


## ST. MARY'S CHURCH, AYLESBURY.

The fine old West window of this Church has recently been filled with stained glass at the cost of Acton Tindal, Esq., (the Lord of the Manor) and his brothers and sisters, as an obituary to their parents. The glass was designed and executed by Messrs. O'Connor, and adds to the reputation of those eminent artists. The window which has now received this beautiful glass is of the latest period of Perpendicular architecture, and is both massive and elaborate in its details. It seems evidently to have been intended for painted glass, and may not improbably have been so filled about the time of its erection (A. D. 1500). But scarcely any thing of ornament in this Church escaped the violence of Puritanical zeal in the 17th century. A better future, it is to be hoped, awaits this well restored window, which was opened to view on Christmas Day, 1862.

The subjects of the present window are entirely from the Old Testament. In the four upper lights are four figures representing the patriarchs, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David. Below these, in two groups of two each, are the four greater Prophets. Underneath these, in a series running across the window, are the twelve minor Prophets. The small and variously sized openings in the centre of the upper portion of the window are filled with the Dove, representing the Holy Spirit in His sevenfold gifts spreading his influences over the writers and the events of the Old Testament History. The six large lights in the lower part of the window contain representations respectively of the Temptation and the Expulsion, the Passage of the Red Sea and the Sacrifice of Isaac, the Passover, and the Lifting up of the Brazen Serpent. Classifying these in groups of two each, the two on the left will represent the Fall of Man, the two on the right the Restoration of Man, while the two middle subjects, the Passage of the Red Sea, and the Offering of Isaac, the one a figure of Holy Baptism, and the other a figure



of the Lord's Supper, represent together the means of grace in the two Sacraments.

The work, though open to criticism in some of its details, is on the whole masterly, exhibiting much talent and religious feeling. The effect of the reflected ruby light upon the four upper figures is very effective; and in the Offering of Isaac the attitude of Abraham is grand and striking. Indeed the whole treatment of this subject is very successful. Previously to its erection in the Church, this glass was placed in the International Exhibition, where it obtained a Prize Medal.

The stonework of the window has been thoroughly repaired and renewed by Mr. W. W. Thompson of Aylesbury, at the cost of the donors.

A brass plate at the base of the window contains the following inscription:—"To the memory of Thomas Tindal, late of the Prebendal House, Aylesbury, formerly Clerk of the Peace for this County, who died 26th July, 1850, aged 67 years. Also of Anne his first wife, who died 23rd May, 1812, daughter of Acton Chaplin, Esq., of the same town. And of Mary Anne his second wife, who died 11th March, 1826, daughter of Henry Uhthoff, Clerk, Rector of Huntingfield, Suffolk. This window is dedicated by their children."

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