

FIG. 1.

GLOSSOP PARISH CHURCH ABOUT 1840.

TO FACE P. 81.

The Rebuilding of the Nave of Glossop Church, 1914-15.

By REV. HENRY LAWRENCE, M.A.

THOUGH the recent rebuilding of the nave of Glossop Church has brought to light few remains of archaeological importance, it has served to explode several theories with regard to the construction of the Old Church, which by constant repetition have gained general acceptance. No record exists of the foundation of the church. It has been pointed out that the dedication to All Saints is a presumption in favour of the existence of a pre-Conquest church, but no stones of Anglian workmanship have come to light, nor is the church mentioned in Domesday Book. Two stones with tooth-moulding¹ point at any rate to the existence of a thirteenth century church on the site, and as a matter of fact we have evidence of a church a century before this in the charter by which King Henry II gave the manor of Glossop to Basingwerke Abbey, where the church is expressly mentioned "*glossope cum ecclesia quae ibi est.*"²

The first church was probably aisleless, but owing to the frequent rebuildings to which it has been subjected, it is impossible to trace exactly the development by which it became a church with north and south aisles to the nave, north aisle³ to the chancel and western tower sur-

¹ Fig. 3 and Fig. 5.

² This charter is quoted by Dugdale, *Mon.*, i, 720, from an insipid copy of a later date. There seems no reason to doubt that the church existed at least as early as 1157.

³ Known as St. Catherine's Chapel.

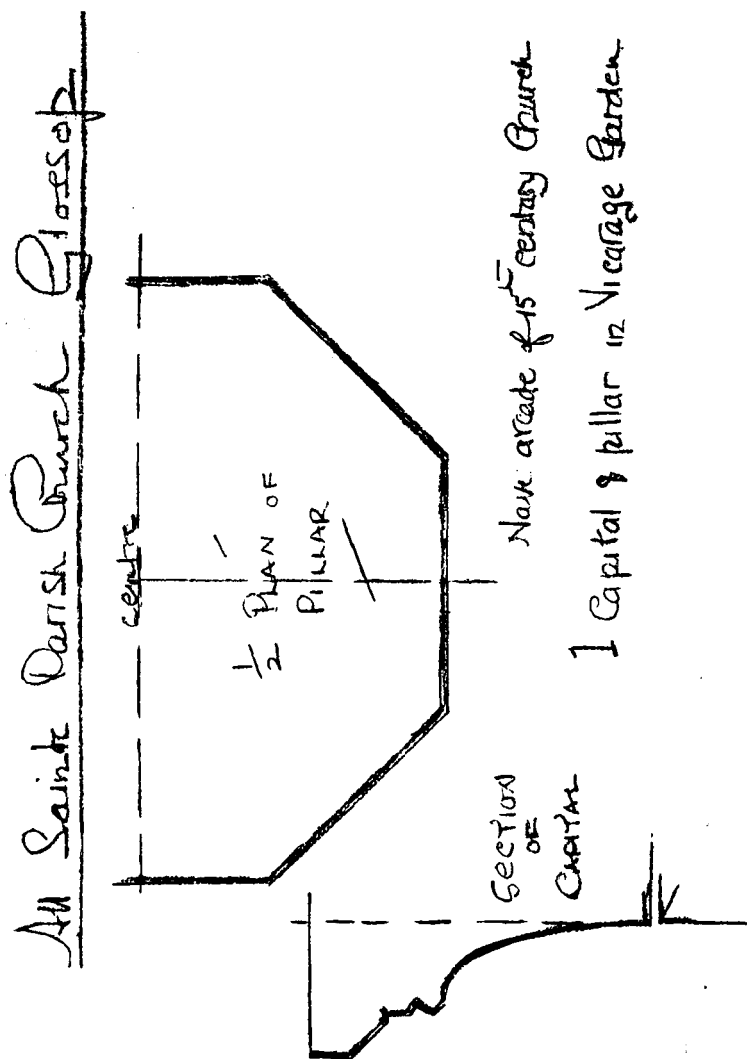


FIG. 2.

