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Notes on the Churches of East and West Hendred, Ardington and Lockinge.

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I HAVE selected as the subject of my annual lecture the Churches of East and West Hendred, Ardington and Lockinge. It is difficult to find a group of villages more beautifully situated and with more picturesque surroundings than the four above mentioned, "nestling in a secluded hollow in the chalk downs of Berkshire," some distance from the railways, and away from the main roads, and no pleasanter day's recreation can be suggested to the pedestrian than to find his way from Wantage, about five miles away, and starting from East Hendred and soon afterwards striking the course of the Ginge brook to follow it up through West Hendred and Ardington to its source at Lockinge, and thence back to Wantage. As, it is hoped, will be demonstrated, there is much of interest in all the Churches, and in the old timbered houses and other old-world features in these secluded communities, a continuous source of delight to those who possess an appreciative sense of the amenities around them.

Of East Hendred, or Henreth, as it was formerly called, much

has already been written. Mr. Treacher, in a valuable paper communicated to our Society, expressed his opinion that this was one of the earliest communities in the County, dating back far away to pre-historic times. In the "Antiquities of Berkshire," compiled by Elias Ashmole, mainly to preserve a record of the monuments, brasses and heraldic memorials existing in the Berkshire Churches, at the time he completed his survey towards the end of the 17th century, in addition to his special subject, a concise account of the history of the Manors, markets, and other parochial details is contributed. Lysons also, in the "Magna Britannia, Berkshire," published early in the 19th century, gives a similar account, and referring to the tradition that East Hendred was once a populous market town, points out that by a census taken at the instance of Cardinal Pole in 1555 there were then only 200 residents in the parish.

A full account of the parish and Church appears in Clarke's "Parochial Topography of the Hundred of Wanting." There is a view and description of the Church in the "Sketches of Churches" by H. E. Relton, and an account of the Church only in the "Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography of England" (Diocese of Oxford). Under the title of "An old Berkshire Village" a very excellent article from the pen of Mr. W. Money, F.S.A., was contributed to the "Newbury Weekly News," and on the occasion of a visit from our Society on June 26th, 1912, a descriptive paper was read by the then Rector, the Rev. Cecil Hope Gill, and has since been printed. In addition to these several authorities I have, by permission of Mr. H. W. Taunt, been enabled to examine two volumes of "Rough Notes for the History of East Hendred," collected with a view to their publication by Mr. H. W. Sowdon, an esteemed resident in the parish, who unfortunately passed away before he was able to carry out his intention. It is, however, to be hoped that these valuable notes may ere long be put into shape and published as an ample record of the past history of this important parish. With all these references already to hand, it is only right that only the most superficial account of the civil life of the village should here be attempted, and that our efforts may mainly be directed to a description of the architectural features of the Parish Church (Fig. 1).

It is interesting to note that the parish is situate in two of the County Hundreds, viz., Wantage and Reading, and its former importance is accentuated by the fact of its possessing no less than

five Manors. We find that the Abbey of Abingdon had two grants of three and ten hides of land respectively from King Edgar in 962 and 964.

Of the Manors, the Abbey Manor received its name from the fact of its having been bestowed by Henry I. on Reading Abbey, as part of the endowment of his new foundation. At the dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 it came back to the Crown, and in 1545 was granted to Henry Norris, Esq. From him it passed through various holders, till in 1622 it was purchased by William Eyston, Esq., the ancestor of the present owners of Hendred House, to whom it still belongs.

New College Manor was at an early period granted to the Priory of Littlemore, and on the dissolution of the Priory, to its present owner, New College, Oxford.

Frampton Manor was at an early date, with seven hides of land, in the possession of Frampton Priory in Dorsetshire, a cell to the Abbey of St. Stephen at Caen. After the dissolution of the alien Priories it got into the hands of John, Duke of Bedford, who bequeathed it to his heir, King Henry VI., by whom it was granted to the Dean and Canons of Windsor. They afterwards surrendered it to King Henry VIII., who granted it to John Winchcombe. It was sold by his grandson, and after passing through several hands was purchased by the late Lord Wantage, to whose family it still belongs.

