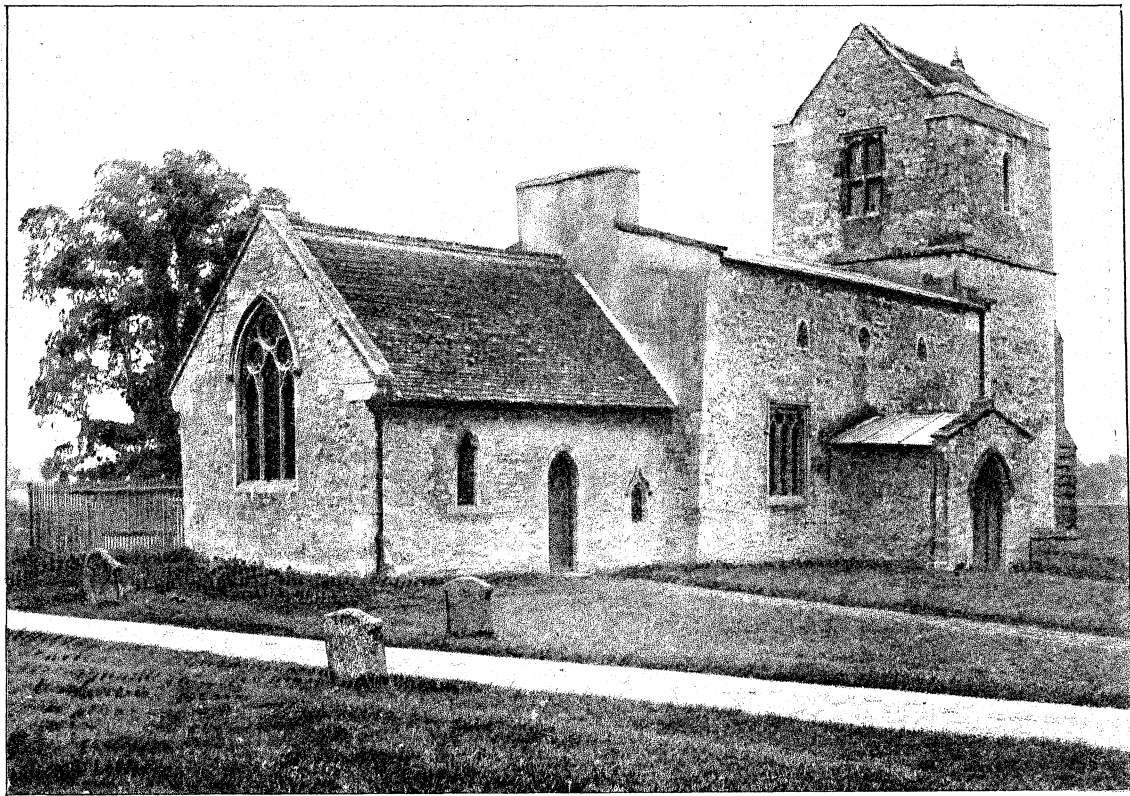


## THE CHURCH OF SAINT LAWRENCE, OLD BRADWELL, BUCKS.

Some thousands of people, drawn by the "iron horse," pass by this Church every day, but it is the *few* that enjoy a peep at it, with its quaint saddle-back western Tower (a type so familiar to travellers in Normandy, and on the Paris-Strassburg line). The present Vicar has, for many years, done what he could, with loving care, as to the interior, and, rather more than sixteen months ago, has been aided by a generous gift from one of his nephews (in loving memory of a beloved brother), by which the walls and roofs, in dire need, have also been made wind and water-tight.

The Church consists of a Nave, Chancel, Western Tower, South Aisle, and North Porch. The Nave Arcade of three bays is carried upon very interesting Transitional columns. Many years ago the old Chancel Arch, then a mere wide door opening, was increased to its present dimensions, but the stones, with their ancient inscriptions, were fortunately spared and carefully re-used; and thus, what was lost to antiquity has been of great gain to the Church as a place of worship. The windows, of Decorated and Perpendicular character, are, as a rule, fitted with good modern painted glass, gifts of the Vicar's family and friends, the East window being a memorial to William George Duncan, a former good 'Squire.

