

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF WATER STRATFORD, BUCKS.

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THE parish of Water Stratford, or West Stratford, lies about four miles west of Buckingham, and is bounded by the parishes of Stowe, Radclive-cum-Chackmore, Shalstone, Finmere, Westbury, and Tingewick. Its area is 1056 acres; given in the estimate of 1834 as 989, and described by Browne Willis as follows:—

“By a particular of this parish, taken about the year 1712, I find it was returned to contain 1000 acres, and that it was worth near £600 per annum, and was assessed to the land tax, £92 15s. 9d. Here were then 24 families and 105 souls, but no lands given to any charity.” The present population is about 140; returned as 188 in the census of 1881. The epithet, “Water,” is explained by such entries in the accounts as “leten out the water” (from the lowlying fields) 1810, and frequent allusions to repairs, after floods, to the parish plank over Cuttle Brook. The latter part of the name is derived from the Roman Road which traverses the village, and crosses the Ouse close by. The following account of it is taken from a paper on “Tingewick,” read by Mr. William Smart at the Tingewick Exhibition of Antiquities, Nov. 30th, 1887:—

“The straight line of the ancient street or road from Alchester and Bicester, to the Watling Street at, or near, Towcester, may in this neighbourhood be distinctly traced. It is still the road from Bicester to Finmere and Little Tingewick. At the latter place it passes by the front of the ‘Red Lion’ Inn, and may be traversed as a footway (locally called ‘Small Path’) to the River Ouse at Water Stratford (‘Streetford’), the road being still

plainly discernible. The path by a row of old cottages, opposite Stratford Church, shows the line of the road, which continues through Stratford village towards Stowe. A lane, called the 'Alley,' joins the Roman Road in the village of Stratford, and is probably part of a Roman way which ran past 'Stollidge' (where there are traces of a ford), Radclive, Buckingham, and Foscott to the Watling Street at Stony Stratford. At Water Stratford, in 1847-48, during the process of excavating for the piers of the railway viaduct which spans the river near the old ford, a number of antique metal articles were found, and in the cutting made to allow the Tingewick Road to go under a girder bridge, extensive remains of buildings were dug up. Judging from descriptions given by an eye-witness in the vicinity, these buildings were Roman, as were also earthen vessels and stone querns found in the buildings."

The following field and other names occur in the parish:—

Court Green: the strip of land along the village street. It is described as common land in the entry of 1720 (p. 24). No traces remain of the Court or Court House, such as stands in the village street at Long Crendon and elsewhere. The *Street* and the *Alley* have been explained above. *Welsh Lane* and *Welsh Riding* occur in accounts about 1320, and are still applied: the popular explanation is that the cattle-droves coming from Wales to London took this route. The *Riding* is simply a horse-road round a wood.

Great Cuttle Brook piece (5a. 2r.) occurs in the parish accounts of 1828, and takes its name from *Cuttle Brook*, which divides Water Stratford from Radclive parish, and is crossed by a footbridge between the villages. The bridge was maintained by the Water Stratford surveyors, e.g., "1810, ped John Burges one days worke for menden the plank, 2s. 6d."* *Cuttle Brook* crosses the Buckingham and Brackley high road, under a stone bridge. *Beashon's Meadow* (Accounts, 1826) = *Beacon's Meadow*. Compare "Bacon's House," a farm beyond the river. *New Bottle Furze*. *Long Rye Hill Piece*. *Bunch's Meadow*. *Hunt Mill* (1658). "*Conybury Meadow*."

* Surveyor's accounts.



WATER STRATFORD CHURCH.

SOUTH DOOR.

[FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY ARTHUR COOKE, ESQ.]

“*Greenlands Slipe*”: a strip of land along the cart-road from Hill Farm to the main road. *Great Start, Little Start*: these are two fields which occupy the angle between the River Ouse and Cuttle Brook, at their junction. *Sorris’, Siret’s, Sirat’s, Scires* (1838) *Ground*, perhaps takes its name from the Sirat family; 1680–90 in the Registers.

Putford Field is near the point which is now called “Potts Ford,” and spanned by a stone bridge, between Water Stratford and Shalstone parishes.

The church of Water Stratford stands on the brow overlooking the river at the south end of the village. It is dedicated to St. Giles. The earliest building on the site consisted of a church and nave of Norman work; but the only certain remains of this church are the piscina, the south nave door, and the priest’s door of the chancel. The latter has square jambs and architrave, with a semicircular tympanum, very slightly recessed. On the tympanum is a figure of a four-footed animal bearing a cross in low relief, rudely but boldly executed, on a diapered ground. The species is disputed: “Mr. Smith, at Stowe, considers the effigies over the chancel door to be St. Hubert, represented with a stag, and a crown on the head, who was converted from the Roman Catholic faith. This must be 300 years ago.” (MS. note, among the parish documents, in the handwriting of Rev. L. Bennett, a former rector.) But Browne Willis, in his “History of the Hundred of Buckingham” (London: 1755, 4th ed.) says:—

“Over the chancel door is the effigies of a horse, in rude fretwork.” Others interpret the emblem as the more usual “Agnus Dei.” On the architrave is a plaited scroll, terminating in foliated ornaments.

The south door of the nave is more elaborate. There is a single round column on each side of the opening, with cushion-shaped capital of an interlaced pattern. The arch bears a bold, irregular, zig-zag moulding of fourteen points, and a flatter one on the angle: over all is a dripstone, with a kind of scalloped ornament. In the semicircular tympanum is a representation of the Deity, seated in glory, in the attitude of benediction, with what seems to be a book in the left hand, adored by two angels, who appear to support the aureole; all in the

same archaic style as that of the north door. Browne Willis notes that the head of the Deity was "defaced" in his time, 1755.* A cherubic countenance has since been "restored" in cement. The architrave is ornamented with an interlaced arcade, cut deeply and with much spirit, and accommodated in the middle to the footstool of the seated figure. The sill is at the present ground level outside, but the whole doorway has probably been replaced.

