

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHÆOLOGY

And Natural History.

HAWSTED CHURCH.

[READ JUNE 17TH, 1852.]

Hawsted Church consists of a tower, nave, and chancel, and a south porch. It was dedicated to the honour of All Saints.

The oldest parts of the church are two Norman doorways, on the north and south sides, which may have formed part of the church mentioned in Domesday Book. The chancel is of the Early English period, with Decorated insertions. The rest of the church is of the style which prevailed at the end of the 15th and beginning of the 16th century.

The present tower* was probably begun by Sir Robert Drury, Privy Counsellor to Henry the VIIIth, who died in 1536; and was finished by his son Sir William Drury, who died in 1557. It was in course of erection in 1519, when Geoffrey Rede, of Bury, "coler maker," bequeathed 10s. "to the beldyng of the newe stepyll in Havstede."† This bold and well-proportioned structure is 63 feet high, and is divided into three stages; the upper one being pierced on either side with a window of two lights; the middle having on the north and south sides a similar window of smaller dimensions; and the lowest story a western entrance with a handsome three light window over it. The doorway is square-headed, and has in each spandril a mullet, the cognizance of the Drurys. One of the mullets is pierced: the other not. Over the door are five shields with the arms

* That there was a tower here previous to the present one is clear from the following bequest in the will of John Day, of Hawsted, dated in 1440:—

"Item ad lego campanile prefate ecclesie vjs. viijd."

† Reg. Bury Wills, Lib. Hood, f. 58.

of:—1. Sir Wm. Drury impaling those of his first wife Jane St. Maur, who died in 1517. 2. Calthorpe impaling Drury. 3. The centre shield, Vere. 4. Sir Robert Drury, father of Sir William, impaling those of his first wife Anna, daughter of Sir Wm. Calthorpe. 5. Drury with a blank impalement. The base of the tower and the angular buttresses are ornamented with devices in flint-work: a mullet within a circle; shields with the Drury tau; and quatrefoils, interlaced triangles, and geometrical figures. The parapet, which has battlements with the line broken into stages, described in heraldry as battlements embattled, is enriched with shields and other ornaments. On the east face are two panels; in one is the pelican, and in the other are two cocks. The mullet and tau also appear on the cornice below the parapet. The south-east angle of the tower is terminated by a beacon turret.

The nave was rebuilt after the Tower; as is apparent from one of the angle buttresses of the tower being within the church. The north and south doorways are Norman, both springing from a single column on either side, but one having a single and the other a double zig-zag moulding. The door into the porch retains the original iron handle for shutting the door, which has on it the mullet and tau, and an escallop shell. The walls of the nave are of different thicknesses; the north wall being 3 ft. 1 in., and the other 3 ft. 6 in. The tracery of the windows, which are formed with four-centred arches, varies in pattern throughout. The chancel arch and the open roof are of coeval design. The latter was not completed in 1552, when Alice Semar bequeathed 10s. "to y^e buyldinge of the roof." The hammer-beams of the principals are carved into the representation of angels, which have been deprived of their heads and wings, probably by direction or in the time of the zealous Parliamentary Commissioner William Dowsing, who went on his destructive errand in the years 1643-4. The wall-plate forms a cornice which is ornamented with blank shields and scrolls. The absence of all taste in the modern attempts to restore this simple decoration is strikingly conspicuous.

The pulpit and the open seats are of the same period as the roof; but the former bears marks of later reparations.

On it are carved the arms of the first Sir Robert Drury, of Hawsted, and his wife Anna Calthorpe, and the Tudor cognizances—the rose, portcullis, and pomegranate. There is no doubt that it is the identical pulpit used by Bishop Hall. The stanchions of the seats have their headings carved into figures of poppy-heads and animals, including the antelope, one of “the beasts” of the House of Lancaster; the pelican feeding her young, a symbol of redemption through Christ. This, with the attitudes varied, is frequently repeated. It is a singular circumstance that the pelican should form one of the bearings of the Cullum family, who succeeded the Drurys in the patronage of the church, though not till a century afterwards.

