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**Proceedings at the Annual Spring Meeting at Standish, Moreton
Valence, Frampton and Leonard Stanley**

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Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING,
AT STANDISH, MORETON VALENCE, FRAMPTON AND LEONARD
STANLEY.

Tuesday, June 8th, 1909.

THE spring meeting was a great success, the weather being ideal for an outing of this kind, while the arrangements were excellently carried out. In making Gloucester Vale the centre of the excursion a good choice was made, for many of the members had never visited Standish, Moreton Valence, Frampton, and Leonard Stanley, and they had the pleasure of seeing some delightful old churches under the best conditions. The President, the Rev. Canon W. Bazeley, proved, as usual, a perfect guide, giving supplementary remarks on the places visited, and contributing valuable and interesting notes to the programme. There were over eighty members present. Mr. Michael G. Lloyd-Baker, the Hon. General Secretary, worked hard, and he is to be complimented on the pleasant meeting he arranged, and the smooth way in which everything went off. General regret was expressed that Mr. J. E. Pritchard, the Hon. Secretary for Bristol, was prevented from attending through indisposition.

The members assembled at Stonehouse, where well-equipped brakes were in readiness to take them to Standish. The drive through the country roads was pleasant in the

extreme, the air being fragrant with the scent from the hawthorn blooms, the fields looking their best after the recent rains, and the laburnum trees gay in their golden trappings. Standish is a place with an interesting history ecclesiastically.

In 821 Beornulf, King of the Mercians, gave to the Secular Canons of St. Peter's Monastery, Gloucester, fifteen hides of land under Ezimbury; probably Haresfield Beacon, famous for its British and Roman camps.

In the time of Cnut Benedictine monks were substituted for the canons, and the ancient possessions of the abbey passed to its new occupants. During the reign of Edward the Confessor, Aldred, Bishop of Worcester, 1044-60, began to rebuild the Church of St. Peter in the Norman style of architecture; for Norman builders came to England at Edward's bidding many years before the Battle of Hastings. We believe that in the crypt of Gloucester Cathedral we have some of this early work still remaining. Aldred, in 1060, was translated to York, and, in order to recoup himself for the money he had privately expended on St. Peter's, he seized as security for his loan the Abbey Manors of Standish, Oddington and Northleach. On his death they were illegally retained by Archbishop Thomas as though they were part of the endowments of his See. In 1087, the Survey tells us, he still held them, though the abbot held two hides in Standish, Durand the Sheriff three, and Earl Hugh one. The remainder of the thirteen hides would probably never have been recovered had not Serlo, the first Norman Abbot of Gloucester, been all powerful with the Conqueror and Rufus. In 1095 William II confirmed the right of St. Peter's to the three lost manors, and ordered them to be restored. Some years later fresh disputes arose concerning Standish between the Churches of York and Gloucester, and it was not until the case had been tried in the Roman Curia and also in the provincial synods that the Archbishop, in general synod, renounced all claims to this manor, and it was confirmed to Abbot Hammeline about 1164.

In 1202 Abbot Carbonel set aside the proceeds of the Manor of Standish for the benefit of the poor. This was the origin of the Almery of Standish, now used as a parish school, though, of course, the present building is of much later date, being probably early Tudor. In 1301 Robert Winchelsea, Archbishop of Canterbury, issued injunctions to the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester, in which (No. 14) he enjoins them to keep up the Almery of Standish, according to the bequest of Abbot Thomas Carbonel. In the time of Edward the Second, 1307-27, the king's escheator, John de Hampton, held an inquiry into the abbot's stewardship of the manor, and finding that certain weekly gifts of

corn had been kept back from the poor, took the manor into the king's hands. It was only at the personal request of the king that it was restored.

No reason is given for the abbot reducing his gifts to the poor; but as the church appears to be of that date, it is possible that some of the manor rents were spent on its construction.

In 1516 the evils arising from indiscriminate almsgiving were so great that Abbot William Parker, with the consent of the convent, put an end to it, and founded instead a fraternity of the Holy Cross, consisting of a prior and twelve others, who were to be selected from the aged monks, impoverished tenants, and other dependants of the abbey.

