

DERBYSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

The Church and Village of Monyash.¹

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THE village and township of Monyash, which occupy a great part of that somewhat bleak and dreary tableland to the east of Bakewell, between the valley of the Wye and the upper stretch of Dove-dale, was a place of some little importance in mediæval days. It was the centre for holding the miners' courts for the High Peak Hundred in connection with the disputes and settlements relative to lead mining, which was a far more important industry in North Derbyshire in old days than it is at the present time. A barmote court is still held at Monyash every six months, as it is at Wirksworth for the Low Peak.

If the time ever came for writing a history of Monyash, a considerable number of incidents could be brought together relative to its annals, apart from matters ecclesiastical. Thus in 1275, the township of Monyash was fined 40s. by Thomas Foljambe for not arresting Ralph of Over-Haddon after he had wounded Robert Creswell, and objection was made to this fine as no hue and cry had been raised.²

In 1278 a commission was issued to inquire and determine, by jury of the Peak, touching Ralph le Wyne and the men of

¹ For the excellent illustrations accompanying this article we are indebted to Mr. R. J. Hunter, Station Approach, Buxton.

² *Rot. Hund.*, ii., 289.

Monyash, in appropriating to themselves what belonged to the king in his mine of Foweshide, and in impeding the king's men of Taddington and Priestcliff, and also the men of Eleanor, the king's consort, of Ashford and Sheldon, in digging turf and getting heath in the marsh of Monyash according to custom.¹ There was further litigation on this latter subject in 1290, when another commission was issued to deal with the complaint of the king's tenants, of ancient demesne, of Taddington, Priestcliff, and Ashford, as to their right, from time immemorial, to common pasture, turbary, and heath on the moors and wastes, *inter alia*, of Monyash. Certain persons had by night cut into small pieces their turf stacks, and carried off the heath they had cut.²

The disputes as to common of pasture and turbary over the Monyash common land continued down to a late date. It is easy to understand that the privileges enjoyed, according to old custom, by the men of the adjoining townships, over the Monyash moors must have been peculiarly galling to the actual tenants of Monyash, who appear to have had no compensating rights in other directions. In 1586, and again in 1590, disputes of this nature between the tenants of Over-Haddon and the men of Monyash reached the higher courts.³ It was not until 1771 that these almost continuous wrangles, leading from time to time to free fights, came to an end. Their cessation was then brought about by "An Act for dividing and enclosing the common and wastegrounds within the manor of Mony Ash, in the parish of Bakewell."⁴

In the earlier part of Edward III.'s reign the mineral rights of both Monyash and Chelmorton were held by William de Lynford; he was seized of them at the time of his death in the year 1338.⁵ His son, of the same name, who inherited these

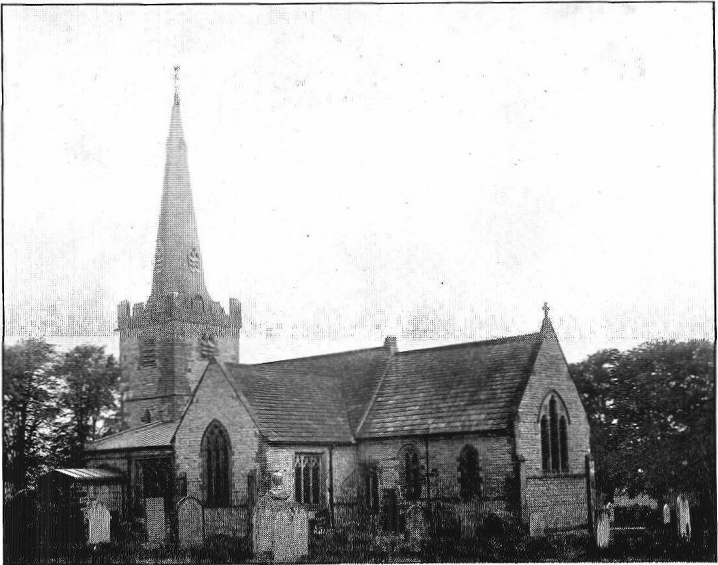
¹ Pat. Rot. 6 Edw. I., m. 4d.

² *Ibid.*, 18 Edw. I., m. 3d.

³ *Cal. to Pleadings, Duchy of Lanc.*, iii., 193, 263.

⁴ No. 26 of Derbyshire Enclosure Awards; see Dr. Cox's *Three Centuries of Derbyshire Annals*, ii., 308.

⁵ Inq. post mort. 11 Edw. III., pt. ii., No. 70.