The piscina consisted of a square fluted capital on a short shaft, and projected from the wall. Only the capital remains; it has been roughly treated, and is at present in the possession of the rector.

The whole church seems to have been remodelled in the Early English style, to which the chancel and tower arches belong; each is of two chamfered orders of the common Buckinghamshire type, the outer entering the wall at an angle, the inner supported on deep, round-moulded brackets ending below in conventional ornaments of rather unusual design. The floor level of these arches is two feet below that of the ground outside; but the higher sill of the south door is explained by the fact that the whole south side, of the nave at least, has been more than once rebuilt. By the recovery of this floor level, in the recent restoration, the proportions of the building are once more correctly presented. The table of fees in the Registers indicates that interments within the building were not unknown at a later time, which will account, in part, for changes of the floor level; but no remains were discovered in the restoration.

On either side of the chancel, close to the arch, is a small lancet window, with hood-mould and grotesque heads outside, and widely splayed within. The sill of the south window has been repeatedly disturbed, but, from the indications which remain, it is probable that it was splayed sharply downwards. The northern sill is flat, and the whole window set lower; for below the glazed light is a remarkably perfect "low side window," designed to be closed by a shutter. The original

* "Over the porch door, on the south side, is a man carved, with two angels ministering to him, but it is defaced."—BROWNE WILLIS, "Hist. Hund. Buckm.," 1755.

grating consisted of one upright and two cross bars; and its sockets, as well as the bolt hole, set high in the western jamb and the pivots of the shutter-hinges in the eastern, were found to be very well preserved. The transverse stone which separates the glazed window from the shutter opening has been fractured, apparently in an attempt to remove the standard of the grating. The general good condition in which this window was found, the bulged condition of its sill, and the level of the north door, combine to show that the north side of the chancel, at least, has been less disturbed than the south; and the chancel altogether less than the nave.

The existence of an Early English tower arch suggests that a tower was at least designed at this period; but the present tower is of later Decorated work, and there is no trace of an earlier. It is very small in every dimension, and can never have risen much above the roof of the nave. Before the last restoration the walls had been pulled down to the level of the belfry lights, which are mere rectangular slits. There is a two-light west window of poor and late design, set low in the wall, as there is no west door. The tower-staircase is at the south-east corner, projecting outside in the angle between the tower and the west end of the nave. A round-headed window existed on the eastern face of the tower, before the recent restoration, like that figured on the south side in the sketch (p. 121); but there is no evidence as to its date, since only the scantiest account remains of the repairs of the tower in 1781. Probably it belongs to that period, as the tower rose thus far clear of the flat nave roof.

The east window of the chancel was probably of Decorated design, but the tracery has quite disappeared in the reconstructions of the east wall, and the three lights which remain belong to the next period; the grotesques of the hood-mould, however, seem to be original, and have been replaced in the wall, on either side of the three-light Decorated window inserted in 1890.

The windows of the nave are three in number: a pair, opposite to each other, near the east end, and a two-light flat-headed Perpendicular window, with four small tracery lights under the hood, further west on the north wall.

The latter tells its own story, except that it is not clear at what time the internal architrave or low arch, which originally belonged to it, was replaced by a semicircular head veiled by plaster. Perhaps the architrave was a wooden beam, a very common device where the superincumbent weight was small; and the opening extended itself upwards when the beam decayed. For the church has at all times suffered from alternate long neglect and spasmodic renovation, as will further appear hereafter.

The other two windows afford a rather difficult problem. They consist, the southern of two lights, the northern of three, with cusped heads, surmounted by a sort of flamboyant tracery of very crude design. There is a hood externally, and a semicircular arch, hidden by plaster, inside. So far as can be made out, the mullions and cusped heads are original, at least in the northern window; or perhaps close copies of the originals. It seems most probable that the windows were of Decorated style; that the original tracery was copied in the restoration of 1832; and that the semicircular heads were designed to harmonize with that of the Norman door; an archæological refinement which occurs again at Dunton, in work of the same period.

The south wall bears the date 1652 on a block below the wall-plate over the nave door; and all the stonework on this side bears traces of renovation at that time. The east window seems to have been remodelled, and the low-side-window blocked.