On the Feast of St. John the Baptist in each year to these bedesmen were given thirteen "honest" gowns of broad cloth, with close sleeves and a large hood, having the arms of the abbey affixed to the right shoulder and a cross of red and blue on the breast. Every one, moreover, was to wear a great pair of beads, and the prior, by way of distinction, was to have a "scapulary," or piece of cloth falling from the shoulders before and behind, and reaching nearly to the feet. They were to receive each one of them daily a loaf of bread called "holyer," and a drink of beer, and eightpence a week by the hands of the sub-prior. Their principal duty seems to have been to attend the services of the church, and to pray for their founder, Abbot Parker, and for other pious donors long since gone to their rest.

It would seem that these bedesmen lived in Gloucester at the abbey, and not at Standish, so it is difficult to explain for what purpose the Almshouse was built, as it seems to have been, in the reign of Henry VII or Henry VIII.

On the dissolution of St. Peter's Abbey the Manor of Standish was granted to Edward, Duke of Somerset, and, on his attainder to Sir Anthony Cook. Sir Henry Winstone was Lord of the Manor in 1608, and at the beginning of the eighteenth century Sir Ralph Dutton was seized of it. His lineal descendant, Lord Sherborne, is the present lord.

The church, which is dedicated to St. George, consists of a nave and chancel only, with two porches (one used as a vestry) and a remarkably fine spire. The windows, which are Edwardian in style, appear to be original. The east window is very rich in tracery, having five lower lights and many others above. The glass was made by Clayton and Bell in 1872. There is a piscina for the high altar on the south side of the chancel, and another for an altar in the nave at the east end of the north side. The doors leading to the rood-loft remain. The rood-loft itself probably disappeared in 1765, when many alterations were made.

The roof of the nave has 160 bosses, all different.

A flatstone in front of the altar covers the grave of Bishop Frampton, and bears the arms of the See impaling his own. He became Bishop of Gloucester in 1681, and refusing to sign the oath of allegiance to William of Orange in 1690, he was deprived of his bishopric, but was allowed to retire to Standish Vicarage, where he died in 1708. There are many sixteenth- and seventeenth-century gravestones in the church and churchyard; the earlier ones are characterised by the boldness of the lettering, and the latter by their excellent carving. The yeomen of Standish and the neighbourhood, who were probably also clothiers, seem to have been well-to-do, if we may judge by their lavish expenditure on monumental erections over their dead.

The carving is somewhat gruesome, and much more classic than Christian, and there is a good deal of repetition of Old Father Time with his scythe and hour-glass, and of Death with his arrow and spade.

In the eighteenth century there is a manifest deterioration of artistic feeling, the favourite expression of grief and hopelessness being a young girl resting her elbow on a broken pillar beneath a spreading willow. Later on we have the hideous headstone with a bodiless cherub, still, it is to be feared, dear to the rustic heart.

The Almery, on the west side of the churchyard, near the entrance-gate, has two good Tudor doorways, with oak leaves in the spandrels of the arch. This building was probably erected early in the sixteenth century, before it was decided to do away with the weekly doles to the poor, which, according to the abbey register, caused "many inconvenyens and inordynate behavyor, as brawlynge, swerynge, blasphemynge and fyghtynge, with infectyffe resorte of sycke and unthryfty persons, to the gret dysquyetnesse" of the monks and their tenants.

The Gatehouse leading to the Manor Court still remains, with the porter's lodge on the west side. A few years ago, at the request of this Society, the Lord of the Manor, Lord Sherborne, had it carefully repaired, and one of the arches preserved from destruction by the insertion of a flying buttress.

Canon NASH offered prayer when the party had assembled in the church, and afterwards gave a highly interesting paper on the building and neighbourhood, which was afterwards expanded into the account of the church and parish, which found a place in the very interesting series of papers on Gloucestershire Churches which is now appearing in the *Gloucester Journal*.

The parish of Standish must from very early Christian times have been an important one, possessing as it did three daughter churches, viz. Hardwicke, Randwicke, and Saul. Of these three one, Hardwicke, is still ecclesiastically united with it, the two together forming but one

benefice. Traces of its close connection with the other two are to be found in the facts that the right of presentation to the benefices of Randwicke and Saul is vested in the Vicarage of Standish, and that there is still paid an annual sum of £10 8s. by way of "pension" from Standish the mother to Randwicke the daughter. The area of the old ecclesiastical parish is very large, stretching from the western slopes of the Cotswold escarpment down to the banks of the Severn, and embracing the large "island" of Colethrop, or Coldthorp, entirely isolated from the rest of the parish. The name "Coldthorp" seems to suggest that at one time there was there a settlement of Danes. Thus it comes to pass that persons now resident in the parishes of Pitchcombe, Harescombe, Haresfield, Moreton Valence and Longney have rights of marriage and burial in the church and churchyard of Standish.

