

reasonable inference is that the Scillings were the Saxon clan who settled themselves along this ridge of rising ground beside the river which was eventually included in Brightwell and Sotwell ; that these Scillings gave their name to the Scillings-brook, which possibly formed the western boundary of their settlement ; and that they gave their name also to the Scilling-ford from which in turn the hamlet across the river took its name afterwards.

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## **Baulking Church, Berks.**

*By W. H. Hallam.*

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**B**AULKING is one of those "queer, straggling, old-fashioned places ; the houses dropped down without the least regularity ; in nooks and corners, each with its patch of garden, and with a lot of waste ground by the side of the road amounting to a village green." Although close to Uffington Junction, which is really in Baulking parish, the hamlet seems to have secluded itself as much as possible from the high road, and has probably seen but little change in generations. Even the railway, which passes almost within a stone's throw of the Church, is happily carried in a deep cutting, out of sight and almost out of sound ; while the red brick railway bridge, by which you enter the hamlet, is an antiquity as railways go, having been constructed by Brunel when the line was made 66 years ago.

The Church, surrounded by its churchyard, stands in the midst of the village green and is still, with the exception of its three nave windows, practically the same as when its builders left it 700 years ago ; unspoilt by either enlargements or restorations and yet well cared for, inside and out.

St. Nicholas' Church consists simply of nave and chancel, is built in the Early English style of architecture and has a quite plain exterior. The east window is of three lancet lights of the usual design, and on the north and south sides of the chancel are two

windows in each wall, consisting of one long, narrow lancet. Between the nave and chancel, on the south side, a low flying buttress was built in 1889; this being the only addition the Church has ever received. In the south wall of the nave are two Decorated windows of two lights each, while in the north wall a Perpendicular window of three lights with cinque-foiled heads has replaced the original lancet windows. Opposite each other, towards the western end of the nave, is a similar doorway of the Tran. Norman style, quite plain. The original doors with their ironwork, which existed until lately, have been renewed. On the west apex is a handsome Decorated floriated gable cross.

Entering the Church, the partition between the chancel and nave presents a most uncommon, but pleasing appearance. A dividing wall is built across, as high as the walls only, and in this wall is constructed the original E.E. chancel arch. It has a small, low arch with plain shafts in the jambs terminating in moulded caps and bases. On the south of the arch is a squint of two lights, but the north, having to contain the rood loft stairway also, has a similar squint of one light only. The whole design gives the appearance, as was probably intended, of a stone chancel screen with the rood loft on the top of the wall. The rood loft stairs are on the chancel side of the arch, and are still perfect to the summit of the screen. The splays of the east windows inside are terminated by shafts, with mouldings on the caps and bases, the arches also are moulded. In the angle of the sill of the south-east window a piscina of unusual design is formed, the hood of which is supported by a small angle column with mouldings to the cap and base similar to the east window. The sill of the same window is continued low enough to form a seat. The roof of both nave and chancel is of early open timber work, but the nave has later tie beams added with suspended pinnacles in the centre of each. The pulpit is of carved oak of Jacobean date. The sloping sill of the Perpendicular window in the nave is sadly disfigured by the knives of Baulking youths, anxious to hand down to posterity their initials and date, chiefly of the 18th century; when it is to be feared most of the damage in our country churches was done.

On the north wall of the nave a large surface of ancient colouring is still visible, chiefly in black and red, and it is possible that the painting of this wall may have led to the insertion of the two Decorated windows opposite, for the purpose of admitting more light to give effect to the frescoes. Conspicuous in the painting is a

large panel surrounded by a cable pattern, but nearly destroyed by the erection of a mural tablet.

The only stained glass in the Church is in the south lancet window of the chancel, and representing our Lord crowning a figure, with the words "Be thou faithful unto death." It is quite modern as appears by the inscription "To the glory of God, and in memory of Julia C. B. Macphail, M.A., sometime Vicar of this parish, erected 1889.

