

AXIAL TOWERS IN SUSSEX CHURCHES

BY WALTER H. GODFREY, F.S.A.

THE normal position of the tower in the plans of English parish churches is at the west end of the nave, and so general is this practice that the exceptions cannot fail to interest the student. Sussex possesses a marked number of variations, and among them is a group of churches where the tower is raised over a space intervening between nave and chancel. This feature has been termed for convenience an axial tower,¹ and these axial tower plans form the subject of the present paper.

At first sight one might be tempted to consider the axial tower, when placed between nave and chancel, as a step in the direction of building a cruciform church, since churches of collegiate foundation, whether monastic or secular, as well as many parish churches were designed with transepts and completed by a central tower over the crossing. The historical evidence does not, however, support this view. In fact, not only does it seem unlikely that, in any of the axial tower plans, were transepts ever intended, but it is clear that where a space is interposed between chancel and nave, whether towers were built over it or not, it was introduced quite independently of the regular cruciform plan. I shall be able to show that it was a favourite Norman practice, and that though less frequent in this country after the Conquest, it is well represented among our twelfth-century and later churches, and moreover perpetuated a tradition that existed here before the Normans came. The two sources sprang indeed from a common origin.

Mr. A. W. Clapham in his *English Romanesque Architecture before the Conquest* has set forth the important influence exerted on English building from the

¹ Professor Baldwin Brown in his *Anglo-Saxon Architecture* defines an axial tower as one built over a section of the nave at any point between its eastern and western termination and unrelated structurally with any lateral buildings.

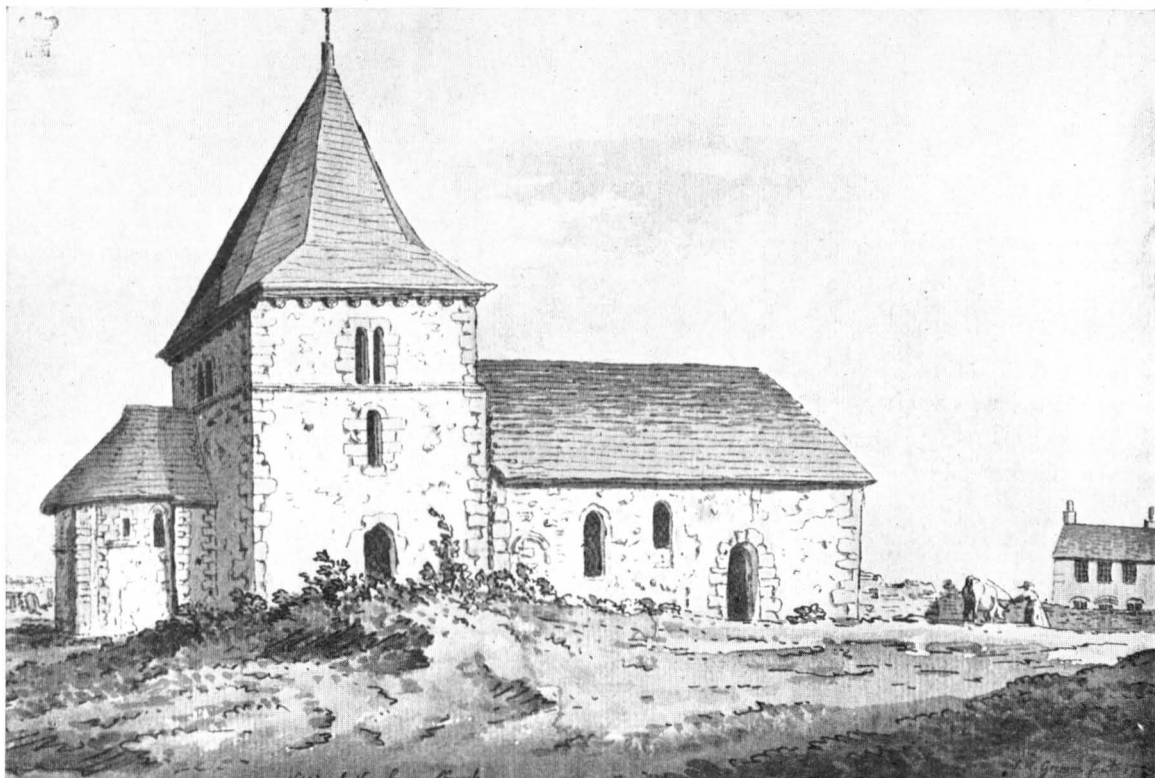


FIG. 1. NEWHAVEN CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-EAST, 1783 (from a drawing in the Burrell Collections).

ninth century by the Carolingian revival of art in western Europe. His study of the Church of St. Riquier (begun about 790) emphasizes certain points in this building which so aptly illustrate the type followed by the larger Saxon churches of the ninth and tenth centuries. St. Riquier had an aisled nave, with a transept at the west as well as its east end, and beyond the latter was a presbytery and apse. Over the 'crossing' of each transept was raised a lofty tower. Now it is to be noted that from an early drawing of the church it appears that the transepts were actually side chapels with lean-to roofs, and were not carried up in the manner of the later Norman cruciform churches, where the transept roofs would (but for the tower) intersect with the high nave roof. Moreover, the towers themselves appear to be wooden erections built in receding stages of a type that can be seen in the thirteenth-century seal of the Chapter of Chichester, which, says Mr. Clapham, if copied from an earlier seal or drawing, may represent either the Saxon cathedral at Selsey or the Saxon minster at Chichester. At St. Riquier 'there were three chief altars, that of St. Riquier in the apse, that of St. Peter under the eastern crossing, and that of St. Saviour on the gallery under the western crossing'. Beneath this gallery and the tower above it was the main entrance into the church.

It is unnecessary here to follow Mr. Clapham in his examination of the occurrence of similar features in the larger Saxon churches, which are known to us chiefly by written records only, and the persistence of one or other of their characteristics in the parochial churches of the same period. Suffice it to say regarding the western (axial) tower that this led to a fixed tradition in England and the west tower survived throughout the entire medieval period, although its use as the principal porch and entrance became more rare as the lateral entrances became popular. The western altar to St. Saviour in the gallery over the entrance was retained in several of our Saxon churches.

Before we consider the eastern axial tower a word or

two should be said about the Saxon predilection for side chapels. Even in the mission churches of the period of St. Augustine, the *porticus* or side chapels are much in evidence. They remain a feature throughout the pre-Conquest period, and there is no general consistency in the position in which they are placed. Sometimes they were in the centre of the nave as at Bradford-on-Avon, sometimes westward as at Bishopstone, but more often they occupied the easterly position usually associated with transepts, as at Worth and Stoughton. At times they are in pairs, north and south, but even those at Worth are not exactly opposite one another. In almost every case where they project from the area west of the sanctuary, whether that space is surmounted by a tower or not, they are much narrower than the crossing, and appear as transeptal chapels rather than transepts proper. These *porticus* were in early times the burial-places of saints, and formed at all times chapels for altars, and sometimes porches for entrance as well.