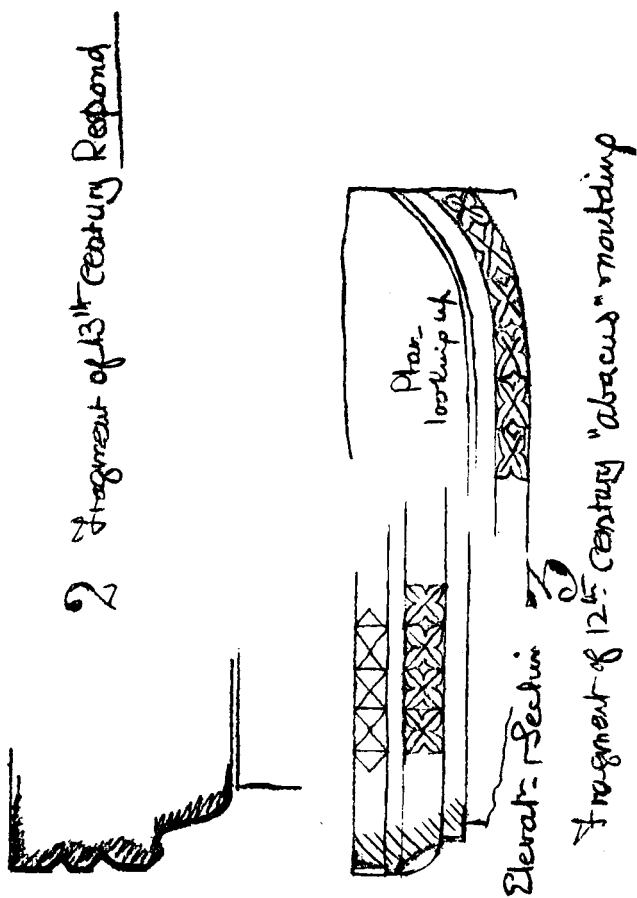


FIG. 3.

mounted by a spire. Extensive alterations to the church took place in the fifteenth century, and to this period belongs the arch at the east end of the north aisle, which is all that now remains of the earlier church. The nave arcades must have been built about this time. There are numerous pieces of the octagonal pillars,¹ and capitals, and flat window heads of fifteenth century character, probably aisle windows, ruthlessly destroyed in 1831, and a respond² which is considerably earlier, perhaps thirteenth century. The pillars of the new nave have been placed upon the old foundations, and it was then found that between them were sleeper walls reaching considerably higher than the bases of the pillars. It is evident from this fact that Glossop suffered from the same difficulties as Hayfield,³ but that here the floor was raised by resting it on these walls. The mischief was no doubt caused partly by the drainage from the hill-side above but especially by the numerous burials which took place in the church.⁴ Probably the tower and broached spire which appear in the accompanying view of the church (Fig. 1) taken before the tower was destroyed, were a century older. When the rebuilding of the nave was commenced it was found that the new tower of 1854 had been placed some three feet to the west of its predecessor and that the east wall of the old tower, with the tower arch and small window above was still standing. It will be seen from the illustration (Fig. 4) that the old tower was considerably lower than the new and that it shows the weathering of two distinct roofs, both of them inside the 1831 nave.

¹ Fig. 2.

² This stone appears on the left side in Fig. 5. See also Fig. 3.

³ Cox, *Derb. Churches*, ii, p. 215. Dr. Cox here describes how the floor at Hayfield was raised by cutting down the pillars of the arcade and resting the floor on them. The course taken at Glossop was similar, but as it was not required to raise the floor to the same extent the space beneath the floor was filled in, instead of making a sub-vault.

⁴ *Journal*, xxxviii, 178.