The font is square, with a circular basin lined with lead, and a drain hole to carry off the water when unfit for use. On the top are the remains of the iron fastenings of the cover, which existed till the year 1637. Near to the font is the large parochial chest with the small box within, called the poor men’s box, which was enjoined by Edw. VI. for the reception of alms; a mode of obtaining a fund for the relief of the poor then peculiarly necessary, for the Reformation had cut off so many sources of relief, and the poor-law of Elizabeth had not come into operation. This is a curious instance of the union of the poor men’s box and the parish chest; and would appear to have been done, as Sir John Cullum suggests, as an economical compliance with the canons, which provide that the church chest and the poor box shall each have three locks and three keys. By placing the smaller within the larger, one set of locks and keys was only necessary.

The chancel is separated from the nave by an oaken screen, which had formerly a rood-loft, the staircase to which, on the north side of the church, is now walled up. The rood, as is well known, was the figure of Christ upon the cross, with St. John and St. Mary at the foot of it. The rood-loft and screen, being among the most important features of the church, were always decorated with painting and gilding, and accordingly we find Thomas Pye, who was following the trade of a smith in this parish in 1477, bequeathed “*ad depiccionem de la rodelofte eiusdem ecclesie faciendam, xijs,*” an item which also indicates the

date of the screen. When the principal festivals of the church were celebrated, wax lights were burnt before the rood; and in some churches a light was kept perpetually burning. It was so here, for Joan Cowper, widow, in 1503, bequeathed to her son "one acre of land errabyll, lying at Wynesmere Hill, under the condycion that he fynde a lampe before the roode in the cherche of Hawsted, with the rent therof as long as he lyve." This piece of land is still the property of the parish, and retains its name of "Lamp Land." On the top of the rood screen still hangs in its original position on the south side, the sanctus or sacring bell, which was used during parts of the mass, particularly at the consecration of the host, whence its name of sacring or consecrating bell. Over the screen are the royal arms put up in the time of Queen Anne. They occupy the position required by Edward the VIth, who, in the first year of his reign, by an order in council, directed the rood to give place to the king's arms, and the images and stories of the saints, which decorated the walls, to be replaced by texts of scripture.

The chancel is 33 feet long by 18 feet, and about 24 feet high; and, as may be seen by the lancet windows now filled up on either side, was originally in the early pointed style, and probably the work of the Fitz Eustaces. At the west end of the chancel, as well on the north as the south side, a window of two lights with flowing tracery, was inserted in the 14th century: that on the south side has the lights continued down below the level of the other windows, with a transom in the place of the sill, below which, in one of the divisions, is a shutter with a grating before it. The iron-work seems to be original, but it does not appear to have been glazed. This is an instance of the class of window, known as lowside windows, the use of which is still uncertain; but perhaps the more general belief is that they were used as confessionals. In the pier of the chancel arch close adjoining is a small arched recess, with the hinge pins for a door. From the appearance of the rubble at the back of it, it was thought to have been a squint or hagioscope, and afterwards converted into a cupboard for books. It was covered over during the present repairs, but

not till it had been satisfactorily ascertained to have been originally a locker or aumbry. Its contiguity to the shuttered window strengthens the opinion that this window had been used for the distribution of alms.

The east window of the chancel, of five lights, was probably inserted by the Cloptons in the 15th century, and is a fair example of a window of the perpendicular style. It has some remains of early painted glass, but the headless angels and archangels evince the zeal of the destroyers of "superstitious images".

The chancel roof, which is of the waggon roof form, and panelled, is probably of the same date as the east window.

In Sir John Cullum's time there was a stone at the entrance of the chancel, with a cross at one corner, shewing it to have been used as an altar stone. It may have been the identical stone which for centuries covered the high altar. It is not now to be found.

On the north side of the chancel is a wooden lectern, on which lie Erasmus's Paraphrase and the Book of Homilies. When Sir John Cullum wrote his History, Bishop Juel's Works was with them. Erasmus's Paraphrase was enjoined by Edward the VIth to be conveniently placed in the church for people to read in; and Bishop Juel's Defence of his own Apology was commanded by Queen Elizabeth to be chained in all parish churches for public use.

