

## A MODERN CHURCH RECORD ;

*being Notes from the Register of the Rural Dean of the  
South-East District of Stoke, Surrey.*

BY

F. R. FAIRBANK, M.D., F.S.A.

---

THE Register of the Rural Dean of the South-East District of Stoke is a carefully preserved volume, dating from the year 1829. It was begun by the Hon. and Rev. J. E. Boscawen, Rector of Wotton and Rural Dean. He wrote the following statement at the commencement :—

“ The Rural Deanery of S.-E. District of Stoke (with part of Ewell Deanery) includes the following parishes—according to the Bishop of Winchester’s Commission directed, with the concurrence of the Archdeacon, to the Hon. and Rev. J. E. Boscawen, Rector of Wotton ; Jan. 26, 1829 :—

“ Wotton in Stoke Deanery ; Abinger in ditto ; Betchworth in Ewell Deanery ; \*Great Bookham and Little Bookham in Stoke ; \*Buckland in Ewell ; Dorking in Stoke ; \*Effingham ditto ; \*Fetcham ditto ; \*Headley in Ewell ; \*West Horsley in Stoke ; \*Leatherhead in Ewell ; \*Leigh in Stoke ; Mickleham in Ewell ; Newdigate in Stoke ; \*Ockham ditto ; Ockley ditto ; Shiere ditto ; Walton-on-the-Hill in Ewell ; Okewood Chapel in Stoke ; Holmwood in Dorking ; \*Brockham in Betchworth ; Coldharbour in Capel ; Capel ; Westcot in Dorking.”

The title of this rural deanery was changed to "The Rural Deanery of Dorking," by Order of Council published in the *London Gazette* of May 7th, 1878. The churches named in the above list, marked with \*, are not now included in the deanery.

The rural deans who have signed this Register are:—1829, Rev. the Hon. J. E. Boscawen; 1851, Rev. J. Welstead Powell; 1886, Rev. E. D. Wickham; 1893, Rev. E. A. Chichester.

The Registers of Rural Deans when well kept may be expected to furnish much valuable information as to alterations in the buildings of churches, which will be of great assistance in writing their histories, and may in some case save the writers falling into such errors as would, otherwise, be here and there almost inevitable. It is greatly to be desired that all records of rebuilding and alteration should be carefully preserved, along with all plans, sections and elevations. So far these, as a rule, have quickly been lost sight of and in many cases destroyed; which is much to be regretted. With the increasing interest which the clergy are taking in the history of their churches, and with the timely supervision of rural deans, much it is hoped may be done to preserve correct records of parish church history.

By the courtesy of the Rev. Canon E. A. Chichester the writer has been able to make the following extracts from the Register of the present Rural Deanery of Dorking.

Only the old churches are included; it has been thought unnecessary to mention those of recent origin.

#### ABINGER.

1829.—Rev. H. J. Ridley, Rector. Pavement of brick in good condition, except that in the chancel a grave or vault appears to have given way. The font good, modern marble. Desk and pulpit good. Bells, three, in good order.

Plate:—A flagon, chalice, paten, and plate for offerings, all of silver in very good preservation, the gift of the Countess of Donegal, 1736. Rectory in great part rebuilt by the present Rector.

1830.—Good brick trench made round the church.

1835.—Rev. J. M. Dawson, Rector.

1851.—School held in the vestry. The tombstone of Mr. Spooner, a benefactor of the parish, mended, and replaced on his grave.

1852.—The path through the churchyard no longer a thoroughfare, Mr. Evelyn having allowed a path to be made in his field on the south side. The Rector has opened a window at the north end of the nave.

1886.—In 1857, alterations effected at a cost of £4,500; and in 1880 at a cost of £1,400.

---

#### BETCHWORTH.

1829.—Font modern, of mahogany. The wall of south chancel out of perpendicular, supported by buttresses. Three of the windows to the north closed by a building raised for a vestry but now used as a vault by the Bouverie family.

Plate: Two silver flagons, a silver cup with cover forming a paten, all dated 1640. A large silver paten without date, and a smaller one, the gift of "J. K., vicar, 1783." Registers commence about 1650, well kept.

1830.—A sort of room has been boarded off as a pew, and in the vestry book is a resolution, that the parishioners in want of pews may build them at their own expense.

1851.—The tower has been taken down and removed to the east end of the north aisle. The church has been repewed with oak, galleries removed, and several windows filled with stained glass. Steps of the Communion Table have been renewed. North wall of chancel out of perpendicular, but well buttressed. The building on the north side, formerly belonging to the Bouverie family, but now to Mr. Goulbourn, should be covered with ivy.

