



## A Tour through Buckinghamshire.

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*Continued from Vol. 8, page 24.*

**T**HERE are two interesting places N.W. of Leighton. Two miles is *Liscombe House*, the property of the Lovett family since the time of Edward II. The house is built round a quadrangle, in which is a very large yew tree. On the South side is the chantry chapel of the Liscombes, of the date of Richard II. The remainder of the buildings are of the date of Elizabeth and James I., and a modern North front has been added. This portion has battlements. The Eastern part is gabled. The house is rich in portraits, among which are those of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk; Sir Edward Montague, L.C.J.; Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough; Sir Edmund Verney, the Standard Bearer, and his wife; Titus Oates; Archbishop Sancroft; Wentworth, Earl of Strafford; Nell Gwynne; Hugo Grotius; and John Russell, I. Earl of Bedford; besides many of the Lovett family. There is a view of Liscombe House, before alteration, in the housekeeper's room, and one of Doddenhall, the home of the Piggotts (q.v.).

Liscombe is in the parish of SOULBURY, and the village is N. of the park. The Church (All Saints, register 1676) is Dec. with Perp. alterations and additions. There is a tower 56 feet in height, in which are six bells, two of them being of an early date and dedicated to St. Martin and St. Margaret respectively. The Church was restored under the direction of G. E. Street, R.A., in 1863. The Dec. chancel is filled with monuments of the family of Lovett, whose vault is at the E. end of the chancel. In the E. window may be seen the Lovett arms, three wolves passant, William Lovett having been appointed by the Conqueror Master of the Wolf-hounds in England.

There is a brass to the memory of Thomas Lovett, of Astwell

Manor, Northamptonshire, d. 1492, who was Privy Councillor to Edward IV. This brass was moved from the Turville Chapel in Biddlesdon Abbey (q.v.). It is of later date than the time of Thomas Lovett. On the brass appear the earlier arms of the Lovetts, three boars' heads. The Lovetts succeeded the Turvilles by marriage. It may be seen by the monuments that the Lovetts inter-married with many of the families in the neighbourhood.

The chancel windows should be noticed, especially the Dec. low side windows. There is a long squint on the S. side.

At CHELMSCOTT, E. of Soulbury and near the railway, are the remains of another private chapel, built in 1343 by licence from the Bishop of Lincoln. It is now incorporated into a farm house. At the west end are buttresses, and at the east end, in the interior, are openings which were probably squints. The house has disappeared, but the moat may be traced.

Three miles W. of Liscombe Park is STEWKLEY, which is chiefly remarkable for its splendid Norman Church, (St. Mary, register 1545), the rival of Iffley Church, near Oxford, in richness of ornament. Both Churches were given to Kenilworth Priory in 1170, and Stewkley Church may have been built about 100 years earlier.

The building of the whole Church was carried out at one time, and it has been but little altered, or what alterations had been made have been since replaced, e.g., at the restoration under G. E. Street, R.A., in 1862, the roofs which had been lowered in 1684 were restored to their original height.

The Church consists of chancel, central tower, and nave. The proportions, four squares, two for the nave, one for the tower, and one for the chancel, are as usual in churches of this period. The windows are all ornamented. The E. window, though it has three arches, has only one light. The W. end is also a triple arcade. The arcade round the top of the tower is almost transitional. In the interior a double indented moulding goes round the whole of the Church, breaking only at the responds of the tower arches. The W. sides of the tower arches are very richly decorated with double zigzags, and beak heads, masks, and other devices. The whole of the windows are ornamented on the inside in much the same manner.

The alabaster figures in the N. wall of the chancel were found beneath the tower at the restoration, together with a coffin lid bearing a foliated cross. The early font should be noticed.

There is a modern Church (Holy Trinity) at the S. end of the parish, and at Littlecot, a hamlet two miles W., there was once a Chapel (St. Giles).

Two miles N. of Stewkley is DRAYTON PARSLow. The Church (Holy Trinity, register 1560) was restored in 1863. It is a small aisleless building with a Dec. chancel. In the windows are remains of ancient stained glass. The font has on it shields with arms.

The railway, after passing Leighton, runs through a short tunnel, and passes (E.) Linslade and (W.) Soulbury.

Three miles further, close to the line on the E. side, is STOKe HAMMOND. The little Church (St. Luke, register 1537) is cruciform. The chancel is Dec. The Church was restored 1896. There are some of the old seats, and the altar table is dated 1619.