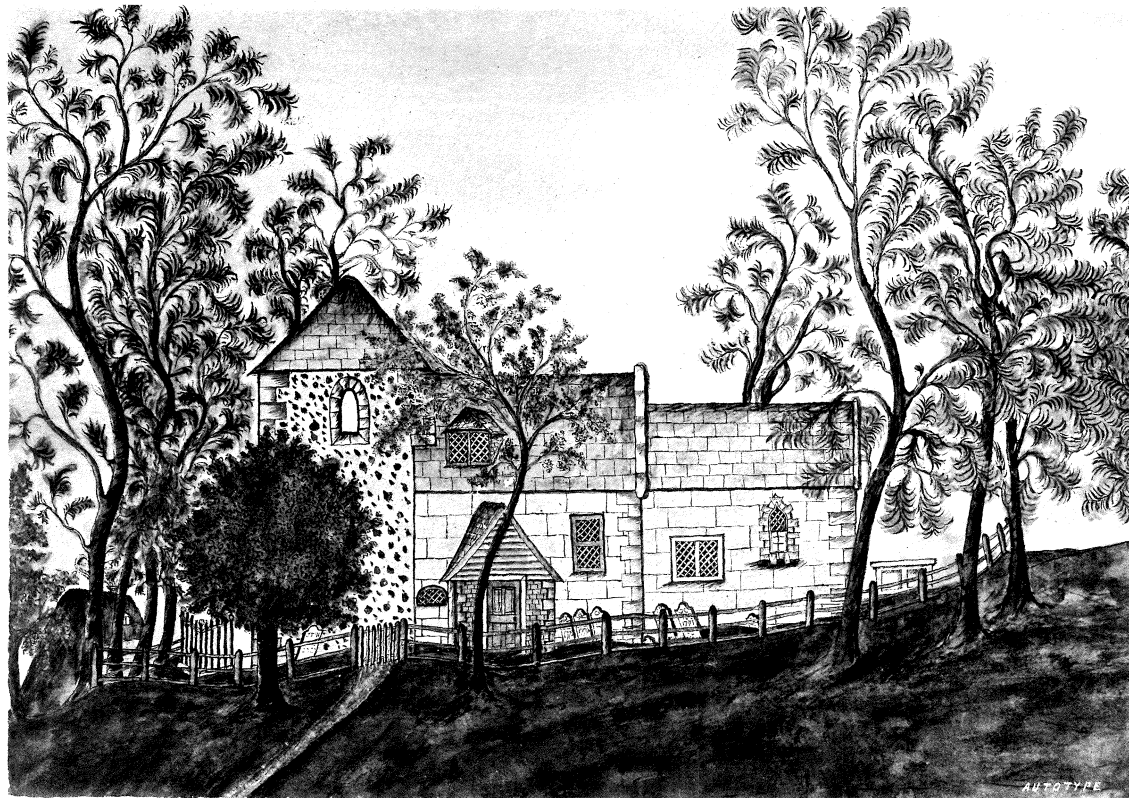
The bells are four in number, including the "Tinkler," and bear the following inscriptions:—

- (1) "Marye Cornwell, 1594."
- (2) "Pro Carolo Newsham hanc resono Musam 1669."
- (3) "Mary Cornwell gave me, 1632. Isaac Rushworth, Rector. New cast by H. Bagley, 1717. George Crow, C. W."

TINKLER:—"E. Hemins, fecit 1736. Wm. Fillpott, C. W." This bell is not mentioned by Browne Willis.

Between 1652 and 1820 the tower was cut down nearly to the present level,* and covered with a four-

* Perhaps in 1781, from a notice in the Accounts.



sided pyramidal roof; a dormer window was inserted in the nave nearly over the south door, and a porch of wood and brick was added, with high-pitched roof, door, and benches within; the gable lines of which are still visible on the south wall. The following memorandum is dated by internal evidence between 1615 and 1659:—

“*Water Stratford*.—One of the chancel windows in decay, being dammed in part, and the other being broken in the glass. New hood required; the parson’s seat too high in the chancel; a new Communion Table required; the church and chancel windows dammed up; Mr. Frankisties seats too high.”*

Of the appearance of the church at the end of this period, we have unusual evidence, by the preservation of a sketch of the south side. This quaint drawing seems to have been made from memory shortly after the reconstruction of 1832; but it cannot be much earlier than 1836, for it indicates the Leigh Bennett vault; the first date on which is October 17th of that year.

Like many other drawings of the time before the Gothic Revival, it shows a carelessness in details which makes it very difficult to interpret; for instance, the south window of the chancel, which is a good Early English lancet, and the mongrel window of the nave, are represented as square-headed casements, and no trace whatever remains now in the building, of what looks in the drawing like a semicircular fanlight low down by the nave door. But the general truthfulness of the artist is demonstrated by the discovery, on stripping the ivy from the chancel, of one jamb, and part of the sill, of the ogival light represented close to the east wall; and of the round headed window, above mentioned, on the east side of the tower, which is like that sketched on the south; but the head of the latter has disappeared since the tower was further lowered in 1832.

As early as 1820 notices begin to occur, in the vestry accounts, of moneys collected for the repair of the church, which had fallen into a dangerous state of dilapidation. But the churchwardens continued to patch

* Quoted in *Records of Buckinghamshire*, Vol. VI. p. 253. Frankisties=Frankyshe’s.

the old work until 1827, when a sharp letter from the Archdeacon roused them to make a thorough overhaul of the building. Archdeacon Hill's letter is as follows:—

SHANKLIN PARSONAGE,

July 31st, 1827.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 25th inst., just received, I must acquaint you that the proceedings of the ordinary at parochial visitations are necessarily regular and legal. I cannot, therefore, depart from the instructions given to the order or monition delivered at my visitation of your church, which they are bound strictly and literally to obey: And if they do *not* obey them (I repeat what I said in my former letter) they will incur considerable risk.

The church of Water Stratford has been declared by a *good and efficient* surveyor to be in a dangerous state, and that the walls must be taken down *entirely*, because they will not support a new roof. If the churchwardens are not satisfied with this report, it becomes their bounden duty forthwith to get another experienced man to survey the fabric, and until I receive the *report of its present state*, and of the repairs necessary to make a *complete and efficient* restoration of the building, in all its parts, together with a plan and specification of the repairs, all certified by the signature of a *good and sufficient* architect or builder, I cannot and will not authorize any proceedings of the churchwardens. They alone are responsible in the business, and to them only I must look, and not to the parishioners, with whom I have nothing to do.

My duty compels me not to be satisfied with anything less than a *complete and efficient* repair, and the maintenance of the ancient order and style of architecture.* To these two points my attention will be strictly and closely directed.

