

AN ALPHABETICAL LIST, WITH DESCRIPTIONS, OF THE LOW SIDE WINDOWS OF HAMPSHIRE CHURCHES.

BY ARTHUR ROBERT GREEN.

The photographs, sketches, and sections are all by the writer;
the latter are not drawn to any scale.

Bedhampton.—St. Thomas' Church seems to have had its south chancel wall rebuilt in the XIIIth century, and the photograph shows an interesting collection of windows on each side of a buttress, which marks the junction of the chancel and the nave.

The window to the east is a XIIIth century square-headed opening of two shouldered lights, and next to this is a square-headed low side window. At the east end of the south wall of the nave are two lights, set one over the other. The upper has a square head, and has been inserted probably to light the rood-loft, and the lower, which has a pointed head and segmental rear-arch, probably lighted the south nave altar.

Rectangular L.S.W. at south-west of chancel.

Exterior.

Height, 36 inches. Width, $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Distance above ground course, 16 inches.

Distance above the ground, 27 inches.

Interior.

Height, 36 inches. Width, $16\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Whole width, including splays, 34 inches.

Distance from chancel arch, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

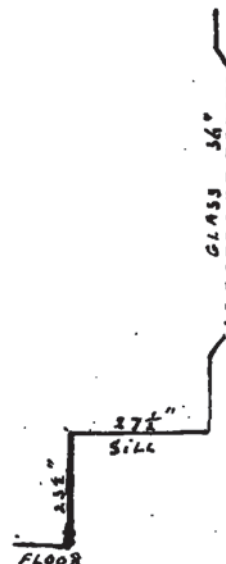
Sill, flat, and $27\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, and $23\frac{1}{2}$ inches above the floor level, which has been raised slightly.

Now filled with modern glass.

No shutter, grating, or fastenings.

A small rebate on each side, against which the present glass fits.

The altar could not be seen from the outside.



Bramdean.—This church has been much restored, and on the south side a large, modern transept, and a vestry to the east of it, have been added.

An old drawing of the south side of the church, hanging in the vestry, shows a square-headed, low-set window, near the east end of the nave, which appears to be grated. It may have been a low side window, and have lighted a nave altar.





BEDHAMPTON.

A L.S.W. AT SOUTH-WEST OF CHANCEL AND TWO WINDOWS, ONE OVER THE OTHER, AT SOUTH-EAST OF NAVE, THE UPPER TO LIGHT THE ROOD-LOFT, THE LOWER TO LIGHT THE SOUTH NAVE ALTAR.

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Breamore.—The church is a valuable example of pre-Conquest work, and its great stone rood, with its attendant figures, must have been a striking piece of sculpture.

The chancel was practically rebuilt in the XIVth century, but the old plan was adhered to, and the lower parts of the walls are perhaps original.

Remains of a L.S.W. north-west of the chancel, externally. Blocked.

Exterior.

The north chancel wall has now no openings, but towards the west, externally, are part of the sill and of the west jamb of a former opening of uncertain date.

The edge of the opening above and on the east is formed of whole flints, like the rest of the wall, and the blocking is of stone and plaster.

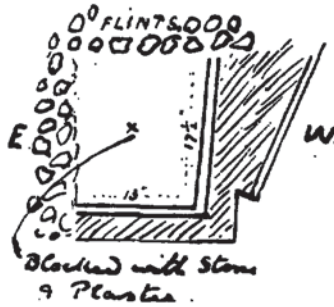
Height of blocked part, 17½ inches.

Width, 13 inches.

From the bottom of the opening to the ground, 5 feet 6 inches.

Distance from central tower, 3 feet 11 inches.

The remains of the sill and jamb are plainly chamfered. Breamore House lies to the north-west, and there are no other houses near.



Interior.

No signs of opening.

The north wall of the nave has two original round-headed, double-splayed windows, with mid-walls, openings, and widely-splayed sides, set high in the wall. At the east end of this wall is a XVth century window of two cinque-foiled lights under a square head, placed at about the same level as the two early windows, and immediately below this is a similar window, which is thus necessarily at a comparatively low level.

It has no internal rebate, and its purpose is uncertain, but it may have lighted the nave altar; and for a L.S.W., its situation at the north-east of the nave is unusual.

Nevertheless, Mr. P. M. Johnston, in the *Transactions of St. Paul's Ecclesiological Society*, vol. iv, part iv, classes it as a low side window, and its position is exactly the same as the L.S.W. at Portchester, and both these churches belonged to priories of Austin Canons.

Buriton.—The Church of Our Lady, a monastic edifice belonging to the prior and convent of St. Swithun, Winchester, dates from Norman times; the chancel, however, was rebuilt towards the end of the XIIIth century, and the south aisle somewhat later, c. 1300.

At the south-west of the chancel is a two-light window, c. 1280, the two lights having slightly pointed, uncusped heads. In the head is an uncusped circle, with a pierced spandrel on each side, and a moulded rear-arch, and its sill is at a lower level than that of a similar window further to the east. Below the western light, and separated from it by a transom, is a square opening, but below the eastern light the corresponding space is occupied by the original plain walling, which retains on the inside some XIIIth century figure painting, including the Virgin and Child. The west jamb of the opening also shows painting, in a masonry pattern, and marks of the blocking of the part below the transom in the XVIth century are still to be seen. It has been unblocked and the paintings revealed in modern times.

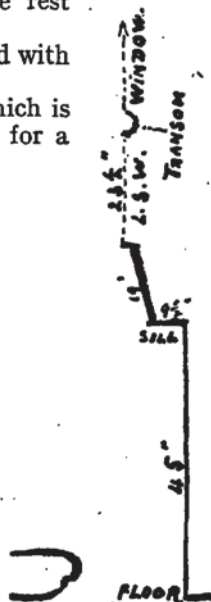
Rectangular opening below a transom, S.W. window of chancel.

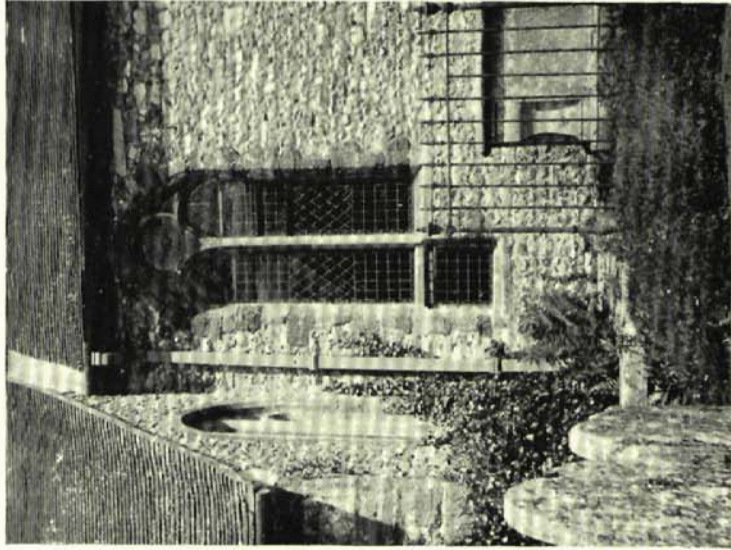
Exterior.

Height of opening, 25 inches. Width, 25 inches.
Distance from nave wall, 32 inches, and from bottom of opening to the ground, 37 inches.
The jambs and the sill are ancient, the rest looks like repaired work.
Rebated above and at the sides, and filled with modern glass.
The paved ground under the window, which is raised about 20 inches, is a platform for a tomb.

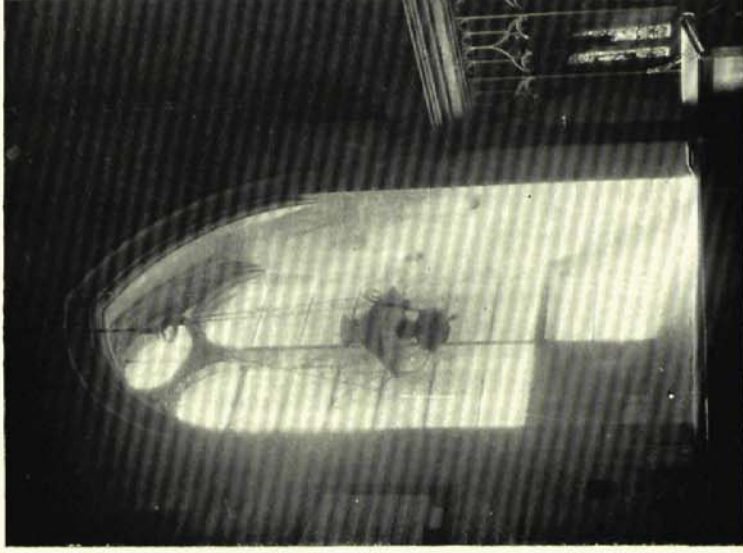
Interior.

Height, 23½ inches. Width, 22 inches.
Distance to chancel screen, 15 inches.
No chancel arch.
From bottom of opening to sill, a slope of 19 inches.
Sill to floor, 45 inches. Depth of sill, 9½ inches.
A modern iron bar, across from side to side, to support the modern glass.
No shutter, or fastening, or grating.
The whole window has equal splays.
The altar could not be seen.
There is a string course all round the chancel, over the priests' door, and on the edge of the sill a roll-mould.





BURTON.



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CHALTON.



CHALTON. INTERIOR.

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Chalton.—The oldest part of the Church of St. Michael is the chancel, which dates from the middle of the XIIIth century, and in the north and south walls are three tall lancets, the two eastern being set near together, with a larger space separating the western. The north-west lancet has its sill at a lower level than the other two on the same side, but the south-west lancet, which is now blocked and only visible externally, is much shorter than the others. Below this blocked south-west lancet there is now a rectangular glazed opening, under a shouldered arch. This has evidently been recently unblocked and *altered*, for the *Victoria County History* describes it as a low side window of two lights, with shouldered heads, seemingly part of the original work, and blocked, with the iron grating remaining in the blocking.

The Rev. L. S. Westall has very kindly supplied me with the following information:—"June 28/28. The window and priests' door were unblocked two years ago, when there appeared to be no indication that it was a two-light window. The remains of some ironwork were found, but it had practically completely perished. The edge of the sill was not touched at this time, it may have been done when the stalls were inserted."

Exterior.

Height, 45 inches. Width, 30 inches.

Distance from the transept wall, 24 inches, and from the sill to the ground, 37 inches.

All stone-work new, and modern glazing.

The vicarage only on the south.

Interior.

