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Statement concerning the opening of the Stone Coffin in the Saxon Church
Excavation Season 1928.

Examination of bones found in coffin in Saxon Church.

Present. Dom E Horne; Prof Fawcett; Mrs Dina Dobson; Miss Lawson; Mr St Geo
Gray; Mrs Gray; Dr A Bullied; Miss Bullied; Mr Sturdy; Mr C E Clayton and
W J Wedlake.

Found to contain the bones of 17 persons, skulls, leg and arm bones complete
(Larger bones only).

Replaced same date with other bones found during the excavation of 1928 and
cover stones secured. (October 4th).

Re-examined by Prof Fawcett and Miss Lawson; Mrs Dobson.

Present:- Dom E Horne; C E Clayton; W J Wedlake.

All bones replaced and cover stones securely fastened down. (October 16th).

Copy of inscription on a lead plate placed in the stone coffin October 16th
1928 :-

" Opened by the Directors of the Glastonbury Excavations October 1928.

C R Poers; Director Society of Antiq

A W Clapham; F.S.A.

Dom E Horne; F.S.A.

C E Clayton : Sub Director. "

Notes and extracts from letters concerning the 1926 - 28 excavations.
in order of date.

From C E Clayton to Mr Garoe 4. 7. 27.

"I write to let you know how the excavation work is getting on. We have
been opening up across the end of the drive between the lines of the
sleeper walls and have found that there appears to be at least three levels
of old floor lines, the lowest at 7ft. below grass level made of plaster, on
which has been laid a thickness of 3 ins. of clay then a filling of stone
and mortar upon which was laid a floor of lias slabs; above this again it
seems as if another floor of lias slabs had been put down, very few pieces
of this level have yet appeared, but upon one of them we found lead between
the joints which appeared to have fallen upon them, various other portions
of walls have been uncovered, but I do not think that any certain conclusion
can be drawn from them yet.

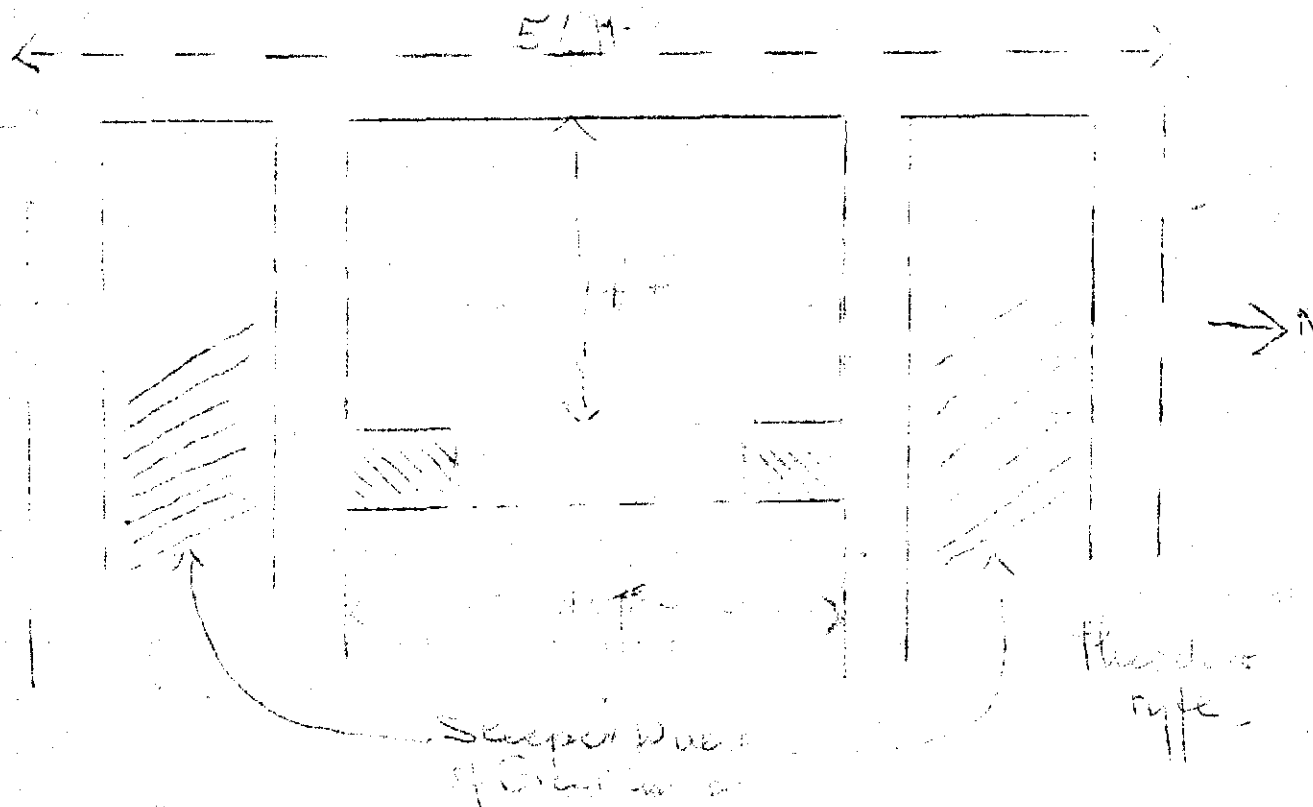
I have preserved many fragments of plaster which appear to have formed part

of a wall surface as they are decorated with patterns in red."

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From Theodore Tiffe to Dean Armitage Robinson 12.7.27.

"Perhaps you have not time to come over again before I leave on Friday at 1.38. but you will be really interested at last, I think. I am very pleased with seasons results. We have got down to a Saxon church, like this. -



From John Morland to Dean Armitage Robinson 23. 7. 27.

"I have been extremely interested in the results of the Abbey Excavations this year. To uncover the Saxon Church is a great event it links up the fabric at one with Ina and proves the truth of part of the early record, making it easier to take the further steps back into British times and earlier churches whether of wattle, wood or stones. I do hope it will be possible to keep this original floor and walls in evidence by carefully cementing down each stone, so that visitors may see the evidence.