No other rural church in the kingdom, perhaps, can shew such a variety of curious and elegant memorials as are to be seen in this church. The earliest is that with the effigy of a cross-legged knight, under a recessed canopy in the north wall, which is believed to have been erected by Joan la Colville to her husband Sir Eustace Fitz-Eustace, Lord of the Manor of Hawsted in the time of Henry III. The knight is in mail and surcoat, the right hand in the attitude of sheathing a sword, which is held in the left. The oak and acorn foliage of the canopy is boldly executed; and the pierced battlements of the parapet are at once novel and interesting. The canopy is of a later date than the figure; and appears to have been re-put together at a much later period. At the back of the recess is the representation in stone of a globe and crescent, which was removed from the west spandril of the canopy during the present repairs,

where it hid some of the original carved work, and placed here to preserve it.

The monument, in three compartments, above this tomb, records the deaths and virtues of Sir Dudley Cullum, 3rd Baronet, M.P., and his two wives, Anne, daughter of John, 1st Lord Berkeley of Stratton, and Mrs. Anne Wickes.

The tablet over the door of the vestry, in memory of Sir Thomas Gery Cullum, 7th Baronet, Bath King of Arms, was erected by his son, the Rev. Sir Thomas G. Cullum, the present Baronet.

On the north side of the communion table is the monument of Sir Robert Drury, the last male representative of the Hawsted branch of this ancient family, and Anne his wife, daughter of the Lord Keeper Bacon, who died at Hardwick in 1624. Over the arch in an oval frame is a most spirited bust in armour, large as life, of Sir William Drury, father of the before-mentioned Sir Robert. This monument, the work of the celebrated Nicholas Stone, who received for it the then large sum of 140*l.*, was erected at the cost of Sir Robert's widow, and the epitaphs are believed to have been written by the pious and witty Dr. Donne, Dean of St. Paul's, of whom Sir Robert was the great friend and patron. The monument occupies the place of the holy sepulchre, in which, prior to the reformation, it was customary on Good Friday to deposit the crucifix and pix, in memory of our Lord's crucifixion. Here they were watched day and night till Easter Sunday, when they were taken out again with great ceremony. The holy sepulchre usually consisted of an altar-tomb within a recess or under a canopy; and not unfrequently was the tomb of some person of note. At Long Melford church the tomb of one of the Cloptons served for this purpose. It was esteemed the most holy place of sepulture, and was coveted by the pious, that when men came to pay their devotions to our Lord's body, at the holy time of Easter, they might be moved to pray for the repose of their souls. Tapers and lamps were provided by individuals to burn before the sepulchre. In 1480, Thomas Rede, of Hawsted, who bequeathed three acres of land to the church, also gave "to the light of the sepulchre in the seyde cherche j cove of the beste," and a few years later, in 1503, Andrew Sparke charged his wife to give "the best cove

that she shall have at her decease to help to maintain the sepulchre light." Sir John Cullum, to whom these bequests were unknown, quoting from the will of "John Meryell, of Hausted, 1480," the direction to be buried "in the holy sepulchre that is in the cherech yerd of Hausted," remarks in a note on the extraordinary position of the Holy Sepulchre in that parish. The passage, however, was not extracted with due care. The will itself has no reference to Hawsted, but to *Stansted*, and the direction is that the testator's body should be buried "in the holy sepulture, that is, in the chereche yeerd of Stansted," and is a common translation of the common latin form "*ecclesiasticæ sepulturae*," or what is now understood by the phrase "Christian burial."

Against the south wall of the chancel, by the altar, is the effigy in alabaster of Elizabeth, the beautiful and only daughter of the last Sir Robert and Lady Anne Drury, who died in 1610, at the early age of 15. She is represented all in white, leaning on her elbow; an attitude which is believed to have originated the tradition of her death being caused by grief occasioned by her father giving her a box on the ear. The epitaph, "finely written in gold upon iett," is ascribed to the pen of Dr. Donne, who has also celebrated her memory in an elegy, in which these remarkable lines occur :

" Her pure and eloquent blood

" Spoke in her cheeks, and so distinctly wrought

" That one might almost say her body thought."