No chancel arch. Distance from opening to the nave, 25 inches.

The sill is flat and is 19 inches deep, and 27 inches from the floor.

Width, including the two equal splays, is 63 inches.

Three iron hooks for hinges remain, one at the lower part on the east jamb, and two on the west jamb.

It is rebated.

A string course runs round the chancel and over the priests' door, and forms the edge of the sill, but it has been shamefully cut away in part.



Chilcomb.—The Church of St. Andrew is a good example of a small, plain Norman country edifice of about 1130, standing on the edge of the down, which rises sharply on its southern side. The walls are of flint rubble, but only the chancel retains its original plaster externally, the rest having been stripped and

pointed. Over the west end of the nave is a wooden bell turret, and above the chancel arch are two pointed openings, cut square through the gable, which probably held bells, one possibly a Sanctus bell.

At the west end of the north wall of the chancel is a low-set, round-headed opening, now blocked, and not visible externally, the wall being covered with plaster. It is set back in the wall at a depth of $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the whole wall, including the blocked opening, being covered with plaster, concealing any details of moulding, etc., which may formerly have been present. There is a small splay at the top and sides, that on the west being rather larger than on the east, and the sill is flat, measuring now $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches from back to front. The height of the opening at the wall surface is $49\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and at the blocking $42\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and the width 34 and 27 inches respectively, and the sill is 41 inches above the floor level.

The west edge of the opening is 15 inches from the west end of the chancel wall. No signs of a shutter, fastening, grating, or seat remain, and the altar could not have been seen from the outside through the opening, but a rood in its usual position would have been visible. The population is on the north and east of the church, and there could never have been any houses on the south, because of the rise of the ground on that side.

Compton.—In the north wall of the nave of this church are two original Norman windows set high in the wall, and below the eastern one, and a little further to the east, is a small cinque-foiled XVth century window. It may have lighted a nave altar.

Windows in similar position (north-east of nave) occur at Breamore and Portchester.

Fordingbridge.—The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, a large and interesting building, dates from late Norman times, but the only remains of that date are the west wall of the nave and part of the south wall of the chancel, containing the jamb of the priests' door, c. 1160—70, to be mentioned subsequently. The south wall of the chancel was rebuilt, c. 1220—40, on the lines of the earlier Norman wall, and contains four tall lancets, the south-western one having a transom on a line with the sills of the other three, and below this a low side window, which seems to be a XIVth century addition.



FORDINGBRIDGE.

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Rectangular opening S.W. of chancel, below and separated from a lancet by a transom.

Exterior.

Height, $36\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Width, 28 inches.

The opening was formerly external, but is now covered by a modern vestry, and is fitted with a modern door made to open towards the west.

There is some old work in the jambs, but the sill is modern.

Distance from the sill to the vestry floor is 46 inches, but the sill of the Norman doorway is higher than the floor.

The population seems almost all on the north.

Interior.

The splays of the lancet are continued down on each side of the L.S.W.

A XIIIth century string course ends on the eastern splay.

Height, 34 inches. Width, 22 inches.

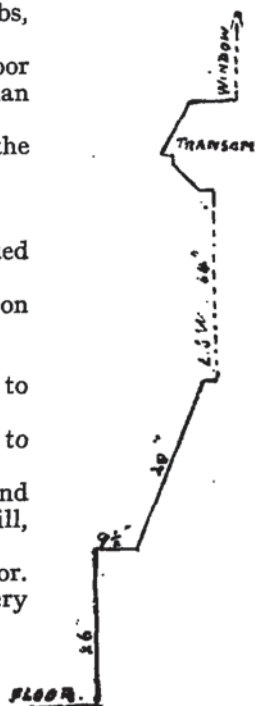
Distance from west edge of splay to chancel arch, $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Distance from west edge of opening to chancel arch, 28 inches.

The sill slopes down for 20 inches, and at the bottom of this is a flat sill, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep.

The flat sill is 26 inches from the floor. A rebate is present, but not in every part.

The jamb of the Norman doorway is under the next lancet to the east.



Godsfield Chapel, a Preceptory Chapel of the Hospitallers, is a building of all one date, *c.* 1360, with dwelling rooms, in two stories at the west end; for the accommodation of the chaplain. It is described, with plans, in No. II of our *Proceedings* by Mr. R. G. Pinder, F.R.I.B.A. There is no low side window here, but a small, blocked opening of some interest occurs in the north wall of the chapel, near its eastern end. The *Victoria County History* tells us that its purpose was "evidently to give a view of the altar from some building adjoining the chapel on the north, all traces of which have disappeared."

It is a rectangular opening, both within and without, and it is to be noted that its splays open outwards from the chapel.

A similar form of splay occurs in an opening from the upper chamber at the west, which looks towards the altar, for here the opening is large in the chamber and small in the chapel.

Low side windows, on the other hand, seem to have the splay in the opposite direction, and the widest part of these openings is inside the church. Was this opening in connection with an "ankerhold" or anchorite's cell? Mr. P. M. Johnston, writing in the *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, vol. xlii, p. 130, mentions several of these cells for recluses, and says: "I conceive that the openings in their walls have much in common with low side-windows, both in their appearance and in the use, or uses, for which they were constructed."

It is for this reason that I have included this opening in my paper.

Hartley Wintney.—The old Parish Church. When visited, the church was undergoing restoration.

The walls of the chancel and nave are ancient, but the transepts, of red brick, were added in the XIXth century. The easternmost of the two south windows of the chancel is a XIVth century trefoiled lancet, and the south-west window is a single light with chamfered jambs and a four-centred, uncusped head, set low in the wall. Below the first window is a late XIIth century pillar piscina.

South-west window of the chancel.

Exterior.

Simple chamfer all round.
Distance to wall of transept, 31 inches.
From sill to gutter, 36 inches.

Interior.

Height, 41 inches. Width, 17½ inches, and including splays, 49½ inches.
The splays are equal, and covered with plaster.
Simple chamfer to jambs and head.
Rebated below.
The sill slopes downwards for 21 inches.
From bottom of sill to floor, 47 inches.
From edge of west splay to chancel arch, 13½ inches.
Iron bars on this side of modern glass.

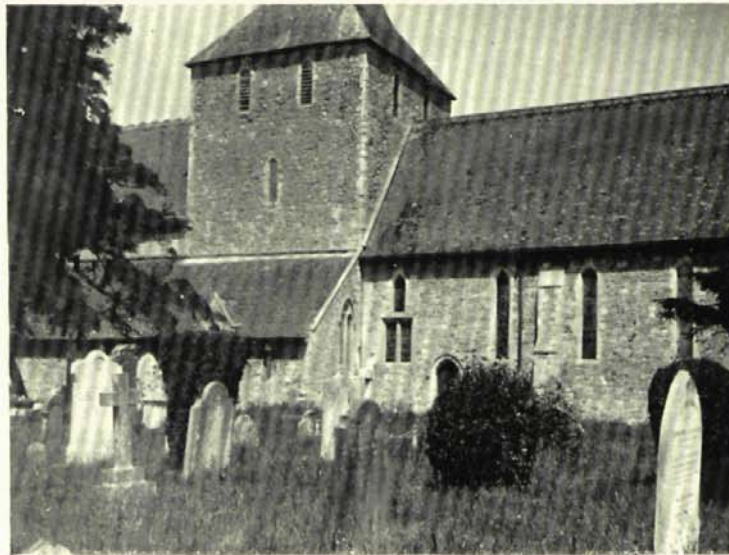
South Hayling.—The Church of Our Lady is noted for its fine old yew tree in the churchyard, and for the stone bowl, now preserved in the north aisle, which is called by some a font. Its lips curve outwards, and there is a large hole in the lower part of one side, but no drain, while the interlaced work on its surface points to a pre-Conquest date. Is it a font, a holy water stoup,



HARTLEY WINTNEY.

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SOUTH HAYLING.

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a lavatory, or the base of a churchyard cross? Except for the interlacing work, it may be compared with the stone bowl lying outside Timsbury Church.

The chancel has four tall lancets on each side, *c.* 1225 to 1250, and the westernmost window on the south has had its lower portion cut off, and a square-headed, two-light window has been inserted to form a low side window. The stone-work of this is modern, and I am informed that it was renewed by Mr. Bloomfield in 1892.

The south-west window of the chancel.

Exterior.

Height, 4 feet 6 inches. Width, 3 feet 11 inches.

Distance from aisle wall, $28\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Height of sill from ground, 6 feet 3 inches.

One old house at east, and scattered houses half-a-mile away to south.

Interior.

Height, 4 feet 6 inches. Width, 3 feet $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Width of each light, $15\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Width of whole windows, including splays, 5 feet 7 inches.

Distance from chancel arch, 22 inches.

The sloping sill is 21 inches deep, and 5 feet 5 inches from the floor.

Modern stone and plaster. No rebate, shutter, or fastenings.

The head and jambs of the lights, including the mullions, have a hollow chamfer, below a plain chamfer. Contains modern glass.

The original lancet above has a keeled moulding.

There is a roll moulding at the sill, which is continued over the priests' door.

The altar could not be seen, but the rood would be visible.

The stone-work of this window being modern, it is possible that this rather puzzling opening is not in its original form.

Headbourne Worthy.—The Church of St. Swithun preserves its pre-Conquest plan and some details of that date, but its most remarkable feature is the great stone sculptured rood, still to be seen, carved on the west end of the original Anglo-Saxon Church; and it is interesting to note that all the three churches in the county where great stone roods exist, Romsey Abbey, Breamore, and Headbourne Worthy, were also provided with a low side window.

The south wall of the chancel, which retains its pilaster strip, has a modern lancet at the east, and at the west an inserted two-light, trefoiled window, with a quatrefoil in the head, *c.* 1300, the lower parts being cut off by a transom.

A two-light window, S.W. of chancel, the lower parts cut off by a transom.

Exterior.

Height of each rectangular opening below transom, 28 inches.

Width, 15 inches.

Width of whole window, $35\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Distance from wall of nave, $27\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Height of sill from ground, 4 feet 5 inches.

The jambs are plainly chamfered, and are of Binstead stone.

Population on the south.

The Pilgrims' Way passes close to the south of the church.

Interior.

Including a wide, equal splay on each side, the width of the whole window is 5 feet 11 inches, and the distance from the chancel arch is $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The bottom of the sloping sill, which is 24 inches deep, is 25 inches from the floor.

The splays and sill are plastered.

Both rectangular openings are rebated internally; the edges of the jambs and mullions, being quite sharp, have perhaps been retooled. The Rev. T. H. Davis, the Vicar, informs me that the window was formerly blocked, and was uncovered in 1865.