We now come to the consideration of the centre compartment of what is sometimes termed the three-chamber plan where there is an intermediate space between nave and chancel. None of the examples in Sussex dates back, as far as this feature is concerned, beyond the Conquest, and as we shall see later, the plan was one frequently employed in the parish churches of Normandy. In neither case is it suggested that it can be explained as a mere survival of tradition. Features in the planning of a building for such vital needs as those of the medieval church are not likely to have survived unless they were useful, and there was no doubt a need to be met in each case. The normal chancel of both the Saxon and Early Norman church was a small rectangular compartment designed to contain the high altar and accommodate the priest serving there. But among Saxon churches there were many to which were attached more than one priest,¹ and in the

¹ See *Archaeologia*, LXVI, 'Some Remarks on the Churches of the Domesday Survey', by William Page.

twelfth century additional accommodation in the presbytery seems also to have been required. It was no doubt the case at Bishopstone, where provision was made for the bishop's chaplains in the beautiful little vaulted choir, west of the sanctuary. Indeed, considering that the nave of this church is of pre-Conquest date, we might even hazard the suggestion that this twelfth-century choir was the rebuilding of an original Saxon feature. It may have been the same at Kingston Buci, where again we have a vaulted choir, this time of the thirteenth century, beneath its axial tower (Fig. 8), attached to what is almost certainly a Saxon nave. Shipley Church, which served a Preceptory of the Templars, needed a choir for the knights' stalls; and although this probably extended partly into the nave, the additional space given by the tower was no doubt exceedingly useful. In fact, it would probably be found, if we knew the full story in each case, that it was thought more advantageous to utilize the space under the tower for the eastern arm of the church than to have it shut away beneath a western tower.

It must be remembered, too, that there is a certain economy in construction in building the tower over a part of the church that can be brought into active use. And a further consideration, of no small moment to the architect of the fabric, would be the opportunity for effective design, both within and without. Even the little church of Iford is given a dignity and mystery within its walls which are surprising considering the small dimensions of the building, and the external importance of Shipley and of Broadwater (in its original state) rests largely on the position and scale of their towers. It was clearly the aesthetic element that led the fourteenth-century builder of Etchingham to revive this early model in the graceful building that has been so recently restored; for here ample provision was made for the choir stalls in the chancel, which has the longer proportions in vogue at that date. In the late-twelfth-century church of Playden, as well as in the fourteenth-century churches of Lancing and

Etchingham, the nave aisles are continued eastwards to flank the tower. This has necessitated lateral arches, but in none of these three cases is there any sign or suggestion of transepts.

The Norman employment of the axial tower design is illustrated throughout the country by examples such as Stewkley (Bucks.), Iffley (Oxon.), and Castle Rising (Norfolk), which by the completeness and forthrightness of their architecture proclaim a parentage free from all admixture of native English style. But Normandy itself had the same Carolingian background to its architectural development as we have noticed in England, and it is in Normandy that the axial tower may be found more frequently than on this side of the Channel. I have made a rough analysis of the parish churches of the province of Calvados from the survey prepared by Du Caumont.¹ Of some 700 churches about half possess only bell-cotes, wooden belfries, or modern towers. Of those with ancient towers about 100 are axial and another 100 western, with some 50 central towers attached to a cruciform plan. There are also some 130 examples of lateral towers, which are either north or south of the centre of the church. These lateral towers are evidence of the desire of the builders to place them centrally in the composition, while avoiding the special constructional problem of merging them in the main building. By adding the figures of the central groups, it will be seen that they preponderate over the western towers by a proportion of nearly three to one. Only a proportion of the towers now date from the twelfth century, but the remainder, which are in many cases a rebuild, are evidence of the continuation of the early practice.

In Sussex, out of rather over 300 churches some 60 have bell-cotes or wooden belfries. The west towers number about 175. There are 20 cruciform churches with central towers (some of which have disappeared), 11 axial towers, and 33 lateral, 8 of which are at the

¹ Mr. A. W. Clapham drew my attention to this excellent architectural survey, which is contained in five volumes.

west end attached either to the north or south angle. Adding 25 of these to the 31 central towers, we get 56 as against 175 at the west end, a ratio of 1 to 3, the exact reverse of that in Calvados, but still a large proportion compared with the normal usage in England.

The churches will be considered briefly in the following order:

1. St. Michael, Newhaven.
2. St. Mary, Shipley.
3. St. Mary, Broadwater (now cruciform).
4. St. Peter, East Blatchington (axial tower removed).
5. St. Nicholas, Iford.
6. St. James, Stedham (tower alone *in situ*).
7. St. Julian, Kingston Buci.
8. St. Margaret, Rottingdean.
9. St. Michael, Playden.
10. St. James, Lancing.
11. St. Mary, Etchingham.

and a note on St. Mary, West Chiltington (wooden belfry).

1. ST. MICHAEL, NEWHAVEN, is an unusual example of the combination of a Norman tower with a short apsidal sanctuary attached to its eastern face. The same plan, without the tower, is not unfrequently found, as at East Ham (Essex) and Kilpeck (Herefordshire); and with the tower but with a square sanctuary in place of the apse, as at Stewkley (Bucks.) and Iffley (Oxon.). A parallel to Newhaven must be sought on the Continent, where at Yainville, near Jumièges, stands a sister structure which was cited by Mark Antony Lower.¹ The internal dimensions of the tower at Newhaven are some 15 by 13 ft., and both east and west walls are carried on semicircular arches 9 ft. wide. The responds have twin nook shafts on the angles looking to the centre of the tower, and the arches themselves are adorned, as is usual, on the western faces only, with roll mouldings, that between the tower and the apse, on its two orders, and on one only nearest

¹ *S.A.C.* ix. 92. A more elaborate example of the same plan with an aisled nave is at Oistreham in the Canton of Creully.

the nave. The apse has external buttresses, and a string course below the sill of its windows, one of which remains as built. The tower is comparatively low with a set-off just above the ridge of the roof of the apse, marking the belfry stage. The belfry windows are twin round-headed openings separated by a banded shaft