The King's Manor, which belonged at the time of the Domesday survey to the Earl of Evreux, was granted to the Abbey of Noion in Normandy. When the possessions of these Norman Abbeys were sequestrated, it, with ten hides of land, was granted to the Carthusian Monastery of Jesus of Bethlehem at Sheen, in Surrey. King Henry V., by his charter in the third year of his reign, "granted to the monks for the benefit of this their manor a weekly market upon Tuesday, and two fairs yearly; the one called St. Augustine's fair, which began the 24th of May, two days before the festival, and lasted till the day after; the other was called St. Catherine's fair, and began the 23rd of November and continued till the 26th, the day after the festival." At the Reformation the Manor was again vested in the Crown, and remained in possession till sold recently by order of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Woods and Forests. The Stewardship of this Manor is alleged to be one of the sinecure offices given to a Member of Parliament to enable him to vacate his seat in the House of Commons.

The Manor of Arches is the only one which has always been in lay hands. At the Norman Survey it was held by Henry de Ferrers, and is stated to have belonged in 1171 to William Crossbecy, a member of a family we find recorded of a much later period in old glass at Milton Church, near Abingdon. The Turbervilles next appear, and Robert de Turberville held it under William Ferrers, Earl of Derby, in the reign of Henry III. Amicia, daughter and heir of Richard de Turberville, married William de Arches, whence is derived the name of the Manor. She was living in 1323. She made a grant to her son William of all her manors in East Hendred, with the advowson of the Chapel there. William, grandson of the second William, left an only daughter and heir, married to John Stowe, and Isabel his daughter and heir married William Eyston, "who thus acquired this property about the latter end of the reign of Henry VI." and from him it has descended in the direct male line to the present proprietor, a record for our County of Berkshire.

The Manor House is a picturesque building, and still retains some of the old portions, such as the hall, etc. It has, however, been much altered and renovated in recent times. Many interesting relics, especially those connected with Sir Thomas More, are preserved here. Adjoining the house on the south side is the ancient Chapel (Fig. 2) called the Chantry of St. Amand and St. John the Baptist. It was founded by Sir John Turberville, who obtained from Pope Alexander IVth in 1256 permission to build a free Chapel on his Manor at East Hendred. There is a good decorated window at the east end and two lancets on the south side. The initials of Hugh Faringdon, last Abbot of Reading, appear in a window on the north side. It is recorded that much damage was done to it by the soldiers of the Prince of Orange, who "defaced and plundered the chapel, broke the lamp, took away the sanctus bell, supped out of the chalice, and taking some of the Church stuffe with them to Oxford dressed up a mawkin in it, and set it up on the top of a bonfire." In the Chapel are preserved two stone sepulchral monuments (Fig. 3), dug up on the site of the chapel of Poughley Priory near Chaddleworth, and presented by the late Mr. Wroughton to the late Mr. Eyston. One is the half of a large coffin lid with cross, and inscription on it in small capital letters, HERONIMVS : ROB' : POR : I., and is supposed to commemorate Robert the first Prior. The second is a fine recumbent effigy of an ecclesiastic, richly vested, with crocketed canopy above the head. It is thought to be of late 15th century date, and when found

retained traces of the colouring with which it had formerly been embellished.

We have already referred to the fact that at the dissolution of alien Priors the Manor of Frampton was granted by Henry VI. to the Carthusian Priory of Sheen in Surrey. They established a cell, and their buildings, of which a gatehouse and some perpendicular windows remain, were erected on the left side of the road, which enters the village from the east. On the opposite side of the road stands the Chapel of Jesus of Bethlehem (Fig. 4), built by the Monks as a wayside Chapel. It is now known as Champs Chapel from a former tenant. We get the following concise description from Murray's Handbook for Berkshire: "It measures $25\frac{1}{2} \times 15\frac{1}{2}$; "the W. half is divided horizontally by a floor, but the E. half is "open to the roof, and separated by a screen. Two image brackets "and an aumbry remain; the E. window is of three lights, and "there are two-light Perp. S.E. and N.E. windows. The latter can "be seen in the bedroom of a later cottage built against the chapel "on the N. On the N.W. is an extension of the priest's accommodation with some Perp. woodwork, and a much weathered barge-board." There is a west doorway (Fig. 5) with four-centred arch with a hollow and small angle roll, a two-light square headed window above and a small single light in the gable. In the south wall is a blocked-up oblong opening (Fig. 6). The east window is a good specimen of Perpendicular work with undercut label. The Chapel is built of stone and no doubt dates from the latter half of the 15th century. It was desecrated with the Priory at the Reformation and has since been degraded to the most menial secular uses. The structure, however, is still in sound condition. The cottage attached to it, a brick and timber edifice, is also derelict. It was probably built soon after the desecration of the Chapel.

