

Some Account

. . . of . . .

Wilton Priory

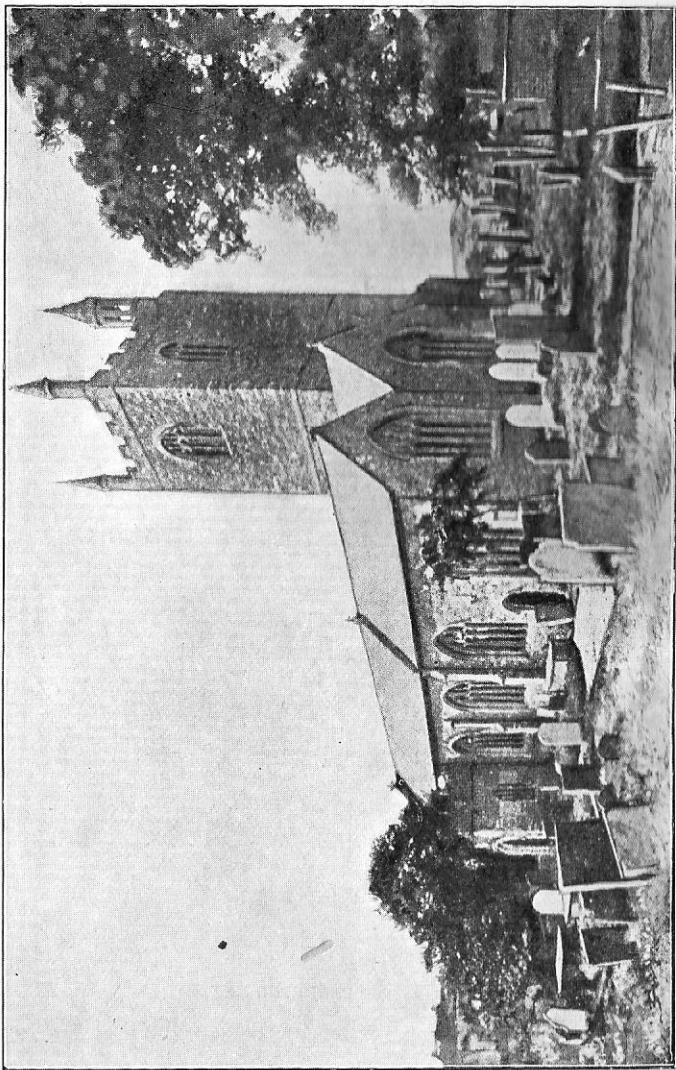
. . . and . . .

Church.

ILLUSTRATED.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
SYDNEY HARPER & SONS, BARNSTAPLE.
1907.



Exterior of Pilton Church.

Some Account

.. of ..

Pilton Priory and Church

.. by ..

W. H. M. Bagley,

Vicar of Pilton.

ILLUSTRATED.

+ + + + +

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Introduction.

This little book is intended chiefly for the Parishioners of Pilton: others who visit our ancient Parish Church may like to have some account of it; they cannot be expected to enter into many particulars that are here given for the information of the Parishioners, but it is hoped they will find a great deal that may interest them. It has been a common complaint both by visitors and residents that there is no authentic record of a Church that evidently must have an interesting history; in the various histories of the neighbouring Parish of Barnstaple a word here and there may be found concerning Pilton, but anything like a connected account of the Church and Parish is nowhere to be found. No profession is made here of filling this void, but simply a short account is given of what I have been able to discover from various sources, trusting that in the future someone with greater facilities may be able to fill in the omissions. The only absolute blanks in the history of the Priory occur during the first 250 years of its existence, and as far as the Church is concerned during the 70 years following the dissolution of the Priory. There can be little doubt that the Priory was founded by King Athelstan sometime before 940 A.D., the year in which he died; the seal of the Priory, an impression of which is still in existence, makes this almost certain. A description of this seal will be given in its place. The first mention we can find of the Priory in existing documents is in one dated 1199, now in the Athenæum, Barnstaple, which refers to the Priory of Pilton, (a translation of this will be given by the kindness of Mr. Wainwright of the

Athenæum). There is, however, a still older deed, dated 1189, in the possession of the Feoffees of Pilton Charities, which is the gift of a garden by William Taillour, to the Lepers of the Blessed Margaret of Pilton. This old deed is chiefly interesting for its antiquity; it is nearly obliterated, quite so in parts, and it still bears the seal of William Taillour, in an excellent state of preservation. It does not refer to the Priory.

As this is mainly an account of the Church, references to other matters and to families who have resided here will only be incidental.

Pilton no longer "stondeth on Cloth," as Leland says, but partly "on Gloves," "Collars" and general trade.

Barnstaple, which according to some, was at one time simply "annexed to Pilton," and, which Piltonians may make a note of, has now become the whale which threatens to swallow up Pilton, and many of the inhabitants of Pilton find their means of livelihood in Barnstaple, in the Factories of Raleigh, originally in Pilton, and of Derby, and in many other ways. Pilton at one time, so it is reported, had a Mayor; it had its Fair or Revel, and till quite modern times was entirely self-governed. Ecclesiastically it is still, of course, quite separate from Barnstaple, but for civil purposes it is divided into two parishes, Pilton East, within the Borough of Barnstaple, and Pilton West, containing a population of about 100, outside the Borough. This division does not affect the ancient parish for ecclesiastical purposes, and the inhabitants of Pilton West have still all the privileges and responsibilities of parishioners of Pilton. It is to be sincerely hoped that Pilton will retain its individuality, and will neither succumb to the blandishments of its big neighbour, nor be tempted to make a mercenary match. It has had a long and honourable history of, as we know for certain, nearly a thousand years, and very likely, as a parish, it could count still more years.

I desire to express my thanks to Prebendary Hingeston-Randolph, and to Mr. Wainwright, of the Athenæum, the former for very kindly giving me help in the many technicalities of the old writings, and the latter for similar help, and for allowing me to use the 'Barnstaple Records,' and to extract therefrom some entries and deeds which, I think, I have not failed to acknowledge where they occur.

I desire also to make my apologies to the many scholars in Pilton for venturing to translate the Latin of the monuments and documents, and in some cases for only giving the translation; but, as everybody has not the advantage of knowing Latin, I thought it would prove more generally useful.

W. H. M. BAGLEY.

July 25th, 1907.

Pilton Priory.

OLIVER, in his *Monasticon*, says: "From Domesday it is evident that the manor of Pilton was part of the possessions of the great Benedictine Abbey of Malmesbury, in Wiltshire, in the reign of Edward the Confessor." According to Leland, the Benedictine Priory of Pilton was founded by King Athelstan (A.D. 925-940), and independent testimony to the truth of this statement is afforded by the seal of the Priory, an account of which will be given below. It is certain that the Monks and Prior were appointed by the Abbot and Monastery of Malmesbury, and the office of Prior was "perpetual," that is, when once appointed to the office he could not be removed without being convicted of a canonical fault. Two of the Priors of Pilton were thought worthy of being selected to fill the responsible position of Abbot of Malmesbury. The Priors also performed the ordinary duty of parish priests of Pilton, and are therefore frequently described in the Episcopal Registers as instituted "*ad prioratum et ecclesiam parochialem de Piltone*." The site of the Priory is supposed to have been on the north side of the present Parish Church, and it is believed that the quire of the monks extended eastward of the Church Tower (Oliver). In the north aisle was probably the Chapel of St. James, where a daily mass was offered for the souls of the Tracy family. It may be of interest to give a translation of the form of Licence customary at that period. Dugdale gives this (vol. i., p. 261), in Latin; no date.

“Concerning a mass to be celebrated daily in the Chapel of the Blessed James at Pilton.”

To all the faithful in Christ to whom this present writing shall come, W....., by the grace of God, Abbot of Malmesbury, and the monastery there, greeting in the Lord. Let all men know that we in consideration of the mercy of God, at the instance and request of the Lord Henry de Tracy have granted to the same Henry and by this present writing have confirmed, namely, that on every day there be a mass for the dead in the Chapel of St. James in Pilton, by one of our brethren there officiating, that is to say, for the souls of Henry de Tracy his grandfather, and Oliver his father, and Hawysie his grandmother, and all his predecessors and successors. And we grant to the same Henry, and the aforesaid defunct a participation in all the benefits which may be in our Church, and in other places belonging to our Church, as if to one of us. In testimony of which we have appended our seal, witnesses, &c., &c.

Within Pilton Churchyard stood St. Agnes Chapel, to which adjoined a chamber for a recluse.

From the Bishops' Registers I have extracted the following : (Translation—original in Latin), 1329. Alice, an Anchorite otherwise a Recluse, at Pilton, obtained a Licence to choose a Confessor by letters patent—2nd November, 1329. Alice, a Recluse, in a chamber sometime ago built, and contiguous to the Chapel of the Blessed Agnes in the Churchyard of the Parish Church of Pilton, obtained a licence for the celebration of the Divine mysteries (*faciendi Divina celebrari*) in the said Chapel by a suitable Chaplain, 24th May, 1332.

In 1320 a Perpetual Chantry was established. In Bishop Stapeldon's Register, under date 9th January, 1319—20 we find (*translation*)—A Perpetual Chantry to be celebrated in the Parish Church of Pilton, for the souls of William de Raleghe, Knight, his progenitors and successors, and the souls of all the faithful dead. At the same time Sir John de Wallia, priest, was instituted, the Patron being Sir William Martyn, Knt., “by reason of the minority of Thomas, the son and heir of William de Raleghe, late Lord of Raleghe, who was in his guardianship.”

The last Chantry Priest was John Frenshe, admitted August 26th, 1545, on the death of John Kyng, the late Incumbent, on the presentation of Henry Fortescue, Esq., in right of the jointure of Jane his wife, relict of John Chichester, Esq., lately deceased (Oliver).

This Raleigh Chantry was established, as we see, in the Parish Church of Pilton, and probably the Altar stood at the East End of the South Chancel Aisle, where the monument to Sir John and Lady Chichester now stands, and the Chancel Aisle still goes by the name of the Raleigh Chapel; but the Chantry was soon removed, certainly by 1354, to Raleghe Court, for Bishop Grandisson describes it as “the Chantry Chapel of St. Leonard, within the manor of Raleghe in the Parish of Pilton,” and Sir John Simond is mentioned as Chaplain in 1374.

The Chapel itself existed till 1744 under the name of Raleigh Chapel, and divine service was performed there; the last Chaplain was the Rev. George Foss, who was private Chaplain to John Bassett, Esq.

In 1370, Edmunde Pillande and Johanna his wife were granted a Licence for the Chapel, or Oratory, of Pillande; and a similar Licence was granted in 1403 to Thomas and Isabella Pylond.

St. Margaret's Leper Hospital is one of the oldest foundations in Pilton, and one of the most interesting, inasmuch as it is still in existence, and a Prior, Brother, and Sister are still appointed by the Patrons, the Feoffees of Pilton Charities. This foundation is mentioned in a deed of settlement entered into before Henry Marshall, Bishop of Exeter in 1199, as then governed by a superior or prior. On the 9th of January, 1375, the Bishop of Exeter granted "an indulgence of 40 days to all Parishioners who would subscribe to the repair of the House for the sustentation of the poor Lepers of St. Margaret's Hospital of Pilton."

In 1378, a Licence for three years was granted for the Chapel of St. Margaret's Hospital, where Divine Service might be celebrated by suitable priests. This was renewed in 1383.

The Chapel was in existence till quite modern days, but was let as a storehouse, and eventually demolished. It stood at the lower end of Pilton Street where part of St. Margaret's Terrace now stands.

The Hospital had its own seal, of which some impressions still remain, and a copy of which is on the window to the memory of the late Townshend Hall, Esq. It was inscribed "Sigill. Leprosor. Beate Margarete De Pylton." The seal was in existence in the early part of last century, but has been lost.

The oldest deed in existence which concerns St. Margaret's Hospital is dated 1189, 1st of Richard I, and is the grant of a garden by William Taillour to the Lepers of the Blessed

Margaret of Pilton. It is in the possession of the Feoffees of the Pilton Charities.

Three other deeds are in the possession of the Athenæum, Barnstaple, and, by the kindness of Mr. Wainwright, I give his translation of the same.

(1.) Date 1199.

Settlement of the disputes between the Prior and Monks and the Lepers of St. Margaret's Hospital.

To all the faithful of Christ to whom the present writing shall come, H., by the grace of God Bishop of Exeter, greeting in the Lord. Know all of you that this is the settlement made before us in the 6th year of our consecration in the Octave of St. Laurence, between the Church of Pilton by the consent of Ralph, then Prior of the said place, and the Monks there serving God, and the Lepers of Pilton, all actions at law and demands being henceforth stayed, namely: that the said Lepers shall pay annually to the Church of Pilton, on St. Margaret's Day two pounds of wax, and if two pounds of wax are worth more than six pence, they shall pay six pence instead of two pounds of wax; they shall also pay annually on Easter Day to the said Church of Pilton twelve pence, but all oblations to St. Margaret's Chapel shall remain for ever entirely to the Lepers. Whoever shall be Prior of Pilton shall demand nothing of the said Lepers, either on entering the house or in the article of death, except what they offer of their own accord to the said Church of Pilton, although parishioners. But the Monks of the said Church in accordance with the will of God, on Easter Day, Good Friday, and St. Margaret's Day, shall provide for the said Lepers a full celebration.

of the Divine mysteries. Moreover, the garden which is of the fee of Pilton shall remain to the said Lepers for ever, by reason of the aforesaid payment. And that this settlement may remain fixed and unaltered for ever, we have confirmed it by the testimony of our writing and seal, these being witnesses: W. de Swindone, Canon of Exeter, R. de Winkele, Official of Bardestaple, Master H. de Winton, Master T. de Sutton, G. dean of Okeamptone, Henry de Eling, Giles and Bernard our Clerks, Stephen, Clerk, Reginald Beaupeil, Richard de Porta, and many others.

The Bishop who made the above award was Henry Marshal, consecrated in 1194, died 1206.