I am sorry so much delay has taken place in these repairs. The fault lies with the churchwardens, and I shall write this day to the registrar, to enforce immediate attention to my monition, or to proceed against your churchwardens for neglect. I remain,

Dear Sir,

Your Faithful Servant,

J. HILL.

P.S.—Newport Pagnell church was in a similar state to yours. The churchwardens, by my order, had it surveyed by Mr. Savage, a London architect, who reported, and sent me plans, specifications, etc., with which they are now proceeding. He would probably go over from Newport to Water Stratford for a trifling remuneration, and report upon the necessary repairs of your church, if the churchwardens would send for him. *Some experienced man they must have*, or I shall not be satisfied.

* How this condition was satisfied, as regards the nave windows, has been set forth already.

There is a letter from one Thomas Wyatt, dated June 9th, 1827, stating that he has submitted plans for restoration to the Archdeacon, and that the Archdeacon approves of them. This, it will be seen, is six weeks before the Archdeacon's letter.

On September 21st, 1829, Mr. John Burley furnishes "an account of the expenses incurred in the rebuilding of the church at Water Stratford." The total amount is £657 15s. 1d. Then at a vestry, held 27th May, 1830, it is decided "to defend the action brought by Mr. Wilmore of Buckingham against the said parish, and that Messrs. Bignell, Pulley and Maule, solicitors, of London, should defend it accordingly."

The sequel to this is found in the parish accounts, October 9th, 1830: "Mr. Wilmore's bill, £134 16s. 7d.;" February 19th, 1831, "Attorney's bill from London, £11 1s. 6d.;" and in Mr. Burley's account, above mentioned, "Mr. Wilmore, builder, £323 9s. 4d."

At a vestry, held August 19th, 1830, it was agreed to borrow £200, to be secured on the credit of the church rates, "for the purpose of defraying the expense of the necessary repairs of the parish church, pursuant to the order of the Archdeacon."

On Tuesday, November 9th, 1830, the vestry agreed to borrow "the further sum of two hundred pounds . . . subject to a certain previous mortgage security of the said church rates, made on or about the 21st day of August, 1828 . . . for securing £400 and interest for the purpose of defraying certain additional expenses incurred about the necessary repairs," etc.

It is probable, however, that the resolution of August 19th, 1830, was not acted upon, for the total amount borrowed does not seem to have exceeded £600.*

These sums of money were expended in what appears to have been an almost entire rebuilding of the nave and chancel. Luckily the old material was worked up again, and nearly all the wrought stone kept its original position. But the ogee window was filled in, and the

* It is perhaps worth recording, that when the loan is being negotiated, the Rector applies for a contribution from one of the principal landowners, whose steward replies to the effect that, in view of the heavy rate, all the tenants require a reduction of rent, "so that Mr. Hays will really bear the whole burden."

sills of the other chancel windows were raised ; the two lancets being filled, then or shortly afterwards, with blue and orange quarries of the prevailing style. The roofs of both chancel and nave were lowered, with almost total loss of the gable walls ; the floor of the nave was raised some 15 inches, and the chancel nearly to the outer ground level, completely destroying the proportions of the chancel arch ; the tower was cut down and re-roofed, and the east wall of the chancel supported by buttresses ; the porch disappeared, and the mutilated effigy in the tympanum was restored ; the monstrous windows of the nave were inserted ; and the great work was consummated with new deal furniture, and two inches of painted plaster over the whole interior. The font was added, about the same time, and, with the churchyard gates, cost £10. No trace has been recovered of the original font.

During Dr. Bosworth's time (1858-1876) the chancel was further restored, and a Minton tile floor laid within the rails, above the old pavement of memorial inscriptions, of which no record has been kept. One of these stones has been exposed and curtailed in the recent restoration.

The ivy round the church must have been planted soon after the restoration of 1832, for it had grown so thickly, that in the restoration of 1890 it was necessary to cut a great part of it away, to preserve the walls and eaves.

This last stage of the history of the building is hardly yet complete.* The roofs have been restored to their original pitch, and the floors lowered with the same regard to the original design. A new Decorated east window has been inserted, and filled with stained glass, designed and executed by Mr. Swaine Bourne, of Birmingham. The plaster has been removed from the window openings, so as to expose the wrought stone wherever it exists ; and the lancet lights and low side window have been excavated and repaired. The church has been refurnished throughout, and the passages paved with tiles. The

* This and the following paragraphs stand as they were written while the restoration was in progress, though some of the general comments have no further application to Water Stratford.

tower is left for the present, but will eventually be continued upwards at least to the level of the nave roof.

Unless the province of the archæologist be held to exclude provision for the better exhibition, in the future, of the objects of his study, a few notes may be admitted, on the conditions which are still wanting, to make this church its own best interpreter.

Old stonework, of whatever kind, should not be sent away, but set up in its proper order in the churchyard; especially where original tracery has decayed, and must necessarily be replaced. At Romsey Abbey, for instance, in Hampshire, the Perpendicular windows, displaced in restoring the Norman windows of the aisles, have been set up close at hand, and a record is kept of their history. In the same way here, the Norman piscina should be exactly copied for its place in the church, and the battered original preserved with the other stonework. It would be a great pity to disturb the sham Gothic windows of the nave; for low as the standard of architectural design had sunk at the time of their insertion, they are evidence of a period of the art, the traces of which are for that very reason only too likely to be displaced; and, though themselves unsightly and incongruous, they have become a part of the building, and record a critical period of its history. It may be added that they are of a design which is, perhaps fortunately, almost unique.

If the remainder of the plaster of 1832 should be removed, the rubble behind it must not be left exposed, or pointed; for though this practice has the countenance of certain eminent architects, it is quite at variance with the mediæval custom. So far from exhibiting the rubble masonry, the old builders had no scruple against concealing even ashlar with a plain or tinted limewash; and in many old buildings—notably in Olney Church and here at Stratford—the wrought stone projects beyond the rubble wall-face, so that the plaster may be laid flush with the window-jamb and arch-stones.