I am not clear as to whether the church possessed a western tower or not. Next year should complete the plan.

I know you have studied St. Dunstan and I expect you are perfectly familiar with the Memorials. I see in Baldwin Brown's book on Saxon Art he notes that Dunstan wishing to make the width of a certain older church correspond to its length

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added 'Ala s vel porticus' William of Malmesbury, Memorials of St. Dunstan, Rolls Series No.63, p.272.

So the central cement floor of the excavations should be King Ina's and beyond the side walls Dunstan's. It is very fortunate that it is just at this point that the wide sleeper wall of 1196 ? just cuts off the evidence."

From Dean Arnytage Robinson to John Morland 26.7.27.

We returned yesterday from a three weeks absence and today I have been to Glastonbury to see the fresh excavations. Undoubtedly they are of great interest, but they are hard to interpret.

We have the pavement of the Church that was burnt - that is beyond doubt, then we have tiles in situ at a slightly lower level. Then again a sort of plaster floor at a lower level still.

But I take it that King Ina's church, which was described by William of Malmesbury as "conterminous with the wooden church". Rolls Series Memorials of Dunstan p.27 must have stood west of our present diggings, in the space of 80ft., which lies between them and the Lady Chapel where the 'Galilee' now stands. And this is the church that Dunstan was said to have enlarged.

How did W. of M. know the details of what Dunstan did ? The old life by the anonymous "B" only says that he did much building. Osbern (who had no further authority probably) says that he began at once to lay the foundations of a more dignified church. (Memorials pp. 25-92).

Edmer, writing to correct Osbern generally, says that the foundations were "for the enlargement of the great church (majoris ecclesiae)".

But no doubt all this was guessing. W. of M. can hardly have been merely improving on these vague statements. He says: "There is there conterminous with the wooden church, as I have said before, a stone one which trustworthy tradition assigns to King Ina. This Dunstan enlarged by the addition of a tower; and, to make its breadth equal to its length, he added aisles or porticus as they call them. (The word porticus is often used for a side chapel). The object of his labour was that in both directions an immense basilica should result, so far as the scheme of the original building allowed. If there be anything herein lacking in seemly beauty, at any rate there is no deficiency in necessary space." We get the impression that he is here describing a building that still existed. He was writing about 1125, when the Norman Church of Herlwin must have been nearly, if not quite finished. It is possible that Ina's church enlarged by Dunstan, still stood where the Galilee now is, and that the Norman church was built east of it, where we are now working. If so, we can account for two

so, we can account for two of the levels we have found.

- (1) Herlwins, where the traces of fire are clear.
 - (2) His predecessors church which he did not think good enough and pulled down.
- I question whether underneath this there would be a Saxon church. These are first thoughts; but they may be of interest to you."

From John Morland to Dean Armytage Robinson 29.7.27.

"Your letter is extraordinarily interesting but I cant get over the fact that there is a most definite lowest floor to the Abbey church. As you say the upper floor is certainly Herlwins. The floor under is conjecturally Turstins and the lowest floor and the cross-wall of the same age must be pre-Norman i.e. Saxon: and I think we have no suggestion of any Saxon builder at Glastonbury later than Dunstan; though there might have been. The extract you give from W. of M. certainly suggests that he did see the church assigned to King Ina and enlarged by Dunstan especially his comments that it was lacking in "seemly beauty".

It is quite possible that we may harmonise facts and record by suggesting that W. of M. used the word 'conterminous' loosely not meaning attached to it, but merely in the immediate neighbourhood of the vetus ecclesia. I should have thought "Majo Ecclesia" suggests something more extensive than a building on the site of the Galilee- and subject to correction I should have supposed that it would be extremely unusual for one church to be physically attached to another and the Vetus Ecclesia the Old Kirche seems always spoken of as a church not as a Lady Chapel. As to the date of W. of M. visit to Glastonbury might it not be some years before he wrote the Memorials, and even before Turstins building which I imagine to have been after his restoration by William Rufus.

Is it not possible further to argue, on this point of date of visit, that if the Norman church had been in existence W. of M. would naturally have made some reference to it, when speaking of the earlier building. I suppose we must wait for further evidence meanwhile with respect to this, as always, I hold that two truths cannot contradict one another and that if we know enough there must be a real truth which embraces both. John Morland."

From Dean Armytage Robinson to John Morland 1.8.27.

"I cannot convince you, because I am not convinced myself. But here are some further points.