(2). To all the faithful to whom the present writing shall come, Richard son of Richard, son of Walter, greeting. Know all of you that I, by the admonition of Divine Charity, and for the safety of my soul and the souls of my father, mother, and ancestors, have given and granted to the Lepers of Pilton six pence which they are to receive annually at the feast of St. Michael, out of eight pence, which Louis of Bardestaple and his ancestors were accustomed to pay annually to my ancestors from the burgage which they held of us in the town of Barnastaple, the two pence per annum to be received at the said term being reserved to us and our heirs. But that this may remain fixed and immovable in the future, I have affixed my seal to this writing with these witnesses: Roger Cole, Canon of Exeter; Henry, of Merton; Roger, son of Symon; John Prior of Ash; Willliam Prior of Chiriton; Geoffry Prior of Bochlam; John, of Dunisland; Robert, of Mart's, and many others.

(3). Know all men, present and future, that I, Philip Puleyn of Barnastaple, by the admonition of Divine Charity, with

the assent and goodwill of my wife and my heirs, have given and granted for the souls of my father, my mother, and my ancestors, and for the safety of my soul to the Hospital of St. Margaret's, Pilton, and to the Lepers serving God there, in pure and perpetual alms, six pence from the rent of a certain garden within the Northgate of Barnastaple which Popa and Langbodi, his brother, held, that is to say, from that garden which lies between the garden of Pidekwille and the garden of Matilda of Northgate, so indeed that I and my heirs shall pay the aforesaid rent to the aforesaid House annually at the Feast of St. Michael; but also, that this gift and grant of mine may continue firm and fixed for ever, I have confirmed it by this present writing and my seal affixed, with these witnesses: Sir William de Ralegh, Sir Philip de Bellomonte, William Panel, Roger Panel, Durand de Leye, Adam de Culaleg, William Prudome, William Cornifar, Richard Huton and many others.

It is generally supposed that St. Margaret's Hospital, being a very small property and community, escaped the notice of the commissioners of Henry VIII., but such is not my opinion, although I have little but opinion to go upon. St. Margaret's Hospital had some connection with Pilton Priory; and, in investigating the property of the Priory, St. Margaret's Hospital would certainly not have escaped notice. It is more likely that, being a charitable institution, and also in that day of no great pecuniary value, it was allowed to continue, but the patronage was given or sold to someone. We find in 1735 that the Patronage and Right of nomination was in the hands of a certain Richard Parminter, who sold it to the Feoffees of Pilton for £70, in whose hands it still remains and Pilton still boasts of its Prior, Brother, and Sister.

The Priors of Pilton.

THE names of the following Priors have been recovered from the Bishops' Registers, Oliver, and elsewhere.

1200. Ralph, whose name occurs in a deed respecting the Lepers House.
1261. Adam de Betesleghe.
1282. Richard de Iweleghe.
1283. John de Stanleghe.
1311. William Wrockeshale (*c*), died early in 1316.
1316. Henry de Pekyngehull (*d*), resigned in the spring of 1336.
1336. John de Lockynham died in 1349.
1349. Simon de Aveneye; he became Abbot of Malmesbury the same year, and died in office 1360.
1349. John de Rodeborne.
1362. Thomas Brockenborwe.
1397. John
1398. William Charleton died in 1412.
1412. Richard Kengeswode died in 1421.
1421. Thomas Evesham died in 1434.
1434. William Worcester (*a*), died in 1446.
1446. John Andover (*b*), elected Abbot of Malmesbury 1447 died 1462.
1457. Robert Upton died in 1472.
1472. Thomas Oldeston.

Pilton Priory.

- ? William Kyngswode died in 1502.
1502. John Bewmont, S.T.B., died in 1513.
1513. William Alday.
1517. Simon Rumsey died in 1527.
1527. John Rosse, the last Prior. He and Richard Pilton and John Caw, alias Calve, subscribed to the King's Supremacy September 3rd, 1533. To this act was attached the splendid circular seal with its reverse, of which an impression or copy may be seen in the Vestry of the Parish Church and of which this is the description.

The obverse has three elaborate canopies, the centre one occupied by the patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary crowned and sceptred, supporting in her right hand the infant Saviour, the legend with double roses between each word, is: VIRGO-ROGA-PRO-ME-TOTUM-SEMPER-TIBI-DO-ME. The canopies on either side contain angels.

The reverse has also three beautiful canopies. The centre is occupied by the supposed founder, King Athelstan; on the dexter side is an escutcheon suspended to a tree and bearing a bird displayed. On the sinister side are his own arms; saltier gules and azure, on a mound a cross bottony, crowned or. The legend: HOC-ATHELSTANVS-AGO-QUOD-PRESENS-SIGNAT-IMAGO. (This description is from Oliver).

Ashford was appropriated to Pilton, and in 1269 the Monks had to be compelled to present a Clerk who should serve it regularly.

(*a*) Of this Prior (William Worcester), Oliver gives the following information: Bishop Lacy allowed him to have service in his own Chapel of Legh in the Parish of Merwode.

Much dissension had existed between this Prior and his community, as proprietors of Pilton Parish Church, and Hugh Lyton the Prior of Barnstaple and his convent respecting the boundaries and limits of the respective Parishes, and concerning the right of taking tithes in the lands of Puntynghdon and in a meadow belonging to John Chichester, Esq., lying on the East Side of Pilton Fosse, commonly called Hollyforde. Bishop Lacy, always the friend of peace, was anxious to settle this difference, and being on his visitation at Pilton summoned the parties before him on July 15th, 1435, when they agreed to leave the decision of their claims to him. He accordingly examined the following persons: (here Oliver gives the names of 16 persons, the oldest of which were John Junner, aged 76, and Thomas Pylland, Esq., aged 74), who deposed that the boundaries of Barum and Pilton commenced at the Wooden Cross on the South Side of the Fosse leading from Barnstaple to Pilton, commonly called Pilton Fosse, and so ascending from that Cross on the South Side of the Leat of the Mills belonging to the Prior of Barnstaple, unto the angle of the garden of the said Prior of Barnstaple, and so along the hedge of the said garden ascending on the South Side of the said Mill Leat, to a close called Stanburgh lying on the South Side of the said Leat, and thence ascending through two closes then in the occupation of Thomas Pasmore of Barum, on the same side along the Prior of Barnstaple's land to Pyggestake, as the path between Raleigh Wood on the North part, and the Prior of Barnstaple's wood called Holewode on the South part leads and points out. Such as far as the memory of the witnesses could trace, and as far as they could collect evidence from the oldest persons then and before were ever accounted the true and ancient boundaries, consequently that the meadow of John Chichester was always

reported as being within Pilton Parish, and titheable to Pilton Priory, and the same they deposed of Potynghdon or Puntynghdon.

In October, 1435, Bishop Lacy decided entirely in favour of Pilton Priory, and confirmed the ancient boundaries. In his generosity he presented ten marks to each of the Priories, to keep them in good humour with each other.

Leland says that "one Stawford, a merchant of London, made the causey and bridge at each end of it, betwixt Barnstaple Priory and Pilton. Bishop Lacy encouraged the faithful to contribute to the work as early as January, 1451, and Bishop Veysey in 1521 invited his flock to come forward in aid "*pontis et calceti inter villas de Barum et Pilton.*" (Oliver).

(b) Prior Andover appears to have been a pluralist, and to have held both the offices of Abbot of Malmesbury and Prior of Pilton for ten years, when at length he presented Thomas Oldeston to the latter office.

(c) On the sixth day before the Kalends of January (December 27th), 1311, the Lord Bishop admonished by letter Sir William (Prior Wrockeshale) the Prior of Pilton, under the obligation of his obedience and under pain of excommunication which he sent in writing to him personally, if he should disobey his monition, that he should not retire from the office of Prior without obtaining the Licence or consent of the Lord Bishop. (Bishop Stapeldon's Register).

(d) Bishop Grandisson granted to Prior Henry de Pekenge-hulle absolution for solemnizing a clandestine marriage in 1331.

This list of Priors, it will be observed, covers the period King John to Henry VIII, leaving unfortunately about 250 years before John, without any record.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SUPREMACY HENRY VIII.

(From the original in the Chapter House, Westminster).

As it may be of interest to many, here is given a transcript of the Oath of Supremacy; our space being limited, it is unadvisable to give the original Latin, but the following is a true enough translation. The introduction is somewhat obscure, but the meaning is clearly enough expressed.

“Whereas there is not only a reason for the Christian Religion and Duty, but also a Rule for our obedience, we should not only exhibit to our Lord King Henry of his name the eighth, to whom alone after Christ Jesus, we owe, one and all, our Service, that same sincere and pure and continual devotion of mind, faith, obedience, honour, respect and reverence in Christ, but also should be ready, as often as is demanded of us, to give an account of that faith and obedience, and openly before all, whenever circumstances demand it, to bear witness to it.

Know all to whom this present writing may come, that we, the Prior and Members of the House or Priory of the Blessed Mary of Pilton, with one mouth and voice, and with the unanimous consent and assent of all to this our writing under our common seal given in our Chapter House for ourselves and our successors, all and each, do publicly declare, testify, promise and vow that we all and each will ever exhibit honest, inviolate, sincere, and continual faith, service, and obedience towards our Lord King Henry the eighth, and towards Queen Anna his wife, and towards

his children of the same Anna legitimately begotten, as well as those that may be so begotten, and that we will ratify, publish and commend the same to the people wherever place and occasion shall be given us.

Further that we hold it a settled and established fact, and we will always and perpetually hold it, that our aforesaid King Henry is head of the Church of England (*ecclesie Anglicane*). Also that the Bishop of Rome, who in his Bulls usurps the name of Pope, and arrogates to himself supremacy as Supreme Pontiff, should by no means be considered of greater dignity than any other Bishop, each in his own Diocese.

Also that no one of us in any sacred assembly held in public or private, will call the same Bishop by the name of Pope or Supreme Pontiff, but by the name of the Bishop of Rome, or the Bishop of the Church of Rome, and that no one of us will pray for him as Pope, but as Bishop of Rome. Also that we will adhere to the said Lord King and his successors, and will maintain his laws and decrees, for ever renouncing those laws, decrees and canons of the Bishop of Rome, which shall be found to be contrary to the Divine Law, and the Holy Scriptures, or contrary to the Law of this Realm.

Also that no one of us all in any assembly, either private or public, will presume to twist (detorquere), anything taken from the Holy Scriptures to mean anything foreign to its sense, but each one of us will preach in a Catholic and Orthodox manner, Christ and His Words and Deeds, simply, openly, sincerely, according to the custom and model of the Holy Scriptures, and the truly Catholic and Orthodox Doctors.

Also that each one of us in his sermons and prayers, to be made according to custom, will first of all commend the King, as the supreme head of the Church of England, to God and the prayers of the people, then Queen Anna and her children, and then the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, with the other orders of the Clergy as seems proper.

Also we all and each, the aforesaid Prior and Members and Successors, firmly oblige ourselves by the solemn obligation of our conscience and oath to observe faithfully and for ever all and each of the aforesaid matters. In testimony of which we append our seal and our names written with our own hands.

Given in our Chapter House the third day of the month of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand five hundred and thirty three, of the reign of the truly most revered Prince, Henry the eighth, the twenty sixth."

Per me JOHANNEM ROSSE, Priorem.
Per me RYCHARDUM PYLTON.
DAN JOHANNES CALVE.

It is curious that there should be an error in the original, 3rd September, 1533, is in the 25th and not the 26th of Henry.

Here is the Income of the Priory at the time of the dissolution, of course it represents much more in our present money, probably ten times as much, and, besides, it is quite possible that the full value is not here set out. Short in his history of the Church of England, p. 89, has a long note on these values: in brief, he says, "in estimating, therefore, the values of the property of these monasteries, the reserved rents may probably have alone entered

into the calculation, and the fine have been overlooked, as not forming part of the income." Also Oliver says. The Ministers' Accounts tempore Henry VIII, only answer for the fixed rent at which the whole property was demised, and therefore throw no light on the particular sources of revenue.

The account is in Latin, with many abbreviations, and some technical expressions, but I thought it would be more interesting to my readers if I ventured upon a translation.

Valor Ecclesiasticus temp. Henry VIII.

(Transcript of return 26 Henry VIII, First Fruits Office).

THE PRIORY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
OF PILTON.

The true annual value of all property, manors, lands and tenements, rectories, vicarages and other possessions whatsoever, whether temporal or spiritual within the kingdom of England, of which John Rosse, Prior of the Monastery of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Pilton aforesaid, in the Deanery of Barnstaple, and within the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon of Barnstaple aforesaid, in the Diocese of Exeter and County of Devon, is in any way seized, holds in fee, or otherwise, by right of his monastery aforesaid, as is here declared.

TEMPORAL POSSESSIONS OF THE AFORESAID
MONASTERY.

Value of rents of tenancies whether by liberty or custom, per annum, in the same place (<i>i.e.</i> in Pilton)	£	s.	d.
	13	7	4
Value of rents, &c., of tenancies in different parishes within the Diocese and County aforesaid	15	15	4
	£29	2	8

Pilton Priory.

Deduct—To Henry Duke of Richmond and his heirs for rents for Chief-rent annually for ever	} £ s. d.	
To Robert Byrt, Chief Seneschal of the aforesaid Monastery annually for ever	} 2 13 4	
To Hugo Yeo, Sub-Seneschal and Auditor of the aforesaid Monastery, per annum	} 14 4	
To Andrew Elys, Bailiff and Receiver of the moneys of the aforesaid Monastery for his fee, per annum	} 2 13 4	
		6 4 0
So deducting all allowances there remains	£22 18 8	

SPIRITUAL POSSESSIONS OF THE AFORESAID PRIOR.

