

Etched by H.Ninham. from a Sketch by the Rev^d. James Bulwer.1846.

INTERIOR OF GREAT DUNHAM CHURCH NORFOLK.

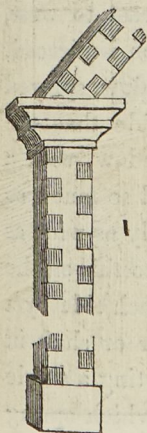
NOTICES
OF
THE SAXON OR EARLY NORMAN CHURCH
OF
GREAT DUNHAM,

READ AT THE SECOND GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORFOLK AND NORWICH
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY AT THE MUSEUM, APRIL 1, 1846,

BY GEORGE ALFRED CARTHEW, ESQ.

THE parish of Dunham Magna had two churches, one of which was dedicated to St. Mary, the other to St. Andrew. One only is now in existence; and that one appears to exhibit features of sufficient interest to warrant my calling the attention of the members of the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society to it.

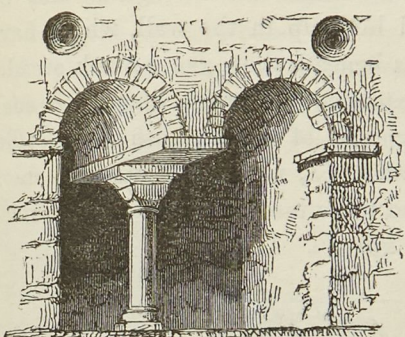
This church consists of a nave and chancel, with a square tower between them. The average thickness of the walls of the latter is about 3 ft. 8 in.; that of the nave about 2 ft. 9 in. These walls are composed of rough flints, with a few Roman-like bricks amongst them. The quoins at the angles of both are in the style called *long and short work*. There are no buttresses, except at the eastern angles of the chancel, which is of comparatively modern erection; but in some recent excavations under the communion table, the foundations of a semi-circular apse were discovered. At the west end of the nave is a triangular-headed door-



way (now blocked up); the front of the jambs, as well as of the straight sides of the arch, ornamented with a checked moulding three inches in width. (*Fig. 1.*)

Upon the plaster, covering the materials with which this arch has been blocked, and over a square wooden door inserted therein, are impressed the royal arms within a garter, and the supporters, a lion and dragon; indicating the reign of Henry the Eighth as the period of stopping this entrance.

The present entrance is through a Tudor porch, on the south side, the doorway arch being surmounted by a dripstone consisting of a three-quarter-round moulding over a hollow, and buckle termination. There was a corresponding doorway on the opposite side. In the upper part of the north wall, over the western jamb of the latter doorway, is a small round-headed window, splayed all round on both sides, with the glazing in the centre; the width of the latter about 1 ft. 9 in., each splay about 1 ft. 4 in., and the width of the outer arch about 4 ft. 3 in. Two like windows have been blocked up at a very early period on the south side: one is partially covered by the porch, and the lower portion of the other is occupied by the head of the early English window after mentioned. The heads of the arches are formed of Roman-like bricks radiating from the centre. The tower, externally, is of the same width as the nave, and measures, from east to west, about 19 ft. The south side of the lower portion is pierced, about 10 ft. from the floor, by a round-headed window, splayed equally both ways, but glazed nearer the outside than the inside. Over this is another round-headed window, with a very narrow aperture, also splayed all round, and so much so at the sides as to render the outer openings nearly as wide as that beneath. There is a corresponding window to this on the opposite side. The bell-chamber is lighted on each side by a double window, divided by a cylindrical baluster or shaft in the middle of the wall, with cushion-cap supporting a single long stone through the whole thickness; from which spring



two circular-headed arches formed of radiating bricks, and having for imposts abaci of the same material, over each jamb of which, in the east and west sides, is a small, round, splayed sound-hole. These have very recently been discovered and opened.

In the south side of the nave, and occupying the lower portion of one of the blocked-up windows, is a window of early English character, lowly cilled, and consisting of two lancet lights under a single arch, with dripstone, and a circle in the arch-head pierced with a quartre-foil;—mouldings round. A window westward of this is triple-lighted and late perpendicular, as are two in the opposite side. The west window over the straight-arched doorway is stonemasons' Gothic.

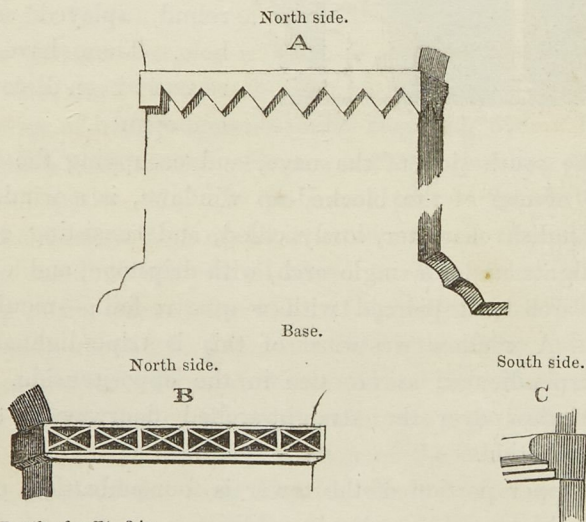
The upper portion of the tower is four-embattled, over a string course—a perpendicular addition.

