

## WORMINGHALL CHURCH.

[The following account of the Church and Parish of Worminghall, drawn up by the Rev. J. Baron, Vicar of Waterpery, and Joseph Clarke, Esq., Architect, of London, was presented in manuscript, on Friday in Easter week, 1846, to the Right Honourable Henry Viscount Clifden, Patron of the Church and Lord of the Manor of Worminghall, by His Lordship's most obedient and faithful servant, James Statter, Vicar. It has been kindly lent for insertion in the "RECORDS."]

The little Church of Worminghall, dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, in the deanery of Waddesden, county Bucks, consists of a Chancel, Nave, West Tower, and modern brick Porch.

This was formerly a Norman Church, of which some remains now exist. The present Chancel is Decorated, built late in the fourteenth century, having a high-pitched roof, but the framing of which is concealed by a plaster ceiling. The East Window, of three lights, is a late

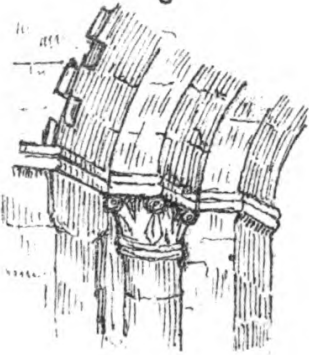
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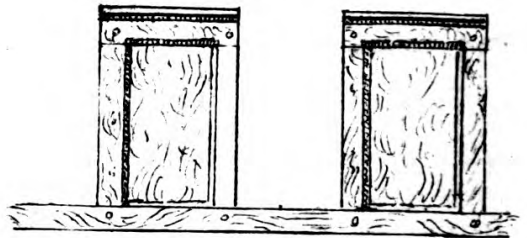


PLATE I.

Perpendicular insertion of about 1480, and co-eval with the Tower.

Two of the original Decorated Windows (see Plate 1, Fig. 1) remain in the south wall, of two lights each, with common cusped triangular heads; in the head of the westernmost is a fragment of old glass. The Sill-splays are brought down very low, and the easternmost window is made to contain the Sedilia. Against the north wall is hung a small oaken tablet, on which are carved the arms of the see of London, impaling those of John King.\*

The walls of the Nave are, no doubt, part of the original Norman structure; as on the north side, close to a two-light, square-headed, perpendicular inserted window (see Plate 1, Fig. 2), may clearly be traced a small but plain Norman opening, which must have been a window; and on this side also is the usual north door, of Norman workmanship, with a tympanum over, making the opening square-headed. On the south side is a good, bold, Norman doorway (see Plate 1, Fig. 3), with the billet moulding over, and showing an early instance of the chamfer splay cut into the square.

The Chancel Arch (see Plate 1, Fig. 4) is Norman, having small columns at the angles, with carved heads, of the early part of the twelfth century. A huge opening to give light has been made in the south wall by the pulpit; and an Early English inserted window (see Plate 1, Fig. 5), unusually wide for so small a Church, remains in the western end of this wall. A small square opening on the east side, within the Nave, by the south door, was probably used as a Stoup; but the great feature of the whole Church is the perfect existence of the original open seats standing on frames and of two different dates (see Plate 1, Fig. 6); they have been left mostly untouched, and only by the Chancel Arch are they removed to make way for the modern square pews.

The Font, of the thirteenth century, is cylindrical, and in good preservation. The roof of the Nave is of good pitch, but, like that of the Chancel, concealed by a plaster ceiling, which, it is not improbable, is the chief cause of its present very defective and decayed state.

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\* See account in Historical Notice.

The Tower is late Perpendicular, but harmonizes well with the other parts of the Church. The Arch is boldly moulded, but concealed by an unnecessary gallery.

The West Window is of three lights, under a depressed head, and appears not to have been completed; the heels of the mullions, etc., are left uncut. The Tower is divided into two stages above the ground. The floor for the ringers is lighted by a single light on each side, and the Belfry by a two-light window in the same position. The roof is covered with lead, which is very defective.

The view of the exterior of the Church from a distance is pleasing. The picturesque Bell Stair-turret on the south side, with the battlemented coping of the Tower and high-pitched roof, make a good outline. The Tower is supported at the north and south-west angles by buttresses rising in three stages, and the different faces above are parted by horizontal string-courses. The junction with the Nave is strengthened by huge buttresses on each side, which, being the only ones against the body of the Church, strengthen the supposition that the walls of the Nave, at least, are of Norman work.

All the original windows have hoods over them, but the stonework generally on the outside requires a thorough and substantial repair. A modern cross remains above the gable of the Nave, and the mutilated remains of an earlier one above the Chancel gable.

No encaustic tiles remain in the Church, and the monuments are of little interest, the oldest being a slab within the Altar-rails to—

EDM: KINGE  
BVR: 14: IVL:  
1577:

and a mural brass, on the south side of the Chancel, representing Philip King, with his wife and twelve children who departed this life A.D. 1592.

There are three bells in the Tower of the last and present centuries, one is broken and another cracked. The Parish Chest, of the seventeenth century, remains.

PLATE II.



THE AGED ROOTE THAT TWELVE TIMES FRVITE DID BEARE  
 (THOVGH FIRST AND LAST WERE BLASTED IN THEIR PRIME)  
 IS WITHERED NOW, AND WARNS HIS CHILDREN DEARE,  
 THOVGH YET THEY SPRINGE, TO KNOW THEIR WINT<sup>RS</sup> TIME.  
 SO LABOV'R'D HE, AND SO IS GONE TO REST,  
 SO LIV'D, SO DIED, AS ALL (BVT CVRSED) BLEST.  
 BLESSE, LORD, HIS FELLOW ROOTE THAT LIVES AS YET,  
 BVT AS A VINE WITHOUT HIS PROPE DECAIES :  
 AND BLESSE THEIR BRANCHES W<sup>CH</sup> THESE TWO DID GET,  
 AND SEND THEM SAP TO NOVRISH THEM ALWAIES :  
 BLESSE ROOTE AND BRANCH Y<sup>T</sup> ALL MAY GROW IN THEE,  
 AND MEET AT LENGTH TO EAT OF THY LIFE TREE.

PHILIPPO KINGE GENEROSO AB INE<sup>V</sup>TE ETATE IN EDIB<sup>C</sup> REVERENDI PATRIS.  
 AC PATREVI IPSIVS DOMINI ROBERTI KINGE EPISCOPI OXON & CLARISSIMI  
 VIRI DOM: JOANIS WILLIAMS DE THAME LIBERALISSIME EDVCATO: CHARISS:  
 COIVGI, & AD ANN<sup>V</sup> PENE QUADRUGESIM<sup>V</sup> IVG<sup>V</sup> MARITALE VNA PERPESSO,  
 VITA AC MORTE C<sup>V</sup> PERHONESTE TV RELIGIOSISSIME FFVNCTO MONVM<sup>E</sup>TVM  
 ISTVD ETERNI & ILLIBATI AMORIS POSVIT ELIZABETHA KINGE VXOR  
 SVPERSTES                      EXCESSIT EX HAC VITA, 12 JANVARIJ A<sup>O</sup> D<sup>N</sup>I. 1592.