

which he could not keep with a good conscience, returned hither to end his life, where he begun it, and professeth here, at the foot of his tomb, that as naked he came forth, so naked he must return; "the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; as the Lord pleaseth so come things to pass. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

On the south west side of the churchyard there is a messuage called the *Guildhall*, with a piece of land containing 1a. adjoining, and a close called Town-close, containing 7a. 1r. 32p. convey'd by William Sancroft, in 1704, for the benefit of the parishioners of Fressingfield.

JAMES BEDINGFIELD, R.D.

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### ADDITIONAL NOTES ON FRESSINGFIELD CHURCH.

Fressingfield Church, erected probably somewhere about the 13th century, in the Decorated and Perpendicular styles, consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, a chapel on the north side, two porches, and tower at the west end.

The tower is of four stages, with good upper windows and battlemented parapet.

The south porch is like many others in Suffolk and Norfolk, a handsome erection, with parvise above; the approach to which is a mural staircase from the interior of the church. Within the chamber, in the north wall, is the embrasure of a window looking into the church, on which side however, it has been blocked up. The ceiling of the porch is deeply groined; the knob or central boss contains a figure much defaced, and the boss near the outer arch has a shield with the arrow and crowns of St. Edmund. The outside is panelled in flint, and is decorated with niches, one on each side of the parvise window, with stone panels carved with roses beneath. The spandrils of the gate way, are carved with palm branches tied with ribbons. The parapet is handsomely indented.

The north porch is a much more simple erection, with modern plain roof, and a niche on the east of the inside door for the holy water basin.

The nave, supported by D. piers and arches, with clerestory, containing twelve windows of two lights each, and gable window of three lights over the chancel arch, is chiefly interesting for the richly carved cornice of its roof, and several elaborately carved benches, which, with a few exceptions, are in good preservation. The poppy heads are beautifully carved, and the elbows have figures upon them of Apostles, Saints, and Martyrs, as well as allegorical and heraldic. Amongst the more perfect may be recognised St. Peter with the keys, St. Paul or Barnabas with a book, and Dorothea, Virgin and Martyr with a basket of fruit and flowers. Many of the figures have been cut away in part to admit the fixing of some extremely ugly modern pews. The back of the benches at the west end of the nave have beautifully cut panels and shields: those on the north side containing emblems of the Passion; those on the south side emblems of the Trinity, and the Apostles Peter and Paul. The pulpit, desk, and clerk's pew are all in one, quite plain, excepting the brackets supporting the desks, which are richly carved, the effect of which is quite destroyed by a thick coating of dark brown paint. The font is plain and octangular with a conical wooden cover. The west end of the nave is defaced, as is too usual, by the large rectangular box on pillars, called a singing gallery, bearing date of erection 1700. As to the roof I cannot do it justice otherwise than by transcribing the account given of it in Brandon's work on the open timber roofs of the middle ages.

“For a single hammer beam roof this is of a very low pitch, the angle formed at the ridge being  $112^{\circ}$  yet the effect internally is altogether very good. The main feature of this roof is its magnificent cornice, which is very much brought forward into the building, so as to gain great height. The arch ridge-braces spring from small figures of angels bearing shields, and it is probable that the ends of the hammer beams and wall pieces have been similarly terminated, or intended to be so. The spandrils over the hammer and collar beams are filled in with tracery, the embattled moulding

to the collar beam is applied on and extends across the principal rafter; the spandrils of the cornice braces, 'as well as the upper member of the cornice, contain some well executed foliage; and altogether this roof exhibits a high degree of finish.'

The door of the staircase leading to the rood-loft is still in existence, at the east end of the south aisle, between the window and the back of the pulpit, but it is fastened up.

The chancel which is rendered very unsightly by some large box pews, has a fine Decorated east window, of four lights, with internal shafts and capitals of pure decorated foliage; the tracery of the central division is vertical. There are three more windows, two on south side of three lights each, and one on the north side of two lights. A closet with oaken shelf has been lately blocked up on the north side of the altar, which was probably an almonry. And on the south wall is a projecting ornamented moulding over what appears to have been the Piscina and Sedilia. The altar stone, distinguished by crosses carved in the centre and four corners, lies on the floor of the chancel on the south side. The roof is plainer than that of the nave, the corbels having like those of the north chapel, shields attached, bearing the arms of Grudgfield, Brewes, Hopton, and Swillington. The record chest, covered with iron bands and having three locks, stands within the rails.

The chapel on the north side, dedicated to St. Margaret, is a continuation of the north aisle. It has three windows of three lights each, containing several pieces of ancient and modern painted glass. There is a plain niche on the south wall: shields bearing arms are attached to the corbels of the roof.