Modern glass. No shutter, grating, or fastenings.

The edge of the rebate has a very small chamfer.

Herriard.—This interesting church, dedicated to Our Lady, dates from about 1200 A.D.; and the north and south chancel walls each show three lancets, a pair near together in the eastern part, and a single light farther west. In addition, there is a low side window at the west end of the south wall.

Rectangular opening at south-west of chancel, the lower part blocked.

Exterior.

The window has a square hood-mould, with returned ends, not all ancient.

Section of hood-mould.



Height of window, 31 inches. Width, $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Height of blocked portion below, 38 inches.

Distance from aisle wall, 16 inches; from ground, 26 inches.

A plain chamfer, except on the sill.

No stone rebate, but there is now a sheet of plain glass outside the ancient glass, and the former has a rebate of plaster externally.

The road runs on the south-west near the church.

No houses to be seen.

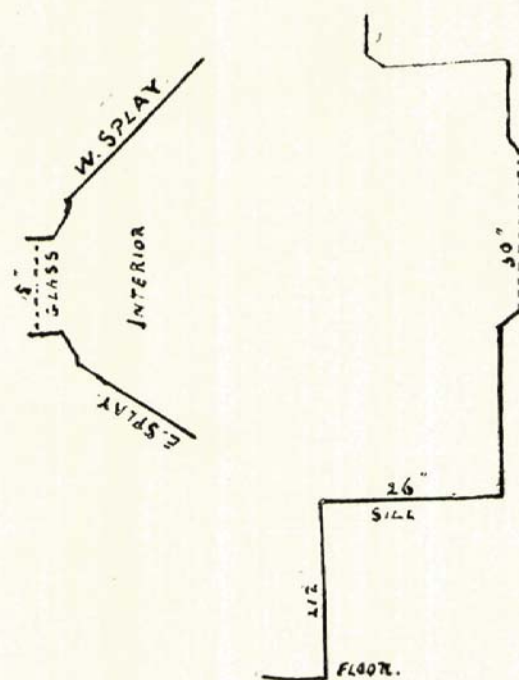


HEADBOURNE WORTHY.

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HERRIARD.



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Interior.

Height, 30 inches. Width, 18 inches, and including splays, $41\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Date, XIVth century.

Distance to chancel, 5 inches.

The sill is flat, 26 inches deep, and $21\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the floor.

The chancel floor has probably been raised.

The sill forms a seat.

The splays are not equal, wider on west.

From the top of rear-arch to seat, 93 inches.

On the west jamb are two black cement marks; possibly the hinge hooks went into holes here.

The window is now filled with ancient glass, in which is a charming figure of St. Margaret of Antioch, in white and gold. The saint holds a cross, the point of which pierces a dragon, but the animal looks more like a boar. This glass is in grooves, set back slightly.

A plain chamfer.

The altar is not visible.

There are a large number of incised dials, or mass-clocks, to be seen on the walls of this church, eight on one buttress, shown in the photograph, close to the low side window.

Hinton Ampner.—The Church of All Saints retains its pre-Conquest plan and some details of that date, but has been very severely restored. The chancel dates from the XIIIth century, and has been retooled throughout, but its ancient details are preserved. In its south wall are two lancets and a priests' door, and at the south-west corner a low-set lancet, now blocked.

A lancet L.S.W. south-west of chancel, blocked.

Exterior.

Height, $38\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Width, 12 inches.

Distance from nave wall, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

From sill to ground, 34 inches, but to string course, 15 inches.

Plain chamfer. Rebated, except the sill.

Manor house on south-west. Village east or north-east.



Interior.

A string course passes all round the chancel and over the opening, forming its upper edge.

At the edge of the splays on each side, and running top to bottom, is a bowtel.

Height, 38 inches. Width, 12 inches. Width, including the two equal splays, 40 inches.

Distance to chancel arch, 4 inches.

Sill, flat, 16 inches deep, and 19 inches from the floor.

Plain chamfer and rebate.

Blocked. No sign of shutter, grating, or fastening.

An arched recess. ? Seat.

Close to the L.S.W., on the east face of the chancel arch, is a pointed, arched recess. Its north jamb and head are hollow chamfered, and the jamb is stopped below by a buckle or mask-stop. On the south the head dies into the south wall of the chancel, and, on this part, the string course running round the chancel stops.

Height of recess, 57 inches. Width, 24 inches.

From sill to floor, 15 inches. Depth of sill, 7 inches.

Seats in connection with low side windows have been described in a number of churches, these being generally formed by the sill in the recess of the window; but at Wiggington, Oxon., there is a remarkable ornate canopied seat, which is illustrated in Francis Bond's *English Church Architecture*, p. 682. It occupies an exactly similar position to the recess in this church, and its seat is even lower, being only 13 inches from the ground, and the supporters of the Confessional theory naturally consider such an arrangement as being very suitable for the priest to occupy when hearing outward confessions.

Holybourne.—The chancel of this church was built in the XIIIth century, and has a modern chapel, now filled by the organ, on its north. The north aisle is likewise modern, but replaces one of the XVth century. There is no south aisle. The north wall of the chancel contains three windows, a two-light XIVth century window, nearest the east, a XIIIth century lancet in the middle, and a small, low-set XIIIth century lancet at the west. The window opposite to this, in the south wall, is a two-light XIVth century window.

*A XIIIth century L.S.W., lancet, at north-west of chancel.**Outside.*

The window is now covered by the modern chapel, which is entirely filled by the organ, and an examination is impossible.



HINTON AMPNER.



HINTON AMPNER. INTERIOR. [To face page 158]

Inside.

A small XIIIth century lancet, set low in the wall, its jambs being either new or retooled; the rear-arch is of clunch.

The sill is flat.

In the western splay is a squint from the north aisle, its head containing some XIIth century stones.

No rebate is now present, and it is grooved for glass.

Houghton.—The Church of All Saints is mainly of Norman date, but has been much added to and restored, and the chancel was entirely rebuilt, c. 1330. This is the date of the south-west window, a two-light opening with a quatrefoil or dagger in the head. Its central mullion has been renewed, and all the other chancel windows are in XIVth century style, with modern stone-work.

The south-west window has a flat sill internally, and the knapped flint wall on the outside has a piece of XVth century canopy-work built into it, which may have closed a low side window, but the wall shows no signs of a regular opening having been blocked.

*South-west window of chancel.**Interior.*

Width of two-light window, 41 inches, and, including the splays, 4 feet 8 inches.

Distance from bottom of window to sill, about 20 inches.

Height of sill from the floor, 29 inches.

Depth, 12½ inches.

From west edge of splay to chancel arch, 14 inches.

A squint from the south aisle opens on to the west splay.

The window opposite (north-west of chancel) is very similar, but in modern stone-work, and has a squint opening to the north aisle.

The slope between the bottom of the window and the sill is longer on this side, and the window is, in consequence, shorter. The flat sill is also a little higher.

On the outside the wall below this window is plastered, and shows nothing.

It is possible that a low side opening was originally present on both sides, but there is no definite evidence.



Hound.—The Church of Our Lady dates from the first half of the XIIIth century, and the chancel has two rather high-set lancets on each side. At the west end of the south wall a cinque-foiled XVth century window has been inserted at a lower level, and to the east of this is the priests' door.

A XVth century window, south-west of the chancel.

Exterior.

A rectangular opening, containing modern glass.

Distance from sill to ground course, 59 inches.

Population, ?

Interior.

The window is splayed all round, and the western splay is continued into the chancel arch.

No rebate to be seen.

Height, 48 inches. Width, 16½ inches.

The lower splay slopes downwards, is 22 inches deep, and from the bottom to the floor measures 49½ inches.

No shutter, fastenings, or grating.

The altar could not be seen, but the Easter Sepulchre and rood, if present, would have been visible.

Kimpton.—The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul was originally a plain rectangular structure; its chancel dates from c. 1220, and its two transepts are additions of the XIVth century. Two low side windows remain.

L.S.W. on the north-west of the chancel.

This is a XIVth century lancet, with a trefoiled head externally, and widely splayed jambs internally, covered by a wooden lintel. Its western jamb is pierced by a squint opening from the north transept.

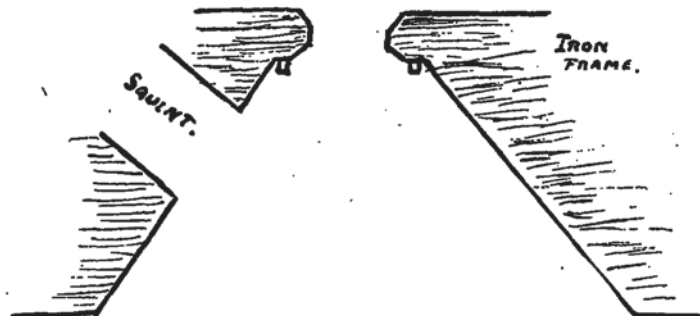
Exterior.

Height, 3 feet 6 inches. Width, 11¼ inches.

Distance from transept wall, 17 inches.

Height of sill from the ground, 4 feet 3 inches.