The chancel is a little narrower in its dimensions: its eastern end was found to be built upon the soil without any foundation. It has a low, narrow (priest's) doorway in the south wall, under a depressed four-centred arch. An angular moulded dripstone is terminated by sculptured animals. Westward of this is a modern stonemason's window. The east window has three lights, perpendicular tracery having been cut out.

The roof is of a good pitch, and tiled. That of the nave was apparently reduced at the same time as the other alterations. It is leaded. Gable-crosses gone. Both are ceiled inside.

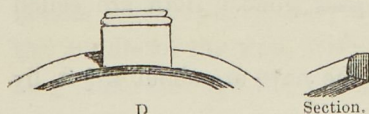
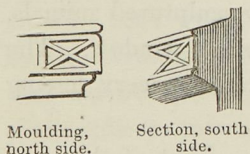
Internally, the dimensions of the nave are about $49\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by

16½ ft. The early church could have been lighted only by the small windows placed high up in the wall, which have been before mentioned; as beneath them ran a blank arcade, which appears to have extended the entire length on each side. The arches are segments of circles, with plain soffits springing from moulded abaci (A, B, C); but most of them have been cut away or filled up to insert the present windows.



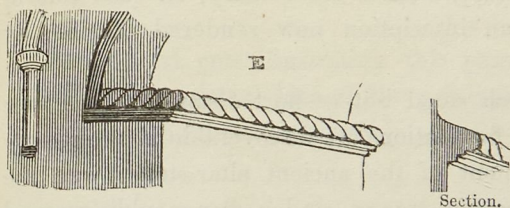
Depth of soffit, 3 in.
Width of bay, 3 ft. 10½ in.
Width of lower part of ditto, 3 ft. 2 in.
Width of pier, 1 ft. 1 in.
Width of abacus, 1 ft. 4 in.

The west tower arch, opening to the nave, springs from an abacus on each side, having the lower edge chamfered and the face moulded, like that marked B. This moulding has no return, but on one side it has an appearance of being chipped off. The width of this arch is 6 ft. 4 in.; its depth 3 ft. 8 in. There is a remnant of a label moulding over



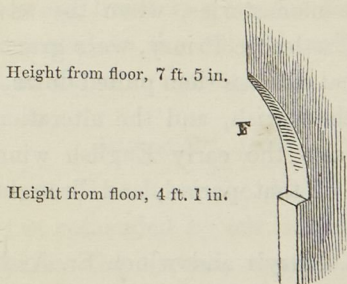
the west side, at some interval from the edge, with a sort of key-stone (D).

The east arch, connecting the tower with the chancel, is, like the other, round (or rather segmentally) headed, with plain soffit, and springs from unequal abaci of rude cable moulding (E). This moulding makes a return in the west face, terminating at the spring of a three-quarter-round



hood-moulding which encompasses the arch at a few inches' distance from the edge. At a greater interval

a similar round moulding springs from a shaft-like bracket. The width of this arch is $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft.; the thickness of the wall 3 ft. 6 in.



The north-east angle of the south pier of this latter arch is chamfered at the bottom, and, where the angle is first taken off, splayed deeper into the wall, as above represented (F)—perhaps hagiographic.

The internal width of the tower from north to south is 14 ft., being about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. more than the dimensions from east to west.

The internal dimensions of the present chancel are somewhere about 23 ft. by $11\frac{1}{2}$ ft. The sanctorium, raised one step, occupies the place of the original apse. It has, in the usual place, a cinq-foil headed piscina within a pointed arch, with sculptured eagles in the spandrels.

The font is octagonal, and of the perpendicular style.

The shield of arms and sepulchral memorial of Henry Bastard, mentioned by Parkyn, are on brass plates in the chancel. At the east end, in the churchyard, is a coped stone, 6 ft. 9 in. in length by about 1 ft. 7 in. at the head, and 1 ft. 4 in. at the foot, with a cross-fleury, on each side of which has been an inscription now rendered illegible by time.

The other church stood but a short distance to the west of this, where its foundations are discoverable in the rectory garden. A fragment of the ancient altar-stone, with the central and two corner crosses, and a star-moulding round the edge, was lately dug up. Some capitals, mullions, &c. found there, point to the early English era.