We are now in the neighbourhood once explored by Browne Willis, and we come across traces of him. He made a copy of the Rectors of Stoke Hammond from the Lincoln Registry, which has been inserted in the parish register.

Three miles further N. Bletchley Junction is reached. Here railways branch off, E. to Bedford and Cambridge, and W. to Buckingham and Oxford.

BLETCHLEY Village is one mile W. of the station. The Church (St. Mary, register 1665, restored 1868) is chiefly Perp., but it has a transitional S. doorway, and an early English N. doorway. On the S. side of the nave are circular clerestory windows, which must have once been above a low side-aisle.

On the N. side of the chancel is the tomb of Lord Grey de Wilton, of Water Eaton Hall, d. 1442, with a fine alabaster effigy. Above hangs a processional helmet. On the N. wall of the chancel is a brass to Thomas Sparke, Rector, d. 1610, with his portrait well engraved, probably by Haydock. There are also portraits in white, on black marble, to Edward Taylor and Faith, his wife.

In the N. chantry chapel is a raised altar tomb to the wife of Dr. Browne Willis, the antiquary, of Whadden Hall, which is two miles W. She died 1724. There is also a slab to Dr. Willis's Father and Mother.

Browne Willis repaired the Grey monument, and made some additions to the tower, and re-cast the bells. He also re-decorated the interior of the Church in 1711, according to the taste of the period, at a cost of £1,346. His work, however, was not very happy, for he had Lord Grey's effigy re-cut by Weston, the statuary

mason, and the interior decorations were classical in design. None of them are now left, with the exception of the paintings on the ceiling, which represent the Twelve Apostles and other designs. Browne Willis also made a solemn request to future Rectors of Bletchley that they should preach on the Dedication Festival of the Church (September 8th, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin) on the subject of the parochial wake or feast.

Martin Benson, Bishop of Gloucester, who ordained Whitfield, was Rector of Bletchley 1728. Browne Willis presented his fellow antiquary, William Cole, to the Rectory in 1753.

The house of the Greys of Wilton was at *Water Eaton*, two miles E. They had another at *Water Hall*. Browne Willis also built, and lived in, a house at Water Eaton, which has been pulled down.

The Manor of Water Eaton was held by the service of keeping a falcon ready for the King's use, and towards the expenses the Lord of the Manor was allowed, on the day that he carried it to Court, a horse with equipment, the royal table with its trestles and cloth, and all vessels used on it that day, besides a cask of wine, of which the King was to have the first taste.

The Manor of Water Hall was held by the service of finding for the King a man on a saddleless horse, a bow without a string, and an arrow without a head.

The Greys of Wilton held these Manors, together with that of Bletchley, for 400 years, until the attainder of Thomas, Lord de Grey, in 1603.

Dr. Willis, of Whaddon Hall, the grandfather of Browne Willis, purchased these Manors about 1674.

FENNY STRATFORD, one mile E. of Bletchley station, is a growing place situated on the Watling Street, where it crosses the Ousel. It was partly in the parish of Bletchley and partly in that of Sympton, and was a chapelry of the former.

Some place here the Roman station of Magioventum.

Fenny Stratford, the street at the ford, had once a number of inns, as it was on a great coaching road. One of these, *the Bull*, occupies the site of the house of a Brotherhood, or Guild of St. Katharine, founded by Roger and John Hobbes.

Fenny Stratford has been a market town from time immemorial, and in 1269 John de Grey procured for it the grant of a fair to last seven days at the Festival of the Nativity, B.V.M. In 1609 a

charter added additional fairs ; but during the Civil Wars the market was discontinued. In 1665, 139 persons died of the plague, the inns were shut up, and the road was diverted.

The Chapel of St. Martin was built in 1730, chiefly by the efforts of Browne Willis, in the place of that of St. Margaret, which had fallen into ruins in the time of Elizabeth. The Chapel built by Browne Willis now forms the N. aisle of a modern Church. Its ceiling is decorated with the arms of the various contributors to its erection, in 40 compartments. Browne Willis was buried in this Chapel in 1760, and a slab with an inscription drawn up by himself is placed above his grave. St. Martin had been chosen, so he tells us, for the dedication because his father died on St. Martin's Day in St. Martin's Lane. Browne Willis ordered a sermon to be preached annually on St. Martin's Day in commemoration of the dedication. In the afternoon there is a dinner at the Bull Inn, and salvoes are also fired off from six curious little cannon, called *the Penny Poppers*.

