

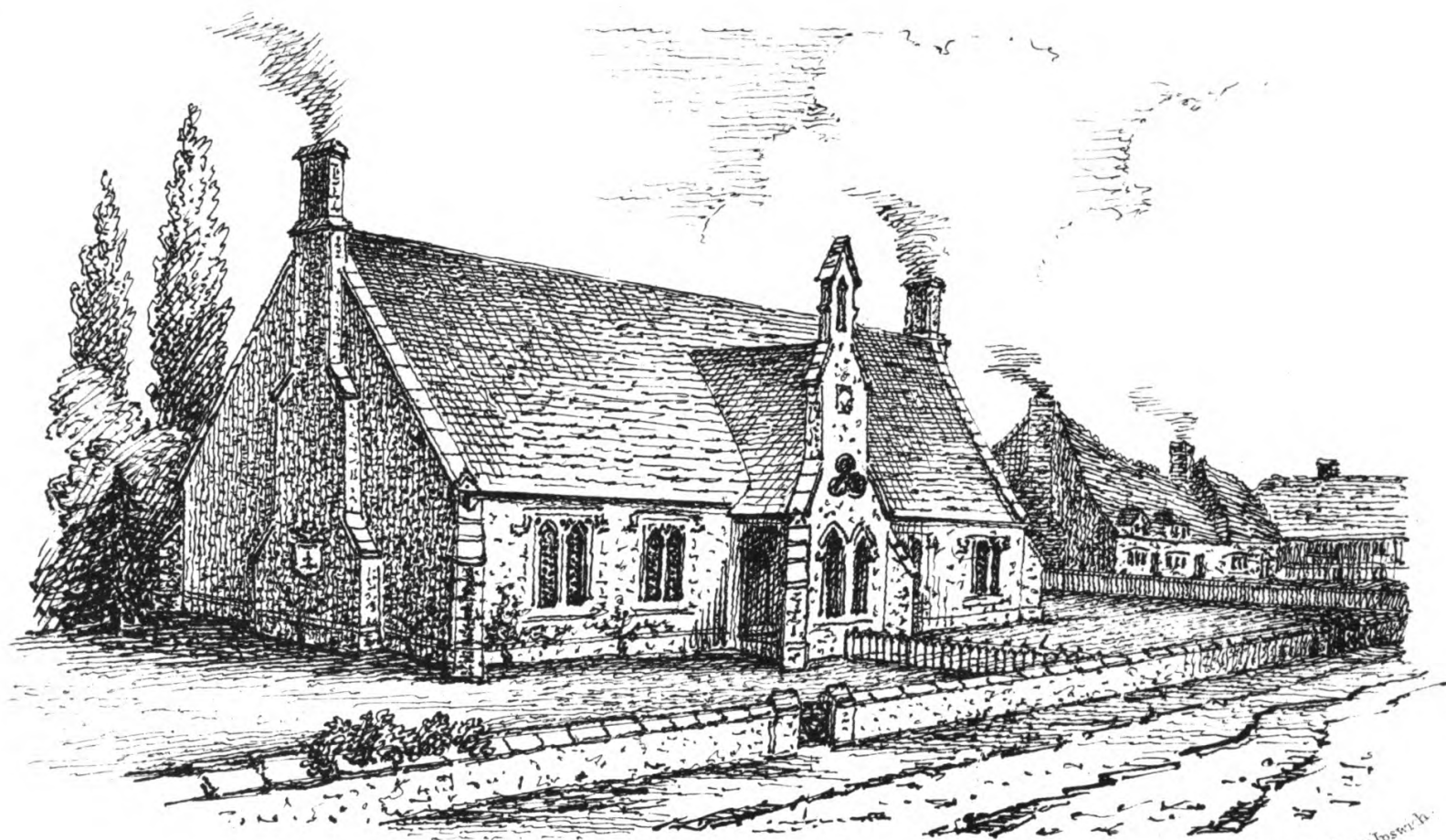
## WOOBURN.

A very handsome restoration of Wooburn Church has been completed, and was reopened by the Bishop of Oxford, October 14, 1869. Some account of the parish and its history may be suitable before giving details of the work. The parish is very extensive, and lies chiefly in the valley extending from Cookham Bridge (across the Thames) to Loudwater in High Wycombe parish, but it also reaches up the hills to Beaconsfield and Penn on the one side, and Flackwell Heath and Little Marlow on the other.

“Wooburn, Waborne, Uburn, Ugbourne, as it is variously spelt,” we learn from Langley’s History of the Hundred of Desborough, “signifies, a winding, deep and narrow valley, with a rivulet at the bottom, and the declivities interspersed with trees.” This is a fair description of the place, and the views are very beautiful from the different hills on both sides. The parish is composed of various hamlets:—the Town, Wooburn Green, the Moor, Berghers Hill, Holtspur, Northern Woods, Cores End, Egham’s Green, Spring Gardens, Bourne End, Havens Lea, Harvest Hill, and the Common.