PARISH CHURCH of ST. MICHAEL NEWHAVEN

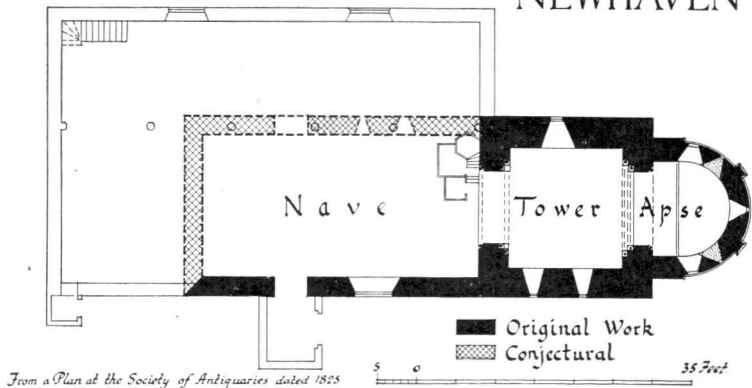


FIG. 2.

and capital. Above the corbel table there now rises a shingled brooch spire. The nave is modern, but from a plan of 1825 at the Society of Antiquaries, and from early drawings it is possible to reconstruct the old plan on paper (Figs. 1 and 2).

2. ST. MARY, SHIPLEY, is a church of very different proportions (Fig. 3), and except for a modern north aisle it is preserved to us practically as built. The nave and tower are of the same width, the former being 66 by 19 ft. and the latter 17 by 19 ft., there being very little difference in the thickness of their walls. The chancel is narrower (19 by 16½ ft.) and inclines slightly to the north.

One of the most interesting details of the building is the double splay to the windows in nave, tower, and chancel. This characteristic Saxon type is occasionally

PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY *the* VIRGIN SHIPLEY

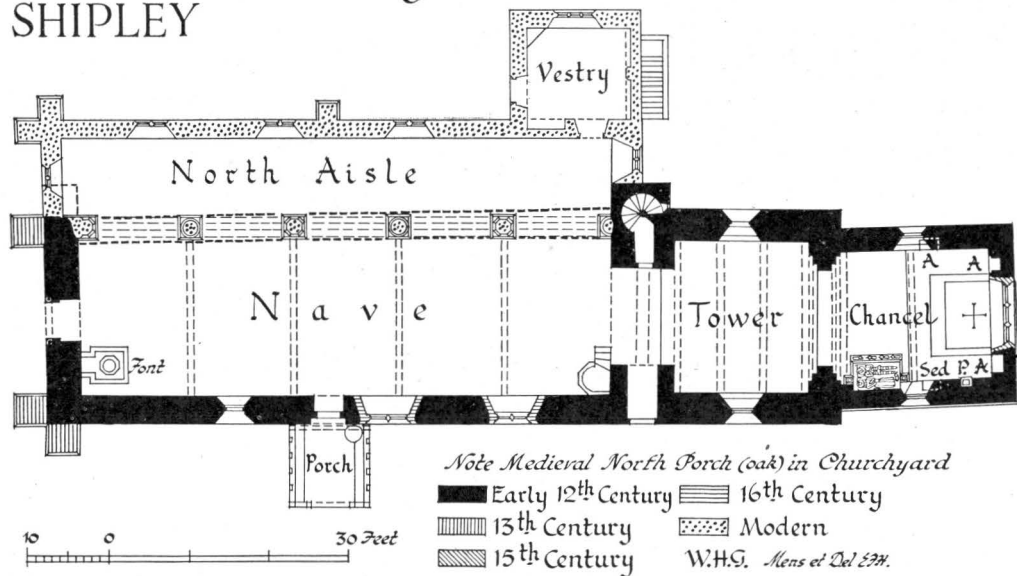


FIG. 3.

found in Norman work, as in this building, in the sub-vault of the frater of Lewes Priory and in the keep of Lydford Castle,¹ but it is rare after the Conquest. Another interesting point is the abnormal thickening of the west wall of the tower, to cover the full width of the stair turret on the north and a corresponding passage and choir entrance on the south, which gives the tower the large external dimensions of 27 by 28 ft. The arch carrying this wall is 7 ft. 6 in. deep and is faced towards the west with a plain ring of stones, over which is a label moulding enriched with billet ornament. Midway in the soffit of the arch is a single second order carried on corbels and carved with alternate chevron and dart ornament. The eastern arch of the tower is more elaborate, with three moulded and enriched orders. Externally the tower has an off-set above the ridge of the nave roof and beneath the belfry stage. The belfry openings are plain with semicircular arched heads. Above them is a corbel table and a modern parapet, which replaces the pyramidal roof shown in Sharpe's drawing of 1805.

The entrance at the west end is of the late twelfth century and has a pointed arch, while over it is a two-light window with plate tracery. The whole of this end and part of the nave south wall have been restored and the buttresses are additions. The east window in the chancel is of fifteenth-century date, two windows in the nave were replaced in the sixteenth century, and there is a good south porch of oak probably of the same period. The oak north porch was removed and is now used as a shed in the churchyard. For the important monument to Sir Thomas Caryll (*ob.* 1616) and his wife, in the chancel, the reader is referred to Dr. Mosse's *Monumental Effigies of Sussex*. The beautiful portable shrine or reliquary of enamelled copper (early twelfth century) in the possession of the church has had so far only passing references in the Society's collections.²

¹ Cited by Mr. Clapham, *English Romanesque Architecture before the Conquest*.

² *S.A.C.* v. 108; xxii. 20, 21. It is illustrated in *The Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. v (1836), and a coloured representation will be found in Dallaway and Cartwright's *History of Western Sussex*.

3. ST. MARY, BROADWATER, was the subject of an exhaustive paper by Mr. Frederick Harrison and Mr. O. H. Leeney in *S.A.C.* LXXIV (plan, p. 102). It is now an imposing cruciform building, but in the opinion of the authors of the above account, it was originally similar in plan to Shipley. Remains of windows above the later transeptal arches prove that the tower was an axial one, and its dimensions (interior 16 by 16 ft., exterior 24 by 24 ft.) are only a few feet short of that at Shipley. The tower walls apparently lined with the north and south walls of the original aisleless nave, while the chancel was narrower, but no information is available as to the original length of nave or chancel. Of the arches carrying the walls of the tower that to the east, of two orders enriched with carving, remains as built except for some fine late-twelfth-century capitals inserted in the imposts; that to the west has had its carved voussoirs reset in an arch of pointed form. The upper part of the tower is of later date and is much restored.