There is a station on the Bedford branch railway, in the town.

S. of Fenny Stratford are the three villages of Brickhill.

LITTLE BRICKHILL is on the Watling Street, three miles S., on a hill. This was once a place of some importance. It had a market granted in 1228, and the Assizes for the county were held here in the time of Elizabeth and James I. The last Assizes were in 1638. The names of 42 criminals, most of whom were executed on the heath E. of the town, are in the parish register between the years 1561 and 1620. Other entries record the burials of "Cecily Rivers, burned in 1596," "Agnes Potter, of Dunstable, wounded at the battle of Edgehill," and of a soldier in the King's army killed by the Parliamentarians, August 27th, 1644. In the days of *the road* Brickhill was a stage, and twenty coaches passed through daily, and there were eleven inns. One of these inns still stands on the W. side of the street, and the house nearly opposite, though new fronted, is the building in which the Assizes were held.

The Church (St. Mary Magdalene), which stands above the street, is chiefly Decorated. A chantry chapel on the N. side was pulled down by Browne Willis, who tried his hand at tinkering this Church. The chancel was re-built in 1864, when the whole Church was restored.

In the S. chapel, now the vestry, is an inscription, on a brass, to Robert Seling, died 1687. There is also a painted inscription to William Benett, of Chester, who died 1658, on his way to London,

GREAT BRICKHILL is two miles W. of the high road, on a hill overlooking the Ousel valley.

The Church (St. Mary, register 1558) is of the Decorated style for the most part. There is a central tower which rests on remarkably thin walls, and in the chancel are two lancet windows, N. and S., which were discovered at the restoration under the direction of Mr. Christian in 1867.

Brickhill Manor was the residence of the families of Pauncefort and Duncombe, whose monuments are in the Church.

BOW BRICKHILL stands at the foot of the Woburn Hills, one and a half miles N.E. of the high road.

The village of white-washed cottages straggles up the sandy hill-side. There is a splendid view from the churchyard N. and W., but the plain little Church (All Saints, register 1633) has no points of interest, though it is one of those taken in hand by Browne Willis, and was repaired by him in 1757. It has since then been more judiciously restored.

#### SECTION V.—ROAD.—FENNY STRATFORD TO STONY STRATFORD.

The cyclist will no doubt wish to take a run along the perfectly straight switch-back Roman road which runs from Fenny Stratford to Stony Stratford, but he will not find much of interest on his way.

There are two villages exactly half-way, and lying in the usual Buckingham fashion, a little way from the high road. There is a group of houses with an old inn where the lanes to these villages branch off.

The one to the S. is SHENLEY. The Church (St. Mary, register 1653) is of mixed styles, and has a central tower. It contains a fine monument in the S. aisle to Thomas Stafford, died 1607, who founded almshouses in the parish. There are also monuments to the Ashfields, who were here in 1563, and to the Knapps, who succeeded them, in 1696.

The village to the N. is LOUGHTON. The Church (All Saints, register 1707) is chiefly Perp. There are monuments of the Crane and Athawes families, and a picture of the Supper at Emmaus, by Gongalles.

#### SECTION VI.—ROAD.—FENNY STRATFORD TO NEWPORT PAGNELL.

A much more interesting run from Fenny Stratford is down the

Ousel valley, a distance of about eight miles. We first reach—

Two miles N. of Fenny Stratford, SYMPSON, which is in part the Mother parish. Here is a cruciform Dec. Church (St. Thomas, register 1718), which contains some features of interest. There is an ancient font, and a Jacobean wainscot at the W. end. There are monuments of the Hanmer family, amongst them one by Bacon, R.A., 1783.

The tower forms the N. transept. The chancel was restored in 1873. In it is a brass to a former Rector. The windows and sedilia are good Dec. work.

One mile N. of Sympton is WALTON. The Church (St. Michael, register 1598) stands by itself in a meadow near the river. It is a Dec. aisleless building and contains some interesting monuments, amongst them that of Bartholomew Beale, died 1660, and Katharine his wife, the work of Thomas Burman, and erected 1672 by the sons of Bartholomew Beale. The medallion portraits are good. There is a monument to Sir Thomas Pinfold, of Walton Hall—which is near the Church,—Chancellor of St. Paul's, died 1701, with bust by Nollekins. Another monument is to Elizabeth Pine, died 1617.