MONYASH CHURCH, S.E.

rights, was attached to the king's court, it being his duty to serve as the king's valet when he proceeded to Scotland or crossed the seas to the continent. This William de Lynford, junior, obtained from the king two important privileges, which must have brought considerable prosperity to Monyash. Edward III., on 8th April, 1340, granted to William (styled *Dilectus vallettus noster*) to hold at Monyash a weekly market every Tuesday, and also a fair on the vigil, day, and morrow of the feast of the Holy Trinity. This charter was witnessed, among others, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of Durham and Lincoln, and the Earls of Surrey and Derby.¹

The original holder of the market and fair (the fees would bring in a not inconsiderable income) did not retain these privileges for long. Perhaps William de Lynford died in the terrible visitation of the Black Death; at all events, in 1349 the market and fair of Monyash, together with the manor, were all held by John de Wyne.²

In the next century, the manor, with market and fair, were in the hands of the Earls of Shrewsbury.³

Various fragments pertaining to social life in Monyash during Elizabethan and later times could be culled by those who know where to look for such records. One example must suffice. At a great court of frankpledge for the High Peak Hundred, held at Chapel-en-le-Frith on 7th October, 1589, George Goodwin, Hugh Ely, Thomas Ely, and Leonard Frost, of Monyash, presented Roger Redfern, Alice Needham, Hugh Rogers, Bryan Ireland, and Alice Swindell, for having broken the assize as common brewers; they were each fined twopence.⁴

At the wide end of the main street of the village (where there used to be a considerable open space, until a central portion was enclosed for the erection of a school) stands the village cross, which was doubtless placed here in the time of Edward III., when Monyash obtained its market rights. It

¹ Rot. Chart., 14 Edw. III., No. 41.

² Rot. Chart., 22 Edw. III., No. 27.

³ Inq. post mort., 39 Hen. VI., No. 58; 16 Edw. IV., No. 50, etc.

⁴ Court Rolls, Duchy of Lanc., xliii., 455.

rises from a large step, 8 ft. 2 in. square, on which rests a second shallow step 47 in. square. On this second step rests a base-stone, with chamfered corners, which is 27 in. square and 18 in. high; from this base springs a squared shaft, 10 in. by 11 in. at base, and 8 ft. high, with just the beginning of the mutilated crosshead.

Near to this cross stands the village hostelry, the Bull's Head. On the lintel of a doorway are the initials and date, H.G. 1619, E.G., which must stand for Humphrey and Elizabeth Goodwin. Humphrey Goodwin appears in a list of Monyash freeholders of the year 1633. Two of the smaller houses in the village have stone mullion windows and other characteristics which go back to at least Elizabethan days; but several substantial old houses of the Monyash freeholders, as well as smaller cottages, have disappeared within the last fifty or sixty years.

It may be well now to turn to matters ecclesiastical in connection with this village.¹ At the time of the taking of the Domesday Survey, in 1086, Monyash (*Maneis*) obtains this single word mention as one of the eight berewicks into which the widespread royal manor of Bakewell was then subdivided. It is astonishing to note how often rash and absolutely false assertions are made with regard to Domesday by ignorant writers. In the last edition of Kelly's *Postal Directory of Derbyshire*, the silly and baseless untruth is put on record that "it is recorded in *Domesday* that Monyash was a penal settlement for monks." At Oneash, in this township, the Cistercian monks of Roche Abbey had a grange; but that abbey was not founded until 1147, and this grange here was never used in the manner asserted. Two priests are mentioned in the *Survey* as being attached to the church of Bakewell. In the reign of Henry I., the church as well as the manor of Bakewell were

¹ This account of the church of Monyash is considerably expanded and corrected from that which I wrote thirty-five years ago, and which was published in 1876 (*Churches of Derbyshire*, ii., 105-111, 585-6; iv., 497). The original authorities have been re-consulted, and several documents cited for the first time.

given to William Peverel, and continued in that family until the time of Henry II., when they escheated to the Crown, and were afterwards granted to various persons. Henry II. conferred the church of Bakewell, with all its appurtenances, on his second son John, Earl of Morton, who afterwards became King John. Earl John, in 1192, granted this important rectory to Hugh de Novant, Bishop of Lichfield, and his canons. During the episcopacy of Geoffrey de Muschamp, John came to the throne, and confirmed, in 1199, Bakewell church to Lichfield, including the chapelry of Monyash, for there is little or no doubt that there had been a chapel there for some time.

Under these circumstances, with the greater part of the tithes diverted to the Lichfield Chapter, it became difficult to find support for the parochial chaplains of Bakewell. This was more particularly the case with regard to Monyash, and some other parts of the Peak, for William Peverel had given two-thirds of their tithes, in 1113, to the priory of Lenton, Notts., and the priory was for ever insisting that this gift set aside John's gift to Lichfield.¹

Soon after John's accession to the throne, at a date as we know from the witnesses between 1199 and 1200, important religious provision was made for Monyash by a charter from two benefactors, Robert de Salocia, and Matthew, son of Odo of Aston, who appear to have been joint lords of the manor of Monyash; they obtained leave from the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield to grant to the mother church of Bakewell an oxgang of land, together with a house in the town of Monyash, on condition of the said mother church providing a chaplain to serve in the chantry chapel of Monyash three days in the week, viz., on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. They also ordained, with the common consent of the inhabitants of Monyash, that

¹ A summary of this long continued *Lis Lentonensis*, which so sapped ecclesiastical revenues and disturbed the peace of the church throughout North Derbyshire for centuries, is given in *Lichfield Capitular Muniments*, 66-9. There, too, will be found references to the various charters respecting Bakewell and its chapelries in the *Magnum Registrum Album*. Most of them were also given in the thirteenth cent. B. Mus. chartulary, Harl. MS., 4799.

every message in that town should pay a farthing a year for finding lights for their chapel, in addition to the fee that they customarily paid to Bakewell for the same purpose. They further undertook, on behalf of themselves and the inhabitants, that this provision of a chaplain should not in any way prejudice the various rights of the mother church, and that they would attend service at Bakewell at Christmas and Easter, and on All Saints' Day.¹