---

#### GREAT BOOKHAM.

1829.—Walls bad, built of rubble. Mullions of windows in Slyfield chancel require attention. The lower parts of some of the windows are closed with plaister.

Plate:—A silver flagon and paten: a silver cup and cover, both light for the use. A pewter plate for offerings.

Glebe house very good.

1830.—The woodwork on which the steeple is supported should be underpinned. A pity the Slyfield chapel is not thrown open, it contains much room.

Register begins 1632.

---

#### LITTLE BOOKHAM.

1829.—Plate : A small silver chalice and cover requires a little repair. Two pewter patens, no flagon.

1830.—New plate has been bought, partly by the parish, and partly by the Rector.

(In pencil) 2 plates, paten, ewer and cup, silver.

---

#### BUCKLAND.

1829.—Font bad, small, and moveable : old one intended to be restored. Vaults built as lean-to's on north and south sides should be removed.

Plate : A large silver flagon bought with oblations by Sim. Owen, S.T.B., 1720. A silver paten, a gift of the same, 1724. A neat old silver cup. A silver plate for offerings given by Mr. Binn, 1731. Small handsome old silver candlesticks. Excellent new glebe house.

1830.—A "faculty" lean-to vault on the south side is a positive nuisance.

1850.—A settlement at the N.-W. angle. Chest for alms ordered.

1851.—Font restored.

1855.—Communion plate remarkably handsome, it was presented by the late Rector, Rev. Thos. Halse, during whose incumbency the plate had been stolen. In addition to the usual articles, there is a pair of candlesticks.

---

#### CAPEL.

Not on the list of my commission as Rural Dean, being at the time of my appointment considered as donative exempt from Episcopal Jurisdiction.  
(Rev. E. J. Boscawen, R.D.)

1849.—Visited with consent of the Incumbent—Rev. Mr. O'Flaherty, and Officers. There is no standing pot or stoup of metal for

wine. One more window in the chancel is to be opened. The flour bin, weights, &c., belonging to the Union Officers are to be removed from the vestry, and the vestry to be no more used by the Relieving Officers.

1852.—Chancel rebuilt in excellent taste and a stained glass window inserted in the east wall; the sides filled with oak seats in commemoration of Mr. and Mrs. Broadwood of Lyne. Recommended removal of a table in the gallery used by the singing men.

1857.—Repairing of the church much desired by some of the parishioners, which would allow of removal of west gallery and appropriation of space underneath it.

1886.—Since last report the church has been completely restored, under Mr. Woodyear, the architect, The spiral staircase to the belfry, the marble font given by the late Mr. Herrick, the pulpit given by subscription, are all worthy of special attention: as also the windows in the north aisle, remarkable for the cleverness with which a great effect has been secured for long low windows. An ancient frame for the pulpit hour-glass was found among rubbish. The Lych gate the gift of the Incumbent, Rev. T. R. O'Flaherty. (Recent entries :) Registers date from 1653. The hour-glass stand of iron formerly on the pulpit is now in the vestry. An old two-handled silver cup has been engraved by the Surrey Archæological Society.

---

#### DORKING.

1829.—Rev. G. Feacham, vicar.

The Communion Table is inlaid with oil cloth; the cloth was stolen some years ago.

Plate: Two large silver flagons. One silver cup (another added in 1837), one silver paten, one silver dish or bowl for offerings; all good and well kept. The glebe house in an unsatisfactory condition, an exchange is now considered.

1852.—Dorking Church rebuilt in 183(5) but in bad taste; there is very little accommodation for the poor.

The vicarage house has been removed to a convenient site on the Guildford Road.

1855.—The churchyard will be closed, a new cemetery having been provided.

(In 1863, the whole church was pulled down and rebuilt as it now exists. At the former rebuilding the ancient chancel was allowed to remain: from existing representations it appears that the original church, *i. e.*, prior to 1835, was cruciform, with a central tower, and was of Decorated and Perpendicular date and style.)

## EFFINGHAM.

1829.—Rev. W. Farley.

Font antient, formed of chalk.

Plate : A flagon, paten, and chalice, all of silver : the gift of Miles Stringer, Esq., 1829.

The vicar's cow is admitted to the churchyard, it being the only glebe.

Note : The whole of this church, &c., is repaired, and parts rebuilt at considerable expense, in a manner highly creditable to the zeal and liberality of the churchwardens—especially of the above-named M. Stringer, Esq.

1841.—A small old silver cup found.