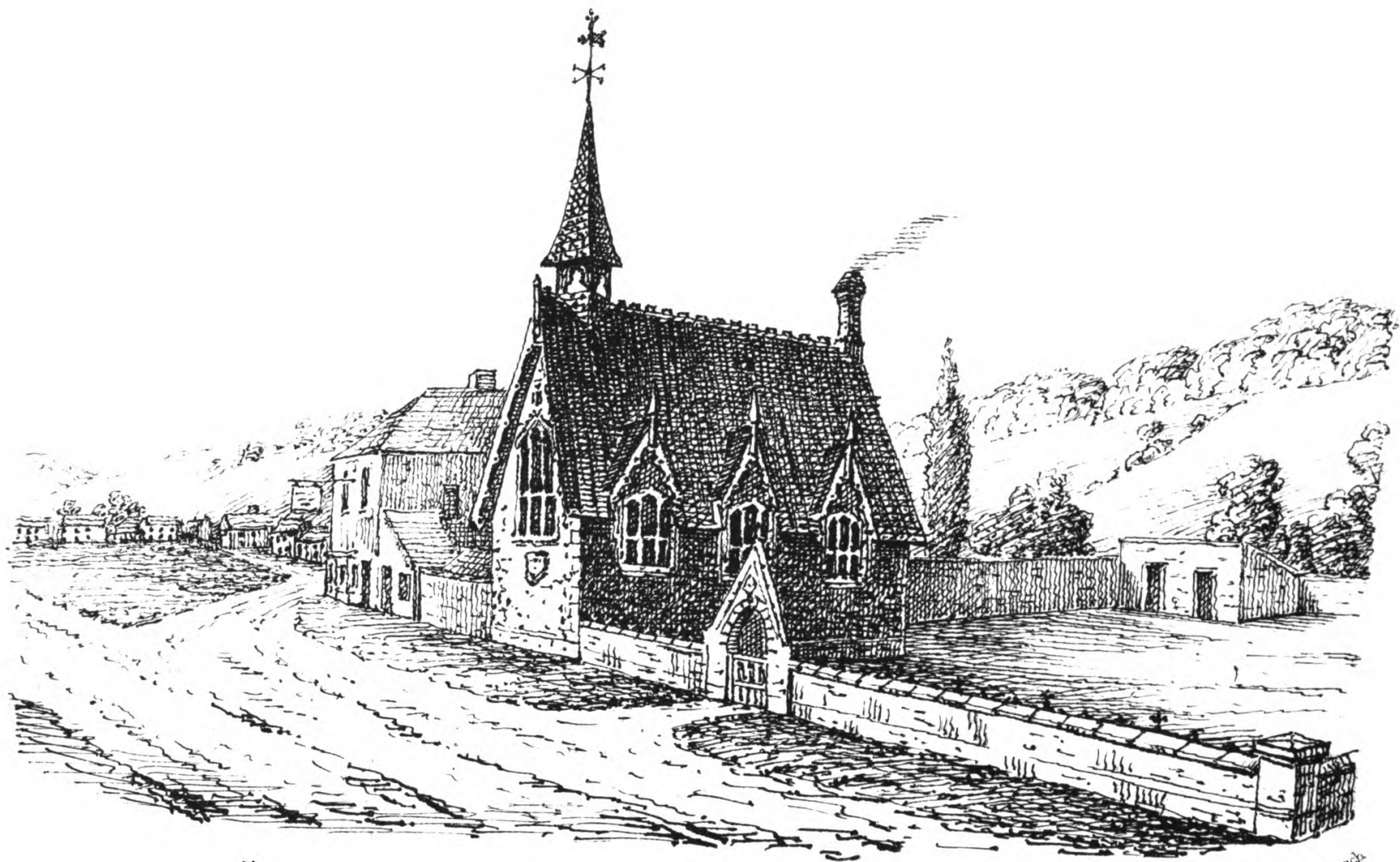
On the stream, which runs through the whole extent of the parish, are several paper, millboard, and corn mills. In former days the making of lace was a most profitable employment: in the Rev. D. Lyson’s *Magna Britannia* we read, “Lace-making is carried on to a very great extent in the hundreds of Burnham and Desborough, particularly in the parish of Wooburn, where lace of a high price is made in considerable quantities.” A woman is still living who made the lace for the Princess Charlotte’s wedding dress.

Earl Harold held the manor of Wooburn before the Norman invasion. William the Conqueror subsequently (A. D. 1066) divided it into two manors, bestowing one



Boys & Girls School, Wooburn Town.

