



THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY SOMERSET,
UPPER THAMES STREET.

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[Read at an Evening Meeting of the Society, 10th February, 1868.]

IN consequence of the approaching demolition of the church of St. Mary Somerset, Upper Thames Street, in the ward of Queenhithe, it becomes especially desirable to place upon record a few memorials of its past history, a description of the building now shortly to disappear, and a brief account of the several charitable bequests connected with the church and parish.

This church is situate on the north side of Upper Thames Street, at the corner of Old Fish Street Hill, and opposite Broken Wharf. It is dedicated to the blessed Virgin, with the additional title of Somerset, from its near proximity to a small port or haven, in olden time called Summer's Het or Hithe, resembling that of Queenhithe.

The parish is a rectory, and a peculiar of the archdeacon. The church must be of very early foundation, but the earliest record of it I am able to recover is in 1335, in which year and also in 1336 the patronage of the living was vested in Sir John de Peyton, who presented to it at that date,—which may be taken as indicative of the existence of a church. It afterwards came into the family of Bradeston, during whose possession it was several years in the presentation of the Crown, by virtue of its wardship of Thomas de Bradeston; after whose death, in 48 Edw. III., the patronage was successively exercised by the families of De la Pole, Ingaldesthorp, and Norris, after which the presentation appears to have again fallen to the Crown. In 1560 G. Coomb gentleman presented, but by what right or how he came possessed of it I have been unable to discover. After this it was again vested in the Crown as guardian “Antonii Combr,” a lunatic.

In 1596 George Coton presented, but by what right or title is not shown; and twenty years later I find it in the hands of William Hicks, clerk. In 1631 William Stephens and others presented; * and in 1676 Michael Pike, clerk, possessed the right of presentation. Latterly the patronage appears to have vested in the See of London; for in 1857, on the admission of the Rev. Henry Stebbing, D.D., the present rector, the presentation was made by the Bishop of London.

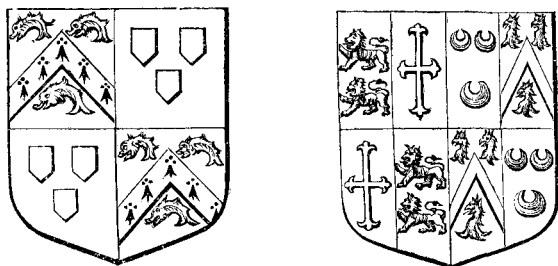
In consequence of the large destruction of churches by the great fire in 1666, many of the city benefices were united, when that of the parish of St. Mary Mounthaw was united to the parish of St. Mary Somerset. The patronage of the former being in the gift of the Bishops of Hereford, the presentations to this church were from thenceforth made alternately by the patrons of both rectories. †

* Newcourt's *Repertorium*, vol. i. pp. 454—456.

† Mention is made of this church in 44 Edw. III. 1370. A petition having been presented on Saturday, the Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle (21st September), to the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of London by the Flemings, who, carried on the trade of weavers, in consequence of the disputes and riots arising between them and the weavers of Brabant;

Of the ancient building prior to the Great Fire unfortunately but faint record remains.

The earliest mention of it I find in the will of Thomas Wylforde, citizen and fishmonger of London, dated 8th November, 1405, and proved 9th February, 1407-8,* by which it appears that some addition to the church was in contemplation or in course of execution, for he desires to be buried within the new chapel of the church of St. Mary de Somerset if it should be built at the time of his decease, or otherwise in the churchyard of St. Paul called "Pardon chirche hawe," and after the chapel be built the remains of himself, his wife, &c. to be exhumed and removed to the said chapel. His wishes as to burial within the church or chapel appear to have been faithfully executed, as it is recorded that the following inscription to his memory existed in the church in 1597,† with the accompanying shields of arms.



"here Vnder lyeth buried Thomas Wilford
Piscenar w^{ch} dyed the 8th of January, 1407."

But I fear that this had disappeared within the next fourteen years, as I find no mention made of it by Nicholas Charles, Lancaster Herald, when he visited the church in 1611.‡

when it was ordered, for the good governance of the trade, that the Flemish weavers should meet in the churchyard of St. Laurence Pountney, and the weavers of Brabant in the churchyard of St. Mary Somerset, for the hiring of serving men in the said trade. *Memorials of London and London Life*, p. 346.

* Prerog. Reg. 13 March.

† Harl. MS. Brit. Mus. 6072, fol. 54 b. It appears not improbable that the second shield belonged to another memorial.

‡ Lansd. MS. Brit. Mus. 874, fol. 6 b.

By the before mentioned will which directs his interment in the church we are made acquainted with the existence of a chapel annexed to the church; and by the List of Church Goods temp. Edward VI. (to be hereafter recited) we are informed that the church possessed,—as the record describes it,—“5 bellē of a ringe in our churche steple ⁊ a sanct^o bell.” From the record of a law suit respecting the benefaction of one Wilford of a yearly sum for the repair of the south aisle, we may justly infer that the church possessed both north and south aisles; and further Nicholas Charles, Lancaster Herald, in his MS. of heraldic notes taken when he visited the church in July 1611,* mentions two coats of arms being cut in stone in the porch. All of which I think will go far to prove that the ancient building was of no mean character. Aggas's Map of London made in the year 1560 (3rd Elizabeth) professes to give some idea of the position and appearance of the church, and the character of houses round it, at that early date; but, as the churches of Aggas are so much like each other, I fear it must not be accepted as a very accurate representation.



In the 27 Hen. VIII. pursuant to an Act made in the previous year for a return of the yearly value of all possessions as well

* Lansd. MS. Brit. Mus. 874, fol. 6 b.

temporal as spiritual, the clear annual value per annum of this rectory was returned at 10*l.* 10*s.* and the tenths on same at 21*s.**

This church did not escape the notice of the commissioners appointed in the 6 Edward VI. to seize church goods, as will be seen by the following interesting return made to the said commissioners by Thomas Goodye and Nicolas Welche, the then churchwardens. During the three years preceding the date of the return, property of a very large value had been disposed of.

Return made 6 Edw. VI. pursuant to an order of the Commission for seizing of Church goods. †

QUENHITH WARDE.—'The true ⁊ playne certificate of Thomas goodye ⁊ Nycolas Welche, now churchward^ens of the pisshe of saint Marye Som^{er}sette.

The first Article we certifie that Thomas Kerye ⁊ Roger Thetcher were churchwardens in the first yer of the Kinge maties Reigne that now is.

To the seconde Article we aunswer ⁊ certifie thes goode, that is to saie, plate, Juelle, Vestymētē, belle, ⁊ other ornamētē, ar belonginge ⁊ appteyngē now to our churche ⁊ Remyne in the vestrye wⁱn the saied churche as here p^{ar}ticularly folowe.

It. one chalice all gilte wayenge xvj vncē dī.

It. one chalice clene white sylu^{er} wayenge xij vncē iij q̄t^r.

It. a suete of clothe of golde, that is to saye,

A vestymēt, ij deacons, ⁊ ij coopes.

It. a cannapie of golde ⁊ grene velvett that was borne vpon iiij staves, w^{ch} remayne now in the custodye of Davy garrett, one of our pisshe.

It. iij herseclothes, one red velvett ⁊ golde, ⁊ thother twayne blacke velvett.

It. a coope of red velvett.

* *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol. i. p. 372.

† Public Record Office, Church Goods, Roll marked W. N. 8942.

It. a coope of white satten.

It. a coope of bawdkyn.

It. a vestymēt of grene bawdkyn w^t colyn golde.