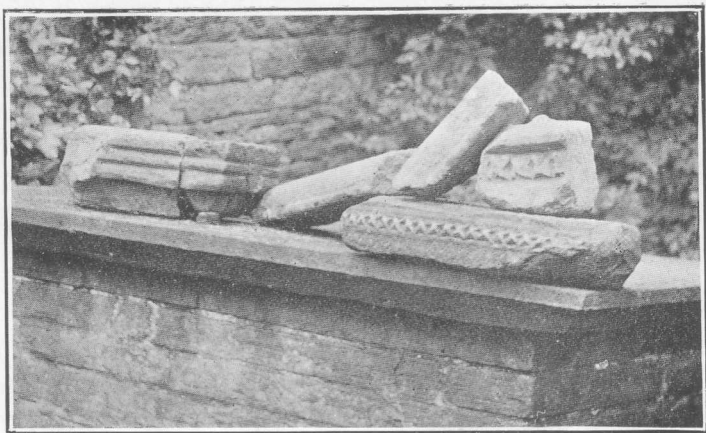


FIG. 4. [J. Bennett, Photo.]
WORKED STONES FROM THE OLD CHURCH.

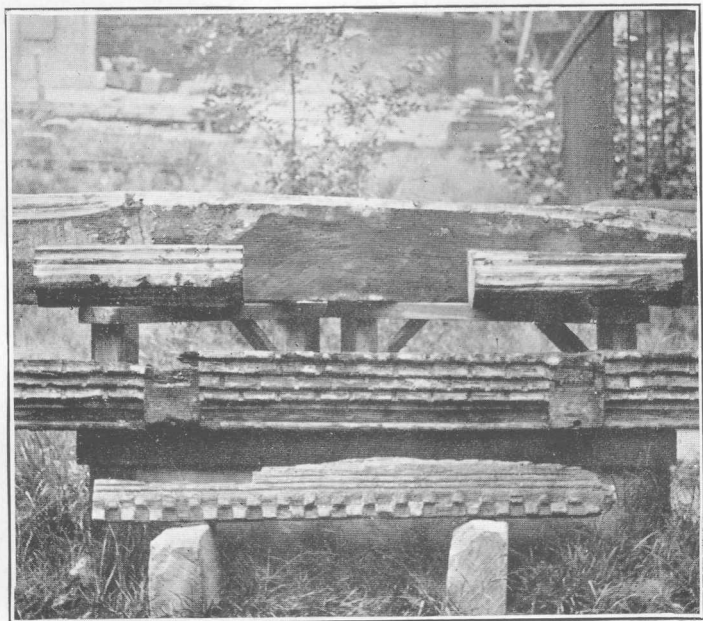


FIG. 5. [J. Bennett, Photo.]
OAK BEAMS.

TO PAGE P. 84.

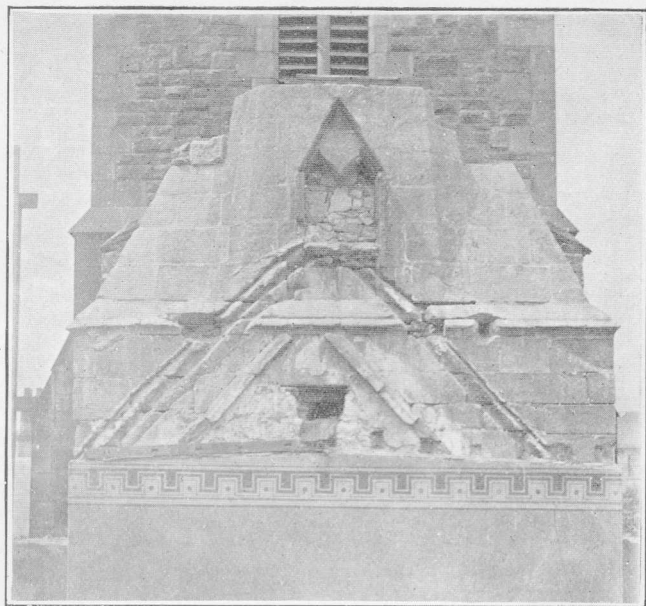


FIG. 9.—REMAINS OF 14TH-CENTURY TOWER.



FIG 10.—THE DEWSNAP SLAB.

