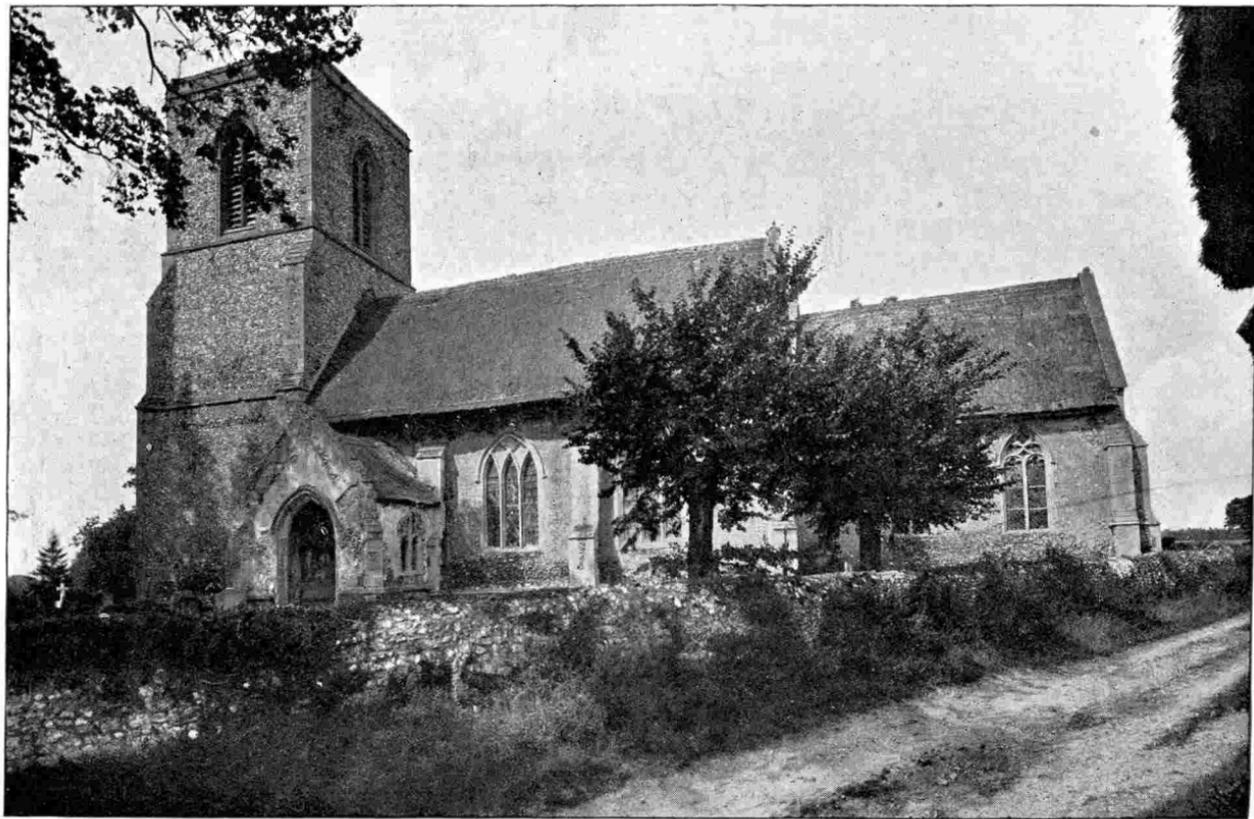


this parish, the way thereto being for some distance along cross-roads which command a grand view of the heath lands lying towards Mildenhall and Brandon—open stretches of arid country crossed by the ancient *Icenhild weg*. On reaching the end of this stage, and entering the church of All Saints—which presents a solid and substantial appearance externally—the visitors looked around in blank amazement. The interior is an extraordinary picture of neglect and desolation. There are gaps in the roof; the whitewashed walls are anything but white and clean; the nave is partly filled in with the ugliest square pew ever seen, and along part of the western end there is a rough gallery of unpainted wood, approached by a ladder. It was soon explained, however, that there is another church in the parish, so that All Saints is not required for public worship, the rector (Ven. Archdeacon Cartwright) read the following interesting extracts from a report made to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings:—