RECTORY OF PILTON AFORESAID, APPROPRIATED TO THE

					PRIORY THERE.	£	s.	d.
Rent of Glebe Land	12	14	8
Tithes of Wheat	7	10	0
" " Wool	1	10	0
" " Lambs	1	1	0
" " Swine	2	6	
" " Heifers	6	3	
" " Leek (?)	1	8	
" " Dairy Products	1	8	
" " Hemp			2
" " Orchards		1	8
" " Hay	1	2	4
Oblations	1	12	0
*For Predial Tithes and other emoluments, existing in <i>libro paschali</i> (in the Easter Book), per annum, average	8	9	0

+ 24 +

£34 12 11

Pilton Priory.

Deduct—For the Bishop of Exeter and his successors for procurations, average	} £ s. d.	8 10 ½
To the same Bishop and Archdeacon and their successors for synodals and cathedrals, annually for ever	} 3 4	
To the Archdeacon of Barnstaple and his successors for procurations annually, for ever	} 6 8	
		18 10 ½
So all allowances deducted there remains	£33 14 0 ¼	
The sum total of all possessions temporal and spiritual of the aforesaid Prior of Pilton	... } £56 12 8 ¾	
Whence the tenth is 5 13 3 ¼	

*Predial Tithes are such as arise immediately from the ground such as grain, fruits and herbs, (wheat seems to have a special Tithe). The other emoluments in the *liber paschalis* were probably personal Tithes, e.g. Easter Offerings.

Fortunately we have some means of comparison between the tithe in 1533 and the tithe as commuted in 1832, as far as the Parish of Pilton is concerned. This account does not say whether the tithe was only the tithe of Pilton, or tithe also which the Prior received from other appropriated Rectories, e.g. Ashford: but presuming it to be only the tithe of Pilton, we find, if we include the oblations with the tithe, that in 1533 its value was £21 18s. 3d.

In 1832 when the tithe was commuted, the tithe of Pilton was owned by T. Hellings, Esq., in the main, but some by Lord Rolle and Robert Newton Incedon, Esq., and its total value was £193, or nearly ten times as much as in 1533. The tithe is now

+ 25 +

however, much depreciated, and would be only worth about £133 in all, or about $6\frac{1}{2}$ times the value of 1533. This does not, of course mean, that the tithes have actually increased in value though that may be the case to some extent, but it indicates the difference in the value of money. If we multiply £56 12s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. by 8 or 10, we shall perhaps obtain the value of the Priory income, according to modern values. Out of this, £6 a year was reserved for the Curate or Chaplain, which thus would represent £50 or £60 in our days, and many a parson has had to live on £40 a year in later years.

What happened to all this property we shall now see.

I am sorry that it has been found impossible to discover exactly what was the real property of the Priory. This is the sort of thing that one will find, and it leaves us not much wiser.

“Rent of one tenement with a garden or curtilage, then in the tenure of Richard Boddyn, by the year viijs.

There are 31 similar items giving the name of the tenant and the yearly rent. And this note appears at the foot of the document.

“What fine was given or will be given for any of the premises at the expiration of their terms I know not.” These fines are not mentioned in the value of the Priory and would certainly make some considerable difference.

I find “The Ferme of Middlecote in the Parish of Estbuckland” mentioned as “parcel of the late Priory of Pilton,” also a tenement at Titteswell.

Up to the year 1591, the property of the late Priory of Pilton was let on lease by the Crown, first to Richard Duke for 21 years afterwards to George Turrell for 33 years, reserving £6 a year for the Curate. Oliver in his Monasticon, who probably follows Dugdale, states that the property was subsequently granted to George Rolle, Esq., who seems to have sold it shortly after to Sir John Chichester, Knight. From that family it descended to the Sydenhams, Northmores and Incedons, and it is now the property of James Whyte, Esq. The following transcript from the Rolls Office, which fell into my hands some years ago, appears to show that this is at least not entirely correct, for it will be seen from the translation given below that Queen Elizabeth gave the Rectory, including all kind of tithe, and apparently the manor, to Edmund Downing and Roger Rante.

(Translation).

Reference—Roll No. 1374. Patent Rolls 33 Eliz., Part 13,
Membrane 1.

Grant made to themselves and their heirs in favour of Edmund Downing and Roger Rante.

The Queen to all to whom, &c., greeting. Whereas by our Letters Patent under our great seal of England bearing date the fourth day of July, in the 21st year of our reign (1579), we gave, granted, and to farm let to Francis, Earl of Bedford, all . . . * Know that we both in consideration of the good, faithful, and acceptable service on many occasions heretofore done and rendered to us by our well-beloved cousin Thomas, Earl of Ormonde and Ossory, and also at the humble petition of the said Earl, of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion,

have given and granted and by these presents on behalf of ourselves, our heirs and successors, do give and grant to our beloved subjects, Edmund Downing and Roger Rante, gentlemen, all . . . * Also all that our Rectory and Church of Pilton, with all its rights, members, and appurtenances, in our County of Devon, formerly belonging and pertaining to the late Priory of Pilton now dissolved, and parcel of the possessions thereof formerly existing. Also all those our Lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever called the Sanctuary lands, lying and being in Pilton, formerly belonging and pertaining to the said late Priory of Pilton. And also all and all manner of tithe of the sheaf, of corn, of hay, and of other our tithes whatsoever, as well great as small, glebe lands, oblations, obventions, fruits, profits, commodities, emoluments, and hereditaments of ours whatsoever, belonging and pertaining to the said Rectory of Pilton in any manner either as a member, part, or parcel thereof hitherto held, known, received, or reputed. Which Rectory of Pilton, indeed, and the rest of the premises in Pilton aforesaid, with their appurtenances, were demised and granted to a certain George Turrell by our letters patent, sealed with our great seal of England, bearing date the ninth day of September in the ninth year of our reign, for the term of thirty-one years, commencing from the time or times in the said letters patent carefully limited or mentioned, and the advowson, collation, free disposal, and the right of presentation to the Vicarage of Pilton aforesaid, pertaining to and dependent on the said Rectory of Pilton, with all its rights and appurtenances. We have also given and granted, and of our more special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, for the consideration aforesaid, by these presents, for ourselves, our heirs and successors we give and grant, to the aforesaid Edmund

Downing and Roger Rante, their heirs and assigns, all . . . * To have, hold, and enjoy the aforesaid manor, rectory, messuages, mills, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, tithes, court-leet, view of frank pledge, &c. (excepting by these presents the things before excepted), to the aforesaid Edmund Downing and Roger Rante, their heirs and assigns, to the sole and proper service and use of the said Edmund Downing and Roger Rante and their heirs and assigns for ever. To hold all the aforesaid lands, tenements, and the rest of the premises in Slymbridge, Newent, Miserton, and Wembdon aforesaid by these presents previously granted of us our heirs and successors, in fee simple as of our manor of East Greenwich in our County of Kent, by fealty only, in free and common socage, and not in chief nor by military service, for all rents, exactions, and demands whatsoever, to us, our heirs and successors to be duly rendered, paid, and performed. And to hold all and singular the other properties aforementioned, the manor, the lands, the tenements, and all and singular the rest of the other properties by these presents previously granted of us, our heirs, and successors, as in fee simple, and as of our said manor of East Greenwich in our said County of Kent, by fealty only, in free and common socage and not in chief, nor by military services, and rendering and paying to us, our heirs and successors annually for ever, from and for the aforesaid . . . * and from and for the aforesaid Rectory of Pilton sixty shillings, nine pence, and a half-penny, and seven pounds annually for the stipend or salary of the Curate or Chaplain of Pilton aforesaid, serving the cure there . . . * And notwithstanding any other defects in not naming or naming wrongly any tenant, farmer, or occupier of the lands, tenements, or hereditaments aforesaid, or of any other of the aforesaid or any parcel thereof, or in not naming or in wrongly

naming the particulars as to the nature, kind, species, quantity or quality of the premises or of any parcel thereof. We will also, &c., without fine in the exchequer, &c., on the ground that express mention, &c.

* These omissions relate to places other than Pilton.

In testimony whereof, &c.

Tested by the Queen at Drayton, the 12th day of August (1591),
by writ under our Privy Seal.

This document is, after the manner of all legal documents, very wordy and apparently tautologous, but it is given in full, as far as it relates to Pilton, as, apart from its merely local interest, it will explain how the tithe came into the hands of laymen, and was impropriated, a question which is frequently asked. Here is one answer. Queen Elizabeth appears to have been slightly more generous to the Curate or Chaplain than Henry VIII, inasmuch as she reserved seven pounds a year for his stipend, whereas Henry only reserved six. Of these two gentlemen Edmund Downing and Roger Rante, to whom much other property was also given by the same grant, nothing appears to be known. In all probability they quickly sold the tithe and the other property in Pilton. At any rate in 1622 Sir Robert Chichester, of Raleigh, was the owner of the tithe, and with it, for many years, went the Right of Presentation to the Chaplaincy or Curacy. The devolution of the tithe since then is as follows: 1631, Lady Mary Chichester; 1638, Sir Ralph Syddenham, Knight; 1662, Sir John Chichester; 1682, "Coll Roll;" 1689, Master Champneys; 1712, Sir Nicholas Hooper, who died in 1742. His son Nicholas Hooper died without issue, and the tithe descended through Sir Nicholas' daughter, Elizabeth

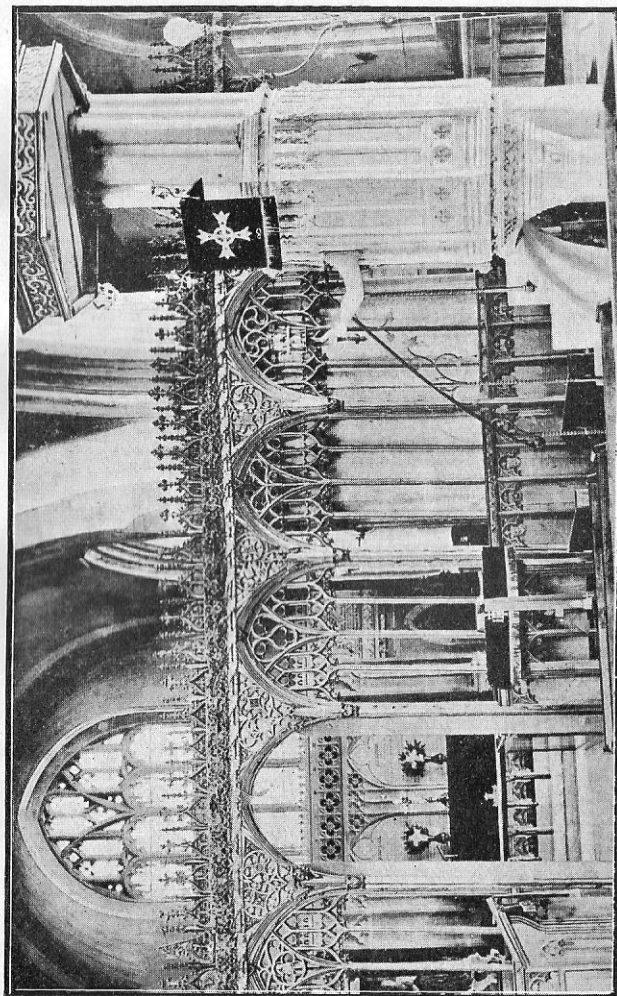
M. Bassett, to John Bassett, Esq., and from him to his son Francis Bassett, Esq., who sold it to Robert Newton Incedon, Esq., in 1793. In 1812, E. N. Incedon sold the tithes with other property at Barnstaple, to Thomas and James Hellings, whence it descended to J. Hellings' daughter, Miss Margaret Hellings, and so to the present owner, W. H. Lloyd, Esq., of Tiverton.

The Right of Presentation to the Incumbency of Pilton, however, did not go the same way: either Francis Bassett or Robert Newton Incedon sold a good portion of the Raleigh estate to Chapell Hodge, Esq., of Devonport, with which went the Right of Presentation. He sold this Right to the late Townshend M. Hall, who gave it up to the Dean of Chapter of Exeter in 1891, who are now the Patrons of the Living.

The £7, which in 1746, had become £7 10s., which Queen Elizabeth had left out of the old Priory property for the stipend of the Curate, appears to have been the total amount of the value of the living at that date. In 1746, John Bassett, Esq., added another £12, and fixed the payment upon Pitt Farm, a portion of his estate of Raleigh, by a deed—and the £19 10s. still forms a part of the stipend of the Incumbent.

Pilton Parish Church.

AS we have seen, the Parish Church of Pilton was always closely connected with the Priory; the Priory Buildings adjoined the Church, and Church and Priory practically formed one Building. The form of the original Building is largely matter of opinion, and the question must be fought out by experts. The general opinion seems to be that the original Church of the monks consisted of the present North Aisle, the Tower, and an extension eastward of the Tower, where the High Altar stood; to the North of the Tower were the Priory Buildings, and along the wall of the North Aisle were cloisters. The Church was dedicated by Bishop Bronescombe in 1259; and the whole of the present Church was erected not later than 1320. There are two Piscinas, one in the South wall of the Chancel by the side of the Altar, and the other in a similar position in the Raleigh Chapel. The remains of a Holy Water Stoup were discovered about ten years ago just inside the south west entrance, and there is another outside the south Porch. There is said to have been a leper-squint where the monument of Sir Robert Chichester now stands, and there appears to have been one in the west wall; but it is somewhat uncertain whether the large hole in the wall was a squint or served some other purpose. The entrance to the Vestry, which is on the ground floor of the Tower, is worth noticing, as possibly about the only part of the Church which remains as the original builders left it; the present Vestry originally had a vaulted roof springing



Interior of Pilton Church.

