In Domesday Book the parish of Poslingford, or Poslingworth, as it was then written, is mentioned as one of the numerous lordships holden by Ralph Baynard. Juga, his widow, founded the Priory of Little Dunmow in Essex, and to that Monastery the impropriation and advowson of the vicarage belonged, and were granted by Henry VIII. to Robert, Earl of Sussex.

The Church is dedicated to Saint Mary, and contains several different styles of architecture proceeding from the Norman foundation. Of its actual date there is no record, but the fine Norman doorway, and small Norman window, deeply splayed, in the northern wall of the Nave, point to the twelfth century as its presumable date. Of the Founder all that can be said is, that his effigy, as it is believed, is pourtrayed in the fresco on the Chancel wall,
with a square in his hand, and a gabled building on his shoulder. His name is unknown.

The South Porch is an interesting specimen of pre-Reformation brick-work, rare in the neighbourhood. The Stoup, which bears the marks of the destroyer, occupies a place outside the Porch. With the mutilation of the Stoup, we may probably associate the removal of the figures from the niches in the front; the centre one of the Virgin and Child, and the four Evangelists, two on either side.

The amount of pains bestowed by the Anglo-Normans in enriching and adorning the capitals and mouldings of their door-ways is well-known. In this case the moulding of the Norman door-way is plain, but the capitals are carved.

The tympanum with which the head of the arch is filled, is especially rare and interesting. These tympana, which were not unfrequently used in Norman portals, were sometimes rudely carved with scripture subjects. Sometimes the subjects were legendary, and at others a wreath formed of the cable and other mouldings, but all betokening the early execution of the work. It is remarkable in this case to observe the want of symmetry in the ends of the stone. Panels one, two, three, and four are Norman work. The next is a double scroll, on the same principle as the single scroll at the right hand end. Then follow two Norman panels. The next is pre-Norman in type, but cut in Norman times. It is two bands, not one—the Anglo-Saxon would probably have made it all of one band. The last panel is an early classical scroll.

The Norman window before alluded to, is evidently the style in which the Nave of the Church was originally built, followed by the lancet window in the chancel, and the other windows, which are mostly of the Decorated English style.

The Screen, which is a good specimen of a fifteenth century Screen, is so far imperfect, that it has lost the figures on each side, which originally stood on the bases still remaining, and must have largely contributed to the richness and beauty of the design.
EAST END OF NAPE, POSLINGFORD CHURCH.
Over it was the rood-loft, the entrance to which was obtained by two staircases discovered in the process of restoration; one through the doorway, the jambs of which are seen under the north-eastern window in the Nave, and the other from the ancient Sacristy, which was discovered outside the northern wall of the Chancel, and the foundations of which still remain. Above the screen the arch was filled in with plaster, and upon it was an elaborate fresco of the Last Judgment, representing the Saviour sitting upon a sphere, and an Angel on either side, with trumpets to their mouths, summoning the dead to Judgment. On the right were seen the righteous dead rising from their graves; and on the left the wicked, chained, and being led away by the devil and his angels. Among the latter it was instructive to observe, not only ordinary men and women, but also the crown of a king and the mitre of a bishop. It was intended to preserve this interesting work, but the ends of the rood-beam were decayed, and on a man going up to remove a tarpaulin, with which it was covered, the beam and fresco and man also, came down with a crash, destroying everything in its way. The screen had happily been previously removed for repair. The fresco was executed in red and yellow outline, with traces of other colours in the robes of the saints. The diaper work which occupied a square space below, was on a ground of red white and blue, ornamented with fleur de lis, and probably formed a background for the rood.

There are traces of colour in other parts of the Church indicating a complete scheme of subject painting. The subjects on the south side of the Chancel (probably 13th century) are executed in a dark-red colour. We have surmised already that one of these represents the Founder of the Church. The other was perhaps S. Paul, with the sword in his hand. Opposite the western-most figure, but on the northern wall, were traces—but faint—of the Virgin and Child, and beneath each of the three figures a dedication cross and circle lightly carved in the plaster of the wall. These mural paintings were discovered in 1881,
EAST END OF NAVE, POSLINGFORD CHURCH.
SOUTH SIDE OF CHANCEL, POSLINGFORD CHURCH.
and drawings of them were carefully made by Mr. Colpoys, architect.