The Parish Church (Fig. 7) with the advowson and tithes got into the possession of Abingdon Abbey at an early date, and it is interesting to note that two of the Abbots were natives of East Hendred, viz., Robert de Henreth, 1223 to 1238, and Richard de Henreth, 1262 to 1289. The Church (Fig. 8) is dedicated to St. Augustine, one of the two churches in the diocese (the other being at Westbury in Buckinghamshire) which bear the honoured name of our great Missionary Saint. It is a large and imposing edifice, its extreme length being given as $107\frac{1}{2}$ feet, the breadth across nave and aisles being 52 feet. It consists of a west tower, nave, aisles, extra south aisle, transepts, chancel and south chapel. It has been described as

disappointing, as no doubt the hand of the restorer has been heavy, and much unnecessary renovation appears to have been carried out. We fortunately have a description of the Church by Clarke, Relton, and Parker, as it appeared to them before the drastic changes which characterised the Restoration of 1860 were carried out. Of the Church which must have existed in Norman times nothing now remains, and the earliest portion of the present structure is the nave, with its early English arcades, probably dating from the early years of the 13th century. The Chancel, transepts and clerestory of the nave are of the late Decorated period of the middle of the fourteenth century, while the fine west tower and some of the roofs are good examples of the Perpendicular period. The Eyston Chapel on the south side of the Chancel, with its screen is a later addition of about the year 1500. The extra south aisle, rood screen, and other details, belong to the 1860 restoration. This was unfortunately a very drastic process, and much unnecessary renovation was introduced, while a considerable amount of the old furniture, screen, pews, etc., was removed. These will be duly referred to as we make our perambulation of the Church.

Taking up our position in the interior of the Chancel (Fig. 9), we notice that the east window is a modern and rather poor insertion in the Decorated style. It is of three lights, and no doubt was intended to be a copy of the window taken out at the 1860 restoration, and alleged by Mr. Sowdon to have been conveyed to Abingdon, and set up by the late Mr. Trendell on the site of the Abbey. The south chancel window is also new, square headed in the late Decorated style. Within the sill is a plain sedile divided into two seats with a central and side elbows. To the east of this is a very beautiful piscina (Fig. 10) with acutely pointed arched canopy, enclosing an ogee headed arch with cinquefoiled fringe; there is a stone shelf, and projecting stone basin octagonal on plan. There is a modern organ chamber on the north side. The eastern portion of the chancel roof is panelled, with roses, etc., on the panels. The western part is high pitched and open, and alleged to be the original one dating from the late Decorated period. On the south side is the Eyston Chapel, opening to the Chancel with two low four centred arches having two fluted orders, supported on a central pier with engaged shaft attached to each cardinal face, and large well moulded capitals. The arches rest east and west on semi-octagonal responds and capitals. The chancel arch has been destroyed, but the piers still remain in the north and south walls. The chancel

screen dates from the 1860 restoration. Mr. Sowdon states that it was substituted for the old screen, which was of considerable merit and similar in design to that dividing the Eyston Chapel from the south aisle. Mr. Gill informs us that "prior to the restoration there was a carved oak screen, with a plastered wall above it, on which were hung the usual boards with the Creed, Lord's Prayer and Decalogue upon them, and also the Royal Arms, all of which were removed." In the article on the Church in Relton's Sketches of Churches, written by the then Rector, the Rev. C. Whapshare, we find the following: "The Chancel is divided from the nave by an ugly wooden screen, painted blue." It is not mentioned at all in the Ecclesiastical Topography, so probably was not of much artistic value. It is said that portions of it are incorporated in the present Chancel stalls.