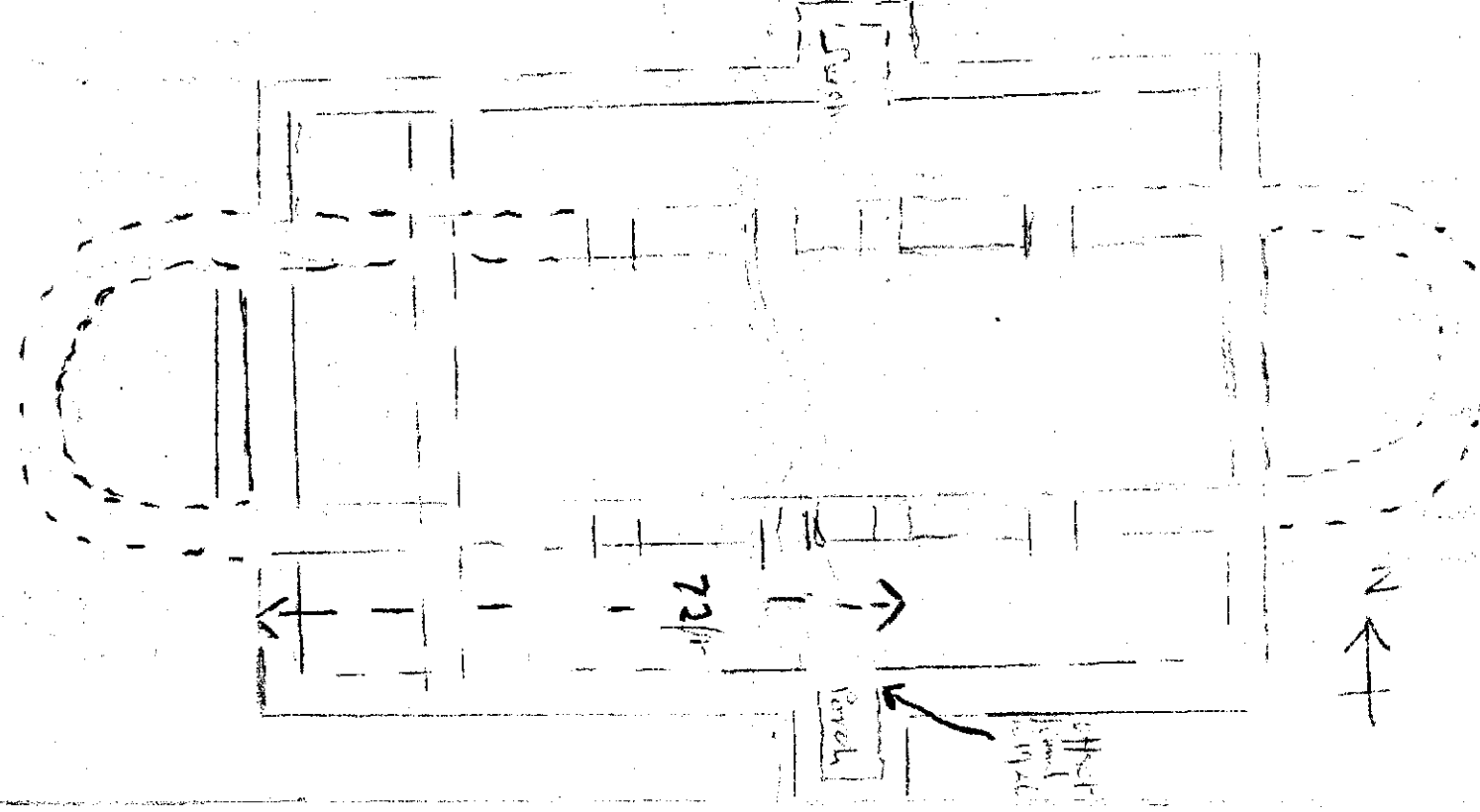
- (1) That the 'major ecclesia' was conterminous with the ('vestusta' is shown by De Antiq. 29 f., where it is said that Abbot Tica was buried 'in the right-hand corner of the greater church, near the entrance of the old-church'. We cannot be sure that this is W. of M.'s own statement; but it quite well may be.

(2) Herlwin was Abbot 1101 -1120. There is no doubt that W. of M's. visit was later than this. The church which was begun by his predecessor, not being on a scale answering to the wealth of the Abbey, he pulled to the ground; and he began a new one, on which he expended 430 pounds! (De Antiq. 117). He doubtless began at the far east, and may have died before he reached the old Saxon church (which was 'conterminous' with the wooden church). This may have remained for some time as the nave of the new church. I find that the space between the old wooden church and the present excavation is not much more than 50ft.: so it is just possible that Dunstons church at its east end may have extended to where we are now digging. We must wait for more light." J. Argytage Robinson.

From Theodore Fyfe to C.E. Clayton 27.7.27.

"I should be glad if you could observe two things for me: (1) The character of the dressing of any possible upper stones connected with the Saxon church: (2). The aggregate of the plaster floors of do. (I may have mentioned this before) Prof Prior has told me that most Saxon dressing is hammer only. The mason could tell you this. I think I asked you also if you could give the masons designation of the various kinds of stone.

After reading Baldwin Brown, to whom I am writing; it has struck me that the plan of the Saxon church may turn out something like this, as at King, and St. Martins Canterbury probably plain and that Boads "pyramid" may be a round tower at the west end of the Saxon church! Certainly great care will have to be taken in excavation next year, to be sure that nothing is missed. T. Fyfe."



From C.R. Peers to T. Fyfe. 1.8.27.

Red plaster floors of undoubtedly Saxon date exist at St. Augustin's Canterbury, St. Martins (less evident now) and Reculver. In the latter the aisles which seem 9th century additions, also have red plaster floors- they are about 3 inches thick and bedded on a layer of flints wherever examined. The colouring matter is all on the top, and not as in Roman opus signinum floors caused by pounded brick or earthenware mixed in with the plaster. Your Glastonbury floor seems a clear case, but the coloured wall plasters are new to me. It is a most interesting find and what I had hoped you would make." C.R. Peers.

From T. Fyfe to G.B. Clayton. 2.8.27.

"Thank you" for the long extracts from the Deans' letter..... His arguments are, of course, most impressive, but I still have very little doubt that we have got unto a pre-Norman church, though what church it is possibly open to question. I have a good letter from Baldwin Brown, who shows great interest and encourages me to believe that we may get a very good plan." T. Fyfe.

From T. Fyfe to Dean Armitage Robinson. 3.8.27.

Mr Clayton has sent me (with your permission) extracts from a letter you ...sent him.....about the excavation as they struck you at first sight. Your arguments based on your great knowledge of the documents, bearing on the churches, carry the greatest weight. I would only suggest that two matters, both of structural fact, also carry weight with me. One is that apart from a floor of plaster at the third or lowest level, there are very clear evidences of building which are associated with the floor, which shows the thinner walls generally found in Saxon work and which were covered over not only by Herlwin but also by his predecessor. The second is that the Saxon floor itself is really the soundest floor of the whole three, the two being raised on it; Herlwin's indeed being packed up on loose rubble. The fact that the plaster floor was able to stand the weight of the two later floors and still maintain its surface and its level intact, would prove its soundness, even though it could not be proved otherwise. Then as to surface, this floor had a skin of thin but very hard stucco coloured with red pigment and the fact that large areas of this have been preserved intact, after later builders had dumped material on the top of it, is again proof of soundness.

