

## IXWORTH CHURCH NOTES.

[READ JUNE 14, 1849.]

IXWORTH Church is a good specimen of the flint perpendicular churches, so prevalent in this district, which were mostly built about the middle of that essentially church-rebuilding age, the fifteenth century. Its progress is marked by the following bequests. In 1465, Alice, widow of Robert Pedder, by her will, dated 3 Sept., 1465, gave 10 marks "ad fabric' ecclesie eiusdem;" and in 1477 William Nicolas, by will gave "fabrice eccl'ie x combs brasij." A bequest of "iijbs fru<sup>t</sup> & vjbs bras" was also made to the church in 1476 by John Purpyll, of Ixworth Thorpe. In 1488 Robert Palmer\* gave "ad fabricac'o'em eccl'ie vjs. viijd."

The church consists of a tower at the W. end; a nave with north and south aisles; a porch on the south side; doorway on the north; and a chancel with a priest's entrance on the south, and a projecting vestry on the north.

The tower is a well-proportioned square building, divided into four stages by light strings, flanked by buttresses which rise by five grades as high as the string of the upper story; and crowned by a deep embattled parapet, which with the base and the faces of the buttresses are enriched by panels of stone and flints, incised or arranged in various devices. Among others, the usual monogram and initials of the Blessed Virgin, to whom the church is dedicated; crosses of various forms; shields, chequers, &c. On the east face of the south buttress is a very perfect catharine wheel; and the curious monogram shewn in the annexed plate, from a drawing by Mr. Warren, is in the second panel from the south of the parapet cornice on the east front of the tower. The lightness of the strings and the correctness and beauty of the panelling give a very rich effect to the building.

The date of the tower may be very accurately ascertained. On the south-east buttress is a square panel of stone containing within a circle a crown with two arrows saltier-wise (St. Edmund) over this inscription: "Mast' Robert Schot, Abot." (*See Plate.*) A Robert Coote *alias* Robert de Ixworth is mentioned by Yates as Abbot of Bury between

\* He bequeathed a similar sum "ad fabricac'o'em eccl'ie de Elmeswell."



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Panel and Manogram, Sworth Church, Suffolk.

1470—1473; and this is most probably the person alluded to. This period is confirmed by an inscribed glazed tile, let into the south wall of the tower, in the basement story, which though much injured is evidently finished by the date 1472; and by another smaller tile above the door on the western face, with these words in excellent preservation:—

“Thome Vyal  
gaf to the  
Stepil iiijz.”

This Thome Vyal, as appears by his will preserved in the Registry at Bury, was a carpenter; and having probably in that capacity constructed the timber roof, rood screen, &c., of the new church, felt an interest in dedicating a portion of his profits to “the pious deed” of aiding the completion of a work with which he had been for years so intimately connected. This will, dated 11th October, 1472, and proved the 9th December following, bequeaths the identical sum recorded on the tile. The tower would appear not to have been completed till 1484, for in the will of Marione Rampholy, dated in that year, occurs this item:—“Do et lego ad plumbaturam campanil’ p’och’ de Ixworth de nouo fabricand’ xxs. & plus si necesse fu’it et si de bonis meis p’formari pot’t.”

The porch, in the customary place before the second bay on the south side, is flanked with buttresses, panelled in a similar manner to those of the tower, and covered by a timber roof resting on sculptured corbels, now much defaced. A small canopied niche remains over the door into the church.

On the east side of the priest’s entrance into the chancel is a perfect basin for holy water let into the wall; and at the east end, by the side of the altar window, which is a shapeless modern introduction, is an ogee cinquefoiled niche, with a crocketed pediment, under which was probably placed a rood or representation of the Crucifixion, and closed in by shutters, the hinges of which remained till very recently. On the other side of the window a corbel for supporting the figure of a saint remains; and the iron by which it was supported was only lately removed. The base of a cross remains on the east gable.

The church is now, as originally, covered with lead. In 1533, Robert Garrard bequeathed "to the ledying of the p'ich church of Ixworth iij*l*. vjs. viij*d*." The nave, entered from the tower under a perpendicular arch, now blocked up by an organ gallery, is separated from the aisles by arcades of five arches springing from piers consisting of four small shafts with a cavetto and two fillets between them. The clerestory windows are uniform on both sides: of two cinquefoiled bays with foliated tracery in the headings.

From a string course above the nave arches rise slender engaged semi-octagon pillars with capitals, on which rest the wall-pieces of the timber roof, which is of very simple kind; having very little enrichment beyond pierced tracery in the spandrils of the braces, and the remains of angels on the coved cornice. The aisles are roofed in a corresponding style, but the chancel roof is light and elegant: the spaces above the collar braces, and by the sides of the Queen posts, being filled with pierced tracery of rich design; the cornice small and embattled; and the helms of the hammer beams carved into the form of pillars, with bases and capitals.