It would be interesting to know why many parishes situated some miles from the Severn had, nevertheless, a small frontage to the river bank. Standish and Moreton Valence are two notable examples, both reaching from the hills to the river. Probably the early landholders made a point of obtaining access to the Severn, in order to possess what would have been most valuable—the rights of fishing and water carriage. This would to some extent account for the shape of the parishes—great length east and west, with comparative narrowness north and south.

There is evidence from the Calendar of Papal Registers that there was a church in Standish in the year 1291, when among the papal letters it appears that a relaxation of one year and forty days' penance was promised to penitents who should visit the Church of St. Nicholas, Stanedes or Standes, in the Diocese of Worcester, on the feast of that saint, on the four feasts of the Blessed Virgin, and on the anniversary of the dedication of the church. But of that church there seems to be no trace remaining. It is probable that it was a wooden one, and very likely thatched, and that fire was the cause of its complete disappearance, and of the building of a new one to replace it. It was estimated by the architect of the restoration of the present church in 1866, Mr. St. Aubyn, that it was built in 1348. It is, however, open to doubt if that estimate is correct, since that was the year of the "Black Death," the ravages of which were so disastrous that nearly all building was at a standstill. Canon Bazeley thinks that the more probable date was 1325, or thereabouts, since the monks of Gloucester Abbey, who built it, were engaged in the middle of the fourteenth century in erecting the splendid Perpendicular work in their own abbey church, and it would be very unlikely that at the same time they would be engaged in carrying out a work of a totally different order of architecture at Standish.

The building is a beautiful specimen of the pure Decorated style, and is very interesting as being still, so far as the fabric is concerned, in almost exactly the same state as it was left by the original builder's hands. No addition has been made to it, and no material alteration. The lofty nave, the spacious chancel, the stately chancel arch, proclaim its designer to have been a man who considered that even a village church should be a solemn and dignified place of worship. The east window is particularly noticeable for its fine, graceful tracery, and is selected by Rickman as one of his examples of the pure Decorated style. The broach spire is remarkably slender and needle-like, and shares with Slimbridge the honour of being one of the most graceful spires in the Vale of Berkeley. At the north-east of the nave there was a side chapel, very small, with an ogee piscina. Here has been deposited an ancient tombstone or stone coffin lid, with the face of a nun, or widow in wimple, *temp.* fourteenth century, carved upon it, found, it is believed, at the west end of the church, or in the basement of the tower. Before the restoration in 1866 the chancel was without choir seats, and was furnished with an oak rail running round the north, south and west sides, round which the Communicants knelt during the time of celebration, and at which they received the Sacrament. The coved roof of the nave is worthy of attention, being divided into panels by ribs, at the intersection of which are large and handsome bosses, each carved in a different design. The stained windows (two by Clayton and Bell, three by Bell of Bristol, and one by Mr. Kemp just before his death) are all modern glass, the five north and south having been given during the last few years. They greatly improve the appearance of the interior, which, as Sir Stephen Glynne says, was before "glaring, bare and unsatisfactory." The reredos is a late addition of "opus sectile" work representing the four Evangelists, but is hardly in keeping with the general style of the church. The steps to the rood-loft appear on the outside wall as a large projection, perforated with a sort of half arch, a curious and unusual feature. The church was evidently in close connection with the Grange or Almonry originally belonging to St. Peter's Abbey. It is often erroneously called a priory.

The vicar has the following account of it left him by his predecessor, and given to him by the late Mr. J. D. T. Niblett: "At Standish was a building called the Almonry, erected for the use of the abbey. The place gave name to the Chief Almoner of the abbey. His residence was at the Court House, part of the Almonry, the gateway whereof still remains. There was a corresponding gateway on the south side. The Bede House remains on the north side of the church."