Pilton Church.

from the four pillars which are still in situ. In the Vestry are preserved three Pewter Flagon, and a large Pewter Dish, with what looks like a candlestick in the centre. There also are Foxe's Book of Martyrs, Erasmus' Paraphrase of the Gospels, and Jewel's works, all which were at various times ordered to be placed and chained in the Churches; they have been rebound, but otherwise are the original volumes. There is also a Pitch-Pipe which was used for 150 years to start the music. The little doorway of early English character in the Chancel, by the side of the Piscina, is variously said to be a Priest's door, and a door for the Recluse, but unfortunately it is very questionable whether the Arch is in its original position. There was a doorway there, or an aumbry, without much doubt, but it seems probable that the Arch, found elsewhere, has been put in there, as a convenient place to re-erect it. The North Aisle presents a difficulty which I must leave experts to settle. It is stated that originally the roof was a sloping one, and that in 1639 it was taken down and the present wagon roof erected, and the square-headed windows, which were in the cloisters, were placed on the top of the North wall. Something was done in 1639, as the date still remains on the woodwork of the roof; but it seems as if a sloping roof would inevitably have cut across the fine tower Arch, which gave access to the Church in that direction. It seems more probable that the roof was raised, so as to be in keeping with the rest of the Church, and the windows of the cloisters were utilized to serve the double purpose of preserving them from destruction and giving more light. In these windows will be found all that is left of the old stained glass. In this Aisle will be seen some rather hideous looking corbels, which probably mark the site of a guild-altar or altars. The four Almshouses mentioned in a deed of 19th Eliza-

beth, were part of the lands of a "gild" or fraternity of the Blessed Mary. In another lease the lands of the Lady Mary of Pilton are mentioned, and again in another—"The Almshouses of the gild of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Pilton, 4." These guilds had, or erected, a temporary altar, and special mass would be said there on the day of their particular saint. The corbels mark the site of these altars. Over the south west door, and on the north wall will be found some fragments of passages of Holy Scripture, which are interesting from the fact that they are in black letter, and taken from a version before 1611, probably the great Bible, the same version that Erasmus used in his Paraphrase.

One curious feature of the Church is that nothing is straight and nothing upright. The whole of the Pillars and the Pulpit on the South side are leaning; and the Chancel Roof is much out of line with the Arch. The Screen is leaning to the right to match with the great Pillar dividing the Chancel from the South Chancel Aisle;" and the Nave and the Chancel are by no means in a straight line.

The Church consists of a Chancel, Chancel-Aisle, Nave and North and South Aisles. The length is ninety-six feet, and the breadth fifty-eight feet, and it can accommodate about 600 persons, though the ordinary seating accommodation is considerably less. The altar-rails extend right across the Chancel and Chancel-Aisle and are about thirty-six feet in length; they appear to be Jacobean in character, are painted and have a book-rest.

The Church was restored during the years 1872-8, in the incumbency of the Rev. W. C. Hall. Mr. Townshend Hall took

great interest in the restoration and himself supervised it. The old high pews were taken down and the present seats substituted; the roof was considerably altered, the ceiling being removed and panelling substituted. Several windows were restored and a new one was placed in the Vestry; a new Belfry floor was made, and many other smaller alterations effected; the whole cost, as far as can be ascertained from the accounts in existence was £750 10s.

Incumbents of Pilton since 1600.

PILTON is a Perpetual Curacy, which means that the Incumbent receives neither Rectorial nor Vicarial Tithes. All the tithes of Pilton were impropriated at the dissolution, the impropiator giving £6 and afterwards £7, and £7 10s. a year to the Chaplain or Curate ; an account of this is given elsewhere.

The following dates till 1741 are approximate, there being no record of the actual date of Licence, but they are nearly correct. I give the bare list first, and make some comments, etc. afterwards.

- | | | |
|-----|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | 1600 | Joseph Smyth. |
| 2. | 1605—1613 | Morgan Davies. |
| 3. | 1613—1614 | Francis Shaxton. |
| 4. | 1614—1616 | Nicholas Shukstone. |
| 5. | 1616—1651 | Roger Bowcher. |
| 6. | 1651—1681 | Joseph Eyres. |
| 7. | 1681—1695 (?) | James Elmeston. |
| 8. | 1695(?)—1715 | John Harder (probably non-resident) |
| 9. | 1715—1726 | Christopher Lantow. |
| 10. | 1726—1762 | John Whitlocke, B.A. |
| 11. | 1763—1767 | Hooper Morrison, M.A. |
| 12. | 1767—1772 | John Spurway, B.A. |
| 13. | 1772—1837 | William Spurway, M.A. |
| 14. | 1837—1843 | William Cradock Hall, M.A. |



The Reverend William Cradock Hall, M.A.

Pilton Church.

15.	1843—1850	Richard Hayne, B.D.
16.	1850—1889	William Cradock Hall, M.A.
17.	1889—1892	William Ewer Ryan, M.A.
18.	1892—	William Henry Morris Bagley, M.A.

(1). Joseph Smyth is inserted only on the authority of Gribble who states on p. 627 of his "Memorials of Barnstaple," under date 1600,—“ Mr. Richard Smyth, the hired preacher of this towne and Jo. Smyth, preacher of Pylton, were inhibited to preach in this Diocese, by reason they would not wear the surplice and under 1601, Smyth allowed to preach again ” and did preach and admynyster the communion in his surplice, as he was commanded.” He does not say which Smyth this was who changed his mind.

(2). The Rev. Morgan Davies has entered a memorandum in the Register of Baptisms to this effect: “ Memorandum that Morgan Davies, Clarke, sometime Curat of this place, did take cure and charge of souls in Pilton in the yeare of our Lord God 1605, and gave over the same the xiiii. day of January, in the yeare of our Lord God 1612.” According to our present reckoning this would be in January 1613, the year then beginning on March 25th. It would have saved much trouble if others had made similar memoranda.

(4). Nicholas Shukstone was Curate of Swymbridge 1612-13, Curate of Abbotsham 1616, and Curate of Welcombe 1618. Probably the same name as his predecessor Francis Shaxton, they were not particular about spelling then.

Pilton Church.

(5). A peculiar interest attaches to the Incumbency of Mr. Roger Bowcher. He was Incumbent while the civil war was going on, and apparently no objection was made to him, for he held office till he died in 1651, two years after the execution of Charles I. He was buried at Pilton on the 8th of February in that year. He lived in the parish in a house in Smith Street, a street at the lower part of Pilton Lawn, which has long ceased to exist. He was incumbent for 31 years; he was married and had several children, two or three of whom died when young. His grand-daughter married Mr. Christopher Lethbridge of Westaway, whose monument is in the Church, and is noticed below. But our chief interest in him lies in the fact that he was Incumbent in the year 1646, when the plague carried off 290 persons out of a population of probably about 1000, and the Tower of the Church was thrown down or pulled down; surely few parishes can have witnessed such calamities in the same year. Mr. Bowcher religiously entered all the burials in the Register, and no doubt officiated himself at all. His signature appears on several documents, and settles the orthography of his name, which is Bowcher.

(6). The orthography of a name is sometimes difficult to establish. Mr. Joseph Eyres is called Joseph Ayre in the Bishop's Register; Eayres in our Parish Register, but Eyres on his memorial stone in the Church. It is uncertain which is right, as I cannot discover his own signature on any document. I have chosen the spelling on the stone. Mr. Joseph Eyres was appointed during the commonwealth, but survived it for 21 years. The inscription on his stone, which is given elsewhere, seems to show that his ministry was much appreciated.

Pilton Church.

(7 and 8). Of the Incumbency of the Rev. James Elmeston and the Rev. John Harder I can find nothing recorded, though the latter at any rate was Incumbent at an interesting time; the tower was rebuilt and the bells put in, and the faceless clock, which is still there and still keeping time more or less correct, was made by one Richard Webber, and placed in position. I think Mr. Harder was non-resident, and the work was done by Mr. George Blake, as his assistant curate. This may account for the fact that is at least remarkable, that no clergyman's name appears on the tablet over the South Porch, which records the re-building of the Tower.

(9). Mr. Christopher Lantrow formerly served the cure of West Downe to which he was licensed in 1713.

(10). The Rev. John Whitlocke was here for 36 years. During his day the living was slightly increased by the improprator, at that time John Bassett, Esq., and a rent-charge of £19 10s. was fixed upon Pitt Farm; £7 10s. of this represents all that was left of the ancient endowment, everything else had been given away by Queen Elizabeth. A few particulars of the Parish and Church in the days of Mr. Whitlocke may not be uninteresting. There were 200 families in the Parish about three score of which families were Dissenters, viz: Presbyterians, but there was no meeting house in the Parish, no public school, but three children were taught to read by the Charity of Mr. Edward Fairchild. There were almshouses; no parsonage, but Mr. Whitlocke resided in the Parish. Divine Service was performed four times a week, viz: Wednesdays in the morning and Saturdays in the evening, and twice every Lord's Day, with a sermon in the

Pilton Church.

morning and evening. The Holy Sacrament was administered four times in the year of which Easter was one. There was a private Chapel in the Parish which was called Raleigh Chapel (1744), about half-a-mile distant from the Parish Church served by Mr. George Foss, Chaplain to John Bassett, Esq., the Proprietor of the Tythes. This was the old Chantry Chapel of Raleigh House, which was established first of all in the Parish Church in 1320 and shortly afterwards removed to Raleigh House. This is the last mention I can find of it. Mr. Whitlocke died and was buried at Pilton.

There is some little doubt about Mr. Whitlocke's first fifteen years at Pilton: apparently he was not licensed to the permanent Cure till 1741, but he was licensed "per indorso" in 1726, from which date he appears to have been alone, and to have done all the duty.

(11). The Rev. Hooper Morrison affords an example of the customs of the day. He was Incumbent of Pilton, but non-resident. He lived at Torrington with his father. He had, however, a resident Curate, named Richard Vivyan, whose salary was £40 a year, an example of Goldsmith's "passing rich on forty pounds a year." In his return to the Bishop he says that there were about one hundred and forty families in the Parish (1764), and there was no Chapel in the Parish and no Papists. No Library, but Foxe's Book of Martyrs. One Public School endowed with thirteen shillings a year. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered six times a year.

(12). The Rev. John Spurway was the elder brother of Rev. William Spurway who practically did the duty here for 72 years,

Pilton Church.

although he was not actually licensed till 1772. Mr. John Spurway was licensed as stipendiary Curate in 1764, and for three years was assistant Curate to Mr. Morrison, he came here as a Deacon, and in 1764 he became Incumbent, but appears only to have held the incumbency till his brother, the Rev. W. Spurway was ready to take it; for he lived here, at Bull Hill House for many years after his brother was Incumbent, and died here at the age of 81, in 1822, and was buried in the Chancel of the Church.

(13). The Rev. W. Spurway appears to have assisted his brother from 1765 to 1772. In 1772 his brother resigned and he was appointed Incumbent. These two brothers appear to have been in great favour with patrons, or some powerful patron, for the Rev. W. Spurway was not only Vicar of Pilton, but also Rector of Alwington and Broadnymet, and Clare Portion in the Church of Tiverton. He, however, preferred Pilton, but resided in Barnstaple. He states that the families in his Parish in 1821 were 239, and the Holy Sacrament was administered five times in the year. He died in 1837 at the age of 94. His wife died at the age of 98 in 1856. They were both buried in the Chancel of the Church.

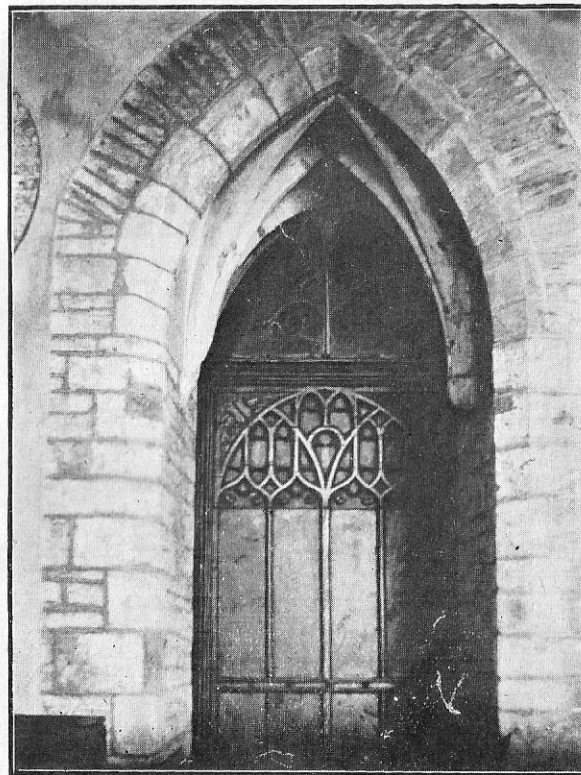
I have been able to recover the following names of Assistant Curates:

- | | | |
|-------|-----|---|
| 1712. | ... | George Blake. He signs the Register as "Minister" with the Churchwardens, which makes it likely that Mr. Harder was non-resident. |
| 1724. | ... | Isaac Rigby, never licensed. |
| 1764. | ... | Richard Vivyan or Vyryan, was in charge for some years about this time, Mr. Hooper Morrison being non-resident. |

Pilton Church.

- 1817—1832. Henry Nicholls, sometime Master of the Grammar School and Mayor of Barnstaple, 1826.
- 1832—1834. Francis Mules, also Rector of Bittadon.
- 1834—1836. J. Mill Chanter, for many years Vicar of Ilfracombe.
- 1836—1837. Lewis Gregory.
- 1850—1857. J. W. Shelton.
- 1878—1880. J. J. Scott. Mr. Scott built Holy Trinity Church, Barnstaple.
- 1880—1883. R. A. Hunter. Mr. Hunter became quite blind, and has been dead some years.
- 1883—1885. J. H. Bibby, B.A., now Rector of S. Saviour's, Guernsey.
- 1885—1889. W. E. Ryan, M.A., succeeded Rev. W. C. Hall as Vicar.

Here are the names of the Churchwardens for upwards of 300 years; and, though the list is not perfect, yet it is fortunate that even so many names of old and leading inhabitants in the Parish have been preserved. Most of the names have been found upon old apprentice-papers discovered in the Vestry. In this list are many familiar names, and I cannot but think that it is interesting to be able to rescue from oblivion some of the names of those who in the past have taken an interest and worshipped in our fine old Church. The dates represent, as far as can be ascertained, the year of appointment in each case.



Entrance to Vestry.

Pilton Church.

