

The Proceedings of the Bucks Architectural and Archæological Society,

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

THE Annual Meeting and Excursion in connection with the Society took place on Thursday, August the 8th. The members assembled at Aylesbury, whence the party started on the proposed route. A drive of about four miles brought them to

ASTON CLINTON,

where a halt was made to enable them to inspect the interesting Church of St. Michael, a short history and description of which was given by the Rector, the Rev. T. Williams. The component parts of the building are a square embattled western tower, containing a peal of six bells, north and south porches, the latter with a parvise above, clerestoried nave with aisles, and chancel. Exteriorly the Church has a somewhat unusual appearance owing to the roof of the chancel being loftier than that of the nave. Entering by the south porch the first thing that arrests the attention of the visitor is the finely proportioned and deeply recessed doorway which leads into the body of the church. This part of the sacred edifice dates from the thirteenth century, and the four arches on either side of the nave are supported on pillars that are alternately circular and octagonal. Above the arches are three clerestory windows on each side, those on the north side are early work, but the south windows are modern. The roof is of oak, and open. The tower was re-built in 1800, and the arch communicating with the nave is of good proportions. In the south wall of the nave may still be seen the old doorway by which the rood loft was anciently reached. The pulpit is of stone, finely carved. The chancel, of Second Pointed architecture, is entered under a large arch supported on each side by circular pillars. The roof is of wood, resting upon stone corbels. The most interesting points in this part of the church are—a leper window from which a view of the high altar could be obtained from without, a triple sedilia, and a piscina on the south side, and a beautifully executed ogee arch on the north. There is also a piscina in the south aisle. Within the sanctuary the altar space is raised a couple of steps, and is constructed of ancient blue monumental flagstones, bearing the arms and inscriptions of five former Rectors of the parish. The east window is of three lights filled with stained glass. The central compartment depicts our Blessed Lord with His hand raised in the act of Benediction, with a circle of glory about His head, inscribed, "Salvator Mundi," and figures of St. Peter and St. John on either side. This window was erected by some of his relatives to the memory of the Rev. G. W. Wingham, M. A., who died Oct. 24, 1855, aged fifty-one years.

The principal monuments commemorate members of the Lake and

Minshull families, both connected with the parish in former times, and the north aisle contains a marble tablet to General Gerard Lake, who for his great and distinguished services as Commander-in-Chief of the Army in India was raised to the peerage in 1807 under the title and style of Viscount and Baron Lake of Delhi, Laswarree, and Aston Clinton. The title became extinct in 1848 at the decease of the third Viscount. In the churchyard a handsome sarcophagus surrounded by an iron palisading covers the remains of the well-known Bow-Street magistrate, George Rowland Minshull, who died in 1840, and Louisa, his wife, who died in 1829. The living is a rectory, anciently appendant to the manor, but now in the patronage of Jesus College, Oxford. Among the distinguished men who have been Rectors are Thomas Tutterbury, presented in 1400, who Browne Willis says was a Dean of Chichester; George Neville, presented in 1452, who became Bishop of Exeter in 1456, and Archbishop of York in 1465. He was the son of Richard, Earl of Salisbury. John Hopton, presented in 1552, who became Bishop of Norwich, and died 1558. Thomas Wetherill, the next Rector, was made a Prebendary in Bristol Cathedral in 1572.

The church was restored in 1867 at a cost of £1000, and an organ was erected in 1894 at a cost of £280.

Leaving Aston Clinton, a drive of about a couple of miles brought the members to the small, pleasingly situated village of

DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP.

This parish contains three things of great interest to the antiquarian—the Icknield Street, remains of linchets, and a portion of Grymsdyke. The Church of St. Mary, erected in 1213, consists of a plain embattled tower at the west end, north porch, a nave with aisles, and chancel. Mr. A. H. Cocks, in the absence of the Vicar, made a few remarks upon the chief points of interest in the church. Viewed architecturally, the building appears to have been originally Norman, and rebuilt in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. To the former period may be referred the nave arches, and the chancel arch, which are Decorated, to the latter the chancel, clerestory, the aisles and the tower, which are Perpendicular. The font is Norman, circular, with a series of round-headed arches panelled on it, and is a remnant of the former church. An arcade of four arches on each side of the nave communicates with the aisles. Two of the arches have round pillars, the remainder being octagonal, and the capitals are moulded to correspond with the piers. The roof is of oak and panelled; the hammer beams rest upon oaken corbels which are carved with a cable moulding running along the centre. The clerestory consists of four windows on each side, each of three lights. Many of the ancient seats remain. The chancel is entered under a Decorated arch with good mouldings. On the north side is a small, leper window, trefoiled. The east window is a very interesting one. It is of five lights, and originally the painted glass represented the Twelve Apostles, with an article of the Creed over each; but at present only ten of the figures remain. This painted glass dates from the time when a portion of the Church was rebuilt in the fourteenth century.