1843.—Buttress to south chancel unsound.

---

 FETCHAM.

1829.—Rev. J. Bolland.

The tower much covered with ivy, but no material injury done. Parts of some of the windows in the church stopped with plaister; they should be opened as the church is dark. Mullions of the windows in the chancel want repair.

Plate :—A silver cup, a small silver paten, no vessel for unconsecrated wine, two pewter plates for offerings.

Pigs and cattle admitted to the churchyard. Registers commence 1559.

---

 HEADLEY.

1829.—Rev. L. Sneyd ; Rev. C. Bukford.

The walls good but very damp. Tower doubtful.

Plate :—One silver cup and paten, good ; no flagon ; a wooden dish for offerings.

Glebe house small, in very good repair.

1830.—Rev. Ferdinand Faithful.

There is no vestry. There has evidently at some time been a settlement in the tower ; there is a gallery in the tower, and the ceiling should be raised, and the seats placed one above the other so that all can see the minister officiating ; but it is doubtful whether this can be done with safety.

1835.—Everything greatly improved. A small place for a vestry made; gallery enlarged. The Rector's pew was being covered with black cloth in consequence of the death of a lady in the parish.

---

#### WEST HORSLEY.

1829.—Rev. C. Western.

There are four bells, one has been cracked some years. There is a fund of £30 per ann. for repairs.

Plate:—A large silver flagon, given by Edw. Nicholas, Knt., 1667. A silver cup and cover, 1634; all good. The Registers were much injured when the vestry was broken into some years ago. No cloth for communion table.

1835.—Some brambles and an ash tree having taken root, between the S.-E. angle of the chancel and a tomb close to the wall, they should be rooted out or they will injure the wall.

---

#### LEATHERHEAD.

1829.—Rev. J. Dallaway.

Plate:—A large handsome silver chalice, presented by the present vicar in 1818: one silver-gilt paten: one large silver-bound vessel for wine: one cow admitted to the churchyard.

---

#### LEIGH.

1829.—Rev. J. Hodgson, a schoolmaster resident in Reigate. The pews are old oak, and tolerably good. Three out of four windows in the chancel are plastered up.

Plate:—A silver cup and paten, a pewter flagon out of repair is not used. There is no vestry, and one is much needed.

1831.—The windows in the chancel have been opened.

1835.—The chancel all in good repair, inside and out. The buttresses, and the outside of the mullions of the windows, are much dilapidated.

1851.—The church wholly out of repair. The walls are merely held together by iron cramps in several places.

1855.—Restoration of church contemplated at a cost of £600: the parish agrees to raise half: the minister, the Rev. John Herbert, guarantees the other half. Proposed entire new seating of the church in oak: gallery to be thrown back into the tower: the wooden ceilings to be removed: a new pulpit, desk, and font: repair of the tower, and addition of a spire, in place of the present bell-cot.

Renewal of almost all the stonework of the windows. On Dec. 11, the church was re-opened, the sermon being preached by the Bishop of Winchester, and about £30 was collected. The £600 has been very judiciously expended: the parish raised their share by a rate. Mr. Woodyear was the architect. The tower has been raised, and the bells hung within it: the new font is a copy of a previous one, the remains of which were found under the old one, which was only composed of plaister lined with lead. The flooring, the whole of the roofing, and most of the east wall are new: the wooden ceiling resembles the old one, except that the bosses which decorated the nave, are now placed exclusively in the chancel. The stonework of all the windows has been reworked: an east window of stained glass has been given by J. W. Freshfield, Esq. A vestry has been rebuilt on the south side of the chancel. The church now accomodates nearly three hundred.

---

#### MICKLEHAM.

1829.—Bells, three, one cracked.

Plate: Two silver patens, one silver dish, one cup, and two chalices.

Cows allowed in the churchyard.

1830.—Rev. A. Burmerster. Framing of bells requires attention.

1835.—Church beautiful inside and out.

1851.—There is a vestry in excellent repair, and much has been expended on it. The decorations are not all in very good taste, and it would have been better if some had been of a more substantial character, but great pains are taken.

1886.—Since the above, much has been done; the chancel has been completely and beautifully restored by W. M. Praed, Esq., in 1872. At the same time an organ and organ-chamber were provided by subscription. The south gallery contains six enclosures called pews, with lofty sides, and very little space above, under an unseemly lean-to roof: and the free seats behind them afford miserable accommodation for a few poor people. The large

projecting gallery to the west is not quite so bad; but it not only seriously injures the look of the church, but the convenience of the seats under. In them the poor can scarcely see or hear. The north gallery is not so encumbered with pews; but the free sittings are even worse than those opposite: they entirely defy the warning of S. James ii, 1—16. The same may be said of the sittings for the poor on the ground floor under this gallery. It is proposed to build a transept on the south side, but it would be better to build a new south aisle. Church plate very handsome and well kept. It dates from 1657 to 1802.