*Howells & State Press, Ipswich.*



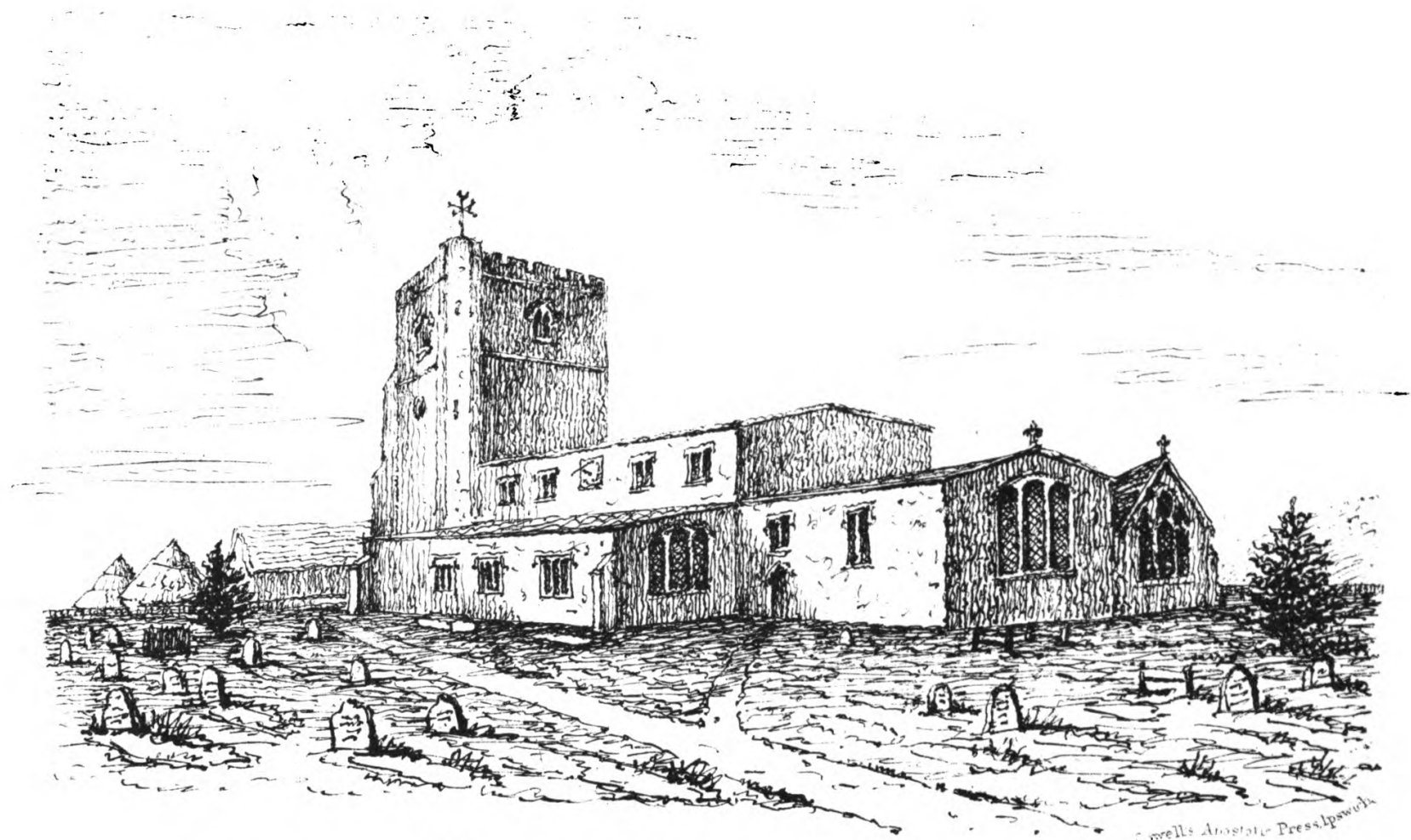
Infant School, Wooburn Green.