J. Bennett, Photo.]

TO FACE P. 88.

As described by Dr. Cox, the nave was rebuilt in 1831,¹ in a style of which the date is sufficient indication. It was found on taking this down that the supposed oak bosses of the roof were nineteenth century plaster, that none of the corbels were ancient, and the greatest disappointment of all, that the chancel arch, though it contained some old stones, had been reset in 1831 and on the outer course was partly executed with plaster. The corbel-heads were not in their original position, they were fixed with their faces downwards and had been cut away to make them fit. Their shape suggests corbel-stones to carry the wall-posts of a roof principal. The jamb-stones were apparently from the old church and the whole arch in character and proportions was devoid of either merit or interest. Sir Stephen Glynne who visited the church in 1849 is cautious in his reference to this arch: "Of the parish church little of the original work remains, but the steeple, which is a low tower of good grey stone, finished by a heavy broached spire; the latter has two tiers of spier lights; the west window is third pointed (perpendicular) of three lights but the steeple may perhaps be earlier the chancel is ancient and has on the south a Norman doorway with toothed ornament and corbelled hood. There are double first pointed (Early English) lancets on the north and south and a triplet at the east end. The chancel arch is low and pointed, *perhaps* original."²

The wall supported by the arch belonged to the same date (1831) and included several courses of stone of the same size and tooling as the facing of the nave walls: it was not bonded into the existing chancel. Built into this wall (and the one immediately to the north) were several oak timbers, evidently walled in to act as relieving lintels. The walls also contained fragments of old ashlar

¹ A stone in the porch was inscribed "Rebuilt A.D. MDCCCXXXI."

² Quoted from Cox, *Derb. Ch.*, iv.

masonry, amongst them a fifteenth century, flat window-head, showing traces of colour decoration. The whole wall was badly built and full of straight joints.

The oak beams referred to above were three in number, the first a roof beam ; the second 17ft. 2in. in length, 9½in. deep and 7½in. thick, moulded on three sides with three rows of billeting. There are remains of colour still visible and the beam is morticed for tenons. It appears to have served as a rood-beam or upper beam of a screen.¹ The third is a fragment 5 feet long by 7¼ inches by 2⅞ inches : the billet moulding on one face only is of an effective and somewhat unusual type ; this too apparently belonged to a screen.² The style of these fragments points to a fifteenth century date, which agrees with the greater part of the remains of the old church.

The nave, destroyed in 1830, is described as being of mean appearance ; that it was in a bad state of repair is probable but that it could have competed with its successor in meanness of workmanship and design is incredible.

The tower and chancel were rebuilt in 1853-5 but no rebuilding took place in 1877.³ Dr. Cox (II, 201), mentions a memorial to Henry Bray ; this was found under the floor and bears the following inscription :—

HENRICUS BRAY LUDIMA
GISTER OBIIT 26ta DIE
AUGUSTI ANNO CHRISTI
MDCCXCV ET AETATIS
SUAE 81
SIT LOCUS IN PACE⁴

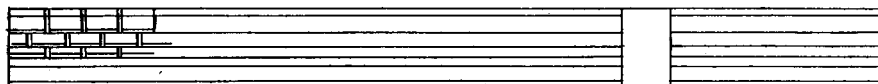
There is a grave cover, late in character and much worn (Fig. 8), which has been made to do duty for an

¹ The middle beam in Fig. 9 and Fig. 6.