The *Font*, now restored to its original shape as a Norman Font, had been sadly mutilated, and stood in the middle of the aisle—the bowl placed on a massive pedestal of bricks and mortar. On removing and turning it up, the capitals of the five pillars upon which it now rests were discovered, and it was found that the corners of the bowl had been cut off, thus rendering the shape octagonal, for the convenience of persons passing it in the aisle. The corners were replaced, new pillars provided, and the Font restored to its original place at the south door.

The *Belfry* is furnished with five good bells, the tenor of which is said to be all that now remains of the ancient Abbey of Chipley, about half a mile distant, which was relegated to the College of Stoke by Clare in 1468. This Priory has now been converted into a farm-house, and the Conventual Church was entirely demolished in the year 1818. Many human bones, and some stone coffins (one of which is now in the churchyard) were brought here; and nothing now remains but the three fish-ponds—ascending one above another—one of which is said still to be well-stocked with fish.

**FAMILY OF GOLDING.**

The Golding family of New-House in this parish, were for a while considerable in the parish of Belchamp St. Paul, in Essex.

Thomas Golding of Cavendish, in Suffolk, Gent., married Elizabeth, one of the daughters and coheirs of John Worthie, of Blamsters, in Halstead (Agnes, the other daughter, being the wife of John Sparrow, of Earl's Colne), and had by her John Golding of Paul's Belchamp and Halstead, one of the auditors of the Exchequer.

Sir Thomas Golding, was one of the Commissioners for certifying the charity lands in Essex. He married Elizabeth, one of the daughters and coheirs of Thomas Roydon of East Peckham, Kent, widow of William Twisden (Berry's Kent Peds., 310). What issue he had by her is unknown; but George Golding of Poslingford was probably descended from him. The other son William Golding married Elizabeth, daughter of Edmund West of Cornard in Suffolk, by whom he had Edmund and Dorothy. Margaret their eldest sister, was wife of John de Vere, 16th Earl of Oxford, and had by him Edward, 17th Earl of Oxford (Morant's Essex, ii., 328).
CHURCH NOTES. By DAVY, 1831.

The Church consists of a Nave, Chancel, Porch, and Vestry, all covered with tiles.

The Chancel is 23 ft. long, and 18 ft. 3 in. wide. The Communion table is raised 1 step and railed round. In the N. window are some remains of stained glass. Between the Nave and Chancel is a carved screen painted green. Over it in the centre are the arms of James, and on the sides the commandments.

The Nave is 40 ft. 6 in. long, by 23 ft. 5 in. wide, ceiled, as is also the Chancel. The Pulpit is of oak, plain, and stands near the centre of the S. wall. The Font is placed in the middle, a little westward of the door, of stone, octagon, plain. On the S. side is a porch of brick 11 ft. 2 in. N. and E. by 9 ft. 4 in. The arch into the Nave is circular.

The Steeple is a low square embattled Tower of Flints, containing 5 bells: dimensions within 9 ft. 2 in. square.

On the North side of the Chancel is a modern Vestry 12 ft. 6 in. long, by 8 ft. wide. The walls cast over.

PARISH REGISTERS.

Baptisms.

1685 Eliz. ye 3d daughter of John and Grace Kenyon, born on Sunday ye 12th of July and baptiz'd ye 21st.

Burials.

1681 Robert Rash late Vicar of Poslingford in ye County of Suffolk was buryed in Woollen only Aug' ye 23d 1681 according to an Act &c. as appeareth by ye Affidavitt of Ann ye wife of Thom Coppinge ye 23d of Aug'.
1684 Eliz. the widdow of Mr. Rash buryed Ap. 16.
1697 The Ladie Mary Villers ye Relict of Sr G. Vyllrs of Goadby in Leices't. Bart. died suddainly at London ye 14 of Nov'r, and was interr'd at Poslingford on tuesday the 23 of ye same month.
1721 Mr. Rich'd. Webster (late Vicar of Poslingford) was buried Jan. 18. Sarah Rash was buried 4th Feb.
1875 Rev'd. William Leonard Suttaby Vicar of this Parish July 31. aged 72.
1880 Mary Georgiana Jarvis May 7. æt. 49.
MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

MONUMENTS.