One more word, not about structural evidences: if two clear floor levels have been found the upper of which can be identified as that of Herlwin's church is it reasonable to suppose that a still lower floor, of a totally different character from either would be pre-Norman, considering the short time that elapsed between the

request and the building of Herlvins church? I do not insist that the floor would be Ina's necessarily, but I shall be surprised if the structural evidences further east do not prove more conclusively that we have struck the remains of some building of pre-Norman date.

Pardon my writing at all. My only reason for doing so is that the Somerset Society are asking for my report and I should value any further thoughts you could give me to the benefit of. In W. of M.'s description of Ina's church, quoted by you, the phrase "to make its breadth equal to its length" is of course significant and would point to a church nearly square like Silchester. This would fit in with my assumed width of 55 ft. for the building now found and it is of course possible that we may have struck the crossing of this building (or something comparable thereto, it was probably a basilica) and not the western end at all. At any rate, it seems most important to investigate the area immediately to the north of the eastern end of the Galilee, for the possible side walls of Dunstan's aisles. At present there is a tree which would prevent this being properly and one does not like to ask for trees to be removed.

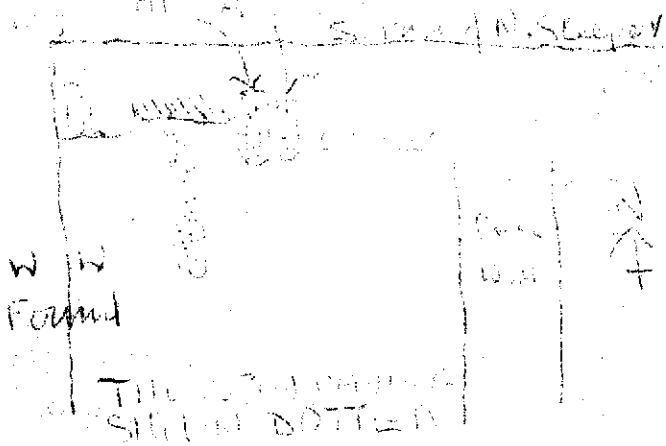
Since writing the above I have just heard from Mr Peers that my description of the plaster corresponds with those at Reculver and the two Canterbury churches, so that he thinks it is a clear case "of Saxon work." T. Fyfe.

From T. Fyfe to G. E. Clayton. 10.8.27.

I am sorry to bother you about a small point I want cleared up but it is an important one. In my journal of the excavations I mention quite clearly on 24th June, when the wall shown at X below was discovered that fragments of the lias paving, (i.e. Thurstins) ran right up to the sleeper wall: As I describe wall X as a separate wall from the sleeper wall, it does not appear likely that I would confuse the two. And yet my drawings do not make it clear that the Thurstan paving ran right up to the sleeper wall: in fact they rather show the contrary. I have a clear recollection of the Thurstan pavement at one or more places, a cut edge against wall X (the Saxon wall) and at another, overlying it of course. These are undoubted facts which I have recorded as shown. I really think I may have temporarily, confused the sleeper wall with the Saxon wall in my journal.

I shall be very glad indeed if you could, if possible, clear this matter up and let me know. It is important to the context of my journal, as I go to some pains to prove that the Thurstan paving must have been in direct association with the sleeper wall. Now my recollection is that this fact was not proved. Of course we may have removed some of the Thurstan paving to disclose the foundation burrs beneath, and so far as I am

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beneath, and so far as I am aware, the stones I have marked 'A' has been noted as 7 ft
below Thurstin", and it is also noted as lias." T. Fyfe.



From Margaret E. Comford to Dean Armitage Robinson, 13.8.27.

The Arts in Early England. 11, 129.

"St. Pancras has already introduced us to the western porch, and to lateral structures, which as they have no external opening are rather chapels than porches. Both of these would have been described in Medieval times by the word 'porticus' and on the uses of this term a sentence or two may usefully be said.

In classical latin porticus as connected with 'porta' meant a vestibule, but as one of the most familiar embellishments of a portal was a canopy supported on pillars, the word gradually acquired the sense of a colonade. Porticus may therefore have the legitimate meanings of any colonaded structure or anything in the shape of a vestibule and we find that in addition to these senses the word was used to denote any side space or adjunct opening into the main body of a building though not actually a vestibule. On Gange, sub voce, quotes a medieval writer who even uses porticus for the sanctuary or altar end of the church as a whole. The lateral chapels at St. Pancras would be called porticus, while the western vestibule should in strictness have a qualifying word and be termed 'porticus ingressus'.

When Dunstan at Glastonbury wished to make the width of a certain older church correspond to its length he is said by William of Malmesbury to have added 'alas vel porticus'. (Mem of St. Dunstan (R.S.) 63. p. 271.) and this obviously implies side aisles, which would come within the scope of the word owing to the use of a row of columns in the nave arcade. Effenan says that porticus is also used for the concentric aisle a central circle or octagon as at St. Vitale Ravenna; or Aachen. On the other hand when Bede tells us of the burial of King Ethelberht that he was laid 'in portica Sancti Martini'; (Hist. Eccl. . ii. 5.) in the church of S.S. Peter and Paul (St. Augustine) he cannot be speaking of an ordinary side aisle for this

could not be specially dedicated to a saint. He may be referring to a lateral chapel like those at St. Pancras, but there is the possibility that this porticus was one of the side arms of a Greek cross, a plan orthodox, as we have seen, for a sepulchral church. Such a use for porticus we find in Prior Richard of Hexham who tells us that Wilfrid's 'central church of St. Mary was "a quatuor partibus totidem porticus habens" (Twysden, Dec. Scrip. col. 290). The choir and transepts of a cruciform church on a latin plan are called porticus in a passage quoted postea p. 242.

"With this note on the very wide and varied use of the word porticus in medieval literature, we may go on to consider the porticus in the sense of porch or vestibule rather than in that of side chapel."

Thus far the worthy Baldwin Brown: the punctuation is his, not mine. This book is (now) in the library, and cannot be lent. The Close, Lichfield. Margaret E. Comford. Plaster Pavement, Baldwin Brown. Art in Early England. ii (1903) p. 7.