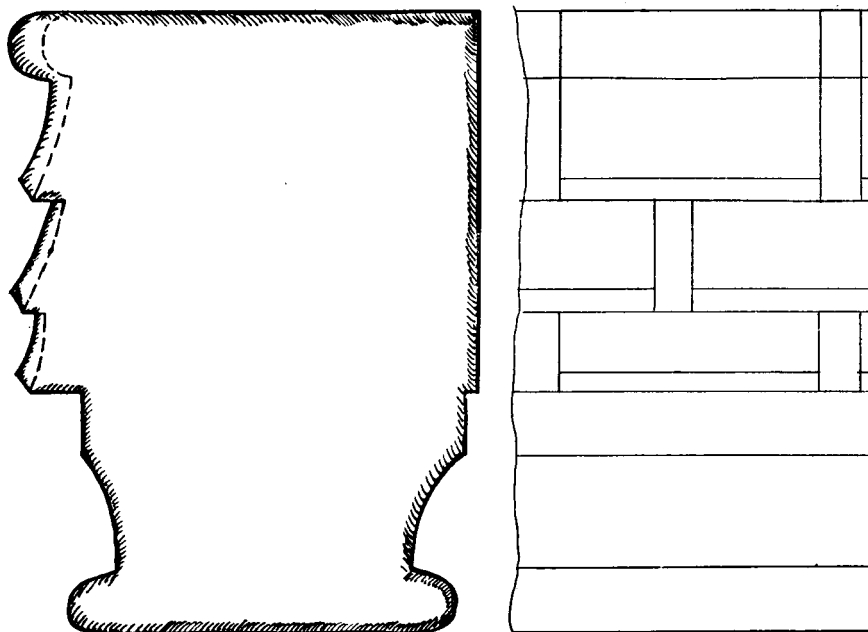
² Fig. 9 (at the bottom) and Fig. 7.

³ *Derb. Little Guide*, p. 160.

⁴ Buried 29th August, 1795 (*Par. Reg.*).



TOTAL LENGTH = 17 FT 2 INS

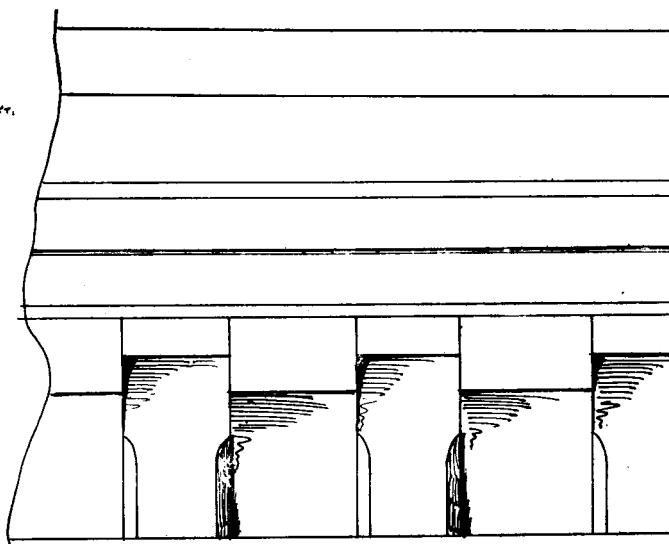


ALL SAINTS CH: GLOSSOP

ancient oak beams removed from interior of 2

FIG. 6.

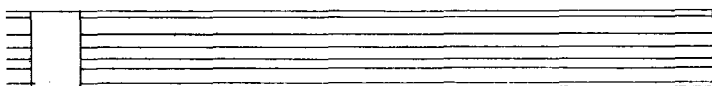
TOTAL EXISTING LENGTH = 5 FT.
DECAYED AT ENDS