Another account says that the Grange was probably the residence of the abbey steward in charge of the great extent of abbey lands,

but no doubt also housed brethren sent down from Gloucester for work or for health's sake. The gateway, probably of the fifteenth century, now in ruins, but well preserved owing to the care of Lord Sherborne, the present owner, who has built a retaining buttress, is an excellent specimen of domestic mediæval architecture. It had its porter's rooms, one at the side with a beautiful two-light window, and one on the first floor above the gateway. Part of the ancient buildings is now used as a cheese-room, and is called by the occupiers of the present farmhouse "the monk's parlour." Probably it was the Refectory. The building to the north-west of the churchyard, now used as the school, is supposed to have been the Bedehouse of the monastery in Gloucester, where were housed the poor men, thirteen in number, whom they maintained and clothed. This building has very handsome buttresses on the churchyard side, and has evidently been superimposed on a smaller and still more ancient building, one wall of which, with enormous stones, still remains on the north side. The very handsome wall dividing the churchyard from the monastic buildings is worthy of notice, with its triple coping and peculiar doorway leading from the Grange to the church. There are still two water mills with mill-ponds, almost certainly the ancient buildings, but restored and refaced.

The hamlet of Colethrop, distant two and a half miles, has its own little mission chapel, dedicated in the name of St. Mary Magdalene, a picturesque and very convenient building, erected entirely at the cost of the late Mr. J. D. T. Niblett in about 1874. Mr. Niblett was then Lord of the Manor of Haresfield and Colethrop, and the first licensed lay reader in the Diocese of Gloucester. Before its erection a van was driven to Standish every Sunday morning to bring inhabitants of Colethrop to their parish church. Afterwards Mr. Niblett frequently officiated there to aid the parochial clergy. The mission chapel is still used every Sunday, and is licensed for the celebration of the Sacraments.

The parish church has six bells, on which are the following inscriptions:—

	Diameter.	Height.	Crown.	Waist.	Sound bow.	Size of all five given in inches.
1. { Treble. {	Charity brought me hear in the 1720th year, A.R.	28	21	48	53	2½
2. {	Gloriam Dei in Excelsis Sono, 1656.	30	23	55	60	2
3. {	W. Chew, G. Stratford, Gardi, 1656.	31	23	36	63	2
4. {	Giles Weyman, John Pridy, Church feare God, Anno 1651.	34	26	59	64	2½
5. {	Peace and Good Neighbourhood. A.R., 1748.	39	29	65	72	2½
6. { Tenor. {	Sancta : Maria : Tho : Succurre : Pissima : Servo : Winelmo : Lawley : Vicaireg : Caug : Me.	42	31	71	78	2½

The following interesting notes on the inscriptions were written by the late Mr. J. D. T. Niblett :—

No. 1, or Treble.—A.R., with a bell between, stands for Abraham Rudhall, one of a family of famous bell-founders at the city of Gloucester.

No. 3.—GARDI, for Gardiani, Wardens.

No. 4.—This very common patronymic of the neighbourhood is from that of Meredith, thus: "Ready" ap-Ready, Pready, etc.

No. 6, or Tenor.—The first line is a hexameter, the second is an odd mixture of Latin and English, and a jumble of cases. The cyphers WL were recently to be seen on a boss on the ceiling of Hardwicke Church.

The registers date back to the transcription ordered in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, 1559, and are a fairly continuous record, except for the years 1609-28 and 1628-53, when no entries seem to have been made. They possess one very interesting feature, viz. that in the years 1763-83 the entries are duplicated, and couched in terms not precisely the same. This seems to have been due to the claims of a clerk of the name of Beard, who conceived it to be his duty to make his own separate entry in addition to that of the vicar, and did so after his own fashion.

The church plate is exceptionally interesting. The beautiful and excellently preserved Elizabethan chalice and paten, date 1573, were presented by the late Mr. J. D. T. Niblett, and are specially used at Coletthrop Chapel. The large chalice or cup is very worthy of notice, being Cromwellian, an age when naturally but very little church plate was made. Both are figured in *Gloucestershire Church Plate*, published by the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

There are two interesting monuments in the church. One is the tombstone of Robert Frampton, Bishop of Gloucester, the non-juror, in front of the altar. He was dispossessed in the time of William III, and permitted to retire to Standish, where he was vicar for twenty years, from 1688 to 1708. On the stone are the arms of the See, and the inscription "Cætera quis nescit," which is found on many non-jurors' tombs—a delicate way of calling attention to the sufferings incurred through the persistency of their loyalty. The other is the mural tablet on the south side of the nave, with the arms of the family of Winston, who at the time held property in the parish, and were lords of the manor. The Winstons intermarried with the Churchills, and from this circumstance the present President of the Board of Trade derives, it is believed, one of his well-known names. The arms present a rather curious exception to the golden rule of heraldry, which provides that colour must not be charged upon colour nor metal upon metal. It will be observed that the tree is vert upon a ground gules. Mr. Were, an eminent authority, thinks the tree ought to be argent, but says that the

coat is very old and has been allowed for ages, and therefore must not be condemned now. There is also a stone in the chancel to the memory of Thomas Winston, with an inscription in English, a little uncommon at the date of 1483.