“With the exception of the porch, which is Perpendicular in style, the church may be described as a building built in the Decorated style, although as a matter of fact we know, by the existence of two blocked Norman windows in the north wall of the nave, that that wall of the nave is Norman, and it seems probable that the walls of the chancel are also Norman. The reason for believing this is that when the ground plan is drawn to scale on paper, it becomes obvious that the nave and chancel together, and without the other parts of the building, form the ground plan of a typical Norman church. The whole of the Decorated work is of a fine type, and the village must have been prosperous in the 14th century, for the work is rich—the south aisle especially so, as shown by the two beautiful niches at the east end on either side of where the altar stood, and also by the beautiful stone carved cornices which run the whole length under the eaves of the south wall and below the wall plates of both the north and south walls on the inside. The windows are very fine, but unfortunately the east window has the whole of its head filled in solid. The stained glass which remains is also very good. It is worth noting that the fine western tower never had a staircase. All the original roofs have gone. The method of plaiting the reeds on the underside of the thatching, so as to avoid the use of wood battens, is interesting. The tile paving, a large quantity of which remains in the chancel, and fragments in other parts of the church, is of an unusual description. Similar paving may be found at Ely and St. Alban's Cathedrals, and also at Hertford. One of the tiles has the representation of an architectural canopy, from the design of which we know that this pavement is also 14th century work. There are six or eight different patterns formed by the shapes of these tiles, and many have ornamental patterns on them. The chancel screen, which is Perpendicular in style, has had its upper portion cut away. It is somewhat unusual in having a very large oak sill, which measures



ICKLINGHAM ALL SAINTS.

about 11 inches square, and this taken right across the passage-way and provided with a step to it, the pavement of the chancel being level with that of the nave. There are a large number of 14th century oak benches remaining. The ends have fine carved poppy-heads, and the ends of some are remarkable on account of their being very little over an inch thick."

An animated discussion followed upon the reading of this paper, and the opinion was generally expressed that a church, which must at one time have been so beautiful, ought certainly to be preserved. The tiles,* and the stained glass in the windows, are objects of paramount interest.

In the rectory gardens at Icklingham, a large tent was put up, and an excellent luncheon was in readiness. The Ven. Archdeacon Cartwright presided, and all the business done was to take it for granted that the following new members, who wished to join, were elected:— Lord Iveagh, Elvedon Hall; Mr. J. Wood, Hengrave Hall; Mr. Thos. B. Ffoulkes, Burlington Road, Ipswich; the Rev. R. and Mrs. Denman-Dean, Woodbridge; Mr. A. J. Hayward, Melton; the Ven. Archdeacon Cartwright, of Icklingham; Mr. C. J. E. Sparks, Bury St. Edmund's; Fleet-Surgeon Theodore J. Preston, Deptford; Mr. Elliston Allen, Ballingdon, Sudbury; Miss A. E. Barney, Rattlesden; Major J. Stuart, Hill House, Erwarton; Rev. Canon Warren, Bardwell; and Mr. F. B. Capon, Manningtree.

Mr. Redstone followed with a brief history of Icklingham—a parish in which many Romano-British and Saxon antiquities have been discovered. The sites of these memorials of the past were shown on a carefully-prepared map, and striking specimens were seen in the rectory grounds in the form of two huge stone coffins. It may be added here, too, that on the road from Ickworth Park to Saxham, there came under observation the site of Little Saxham Hall, and that a plan of the house and premises was distributed by kind permission of the editor of the Parish Registers, the Rev. S. H. A. Hervey. The hon. secretary's paper on Icklingham was a fascinating story of old times and manners. Mr. H. C. Casley proposed a vote of thanks to the Ven. Archdeacon, and this acknowledgment of his kindness was passed with applause.

After luncheon, the party were driven across the heath to West Stow Hall. Prince Frederick Duleep Singh, who had been present during the visit to Icklingham All Saints, gave a description of this famous old house, and of the families who have lived there. His Highness pointed out that the ancient portions now standing are the gate-house, a covered arcade or cloister, and the north side of the existing farm-house. The more interesting portion is a room over the gate-house, where a spirited;

* "In the latter church (All Saints, Icklingham), within the rails of the Communion Table, and about the Chancel, is a considerable quantity of Roman bricks that were ploughed up in the neighbouring field . . ." (Excursions through Suffolk, 1813).

though somewhat rough distempered drawing of a hunting scene, &c. (Proceedings, Vol. II., p. 150), still remains on the walls. The Prince added that he inquired about ghosts, and the reply of the good person who lived there was that people did say the place was haunted, and that at night the bowl was in the habit of dancing about in the sink. On the motion of the Rev. R. Hill of Cockfield, a vote of thanks was passed to the Prince for his kindness in reading the paper. The journey was once more resumed, and the next halt was called at Wordwell Church.