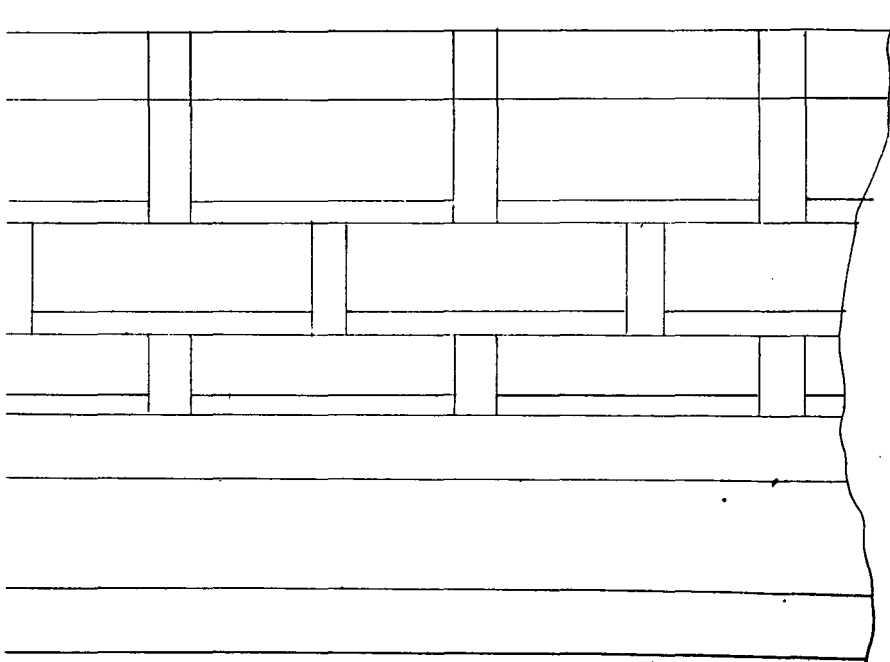
*ALL SAINTS CH GLOSSOP

ancient oak beams remo

FIG. 7.



E 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

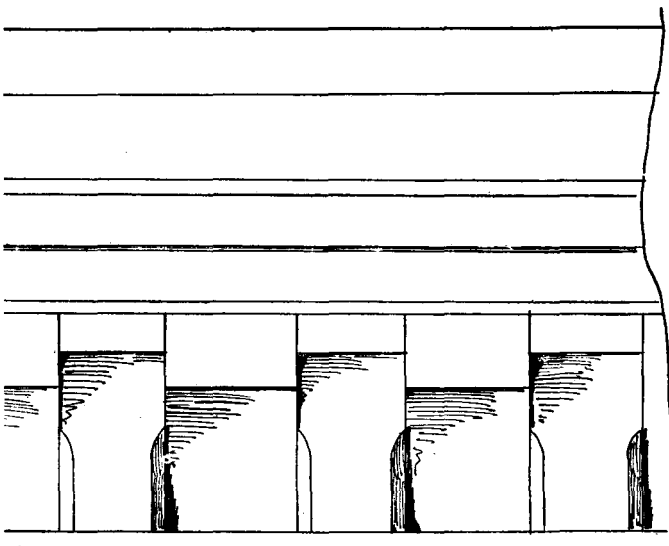


WM ACTUAL SIZE

10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

New Nave of 1830

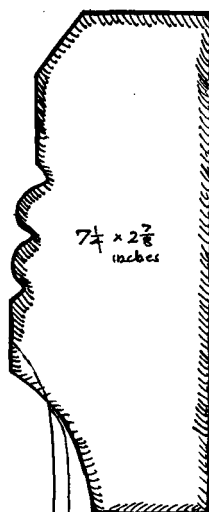
C.M. Hadfield meas. - d. 11" 22 26 15



DRAWN ACTUAL SIZE 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

interior of East wall of the Nave of 1830

C.M. Hadfield meas. - d. 11" 22 26 15



7 1/2 x 2 3/8 inches

TO FACE PAGE 86.

eighteenth century burial, but by far the most interesting memorial is an incised alabaster slab measuring $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In the upper part are figures of a man in

