

Notices of the Church at Randworth,

WALSHAM HUNDRED.

COMMUNICATED BY

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THE Church of Randworth, in the Archdeaconry of Norwich and Deanery of Blofield, is dedicated to St. Helen.¹ It consists of a chancel, 32 feet by 21 feet 6 inches, with a north door;² a lofty nave, 63 feet 6 inches by 31 feet 3 inches, having a north porch, 12 feet by 10 feet 3 inches, with parvise over; a south porch, 13 feet 6 inches by 10 feet, and a western tower, 12 feet by 10 feet; the entire length from the western doors to the east wall being 116 feet.

The present church appears to have been erected late in the decorated or early in the following period. A mixed style may be observed in the chancel, one of the windows on the north side having flowing tracery, whilst the two on the south side have four centred arches and perpendicular tracery. The six windows of the nave are four centred of three lights, each with cinquefoliated heads, but all the tracery is destroyed.

The tower is square, of three stages, with angle buttresses,

¹ Brosyard, 25. Wyghte, 66, &c.

² The priest's house was on the north side.—Lib. Inst. x. 107.

and is finished with an embattled parapet, with flint and stone panels, having shields. Figures, now lost, appear to have terminated the summits of the four angles. The belfry windows were of two lights, but the mullions are gone, and the four square windows in the stage below are of two designs. The staircase turret at the north-east corner is carried no further than the bell-chamber. The west window is of three lights, but the tracery is destroyed. There is a good bold plinth and water table, and the perpendicular west doorway has an effective moulding continued round both jambs and arch. The hood moulding terminates with two spirited female heads wimpled, c. 1320, apparently old work reset. The perpendicular doors remain, but the tracery has been cut off. The windows of the south porch are decorated, of two lights, with cinquefoliated heads, and have been glazed, and the roof is open timbered. Over the doorway is a niche, with a canopy and pedestal in a very perfect state, without a figure.

The north porch is used as a vestry, and the old entrance from the churchyard, a four-centred arch, is bricked up. At the left hand of the entrance to the church is a mutilated holy-water stoup. The windows of this porch are two-light perpendicular, the ceiling modern, and there is a chamber over it, of which the staircase and windows, the latter perpendicular, are blocked up. It is, however, contemporary with the south porch, for the base of one of the buttresses of each has a similar panel, containing a lion sejant, boldly sculptured. The doorways in both porches are perpendicular and closely resemble each other, having good bold hood mouldings with pateræ at intervals in the hollow, and well-cut corbel heads of a king and queen. Both retain their original doors, all the tracery however being lost.

The gables of the nave, chancel, and south porch, retain the saddle stones and shafts of their crosses; and during the summer of 1866, in emptying an old dry well in this parish,

a portion of a stone crucifix was found, which may have surmounted the gable of the north porch. All the gables moreover retain their coping, and have good springers.

The interior state of the building is very deplorable. The chancel roof is entirely concealed by plaster; the original roof of the nave has been removed,³ and a common roughly-framed one, consisting of a collar-beam, two diagonal ties, a king-post, and strut substituted. This is covered with slates, which are not concealed from view inside, not being plastered between the spars, giving a remarkably bare and poverty-stricken appearance to the fabric. The east window of the chancel is partly bricked up, and a small window of wood inserted. There is a good decorated piscina with cinque-foliated head, sexfoiled bason with pierced boss, and the stout wooden shelf or credence remaining. It has an arched opening to the sedilia which are bricked up. There are no visible remains in the chancel of any aumbry, niches, &c. The altar-rails are of the last century, and, with the communion table, are of a mean description. The priest's doorway on the north side retains its original perpendicular door, the upper part tolerably perfect. About four feet from the floor, on the south wall, is a curious winch, probably used for

³ The old roof was taken down and the lead with which it was covered was sold by Faculty from the Bishop of Norwich, dated 25th March, 1311, which recites the receipt of a petition from the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Inhabitants, shewing, "That the roof of the Parish Church of Ranworth aforesaid is covered with lead which is very old and thin and the church is much out of repair, particularly the roof, which is in a very dilapidated state. That the said petitioners are desirous of stripping the lead from the roof of the said Church and of putting a new roof thereon, to be covered with the best Westmorland Slates instead of Lead, and also of completely repairing the said Church. That an estimate of the expence of such new roof to be covered with slates as aforesaid hath been made, which amounts to the sum of three hundred and seventy-nine pounds and eleven shillings. That the old lead and other materials of the present roof are estimated to be worth the sum of two hundred and forty-one pounds and eleven shillings."—Lib. Fac. 9, fo. 11. This old roof is described by those who remember it as exceedingly rich in carving and gilding.

raising and lowering the light which always burned before the Blessed Sacrament. Against the back of the chancel screen are six perpendicular stalls: four only retain their subsellia. On the south side, No. 1 is lost; No. 2, a grotesque man with spade in hand—supporters, a rose and a circle containing three flowing cinquefoils; No. 3, a head—supporters, a true lover's knot and a circle containing two interlaced triangles. On the north side, No. 1, merely a bracket—supporters, a grotesque head and a rose; No. 2, a head—supporters, a leaf and a rose; No. 3, lost. The elbow-pieces have various devices of foliage, heads, and animals, carved upon them.

There is also in the chancel a good perpendicular oak lectern of unusual construction, the desks placed *dos à dos* but at unequal heights. On one side above the desk is painted this verse—

Gloria tibi domine
qui natus es de uirgine
cum patre sancto spiritu
in sc̄pit̄na secula. Amen.

And between the lines are Gregorian notes on a musical stave of four lines. On the other side, beneath the desk, is painted the eagle of St. John the Evangelist, with a scroll inscribed ✠ *In principio erat uerbum*. The shaft is octagonal and has a moulded base.⁴

⁴ There is a lithograph of this lectern in the privately printed "Catalogue of Engravings, Etchings, and Original Drawings, and Deeds, in the library of Dawson Turner, Esq., 1841." In *Notes and Queries*, second series, vi. 141, 193, 270, 332, some interesting correspondence relating to it will be found. With reference to the verse painted at the back of the lectern it is said, "that during the Octave of Christmas, and on some other festivals, all the hymns at the different canonical hours were ended with this same verse. So that possibly it may have been conspicuously painted there for the convenience of the choir, saving them the trouble of turning each time to the actual hymn, of which it forms the proper conclusion."

The chancel arch is decorated, lofty, and rather plain; it retains the mortices, probably of the framework of the rood. The screen is nearly perfect and is the principal object of interest in the church. Placed beneath the chancel arch, it is divided by mullions into six arched compartments, three on either side of a central doorway, the arch of which is richly cusped, recusped, and crocketed on each side. A handsomely moulded transom at four feet from the ground divides this screen; the upper portion being open, the lower panelled. Each of the three compartments on either side of the doorway is again divided vertically below the transom into two panels, alternately coloured green and red, with cinquefoiled heads; on each is painted the figure of an apostle, with his name beneath, and the lower part is occupied with two carved quatrefoils, which raise the figure a few inches above the floor level and give it a better effect. The following is the order in which the apostles are placed, commencing at the north side—

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Sancte symon | 7. Sc̄e Paule |
| 2. Sancte thoma | 8. Sc̄e Ioh̄es |
| 3. bartholomee sancte | 9. Sc̄e Philippe |
| 4. Sancte iacobe | 10. Sc̄e Iacobe |
| 5. Sancte andea | 11. Sc̄e Jude |
| 6. petre | 12. Sc̄e Mathee |

[Doorway.]

On either side of this central screen, and about a foot in advance of the east wall of the nave, are two reredoses, about four feet from the floor, each divided into four panels, each panel containing a seated figure of a saint, and above it an angel, or other member of the heavenly hierarchy, holding a dossel cloth of diapered pattern. These figures have not their names inscribed beneath them, but have been appropriated as follows :—

NORTH REREDOS.

1. St. Etheldreda.
2. St. John Baptist.
3. Another painting of St. John.
4. St. Barbara.

SOUTH REREDOS.