On the top of the arch sits Aurora with her lap full of flowers, and one hand strewing flowers upon the head of the lady. Over head are the rays of the morning sun in gold. On each side of the arch is a little boy, one having a coronet of gold, the other a wreath of bays; and in the middle was formerly another boy standing upon a death's head blowing up bubbles. This and the monument of her father were so highly esteemed by the Bacon family, that Sir Edmund Bacon, Bart., of Redgrave, uncle of Elizabeth Drury, by his will dated in 1648, gave

" unto the town of Halstead, neere Bury, thirty pounds, to be disposed of to the best profit that shall be thought fitting by mine executors, and the benefitt thereof to goe to the sexten of that parish, or some other appointed by six of the cheife inhabitants of that towne,

the minister being one, for the well looking to the two toombes in that church, the one being the tombe of Sr Robert Drury and my deare sister his wife, and thother that of my neece Elizabeth, their daughter."

In what manner this bequest was invested, or whether it was ever received, is not known.

The large monument, by the side of that to Elizabeth Drury, is the work of an Italian, whose name "D. Jacinto Cowcij" is to be seen carved in a stone on the north pier of the chancel arch. It records the death of Sir Thomas Cullum, the first Baronet.

In front of the communion table, in the pavement, are the effigies in brass of Ursula, fourth daughter of the first Sir Robert Drury, wife of Giles Alington, Esq., of Horseheath, in the county of Cambridge; and is an interesting example of the costume of the period, shewing the rosary and aumonier of the lady suspended from the girdle.

The founder of the Hawsted branch of the Drurys, Roger Drury, who died in 1495, lies at the foot of the chancel door in the nave. The inscription is wanting, but the brasses at the corners, with the arms of himself and his three wives remain.

The small figures in brass, of a male and female, on the adjoining gravestone on the north side, are unappropriated.

The fine altar-tomb of Purbeck marble in the south-east angle of the church has the effigies in brass of Sir William Drury, who died in 1557, and his wives Joan St. Maur and Elizabeth Sotehill, with their thirteen children. The effigies of the four sons and their names are lost. This inscription remains on a brass, which appears to have been replaced in a wrong position :

"Here lyeth clothed now in earth Syr Wyllm Drury, knyght,
Such one as whylest he lyved here was loved of every wyght:
Such temperance he dyd retayne, such prudent curtesy,
Such noble mynde, with justice joynd such lyberality;
As fame ytself shall sound for me the glory of his name
Much better than this metall mute can ay pronounce the same.
The seventh of frosty Janyver, the yere of Christ, I fynd,
A thousand fyve hundred fyfty seven, his vytall thryd untwind,
Who yet doth lyve, and shall do styll, in hearts of them y^t knew him.
God graunt the slyppes of such a stok in vertues to ensue hym."

On the north side of the church is a mural tablet, designed by Bacon, to the memory of Mr. Philip Metcalfe, the

munificent founder of the neighbouring almshouse for poor women. Descended from Dr. Roger Metcalfe, the friend of Dryden, he was himself a friend to men of letters, and a liberal patron of the arts. He was among those who signed the Round Robin at the house of Sir Joshua Reynolds, addressed to Dr. Johnson, suggesting that the epitaph on Oliver Goldsmith should be written in English rather than in Latin. The family of Metcalfe have a mansion-house here, not far from the church, which has been in the family for nearly a century.

A tablet over the north door has an appropriate epitaph to the historian of the parish, whose remains lie under the great stone at this door in the churchyard. They were interred here according to the direction of his will; a direction given doubtless, as Mr. Gage Rokewode suggests, to mark his contempt, as expressed in the history, for the vulgar superstition of refusing to bury on the north side of the church. The steps to this doorway were made by cutting into two pieces the pedestal of the churchyard cross. One of the pieces was removed at the burial of Sir John Cullum, and now lies in the churchyard. On it may be seen part of the Drury arms. A portion of the shaft of this cross lies by the side of the road, outside the churchyard.

There was a guild in Hawsted, with a hall contiguous to the churchyard. In whose honour the guild was named is unknown, but "the churche housse, otherwisse callid the Gylde Hall," was bequeathed "to the use of the towne" in 1533, by Mrs. Anne Legett. It was afterwards converted into a workhouse, but, being disposed of on the formation of the Poor-law Union is now divided into tenements.

SAMUEL TYMMS.