The chancel has been repaved by modern encaustic tiles. The altar rail is also modern. Near the west end of the nave is the font, of contemporary date with the Church. It is of large octagonal shape, quite plain, and rests on a circular and plainly moulded base. In the vestry, which is formed at the extreme end of the nave, is preserved a large square block of stone with chamfered corners, which was formerly fixed against the wall under the east window. It is supposed to have formed part of the support of the original altar slab.

#### INSCRIPTIONS IN BAULKING CHURCH.

On south side of chancel :—On the outside of this chancel and opposite the middle window are interred the mortal remains of Ann Frances Josselyn, who entered into that rest which remaineth to the people of God, Sept. 17th, 1865, aged 91 years. She was the well beloved wife of the Rev. Francis Rose,\* A.M., D.D., J.P. for the counties of Bucks and Northampton, and Incumbent of Baulking cum Woolstone, who also departed this life May 4th, 1870, aged 77 years.

On the north wall of nave is a tablet adorned with cherub's heads and skulls bearing the following :—In Memory of Robert Grove, gent., who died May ye 30th, in the 36th year of his age, A.D. 1693, and left surviving, Margaret his wife, by whom he had 2 sons and 2 daughters, Robert and Margaret living at the time of his death, William and Ann died in their infancies. A super oval tablet bears : Though after my death worms destroy this body, yet in myself shall I see God, whom I shall see for myself, and myne eyes shall behold and see. The whole monument surmounted by Arms of Grove.

Another tablet, also on north wall of nave, has the arms of Champion and under :—Near this place lyeth the body of George Champion, gent., late of this village, who departed this life 25th

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\* This Dr. Rose, of Baulking, was the author of several poems, chiefly on local topics.

Sep. 1722, aged 60, and left Margery his beloved wife, by whom he had issue eight sons and four daughters, of which all survived him except two daughters, who died being young.

On the south wall of nave :—In memory of Robert Grove, gent., who died Feb. 22nd, 1758, aged 72 ; Elizabeth his wife, who died June 21st, 1763, aged 77 ; and Robert their son, who died July 5th, 1763, aged 45. Elizabeth Garrard and Ann Alexander their daughters, in testimony of their dutiful regard to their parents and of their affection to their brother, caused this monument to be erected. John, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Garrard of Wantage, and grandson of Mr. Robert Grove, died July 14th, 1793, aged 56 years.

Also on south wall :—Near this place lyeth the body of Mr. Thomas Champion, late of London, Vintner, who hath been a Benefactor to the poor of this place, and likewise left the Sacrament Plate\* to the Communion Table, he departed this life the 23rd of March, Anno Dom. 1723 $\frac{3}{4}$ , aged 34 years. This monument was erected at the expense of his widow.

On the floor of nave :—George Champion, gent., 1722 ; and Marjery Champion, Obijt 22nd August, 1725, Actatis Suæ 22.

On the floor between N. and S. doorways are the following five slabs of the Hyde family, one of the oldest of old Berkshire families, and said to have been settled in this district since the days of Canute :—(1) Here lyeth the body of Francis Hyde, Esq., of this place, who departed this life Apr. ye 28, in the year of our Lord 1745, aged 34 years ; (2) Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Hyde, the wife of Francis Hyde, Esq., of this place, who departed this life the — day of May, in the year of our Lord 1713, aged — years ; (3) Here lyeth the body of John Hyde, of Marlborough in the county of Wilts, Esq., who departed this life Sept. 25th, in the year of our Lord 1750, aged 55 years ; (4) Mary Hyde, widow of John Hyde, Esq., ob. Feb. 5, 1782, aged 70, Requiescat in Pace ; (5) Amelia Hyde, daughter of John and Charlotte Hyde, died 13th Sept., 1796, aged 12 years, Requiescat in Pace.

The churchyard contains no monuments of interest, and none of earlier date than 1869.

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\* This Sacrament Plate, still in use, is a handsome two-handled covered cup, weighing 63-ozs. 5-dwt., nearly a foot high, and inscribed : The gift of Thomas Champion, Vintner of London, 1723 $\frac{3}{4}$ .