window. Chancel seems Decorated. Frame of east window Perpendicular, tracery gone. South window, flat-topped Decorated. South porch, modern. Here are two brasses and many tiles.

BUCKLEBURY, BERKS.—Tower, nave, north aisle, chancel, south porch, tower Perpendicular. On the south face some rude sculpture not clearly seen from below. West door, square-headed, with deep hollow moulding. South door of nave excellent and rich Norman. South wall probably of same date, with Perpendicular windows. Arches into north aisle pointed Norman. The aisle Perpendicular. The door square-headed, and above it is carved 'an eagle's jamb erased.' Chancel has a Perpendicular south door and a window that looks early English, but may be later. Font, modern and ugly. The Churchwardens for many generations have been 'beautifying' the church, and with signal success. It is now utterly disfigured. The church is clearly of Norman foundation, and the south wall original. The arches into the north aisle are next in date, the chancel probably next, and the tower and the rest later.

BURGHFIELD, BERKS.—The tower and spire of timber and of no very great age. The nave is early Perpendicular, the north door good. The window and fittings of the chancel are late Perpendicular, the walls probably older. In the north wall in a recess is a cross-legged knight, in oak. The recess is early Decorated as are the arches opening into the south chapel, but the chapel is modern. Here are a few brasses and the mutilated effigies of a knight and his lady, of late Perpendicular date.

It is reported that this church is to be rebuilt.

BYSHAM, BERKS.—The church of the once famous abbey. The base of the tower is Norman. On the north side of the altar is an altar tomb and canopy, with the Tudor flower. The tomb is Perpendicular, but the canopy seems Decorated. Here are many tombs of the Hobys, the grantees of the Abbey.

*(To be continued.)*

CHURCH NOTES, CHIEFLY IN BERKS, WILTS, AND  
OXFORD, WITH A FEW IN SOMERSET AND  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

*(Continued from p. 50.)*

CAVERSHAM.—The tower is a modern erection of brick and timber. The south door, of the nave is excellent Norman, enriched and well executed, but the arch is rather less than a semicircle. The south wall is probably Norman with Perpendicular additions. The arches into the north aisle are also segmental upon cylindrical piers, apparently in the transition style towards early English. The chancel appears to have been Norman. The south window is original. The south door modern. The east window contains Perpendicular tracery in a Decorated frame. There is an early chapel appended to the north aisle in the Perpendicular style, somewhat earlier than the aisle, with a good roof and 2 four-centred arches opening into the chancel.

WEST CHALLOW, BERKS.—This church is composed of a nave and chancel. The nave has a good Decorated bell-gable with two cells and a corbel head above and between them. The west window is a beautiful loop, cinquefoiled. North door late Norman. South door Perpendicular. Chancel has an early English piscina with a double bowl and credence and there are two rude brackets for images on each side of the altar. North porch is Perpendicular, timber upon stone with a good gable front. Font, a plain Norman cylinder with a worked edge.

EAST CHALLOW, BERKS.—Nave carries a good bell-gable with two carved cells, probably early English. West end has a singular late Norman door, now elliptic and probably always slightly flattened; on the south side a trefoiled loop, and above a Perpendicular window. In the south wall is one trefoiled loop, and a Perpendicular later window. Three excellent early English arches open into the south aisle from the nave, and one good Decorated arch from the chancel. The south aisle is late Decorated with a Norman door. Chancel has some good Decorated parts, the aisle late Perpendicular, carrying a small belfry. East and west windows good, and a plain north door. Also an east door now blocked up, and a square headed loop, all Perpendicular. Font, a plain Norman cylinder. On the gable two crosses in circles, much injured.

CHARNEY BASSET, BERKS.—Nave, of south windows one early Decorated, and one Perpendicular, both nave and aisle have a common Perpendicular battlement. The roof good, and two Perpendicular arches open into the aisle. South door peculiar but excellent Norman, by way of drip a broad flat band of heads "jessant fleur de lys," between two rows

of cable mouldings. Chancel chiefly Perpendicular. East window of date of north aisle. South window seems Decorated. A Norman north door now closed, with solid tympanum, carved with a central figure crossed and seated between two hippogriffs; above is a flowered band and below a bead moulding. South porch modern. Font, cylindrical bowl on an octagonal stem and base. North of the church is part of an old house, apparently Decorated, with some good parts remaining.

CHECKENDON, OXON.—Large church with a late tower, nave Perpendicular, with original roof and a plain but good Norman arch, opening into chancel. Chancel spacious, Norman, and its eastern end opens by a somewhat flattened Norman arch into a semicircular apse. The east window, originally Norman, has been enlarged. North window has an early English or early Decorated case with Perpendicular tracery. South window Decorated of two lights, but crossed near its base by a transom, forming in fact a "low window." South porch Perpendicular. Here are some good crosses and some stained glass.

CHILDREY, BERKS.—Tower and south porch Perpendicular. South door of nave round headed and plain, with toothed ornament in the drip. North door pointed Norman. In south wall a very singular arch not much larger than an ordinary piscina and rising from a bracket. A stair leads from the transept up to this arch, which resembles in fact a small pulpit, probably intended for the display of a relic. South transept Decorated with large Perpendicular additions by the Fettiplaces, who buried here. On south side a good Decorated piscina with a square head. North transept Decorated with Perpendicular north window. A Decorated piscina cinquefoiled, with a credence. A good Decorated arch into nave and a rood staircase whence a hagioscope opens towards the chancel. At east end a good Decorated recess with ball-flower mouldings, crockets and finial. Beneath is an excellent figure in mail, cross legged, and older than the recess. Chancel early Decorated, but much altered. Three early English sedilia, level. South-east window original and lower than the rest. On north side near the altar is a singular recess or sepulchre with a trough, resembling a lavatory, but without a vent hole. A hagioscope into each transept. Font very curious, of lead, cylindrical, embossed with two figures of bishops, with low mitres and crooks in the right hand, the bowl rests upon a stone cylindrical stem, quite plain. Here are several brasses and glazed tiles and some stained glass.

CHILTON, BERKS.—A small church, not in good repair. Tower, nave, south aisle, chancel. Tower, wooden belfry upon stone gable, probably Perpendicular nave. Two arches into south aisle are pointed Norman, with a pier of early English aspect. North door Norman. North window late Perpendicular. At north-east angle two square-set corner buttresses, ending at level of window cills, probably early English. South aisle a round-headed door, probably Norman, a flat-topped Decorated window. Chancel has one Decorated and one Perpendicular window. Font plain rude octagon, probably Decorated.

CHIPPENHAM, WILTS.—A large and rather curious church, well kept, but sadly mutilated. Tower late Perpendicular, with pretty good octagonal spire. Half way up the spire is a small canopied window, in each face, and the canopies are so connected as to form a handsome band. There is a bead at each angle. West door rude but decided early English, set in a Perpendicular drip. Over west front various coats of

arms of Hungerford. Nave altogether modern and very bad. Arch into chancel excellent late Norman, with a very peculiar scallop moulding. A very long south hagioscope. East end of chancel early Decorated, on north side some Norman work and a Decorated window. South side chiefly Perpendicular. North transept small with trace of a rood stair. South aisle Perpendicular, but swallowed up by a porch and a chapel. Chapel excellent late Perpendicular, with the arms and cognizances of the Hungerfords freely distributed. Porch also late but good Perpendicular. In the chancel over a north door is a curious band of Perpendicular carving. Font, good Perpendicular.

CHOLSEY, BERKS.—A cross church. Tower, nave, transepts, and chancel. Tower central, lower storey Norman, open below, standing on four good plain arches, one each way. The upper storey, together with a stair turret capping south east angle, are Decorated additions, in a dangerous state and tied with iron bands.

Nave Norman, of unusual length, without aisles. A good original south door and south window, the west window is Perpendicular. Transepts both Norman. The north has a good Norman arch on east side, now blocked up, and pierced by a Decorated door; there probably was a chapel on this side. Also a Norman west window, and a mutilated Decorated north window. Of the south transept the south and east sides have been rebuilt with Perpendicular additions. On the floor is a good female effigy in stone, much injured.

The chancel, probably one of the finest parochial chancels in the kingdom, is a tolerably perfect specimen of the later early English style. The east window, especially, contains early English jambs and shafts, with the geometrical tracery of the early Decorated period. Upon the roof are the arms of Reading Abbey, but the old timber work is concealed by a modern coved ceiling. The original wooden stalls remain, and below the transepts and the tower is some good screen work.