Covered by Anastatic Press, Ipswich

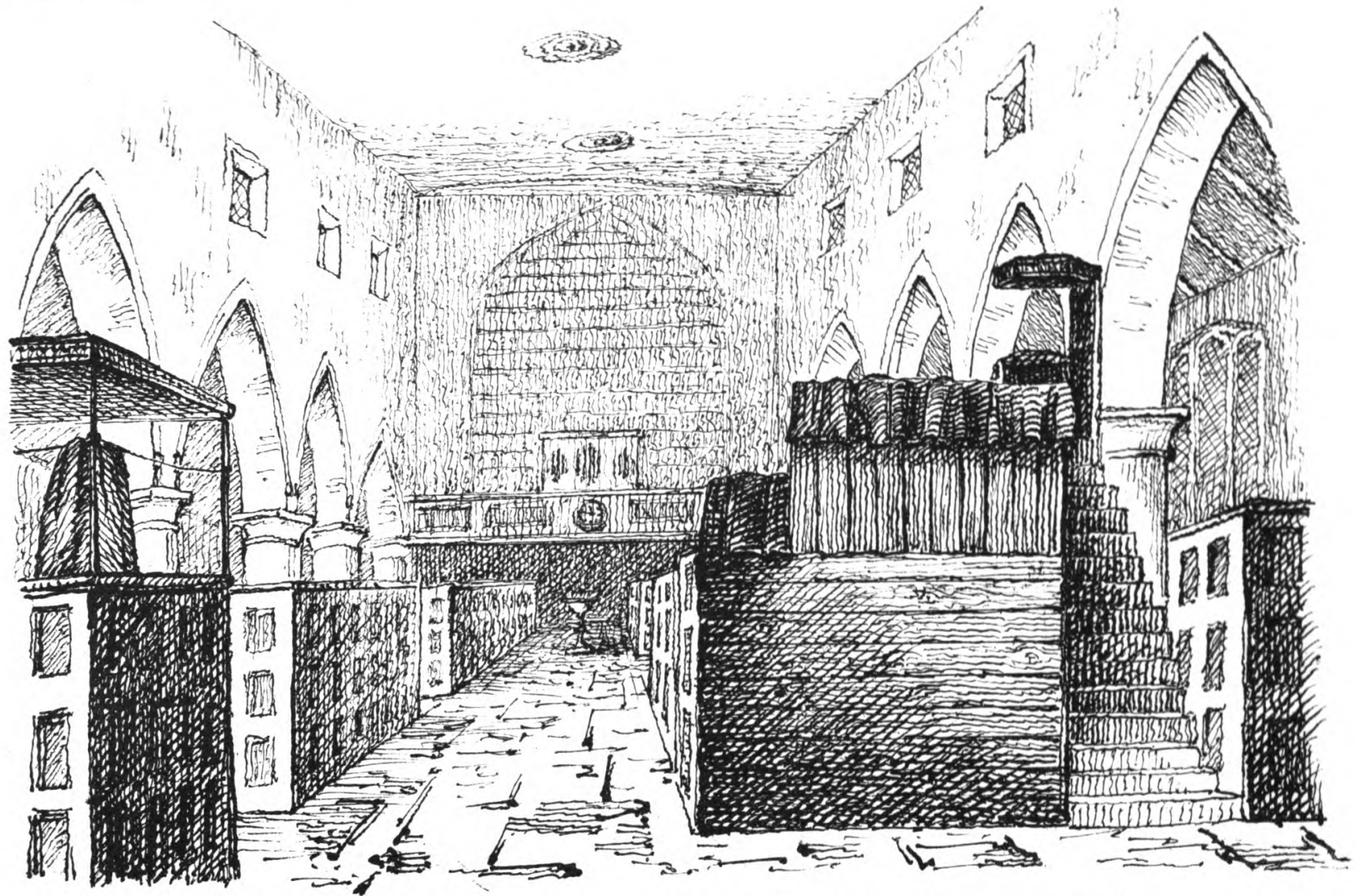


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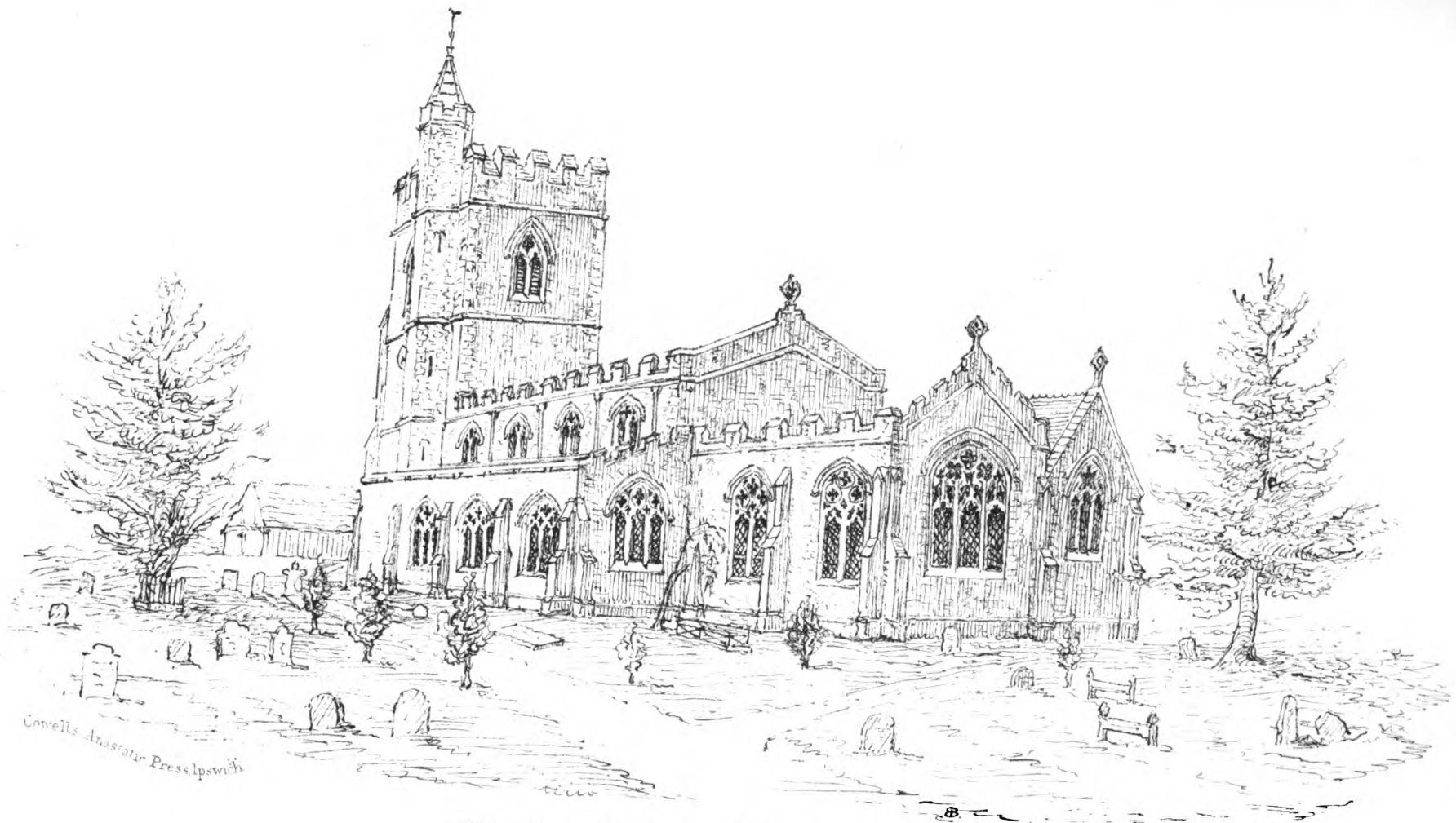
*Exterior of Woburn Church. Restored.*



Wooburn Church, before Restoration.



Woolburn Church, looking West. 1856.



*Exterior of Woburn Church. Restored.*



*Interior of Wooburn Church. Restored.*

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(Bishop's Wooburn) on his cousin, Remegius, Bishop of Lincoln; and the other Wooburn (Deyn Court) on another relative, Walter Deyncourt. The mansion of the latter was adjoining the church; and Wooburn House, on the manor of Bishop's Wooburn, became the Palace of the Bishops of Lincoln. In 1330 the living became a vicarage, the great tithes having been appropriated to the see by Bishop D'Alderby, by leave of the Pope, on the Bishop's temporalities being seized. These were Romish days, and in Bishop Smith's time (who died 1513), fearful persecutions were carried on at Wooburn House. "Thomas Chase, of Amersham, was thrust into the prison, *Little Ease*, in the Bishop's Palace. Chase was brought before the Bishop, and after much cruelty, was bound with chains, gyves, and manacles, and put into this wretched prison. When they could not prevail on him to deny his faith, they strangled him, as was witnessed by the keeper of the prison. They then secretly buried him in Norland Wood, in the way between Wooburn and Little Marlow."