Some fifty years after the bestowal of the oxgang of land and a house at Monyash on the Lichfield Chapter, to insure three celebrations a week in their chapel, the Dean and Chapter granted this property to William, son of Alan, and his heirs, at a yearly rental of 10s., but made stringent regulations against its sub-division or the sub-letting of it to Jews or monks or anyone else.²

Meanwhile a vicar of Bakewell was appointed with a stipend of twenty marks, out of which he had to pay various assistants, and certain small provision was made for the different chapelries. But these regulations were so ill-observed, that when the energetic Archbishop Peckham made his visitation of the diocese of Lichfield in 1280, he sternly rebuked the dean and canons for their gross neglect of the spiritual necessities of Bakewell and its several dependent chapelries. In defence, it was urged that it was only by the great favour of the chapter that the inhabitants had been allowed to build these chapels, to save them the trouble and danger in bad seasons of coming to the mother church. The archbishop, by his decision, made a compromise, and, so far as respected Monyash, ordained that the chancel should be kept in repair by the inhabitants, who were also to find a chalice and a missal, but that the rest of the fabric, and books, and ornaments, were to be supplied by the Dean and Chapter. The inhabitants of Monyash were also to add one mark, in addition to the glebe of twelve acres which

¹ This charter is given in full in *Churches of Derbyshire*, ii., 585-6.

² This charter is given in full in *Churches of Derbyshire*, ii., 586, from Harl. MS. 4799, f. 27; it is entitled *Alienatio terre de Moniasche interdicta*.

they had originally attached to the chapelry to the stipend of their priest, and the remainder was to be made up by the Dean and Canons.¹

Difficulties, however, again broke out after a short interval, and a further and somewhat different agreement was arranged, which was substituted for that of 1280. In the year 1315 a composition was entered into between the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield and the parishioners of the chapels of Baslow, Longstone, Taddington, Monyash, and Beeley, by which the Chapter, desiring to be in amity with all and avoid contention, granted fifteen shillings to the chapelry of Monyash to be paid yearly for the honour of God and augmentation of His divine worship, and a remission of all charges for proving and administering wills. They further permitted that certain honest and chiefmen of Monyash and of the other chapelries, which should be meet for the bringing of holy water, may be named by the parishioners, and may be presented to the vicars or ministers of the places, and of them in the name of the Dean and Chapter, if they be found sufficient, may be thereto admitted. In consideration of all this, and certain other privileges, the parishioners were not to require anything for the repair or defence of their chapels. The parishioners also covenanted to pay to the Dean and Chapter (not to Lenton Priory) all customary tithes, beginning with those of wool and lambs, which were due on St. Barnabas Day.² The holy water carrier also fulfilled the general offices of a parish clerk; his usual mediæval name was *aqua-bajulus*, as that was one of the most important of his duties. He was paid by fees and certain customary offerings.

On 3rd July, 1348, a fine of 100s. was paid to the clerk of the hanaper for the alienation in mortmain by Nicholas de Congesdon and John, his brother, of five marks of rent out of lands in Sternedale, Monyash, and Chelmorton, to a chaplain to celebrate daily divine service in the chantry of our Lady, within the chapel

¹ Dugdale's *Monasticon* (Lat. ed.), iii., 227.

² Two English versions of this agreement will be found in the B. Mus., Add. MSS. 6696, f. 134; 6698, ff. 211-216.

of St. Leonard, Monyash, for their good estate, for their souls when dead, and for the souls of their ancestors.¹ An inquisition of the same date showed that, after alienating this property, Nicholas still possessed considerable lands both at Eyam and Litton.²

Monyash would henceforth, up to the Reformation, possess two chaplains, the chantry chaplain giving a daily mass, and this in addition to the services of the parochial chaplain, who was bound to celebrate thrice a week. At this time, and for long subsequently, the populous hamlet of Flagg was reckoned to be in Monyash and not in Chelmorton parish.

We learn something more of Nicholas de Congesdon from a receipt roll of the Peak jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield for the year 1339. Nicholas and his brother John, with another, were the collectors of the tithes of minerals, that is, of lead; the amount handed over by them under that head was £18 10s. Nicholas was also one of the two collectors of the general tithes of Calver. The same return shows that the whole tithes of hay in Monyash, together with a third of the tithes of corn, brought in 22s. 4d. A long list of *mortuaries* is given in the same roll, that is the best beast, or in default of a beast the best garment, handed over to the Chapter collector on the death of a parishioner. In that year in Monyash a cow was sold for 7s. on the death of William Ely; an ox for 15s. on the death of William Cloken; and a cow for 11s. on the death of Genā Choker.³

The 1545 report on the Derbyshire chantries, preparatory to their revision, says:—"The Chauntrye of Moniasshe founded by Nich. Congson & John his brother & nowe patron of the ryght Hon. Erle of Shrewesburye & Humph Stafford esq.,⁴

¹ Pat. Rot., 22 Edw. III., pt. ii., m. 26; Rot. Orig., 22 Edw. III., No. 47.

² *Inq. ad quod damnum*, 22 Edw. III., pt. ii., No. 14.