CHRISTIAN MALFORD, WILTS.—Tower modern. Nave opens into south aisle by four Decorated arches. North door late Perpendicular, with an exterior niche above it. Chancel, north windows Perpendicular, but rest on a Decorated string. East window modern, south window early English, or early Decorated, with early English shafts flanking its recess. South door Perpendicular, as is an arch into the south aisle. Two early English or early Decorated sedilia, level; the screen good Perpendicular, and a Decorated arch into the nave. South aisle chiefly early Decorated, with excellent windows and a piscina with a quatrefoil bowl, credence and canopy. The door is original, septifoiled, and the central foil an ogee; also a niche for a figure, and some good Perpendicular screen work.

South porch Perpendicular with good wooden roof, north porch in the same style, with buttresses on each side of the door, it is now a vestry. Font peculiar. Bowl large and conoidal upon a square base, on the upper margin a band of hatched moulding, and round the foot a range of Norman arches, with plain columns and imposts, and a bead moulding. The arcade rests upon a band of fluted work. The general effect is good.

CLEWER, BERKS.—Tower, early English, possibly upon a Norman base. Nave Norman. North aisle late early English, with an early English arch at the east end, and a curious north doorway with a niche above, both Norman, the door, now fastened up, seems original.

South aisle chiefly Decorated, with a Norman arch into a chapel at east end. South door Decorated. South porch old. Chancel Perpendicular, the south chapel opens into the aisle and chancel, is of Decorated date, and in its south arch is a recess for a tomb, with a canopy.

CLIFTON HAMPDEN, OXON.—A small but ancient church chiefly remarkable for the beauty of its position upon a low cliff of iron sand, overhanging the Thames, here traversed by a ferry. The nave seems early Decorated as in the north aisle. The south aisle is nearer to early English. The south transept is Decorated, and contains a curious flat topped window, probably in the same style, and at the east end a good Decorated loop. Chancel seems late early English, with Perpendicular and modern insertions. South porch modern.

COLESHILL, BERKS.—A fine church and in excellent order. Tower late Perpendicular, with an excellent west door with worked spandrills; the battlements are enriched with pinnacles, and there is a southern stair turret; the arches and piers between the nave and north aisle are plain but good early Decorated. On the south side the arch and piers are late Norman. The windows of the north aisle are debased Perpendicular, the walls seem Decorated, there is a piscina. The south aisle is small and filled up with pews, inside the south door on the east side is a stoop, the door is early Decorated trefoiled, with cusps. The chancel seems modern. The font is a double cone, in figure not unlike a dice box, but very old. The south porch is Perpendicular, and has an upper chamber. In the Bouverie or Pleydell aisle is a circular window, with a pedigree of the Radnor family in modern glass, and a view, also in glass of Coleshill House. The chancel is encumbered with the tombs of the Pleydells and Pratts, Lord Radnor's maternal ancestors.

GREAT COXWELL, BERKS.—The lower stage of the tower seems Decorated, the upper Perpendicular. On south side of nave is a good early Decorated window; there are traces of a Norman south door and of a rood stair. The north door seems late Norman, the wood and iron work of the nave are Perpendicular and good. In the chancel is a plain niche on each side of the altar, and a third, cinquefoiled, beneath it, also a piscina with a credence. The arch into the nave is early Decorated, the chancel windows of various dates, that to the east a triple lancet and excellent. Between nave and chancel is a bell gable, apparently Decorated, with one cell, probably for a sacring bell. North porch rude and late, but probably on an old site.

LITTLE COXWELL, BERKS.—A small chapel; nave, chancel, and south porch. Nave has a good late Norman south door with drip, with a square billet moulding. West window triple lancet, trefoiled, as is a smaller south window, there is a south Perpendicular window; the rest modern. North door closed; inside south door on east side, a stoop. Arch into chancel plain pointed Norman, chancel much mutilated, has a locker and piscina and a good screen, and is chiefly Perpendicular. Font, a plain octagon; between the nave and chancel a bell gable with two trefoiled cells, and a quatrefoil in the head: above is a cross. There is no west bell gable. The south porch is good Perpendicular, the details of this chapel deserve close attention.

COMPTON, BERKS.—Tower, nave, chancel, south porch. Tower Perpendicular, with a wall stair on north side, porch modern. This church was originally Norman, the south door of nave, the font, and parts of the

chancel are of this style, and a piece of complex Norman moulding is built into the north wall. The east end of the chancel, and part of the south wall of the nave are early English, the arches now closed, but formerly opening into a north aisle, may be Decorated. The south side of the chancel, a south window in the nave, and a piscina with water drain and stone shelf in the chancel are late Perpendicular, as is the tower, and a tomb in the chancel.

COMPTON BEAUCHAMP, BERKS.—Tower, nave, transept, chancel; tower small and perhaps Norman, but much altered. The nave has a pointed Norman arch from the tower, but the walls seem Decorated; traces of a rood stair on north side. Chancel Decorated, with good east window. A singular stone seat with arms at each end, takes the place of regular sedilia; there is a good octagonal font.

CORSHAM, WILTS.—Tower, nave, north and south aisles, south transepts, chancel, north and south chapels, south porch. The tower is central, resting on four piers, which with their arches seem early Decorated, but the enclosed space is vaulted with fan tracery, probably Perpendicular. The arch towards the chancel is peculiar, about halfway up the piers their mouldings are brought forward horizontally so as to form the lower stage of a screen, of which the upper part, probably wood, is destroyed. The tower once carried a spire, now removed. At present, a central turret rises just within the battlements. The nave is plain good Norman, piers cylindrical with fluted capitals, a later staircase is appended to its west end. The north aisle is much mutilated, it is of Decorated date, with an original west window. The north door is Norman with a bold well cut chevron moulding. The south aisle seems mostly Perpendicular, but has a Decorated west window. The south door is good and has an exterior bracket over its arch. The south transept is early Decorated, the arches into the south chapel and south aisle spring from excellent brackets, the south window is Perpendicular. The east chancel is Perpendicular with north and south windows, the latter a little the lowest. On the north side is some good stone panelling, partially concealed, the opposite wall is wholly boarded up. The east window is Perpendicular, with cinquefoiled lights, on each side of it is a good niche for a figure, with a fretted vaulting. These are chiselled flush with the wall and have apparently been plastered up. In the north wall is the vestry door, and a drop arch opening into the north chapel. On the south side are two arches with panelled soffites opening into the south chapel.

The walls of the north chapel appear Decorated, the window and an excellent carved roof are Perpendicular, the arch into the north aisle is early Decorated. There is a handsome piscina, the bowl, quatrefoiled, forms a bracket, the niche is septfoiled, flanked by two pinnacles, and crossed by a finial, on each side of the finial is a small plain niche, probably for relics. Between this chapel and the aisle is a very beautiful stone screen, of Perpendicular date, with a top overhanging both ways, richly fretted in fan tracery, and embattled above.

The north chapel is Perpendicular. The arch into the transept is early Decorated; the east end is occupied by a singular stone chamber, the upper part of which is continued in carved wood work, so as to form an elevated pew.

The south porch is Perpendicular, vaulted and groined in stone. The front is particularly good, and has niches on each side, above the door,

on the east side is a room added by the Hungerfords, who also added to the north aisle. These additions bear the insignia of the Hungerfords and Hallidays with the date 1634. The font has a large octagonal bowl, and is probably Decorated. There are two altar tombs, one a very large one, to the family of Hanham, in the north chapel. The Halliday motto, allusive to the arms, is one of the best examples of the kind. The arms are three helmets, the motto "quarta salutis," the helmet of salvation.

COWLEY, OXON.—Tower, nave, chancel, south porch. Tower small, Perpendicular, and rather dilapidated. A modern north door. There is a crack down north-west side.

Nave Norman, as are the north and south doors. Their cases resemble those at Hampstead Norris, but the south door has, in addition, a more decided exterior front, with shafts. The north windows are chiefly Norman, the south, flat-topped Decorated.

The chancel is Early English, with a triple lancet east window, and three buttresses at the east end, resembling Newnham Murren.

CROWMARSH GIFFARD, OXON.—Though small, is an old and curious edifice. The tower is a mere timber belfry, of modern date, erected on the roof. The west end of the nave has a Norman door, window, and two circular lights, also Norman. North and south walls are of same date, the original loops being either blocked up or enlarged into modern windows. The doors also are insertions. The chancel arch is plain Norman. On north side is a transept or small aisle, apparently Decorated, and probably over a vault. The foundations of the chancel seem Norman, but the windows are insertions, early English Decorated, and modern. Of these the east window is in good taste, so are those to the south. There is a singular Norman piscina with a fluted bracket. The south porch is perforated with bullet holes, and two round shots seem to have passed through the west door. No doubt this happened when Charles' forces held Wallingford. Various substantial repairs have been carried on by the patron, and the building is kept in good order by Mr. Langford, the resident minister.