The Eyston Chapel is of late Perpendicular date, circ. 1500, and is, as its name implies, the private property, and for over 400 years the burial place of the Eyston family. The east window (Fig. 11) is of three lights, square headed late Perpendicular. There are some fragments of old glass, part of a shield, with the Royal Arms, az. three fleurs de lis or, and inscription Dieu et mon Droit, also small remains in the head. On the south side are two three-light windows also square headed. In the western one are some fragments of old glass in the head, and part of the canopy of the central light in yellow and white. In the south wall is a small piscina with plain arch and projecting basin. The roof is low pitched with embattled wall plate of the same date. The Chapel is full of memorials of the Eyston family. The earliest and most interesting is a black marble slab on the floor near the north wall. It has the brass effigies of a knight and lady, he in the armour, and she in the costume of the time, and below them are small figures of four sons and one daughter. Above are two shields. On the first Eyston, three lions ramp. guard 2 and 1 quartering, (2) a chevron between three crows (Stowe), (3) three Arches (De Arches) and (4) a lion ramp. (Turbeville). The second has the same arms impaling Berington, three dogs passant in pale, with a crescent for difference. The tinctures are not shown. There is the following inscription below:—

Eystonus gelida jacet hac sub mole Joannis
Spes miserum, generis gratia, plebis amor.
Nec tamen hic totus, sola hic sunt ossa, petivit
Mens cælum, mundum gloria, corpus humum.

Jana Buringtonia de stirpe creata remansit
 Spe viduata, suo jam viduata viro.
 Natos tres vivos natam solamq reliquit
 Conjugis hoc conjux pignus amantis habet.
 Hujus ad exemplum bene vivere discito (lector)
 Et bene si disces vivere, disce mori.

He deceased the 3 day of March, 1589, anno ætatis 58.

Ashmole, who loved to give a poetical translation to these Latin inscriptions, allows himself great latitude in this instance, and is more flowery than accurate in his rendering. There are black marble slabs to William Eyston and William his grandson, and white marble memorials to Charles Eyston, Mary, wife of Robert Eyston and daughter of William Hildesley, George Eyston, and Anne, wife of George Eyston, the last-named with very long and laudatory epitaph. There are also ledger stones to Benedict Winchcombe of Cheame, to Mrs. Anne Sherwood, and others. All the inscriptions are fully set out in Clarke's "History of Wanting," and the earlier ones in Ashmole's "Antiquities of Berkshire." There is no arch between the Chapel and south aisle, but a good screen (Fig. 12) separates this portion of the Church. It has the coved canopy with embattled cornice remaining. There are two open compartments to the upper part of each of the doors, and four more on either side, all with tracery in the head. The lower panels have good tracery in the head of each compartment. The screen is of the late Perpendicular period. The nave arcade (Fig. 13) consists of four lofty arches on each side, the eastern one formerly opening into a transept. The arches have one chamfered order, and those on south have a continuous chamfered hoodmould on heads above the columns both on the nave and aisle sides (Fig. 14). Many of the heads have been renewed. On the north side is a continuous half-round hoodmould, also on heads. The arches are supported on cylindrical columns with round undercut abacus, and capitals enriched with very bold and varied stiff-leaved or conventional foliage (Figs. 15, 16, 17). Unfortunately some of these have been renewed. The east and west responds are semi-octagonal with grooved and chamfered abacus. Parker considers these arches to be of transitional Norman date, but the very rich conventional foliage can hardly be earlier than the beginning of the 13th century, to which date they may be assigned.

A considerable amount of church building must have been going on in Berkshire at this time, and we find other fine examples of

