

CHURCH PLATE IN SUFFOLK.

DEANERY OF LAVENHAM.

This Deanery is one of three into which the ancient Deanery of Sudbury (which comprised 48 benefices, or 52 parishes) has been divided. Of these, sixteen parishes make the Deanery of Lavenham.

This South-west angle of Suffolk, from its comparative nearness to the metropolis, early settlement by considerable and noble families, and later replenishment in wealth by the great clothiers and wool-staplers, must of old have been in a much more flourishing condition than, alas! is now the case. We might naturally look for signs of this opulence, not only in the Insignia of Corporations and Guilds, or in the richness of church edifices, but in the Church Plate of the district. This does not seem to be so now, though possibly it was once distinguished in this branch of Sacred Art, but the sacrilegious and avaricious hands which had power in the middle of the 16th and 17th centuries, were felt heavily in Suffolk. The lateness of date in many cases, of the Altar vessels seems to show how little that was capable of being stolen was left to the dismantled churches; for it cannot be supposed that *all* the ancient silver vessels were re-formed into the modern ones by mistaken taste, though the huge flagons frequently met with seem to be the outcome of puritanical quarterly "Assemblies."

Again, the importance of some of the benefices in the Deanery of Lavenham, either from the patrons or from their (once) ample incomes, would naturally seem to secure rectors of some eminence, able and willing to adorn and enrich the Services of the Church, for the King appointed to two, the Archbishop of Canterbury to one, important Colleges at Cambridge to four, and landowners to four of them.

There are indications of this influence, notably at Cockfield, in gifts by Dr. Jonathan Hall in 1743, and by Henry Wrigley, B.D., in 1752; at Hitcham by Laurence Breton, B.D., in 1640, as fully detailed in "Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy"; at Monks Eleigh by Dr. Wilkins in 1745 (he had S. T. P. Comitiis Regiis at Cambridge in 1717); by T. Tanner, about 1782; and by A. J. C. Wallace in 1847. All these were rectors; others, no doubt were benefactors, though their records are not cut in silver. At Brent Eleigh the Flagon and Alms Dish have the arms of the Colmans, given by Sir R. Gipps as "az. upon a Pale radiant rationée or. a Lyon rampant g." They purchased the estate in 1647. Dr. Colman, who founded the Library, spelt his name Coleman at his B.A. at Cambridge in 1691, and at his three subsequent degrees omitted the *e*; he was probably the donor. The Mildens plate is worth attention, as detailed further on; and the Lawshall, for some inscriptions. Was the Preston Paten of 1624, with its simple "Reticebo," the result of a penance on some evil-speaker; or the submissive gift and exclamation of one whom the Hand of God had heavily visited? The stealing of the Brettenham Plate, sixty or more years ago, is a terrible loss, as it is likely to have been interesting and valuable; the Wenyeves being paramount there from (at least) the time of Queen Elizabeth to Queen Anne, and still owners into the days of Queen Victoria; one of them rector as late as 1739; and the family apparently staunch to Church and Queen, and restorers of the fabric and furniture left desolate by the great Rebellion.

The poorness of the Plate at so grand a church as Lavenham is striking, as is the interesting Chalice, &c., in so small a church as Mildens, probably given by one of the Allingtons about 1600. A large monument of the family remains.

C. J. BETHAM, RURAL DEAN.

ACTON. ALL SAINTS.

CUPS: both on foot. Height $9\frac{1}{8}$ inches; diameter $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches; at foot $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches. They have the sacred monogram within rays.

PATENS: (1) diameter 8 inches with foot; (2), (3), $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Have the sacred monogram with maltese cross within rays.

Marks: leopard's head; lion passant.

ALMS DISH: diameter $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Bears the sacred monogram, with cross and nails within rays.

BRENT ELEIGH. S. MARY.

CUP: goblet-shape. Height 9 inches; depth of bowl $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; diameter at top $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, at bottom $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Marks: leopard's head crowned; maker R A over a rose within a shield; small black letter r for 1694; lion passant. Weight 11b. $0\frac{1}{2}$ oz. troy.

PATEN: on foot, slight depression. Diameter 6 inches, including the rim; height $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch; width $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches at bottom.