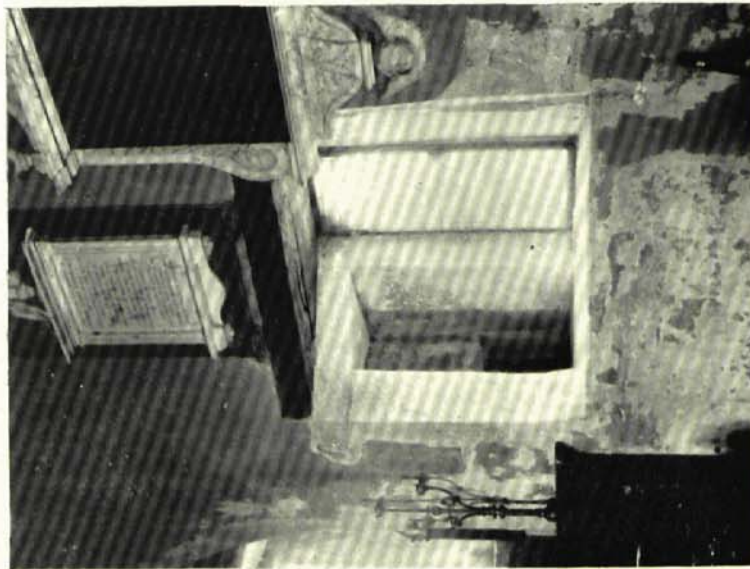
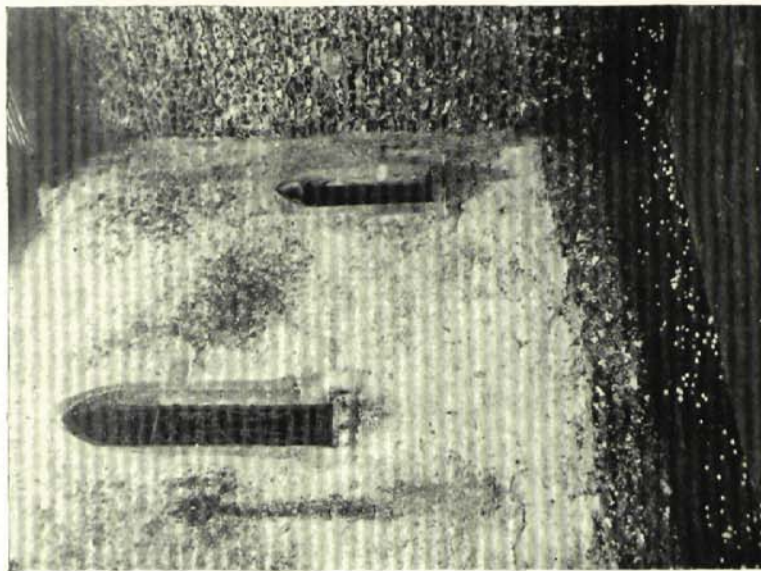
Village on the north. No houses on south. Large house on south-west.





HOUND.

[To face page 160]



KIMPTON. NORTH-WEST OF CHANCEL.

[To face page 161]

Interior.

Height, 3 feet 6 inches. Width, $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Distance from transept, 4 feet 4 inches.

There is no chancel arch.

The sill is flat, $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, and 41 inches above the floor.

The width of the whole opening, including the splays, is $57\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The opening is rebated and filled with a modern iron casement window, which opens internally and towards the west.

There are no grooves for glass, except in the apex of the trefoil. No grating or remains can be seen.

The altar could not be seen from the outside.

On the opposite side of the chancel, and near its south-west angle, is a tall XIIIth century lancet. It is widely splayed internally, its western splay being pierced by a squint to the south transept. The sill, like the one opposite, is 41 inches from the floor, but the window has no rebate. See photograph showing south transept.

A low-set window in the south wall of the south transept.

The south transept was built in the latter part of the XIVth century, and is lighted on the south by a window of two trefoiled ogee-headed lights, with a quatrefoil over. Below this is a small trefoiled light, opening internally into a cinquefoiled, ogee-headed tomb recess, which has been partly filled in with plaster. There was formerly an altar in this transept, and the piscina and image brackets remain.

Exterior.

Height, 32 inches. Width, 11 inches.

Height of sill from the ground, 11 inches.

No houses on the south, but large house on south-west.

Interior.

The bottom of the window is about 1 foot from the floor.

Filled with modern glass.

The ancient iron grating is present, the transverse bars having square openings on the inside, through which the vertical bar passes.

The jambs and other parts show much recent plaster.

I am greatly indebted to the Rector, the Rev. J. W. Brady Moor, for information about this window. It was discovered during the restoration of the church in 1899, and writing of this, the Rev. R. H. Clutterbuck, F.S.A., in his book, *Notes on the Parishes of... Kimpton...*, etc., etc., says, "...in the thickness of the south wall of the south transept, between the bottom of the sill of the fine two-light window and the ground, a cusped arch, much mutilated, was discovered; in the centre of the wall of the recess,

at the back of the arch, is a one-light window, measuring, in the clear, 2 feet 6 inches in height by 11 inches in width; the sill of this window is but a few inches above the floor level of the transept, level with the sill of the window, and immediately under the arch is a shallow trench, once, doubtless, covered over with a stone slab, which contained a stone cist, measuring, externally, 4 feet in length by 15 inches in width; this cist, which was broken in half, probably once contained the relics of some saint or martyr, in whose honour, no doubt, the altar, which stood in the transept, was dedicated."

The cist was, for some unknown reason, sent to the museum at Salisbury.

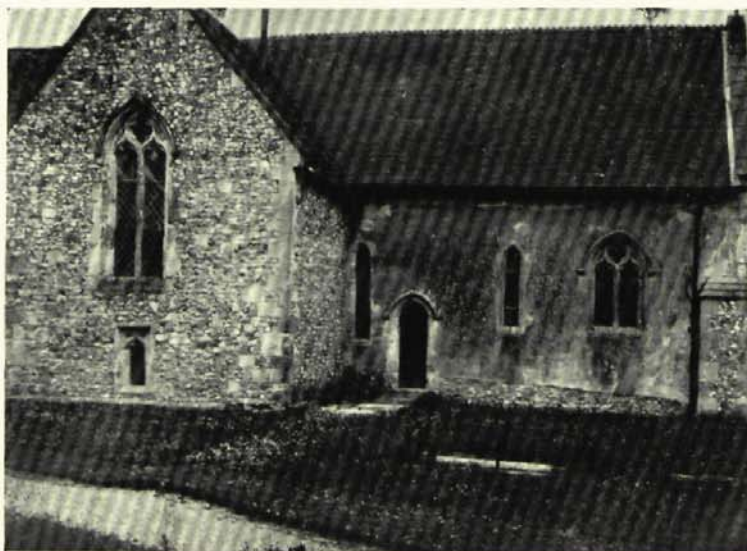
This remarkably situated opening, so fortunately rediscovered, may be compared with one in an almost exactly similar position, which I saw at Icomb, Gloucestershire, eight years ago. Icomb Church was built in the XIIIth century, and consists of a nave and chancel, and a south transept, the latter reconstructed as a chantry, with perpendicular windows, in the XVth century, one of which, of two lights, occupies the centre of the south wall. Immediately beneath this, and about a yard from the ground, is a small trefoiled lancet, about 9 inches high and 3 inches in width. This small window opens inside the church into the back of an elaborately cusped and moulded recess, which contains the altar, tomb, and recumbent effigy, supposed to be that of Sir John Blaket, c. 1431, who fought at Agincourt.

Mr. F. T. S. Houghton, F.S.A., describes this window in *The Low Side Windows of Worcestershire Churches*, and states: "I think this opening was connected with the chantry altar, and that it was possibly moved into its present position when the transept was rebuilt and the tomb recess constructed."

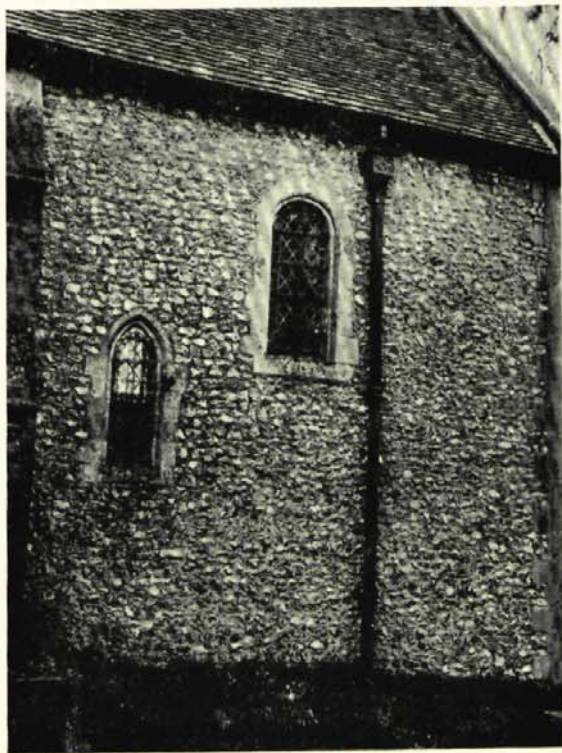
Another somewhat similar window has been described at Great Addington Church by Mr. Christopher A. Markham, F.S.A., in *The Low Side Windows of Northamptonshire Churches*. It is a small rectangular opening, 29 inches by 9½ inches, in a sepulchral recess, containing the monument of Henry Vere, in the north wall of a north chapel. Mr. Houghton says the window "is placed unsymmetrically at the west end of the recess, so that it illuminates the head of the figure on the tomb. Mr. Bedford Pim believes that this was the object of the opening."¹

There can be little doubt that the elaborate recess at Kimpton was constructed to contain the tomb, and possibly the effigy of some person of distinction, and, judging from the small size of the stone coffin, it must have been for a child; and, if this intention

¹ At Maisey Hampton, Gloucestershire, a similar example occurs, a low-silled, two-light opening in the north wall of the chancel lighting a XIVth century tomb.



KIMPTON. SOUTH TRANSEPT. [To face page 162]



LITCHFIELD.

[To face page 163]

was ever carried out, the tomb and effigy have long since disappeared, leaving only the coffin, found at the restoration of 1899, which had obviously been disturbed before, for it was broken and empty.

Here, then, are three churches having arrangements of remarkable similarity; each possessing a chantry chapel, containing an altar and a tomb in a recess, the back of the recess being in each case pierced by a low side window.

Litchfield.—The Church of St. James dates from the XIIth century, its present chancel being added about 1190, perhaps replacing a narrower one, and at the north-east and south-east is a contemporary round-headed window. At a lower level, on the north-west and south-west, XIIIth century (1210—1220) lights have been inserted. There is no chancel arch, but a XVIIth century wooden screen separates the chancel from the nave, a buttress outside on the south wall corresponding to its position inside.

Lancet window south-west of the chancel.

Exterior.

The window is an insertion of early XIIIth century date, and, together with the whole building, was restored in 1875.

Its jambs are rebated, and it has a small chamfer where it joins the wall.

The height of the sill from the ground is 2 yards 13 inches, and the distance from the buttress is 30 inches. No part is now blocked, and it is glazed with modern glass, with iron bars externally.

The population is on the south and east.

Interior.

The window, which is rebated, is $47\frac{1}{2}$ inches high and $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, the distance between it and the screen being $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The sill is flat, 19 inches deep, and 57 inches from the floor.

The splays are equal, and the extreme width of the window, including these, is 37 inches.

The north-west lancet is similar, except that it is not rebated either externally or internally.