_In the Churchyard. North Side._

Sacred to the Memory of the Honourable Mrs Annabella Golding, Wife of George Golding Esq:

Daughter of Sir Scroop, afterward Lord Visct. Howe, and the Lady Anne his Wife,

Sixth Daughter of the Rt. Honourable the Earl of Rutland who departed this Life,

In Steadfast hope and full assurance of a Blessed Resurrection Thro' the alone Merits of Jesus Christ her Saviour

In Life admir'd in Death lamented,

Having been Pious Meek Humble, Compassionate Charitable Generous

And in all things worthy imitation

In an accomplish'd Lady, Exemplary,

An Obedient Daughter Affectionate Wife and Sincere Friend.

Born 1674. Buried 1720.

Hic Thomas Golding Armgi conjuncti jacent juxta Conjugis dilectissimæ Cineræ Obijt xiæ die Augæ An. Dom. 1702.

Ut in Vitæ, sic in morte

Ad Pedes hujus Venerandi Altaris Jacent Reliquiæ Illustrißimæ Domæ Domæ Marie Vyllers Coniugis charissimæ honorando Viro Geó Vylles de Godby In Agro Leicestr Baræ Obijt xivæ die Novæ Anæ Domæ 1699.

Hic a dextra Primogeniti sacrae Requiescant cineræ pientissimæ dominae Iodocele Golding ; Matronæ adeo memorabilis Ut quam virtus vetet mori

My corps that here doth rest shall soon be füly blest

Thomas Golding aged 17 byried ye 7 of September Anæ Domæ 1676.

Shed to the Memory of Thomas Coleman, who died June 4, 1828, Aged 52 Years. Also of Mary Ann his wife Also near this Stone lies Helen-Mary, and Samuel, who died in their Infancy, who died Dec. 29th 1831, Aged 67 Years, two of his Children
IN POSLINGFORD CHURCHYARD.

In Memory of
CAROLINE, Daughter of
THOMAS and MARY ANN COLEMAN,
who died Nov. 6th 1839, Aged 14 Years.

Sacred to the Memory of
THOMAS BROWN
late of Buly Green in this Parish;
who died Novr 24th 1842,
Aged 73 Years.

Sarah the Wife of
THOS. BROWN, of Poslingford,
who died
April 13th 1811, Aged 44 Years.
Leaving a Husband and ten Children
to lament her loss.

East of the Church.
Here rests in the hope
of a joyful resurrection the body of
HENRY LONG, who died November 28th, 1889, aged 75.
He was for many years a faithful and respected servant in the family of
Mrs. SEVERNE, and the late S. A. SEVERNE, Esq.:
of Poslingford House, Suffolk.

Sacred to the memory of
ROBERT DEEKS,
who died after a very short illness
July 21st 1884, aged 64 years.

In memory of CHARLES GREEN PRICE late of
Kennington in the County of Surrey
Son of MATTHEW and ELIZABTH PRICE
who are interred near this Place
He died the 20th of May 1825, Aged 55 Years.

In Memory of
ELIZABTH the Wife of
on the 30th of Sept. 1802 Aged 31 Years.
GEORGE TURNER of this Parish Also of SARAH their Infant Daughr.

In Memory Of
MATTY PRICE Senr.
who died Augt 31st 1795 Aged 65 Years.

ELIZABTH his Wife
who died July 26th
1790 Aged 54 Years.

In Memory Of
ROBT. GREEN PRICE
who died May 18th 1794
Aged 20 Years.

MATTY Price Junr.
who died Octr. 3rd. 1788
Aged 21 Years.