CULHAM, OXON.—Nave probably Perpendicular. South aisle has early Decorated windows to south and west; the tracery of the latter has been removed. The south transept is early Decorated, as is probably the north transept, of which the east and west windows are looped in pairs. The north window is late roundheaded, and full of the arms and matches of the Carey family. The arch into the nave is plain and good. The south porch is dated 1638, with the initial of the churchwardens, and, both in design and execution, well shews what may happen when those officers act as architects.

CUXHAM, OXON.—Tower has a Norman west door, but all else seems to have been lately rebuilt, though its general aspect is early English. Nave is Perpendicular. Chancel, though much mutilated, seems in the same style. Near the church is a stone effigy dug up in the churchyard. The nave is constructed of chalk marle, which has stood well.

DENCHWORTH, BERKS.—Tower, nave, transepts, chancel, south porch. The tower stands at north-west angle of the nave; it appears to be Decorated with a Perpendicular upper stage. The nave is chiefly Perpendicular; south door plain Norman, with a billetted drip. North door closed; it appears to be Decorated. Chancel late Perpendicular. North transept Decorated, with good but damaged arch into the nave.

South transept Perpendicular with a coat of arms, 2 chevrons, carved on the exterior; south porch modern. A stoop outside the south door on east side. Font octagonal; the roofs of the nave and south transept are original.

DINCOT, BERKS.—A small, and seen from a distance, ill-favoured church, but contains some curious parts. Tower, nave, south aisle, chancel, and porch. Tower a low timber belfry, rising out of the nave, and much decayed. From the appearance of an early English buttress between the nave and aisle, it would seem that parts of the nave are of that date. The walls generally appear Decorated, with Perpendicular additions in east and south sides of chancel. North windows of nave and chancel, though rudely executed, are after excellent Decorated designs. There is an ascent to the rood loft on the north side. The windows of the south aisle appear early Perpendicular, they are beneath flat segmental arches, and differ somewhat from the general Perpendicular style of the district. Porch modern. A broken cross in the churchyard and a very fine old yew tree. The general condition of this church is discreditable to all concerned.

DRAYCOT CERNE, WILTS.—The tower is Perpendicular with a north polygonal turret rising clear of the battlement, an arrangement more common in Somerset than hereabouts. South door of nave Perpendicular, with an exterior stoop on east side. One south window is a loop, the other is later. The wall between the nave and chancel seems early English; upon the gable is a stiff but good cross. On the north side two Decorated windows. The chancel is late early English, or early Decorated. The east window a triple lancet. Above the gable is a good cross. The other window and the south door are original and curious. In the north wall is a cross, trefoiled, with a crocketed canopy, and beneath it a cross legged figure of unusual length in mail with a surcote. There is also a piscina with a double bowl. Also a good Perpendicular tomb to one of the Long family. North transept modern, and occupied as the manor pew. South porch good Perpendicular, with a range of openings on either side.

DRAYCOT, OXON.—Has an early English bell-gable, with a modern wooden belfry. Nave has a plain Norman north door. South door also Norman but has a flat top: arch into chancel plain Norman. There are northern and western loops obtusely pointed and two south windows flat topped Perpendicular. Chancel chiefly Decorated; a good trefoiled northern loop. East window Decorated with bold tracery, and deserves special notice as nearly resembling a Perpendicular design. South window outside is flat topped Decorated, within, the recess has a drop arch. A good plain Decorated piscina. North transept has an early loop. North window flat topped Perpendicular. Arch into nave, early English.

WEST DRAYTON, MIDDLESEX.—A Perpendicular building, probably all of one date, material flint rubble with occasional stone blocks. Ashlar generally a soft whitish sand stone, very friable and for the most part much weather worn. Chalk is used in the tower staircase.

The church is composed of a tower, nave, aisles, and chancel, north and south aisles have wooden porches. Tower square, of three stages, no buttresses; on the top a later wooden belfry. West door and lower north window good but decayed. Tower completely shrouded with ivy,

springing from a large root on the south side. It contains a well staircase opening by a plain but small door from the ground floor and leading up to the belfry. The nave opens to the tower by a good arch, by another to the chancel, and to the aisles by three arches on each side. There are six clerestory windows, of which the southern three have been replaced. The roof is flat and plastered, with main ribs of wood and carved faces for corbels. The pewing of the nave seems original. The chancel has a late east window with a little stained glass. South porch of wood, and later than the rest of the building. The exterior drip stones have been removed by the chisel.

ENGLEFIELD, BERKS.—A large and somewhat curious church. The tower seems to be early English. The nave has some good and very early English arches, with cylindrical piers and Norman flowered caps, and an upper member with the dog tooth ornament, thus combining the two styles. The south aisle is regular early English. The east window a fine triple lancet, with a bold dog tooth moulding, and there is a bracket in the same style. The south windows are early English but much mutilated. The door is early English. In the wall of this aisle are two recesses with recumbent figures, one of a female, of oak, with traces of the original painting; the other is a cross legged warrior. The figures look older than the recesses. The chancel is Perpendicular and contains a good late tomb with a rich canopy and the Tudor flower.

The chapel of the Englefield family is a debased Perpendicular building on the south side of the chancel. The font is early English, cylindrical, with a trefoiled arcade round it. It is of stone, but has been rudely clouted with wood. On a south buttress is a carving of a cross patée. In the south aisle is Dryden's famous epitaph to the Marquis of Winchester.

FARRINGTON, BERKS.—A large and very curious chancel, but much mutilated. It has a tower, nave, aisles, transepts, chancel, chapel and south porch. The tower is central at the cross, and stands on four massive piers, entirely composed of shafts and bands of moulding, with pointed arches. The caps are fluted with a flower on the top of each flute. The tower is open to the first story where it is ceiled. The interior has some singular trefoiled and quatrefoiled recesses, each of the latter containing a corbel head. There are buttresses on the north east and south east angles, probably Decorated and intended to support the tower, which has a slight cast to the east. For this reason the upper stage of the tower seems to have been removed, so that the old work ends abruptly, terminating in an apparently unfinished parapet. This tower is an undoubted and very curious example of late Norman work, but it has, nevertheless, a very Decorated aspect. The upper windows and ornaments seem to be early English. The nave is probably of the date of the tower. There are four arches on each side, roundheaded, with mouldings corresponding to those of the tower and springing from cylindrical piers, with stiff flowered caps and early English bases. Above the cap is an octagonal abacus, which gives to the whole a Decorated aspect.

The chancel is particularly fine. It has three eastern windows, lancets, of equal size. On the south side are six similar but smaller windows, that next the west being a low window. On the north side has been a corresponding range, but of these only the two eastern remain, the rest having been removed to suit the Pye Chapel. All these

windows rest upon a string, which rises at the altar and above the sedilia and sinks at the low window. The piscina has a double bowl and a trefoil head. There are three level sedilia very richly worked in the early Decorated style, but with the toothed ornament. The south door is round-headed and early Decorated. This is a very fine chancel, though much injured by the addition of the Pye Chapel. In general character it is probably earlier than Cholsey, but with it, forms an admirable example of the transition from Early English to Early Decorated, and both chancels are very suitable for imitation.

There are traces of an earlier chancel. The aisles are narrow and though Perpendicular no doubt built on Norman lines. The iron work of the south door is good. The north door is a small but beautiful example of Norman work, with the double crenelle and billet moulding. The south transept is destroyed. The north transept seems earlier than the tower. It has a good northern arch, in the pointed Norman style, with the billet moulding and there are windows of the same date. The roof and windows generally are late Perpendicular. This transept has a western aisle with a fine Decorated north window and some altar tombs. The Pye Chapel on the north side of the chancel is late Perpendicular. It contains the discarded font, a good octagon of Perpendicular date. The south porch is of large size vaulted and groined in the Perpendicular style, with an upper chamber.

FARNBOROUGH, BERKS.—The tower is late but good Perpendicular and in some of its details resembles East Ilsley. The north door of the nave is plain Norman. The south door and chancel arch are Decorated. The windows are flat topped and appear Decorated.

FOXHAM, WILTS.—A small chapel with a wooden belfry over the nave, a chancel and a south porch. The whole is probably of Perpendicular date; but so mutilated as to present no feature of interest. The font is of large size, octagonal, and probably of the date of the building.

FRILSHAM, BERKS.—A modern tower, in bad taste. The nave is Norman, with Perpendicular south window and a very small plain Norman south door. The north door, now disused, is larger and more enriched. The north windows are Norman loops. The chancel arch is plain Norman. The chancel walls are Norman with late Perpendicular windows. The font is rude Norman.