Weight $6\frac{1}{2}$ oz. troy. Marks, same as on Cup.

FLAGON: tankard-shaped, with lid hinged to handle, and thumb piece. In front these arms: on a pale rayonné a lion rampant, on a helmet two wings displayed beneath BRENT ELY. Height $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches; depth $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches; diameter at top $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, at bottom $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Weight $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. troy.

ALMS DISH: has arms as on Flagon. Diameter $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Weight 1 lb. 4 oz. Marks: query.

BRETTENHAM. S. MARY THE VIRGIN.

According to the Terriers, the ancient Altar Plate was sacrilegiously stolen out of the Church (some time in the reign of King William IV.) It is described as having been "very handsome." After this lamentable loss, a plated set was procured, good of its kind, but quite uninteresting.

The Service now used was presented in 1884, as inscribed.

CUPS: (1) upright with slender stem, 8 inches high.

(2) of handsome modern-antique design, bowl gilt inside, has a bold knop on stem. Height $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches; diameter at top $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches; foot $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches. On opposite side of the base are chased a floriated cross, and

I H C. Marks: outside, leopard's head; maker $\begin{matrix} H E \\ W \end{matrix}$ within a trefoil;

Roman capital H for 1883; lion passant; head of Victoria.

PATENS: (1) on foot; $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches high; 7 inches diameter.

(2) sunk centre with an "Agnus Dei" chased on it, and chased edge. Diameter 6 inches. Marks same as on Cup. Both the Cup and Paten are engraved underneath:— + *Eccles: de Brettenham grato animo D.D. Car^s Jepson Betham A.M. Annos. jam 25. implens. Rector. in. Fest. S S Tr^{is} 1884: et. Fil. unic. dilectus. Car^s Goddard Betham A.M.*

FLAGON : with hinged lid, ordinary handle and spout.

Height 10 inches ; diameter $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches at base, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches at top.

PLATE : of pewter, $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, apparently older than the above. Marked beneath with two fighting cocks, &c.

COCKFIELD : S. PETER.

CUP : bell-shaped, with a band of scroll work. Height 8 inches ; depth of bowl 5 inches ; diameter at top $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches.

PATEN : with foot, not a cover to cup, no ornamentation. Diameter $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches, height $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch ; diameter at foot $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

FLAGONS : two, tankard-shaped, with hinged lids.

Height $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; to top of lid $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; diameter of base 7 inches, of top $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Engraved is the sacred monogram and maltese cross, and on each the inscription :—“*The gift of the Rev^d. Jonathan Hall D.D. Rector of Cockfield, to the said Parish 1743.*”

ALMS DISH : diameter $11\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Inscription :—“*The Gift of H. Wrigley B D Rector of Cockfield 1752.*” Between these two clauses is a coat of arms, apparently three knives or cutlasses, on an oval shield.

HITCHAM. ALL SAINTS.

CUP : plain with knob on stem. Height $8\frac{1}{8}$ inches ; depth of bowl $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches ; diameter at top 5 inches. No ornament or arms, but on the foot is *Hicham in Suffolke, 1640*. Marks : leopard's head crowned ; maker R W ; court hand B for 1639 ; lion passant.

PATENS (1) : cover to Cup. On a foot upon which is engraved within a border a lamb carrying a flag staff, with a cross at the top, and a banner with a cross ; no other ornament. Marks : same as on Cup.

(2) . Diameter $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Inscription beneath : *Hitcham in Suffolk, 1731*. Marks : indistinct.

FLAGONS : two tankard-shaped, with straight sides, with lids and thumb pieces, very heavy, exactly alike. Inscription underneath : *Hitcham in Suff. 1638*. Height 10 inch, lid $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch ; diameter at top 4 inches. Marks : leopard's head crowned ; maker not distinct ; small italic v for 1637 ; lion passant.

From Terriers. Account of Books, Ornaments, &c. “First, two silver flagons, weighing 49 ounces ; also a silver Chalice and ewer weighing 18 ounces ; also a silver patene, weighing 8 ounces.”

Extract from Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy, 1714.