No traces of fresco painting remain, of course, at Stratford; but the ubiquitous warm brown wash can be detected on the chancel arch, and on some stones inserted inside below the east window sill. The original tint would probably make the church too dark for our less illiterate congregations; but rubbed down with a fair proportion of

uncoloured cement, it gives a pleasant chocolate or brown pink, on which a diaper or border can be executed in the pure colour. It should be noted that the masonry of the lancet windows retains a thin and hard whitewash, perhaps to veil the different hues of adjacent blocks.

It has been suggested that by the use of a distinct variety of stone in all architectural restoration, a double purpose might be served. The new work would be completely and permanently distinguished from the old without ostentation; and the fresh stone, brought from a distance, would remain as a proof of careful choice of materials, and of the unique facilities of transportation which we enjoy. Local instances of this practice may be seen at Hoggeston, where the new masonry is of a bright orange sandstone, interpolated in the original creamy Portland limestone from Whitchurch or Stewkley; and at Little Horwood, where a white and very durable variety of mountain-limestone has been employed.

Browne Willis describes, in the glazing of one of the chancel windows, a shield bearing the arms, argent, a chevron, between three cross crosslets, sable. If any more stained glass should be presented to the church, it would be a pity if the opportunity were lost of replacing this escutcheon.

The monuments in the church are as follows:—

(1) On the north wall of the nave is a monument to Mary Franckyshe, who died in 1629; with the arms quarterly 1. 4. gules, a saltire engrailed argent; 2. 3. azure 3 combs argent.

It consists of a black marble tablet, enchased with white, bearing the figure of a woman on a death-bed; around her two sons and six daughters, and at her feet a man, evidently the husband, in a gown. The newly-born infant rests in a cot. Underneath is this inscription:—

Nere to this place lyeth interred ye Body of Marye Franckyshe, wife of John Franckyshe, of Water Stratford, in the County of Buckingham, Gent. She departed this life in childebed the 6th Day of January A^o Dⁿⁱ 1629: by whom she had Issue 2 Sons and 7 Daughters, viz. Alexander, and Anthoney, Grissel, Penelope, Avis, Elizabeth, Marye, Precella and Ann, who were all living at her death; she was aged 32 yeares, for whose pyous Memorie her lovinge Husband erected this memoriall, too, too little to expres her Deseres or his Affection.

Thus Death triumphs, and tells us all must dye,
 Thus wee triumph by Christ, ore Death to fly,
 To live to dey is not to dey but live,
 To dey to Blisse is blessed Liff to give.
 Aske how she liv'd, and thou shalt know her End,
 She dyde a Saint to God, to Poore a Freind.*

(2)

JOSEPH BOSWORTH, D.D., OF CHRIST CHURCH OXFORD, AND
 RECTOR OF WATER STRATFORD. DIED, MAY 27, 1876.
 AGED 88 YEARS.

(3)

H. S. I.
 EXUVIÆ
 BENJAMINI HEART, A.M.
 HUIUS ECCLESIÆ RECTORIS
 OBIT 23 DIE NOVEMBRIS
 ÆTAT. SUÆ 50
 ANNO DOMINI 1732.

(4)

GULIELMO HENRICO BARNARD
 HUIUS ECCLESIÆ PRESBYT
 SACRUM AMICIS CARISSIMO
 NAT
 JAN. XXVII
 AS
 MDCCCLXVII
 OB
 OCTOB. XIV
 AS
 MDCCCVIII.

This slab was formerly in the chancel, but was removed when Dr. Bosworth restored the chancel, and is now outside. The last two inscriptions to former Rectors are in the churchyard.

(5)

REV. WOOLEY LEIGH BENNETT,
 DIED FEB. 2ND, 1839,
 AGED 64.

(6)

S. M.
 THE REV. GEORGE COLEMAN, M.A., RECTOR
 OF WATER STRATFORD. DIED APRIL, 1858,
 AGED 54 YEARS.

* Browne Willis copies this transcription in his *History of the Hundred of Buckingham*; but manages to make forty-one mistakes, of which three materially affect the sense.

The Rectory stands on the north side of the church-yard, and was built by Samuel Marshall, vicar, 1627, according to a Terrier of 16 October, 1639, given by Browne Willis:—

Terrier of Water Stratford, 20th October, 1639; Samuel Marshall, Rector.

A Parlour, Hall, Cellar, Chambers, and Kitchen, in all 12 Bays. A Milk House, Wood House, Study, and Stable new built, as the Chambers were by this Incumbent. A Barn of 7 bays, and 1 of 2 bays, 2 orchards, a garden and close of 3 Acres. In the East field 10 Acres and a half. In the Middle field 7 Acres and 2 yards of arable. At New Bottle Hill, 1 Acre of Furze, and 1 Acre and 2 Lees, Beacon's Meadow of 3 Acres, Conyborough Meadow of 4 Acres.

Compare the following document in the Parish chest:—

Copy of Terrier, 1826.

A Terrier of all the Glebe Lands belonging to the Rectory of Water Stratford in the County of Bucks, within the Diocese of Lincoln, 24th May, 1826.

Imprimis.

The Parsonage House is 57 feet long on the North-West side, and is covered with thatch, on the South side is a new adjoining building, 40 feet long, finished in the year 1819, and consists of two sitting-rooms, with three cellars under them and three bedrooms over them, and is covered with slate. The North-East side is 35 feet long, covered with thatch, there is also a new pent-house finished in the year 1819, the full length of this side, and consists of a dairy, a back entrance into the house, a larder, and a coal house, and covered with tiles.