—*Fox*, page 711. "Thomas Harding, of Chesham, was found guilty of having certain books in English of the Holy Scriptures under the boards of a floor. He was brought before Bishop Longland, at Wooburn Palace, who, with his chaplains, grossly insulted him, and put him in the prison of *Little Ease*. The Bishop condemned him to the flames, which sentence was carried out by Roland Messenger, Vicar of High Wycombe, in the dell going to Botley, at the north end of the town of Chesham."—*Fox*, page 896.

Bishop Atwater succeeded Bishop Smith: he had been Fellow of Eton, and he died at Wooburn Palace 1520. Bishop Longland, confessor to King Henry VIII., laid out considerable sums on the Palace, and gave the second bell to Wooburn Church. He died May 7, 1547, at Wooburn, and was buried in Eton College Chapel. Bishop Henry Holbeach, on succeeding to this bishopric, at once exchanged the manor of Wooburn. The Crown then granted it to John, first Earl of Bedford, whose son sold it to Sir John Goodwin, 1580.

Wooburn Deyncourt continued in the Deyncourt family till William Lord Deyncourt, dying 1422, was succeeded by his sister Alice,\* who married William

\* His other sister, Margaret, married Lord Protector Cromwell.

Lord Lovell. On her decease, Francis, Viscount Lovell, her grandson, succeeded to Wooburn Deyncourt. He was attainted on the accession of Henry VII. Sir William Compton, received the manor of Deyncourt from the king; he resided at Wooburn, and was ranger of the great park at Windsor. He died 1530.