³ This roll is transcribed at length in *Derb. Arch. Journ.* (1889), xi., 142-156.

⁴ Humphrey Stafford, of Eyam, had inherited lands in Monyash through the marriage of his ancestor, John de Stafford, of Eyam, with Dionysia, sister and eventual heir of Sir Lawrence de Lynford, *circa* 1364, when a grant of lands in Monyash, Chelmorton, and Calver, with

that a preste shulde daylye celebrate masse & other dyvnye service in the Chappell of Moniasshe in the Hygh Peke, for their souls etc, & to ministre all sacraments & sacramentalls to the townes & hamletts of Monyashe, Flagge, Hordlowe & Onasshe, which be distaunte from the parisshe church iiiij or v myles, lxvi^s. vij^d. clere cviji besydes ij^s. vj in rente resolute, & for a yerely obite. Mych. Bredwell Chauntrye priste. It is distaunt from the parisshe church iiiij. myles so that in winter season & other tempestuous wethers the said hamletts cannot be served withowte the sayd Chappell. It hath a mancyon howse or cotage prised at iiij^s. iiiij^d, by yere. Stock xxxix^s. vij^d.”

To the eternal disgrace of Henry VIII. and of the council of his boy successor Edward VI., the property of this chantry, like hundreds of others throughout England, was confiscated in the first year of the latter reign, without applying the plunder to any decent purpose. It is quite idle to urge that any pious motive of trying to suppress an alleged superstition in prayers for the dead was the motive cause. The very Crown Commissioners pointed out that the chantry priest was essential to the due administration of religion in this extensive wild district. It would have been quite simple to forbid masses for the departed and yet retain a small income to support a resident minister, but the court and courtiers had set their mind on plunder and would not be gainsaid. So the property, given to the church just two centuries before, was seized by the Crown. Michael Bredwell, the dismissed chantry priest, was granted, as was shown in last year's *Journal*, a pension of £4 13s. 4d.

The position of parochial chaplain at Monyash was in no

(Note continued from p. 8):—

lands in Magna Lynford and Thornburgh, co. Bucks., was made by Sir Lawrence de Lynford to William de Lynford and John de Stafford, his kinsman. This is dated 38 Edward III. All these lands devolved on John Stafford, of Eyam, armiger, the son of Dionysia, on the death of her nephew, Thomas Lynford, 28 Oct., 1423. The original of the above deed and of other Lynford and Stafford charters have descended through the Staffords and Bradshaws to me, and are still in my possession.—
EDITOR.

sense a benefice ; the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, as rectors of the whole of Bakewell parish, were bound to assist in some way in the case of the parochial chapels, and in the instance of Monyash to find a priest to celebrate three times a week. But such a chaplain might even reside at Bakewell, and, at any rate, was removable at will. In the case of the chantry chaplain of the Blessed Virgin at Monyash, it was quite a different matter, for the incumbent of that chantry, after he had been duly presented and inducted by the Lichfield chapter, held his preferment as a benefice for life or at his own pleasure.

The following list of incumbents of this chantry, with a few particulars, is taken from the Chapter Act Books at Lichfield. There is no reference to this chantry in the episcopal registers, as it formed part of the chapter's peculiar. The first of these chantry priests occurring in the Lichfield books also appears on the Patent Rolls, as the patron at that time was a minor.

William de Thornhill, chaplain of the chantry of Our Lady in the chapel of St. Leonard at Monyash, was presented in July, 1393, to the church of St. Peter, Rhosfair, in Anglesey, on exchange with Henry Alexander.¹

1396. John Alot, on the resignation of Henry Alexander ; patron, William Meynell.

1397. William More, on the resignation of John Alot ; patron, William Meynell. In 1415, William More granted to the Dean and Chapter an acre of land, with the buildings standing on it, in the town of Monyash. The Chapter appointed John Dean, vicar of Hope, to take possession of it in their name.

. . . William Sheladon.

1503. Thomas Smyth. Mandate was issued to the parochial chaplain to induct Smyth into possession of the chantry.

1509. William Gudwyn, on the dismissal of Thomas Smyth. Mandate to William Massy, vicar of Bakewell, to induct him.

1544. Michael Bredwell, on the death of William Gudwyn. At the time of his induction, Michael and Thomas Sheldon, of Oneash, were bound over, in a sum of £15, for Michael's due obedience to the Chapter.²

¹ Pat. Rot., 17 Ric. II., pt. i., m. 25.

² *Churches of Derbyshire*, iv., 497.

Neither Monyash nor Taddington obtained burial rights until the year 1345. There is preserved among the capitular muniments at Lichfield an indenture from twenty-four residents of Monyash; whereby, in recognition of the grant of burial rights to their chapel, they covenant to pay a farthing to the vicar of Bakewell for each corpse on the day of burial, and to offer at the high altar in Bakewell church, every All Saints' Day, twelpence for the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield. About half of the twenty-four wax seals appended to this indenture still remain.¹

The *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of Henry VIII. notes that the chapelry of Monyash was still paying this yearly pension of 12d. to the Lichfield Chapter.

The services at Monyash must have been very fitful for the century after the suppression of the chantry.