The Dec. tracery in the windows is good.

One mile further down the valley is WUGHTON-IN-THE-GREEN, so called because there was once a large green of 26 acres in the centre of the village.

The Church (St. Mary, register 1580) is chiefly Perp., and has been much restored. The modern rood-screen replaces an ancient one, the stairs to which may be seen. In the chancel is an altar tomb, with effigy of an ecclesiastic.

One mile further are the contiguous villages of GREAT WOOLSTON and LITTLE WOOLSTON.

The Church at Great Woolston (register 1538) was re-built 1839; that at Little Woolston (register 1558), which stands near the river, has been restored, and the chancel has been re-built. Both churches are dedicated to the Holy Trinity.

Sister Dora (Miss Dorothy Pattison), well known for her work at Walsall in the Black Country, 1865-1868, began her public work as school mistress at Little Woolston in 1861.

Crossing the river at the mill, we reach by a footpath along which it is possible to lead a bicycle, MILTON KEYNES, one mile E. The full name is Middleton Keynes. The second name is that of the family who possessed the manor in early days. William de Keynes took King Stephen prisoner at the battle of Lincoln.

Dr. Lewis Atterbury, father of Dr. Francis Atterbury, Dean of Westminster and Bishop of Rochester, was Rector of Milton 1657-1693. Francis was, however, born at Willen, as his father resided there at the time, 1662. He was, however, baptised at Milton, and his childhood was passed there. His mother, Elizabeth, who was a daughter of Thomas Gifford, of North Crawley, is buried in the Church beneath a plain slab near the chancel door. Rector Lewis was a very litigious character, and returning from London, where he had been prosecuting a law-suit, was, in 1693, drowned in the swollen brook at the ford now crossed by a bridge, not far from his own house. He was buried in the Church, but there is no inscription to his memory.

The Rectory has been re-built, but there is in it a portrait of Rector Lewis.

The Church (All Saints, register 1559) is one of the most beautiful in this neighbourhood. It was built in the time of Edward III., and is a model of the Decorated work of that period. It has a tower on the N. side, and a N. aisle. The sedilia and piscina in the chancel, with detached shafts, and tracery in the heads of the arches, should be noticed. The S. porch is particularly fine.

One mile N. of Milton Keynes, on the other side of the brook where Lewis Atterbury met his death, is BROUGHTON, which also possesses an interesting aisleless Church (St. Laurence, register 1760), on the walls of which are painted several frescoes, which were discovered beneath the plaster in 1848. On the S. wall are St. Ethelreda, and St. Dunstan with his smith's tools below, and St. George and the Dragon. On the N. wall are the entombment, with the figure of our Lord represented as having one foot severed, and the Day of Judgment, with B. V. M. ransoming souls.

In the chancel are brasses to Agnes, wife of John de Broughton, 1399; John de Broughton, 1403; and to wife and children of Thomas Duncombe, 1655.

As regards the Church itself, the chancel is Early English, the nave Dec., and the tower Perp.

Two miles further down the valley is WILLEN, already mentioned as the birthplace of the famous Bishop, Francis Atterbury, exiled in 1728, after condemnation to death as a Jacobite conspirator.

Dr. Thomas Busby, the famous master of Westminster School, 1640-1695, purchased the manor and advowson of Willen from the daughters of Colonel Hammond in 1650, and about the year 1688



erected the present Church (St. Mary Magdalene, register 1665), which is in classical style. It is said that Sir Christopher Wren designed the building, which is a very interesting example of the architecture of the period. It was restored in 1862, when the apse was added. It is of red brick with stone dressings. The tower is very lofty for the size of the Church. The decorated moulded ceiling is handsome. The fittings are solid and good. The font and cover, in marble and oak, are capital examples.

The Vicarage house W. of the Church is probably of a little later date.

Dr. Busby's Trustees hold his estates in the parish, and the revenues are applied to the augmentation of small benefices.

Willen is two miles from Newport Pagnell.

## The Churchwardens' Accounts of the Parish of St. Mary, Thame.

Commencing in the year 1442.

*Transcribed by W. Patterson Ellis.*

*(Continued from page 30, Vol. 8.)*

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and wytekandul that wente to the krowne ...	ij <sup>d</sup>
Roberte smyght for skowryng of the dyscheys ...	iiij <sup>d</sup>