4. ST. PETER, EAST BLATCHINGTON, has suffered many changes, and its original form can only be deduced from the evidence of the plan. (Fig. 4.) It is, however, clear that the church had an axial tower of considerable size, probably 19 ft. square inside and 28 ft. square externally, in line with the nave walls. This tower either fell or was removed in the late twelfth or early thirteenth century and was replaced by a new west tower of smaller dimensions. Late in the twelfth century it was apparently desired to add a south aisle, and two arches were cut, one in the south wall of the nave, west of the tower, and the other in the thicker south wall of the tower itself. These arches are now blocked. The undertaking may well have weakened the tower, resulting in its removal and the incorporation of its site into the nave. A new chancel was built in the thirteenth century, and when the west tower was raised it is probable that the old nave was shortened at the west end where the quoins appear to be re-used.

PARISH CHURCH of ST. PETER EAST BLATCHINGTON

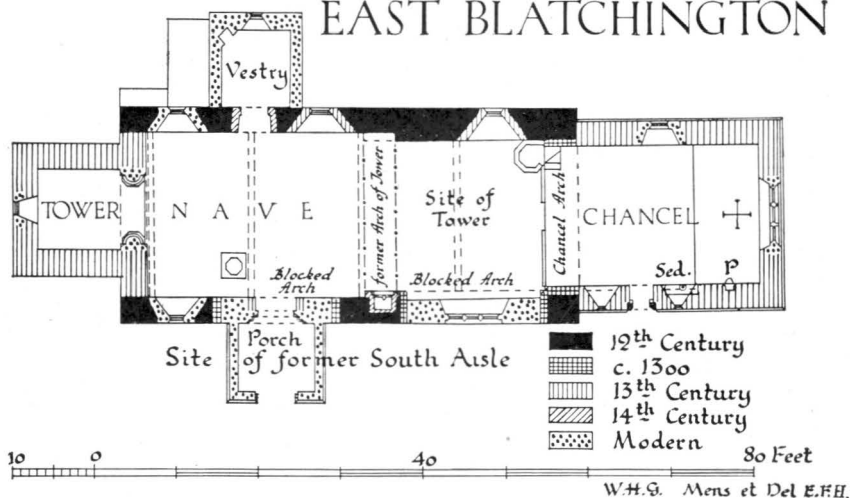


FIG. 4.

PARISH CHURCH of ST. NICHOLAS, IFORD.

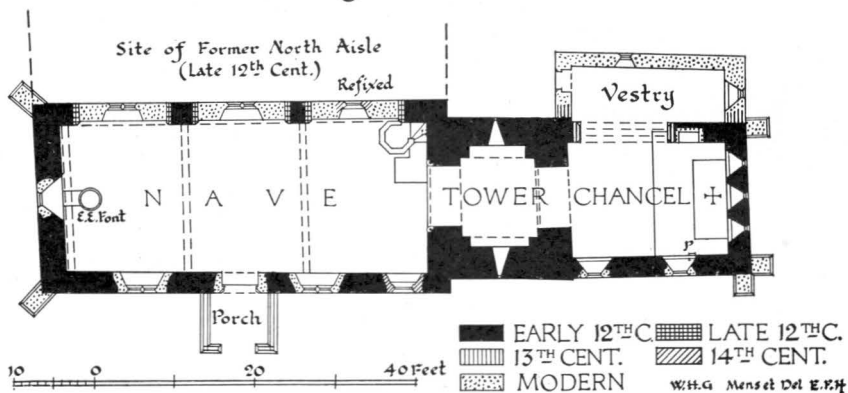


FIG. 5.

The eastern tower arch, opening into the chancel, was widened and rebuilt at the same time or soon after the aisle was planned. The western wall with its arch has disappeared altogether, but its original junction with the lateral walls is marked, on the north, by a curious wall arch and corbel, and on the south by a large double niche with traceried front. When the church was restored vestiges of a circular stone stair were found within the north respond of the chancel arch, which may have belonged to the original stair to the early tower, or to a later rood stair.

5. ST. NICHOLAS, IFORD, is the most complete example of this group of churches, since it retains its Norman nave, tower, and chancel in their original size, and though, in the late twelfth century, a north aisle was added to the nave, this aisle has since disappeared and the arcade is built up. It has, however, one marked difference from the plans already examined, for the tower walls, instead of being flush with those of the nave, are in this case in line with those of the chancel. This circumstance has led Mr. H. S. Braun¹ to see in the tower a reconstruction of an earlier chancel, to which a later chancel, he thinks, has been added, but a most careful re-examination of the building has convinced me that the three chambers are all of one build.

The dimensions of the church are small: nave 45 by 19 ft., tower 10 by 9 ft. (exterior 18 by 17 ft. 6 in.), chancel 25 ft. 6 in. by 14 ft.; but the internal effect of the arrangement is remarkable. The tower arches are 7 ft. 6 in. wide, the western having a roll moulding interrupted by small chevrons and a label of similar section towards the west, while the eastern has a continuous roll on the same face. The responds of the western arch now have nook shafts, but these seem to be modern additions if we may trust the illustration accompanying the Rev. J. L. Petit's paper² published in 1849. The north and south walls of the tower have

¹ *V.C.H. Sussex*, vii, 55.

² *Archaeological Journal*, vi, p. 141.

inner wall arches, within which are small single-light windows. The chancel retains its original arrangement at the east end, three single lights with a circular light in the gable. The site of a small north chapel of later date is now occupied by a vestry. (Figs. 5 and 6.)

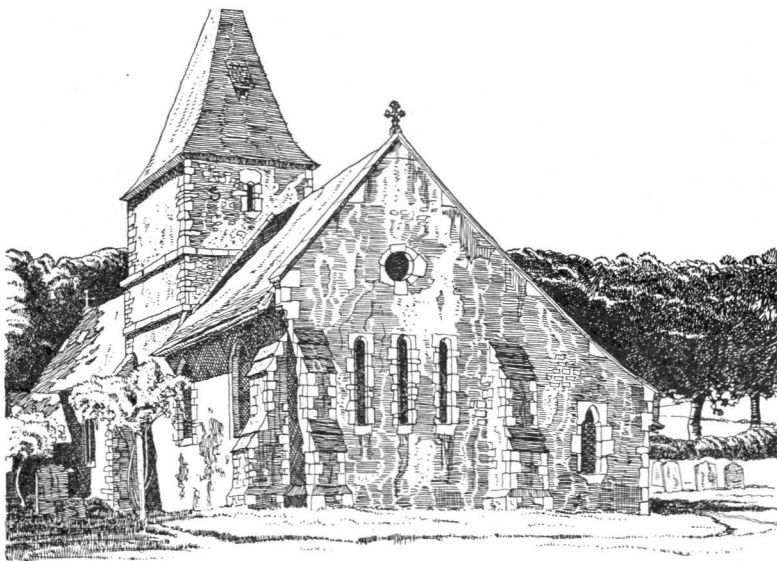


FIG. 6. IFORD CHURCH.