It. ij white vestymētē, the one bawdkyn ⁊ thother bustyan.

It. a coope, A vestymēt, ⁊ a tunycle, all of blacke worsted.

It. ij alter clothes of bridgē satten.

It. ij curteyns of ſcennett.

It. an alter clothe of grene bawdkyn.

It. ij peyr of pewt^r candlestickē.

It. v bellē of a ringe in ou^r churchē steple ⁊ a sanct^o bell.

It. a payr of organs.

It. a bible ⁊ a paraphrasis vpō the gospellē.

It. one tenement belonging to ou^r churchē of rent by yer xxxvj^s viij^d.

To the thirde Article we aunswer ⁊ certifie that we haue non nor knowe of any man^y counterpayne of Inventorye of ou^r churchē goodē at any tyme certified eithē to the late Bisshopp of london or to any others, nor haue we neither booke nor Regis^trē cōteyngē the p^{ar}ticulars of the same churchē goodē but even as they were allwaies kepte ⁊ remayned in the vestrye w^hin o^r saied Churchē.

Cōcernyng the iiiijth ⁊ last article we certifie. In the thirde yer of the Reigne of the Kingē Ma^{tie} Davye garrett and Johⁿ holstocke wer churchwardens; and they for dyū^s and necessarye Repacions to be done vppon ou^r Churchē ⁊ churchhouse w^t ther apptenauncē by ⁊ w^t the cōsent of an holl vestrye of all the pisshe, solde these pcellē of the churchē goodē as folowe :

Itm. solde the first daye of Auguste to Johⁿ Waberley, goldesmythe, A monstre pcell gilte wayenge xxxj vncē ⁊ ij q̄tr at v^s the oz . . . vij^{li} xvij^s vj^d

It. solde to the saied waberley A Sen^ſr wayeng xxxv vncē . . . vij^{li} xv^s

It. solde a shipp w^t a sp^{er}nc waieng viij oz. ⁊ dī, all thes pcellē at v^s the vncē . . . ij^{li} ij^s

It. solde a pax waieng vij vncē ⁊ dī a q̄tr at v^s iiiij^d the oz. . . xxxvij^s

The holl s^m^a for all the saied pcellē of plate amounte xx^{li} xiiij^s

It. more solde to Thomas Kerye 1 C. ⁊ a q̄tʳ ⁊ xx pounde of latten stuff at xvij^s the C. amount xxv^s

It. solde to John Northe, blackesmythe, ⁊ tceyn olde Iron at oʃ farthing the pounde x^s vj^d

It. the iiijth yer of the Reigne of the Kinge Ma^{tie} John holstocke and John Notmā wer churchwardens, who by ⁊ w^t the cōsent of an holl vestrye of all the pissioñs solde thes pcellē, as folowe :

It. solde the xvij daye of Marche to John Danyell, goldesmythe, A Crosse of wood plated ou^{er} w^t silū ⁊ a Crismatorye, wayeng the holl xliij oz. ⁊ dī at v^s iiij^d the vnē ; Amounte xj^{li} xij^s

It. solde to the saied John Danyell one Chalice all gilte wayenge xxj vncē dī ⁊ a q̄tʳ at vj^s ij^d the oz. amounte vj^{li} xiijs iiij^d

It. more solde vestementē ⁊ coops after a vew made ⁊ p^{ie}ce sett by John Rooke, Embroydere of lōdō, the pcellē folowinge :

It. solde to Raffē Davye a vestymēt a deacon of red velvett w^t grene ⁊ white flow^{rs}, amounte x^s

It. solde to the same R. Davye one alt^r clothe of red satten vj^s

Itm. solde to John Notmā the coatē for the Image of ou^r ladye ⁊ her sonne of grene silke ⁊ red damaske x^s

It. solde to John holstocke A suete of grene Velvett w^t red ⁊ white flow^{rs}, that is to saie a vestimēt, ij deacons, ⁊ iij coops xls

It. solde to Myles twisdaye ⁊ Henry Rawlyns A coope of red bawdkyn ⁊ a vestimēt, ⁊ a deacon of tawney satten w^t birdē of golde xxvj^s viij^d

It. solde to the same Myles ⁊ henryc A herse clothe w^t saint Myghell ⁊ lyons of golde, A vestimēt w^t a coope whit bawdkin xliijs iiij^d

Item. solde to henrye fletman a Stranger all ou^r latten bokē of tholde sūyce xls

In the vth yer of the Reigne of the Kinge Ma^{tie}, John Notman

⁊ Thomas goodye were churchwardens, who by ⁊ w^t the consent of the pisse solde the pcellē as folowe:

It. solde to Stevyn lathberye ou^r banñs, clothes, and ij crosse clothes viijs^s

It. solde to Thomas Tayler a vestymēt, ij Deacons, ⁊ a cope of blew bawdkyn w^t small lyons of golde . . . liijs^s iiij^d

It. solde to Thomas barloo wexchaundler xij torches at ij^d o^b the pounce ⁊ all ou^r other wax at iiij^d the pounce iiij^{li}

S^m^a tot. of the Receiptē of all ou^r churchē goodē w^{ch} we haue solde ⁊ put a waye synce the first yer of the Reigne of the Kingē Ma^{tie} that now is Amounte lv^{li} xij^s ij^d

The expenses ⁊ how the money Receyued for the sale of all ou^r Churchē goodē solde from the firste yer of the Kingē Ma^{ties} Reigne is ⁊ hathe ben bestowed as here followeth:

Itm. bestowed ⁊ p^d for Repacions of ou^r churchē house in the thirde yer of the Kingē Ma^{ties} Reigne, as the p^ticulers therof appere in the accompte of Davye garret ⁊ Jo^hn holstocke then Churchwardens by ⁊ wth consent of the pisse, amounte x^{li} vj^s viij^d

Itm. bestowed ⁊ p^d for Repacions of ou^r Churchē in the iiijth yer of the Kingē Ma^{ties} Reigne, as the p^ticulers therof appere in the Accompte of Jo^hn holstocke and Jo^hn Notmā then Churchwardens by ⁊ withe cōsent of the pisse Amounte xviiij^{li} vj^d

Itm. bestowed ⁊ p^d in the vth ⁊ vjth yers of the Kingē Ma^{ties} Reigne for making certeyn new pewes ⁊ other necessaries w^tin ou^r Churchē ⁊ mending the churchē wallē w^tout furthe ⁊ pavinge the strette, the p^ticul^rs therof appere in the Accompte of Thomas gooddye ⁊ Nicolas welche Churchwardens by ⁊ withe the consent of the pisse Amounte vj^{li} xiijs^s xj^d

Itm. p^d to ou^r Conducte for his wage for one yer ⁊ dī to maynteyne godde s^uyce in o^r churchē iiij^{li}

Itm. p^d for the Ingrosinge ⁊ and making thes booke x^s

The total s^m^a bestowed ⁊ p^d for Reparacions vpon ou^r churchē ⁊ churchē house, w^t their app^otenācē, from the thirde yer of the Kingē Ma^{ties} Reigne vnto this daye, for w^{ch} we haue solde ou^r plate ⁊ ornamētē, Amounte xxxviiij^{li} xj^s jd

So remayneth clerlye of all the Receiptē of these pcellē of ou^r church goodē solde ⁊ put awaye in thandē of Thomas gooddye one of ou^r churchwardens xvij^{li} xiiij^d by me thomas gooddye.