1. St. Mary of Salome with her two children, St. James the Great and St. John Evangelist.
2. B. V. Mary and Holy Child.
3. St. Mary of Cleophas with her four sons, SS. James the Less, Judas Thaddeus, Simon Zelotes, and Joseph.
4. St. Margaret.⁴

Above each panel are three canopied niches which evidently once contained figures.

At the extreme end of the central screen and at right angles to it are two wings, projecting six feet, which connect the reredoses with the central screen and terminate in octagonal columns or standards about seven feet high with cusped and crocketed flying buttresses. Octagonal caps now finish these standards, but it would appear that another flying buttress sprung from the capital to the level of the under side of the loft, or they may possibly have been surmounted with figures. These wings were *parclose* to the altars on either side of the chancel arch, the reredoses of which have just been described.

The panels of these *parclose*s bear these figures—NORTH *PARCLOSE*, 1. A Bishop, conjectured by Dr. Husenbeth to be St. Felix; 2. St. Stephen; 3. St. George. SOUTH *PARCLOSE*, 1. An Archbishop, supposed by the learned doctor just mentioned to be St. Thomas of Canterbury; 2. St. Laurence; 3. St. Michael. The rood-loft extends completely across the nave, and the soffit was most elaborately groined. That portion immediately joining the central screen remains in a very perfect state; the remainder has been entirely destroyed and a plain plastered cove substituted, but indications of the lost groining remain at each end of the central portion.

⁴ We owe to Mr. C. J. W. Winter the discovery of the dragon, which identifies this figure, previously supposed to represent St. Helen.

The wood-work is richly moulded, painted with various colours and diapers and enriched with gilding, and the hollows of the mouldings have at short intervals pateræ, which are not carved from the solid but attached with pins. Nothing but the framework of the reredoses remains, all the minute details of buttresses, pinnacles, crockets, and tracery mouldings which adorned them are gone, not however without having left ample indications of their existence. The lithographs of this screen about to be published by our Society will render any minute description of the figures and their emblems superfluous.⁵ To obtain, however, a satisfactory idea of the whole composition, nothing less than an examination of the screen itself will be sufficient; and the marvellous richness of the tracery work, painting, and diapering, mutilated though it be, will amply repay a visit to the church.

A few points, however, require notice. The obliteration of the faces of the saints and of the emblems by which they are distinguished,⁶ may be to a certain extent understood, but the reason for daubing over the hands and feet of some of the figures is not so intelligible. We would also draw attention to a couple of perforations in the panels of the screen, on the north side, corresponding with other holes in the backs of the stalls, through which the high altar might be seen by a person kneeling in the nave. The necessity for these is not obvious, and it seems singular that so handsome a screen should have been thus disfigured.⁷ Nor would we leave unnoticed some small iron staples appa-

⁵ In Colling's "*Gothic Ornaments*," vol. ii. (London: Bell, 1850) are illustrations of the painting of the screen, with the diapers, gilding, &c., in chromolithography; also large-scale details of the architectural features of the central portion of the screen.

⁶ The cross head of the archbishop's crozier and of St. Margaret's staff appear to have excited the wrath of the Reformers equally with the dragon and devil of St. George and St. Michael.

⁷ Similar openings may be noticed in other chancel screens. On the south side of the Colton screen is one quatrefoiled.

rently to carry rods for curtains to be drawn before the paintings in Lent.

It is difficult to account satisfactorily for there being two paintings of St. John the Baptist on the north reredos. One is painted and gilded like the rest of the figures on the screen, the other is only in black and white, but superior to the former in drawing and more artistic in style. It would seem that this was the manner in which the whole of the panels were originally sketched at the erection of the screen,⁸ and that they were not coloured and gilded as we now see them until some time subsequently.⁹ The only conjecture then that we can offer is, that at this date a tabernacle, image, or other appurtenance of an altar, stood in front of the panel, with the original St. John upon it. The figure was thereby obscured, and so much of the angel, which supported the dossel, as was then visible above the top of this tabernacle, or whatever it might have been, was painted out, and the surface diapered; but the lower part of the angel and St. John, concealed by the erection in front, were suffered to remain in their original condition. Still it seems to have been considered desirable to have a painting of St. John,¹⁰ and accordingly the next

⁸ The nuncupative will of Thomas Grym, of Randeworth, dated and proved in 1419, contains these bequests: "Item legavit summo altari ejusdem ecclesie ij marcae Item emendacioni ejusdem ecclesie iiij marcae Item *ad fabricam cancelli* dicte ecclesie v marcae." This bequest of five marks may be either to the fabric of the screen or the chancel. The architectural character of the former accords well with the date, but our readers must decide for themselves. Although we have made diligent search, and our collections relating to this parish, beginning in 1446, are more than usually perfect, we have met with no other bequest relating to the screen.

⁹ For this idea we are again indebted to Mr. Winter, whose acquaintance with this branch of mediæval art is exact and extensive. It is confirmed by the emblem of St. John the Evangelist. The foot and stem of the chalice are still gilt, but in cleaning off the obliterating paint the gilding has been removed from the bowl, showing the original black-and-white painting. The faces of the apostles also have been cleaned down to the original painting.

¹⁰ It will be seen in a subsequent page that there was a guild under his invocation in this church.

figure, apparently from the face originally that of a female, was converted into that of the Baptist. Upon the removal of altars, &c., the original St. John was uncovered, and hence at the present day we have two paintings of the same saint side by side.

The doorway of the rood-loft staircase in the nave, under the north-east window, is bricked up, the staircase remains perfect, and the doorway on to the loft is still open. The loft retains the joists of the floor, but the floor-boards are all gone. From the top of the loft may be seen on the east wall of the nave two consecration crosses, which, owing to the erection of the reredoses, have been preserved from whitewash; they are red crosses flory within a circle.¹ On either side of the chancel arch, immediately beneath the consecration crosses, are the remains of two altars (the altar stones being removed,) and upon these the reredoses are placed. There are the remains of a niche over the north altar, behind the reredos, and a bracket over the south altar.

The octagonal pulpit standing against the north wall of the nave, between the second and third windows counting from the west, is of oak, with panels of linen pattern, probably of sixteenth century date. The sounding board is modern.

In the north-east windows of the chancel and the nave some painted quarries of two different designs and a few small and unimportant fragments of stained glass remain.

Nearly all the old Perpendicular benches and their poppy-heads remain; towards the east end they are boxed up in pews, and backs have been added to the others.

The font, very plain and probably mutilated, is octagonal,

¹ Two others remain at the west end of the nave, one on each side of the tower arch, but whitewashed over. In 1814, a figure of St. Christopher immediately over the south door, and much other fresco painting, remained.—*Norfolk Topographers' Manual*, p. 148, n. 1.

placed upon two high steps. The staples for fastening the cover yet remain at the side of the bason, which is leaded, and measures 1 ft. 9 in. diameter and 1 ft. 1 in. deep. The original cover in the Perpendicular style, said to be the gift of Thomas Archer and Agnes his wife in 1505, is illustrated in vol. v. p. 269. In the inventory of 1753 "a fine font and cover" are mentioned, and it probably remained until 1811.

The tower arch is lofty and narrow, not more than eight and a half feet between the piers. A bell sollar of no great antiquity has the royal arms temp. Geo. III. placed upon it.

The tower contains five bells, the frames and gear of which are much out of repair. Two of the bells are cracked, and the tenor, supported on two beams, cannot be sounded. The inscriptions upon the bells are:—

1. ELIZA HOLDICH FILIA AC HÆRES HEN. HOL.
ARMIGRI ET DNÆ HUI⁹ MANERII 1616.

On the waist W and the arms of Holdich.

2. ANNO DOMINI 1615 W. B.
3. IOHN DARBIE MADE ME 1670.
4. ✠ Dona Repende Pia □ Rogo Magdalena

Maria.

On the crown, three times repeated, is the foundry mark or arms of Brasyer of Norwich.