At the west end of the south aisle is a window of two cinquefoiled bays with a small quatrefoil between two flamboyant cinquefoils in the headings. Two similar windows exist in the south wall of the chancel; and are of an earlier date than the remaining windows, which have three bays, divided by mullions to the apex.

Against the east wall of this aisle is the door, blocked up, which led to the rood.

The lower panels of the rood screen remain, but those on the south are so built up in the pews as to be quite hidden. That it was profusely coloured and gilt is apparent from the cinquefoil-headed panels, diapered with roses, &c., which are seen by the pulpit stairs on the north side; but its present state gives no idea of the gorgeous appearance which at one time it must have displayed; and which is evident from the various bequests made for its adornment. John Gentyman, of Ixworth, who was buried in the church, on the north side, by his will, dated 2nd March, in the year 1486, gave "on to the peynting of the northe syde of the candylbem x marks;" and John Leman, also buried within the walls of the church, by will dated 1st February, 1490, bequeathed a

further sum of 10 marks "to the peynting of the candelbem of the p'ysche cherche beforseyd.\*" The candlebeam, it is well known, was the popular name for the beam or screen on which the holy rood or representation of the crucifixion was placed; and took its name from the great candles of wax which were placed thereon to burn, some of them perpetually, day and night before the rood. Great emulation existed among the faithful to supply these candles and candlesticks; and accordingly we find John Murton, of Ixworth, smith, bequeathing, in 1533, to his parish church "fyue marks of lawfull monye to by a payer of great stondeinge candlesticks therw." The braces and principal rafter of the roof over the rood were also painted; the customary black and white spiral bands being still visible. The other furniture and ornaments of the church were of the same character. John Newman, in 1503, gave "on to y<sup>e</sup> ornamentis off y<sup>e</sup> same cherche, iijs. iiij*d*." and Herry Roger, in 1524, bequeathed "to y<sup>e</sup> makyng of a new hangyng of y<sup>e</sup> blyssed sacrament† to y<sup>e</sup> best awys y<sup>t</sup> it can be don to y<sup>e</sup> valor of vjs. viij*d*." In 1533, Robert Garrard, who gave so largely to the leading of the church, gave also "a messe book," which was to be delivered the day of his burial.

At the end of the north aisle against the east wall, to the south, is a piscina, and over it one of those apertures which are generally known by the name of squints; by some called hagioscopes and by others lychnoscopes.

The church having been recently re-coloured, the Rev. Mr. Blackall caused the old colour to be previously removed with a view to the discovery of any mural paintings, portions of figures having been seen during a former repair; but nothing was found.

On the south side of the altar is a piscina with two quatrefoiled sinks within a double-cinquefoiled arched recess; and on the north side is a table monument, richly ornamented with the then newly introduced arabesques, and

\* Can the following item in the will of Marione Rampholy, dated Nov. 4, 1484, refer to the candlebeam, or to some other appliance for receiving wax candles?—"ad pictur' cerastati d'c'e eccl'ie p'och' de Ixworth, vjs. viij*d*."

† The sacrament or consecrated wafer was kept in a vessel, generally in the form of a dove or a tower, called a pix, which was suspended under a canopy over the high altar.

covered by a slab of Petworth marble, to the memory of Richard Codington and Elizabeth his wife, to whom the neighbouring priory was granted by King Henry the 8th in exchange for the manor of Nonesuch in Surrey, where the king afterwards built a palace for himself. The following description of the monument is taken from the "Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica", vii., 298:

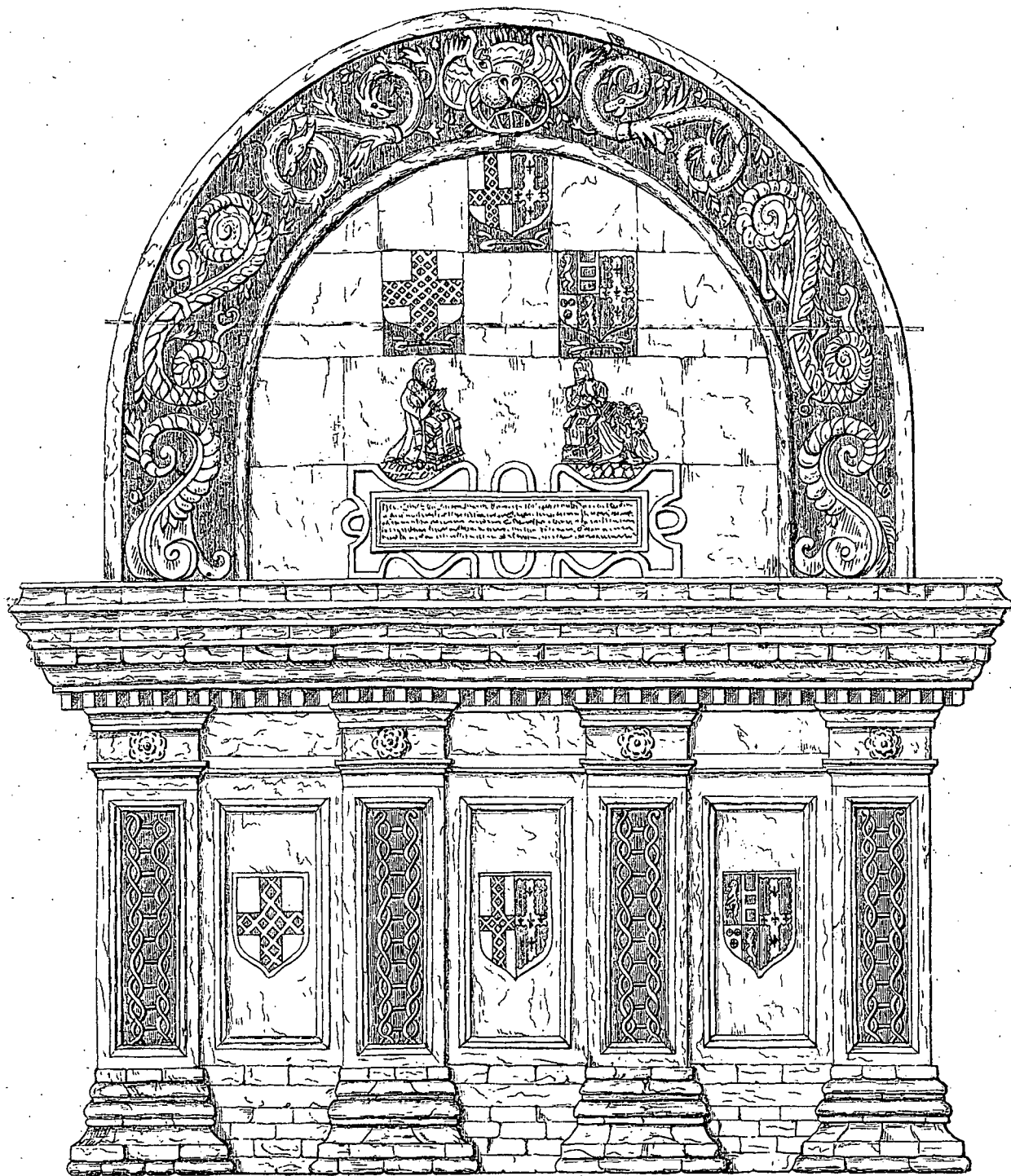
"Against the north wall of the chancel of Ixworth church, Suffolk, is a table monument, ornamented with shields in panels, and the same shields on brass are fixed on the wall within a circular arch above, together with figures of a man and his wife, and the following remarkable inscription:—"Here lyethe buried the bodies of Richard Codington, Esquyer, the First Temporall Lorde of this Manor of Ipworth (*sic*)\*, after the Suppressyon of the Abbye, which he had of o<sup>r</sup> souereigne lorde kinge Henrye the eight, in exchange for the manor of Codington, now called Nonsuche, in the Countie of Surrey, and Elizabeth his wyffe, sometyme the wyffe of Thomas Bucknh'm of greate Lyvermeare, Esquyer, which had yssue by the said Thomas Bucknh'm, John & Dorothe. The said Richard Codington deceasyd the xxvij day of Maye, in the yeare of o<sup>r</sup> lorde God, a. M<sup>c</sup>ccccclxvij. and the said Elizabeth deceasyd the viij day of September in the yeare of o<sup>r</sup> lorde God M<sup>c</sup>ccccclxxj." (This inscription is imperfectly printed under the parish of Snetterton in Blomefield's Norfolk, i. 425, and is there erroneously stated to be in Great Livermere church.) The brasses, containing the figures, are eleven inches high. The parties are represented kneeling before desks, with their hands in prayer; the man bareheaded, in a gown furred in front, and having a high collar of fur, and long hanging sleeves. The lady in a close cap, small ruff, and full shoulders of the fashion of her day. The first coat is "CVDINGTON" [Gules,] a cross [or] fretty [azure]; the second "CVDINGTON & IENOVR," the impalement being, [Or] on a cross engrailed [azure] five fleurs-de-lis [of the first] within a bordure engrailed [of the second]; the third "BVCKNHAM & IENOVR," Buckenham being Quarterly, 1 & 4, [Arg.] a lion rampant, [gules]; 2. [Arg. or Or], two bars [sa.] Thelnetham; 3. [Arg.] three ogresses each charged with a cross-crosslet [of the field], Hethe."

The annexed plate is engraved from drawings exhibited, with rubbings of the brasses, by Mr. Warren, to whose zealous care archæologists are much indebted for the preservation of so many of the antiquities connected with Ixworth.

SAMUEL TYMMS.

\* An error of the engraver, who has attempted to rectify it by the insertion of a line through the letter p, similar to that

afterwards used in the formation of the letter x.



S. COLLINS. DEL.

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WALTER HAGREEN. FECIT. 1850.

Elevation of Codington's Monument, in Ixworth Church, Suffolk.