The use of plaster is of course abundant. A special kind is made with powdered tiles and is red throughout, not merely flecked with the red of testaceous fragments. It is very hard and impenetrable to water and is used for the lining of bath chambers and for floors as well as for the coating of walls generally. The term 'opus signinum' is commonly applied to it.

It is noteworthy that the original concrete pavement is said to remain below ground over almost the whole of the interior, and this is faced with fine plaster made with red pounded tile and brought up to a polished surface. The same sort of material, obviously a survival of Roman technique, covers it will be remembered part of the walls of the nave of St. Martins, Canterbury. Opus Signinum similar in appearance may be seen on the floors at Viriconium and other sites.

Note made by Dean Freystage Robinson.

"De Antiq. 29f. Abbot Tigo was buried in dextero angulo majoris ecclesiae, juxta infernam vestibulam. This is not in G. R. 13. W. of M. shared his mind as to the date of the building of the relics of the Northern Saints and he may have omitted this passage together with all mention of Tigo for this reason. We cannot be sure whether it is his writing; but it well may be. 16, 17." (Herlewinus) ecclesiam a praedecessore inconstat, quid magnificentiae possessionum quarum non respondabat, solo tenuis erant, et novam in cravit, in qua CCCCLXXX libras dispondit. He may not have lived to finish it. He doubtless began at the far east, and the old Saxon church may still have been in use, as its nave, when W. of M. was there. The eastern part of this old work extended to where our excavations are. He was Abbot from 1101 to 1120, and was succeeded by Sigfried; after whom came H. of Blois in 1126."

"I have just received your letter of the 13th July, forwarded on to a summer resort in the Catskills where I am staying with some of my New-York friends. I need not say how pleased I am to hear of the interesting and successful outcome of your 1927 excavation work and it is obvious from the data you give me that there is likely to be much historical value in the indications already apparent. I have read and reread your letter and will try to put down anything that may occur to me as likely to be of assistance to you in clearing the problems raised by what you tell us.

(1). I gather from your letter that you have found indications of at least three distinct floor-levels.

(a). The blue stone paving which I previously agree with you in considering to be that of Herlwin's church.

(b). A similar paving 12" below this, beside which (and I take it on the same level) some large red tiles with traces of pattern, which may be of Turstin's time and

(c). surface of a reddish plaster floor, 7" again below this level.

(2). You find that the paving (a) runs out north to the line of the foundation of the walling discovered in 1910, and at a level uniform with the central section found or thereabouts. Now since this wall clearly belongs to the later (XIII th century) church and is indeed later than its original foundation, as the character of the plinth shows, we have a problem here not easy to solve. This plinth wall I have always assumed to be co-eval with the west wall of the nave—that is to say a XIII th century westward extension of the nave of the great church. I found a complete change in the character of the masonry commencing just westward of the north porch, from which I inferred that all the work west of this was of the later date, perhaps as late as the abbacy of John of Taunton, though it might have been done under Jocelyn Tretman.

(3). I offer for your consideration the following reading of the indications. Before the building of the Galilee, and whilst the western end of the great nave was still unfinished any narthex or anti-church (such as would be usual at that time) would be found on this very site. It seems to me a reasonable hypothesis that a temporary 'Galilee' might have been constructed out of the shell of the burnt church at the west end, and kept going until such time as the new nave was erected to its full length and the new Galilee built further to the west. This temporary anti-church would retain its floor level, which would be of the time of Herlwin. A reconstruction of the wall on the north side would almost certainly involve a thickening but not necessarily a displacement of the paving. I would ask you to

Note in this connection the level of the weathered plinth on the north face of the wall. Being so much deeper down than the level of the nave floor, I should be inclined to read its history in connection with a former low level inside it. Can we, do you think, get from this wall itself any surviving evidence of two successive dates? I found this clearly enough in the footings of the north-porch, where one overlay the other.

(4). The piers A.A. shown on your plan, with the threshold between would seem consistent with the idea of a narthex of reasonable width at this point. Are the foundations of these of the same quality and integral with the old footings of Ten-Barre which flank them on north and south? If so, they must surely be of very ancient date, as this boulder stone does not appear to have been used after the Saxon period.

(5). On your plan, the footing of hurr protrudes on both sides of the sleeper wall to the north of the central space. I can but surmise that the total overall width would be so great as to suggest not a single width of foundation but the edges of two parallel walls—the sleeper wall lying over and covering the later space. The width of 20ft. indicated for the central space would give a width for the nave of a very early church (perhaps Inn's) that might seem reasonable to look for, and if I am not mistaken there would be room left for a narrow aisle within the line of the outer hurr foundation visible along the northern edge of the sleeper wall. Apropos of this there is a very curious Norman nave with exceedingly narrow aisles as I remember them, on the Portman estate, south of Glastonbury, which we visited before the war, and which you will find described in the S.A.S. Proceedings. I am sorry I cannot recall the name of the place, but it will be easy to turn up the reference. I think its proportions would be very like those suggested here.

(6) It is satisfactory to find that your investigation tends to confirm my remark on p. 14 of the Handbook in regard to the foundation of which I found traces running parallel to and close inside the west wall of the later church, 5ft. was the nearest I could get to the thickness which you have now established as 5ft. 7ins. I dare say you would agree with me in thinking that the builders of the new west-wall and Galilee avoided any interference with this foundation rather seems to favour the notion of the maintenance of some elder building during the process of reconstruction in the XIII th century.

(7). I note your comment on the thickness of my piece of plinth wall to the extreme north, in which you find no variation when compared with the standing masonry on the south side of the nave. When I get back to Boston I will look up my notes I have there. At the moment my recollection is that the overall width of this wall below, and inclusive of, the plinth, indicated an extra thickness of 2ft. over that of the

the north side wall, as inferred from the footing trenches of the latter in the neighbourhood of the north porch. The total width of these was, if I remember rightly, a little more than 10ft. But is not the bit of plinth wall more than that? The projection of the buttress would be in addition to this again. This buttress, this buttress, of which you can only see one corner, seems to be of great width. I believe it is 9ft. on face. I took it as one of the certain indications of a heavy tower at this point.