5. Omnis Sonus Laudet Dominum anno dñi 1616.²

AB
W

The first, second, and fifth bells are all by one founder, William Brend of Norwich. John Darbie's head quarters were at Ipswich.

Near the east end of the nave, against the south wall, is the only early mural monument. It is in the style of the

² Thomas Button, notatur, for refusing to pay the some of iiij^s iiij^d taxed by the greater parte of the parishoners towards the shootinge of the great bell there.—*Lib. Visitat. Arch. Norw.* 1616.

Renaissance; and within the pediment is a shield with the arms of Holdich, azure on a chevron or, three magpies proper, in chief a crescent for difference, but the monument having been whitewashed, the tinctures are obliterated. It has this incised inscription filled up in black mastic —

here vnder lyeth Buried the bodie of
Thomas Holdiche one of the Sonnes of
Robert Holdiche of Banworthe Esquier
who died the - - daye of August 1579.³

On the chancel walls are three modern monuments, with these inscriptions:—

I.

SACRED

To the Memory of
JOHN KERRISON ESQ.
LORD of the MANOR,
And many years a considerable
And respected Inhabitant
of this Parish.
He was a Loyal Subject
and a Strenuous Supporter of
the King and Constitution
who departed this Life
April the 27th, 1804,
Aged 66 Years.

⁴ Also of
MATTHIAS KERRISON, ESQ.
His eldest Son,
who died on the 7th of Jan^y. 1844
Aged 76 Years.

SACRED

To the Memory of
MARY the wife of
MATTHIAS KERRISON
And Daughter of EDW^d. HEATH
Late of Panxworth
who departed this Life
Feb^y the 9th 1802
Aged 32 Years.

⁴ Also of MARY the Second Wife of
MATTHIAS KERRISON
widow of HENRY HAWKE and daughter
of JOHN ALLURED
Late of Flegg Burgh
who departed this Life
Aug^t the 7th 1833,
Aged 63 Years.

MATTHIAS KERRISON,

His eldest Son erected this Monument
A just tribute of affection and gratitude
to an Indulgent Parent.

³ Anno d'ni 1579. Thomas Holdych, gent., was buried the 12th of August.—
Parish Register.

⁴ These inscriptions have been added since the erection of the monument.

II.

To the Memory of Mary, the wife
of Mr. JOHN PRESTON of
Great Yarmouth,
and daughter of Mr. JN^o. KERRISON of *Panxworth,*
who died 12th August 1803,
Aged 32 Years

Of whom it may truly be said Here lies the lamented and rever'd
remains of an affectionate Mother, and
an amiable and virtuous wife.

Also two of their Child^{en}, who died in their Infancy.

III.

— SACRED to the Memory of
SARAH, the wife of M^r. ROBERT HEATH, & Daughter of
JOHN KERRISON Esq. late of Panxworth
She died the 25th day of May, 1810, Aged 35 Years
Also of four of their Children who are
Buried in the Yard.

Thus in the prime of life died much lamented A good Wife and an affectionate
Mother whose happiness whilst on Earth may truly be said to have been chiefly
centred in an excessive love for her Children and in the practice of those duties
which will cause her loss to be deeply regretted and her Memory long rever'd.

But few monumental brasses remain, nor are there many
matrices, the whole church having been repaved. From a
slab in the chancel a chalice and inscription have been
reaved, and in the nave near the east end are matrices of
an inscription with two shields, an inscription and shield, a
demi-figure and inscription with evangelistic emblems at
the angles of the slab, and at the west end, two inscriptions.
A few of the old glazed paving tiles are left, but they are
quite plain. In the nave the following inscriptions on brass
may be read.

Orate p̄ aiā Rogeri Eryng⁵ qⁱ obiit blt^o die
decemb a^o doⁱ M^o CCCCLxxx^o iiii^o cui⁹ aīc p̄piciet⁹ de⁹
amen.

⁵ The copy of his will is yet preserved in Reg. Fuller, fo. 55 (Cur. Archidiacon. Norw.) It is dated on the day of St. Thomas the Apostle, 1484, and was proved

Orate p̄ aiabz Roberti Bbunc et Beatricis * * * b̄is
 sue ille obiit * * * q̄r aiabz pp̄iciet̄ de⁹ amē

The blanks shewn are as in the original. His will is dated 21st January, “anno dñi scdm̄ computaĉōnem ecclie anglicane,” 1521; proved 5th February following.⁶ He was then *in extremis* and directed his body to be buried in the parish church of Ranworthe, under the marble stone of Beatrice, formerly his wife. It appears that his second wife’s name was Katharine, and we should suppose, although it would

on the 29th March, 1485. We translate the following passages:—My body to be buried in the parish church of Randewurth aforesaid, to the high altar of which I bequeath for my defects (of tything) xxx. Item, I will that the light of blessed Mary shall be found of my goods for the space of seven years after my decease, in the same manner that I found it during my life. Item, I bequeath to the emendation of the same church five marks of my goods towards buying a pair of tunicles for the best vestment. Item, I bequeath xls. of my goods towards buying a pair of candlesticks to stand before the altar of St. Ellen, in the chancel of Randewurth aforesaid. Item, I will have an able and secular priest to celebrate for my soul, and for the souls of my friends and parents, in the parish church of Randewurth aforesaid, for the space of two years, if my goods are able to bear it. Item, I bequeath to the high altar of Panxforth, iij^s. iiij^d. Item, I bequeath to the emendation of the said church, iij^s. iiij^d. Item, I bequeath to the reparation of the bell tower of St. Laurence, of South Walsham, vj^s. viij^d. Item, I bequeath to the high altar of St. Laurence, of the same place, ij^s. Item, I bequeath to the altar of blessed Mary, xij^d. Item, I bequeath to the reparation of the same church of blessed Mary, six bushels of malt. Item, I bequeath to the repair of the church of St. Margaret, of Upton, six bushels of malt. Item, I bequeath to the reparation of the church of Fyshele, two bushels of malt. Item, I bequeath to the emendation of the church of St. Edmund, King and Martyr, of Acle, five bushels of malt. Item, I bequeath to each other church within the hundred of Walsham, four bushels of malt. Item, I bequeath to the Lord Abbot of St. Benediet, of Hulm, x^s., to pray for my soul; and I bequeath to each monk, being a priest, xij^d. Item, I bequeath to each other monk, called le Novys, vj^d. Item, I bequeath to each gentleman servant in that house, vj^d.; to each yeoman servant, iiij^d.; to each groom servant there, ij^d.; and to each child in the same place, jd. Item, I bequeath to each of the guilds of the Holy Trinity and St. Helen, of Randewurth aforesaid, four bushels of barley.

⁶ Regr. Alblaster, fo. 152.

have involved a grammatical error, that the blank after Beatrice's was left for her name.

Orate p̄ aīa Rob'ti kyngē q̄i obiit iij^o die M̄rc̄is
Julij A^o dñi M^ov^c xxj^o cui⁹ aīe pp̄ciet⁹ deus

Robert Kyng's will is dated 25th April, 1519, and proved 8th March, 1523. He directs his body to be buried in the churche of sainen Elyne, of Ranworth, and bequeaths to the high altar xij^d., and for breaking the ground vj^s. viij^d.; he adds, "I will haue disposid in brede when I am buried xx^s. and ij Barels of bere."