In Memory Of
ELIZABTH Wife of WILLY EAGLE
late of Hunden who died
1st of June 1751, Aged 67 Years
Also ELIZABTH their Daughter
died 30th Sept. 1724 Aged 6 Yrs

Sacred to the memory of
SARAH Wife of WILLIAM FREEBORN
of Aldham Hall in this County,
MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

And Dan' of The late John Eagle of the Hall-Farm in this Parish;
She departed this Life Nov. 12th 1818, aged 53 years.
Also of Samuel their Son
who died March 30th 1807 aged 3 years and 8 months.
To the memory of Mary Anne,
Daughter of William and Sarah Freeborn,
who departed this Life June 12th 1822, In her 17th Year.
Sacred to the memory of Samuel Eagle late of Hundon
who departed this Life June 23rd 1850, Aged 35 Years.
Sacred to the memory of Samuel Eagle
Late of Hundon in this County,
who died April 1st 1845, aged 78 years.
To the memory of
Susan widow of the late Samuel Eagle of Hundon
who departed this life Feb'y 26th 1851, aged 74 years.

In loving memory of
Simon Quye Viall, who died January 11th 1885,
in the 66th year of his age.
In Loving Memory of Sarah the Beloved Wife of Reuben Taylor
Who Departed this Life May 17th 1885 Aged 21 Years.

In loving Memory of
George Betts Aged 32 Years who fell asleep July xvii, 1885
In Memory of John Levell who departed this Life
August 19th 1881 Aged 78 years. Sacred to the Memory of
Susanna the Daughter of
John Eagle and of Eleanor his Wife
who died January 12th 1794 Aged 66 Years.

South of Church.

In loving Memory of Susan, the beloved wife of John Read,
who died June 22nd 1885, Aged 63 years.
Julia Elizabeth, their third daughter,
who died May 4th 1864, Aged 3 years.

In memory of James Prier,
who died Sept' 8th 1833, Aged 42 Years.
Also of William his Child who died an Infant.

Beneath are interred the bodies of
John Snell, who died March 19th 1857, Aged 84 Years.
And of Mary his Wife
who died Jan: 14th 1854 Aged 82 Years.
Frederick James Snell, who died Dec: 21st 1821 Aged 6 Years.
Sacred to the Memory of Joseph Hunt,
who died Novr. 29th 1842 Aged 78 Years.
Frances Hunt who died April 6: 1830.

In loving memory of
George Deeks, of Sturmer Hall, who departed this life
February 8th 1892, in the 39th year of his age.
IN POSLINGFORD CHURCHYARD.

In loving memory of
SARAH LOUISA, the beloved wife of GEORGE DEERS, of Sturmer Hall, Suffolk, who died May 24th 1890, aged 34 years.

In loving Memory of
JAMES HENRY FISHER of Clopton Hall (for 24 years churchwarden of this Parish), Died March 3rd 1881, aged 66 years.

In loving memory of
JAMES AMBROSE, of Poslingford New House, who died February 8th 1892, aged 65 years.

Here lyeth the Body of JOHN SIMPSON Who departed this life October the 20 1700

In Memory of
MARY the Dau\(\text{r}\) of FRAN\(\text{s}\) and J... BOWYER who died... Nov 1777 Aged... Years.
(Bu. Nov. 15.)

In Memory of RICHARD MORTLOCK Also of ANN MORTLOCK who died Sept. 1784 Aged 53 Years. who died Sept. 1784 Aged 43 years.
(bu. 19) (bu. 11th)

Sacred to the memory of
PHILIP HIBBLE ELIZ\(\text{h}\) his Wife
Died 10 Dec 1808 Aged 70 Years Died 18th June 1809 Aged 66 Years

In memory of
MARY Georgiana, the dearly loved Wife of Henry Jarvis, M.A., Vicar of this Parish. who entered into rest April 30th 1880. With Christ which is far better. In peace.

In loving memory of
JAMES AMBROSE, AMY, the beloved wife of who died April 27th 1888, aged 68 years.

In memory of
SAMUEL ye Son of SABO and SUSANNA HILLS, who died 11th March 1754 Aged 12 Years. who departed this life June 2nd 1882, aged 60 years.

Nil prater \(\text{\textae} \text{tem Pu}r\)ile fuit.

In affectionate remembrance of
ANN, wife of FREEMAN MUNNINGS, who died May. 13th 1880, aged 54 years.