(8). As regards your case of the west wall, I am confident that the buried parts of the masonry are quite solid and that no harm could accrue from the exposing of a further portion of their concealed face. Especially on the side towards the Galilee you are likely to obtain data of great interest from a deep exploration of the soil in the vicinity of the Galilee adjoining. All the soil here is very soft and offers but little support to the wall in question. And I have been down far below the level you have reached on the west and east side and found it more and more of the consistency of mud. A clearance of this soft stuff would reveal the true nature of the relieving arch whose head can just be traced in the north wall of the Galilee where I strongly suspect an arched opening long hidden and perhaps connected with the old tradition of a subterranean passage here.

(9). I feel that the ground ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ outside the Galilee on the north at this point needs to be deeply explored, and I hope that the Trustees will permit you this year. I want also to see you sink a deep shaft in the central portion of the nave ground in the nave somewhere near the threshold you have sketched for me.

(10). I see you have a piece of 'skewed' wall. The Lady Chapel was skewed to make it conform with the oldest building tradition here, and I have often wondered why the orientation was different. There is no doubt that the very ancient foundations discovered in the neighbourhood of the east alley of the cloisters at Wells showed a marked deviation to N.E. and S.W. and I think you will find that the chapel of St. Michael on the Tor follows suit.

I will write again if I find anything useful to say or suggest after I have consulted all my notes which are now at Boston. I congratulate you on what has been done, but I hope you will go still lower as I don't think you have got to the bottom of the matter yet and I have a lively anticipation that the great fire may not have caused the destruction of any vault which might have existed under Herleins church. F. Bligh Bond.

From T. Frye to Dean Armitage Robinson. 17.9.27.

I enclose a copy of a letter from Mr Bligh Bond in answer to one I wrote to him

on the general results of this years excavations. I think it may interest you / and I am glad to see that his opinion about the importance of the area North of the Galilee coincides with yours" T.Fyfe.

From T.Fyfe to G.E.Clayton. 17.9.27. (extract)

"the enclosed letter from Elgin Mack will interest you.....You will see from N.B.'s letter that he touches on very little except the later works I have not yet replied to it except in a bare acknowledgement, but I think his theory about the narthex at lower level being used by the XIII th century builders is interesting though not quite convincing yet but time will show." T.Fyfe.

From G.E.Clayton to H.St. G.Gray. 26.9.28. (extract)

"Since we started we have cut N and S across the Nave into the lines of sleeper-walls for about 2ft. a width of 1ft. east of the line of last years excavation and to a depth of about 6ft. which leaves us about 8 ins. above the level of the lowest floor. I propose cutting down to that level to see if any of the plaster floor remains, our first cutting 3ft. wide was in the line of one of Bonds old trenches so we found nothing, but there is another small fragment of the upper level flooring with some melted lead in the joints, this I have left for the time being."

Excavation Committee 1928.

A. Clapham, Ralph Griffin, William Knowles, Charles R Peers, H.St. G. Gray, Don. E. Horne, Fred. Palmer, Col H St. Chz Pemberton, Sub Director G.E.Clayton.

From G.E.Clayton to H. St. G. Gray. 15.6.28. (extract)

"We now have a trench right through the west door, and a 6ft. square pit about 8ft. deep on the west side in the Galilee, nothing of interest has appeared there, but I think we have a piece of the Galilee roof graining that had been built into a rough wall across the doorway. At the east end of the excavation we have gone across some lias slabs with a definite outline."

"I have not yet completely uncovered the Saxon flooring, as I am waiting for a couple of trays in which to preserve two of the pieces of the top burned floor, which will have to go before we can uncover the old flooring."

From Don E Horne to G. E. Clayton. 6.7.28. (extract)

"The cross wall that has been uncovered at its N. end is broad and strong enough to be the E. wall of the Norman (last) church, but from what I could see, it did not look as if it was going to break out into an apse, as I supposed it should, if it were a Norman East end."

There appears to be a layer of ashes about 6 ins. above ground level. I do not

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think there is any need to keep this last 6 ins. in situ, although it is full of black, and fragments of lead. It seems to me merely rubbish from the burnt church, used to fill up with."

From C.E. Claxton to H. St. G. Gray, 30.7.28. (Extract).

"I enclose a rough sketch of the lined pit we have uncovered at 90ft. from the west end of the nave. We are now digging down on the east side of this pit. The work above the line A.B. is of a different class to the other and appears to be an addition. Only the top slab of the centre division has any joint with the E. and W. sides the lower slabs make no joint like the end slabs, which on the S. side and have been forced inwards.

The walls and floors are getting more confusing, were floors ever made with layers of stone and clay about 2 ins. deep?"

From C.E. Claxton to H. St. G. Gray, 14.8.28. (Extract).

"Nothing more of interest has appeared at the east end of the excavation, and we have nearly finished clearing up the S.E. corner, when this is done we transfer the men to the Galilee and start a trench across the south side, I fear a somewhat hopeless quest for flooring."

From C.E. Claxton to Dom E. Horne, 19.8.28. (Extract).

"Here is a theory to work on at any rate it may serve to suggest our further explorations"..... "that we should now examine in the north aisle of Ina's church (7) and the interior of Dunstan's tower and chancel - prospecting for a crypt in the latter. Of course Dunstan may have rebuilt Ina's porticus on E and S."

From Dom E. Horne to Dean Armitage Robinson, 20.8.28.

"When I met my two co-directors of the excavation on Saturday at Glastonbury, they were nearly certain that we had found St. Dunstan's Church. What appears to be the square tower beyond Ina's Church, now stands out fairly clearly. What is needed to complete the proof is the discovery of the aisles at the sides which Dunstan is known to have built. It is proposed just to establish the existence of these aisles, and then stop the work for this year." E. Horne.