Orate p̄ aīa Rob'ti Millward q̄i obiit xviii die
Augustij A^o dñi M^ov^c vij^o cui⁹ aīe pp̄ciet⁹ de⁹

This brass has been appropriated to Roger Gurney by the author of the *Ecclesiologist's Guide*, and in the *Norfolk Topographer's Manual* the name is left blank. The inscription is nearly illegible, but we do not doubt the above to be correct. His will is dated August, 1507, and proved 5th October following, in the chapel of the Bishop's Palace. We make the following extracts:—

. . . . my body to be beryed in the chirch of seynt Elyn of Ranworth Itm⁹ to the hey Aut⁹ in the same Chirch I bequeth iij^s iiij^d Itm⁹ to the lyte of owre lady in the same Chirch ij^{li} of wax It⁹ to the lyte of seynt Elyn⁹ ij^{li} of wax It⁹ to the perk lyte ij^{li} of wax It⁹ to the lyte of owre lady of pety j^{li} of wax. It⁹ to the lyte of seynt . . . (sic) and seynt John baptyst ij^{li} of wax. It⁹ to the repacioñ of the seyde Chirch xx^s It⁹ I bequeth to Iche of the iiij orderē of ffryres in Norwech iiijb³; of whete led hom to them It I wyff haue an honest pryst to prey for my sovle in the chirch of Ranworth And for my ffryndes sovles yat I am bound to pray for by the space of half a yer and an other half yer yf yt may be borne Itm I beque to the hey Ayter of the same chirch

half An Acre of lond lyging by the land of the vyker on the West and yt buttyth vpon Minalgat toward the south vnder this condicion yat the vyker And his sccessovrs shall sey placeb ʒ dyryge ʒ mes At myñ obyte day euy yer for my Sovle And aft Cristen sovles It I geue to Syssaly (my) wyff iiij acr^o ʒ an half of lond, &c.

It I wyff yat my goodē pay for the poyntyng of seynt Elyn's tabernacul And to haue yt well done Itm I geve to Iche of my god children iiij bussē of barley It I bequeth to the makyng of the Stepyll in Wodebastwyk iij^s iiij^d. Executors, Sissaly his wife and his "Maysteres Elzabeff fflmynghñ."—*Regr. Grantham, 14. Cur. Archid. Norff.*

In front of the entrance to the chancel lies a large slab, 10 ft. 9 in. by 3 ft. 10 in., from which the inscription together with a shield and heart of brass have been torn, but three rectangular plates of metal yet remain, inscribed—

1. ʒ redeptor me^o uiuit 2. de terra surrectur^o sū
 ʒ in nouissīmo die Et in carne mea
 3. hīdeho deum
 saluatorē meū

Job, xix. 25, 26.

These were in July, 1865, loose in the chest, and are palimpsests thus inscribed—

1. * * ū anglie ʒ francie 2. * * stu it qz ī seruicio reg * *
 3. * * e dnye Ciuis Norwici
 * * ris A^o dñi M^o d^c x

⁷ Credo was on the heart. There are several varieties of heart-brasses remaining in the county, and they appear to have become common about the middle of the fifteenth century. The brass now under our notice belongs to the class most frequently met with, and being of a late date, c. 1540, is by no means a favourable example of this appropriate class of memorial. The word "credo" inscribed upon the heart was meant to symbolize the deceased's lively faith in the Resurrection, and to represent him as saying with holy Job, "this my hope is laid up in my bosom." xix. 27.

1 and 2 are both portions of the same marginal inscription. Robert Felmingham, who died in 1506, directed that his body should be buried before the choir door if the vicar pleased, but unless this brass were not laid down until long after his death it cannot be his. From the situation and large size of the stone it evidently covered the remains of a person of some importance in the parish, perhaps one of the Holdich family.

In the chancel on flat stones are these memorials:—

I.

Here resteth y^e body of
 WILLIAM BARNHAM late of
 y^e City of Norwich, Gent^r, who
 died June y^e 19, 1718, Age^d 66 y^{rs}.
 Also y^e body of MARY, y^e
 beloved wife of y^e Said W^m.
 BARNHAM, who died y^e 17th
 of Augst, 1720, Age^d 46 y^{rs}.

Above the inscription is this shield of two coats, a chev. erm. between three fleurs de lis, impaling a cross between four crescents.⁸

II.

Sacred | to y^e Memory | of BRIDGET, the | Youngest daughter of |
 WILLIAM BARNHAM, | late of Beeston by Norwich, Gent., | who departed
 this life the 15th day of | April in the year of our Lord | 1729, | Ætatis Suae |
 27^o.

III.

To the Memory of | John Kerrison, Esq., | Youngest Son of | John Kerrison,
 Esq., | Late of Panxworth, | Died October 31st, 1845, | Aged 68 Years. |
 Elizabeth Kerrison, | His Wife, died July 16th, 1847, | Aged 66 Years. | Mathias
 Kerrison, | His son, died September 5th, 1824, | Aged 19 years. | Eleanora
 Kerrison, | His daughter, died Jan^y 30th, 1827, | aged 9 Years. | Edward
 Kerrison, | His second Son, Drowned at Sea | December 10th, 1833, Aged 30.

⁸ A mistake has somehow been made here, for the husband's coat is on the sinister side of the shield. The dexter coat is probably Flowerdew, William Barnham having married for his fourth wife Mary, daughter of William Flowerdew, of Norwich, Merchant.

IV.

Beneath this Stone are
deposited the Remains of all the Children
of Matthias Kerrison and
Mary Kerrison his first wife.

Charles Kerrison died	9 May, 1793	} All died in their Infancy.
Robert Kerrison	15 April, 1795	
John Kerrison	28 March, 1798	
Jane Kerrison	———— 1799	
Sarah Kerrison	17 Sep ^r , 1801	
Mary Kerrison	9 Feb ^y , 1813, Aged 24 Years.	
Roger Kerrison	14 Feb ^y , 1822, Aged 31 Years.	
Phoebe Saul	16 Aug ^t , 1828, Aged 28 Years.	
Elizabeth Heath	28 Dec ^r , 1832, Aged 35 Years.	

Also by Mary Kerrison his second Wife.

Ann Kerrison	died 6 Jan ^y , 1810, an Infant.
Matthias Kerrison	6 May, 1813, an Infant.
Jane Kerrison	18 Dec ^r , 1835, Aged 27 Years.
Kerrison Kerrison	26 June, 1837, Aged 27 Years.

Maria Kerrison, Daughter of
Roger and Anna Maria Kerrison,
Died 26 June, 1834, Aged 13 Years.

From the wills of former inhabitants we learn that there once existed in the parish three Guilds, viz., of St. Helen, the Holy Trinity, and St. John the Baptist. Of the latter but two notices occur, *i.e.*, in 1456,⁹ and 1478,¹⁰ and bequests are more frequent to St. Helen's Guild than to that of the Holy Trinity. These bequests were sometimes of money, occasionally of wax, but more frequently of grain.¹

Whether these Guilds were of sufficient substance to maintain a chaplain, or an altar in the parish church does not appear, but we learn that there was in 1479, in addition to

⁹ Brosyard, fo. 25.

¹⁰ Gelour, 191.

¹ Itm to the gilde of Seynt Helen y' xij^d.—*Will of John Rysynge*, 1523, Rands, 171. Item I bequeth to the gilde of Seynt Helen a pownde of wax.—*Will of Robert Toey*, 1505. Gloys, 69. Itm lego gilde ste Trinitat^e & See Helene de Randeworthe p'dea cuilibt gilde iiij b^y ordij.—*Will of Roger Iryng*, 1484. Fuller, 55.

the high altar,² one dedicated to St. Mary.³ This was probably in the nave on the south side of the chancel arch. Of images and lights burning before images, we have numerous notices, and first of the patron saint of the church, St. Helen. In 1479, Robert Iryng directed that her image should be painted anew at his cost.⁴ The bequest to the painting of her tabernacle in 1507 has been already noticed at p. 192; and in 1523 John Rysynge bequeathed "to Seynt Helen, in the chirche of Ranworthe on heve w^t bene."⁵

Legacies to the light of the B. V. Mary are more numerous than to any other, and the will of Margaret Bloker, dated 1483, directs that a tabernacle of Blessed Mary be made, also an image of St. Anne, and a pound of wax is given to the light of Blessed Mary and St. Anne her mother.⁶ In 1507, the lights "of owre lady" and "of owre lady of pety"⁷ are mentioned; in 1478, the light of St. Erasmus;⁸ in 1505, that of St. Nicholas;⁹ and in 1507, "the lyte of seynt and seynt John the Baptist."⁷

To the light of the Holy Cross,¹⁰ light before the Roode,¹¹ perk light,¹² or light of the Crosse on the perke,¹³ as it is variously termed, there are several bequests, and as late as 1535, James Kinge bequeathed "to the perke of the seid churche of Raneworthe, so many candlestickē as may be bought w^t a marce."¹

John Cobbe, in 1451, willed that if his goods would bear it, his executors should make anew a painted cloth to serve at the high altar,² and Robert Iryng, in 1479, bequeathed ten

² The altar of St. Ellen in the chancel mentioned in the following extract was probably identical with the high altar. "Itm lego xl^s de bonis meis ad vnu' par candelabr' emend' stant' an' Altar' sce' Elene in cancell' de Randewurth p'dca."—*Will of Roger Iryng*, 1484. Fuller, fo. 55.

