


Berkeley from Wallingford Castle in 1323, for which he was imprisoned at Pomfret. Soon after, however, he was set at liberty and "presented to the rectory of North Moreton" in 1347.

1371. He died 59 Edward III. "Seized of Swalefield."

The name of Beche still survives in this neighbourhood, in Beech-hill, the property of Mr. Henry Hunter, who is also the owner of the site of Beaumys. A slight indication of the mote is all that now remains of this ancient castle.

A Short Paper on the Parish of Warfield.

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N writing, at the request of your Secretary, a paper on some interesting points connected with my parish of Warfield, I must first apologize for the same not being as complete as I might wish, owing to my having only been myself a year and three-quarters in the parish, and therefore having hardly had time to find out all I could wish about its history, abounding as it does in points of archæological interest.

To begin at the Parish Church, dedicated to Michael and all Angels. It is an interesting structure, dating probably to the time of Stephen, and worked for some centuries from the monastery of Hurley-on-the-Thames, as is shown by a royal grant, made in the second year of King Edward VI., granting various tithes and endowments to the Parish Church of Warfield, then created a Vicarage; and giving the advowson thereof to one Richard Scycett, all in succession to the monastery of Hurley-on-the-Thames, then lately suppressed under King Henry VIII. Warfield Church was thoroughly restored in 1876 by the great church architect, Street, whose skill, in conjunction with the efforts of the then Vicar, the Rev. F. T. Gill, has produced a work alike striking and reverend. The great chancel, of unusual length, with a carved screen, all in white chalk stone, is very beautiful, while some of the glass is dated by its own pattern as early as the 14th century. There is also a very

finely carved rood loft, now across the entrance to the Braybrook Chapel, or "Catherine Chancel" as it is described in old documents, but no doubt originally crossing the main chancel arch. Adjoining the church, in the churchyard, is a long brick and timber building, now used as a Sunday School Room and Vestry ; but once, without doubt, the Church House, in which the "Church ales" (records of which can still be seen in the old parish account books) and other similar gatherings were held.

In it is preserved a quaint old iron chest, having a most elaborate spring lock in the lid, in which 13 bolts shoot from one centre. In this are kept the parish records, so far as they remain. Most of the old registers were unfortunately burnt in 1830 or thereabouts, when the Vicarage was burnt down by accident, Mr. Furlong being then Vicar. There, however, remain some very curious old account books, one dating back as far as 1584, and in which mention is made of Church Ales, ringing the bells at the restoration in 1660, and on the return of King William the III. from Ireland. Parish deeds also are existent, dating back as far as the time of Queen Elizabeth.

The general history of the Parish seems to have been that of a district gradually recovered from Windsor Forest, at one time extending very much further than now. Pieces have been cut off from it bit by bit, as small towns sprung up on its borders.

The oldest family perhaps we can trace are the Stavertons, who, for many years were Lords of the Manor, and lived at Hailey Green in the parish, where their old Manor House, moated and partially timbered, is still standing as a farm house. Their property seems to have passed by marriage to the Braybrooks, the present Lords of the Manor ; the heiress of the last of their race having married a Neville in the 16th century. Tradition seems to point to this Parish having once been the site of a battle in times almost prehistoric. The name Warfield seems to give this a shade of probability, as also names in the Parish, as, for instance, Bott-Bridge, originally no doubt Battle Bridge. The character of the Parish now is purely agricultural, and it is distinguished for its fine timber, especially elms, which, near the Church, are of great size and beauty.

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