At the time of the Parliamentary Survey of Livings, carried out in 1650, it was reported of Monyash that it was fit to be made an independent parish. Ralph Roades was then the minister. The Survey of the Lichfield Chapter possessions, undertaken at the same time, said:—"To the Chapell of Monyash there is noe certaine meanes but of late an Augmentacon of Thirty pounds out of the late Deane & Chapter's rent due from Sr Edward Leech."

During the reign of Charles II., Monyash became one of the headquarters of the Derbyshire Quakers. John Gratton, the most famous of the Midland Quakers, went to live at Monyash in 1668, where he resided forty years, and was active in disturbing congregations both Episcopal and Presbyterian. The return of recusants made by the Derbyshire constables in 1689 show that there were then twelve Quakers at Monyash, including John Gretton and his wife.²

The church, which is dedicated to St. Leonard, consists of chancel, north and south transepts, nave with clerestoried north and south aisles, south porch, and western tower and spire.

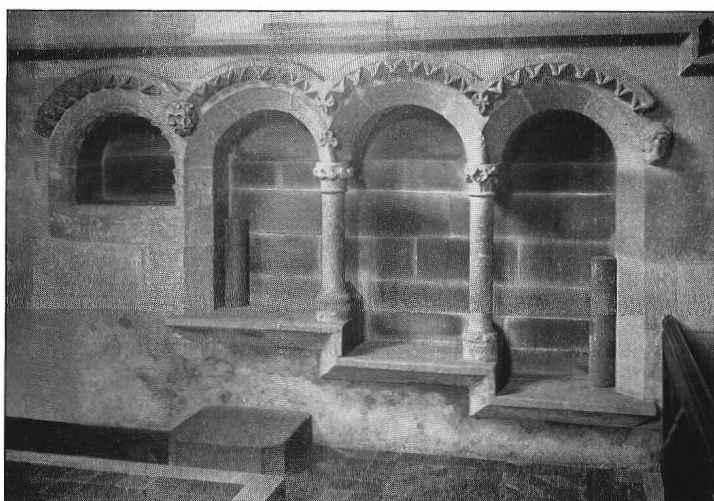
¹ Dr. Cox's *Catalogue of the Muniments of Lichfield*, p. 64.

² Dr. Cox's *Three Centuries of Derbyshire Annals*, i., 342-347.

The story of the fabric, very briefly epitomised, seems to be this. There was a small chapel or oratory here in early Norman days, with nave and chancel, under a single roof. This building was extended eastward to form a fair-sized chancel about the year 1200. A western tower was added between 1225 and 1250. The nave was rebuilt and arcades opening into north and south aisles were added in the second quarter of the fourteenth century. In 1348 a south transept was built. Towards the close of the same century a north transept was added; the aisle walls refitted with square-headed windows and given gabled roofs; a north porch built; and a third stage and spire added to the tower. About a hundred years later, in the reign of Henry VII., the walls over the aisle arcades were raised and clerestory windows inserted. During the "churchwarden era" various debasements were effected, the fittings changed from time to time, and flat plaster ceilings introduced. In 1887 a wholesome and much needed restoration was brought about, chiefly at the expense of the late Archdeacon Balston, who was vicar of Bakewell.

As to the dimensions of the present church, the total interior length, from the west wall of the tower to the east wall of the chancel, is 89 ft. 6 in., whilst the width of the nave and aisles is 47 ft. 9 in. The interior of the tower is 10 ft. 6 in. square. The length of the south and north aisles up to the transepts is 29 ft. 7 in.; the south aisle is 15 ft. 6 in. wide, and the north 12 ft. 2 in. The south transept measures 15 ft. 7 in. west and east, and 18 ft. 9 in. north and south; the north transept is 16 ft. 2 in. west and east, and 18 ft. 11 in. north and south. The chancel is 28 ft. 5 in. west and east, and 15 ft. 5 in. north and south.

Whatever there may have been of the nature of a simple chapel before the days of Robert de Salocia and Matthew de Eston cannot now be traced, but there is palpable evidence of work of the period of these two benefactors about the year 1200. The most striking feature of that date is the enriched sedilia and piscina niche in the south wall of the chancel, which



SEDILIA AND PISCINA, MONYASH.

are fine and exceptional examples, for so secluded and rural a district, of Transition from Norman to Early English. The three sedilia rise in graded levels towards the east; beyond them is a fourth continuous hood-mould over the piscina niche. The four arches over the sedilia and piscina are semi-circular, and so, too, are the effective hood-mouldings, which are ornamented with early examples of the tooth ornament. The sedilia are separated by detached shafts with good capitals and bases. By an unfortunate error of judgment the old and immediately local stones of these shafts were removed at the time of the restoration of 1887, and shafts of polished fossil marble were put in their place. This change is both inharmonious and incorrect. Fortunately the old removed shafts, which are undoubtedly the original work, were not broken up but carefully kept by a local builder. The present vicar has wisely recovered them and placed them again in the church, where they may be seen resting in the sedilia niches. It is to be hoped that his intention of taking out the modern glossy work and replacing the old shafts will be speedily carried out.

In the north wall of the chancel, near the altar, is a large squared aumbry recess, which has been fitted with a door; it is probably of like date with the sedilia. Within it rest two pewter plates, bearing the name S. Goodwin, London, and the X surmounted by a crown denoting superior quality.