³ Itm volo q^d quid pann' pendent' cora' altar' sce' marie in eadm' ecclia' erit pictat' de bonis meis p'prijs.—*Will of Robert Iryng*, 1479. Awbrye, 13.

⁴ Awbrye, 13.

⁵ Randes, 171.

⁶ Caston, 287.

⁷ Grantham, 14.

⁸ Gelour, 186.

⁹ Rixe, 330.

¹⁰ Awbrye, 186.

¹¹ Randes, 70.

¹² Grantham, 14.

¹³ Gloyes, 69.

¹ Bakon, 340

² Aleyne, 100.

mares to buy a new vestment.³ John Heylesdon Senior, in 1470, bequeathed ten mares, which John Heylesdon Jun. owed him, to buy a new Legend,⁴ and in 1478 William Cobbe bequeathed an Antiphoner, of the price of twelve mares.⁵ James Kinge, husbandman, gave by his will in 1535, 13s. 4d., "for a banner for the said church." ⁶

From the preceding notes and what we now see of the furniture of the church, there is every reason to suppose that its interior presented no ordinary degree of splendour, but a period of spoliation and neglect, of indifference and decay, succeeded. The inventory of the church goods, taken in 1552, shews how low they were reduced at that period.

It is dated the last day of August, 6 Edward VI., and witnesseth that there remained in the custody of certain inhabitants the goods under-written.

In þ̄mis j Chalis w th a paten gilte cont in weight xij ownc ^e et di at iiij ^s . iiij ^d . the on ³	} liiij ^s . ij ^d .
Itm a paxxe of wode w ^t a crucyfixe of silv ^r and gylt þ̄ce	} v ^s .
Itm iij Bells cont in weight by estymacon xxxiiij ^{li} C the first ix ^c y ^e ij ^{de} xj ^e & y ^e iiij ^{de} xiiij ^e at xv ^s the C	} xxiiiij ^{li} . xv ^s .
Itm iij bell clapps cont in weight by esty- macon lxxix ^{li}	} vj ^s . viij ^d .
Itm ij longe candellstycks of laten cont in weight lxxviij ^{li}	} v ^s . viij ^d .
Itm a vesteme ^t of purpulle cloothe of Tussue þ̄ce	} xx ^s .
Itm a coope of Redde vellett w ^t ij Tunacles braunched w ^t golde þ̄ce	} liij ^s . iiij ^d .
Itm a coope of whyte damaske þ̄ce	} xx ^s .
Itm ij Tunacles of whyte sylke þ̄ce	} v ^s .
Itm a crosse cloothe of sylke	} iiij ^d .

³ Awbrye, 13.

⁴ Jekkys, 254.

⁵ Gelour, 191.

⁶ Bakon, 340.

Itm a Crosse of Copp and gylt vjd.

Itm a Coope and a vestem^t of blakke woosted p^{ce} . x^s.

Whereof assigned, &c. In Wyttnes, &c.

Itm ij spetys callyd guyld spetys valuyd at ij^s. viij^d.

In the margin is this memorandum—

“M^d that ther is con^t in the olde inventoryes ij Challice and the inha^{unt} hath not certefyed in this inventory but one.”

Margaret Holditche of Ranworth, Widow of Robert Holditche, Esq., by her will dated 13th June, 1559, bequeathed to the parish church, “A Coape w^t great Castelle of goold.”—*Original Wills*, 1559.

By means of the Archdeacons' Visitation Books we trace, step by step, the decay of the fabric which followed; and we believe that a similar series of extracts has not yet appeared in type.

1587. Ranworth.

The Chauncell is to be paued in diuers places thereof.

Citar Ma^{gr} Joh^{is} Holdiche.

1590. The leade of the church is in decaie.

The churchyard walles are decaied.

vidua holdich	}	The glasse windowes of the chauncell are
		not glased.
		The chauncell to be whited.
		The chauncell to be paued.

The place where the high altar stode to be paued.

1597. It rayneth downe and rotteth the bawkes of the plancher of the porch there.

The glasse of the steple windowes decaied and broken so that the foules and vermyn come into the church and defile the same verie vncomelie and noysomely.

The Church not sufficiently couered, for it raineth into the said church, and haue washed the wrighting on the walles. The sayd church to be comelie whited.

1598. The Stockes stand in the south church porch.

The seats of the said porch are broken, both porches wanteth whitening.

1604. The pavement of the chancell is decayed. The church yard fence wanteth reparacions.

1609. The window of the steeple is decayed for want of glasinge.

1614. The Chauncell want whiteing, the steeple wyndowes want Glazinge.

Their churchyard walles want reparation.

1616. Fenestre eccie ibñ franguntur negligentia et incuria gard.

1619. The tymbre in the rooffe of the church decayed.

Presentant that the Barfree of the church roof is greatlie decayed, and the tenure therof rotted awaie, and it doth hang dangerouslie for falling & hurting of men.

1620. The south portch is decayed for want of thatching.

1621. The church there is decayed in the rooffe so yt it rayneth into the same in many places. cert^d. rep^d.

The pavement of the chauncell there is decayed.

The Chauncell there want whitening. Presentant that the church porch is decayed in rooffe & thatche thereof, so yt it doth raine into the same very much.

1622. The Chancel is decayed in the pavement, culpa Willmi Lewes firma^r, fructuū ibm.

1630. The doves come into the church there and defile the same, to the annoyance of the prishners there.

The book of Erasmus paraphrases is rent and torne, the same to be new bounde.

The beere to carry the dead to buriall is decayed and not sufficient.

1631. The Churchyard walles are decayed.

The beere, &c.

1632. The north dore of the Chancell decayed.

The said Chancell to be comely whited.

There is a hole in the chauncell rooffe on the north side.

1633. The leades of the North side of the churche are blowne vpp wth the wynd.

1634. The chauncell windowes want mending, with ye glasing therof, culpa Tho. Jelyons, firmar⁷.

Ranworth. Mr. Benj. Young, vicar, non co.

Nicholas Tofts }
Antony Reynolds⁷ } gard. 1^o July,

1686 vis. fuit d^{ce} Ecclesia et compt ambo gard. et monit. ut sequit^r.

to raile in the Comunion table.

to paue or plancher the Seats in the Church.

to repaire the church yard wall & fence.

to paue the South portch of the Church and to certifie under the Ministers hand at the next gen^l Court.

the ffeete of y^e sparrs of the Chancell decayed.

the Chancell doore defective

& wants paueing & glaseing

& whiteing: it belongs to old Mr. Houghton.

1697. The Chancell want glazeing & paveing. The Church leads on the North side are defective, both the portches want thatching, & the North porch want planchering. The Church bible want mending, and the Church want paveing, the Church yard wall want repairing.

1709. To place a rail before the Com. table; a Butres on the S^o. and another on the N^o. side of the church want reping; the Reg^r book impfect, nothing being entered since 1702.

1719. Part of the Ch. w^t whiteing, a decent Rayl before the Com. table w^{ing}.⁸ To new paint the k^s arms and 10 Com^{ts}, to paue the seates, be^s like a styer or stable only strewn

⁷ On the inside of the cover is this memorandum:—"To send a letter to Anthony Reynolds, of Ranworth, about breaking into the Church to fright him on behalfe of Mr. Youngs to whome he owe tythes."