The vicar has in his possession a copy of a curious document or deed called "The Ordination of the Vicarage of Standish." It bears date August 2nd, 1348. Its object was to settle the "divers contentions, strifes and discords" which had been between "Master Walter de Evesham, perpetual vicar of the parish church of Standish, and his predecessors, vicars of the same place, and the religious men of the Monastery of Peter, of Gloucester." It is evident that this was one of the many instances of jealousy between the Regulars and the Seculars. Perhaps the dedication of the new church afforded a good opportunity for the settlement of the long-standing quarrel, for it stated that the reason for the "ordination" was that "the religious men minded that the Giver of Peace is not properly worshipped unless in times of peace." At any rate, by this deed, executed by the Abbot Adam de Staunton and his monks, the perpetual vicar, Master Walter, was confirmed in his possession of the tithes and manse and land, including the churchyards of "Standish, Rendewyk, Herdewick and Salle," and on the other hand it was enacted that he and his successors should "have and bear the cure of all and singular the souls of the parishioners, as well of the mother church aforesaid, as of all and singular the chapels of the same." So that the Vicar of Standish had the spiritual oversight of four parishes or chapelries at a considerable distance from each other, and it would be interesting to discover what was the original link that bound them all together.

This paper may be fitly concluded with an interesting legend, which the present vicar found floating in the memory of one or two old parishioners when he came in 1889. In some fields just to the north of the lane leading from Standish to Moreton Valence there are still standing five very ancient oak trees, venerable hollow trunks, with a few gnarled and scanty boughs. The legend was to the effect that these trees are the remnant of an avenue planted to commemorate and mark the road by which the body of Edward II was taken to the Church of Standish during its removal from Berkeley Castle to St. Peter's Abbey at Gloucester. The trees would in that case be nearly six hundred years old. That the trees still standing do form part of an avenue is an undoubted fact, four on one side and one on the other; and a person standing in this avenue will discover the spire of the church almost exactly in the centre. The distance from the church to the present high road from Berkeley to Gloucester is nearly a mile and a half, and to that extent the procession must have diverged from its direct route.

No corroboration of the tradition is known, but it does seem possible that the funeral cortège, in days of exceedingly bad roads, and with heavy, lumbering wagon or hearse or litter, might soon after September 21st, 1326, the date of the murder, have found itself overtaken by the shades of night before reaching its destination, and might have deemed it advisable to make for the nearest monastic establishment, and that an appanage of the abbey to which they were bound, in order that the body might rest for the night in a consecrated building, and under the care of religious men of their own order and house. If so, then the church now standing, if it was built in 1325, had the honour of giving shelter to the remains of the murdered king for one night at least; or if not built till some years later, then the church which was the forerunner of the present one.

Canon BAZELEY thought the date of the church was earlier than that given by Canon Nash, and in that case they would be in the same building where probably the body of King Edward II rested. He thanked Canon Nash for the address. He also referred to the possibility of a Saxon church having occupied the site before the present building. This might have been of wood, and lasted until the stone church was erected. If of wood, it would account for no traces remaining.

The party subsequently saw the church plate, the registers, the Almery, and the ruined gateway.

The journey was then continued to Moreton Valence, which lies a little on the western side of the Bristol to Gloucester road. The party first visited the moat, which lies to the west of the church. Here, tradition says, was the castle of the De Valences. At a distance of a hundred yards and more is an outer rampart, which looks as though at one time it was continued round the church and churchyard. Some of the visitors were somewhat sceptical concerning the traditional castle, owing to the small area enclosed by the moat.