The chancel itself is of *circa* 1200 date. Previous to the restoration a single-light blocked-up window of the large lancet type, but having a rounded head, could be noticed in the north wall. This was opened out in 1887, together with another of like style in the same wall. A like window, of which some traces were found, has been placed in the south wall of the chancel near the east end. The chancel was to a great extent rebuilt in 1887, but the old material was for the most part re-used and re-placed. The two buttresses on the north side are plain examples of the beginning of the thirteenth century. On the south side there is an old priest's doorway with a shouldered arch, and a two-light window of the last quarter of the thirteenth century. Adjoining

the nave in this same wall is a two-light square-headed window of late fourteenth century date, like most of the nave windows. This window was filled, in 1904, with good glass to the memory of Rev. A. G. Berry (a late vicar of Monyash) and Mary his wife. Below this window are traces of an earlier lowside window. The four-light east window of the chancel was square-headed and debased previous to the restoration. The three-light imitative thirteenth century window, which has taken its place, is not a successful effort, and the east wall of the chancel and the floor have been treated with glossy encaustic tiles of unhappy arrangement. The archway into the chancel is supported on good corbels of early natural foliage, with heads below.

There is nothing characteristic of the thirteenth century left in the body of the church; but it is clear that the building of a western tower followed soon after the erection of the Transitional chancel. The style of the two lower stages of the tower denotes a date about 1225. On the south side of the tower is a low central buttress. This buttress is pierced by a small lancet window measuring 4 ft. 6 in. by 10 in. wide. To find a buttress thus pierced is highly exceptional; there is a lancet in a like position on the west side of the fine tower of the church of Bingham, Notts. Above this buttress is another lancet light. There are also low central buttresses in the west and north walls. This tower was probably originally crowned by a low broached spire. The body of the church, which at this time connected the Early English tower with the Transition chancel, was most likely of the former style.

From this date it would seem that the fabric of the church had rest for about a century. But in the early part of the reign of Edward III., Monyash grew in importance and doubtless in population. The minerals increased in value, and, as we have seen, the town obtained a weekly market and an annual fair, and the church obtained burial rights. This, then, was the natural time for enlarging the church. An aisle was added to each side of the nave. There were quite sufficient indications

before the church was restored to enable us to say with certainty that these aisles had originally lean-to roofs. The arcades that divide them from the nave are similar; each consists of three arches supported by octagonal piers and corresponding responds, plainly moulded after the fashion that was common in the earlier time of Edward III.

But the aisle on the south side did not remain long undisturbed. In 1348 came the founding of the chantry of Our Lady by Nicholas de Congesdon and his brother John. This chantry was placed at the east end of the south aisle, which was considerably extended so as to form a transept of fair dimensions. The throwing out of an archway on the south side of the pier of the arcade nearest to the east, to give admission to the transept from the east end of the south aisle can now be readily traced, and was obviously done soon after the arcade was erected, but formed no part of the original plan. This Congesdon chantry chapel, extensively repaired during the last restoration, has a new three-light window of the style prevailing at the time of its foundation. The three-light square-headed recessed window belongs to the time towards the end of the same century, when the church was largely remodelled; it has small shafts in the jambs. In this chapel is a piscina niche with rounded head; a large stone bracket 26 in. wide, on which there doubtless stood the image of Our Lady; and a smaller bracket carved into two faces.

Here may be noted a feature of the exterior east wall of this Lady chapel which is rather difficult to explain. There is an exterior line of moulded stones, flush with the walling, above the square-headed window; it is not easy to understand for what purpose it served prior to the insertion of this window. In fact, this corner or angle of the church, both of chancel and transept, is the one point in the fabric that cannot easily be elucidated. It is more puzzling since the restoration than it was before.

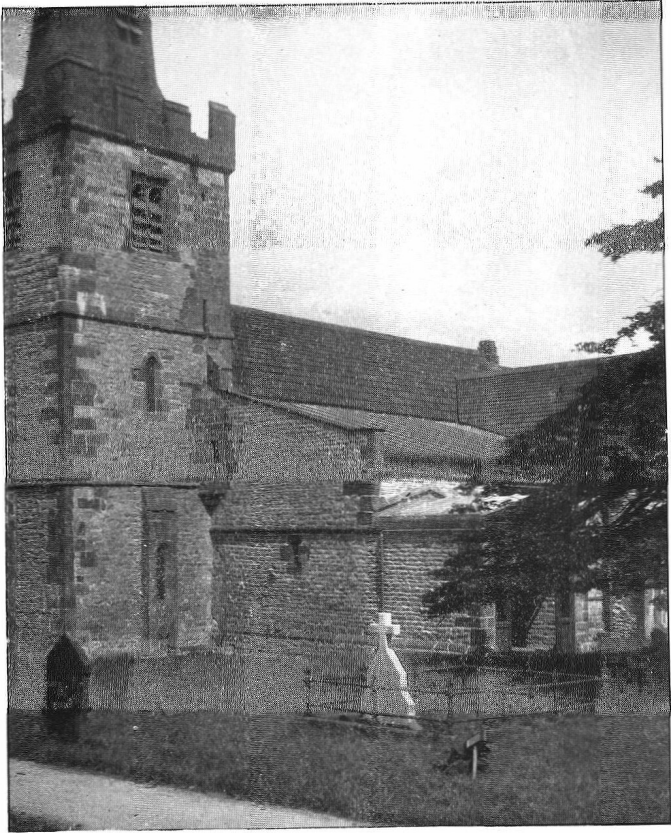
After this part of Derbyshire had to some extent recovered from the devastating horrors of the Black Death of 1348-9, a wave of church restoration and rebuilding passed over the