On the south side of the chancel are two sedilia and a piscina, trefoiled and cinquefoiled. The south aisle appears to have contained a chantry chapel as evidenced by remains of a panelled reredos which still exists at the east end. This church was at one time rich in memorial brasses, some of which remain. In the chancel is a large slab exhibiting the matrices of the effigies of a man and woman under a double canopy. There are also several armorial bearings. These are supposed

to commemorate Sir John Cheyne, who died in 1468, and his wife Joan. Several years ago, when some excavations were made here, the remains of Sir John, his wife, and an infant, were discovered. When the south aisle was re-paved in the early part of the present century, a sepulchral slab containing an effigy in brass of a knight in plate-armour was taken up, and re-fixed to the north wall of the chancel. The inscription is imperfect; but it contains the surname of Cheyne and the date 1375. It is attributed to William Cheyne. Another brass is conjectured to represent Thos. Cheyne, shield-bearer to Edward III., who died in 1368. There are, besides these, other inscriptions to members of the Cheyne family and a small brass of a priest, Sir Henry Fazakerly, who died 1531. On the north side of the chancel is a large marble monument to the memory of William Lord Cheyne, Viscount Newhaven. He was the last of his ancient and noble family, and died in 1728. The monument consists of an altar tomb upon which reposes the recumbent figure of the deceased Viscount, attired in his robes and wearing a full-bottomed peruke, such as was fashionable in the early part of last century. At the back rises a slab of veined marble of pyramidal form, flanked by two pilasters supporting a pediment containing the arms of Cheyne impaling the coats of the Viscount's two wives. Lower down on a base-ment is a statue of Viscountess Cheyne. She is represented in a sitting posture, her right arm rests upon a mattress on which her lord reposes, and her face, expressive of grief, dignity, and serenity, rests upon her hand. At her feet is a cushion on which is a coronet elaborately carved in white marble. The drapery of the figure is exquisitely chiselled. Her ermined robes are fastened round the waist with a cord, from which depend tassels. She wears a stomacher adorned with jewels, ruffle cuffs, and a border of rich lace at the neck, and her hair is braided in pearls. On the whole the monument is a fine composition, beautifully executed. There is a long inscription on the base which informs us that the memorial was erected by Lord Newhaven's widow, who died in 1732; that her kinswoman, Mrs. Gertrude Tolhurst, had the statue of the Viscountess added; and that the said Mrs. Tolhurst is also buried here, having, through grief at the loss of her benefactress, put an end to her life five weeks after her ladyship's death.

The most noted among the rectors of Drayton Beauchamp is Richard Hooker, known to fame as the "Judicious Hooker," author of "Ecclesiastical Polity." He was presented to the living Sept. 7, 1584, by John Cheyne, and in the following year removed to the Temple Church. In 1595 Archbishop Whitgift presented him to Bishopsbourne, near Canterbury, where he died in 1660.

The next halt was made at—

MARSWORTH CHURCH

All Saints), which stands in a prominent position, on a slight elevation, near the base of the main line of the Chilterns. It is principally of Perpendicular architecture, and consists of a north porch, west tower, nave, and chancel, which were formerly not divided by an arch, and a south aisle continued throughout, and divided from the rest of the building by five arches, all having octagonal caps and pillars. The two eastern arches are lower than the other three. The tower arch is decorated, and has two demi-pillars with foliated capitals. The interior of the Church used to present a somewhat unusual appearance, consisting as it did of two divisions of equal length unbroken by transverse arches. The Church underwent restoration in 1860, when the porch was built, and the interior fitted up with pulpit, reading desk, and open seats, stained and varnished. The roof of the chancel is