A small but very beautiful Triptych of richly-moulded English oak, with paintings on gold ground, representing "the Adoration of the Magi," and of "the Shepherds," treated as one subject, with the Holy Child in His mother's arms, forming the central feature of it, was also a gift: this, the work of Mr. Westlake, F.S.A., had for some years been very inadequately lighted, but now it can be well seen by the very necessary addition of a new two-light window in the South Chancel wall. A portion of the West wall of the South Aisle was in a dangerous condition, owing to the well-intentioned, but futile expedient,



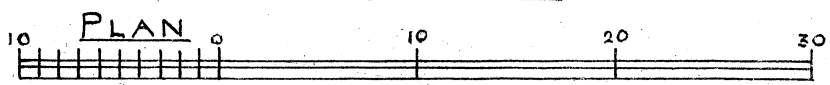
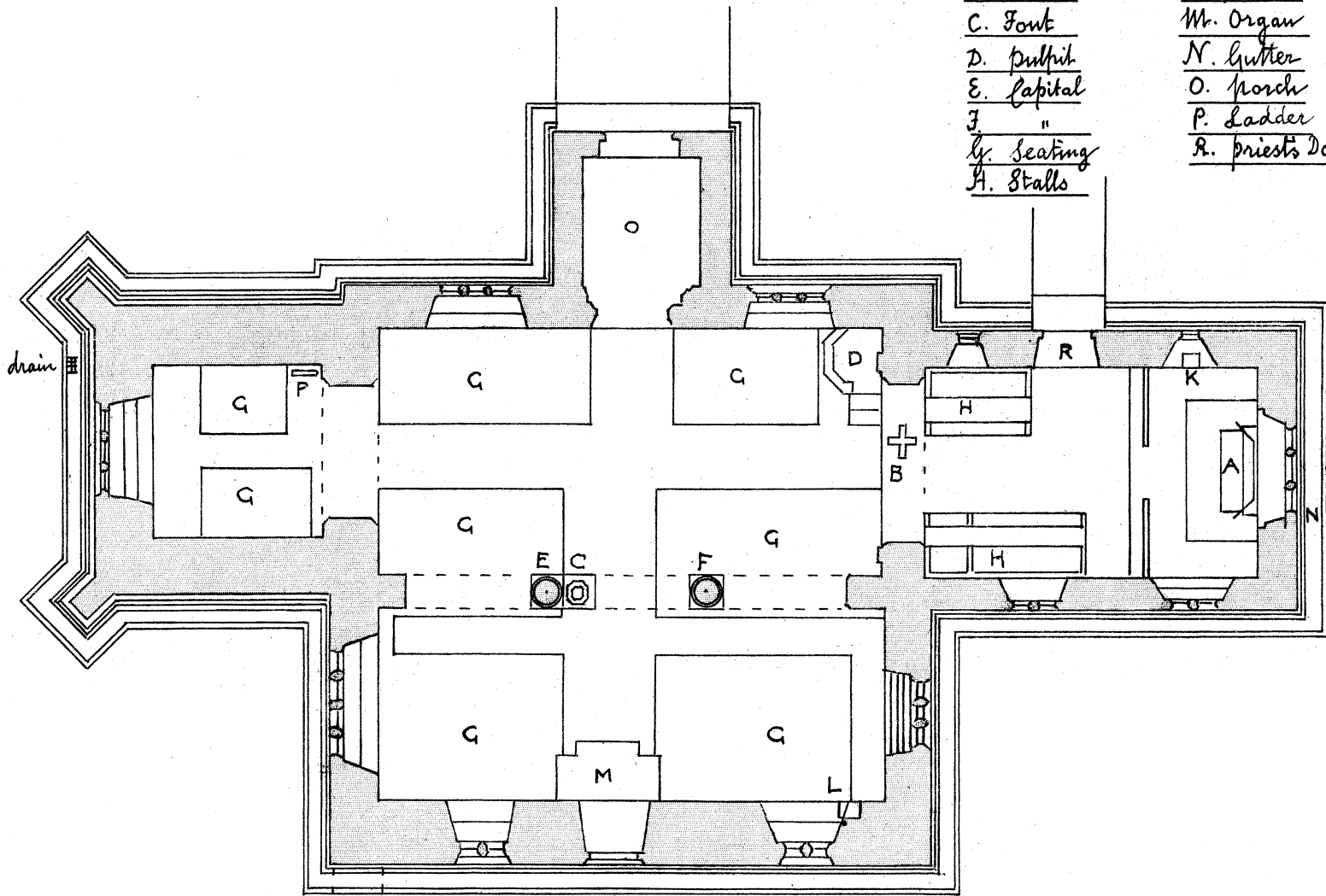
"INK PHOTO" SPRAGUE & CO LTD LONDON.