It is probable that both churches were standing at the dissolution of the monasteries, when the advowsons, which had belonged to Castleacre Priory, were granted to the Duke of Norfolk, and that one was then pulled down, as not required for the wants of the parish, and the alterations made in the other. Perhaps also the early English window mentioned was an insertion of that period, and brought from the destroyed edifice.

Which was St. Mary's and which St. Andrew's, is, I believe, not now known.

I have not the means of reference whether any church is mentioned in Domesday Book. The manor belonged to Archbishop Stigand's honour of Mileham, and it is possible that the early portion of the present church is of that era; but, although the long and short quoin-stones, the round-headed arches splayed equally all ways, the peculiar west doorway, and the Roman bricks used in the construction of this church, would, until very recently, have been deemed conclusive evidence of its Saxon origin, to which I have hitherto been inclined to attribute it, a recent inspection of the undoubted Saxon tower at Barton-upon-Humber, and the having had

some of the above characteristics pointed out to me in late Norman work, together with the Norman character of some of the mouldings, have considerably shaken my faith upon that head, and I must leave the point for decision to more competent judges.

G. A. C.

[The wood cuts illustrating this paper are intended to convey only a general idea of the principal features, and are not given with minute accuracy.]

For the following Extracts from the Great Dunham Register, I am indebted to the valuable repository and kind communication of Dawson Turner, Esq.

£. s. d.

August 2nd, 1665.

Collected at our Church on the day of the first publique fast comanded by our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Second, towards the relief of the Poor visited with the Plague, the sum of

01 04 08

Oct^r 10, 1666.

Collected for the relief of London (undone by the dreadful fire which began Sunday, 2^d Sept^r, 1666, & continued in violence until the Thursday or Friday following) the sum of

01 11 07

This money was sent to M^r Tho. Ellis, Jan. 15, 1666, to be by him p^d to D^r Hughes, appoynted to rece the same, but got no rec^t.

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December, 1670.

	£.	s.	d.
Collected for the redemption of y ^e English Captives out of Turkish Bondage . . .	04	05	06
Feb. 13, p ^d the same to M ^r Swift, Minister of Mileham by the Bhp ^s appointm ^t .			

October, 1680.

Collected towards the redemption of English Captives out of their slavery and bondage in Algiers	3	16	0
Which sum was sent to M ^r Nicholas Browne, Registrar under D ^r Connant, Archdeacon of Norwich, Oct ^r 2 ^d , 1680.			

Collected towards the relief of the distressed Protestants driven out of France, the sum of 15s. 6d., which was p ^d to M ^r Nicholas Browne, Register'd at Lytcham, March 8, 1681 . . .	-	15	6
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Marriages, 1742.*Mem.*

I, Ambr. Pimlowe, Rector of this Parish, was this 27th day of Sept^r, 1742, at the Rev^d M^r Christopher Sealby's at Rougham, in the afternoon, to meet with M^r Edmund Clarke, Apothecary at one of the Burnhams, who wanted to speak with me, & asked me whether I married the above-named Simon Clarke & Alice Dewing. I answered yea, & too late to find the young man was his only son of about 19 years of age, and well educated at Bury School, and intended for his own business, and then for further improvement to be sent to London, and likely to enjoy an handsome Fortune; & that the woman was about 17 and a servant; tho' both to

me seem'd and look'd to be above age. But, to my great misfortune in Character and Reputation, I was too credulous in believing Charles Dewing of Fritcham, a capital tenant to the Right Honorable Lord Lovell, brother to the above named Alice Dewing, and William Goodrick of Swaffham, Glover, who, to their eternal infamy, impos'd upon my ignorance, by declaring the aforementioned Simon Clarke and Alice Dewing were both Servants and lived with M^{rs} ***** widow at Burnham, which false testimony made me the unhappy instrument of joining their hands in matrimony, to the ruin of the Bridesgroom and the high displeasure of his father; for which act in bitter sorrow I repent, and pray God and all good Christians to forgive me, and in a most special manner ask pardon of the injured father, and freely confess if I was to be suspended for this (tho' ignorant act) it would be but justice; because I was too credulous and should have been more cautious, and not have hazarded any danger to the married couple, their relations, or myself. And this account I have freely entered into the Parish Register, to stand upon record as a blot in my clerical character, and shall and ought to carry the shame of it to my grave, and wish ten thousand times I had been more cautious and better advised, and do lament the injur'd father's misfortune from the bottom of my heart; and wish all licences were disannul'd, and no marriage legal but by publishing of the Banns in the Face of the Congregation; and to this recantation (resolving to be wise hereafter) I have set my hand Sept^r 28, 1742.

AMBR. PIMLOWE, Rector.

N.B.—Mr. Pimlowe died Rector of Great Dunham on the 3rd September, 1750; and a tablet to his memory is inserted in the east wall of the chancel, outside.