The continuator of Stowe* reports the church as having been repaired and beautified in 1624; he also gives the following inscription as hanging on a table close by the pulpit:—

“Dictum Thomæ Burtoni Rectoris Ecclesiæ tempore reparationis & exornationis hujus Ædificii. Dominus Petra mea & Arx mea, & Liberator meus, Adjutor meus. Sperabo in eum.”—Psal. xviii. 2.

Which is translated—

“The saying of Thomas Burton, rector of the church in the time of the reparation and beautifying of this building: The Lord is my Rock and my Fortress, my Deliverer, my Helper. I will hope in him.”—Psal. xviii. 2.

By the same disastrous conflagration in 1666, which created such a great destruction of churches in the City, and which is so commonly and justly termed in history “the Great Fire,” this church was totally destroyed, as also the parsonage-house, the site of which house was afterwards let for a term of 40 years, at 5*l.* per annum ground rent, and the house rebuilt.† The church was rebuilt and finished in February 1695,‡ from the designs of Sir Christopher Wren, at a cost of 6,579*l.* 18*s.* 1¼*d.*§

The abstract returns of parish registers, published with the population returns of 1831, describe the registers of this church as only dating from 1711; but upon examination, by the kind

* Strype's *Stowe*, 1720, vol. i. B. 3, p. 213.

† *Ibid.* p. 214.

‡ *Ibid.* p. 213.

§ Allen's *History of London*, vol. iii. p. 717.

permission of the rector, I found this to be a grave error, the registers dating back as early as 1558.

The first register book contains baptisms, marriages, and burials, from 1558 to 1653, and commences as follows: "The Register-booke of Chrisnings Mariags & Burialls had in the parish of S^{ti} Mary Somerset from the tenth of Marche in the yere of o^r lorde god 1558. Trulie & newlie written and Engrossed vnto the yere 1605. By Henry Cooke and George Swindall Churchwardens of the said Parishe;" and on a fly-leaf, in another hand, of later date: "This Register was new bound & more Parchment added ano Dñi 1627.

"Owin Dobins }
"Edward Pike } Church-wardens."

The following are copies of the first entries of christenings, marriages, and burials, with some few extracts from the register of burials:—

CHRISTENINGS.

1558. "Imprimus. Agnes kelke, Christned the xth of Marche."

MARRIAGES.

1558. "Imprimis. Rycharde Graye and A — were maried the xxxth daie of January."

BURIALS.

1558. "Imprimis. John Wilson Buryed the xiiijth daye of January."

1589. "Richard Harryes, the Queenes fruterer, was buryed xjth daie of June."

(*In margin.*) 1611. "Robert Allen was Buryed 19th day of buried in y^e street; he hanged himselfe. Septemb^r."

The first mention I find of the plague is in the year 1606, of which the following is the entry:—

"Plague. John Bellowes buried the second of April."

In this year 37 persons appear to have fallen victims to this dreadful scourge. It may also be interesting to mention that in 1607 seven entries occur of death from plague; in 1608, six; 1609, six; and 1610, six; a curious coincidence that the deaths from plague in the three last-mentioned years should be alike.

(*In margin.*)
A Cōmon Coun-
saile Man. 1616. "Lewis Randall * Bruer was Buried the
Eighteenth of June."

In 1625 only nine deaths are attributed to the plague; but from the number buried in June, July, August, and September, the rate of mortality must have been exceedingly great, and it is probable that the plague was then raging, although no mention is made in the register of the cause of death.

(*In margin.*) 1627. "William ffarrar was buried y^e v of
Kill'd wth a Cart. February."

In 1636 thirty-one entries occur of death from plague. In 1639, two; and in 1642, only one.

The second register-book† contains the register of christenings, marriages, and burials from 1653 to 1711.

(*In margin.*) 1654. "William Burges, a bargeman of Win-
Kill'd by a fall out
of a garret. sor, was buried y^e 15 of April."

In 1665 two hundred and seventy-one deaths from plague are entered, and in the year following, viz. 1666 only two, after which no further mention of deaths from this cause occur in the registers.

The registers of christenings, marriages, and burials continue from last date to the present time without break, and are in a very fair condition.

In the later register of burials is that of Bishop Ironside, which is as follows:

1701. "Guilbert Ironside, Lord Bishop of Hereford, Sept. 1st."

Soon after the Great Fire an Act of Parliament‡ was passed for the union of parishes, the churches of which had been destroyed. By this Act it was ordained that "The parishes of St. Mary Somerset and St. Mary Munthaw shall be united into one parish, and the church heretofore belonging to the said parish of St. Mary Somerset shall be the parish church of the said parishes so united."

* He is called Richard in the copy of the monumental inscription to his memory said to have existed in the church prior to the Fire of London.

† This and the first register-book were rebound in 1856; Samuel Ward and James Terry being churchwardens.

‡ 22 Car. II. cap. 11, 1670.

And by another Act of Parliament* passed the same year, but after the before-mentioned Act, the certain tithes or annual sum of money for the maintenance of the rector of these united parishes was fixed at 110*l.* per annum, which by glebe casualties and two parsonage houses was increased to 169*l.* 10*s.* In 1693 the churchwardens presented that the parsonage house was burnt down in the late fire, but had since been rebuilt, the site being let for a term of forty years at a ground-rent of 5*l.* per annum.† This house adjoins the church on the north side, having a frontage in Old Fish Street Hill, and is now divided into two tenements.

The earliest book ‡ of vestry minutes containing reference to the parish of St. Mary Somerset is that of St. Mary Mounthaw. This book commences 1662, and after the union of the two parishes contains some interesting entries respecting the church, the first of which, No. 34 in book, but without date or signature, appears to be merely a copy of some document, setting forth that—

“Whereas a bell was Purchased beareing date ——— of M^r John Eldridge of Chersey, in y^e County of Surry, and Paid for by Way of Subscribion by y^e Inhabitants of S^t Mary Sommersett and S^t Mary Mounthaw Parishes, and hath bin made use of for y^e Benefitt and Profitt of both y^e aforesaid Parishes tell this time, y^e Parish of S^t Mary Sommersett haveing paid two Thirds of y^e Charge, and y^e Parish of S^t Mary Mounthaw one-third part of y^e Charge thereof; and Whereas y^e Parish of S^t Mary Mounthaw is laid and joyn'd to the Parish Church of S^t Mary Sommersett by Act of Parliament, the Church and Steple now built at the Publicke;§ and Whereas the aforesaid bell is now hung up in the Steeple belonging to both the said Parisses, it is hereby agreed and Declared by us whose names are here unto written, being Inhabitants of both, the said bell be for ever Continued for y^e vse and benefitt of both the aforesaid Parish^e Distinctly, two Thirds of the Charge being allwaies paid by the Church

* 22 and 23 Car. II. cap. 15, 1670.

† Newcourt's *Repertorium*, vol. i. p. 455.

‡ A paper book without a cover.

§ *Sic* in orig.

Wardens of S^t Mary Sommersett, and one-third part by the Church Wardens of S^t Mary Munthaw for the time being.”

From the position of this entry, and the dates of the entries preceding and following, it must have been written in 1693.

From the vestry minutes it appears that in all matters connected with the church or churchyard both of St. Mary Somerset and St. Mary Mounthaw, the parishioners were accustomed to assemble in the vestry-room of St. Mary Somerset, but in all matters relating to parochial government &c. they acted independently. There does not appear to be any record or clue as to when the division of church rates into two-thirds to St. Mary Somerset and one-third to St. Mary Mounthaw was first adopted, and on what grounds, the foregoing document being the earliest mention of it; and, although so arranged, there were continual disagreements between the parishes as to church rates and repairs to the church.

The church seems to have been a constant source of expense for repairs, &c. Sundry repairs were executed in 1756.

