

REPORTS OF THE SOCIETY'S VISITS

I. ON SATURDAY, the 25th January, 1936, St. James' Church, Piccadilly, was described for members by the Rector the Venerable C. E. Lambert, Archdeacon of Hampstead.

The Church was designed by Sir Christopher Wren on a simple plan of nave and chancel in one, with pews and galleries to hold 2,000 people. It is built of red brick with Portland stone dressings and at the west end has a brick tower with a lead-covered steeple designed by Wilcox. The Foundation Stone was laid on the 3rd April, 1676, and the building consecrated on the 13th July, 1684, by Henry Compton, Bishop of London. The effect of the interior is both fine and stately.

The Church was originally built to face Jermyn Street, but the large door in the south wall was removed in 1856 and a window put in its place. In this year also two vestibules were added north and south of the Tower.

The Reredos has wonderful carving by Grinling Gibbons in lime wood on a background of cedar comprising festoons of fruit and flowers and depicting a pelican feeding its young.

The organ at the west end was built in 1678 for James II and was intended for the private Chapel at Whitehall. It was given to the Church by Queen Mary in 1691. The case was the work of Grinling Gibbons. The organ was rebuilt in 1852, the old case and pipes being restored. Other restorations were carried out in 1897 and 1913.

The Font sculptured by Grinling Gibbons in white marble is a beautiful piece of work. It originally

stood in the middle aisle but was placed in its present position late in the 19th century.

The Rector was warmly thanked for his lecture.

2. ON THE 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1936, a visit was made to Wyllyotts Manor, Potters Bar; to Saint Giles' Church, South Mymms and to Kingsland Farm.

At Wyllyotts Manor, just outside Potters Bar Station, the party was welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Seabrook, whose kindness was very greatly appreciated.

The Manor originally comprised several thousand acres but has dwindled down to three. The first recorded owners were the Lewkenor family in the 14th century. In 1689 the property was bequeathed to The Brewers' Company, who sold it about 1925 to Mr. Seabrook, at which time this mediaeval half-timbered building was in a very dilapidated condition. Mr. Seabrook, with much care and thought, has carried out during many years an effective restoration (described in a previous part of these *Transactions*), and in order that this ancient building may be preserved for future generations, Mr. Seabrook has sold it to the Potters Bar Urban District Council.

At St. Giles' Church, South Mymms, the party were welcomed by Mr. C. B. Cobbe, Churchwarden, on behalf of the Vicar.

Mr. F. Brittain, M.A., Librarian of Jesus College, Cambridge, gave a brief history of the Church which dates from 1136. The family of the Frowicks, who came to the parish early in the 13th century, did more than anyone else for the Church. The two altar tombs of the 16th century, without inscriptions, are doubtless in memory of the Frowick benefactors of that time. The screens between the Chantry and the Chancel, and the Chantry and the North Aisle were put up in 1526, and on the doorways are leopards' heads, the emblems of the Frowicks. The 13th-century font and the old chest were also noted.

Kingsland Farm is a mediaeval house with fine linenfold panelling in the dining-room. In a bedroom on the first floor there are Elizabethan wall paintings discovered in 1935, depicting "The Prodigal Son."

The fine old barn was then seen and an interesting afternoon terminated with tea in the tea gardens of "The Green Dragon."

3. ON SATURDAY, the 26th September, 1936, several members went with the Royal Archaeological Institute to Maiden Castle in Dorset. The Roman Amphitheatre at Maumbury Rings was explained by Lieut-Col. C. D. Drew, D.S.O., F.I.A., who shared with Dr. Mortimer Wheeler the explanation of Maiden Castle. During the week before the visit an adult burial dating from 300 B.C. had been found, and there was evidence that this was a ceremonial burial in connection with the first great extension of Maiden Castle. Another recent discovery was a further Roman building near to the temple discovered in 1934. Many interesting relics from the Castle were inspected in the Dorchester Museum. Full accounts of the excavations are to be found in the annual reports published by Dr. Mortimer Wheeler.

4. ON SATURDAY, the 17th October, 1936, St. Martin's Church was explained to our members by Mr. J. W. Bloe, O.B.E., F.I.A., of the Historical Monuments Commission. The Church, which dates mainly from the middle of the 15th century, is a simple village church of flint and freestone. The long chancel dates from the 13th century, and there is a good double piscina of the same period with central and side-shafts and well-defined mouldings. The lancet windows in the vestry are of the same century, but the Nave and Aisles were entirely rebuilt in 1450. The Tower probably dates from the 13th century, but has been remodelled or restored frequently since that time, the last occasion being a careful restoration by the late Sir Walter Tapper. There is a very interesting font, some good

brasses, a fine mural monument to Sir George Carey, Lord Hausdon, who died in 1603, and another to the family of De Burgh, the last holders of the Manor.

Other items of interest are a pre-Reformation chalice and patten dated 1507, pieces unique in Middlesex; a clock frame inside the tower of bar iron, with the four angle posts in the form of 15th century buttresses. This may have come from the old Manor House of the Paget family, whose founder, Sir William, received the Manor from Henry VIII and was ennobled by Edward VI. The old Gate House is the last relic of the Manor House destroyed by the Pagets in 1786.

F. R. T.

HENDON SURVEYS.—Owing to pressure upon the space in the *Transactions*, it has been found necessary to carry over to our next issue the Hon. Editor's notes on *London in 1689-90* and the *Hendon Survey of 1685*, with introduction and notes. These will be published in our next issue, which will probably be issued in December, 1937.

In the illustrations to the *Hendon Survey of 1635*, the facsimile page was wrongly dated 1575. It should have borne the date 1635.