

A List of Sketches of Derbyshire Churches made 1816-1820 by the Rev. Guy Brian, Rector of South Dormanton, 1811-19.

By W. E. GODFREY.

THE book containing the sketches referred to is in Derby Public Library.¹ The standard of the work varies considerably. Some sketches display considerable merit; others are almost crude and immature, as though the artist were out of sympathy with his subject—or with his subject's incumbent! He has had two tries at Chesterfield: one abandoned as a failure and left unfinished, the second only partially finished. His spire is a caricature of the real thing. The "twist" has hopelessly defeated him, and its height has been grotesquely dwarfed. Even the body of the church itself is sadly wrong and out of drawing. This seems to have been his hardest copy. A few others are distinctly amateurish, Blackwell for example. Others, however, have evidently interested him and called forth his very good and valuable best. As many of these churches have been completely changed in appearance, whilst others have vanished altogether, there is no need to point out their value and importance. It is a great pity Dr. Cox could not have seen them when writing his *Derbyshire Churches*, for the Rev. Brian proves by the likeness of some of his churches to their present state that he was a reasonably accurate portrayer. He has also written notes on the various features he has been unable to show

¹ Reg. number, *Derbyshire Collection*, 4689.

in detail, and occasionally made small special drawings to illustrate them.

By examining the pictures carefully all sorts of little interesting things can be noticed. For instance, at Pleasley, thrown out into the churchyard, are two table tombs with recumbent effigies now vanished, also a sundial now non-existent. The Library authorities will allow the drawings to be photographed, and a Derby firm specialises in that type of work.

The following is the list of subjects, points of view, and the dates of the sketches (i.e. of being completed apparently):—

Chesterfield	S. . .	July,	1818
Matlock	S.W. . .	Sept. 16th,	1818
Wirksworth	N.W. . .	„ 17th,	1818
Carsington	S.W. . .	„ „	1818
Cromford Chapel . .	S.W. . .	„ „	1818
Great Longstone Chapel . .	S. . .	June 23rd,	1819
Taddington Chapel . .	S.E. . .	„ „	1819
Monyash Chapel	N.W. . .	„ „	1819
Ashford Chapel	S.E. . .	„ 25th,	1819
Sheldon Chapel	S.E. . .	„ „	1819
Beeley Chapel	S.E. . .	„ 26th,	1819
Birchover Chapel	S. . .	Aug. 5th,	1820
Elton Chapel	S.E. . .	„ „	1820
Winster Chapel	S.E. . .	„ 7th,	1820
Ticknall	S.E. . .	June 3rd,	1820
Kniveton	S.E. . .	„ 26th,	1820
Darley	S. . .	„ 5th,	1820
Kirk Ireton	S. . .	„ 19th,	1820
Bradbourne	S. . .	„ 26th,	1820
Brassington Chapel . .	S.E. . .	„ 27th,	1820
Ballidon Chapel	S.E. . .	„ „	1820
Parwich Chapel	S.E. . .	„ „	1820
Youlgrave	S.E. . .	Aug. 7th,	1820
Edensor	S. . .	„ 8th,	1820

Hognaston	S.E. ..	Aug. 26th,	1820
Atlow Chapel	S. ..	" "	1820
Chesterfield (unfinished) ..	S.W. ..	Undated.	
Shirebrook Chapel (not orientated) .		Aug. 15th,	1816
Langwith	S.E. ..	" "	1816
Scarcliff	S. ..	" "	1816
Repton	S. ..	" 20th,	1816
Newton Solney	S.E. ..	" 21st,	1816
Twyford Chapel	S.E. ..	" 23rd,	1816
Brampton Free Chapel ..	S. ..	June 3rd,	1818
Bolsover	S. ..	Aug. 26th,	1816
Blackwell	S. ..	" 27th,	1816
Pinxton	S. ..	" "	1816
Belper Chapel	S.W. ..	July 15th,	1818
South Wingfield	S.E. ..	Aug. 28th,	1816
North Wingfield	S. ..	" 30th,	1816
Pleasley	S. ..	Sept. 2nd,	1816
South Normanton	N. ..	" 3rd,	1816
Heage Chapel	S.E. ..	" 7th,	1816
Sutton Scarsdale	S. ..	" 20th,	1816
Tibshelf	S.E. ..	" 24th,	1816
Morton	S.E. ..	" 25th,	1816
Brackenfield Trinity Chapel	S. ..	" "	1816
Heanor	S.W. ..	Oct. 14th,	1816
Crich.. ..	S.E. ..	" 15th,	1816
Willington	S.E. ..	July 17th,	1817
Findern Chapel	S.E. ..	" "	1817
Shirland	S.E. ..	" 23rd,	1817
Pentrich	S. ..	" 25th,	1817
Turnditch Chapel	S.E. ..	" 15th,	1818

Altogether fifty-four sketches of fifty-three buildings—taken about one hundred and twenty years ago. Mr. Bryan did a very valuable work for the present generation.

In proof of this it is only necessary to point out that, since he made the sketches, the following churches have

been totally or almost rebuilt:—Shirebrook, Bolsover, Blackwell, Heanor, Findern, Sheldon, Winster, Parwich and Atlow. The following have been partially rebuilt, “restored,” or repaired, some of them twice or thrice each:—Chesterfield, Brampton, North Wingfield, Pleasley, South Normanton, Heage, Willington, Matlock, Wirksworth, Carsington, Cromford, Great Longstone, Ashford, Darley, Kirk Ireton and Youldgreave. This is about half the churches he drew, and is neither a comprehensive nor even a painstaking list.

Parishioners who are interested in their churches as they appeared over one hundred years ago owe a deep debt of gratitude to this long dead artist.