*(To be continued.)*

CHURCH NOTES, CHIEFLY IN BERKS, WILTS AND  
OXFORD, WITH A FEW IN SOMERSET AND  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

*(Continued from page 193).*

GOOSEY, BERKS.—A small chapel, with nave and chancel. The nave carries a wooden belfry of modern date, but probably after the general pattern of an older one. The west window is plain Decorated, but the tracery has been cut away. The south door is Perpendicular. In the south wall is a late Norman loop. The roof is modern, but there remain one or two good corbels. There are some good open seats. The chancel has been so much altered and repaired that its original date can scarcely be pronounced upon. There is a piscina and a locker, and over the altar table are some wretchedly-painted designs, royal badges and emblems of the crucifixion, some of the trumpery that escaped the besom of the Reformation.

GORING, OXON.—A very curious structure. A tower, nave, north aisle, chancel, and north porch. The tower is Norman, with a circular turret stair at the north-west angle and a peculiar appendage on the north side. The lower stage is vaulted and ribbed, with openings each way; that to the west having led into the nunnery, and now, with the southern opening, blocked up. The upper stage is Perpendicular and rises above the turret, which remains of its original height with the usual Norman termination in a cone of stone.

The nave is Norman, narrow and gloomy, constructed originally without aisles and apparently without windows below the clerestory, as is still the case on the south side. On the north an aisle has been added, and to suit this the lower stage of the wall has been removed, and a row of early pointed arches, resting on massive piers, has taken its place. The clerestory has been partially bricked-up, but the whole is an excellent example of early underpinning. The aisle, as at present seen, is Decorated, with an original porch and window. A building connected with the nunnery has at one time occupied the place of a south aisle, but does not appear to have communicated with the nave. The chancel is Norman, but has been shortened at the east end, rough cast, ceiled, and otherwise mutilated. Font very plain, large, and placed against the west pier of the north aisle. This is probably the most curious church in the Vale of Berks, and unfortunately it is in a filthy condition. The east end of the aisle is used as a coal hole, and a handsome brass thus disfigured. The church does not seem to need substantial repairs, but wants the care of a resident incumbent.

GREENFORD MAGNA, MIDDX.—A small and not very curious church with some Decorated and Perpendicular parts. Here is a mural monu-

ment of parchment to James and Ann Terry, children of the Rector, Edward Terry, who travelled in the East, and published an account of his travels in 1655.

**EAST HAGBOURNE, BERKS.**—A large handsome church with Perpendicular tower. Nave, early Decorated, as is the arch into the tower. On the north side the arches are drop and the piers octagonal, and more ornate than those of the south side, where the piers are cylindrical and rather rude. Clerestory windows perpendicular, excepting a small Decorated one towards the west end of the north side. The roof is good and has some singular emblems carved upon its cornice. The south aisle is Perpendicular, the north Decorated. There are two chapels, productions of aisles eastwards, by the sides of the chancel. They are of the date of the aisles. The chancel arch is early Decorated. The chancel has a clerestory. Its windows are early English, Decorated, and Perpendicular. There is an early Decorated piscina.

**HAMPSTEAD NORRIS, BERKS.**—Tower late Perpendicular and the north and south sides are, as at Bath Abbey Church, shorter than the others. Nave early English or Decorated with a modern chancel arch. The two eastern south windows have niches in their eastern jambs. The north and south doors are Norman; the former has a band of billet moulding for a drip. Chancel early English, with a singular piscina. On the north side a trefoiled loop. The stone pulpit has a concealed base. There is a locker in the wall inside, and close west of the north door and near it an ornament resembling a cross patée fichée is carved on the wall.

**HANHAM, GLOUCESTER.**—An old and very curious chapel attached to the Manor House, once the seat of the Cresswell family. It has a tower, nave, south aisle, chancel and porch. Tower Perpendicular. The style of the nave doubtful. The arches into the aisle seem Decorated as is probably the north door, which has a rude exterior canopy, in low relief, with crockets and a finial. In the north-west is what may be a Norman loop. The chancel is much disfigured, the north side looks Norman, but the principal part of the structure seems Decorated with later additions. The arch into the nave is good and probably Perpendicular. The aisle has a curious decorated finial let into the outside of its east wall. Here also is a curious Norman column with a fluted shaft, with a bowl in the capital for holy water. It is now detached, but was probably affixed to the wall. The north porch is either decorated or early Perpendicular. The font is good moderately plain Norman; it has a square block bowl upon a short cylindrical stem.

**WEST HANNAY, BERKS.**—The Tower opens into the nave and forms a sort of north transept. It is very early English and has some curious windows and a good door. The higher stage seems early Perpendicular. The nave is Decorated with south arches, of which one opens into the transept. Its pattern resembles that of the tower arch at Steventon. On the north side the west pier is Norman, and very large. The north door is good Norman with cable shafts. The chancel arch is early English, with excellent brackets late in the style. Chancel, late Perpendicular. A hagioscope into the south transept. South aisle Decorated with many flat-topped windows. There is a good timber roof. The parapet is Decorated. Over the south door is a singular canopy. South transept Decorated with good arches into the nave and aisle. At the south end is a piscina with a shelf, at the north end a locker.

The wood stairs remain. The north porch is excellent early English with a particularly good doorway. The font is Norman, conical, with a peculiar and bold ornament composed of vertical bands of roses.

HASWELL, BERKS.—A fine church, with tower, nave, aisles, transepts, chancel and south porch. The tower is early English, early in the style. In size and general proportions it resembles the still earlier tower of Fingest, Oxon. Its plan is slightly oblong, longest from north to south. There is a projecting turret on the north side. The nave is Transition, pointed Norman passing into early English. Both aisles and porch are Decorated. North aisle has a very early Decorated window, resembling the east windows of Basildon and North Moreton. The south transept is very early English, and plain. The north transept is smaller, but both terminate in buttresses similar to those at Newnham Murren. The Chancel is excellent early Decorated, as are its north and south windows. The north door is original, with a flat segmental arch and heavy mouldings. There is a double piscina, early English, with two good stalls under a square head formed by the string upon which the windows rest. The east window is very singular. It is of five lights, cinquefoiled in the sides, and trefoiled in the central light. Over the centre is a circle quatrefoiled. The mullions of the central light are carried up straight through the head. The case of the window is certainly Decorated. The tracery is either a Perpendicular insertion or a very singular combination of Decorated and Perpendicular features. The font is a rude cone.

HATFORD, BERKS.—The nave has an early English south door, and a good Norman north door, which has recently been scraped. In one of the capitals is a singular head. The west window is early Decorated. The Norman arch into the chancel is a horse-shoe, owing probably to a settlement. There is a wooden belfry. The chancel has a Norman south door and some other Norman parts. There is a curious effigy within an early Decorated recess in the north wall.

EAST HENDRED, BERKS.—A spacious church, with tower, nave, aisles, transepts, chancel, south chapel and south porch. The tower pretty good Perpendicular. The corbels of the west windows are heads, and from their mouths proceed vine foliage, carved in relief upon the adjacent wall. The nave arches have cylindrical piers, of somewhat Norman aspect. Tower arch is Perpendicular. North aisle good but plain Decorated. South aisle also Decorated but of rude execution. Both are very narrow and probably on Norman lines. The north transept is Decorated, with a good north window and a curious recess or shrine in the east wall. The south transept, also Decorated, contains a good piscina, and a flat segmental recess, probably for a tomb. The windows are insertions. The chancel seems Decorated, with Perpendicular windows. It has an original piscina with a shelf. The roof above the altar is panelled, with armorial bearings. The chapel opens into the south side of the chancel by two late Perpendicular arches. The porch is Perpendicular. The font is plain octagon. There are a few brasses and some older slabs bearing figures of crosses in trick.

WEST HENDRED, BERKS.—Tower, nave, north and south aisles, chancel and south porch. The lower part of the tower is Decorated, with a good west window. The upper windows are Perpendicular. The arches of the nave and into the chancel are plain Decorated with octangular piers

and delicate impost mouldings. The north aisle is Perpendicular with flat-topped windows. The south aisle and porch are late Perpendicular with pointed windows. The chancel is Decorated. The four buttresses about the eastern angles are early in the style. The east windows good Decorated, both lights are cinquefoiled, which is unusual in that style. South door plain but good Decorated. On the north side is a good example of a Decorated loop. There is the base of a cross in the churchyard, south side.

**HENLEY, OXON.**—A large church, in good repair. Tower late Perpendicular, with small angular turrets, as at Wallingford. The vestry and several of the windows are good Perpendicular, but the walls and most of the windows are Decorated. A part of the nave is early English.