The manor subsequently reverted to the Crown, and Queen Elizabeth granted the perpetuity of it to the Spensers. Sir William Spenser's daughter married Sir John Goodwin of Bishop's Wooburn, and thus the two manors (Bishop's Wooburn and Wooburn Deyncourt) were again united, 1580.

Philip Lord Wharton, 1637, who married Jane, heiress to the Goodwin family, became possessor of the Wooburn estates, and resided at Wooburn House.

Langley says: "At the commencement of the civil wars, his lordship attached himself to the Parliament. At the conclusion of this unsettled period, when Cromwell had usurped the whole sovereignty, he was made one of his lords, and sat in the Upper House: and having taken no decided part in the execution of King Charles I., he was permitted to retire, at the Restoration, into peace and privacy."

Although the first draft of the invitation to the Prince of Orange was drawn up by his son, Phillip Lord Wharton went himself to the Hague, to confer with the Prince on the subject of his accession. He subsequently had the honour of receiving a visit from King William III. at his mansion at Wooburn. Six years after the accession Lord Wharton died, 1694, and was buried in Wooburn Church. To perpetuate his memory, a handsome monument was erected in the chancel, with a Latin inscription, of which the following is a translation:—

"SACRED TO POSTERITY.

"Here wait for the second advent of Jesus Christ, the remains of Philip, Lord Wharton, Baron of Wharton; who descended from the very noble family of the Whartons, in the county of Westmoreland, and became at length its heir and ornament.

'Worth graced his titles, titles graced his worth.'

"During the space of about sixty-three years, while

he held, he truly adorned his station among the Peers in Parliament: a strenuous assertor of the Civil Government of England—equally the faithful respector, as well as the maintainer and protector, of the reformed religion; a pattern of good works, as much as of a lively and true faith: whose mansions were opened for a habitation and asylum to the suffering ministers of the word of God.

“To the destitute also and the labouring poor, he distributed largely every year: and with a noble example he bequeathed by his last will an ample portion of his property to be applied to purposes truly pious.

“Thus he lived, and at length, after various difficulties endured for God, the country, and the church, he calmly fell asleep in Christ, February 4th, in the year of our Lord 1694, about the 83rd year of his age.”

Lord Wharton was a religious man, and entertained the eminent Nonconformists of his time, Owen, Manton, Bates, and others, at Wooburn House. He had a beautiful cruciform domestic chapel, and they were invited to preach in it; crowds gathered from the towns and villages around to hear them. After service “his lordship would call out to the people from Wycombe, Beaconsfield, and Marlow, to go into his kitchen, and take refreshment before their return.” His lordship bequeathed an annual gift of twenty Bibles to Wooburn, and also he gave a rent-charge of twenty pounds per annum to the Vicar for a second service on Sundays. The Earl of Wharton enlarged the gardens, laying out a continuation of terraces to the summit of the hill, and he is said to have expended £100,000 on the mansion. The picture-gallery was 120 feet in length, and contained the finest collection of paintings in England, by Vandyke and Sir Peter Lely. These were purchased by Sir Robert Walpole, and have since been transferred to the collection of the Emperor of Russia at St. Petersburg. The old palace was surrounded by a moat, and until the last century retained its ancient character of feudal magnificence.

Thomas, Lord Wharton, who succeeded him, was made a privy councillor, he was also controller of the household, and in 1706 the king created him Viscount Winchendon. His lady should have a place among the female writers of the last century. She wrote paraphrases on the Lord's Prayer, the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah,

the Lamentations of Jeremiah, and verses to Mr. Waller, the poet, who had a seat at Beaconsfield the adjoining parish. Amongst others, the celebrated Dr. Owen was patronized by his lordship, and in his last affliction, he penned his final letter to his congregation from Wooburn House.

The Duke of Wharton, son of the above nobleman, appears to have been a perfect contrast to his father and grandfather. He was both wild and eccentric. He mortgaged Wooburn manor to Col. Chartres, who resided there some years. After his decease, the manor of Wooburn was sold to John Morse, Esq., who died in 1739, and was succeeded by his niece, Elizabeth, the wife of Peregrine Bertie, Esq., in whose family it continued till 1784, when it was sold to Mrs. Du Pré. James Du Pré, Esq., the present lord of the manor, inherited it from her.

The old mansion was taken down 1750, and the present one raised upon its site. Sir Giffin Wilson resided in it about twenty years, till his death in 1848. It is a handsome and commodious house, and now the residence of A. Gilbey, Esq., who has greatly improved it and the surrounding grounds.