modern, but those in the nave and aisle are unrestored. The east end of the aisle was probably a chantry chapel, or it may have been the original chancel, for in the south wall there is an arched niche and a piscina within a cinquefoiled headed arch. The doorway and stone steps leading to the rood loft remain. The steps are spiral and enclosed in a turret, which rises exteriorly above the parapet of the nave. In this part of the church is an altar tomb belonging to the family of West, curiously ornamented with a variety of emblems. A brass plate affixed to the north end has a lofty arch in the centre and a shield bearing the arms of West. An effigy of a man in armour reposing on a couch, holds a book in his right hand and grasps a sword in his left. His wife and children kneel before the couch, and in the corner is the skeleton figure of Death striking the dying man with his dart. There are several other brasses and slabs commemorating members of the same family, among which may be enumerated the following:—(1) William West, who died in 1583; (2) Mary Clare, wife of Edmund West, who died in 1606. She wears a close gown, long stomacher, large quilled ruff, and a finely ornamented petticoat. (3) Nicholas West and Johanna his wife—the man in plate armour. They died in 1586 and 1585 respectively. (4) Edmund West and Sarah his wife. He deceased 1681, she 1691. (5) Roger West, the last male heir of the family, who died in 1700.

Amongst the alterations effected by the present Vicar, the Rev. F. W. Ragg, may be mentioned the erection of a chancel arch in 1887, and a new east window in 1889, filled with stained glass two years later. The restorations, which extended over a period of nine years, cost £1,100, and were carried out by Mr. Ragg under difficult and trying circumstances, which were only surmounted by his indomitable perseverance and devoted labour. The rev. gentleman gave the party an extremely interesting account of his work of restoring the Church and the discoveries he made during its progress, whilst combining in himself the two important offices of architect and master mason.

Leaving Marsworth, the party drove towards Ivinghoe, where a more lengthy stay was made.

A luncheon was provided at the Bell Inn, at the conclusion of which the

ANNUAL MEETING

was held, the Rev. R. H. Pigott in the chair. Mr. John Parker read the minutes of the last meeting. The Bishop of Oxford was re-elected president. Lord Cottesloe, the Bishop of Reading, Sir Edward L. Lawson, Bart., Mr. Leopold de Rothschild, and Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, M. P., were re-elected vice-presidents, to which list the names of Sir John Evans, K.C.B., and Mr. Henry Seebohm were added. The Committee were re-elected *en bloc*, and Mr. C. W. Raffety was added to the m. The treasurer and hon. secretaries were also re-elected.

Mr. J. Williams gave the treasurer's report, which showed a balance in hand of £21 8s. 5d. The number of members on the books was stated to be 186.

Mr. John Parker presented the secretary's report, in which he mentioned the subjects of the papers which were to appear in the next RECORDS OF BUCKS.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Revs. T. Williams and F. W. Ragg for the interesting accounts they had given of their churches.

The election of several members then followed.

Mr. Parker made a few remarks, grounding them on a reference to the authorities, upon Ivinghoe and Edlesborough.

Ivinghoe Manor, he mentioned, at the Domesday Survey was held by the Bishops of Winchester, and was continuously held by his successors till the time of Edward VI. A fair was granted annually on the eve and morrow of St. Margaret the Virgin. In 1319, John Sandall, Bishop of Winchester, obtained a grant of a Tuesday Weekly Market, and an annual fair on the eve and morrow of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Queen Elizabeth granted to Sir John Mason a Weekly Market on Saturday and two fairs annually, one on the eve and feast of St. Mark and another on the eve and feast of St. Faith (the 6th Oct.), with court of pie powder, the court, as Mr. Parker explained, of dusty feet—*Curia pedis pulverizati*, where justice could be summarily administered to roamers and vagabonds attending the fair. The advowson belonged to the see of Winchester until 1420, when the Bishop gave it to the college of Bonhommes at Ashridge, and it subsequently passed to the Earls of Bridgewater. Edlesborough, Mr. Parker remarked, was a town of much importance in the reign of Edward III. The assizes for the county were held here in 1332. The site of the Church, standing, as every indication suggests, on a vast tumulus, gives the appearance of great antiquity to the place. The lordships of the chief manors we trace to Walter Gifford and Gilbert le Grand. At the time of the Conquest the advowson and Church were given to Bardney Abbey, Lincolnshire, and by Patent 15, Richard II., the King, granted the advowson to the priors and convent of the house of Carthusians "near London," *Charter House*. The advowson ultimately was possessed by the Earl of Bridgewater.

The Rev. C. H. Tomlinson intimated his willingness to conduct the members of the Society on some future occasion round a district of which he made a study, lying within a distance of about ten miles from Winslow.