Item. A Stable with four stalls, a loft and granary over a barn adjoining in one straight line, the length of stable and barn 60 ft., the whole covered with tiles, a double pigsty adjoining the barn, also covered with tiles, a hog tub covered with boards. These were all built about the same period.

Item. Yard gardens and house close, consisting by estimation of about three acres.

Item. Three inclosed fields in all by estimation 30 acres, and entirely surrounded by lands belonging to Treby Heb Hays, Esq. The subdivision fences belong to the Rectory.

Item. A meadow lying Eastward of the Parsonage House, by estimation six acres, bounded by the river on one side and by the lands of Treby Hill Hays, Esq.,* on the other—all the lands in the Parish pay tithes in kind.

Item. The churchyard is estimated at about a rood.

JOHN BURLEY, Churchwarden.

* The orthography of this name is uncertain in the MS.

The churchyard was restored and enlarged in 1819, and 3 acres and a yard added to the ground.

There is a plan of the rectory (about 1819) showing how the old house of "Parlour, Hall, Cellar, Chambers, and Kitchen, in all 12 bays," of the first Terrier, was enlarged according to the second: "On the south side is a new adjoining building," etc. A loan of £570 was obtained from Queen Anne's Bounty for its restoration, and other money was raised, on mortgage, to rebuild it, in 1834. The Rev. E. G. Andrew (1875-1887) completely rebuilt the old N.W. side.

The rectory was rated at 5 marks in 1291 (Edw. I.), when the Abbot of Oseney had a pension of 20s., issuing of it. In 1535 (26 H. VIII.) it was valued for first fruits at £7 0s. 5d. It was worth about £80 a year in 1735.

All the lands in the parish paid tithe in kind, in the Terrier of May 26, 1826. The present income consists of tithe rent charge, commuted at £298 (£300 in 1839), with 36 acres of glebe.

The Registers contain an unusual number of memoranda. The following, for instance, occurs in the Register of Baptisms, November 9, 1768 (p. 1):—

Waterstratford, 9 February, 1769. On this day John Baldwin of Tingewick measur'd the meadow ground belonging to the Rector of Water Stratford, which was found to consist of five acres two roods and ten perches: also that part of the Glebe called Hollow Moor, which contains twenty-eight Acres and seventeen Perches.

H. GABELL, Rector.

On the cover of the Register of 1700 occurs the following:—

Ffees ffor Burying in ye
 Chancell five guineas for
 Breaking ye ground be
 side one shilling for ye Burial
 fee. Ffor Burying in ye Church
 two guineas for breaking the
 ground, and one shilling for
 ye Burying fee, ffor Burying
 in ye Churchyard if it be an
 out town person, six shillings
 and eight pence, for Breaking

the Ground and one shilling for ye Buriall fee, but
 be one yt lives in* the fee is (if it
 but one shilling if he be a
 day labourer.

And in the Burials Register of 1700 (p. 2b) :—

There is due from ye parishioners
 of Water Stratford to the Rector
 one shilling for Burying, one shilling
 for christening, a mortuary of ten
 shillings if ye party dyes worth forty
 pounds, if he dies worth thirty pounds
 there is six shillings and eightpence due
 to the Rector, if he or she die worth
 ten Marks† but under thirty pounds
 there is three shillings and sixpence
 due, there is threepence a piece
 for every body in ye parish yt is
 above sixteen years of age due
 as an offering at Easter, called by
 ye name of Easter offerings.

The Common belonging to ye Rector of Water Stratford and
 free Holders is Court Green, which is the Street, and one piece of
 Ground below ye Churchyard, a Hook in Stop's Close by Pigg's
 fford, and a Hook‡ in Nelson's at Cuttle Brook. 60 pounds in
 mony paid to ye Rector quarterly the Gleb called Hollow Mere, §
 now parted into four parts, and the meadow parted into three parts,
 as witness my Hand.

B. HEART,

Rector of Stratford.

The account of the Common is copied from an earlier
 entry (dated 1750?) with a few variations; in particu-
 lar, the earlier entry ends thus: "The glebe called
 Hollow Mere, a meadow and home close."

The advowson appears to have been early disasso-
 ciated from the Manor; for though Robert de Oigli gave
 lands in the parish to his foundation of Osney (Dugdale,
 Monasticon ii. 138), there is no mention in the grant of

* "Lives in," *i.e.*, is resident in the parish.

† What is the meaning of a reckoning by "Marks" at this
 period?

‡ I have a note of a "Hook Meadow" in Clifton Reynes
 parish, but it is not in the Tithe Award, nor in the Estate Map of
 1792. There is another in Lickhamstead parish.

§ Perhaps Moor.

any rights to the church; while the Priory of Luffield is known to have held the advowson very shortly after. This severance of privileges appears to be unusual.

Luffield Priory retained the advowson until the reign of Henry VII., when its lands and privileges were transferred to the Abbey of Westminster, on whose presentation John Cull was instituted, 13th May, 1506 (Lincoln Registers). John Smith, the next incumbent, was presented, May 13, 1528, by William Tyler, Lessee Tenant to the Abbey. After the Dissolution, the advowson came to the Crown (1541, 32 H. VIII.), but was granted to Nicholas Throckmorton in 1551 (5 Edw. VI.). William Birdesley, however, was presented "on the Queen's title" in 1560. From the Throckmortons the advowson passed, by the marriage of Anne, daughter and heir of Sir Arthur Throckmorton, to Sir Peter Temple, between 1627 and 1642. Their daughter and heir, named Annie, married Sir Thomas Roper, Viscount Baltinglass, in Ireland, and presented to the living in 1661, 1674, and 1694; but on her death, in 1696, the patronage reverted to the Temple family, and Sir Richard Temple, Bart., Lord Viscount Cobham, presented Thomas Green in 1722-23.