In Memory of
ELIZABETH, Wife of THOMAS WADE, who died June 10th 1853, Aged 73 Years. Thomas WADE, died June 24th 1859 Aged 77 Years.
In Memory of
JOHN WADE
who died May 20th 1837 Aged 58 Years.

JOHN WADE
who died July 2nd 1798,
Aged 74 Years.

MARY, his Wife
who died Jan'y 23rd, 1820,
Aged 85 Years.

In memory of
BETT, wife of the late THOS. AMBROSE.
of Blacklands Hall Cavendish
who died Sept. 19th 1844, aged 67 years.

Sacred to the Memory of
JOHN WADE AMBROSE.
who departed this life,
April 15th, 1848, Aged 30 Years.

In memory of
MARY wife of JAMES AMBROSE, of Poslingford,
who died March 2nd 1858, aged 42 years.

In loving memory of
THOMAS BASHAM,
who died March 7th 1885, aged 73 years.
KEZIA, his beloved wife
who died March 16 1885, aged 75 years.

In memory of
THOMAS FITCH, Of this parish
who died Oct, 10th 1856, aged 64 years.
For all flesh is as grass.
also of his mother
ANN FITCH, of Depden
who died Dec: 10th 1854, aged 87 years.

In memory of
JOHN WILLIAM BENNETT,
who died March 29th, 1875, aged 57 years.
FANNY MARIA, his wife,
who died June 30th, 1864, aged 41 years.

INSIDE THE CHURCH.

Chancel. North Window.

To the glory of God and in memory of MARY GEORGIANA
wife of HENRY JARVIS M: A: vicar of this parish.
and only daughter of the late JOHN BARKER esq:
of Clare Priory, born January 15th 1831, died April 30th 1880

South Side, Window.

In memory of THOMAS WESTON BARKER who died abroad 13th
April 1871 aged 36
IN POSLINGFORD CHURCH.

IN THE NAVE.

Over Door.

H.S.E. Quod mortale fuit
Viri admodum reverendi CAROLI ANSON TISDALL
In Comitatu Eboracensi nati
Linguae Graecorum peritissimi atque Romanorum
Scholae Grammaticis Wrexham in Comitatu Denbigh
Et Oswestry in Comitatu Salop per annos xx praefuit
Diem clausit supremum apud Clare A.D. 1811 Ætat. 73

On West Wall.

Vnder the stones beneath this Monvment
in expectation of a joyfvll resvrrection
doe rest the bodies of FRANCES the wife
of THOMAS GOLDING of Newhovse in
Poslingford Esq who dyed and was here
bvried in the yeare of ovr Lord 1641
and the said THOMAS GOLDING Esq who
afterwards dyed and was here bvried
in the yeare of ovr Lord 1652 Leaveing
behind them THOMAS GOLDING Esq their son
and heir now liveing with several other
Sonns and daughters:
and likewise THOMAS GOLDING the first
borne son of ye said THOM : GOLDING Esq
now liveing by Joyce his beloved wife

In affectionate remembrance of
CATHERINE REBECCA,
the beloved wife of
WILLIAM LEONARD SUTTABY,
vicar of this parish;
died October 16. 1871, aged 67 years.
also of the above named
WILLIAM LEONARD SUTTABY,
during a ministry of 27 years in this parish;
he walked with God
and fell asleep in perfect peace July 25th, 1875,
in the 73rd year of his age.

In the vault in this chancel are
deposited the remains of colonel
THOMAS WESTON
late of the 14th royal veteran battalion,
and Shadowbush in this county, he died Novr. the 27th 1843 aged 80.
this tablet is erected by his daughters as a tribute of affection to his memory.
In the vault in this chancel are deposited the remains of
MARY WESTON,
who died March the 5th 1839, aged 64.
she was the beloved wife of
col. WESTON, of Shadowbush in this county,
by whom this tablet is erected
as a tribute of affection to her memory.

Sacred to the memory of
MARY SOPHIA
the beloved wife of JAMES RAYMOND esq'r
of Baythorn Park Essex,
and 2nd daughter of the late Col. WESTON
of Shadowbush in this county.
died Augst 3rd 1845 aged 35.

Window.