Overton.—The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, originally built in the XIIth century, has undergone many alterations, but it will be only necessary here to point out that the chancel was

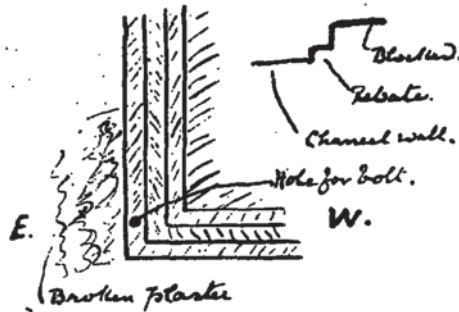
entirely rebuilt and enlarged in the XIIIth century, c. 1250, and that the aisles were rebuilt in the XIVth century and lengthened eastward, overlapping the western part of the chancel.

Remains of L.S.W.

Near the south-west angle of the chancel are the remains of a low side window, represented by part of the east jamb, the corner, and the lower and eastern part of the sill.

What remains of the opening is $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and $20\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and the depth to the blocking is 5 inches.

The distance from the east jamb to the modern chancel arch is $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and the sill is flat, and about 41 inches from the floor.

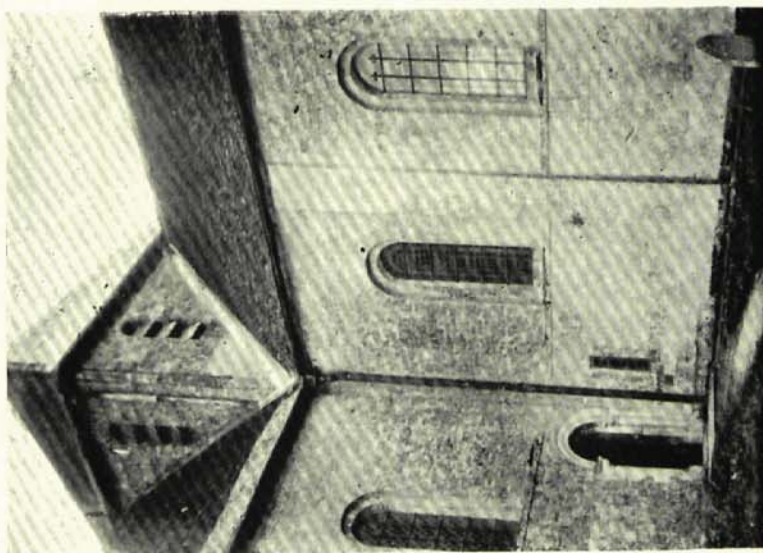


In the lower part of the east jamb is a hole for a bolt, and there is a rebate for a shutter.

There are no signs of this opening on the opposite side of the wall, which is now the north wall of the south aisle.

The altar and the Easter Sepulchre, if present, could not have been seen from this window, even before the chancel was lengthened, but the rood would have been visible.

Portchester.—This notable church was founded by Henry I in A.D. 1133 as a Priory Church for Austin Canons. The north wall of the nave retains its four original Norman windows, but the central doorway is now blocked, and the gabled projection, 19 feet long, in which it was set, and which must have formed a very conspicuous feature, has been entirely removed. At the extreme eastern end of the north wall of the nave is a small window set low in the wall, to which the local guide book gives the name of "Leper's Squint," whereas the *Victoria County History* says it must have lighted the altar here under the rood-loft. Marks of the screen and rood-loft are to be seen in the walls at the east end of the nave.



PORTCHESTER.



[To face page 164]

*Window at north-east of nave.**Exterior.*

The window, rectangular, is at the east end of the north wall of the nave and close to the Norman doorway which opens into the adjoining transept. There seems formerly to have been a small lean-to building in the angle formed by the nave and transept, the position of its roof being seen where the stone has been cut into, and where the string courses have been cut through (see photo.). Apparently it would have covered the whole of this window and a portion of the doorway.¹

Height, $44\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Width, $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

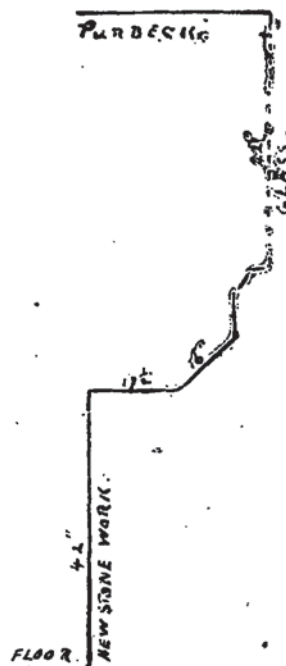
It is rebated all round, and has a plain chamfer.

Distance from sill to ground, 47 inches.

From window to transept, $36\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Modern glass.

Castle and village on the north-west.

*Interior.*

Height, 42 inches. Width, $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

The difference between the height and width, externally and internally, is caused by the external rebate against which the glass is fixed outside.

The jambs have been restored, and the stone-work below the window is modern.

The lintel is formed by a slab of Purbeck marble, on the underside of which are two incised lines running east and west, and also a circular sinking.

Distance to chancel arch, 12 inches.

Width, including splays, 45 inches.

The splays are not equal, that on the east being much wider.

The flat sill is 17 inches deep, and 42 inches from the floor.

This window should be compared with one in a similar position at Breamore.

¹ *The Ecclesiologist*, Vol. vii, 1847, in an article favouring the Confessional theory, mentions a "covered cell on the outside of S.S. Mary and Margaret Church, Sprowston, to shelter the penitent from the weather."

Romsey Abbey.*An opening, blocked, in north wall of north transept.*

The north transept shows many traces of its use as the chancel of the Parish Church of Romsey. It was given to the parishioners for this purpose, c. 1403, on the advice of Bishop William of Wykeham. Its north wall is 6 feet thick.

Outside.

An opening, with a four-centred head in the eastern part of the north wall of the north transept.

Height, 23 inches. Width, 17 inches.

Distance of sill from the base-mould, 30 inches; from the ground, 38 inches.

The opening is blocked 4 inches from the surface.

No chamfer or moulding. Both jambs splayed inwards, but the head has an outward splay.

Date, ? XVth century.

Population on south, east, and north. Churchyard on north, and this formerly came up to the transept; the present road is not ancient.

Inside.

An almost square opening, under a four-centred head, leading to a large, uneven recess in the thickness of the wall, 5 feet 9 inches deep.

No chamfer or moulding.

A marked splay inwards towards the east.

Height, 44 inches. Width, 43 inches.

Distance to east wall of transept, 27 inches.

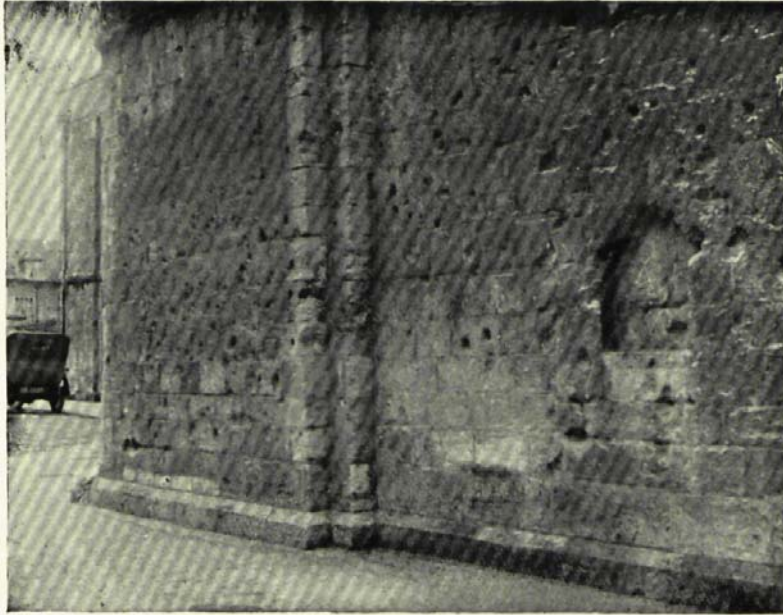
From lower part of opening to the floor, 36 inches.

There is a hole in each jamb, 10 inches above the sill, square, and broken away in front, probably for a door or grating.

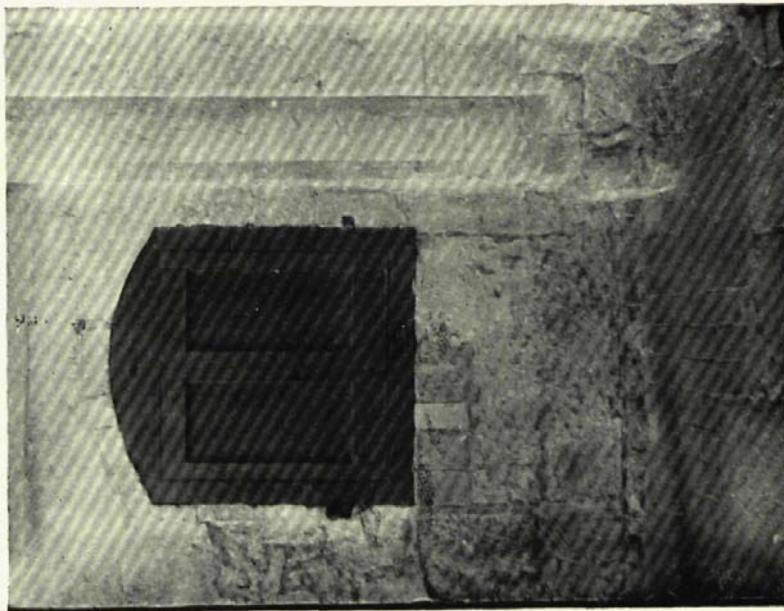
The whole opening formerly probably extended to the ground, for below the west jamb there is a straight joint in the masonry, but the wall is plastered below the east jamb.

If the altar was in front of the arch into the apse, it would be visible from the opening.

From a careful examination of the whole wall, I suggest that there may have been a large recess here, passing westwards in the thickness of the wall, the floor being probably on the same level as that of the transept, and which is blocked up now by a mass of stones and rubble, extending a yard in height from the floor, in front, and more behind, and entirely filling the whole opening in front of the external aperture. The rough sketch and the two diagrams will make this clear.



ROMSEY. NORTH TRANSEPT.
THE WALL, INCLUDING THE BLOCKED OPENING, IS BESPATTERED WITH BULLET MARKS, SAID TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY WALLER'S TROOPS IN 1643.



ROMSEY. INTERIOR.

[To face page 166]

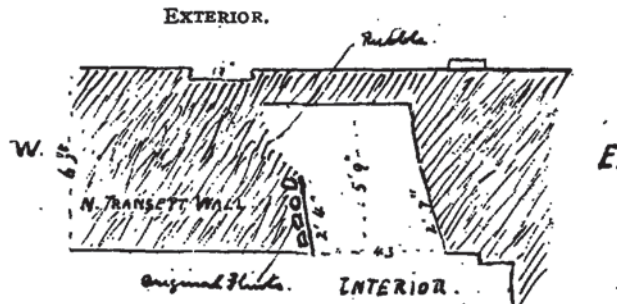


FIG. 1. Present condition of Wall.