**HITCHAM, BUCKS.**—Tower of brick, rough cast, but the west window looks older. The nave is of flint. The north door late Norman, as is the chancel arch. The windows are early English and Decorated, with an interior string, raised and carried over the door as at Langley Marish. There is a curious early English circle in the wall. The church is of coursed flint, well executed. Outside the south door of the chapel are traces of early English piers and mouldings. The font is either Decorated or Perpendicular.

**EAST ILSLEY, BERKS.**—Tower, nave, south aisle, chancel, and north porch. The tower is Perpendicular. The nave probably early English. The three arches into the south aisle are obtuse pointed, with heavy cylindrical piers, very early English. The north door is excellent Decorated with a rich internal band of the ball-flower moulding. The chancel is a very curious example of transition from early English to Decorated, inclining to the former. The windows are long and narrow; above the east window is a circular opening. Some of the windows are trefoiled, and have a Decorated aspect, one is cinquefoiled, and one has the dogtooth ornament in its drip. The porch is Perpendicular. The font has a good octangular bowl, with a Norman arcade in relief on each face, and a conical stem and base. There are some good open seats, and upon some are carved the arms of Hildesley, or Ilsley, "two bars, in chief three roundels," derived probably from those of Hungerford.

**WEST ILSLEY, BERKS.**—A small dilapidated church, with a wooden bell gable. The nave is Perpendicular, with a north porch of brick. The chancel seems Perpendicular, but is much obscured.

**IPSDEN, OXON.**—Tower, nave, north aisle, chancel, and south porch. The tower is a low timber belfry, of late date, raised on posts within the north-west angle of the nave. The nave, on the north side, is late Norman, with a narrow obtusely pointed window in a flat segmental recess quite plain. The two arches into the aisle are good examples of transition from early English to Decorated. South door Norman with Decorated additions. South windows late Perpendicular, probably inserted when the south aisle was destroyed. The north aisle has a Norman west end and loop: the east end, with the roof, is Perpendicular. The chancel is a well marked example of early English, early in the style. South door Norman. Side windows and arch into nave are early English, with shafts of Purbeck marble, pointed arches, Norman capitals, and resting upon a Norman string. The east window is a Perpendicular insertion. Font cylindrical, Norman, very plain. There remain in the chancel a few glazed tiles and a couple of brasses. On

one of the tiles is an eagle displayed, and the corbel of one of the south Perpendicular window bears, what appears to be Ermine, two bars, impaling a bend.

**KEYNSHAM, SOMERSET.**—A large, handsome, church, in bad repair. Tower, nave, aisles, chancel, and south porch. Tower late Perpendicular of large size. Details inelegant, but general proportions good. It is constructed of Bath stone with occasional courses of lias, and the latter have decayed. The tower has slightly settled from its foundation. North aisle Perpendicular. South aisle Decorated, with a ball flower moulding beneath the parapet. Both aisles are well executed and correspond. Octagonal turrets rise at the north-west angle of the one, and the south-west angle of the other. The chancel is early English, with various Perpendicular additions. The Bridges family, ancestors of the Dukes of Chandos, lie in the chancel.

**KINGSTON LISLE, BERKS.**—A chapel, with a nave, the north doorway of which is late Norman with an original valve and some good iron work. The chancel is chiefly Decorated, with some traces of Norman work. The north porch is modern. The font is conical Norman, without steps or base. In a window in modern glass are the arms of the Lord Lisle.

**LANGLEY BURRELL, WILTS.**—A fine church, with an early Decorated tower, and a parapet with the wall-flower moulding. In the lower story, which is open to the nave, are some singular recesses. The nave, north aisle, south transept, and chancel are chiefly early Decorated, with occasional traces of early English and some good triple lancet windows with trefoil heads. There are two good sedilia and a piscina, with an excellent hagioscope, in form a spherul triangle, six-foiled. The south porch is good Perpendicular, with vaults, a good roof, an Eastern stoop, and an upper chamber. Outside is a good dos-d'âne coffin lid with two busts carved upon it, each beneath a trefoiled early Decorated canopy and near the breasts are vine leaves. There is a similar, but less ornate lid in Stevenston Churchyard.

**LETCOMBE REGIS, BERKS.**—The lower stage of the tower is in substance Norman; the upper Perpendicular. The nave is chiefly either Decorated or Perpendicular. The arrangement of the mouldings of the two doors is peculiar, not being as usual, parallel. Something like this is the case in the west door of Davenham, Cheshire. Outside the north door, on the east side, is a stoop. The chancel is chiefly Perpendicular, with a Decorated south door. There is a piscina with a credence. The south porch is modern. The font is Norman, cylindrical, with a fluted moulding.

**EAST LOCKINGE, BERKS.**—Nave, chiefly Perpendicular with traces of Decorated work, and a good Norman south door. The chancel arch is good Decorated, resembling that into the south transept at Wantage. A north window of the chancel is flat-topped Decorated, and a second, flat-topped and cinque-foiled, is Perpendicular. The two arches into the south chapel are probably Decorated. There are two good stalls or recesses, one on the eastern face of each pier. The old cylindrical font is in the churchyard, displaced by a modern font in the Norman style. This chancel is in excellent repair and well kept. The arms of Fitzwarine, 'quarterly per fess indented' remain in glass in a window.

**LYFORD, BERKS.**—Nave, early Decorated, with four upper windows of

later date. It carries a wooden belfry. The chancel is of the date of the nave. The east window is a lancet, cut down. North and south windows the same, but perfect. There is a locker, and a piscina with a credence. There are two windows placed very peculiarly, on opposite sides, near the western end of the wall. Font octagonal. Good open sittings. A southern rood stair.

MAPLEDURHAM, OXON.—Mainly Perpendicular with brick additions. The font a heavy rude Norman cylinder with the cable moulding. A fine Blount altar tomb in the south aisle.

SOUTH MARSTON, BERKS.—A small and ill-kept church. Tower Perpendicular. North door of nave early Norman, round-headed, with a solid tympanum surrounded by a band of bead-moulding. South door plain Norman, with a singular bead under the impost. Chancel, early English, and has a piscina with shelf. South porch Perpendicular. Font probably Norman; a cone with a small base-moulding and a bead round the upper edge.

MILTON, BERKS.—Tower Decorated, with later addition, and an excellent original west window. Date of nave doubtful. Two south windows flat-topped Perpendicular. North aisle modern. Chancel late Perpendicular. South porch seems Decorated.

NORTH MORETON, BERKS.—A large church with many points of interest. Tower Perpendicular, but the window has a Decorated drip, and the arch into the nave is probably of that date. The tower battlement is effective. Nave Decorated; the windows excellent, as is the door. The arches into the aisle and chancel have Decorated drips, but may be pointed Norman. South aisle Decorated, with a good door. Chancel early Decorated. East window resembles Basildon and Warborough, and is a good example of early Decorated tracery. The north windows and one to the south are either wholly Decorated, or Perpendicular insertions into Decorated frames. The arches into the south chapel are early English. South chapel excellent early Decorated, but later than the chancel. East window full of geometrical tracery, with some good stained glass; and there is a smaller window and a door of the same date. The salient angle of the recess of this latter window contains a singularly beautiful piscina. Between this chapel and the aisle is a curious early English arch, with a bracket carved with rich foliage. The font is large, cylindrical, and probably Norman. This church is a good study for the transition from the early English into the Decorated style.

MOULSFORD, BERKS.—A bell gable of wood upon an early English wall, and a plain neat lancet window with a peculiar fluted moulding, with trefoiled heads. North door of nave Norman; south door nave Decorated. North aisle a small rude addition, probably Decorated. Chancel early Decorated. Font a rude octagonal bowl, resting on two steps, early English or Decorated.

NETTLEHED, OXON.—A miserable structure, ill kept, and in bad repair. Lower stage of tower early English; upper modern brick. Nave has a Decorated north window. Date of chancel not apparent. Font a plain Norman cylinder.

NEWINGTON, OXON.—A large handsome church, in good repair and cleanly kept. Tower, nave, north transept, and chancel. Tower good Decorated, with bold western buttresses; upper story and spire are plain. Nave, north door, round-headed, with Norman shaft and caps,

but early English mouldings. South door has a plain round-headed arch, with a rich drip. Four of the south windows are Decorated. North transept Decorated, chancel excellent Decorated; east window seems a Perpendicular insertion. On south side a beautiful Decorated cinque-foiled recess for a tomb, with very rich mouldings. At north-west angle of chancel are traces of early English work.