these capitals with the bold conventional foliage in the Churches of Harwell, Hagbourne, Steventon, North Moreton, Long Wittenham and Ardington, and possibly the same influence was available to supervise this special work of the masons in these several Churches. Above the arches are clerestory openings with cinquefoiled lights within spherical triangles. They are in the late Decorated style, but are much renewed. The nave roof is high pitched with tie beams and kingposts. The eastern bay above the rood loft is panelled; on one boss is a Catherine wheel. This is of the Perpendicular period, the main roof dating from the 14th century. The north aisle is very narrow, and with the exception of the window unaltered since it was built in the early 13th century. The extra south aisle was built in 1861, the original south aisle (Fig. 18) having been widened at this time, and a semi-circular arched founder's tomb in the south wall destroyed. There are no arches between it and the south aisle, but three lofty octagonal pillars, of which the east is said to be old, support the roofs, without any intervening wall space. The east bay was formerly the transept on this side. The windows of the transepts and aisles are all renewed in the Decorated style. The north transept projects slightly to the north of the north aisle wall. Lying loose on the floor is part of a small stone figure with the head and feet gone. It has a single tunic down to the knees, the right arm, hand gone, raised, the left, with very large hand, pointing downwards. On the floor is a brass to two civilians. Only the indent of one remains. The other represents a merchant standing on a mound, bareheaded, with long tunic, and hands clasped on the breast. There are two shields above, each with very interesting merchant's mark and initials, on that on south H.E., and on that on north R.E. There have been two more shields below, but only one with the same merchant's mark remains. There is the following inscription below the figures :—

“ Hic jacent henricus Eldysley & Rogerus Eldysley
frater eius qd̄m M̄catores isti' ville.
qui qd̄m Rogerus obiit xxvii^o die mens Augusti
a d̄m̄o mcccc^o xxxix^o q̄r aīabs ppiciet' deus Ām̄e.”

In Ashmole's time both figures were there. He calls them two monks. On the east wall is set up another inscription in brass, as follows :—

“ Hic jacet Will̄ms Whitwey pannaru' et lanari'
qui obiit xxv die mensis
Septembris anno d̄m̄ millm̄o cccc^o lxxix^o Cuius
aīe propiciet' de' ām̄e.”

Ashmole, who does not give the inscription accurately, translates this as "clothier and woollen draper." Whitwey was doubtless one of the woolstaplers or woolmen who were doing such a flourishing trade in the counties of Gloucester, Berks and Oxon during the later 15th and early 16th centuries. These brasses were removed from the Chancel. Here is preserved the wooden lectern (Fig. 19), one of the earliest and most interesting examples of a reading desk we have remaining in England. It has a plain sloping book-rest with projection carved with three leaves on a stem on one side and single leaf on the other below, supported on a shaft with small projecting shelf having a triple leaf on one side, and single leaf on the other, about half-way down. The lower part, ornamented with a shallow trefoiled arch, rests on a mailed foot, which stands on a triple base, having on each portion a recumbent monster animal. The date of this is probably as early as the 13th century. It is singular that no mention is made of it either by Parker, Clarke, Relton, or Mr. W. Money, though it is undoubtedly the most remarkable feature in the Church. Built into the wall of the new organ chamber is the recess for the north transept altar and the old altar stone. The pulpit (Fig. 20) is good Jacobean with richly carved sounding board, and a head in the centre of the main part, alleged to represent King Charles I. The hour glass is also preserved. Mr. Gill informs us that the "Fine Jacobean pulpit was restored last year (1911). It "was probably placed in the Church after the Restoration of the "Monarchy in 1660 to commemorate the martyrdom of King "Charles I., a carved portrait of whose head appears in one of the "front panels. King Charles I., it may be added, was once patron "of the living, which is now in the gift of the Bishop of Oxford. "The elaborately carved sounding board and its supporting back "panels were removed at the Restoration (1860). The original "back panels disappeared, but the sounding board was subsequently "rescued from a stable-loft. A photograph of the original was "fortunately preserved, and the pulpit now reappears in its original "shape, with hour glass and all complete."

It is gratifying to note the trouble taken to restore this pulpit. The date here suggested for it seems to be too late. The font (Fig. 21) has a plain massive octagonal bowl on modern stem, and is probably of the same date as the nave arcade. It has a modern cover, the old Jacobean cover having been removed at the time of the unfortunate 1860 restoration. The tower arch (Fig. 22) is fine late Perpendicular, with two fluted orders continued down the jambs without imposts to the ground, and an inner fluted order supported on semi-octagonal responds and capitals. The west

window is good Perpendicular of four lights. There is one small fragment of old glass with a head crowned with the papal tiara.

There are six bells of the following weights and descriptions :—

The tenor, 22 cwt. "Samuel Knight made mee Gabriel my name to bee. 1689. W. R. J. S."

