

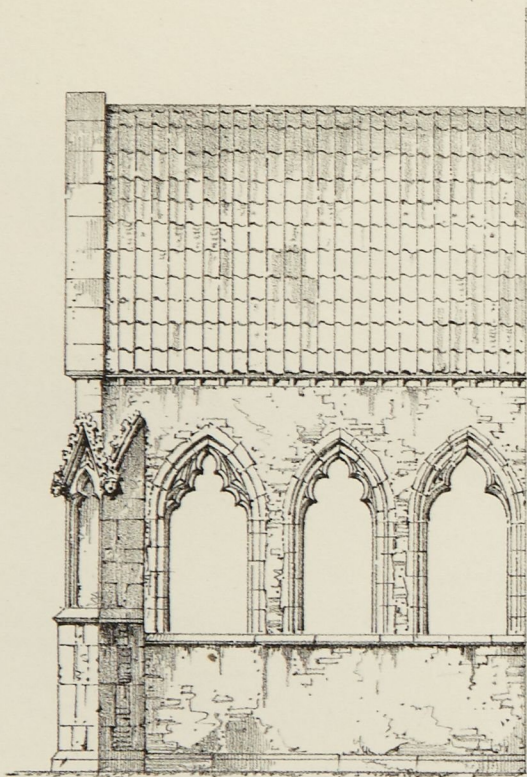
NOTES ON THE

## ARCHITECTURE OF HELLINGTON CHURCH.

COMMUNICATED BY

THE REV. C. R. MANNING, M.A., HON. SEC.

THE village of Hellington or Hillington is situated in the hundred of Loddon, at about seven miles to the south-east of Norwich. The church is a small but interesting specimen of the Early Decorated style of architecture, and is completely in that style, with the exception of two Norman doorways. It consists of chancel, nave, western tower, and south porch. The chancel and nave are of equal width throughout, the exterior walls being in an unbroken line. The east window has unfortunately lost its tracery, and is partially filled with a modern opening. It was originally a large window, of the same period as the rest of the church, and its shafts, with flowered capitals, remain in the inside. Had the tracery been preserved, it would have formed, with the fine cross on the gable and the windows on the south side of the chancel, a combination of great beauty; and its loss is much to be lamented. There are niches blocked up on each side of it, internally. The north side of the chancel is without windows, but on the south side are three, each of two lights, but all differing in the pattern of the tracery; the labels, both inside and out, are terminated with beautiful foliage or heads, and there are remains of shafts and capitals,

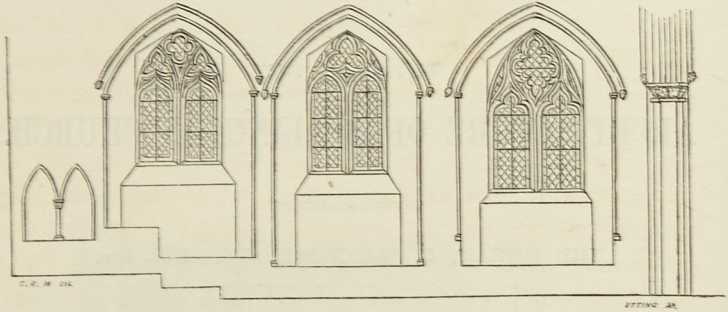


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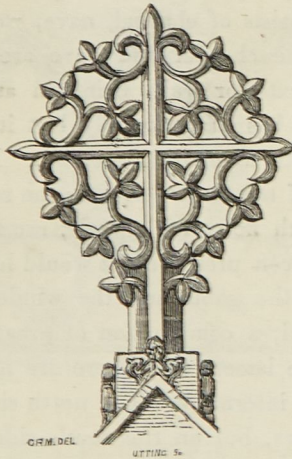
Day & Son Lith<sup>rs</sup> to The Queen.

SIDE ELEVATION OF SOUTH PORCH .  
Hellington Church, Norfolk .

internally: an accompanying sketch will give some idea of their appearance. To the east of these windows is a piscina,



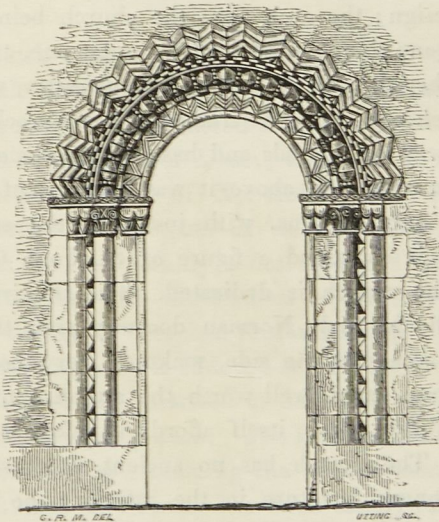
also shown in the sketch, formed with two arches, divided by a small shaft. Outside the chancel is a gable cross, of the same date, and of extremely beautiful design: it was repaired and restored to its position in 1849, by the then curate, Mr. French.



The chancel arch has the usual mouldings of the same period, with flowered capitals of great elegance; the label

is terminated by well-carved heads, that on the south side showing the wimple or veil, characteristic of the date.

The nave has, on the south side, two Early Decorated windows, differing from each other, and from those in the chancel; they have also shafts, capitals, and label heads, of good design. There is only one window on the north side, which is of the Perpendicular style, and of two lights. The two doorways to the nave are both Norman; that on the north side is of handsome character, having shafts with cushion capitals, and has a kind of lozenge or saltire ornament on the arch, and the billet moulding on the label. The south doorway is much finer, and has three orders of mouldings, with capitals of various design. The arch is richly



sculptured with the chevron, double cone, and other mouldings not easily described, and is similar in character to many others in the neighbourhood. These doorways prove the existence of a Norman church on the site, which would appear to have been rebuilt early in the fourteenth century, the

doorways only being preserved, as was very commonly the case. The lower walls of the tower may also possibly be Norman, the belfry arch being circular, although there is nothing else to indicate that style. The tower is a round one, and the belfry windows are very good Early Decorated. But the most striking and unusual feature of the church, and for which, principally, I have brought it to the notice of the Society, is the south porch. It is not common, in this county, to find a highly ornamental porch of the Decorated style. Perpendicular ones are very numerous, and some are of much magnificence; but in the earlier styles, they are generally very plain. Not a few may be found with Decorated windows at the sides; but this has the peculiarity of three windows, or rather open arches, on each side. They differ in design; the arch next the church being trefoiled, the middle one cinquefoiled, and the outer one, trefoiled and double-feathered. At the angles are buttresses, with elegant trefoiled niches in them, the triangular heads crocketed. The outer doorway has capitals and bases of the same Early Decorated character, and above it was a niche, of which the lower part only remains, with just sufficient sculpture to decide that it contained a figure of St. John the Baptist, to whom the church is dedicated. The side view of this porch, with the rich Norman doorway seen through the Decorated arches at the side, makes a very beautiful and effective composition, well worth the attention of photographers; and the porch itself affords a valuable model for imitation. The church has no ancient wood-work, or remains of church furniture in the interior: the roof, seats, pavement, and font are all modern. There is a small brass shield and inscription for Sir Anthony Gawdy, Knt., 1642, and in the churchyard is a portion of an ancient coffin lid, with a cross upon it.