**NEWMHAM MURREN, OXON.**—A small, mean looking, but very curious old church. Tower a mere wooden belfry, rising on posts out of the nave. North door and wall, and probably the west wall of the church, with the greater part of the chancel, plain early Norman. The present east end of chancel and part of adjacent walls seem either late Norman or early English. Two of the chancel windows take the place of the old Norman cross. South aisle Decorated. A curious tunnel-shaped hagioscope in the south pier of the chancel arch, passing from the chancel to the south aisle. Probably of Norman date; if so, unusual. The font probably Norman.

**NUFFIELD, OXON.**—Though small and mutilated, this is a curious church. The tower stands at the west end of the north aisle. The lower story is early English, and it has a wooden belfry. The nave has a good but whitewashed roof, and there are some glazed tiles. South door blocked up. Some of the arches into the north aisle are early English. The chancel is Decorated, but its windows incline to the Perpendicular style. The font is Norman and slightly conical. Round its margin is an inscription rather obscured by whitewash, but of which the following may be made out:—

"Sacro lotum vel munda . . . . grato tu . . . . vene sag muno plenale . . . . nte."

**OARE, BERKS.**—A small and poor edifice. The tower carrying a small spire rises out of the nave. It is of brick, modern and ugly. South and west doors of nave are late Perpendicular, as is the chancel. Font a rude cylinder, probably Norman.

**PANGBOURNE, BERKS.**—Tower of brick, and the whole church has been restored by churchwardens in wretched taste. It has a tower, nave, north aisle, chancel, and south porch.

**ROTHERFIELD GREYS, OXON.**—A small church, with a low timber belfry. Parts of the nave and the font are early English; in a north chapel, date 1605, is a sumptuous altar tomb to one of the Knollys family. In the aisle is a fine brass to the last Lord Grey of Rotherfield, in full armour, and beneath a canopy.

**ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD, OXON.**—A poor and small church. The arch with the chancel and the font are either late Norman or early English.

**SATWELL, BERKS.**—A thickly white-washed Norman chapel, perfectly plain and very small, with some Perpendicular additions and a modern font.

**SHILLINGFORD, BERKS.**—An early English tower and spire. The tower is slightly pyramidal in outline, and some curious lancet windows of great length. The nave has a Norman north door, with a good beak head moulding, but the rest of that side is late Perpendicular. South door late Norman with a chevron and toothed moulding. Chancel arch also late Norman. The structure generally is Decorated. In the church in the south-west is a low window. On the north a Perpendicular

window with a panelled recess. There is a locker and a double piscina.

SHRIVENHAM, BERKS.—A spacious, commodious, well-kept, but by no means handsome church. The tower, central, is open below but not vaulted. It rests on four massive Perpendicular piers. The upper part, also Perpendicular, presents nothing remarkable. It is battlemented and the belfry is the first story. The nave and chancel open into their aisles by a range of round-headed arches, springing from conical columns, with large disproportioned capitals. The general effect of this debased Roman style is bad. The roof is of the same date but in a rather better style. The aisles seem the length of both nave and chancel. They are spacious and lofty, and lighted by numerous flat-topped, debased, Perpendicular windows. The roofs are pretty good. There is a west porch of the date of the aisles, but in better style. The body of the church is handsomely paved and well kept. The font is either Norman or Decorated, probably the latter. It has a large octagonal bowl of Purbeck marble, with the round-headed arches in low relief, and quite plain, upon each face. The stem is cylindrical, and rests on three octangular steps, of which the upper is Purbeck. The stem is too slight, and has been strengthened by a number of wooden shafts placed round it. They are of the date of the modern church, but do not seem to have replaced older ones. If this be so, it would be well to remove them and strengthen the stem by a stout iron tube lined with copper. In the churchyard, east of the church, is a stone effigy, much defaced, with hair curling over the ears, and the head upon a lozenge-shaped cushion. The dress seems ecclesiastical.

SPARSHOLT, BERKS.—A very curious church, ill kept, and but little known. It is composed of a tower, nave, transepts, and chancel. Tower Decorated, and has a low spire of wood, covered with shingles. The nave has an excellent late Norman door. The corbels of its drip are peculiar. They resemble the head of a pick or pike, and look downwards. There are a few other examples in this district. The iron work seems original. The south door is blocked up. Its general design is similar, the details are different. The lower walls and the string are of the date of the doors; the windows are chiefly Decorated. The roof is excellent late Decorated with tracery in the spandrills of the principals; that next its east end has traces of some original painting. The arches into the chancel and transepts are probably Decorated. The north transept has been pulled down and its arch closed and pierced for a Decorated window. The south transept is early Decorated with excellent windows, shewing vesica piscis tracery, both trefoiled and quatrefoiled, with a singularly delicate drip stone. There is a good piscina with a shelf. This transept seems later than the chancel. The north porch is modern. The font rude Norman. The chancel is about equal to Cholsey or Faringdon, though later than either. It has a good panelled close parapet. The east window is modern. Three south and two north windows are Decorated, as is a good north door with original iron work. There are three level sedilia and a piscina. Two hagioscopes connected the chancel with the transepts. There is some good stained glass and some curious monuments. On the south side of the chancel is a Decorated recess, with an elaborate canopy and beneath it a cross-legged figure in chain mail, with two angels supporting its head. The figure rests on an altar tomb carved with quarterfoils, in each one escutcheon. There is a

trace of a second recess on this aisle, but in the north wall is also a recess but unoccupied, probably intended for the Holy Sepulchre. On the sill of the east window is laid temporarily a full length effigy, legs straight, in plate armour. The feet rest on a lion, and the head is enclosed in a steel cap, resting on a tilting helmet, with a coronet and plume by way of crest. The figure is of wood, probably sycamore and is hollow. Judging from the care bestowed upon it it is not unlikely to be converted into firewood. In another window lies a wooden eagle, part of the old reading desk. At the south end of the transept are two effigies in recesses with rich canopies, the cusps of the foil terminating in heads. Both figures are female, of wood and hollow, and their heads are supported by full length angels. At the feet of one are two dogs regardant, at the other a lion. Their altars are plain. Both figures appears to have been painted.

**STANFORD-IN-THE-VALE, BERKS.**—A tower, nave, north aisle, porches, and chancel. The two lower styles of the tower are early Decorated. There is an original loop with a corbel head over the drip. The upper stage is perpendicular. The nave has three drop arches into the aisle, and one into the chancel, either Decorated or Perpendicular. The northern clerestory, one of the south windows, and the roof are Perpendicular. Three south windows are Perpendicular, one being flat-topped, also one window is modern. The north aisle has a late early English west window, triple lancet, trefoiled. The two north windows are flat-topped, Decorated. There is a Perpendicular door to the rood stair, and a hagioscope. The north door seems Decorated. The south porch is late Perpendicular. There is a vestry taken out of the aisle. The chancel is excellent early Decorated. The north door lancet and good. One north and two south windows have vesica piscis tracery. The roof is original and good. There is a north locker, double, and a piscina with a shelf. This is within a sort of shrine, with a locker above, probably for a relic. The font is old, but is cased in modern wood.

**STANFORD DINELEY, BERKS.**—A low and poor tower of which the north and south faces seem early English, the rest Perpendicular. The nave is old, but small and damp. Two arches opening into the north aisle are round-headed, small, and heavy Norman. The rest, with the chancel arch, are pointed Norman. The north aisle has a Norman east-end and window, an early English west-end added window, and a Perpendicular north aisle and roof. The south aisle is early English, with a good door, the arch of which is broken by a boss, so as to resemble a rudimentary double door-way. At the east-end of the aisle is a circular light. The chancel and porch are modern. The font plain, conical Norman. There are three Crosses.

**STEVENTON, BERKS.**—A large church, with a tower, nave, south aisle, chancel and south chapel. The tower stands at the south-west angle, and opens upon both aisle and nave. The style is early and somewhat formal Decorated. The arches resemble those at Wantage and east Locking. The nave is Decorated, but much mutilated. The chancel has a good Perpendicular east window with embattled transom and some original iron stanchions. There are two sedilia and a piscina, and a small south door with an internal label. The south aisle is excellent Decorated. The south chapel opens from both chancel and aisle. The font is Perpendicular and good. Some glazed tiles and a few brasses.

NORTH STOKE, OXON.—Tower, nave, north porch, chancel. Tower rebuilt in modern times from the lower stage. The base seems early Decorated. Nave early Decorated, with some excellent windows and good north and south doors. Chancel early English, very early in the style, and including the arch from the nave. There are shafts of Purbeck marble, a material used also for the abacus of the caps. The mouldings generally are very rich and effective. The south-east window is a low one. The north door resembles Englefield. This chancel has recently been taken down and carefully restored from the original pattern, and mostly with the original materials, greatly to the credit of the Rev. R. Twopenny, the incumbent, and the Fellows of St. John's Coll., Camb., the patrons. The font, well suited for imitation, seems early Decorated. There is a brass to a canon of Windsor, with St. George's cross upon his cloak.

