

now at Brougham Hall. Within the door of the court-house there is a genuine fragment of a Roman stone with part of an inscription, which cannot now be made out. The church has been restored, but I may mention that when it was repaired by the Countess of Pembroke, at the cost of 600*l.* or 700*l.*, a chantry, called Warcop's choir, which projected towards the town, immediately opposite where the pulpit used to stand, was pulled down, and several alabaster and plaster images, curiously gilded, were found concealed in the walls thereof. These were taken to Colby Hall, and were seen there by Mr. Machel when a boy, but I do not suppose any of them now exist. There are within the church some monuments and coats of arms worthy of examination.

ART. XXVIII.—*Kendal Church.* By J. Crowther, Esq., Manchester.

Read at Kendal, May 29th, 1872.

THE Parish Church of Kendal is of unusual size and arrangement, and presents the remarkable features of four aisles co-extensive with the nave and chancel, a western tower, and a porch situated at the west end of the outer south aisle.

The plan may be roughly described as a simple parallelogram, of which the total internal length from east to west is 140 feet, and the width 103 feet, dimensions which include an area exceeded by few parish churches in England.

The greater portion of the present fabric is a work of the fifteenth century, ranging from about the year 1440, to the close of the century. It is in part reared on the foundations of a much earlier structure, of which the nave arcades and other details still remain.

The original church appears to have been a structure of the early English period; and, judging from the details referred to, was erected early in the thirteenth century.

Of this early work, the bases to the nave columns—probably the columns and arcades above them—and portions of a string-course on the eastern stage of the tower are the only *certain* remains. The capitals, columns, and bases of the chancel arcades were also of this period; but they were unfortunately
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in so bad and mutilated a state, when the restoration of the church was commenced in 1850, as to compel their removal. The new columns were carefully copied from the old ones, so far as the mouldings could be made out, but in some cases the ancient details had suffered so much from wanton mutilation and from the effects of time as to be incapable of restoration.

Whilst the restorations were in progress in 1850, the foundations of the original early church were laid bare, from which it was evident that the plan was precisely that of the present church, omitting the Parr and Bellingham aisles. Traces were also found of a south porch in the usual place, viz., the second bay from the west on the south side, within, of course, the present south wall of the church.

The early English fragments built up in the belfry stage of the tower may be seen to the best advantage from the roof of the church.

Judging from its few remaining details, the ancient early English church must have been a structure of great dignity and beauty, far exceeding the present one in architectural merit, if not in grandeur; and so it continued for many years, until the rage for erecting chantry chapels, which reached the culminating point in the fifteenth century, together with the wonderful zeal for the glory of the sanctuary, so remarkable at that period—and which expended itself in remodelling the exquisite works of the early pointed architects, in the prevailing but immeasurably inferior style of the day—ultimately led to an extensive enlargement and reconstruction of portions of the fabric.

The outer walls of the church were first attacked; these were made to assume a perpendicular dress; a clerestory was next built on the nave arcades; and the fabric, at all events externally, was transformed into a perpendicular or third-pointed building.

A few years later on, the north and south walls were taken down, and the area of the church was nearly doubled by the erection of the Parr and Bellingham aisles.

I have little doubt that the windows and other details of the altered ancient walls were re-used in the new constructions; for these features are of much better character architecturally than the arcades, which were then built on the foundations of the original north and south walls, and which are of the debased architecture which characterised the close of the fifteenth century, when pointed art was rapidly dying out.

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At this time the belfry stage of the tower appears to have been rebuilt, in part with the materials of the earlier structure.

I have thus briefly sketched the architectural history of the church, and it now only remains for me to add a few remarks on one or two interesting features of it.

In the eastern column of the south arcade of the chancel is an arched recess, which previous to the restoration, was supposed to be a piscina. I had grave doubts about this, because the seat of the recess was not dished out; nor could I find any preparation in it for the escape of water.

When the column was taken down, each stone or course below the recess was carefully examined; all were found to be solid and unperforated, and no traces of a water-drain could be discovered under the floor level.

I have no doubt, therefore that this interesting detail was the ancient credence.

I need scarcely add that it was most carefully restored, line by line, in the new work.*

I should perhaps mention here, that the arches of the chancel arcades are of much later date than the early English columns, which formerly supported them.