LAWRENCE BRETTON, B.D., RECTOR OF HITCHAM.

Both his living and his temporal estate were seized and put under sequestration A.D. 1643. He had, just before the breaking out of the rebellion, furnished the Communion Table of his Church with *two large Flagons, a large Cup, and a very handsome Basin** for the offerings,

* The Rector, Rev. A. R. Grant, states that he never saw this basin. It would appear that a small plate, dated 1731, was substituted for it.

all of silver, which I mention as an instance, not only of his Piety, but of his great modesty likewise; for he would *neither* permit his name, nor his arms, nor anything but the word "*Hitcham*," to be engraven upon them; which was happily the occasion of saving them in the time of the Rebellion, for, being seized by the Plunderers as Mr. Bretton's household plate, it was carried before the Committee, who, finding no other inscription than that mentioned upon it, were satisfied that it belonged to the Parish, and, in a fit of tenderness, not common in those times, sent it back again.

This entry occurs in Hadleigh Parish Register:—"1657, July 25, Lawrence Britten, B.D." (History of Hadleigh, p. 157.)

KETTLEBASTON. S. MARY.

No returns.

LAVENHAM. S. PETER.

All electro-plated and comparatively modern.

CUPS: two alike, gilt inside, quite plain except a simple bead border round the foot. No marks.

PATENS: two alike with raised edges, which have a fluted border and with three feet apiece. Diameter 8 inches; height $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

FLAGON: perfectly plain. Height 12 inches; diameter at top $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches, at base $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

ALMS DISH: modern, in the centre the sacred monogram with cross and nails with a circle of rays. Diameter 9 inches.

FUNNEL: diameter at top $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; length of tube 6 inches. No record or date of purchase.

LAWSHALL. ALL SAINTS.

Extract from Parish Terrier 1794:—"One silver Flagon weighing about 16 ounces; one silver Chalice weighing about 8 ounces; one silver Paten weighing about 6 ounces; three metal Alms plates."

CUP: height $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; diameter 4 inches; weight 8 oz.

Marks: leopard's head; maker I K; lion passant.

PATEN: without foot, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter.

Engraved:—"O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world have mercy upon us." Marks: leopard's head; maker I K; lion passant.

FLAGON: ewer-shaped, engraved on the bottom:—"The flagon from the silver of which this piece of plate is made A° dm. 1857, for Lawshall Church was inscribed beneath + "*The gift of Frances Lee, Widdow, Glory be to God on high.*"

Height 12 inches; weight 16 oz. Marks: maker I K; lion passant.

ALMS DISHES: upon them these inscriptions:—

(1) "*Freely ye have received freely give.*"

(2) "*Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon the earth.*"

(3) "*Praise the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits.*"

MILDEN. S. PETER.

CUP: supposed by the Rector to be of continental make. Date about 1600, hammered, has an engraved scroll $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide.

Height $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches; diameter $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

PATENS: (1) of London make, date 1696; turned edge, hammered foot otherwise quite plain. Diameter $5\frac{7}{8}$ inches; height $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch. (2) of London make, date George III., 1788.

MONKS ELEIGH. S. PETER.

CUP: Elizabethan with a band of foliated strap-work round the bowl, but no marks. Inscribed underneath is:—"The Church of Monks Eleigh."

Height $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches; depth of bowl $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches; diameter at top 4 inches. The stem is thick having a central knob, beneath this is the reed ornament and a chased device.

PATENS: (1) with foot, cover to cup, grooved on the upper edge. Diameter $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches. On the foot are the letters M S, there are also the initials G L linked.

(2) Inscribed beneath:—"Given to the Church of Monks Eleigh by Rev^d A. C. J. Wallace, Rector 1847." In the centre is the sacred monogram with cross within rays. Diameter $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Marks: leopard's head; maker $\begin{matrix} CR \\ GS \end{matrix}$; old English capital M for 1847; lion passant; head of Victoria.

FLAGON: tankard-shaped, with domed cover with thumb piece and large handle. In front is the sacred monogram with cross within rays, and beneath the same is inscribed "*Ex Dono T. Tanner hujus Ecclesie Rectoris.*" Height 8 inches without lid, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches with same; diameter at top $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; depth $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Marks: leopard's head crowned; maker E.F. (for Edward Fennell); small Roman g for 1782; lion passant.