SOUTH STOKE, OXON.—Tower Perpendicular. Nave and aisles early Decorated, save the eastern end of the latter, which are early English. The aisles are remarkably narrow. In the south aisle is a flat-topped Decorated window. The south door is good. There are some Perpendicular insertions. Chancel seems early English with Decorated additions. Arch from nave early English, verging on Decorated. On north side a lancet, looking late Norman. On south a very early Decorated window. South porch modern. Font seems Decorated. In each aisle is a good Decorated niche. The stone stair remains on the south side. There are a few glazed tiles and some late Perpendicular carved woodwork.

STRATFIELD MORTIMER, HANTS.—A fine church, but with a brick tower. Nave, south aisle, and chancel are good Perpendicular. There are two sepulchral brasses.

STRATTON ST. MARGARET'S, BERKS.—A mean looking but very curious church. Tower, nave, aisles, south porch, chancel. Tower Perpendicular and much decayed ; nave good. On each side four arches, drop, with cylindrical piers and caps, with bands of dog tooth ornaments, as at Wantage. The north aisle is early Decorated, with good window tracery. In the north wall a rude but curious recess, with a septfoiled ogee canopy, with brackets, a finial, and above all, a head corbel carrying a pinnacle. There are also two lateral pinnacles. The principal arch moulding carries a part of the toothed ornament placed at long intervals. This is a remarkable example of the combination of the toothed ornament with decided Decorated mouldings. The south aisle resembles the north. It has a plain Norman door, and some singular windows. The south porch is late Perpendicular. The font a rude octagon, with a quaterfoil on each face.

SULHAMPTED BANISTER, BERKS.—A modern church in bad taste, on the lines of the old one. The font may be Decorated, but is plastered. There is an early grave-stone with a mutilated marginal inscription.

*(To be continued.)*

CHURCH NOTES, CHIEFLY IN BERKS, WILTS AND  
OXFORD, WITH A FEW IN SOMERSET AND  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

*(Continued from page 303.)*

SUTTON BENGER, WILTS.—Tower Perpendicular, with a good west door and window, and above the latter a canopied niche. The parapet is panelled and embattled. The four angle pinnacles are mean, but in each centre is a large open work pinnacle. The north wall, the door, and a window of the nave are Perpendicular, but the rest has been completely modernized. The south aisle is a peculiar variety of Decorated. The east window is of three lights, sept-foiled, and in the head vesica piscis tracery, much flattened. Each space is foliated with twelve foils. The label is good, the recess moulded, and adorned with a band of ball flowers, set a little further apart than usual. The lower part of the central light is occupied by a niche for an image, and at its back is a singular representation of a Decorated window. The two south windows are early Decorated. The west window is of the same date, but peculiar. In its head is the vesica piscis, but not flattened, and the exterior label is part of a heavy string, on the under side of which are large ball flowers and other ornaments set at very long intervals. At this west end between the aisle and the tower is a large gargoyle, representing a three quarter length of a bear, muzzled, but with his mouth open. The chancel is mostly modern. It appears to have been Decorated, and has an excellent arch from the nave. The south porch is of stone, probably Perpendicular. The entrance has a pointed barrel vault, with transverse ribs.

SUTTON COURTNEY, BERKS.—A large and very curious church. Tower late Norman. Its lower stage has flat low buttresses, like those of Newnham Murren, with round-headed windows. The next stage has no buttresses and pointed transition windows. Above it is a corbel table, that probably carried the original Norman parapet. This has been replaced by a Decorated upper stage. The nave has four arches on each side. On the north they are Decorated. The arches are drop, piers octagonal, caps and mouldings all alike. On the south side the three eastern arches correspond to those on the north. The remaining arch is different and very curious. The pier is early English, very light, with a bell cap. The arch is pointed Norman, with crenelle and chevron moulding, bold and good, and just above the pier is a single ball flower of Decorated date. The arch seems to have been underpinned and the pier inserted. The ball flower seems a still later insertion. The whole

is a good example of the mixing up of different styles. The north and south aisles are Decorated with good Perpendicular additions; in the latter a chantry is still screened off. The chancel is early Decorated; the east window is peculiar, and may be later. On the north side some altar tombs have been thrust into a good Decorated sepulchre. The south porch is Perpendicular, of brick, with an upper chamber, in which is a small library. There is a good Perpendicular rood-loft screen, of wood, unusually perfect, with a stair on the north side. The font is a cylinder, with a band of intersecting circles, probably late Norman. Some traces of painting are seen on the chancel walls. West of the church is an old house with an early English round-headed doorway. In the churchyard is a Perpendicular altar tomb.

SWINDON, WILTS.—This church is grievously disfigured—tower, nave, chancel, aisles and porch. Tower seems Decorated. Nave has a good chancel arch, springing from corbel heads of Edward III. and his Queen. There are four arches on each side, probably Decorated. The south aisle and probably the south porch are late Perpendicular. North door peculiar; north porch modern. A spring gushes forth west of the church, not far off.

SWYNCOMBE, OXON.—No tower. The nave has a Norman north door, and near it an early English loop. Of the south windows one is Decorated and one early English. The chancel arch is Norman. The south porch has an upper chamber, within which is the bell. The chancel has a Norman half round apse. The windows are insertions, but curious. That on the south seems recent, and is flat-topped, but has a decided Decorated drip, exactly resembling that of a south window at Cowley.

TOCKENHAM, WILTS.—A small church. The nave has a wooden belfry. The walls seem early English, with Perpendicular additions. The chancel may be Decorated, but with much Perpendicular work. There is a low south window. South porch modern. Font resembles Christian Malford, but is inferior to it. Outside the nave, just west of the south door, is a curious niche, carved in one stone, and built into the wall. Its hollow is fluted above into a sort of rude semi-dome, and it contains a draped figure in relief, resting upon a staff or trunk of a shrub, round which is twined a serpent. It has a Roman look.

UFFINGTON, BERKS.—Very little known, but a very good example of the early English style. It has a tower, nave, chancel, transepts, chapels and porches. The tower is central, at the cross, square below, and resting on four massive piers. When clear of the roof the angles are removed, and the tower rises as an octagonal lanthorn. The lower stage is not vaulted, and the lanthorn has some inferior windows, and is in other respects ill finished. It seems of later date than the base of the tower, but the design and proportions are good. The three west windows of the nave are long and narrow, as though for lancets, but they are flat-topped. The north and south windows are long and narrow, and composed each of two lights. The recesses are flanked by early English shafts with bell-caps, but topped by a flat impost, instead of an arch, which appears original, as the exterior drip stones are flat and have early English or Decorated corbels. Moreover, judging from the pitch mark of the old roof upon the tower, there could have been no room for a pointed arch. The present roof, put on in 1678, cuts all the windows of the nave, and some of them lower than would have been the case with the

earlier roof, but does not detract materially from their appearance. It is probable that the funds ran short, and the flat impost was adopted from economy. The nave windows are very peculiar. There are two doors. The north is good; the south, opening into the great porch, is peculiarly beautiful, and remarkable also for the rich iron work of its valve. The chancel seems to have been completed as designed. The east window is a triple lancet, highly enriched. On the north side are six lancet windows, very long and narrow, with splendid jambs and flanking shafts within. The two central windows are not pierced, probably to allow of an intended exterior vestry. On the south side the lancet arch next the altar rail is a rich piscina, and there are also three stone stalls. The south window occupies the place of two ordinary windows. Its recess is original, but the tracery is early Decorated with the vesica piscis, and probably an insertion. There is a south door with an exterior canopy, and within is a stoop. The windows rest upon an interior string course, and pilasters supported on carved brackets rise against the walls and were intended to support the ribs and fan tracery of a vault. This, however, was never added, and it may be doubted whether the walls would have stood the thrust. The transepts are alike in general proportions, and each terminates in a triple window. In the north transept the east side is occupied by two chapels or oratories opening from it, each lighted by a long, irregular, triple window. The south transept has a single chapel only, the place of the other being occupied by a door, which stands within a shallow porch or canopy, a fine piece of composition, with but little ornament, and admirably suited, as here, to a side entrance, or to the principal entrance of a chapel. The south porch is vaulted and groined, with an upper chamber. The exterior pinnacles are gone. The general aspect of this church is plain, and the exterior is rough-cast. The windows rest on an exterior string, and a second string runs at their springing levels. Below the lower string are a number of recessed circles, three at each gable end, and others placed somewhat irregularly along the outer walls. Each is pierced with five holes, and appears to have carried a cross of metal, now removed. This church is a proof of how little a well-proportioned church is dependent upon ornament for its effect, for nothing can be more complete than its general appearance, and, excepting upon the chancel and south porch, there is scarcely any ornament. The font is not remarkable. There are no monuments, and in the nave and transepts no pews. The building is in pretty good order, and fairly kept.