Note.—The centre of the internal opening is 4 feet 8 inches more to the east than the centre of the external opening.

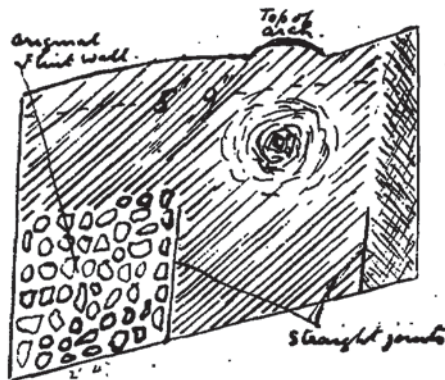


Fig. 2. Sketch of inside of west splay.

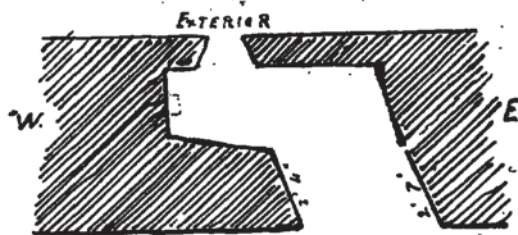


Diagram suggesting what the opening was like before it was blocked.

The west splay of flints, 2 feet 4 inches from the inside, and the east splay, 2 feet 7 inches, appear to be part of the original opening. At the end of the 2 feet 4 inches on the west splay there is a straight joint from above down, and at the end of the 2 feet 7 inches on the east splay the direction alters slightly. Beyond these two points the splays are composed of rubble and plaster, and in the western splay there is a depression, and over this there are distinct signs of an archway, close to the roof, opening towards the west. At the far end of the west splay there is another straight joint in the lower part.

There may have been a seat in this cell-like recess, where a hermit or anchorite sat; and Canon Cooke-Yarborough informs me that there is a vague tradition of an anchorage here.

In this connection Rotha Mary Clay, in *The Hermits and Anchorites of England*, mentions that the brother of William Briwere, c. 1200, lived in the monastery of Mottisfont; he was a "wonder-worker," and known as "the holy man in the wall."

The following extract from the churchwardens' account book in Romsey Abbey, 1624, is of some interest:—

"This year were the bells hung up in the Tower and the work finished in the month of December a little before Christmas and in January next following was the old Belfry taken down. John Cooper and William ? Teffield being churchwardens."

From this it is plain that the Sanctus bell could never have been rung from the central tower in mediæval times.

The old belfry stood at some distance from the Abbey.

Sherborne St. John.—The Church of St. Andrew has many interesting features; such as brasses, tombs, a memorial porch, an inscribed Jacobean pulpit, and a large mass-clock, etc.

The chancel was rebuilt in the XIVth century, when it was made equal in width with the nave, and there is now no structural division to be seen between them. Its south-west window has three trefoiled ogee-headed lights with net tracery in a two-centred head, with a moulded label, and dates from c. 1340. About 20 inches of the lower part of the window have been filled in with masonry.

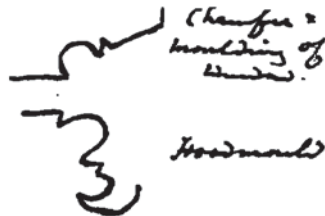
A XIVth century window, south-west of chancel, blocked below.

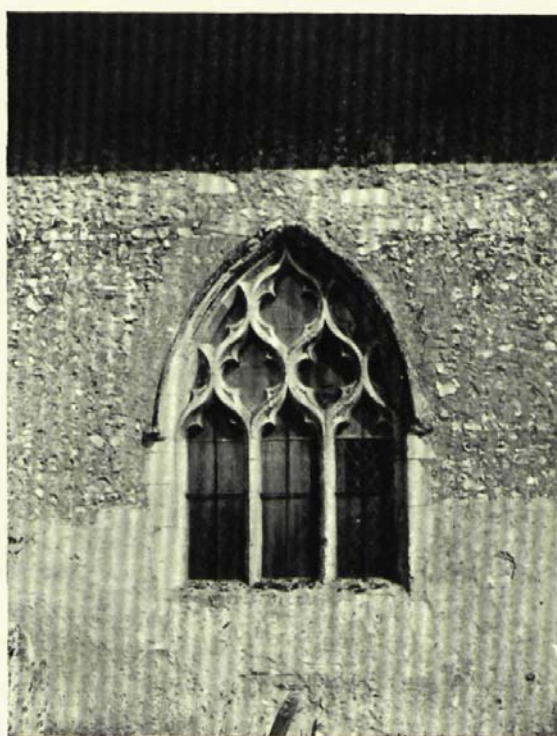
Exterior.

A portion of the original sill can be seen below the middle light, and the rest of the blocked portion is plastered over.

Distance of the present sill from the gutter, 52 inches.

Distance of the original sill from the gutter, 32 inches.





SHERBORNE ST. JOHN.

[To face page 168]

Before this window was blocked,
it was much lower in relation
to the other fenestration.
Population on the south.

Interior.

Width, 66 inches, and, including
splays, 94 inches.

The splays are not quite equal,
the east is the wider.

No chancel arch.

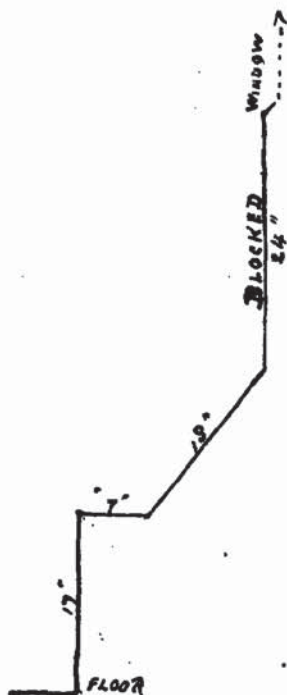
Distance to west end of chancel,
20 inches.

The lower 24 inches are blocked,
and below this is a slope of
18 inches, and then a flat sill,
7 inches deep.

The sill is 17 inches from the
floor, but the levels have been
altered.

No rebate or fastenings, etc., can
be seen.

The altar might have been visible
from the outside.



Monk Sherborne. All Saints.—The walls of this church, built of flint, set in herring-bone pattern, probably date from early in the XIIth century; and a sanctuary, to the east of the present chancel, now destroyed, and the chancel arch and north doorway date from c. 1140. On the south side of the chancel are two early XIVth century windows, each with two trefoiled lights, with a trefoil over, but no inclosing arch, and between them is a blocked XIIIth century lancet.

At the west end of this wall is the western half of an arch, which almost certainly marks the western splay of a former low side window. Its western edge is close to the chancel arch, and its eastern half is now occupied by the splay of the western early XIVth century window mentioned above. There is no trace of this opening on the exterior.

In the nave of this Church the sills of the windows on the south side are set very much higher than on the north, and the south-east window is of two ogee trefoiled lights, rebated internally for shutters and retaining parts of the hanging hooks.

This window is of the type to which the name "high side window" has been given, and it may have lighted the rood-loft, but if so, why should it be shuttered?

The difficulty of explaining this window makes it a very interesting example.

Silchester.—Structurally the Church of Our Lady is peculiar, the chancel being more than half the length of the whole building, but the beautifully carved oak screen is fixed 22 feet from the east end, thus throwing the western part of the real chancel into the nave. There is no chancel arch. In the south wall of the chancel are two lancets towards the east, and one at its western end; they date from the XIIIth century, are chamfered, and have no rebate externally. Between the second and third lancets, immediately to the east of the screen, there is a late XIVth century window, set low in the wall. It is of two trefoiled lights under a square head, and is, doubtless, a low side window.

A late XIVth century two-light window, south of chancel.

Externally.

The window has a plain chamfer.

Distance of sill from the ground,
42½ inches.

Distance from aisle, 3 yards 1 inch.

Interior.

Height, 61 inches. Width of the two
lights, 34 inches.

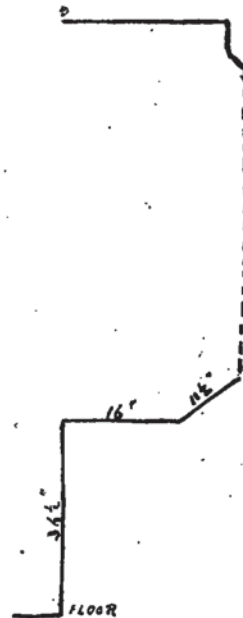
Height of whole opening, 73½ inches;
and width, including splays, 69½
inches.

The splays are equal.

There is a wooden lintel at the top,
and the chancel screen runs into the
western splay.

No rebate, or grating, or fastenings.
Modern glass.

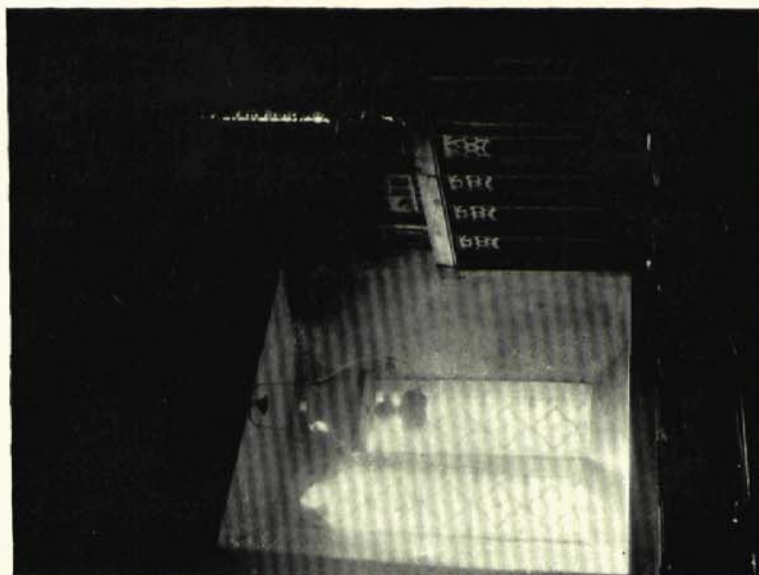
The flat sill is 16 inches deep, and
36½ inches from floor.



