

CHALFONT ST. GILES.

The Church, which was re-opened by the Bishop of Oxford, on June 7th, 1863, has been restored under the direction of G. E. Street, Esq. The nave has been paved with Staffordshire tiles, and the north and south aisles with old tomb-stones, thirteen of which have been robbed of their brasses. The font, which is Norman and made of ironstone, has been supplied with four pillars or supporters of purbeck marble, and placed near the west door. During the restoration many interesting objects, which have been hidden by plaster and whitewash for centuries, have been brought to light. Over the Chancel arch was discovered some frescoes, representing turrets and other ornamental work, which have been retained. The south wall of the south aisle was coved with frescoes, representing the Crucifixion, the Daughter of Herodias with the Head of John the Baptist, the Virgin Mary, Adam and Eve being driven out of Paradise, figures with harps, and various kinds of musical instruments, and mottoes in Latin—some of these being in good condition have been preserved. In the same wall has also been brought to light an arched recess, in which has now been deposited a stone coffin, which, with the lid of another having a cross on it, were found under the pews in the nave. Some of the tiles are interesting specimens. One apparently represents a king, one a pilgrim, another a lion, while others are figured with circles, oak leaves, flowers, and similar devices; these have been relaid in different parts of the Church. Thus has this old Church, which before was much dilapidated and shamefully deformed by huge unsightly pews, been carefully restored, both in arrangement and appearance, to the true character of the House of God.