In a sketch of the history of Wooburn the origin of Core's End Chapel should not be omitted. Much may be traced to the labours of the eminent Nonconformist ministers who were entertained at the Duke of Wharton's mansion; but the following was a main ingredient. Mr. Thomas Grove, was born at Core's End, Wooburn, where his parents had considerable property. He was a pious man, and having been brought up in the Established Church, he was desirous of becoming one of its ministers. With this view he entered, as gentleman commoner, at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford. He there found several like-minded with himself. They united in private religious duties, for mutual edification. This was reported to the heads of houses (these were dark times, but let us confess it, and be thankful for brighter days) and six of them were found guilty of praying, reading, and expounding the scriptures. In the judgment it was stated, "Thomas Grove hath by his own confession preached to a mixed multitude in a barn, and offered up extempore prayer." To this Mr. Grove demurred, saying this was not even





Crowell's Anastatic Press Ipswich

Deyn Court Cottages, Farm, & Wooburn Church.  
1870.

charged on his trial, and he denied it; however, he was put down guilty, and expelled with the others. Mr. Grove returned to his patrimonial estate, Core's End, and commenced preaching the gospel in his own house. On this proving too small, he fitted up a barn for the purpose; he gathered a following of 300; and the barn was twice enlarged before the building of the present chapel. Mr. T. English, a most estimable man, and of a very catholic spirit, followed him. One of his congregation, Mr. Wm. Davis, built Loudwater Episcopal Chapel, and Mr. Revel and others purchased and enlarged a house as the residence of the Core's End minister.

In 1806, the Rev. Thomas George Tyndale was appointed to the parish; he was probably the first resident vicar for many years. He built a school-room at Wooburn Green, and formed several useful associations in the parish. Subsequently he went to Holton Rectory, Oxford, and was followed in Wooburn by Rev. C. Bridges, author of "Exposition of the CXIX. Psalm," "The Christian Ministry," etc., etc.; Rev. J. Mortimer, author of "Sermons on Death;" the Rev. A. Dallas, author of "Cottager's Guide to the New Testament;" the Rev. Marmaduke Thompson, and the Rev. W. Du Pré, who was the immediate predecessor of the present incumbent, Rev. F. B. Ashley, who was inducted 1847.\*

The Deyn-Court family had a mansion as already stated close to the church. The ancient and picturesque cottages adjoining still retain the name, and indeed formed part of the mansion. They present several objects of interest. There was formerly "a chapel adjoining the house, built in the form of a cross."

In *Langley*, we read "the church (St. Paul's) is a large ancient building, consisting of a nave, and two aisles covered with lead, with a good tower, in which there is a clock and a ring of six bells (two bells have been added since). On the roof are several Latin inscriptions in old character, much defaced. The font is a curious and very ancient piece of carved work, with some remains of arms, among which are three fleur-de-lis." He might have added

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\* In *Langley* there is a list of the rectors of Wooburn from A.D. 1216 to 1330; and of the vicars from 1338 to John Cleobury, 1753, who was also vicar of Great Marlow.

that there is a deep chancel, and a handsome chapel, with a high pitched roof, on the north side. This side chapel was retained by Peregrine Bertie, Esq., when he sold Wooburn House, as a burial-place for himself and successors (the Earls of Lindsey).

Langley describes various painted windows in the church. All these have long since disappeared, as well as the "curious carved font." At the beginning of this century there was a handsome stone porch on the south side, with a vestry over it, but this was removed, and the entrance built up. Probably at the same time the whole exterior of the church was covered with stucco, and the windows mended with wood and plaster, and a cement basin on a pedestal placed in the middle of the church for a font. Anterior to this, the large tower arch had been built up shutting it off from the nave, and also the arch entering the side chapel.

There are several very ancient brasses without date, but some are in good preservation. Among these may be mentioned the following: two figures to John Goodwin, and Pernell his wife, founders of the present steeple of Wooburn Dennecourt, dated 1488; a beautiful brass in memory of Thomas Swaine, a priest, 1519; and one to an infant of the Duke of Wharton's, 1642, with a curious inscription.

Twenty years ago the church was in a grievous state; not only encumbered with huge reading and clerk's desks, and high square pews, but the pavement and floor was gone in many places, the pillars cracked, and the foundations sinking. The vicar proposed its restoration, but as no such thing had been heard of in the neighbourhood at that time, there were great difficulties, and much patience and perseverance were needed. However, by the year 1856, after long efforts, the church was closed for restoration, and the handsome national schools which had been built three years before, were fitted up for divine service. W. Butterfield, Esq., was engaged as architect for the restoration. The defective pillars were rebuilt, the foundations underpinned from the inside, all the floors renewed, the chancel handsomely paved with encaustic tiles, the tower arch opened, as also those into the side chapel; the lath and plaster vestry-room which had been built up in the body of the church was cleared away;