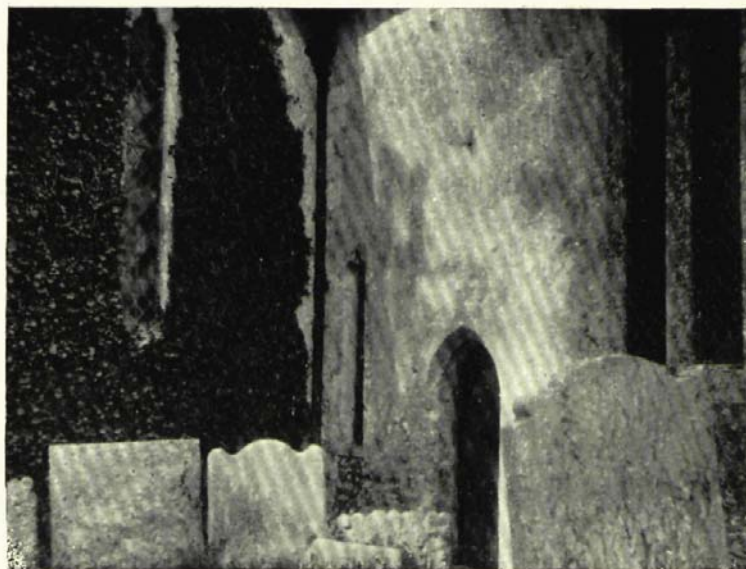


[To face page 170]

SILCHESTER.



SILCHESTER. INTERIOR.
THE NAVE WINDOW IS SEEN TO THE WEST OF THE SCREEN.



SOBERTON, ST. PETER'S.



NOTICE CARDINAL BEAUFORT'S SHIELD.

[To face page 171]

Soberton. St. Peter's.—The south wall of the chancel was rebuilt c. 1330, and contains two trefoiled ogee lights and a plain priests' doorway. At the south-west angle is a narrow trefoiled low side window, with a squint to the south transept in its west jamb.

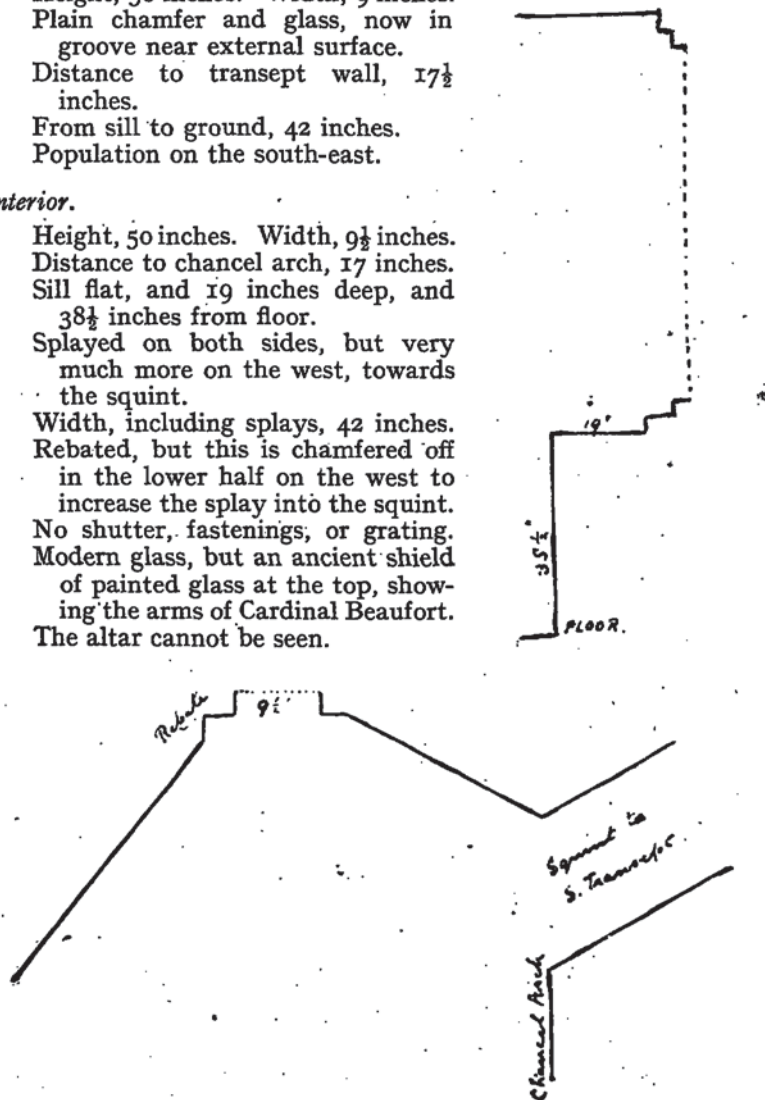
Trefoiled lancet south-west of chancel.

Exterior.

Height, 50 inches. Width, 9 inches.
Plain chamfer and glass, now in groove near external surface.
Distance to transept wall, $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
From sill to ground, 42 inches.
Population on the south-east.

Interior.

Height, 50 inches. Width, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
Distance to chancel arch, 17 inches.
Sill flat, and 19 inches deep, and $38\frac{1}{2}$ inches from floor.
Splayed on both sides, but very much more on the west, towards the squint.
Width, including splays, 42 inches.
Rebated, but this is chamfered off in the lower half on the west to increase the splay into the squint.
No shutter, fastenings, or grating.
Modern glass, but an ancient shield of painted glass at the top, showing the arms of Cardinal Beaufort.
The altar cannot be seen.



Sopley.—The Church of St. Michael and All Saints, picturesquely situated on a knoll overlooking the Avon, had a new chancel and transepts built in the XIIIth century. In the south wall of the chancel, starting from the east, are a XIIIth century lancet, which has no external rebate; a plain priests' door; a late XVth century window, square-headed, and of three cinquefoiled lights; and, lastly, at the west, a small, low-set, pointed opening of XIIIth century date.

A XIIIth century small lancet at south-west of chancel.

Exterior.

Height, 25 inches. Width, 9 inches.

To transept wall, about 25 inches.

Sill to ground, 21 inches.

Small flat sill, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep.

Contains ornamental modern iron-work in an iron frame.

Fitted with modern wooden door on hinges, which opens outwards and to the west.

A rebate externally and the jambs are plainly chamfered.

Population to the east; none on the south.

Interior.

Height, $24\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Width, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Distance from chancel arch, 25 inches.

The sill forms a seat, 14 inches deep, and 26 inches from the floor.

No internal rebate. Splays about equal.

The east splay measures 20 inches, but the western is only 8 inches, and ends in the squint to the south transept.

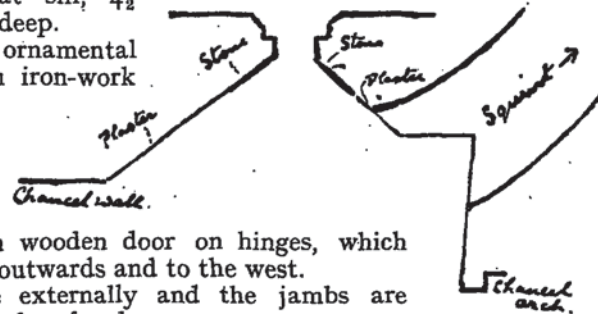
There is a small wooden lintel over the opening in front, and behind it is continued as lath and plaster.

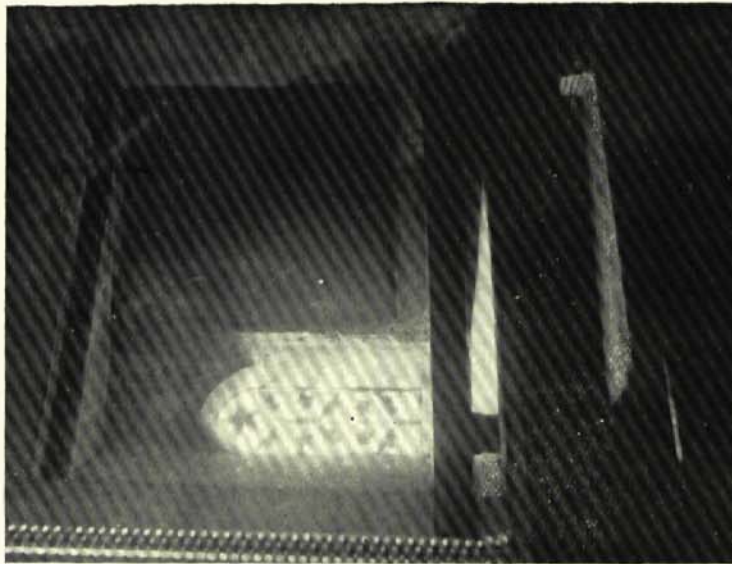
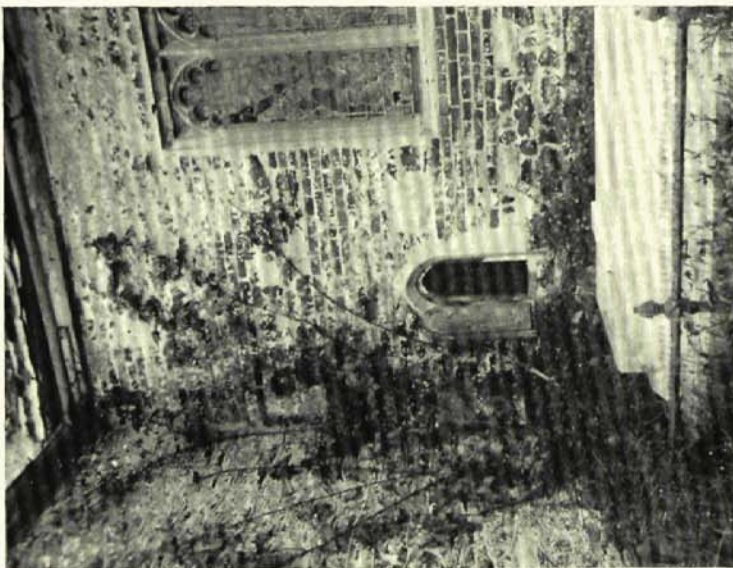
No glass, and, if a glass groove is present, it is hidden by the iron frame.

Half-way up the east jamb, partly in the stone and partly in a mortar joint, is a small, round hole, probably for a fastening.

The altar could not be seen from the opening.