At a joint vestry of both parishes, held 11 Feb. 1768, a proposal was made to grant leave to erect a monument in the church to the memory of Mr. Thomas Funge, deceased, but the parish of St. Mary Mounthaw refused to permit it unless Mrs. Funge would give something towards repairing the church. As this monument was erected, we must infer that she complied with the request.

And on the 26th August, 1768, the roof of the church was ordered to be opened that it might be inspected by surveyors.

The earliest vestry minute book of the parish of St. Mary Somerset commences 1721. (There is a book containing an account of the several benefactions of date apparently anterior to 1667.) The following extracts from the vestry minutes are interesting:—

At a vestry held 16th March, 1721, It was “Agreed, that y^e large Communion gilt Cup and Cover (y^e Gift of Mr. Gabriel Tomlinson) be melted down and made into a fashionable Cup and Cover and gilt, with y^e Donor’s Name, as at first;”

And "also, that Cases for a Set of Plate and an Iron Chest be provided for y^e safe keeping of the same; And that y^e Church-Wardens do sell y^e old pewter Flagons towards defraying y^e Charges of the aforesaid Cases and Iron Chest."

At a vestry held 14th May, 1724, it was agreed that all the church ground should be paved the ensuing summer.

At a vestry held 30th May, 1728, it was "Ordered, that y^e pall belonging to y^e parish be lent gratis to y^e funeral of any poor person whose friends or Relations will accept of it."

And at a vestry held the 26th April, 1753, it was agreed to purchase an engine.

At a committee for repairing the church, held April 25th, 1769, it was ordered, (after Trinity Sunday) "That Mr. Thomas Stedman take down the Pulpit and the Irons and Carv'd Ornaments that are Over the Pews," &c., &c. It was also ordered, that the glass windows be taken out and preserved, and that a scaffold be erected to examine the defects in the roof.

And at a committee meeting held Sept. 9th, 1769, the roof was ordered to be covered with lead with all expedition; the plumber agreeing to give 16s. per cwt. for the old lead, and to put on new 8lb. lead to the foot super at 19s. 6d. per cwt., labour and nails included, but to charge extra for solder after the rate of 9d. per lb. and extra for holdfasts.

At a joint vestry held Dec. 5th, 1769, it was "Ordered, that a Table of Benefactions be made, and fixed on Some Convenient part of the Church."

These reparations cost about 800*l.*, to meet which money was raised by granting annuities.

In 1811 it appears that about 450*l.* was required for repairs, when it was resolved by the vestry to raise the same by life annuities.

And at a joint vestry held 31st May, 1842, it was resolved that the old window over the altar should be taken out, and the cavity filled up with brickwork, as being absolutely necessary to strengthen the east end of the church, provided the sanction of the archdeacon could be obtained for so doing. This proposal

arose probably from the great settlement which had taken place in the wall; but was not carried out, as the east window still remains.

Whilst removing the bodies from the interior of the church a foundation wall was exposed to view, running through the centre of the church, east and west. This was probably part of the foundation of the original building.

From an entry on the fly-leaf of a small book among the vestry books, it appears that six elm trees were planted in the churchyard in 1680.

The following description of the main body of the building now doomed to destruction—the tower being retained, an Act of Parliament having been recently passed specially to save what is considered one of the finest of Sir Christopher Wren's works—will be better understood by reference to the exterior view of the church at the commencement of this paper. The church is a parallelogram, with a square tower of stone at the south-west corner, abutting on Thames Street and Old Fish Street Hill. The west elevation is of stone, having a segment-headed entrance in the centre, with carved cherubim keystones, over which is a circular window, and on each side of the doorway two large semi-circular-headed windows, with carved faces on the keystones, and mouldings round, the whole surmounted by a cornice and parapet wall. The elevation of the tower and south front of the church, being shown in the engraving of the exterior view, needs no description other than to mention that the four sides of the tower are alike. The east end is of brick, and has a single segmental-headed window. The north elevation is also of brick; the portion not built against, which stands between the house known as the Parsonage-house and the east end of the church, is pierced with three semicircular-headed windows, corresponding with the windows in the south elevation. The interior of the church is lofty and spacious. The ceiling is formed with a flat or panel in centre, having a bold and handsome dentil cornice, the sides coved. The coving is pierced with semicircular arches over the window-heads, of which there are five on the south side

and one blank where the tower adjoins the church, making in all six bays. The coving is also pierced on the north side and over the windows of the east and west walls to correspond; the semi-circular arches formed in the coving over windows, spring from impost mouldings supported by cherubs. Beneath the east window of chancel was the altar-screen—recently removed prior to the destruction of the building;—this screen was in oak, of a plain style of decoration, and panelled, with two Corinthian pilasters on each side. Over the screen and still remaining is a painted and gilt representation of four Corinthian pilasters supporting an entablature, the mouldings of which form a continuation of the mouldings of imposts under the springing of the arches in the coving of the cornice, and on the sides are poorly-executed full-lengths of Moses and Aaron.

In the centre over the window was a canvas blind, painted to represent the Ascension.

At the west end was a gallery of wainscot—now removed—supported by Tuscan columns, with a panelled front, and in the centre of the same the arms of Queen Anne, framed on canvas; and in the gallery was a small organ. The pews, which were of panelled wainscot, occupied the centre of the church, with an aisle on each side. The walls of the church being wainscoted all round to about 10 feet high.

At the west end stood a handsome font of white marble, decorated with cherub's heads and shields of arms alternately at the corners. The arms being, . . . on a chevron engrailed . . . three escallops . . ., in chief a lion passant guardant . . .; with the following inscription running round the four sides :

Ex Dono	JOHANNIS	TOOLYE	hujus Tribus
Vicarii Dignissimi	1699 Nec non	Vigilantissimi.	

The oak pulpit,—which I am informed is to be retained for a new church proposed to be erected in the suburbs,—and the reading desk, stood against the south wall. Malcolm in speaking of this pulpit says, “When I mention that the late well known methodist Mr. Gunn* was a preacher in it on certain days, the

* Elected Lecturer 9 July, 1793. Vestry Minutes.

trampled and dirty state of the church will not be wondered at." In the circular window over the western entrance are the royal arms of William and Mary in stained glass, but in a bad state of preservation. The length of the church inside is about 83 feet, by a breadth of 36 feet, and a height of 30 feet; the height of the tower to top of pinnacles is 120 feet.*

At the east end of the church is a vestry room built of brick with stone quoins and dressings to windows, the walls on the inside being covered with panelled wainscoting painted. This wainscoting and the font cost about 100*l.*, and was executed at the expense of Mr. John Toolye before mentioned. The door from the church into the vestry is on the north side of the communion. Over the fireplace on a raised panel are set forth the several benefactions to the parish, and over and on each side of the panel is an excellent piece of wood carving, consisting of corn, fruit, flowers, &c., (said to be the work of Grinling Gibbon,) but the beauty of the carving is much impaired by the coating of paint which now covers it. In raised letters on the woodwork under the mantel-shelf is the following:

W M 16

S P 90

On a panel of the wainscoting on the east wall is a painting of the Toolye arms, with a demi-tiger collared for crest.†

There is only one bell in the tower, which is in the key of E natural, and weighs about 6¼ cwt., and from the inscription on the same appears to have been made by William Eldridge in 1679.

The churchyard next Thames Street is inclosed with a wall. The doorway in the wall from the street opens into a dead house.

Of the early communion plate unfortunately only a small silver gilt wine-spoon remains, the plate having been stolen prior to the 28th Oct. 1805, on which day a vestry was held to inquire into the robbery, but without success; and at a vestry held Nov.