⁸ The Inventory exhibited in 1729 mentions "Rails about the Communion Table."

on wth straw, the pavem^t of the church very much sunk, to be raised.

1787. In the General book beginning with this year we find—

Three windows on South side and three on North side to be unstopp'd and glazed. Buttress on north side next porch and muntons of windows to be repaired. Thatch of North porch bad. Pins for Hatts to be removed.

Ranworth Chancel. A very bad window put in at east end. The two windows nearest the church to be repaired effectually.

5 Apl. 1790. Repairs to be certified at the next Easter Court, by order of the Archdeacon.

JNO. MORPHEW, Depy. Reg^r.

The two Windows nearest the Church are effectually repair'd and it is hop'd no further objection will be made to the East Window, it being in good Repair, and tho' somewhat reduc'd has remain'd so for eight years without any complaint till the year 1788, when I wrote to Mr. Archdeacon Young concerning it, and I beg that Letter may be referr'd to

1 May, 1790.

THO. BLAKE.

THE VICARAGE.

To the early history of the living, as given in *Blomefield*, vol. xi. pp. 114, 115, we have nothing to add. Of the following list of the vicars, Blomefield gives only the first half dozen names or so.

William de Westwyk exchanged this vicarage for the rectory of Rakheyth Parva on 24 March, 1342, with John de Fulford, who had only held Rackheath from 1340.—*Lib. Inst.* iii., fo. 69.⁹

⁹ Vicesimo quarto die Marcij anno domini Millesimo ccc^{mo} xliij^{do}, apud Thornegg, domnus Willelmus de Westwyk, presbiter, institutus fuit canonice per dictum dominum Norwicensem Episcopum in ecclesia parochiali Sancte Trinitatis de Rakheyth parva, per liberam resignationem domni Johannis de Fulford vltimi Rectoris eiusdem ex causa permutationis per eundem dominum

8 July, 1349. Roger de Fakenham, on the presentation of the Abbot and Convent of Langley.—*Lib.* iv., fo. 92.

1 August, 1349. John Cobbe, collated by the Bishop, the Abbot and Convent of Langley refusing to present according to the Bishop's nomination.—*Lib.* iv., fo. 100.

23 Sept^r. 1391. Roger Asketil, presented by the Abbot on the nomination of the Bishop.—*Lib.* vi., fo. 160.

Bartholomew, son of John ffullere, of Acle, exchanged for the vicarage of Neatished, on 26 July, 1415, with William Laceby, who was collated by the Bishop.—*Lib.* vii., fo. 92.

6 August, 1430. John Cade, collated by the Bishop.—*Lib.* ix., fo. 41.

16 December, 1449. Thomas Rodeland,¹ do.—*Lib.* xi., fo. 23.

There is a gap here which we cannot fill up. Brother Ralph Heylesdon and Sir John Brother, Chaplain, are mentioned in wills about 1480, and one of them may have been the vicar.

Johannem de dicta ecclesia cum prefato Willelmo de vicaria ecclesie parochialis de Randesworth cujus perpetuus vicarius extiterat certis et legitimis ex causis per dictum patrem examinatis discussis et approbatis rite et legitime facte vacantem ad presentationem domini Radulphi de Astelee militis veri eiusdem ecclesie patroni. Et juravit obedientiam canonicam et de soluendo primos fructus Episcopis Norwicensibus debitos.

Eisdem die mense anno domini et loco dominus Antonius Episcopus Norwicensis, contulit vicariam ecclesie parochialis de Randeworthe, per liberam resignationem domni Willelmi de Westwyk predicti ex causa permutationis prefate facte vacantem, et ad collationem suam pleno jure spectantem cum omnibus juribus et pertinencijs suis vniversis, dicto domno Johanni de Fulford, presbytero, intuitu charitatis et recepto ab eodem juramento, ut est moris, de residendo in eadem juxta formam Constitutionum in hac parte editarum ipsum vicarium perpetuum instituit canonicè in eadem juravit eciam obedientiam canonicam et pro primis fructibus, &c.

¹ It lego vnu' trentale vicario dce ec'cie de Ranworth vz dni' Thome Rodelond, —*Will of John Cobbe, of Lytylwell in Ranworth, 1451. Reg^r. Aleyn, fo. 100.* Itm lego Thome Rutlond vicario p'petuo ecclie p'och de Randeworth p'dea vna Certitudine' integra' ad celebrand p' Aia' mea.—*Will of Robert Otyr, of Ranworth. 1458. Reg^r. Brosyard, fo. 134.*

Thomas Sheffield is the next vicar we have found mentioned; by his will, dated 20 Sept., 1 Hen. VIII., he directs to be buried in the chancel.—*Reg^r. Spiltimbre*, fo. 205.

William Larke. On the 30 Nov., 1512, the Bishop remitted Sir W^m. Larke, late Vicar of Ranworth with Paunsford, the first fruits, because he had not remained Vicar there for a year, and had not received anything.—*Lib.* xiv., fo. 108.

William Sekker, in 1522, was a witness to the will of Roger Harman, of Randworth.—*Reg^r. Harman*, fo. 1.

John Bland, Canon, 21 June, 1526, on the resignation of W^m. Sekkar, nominated by the Bishop, and presented by the Abbot and Convent of Langley.—*Lib.* xvi., fo. 95.

John Dychyngham, Premonstratensian Canon, 16 July, 1528, collated by the Bishop on the death of Sir John Bland, the last Vicar.—*Lib.* xiv., fo. 222.

William Moore, 13 Oct., 1528. On the same day he had been instituted to the parish church of Panxforde, and on account of its poverty and nearness to Randworth the two livings were united.—*Lib.* xiv., fo. 225.

Richard Mablye, 14 Dec., 1551. On the resignation of Sir W^m. Moore, presented by King Edward VI.—*Lib.* xviii., fo. 22. He is mentioned as “Curate” in John Tenny’s will, dated 1555.—*Reg^r. Barnham*.

“f John Taylor, pyshe p^rest,” is mentioned in the will of Anne Theny, of Randworth, dated 14 Feb., 1558.—*Reg^r. Hitchcock*, fo. 343.

Thomas Wrighte, 7 April, 1582. On the death of Sir John Taylor, clerk, last incumbent.—*Lib.* xx., fo. 76. He was ordained priest by the Bishop of Peterborough, 24 Sept., 1571.—*Liber Consignationum*, 1604. He was instituted to Panxworth on the 9th April, 1582.²

² Ranworth cu' } Con. Thoma' Wright, vic', he dothe not vsualle saye service
Panxworth. } vpon wednesdaies and fridaies, he catechiseth but verie
 } seldome, and he doth goe to Norw^{ch} markt wth his Corne and
 } there sell the same openlie, and goethe wth a cart and fetch

Matthew Nowell, A.B., 2 February, 1627, on the death of Thomas Wright, collated by the Bishop.—*Lib.* xxii., fo. 28. He was ordained priest by the Bishop of Norwich, 21st December, 1617.—*Lib. Consig.* 1636. It also appears from the same book that he was then A.M. The parish register records his burial on the 10th May, 1641.

John Waterson.

Francis Morley, A.M., 26 July, 1661, on the cession of John Waterson, clerk, last incumbent, presented by the Bishop of Ely.—*Lib.* xxv. fo. 14 and 20.³

16 May, 1682, Benjamin Young, clk., A.M., on the resigning of Francis Morley. On the same day Ranworth was united to Wood Bastwick, which Mr. Young had held since 1679.—*Liber* xxvi. fo. 79. In the Consignation Book for 1686, he is described as Curate, and he is stated to hold this vicarage by sequestration; he was ordained priest by Anthony, Bishop of Norwich, in 1679.

Henry Nelson, A.M., 30 Nov., 1698, to Randworth and Upton. He signed the Terrier in 1723.—*Lib.* xxviii., fo. 157.