6. ST. JAMES, STEDHAM, must originally have followed the Iford plan pretty closely and seems to have been of the same date. Unfortunately the church, with the exception of the tower, was pulled down in 1850 and rebuilt north of the tower. The elevations of the nave, with its most interesting paintings, which are portrayed in colour in *S.A.C.* vol. IV, show an early-twelfth-century window in both the north and south wall. The tower, which had been rebuilt either wholly or in its upper part in 1670, was the same width externally as the nave, the thirteenth-century chancel being slightly narrower. A drawing by Sharpe in 1804 shows the church from the south-east, with a low octagonal spire over the tower. (Fig. 7.)

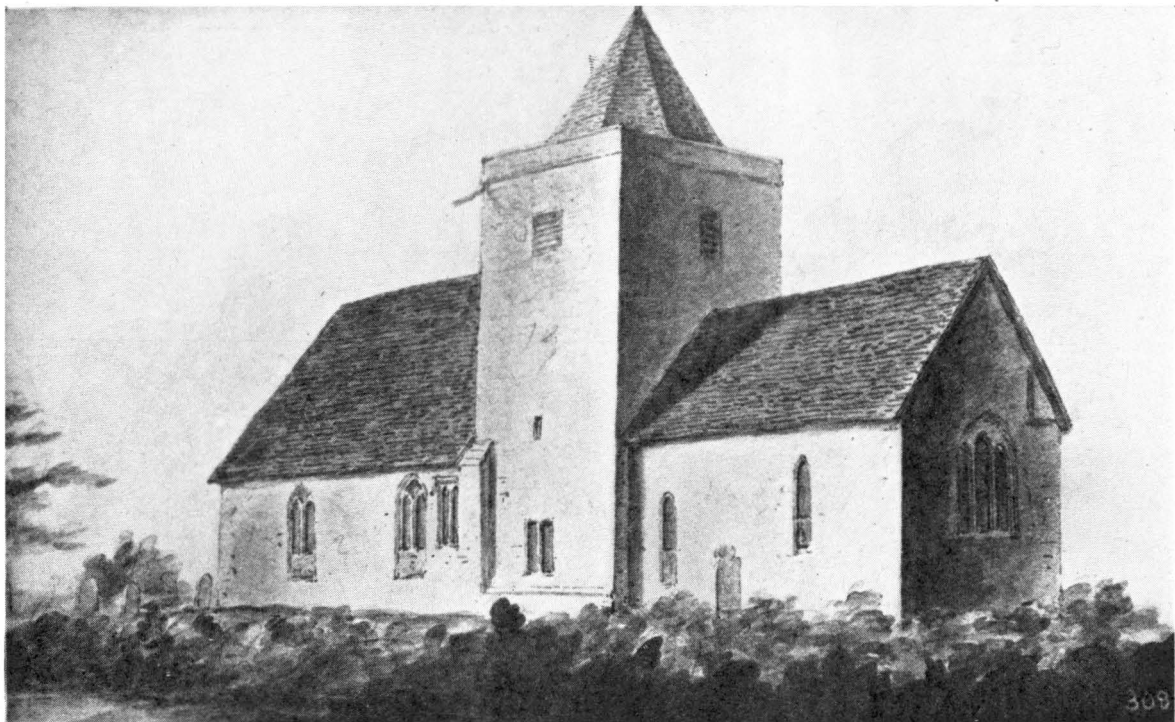


FIG. 7. ST. JAMES, STEDHAM. 1804. (From a drawing in the Sharpe Collection.)

7. ST. JULIAN, KINGSTON BUCI, is the only one of this group of churches which can be assigned in part to the pre-Conquest period. The slight thickness of the nave walls and the large quoins at its western angles, together with the considerable depth of its foundations,

PARISH CHURCH of ST. JULIAN KINGSTON BUCI

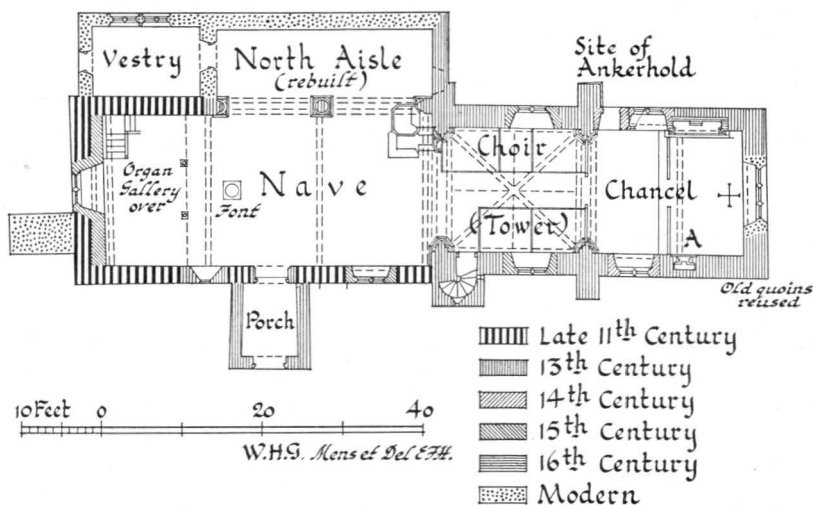


FIG. 8.

point to a Saxon build. In the thirteenth century a north aisle of two bays was added and the parts east of the nave were rebuilt. The axial tower is the same width as the chancel, both being slightly narrower than the nave. The lower stage of the interior of the tower is vaulted and its detail, together with that of the two transverse arches, is delightfully carried out. Each respond has triple shafts, with turned bell capitals of Purbeck, and the inner of the three orders dies into a niche-like recess to avoid fouling the springing of the diagonal ribs of the vault.¹ The staircase turret is on

¹ Mr. O. H. Leeney reminds me that a similar device is to be seen in the vaulting of the nave of Worcester Cathedral.

the south side, and the tower has external buttresses to each transverse wall. The original windows have been replaced in the fifteenth century. The chancel itself retains the small dimensions of an earlier period, although tower and chancel together produce the normal thirteenth-century proportions. (Fig. 8.) There was an ankerhold on the north side, previous to the cutting through of the north external door.

8. ST. MARGARET, ROTTINGDEAN, also possesses a thirteenth-century axial tower and chancel, the former with buttresses like those at Kingston Buci, but the chancel is narrower than the tower, which again has less width than the twelfth-century nave. The south aisle is modern, but is on the site of one that had been destroyed. Foundations have been found, south of the tower, of a building of a length similar to that of the chancel, and it has been held that these are evidences of original transepts and that the first plan of the church was cruciform. It is clear, however, that the present thirteenth-century building, with the three tiers of lancet windows in the tower, was designed as it now stands, and it is quite possible that it is the successor of a similar building of Norman date. It would be curious if an attempt (as at Broadwater) to add transepts to an earlier axial tower had endangered the structure, and resulted in a rebuilding on the old model. The internal dimensions of the tower are little less than those of Kingston Buci (15 ft. square), but there is no comparison between the tower arches, those at Rottingdean being narrow and even primitive in form—three chamfered orders resting on semi-octagonal responds with a rude moulded capping and base. Externally the greater length of the nave and chancel and the height of the tower make a more imposing composition. (Figs. 9 and 10.)