Moreton Valence derives the latter part of its name from its owners in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, William and Audomar de Valence, Earls of Pembroke. In 1087 Durandus the Sheriff held the manor. The Saxon who had been dispossessed by the Norman conquerors was called Auti. In the reign of Henry III Robert de Pontlarch gave it to William de Valence, son of King John's widow, Isabella, and of Henry le Brun. He was slain in 1295 in France, and was succeeded by his son Audomar, who shared the same fate in 1323. Joan, one of his sisters and co-heiresses, who inherited Moreton, married Richard Talbot, of Goodrich Castle, and was ancestress of the Earls of Shrewsbury, who held Moreton till 1519. Then Arthur Plantagenet and his wife Elizabeth held it for a short time. Henry VIII granted it to Thomas Cromwell, and on his attainder it came to Sir William

Kingston, and then to his son Anthony. It was purchased by the Jerninghams, who held it in the seventeenth century. In 1712, when Atkyns wrote his *History*, it had come into the hands of the Duttons. The Church of Moreton Valence, dedicated to St. Stephen, the proto-martyr, consists of a Norman chancel and nave, a fifteenth-century south aisle or chapel extending the whole length of the church, and a Perpendicular western tower. The chancel arch is semicircular, with two members. The lower member, which is quite plain, springs from a square pier and abacus. The upper, which has a roll moulding, rests on a detached shaft set in the noke or angle of the arch, with an inverted cone capital. It is a simple and characteristic example of early Norman architecture. In the north wall of the chancel there is a narrow, oblong, semicircular-headed window, externally not more than a few inches in breadth, and deeply splayed within. This is a relic of the Norman church in its original condition.

The most interesting feature of the church is the tympanum, the semi-circular stone with which the head of the arch of a Norman portal is filled. It represents the Archangel Michael piercing the head of a dragon with a spear, which he holds in his right hand. In his left he holds a convex shield or buckler, such as was used in the twelfth century. A hand is seen above the dragon's head pointing upwards. The windows of the south aisle or chapel are all Perpendicular, of the usual late type, but the arcade between the nave and the aisle, and the arch which leads into the aisle from the chancel, are unlike anything in Gloucestershire, except at Chipping Campden. The octagonal piers, quirked capitals and moulded arches, are deeply grooved or fluted, and they remind one of the fan-shaped epaullières, or elbow armour, worn by knights and squires at the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471. They may be seen on the effigy of Sir Thomas Peyton at Isham, and on the brass of Thomas Quatremayne at Thame. The chapel is a rare and somewhat freakish example of late fifteenth-century treatment. There is certainly some stained glass of that date in the east window.

It seems probable that the patron and builder of the church was Walter fitz Roger, nephew and heir of Durandus, or Walter's son, the famous Milo fitz-Walter. They were both Viscounts of Gloucester, the former in 1101-31, and the latter in 1131-43.

The Elizabethan church plate is described in the *Church Plate of Gloucestershire*, issued by this Society. The six bells were recast: four by Abraham Rudhall in 1696, one by the same firm in 1739, and the sixth by Thomas Mears in 1840. Many interesting sixteenth- and seventeenth-century gravestones are preserved in the south aisle. The church and parish deserve most careful examination and research, and would amply repay the time and labour required.

The Churches of Moreton Valence and Whaddon already in 1246 formed the endowment of a prebend in Hereford Cathedral.¹ As both estates were held under the Earl of Hereford, it is likely that the churches had been given to the cathedral by one of the earls. The earliest prebendary mentioned by Le Neve, however, was Ralph de Hengham, who was collated on October 29th, 1274, and who died in 1311. He was appointed to the office of Chief Justice in 1274, but was removed from the Bench and fined in 1289; he was, however, restored to his place in 1301. He owed his prebend at Hereford to Bishop John Le Breton, who had been one of the King's Justices. He held also other preferments at Exeter, Worcester and London.

In the church the visitors were received by the vicar, the Rev. J. P. Humphries Clark. The building consists of a Norman chancel and nave, a fifteenth-century south aisle or chapel extending the whole length of the church, and a Perpendicular western tower.

Mr. EMBREY, who has lived in the parish for the past twelve years, drew attention to the semicircular chancel arch with two members, and said that anyone at first sight would say it was Norman. He pointed out that one portion was a wall on the original arch, and from this he came to the conclusion that it was not an entirely Norman arch. In visiting the so-called Saxon church at Wareham, in Dorset, he had come across a similar arch, and had come to the conclusion that they were both Norman outside and Saxon underneath.