From a bequest made by John Bohun in 1511, it seems likely that the north aisle was erected in the sixteenth century.

In the windows of the chapel, chancel, south aisle and clerestory, are remnants of fine old painted glass.

The *monumental records* are few; there is one very good brass on the floor of the chancel within the rails, to the

memory of Wm. Brewes and Elizabeth his wife, bearing date 1489. There is also a stone inscribed with coat of arms to Wm. Grudgfield, Gent., and Mary his wife, who died one in Dec., 1566, the other in Oct., 1664. In the south aisle is a mural tablet to Rev. Edward Vaughan, B.D., vicar of the parish for 21 years, who died in 1797, aged 68 years, and Eleanor his wife.

On the outside of the church, the principal objects of interest are two, the sanctus turret on the west gable of the nave, surmounted by a handsome cross, the aperture through which the rope attached to the bell passed is still visible in the upper part of the chancel arch; and 2ndly the altar tomb, erected over the remains of William Sancroft, D.D. archbishop of Canterbury, who was born at Fressingfield, educated at Bury school, and afterwards became the master of Emanuel College, Cambridge. He died in this parish on the 24th November, 1693, aged 77. He was buried in the angle between the church porch and the south wall of the church, a spot which he had chosen for himself on a visit to Fressingfield, in 1677. A locket containing the Archbishop's 'haire of his head, and enameled over with great curiosity, and with the motto, *Rapido contrarius orbi,*' was sent to the University of Oxford, to be reposed in their common library. Among the few remaining relics of his connexion with Fressingfield, was long preserved in a house, formerly the Guildhall, adjoining the churchyard, a massive and capacious arm chair, which tradition says, he was wont to occupy. At an auction held in June, 1851, it passed for a few shillings into the hands of Lord Henniker, the present proprietor of Ufford Hall, the house in which the eminent nonjuror was born.\* The inscription on his tomb (see p. 324), prepared by his own hand, with directions for the manner in which it should be put up, is a lasting document to posterity, in proof of the real sincerity of heart which influenced his conduct.

\* From the "Autobiography of Edmund Bohun," by S. Wilton Rix, Esq.

The following extracts from the wills of some of the Bohun family, are interesting as bearing upon the past history of the church.

Richard Bohun who died in 1496, gave his body to be buried in the parish church of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul, of Fressingfield. To the high altar of this church he bequeathed the sum of 6s. 8*d.*; also to the building of the same 10 marks, to be laid out according to the discretion of his executors. He gave also one bell, called a sanctus bell, weighing 100 lbs. To the fraternity of the guild of St. Margaret, 6s. 8*d.*; to the sepulchre light, 6s. 8*d.*; then the rest of his debts and liabilities being discharged, he bequeathed to John and Nicholas his sons, his remaining goods and chattels, to find one fit chaplain to celebrate mass in the church of Fressingfield for the health of his soul, as well as that of his wife Agnes, and his ancestors for one entire year.

In the will of Edmund Bohun, made in 1499, is this item:—“Itm, do et lego prepositis gardianis sive ironomis eccl'ie de Fressyngfeld p'dict' ad usum dict' eccl'ie ad emend' unum focale vel turibulum cum cimba aut ali<sup>d</sup> focale p' avisament' executor' meor' xl.

Nicholas Bohun, of Fressingfield, by will dated in 1504, makes the following bequests:—My body to be buried beneath the font. To the high altar for tithes forgotten, 6s. 8*d.*; to the sepulchre light, 6s. 8*d.*; also 8 marks to have a secular priest to sing for me and my friends, by the space of an whole year in the church of Fressingfield. Also 10 marks to the church of Fressingfield to buy a jewel or ornament such as may be most necessary, by the advice of my executors and the leading men (substauns) of the parish.

Further bequests were made by John second son of Richard Bohun, who died in 1511, to the high altar for my tithes negligently paid 10s.; to the brotherhood of St. Margaret's guild 20s. and a salt of silver with cover; to the new building of an aisle on the north side of the chan-

cel 10 marks; to the building of St. Margaret's chapel, 20 marks; to the said chapel of St. Margaret, a pair of chalys and a pax of silver and gilt; a suit of vestments of white damask for the feast of our lady; and he leaves certain lands lying in Fressingfield, Mendham and Wedersdale, in his executor's hands for a term of 20 years after his decease, upon this condition, that they find an honest priest to sing in the church of Fressingfield, by the space of 20 years, and pray for my soul and my friends. After which the lands were to be offered for sale to his nephews John and Nicholas, and if they were unable to purchase them, they were to be sold for the benefit of the priory and convent of Eye, and for the repairing of the church of Fressingfield, and the mending of the high ways.

R. J. SIMPSON.