A quarter of an acre has been added to the churchyard by the gift of Mr. Praed, and a handsome Lych gate has been given by T. H. Bryant, Esq., who has considerably renewed the inscriptions on the gravestones of the poor throughout the yard.

1893.—The church has been restored at a cost of £3,374:14s. 0d. The galleries have been removed, except one in the tower, which has been retained. The seats down one side of the aisle have been appropriated, but all the others are free.

---

#### NEWDIGATE.

1829.—Rev. — Trimmer, Rector.

Tower, wood and shingle, good. Communion Table and rails very plain and humble, but in good repair.

Plate: A silver cup, and cover forming a paten (small). Pewter plates for offerings.

Glebe house in bad condition.

There is a Curate. Old Register commences about 1650. There is no vestry.

1835.—The weather boarding on south and west of the tower, and the shingled spire require repair: as also the outer porch door. The east end of the chancel should be under-pinned. The furniture of the altar is of the meanest description. The parish is wretchedly poor.

1848.—A silver bowl for alms, not produced in 1829.

1852.—Rector, the Hon. and Rev. Arthur Sugden.

Recommended the removal of a much-curtained singing place in the gallery.

1857.—The singing pew not removed. The church is colour-washed, an unseemly red. Curate, Rev. Samuel Mayhew. The wet gets into the spire among the very curious framework: ordered to be covered. A school is held in the vestry.

1886.—The old church is much dilapidated and too small; it was restored and enlarged in 1876–77 at a cost of £2,100, great care being taken to preserve the characteristics of the ancient edifice. Some fresco work which had been discovered and brought to light by Rev. S. Mayhew, was destroyed. There is an effective stained glass window in the new north aisle, it was given by A. Powell, Esq. of Milton Court. The old flagon and old cover are worthy of notice: but a modern inscription thereon, “Newdigate Rectory,” is to be regretted. The Rectory was rebuilt in 1880, at a cost of £2,200, in place of the almost ruinous house. Incumbent, Rev. L. S. Kennedy.

1890.—The pulpit is in a dark corner and requires light.

1893.—One of the bells is useless through the support in the belfry having given way. The plate has been supplemented by a handsome solid silver set, presented by Farnell Watson, Esq., of Henfold.

---

OAKWOOD.

1829.—Rev. T. R. Malthus. No font, a common earthenware washing basin used, placed on the Communion Table. Bell good. The whole endowment available for repairs if necessary.

Plate: a flagon, cup, paten, and plate, all pewter. No glebe house.

1835.—Chapel completely repaired last year. The Chapel is a “Chapel of ease” to Wotton and Abinger, in Wotton parish, but distant from the parish church 8 or 9 miles; separately and well endowed, and independent of the Rector; it is stated not to have been so formerly. The Rector is only Trustee *ex officio*, with the Rector of Abinger, and others.

1852.—The Chapel has been thoroughly repaired, and new pewed out of the endowment fund (its income left for the purpose). A font has been provided. It is intended to set up the “Commandments” afresh. Recommended the plating of the Communion vessels, which are good in form.

1855.—A little decay in the woodwork of the seats against the south wall.

1886.—Since 1855 this Church has been much enlarged<sup>1</sup> by a new north aisle, and the whole is in substantial condition. This was accomplished at a cost of over £2,000, during the time of the late Vicar, Rev. E. A. Chichester. The plate now consists of silver vessels. The churchyard requires immediate enlargement.

---

<sup>1</sup> In 1879.

## OCKHAM.

1829.—Rev. C. Western, Rector. Walls, old and rough ; the tower, like the walls, old and rough, covered with ivy.

Five bells, one cracked. Mullions of windows want repair.

Plate : A large and handsome silver-gilt cup, with cover forming a paten ; the gift of T. Barker (*no date*). A pewter plate for offerings.

1832.—Rev. C. Farley, Curate. There is no vestry. The east window of chancel, curious and beautiful, has been restored.

---

 OCKLEY.

1829.—Rev. J. Cook, Incumbent.

Plate :—A silver cup: a silver paten, 1716, good. A small thin silver cover for chalice forming a plate for offerings.

1830.—East end of chancel has been rebuilt. There is no vestry.