The Rev. A. H. Pemberton delivered a brief address on this small early Norman Church (All Saints), consisting of nave and presbytery separated by a low deep Norman arch. The length of the church is only 33 ft., and it has sittings for less than fifty people. The north and south doorways are of the same type as the chancel arch, and have over each of them a quaint tympanum. Mr. C. E. Keyser, F.S.A., who has devoted much time to the study of tympana, writes:—"The only examples I know in the Eastern Counties are those at St. Nicholas, Ipswich, and Wordwell. There may be a Scandinavian influence in these sculptures, but my experience with regard to the early sculptures and paintings has enabled me as a rule to give some more simple derivation. The two animals on either side of the tree represent the not uncommon subject of the animals feeding off the tree of knowledge, of which the best example is to be found at Dinton, co. Buckingham. The other is more singular and less clear. I have heard it explained as an illustration of the Sacrament of Marriage, but it struck me it might be the popular legend of Edward the Confessor and the pilgrim. The sculptures are rude, but not necessarily earlier than 1130." An exactly similar figure to those on the south tympanum is sculptured on the east capital of the pillar supporting the north tympanum. This fact denotes that the two are coeval in workmanship. The church was used as a granary before 1827, in which year it was restored. An *ancient well* was at the same time discovered in the churchyard.

At this juncture it was announced that a proposed visit to All Saints' Church, at Fornham, must be abandoned by those who wished to reach home in good time, and the incumbent (Rev. C. L. Feltoe) acceded with good grace to the curtailment of the programme.

No undue disparagement of what had heretofore been seen is conveyed in the statement that after all, the best was left to the last. On the way back to Bury, a stop was made at Hengrave Hall, where the company received a warm welcome from Mr. and Mrs. J. Wood, the present owners of this historic country seat. The first greetings between host and visitors were exchanged at the agreeable function of afternoon tea, which was served from tables set out in the gardens, and laden with fruit and other delicacies. A general meeting was then held before the entrance, and Mr. Wood read an extremely interesting paper, which showed that he had studied the history of the old house with

much enthusiasm, and that he is restoring it with the utmost care. The general outlines of the history of Hengrave Hall are well-known. From the hall, Mr. Wood proceeded to the church, of which he also gave a detailed description, and those who remembered the edifice, in times not far distant, when everything had fallen into dilapidation, were delighted to see how beautifully it had been preserved. It must be sufficient to add that this property has fallen into the hands of a gentlemen of taste and archæological knowledge, and that it is now better worth seeing than ever, as one of the striking historic places of the county. A hearty vote of thanks, moved by Mr. R. Burrell, was accorded to Mr. and Mrs. J. Wood for their kind hospitality. Mr. J. Wood has recently become a member of the Institute.

Before separating the company were photographed in a group by Mr. H. Jarman, of Abbeygate Street, Bury St. Edmund's. Most of the party returned home by trains due out of Bury about six o'clock, but some remained to visit Fornham All Saints.

ICKWORTH.

BY REV. SYDENHAM A. H. HERVEY.

About 100 years before the Norman Conquest, Bishop Theodred bequeathed his land at Ickworth to Bury Abbey. Soon after the Norman conquest, by an exchange of lands, the Abbey became possessed of Elvedon, and the owner of Elvedon became possessed of Ickworth. The new owners took the name of De Ickworth, and continued there for about eight generations. They died out about 1430. The ownership of Ickworth was then in dispute amongst several claimants, and was awarded by the arbitrators to Sir William Drury of Rougham. His cousin, Henry Drury, somehow became possessed of it, whose daughter and heiress was Jane. Jane married (1) Thomas Hervey, (2) Sir William Carew. Her first husband lies we know not where, her second in St. Mary's church at Bury. Jane Hervey, alias Carew, died before her mother, whose will was proved in 1476, and, therefore, never came into possession of Ickworth; but her son, William Hervey, did in due course, and Ickworth is still in the possession of his lineal descendant. Between the two there have gone by eleven generations of men, four centuries and a quarter of years.

These twenty-three generations, viz. eight of De Ickworths, two of Drurys, thirteen of Herveys, have between them had three successive mansion houses. The first mansion house stood to the east of the church, within a stone's throw of it. The foundations remain underground, and a dry summer reveals them, as night reveals the stars. Here and there a hewn stone or a brick may be seen working its way to the surface. Strange to say in this county of moats, there is no vestige of a moat. Possibly the brow of the hill made one unnecessary. In this original mansion we may safely imagine to have resided the eight