ALMS DISH: inscribed in the centre beneath "*Deo et Ecclesie suce de Monks Eleigh D.D.D. David Wilkins S.T.P. 1745.*" Diameter $9\frac{3}{8}$ inches. Marks: leopard's head crowned; maker I.S.; small Roman k for 1745; lion passant.

Besides the above, are four Pewter Flagons of various sizes, measuring:—(1) $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height; diameter at top $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches. Mark: a crown; stamped on centre of bottom (inside) P M.

(2) Height 6 inches; diameter at top 4 inches. Marks: similar to the above.

(3) has thumb piece to the lid. Height $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches; diameter $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. On centre of bottom S T.

(4) lid with thumb piece. Height $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches to the top of lid knob, without lid $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; diameter at top $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

The Rev. A. C. J. Connell supplies the following information respecting his predecessors:—1845, Rev. A. C. J. Wallace died in 1871, at least that

is the date when his successor became Rector. He is buried at Great Horkesley, Essex.

The entry among the Rectors as to T. Tanner is as follows:—
“1745, Tho^s Tanner, M.A, collated by Archbp. Potter; inducted by John Child, Oct. 29th, then Curate. Resigned S. Edmund the King, Lombard Street, London; also Rector of Hadleigh, where he was buried, March 20, 1786.” (History of Hadleigh, p. 281. By Rev. Hugh Pigot.)

David Wilkins was Tanner's predecessor, 1719 to 1745; also Rector of Hadleigh, where he was buried.

PRESTON. S. MARY.

CUP: egg shaped, with beaded border, has a cover.

Height 6 inches; diameter $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; depth of bowl $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

PATEN: with foot. Height 2 inches; diameter 7 inches.

PRESTON

Inscription thus:— 1.6.2.4.

RETICEBO

Marks: leopard's head crowned; maker I B; rest illegible.

FLAGON: jug shaped. Height $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; diameter 4 inches.

Marks: leopard's head; maker's mark P.

This Flagon was given in 1870, by Mr. Geo. Barnes Williams, brother of the rector, Professor Williams, B.D. (of Arabic, Cambridge.)

The present rector, the Rev. R. G. P. Brownrigg, says, though he can find no record of the donors of the Cup and Paten, probably they were both given—the Paten at any rate, by Robert Ryece, who in 1621, as our church board says, “did endow ye Vicarage of this Church with the Rectorial tithes of the same”; and whose tombstone recording his death in Feby., 1629, lies at the north side of the Communion Table.

Mr. G. Barnes Williams died on the 18th of June, 1887, and is buried in the churchyard (St. Margaret's?) Lee, Kent, where his monument stands.

Professor H. G. Williams, rector, died in the last days of July, 1870, and was buried in Preston St. Mary's Churchyard, where a stone has been placed in his memory.

SHIMPLINGTHORNE. S. GEORGE.

CUP: on plain stem with knop in centre.

Height $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches; width at lip $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; at base $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Marks: leopard's head crowned; maker I C; letter C; lion passant.

On under part the leopard's head indistinct.

PATEN: on stand. Width $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches, at base $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches. No marks or inscription.

FLAGON: with lip, handle, domed lid with cross at the top.

Height 16 inches; width at base 6 inches.

Inscription on the front beneath the lip:— + “*Shimplingthorne Parish Church. The Gift of Thomas Hallifax Esq., Lord of the Manor 1841.*”

THORPE MORIEUX. S. MARY.

CUP: upon the bowl is engraved the sacred monogram and cross with rays, also inscription:—"Ex dono Johannis Fiske hujus Ecclesie Rectoris Anno Dom 1766." Height 8 inches; depth of bowl $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; diameter at top 4 inches.

Marks: leopard's head crowned; maker's first initial illegible, the second S and stars; old English capital K for 1765; lion passant.

PATEN: without foot, sacred monogram in centre. Diameter $7\frac{1}{8}$ inches; height $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Marks: indistinct, apparently Britannia; maker P A (perhaps Humphrey Payne); court hand N for 1708; lion's head erased.