Mr. HUDD, who was called upon to speak by the President, pointed out that it was clear that the whole church, including the chancel arch, had been rebuilt in the fourteenth or fifteenth century, as appears from the diagonal tooling all over the church. Attention was called to an inscription, imperfect at the beginning of each line, which appears on the abacus on the south side of the chancel arch. Some of the characters resemble those found in Anglo-Saxon inscriptions figured by Hübner in his *Inscriptiones Britanniae Christianae*; the purpose of others is not clear. Unhappily, the difficulty of reading the stone has been much increased by the fact that since the visit of our Society someone has traced what he supposed to be the forms of the letters over with a blacklead pencil, a piece of mischief which was done without the consent of the vicar of the parish. It seems that these marks were made in order that a photograph might be taken of the tracings; but the marks have been so unskilfully made that a photograph of the tracings would give but a very imperfect idea of the form of the letters. As the incisions are generally very light, it would be an extremely difficult task to remove the grains of blacklead from between the grains of the oolite on which the letters are cut. It is a deplorable thing that a

¹ Fosbrooke, i, 270, 304.



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TYMPANUM OF NORTH PORCH, MORTON VALENCE.

visit of our Society should have been followed by such an unfortunate occurrence.

The following fragments can, however, be certainly made out :—

XRI · ET IN HONORE | INIS. ET sci STEPHANI PRO

It would seem, therefore, that the stone was of a dedicatory nature.

The fabric of the church does not seem to have received the attention which it deserves. There is an unusual wealth of marks upon the stones, both within and without, and some of the masons' marks would seem to be of much older date than the walls of the existing building ; this would certainly support Mr. Hudd's statement that the church has been rebuilt. It has been suggested that the stones once formed part of a castle which stood near, and if there ever was such a castle this is, of course, quite possible ; or they may have formed part of an older church. But a competent observer, who really understood old English building, would find here a most interesting object of study.

On a wedding-day, one of the worst blunders possible—according to tradition—is for the bridegroom to put in an appearance late. A wedding party at Moreton, however, determined not to make that mistake, and whilst Mr. Embrey was engaging the attention of the archæological party in the church, a wedding party arrived at the church. It was then 12 o'clock, but the ceremony was fixed for 12.30, and the wedding party had an unwelcome wait—borne in the best humour, followed by an unexpected publicity when the visitors returned to their conveyances.

Returning to the main road, twenty minutes' drive brought the party to Frampton-on-Severn.

This charming village consists of two rows of picturesque detached houses separated by a broad road and village recreation ground, known as Rosamund's Green. Rudder tells us that early in the eighteenth century this green was an unhealthy marsh, the road well-nigh impassable, and ague rampant amongst the inhabitants ; but that Mr. Richard Clutterbuck, who was descended from one of the daughters and co-heiresses of John Clifford, cured all these evils by draining the low-lying land.

We learn from Domesday Survey that Drogo fitz Ponz held Frampton in 1086. His descendant, H. F. Clifford, Esq., holds it at the present time.

Drogo fitz Ponz, who claimed descent from Rollo and Richard *sans peur*, came to England with the Conqueror, and was accompanied by his two brothers, Richard and Walter. He died in 1087 *s.p.*, and was succeeded by his brother Richard, who had two sons, Simon and Walter. Walter took the name of Clifford from a manor he held in Herefordshire,



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CHANCEL ARCH AND NORMAN WINDOW,
MORTON VALENCE.

and was ancestor of the Earls of Westmoreland. A junior branch of his family retained possession of Drogo's Manor of Frampton for many generations.

The great barons of the Clifford family are forgotten by all but a few students of the past, but one frail member of the family, Fair Rosamund, lives on in history and romance.

An upper room in the old Manor Farm, on the north side of the green, is said by tradition to have been the scene of her birth. It would be cruel to suggest that this is improbable, or to throw any doubts on her "bower" at Woodstock, or the labyrinth in which her royal lover, Henry II, tried in vain to secure her from the jealous wrath of Queen Eleanor. Rosamund died in 1177, and was buried at Godstow, near Oxford, where the following couplet is said to have been placed over her grave :—

*"Hic jacet in tumba, Rosa mundi, non rosa munda.
Non redolet, sed olet, quae redolere solet!"*

It is only fair to the memory of the injured Queen to record the fact that she was imprisoned in Salisbury Castle, under the jailorship of Robert Manduit, long before and did not regain her freedom till long after Rosamund's death.

Walter Clifford gave a mill in Frampton and a meadow adjoining it, called Lecton, to the nuns of Godstow.