district, about the close of the reign of Edward III. and running into that of Richard II. The work of this period may be roughly assigned to *circa* 1370-80; a date when the curvilinear or Decorated style was yielding place in most parts of England to the dawn of the rectilinear or Perpendicular style. In this part of Derbyshire (and elsewhere in the county, as in the chancel of Breadsall) there came about a somewhat exceptional development in the shape of square-headed windows whose tracery had no touch of rectilineal work about them—such were the continuation of Tideswell chancel, the almost entire rebuilding of Taddington church, and the remodelling of much of the church of Monyash. At that date a southern chancel window (and probably also an east window) was given to Monyash, and also new windows to the north and south aisles, all of square-headed shape. The four-light window in the south wall of the latter aisle, with flamboyant tracery, is a highly unusual example. The south porch was probably then built or rebuilt over a beautifully moulded doorway of the first half of that century. From rather full notes taken in 1872, when the porch was in ruins, it may be confidently asserted that this was not originally what is termed an "open porch," but had a doorway in its south wall. It has recently been restored with an oak screen at the entrance.

Among the little known uses to which church porches were not infrequently put was the holding inquests therein by the coroner over the corpses of those accidentally or wilfully killed. There are the records of more than one Monyash inquest still extant, wherein John Adderley, who was coroner for this part of Derbyshire from 1677 to 1699, summoned the Jury to meet in the church porch.¹

To this late period of the fourteenth century may also be assigned the raising of the tower or the removal of its uppermost stage, and the crowning of it, within the battlements, with an octagon spire, with two tiers of projecting windows at the cardinal points. This spire was taken down and rebuilt (on

¹ Cox's *Three Centuries of Derbyshire Annals*, i., 79.



MONYASH CHURCH, S.W.

the old lines and with most of the old materials) at the beginning of the restoration of 1886-8. A remarkable plan was adopted for giving access to the ringing chamber and the bells, which is probably unique among English parish churches or parochial chapels. There was no newel stairway in any angle of the old thirteenth century tower, and its proportions scarcely admitted of one being inserted. It was therefore decided to give a new west front to the south aisle, and to construct a stairway between the new and the old walls. There is a small doorway within the aisle in the west wall but close to the south angle. Entering this, and turning immediately to the right, a series of twenty-two steps lead through a narrow passage, $26\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide, up to the first floor of the tower. From thence, in the later work, newel steps lead on to the opening of the spire. This ingenious late fourteenth century arrangement adds interest to the outer angle of the tower and aisle, as shown on the plate.

This church had also a north transept. It is difficult to say with certainty when it was first erected; but it was possibly designed and begun about 1348 to balance the Congesdon Lady chapel, and not finished till the period at the end of that century now under discussion. This transept getting out of repair, probably between 1550 and 1650, when the Bakewell chapelries were so much neglected, the mean expedient was resorted to of sweeping away, and building up the north and east walls on the lines of the old aisle. It may be noted that in the account of this church printed in 1876, it is said:—"When the time for the restoration of this interesting church happily arrives, it will probably be found that there have been both north and south transepts; careful search should then be made for their foundations."¹

Such search was made during 1886-8, with the result that the foundations of the north transept were disclosed, and the transept was creditably rebuilt on the old lines. The north aisle and transept continuation used to be known as the Flagg aisle, clearly indicating that it was occupied by worshippers from that hamlet.

¹ *Churches of Derbyshire*, ii., 108.

Against the eastern pier on the north side of the nave, at the entrance to the north transept, is a small image bracket. There are remains of early painting on the stones of this archway. The north transept is lighted by a new two-light pointed north window, and by a square-headed recessed east window of three lights, the third light of which, on the north side, has been renewed, as it had been cut off when the transept was destroyed. To the right hand of this window is a plain pointed piscina niche, denoting that the church had a third altar. High up in this wall, about twelve feet from the floor, a wide stone used to project from the wall, which had served as a step into the doorway leading to the top of the rood-loft. The outline of this doorway could be traced up to the restoration.

At a period well advanced in the fifteenth century, the high-pitched roof of the nave was taken down and a flat one substituted. The walls over the arcades were raised, and three two-light clerestory windows inserted. It would be at this time that the rood-loft would be constructed.

The interesting font is also of fifteenth century date, and has several characteristics in common with those of Taddington and other neighbouring churches which were renewed about this period. This octagonal font stands 36 in. high, and has a diameter across the bowl of 28 in. It has plain square panels save on the north side, which is carved with the arms of Bovil or Bovill, *a fesse between three saltires engrailed*. The bowl is supported on a cluster of four columns, the capitals of which are sculptured with the heads and hindquarters of a lion, and of some smaller beast. Richard Blackwell, of the adjacent chapelry of Taddington, married Griselda, daughter and heiress of Bovill, of Northampton, in the reign of Henry VII. It should also be noted that a Bovil was joint founder of Roche Abbey, Yorks., in the twelfth century, and this abbey had a grange in this chapelry at Oneash. The font is covered with a flat lid, on which is inscribed, "W. B., R. N., 1733."