BRADWELL CHURCH, BEFORE REPARATION: NORTH-EAST VIEW.

9/1/55

# S: LAWRENCE: OLD: BRADWELL: BVCKS

- A. Altar
- B. Lectern
- C. Font
- D. pulpit
- E. Capital
- F. " "
- G. Seating
- H. Stalls
- K. Presence
- L. Piscina
- M. Organ
- N. gutter
- O. porch
- P. Ladder
- R. priest's Door.



SCALE

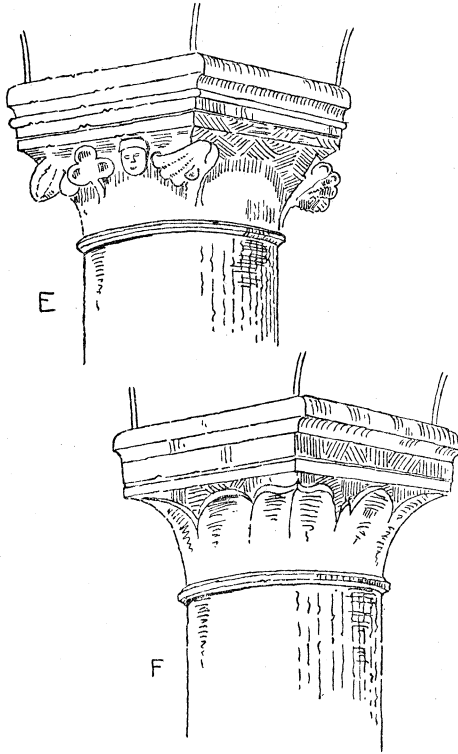
JUNE 1904

E: SWINFEN HARRIS: FRIBA MENS. ET DEL.

40 CHANCERY LANE LONDON AND STONY STRATFORD

the insertion of a wrought-iron tie-rod, which, by rusting, had brought about the catastrophe it was intended to avert. In its place a new four-light window has been inserted, which lights up a dark corner. These new windows are in harmony with old ones, but not servile copies of them. New copings were found necessary to make the Tower gables sound: they follow the old lines and sections, and are capped with new Crosses. The belfry stage has been cleaned out and supplied on its four fronts with new oak luffer-boards, frames, and traceried heads, and has been wired inside to keep out birds and bats. The ancient bell, the tenor, has been unfortunately cracked through the lip: it is one of a peal of four, and is very carefully described in Mr. A. H. Cocks's book on "The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire;" the crack is awaiting repair by a new process, which renders recasting unnecessary. The belfry stage is approached by a vertical ladder, fixed to the north internal wall of the tower. New stone copings and crosses have been provided for gables over the chancel arch, the East wall of the chancel, and the North porch, the cross over the porch being of gridiron form in honour of the patron saint. The whole fabric has been preserved from further inroads from damp by a thorough drainage round the entire Church, and a lightning rod has been fixed to the tower. A former excrescence over the Chancel Arch has been carefully taken down under my personal supervision: the hope that it might once have carried a sance-bell was soon dispelled on examination, as no hole for a rope existed, the pile having been built up of rubble in mud, and pointed and bedaubed with Roman cement: the reason for its erection at all remains a mystery. The whole of the external walling throughout has been cleared of loose plaster: and all that was in danger has been re-built, and the whole carefully repaired and re-pointed with good mortar, having a weather joint. New springers, copings, and apex stones have been provided where necessary. A flying buttress has been built to support a leaning wall on the South side, and thus the direct course of the drain has not been diverted, and an adjacent grave not violated. The Tower and Chancel

roofs have been re-tiled and ridged, and the Church provided with new spouts and down-pipes, which were much needed. The roof over the Nave is of lead: new wood gargoyles lapped with lead have been provided for the eaves of the Tower roofs.