The 5th, 19 cwt. "Revd. C. Wapshare, Rector, Revd. E. Hussey, Curate, W. Allin C. Robey Churchwardens. W. Taylor, Oxford, fecit 1853."

The 4th, 14 cwt. "Sancta Anna Ora pro Nobis." [This is a pre-Reformation bell.]

The 3rd, 12 cwt. "Fear God. 1647."

The 2nd, 10 cwt. "Thomas Ellaway and John Clement Churchwardens. J. Bagley. 1746."

The 1st, 7½ cwt. "Ellis and Henry Knight made mee. 1674."

The clock is most interesting, and probably one of the oldest in England. "It bears the name of its maker and date upon it—"John Seymour, Wantage, 1525." It retains its original driving wheel, with the cogs cut out of the solid. There is also another "wooden wheel belonging to a yet older clock, now used for the "chiming apparatus." (Hope Gill).

On the exterior of the Church there is not much of interest to note, with the exception of the fine west tower, as the hand of the restorer has been exceptionally heavy. The north doorway retains portions of the old work and is of the Decorated period, with a small roll moulding on the hoodmould, two orders to arch and jambs, the outer fluted, the inner, with fillet band. On the interior side the arch is segmental-headed, almost semi-circular. The north window of the north transept may also be partly old, late Decorated, of the same flamboyant style as the beautiful east window at West Hendred. It is of three lights with a vesica enclosing an eight-foil in the head, and a half oval on either side, and two small quatrefoils between these and the main lights, all enclosed within elegant curvilinear tracery. The windows of the Eyston Chapel have all square undercut labels. The south doorway and all the windows not otherwise mentioned are new. The nave roof retains its old lead covering.

The tower (Fig. 23) is very good Perpendicular of the same type as that at Blewbury. It has an open parapet of quatrefoils and pinnacles at the angles, and is divided into three stages. The belfry windows are of two lights with a hoodmould terminating on heads. There is a single trefoiled light on middle stage west and south. To the main west window is an undercut label and fluted containing arch. The west doorway is segmental-headed with plain

spandrels and square head with label terminating on crozier heads enclosing roses. There are graduated angle buttresses carried up to the top of the middle stage. Those on north-east and south-east are within the aisles. There is a sundial with date 1789 on the south side. There are numerous square holes in the tower walls, and Mr. Money suggests these were left for the purpose of allowing freer egress for the sound of the bells, but it seems more probable that they are the putlog holes, where the scaffolding was fixed in during the building of the tower, and for some reason or other were never filled in. Similar holes exist on various portions of the walls of North Moreton Church, which could have had no connection with the sound of the bells. A few of the old buttresses remain supporting the Chancel, south Chapel and north aisle. The Church is built of stone with the exception of the Eyston Chapel, which is constructed of flint and ashlar.

Much more might be written about this delightful village and parish, which possess considerable antiquarian and historical interest, and about the distinguished men once connected with it, as for instance Chichele, the famous Archbishop of Canterbury, who was Rector here, but this is rather outside the scope of this paper, and it behoves us to pass on to our description of West Hendred, situate about half-a-mile to the west of its more important neighbour. This is also a very pretty and secluded village, and has the advantage, from our point of view, of possessing a beautiful Church (Fig. 24), which has not been spoiled by undue restoration.

In Domesday Book it is called Henret, and we learn at that time that there were two Manors, the more important one comprising about two-thirds of the parish and the Church. This was in the possession of the great Abbey of St. Albans in Hertfordshire, and was held by the monastery till Richard de Wallingford, who was Abbot from 1326—1334, presented it to the Priory of Wallingford, which had been a cell to the Abbey of St. Albans since the time of Paul de Caen, the first Norman Abbot. It continued in the possession of the Priory till its dissolution in 1535, and in the following year was granted to the President and scholars of Corpus Christi College in Oxford, in which Society it is still vested.