Stoke Charity.—The Church of St. Michael, one of the most interesting in the county, was thought by the late Dr. Cox to be in part of pre-Conquest date, and, although its architectural





SOPLEY

[To face page 172]



STOKE CHARITY.
THERE ARE FIVE MASS-CLOCKS ON THE JAMBS OF THE NAVE WINDOW



STOKE CHARITY. INTERIOR. [To face page 173]

details present the student with many difficulties, most archæologists now consider the oldest work to be not earlier than the XIIth century. The church contains many interesting memorials of the Hampton and Waller families, some valuable XVth century glass, described in our *Proceedings* by the late Mr. Le Couteur, whose early death was a great loss, and, lastly, "the most precious relic in the whole church," an early XVIth century piece of sculpture, very rare in England,¹ representing the "Mass of St. Gregory." For a full account of this fine carving, intended to prove the Real Presence of our Lord in the Mass, the reader is referred to an excellent little book, *A Short History of Stoke Charity*, by the late Rev. Charles B. Lloyd.

The present chancel dates from the first half of the XIIIth century, and in its south wall are two deeply-splayed lancets, the sills of both being carried down, the eastern one as a sedile, the western as a low side window.

The south-west window of the chancel.

Exterior.

A XIIIth century lancet, which has been widened, the outer stone-work being modern, and the flint-work below the sill, to the depth of about 30 inches, looks as if it had been filled in and replaced the lower part of a longer window. The opening is rebated, and, where it joins the wall surface, there is a small chamfer.

Distance from the aisle wall, 3 feet 11 inches, and from the sill to the ground course, 5 feet 3 inches. Now filled with modern glass.

Population to the west and south, and also to south-east.

Interior.

Height, 4 feet 2 inches. Width, 17 inches.

Distance from chancel arch, 22 inches.
From bottom of window to floor, 67½ inches.

The seat is 13½ inches deep, and 28½ inches above floor.

Width, including the two equal splays, 66 inches.

No shutter, or remains of fastenings, or grating.

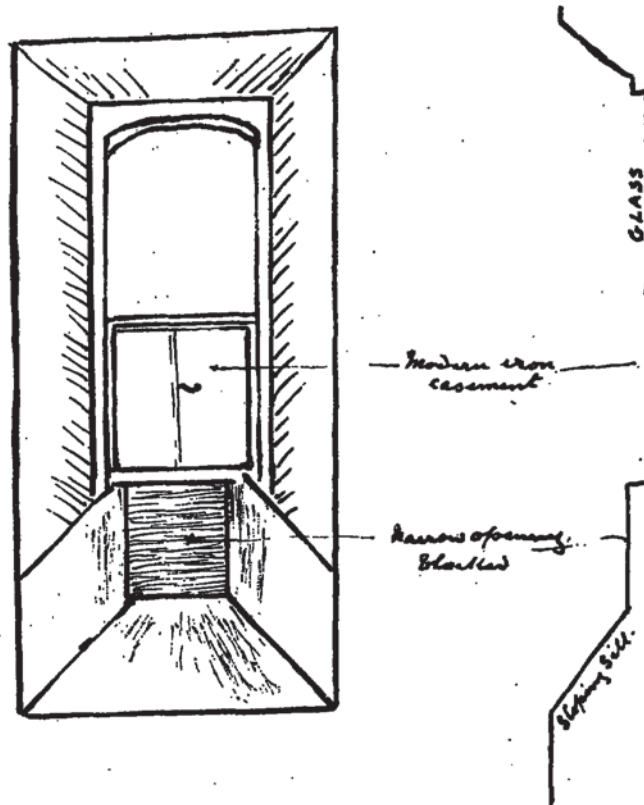
The jambs and rear-arches are ancient. The chancel altar might, perhaps, be seen through this window, but the north chantry altar was certainly visible.



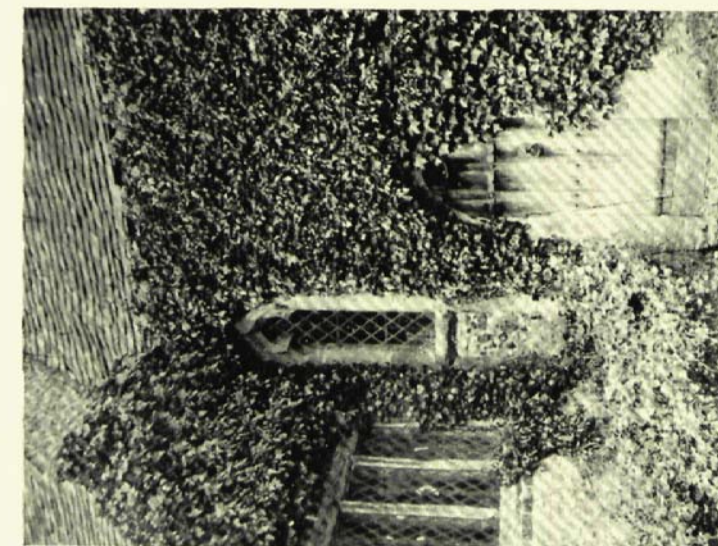
¹ Other examples occur in Exeter Cathedral, and, as Mr. Houghton reminds me, in Paignton Church, Devon.

Timsbury.—The nave of St. Andrew's Church dates from the XIIIth century, and the chancel seems to have been rebuilt in the XVth century. All the windows of the nave have been altered.

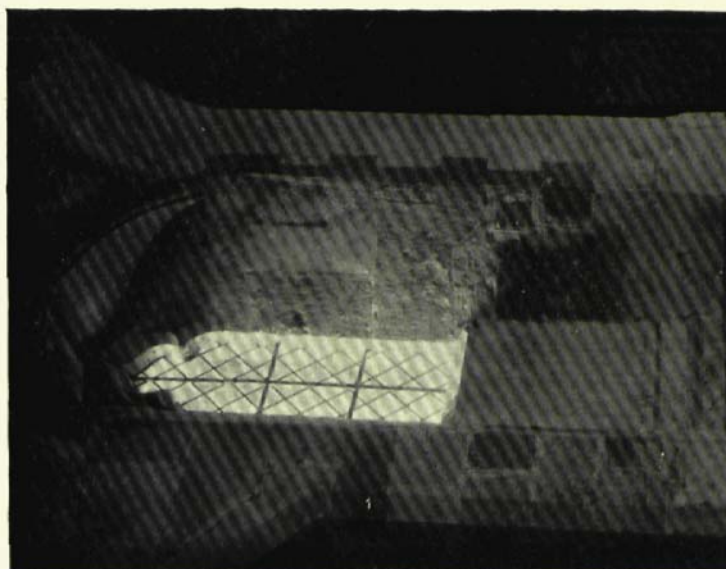
The south-east window of the nave has a segmental head, and the jambs look like XIIIth century work re-used, and have external rebates for frames. Internally, below the present window, are the splays on each side and the sill of a narrower window, plastered over, but perhaps of XIIIth century date. This window must have had its sill on a lower level than those of the other windows of the church, and there are indications of this on the wall externally.



This opening has been so much altered, that it is difficult to come to any conclusion as to whether it ever was a low side window. If there was ever any rebate to the blocked portion, it is now concealed by plaster.



EAST WELLOW.



[To face page 175]

The ruined Chapel of St. Nicholas, in Westbury Park, near West Meon. This is now a roofless ruin, overgrown with grass and weeds. It was described in the *Papers and Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archæological Society*, vol. ii, part I, by Mr. N. C. H. Nisbett, A.R.I.B.A.

There is an opening in the north wall near its west end, and it is on this side of the chapel that the road runs about 200 feet away. Mr. Nisbett wrote of this opening as a low side window, or leper window, or squint, or hagioscope; and his account, published in 1901, describes it as about 3 feet from the ground, with a timber lintel and sill, measuring about 2 feet 7 inches in height and 2 feet in width. He seems to favour the Confessional theory, and quotes Thomas Bedyll's letter.

The opening is now a ragged, gaping hole, and the timber lintel and sill have disappeared. It can hardly have been a low side window.

East Wellow.—The Church of St. Margaret dates from the XIIIth century, a south aisle being added in the XVIth century, and is well worth a visit. It is chiefly remarkable for many interesting remains of contemporary wall painting, which include the murder of Thomas à Becket, St. Christopher, St. George and the Dragon, consecration crosses, and a profusion of masonry patterns. The preservation of these interesting features is a matter of great importance, for wall paintings are literally our oldest English pictures, and an expert might be consulted, with advantage, to advise on the question of their fixation and preservation.

Florence Nightingale, "the Lady of the Lamp," is buried in the churchyard.

The south-west window of the chancel is a typical example of a low side window.

Exterior.

The window is an insertion of the XIVth century, at the extreme west of the south wall of the chancel, and close to a pointed, chamfered priests' door of contemporary date. It is a trefoiled lancet, ogee-headed and transomed, the lower part rectangular in shape, being blocked with flints and covered with ivy, which the Vicar, the Rev. Plant, very kindly had removed, so that a photograph could be taken. The blocked portion has a plain, wide chamfer, continued from the window above, and is 21 inches high and 13½ inches wide, and its western side is within an inch or two of the south aisle wall, but this

part is obscured by thick ivy stems. The sill is 33 inches from the ground, and the unblocked part of the window is filled with plain glass.

The population (two houses) is on the south, but not visible from the position of the window, and the churchyard is mainly on the south.

Interior.

An ogee-headed trefoiled lancet, under a very depressed ogee rear-arch, with a round moulding on the edge. It is situated at the extreme south-west of the chancel, between the priests' door and the chancel arch. The splays are wide and equal, the western one ending at the chancel arch, which is constructed of wood and plaster. The window is transomed, the blocked portion below being plastered, and measuring $36\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height and 18 inches in width, so that the opening would appear to have been somewhat larger inside the church than on the exterior. The distance from the west side of the window to the chancel arch is 9 inches, all of which is splay.

The depth of the sill, which is flat, is $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and it is 41 inches from the floor. On the east splay, close to the blocked part, there is a piece broken out of a stone, which may have been for a bolt. The blocked portion ends below in two steps, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, and two cut-off ends of iron bars are to be seen in the lowest part at the eastern end.

The altar and the Easter Sepulchre, if present, could not be seen from the outside through the opening, but the rood would have been visible.

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A list of books consulted is given in the Bibliography; but I wish to express my obligations especially to Mr. F. T. S. Houghton, M.A., F.S.A., to Mr. P. M. Johnston, F.S.A., Mr. Francis Bond, M.A., and Col. C. A. Markham, F.S.A.—from the writings of all I have quoted freely; and in a special degree I have to acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. Houghton's paper on *The Low Side Windows of Warwickshire Churches*, a most complete, painstaking, and impartial treatment of this vexed question, and for his kindness in reading this paper, and for many valuable suggestions.