From Dom E. Horne to C. E. Claxton, 21.8.28. (Extract).

"I want to take photos, and if the 'loculus' of bones is to be opened it should be photographed before anything is disturbed, as the order or arrangement of these bones may be of great importance. Also a description of the bones ought to be written, as a list showing exactly what is there may help to identification. It seems to me that if on further inspection these bones seem to be of real importance that an expert opinion on them ought to be obtained. I believe this is a matter for the Trustees. I am writing to the Dean on this matter."

From Don E Horne to G E Clayton, 13.11.28, (Extract).

Requesting Clayton to send "some of the best specimens of coloured plaster from the excavations" to G R Peers.

From G R Peers, 20.8.28.

Acknowledging arrival of three boxes of plaster at the Office of Works, Storey's Gate.

From Don E Horne to G E Clayton, 30.11.28, (Extract).

"Will you note any pieces of plaster that have been moulded. Peers seems to think this a most valuable discovery, as moulded plaster work was known in Saxon times but went out again until the revival of the Classical in the 16th and 17th centuries. One piece you sent is nicely moulded."

From Abbot Horne to Canon Alcock, 8.5.29.

"At a joint meeting of the Society of Antiquaries and the Somerset Archaeological Society to consider the scope of the excavations at Glastonbury Abbey during the coming season, I was asked to request you to kindly lay before the Trustees the arrangements arrived at, so that as far as necessary permission for them may be obtained.

(1). The Committee would like to continue the excavation in the Nave of the church so that they may complete, if possible, the important discoveries of last year. The Saxon church of King Ina, with additions by St. Dunstan, was uncovered for the greater part of its length, but its width, N. and S. has yet to be ascertained. This means digging on the N. and S. sides of the two great sleeper walls, as far as the east end of the building already exposed. When this is finished, it is proposed to endeavour to trace the continuation of Ina's church westwards, by excavating outside the walls of the Galilee.

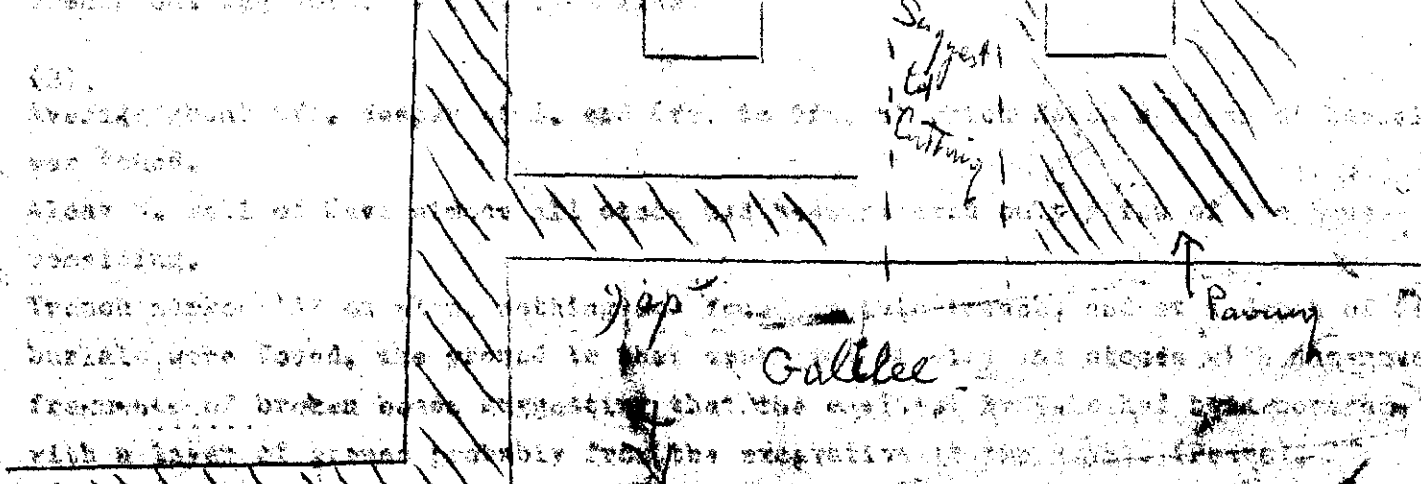
(2). The Committee considered at some length the possibility of keeping the excavation permanently open, as considerable interest has been shown by some of the public in the foundations of the ancient church, and a wish expressed that they should always be visible. The expert advice that Mr Peers was able to give, convinced the Committee that this was impossible, and that the whole of the excavation should be filled in, after complete plans, measurements and photographs, together with samples of the floors etc had been taken. E Horne.

From A W Clapham to ~~Mr~~ G E Clayton, 26.9.29, (Extract).

"It might be well to make a cutting against the patch of 'paving' on the north side of the Galilee to see if there is any difference between the foundation of the outer 3ft. where the walls should have stood and the part which presumably is pavement. This cut could be made where the pavement has been destroyed and taken up against the surviving part, as sketch.

T. H. A. C. M. J.

The excavation of the present church was commenced in 1841 and continued for some years. It was found that the foundations of the church were built on a level of 10 feet above the sea level. The foundations were found to be of a different material from the walls of the church. The foundations were found to be of a different material from the walls of the church.



At the base of the wall, a small stream of water runs through the wall and is led down the centre of the street in a stone channel. The wall is built of red stone and the centre of the street is a stone channel.

From A. V. Glanville to Abbot Horne, 2.12.29. (Extract).

"Next year I suppose we shall uncover the rest of the South aisle and try for something of the Saxon cloister, S. of the S. aisle. Before anything is filled in there should be a careful survey made of all the walls uncovered, including the sleeper walls across the N. aisle and the foundations at a very low level on the line of the S. arcade; all these should be put on a plan showing the surviving walls of the existing nave. Also all the walls N. of the Galilee and St. Mary's Chapel should be planned."

From A. V. Glanville to Abbot Horne, 28.4.30. (Extract).