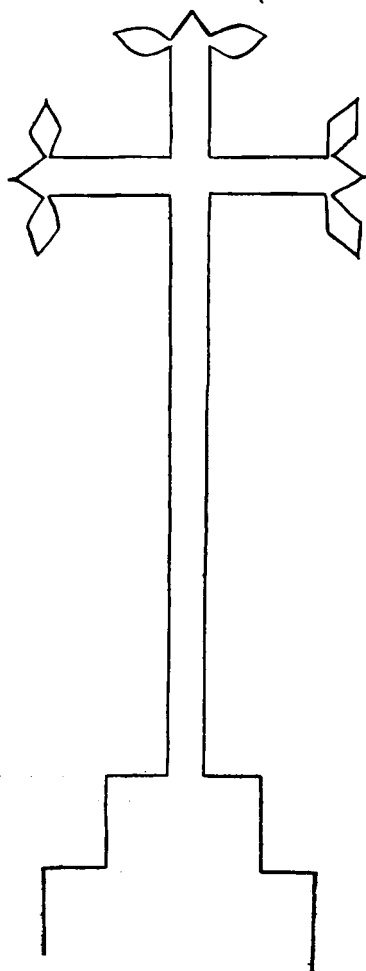


FIG. 8.—GRAVE COVER IN THE NAVE.

civilian costume and a woman, with scrolls round their heads now undecipherable. Between the figures are a

mason's trowel and hammer, evidently referring to the occupation of the male figure. If these represent the parents of the ecclesiastic who erected the monument, the mason may well have been engaged upon the late fifteenth century alterations to the church to which reference has been already made. To the left and right are kneeling figures of a maiden and a youth with defaced inscriptions above their heads. In the middle of the slab are five lines of Latin hexameters :—

Sunt duo que uere faciunt me sepe dolere
 Est primū durū quia nosco me moriturum
 Proxima res turbat quod tēp^s nescio mortis
 Me magis at redemi per Christi gestio mortē
 Gaudia cuius ego meritis celestia spero.

In the centre below is the figure of a man with a flowing beard holding up his hands in prayer and grasping in the left a closed book. He wears a preacher's gown and kneels upon a cushion ornamented with a cross. At either side of him is the following inscription :—

Iste Willume fuit	Henrico octav ^o
rector ecclesie	Edwarde dicti
Weytherliensis dr	Henrici filio Ma
eyntoniensis et	ria et Elizabetha
Sibboldoniensis in	eius sororib ^s florē
Comitatu	tissime Anglie sce
Leicestrie	ptrs potientibus
	Here lieth the
bodie of Robert deusnap.	

The slab is a memorial to William Deusnappe or Dewsnap, who was successively rector of Witherley, Fenny Drayton and Sibston in Leicestershire. He evidently belonged to the well-known Glossop family of this name and caused this memorial to be erected in the church of his native village. The surname, derived from the place-name Dewsnap, is still a common one in Glossop. The same stone was subsequently utilized by another

member of the same family Robert Deusnape, further particulars of whom are lost. (Fig. 10).

William Dewsnap compounded for first-fruits at Fenny Drayton, 13th December, 1553,¹ having apparently resigned Witherley on accepting the former benefice. He was inducted to the rectory of Sibston 26th October, 1556,² and held both livings in plurality. "W. Dewsneype, rector of Sybsdon, priest, not married, competenter doctus, residens, honestus non licentiatuſ nec predicat, habet ij beneficia Sybsdon et Fenny drayton."³ He appears to have resigned Fenny Drayton about 1561 but held Sibston till his death, which took place in 1572, as the living is stated to have been void by his death before 14th January, 1572/3.

This interesting slab was thrown out of the church in 1831 and for some time was used by an apothecary for mixing ointments, and after lying neglected and exposed for a further period was restored to the church in 1893 by Dr. Renaud of Manchester.

A description of the beautiful new church which has been built would be out of place in the pages of an archæological Journal, but I cannot conclude these notes without putting on record the sympathetic treatment which the church has received at the hands of the architect, Mr. C. M. Hadfield of Sheffield, who has at length erected upon this historic site a church in every way worthy of its ancient heritage, nor is it possible to view the beautiful church without a feeling of thankfulness that the shameful illtreatment which it has received at the hands of former builders has been in part at least atoned for by the loving care lavished upon it by those whose pride and pleasure it has been to furnish the parish with a building worthy of the highest traditions of the Church of England.

¹ Composition Bks. Linc. Dioc.

² Reg. Hitchen Priory.

³ M. S. Parker (C.C.C. Camb.) f. 49. I am indebted for this and other information respecting William Dewsnap to Mr. A. Hamilton Thompson.