William Mackay, Vicar in 1725, as appears from the Terrier of that year.

George Kenrick, 24 Nov., 1752, by the death of William Mackay. At the same time the said vicarage was united to

his tythe himselfe and dryve the carte himselfe, and load the same himselfe. Comp^t et submisit se, &c., et dñs eu' dimisit sub monitione &c.—*Lib. Visitat. Epi. Norw.* 1593.

Ranworth. Con. mru' Writt. Clieu. They have not monethly sermons. He appeared and was admonished "to provide two sermons every quart^r of a year, et sic dimisst^t est." He doeth not weare a tippet—dimisit pro eo quod nullū suscepit gradu in Academia.—*Lib. Visitat.* 1606.

³ From this date all the vicars have been presented by the Bishops of Ely. The appropriate rectory and the patronage of the vicarage were probably obtained from the Crown by the See of Ely in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, either upon the exchange in Bishop Cox's episcopate in the 4th Eliz., or upon that in 1600, in Bishop Heton's time.—See Bentham's *Ely*, vol. i. pp. 19, 46.

the vicarage of Horning during his incumbency.—*Lib.* xxx., fo. 160. He was the author of “The Religious Man’s Companion,” set forth in two sermons preached in the parish church of Horning.⁴

John Gogill, on Aug. 5, 1762, the livings of Randworth and Brundall were united, and he was instituted to the former, vacant by the death of George Kenwrich.—*Lib.* xxxi., fo. 5.

Charles Gogill, 26 February, 1771, on the resignation of John Gogill.—*Lib.* xxxi., fo. 63.

On the resignation of John Dennison, Vicar of Upton, the vicarages of Randworth and Upton were consolidated on the 26 February, 1790. The instrument of Consolidation is of some length, but the substance will be found in the following extracts:—

WHEREAS it hath been represented unto Us by the Petition of the Honourable and right Reverend ffather in God James by divine Permission Lord Bishop of Ely true and undoubted Patron by virtue of his said Bishoprick of Ely of the Vicarage and Parish Church of Ranworth, and the Vicarage and Parish Church of Upton respectively in the County of Norfolk and our Diocese of Norwich, and of the Reverend Charles Gogill Clerk Vicar of the Vicarage and Parish Church of Ranworth aforesaid That the said Vicarage and Parish Church of Upton is now Vacant by the resignation of the Reverend John Dennison Clerk, the last Incumbent thereof That the bounds of the said parishes of Ranworth and Upton are distant from each other one Mile and a Quarter or thereabouts, and the Churches one Mile and an half or thereabouts That the said Parishes are small and have but few Inhabitants That the said Vicarage of Ranworth is valued in the King’s Books at four pounds discharged of first ffruits and Tenths, and of the extended Yearly Value of Eighty pounds or thereabouts That the said Vicarage of Upton is valued in the King’s Books at five Pounds discharged of first ffruits and Tenths, and is of the extended yearly Value of fifty Pounds or thereabouts That the Revenues of the said two Vicarages will make together but a Moderate Provision to encourage and enable a Minister to reside and exercise hospitality there, and that a Perpetual Union and Consolidation of the said two Vicarages will be beneficial to the succeeding Incumbents thereof and no way detrimental to the Parishioners and Inhabitants of either parish as it will encourage and enable worthy Men in time coming to undertake the Cure and to reside and exercise Hospitality among them WHEREFORE the said

⁴ *Norfolk Tour*, p. 1288. Stacy, Norwich, 1829.

petitioners prayed that we would be pleased by virtue of our Office Ordinary and Episcopal to unite incorporate and Consolidate the said Vicarage of Upton to and with the said Vicarage of Ranworth and to decree and declare that the same may for ever after remain and continue as one Benefice and be held and enjoyed by the said Charles Gogill and his Successors and be presented to upon all future vacancies as one Benefice by the name of the Vicarage and parish Church of Ranworth with Upton annexed or in such other manner as to Us should seem meet.

It then goes on to recite that, on the receipt of the said petition, the Bishop issued forth a commission, dated 1st Feb., 1790, to divers persons to enquire into the truth of the several facts set forth, and that three of the said commissioners had testified to the truth thereof. It further recites that the churchwardens and inhabitants of Ranworth and Upton had been cited to appear before the Official Principal of the Consistorial Court, to shew cause why the said Vicarages should not be united, and that none of them appearing they were pronounced contumacious, and the said Vicarages were decreed to be united. Therefore the Bishop, weighing the premises, ratified all that had been done by his Official, and united, annexed, and incorporated the said Vicarages, so that they might be held and enjoyed "and on all future vacancies thereof presented to as one Benefice by the name and description of the Vicarage and Parish Church of Ranworth with Upton annexed."—*Lib. Fac.* vi., 190.

Francis Edward Say, M.A., 13 Dec., 1793, to the Vicarage of the parish church of Randworth, with the Vicarage and parish church of Upton annexed, vacant by the death of John Gogill.—*Lib.* xxxii., fo. 5.

John Oldershaw, B.D., 2 March, 1795, *Lib.* xxxii., fo. 14. Vicar of Ludham, Rector of Redenhall, and Archdeacon of Norfolk.

John William Greaves, 20 Apl., 1843. *Lib.* xxxiiii., fo. 10.

There are twenty-six terriers preserved belonging to this parish. The earliest of these we print: it is undated, but as it mentions lands of Sir Edward Blenerhassett, Knt., who died in 1618,⁵ it might be supposed to have been made before that date. Matthew Nowell, who signs it as Vicar, was not however instituted until 1627. The other terriers are of the following dates, 1677, 1706, '09, '16, '23, '25, '29, '35, '40, '47, '53, '60, '63, '70, '77, '84, '91, '94, 1801, '06, '13, '20, '27, '34, and '45.

⁵ Blomefield, vol. iv., p. 370.

A True Terrier of such howses & other Edifises together with all the Landes belonginge to the Vicaradge of Ranworth w^{ch} are in sūme twelue Acres.

Imprimis the Vicaridge howse Contayneth one parlor, one little Buttery one lower chamber one upper chamber & one kitchen.

- 2 a. Item one Barne wth a Stable therunto adioyninge an oarchyard wth a close at the East end of the Oarchyard and contaynith by Estimation two acres.
- 1 a. Item one Acre of land Arable lyeing betwixt the lord of Ranworth west & Robert Benslin east & abutteth upon Whiteway South & William Cobb North.
- 1 rood Item one Roode of land Arable betwixt Samson Mitchell West ¶ Willm Dearne east, & Abutt upon Whiteway North, & on the Priory South.
- 7 rood Item Seauen Roodē of land Arable betwixt the lord of Ranworth west & William Cobb east, & abutteth upon Cromesgap North, & whytecrosse South.
- 3 rood Item three Roodē of land Arable at Blackpitt betwixt William Cobb east ¶ west, ¶ abutteth upon the packway North ¶ William Cobb South.
- 1 rood Item one Rood in Godwins craft, betwixt the lo: of Ranworth west, & Ed: Bleñhassett knight east & abutteth on Smalgate meare South & Ed: Bleñhassett K^t. North.
- 1 rood Item one Roode in the same craft betwixt Edward Bleñhassett K^t. west ¶ the Lord of Ranworth east.
- 3 rood Item three Roodē of land Arable in Lindorne feild, betwixt the landē of Edw: Goodwins east & west, & abutteth on the sayd Edw: North & south.
- 2 rood Item halfe an acre of land Arable in the same feild betwixt the Lo: of Ranworth west & William Dearne East, & abutteth on Lindorne heath North.
- 3 roodē Item three Roodē of land Arable betwixt Samson

Mitchellē, North & South & abutteth on the Lord of Ranworth west & Otters yard east.