The history of the other Manor is also interesting. It belonged in early times to the de Hendred family, and Clarke informs us that in the reign of King John Richard de Hendred held it "by grand serjeanty by the service of buying the King's ale. It was worth 100 shillings per annum." After passing through two other owners, it was acquired by William de Spersholt in 1272. He was the first of a distinguished line to settle here, and their residence was called

Spersholt's Court, a fine mansion which was pulled down in 1721. Nicholas de Spersholt was Sheriff of Berks and Oxon in 1300 and the six following years, Sir William de Spersholt in 1335 and 1337, and Edmund de Spersholt in 1396. The said William Spersholt was one of the Knights of the Shire in 1328 and several succeeding Parliaments, and Edmund represented the County on different occasions during the reigns of Richard II., Henry IV. and V. Since his time there have been several owners, amongst others the Wisemans, who were also connected with Steventon. Clarke informs us that since 1728 the Manor had "undergone several "alienations and the lands have been sold piecemeal." Lady Wantage is now the owner of this part of the parish and lady of the Manor. Adjoining Spersholt's Court was a Chapel "33 feet in "length and 25 in breadth. Long before it was destroyed it had "been desecrated and converted into a pigeon-house." The hamlet of East Ginge in this parish was always held in two moieties, and the various owners are duly recorded in Clarke's "Hundred of Wanting." It is now the property of Lady Wantage, who is lady of the Manor.

The Church of West Hendred (Fig. 25), dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is full of interest, and has fortunately escaped the evils of over-restoration. It consists of a west tower, nave, aisles, south porch and chancel, and is almost entirely of the late Decorated period, circ 1330—1350, some of the windows in the south aisle, and the south porch, being insertions and additions of the 15th century. The full length of the Church is 84 feet, and the breadth across the aisles 38½ feet. Starting as usual in the interior of the Chancel (Fig. 26) we are filled with admiration at the beautiful windows, excellent specimens of the later Decorated period. The east window (Fig. 27) is of three lights with the quarter round on the hoodmould, and chamfered edge to the containing arch. The three main lower lights have cinquefoiled heads, and above are three richly cusped vesica-shaped compartments, two and one, and similar cusping to the two tracery lights on each side filling up the arch. In the upper lights are considerable remains of old glass, viz., leaves in yellow outlined in black on a white ground. There are some yellow rayed stars, and a blazing star white on a black ground. In the head of the main central light (Fig. 28) is part of the red bordering, and a head of our Lord with yellow hair and red and yellow nimbus. On north (Fig. 29) and south of Chancel is a two-light window, similar in style, and of the same date as the east window. They have chamfered containing arch, and trefoiled heads to the main lights. Above is a cusped vesica-shaped compartment,

with small cusped panels filling up the arch on either side. On the splay of that on north is some blue colouring. In the heads is some of the old glass, viz., running foliage in black on a white ground. In the usual place in the south wall is a beautiful piscina (Fig. 30) with triangular-headed containing arch, and trefoiled ogee-headed canopy and stone shelf. The basin has been destroyed. On the floor are numerous encaustic tiles (Fig. 31) with varied patterns, circles enclosing beaded circles, circles enclosing four-leaved roses and fleurs-de-lis, etc. The Communion rails, with well-carved baluster shafts, are Jacobean. In the south wall near the west end is a two-light square-headed window, with a cinquefoil in the head and a segmental-headed containing arch. Facing this on the north side is a single trefoil-headed lancet with segmental head. Both these windows are of the late Decorated period. On the north side is a small doorway segmental-headed with chamfered arch and jambs. There is also a plain south doorway. The Chancel roof is new.

The Chancel arch is of the same late Decorated period with two chamfered orders supported on well-moulded abacus and capitals, and semi-octagonal responds. There are three late Decorated arches between the nave and aisles with two chamfered orders on low octagonal columns and semi-octagonal responds with well-moulded capitals. Numerous encaustic tiles of the same pattern as those in the Chancel remain on the nave floor. The roof is under-drawn and plastered over, but the tie-beams still remain. The pulpit and reading desk (Fig. 32) are Jacobean with good panelling. The windows in the north aisle, one in the east and two in the north wall, are all square-headed of two lights. On the south side of the east window in the east wall is a bracket for image, and there is another bracket in the north wall near the east end. In the east window are some fragments of ancient glass, yellow foliage on a white ground. In the east on north window (Fig. 33) is some richly coloured glass with red and yellow foliage in the small upper compartments. In the upper trefoils of the main lights is a chain of white censers or thuribles strung together on a yellow ground. In the west on north window (Fig. 34) in the head of each main light are the initials E. and S. crowned; the letters are in white and the crowns yellow on a diapered ground. They commemorate Edmund Spersholt, who was no doubt a benefactor to the Church. Between the initials in the eastern light is the stem of a chalice, the upper part broken away. There is a walled-up north doorway with segmental-headed arch. At the west end of the aisle are some old benches (Fig. 35). One has good panelling and a beautifully carved