In memory of SAM'l. A. SEVERNE. of Poslingford
who entered into his rest Jan'y. 25. 1865

In Memory of
THOMAS Son of
JHN and ELIZ'th. EAGLE,
who died 19th April 1788 Aged 25 Years.

In Memory of
JOHN EAGLE

In Memory of
ELEANOR and SAM'l: FENNER two Children of
WILL'm. and ELEANOR FENNER
who died in their Infancy

In Memory of
MARY Daughter of
JHN and HANNAH EAGLE,
who died 11 April 1789
in his Infancy

In Memory of
JOHN EAGLE the son of
JHN and ELIZ. EAGLE
who died 3rd of June 1792 Aged 37 years. who died Augst 1795 Aged . . years
She left three children
Geo . . . and Sarah to lament her loss.

John Eagle Gent formerly of this Parish
late of Chilton, died 14th Septr. 1757 aged 53.
Eleanor wife of John Eagle Gent died May 6. 1766
VICARS OF POSLINGFORD.

The following list has been made from the Bishops Registers at Norwich:

1312 WILLIAM ATTE MORE, Aug. 9, ad præs. Pr. et Conv. de Dunmowe. (Reg. i. 48.)
1342 RICHARD SERLE de Thaxstede, Nov. 23, ad præs eorund. (vii. 63.)
1349 JOHN JEKKE de Takele, May 20, ad præs eorund. (iv. 79.)
1349 RICHARD DE LENN, July 1, ad præs eorund. (xiii. 88.)
1361 JOHN DE CHILTON de Clare, Aug. 24, ad præs eorund. (v. 48.)
1389 WILLIAM TADELAWE, Mar. 26, ad præs eorund. (vi. 136.)
1392 GALFRIDUS ANDREW July 3 (pmut cum Harlston.) (167.)
1397 JOHN PARK, Jan. 6, ad præs eorund. (230.)
1402 ROBERT WHARROM, Oct. 7, by res. of Park (pmut Sutton Roff.) (286.) Robert Warham, alias Bringhandon, vic. of Sutton at Hone, which he resigned 1400. Had been vic. of Eastchurch, Kent. (Hasted ii. 366.)
1404 WILLIAM TADCASTRE, Feb. 10. (314.)
1407 JOHN MONE, Dec. 17. (pmut cum Melreth, Elien.) (vii. 3.) WILLIAM SUTTON.
1429 WILLIAM MEYR, Jun. 23, vac. by death of William Sutton, ult. vic. (ix. 92.)
1433 JOHN OVK, Oct. 13, vac. by res. of W. Meyr. (65.) JOHN BARNARD.
1486 RICHARD SKYNNER, Nov. 11, vac. by res. of J. Barnard. (xii. 120.)
1506 JOHN MMYING, July 27, vac. by res. of R. Skynner. (xiii. 68.)
1521 THOMAS HUKTON, May 7, vac. by death of J. Mymying. (xvi. 61.)
1535 ROGER JACKSON, Mar. 22, vac. by death of T. Hukton. (10.)
1563 JOHN LEOYNS, Sep. 18, vac. by death of R. Jackson, ad præs. Th. Golding. (xix. 88.)
1587 MORGAN ROBERTS, Sep. 22, vac. by res. of R. Allin. (154.)
1590 WILLIAM COLTE, Jan. 13, vac. by res. of M. Roberts. (192.)
1599 ZACHARIAS SAUNDERS, M.A. Aug. 22, vac. by res. of W. Colte, ad præs. Th. Golding, Ar. (278.)
1601 WILLIAM JOHNSON, B.A. July 26, vac. p. deprivacoem mri Zacharias Saunders, ult incumb. ad præs ejusd. (293.)

1622 Augustine Schami — J. Simpson 1627-37.
Thurston Hall was next visited. This is an excellent example of the domestic architecture at the commencement of the seventeenth century. It is a matter of profound regret that the gradual decline which has taken place in agriculture, should have deprived such a unique structure of the class of tenant once found within its walls, but it is to be feared that this is only one of many old Halls in this district of which the same lamentable tale has to be told. Here appears its brief history as told by the Honorary Secretary.