Business being concluded, the party proceeded to inspect

IVINGHOE CHURCH,

which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and is one of the finest ecclesiastical edifices in this part of the county. The Rev. A. E. Wauton gave an account of the church. The oldest portions are Early English, but the greater part of the building is in the Decorated style with a few Perpendicular modifications. It is a cruciform structure consisting of a nave with aisles and clerestory, transepts, chancel, porches on the north, south, and west, and a square central tower, surmounted by a small spire 36 ft. high. The whole of the church is embattled. The west porch is spacious and has a stone sedile on each side. The other porches exhibit the ball flower and four-leaf flower ornament in the mouldings of their inner doorways. The large west window is of three lights, filled with stained glass, and in the head of the window are three small lights, quatrefoiled. There are five windows in the clerestory on either side, each of three lights. The east window is a good one, and contains four lights with cinquefoiled heads with eight small lights above. It was filled with stained glass in 1868 to the memory of the second Earl Brownlow.

There are some other windows of excellent design in the transepts and aisles. The five arches on each side of the nave are supported on octagonal pillars with foliated caps. The tower arches have Perpendicular mouldings. The timber roofs of the aisles are plain, but those in the nave, chancel, and transepts are extremely handsome, being richly ornamented by well-cut figures of angels; the part over the rood-loft is panelled with bosses, and other designs. The stone corbels represent heads and grotesque animals. The font is modern, but good. There

are two piscinæ in each transept, but none in the chancel. Some of the old carved poppy heads of the seats in the aisles are curious; but one of the most prominent objects in the church is the Jacobean pulpit. The panel at the back contains a representation of the Resurrection, and the iron hour-glass stand remains. The sounding board is richly ornamented. An object that came in for a good deal of curious inspection was the ancient stone effigy which lies within a low trefoiled recess in the north chancel wall. It is habited in the usual Eucharistic vestments of a priest and, with the cushions upon which it rests, is cut out of a single block of stone. The figure was at one time thought to represent Henry de Blois, Bishop of Winchester, who died in 1177, and is said to have resided at Berrysted House, which stood on the south-east side of the churchyard and was pulled down about the year 1830. The effigy is now generally considered to be that of Peter Chaceport, Rector of Ivinghoe from 1241 to 1254, and the reputed founder of the church. The only brass in the church is to the memory of John Duncombe (d. 1594) and Alyce Hungerford his wife. The effigy of the man is perfect, but those of his wife and children are gone.

A delightful drive of three miles through a picturesque district brought the members to

EDLESBOROUGH CHURCH,

which is also dedicated to St. Mary, and is a fine, handsome, Decorated and Perpendicular edifice, standing in a commanding position on an insulated eminence which is probably artificial. The component parts of the church are a massive west tower, north and south porches, nave with aisles and clerestory, a chancel, and north chapel. The pyramidal spire covered with lead that surmounted the tower was destroyed by lightning in March, 1828. An arcade of four bays on each side of the nave communicates with the aisles. The arches are supported by octagonal pillars, and above them is a clerestory of four windows on each side. The rood screen is of oak and finely carved, and the doorway which led to the loft remains. The font is octagonal with quatrefoils in the panels. The pulpit is late Perpendicular, octagonal, well carved, and, like that at Ivinghoe, it retains the hour-glass stand. Above it is a spiral canopy or tabernacle, and stated to be only equalled at Salisbury and Exeter. In the south aisle a piscina and credence, and in the chancel plain sedilia and a large cinquefoiled piscina are to be noticed. There is a fine east window and several others of excellent design. One of the most interesting features in the chancel is the stall desks and seats, many of them with carved misereres, which are not often found in parish churches at the present day.

The north chapel, or Rufford's aisle, is now used as a vestry. Here is a brass to John Rufford (d. 1540) and his three wives, Bridget, Anne, and Eleanor. Another memorial is inscribed to Thomas Rufford, who died in 1599. To the right of the chancel arch is a stone monument, supported by fluted columns with Corinthian caps, to Henry Bruges (d. 1647) and his wife.

After the visit to Edlesborough the members returned direct to Aylesbury.

The excursion will take its place among the most successful meetings the Society has ever held.

[The foregoing account of the excursion and of the churches visited is from the pen of our member, Mr. R. S. Downs. It should perhaps be added that the late Rev. W. Hastings Kelke, at one time an honorary secretary of this Society, was a former Rector of Drayton Beauchamp, and that his Manorial history of that parish will be found in Vols. I. and II. of THE RECORDS.—ED.]