1593	Roger Beaple (?) Philip Leye (?)	1688	Joseph Fairchild William Barwicke
1607	William Palmer George Holmeade	1689	John Rogers Thomas Dear
1609	Philip Leye John Rise	1690	Thomas Blackwill Lawrence Cloutman
1611	William Ward James Squyrell	1692-3	Arthur Champneys John Avery
1613	William Skirrey or Skirney Christopher Warde	1694	John Avery John Tucker
1615	Christopher Warde James Chauldon	1695	John Rogers Thomas Dear
1617	Bartholomew Slowman Baldwyn Knight	1696	Giles Frost Edward Parminter
1635	John Downe, junr. Hugh Dallyn	1697	William Langdon George Lee
1637	Edward Gribble Giles Frost	1698-9	John Rogers George Lee
1646	William Yolland	1701-2	Phillip Johns John Edger
1661	Alexander Pongsley Edward Harris	1706	Edward Garleford George Isaac
1674	John Rogers Edward Parminter	1707-8-9	William Ffrost Alexander Coats
1675	Edward Parminter John Avery	1710-11	Hugh Lee Benjamin Johns
1686	George Hume Phillip Dear	1712-1719	Phillip Rogers Stephen Berry
1687	George Hume Robert Frost		

Pilton Church.

1721-1723 William Downe William Rogers	1748-50 John Rogers John Keigwin
1724 Christopher Lethbridge George Lee	1750-53 John Exter Ralph Bowdon
1727 Robert Incedon Nicholas Hooper	1754-6 John Exter William Ley
1728 William Barwick William Charter	1756-8 Thomas Harding John Rogers
1730 Hugh Lee Francis Upcott	1758-9 John Place William Charter
1732-3 John Rogers Phineas Walker	1760-1 Francis Upcott Walter Parminter
1734-8 John Thorne Abraham Edger	1762-8 Benjamin Incedon George Dowdall
1739 John Rogers Charles Wright	1764-5 John Rogers Thomas Harding
1740 James Berry or Bury John Clogg	1766-7 Richard Parminter John Place
1741 John Bowden Samuel Landman	1768-9 Edward Richards Thomas Thorne
1742 John Rogers	1770-1 Walter Parminter John Edger
1743 James Berry Edward Richards	1772-3 William Pugsley John Mounsey
1744 John Rogers Christopher Lethbridge	1774-6 Benjamin Incedon Francis Upcott
1746 Robert Incedon William Charter	1777-8 Robert Harding Walter Parminter
1747-8 John Lethbridge Francis Tucker	1779 John Rogers George Dowdall

Pilton Church.

1780-1 Walter Parminter William Barbor	1806-9 William Upcott Edward Hancock
1782-3 Richard Snow Francis Punchard	1810-13 Thomas Brown Richard Dunning
1784-5 William Powell John Seage	1813-14 James Whyte Thomas Lock
1786-7 Joseph Matthews Richard Gilbert	1815-16 John Finch Simeon Whimple
1788 Robert Harding Walter Parminter	1817-19 John King Richard Thorne
1789 Richard Snow Francis Punchard	1820-1 Thomas Lock John Stevens
1790 Thomas Cave Walter Parminter	1822-6 Thomas Lock John Gilbert
1792 William Finch John Guard	1827 William Terrell John Gilbert
1793 Edward Hancock John Furze	1828-9 William Carpenter William Fisher
1794 John Davy Roger Huxtable	1830-2 John Gilbert George Western
1796-7 Robert Newton Incedon John Davy	1833 John Gilbert George Carpenter
1798-9 Robert Newton Incedon William Berry	1834-5 John Downing George Carpenter
1800 Robert Harding John Gard	1836 George Carpenter Thomas Heathcoat
1801-2 John Gard Edward Thomas	1837-8 John Dennis John Gilbert
1803-5 Robert Harding Edward Thomas	1839 Thomas Wrey Harding John Lakeman

Pilton Church.

1840 John Rogers Griffiths John Lakeman	1865 Murray Matthews Henry Gribble
1841 John Rogers Griffiths Robert Norman	1866-1871 William Jones Reuben Ridd
1842 John May Robert Norman	1872-3 Townshend M. Hall Reuben Ridd
1843 John May William Bailey Fisher	1874-1883 Townshend M. Hall William Fisher
1844 Joseph Laramy William Bailey Fisher	1884-8 Townshend M. Hall Thomas Ridd
1845-6 Joseph Laramy Thomas Brown	1889-1892 Townshend M. Hall George Davey
1847-8 Joseph Laramy S. W. Stafford	1893-5 William Gould George Davey
1849-0 Joseph Laramy Ignatius Davis	1896-7 James J. Harding George Davey
1851 Joseph Laramy Mr. White, of Westaway	1898-1900 James J. Harding William Fisher
1852-3 Murray Matthews Thomas Brailey	1900-3 James J. Harding Frank B. Manning
1854-1863 Murray Matthews Joseph Laramy	1904 James J. Harding Philip N. Herbert
1864 Murray Matthews Thomas Joslin	1905 James J. Harding George W. F. Brown

I am sorry that it is impossible to give so complete a list of the Parish Clerks, indeed after a careful search I can only speak certainly of the following :

William Coll died as Clerk in 1673.

William Gribble appears as Clerk in 1712.

Pilton Church.

William Hazell was Clerk from 1749—1777, when Edward Ley was appointed.

Thomas Hartnoll was Clerk for 37 years; he died in 1857, aged 83 years.

John Davy Thomas was appointed in 1858, but only held the office for about ten years, when his son George Wheeler Thomas was appointed. He held the office till 1906. On his resignation, John Thomas, his brother, was appointed.

Among those who have filled the office of Sexton, are the names of John Crocker, John Bennett, John Knill, John Copp, and John Stevens the present holder of the office. It is curious to note that the Christian names of the last five Sextons have all been the same.

The Tower and Bells.

SO much interest is taken by Piltonians in their Bells, that I make no apology for giving as full an account as possible of their history. But, first, a few words about the Tower which contains them.

Above the South Porch is a tablet with this inscription:

The Tower of this Parish being by force of Arms pul'd down in ye late unhappy Civil Wars Anno Dom. 1646, was rebuilt 1696.
Wm. Downe, Esq.
Christopher Lethbridge, Gent.
John Avery.
John Rogers.
Wm. Langdon.
George Lee.
Church-Wardens:
Robert Nutting. Mr. Builder.

This inscription, an interesting reminiscence of troublous times, has caused some controversy. Was the Tower battered down by the guns of the fort, or was it literally pulled down?

Pilton Church.

The following short chronological summary extracted from the reprint of the Barnstaple Records by Mr. Wainwright of the Athenæum, may be found useful to refer to before considering the question.

1642. The inhabitants determine to fortify the town (Barnstaple)

1643, September 2nd. Barnstaple surrenders to the King's forces under Prince Maurice.

1644, June 26th. Barnstaple revolts to the Parliament.

„ September 17th. Barnstaple again surrenders to the King.

1646, April 14th. Barnstaple surrenders to the parliamentarians.

So that Barnstaple was in possession of the King's forces from September 17th, 1644, to April 14th, 1646, and in 1645, Sir Allen Apsley was appointed Governor of Barnstaple. Cotton in his Barnstaple during the great Civil War, tells us that "he set to work vigorously to restore the fortifications of the town," and in doing so, as we shall see, he turned his attention in all probability to Pilton Church Tower. Gribble in his Memorials of Barnstaple takes the view that the Tower was battered down by the parliamentarians out of sheer wantonness, when they re-took the town. He says: "why this Church was so much injured does not appear, but it requires no great stretch of fancy to imagine Fairfax's soldiery, in the sheer wantonness of power, and without any particular motive, levelling their artillery at the tower, merely because it happened to stand a conspicuous mark within range of their shot."

Again he says: "The idea of a massive and lofty stone tower having been pulled down is quite ludicrous."

Pilton Church.

Cotton takes the other view, that it was *pulled down*, and pulled down by the Royalists by Sir Allen Apsley's order, when he was looking after the strengthening of the fortification of the town; and he has considerable reason on his side. He states that no gun of the period would strike with any battering effect at such a distance from the fort, 1500 yards; and that, even if it could, the Parliamentarians would not be likely, when everything was in their power, to turn upon an "inoffensive and undemonstrative tower."

But more to the purpose is a letter which he gives in full from Sir Allen Apsley to Sir Edward Hyde, Chancellor of the Exchequer, dated from Barnstaple, December 20th, 1644. I need however, for our present purpose quote only the first sentence. (I have used modern spelling). "Sir—You have in two letters commended my brother for an excellent solicitor. I am sure the last time he was in Cornwall he did very little of the business I sent him for, except that of the bells, which should remain still in their places, but that I am *forced to pull down the steeple*, for I need not much trouble myself to send into France for mortar pieces, these guns I have will defend me, as long as the Cornish do you." (The italics are mine). He wanted to deprive the enemy of the opportunity of placing artillery on the Tower. Cotton argues that "the steeple could have been none other than Pilton," and probably he is right. But he also considers that the Bells were sent into Cornwall to be turned into guns, and the letter certainly seems to bear this out. On the other hand there is evidence that there were bells in a ringing condition in what remained of the Tower, between the years 1646 and 1712, when new Bells were undoubtedly placed there.

Pilton Church.

In 1685 5/- was paid "for Ringine, when King James was proclaimed," and in the same year, at his coronation, 4/-, according to an old account book. All we seem to be able to know for certain is that in 1553 there were five Bells in the Tower, and in 1712, six new ones were placed there.

The Tower remained thus partially demolished for 50 years, till at length in the year 1696, when William III. was reigning alone, Mary having died in 1694, the re-erection was taken in hand. According to the pleasant custom of our ancestors, there seem to have been considerable festivities when this decision was arrived at. I find in an old account book this entry :

1696, paid at Mary Bowden's when the agreemt was made for building upp of the Tower £2 5s. 6d.

There is a tradition that the former Tower was a stage higher than the present one. The following account of the present Tower I take from the late Mr. Townshend Hall's description.

"As it now stands the Tower is of three stages with a basement of early character, having walls 5 feet thick. It stands on three bold arches. The lower part, which now forms the Vestry, had originally a vaulted roof, rising from four pillars, still in existence; the entrance from the Church will give an indication of what it looked like; as all the rest of the Church, it was probably highly decorated, some remains of which decoration may be seen on the vaulted roof of the entrance into the Church. There is another square-headed doorway on the north side which gave access to the Priory Buildings. The Belfry, which is immediately over the Vestry is sixteen feet square at the floor

Pilton Church.

line. It is afterwards changed into a regular octagon, carried on squint arches, a form which continues for 30 feet.

At the bottom of the Bell windows it becomes a square of 17 feet 8 inches and contains the Bell-frame. On the top of the Tower the square is 20 feet 3 inches. In 1845 the parapet was taken down and battlements substituted. The large Pinnacle was also erected for the reception of the Clock Bell, which before hung in a square wooden cupola rising from the leads, at the south east corner of the Tower. In 1850 three smaller Pinnacles were erected at the cost of the Harding family at Upcott, and a few years afterwards four new perpendicular windows were added at the joint expense of the families of Incedon, Harding, Whyte and Marshall."

The Clock which has no face, was made by Richard Webber in 1713. Soon after the Tower was completed, the Parishioners proceeded to provide Bells for it. The following entry is made in the Parish Register.

"The six Bells of Pilton were cast by Mr. Abraham Rudhall, bell-founder, in the county of Gloucester, in the year of our Lord 1712.

Mr. George Blake, Minister.

Mr. Phillip Rogers,	}	Church-	William Gribble, jun.,
Mr. Stephen Berry,		Wardens.	The Clerk.

The weight of our six Bells are as followeth :

	...	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
The 1 Bell	...	08	00	08
„ 2 „	...	09	00	05
	+	52	+	

Pilton Church.

„ 3 „	...	12	03	12
„ 4 „	...	13	03	02
„ 5 „	...	18	01	00
„ 6 „	...	25	00	18
Total	...	87 cwt.	01 qrs.	18 lbs.

The breadth of our six Bells are as followeth :

	...	foot.	in.	qr.
The 1 Bell is	...	4	4	$\frac{1}{2}$
„ 2 „	...	3	1	0
„ 3 „	...	3	4	$\frac{1}{2}$
„ 4 „	...	3	6	0
„ 5 „	...	3	11	0
„ 6 „	...	4	4	$\frac{1}{2}$

Of these Bells there remain as the basis of the present peal the 3, 5 and tenor. The 2 and 4 after having been cracked for many years were recast in 1853, together with the old treble, which was not in harmony with the rest. In the same year two new Bells were added to the Peal at the expense of Robert Chichester, Esq., of Hall. The Treble, it appears had already been recast in 1763 by Thomas Bilbie of Cullumpton.

The following inscriptions are on the Bells :

TENOR.

A. R. Phillip Rogers, gent., Stephen Berry, gent., 1712.
Churchwardens.

7TH.

Peace and good neighbourhood.
Abraham Rudhall, Bell-founder 1712.

+ 53 +

Pilton Church.

6TH (old 4th recast).

Our principal Benefactor the Rev. Wm. C. Hall.

Incumbent of Pilton 1853.

John Taylor & Son, Loughborough, late of Buckland Brewer,
Bell-founder.

5TH.

Abraham Rudhall, 1712.

Prosperity to our Benefactors.

4TH (old 2nd recast).

This Bell was cast by John Taylor & Son.

Who the best prize for Church Bells won.

In the great Ex-hi-bi-ti-on

of 1—8—5 and 1.

Loughborough 1853.

3RD (old 1st recast).

R. Chichester, Esq., of Hall, caused me the 4th and 6th to be
recast and us to be made 8.

M. W. Matthews, Esq., } Church-Wardens.
Mr. T. Brailey, }

John Taylor & Sons, Founders, Loughborough.

2ND.

This present peal augmented to 8 by the addition of us 2 in 1853.

John Taylor & Sons, Loughborough.

Prosperity to all our Benefactors.

1ST.

Robert Chichester, Esq., of Hall, caused me to be made out of
good-will to the Borough of Barnstaple.