List of the Rectors,* from the Registers of Lincoln, continued to the present time:—

- | | | | | |
|------|--|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1240 | Ralph. | A. 1240. | 24. H. III. | } From old deeds (Browne Willis). |
| 1244 | Nicholas. | 1244. | 28. H. III. | |
| | Michael de Bukeby, | | | |
| | he exchanged it for a moyety of Bechampton Rectory | | | |
| 1340 | John de Dodington | 3. | 23. April. | with |
| | John Levitt died Rector. | | | |
| 1361 | John Legatt of Towcester | succeeded 3rd. October. | | |
| | resigned. | | | |
| 1369 | Edmund de Aylesbury, | presented October 30. | | |
| 1381 | Geffrey, surnamed "in the Kirne," | instituted June 17. | | |
| | died. | | | |
| 1399 | Thomas Seman, | instituted 12 April, | | |
| | exchanged for Alkerington Co. Oxon, with | | | |
| 1401 | Edmund Barnefly, alias Pett or Potte. | February 20. | | |
| | exchanged for Tickencote Co. Rutland, with | | | |
| 1403 | Adam Golaferre. | March 30. | | |
| | exchanged for Sulby Co. Northampts. with | | | |
| 1403 | William Brunne. | June 8. | | |
| | exchanged for Chicksand Co. Beds. with | | | |

* A good deal of information about these worthies in Lipscomb.

- 1404 Richard Raxon. July 2.
exchanged for Basildon Vicarage, Co. Berks, with
- 1411 John Wellcombe. October 14.
exchanged for Sutterby Co. Lincoln, with
- 1412 Geoffrey Davenport. May 12.
John Robyns, resigned 1440.
- 1440 Henry Tame, instituted February 15.
John Bechampton, resigned 1449.
- 1449 John Combe succeeded May 25, resigned. Succeeded by
- 1450 Robert Smith, instituted December 5, resigned 1455.
- 1455 John Buddenham A.B. Succeeded January 25, resigned
1459.
- 1459 Richard Sedgesworth, instituted May 18, resigned.
- 1464 John Colyns, instituted September 16, resigned.
- 1465 John Jecok, instituted May 17, resigned 1480.
- 1480 John Nutbeam, instituted October 15.
Thomas Ashton, succeeded, and resigned 1489.
- 1489 John Arrowsmith. ob. 1506.
- 1506 John Cull, instituted May 13, on the presentation of the
Abbot and Convent of Westminster, who succeeded to the
Rights of the Priory of Luffield, which had presented till
H. VII. ob. 1528.
- 1528 John Smith, presented by William Tyler, Lessee Tenant to
W. Abbey. May 23. Rector, 1546.
- 1560 William Birdesley or Baddisley, instituted November 5, on
the Queen's Title, & presented a second time 1565,
1561, returned as Vicar of Westbury also, & as residing
there.
- 1592 Richard Major was presented by Dr. Edward Backley, Pre-
bendary of Westminster, which Church appears to have
set up a title based on their former possession of Luffield
Priory, on the death of the last incumbent not named.
Instituted 5 January, buried at Water Stratford, October 5,
1616.
- 1616 Robert Sinthorp, D.D., the King's Chaplain, presented by Sir
Arthur Throckmorton. He was a noted Divine and
an eminent Preacher. Resigned 1627, ob. 1662. Buried
at Burton Latimers Co. Northampts. April 25. 1662.
- 1627 Samuel Marshall, presented by the Lady Throckmorton.
Resigned 1642, for Vicarage of North Dodford Co.
Northants. Ob. 1675. Buried at N. Dodford.
- 1642 Walter Tayler, A.M. Instituted 7 April, on the presenta-
tion of Sir Peter Temple Kt. and Bt. His name is
omitted in the list in the Parish Register.
- 1651 William Joanes, or Jones, succeeded, ob. 1661.
- 1661 John Price, instit: 2 May, on the presentation of Anne, wife
of Thomas Viscount Baltinglass, also Vicar of Westbury,
which he resigned, 1669. Buried here, August 22. 1674.
- 1674 John Mason, A.M., Vicar of Stanton Barry. Instituted
Jan. 28, on the presentation of the Lady Anne, Viscountess
Baltinglass. Buried here, 22 May, 1694.

- 1694 Isaac Rushworth, A.M. Instituted December 19, on the Presentation of the Lady Anne, Viscountess Baltinglass. Buried here August 21. 1720.
- 1720 Benjamin Heart, or Hart, A.M. Instituted 12. September. Buried here November 26. 1732.

On page 1*a* of the 1700 Register is the note :—

September ye 17. 1720.
 “ Mr. Benjamin Heart of
 Drayton Parselow in ye County of
 Bucks. was Inducted into ye Rectory
 of Water Stratford in ye County
 of Bucks.”

And then, cancelled, the following :—

Benj: Heart: ffilius iunior natu
 Samuelii Heart Rectr. de Drayton
 Perslow in Comitatu Bucks et
 Margaretæ uxoris ejus, qu *dam* Margaret
 Tickhill de Brickhill parv. in eodem comitatu
 generosa.

- 173 $\frac{2}{3}$ Thomas Green, A.M. Inducted 12 March on the presentation of Sir Richard Temple Bart., Lord Viscount Cobham. Also Vicar of Burton Dassett, Co. Warwick.