9. ST. MICHAEL, PLAYDEN, is the earliest in date of three interesting plans, where the nave aisles are extended to flank the axial tower. Since this arrangement occasions lateral tower-arches as well as those giving on

PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARGARET ROTTINGDEAN

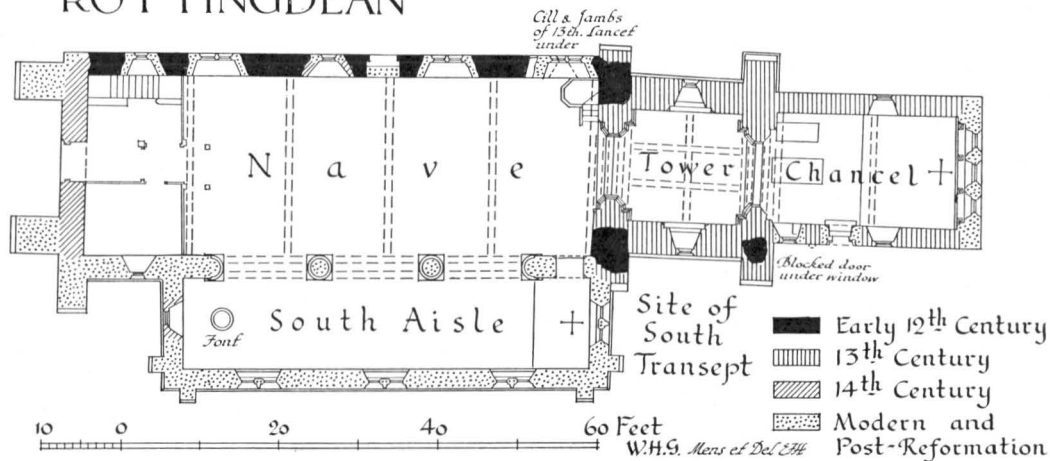


FIG. 9.

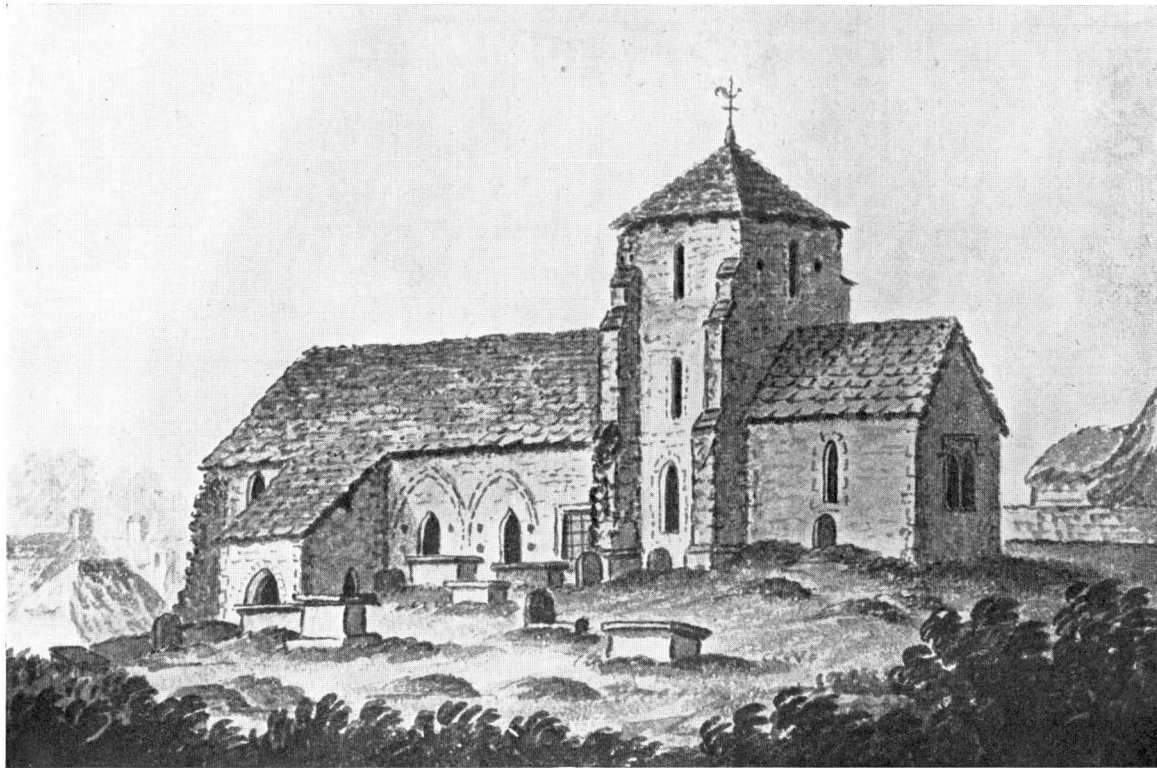
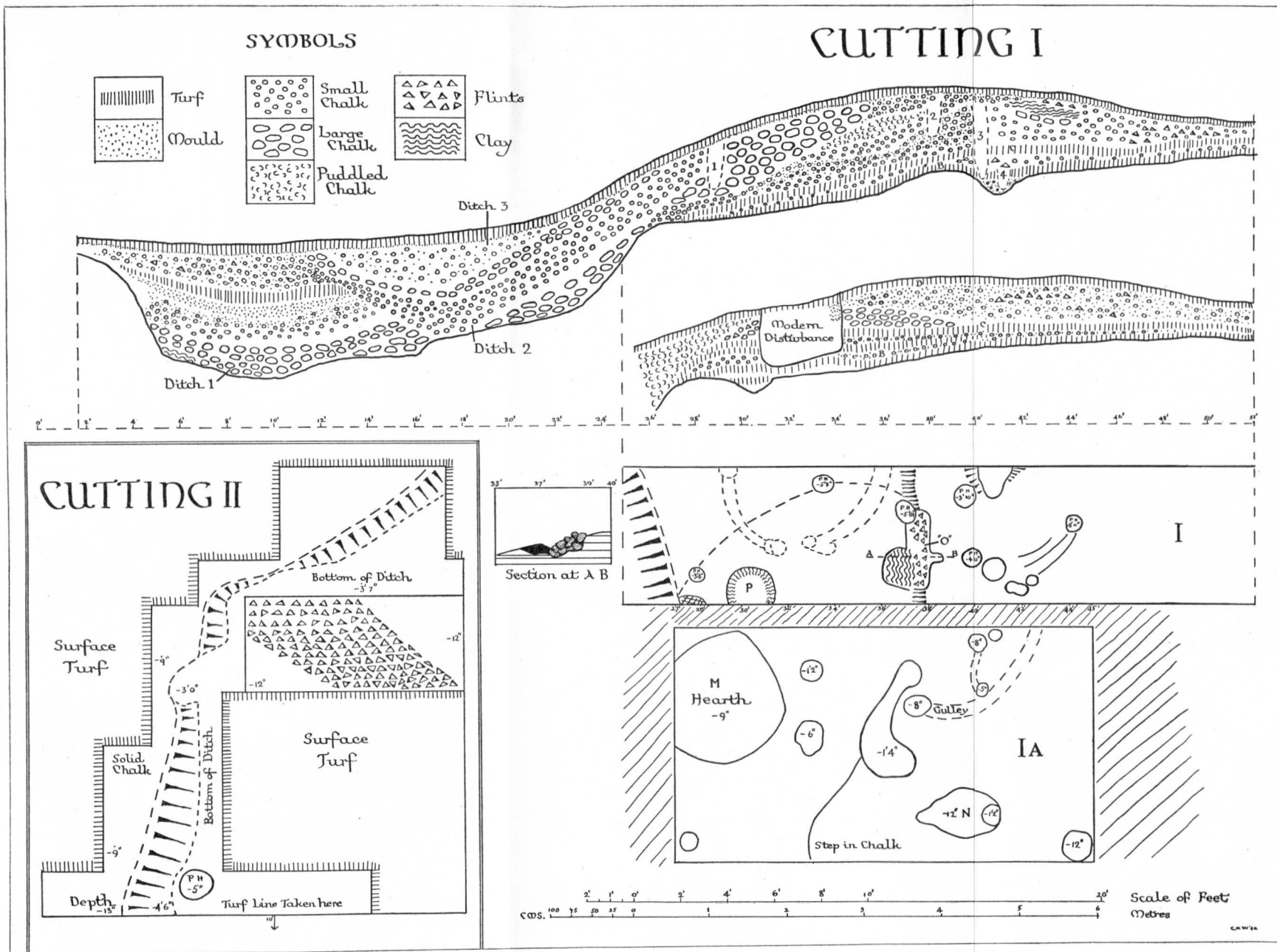