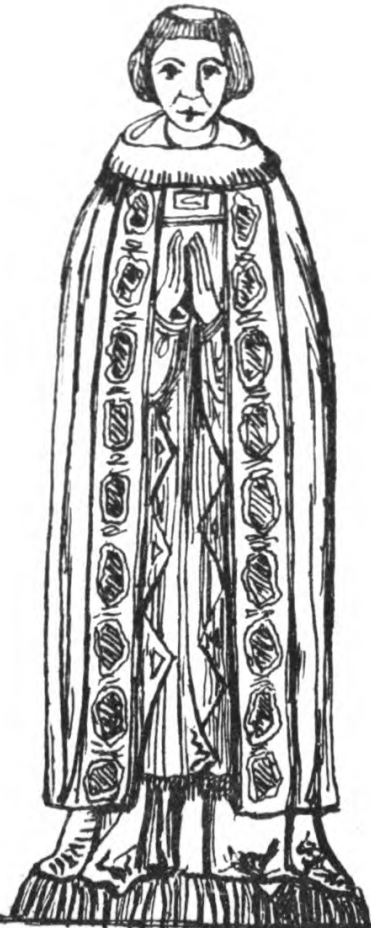




LOKE SUKKE AS WE ARE SUCH YE SHAL. BE  
 AND SUCH AS WE WERE SUKKE SEVE  
 OF THAT WHICK WAS UNSUYE NOW ARE WE SURTEVNE  
 O BLESSED TRINITE JAVE US FROM PAYNE  
 THOUGHT WE BE GONE AND PAST OUT OF MINDE  
 AS YE WOULD BE PRAYED FOR PRAY YE  
 FOR US TO THE MOST GLORIOUS TRINITE  
 FOR BE YE SUR WHE YE HAVE ALL DONE  
 THIS PAY CAN SHALL YE PLAY YE WOTE NOT HOW SOONE  
 THOUGHT NOW THAT WE MAY THE MORE NEEDE  
 SEYA PATER NOSTER AVE AND A CREDE.



here lyeth John Goodwin and Pernel his Wyfe  
 fyrst founders of the Steepull of Aburne Bennecourt  
 Which decessed the 17 daye of April in the yere  
 of our Lord God 1488 on whose soules These have  
 mercie of your charitie for our soules and alle  
 cristyn sey a pat'r et ave.



Orate pro anima magistri Thomae  
 Swaine sacrae theologiae baccalarel  
 nuper prebendari de Aplesburie acce  
 Pellani benedicti patris illius  
 Atwater Jacobi episc. qui obiit  
 13 die Septembris 1519. cuius animae  
 Propitietur Deus Amen

HERE LYETHY<sup>e</sup> BODY OF ARTHUR WARTON

NINEMONTHS BROUGHT ME IN THE WOMR  
 NINEMORE BROUGHT ME TO THIS TOMB  
 LET AN INFANT TEACH THE IMAN  
 SINCE THIS LIFE IS BUT A SPAN  
 USE IT SO AS THOU MAYST BE  
 HAPPY IN THE NEXT WITH ME  
 BORN JUNE 2 1641 DIED MARCH 15 1642

WARTON BY DAME JANE HIS WIFE

a heating apparatus set up ; new open benches throughout the church were introduced ; a stone font and also an oak reading-desk, lectern, communion rails, and Holy Table. Thus, the *interior* was most successfully restored, and opened for public worship by the bishop in the year 1857.

The plastering all over outside, the leaning walls, and debased windows, were still a wretched eyesore, but other work had to be done.

A new churchyard was needed, and a suitable one near the church was opened by the bishop in 1862. The new infant school, Wooburn Green, on the site of the schoolroom erected by Mr. Tyndale, was opened in 1865, and the restoration of the exterior of the church was commenced in 1868. This has been a heavy undertaking, for it included rebuilding some of the walls, erecting stone windows with rich tracery throughout the building, new foundations, removing the stucco on every side, substantial buttresses all round the church ; the handsome windows filled with hammered glass of different tints, and very effective patterns ; the entire church, chancel, chapel, and tower refaced with snapped flint ; new battlements to the nave, chancel, and tower ; entire new roofs, a handsome new chancel arch, a new clock and faces, a very handsome carved stone pulpit, and several stained glass windows. The mortuary chapel, north of the chancel, has also been handsomely restored and decorated. Among the windows is a very good one to the memory of a working-man, " the late W. King, above fifty years parish clerk, beloved for his piety, faithfulness, and zeal." The large west tower window is very beautiful, it represents the six acts of mercy, and was executed by Messrs. Heaton and Butler. The chancel arch, clock, stone pulpit, and four stained glass windows were gifts. The inside and roofs have been tastefully decorated, by Messrs. Matthews and Cobham, and the whole, both inside and outside, is now extremely effective and substantial, and forms a most complete and remarkably handsome work. The latter restoration was carried out by R. P. Pope, Esq. The patron, James Du Prè, Esq., and A. Gilbey, Esq., of Wooburn House, have been the chief contributors.