sixfoil within a circle on the upper part. There is also some Jacobean woodwork (Fig. 36). In the south aisle the east window (Fig. 37) is of two lights square-headed Perpendicular with cinquefoiled heads to the main lights, and four small upper compartments. These contain in old glass, much mutilated and blurred, the emblems of the four Evangelists, with their names on scrolls above. St. Mark is on the north, then St. Matthew, Luke and John. The last-named, with his eagle, is in the best state of preservation. On either side of the window is a large image bracket. On the south side are two two-light windows with rich cusped quatrefoil in the head, very good, of early 15th century date. Clarke informs us that in Ashmole's time in one of these windows were the arms of Spersholt, argent three lions passant in bend or between two double cotises azure, with the letters E S surmounted by a crown, and underneath the name : Edmundus Speresholt. In the south wall is a plain piscina with four-centred arch and stone bracket at the back of the late Perpendicular period. There are some old pews at the west end. The font (Fig. 38) has large plain octagonal bowl on solid stem and base. It has a wooden pyramidal cover, with good carving round the lower part, and date A.D. 1630 and initials I P ★ T S. The tower arch (Fig. 39) is decorated with two fluted orders dying into the jambs. The west window is Decorated of two lights, with cusped quatrefoil in the head. There are six bells.

The south doorway within the porch (Fig. 40) is of Decorated date with chamfered hoodmould and plain chamfered arch and jambs. The porch (Fig. 41) is Perpendicular with stone roof supported on single transverse rib, and with two-light square-headed east and west windows. The outer arch is four-centred Perpendicular. On the east jamb is incised a rude sundial, a relic of the earlier Church. The two south windows of the south aisle have hoodmoulds of late Decorated character, that on east has a square undercut label (Fig. 42). The original lead roofs remain over the nave and aisles. The Chancel windows have the usual characteristic dripstones or hoodmoulds, the east window (Fig. 43), with its rich cusped tracery, being especially fine. At the east end, attached both to the east and side walls, are low buttresses with crocketed canopies of the Decorated period. The south Chancel doorway has a chamfered hoodmould and the quarter round moulding on arch and jambs. The single light on north of Chancel has a square head externally. The north aisle windows have square labels. The blocked north doorway has chamfered hoodmould and plain chamfered arch and jambs.

The tower (Fig. 44) has plain parapet with large gargoyle in the centre of each face. In the upper stage is a two-light Decorated window with fluted containing arch and cusped tracery. In the middle stage is a small oblong light, not in the centre, on west side, and there is another on a higher level on the south. The west window on the lower stage has well-moulded hoodmould. A base course of 15th century date is carried round the tower and south aisle and porch. The tower seems to be coeval with the main portion of the Church, that is, circ 1330—1350, though Mr. Parker, in the "Ecclesiastical Topography," describes it as "Perpendicular" with a Decorated window built in."

The walls of the Church are covered with roughcast.

(To be continued.)

Hurley Church.

AN OLD PARISH CLERK.

THE Rev. P. H. Ditchfield gives us to understand in his entertaining book on "The Parish Clerk," that a remarkable feature in the conduct of our Church Services is the disappearance of that ancient worthy. I can well remember as a boy the old three-decker in Hurley Church, surmounted by a large sounding board. First came the pulpit, then the reading desk, and then the Clerk's desk, arranged in echelon—one below the other. This ugly obstruction was upreared against the south wall of the nave, exactly at the spot where a black and white marble memorial tablet is now affixed. High pews, with doors, were ranged on each side of the aisle. Then, at the chancel step, a high wooden screen divided the chancel from the rest of the sacred edifice.

The Sacarium was enclosed by a rounded set of wooden Altar rails. The Altar was very small. Above it, on either side of the eastern wall, were figures of Moses and Aaron painted on wood, with the Ten Commandments between them. The whole was sur-