+ 54 +

Pilton Church.

A new and enlarged frame was also fixed in the year 1853
the old frame being found to be much decayed and not large
enough to hold the two new Bells.

On Whit-Monday, June 8th, 1854, the form of "ringing
out" the Bells took place, the occasion being one for a high
holiday. J. May, Esq., kept an open house and also threw open
his grounds to a large company.

The Bells were re-hung in 1901 by Mr. Stokes, of Woodbury,
but the frame of 1853 remains and is likely to remain for many
years.

+ 55 +

The Monuments and Stones.

WE think it may prove interesting to give some account of a few of the more ancient Monuments, and a translation of the Latin Inscriptions. Most of the Stones and Mural Tablets speak for themselves and need not be mentioned here. The oldest Inscription in the Church is upon a Stone beneath the Monument to Sir Robert Chichester, in the Chancel ; it is :

Orate pro anima Ricardi Chechestér, armigeri, qui obiit xx die mensis Decembris, anno Domini Mcccclxxxiiiij : cuius anime propicietur Deus.

In the centre is IHS.

(*Translation*). Pray for the soul of Richard Chechester, Esquire, who died on the 24th day of the month of December, in the year of our Lord, 1494. On whose soul God have mercy.

He died, therefore, in the reign of Henry the Seventh, and probably had lived through the days of the Wars of the Roses. The Stone does not state his age, so we cannot be sure. His signature appears on several deeds relating to Barnstaple, in 1452, 1459, 1476, 1482. (The special type required for printing the words *with the signs* of contraction is not available in these parts: we have, therefore, extended the contracted forms, as is customary in all such cases).

The next in point of age are the two small Brasses inserted in the Stone of George Hume in the Chancel Aisle and dated

Pilton Church.

1534 and 1540. They are as follows in the order in which they are placed :

Here lyeth Robert Bret, Esquyer, which decessyd the xxv day of September in the year of our Lorde God mccccl.

Here lyeth Alexander Bret, Esquyer, which decessyd the xiiii day of July in the year of our Lorde God mcccclxxxiv.

There is a defaced stone close by which records the death of a John Bret in 161 . . .

An Alexander Bret died in 1593 possessed of Upcott, Pilland, Cladovin, and Bull Hill House, all which he left to John Wolton, Bishop of Exeter, excepting a rent issuing out of Bull Hill House, which he left to the Trustees of the Charities and it is still received by them, viz : 12/6 annually.

There was a Robert Byrt who was chief seneschal, or steward, of the Priory at the time of the dissolution, and who received £2 13s. 4d. per annum (imperpetuum) for ever. This appears to state that the Byrt family were hereditary seneschals of the Priory and took a fixed annual stipend. Names were notoriously variously spelt in those days, and this Robert Byrt is not unlikely the same man as Robert Bret. It is suggestive that, after the dissolution, the family are found in possession of Bull Hill House, which, without much doubt, was a part of the possessions of the Priory. I would suggest that the family received Bull Hill House as compensation for their loss of £2 13s. 4d. a year as hereditary seneschals, which probably would represent about £20 of our money. If so, the 12/6 which the Trustees still receive has a connection with the old Priory.

Pilton Church.

There is a story current in the Parish, that there was formerly an underground passage between Bull Hill House and the Priory in Barnstaple, but it remains to the present time uncorroborated ; Bull Hill House, however, has the distinction of being the oldest house in the Parish.

We come next to the Monument erected to the memory of Sir John Chichester and his wife, in the Raleigh Chapel.

INSCRIPTION.

Dominus Johannes Chichester, eques, obiit 30 Novembris, 1569.

Gertrudis (Courtenay) uxor ejus obiit 30 Aprilis 1566.

Ambo in spem Resurrectionis hic quiescunt.

AD LECTOREM.

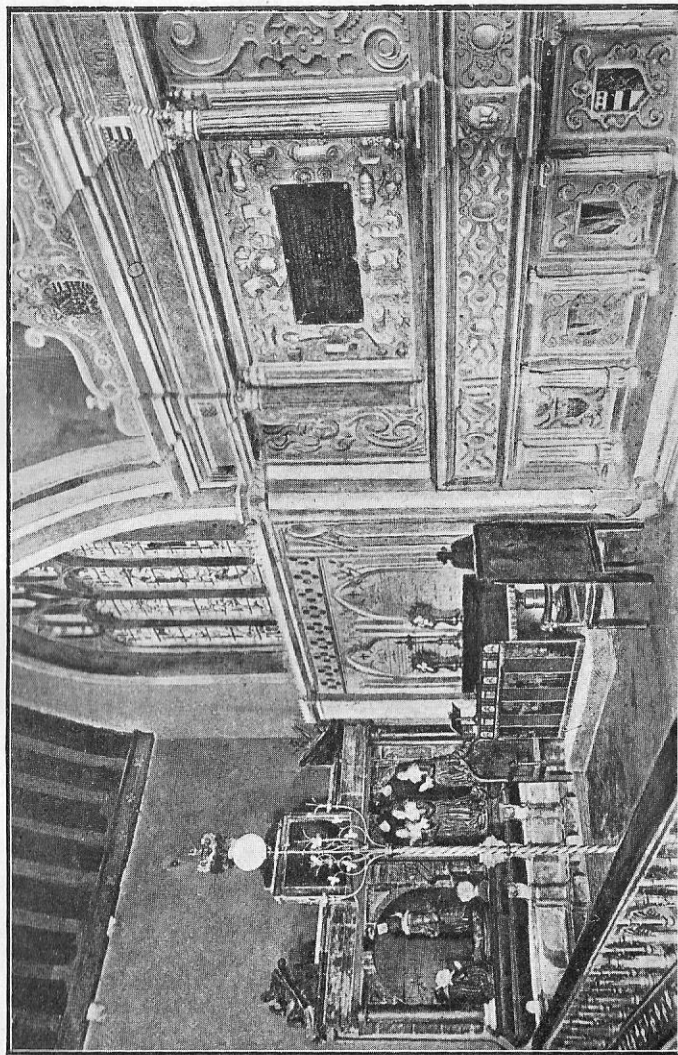
Vana salus hominis tumideque simillima bulle
Quam cito Bulla cadit tam cito vita perit.
Dum vivis tu vive deo, nam vivere mundo
Mortis opus, vita est vivere vera Deo.
Celica terrenis prepone, eterna caducis.
Perpetuum nihil est quod crevis (sic) hora rapit.
Sit tua firma fides pretioso in sanguine Christi ;
Non aliunde tibi certa petenda salus.
Pectore non ficto si spem tibi junxeris istam.
Peperit dabitur non peritura quies.

Translation.

Sir John Chichester, Knight, died 30th November, 1569.

Gertrude Courtenay, his wife, died 30th April, 1566.

They both rest here in Hope of the Resurrection.



The Altar, Pilton Church, and the Chichester Monuments.

Pilton Church.

TO THE READER.

Vain is the help of man, (Psalm 60, 11) and like an inflated bubble which soars in the air, for quickly as the bubble falls to earth, so quickly does the life of man perish. While you live live to God, for to live to the world is death, but to live to God is true Life. Prefer heavenly to earthly things, eternal to perishable, for there is nothing on earth so lasting but one short hour may deprive you of it. Let your Faith in the precious blood of Christ be established, for by no other means can eternal salvation be secured. If you embrace this hope with an unfeigned heart, rest which can never be disturbed will be for ever granted to you.

On this Monument are many coats of arms, the greater number being hidden from view, on account of the Monument having been moved from its original position. It formerly stood against the south east window of the Chancel Aisle; but on account of its obstruction of the light, it was placed where it now stands, against the east window of the Aisle. The piscina in the south east wall shows that an altar originally stood there.

SIR ROBERT CHICHESTER'S MONUMENT.

Inscription.

Sir Robert Chichester, Knight of the Bath, Custos Rotulorum and Deputy Lieutenant of this Shire, and Colonel of a Regiment of Foot. He was son of Sir John Chichester, Knight, by Anne, daughter of Sir Robert Dennis of Holcomb. He married to his first wife Frances daughter and co-hier (sic) of John Lord Harrington, of Exton, in Rutlandshire, by whom he had issue Anne, who became the wife of Thomas Lord Bruce. Sir Robert married

Pilton Church.

to his second wife a daughter of Robert Hill of Shilston, in this County, Esqre., by whom he had issue two sons and one daughter.

He died 1627, aged 48.

Sir Robert was buried on the 15th of April, 1627, and on the same day (apparently), his younger son Robert was christened, this son died 16th July, 1629. The figures on this tomb presumably represent Sir Robert and his two wives, a grown up daughter (Anne), and two young children, a boy, afterwards Sir John, and a girl. Probably the absence of the other boy from the Monument is accounted for by his early death.

Sir John Chichester, the father of Sir Robert, was buried at Pilton, April the 2nd, 1586, and Dame Anne, his mother, died at Exeter, on July the 31st, 1589, and was buried at Holcombe.

John, the son of Sir Robert was born in 1623, and died in 1667, and his wife in 1654. He was Recorder of Barnstaple in 1665.

A son of Sir John's (Robert), was born on the 25th of March, 1648 (Pilton Registers). Lady Frances, the first wife of Sir Robert, was buried July the 5th, 1615.

The following extracts from the Barnstaple Records may not prove uninteresting: Lady Chichester was the second daughter of John, Baron Harington, of Exton, Rutland, guardian of the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of King James I. She took part in the performance of the "Queen's masque of Beauty," written by Ben Jonson, and presented at Whitehall, on Sunday night after twelfth night, 1608. She died 23rd May, 1615, and was buried in Pilton Church, July 5th, in that year.

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The funeral was celebrated with great ceremony and state. After the two conductors came "poore women in gowns" (twenty-six in number), the servants, the Mayors of Barnstaple and Torrington, two Aldermen of Barnstaple, Representatives of the most famous families of Devon, of Chichester, Leigh, Fortescue, Pollard, Yeo, Carye, Bellew, Hache, Bamfield, Gifford, and Ackland, ten Knights in cloaks, including Sir Richard Buller, Sir William Wray, Sir Robert Bassett, and Sir William Courtney, two heralds, Rouge Croix, and Blewmantle, the Earl of Bath, and fifteen ladies of title. T. W. (Thomas Wainwright, of the Athenæum).

Here are a few extracts referring to the same:

Paid for a present given to Sir Robert Chichester before his ladie's funeral £3 8s. 1d. To Sir Robert Chichester's mill-makers at his coming home after his lady's death 2s. 6d. To the officers of the house after the funeral 15s. Paid to Sir Robert Chichester's millers, mill-makers, and workmen upon the mill 12s. 6d.

A later entry, presumably upon the occasion of his second marriage, states: "given to Sir Robert Chichester, in a present when Mr. Mayor and his brethren went to Raleigh, 58/-, and likewise given in a present unto the same Sir Robert Chichester's ladie, when Mrs. Meris (Mayoress), and the rest of the mistresses went to Raleigh, 39s. 8d."

Under date 1648 appears this entry:

Gave to the servants of Barronett Chichester, at the baptizing of his child, to the mid-wife 5/-, to the nurse 3/-, to the housekeeper 1/6, to the butterye 5/-, to the kitchens 4/-, to the porter 2/-, to the paige 1/9, to the gardiner 2/-.

Pilton Church.

Under "Baptisms," 1648, in the Pilton Registers, is this entry: Robert, the son of the Right Worshipful Sir John Chichester, Barronet, was born the 25th day of March, and baptized the 27th April following.

Concerning this Sir John Chichester, the son of Sir Robert, Cotton has the following under date 1645 :

General Goring established his headquarters at Raleigh, the residence of Sir John Chichester. Sir John Chichester was a young man, (he was born in 1623), and had only a few months before, on attaining his majority, succeeded to the family estates. He had been created a baronet in his minority, three years earlier. Richard Pollard, writing to the Countess of Bath remarks: "Sir John Chichester, that hath heretofore smiled at others' troubles, hath now his share amongst us; for the General was quartered at his house, so as many went there for orders; and his house never without two or three hundred soldiers daily eating and drinking there." Cotton remarks: This is a realizable picture of a country gentleman's house in the time of the Civil War, and it was not uncommon. As for Goring himself it may be assumed that he found at Raleigh ample scope for the indulgence of what Lord Clarendon calls his "jovial excesses." Sir John died in 1667.

There is a Stone in front of the Screen, to the memory of Mr. Joseph Eyres, one of the Vicars of Pilton. The inscription is:

Here lyeth the Body of Mr. Joseph Eyres, that dexterous, skilful, spirituall Preacher of the Word in this Place, who to the

Pilton Church.

Churches considerable loss, Departed this life, the 6th day of May.

Anno Dom. 1681.

Psalm 119, 96.

2 Peter, 3, 4.

Mr. Eyres was Incumbent here for 31 years, from 1650. to 1681, that is to say nearly throughout the ten years of the commonwealth under Oliver Cromwell, and for the greater part of the reign of Charles II. There were no deprivations in Pilton, but one thing must be noticed, no attempt was made during the 31 years of Mr. Eyres' incumbency to rebuild the Tower; did he approve of it being "*pulled down*"? However, he was evidently much appreciated, as the description above amply testifies.

We next come to a Stone in the Chancel Aisle, which for several years was nearly concealed by the old organ, which was placed partly upon it. It is now happily exposed to full view again. It is in memory of Mr. George Hume, who was Master of the Barnstaple Grammar School, but who apparently lived in Pilton, as we find him Churchwarden in 1686-7. I give the full Inscription in Latin, as there is a play upon some of the words which I have not attempted to reproduce in the translation given below :

INSCRIPTION.

MEMORIÆ SACRUM

Georgii Hume, Parentibus vere
Generosis nati, In Academiis
Edinburgensi et Andræana apud
Scotos Artium Magistri.

Viri { Pietate
Literis
Eleemosynis } Conspicui,
Comitate

qui post annos prope quinquaginta,
Pueris elimandis Fœliciter incubavit,
Et Academias nostras quingentis ad
Minus Discipulis suppeditavit.
Se tandem ab istis laboribus amovebat,
Ut Deo vacaret.