"I see that you have marked the area 'A' as having been excavated. As however, this contains the walls which High Boss assigned to the chapel of the Holy Sepulchre and which now appear to belong to the Saxon Church, I think this part at any rate should be re-excavated. It seems not improbable that the west wall of the Saxon cloister may have aligned with this building, passing through the area marked 'C'. Apart from that, I suggest an attempt to locate exactly the position of the pyramids."

(A)

The excavation of the previous year was extended S. of the S. wall of the Nave to its S.E. corner, from that point a trench 6ft. wide was dug running west to a point opposite the south door of the Lady Chapel, at the end of which a cross trench was dug 10ft. N. to S. each side.

(B).

Average about 5ft. deeper at E. end 6ft. to 7ft. at which depth a layer of burial was found.

Along S. wall of Nave almost all stone had been removed only a few of the lowest remaining.

Trench marked 'A' on plan, nothing was found in this trench, and at a depth of 6ft burials were found, the ground at that depth was of clay and stones with numerous fragments of broken bones suggesting that the earliest burials had been covered with a layer of ground probably from the excavation of the crypt. (Pears).

(C).

At the S.E. corner of the crypt a small stream of water comes through the E. wall and is led down the centre of the crypt in a stone channel, opposite the well there is a side branch leading to it, this would appear to be the principle, if not, the only source of supply, the stone channel is at a level slightly below the coping stone of the well, it picks up another water channel, from the N. side inside the W. wall, passing through the foundation of the W. wall, it inclines S. just outside, then runs in a straight line to a point in the Abbots Kitchen field opposite the N. end of the railings, where it had been broken away probably when the great enclosure wall was removed.

(D).

Saxon pin found in foundation (S) of Inc's church.

(F).

Part of foundation of S.W. pier was uncovered and a few stones belonging to sleeper wall. Sleeper wall 6ft. deep at W. end of Nave and about 4ft. at 7th. bay Eastwards."

(A). A trench was cut outside (S) wall of the line of S. wall of the Nave from a point- 30ft. west of the door leading to the W. walk of Cloister, & of running E to a point opposite the S. door of Lady Chapel, & at a distance from it (L.C) of 33ft..

(A). The S.W. corner of the nave was exposed. side of excavation extended S. of th S. wall of the Nave, when no offset walls were found, & a trench was then cut 33ft from Lady Chapel and Galilee, extending E to a point- opposite the S. door of th Lady Chapel when a cross trench was dug some 10ft. N. & S. of the original tre

(B). & deeper at E. end about 6ft. 6ins. below which burials were observed.

(C). Well in the crypt on the S. side there is a small stone conduit, just below surface level starting from the S.E. corner and leading to the centre of the crypt passing through the W wall, where a branch joins it, turning S outside the west foundation, it then runs in an almost straight line; to the north end of the railings in the Abbots Kitchen field. The well is fed by a branch opposite the door leading to the well, its level depending upon that of the water in the central channel.

(D). Saxon pin was found in S. wall foundation of Ine's Church.

(E). Roman fibula at E. end of trench.

(F). Part of foundation of S.W. pier; and a few stones in line of sleeper wall. (depth of sleeper at W. end of Nave 7ft. ,at 7th bay only 4ft.).

1931
Trench length 160 ft. and 5ft. wide, greatest depth 15ft. (a few ft E. of N.E. pier) average depth 5ft. (Excavated to clay that appeared to be undisturbed.

Copied from C.E. Claytons notes regarding excavations .

- A. A trench was cut outside (S) of the line of S wall of the Nave from a point 30 W of the door leading to W walk of cloister and running E to a point opposite the south door of Lady Chapel, and at a distance from it (L.C.) of 33 Ft.
- A. The S.W. corner of the Nave was exposed side of excavation extended S of the S wall of the Nave, where no offset walls were found, and a trench was then cut 33 from Lady Chapel and Galilee; extending E to a point opposite the S door of the L.C. where a cross trench was dug some 10ft N & S of the original trench.
- B. and deeper at E end about 6.6 below which burials were observed.
- C. Well in the crypt on the S side there is a small stone conduit, just below surface level starting from the SE corner & leading to the centre of the crypt passing through the west wall, where a branch joins it, turning south outside the W foundation, it then runs in an almost straight line to the N end of the A K field. The well is fed by a branch opposite the door leading to the well its level depending upon that of the water in the central channel.
- D. Saxon pin was found in S wall foundation of Ines Church.
- E. Roman fibula at E end of trench.
- F. Part of foundation of S.W pier; and a few stones on line of sleeper wall, (depth of sleeper at W end of Nave 7' at 7 bay only 4'.) eastward.

Glastenbury Abbey Excavations 1930-1.

- A. The excavations of the previous year was extended S of the S wall of the nave to its S E corner, from that point a trench 6' wide was dug running to the west to a point opposite the south door of the Lady Chapel, at the end of which a cross trench was dug 10' N & S.
- B. Average about 5'; deeper at E end 6' to 7' at which depth a layer of burial was found.
- Along S wall of nave almost all the stone had been removed only a few of the lowest remaining.
- (Trench marked A on plan, nothing was found in this trench, and at a depth of 6' burials were found the ground at that depth was of clay & stones with numerous fragments of broken bones suggesting that the earliest burials had been covered with a layer of ground probably from the excavation of the crypt: (Peers).
- C. Well At the S E corner of the crypt a small stream of water comes through the E wall & is led down the centre of the crypt in a stone channel opposite

the well there is a side branch leading to it, this would appear to be the principle if not the only source of supply, the stone channel is at a level slightly below the coping stone of the well, it picks up another water channel from the N just inside the W wall, passing through the foundation of the W wall, it inclines S just outside and then runs in a straight line to a point, in the Abbots Kitcher field opposite the N end of the railings, where it had been broken away probably when the great enclosure wall was removed.

D. Saxon pin found in foundation (S) of Ine's church.

F. Part of foundation of S.W pier was uncovered and a few stones belonging to sleeper wall 6' deep at W end of Nave, and about 4' at 7th bay E wards."