1832.—Framework of the bells fallen.

1849.—No standing pot or stoup of metal for the wine according to Canon 20. The windows are being restored by the parishioners. There is a settlement in the tower at the west end, and there are cracks in it showing more or less according to the dryness or dampness of the season. They are irremediable, owing to the soil : they must be watched.

1853.—A flagon has been provided. The churchyard fence is repaired by the holders of land in the parish, each his own portion. Well done, but it appears a very awkward arrangement.

1886.—The buttresses of the tower have been effectively underpinned. A north aisle added and church restored 1872-3, by Col. Calvert. A somewhat serious subsidence of the wall at the west end of north aisle, and cracks in the wall of the vestry at the east end, appear to show that the whole wall is affected.

---

 SHERE.

1829.—Rev. T. Duncombe.

Font very ancient and good. Bells, good, but not the framing for ringing. One window in the chancel is stopped up. Communion Table good, but there are no rails, the chancel is separated from the body of the church by a partition.

Plate:—A silver cup and cover, a pewter flagon, and plate for offerings.

Registers in good order, but the present Rector's writing is not very legible.

- 1830.—There is no vestry. The chancel wall is injured by shrubs growing over a large tomb outside. There is a fund of £1: 1s. 0d. per annum for keeping this in repair, but it is not done. The tomb belongs to the Shallots, I believe, now represented by Mr. Lomax.
- 1835.—The ivy on the north-east and south-east buttresses of the chancel is doing harm.
- 1852.—The spire has been repaired. The Rectory house has been rebuilt further from the water and enlarged.
- 1856.—Recommended that the lead lining of the font should be removed. Communion plate poor, chalice only of silver. The churchyard is crowded. The pews are in a disgraceful condition.
- 1886.—Internally all in good order. The plaister on the outside of the west front is in bad condition. The beautiful south-west Norman door deserves a better porch. The very ancient chest in this porch should be better cared for: the contents should be examined and ancient documents sorted, which with the registers are of great Archæological value. The six bells have lately been put in good repair, at a cost of £60. Some dilapidated steps to a gallery on the north side should be removed, as no longer of use. The churchyard was considerably enlarged in 1864.

---

#### WALTON-ON-THE-HILL.

- 1829.—Font, lead, very old. Pews good, not painted. The walls of the body of the church have lately been rebuilt, and are hollow, and therefore dry. Half of the east window of the chancel bricked up three years ago; also two large ones on the south; two large and one small on the north side also bricked up.

Plate:—A silver cup, old and good; a plated flagon, and two plated patens for bread and offerings.

Registers now well kept under present Rector; previously much neglected and mutilated.

- 1830.—Rev. A. Hawthorn, Curate.

There is no vestry. Ceiling of chancel wants repair.

- 1835.—Rev. Dr. Welsh, Curate.

Half of the east window of the chancel is closed by the Table of Commandments; other windows still closed.

## WOTTON.

1829.—

Plate :—There are a large silver flagon, the gift of — Evelyn ; a silver cup and paten ; a pewter plate for offerings.

1830.—There is no vestry-room, one is much wanted. A silver plate in addition to that reported last year, the gift of Lee Steare Steare, Esq.

1831.—New velvet cushion and cloth for desk and pulpit, the gift of the same.

1833.—Chancel windows glazed throughout.

1835.—Some little repair required in roof of tower. The parsonage, barns, and outbuildings were completely repaired last year, at a cost of over £100, exclusive of a large quantity of timber bought, and in addition to what was cut from the glebe for the purpose.

1853-4.—The church new seated with oak (except the seats in the patron's chancel) ; a new pulpit, desk, and Communion Table ; now therefore internally in good condition.

1855.—Many slates fallen from roof of tower. Removal of gallery into the tower is projected. A new font is much wanted ; the present one of brick and plaister is mean and unsightly. A painted east window recommended. Outside, the church shows much neglect.

1886.—The church was restored in 1858 by Mr. Evelyn, at a cost of £1,700. Registers safely kept in an iron safe provided by Mr. Evelyn. The churchyard has been enlarged ; it is carefully kept. Still some earth above floor level on south side (it had been 4 feet above floor level on the north side). Rectory house rebuilt by the late Rector, Rev. E. B. Evelyn, in 1863, at a cost of £2,300.

1890.—The Archdeacon recommended immediate removal of the ivy, which had penetrated the roof in several places.

1895.—Ivy as before. Bells and belfry made safe about two years ago by the patron.

1905.—One or two trees cut down in the churchyard ; the wood used by the Rector.