

NOTES.

BRANDON CHURCH.

In July, 1893, I was (*faute de mieux*) making an account of the altar plate in the Mildenhall Rural Deanery for the Society. On visiting Brandon the Rector, Mr. Crocker, told me, in the church, that a holy water stoup recess had been found during the restoration in the year (—?), inside the church, in the north aisle, east of the entrance door; but at the earnest request of a Protestant lady, it had been again covered up.

LONG MELFORD.

In July, 1925, I found distinct trace of an outer doorway in the inner side of the north wall of the Clopton Chantry. It had been blocked up in, or prior to, 1619, as a small monument of that date had been affixed to the masonry. No visible trace is shewn by the outer surface of the wall.

F. R. HAWKES MASON.

BUCKLESHAM CHURCH TOWER.

Bucklesham church, which was almost entirely rebuilt nearly 50 years ago, now consists of a chancel, nave and south aisle. The aisle is entirely modern, as also is a small wooden spirelet which is perched on the western gable of the nave. Before 1878, as shown in a print "drawn and published by H. Davy, September, 1856," the church simply consisted of nave and chancel of equal width, and at the west end a small wooden bell-turret surmounted by a slender lead-covered fleche, probably of late 18th century date. This turret contained one bell, inscribed

MILES GRAYE MADE ME. 1623.

At one time, however, Bucklesham church possessed a western tower, and recent excavations carried out by Mr. Charles Pain have revealed its foundations. These show it to have been some 18 feet square externally at the ground level, with the walls 4 feet 6 inches wide at the base, and with diagonal buttresses at the N.W. and S.W. corners. The stone employed in these foundations is mostly the local septaria, though a certain amount of flint and freestone occurs as well. There is evidence that there was a small newel staircase in the S.W. corner, and there seems to have been a western

doorway. Obviously forming the threshold of this there is still *in situ* a Purbeck marble slab (now in three pieces), 5 feet 3 inches in length, 24 inches across at the head, and tapering down to 12 inches at the foot. It is ornamented with a double hollow chamfer all round, and somewhat resembles a 14th century stone coffin lid now lying in the S. chapel at Newbourne Church, though on its (present) under side it shows no trace of any cross, either incised or in relief, as in the Newbourne slab and most other grave slabs of this date. The irregular angles of the slab too are curious. Another fragment of a similar Purbeck marble slab showing the double hollow chamfer on two of its edges, has also been re-used to form part of a step.

The tower seems to have fallen into a bad state of repair during the seventeenth century, and in 1693 the Bishop of Norwich, having been certified that it was very ruinous and in great danger of falling made an order for its repair, at the same time giving permission for its being made twenty feet lower than it was. (See Eastern Counties Collectanea. 1873., I., 241). It was probably taken down altogether about the year 1770. At the end of the first volume of the parish register this note occurs :

Mem. Mr. Pack, at the three Bells in Whitechappel, thought the Tenor weighed about 750 lb., the next 650, and the third 500 and $\frac{1}{4}$. Said he would give £4 per cent. if we would send'm to him, which he thought would cost for the two Biggest, Freight and Wastage (?), Portage and Cartage, about 30s., and that they will be better sent whole than broke.

The note is undated but it is in the handwriting of Thomas Hewett, who was Rector of Bucklesham from 1744 to 1773. Obviously the two larger bells were then being sold, probably because the tower was in an unfit state to hold them.

The bell now hanging in the turret was recast a few years ago.

J. F. WILLIAMS.

NOTE FROM BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

A great improvement has been effected, at the beginning of March, by the removal of the iron palisade which were on either side of the Gateway in front of the Abbey walls on the Angel Hill. The gain in dignity and apparent size both to the walls and to the gateway is very marked, especially as the two captured German guns have been taken away as well. The iron railing is not shewn in any of the views of the Angel Hill with which I am acquainted, so it cannot be very ancient. On the other hand there is no local