* Allen's *History of London*, vol. iii. pp. 716, 717.

† Fairbairn in his *Book of Crests* gives Tolley or Tollye a demi-tiger vert (collared or and pelletée, the body bezantée). In the *New View of London*, 1708, vol. ii. p. 405, these arms are given as follows: Arg. on a chev. engrailed sa. 3 escallops of the first, adorned of the second, in chief a leopard passant vert spotted of the first.

4th, 1805, it was resolved that two plated flagons, holding two quarts each, two plated cups (or chalices) holding five gills each, one plated salver (or paten) and two plates (or offertories) of the diameter of 8 inches, should be purchased; also two pair of plain brass candlesticks of the height of 9 inches, for the use of the vestry,—at a cost of about 30*l.* All these, except the brass candlesticks, are now existing, and in addition there are 4 pewter collection plates with the monogram

St.
M. S.

Among other property belonging to the parish is a large deal iron-bound chest with date 1605, which is said to have belonged to the church of St. Mary Mounthaw.

On the 26th November, 19 Edw. III.,* Johannes de Gildesburgh, citizen and fishmonger of London, on payment of a fine of 10*l.*, obtained a licence from the King to found a chantry in this church, and gave the annual sum of seven marcs issuing out of a certain tenement held by him in free burgage, situate between the messuage of William de Monte Acuto and “*Oldefishestretlone*,” in the city of London, for the maintenance of a chaplain and his successors to celebrate divine service daily and every day for ever for the good estate of the said John and Peter de Gildesburgh, and their parents whilst living, and for the souls *cum ab hac luce migraverint* of their ancestors and all faithful departed.

On the 18th May, 4 Hen. IV.,† Thomas Wilford, citizen of London, William Bridbrook, clerk, and John Trygg, on payment of a fine of six marcs, obtained a licence from the King to assign unto Richard, son of William de Segrave, chaplain of the chantry lately founded at the altar of the church of the blessed Mary by John de Gildeburgh, one messuage with appurtenances in the parish of the blessed Mary of Somerset, London, to have and to hold to the said Richard Segrave and his successors chaplains of the said chantry for ever, in augmentation of his and their maintenance.

Malcolm ‡ speaks of this as a separate foundation by Thomas

* Patent Roll 19 Edw. III. part 3, m. 10.

† Patent Roll 4 Hen. IV. part 2, m. 26.

‡ Malcolm, *Lond. Rediv.* vol. iv. p. 428.

“Wilforth;” but the licence above-mentioned proves this clearly an error. He further mentions that he gave *6l. 7s. 4d.* per annum for the maintenance of the same, but I know not on what authority. In 26 Henry VIII.* the clear annual value of this charity was returned at *6l. 13s. 4d.*, and the tenths of same at *13s. 4d.*

The ravages of time, abuse, and the Great Fire entirely destroyed the ancient monuments and inscriptions; but, fortunately, we are able to recover a portion of the same from MSS. extant. They were partly taken in 1597; and partly in 1611 by Nicholas Charles, Lancaster Herald; and are as follows:—

“Hic Jacet Johannes Ashton quondam

Ciuis et Piscinarius Londoñ et Frise- [On a shield...
wida vxor eius et pueri eorundem, qui three garbs
quidem Johannes obiit 10 die mensis Marcii, within a bor-
A° Dñi 1433.”† dure argent.]

This John Ashton by his will, dated 1st March, 1433, and proved in London 8th October, 1436, desires to be buried in the church of St. Mary de Somerset, London †

“Hic Jacet Johannes Ep̄s Dromorencis et Rector istius eccl̄iæ, qui obiit 12 Junij 1433.”§

“Hic Jacet Thomas Caue notari⁹ et Rector istius eccl̄iæ, qui obiit 18 Sept. 1444.”||

“Hic Jacet Johannes Young quondam Ciuis et Black-
smyth Londoñ, qui obiit 11° die Octobris, Anno [On a shield...
on a pile argent
a crescent...] Dñi 1464, et Agnes vxor eius, quoꝝ animabus propicietur, &c.”¶

“Here lyeth John Blundell, sometyme cytisen and ffuterer of London, and Margaret and Alice ** his wiues, w^{ch} John died the $\frac{2}{3}$ daye of Maye, A° Dñi 1474, on whose soules,” &c.

* Valor Eccl. Hen. VIII. vol. i. p. 381.

+ Harl. MS. Brit. Mus. 6072, fol. 54 b.

† Prerog. Reg. 22 Luffnam.

§ Lansd. MS. Brit. Mus. 874, fol. 6 b.

|| Ibid.

¶ Harl. MS. Brit. Mus. 6072, fol. 54 b.

** Harl. MS. Brit. Mus. 6072, fol. 55. Lansdowne MS 874, fol. 6 b. (MS. 6072 gives this as Anne.)

This John Blundell, citizen and fruiterer of London, by his will dated 20th April, 1474, and proved in London the 31st May following,* bequeaths as follows:—

“ I leve to the Awter of seint Mary Somersett Church for tithes forgotten vjs viij d. Itm. I woll myn executours shall provide vj Torches and iiij Tapers of Waxe for my fun^o all exequies, and I wolle that x poue^o men shall bere them. Itm. I wolle eu^y of the poue^o men for their labour shalhaue of money iij s. iiij d. Itm. I leve iiij of the same Torches with ij of the Tapers to Wirship god with them in the Chirch of seint Mary Som^osett while they may endure.”



“ Orate pro animabus Johis Ravening, quondam Civis et Salter Londoñ, et Johanna et Elizabetha vxores eius, qui quidam Johes obiit 17^o die february A^o Dñi. 1481, quoz animabus,” &c.†

This “ John Ravenyng,” citizen and salter of London, by his will dated 5 Feb. 1481, 21 Edw. IV. and proved in London 20 February, 1481,‡ directs his “ body to be buried in the Church of saint Marie Some^osede in theamystreate of london, afore the Image of saint Margarett, att the queer door their, whereas the body of Johanne late my wif restith buried. Itm. I biqueth to the church werke of the saide Church for my buriell their as it is aforesaide to be had vjs. viij d. Itm. I biqueth to the high Aulter of the same church for myn offeringe forgotten or w^holden in discharge of my soule v s. Itm. I biqueth to the sustentacion of the Bretherhode of thassumption of o^r ladie in the same Churche xx^d. Itm. I biqueth to the sustentacion of the bretherhede of saint John and saint Mighell in the saide Church xx^d.” He also directs his executors to provide six torches and four wax tapers to burn at his exequies and month’s mind; and after that directs two of the said torches to the church of St. Mary

* Prerog. Reg. 17 Wattis.

† Harl. MS. Brit. Mus. 6072, fol. 55. Also Lansdowne MS. Brit. Mus. 874, fol. 6 b.

‡ Prerog. Reg. 4 Logge.

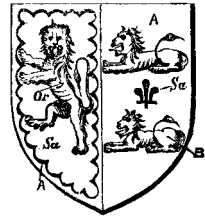
Somerset, to burn at the high altar “the tyme of the leuacion, as long as they therto will endure.” Also “to eu^eyche of x poue^e menne to holde the saide torches and Tapers for their labour iiij d.”

And he ordains “sir John Denh^am p^sone of saint Mary Some^osett” overseer of the executors of his will.