FIG. 10. ROTTINGDEAN CHURCH: FROM THE SOUTH-EAST, c. 1780 (from a drawing in the Burrell Collections).

to nave and chancel, it might be thought that a cruciform church was actually proposed, yet in all three cases it seems clear that transepts were not intended by the builder. The axial towers function independently of the lateral extensions, but there were obvious advantages in providing this access for an aisled nave. None of the churches which we have so far considered were originally planned with aisles, although the short aisle at Kingston Buci was contemporary with the tower, and the south aisle at Rottingdean was probably in being when its tower was built. Playden, however, like the two fourteenth-century churches yet to be considered, was built with an aisled nave from the start, and except for minor changes and the rebuilding of its eastern wall it is still essentially the fabric erected in the late twelfth century. The beauty of the interior is remarkable and must have been enhanced when the circular clerestory windows were visible, for the present roof, which covers nave and aisles in one span, is modern and replaces the three parallel roofs of the original design. (Fig. 11.) The north and south arcades are of four bays each, with three semicircular arches and one that is pointed at the west end. The central piers and the east responds alone are octagonal in plan, the remainder being round. The tower arches, as is usual, are more elaborately treated towards the west, there being one chamfered and two moulded orders with a label facing the nave, and one chamfered order only towards the tower. The eastern arch has a chamfered and a moulded order on both sides with a label towards the west. Both arches are pointed. The north and south arches are of a single chamfered order only. Externally the stone tower is roofed with a brooch spire, the spire being relatively high and slender. The enveloping roof gives it no doubt a very different appearance from of old, and dwarfs the tower as well as reducing the aisles to insignificance.

10. ST. JAMES, LANCING, is a most interesting church with one or two elusive features. It seems to have been



PL. II. SECTIONS AND PLANS OF CUTTINGS I, IA, AND II. Full section is of N. face of Cutting I; smaller section is a 'mirror' section of S. face. Plans of I and IA show features in floor of Late Bronze Age hut.