Quicquid mortale fuit deposuit 30
Die Januarii.

Anno { Dom. 1693. }
Ætatis 80. }

Translation.

Sacred to the memory of George Hume, born of truly gentle parents, Master of Arts of the Universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrew's in Scotland. A man conspicuous for his Piety, Learning, Charity and Courtesy, who for nearly fifty years past, successfully superintended "the perfect polishing" of young men and supplied our Universities with at least five hundred pupils. He at length resigned these labours, that he might devote himself to God (literally,—“That he might take a vacation with God,” referring, of course, to the fact of his being a School-Master). All that was mortal he laid down on the 30th day of January, in the year of our Lord 1693, and the 80th of his age.

THE LETHBRIDGE MONUMENT.

This elaborate mural Monument is in the south Aisle of the Church. It can scarcely be described as beautiful. At the foot

are a death's head and cross bones; the body of the Monument is in the shape of a large Turtle, the inscription in Latin being on its back; above, as is usual in Monuments of the period, is the coat of arms of the Lethbridge and Bowchier families quartered, and at the head is the coat of arms of the Lethbridge family.

The inscription is as follows:

Juxta

Hoc Monumentum

Quod ipse in sui suorumque

Memoriam Vivus Vidensque.

Exstruxerat, Jacet Christophorus

Lethbridge, Armiger, qui natus

Annos 59 mortem obiit Junii 28

Annoque Domini 1713.

Hujus Reliquiis suas adjunxit

Margareta Uxor, Philippi Bowchier

Generosi Filia, Maritum Vidua decennii

Intervallo secuta, viz. Nov. 3tio

Anno Christi 1723. Pari

Amoris Fœdere Conjunctos

Par Annorum Terminus

Clausit.

Translation.

Near this Monument, which he himself in his lifetime erected under his own supervision in memory of himself and his family lies Christopher Lethbridge, Esquire, who died on the 28th of June in the year of our Lord 1713, aged 59 years. Mingling her remains with his, Margaret, his wife, the daughter of Philip Bowchier, Gentleman, followed her husband after an interval of

ten years, which she passed in widowhood, namely, on the 3rd of November, in the year of Christ, 1723. United by an equal bond of love, an equal number of years closed their lives.

Mr. Christopher Lethbridge lived at Westaway. He left 10/- a year to the Churchwardens, 5/- to keep his Monument in repair, and 5/- to keep the roof over it in repair. He gave the Church a very handsome silver-gilt Chalice, which however is too large for ordinary use, and a Paten of the same metal. It was during his time that the Tower was rebuilt and the six Bells placed there; his name is found on the inscription of the Tablet in the Porch; no doubt he took great interest in the re-building of the Tower, and other works that were then carried on. His wife was a granddaughter of Mr. Roger Bowcher, who was Vicar of Pilton 1612-1650. She was born in 1664. Her father, Philip Bowcher, was born in 1623. (Parish Registers). The name Bowchier is spelt variously, Bouchier, Bowchier, Bowcher: the last is, probably, the right way, for Mr. Roger Bowcher, the Parson, always signed his name so. The family appear to have lived at Westaway till about 1750; a Christopher Lethbridge was Churchwarden in 1724 and in 1744, and a John Lethbridge in 1747. Then they removed to Sandhill Park, Somerset. The Exter family then went to reside at Westaway,

There are two mural tablets in memory of members of the Incedon family, one in the nave, and the other in the Chancel. The Inscriptions are both in Latin, but I give here only a translation, as the first is rather long.

TABLET IN THE NAVE.

Translation.

Opposite this place, under the south window, lie the mortal remains of Robert Incedon, Esquire, a man highly skilled in the

literature and customs of the Ancients. Few men more clearly understood the laws of his country, to the study of which he had given unstinted labour from early youth, at the New Inn in London. No man more conscientiously explained them to those consulting him; but his latter end proves a man's worth. After therefore having completed his eighty-second year, being deservedly increased in wealth and honour, he breathed his last, with that calm firmness of mind and that unshaken Faith in Christ which most surely denote a well spent life. He died on the 5th December, A.D. 1758.

In the same place lie Penelope, his wife, the daughter of William Sandford, of Minehead, in the county of Somerset, Esquire, who died in April, A.D. 1738, and James their son, who died July 24th, 1741, together with several infants, (unâ cum quam plurimis infantulis), the children of the above Robert and Penelope. They left behind Amicia, Lucy, and Benjamin, the survivors of their children, who caused this Monument to be placed here to their memory.

Mr. Robert Incedon, as we see, was a member of the legal profession, one of a good many of that profession who have lived in Pilton, and taken interest in our Church and parish. He was churchwarden in 1727, and again in 1746, and Gribble states that he was Deputy Recorder of Barnstaple in 1756, i.e. in his 80th year. He built Pilton House in the early part of the century, and it remained the property of the Incedon family till the beginning of the 19th century, when it was sold to James Whyte, Esq. In 1727, Mr. Incedon's co-churchwarden was Sir Nicholas Hooper, of Raleigh, another member of the legal profession, a Serjeant at Law, and Member of Parliament for Barnstaple for a good many years.

Pilton Church.

Mr. Benjamin Incedon, the son of Robert, and his wife, are kept in remembrance by a marble tablet in the Chancel, of which the following is a translation of the Inscription :

Sacred to the memory of Benjamin Incedon, Esquire, and Margaret his wife, the daughter of John Newton, Esquire Robert Newton Incedon, their surviving son and heir, erected this marble.

He died in the year of our Salvation 1796, aged 66.

She died in the year of our Salvation 1803, aged 75.

Mr. Benjamin Incedon was Recorder of Barnstaple in 1758, and his son, Robert Newton Incedon, in 1830, (Gribble). Mr. Robert Newton Incedon, sold Pilton House about the year 1806, and built himself another house in the Parish of Goodleigh, which was eventually demolished. The Lodge is still a conspicuous object on the Lynton road. Both Mr. Benjamin Incedon and Mr. Robert Newton Incedon, were Churchwardens.

There are many other Stones and Tablets in the Church which our space does not permit us to mention, but they are all now in good preservation and easily deciphered. The Rogers family, to the memory of several members of which there is a Stone in the Nave of the Church lived at Longstone. Members of this family were Churchwardens in 1674, 1689, 1695, 1698, 1712, 1721, 1739 and 1779, covering a period of 100 years and upwards.

Mr. John Avery, who was Churchwarden in 1675, and his son in 1694, lived at Upcott. The Exter family have a vault in the Churchyard ; they lived at Westaway. I am sorry that I can



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discover no record of the Downe family : a Mr. John Downe was resident here in 1586, and died in 1635. His son was Churchwarden in 1635, and Mr. William Downe in 1721 : they were evidently a leading family in the Parish, Mr. William Downe always signing Parish documents first; but I cannot discover where they lived. The Edger family, one of whom, Mr. John Edger was Churchwarden in 1701, and another, Mr. Abraham Edger, in 1734, lived at Upcott, presumably succeeding the Averys.

The Harding family lived at Upcott for many years, and were great supporters of Church and Parish. There are several Tablets in the Church to the memory of members of the family.

THE FONT AND PULPIT.

The Font is of interest on account of its carved oak canopy and cover. In the *British Architect* for March 28th, 1902, Mr. Harry Hems, of Exeter, writes : "Of course, by far and away the most beautiful cover, in line and detail in this fair county, may be seen in the ancient Parish Church of S. Mary the Virgin, at Pilton, a mile or so from the market town of Barnstaple. It is spiral and of 15th century character. I remember long ago, it was in 1868, going on a special pilgrimage there, in company with the late Sir G. Gilbert Scott, R.A. to see it, and that eminent authority unhesitatingly dubbed it the best sample, of any date, in the "west countrie," although not the most curious, and certainly the chastest in conception and the cleverest carved. In Pilton Church, by the way, in the lower parts of the old screen-work, may be seen good examples of linen panels. Speaking generally, this latter form of late 15th century decoration is rare in the County."

Unfortunately, the canopy is covered almost entirely, with white paint. The three pieces of carved wood over the canopy are of later date, and were presumably added to conceal the rope and pulley of the cover, they are Jacobean in character, as also are the Sounding Board of the Pulpit and the Altar rails. The whole canopy was once richly coloured.

The Pulpit is of stone excepting the door, which is of wood. At one time it was also richly coloured, as the whole Church seems to have been in colours of green, vermilion and gold. A feature of the pulpit is the iron arm and hand holding a stand with hour-glass.

It is unfortunate that we have so little information about the Rood Screen, which, though very far removed from its pristine glory, is still a very handsome feature of the Church. It has evidently gone through many vicissitudes. What must have been an exquisite fan-shaped top has been at some time broken to pieces, and the pieces have been cut, so as to fit in as well as possible to the flat surface of the spandrels, and some have been lost, and replaced by plaster imitations. Originally it was painted, like the Font cover and other parts of the Church, in colours of green, gold and vermilion. Then came the Puritans, who apparently covered it entirely, or so much as they left of it, with white paint, then finally it was painted the oak colour which it still glories in, excepting in those places where the old colouring shows through. At present it may be described as multi-coloured, all the different generations of colour cropping out here and there. The Rev. J. F. Chanter, of Parracombe, informs me that it was erected in the early part of the 16th century, and that at one time it was taken down and kept in a loft; this latter must surely refer only to the upper part, as the

main portion shews no sign of having been removed. It would be a real labour of love, if someone would have this beautiful screen restored to its primitive state.

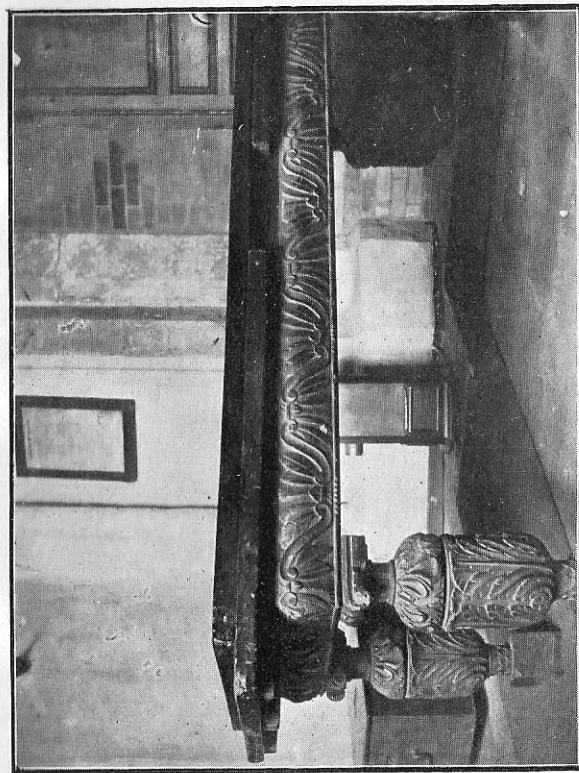
The Parclose Screen has been more carefully preserved, possibly on account of the Impropiator objecting to the indiscriminate use of paint; there is a curious break in it, which looks as if there had been a door or passage way through it. It has been suggested that this was the confessional originally, and when it was no longer used as such, it was used for the distribution of the alms, and bread, that formerly were given away in the Church. The letter R is carved on it, which probably stands for Raleigh, that portion of the Church being ever known as the Raleigh Chapel.

In the Raleigh Chapel stood, for a few years, the old organ, which has a little history of its own. For many years, as in all churches at the time, the singing of the congregation was led by a band of music. When, for various reasons, these bands were discontinued, the harmonium or organ took their place. In the year 1843 it was determined to have an organ in our Church; but there would appear to have been some difference of opinion as to the kind of instrument to be obtained. At length it was determined to obtain a Barrel-Organ, and one was purchased and placed in a gallery at the west end. This organ, it would appear, did not fulfil all anticipations; it required careful manipulation, and in no long time it was converted into a manual. The barrels were removed, and one at least is carefully preserved as an heirloom. In 1867 the organ was removed from its gallery, and placed on the floor of the Church, and again in 1869, it was placed in the Raleigh Chapel, where it remained till 1898, when the

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present organ took its place. It had done excellent work for 55 years, and is now in East Buckland Church. In its Barrel days it played one "Amen" at the end of the service; and there is a list somewhere in existence of the chants and hymn-tunes it could play, which were naturally limited. It departed, not, I believe, unregretted. Mr. G. W. Lee has been our organist for the last 13 years.

In the Vestry is an Elizabethan Communion-Table, with sliding panels, a reminiscence of the days when the Communion Table was brought out into the Church or Chancel, and the communicants stood or sat around it; according as there were more or fewer, so the Table could have been made longer or shorter. In those days the Holy Communion was celebrated far less frequently than it has been at any time, within living memory. In 1744 for instance, Mr. Whitlocke says that the Holy Sacrament was administered four times in the year; in 1764, it was administered six times in the year, and in 1829, five times in the year.



Old Communion Table in the Vestry, with sliding panels.
Date 1570 to 1600.

The Churchyard.

UP to the year 1867 the Churchyard consisted only of the portion which lies to the east and south of the Church ; on the north side the Nursery Gardens extended right up to the Church. Until the year 1824 it was quite open, a pathway only running through it from Lake to the gates and steps leading into the street ; the gateway also at the eastern extremity was always open, and there was much traffic through the Churchyard from all sides, and apparently a good deal of complaint as to walking on the graves and general trespassing. In the year 1824, the eastern gate was closed by the Vestry, excepting on Sundays, and a dwarf wall with iron railings on the top was erected from Lake to the gates and steps at a cost of £40 19s. 7d. In 1848 the gates and steps leading into Pilton Street were removed, at the cost of the Feoffees of the Charities, who erected the present Arch and Room over it, as a part of their other improvements at that time. In 1867, the Churchyard was extended on the south, by the purchase of a portion of the Nursery Gardens. The whole cost of this, including land, laying out, and legal expenses, was £240. A tablet was placed in the boundary wall on the south bearing this inscription :

This Piece of Ground
Alienated from the Church
by Henry viii
was purchased by the Parish
A.D. 1867.