Mr. Thomas Green, Vicar of Burton Dassett in Warwickshire, was inducted into the Rectory of Water-stratford in the county of Bucks. March 11th. 1732.
 (signed) THO: GREEN, Rr. of W.St. and Vic. of Burton Bassett.*

- 1751 John Fisher. Died 1768.
 1768 Henry Gabell.
 1802 George Glover. [He seems to have written the list of Rectors, which is in the Parish Register.]
 1804 Sir George Lee, changed for Beachampton with
 1814 William Henry Barnard. Died 1817.
 1818 Wooley Leigh Bennett. Died 1839.
 1839 George Coleman. Died 1858.
 1858 Joseph Bosworth. Died 1876.
 1875 Edward George Andrew.
 1887 Louis Ernest Goddard.

The Registers are extant from 1596, and the first volume (1596-1700) was transcribed for Dr. Bosworth in 1871, with a full account of its condition at that time. A few variations upon Buckinghamshire place names

* 1700 Register.

occur, such as Hillersden (1688) and Middleton-keynes (1738), but none of much importance.

The following entries in the Register are perhaps of general interest :—

Dec. 17, 1653.

Wee have sworne and approved of Nicolas Hickman
to bee Parish Register for Water Stratford in this
Countie. (Signed) SYMON BENET.
W^M HARTLEY.

The intended marriage of William Warr and Elizabeth Fairrie, was published three several Lord's days according to the acte in that case provided and were married by Mr. Thos Lucas the bayliff of Buckingham the 5th. of June 1654.

Several similar entries occur in this and the following years :—

June 23rd. 1661
This day ther was
collected for
a breefe for Oxford
- 0 - 4 - 3.

June the 30. 1661.
This day was collected
to a briefe for James
Meluel of Ierland (Perhaps Melville of
- 0 - 1 - 8 ob. Ireland.)

1715^s. Nicholas Adams was buryed the eighth
day of June, hee receiv'd Collection. a
Certificate received.

1716. Richard Matthews was buryed the
thirteenth of December who had
Collection a certificate received.

And a similar entry in 1719.

The Churchwardens' Accounts are extant for the year 1764; "Water Stratford Vestry-meetings," from 1823 onwards; and "Water Stratford Highways account," from 1799.

The orthography in the Parish Accounts is unusually erratic; and some mistakes become perpetuated through generations of Overseers, *e.g.* :—

(1766.) *Dusbements; Dustbustments; Recets; Arares; remens in hand; gother by Leavey; The Wohl Dusbements;* and the like.

Special entries occur as follows :—

1804.	pd. for expences the time as the old man came	10s.	3.
	forgot to set down yt. as She had to pay when		
	She was at Budd's twice the girl as married		
	the solger	5s.	0.

Budd, and Mrs. Budd, kept the public-house; for in 1812 we have, "ped Mrs. Budd for Beer . . 1. 12. 5." This seems to have shocked the authorities, and on the next page comes, "There is to be no charge for Beer to the labourers," which stopped the "disbustment" for a year or two.

1812.	Edward Paxton 4 days Bittersweet,	10.	0.
1814.	Mr. Bateman for Elfing 2 Pickaxes,	2.	10.
February 22, 1808.	Mr. Hawkins towards hiring		
	a substitute for the 3 Hundered of Bucks,	1.	1. 0.

The "Surveiers" of the High Ways first appear in 1799, and there are many entries with reference to the stone and gravel for the roads.

Among Church Expenses are the following :—

1776.	pd. Joseph Watson his gartredge (= cortridge, 1784)	5.	3.
	The quarterage (quarterly income) of the Sexton was		
	raised to 6. 3. in 1800, to 15s. in 1827, and to £1		
	in 1837.		
1777.	bredden wind at Easter	1.	7.
	(Similar items occur at "Crimius" and "Wisentine.")		
	My charges at the <i>Bishop Vijeaton</i> (elsewhere <i>Vistitae</i> and <i>Viseitshan</i>), ped for a Procklymashon.		

By "Conformation," less is meant, perhaps, than meets the eye.

Here are some bell-entries, and other sundry expenses :—

1807.	Jan. 17. payed for new Bell Rops and two		
	Cords to let a Korpes in the grave	2.	6.
1810.	Ap. 9. payed Bill for puttin Rolers to the		
	Bells	3.	6.
1807.	Dec. 23. payed for three locks for the Chest	3.	9.
	pound spicks.		6.
	pd. for a hare Brum	2.	0.
	for wasing the Sirplis (Surpulus, Sarples)	1.	0.
	(This was done quarterly.)		
	for wood as was had at Church for Sadring	1.	0.
	The book of Prases for got Last year, for a		
	Form of Prayer.		

The rate for Sparrows was 2d. a dozen: *e.g.*, "1777. 2 dusenan a half Sp. . . . 5d.;" but it rose to 6d. in 1836.

The old Manor House at the top of the Village.—The present building was erected about 1600, but seems to have been altered and renovated from time to time, especially at the close of the seventeenth century. On the south side there is a large garden surrounded by a wall of considerable thickness, and in this there are some traces of foundations. It is the opinion of some of the older inhabitants that the present field road along the south wall was formerly of more importance. This would allow of an approach to the front of the house, to which there is now no means of access from without.

The writer of this paper would be very greatly obliged for further information, of whatever kind, which bears upon the history of Water Stratford; and in particular with regard to the seventeenth century family of Frankyshe, the history of which has been reserved until a very meagre account can be supplemented from other sources.

THE CHURCH PLATE OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

In reply to many kindly inquiries, I have much pleasure in reporting that information has been received from about two-thirds of the parishes in the Archdeaconry, admirably full and accurate in many cases, and often accompanied by careful drawings of each piece of plate. For these returns, and for the further help which I have received from very many sources, I desire to express my most hearty thanks. The further work of completing and verifying the descriptions, and, in particular, of obtaining satisfactory record of the very important hall- and makers'-marks, will necessarily delay the publication even of fragments of the whole account for some time longer. It is, however, being carried out as fast as circumstances allow.

JOHN L. MYRES.