CAPITALS (SEE PLAN).

Now for a few words of description of internal features:—

The East window, of three lights, and evidently a copy as to its tracery and general form and scale of that in the East of the Chapel in Meopham Church, Kent (*vide* Brandon), is filled with glass by Clayton and Bell—subject, “The Crucifixion”—“To the memory of William George Duncan, died Sept. 2,

1876, by his wife." The new easternmost South window of the Chancel is at present glazed with plain quarries only; that to the West of it, also pointed, is by Powell. Left light, "The Saviour, Martha, and Mary;" right light, "The Saviour restoring sight to the blind man." This is in memory of Celia Baily, died Sept. 22, 1859, aged 96 years. The East window of the South Aisle, square-headed, with cusped lights, is by Clayton and Bell. Left light, S. Gabriel; mid light, S. Michael; right light, S. Raphael. "In memory of William Oakley Baily, died May 12, 1902, by his sister." The clerestory windows, of stone, of Decorated character, are all modern, and filled with grisaille glass, by Powell: they were inserted in lieu of old wood windows hardly worthy to use in a cottage.



BRADWELL CHURCH, AFTER REPARATION. N.E. VIEW.

With the exception of the four-light window in the West of the South Aisle, and the two-light one added in the South wall of the Chancel, the whole of the old windows were either renewed or repaired in the restoration of 1867-8. The West window, square-

headed, is by Clayton and Bell. Left light, Noah; centre light, S. John Baptist; right light, Moses. "In memory of William James Baily, died June 21, 1862, aged 75 years, and Elizabeth Baily, his wife, died Jan. 22, 1869, aged 72 years, by their sons, Joseph Baily and Kitelee Chandos Baily, and their grandson, Charles Chetwode Baily." The window in the North wall next the pulpit—square-headed and of three lights—is also by Clayton and Bell. Left light, Sts. Chrysostomus; middle light, Sts. Augustinus; right light, Sts. Paulus. "Given by William Barwick Cregoe-Colmore, 1883." That in the North Chancel wall over Credence, also Clayton and Bell's work, is that of the patron saint, S. Lawrence, given by lady friends; it is of late pointed design.



BRADWELL CHURCH, AFTER REPARATION. S.E. VIEW.

The photographs, which explain my plan, are kindly lent to me for illustrating these remarks by Messrs. H. Kemp and Sons, of Stantonbury, who have carried out the works of this last reparation and addition with so much zeal, patience, and care. The Lectern, of

oak, from a design of the late Sir G. G. Scott, was a gift to the Church: it formerly belonged to S. Mary's Church, Wolverton, which was built from his designs. The South-Western window in the South Aisle, of pointed design, has glass by Clayton and Bell. Subject, "The Annunciation." "In memory of William Baily, died Oct. 22, 1802" (given by his great-great-grandson, Charles Chetwode Baily). All the other windows are filled with Powell's grisaille glass. Of the twelve windows shown on plan, eight are of pointed design, and four are square-headed. The pulpit, of Bath stone, is modern, by Walpole, who did the whole of the stonework in 1867-8.

The nail-head ornament forming hood-mould over the East window is composed of fragments of old work found in the former walling of the Chancel Arch during the process of its widening, to which reference has been made.

The bowl of the font is old, on a new base and step. The oak spiral cover was a gift commemorating the Diamond Jubilee of our late beloved Queen.

The piscina in the South Aisle is rude, but interesting.

The first restoration was in 1867-8, the last in 1903; in the former of these the benches and stalls, and new roofs throughout, were done, together with much of the work already described. Weldon stone was used in the new windows, and buttress dressings in the last-named works.

A roundel of old Ruby glass of great beauty found in one of the lights of the old work has been preserved and carefully introduced in a suitable position in one of the new windows.

These notes are contributed in the humble hope that the same loving care may be fostered in the guardians of our ancient Churches in necessitous cases where, as here, reparation rather than ultra-restoration has been found not only necessary but sufficient.

E. SWINFEN HARRIS, F.R.I.B.A.

*November, 1904.*