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In 1897 the late Mr. Townshend Hall bought a further piece of land lying to the west of the above, on which stood a Tannery. He took down the Tannery, laid out the ground, and built the Mortuary and Sexton's tool-house, and presented it to the Parish. The whole cost was not less than £1100.

Ladywell (Our Lady's well), at the south west corner, no doubt originally belonged to the Priory; it is now outside the boundary of the Churchyard.

The Schools.

NO account of our Church would be complete without some reference to the Schools which practically adjoin it, and which for close upon one hundred years have been carried on by the Church of England. Our present Schools were started in 1815 in the old Schoolroom, which stood between the present Sexton's house and the arch. They were called Bell Schools or Schools upon the Madras system. In 1789 Dr. Andrew Bell was minister of S. Mary's Church, Madras, and while there he occupied himself in educating the orphan children in the military asylum, and being obliged, from scarcity of teachers, to introduce the system of mutual tuition by the pupils, found the scheme answer so well that he became convinced of its universal applicability. This constitutes the Madras system, and initiated the Pupil-Teacher system, which has ever since been more or less maintained. A few years later Mr. Joseph Lancaster, partly independently, and partly from some hints which he had gathered from Dr. Bell, started in England Schools on a similar system, and was so largely supported, that a Society called the British and Foreign School Society was formed, and Schools, generally known as British Schools were founded in many parts of the country. The Church of England not approving of the Lancastrian or British School system, which taught religion in its Schools practically on the same system as the late Board Schools, and the present Council Schools, *i.e.*, strictly forbidding any Catechism of any particular Church or sect to be taught, soon started Schools of its own on Dr. Bell's system, and formed a Society called the

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National Society for the education of the poor in the principles of the Established Church; these Schools were called National Schools. Our School was one of these and is called in the deeds Bell's School, being founded upon the system of Dr. Bell, in 1815. It was carried on from 1815 to 1841 in the old Schoolroom. The new School premises were opened in 1841, and cost £382 17s. 6d. which sum was raised in the following manner: (1) Subscriptions, £129 1s.; (2) Bazaar, £128 16s. 6d.; (3) National Society's Grant, £25; (4) Treasury Grant, £100.

The premises were altered and enlarged in order to accommodate 54 additional children in 1874, at a cost of £50, and in 1895 the new portion, comprising the class-rooms, staircase, and cloak-rooms, was built at a cost of £483 12s. 2d. raised (1) by Subscriptions and Concerts, &c., £263 12s. 2d.; (2) by a loan on the security of Mrs. Tetherley's House, £200; (3) National Society £20. The accounts of the School from 1815 are still in existence, with the exception of about 10 years. From these accounts it appears that the Schools were carried on entirely by voluntary means, with no assistance from the Government, excepting the grant towards the building in 1841, from 1815 to 1867. The means were (1) Voluntary Subscriptions; (2) Annual Sermon; (3, since 1852) part of the rent of Mrs. Tetherley's House. The first Government Grant was in 1867, and amounted to £38 5s. 2d. From 1871 to 1890 should be added the "School Pence," the payments of the Parents of the Children until the latter year, when the School Pence were abolished, and a Fee grant was substituted. Since about 1872 the Government Grant gradually increased, until it bore by far the larger part of the cost of carrying on the School.

It may be interesting to give the following totals, extracted from the accounts:

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	£	s.	d.
1815 to 1874. Voluntary Subscriptions (including collections in Church and Tetherley's gift) ...	2882	15	3
School Pence	202	9	4
Government Grants	339	17	10

The accounts from 1874 to 1884 are missing.

	£	s.	d.
1884 to 1903 Voluntary Subscriptions (including Tetherley's)	1054	4	11
School Pence to 1890	673	13	8
Government Grants	3783	19	10
Grants in lieu of School Pence	1254	16	6
Aid-Grant	298	15	0

The totals for the whole period come out as follows:

Voluntary Subscriptions... ..	3937	0	2
Government Grants	4123	17	8
School Pence	876	3	0
Grants in lieu of School Pence	1254	16	6
Aid-Grant	298	15	0

As far as I have been able to ascertain, the following have been the Head Teachers in the two Schools; until 1841, there appears to have been only one.

1815 to 1818	Mr. Saunders, assisted by his wife.
1818 ,, 1820	Mr. John Hooper.
1820 ,, 1825	Mr. G. White.
1825 ,, 1830	Mr. Bear.
1830 ,, 1837	Mr. Lemon, with Mrs. Lemon from 1835.
1837 ,, 1841	Mr. Howard.

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- 1841 ,, 1847 Mr. Henry Dendle.
1841 ,, 1849 Miss Elizabeth Gliddon (died in the cholera epidemic).
1847 ,, 1850 Mr. Parsons.
1849 ,, 1850 Miss Crabb.
1850 ,, 1851 Miss Barrett.
1850 ,, 1854 Mr. Hunt.
1851 ,, 1854 Miss Squire.
1854 ,, 1866 Mr. William Beer, (died).
1854 ,, 1875 (?) Mrs. William Beer.
1866 ,, 1867 Mr. W. Thomas.
1867 ,, 1869 Mr. Charles Jarman.
1869 ,, 1871 Miss M. J. Souch.
1871 ,, 1873 Mr. Henry Fry.
1873 ,, 1887 Mr. W. H. Reeve.
1871 ,, 1889 Miss M. Souch.
1887 Mr. W. J. Lord.
1889 Miss A. Beer, (Mrs. G. W. Lee).

Extracts from an old Account Book.

IT is worth one's while spending an hour or two over an old Account Book, as it will often give us an insight into the manners and customs of our forefathers. The oldest I can find in connection with our parish bears date 1673 to 1699. It recounts the expenses of the Constables at the time. The spelling is often peculiar; indeed our forefathers were not particular about spelling as we are to-day. We must remember that there were no School Boards in existence then. On one half of a page in our Parish Register, I find "died" spelt in the following six different ways: died, didd, dide, dydd, dyde, dyed; this was in 1654, a few years before the time of our constables account; we must be prepared then for some peculiar spelling.

Under dates 1673-4, I find:

"Paid for sending some persons to Barnestaple that were sent from Tythinge to Tythinge, 8d."

"Paid for the carrying of a poor woman who came from Tithin to Tithing with an horse and carr to Barnestaple, 1/-."

The County is divided into Hundreds, and the Hundreds into Tithings. Supposed to be a Saxon division, the Hundreds being a hundred free families, and the Tithing ten free families. According to Dr. Johnson each Tithing was responsible to the King to keep the peace within its boundary. They had an official

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called a Tothingman or Tithingman, now called the Constable. These people mentioned in the Account (and there are a good many such entries) were poor people who were travelling, or who were being sent back to their Parish, and each Tithing had to pass them on. Shakespeare tells of "Poor Tom who is whipt from Tithing to Tithing, and stock punished and imprisoned."

The following entries relate to a pleasant custom of our forefathers, which has happily long been abolished, of ducking scolding women in a pond :

" 1673, To John Cuttley for mendine the Cuckine Stoole, 6d."

" 1673, Paid for a peace to mend the same, 6d."

" 1694, Paid Mr. White for setting up and for makeing of ye Cooking Stoole, 1/8."

" 1694, Paid Peter Scamp for a plate for ye cooking stoole 2/-"

The Cucking Stool should according to some authorities be the Chucking Stool, so-called of course because it "chucked," any unfortunate person who occupied it into the pond.

The next entry will surely make our present postmen's mouths water :

" 1673, Paid the foote post fee 3/4"—not paid till 1680.

The next entry refers to another custom happily abolished :

" 1691, For making the stocks and locks and some timber, 2/6."

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And another :

" 1686, Paid for carringe Gilberd Michall beefore the Justices and for a warrant to have him whipt and for securing him, and for meate and drinke, for straw and thouns (thongs), 5/-."

Here is an interesting historical reference :

" 1685, June, For warning all persons within 60 years and above 26 years to bee at one hours warning, 6d."

These entries probably both refer to 1688.

" For wood, coal, and candles for 14 days when the draguns kept garde in this Parish, 3/9."

" The garde for there postage (or passage), and for ale when wee were at Sir Thomas Berry's, 1/2."

It will be remembered that the 3rd of July, 1685, was the date of the battle of Sedgemoor, where the Duke of Monmouth, who had raised an insurrection against James II, his father, was hopelessly defeated. Many west country people were implicated in this insurrection. It was followed by the "Bloody Assizes" held at Taunton by the notorious and infamous Judge Jeffreys. In 1688, William, Prince of Orange, landed at Torbay.

Here again is a reminder of troublous times before the days of the Telegraph :

" 1690, Paid for our Parish Parpossession (Proportion?) towards ye repairinge of the Beackon, 15/-."

Also a common entry

"1680, Paid to John Phillips for carrine a Hue and Cray, 2d"

"1699, Paid for coppine of Hugh and Cray and send it away 3d."

A Hue and Cry was the old common-law process of pursuing with horn and voice all felons and such as had dangerously wounded another (Standard Library Cyclopædia).

Under 1683 we find this entry: we will, even at this distance of time forbear to mention the names of the gentlemen referred to:—

"Paid for a warrant to sommon . . . before ye Justices for Typling in an Ale House on the Lord's Day in tyme of Devine Service."

1688, "Paid for Beere and the Coroner's dinner and my own 3/6." Very moderate.

1690, "For raighting of the Stoke, 8d."

1678, "Gave to a poor man that came out of Turkish Slavery 6d."

1679, "Paid to George Ford for a sword for William Parmynter, 6/8."

Entries were sometimes curiously phrased, *e.g.*

1680 "Paid to 2 men to watch one Lovering, of Tawstock, who was found dead in our parish 2 days and 2 nights, 6/-

Present Coroners might be interested in the following:

"Paid to the Coroner for his fees for crowning of him, 13/4."

1678 "Item for returning of a warrant concerning what Papists were in our Parish."

Here are a few entries from another account:

1685 "Payed for Ringine alle the day when Kinge James was procleamed, 5/-"

1685 "Philip Leare for Beere at ye Coronation Day, 11/8."

1685 "For Ringine ye Coronation of Kinge James, 4/-"

1689 For 3½lb. of Powder when Kinge William and Mary wear crowned, 4/4."

1689 "To Samuel Hopkins for Beer when King William was crowned, 5/-

The reference in these entries to Ringing is interesting and somewhat puzzling.

The upper portion of the Tower was either pulled down or knocked down in 1646, and not re-built till 1696, when six new Bells were put up. This is the only reference we have to any Bells being in existence from 1646 to 1712, and it also shows that the Tower, though partly demolished, was still able to carry some Bells.

1698 "Paid Cornelius Carter for tembering the Penthouse over the Stoke, 2/6." Altogether this Penthouse cost £2 5s. 0d

Here is another interesting entry, which seems to show that there were considerable rejoicings on the occasion referred to:

1696 Paid att Mary Bowdens when the agreement was made for building upp of the Tower, £2 5s. 6d.

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Here are a few miscellaneous entries more or less interesting

- 1764 "Paid Joan Roberts for all that the Jury drank on the inquest, 2/6."
1765 "Paid for Vinegar, Brimstone, and Treacle, 1/2."
1751 "Received of Mr. Exter for Mr. Witley's forfeiture for being buried in Linen, £2 10s. 0d."

Here are a few entries showing the expense of travelling 100 years and more ago:

- 1753 "Paid $\frac{1}{2}$ the money for carrying.....to Bath, £1 12s. 6d."
1770 "Paid John Radford, Constable, for bringing.....from Bristol. £2 16s. 7d."
1764 "Paid for hire of a boat to carry.....to Bristol, £1 10s."
1764 "Paid for attending (the same person) to Bath and expense, £1 19s. 6d."
1764, "Paid for a Bath Letter, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d."
1757, "Paid George Dowdall for making the Stocks, 19/2."
1761, "Received of Agnes Pitts for suffering Typing, 10/-."

We will close with an entry which will give us some idea how slowly news travelled a hundred years ago.

December 5th, 1805, "Ringing Lord Nelson's Victory, 14/-"

This refers to the Battle of Trafalgar which was fought on October the 21st, of the same year. It took just six weeks and a few days for the news to reach Pilton.

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The population of Pilton probably did not vary very much for many years. It was about 1000, or a little more. In 1744 there were said to be about 200 families in the Parish, and reckoning five, on an average, for each family, there would be just 1000.

In 1821, the population was 1230—564 females and 666 males. There were 233 inhabited houses. In 1901, the population was 2238.

In bringing this little Book to a conclusion, may I express my fervent desire, not only that it may be the means of helping the Parishioners of Pilton to realise the beauty and the antiquity of the Church which they have inherited from their fathers, but that it may also and chiefly, draw them nearer to the God and Saviour whom their fathers worshipped there, or on that spot, for nearly a thousand years. No one can compile, and surely no one can read, even a little parochial story like this without being impressed with the shortness and uncertainty of life. We see how our fathers planned and built, how they beautified and embellished and loved the House of God. We see again the conflict of warring opinions, the change from one form of ritual to another, the richest decoration giving way to the most simple adornment possible; and in its passage and its fervour, we read of priceless works of art and noble monuments in stone or wood, which were laboriously and lovingly wrought for the honour and Glory of God, defaced or destroyed. We can sympathize with those who

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built and adorned, and we can sympathize with those who destroyed and defaced, for both thought they were doing it for the honour of God. But all have long ago gone to the place where all conflicts and wars are at end; and of just a few we can say that we know their names and some little of what they did.

We know at any rate, that they have left us "a goodly heritage," a Church wherein we may worship the same God and Saviour whom they worshipped, a Church whose very stones cry out and tell us of the love of God, of the hope of eternity, which stirred and encouraged their hearts during their short day, often full of trial and sorrow, here on earth. Of many of them it could be said, and may it be said again of this generation, Lord they have loved the habitation of Thy House and the Place where Thine Honour dwelleth.

FINIS.