“Hic Jacet Arthurus ^{Infans} filius et hæres Dñi de Dacre, qui obiit 26 die mensis Aprilis Añõ Dñi 1489, cuius animæ propicietur deus.”*

“Orate pro anima Johannis Denham, quondam rectoris istius ecclesie, qui obiit 1511.”†

“Benet Brocas, seruant to Thõ Earl of Surrey, and Treasurer of England, desireth you to pray,” &c., with the arms of Howard Earl of Surrey quartering Brotherton, Mowbray, and Warren on a shield, within a garter bearing the motto, “Honi soit qui mal y pense,” and also the arms of *Brocas*,—Sable, within a bordure engrailed argent a lion rampant guardant or; impaling, Argent, two lions couchant vert, in nombril point a fleur de lis sable.



“Orate pro bono statu Benedicti Brocas, generosi, &c. pro eorundem, verum etiam ac Margarete nuper vxoris, &c. filiorum filiarumq, mortuorum, An. Dñi. 1511.”

Again, “Pray for the Soule of Benett Brocas, gentleman, which died the 11th of Feuvrier, A^o. Dñi. 1511, Cujus anima propicietur Deus. Amen.”‡

“Of your Charity pray for the Soule of Peter Baliell fesycon and Surgeon of London; and for the good State of Annes his Wife. The which Peter departed to God the Second day of October, 1516.”§

“Pray for the Soules of Thomas Hottby, Citizen and Grocer of London; Alice, Joan, and Margery his Wifes; which Thomas died the 22d of March, A^o. Dni. 1528.”||

* Harl. MS. Brit. Mus. 6072, fol. 55, and Lansdowne MS. Brit. Mus. 874, fol. 6 b.

† Lansdowne MS. Brit. Mus. 874, fol. 6 b.

‡ Ibid.

§ Ibid.

|| Ibid.

“ Pray for the Soules of Thomas Vngill and Elizabeth his Wife, w^{ch} Thomas dyed the 6th of Novemb. 1537.”*

[On a shield
... five annulets
and a canton
ermine. ‡]

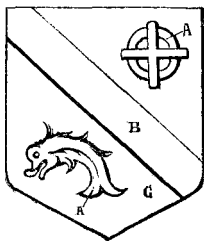
“ Of your Charitye pray for the soules of Wiffm Caytwell, citizen and fruterer of London, Ellyn, Joan, and Anne, his wives, w^{ch} Wiffm deceased the 3^d daye of Maij 1540, on whose soule,” &c. †

“ Here lieth Frances Barantine of Haseley, in the county of Oxford, esq. who died the 23 day of August in the yeare of our Lord God 1557, on whose soule God haue,” &c. §

Henry Machyn, in his usual quaint style, mentions the funeral of Barantine, as follows:

1557. “ The xxvj day of August was bered master Barenteyn sqwre, with cott armur, and penon of armes, and ij dosen of skochyons, ij whyt branchys, and xij stayffes torchys, iiij grett tapurs; bered in sant Mare Somersett at Broken-warff; and he had a godly masse of owre Lade in pryke songe; and after a masse of requiem songe, and so ys cote offered; and after a grett dener. ||”

Here was also a monument in one of the windows of a kneeling figure to the memory of Robert Hill, grocer, ¶ with the arms of the Grocers' Company, Argent, a chevron gules between six cloves in chief and three in base sable.



On the wall, but it is not said at what part of the church, was the annexed arms,** and a coat and penon of arms, †† Quarterly: 1st, Sable, three eagles displayed argent, for *Barentyne*; 2nd, Azure, a bend between six cross-crosslets fitchée or, *Drayton*; 3rd, Argent, on a chief gules two stag's heads caboshed or, *Popham*; 4th, Ermine, on a fess gules three

* Lansd. MS. Brit. Mus. 874, fol. 6 b.

† Harl. MS. Brit. Mus. 6072, fol. 54 b.

‡ Burke gives Cantwell (Ireland) Gu. five annulets and a canton ermine.

§ Harl. MS. Brit. Mus. 6072, fol. 55, and Lansdowne MS. Brit. Mus. 874, fol. 6 b.

|| Diary of Henry Machyn, p. 149.

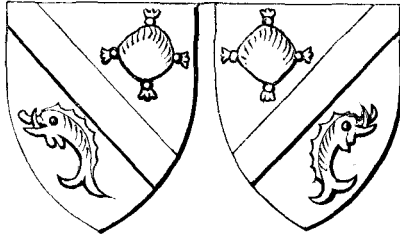
¶ Lansd. MS. Brit. Mus. 874, fol. 6 b.

** Harl. MS. Brit. Mus. 6072, fol. 55.

†† Ibid.

billets or, *Upsall*.* In the windows were two shields of arms. On the first, *Quarterly*: 1st, *Argent*, two bars *azure*, each charged with three mullets of the field; 2nd, *Argent*, a chevron *azure*, a label of three points *ermine*; 3rd, *Argent*, on a bend *gules* three mascles —; 4th, *Gules*, a griffin *segreant* —; a crescent of cadency; and a griffin *passant argent* for crest.

On the second shield, † *Gules*, on a bend or between two crescents *argent* three escallops of the field. ‡ Cut in stone in the porch were two shields of arms, both of which are alike, excepting that one is in a position the reverse of the other, § as will be seen by the following woodcut:



In the church was also Queen Elizabeth's monumental memorial, with these verses from the Scriptures:

Psalm 112. The Righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance.

Prov. 6. The memorial of the Just shall be blessed.

2 Tim. 4, 7, 8. *I have fought a good Fight, I have finished my Course, &c.*||

In the chancel end of the church by the communion table on a fair plated stone was an inscription to the memory of Master Richard Randall, ¶ of the parish of St. Mary Somerset, by freedom

* By reference to the pedigree and arms of Barentyne in Harl. MS. Brit. Mus. 1562, fol. 48, I have been able to identify the several colours of arms, and the families to which the arms belong.

† Nicholas Charles, Lansd. MS. 874, fol. 6 b, gives this, *Gules*, three crescents *argent*, over all on a bend or three escallops *sable*.

‡ Harl. MS. Brit. Mus. 6072, fol. 55.

§ Lansd. MS. Brit. Mus. 874, fol. 6 b.

|| *Strype's Stowe*, 1720, vol. i. B. 3, p. 213.

¶ He is called Lewis Randall in the register of his burial.

a pewterer, by trade a brewer, and one of the Governors of Christ's Hospital, who died the 7th June, 1616, aged 75 years.*

Among the later inscriptions on flat stones in the pavement of the church was one in front of the communion-table to the memory of Mary the wife of Deputy John Toolye, citizen and lime merchant, of London, who died 12th December, 1695, aged 49. In her vault were found the remains of her seven sons and three daughters.

On the pavement within the rails of the communion were the arms of the see of Hereford: Gu. three leopard's heads reversed jessant as many fleurs-de-lis or; impaling. Per pale azure and gules, a cross flory counterflory or, for *Ironside*; with the following inscription:

H. S. E.

Reverendus admodum in Christo Pater
 GILBERTUS IRONSIDE, S. T. P.
 COLL. WADHAMENSIS in Acad' OXON'
 Guardianus, Ejusdem Acad' Vicecanc,
 primo consecratus Bristol' Episcop.
 postea translatus ad Episcopat' Hereford.
 obiit 27 August 1701
 Ætat. Suæ 69.

