

Bradbourne Church.

SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

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OWING to the discovery of some papers relating to the repairs to this church dating from 1907, it is now possible to add a few details to the account of it which was printed in the last volume of *D.A.J.*

From a report made on the building by the eminent architect Mr. William Weir, on behalf of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, dated 26th October, 1907, it appears that the east wall of the chancel was badly cracked close to the north-east angle from the foundations upwards, as well as underneath the east window. The foundations appeared to be loose and to rest on the surface of the ground. The south chancel wall was cracked close against the east angle, and there was also a crack west of the lancet window in the north wall. Mr. Weir found the wall of the south aisle bulging out about nine inches in the centre and badly cracked over the doorway; the east wall of the aisle also was cracked near the angle and leaning out. The west wall was also leaning. Mr. Weir was severely critical of the manner in which the bells had recently been re-hung on girders built into the tower walls. He also found cracks in the tower staircase and over the outer doorway of the porch. He directed the re-covering of the interior walls with plaster which had been improperly removed, as well as the proper way of carrying out the binding of the cracks and other necessary repairs.

It does not seem that his advice was followed; indeed a design exists by a Derby architect, Mr. Frederick J. Robinson, for a new aisle and porch of different but commonplace gothic design in which it was not even intended to retain any of the old features. In actual fact what was done seems to have been to employ another firm of Derby architects to carry out repairs including a certain amount of rebuilding in a rather more drastic way than was proposed by Mr. Weir, but with the old materials.

Among papers handed to the present vicar by the widow of his predecessor, Mr. Gamble, are some notes by the latter giving some valuable details of certain things found in the course of the repairs, from which the following are extracts:

Porch. Found a plinth on E. and W. sides; present walls not resting on the same plinth returned to gateway, S. wall built upon it. Left plinth in position, underpinned both it and walls. Windows in E. and W. sides were originally narrower. Found that arch over outer doorway was originally pointed. (1) Joints on arch stones are V-shaped and they had to be trimmed to bring it in. (2) One piece of label is mitred as key of pointed arch; several pieces of the same label were found in the wall, showing that more had once been used. (3) Kneelers of coping, if their line were followed would carry the gable about 18 inches higher than at present. Altered these kneelers. As indication of a wider porch [having once existed] the west label head to inner doorway has had hood on west removed to allow wall to meet aisle. Gable has been rebuilt as upper part is limestone while lower is ashlar. The floor has been raised at some time.

Nave. Westmost clerestory window formed of a coffin lid or floor slab re-used.

Tower. Just above arch of turret door found holes for beams bricked up. On W. wall found several holes filled in with brick and one joist end left.

Plaster, first coat for tower the same as plaster at sides of doorway.

A west gallery once existed.

South Aisle. Insertion of arcade. On E. and W. of arcade original wall has been left and narrower arcade wall worked in. Plaster on walls. On E. S. and W. found:

1. Plaster from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch thick.
2. Plaster $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.
3. Thick whitewash.
4. Rough pointing or dingle.

On 2, 3 and 4, found texts painted.

E. end one text, only letters "y" and "14."

S. side and E. side of door found texts on 2 and 3, but could not decipher. On 4 found text Eccles. v. 1. Hope to retain this.

S. side on W. side of door found text on 4, viz. Ps:lxxxiv, 10 ("For one day in thy courts : is better than a thousand"). Hope to restore [not carried out]. On W. end on 3 Job, i, 21 "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord", and on 4 the words "wages of sin," Rom. vi. 23. This had to come off to make wall safe.

At W. end exterior line of old west end shows that the aisle has been narrower. If the west end of the old aisle was leaning to the W. this would account for the later builders not making the S.W. corner upright.

It has been impossible to give Mr. Gamble's notes exactly as he wrote them. Some are of little significance, others illegible, many abbreviated. I have extended some abridgements and contractions and tried to clarify a few obscurities. I believe I have not omitted anything essential. Although they do not add very much to our knowledge of the building they seem of sufficient interest to place on permanent record as a supplement to the description of the church in the last volume.