FLAGON: tankard-shaped, lid with thumb piece. In front I H S, underneath which is "Ex dono Johannis Fiske hujus Ecclesie Rectoris Anno Dom. 1751."

Rev. J. Fiske died April 10th, 1778, aged 53; lies interred on north side of chancel.

WALDINGFIELD, GREAT. S. LAWRENCE.

The Sacramental Plate consisting of two Cups, two Patens, Flagon, and Alms Dish, was given by John Baily, Q.C., A.D. 1860. On Cup (2) and Paten is inscribed:—"Great Waldingfield 24 Oct 1860 J. Baily Q.C." The cost £100.

CUPS: (1) Elizabethan, repaired in 1618 by F. W.

(2) Silver gilt inside. Foot octagon form.

Height $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; depth of bowl 3 inches; diameter 4 inches.

Marks: leopard's head; maker small old English e for 1860; lion passant; head of Victoria.

PATENS: with foot, twelve sided. Diameter 8 inches; height 4 inches.

Marks: same as on Cup (2).

FLAGON: tankard shaped, octagon form, gilt inside. Height 12 inches; cross on lid extra diameter $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Engraved underneath the base:—"Great Waldingfield in memory of my beloved Mother Ann Baily 24 Oct 1860 J. Baily Q.C. An. Don."

The old Cup was cut shorter and the portion cut out made into a bottle for the wine, and all fitted up for a private communion service by command of the vestry. Height of cup 6 inches. The under part of the bowl, the knop, and rim of foot are all chased. Inscription beneath:—"Great Waldingfield 1617." Depth of bowl 3 inches; diameter at top $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; of foot $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Marks: leopard's head; maker $\begin{matrix} F \\ W \end{matrix}$

PATEN: small, with foot. Diameter $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches; at foot $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch; height $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

No inscription but Hall marks same as on small cup.

ALMS DISH: on foot. Diameter 9 inches; at foot $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

The rim and foot are stamped with rope pattern.

Inscribed on surface in a circle:—"Deo et Ecclesie Sa: Waldingfield Mag: D.D.D. Hen Kerington Gen A. D. 1702.

Marks: Britannia; maker Pa (either Simon Pantin or Humphry Payne); court hand f for 1701; lion's head erased.

WALDINGFIELD, LITTLE. S. LAWRENCE.

This parish now possesses a CUP; PATEN; FLAGON; and ALMS DISH. The ancient Plate was sold in 1868, as appears by Vestry minutes copied by Rev. A. N. Wilson, the present Vicar.

"1868. June 22nd. The old Communion Service was disposed of to Messrs. Johnson and Walker, of Aldegate, London, by the Vicar for the sum of Thirty nine pounds, fourteen shillings, and one penny. £39 . 14 . 1.

(Signed) Robert Andrews (Vicar)."

"1869. Feby. 4th. A new service was procured of Messrs. Watherston of 12 Pall Mall, London, by the Vicar, for the sum of Forty two pounds—£42. The balance expended £2 . 5 . 11 . together with the expenses of selling old plate—journey to London &c., amounting to £2 . 10/- was defrayed by the Vicar.

Signed Robert Andrews (Vicar)."

Marks: leopard's head; n for 1868; lion passant; head of Victoria.

WATTISHAM. S. NICHOLAS.

CUP: bell-mouthed. Height 6 inches; diameter at top $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. PATENS: two electro-plated. Has the sacred monogram and cross within rays. Diameter 9 inches. Presented in 1847 by the Rev. George Bacon, Perpetual Curate of Wattisham.

(3) of pewter.

FLAGONS: (1) tankard-shaped, with lips.

Height $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches; diameter 3 inches.

(2) of pewter.

ALMS DISH: of pewter.

KETTLEBASTON. S. MARY.

CUP: has a border of intermittent lines round the bowl. Height $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; diameter $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; depth 3 inches. No Hall marks legible.

PATENS: (1) without foot, quite plain. Diameter 4 inches. No marks.

(2) Credence; ornamented with ivy leaves, and beaded rim. Diameter $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.