- 2 acres Item two Acres of land Arable, betwixt Samson Mitchells west & Robert Benslin east, & abutteth on the Lord of Ranworth north & Samson Mitchellē south.
- 3 roode Item three Roodē of land Arable, betwixt Thomas Hobert k^t north, & Ed : Blēnhassett k^t South & abutteth on the comōn caled Stackhuluer west.
- 3 roode Item three Roodē of Marish grownd betwixt francis Dauke widow east & Richard Teeny west, & abutteth on old eye North.
- 1 rood Item one Roodē of Marish, betwixt the Lord of Ranworth west, and Edward blēnhassett k^t east & abutteth on old eye North and the bottoms South.

Per me Matheum Nowell Vicariū ibidem.

John Smith	}	gardians.
&		
Tho: Gillye		

The terrier of 1716 gives many particulars not to be found in the earlier ones.

“Itm there has been formerly paid (as is Credibly Reported) by the Rectors of Panseworth to the Vicars of Ranworth the sum of fower pounds p annum as a Pension due from the s^d Recto^{rs} of Panseworth to the Vicars of Ranworth vpon account of the Jnhabitants of Panseworth Coming to Ranworth Church. The Customes are as followeth. Inp^rmis one penny half-penny for Cow and Calf Instead of Milk. And always half a penny p^d for harth Silver.⁶ And allsoe Twopence p^d for Portes. And three pence for euery foale. Wool and Lamb in kind. Hay in kind. Turnips in kind. Hops in kind.”

⁶ The following extract explains the meaning of harth silver: “Item for our woode which is felled in town it is tytheable, but if it be sold to be burnt in the town, there is no tythe due, for our harth silver doe acquit it.”—*Shelton Customs*, c. 1678.

A Terrier of the town houses, lands, &c., is also given.

That of 1723 says, "All the Tythes within the parish of Ranworth, except Corn, belong to the vicarage of Ranworth. ffor Pasture Ground five pence p Acre. ffor Marsh Ground three pence p Acre, and if they mow it, the Tythe in kind."

It appears that in 1729 "the Vicarage house, Barn, and Stable" were "dilapidated and fallen down."⁷

In 1788 the Governors of Queen Ann's Bounty purchased, with £400^s appropriated by them for the perpetual augmentation of the Vicarage, of William Taylor, Esq., of Yarmouth, a marsh, in the parish of Tunstall, which with the Rand adjoining contains about 19 acres, and abuts on the river Bure north.

The old glebe lands were "exchanged by Act of Parliament, The Award Dated Sep^r 21st, 1798," for

"1st one piece of Land, including Ranworth Church Yard and adjoining the same, bounded by Land of John Patteson, Esq^r. and John Kerrison South and East, by the Road leading from Ranworth Wet or Low Common to the Church of Ranworth South, and by the Road leading from the Church to the Stone House Farm West, cont^g. . . . 8 3 20

"2^d. One other piece of Land, laying about 60 yards South West of the Church Yard at Ranworth, abutt^g on the High way Leading from the Church to Stock Hulver North and West, and on Land of Mary Sibel East, upon Land of John Kerrison South, cont^g 2 3 0

Acres 11 2 20"

These pieces of land are stated in the Tithe Commutation Survey to contain respectively 7a. 1r. 11p. and 2a. 3r. 8p.

⁷ In the Archdeacon's Visitation Book for 1710 we find "a chamber in the Vicarage house want planchering, and the barn out of repaire."

⁸ See also *Norfolk Tow*, p. 1364.

Total 10a. 0r. 19p. There were in 1845 no buildings, but the present incumbent in the autumn of that year erected the vicarage house.

The following is a transcript of the earliest Inventory we have met with after that of 6th Edw. VI.

Ranworth.

An Inventory of the Goods, Books & ornamente belonging to the parish Church of Ranworth in the County of Norff. Sept. 23^d. 1706.

Impr. one pewter fflagon.

It. one Silver Cup and plate and a pewter plate for the Communion. One purple Carpet one Table cloth and Napkin for y^e comunion Table, one large Surplice, one Hood, one large Bible, One Common prayer Book, Two Cushions for the Pulpit and Desk ffont and Cover standing in y^e antient place ffive Bells hanging in the Steeple, one Chest with three Locks, Ten Comandmt^e Queens Arms, Degrees of Marriage, Book of Homilies and Book of Cannons.

One Bier.

Henry Nelson Vic.

The mark of

Phil × Johnson, Churchward.

From the Inventory of 1845 we learn that the communion plate consists of "A small silver cup with inscription ✝ · THE · TOWNE · OF · RANWORTH · 1567 Small silver plate without inscription ✝ Pewter plate, inscription I. H. S."

The register is like most others, a transcript on parchment, made about 1597. It commences—

A Regester of Ranworth ꝛ Panxforth of Christeninge, Mariagis, and Buriall^e, beginning at the feast of St. John A baptist, Anno dñi 1559^o vt ptz.

Anno dñi 1559. Inprimis John ffene was christened the 2 daye of July.

The first entry of a marriage is—

Anno dñi 1559. Inprimis Peter Toyve ⁊ Agnis fydele were maryed 13th of July.

Of a burial—

Anno dñi 1559. Inprimis M^r Robert Holdych esquire, was buryed 21^o Decēber, An^o xⁱ, 1558^o.

On the fly leaves are these memoranda—

☞ that Robart Halocke thelder did make his open ⁊ publique submission ⁊ declaracion of his conformitie to his Ma^{ties} Lawes ⁊ statutes the 9th of October, 1614, in the open Church of Ranworth as he was inioyned by Mr. Chaunceler.

This Book was new bound by John Garwood Churchwarden Anno 1729. Soli Deo Gloria In Sæcula Sæculorum.

Our Life's a Shadow, God's the Pole,
The Index pointing, is our Soul
Death is the Horizon where our Sun must set
Which will thro' Christ A Resurrection get.

Transivere Patres Simul hinc Transivimus omnes In Cælo
Patriam Qui bene transit habet.

W^m Mackay

Vicar of Ranworth.

There is the usual blank in the register from about 1643 to 1661, and there are scarcely any entries possessing more than genealogical interest.

We cannot conclude these cursory notices without expressing our obligations to John Kitson, Esq., Secretary and Registrar to the Hon. and Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Norwich; Edward Steward, Esq., Registrar to the Venerable the Archdeacon of Norwich; and to the Rev. J. W. Greaves, Vicar of Randworth, for having allowed us to consult the various documents to which we have had occasion to refer.

P.S.—Since the preceding pages have been printed off, we find that we have omitted at page 183 the following note.

It is evident that the artist, in depicting the sons of St. Mary of Cleophas, *intended* to represent St. Simon Zelotes the Apostle, as we have stated, and not St. Simeon, or Simon, Bishop and Martyr. We have therefore described this group as "St. Mary of Cleophas with her *four sons*," although, according to the best modern authorities, Simon, who was brother of James and Joseph and Jude, was not Simon Zelotes the Apostle, but Simon the Bishop of Jerusalem, who succeeded his brother St. James. This error of the artist was not the result of inadvertence, but was the received opinion of the age in which he lived, for on the screen at Houghton in the Dale, where, as we learn from Dr. Husenbeth's *Emblems of Saints*, the same group appears, precisely the same mistake is made. And Peter de Natalibus, whose *Catalogus Sanctorum* was printed in the early part of the sixteenth century, says of SS. Simon and Jude, "Simon chananeus: ¶ judas siue tadeus apli fratres germani fuerunt iacobi minoris ¶ joseph iusti: filij marie cleophe ¶ alpheo nupta fuit." Later writers also repeat the same error, but it is puzzling to find them, as well as Peter de Natalibus, agree in making St. Simon, Bishop of Jerusalem, brother of Joseph the Just. Those who may wish to investigate this somewhat perplexing subject, may consult Alphonso Villega's *Lives of the Saints*, as set forth by John Heigham, 1630; Alban Butler's *Lives of the Fathers*, 1757; Betham's *Genealogical Tables*, 1795, tab. xxii.; Brady's *Clavis Calendaria*, 1815; Mrs. Jameson's *Sacred and Legendary Art*; her *Legends of the Madonna*; and *The History of Our Lord*, by Mrs. Jameson and Lady Eastlake.