UPTON CHALVEY, BUCKS.—This church is Norman, excepting the porch and the upper stage of the tower. The tower is central, between the nave and chancel. The nave has a blocked-up Norman window in the west gable, and two on either side, small and plain. The north door is enriched Norman. The south door is concealed by a modern brick porch. East of this porch is a closed Norman doorway, and east again of that are traces of an arch in the wall, and upon the north side opposite to this are traces of a corresponding arch. The west and two north windows are Perpendicular. The chancel has two Norman pilasters on each side. The east window is Perpendicular, but above it is a Norman loop.

WANTAGE, BERKS.—A large and handsome church, composed of a tower, nave, aisles, transepts, chancel and chapels. The tower is at the cross, open below, resting on four plain but very good Decorated piers,

with good vaultings. The nave is early English; some of the southern arches have the dog-tooth ornament. The northern piers are plainer, and perhaps a little later. The clerestory, roof, and aisles are Perpendicular. The north transept is Decorated, with traces of early English work. Appended to it is a Decorated east aisle and a late Perpendicular north chapel. The south transept is early Decorated, perhaps a little earlier than the tower. The arch into the south aisle resembles that of Steventon. The east aisle seems Perpendicular, as are the roofs of both transepts, and the whole of the south chapel. The chancel is chiefly Perpendicular; in it is some good wood carving. The font is singular; it is early English, and of large size. The bowl is a plain decagon, covered inside and out with lead, probably a modern casing. The stem is also a decagon, with a three-quarter engaged shaft on each facet; the ornament is the dog-tooth. The principal monument is that of a knight of the Fitz Warine family and his lady. The figures life size, of alabaster, on a rich altar tomb, with a much broken canopy. The knight has the arms of Fitz Warine on his surcoat, and the Garter on his left leg. He was probably Falk, Baron Fitz Warine, who died 1373.

WARBOROUGH, OXON.—A small and plain church constructed of a rock bed of the chalk marle, alternating with flint, in squares. The tower is very late, resembling those of Henley, Wallingford and Dorchester. It is dated 1666. The nave is Decorated, but the windows are Perpendicular insertions, segmental, of good design and execution. The north door is plain; the south good early Decorated. The arch into the south transept is Decorated, and the transept contains a good Decorated window, a recess, and a piscina. The chancel deserves particular attention as an example of the fitting together of work of two dates. The east and south walls are Decorated, the north side and north-east angle with the contained windows are Perpendicular. The door is pointed Norman, and the east windows with Norman ornaments, has Decorated tracery. The eastern face of the wall has been rebuilt in the Decorated style, and a decidedly Decorated drip stone added to the Norman door, forming a part of the regular string. The font resembles that of Dorchester, but is of inferior work. The bowl is cylindrical, of lead, adorned with a band of saints in relief, seated under arches, some round headed, others formed by inclined lintels, as in Saxon work. The stem is of Perpendicular or Decorated date, an octagon, and much enriched. The south porch, of timber, is old. There is the shaft of a fine cross in the church-yard.

WHITCHURCH, OXON.—A tolerably large church, much disfigured, but kept clean and neat. The west end of the nave carries a timber belfry. The nave is Norman, and in that style there remains a plain south door and a north and south window. The chancel arch is modern, but two small windows above it are purely Norman. Much of the north wall has been broken down to suit a modern aisle, and most of the south windows are Decorated or Perpendicular insertions. One of the former, of one light, is sept-foiled. The south doorway is fitted with a late Perpendicular frame, opening into a porch of the same date, used as a vestry. The chancel is either Decorated or Perpendicular, with additions. The north and south windows are early and late Perpendicular.

LITTLE WITTENHAM, BERKS.—The tower is late Perpendicular; the nave probably Decorated with Perpendicular additions. The chancel is

Decorated, and the east window a curious compound of that and the succeeding style. The Dunch chapel, south of the chancel, is very debased Perpendicular. In the chancel is a Perpendicular altar tomb, and there are some brasses.

LONG WITTENHAM, BERKS.—The church of the Rev. J. C. Clutterbuck, who has paid much attention to the architecture, agriculture, and geology of the district. It is composed of a tower, nave, aisles, south transept, chancel, and south porch. The tower is too small for the church, and rather too tall for its other dimensions. The old battlements have been replaced by flat stones, giving a mean aspect to the whole. The style is late Perpendicular. Of the nave the north aisle is Decorated, the south aisle rather earlier. It has four arches with cylindrical piers, with early English bases and flowered caps, roughly carved, but in good taste. The chancel arch is good plain Norman. The aisles are Decorated, early in the style. In the north aisle is a peculiar window of three lights, trefoiled, with three quatrefoils in the head. It is Decorated, but ugly, and though old, not unlike a modern insertion. The south transept is small, and evidently intended for a private chapel. It is early Decorated with an original flat-topped window, and another pointed, of three lights, with a circle in the head. In the south wall is a singular piscina, having a small figure in armour laid as its cill. The chancel seems early Decorated. It is much mutilated. The porch is Decorated, of wood, and tolerably perfect. It is the oldest porch in this part of the county. The font is large, of cast lead, with an ornamented band of effigies of Bishops under a pointed arcade, and above are prints of foliage and tracery, applied by the founder somewhat carelessly. The style seems early English. This leaden bowl stands upon a small stone cylinder in the north aisle, with a step on the west side. Until recently the whole was concealed in bricks and mortar, enclosed in a wooden case of the date of 1632.

This church reflects great credit upon the Vicar, who, indeed, boasts an hereditary claim to the study of ecclesiastical architecture, being the son of the historian of Hertfordshire. It is much to be desired that some of the neighbouring rectors and church-wardens would profit by the example here afforded.

WOOLSTON, BERKS.—A small church in bad repair, composed of a nave, south transept, and chancel. The nave has a pointed loop on the north and south sides, a pointed arch into the chancel, with a billeted drip, all late Norman. The south door, now blocked up, is in the same style. The north door is round-headed, with a billeted drip, and a band of chevron moulding with corbel heads, as at Faringdon. South transept early Decorated, with piscina and wooden shelf. The chancel, in the same style, has a good piscina, with a carved bracket. Part of the roof is original. The east end of the chancel and west end of the nave are modern. The font has a cylindrical bowl of cast lead, upon a plain stone cylinder with a scalloped base. The prints upon the lead resemble 'cancelli,' or lattice work, with some rude representations of windows, with early Decorated tracery.

YATTENDON, BERKS.—Of one date; in the late Perpendicular style, rudely executed. The font seems Decorated. Part of the wood screen remains, and the shell of the stone staircase to the left is seen on the north side.

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The Church Notes, now brought to a conclusion, present a faithful picture of the condition of the ecclesiastical structures in the Vale of Berks, and other parts of the course of the Great Western Railway, as they stood at the time of the commencement of the Oxford movement, introduced to the public by the celebrated Oxford Tracts. It is not too much to say that the buildings were mostly out of repair, uncared for, dirty and damp, the seats too often old and rotten, the monuments neglected, and the architectural features, often exceedingly curious, unstudied and unknown.

To some extent the condition of the churches was an indication of the conduct of the clergy. There was a good deal of non-residence, or of half residence, many of the cures being served from Oxford by men who came over for special duties, and knew and cared little for the spiritual or temporal welfare of the flocks.

There is the less reason for disguising this state of things that they stand in strong contrast with that which now obtains. The influence of Oxford has permeated and leavened the whole mass. The clergy are resident, active, awake to the duty of visiting the sick and advising the sound. The parsonages are in good order, the churchyards well kept, and the churches in excellent repair, dry and warmed, and usually well attended.

Ecclesiastical architecture has been much studied. Rickman's excellent volume has been the parent of many publications. A new, and in most respects a better instructed race of architects has crowded the profession. A few churches have been rebuilt, many have been enlarged, some have been restored, and with a desire to preserve as far as possible what is good in the past. Many new churches, in new districts, have been constructed, and it may with safety be asserted that the Church of England in these districts—and it may be in all others—never stood in so healthy and flourishing a condition as at this time, when its very existence as a State Church is so rudely and unjustly assailed.