PARISH CHURCH of ST MICHAEL
PLAYDEN

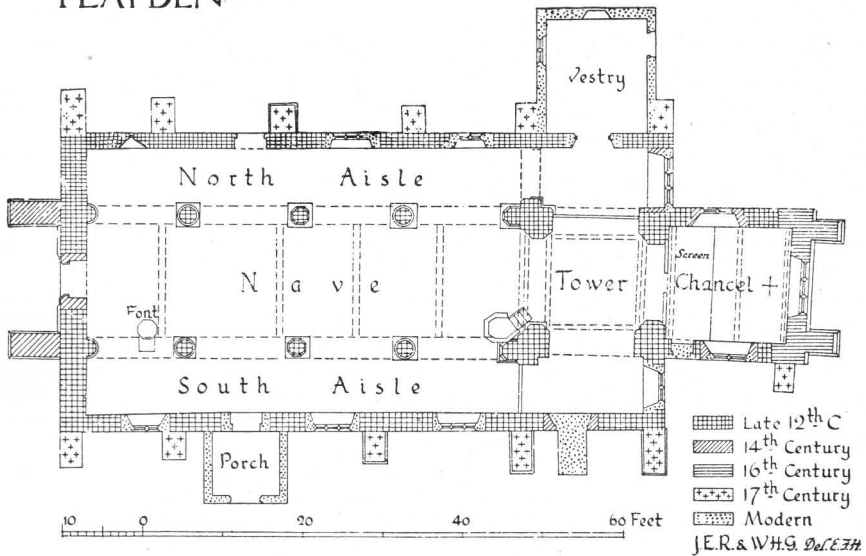


FIG. 11

PARISH CHURCH of ST. JAMES *the* LESS
LANCING

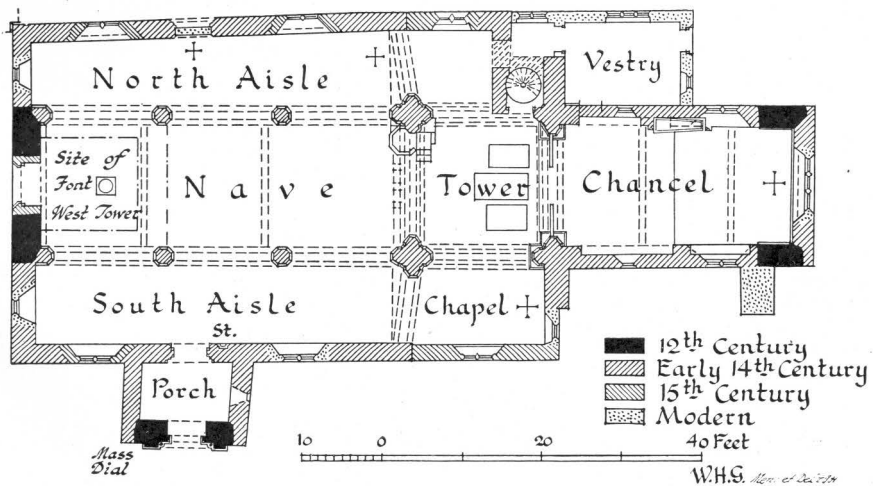


FIG. 12

planned as a coherent whole late in the thirteenth or early in the fourteenth century, but there is evidence that it was a reconstruction, while parts of the earlier church were still in use. Portions of twelfth-century work have survived: a good Norman doorway refixed in the later porch and parts of an internal string-course carved with billet ornament in the eastern parts of both north and south chancel walls, which one would be tempted to ascribe to a re-use of old material, were it not that the north wall, externally, has marked herring-bone technique and seems to be original.¹ The most puzzling features are the arches over the aisles which form abutments to the western arch of the tower. These arches are skewed as if they had to be carried to pre-existing supports in the north and south walls, and indeed at each point of support there is a straight joint in the external walling. If new transepts had been intended there would have been no need for this, but it is possible that the earlier church had transepts to an unaisled nave. Above the skew-arches are loftier ones carried at right angles to the tower, and the whole was plainly designed at one time since this complicated scheme necessitated the working of some of the stones to fit in with the divergent directions above and below. It is unlikely that the earlier church had a central tower, since the thickness of the west wall and certain quoins that appear internally in this wall and externally over the last bay of the nave arcade point to an original western tower. The masons who rebuilt the church in the early fourteenth century made free use of the quoins of Caen stone from the former building, and this gives the church an early appearance from outside, while the extensive external rendering in plaster increases the difficulty of identifying the sequence of construction. As it stands, however, Lancing exhibits a most interesting example of the continuation of an axial tower with an aisled nave. It should be noticed

¹ If the original Norman Chancel were in fact so far east, the position of the chancel arch must have been moved westward at some subsequent reconstruction unless the twelfth-century chancel had the unusual length which occurs at Wilmington and possibly St. Anne's, Lewes.

that the position of the staircase to the tower partly blocks the northern tower arch and reduces the length of the north aisle. There is a record that the tower was at one time loftier than at present. (Fig. 12.)

PARISH CHURCH of S.S MARY & NICHOLAS ETCHINGHAM

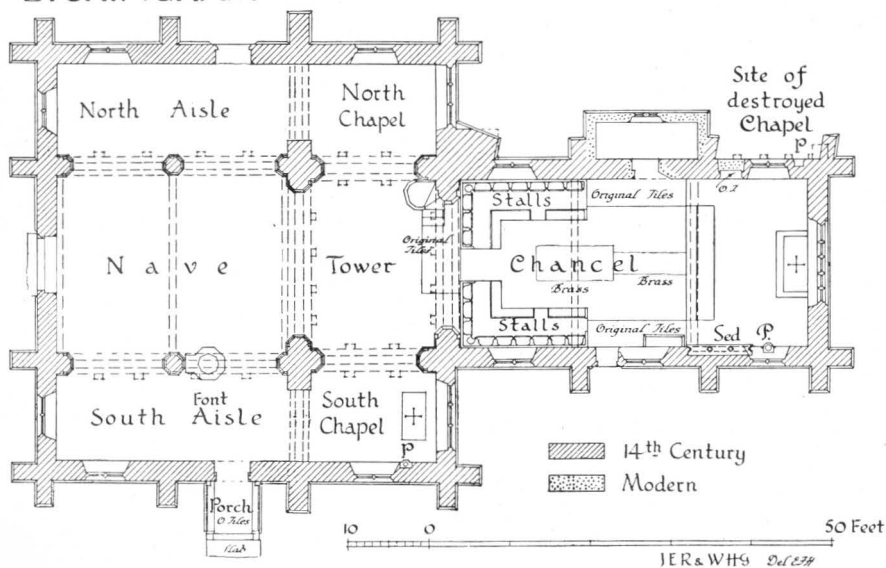


FIG. 13.

11. ST. MARY, ETCHINGHAM. This very beautiful building has been fully described elsewhere,¹ and it is only necessary to say here that it was built as a complete design at the charges of Sir William de Etchingham, about the year 1363.² The only uncertainty in its plan concerns the length of the nave, which has but two bays west of the tower. The west end has the appearance of being of a temporary character and an extension may well have been intended. The extreme elegance of the window tracery, the fine dressing of the stonework, which enhances the simplicity of the tower, and

¹ *V.C.H. Sussex*, ix. 215-16; *S.A.C.* ix. 343-60.

² Mr. L. F. Salzman has published the contract for making five windows in this year: *S.N.Q.* iii. 52.

the quality of the stalls and internal fittings make the church a notable one. The chancel is of three bays, without aisles; the nave, also of three bays but aisled, accommodates the tower in its eastern bay with a chapel north and south in each aisle. (Fig. 13.) The tower and aisle walls alone have parapets, the main roof being finished with eaves, giving a simplicity of mass which makes a remarkable setting for the fine windows.

In conclusion a word should be said concerning the wooden belfry of WEST CHILTINGTON. The central position (between nave and chancel) is much more common in France than in England for hanging the bell, and the small spire called a *flèche* is a common feature abroad. In Normandy there are many examples similar to our wooden belfries which ride on the western bay of the nave roof, but not infrequently these are placed over the chancel arch. At West Chiltington we have such a belfry, the wall between nave and chancel having been thickened to 5 ft. 6 in. to assist its support. Its proportions, in contrast to the small size of the church, are large and it is crowned with a shingled spire. In appearance it can claim a place among the axial towers which it obviously emulates. The church is best known for its remarkable wall paintings, which are recorded in the coloured drawings preserved at Barbican House, Lewes.

For the views of Newhaven, Iford, and Rottingdean, reproduced from blocks made for *V.C.H. Sussex*, vol. vii (*Rape of Lewes*), we are indebted to the Editor of the *Victoria County Histories*.