

THE JOURNAL

OF THE

British
Archaeological Association,

ESTABLISHED 1843,

FOR THE

ENCOURAGEMENT AND PROSECUTION OF RESEARCHES
INTO THE ARTS AND MONUMENTS OF THE
EARLY AND MIDDLE AGES.

VOL. XLII.



London :

PRINTED FOR THE ASSOCIATION.

MDCCCLXXXVI.

Mr. Gordon M. Hills gave a most interesting and detailed description of the building, and his discourse was heartily appreciated.

Upon leaving the church the party adjourned to the White Horse Hotel for luncheon.

The next place on the programme was Edburton, where was read the following paper on

EDBURTON CHURCH.

BY THE REV. F. GELL, M.A., VICAR.

As the official conservator of this ancient building, I beg leave to bid you all a hearty welcome within these venerable walls. I am the twenty-seventh on the extant roll of the rectors of this obscure Sussex pastorate, appointed, like my twenty-six predecessors, by the Archbishop of Canterbury. That record covers five and a half out of the seven centuries during which this church has stood on this spot, and it seems most probable it is itself only the successor of an older structure. The name of our parish is Edbourghton, or Edburga's town; doubtless from St. Edburga, sister of King Edmund, and granddaughter of good King Alfred, whose father is known to have resided at Bramber.

The church is said by Bacon to be dedicated to St. Andrew (without any quoted authority), and is a typical specimen of those Sussex churches so delightfully described by Mr. E. P. Loftus Brock on Monday. It has been less injured than most of our churches by that terrible process which has been applied to so many of them with disastrous effect by so-called modern architects. I mean the process of "restoration". We were protected during the worst "restoring" period by our remote position; by the wild Weald on one side, and the Southdown wilderness on the other; and by those roads east and west (if roads they deserve to be called), over which you have just had to climb.

The church consists, as you see, of five members, a porch, nave, chancel of First Pointed period, a chantry-chapel of very early Second Pointed, and a tower of late Perpendicular date. The stern simplicity of the chamfering, and the unknapped, plastered flintwork, are characteristic features in close harmony with the locality. We stand on a rocky knoll of upper green sand, and the vast chalk formation is within a few hundred yards. So the sister sciences of archæology and geology may be said to kiss each other in this building. The nave and porch are considered by Mr. E. P. Loftus Brock to be as early as King John's time, *c.* 1200 A.D. The chancel, in the windows of which you will observe a wave-moulding, is either of a little later date or a more highly finished portion of the earlier date. The chantry on the north

side (now used as a vestry), called the Truleigh or Traigil Chapel, is known by documentary evidence to be of the date 1319. The deed of William de Northo, the founder, is dated at Bramber, July 13th, in that year, when a priest was endowed to pray for his soul and those of his two wives, Olive and Christiana, in this chapel, which he dedicated to St. Katherine. The tower, of worked flints, was raised when the decay of architectural art had begun; but it stands with the record of its four centuries written so visibly upon it, putting forth no claim to grace or grandeur, but going through its own daily work with a certain noble carelessness of what anybody may think about it; rent, but not ruined yet; gathering human souls together with its old bells, and attracting the half unconscious love of those who have, during all that time, grown up familiar with its aspect, and lain down to sleep at last beneath its shade.

Mr. Brock has pointed out the two corbels in the western walls as indications of the framework of the older tower or bell-gable, which probably was supported on them. We have three bells, the tenor being $35\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. Two of them are pre-Reformation bells, and one is dated 1639. One of the ancient bells is inscribed "Sancta Katerina, ora pro nobis"; the other, "Sancta Anna, ora pro nobis"; and the third, "Gloria Deo in Excelsis." Out of 1,000 bells in Sussex, only 106 were cast before 1570, and our two older bells are of this number.

I will ask your kind attention to several points of special interest which have survived to us. 1. An ancient sundial without a gnomon, on the eastern jamb of the porch (similar, Mr. E. P. Loftus Brock says, to one discovered at the Church of Bishopstone), supposed to be of Saxon date, and possibly belonging to the earlier church which stood here. 2. The piscina of a rood-altar is in the south wall. An altar stood where the pulpit now stands; and that veteran archæologist, Mr. Matthew H. Bloxam, informs me this is a valuable instance of an ancient feature, to which attention has only recently been directed; the flattened capital of the impost of the low chancel-arch also telling us of the rood-screen which stood before the chancel in pre-Reformation times. 3. The two low side-windows in the chancel, similar to those at Dunchurch, near Rugby. They have been carefully examined by Mr. Bloxam and Mr. Brock; and the rebate in the aperture, evidently intended for the usual shutters instead of glass, has been noticed by both those authorities as indicating the uses to which these windows were applied. The friars, protected by papal bulls in their invasions of the rights of the parochial or secular clergy, sat here to receive the confessions of all who came, till these windows were half closed up (as now usually seen) by an order, the date of which is given in Bloxam, that they should be no longer used. The shutters used by

the friars were then removed, the windows glazed, and the practice discontinued. 4. The ancient leaden font, one of the three in the county. The date of it is 1180 A.D., or 1190. It was evidently cast in a mould, in a roll, and joined at the right length, the junction being seen on the eastern side. The stand is new. Another pedestal, of indifferent design, is given in Cartwright, in 1724. 5. The pulpit, of Jacobean date, probably ordered at the metropolitan visitation by Archbishop Laud, who, parish tradition says, preached in it himself. 6. The rails, which Mr. Bloxam says were the first ever put into the church, *i.e.*, 1635, when an order was given to exclude dogs from the sanctuary; and probably Laud, who first ordered them, included Puritans in that designation. 7. The Register in the Vestry, 1558; the first Order in Council being 1528, and the second 1558, which brought this venerable document into existence. 8. The Hipposley mural monument with a defaced inscription, which Mr. Wright has undertaken to complete. And perhaps I may include among our curiosities a headstone near the porch, which is so peculiarly worded that I shall feel deeply obliged to any English scholar who will tell my parish what is the exact position designated by the inscription of the two wives of Mr. Gallop.

Mr. E. P. Loftus Brock, F.S.A., *Hon. Sec.*, followed with a brief address, and the visitors then adjourned to the Vicarage, and partook of tea, which was kindly provided for them.

Progress was then made to Poynings Church. This is a plain Perpendicular cross-church with a central tower, but no aisles, of dressed flint; the principal entrance being on the northern side, where there is a porch; other doors existing at the west end, and in the south sides of both nave and chancel. This last contains a piscina and three sedilia in excellent condition. The font is an octagonal column of sandstone with trefoil-headed panels worked in the sides. In the south-east angle of the building some portion of the outer wall of both chancel and south transept seems to have belonged to an earlier structure. The general features of this church are so much like those of Alfriston, save that the latter is larger and more ornamental, that they probably were erected nearly at the same period, and perhaps even by the same architect. This place was carefully inspected, and the explanations of Mr. Brock proved of great value.

Pyecombe Church was the last halting-place, and as it was now growing late, a hurried visit was paid, and no explanations of its archæology were given.

The evening meeting was held in the King's Apartments, Royal Pavilion. There was a large attendance of members and ladies, and