In Wyrley's copy of the herald's visitation of 1569 mention is made of three escutcheons as being then in the church at

Monyash. One was the coat just mentioned on the font, and the other seems to have been in the windows. These two were—*arg., on a saltire engrailed, sab., nine amulets, or*; and *arg., on a bend, gu., three escallops, or*. The first of these coats is Leake, and the other was borne by several families, but its connection with Monyash has not yet been solved.¹

When Bassano visited the church, in 1710, he only noted the arms on the font, and the last of the two mentioned by Wyrley in the windows.

Mr. Rawlins, who was here in 1827, says that "there are a few pews built round the pulpit and reading desk, and also towards the chancel, but generally speaking the open bench prevails."

Beneath the tower is an old chest of exceptionally large dimensions; it is 7 ft. 2 in. long, 21 in. high, and 19 in. wide. It is continuously encircled with iron bands throughout, which are about $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. apart. The chest is divided into two unequal parts, each with its own lid. The age of this massive receptacle points to it having been probably constructed to hold the vestments and altar plate for the fourteenth century chantry founded by Nicholas Congesdon and his brother. The chest is now in a rather dilapidated state, and has been coarsely mended; it would tend to its preservation if it was brought out into a better light and placed in one of the transepts.

Three bells swing in the tower; they are inscribed as follows:—

I. "J. Melland, W. Bateman, C. W. John Hedderley made me. 1732."

II. "Sca Maria o.p.n." (Sancta Maria ora pro nobis). The elaborate bell-founder's mark, with initials T. B., show that this is a bell of Brazyer, of Norwich.

III. "Glory be to God on high. 1656," with the well-known founder's mark of George Oldfield of Nottingham.

There are no old monuments in the church. At the west

¹ Harl. MS., 6592, f. 89.

end of the south aisle are some mural tablets to the Palfreyman family, 1774-1826.

Against the east wall of the north transept rests the somewhat dilapidated large Royal Arms of George II., dated 1742, fairly well painted on panel. It is much to be desired that these arms should be re-hung in the church. There is an excellent place for them over the low arch into the tower.

During the Churchwarden era this church became much degraded. The roofs of chancel, aisles, and nave were all flat and plastered. One of the best features of the costly restoration of 1886-8 was the renewal of open roofs throughout the building. This restoration, which was chiefly accomplished through the munificence of Archdeacon Balston, cost between £3,000 and £4,000. The church was re-opened by the Bishop of Southwell on May 9th, 1888.

On the south side of the churchyard, near to the porch, is an exceptionally well-grown and vigorous yew tree. The trunk, in its early life, divided into two, about two feet from the ground, but there is only a slight division between the parts. At a height of 4 ft. 6 in. from the ground the girth is 14 ft. 7 in.; the stretch of the boughs, from east to west, is 51 ft. The Monyash yew is only surpassed in interest among those of Derbyshire by the very ancient yew of Darley Dale churchyard, and by the fine example in Doveridge churchyard in the south of the county.

The beauty of the churchyard of this exposed village is much enhanced by the environment of tall, well-grown lime trees which surround it on the north, east, and west sides. The absence of this great fence on the south side is accounted for by the fact that at the time of their planting the chief residence or hall of Monyash immediately adjoined that side of the churchyard. A confident and old tradition in the parish assigns the planting of these limes to Rev. Robert Lomas, who met with such an untimely end in 1776.

The registers at Monyash begin in the year 1701, but the transcripts at Lichfield go back to the year 1672.¹ There are

¹ Dr. Cox's *Catalogue of the Lichfield Muniments* (1886), p. 84.



FOUR-LIGHT SOUTH WINDOW, MONYASH.

not many entries of interest, but the following burials under date February 5th, 1772, bear witness to the severity of winter storms on these uplands:—"John Allcock, blacksmith, and Richard Boham, a baker. *N.B.*—These two were starved to death in coming from Winster market, on Middleton Common." The Registers also record the sad fate, in 1776, of "Ye Rev^d. Mr. Lomas. He was killed by a fall from a rock in Lathkill dale in the night." Robert Lomas had been minister of Monyash for many years; the Registers record the baptism of his son Exuperius in 1753. He was returning from Bakewell late on the evening of October 11th, lost his way, and fell over a dangerous precipice between Lathkill and Harlow dales, at that time called Fox Tor, but ever since distinguished as Parson's Tor. His body was found on Saturday afternoon, October 12th, and the inquest and burial took place on the following Monday.¹ The registers give the burial of his widow in 1788.

The oldest piece of the altar plate is a small chalice with hall-mark of 1726-7. The remarkable and exceptional feature of it is that it bears on the side a curious late-Renaissance-looking engraving of a chapel surmounted by a dome and a cross, and lettered below "Monyash Chappell"; but it has not the most distant resemblance to the actual church or chapel.

¹ A copy of the return of the coroner's inquest, together with other particulars of the fatal accident, are set forth in the *Reliquary* (1863-4), iv., 170-176. A tuft of grass found clenched in the dead man's hand was preserved in a bottle at Monyash up to about 1850. Various queer stories are still told in the neighbourhood as to Parson Lomas, but he has left behind him a beautiful memorial in the lime trees round the churchyard.