I may here mention that Bishop Ironside was son of Dr. Gilbert Ironside, and became a scholar of Wadham College, Oxford, in 1649, and afterwards a Fellow of the same college. In December 1665 he was elected Warden of his college, and executed the office of Vice-chancellor of the University of Oxford in 1687 and 1688. He was consecrated Bishop of Bristol on the 13th October, 1689, and afterwards—being then about sixty years of age—married a Bristol lady of the name of Robinson. In 1691 he was translated to the see of Hereford.† During the time he held the vice-chancellorship King James II. seized the venerable foundation of Magdalen College, and sent his commissioners to Oxford to expel the Fellows. At this trying time the vice-chancellor was extremely courteous and respectful to his King as became a loyal

* Strype's *Stowe*, 1720, vol. i. B. 3, p. 213.

† Wood's *Athenæ Oxon.* vol. iv. pp. 896, 897.

subject, but at the same time evinced a firm and determined spirit in defence of the privileges of the university.

With the commissioners he stood on less ceremony; for, on receiving their invitation to dine with them on the day of the expulsion of the Fellows, he replied, "I am not of Colonel Kirke's mind—I cannot eat my meals with appetite under a gallows."

Dying in 1701 at the London residence of the Bishops of Hereford situate in the parish of St. Mary Somerset, he was interred in this church.

His remains, consequent on the proposed demolition of the church, have recently been removed to Hereford and interred in the Lady Chapel of the cathedral. At one time some doubt appears to have arisen as to their final resting place, as the Fellows of Wadham College were desirous of having the body interred in the chapel of that college.*

Affixed to the south wall was a white convex shield or panel set in a frame of black marble, carved to represent a mantle and branches, and at the top the monogram of Funge. This monument was erected by Mrs. Mary Funge to the memory of her husband, Mr. Thomas Funge, late citizen and carpenter of London, who was an inhabitant of the parish for above fifty years, and died November 13, 1767, aged 78.

At the bottom is an inscription to the memory of the said Mrs. Mary Funge, his widow, who died Dec. 11, 1774, aged 85.

Also on the south wall was a small neat monument in white marble with an inscription on the same to the memory of Mrs. Elizabeth, late wife of Mr. Alexander Adam of Bermondsey, in co. Surrey, *tanuer*, who died Nov. 30th, 1789, aged 54. Beneath, on a marble shield, the arms: Vert, a cross or, for *Adam*; † impaling . . . a saltier . . . with a talbot passant . . . collared . . . for crest. ‡

And on the north wall was a small white marble oval monumental tablet with inscription—erected by the Rev. Wm. Alphon-

* *Times*, January 2nd, 1868, p. 10.

† Papworth gives arms, Adam, Vert, a cross or.

‡ Fairbairn gives for crest, Adam, (Walden, Ess.) a talbot passant argent, semée of bezants, collared argent.

sus Gunn, lecturer of this parish—to the memory of his friend John Comley, late of the parish of St. Mary Mounthaw, who died March 30, 1804, aged 29.

These were the only monuments affixed to the walls of the church, and they have been carefully cleaned and refixed in the church of St. Nicholas Cole Abbey.

The parishes of St. Mary Somerset and St. Mary Mounthaw having now become united to that of St. Nicholas Cole Abbey, by virtue of an Act of Parliament, commonly called the Bishop of London's* Union of City Benefices Act, the church, from the interior of which the bodies have been carefully removed, will soon cease to exist, and the portion of site not thrown open to the street will in all probability before long be built over. The tower of church, which is deemed one of the finest specimens of Sir Christopher Wren's genius, will be retained, an Act of Parliament having just been passed for that purpose.

The names of the several rectors, from the earliest on record in the 14th century. viz. Will. Swansey, will be found preserved in vol. i. of Newcourt's *Repertorium*, to which some MS. additions are made in the margin of the copy in the City Library, and also in Malcolm's *Londin. Redivivum*, vol. iv. pp. 427, 428. Ambros Atfield, S. T. P., presented to the living 21 Oct. 1676, appears to be the first rector admitted after the union of the parish with St. Mary Mounthaw. The united living of this church and St. Mary Mounthaw previous to their union with St. Nicholas Cole Abbey was stated to be worth 238*l.* per annum.†

CHARITIES.

In connection with this church and parish are several charities, of which the following is a brief account :—

The parish possesses a small estate situate at the corner of Gardner's Lane and High Timber Street, but how or when the parish became first possessed of this property is not known. An entry in an old churchwardens' book shews that it was held by

* 23 and 24 Vict. cap. 142.

† Clergy List 1867.

them in 1613, and then produced a rental of 5*l.* per annum.* In going through the churchwardens' accounts, I have been unable to find any reference to property at this date, but there exists a counterpart of a lease from the churchwardens to Peter Goodman, dated 7th March, 1652, of all that corner messuage or tenement, &c., in or near a lane called Timberhith Lane, which said messuage is set forth as lying east on a lane called Pudding Lane with Dunhill Lane on the west, and the said lane called Timberhith Lane on the north and on the south a house sometime pertaining to the said parish. This lease was for 21 years from Lady Day, at 7*l.* per annum, 12*l.* being paid on signing the lease, probably by way of premium. I take it that this is the house referred to as existing at the corner of Gardner's Lane and High Timber Street. This house is described on the Table of Benefactions in the vestry as being let at 4*l.* 4*s.* per annum; but this was the rent it was let at under lease for 61 years in 1799. The house had previously been let at 8*l.* per annum, but through its decayed state the lease was granted on condition that the whole should be pulled down, and 120*l.* be expended in the erection of new buildings.

Blundell Charity.

In 1474 John Blundell (before mentioned as having been buried in the church), by his will dated 10th April, 1474,† and proved in London the 31st May in same year, made a bequest to the poor of the parish as follows:—

“ Itm. my howse late byleded in london sett in the prish of seint Mary Som^ssett on the Este side of the same Chirch hawe called A Beere hous which is taken by a lesse of thabbott and Conuent of seint Peter's of Westmynstr^s. Itm. I woll myn executours shall take indifferente psones to value the rent yerely of the same howse consciensly. And who soeuir dwell in the same house during the terme thenne to coñ euery yere of the terme thenne to coñ shall in Wey of Almes att the feste of Ester yerly during the terme the indweller of the same house shall

* Charity Commissioners' Report, 1822, vol. iv. p. 120.

† Prerog. Reg. 17 Wattis.

yeve in Almes to the poorest people of the same parish in the feste abouesaid xs. of lauffull money for my soule and my parentes and all other I am indetted to and all cristen soules.”

Wilford Charity.

By an entry in an old book containing an account of the several benefactions to the parish, and apparently of a date anterior to 1667, is a memorandum that the gift out of certain houses in Tower Street, being 22s. 6d. per annum, was thus divided, viz. 7s. 6d. yearly was paid by one “Mistres Awdrey Newce,” and the other 15s. yearly by one “M^r Withers,” probably the tenants of premises.

The Commissioners on Charities in their report* mention that from an entry in an old account book of the churchwardens, commencing as early as 1613, the yearly amount of 22s. 6d. appears to have been received from 1613 and previous to 1620 in two sums of 13s. 4d. and 9s. 2d., the first amount being therein stated to be the gift of Mr. Wilford for the maintenance of the south aisle of the church, and the second Mr. Wilford’s, sometimes Mr. Jennings’, gift for the poor. The old book of churchwardens’ accounts, here referred to, I have not been able to find among the parish books.

By an indenture dated 5th February, 1696, it appears that Mary Cox was seised for life with remainder in fee to one James Jacobs of two messuages, situate at the west side of Tower Street; and that owing to the prosecution of suits concerning the payment of a yearly amount of 15s. per annum, and arrears of same, which was claimed to be issuing out of the said two houses towards the poor of St. Mary Somerset, and the reparations of the south aisle of the church, which had been shewn to have been paid for upwards of 100 years prior and until 1678, for the purpose of putting an end to these suits, it was agreed by this indenture that the said 15s. per annum should be secured upon the said two houses, and Mary Cox and James Jacobs granted the said 15s. per annum to certain of the inhabitants of the parish, to apply the same as the gift directed.

