

REVIEW

The Church of St. John the Baptist, Little Missenden, Buckinghamshire. By the Rev. W. H. Davies, Vicar 1922-1950. 9½ × 6 inches, 28 pp., 5 plates, cover picture and plans. 2s., obtainable at the Church or from the Vicar.

This is a revised edition, in a handier form, of the original Guide to Little Missenden Church, a notice of which appeared on p. 78 of the present volume of the *Records*.

It is a model of what the really good Church guide should be, though few incumbents will plan such a sumptuous and ambitious publication.

It is arranged in the easiest form for quick reference by visitors, with elaboration of certain points which can be studied more at leisure. In addition to the original material there have now been added lists of incumbents, of churchwardens (an exceptionally complete series from 1576 onwards), and of Parish Clerks, together with an invaluable index of written and printed sources. Many interesting extracts from the Churchwardens' and Overseers' accounts are given. And there is a list of recent works executed in the Church—gates, doors, vestry, organ, windows, etc.—with names of donors, and designers or architects, and builders or craftsmen, which will be invaluable to future generations. Mr. Davies is to be congratulated on a fine and enterprising piece of work.

E. C. R.

OBITUARY

SINCE the last part of the *Records* was published, we have to note with regret the passing of a number of our members, some of whom have served the Society long and well in the past.

Mr. Francis W. Reader was for many years a member of the Society's Council. He was modest, diffident, and retiring, and few ever guessed his real eminence. He was a man of many interests and activities; but he will be remembered and honoured above all for his work in the study and recording of domestic wall-paintings, mainly of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but extending also into the eighteenth century, with the use of the stencil, and the painting of panelling. His contributions to our *Records* on this subject, as well as to the *Journal* of the Royal Archaeological Institute and many other periodicals, were many and valuable.

He must have been one of the last surviving men to have worked directly under that pioneer of modern scientific archaeological technique, General Pitt-Rivers, and his archaeological grounding was consequently sound. He did much work for the London Survey Committee, and his contributions may be found in *Archaeologia*, a surprising number of years ago. He was a meticulous draughtsman, having served his apprenticeship in the Art Department of Doulton's Porcelain and Pottery Works, and this ability was invaluable in the accurate recording of wall-paintings and other things. He served as Hon. Treasurer of the Saunderton Roman Villa Excavation Committee, one of the few 'digs' the Society has ever sponsored on its own account.

Mr. A. K. Wickham was a Vice-President of the Society, and his early death is a tragic blow. In contrast to many Vice-Presidents, he often attended Council meetings, and was keenly interested in the affairs and welfare of the Society. His article on the case of Tythrop House (pp. 272-5 in the present volume) is indicative of his care and thoroughness, and it is pleasant to be able to record elsewhere a successful conclusion to all the efforts made to preserve this important building and its contents. He was a most valuable link with Eton College, where he was Housemaster of *Mustians*; and he had on more than one occasion conducted members of the Society over the College, and shown them some of the treasures in the Library, of which he was in charge. He was President of the College Archaeological Society and did splendid work in encouraging both boys and staff to take an interest in antiquarian matters.

Mr. R. B. Wilson, in consequence of his living, in recent years, more in London than in Buckinghamshire, was less well known to members of the Society than he should have been. He performed invaluable service by assuming the duties of Hon. Secretary during Mr. Martyn's absence in the army throughout the trying period of the war; and he was Hon. Treasurer of the Records Branch, and continued to act when that Association separated from the Society and became the Bucks. Record Society. We owe him a great debt for much valuable service.

Colonel O. Pearce Serocold was for some time a member of the Society's Council, and latterly a Vice-President. He was one of the few active archaeological excavators in the Society, and it is thanks to him that the Roman Villa site at Saunderton, which he found and commenced to excavate, was handed over to the Society to complete. At the time of the purchase of Ceely House, he was one of the generous guarantors who came forward and lent a large sum free of interest for a time.

Miss A. D. Grinnell was amongst the oldest and most faithful members of the Society, and always keenly interested in its work. Miss Grinnell was good enough to leave the Society a legacy of £200 in her Will.

Dr. T. G. Parrott was another old member of the Society, and for some years gave valuable service as its Honorary Treasurer.

Mr. H. Kilburn Scott was one of the County Council's representatives on the Society's Council, and always had the best interests of the Society at heart.

Mr. G. L. de Fraine was head of the old Aylesbury firm who for so long printed our *Records*.

Mr. A. MacDonald, of Tring, generously left the Society a welcome bequest of books, detailed elsewhere.

The Rev. H. Poole, F.S.A., was an authority on Masons' Marks, and had lectured to the Society on Norman Churches in Buckinghamshire.

Other members whose deaths we deplore are: Professor G. H. Gask; Mr. Stratfold Read; Professor Grey Turner; Mr. J. P. Awdry; Miss J. Brocklehurst; Mr. B. F. Crosfield; Mrs. F. M. Elliott; Miss C. Heath; Col. F. B. Samuel; Mr. E. P. Terry; Mrs. O. V. Viney, and Mrs. F. W. Watson.