

REPORTS OF THE SOCIETY'S MEETINGS

The meetings of the Society were successfully carried out in 1945 and 1946, although there were many difficulties arising from the fact that interesting places visited in past years were no longer available due to the devastation by the greatest of all wars.

The meetings in 1945 were as follows:—

On Saturday, 12th May, at the Church of St. Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, the members listened to an instructive talk on the history of the Church and inspected the fine Norman work of the Apsidal east end founded and built by Rahere from 1123 to 1133, also other work of this period together with the alterations and additions of succeeding periods, including Prior Bolton's oriel window inserted in the south triforium early in the 16th century. The canopied monument of late 15th century date to Rahere is of four bays with an altar tomb in three of them.

On Thursday, 7th June, at 12 noon, the Annual Stow Commemoration Service was held at St. Andrew Undershaft. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs attended. An address was given and as usual, a new quill pen was placed in the hand of Stow's effigy.

On Saturday, 30th June, the members met at the ancient Church of St. Mary Overy, founded in 1106 and now the Cathedral church of St. Saviour, Southwark, and were under the guidance of the Rev. Canon T. P. Stevens. In the North Transept and Chapel from same, as also in the North Aisle Wall of the Nave, are examples of the Norman period; in the Presbytery of Early English; in the South Transept of Decorated, also in parts of later periods and much modern work.

On Saturday, 14th July, the annual whole-day excursion was arranged by Commander George Bridgmore Brown to St. Albans.

On Saturday, 8th September, our members accompanied the Ecclesiological Society to St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and were conducted by Mr. W. A. Forsyth. This church is one of the finest examples of the Perpendicular period with the windows and doors forming an effective part of the design. Originally it had a wooden roof which was removed by Henry VII who replaced

it with the stone fan-like tracery and groining of excellent proportions and beautiful effect, with the arms of the Knights of the Garter suitably displayed.

On Saturday, 29th September, the Friends of the City Churches were the conductors at the visit to some of the bombed churches of the City of London, the party meeting at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, which has suffered badly from bombing; the spire still remains as was the case also with other bombed City churches.

On Saturday, 27th October, the Rt. Hon. Lord Nathan of Churt again conducted our members through many parts of interest in the Houses of Parliament, some of which were not included in the previous visit.

The winter meetings were held at the Bishopsgate Institute.

On Saturday, 20th October, our Chairman, Major Brett-James, gave a most interesting address on "The Historians of London."

On Saturday, 24th November, an excellent account was given by Mr. Edward Yates on "Pre-War Tower Hill to Temple Bar," illustrated by lantern slides.

On Saturday, 15th December, Mr. Francis R. Taylor gave a description, with lantern illustrations, of "Some Architectural Examples in London."

The meetings in 1946 were the following:—

On Saturday, 19th January, at the Bishopsgate Institute, Mr. H. E. Chiosso gave a lantern-illustrated lecture on "Romanesque Architecture in English Parish Churches."

On Saturday, 22nd March, an interesting visit was made to St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, under the able guidance of Mr. H. W. Fincham. The Gate House of the Priory was built by Grand Prior Docwra in 1504 and is an important building belonging to "The Order of The Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem." There have been alterations and an extension on the south side, of which Mr. J. O. Scott was architect in 1903. St. John's Church in St. John's Square, a short distance from the Gateway, has been badly damaged by bombing but the beautiful Norman and Early English Crypt is intact.

On Saturday, 6th April, St. Mary's Church, Twickenham, was first visited. It was brick-built with a stone tower in 1713-18 as the previous church had fallen down on 9th April, 1913. In 1859 and 1871 alterations were made to the galleries

and pews. The chief interest now consists in its monuments of Pope's father and mother and of Pope. Sir Godfrey Kneller was buried in the church in 1723 without a monument there, but a monument was erected in Westminster Abbey.

All Hallows Church was visited as well, a former visit there being on 10th June, 1944, and the members had another opportunity of seeing the good method adopted in utilising the church fittings from the demolished Wren Church of All Hallows, Lombard Street.

On Saturday, 18th May, the members proceeded to St. Mary's Church, Hayes, Middlesex, where they were received by the Rector, The Rev. Albert E. Hill. This church is chiefly of Perpendicular date with nave, aisles and clerestory. There are a few examples of earlier work. The font is Norman. In 1873-4 the church was restored by Sir Gilbert Scott.

On Wednesday, 5th June, the Stow Commemoration Service was held at St. Andrew Undershaft. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs attended. The Service was conducted by the Rector, the Bishop Suffragan of Kensington, the lesson was read by Dr. John F. Nichols, and the address given by the Lord Bishop of London. A new quill pen was placed in the hand of Stow's effigy.

On Saturday, 22nd June, Mr. Edward Yates, F.S.A., conducted our members to interesting places in the Village of Hampton and gave excellent accounts of their historical associations.

On Friday, 9th August, the members assembled at the Hall of the Tallow Chandlers' Company, Dowgate Hill, Cannon Street. This Hall was erected in 1671-72 on the site of the former Hall destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. There were many alterations and reconstructions in 1881. The Court Room retains its original arrangement. The historical associations connected with the Company and the Hall were suitably given and much appreciated.

On Saturday, 21st September, Mr. R. G. Kent conducted our members to places of interest in Southwark and gave an account of incidents in connection with same.

On Saturday, 5th October, there was a conducted tour by the Friends of the City Churches to some of the City churches, the members meeting at St. Michael's Church, Cornhill, where a short organ recital was given by Dr. Harold Darke.

The meetings at the Bishopsgate Institute were as follows:—

On Friday, 8th November, "London Ironwork" was given by Mr. Edward Yates, with lantern illustrations.

On Friday, 6th December, "Samuel Pepys and his London" was given by Mr. W. R. G. Kent, also with lantern illustrations.

On Friday, 17th January, 1947, there was a *Conversazione* and Exhibition and also an Address by Major N. G. Brett-James, our Chairman, and this evening was most successful, *being much appreciated.*

In conclusion it may be mentioned that the Annual General Meeting for 1945-46 was held on Saturday, 23rd February, 1946, and that for 1946-47 on Friday, 28th February, 1947, and the Officers and Council elected are given in the List of Officers, Council and Members circulated to all members immediately on publication.