* Charity Commissioners’ Report, 1822, vol. iv. pp. 119, 120.

It would seem that the 15*s.* secured by this deed, or at least part of it, was the bequest of Wilford for repairs of the south aisle of the church, and from the entries above mentioned that there was a further annual sum of 7*s.* 6*d.*, but which seems to have been lost by the parish at the time of the law suits referred to.

Jennyns' Charity.

Thomas Jennyns, citizen and fishmonger of London, by his last will and devise, dated 20th August, 1572,* 14 Elizabeth, gave all that his shop in Bridge Street, at New Fish Street, unto the Warden and Commonalty of the Mystery of Fishmongers of the City of London, that they should distribute yearly for ever of the issues and profits of the said house 4*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* or the value thereof in coals, called "charcoals," between the Feast of All Saints and Christmas, to and amongst the poor of several parishes, that of St. Mary Somerset being included, as follows: "And amongst the pore people of the parrishe of St^t Marye Som^ssett in London twenty sakes of like Coales or viij^d of like monney for euerie sacker," the portion of the parish thus being 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum. This charity appears, from the parish books, to be duly received by them from the Fishmongers' Company, in accordance with the bequest.†

Randolph's Charity.

From an entry in the register-book of the Ironmongers' Company of London it appears that in the year commencing July 1585 and ending July 1586, a sum of 480*l.* was received by the company from the executors of Barnard Randolphe, to which they added a sum of 20*l.* to make up the sum of 500*l.*; and in consideration of this sum they granted two annuities or rent-charges, together amounting to 25*l.* for ever, to David Smythe, who, by his will, dated 22nd April, 1586, bequeathed one of these rent-charges, amounting to 12*l.* 10*s.*, in trust for the parson and churchwardens of St. Benet Paul's Wharf. It seems pro-

* Enrolled in the Court of Hustings, Guildhall, 22 Elizabeth.

† On the Table of Benefactions in the vestry the amount set forth is 13*s.* per annum.

bable that he also made a similar bequest of the other moiety of the rent-charge to the parson and churchwardens of St. Michael Queenhithe; but of this we have no information. On reference to the registers in the Prerogative Registry, Doctors' Commons,* I find a codicil of Barnard Randolphe, dated 17th January, 1585, and proved on the 23rd February following, but a vacant space has evidently been left in the register for the copy of will, which is not entered, and consequently the contents of the will are lost. The codicil describes testator as common serjeant of London, but affords no clue as to the special purposes of the bequest. The Table of Benefactions in the vestry sets forth the yearly sum received of the churchwardens of St. Michael Queenhithe as 3*l.* 10*s.* per annum, being the portion due to them. But in a book of disbursements of the parish, under date Feb. 21, 1798, as received for one year due 5th Jan. 1798, the amount of the same is 2*l.* 16*s.*

Barnard Hyde's Charity.

By indenture dated 12 Dec. 1630, made between Barnard Hyde of London, esq., and the Master, Wardens, and Commonalty of the Salters' Company, the latter, in consideration of certain sums of money received from the former, together with his share of the lands in the Irish plantations, covenanted to purchase lands of the yearly value of 62*l.*, and distribute the same annually in divers charities, whereof 13*l.* 10*s.* was to be distributed yearly to 54 poor widows or maids, after the rate of 5*s.* each, to buy them clothes and other necessaries. This bequest was so made that the before-mentioned sum should be divided annually between three parishes named, by which arrangement every tenth year it falls to 54 poor women or maids of the parishes of St. Mary Somerset, St. Michael's Queenhithe, and Allhallows the Great Thames Street.†

Thomas Hutchinson's Bequest.

The Report of the Charity Commissioners mentions that in an old

* Prerog. Reg. 11 Windsor.

† Charity Commissioners' Reports, vol. iv. pp. 104-5; and Table of Benefactions in vestry.

Account Book, under date 1633, is an entry of 16*l.* having been received by the churchwardens, being the bequest of one Thomas Hutchinson, for bread for the poor. This book has evidently disappeared, as it does not exist amongst the parish records; and, as no mention is made of this in any of the books remaining, or on the Table of Benefactions, it is probable that it was merely a bequest for immediate distribution, and not for the purpose of founding a permanent charity.*

Samuel North's Charity.

Samuel North, citizen and plumber, of London, by his will dated 28th February, 1644, and proved May 6th, 1645,† bequeathed unto the Master, Wardens, and Commonalty of the Plumbers of the City of London his house in Bishopsgate Street, in trust for certain charities (some of which it appears had been bequeathed by his late wife), and of the yearly rent he leaves “fower pounde more thereof p̄ annum for ever towards the reliefe of the poore of the parrish of St. Mary Som^{er}sett, London,” —in which parish he states he was born,—to be distributed by the churchwardens and collectors for the poor, viz., twelve pence thereof weekly for bread and three shillinge and foure pence p̄ añ thereof to the Clarke of the same parrish for the tyme being to see the same bread delivered vpon every lordē day. And the residue of the said iiiij^l for Coles to be delivered yearly at the feast of the birth of our lord god in every yeare.” The house from rent of which this charity is paid is now known as No. 41, Bishopsgate Street.‡

By an entry in the old account book of disbursements, under date March 29th, 1798, the amount received from the Plumbers' Company for the year ending the 25th of the same month was only 3*l.* 4*s.*

Thomas Funge's Charity.

Thomas Funge, churchwarden of this church in 1728, by his will dated 26th August, 1766, bequeathed to the churchwardens

* Charity Commissioners' Report, 1822, vol. iv. p. 120.

† Prerog. Reg. 72 Rivers.

‡ Charity Commissioners' Report, vol. xxxii. part 2, p. 478.

and overseers of the poor of the parish 200*l.* Old South Sea Annuities upon trust to expend the dividends arising therefrom in three-penny loaves, to be distributed every Sunday morning immediately after divine service among poor housekeepers belonging to but not receiving alms of the parish.

Mary Funge's Charity.

Mrs. Mary Funge, widow, by her will dated 27th March, 1773, bequeathed a further sum of 200*l.* Old South Sea Annuities, to be applied to a like purpose. The Charity Report of 1822 states that at that period the dividends of these charities, which amounted to 12*l.* per annum, was given away in three-penny loaves to eighteen poor persons every Sunday and on Christmas Day, and some other holidays, so that more than the amount of the charity was expended annually.

In addition to the before-mentioned charities I find mention in an old account book of benefactions, that Mr. Edward Pike, (described as late of the parish of St. Mary Somerset, deceased,) by his last will and testament, proved in the Prerogative Court 17th May, 1646, bequeathed to the poor of the parish of St. Mary Somerset 4*l.* per annum for one and twenty years, payable at Christmas and Easter; the same to issue out of his lease at Westminster.

The Table of Benefactions also mentions a yearly amount of 2*l.* receivable by the parish for "Mill's window-lights in the churchyard," and also mentions "Marsh's window-lights into churchyard;" but not the amount received yearly for the same.

In conclusion I have to record my best thanks to the Rev. Henry Stebbing, D.D. Rector, for the material assistance he has rendered me in drawing up this brief history of the church, by permitting me to have access to the registers and other records of the parish; and also to Mr. J. P. Emslie, for the kind loan of his admirable drawing of the church from which the engraving at the head of this paper is taken.