It now only remains to notice a few specialities in the fabric of the Bellingham chapel. This chapel consists of the two most easterly bays of the Bellingham aisles, and is marked both externally and internally from the rest of the aisle by a clerestory, which raises it considerably above the general level of the church.

The positions of the clerestory windows bear no reference to that of the windows or bays below; nor does the curious wooden ceiling of the chapel appear to have been designed with reference to the positions of the clerestory windows themselves. It will be found, on examination, that the fan-pendants of the ceiling, encroach most awkwardly on the window openings; and yet it is evident that the dimensions of the ceiling correspond strictly with those of the chapel, and that it was intended either for its present level, or one still lower down.

But, if placed immediately above the lower range of windows, the pendants would interfere still more awkwardly with the window openings.

* It may be well to mention that no piscina or aumbrie was discovered in the east wall of the chancel, when taken down in 1850.

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I mention this, because it has been suggested that the chapel might possibly have been divided into two stories by a floor immediately above the lower range of windows; that the clerestory windows lighted the upper story; and that this upper story may have been a dwelling for the chantry priest.

The objections to this theory are,—

1st. That no traces of a floor, existing at this level, have been discovered.

2nd. There are no remains of a fire-place or chimney, nor is there any position in which such a feature could have existed, for the two blank spaces in the middle of the north and south clerestory walls—where only it could have been—contain windows corresponding with the others, but blocked up for some reason or other.

3rd. A dwelling room in such a position—over an altar—is most unusual; indeed I do not know a single example of such an arrangement.

4th. What could have been the access to it? It must have been approached, either directly from the interior of the church, by a wooden staircase, or, indirectly by the tower staircase, and across the leads of the roof.

The foregoing objections appear to me to be fatal to the theory of a priest's living room having ever existed in this situation, or to the chapel having ever been divided into two stories.

I venture to submit that the clerestory was simply added to mark off the chantry chapel proper from the rest of the aisle; and to render it constructionally distinct, in addition to the wooden screenwork, which usually defined such chantries.

The want of correspondence betwixt the divisions of the ceiling and those of the fabric below, may perhaps be set down to the rude and inaccurate way in which late-pointed work was set out and executed; for all archæologists familiar with the late third-pointed or perpendicular churches, must have noticed how commonly the bays of the roof differ from those of the fabric itself; the result being that the wall-posts of the principals frequently encroach on the pier and window arches in the most extraordinary manner.

I was very much struck with this kind of irregularity in the construction of the roof over the north aisle of the fine perpendicular church at Astbury, near Congleton, which I visited the other day. The roof, which is a very good example of the date, has evidently been constructed without the least

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reference to the bays of the fabric itself, and presents an extreme case of the sort of irregularity we find illustrated in the Bellingham chapel.

It is *just possible* that when the old south porch, which no doubt contained a parvise, was taken down, the loss of the parvise, especially if used as a muniment room or library, would be found to be so inconvenient as to compel the construction of a substitute in some other part of the church; but if so, why construct a room difficult of access, over the Bellingham chapel, rather than in the new west porch? We certainly know that the west porch was constructed without a parvise, and therefore the inference is that no such accommodation was needed.

I venture, with great diffidence, to submit these remarks to the notice of skilled Archæologists present at the meeting, and shall be much interested to learn the conclusion they may arrive at on this interesting subject.

ART. XXIX.—*Beetham Church.* By J. Bintley, Esq., Kendal.

Read at Beetham, May 29th, 1872.

BEFORE the present church was erected, there was an ancient chapel at Beetham, dedicated to St. John; this appears from the fact that there is still a place called Chapel Hill, on which I believe, a house built by Mr. Thexton now stands. During the excavations for the foundation of this building the foundations of the chapel were thoroughly exposed, and many human bones dug up; and three silver coins, together with an amber bead, were discovered. One of the coins was about the size of a shilling; on one side of this coin was impressed the Crucifixion, above the cross being the common motto, "I.N.R.I.," on the right of the cross a crescent, on the left a rising sun; at the bottom the Virgin Mary in a weeping attitude. On the reverse side there was a lamb with the standard and St. Andrew's cross. One of the other coins was of Edward the sixth's reign, and consequently of a comparatively late date, and therefore of no use in determining the date of the early structure, which must, I fancy, have been of
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