The Knights Templars were also seized of lands in Frampton in 1273. The name of the present home of the Cliffords, "The Grange," suggests that it was once church property.

Their previous residence, which is somewhat pretentious, and is known as "The Court," was built by Richard Clutterbuck in 1731, after a design by Vanbrugh. It stands on the south side of the green, and may easily be recognised by its Georgian, classic style.

Two of the early productions of John Bayly, an almost unknown Bristol artist, and who died quite young, were at Frampton Court, then the residence of Mr. N. Clifford, but the present owner (Mr. Henry F. Clifford) has been unable to trace them, though there are a number of old paintings there with no names attached. There is another link with Bristol at Frampton, for according to extracts from a letter to N. Tyson (1820), the Royal Arms in the church of Frampton were painted by John Simmons, the Bristol artist, who also was responsible for the altar piece of All Saints' Church (city), "The Annunciation," taken down some few years since and removed no one seems to know where. Simmons also painted the portrait of Burguin, the pewterer, whose association with Chatterton is so well known. Only one seventeenth-century traders' token appears to have been issued

from Frampton, and only a few specimens are known to exist, Mr. J. E. Pritchard being the happy possessor of one. On the obverse is "John Maynard, mercer," in the field, "his halfpenny." On the reverse, "of Frampton, 1667," and in the field, "I.M. and a flower." It is evident that he was unmarried, as the token only bears the initials of one Christian name; if married, it was the custom to put that of the issuer's wife also.

The manorial rights passed away from the Cliffords in the time of Edward II, and were held in succession by the fitz Paynes, Chidoockes, and Arundels. Early in the seventeenth century they were sold to Sir Humphrey Hook, and Sir Heel Hook held them in 1779. He left three sisters, co-heiresses, one of whom, Elizabeth Grove, sold them to Nathaniel Clifford, who was lord in 1807.

The Manor Farm appears to be part of other property which passed away from the Cliffords in the time of Richard II, through the marriage of an heiress with William Teste. In the time of Queen Mary it passed in the same way to the Codringtons; and their arms, together with another coat which may possibly be for Teste, may be seen in the window of the hall. There is also some interesting carving in what is now an out-building, but which may formerly have been a chapel. From the Codringtons this property passed to Edward Bromwich about 1650, and soon afterwards to the Yates. In 1779 Robert Yate sold it to Samuel Peach. Then it passed to S. Cruger, M.P. for Bristol, with his wife, Miss Peach. It has fortunately come back to the Cliffords by purchase.

The church, which is dedicated in the name of St. Mary, is Decorated in style, having been consecrated in 1315. It consists of a nave with two aisles, a chancel with a chapel on either side, and a tower.

In the north aisle or chapel are two effigies of the Cliffords. A fair called "Frying Pan" Fair, was formerly held at Frampton, and may be held there still.

Lunch was served at the Bell Hotel, and afterwards the members found much to interest them in the Manor Farm, on the north side of the green, which is named after the famous Fair Rosamund, and tradition places an upper room in the house as that where she first saw the light of day. Canon Bazeley, however, told the members that the same tradition holds good of other houses.

Re-crossing the main road, and travelling east, Leonard Stanley was soon reached. On the journey, the party noticed on the right a lake of considerable size, with a plantation of young trees bordering it. The lake came into existence as the result of the carting away of thousands of tons of gravel for use in the construction of Avonmouth Dock.

On reaching Leonard Stanley, the party at once made their way to the priory church.

The chequered fortunes of the earlier house of Berkeley are traced in an article by the late Sir Henry Barkly in vol. viii. of the Society's *Transactions*. The line commences with three Roger de Berkeleys in succession, father, son, and grandson. It is the second of these, Roger de Berkeley II, who was the founder of Leonard Stanley Priory. His death is said to have occurred "a few months before Michaelmas, 1131"; and this is the only clue to the date of the foundation, which would seem to lie near the year 1130, or perhaps a little earlier.

Roger II, and his father before him, had been at serious issue with the Benedictines at Gloucester. In his father's case this ended in a reconciliation, Roger I entering St. Peter's Abbey, 1091, and dying a tonsured monk of that house. Roger II was apparently inflamed against the Benedictines on account of benefactions given by his father, and this probably induced him to incline to a different order, and to make Leonard Stanley (as he did) a house of Austin Canons.

The late J. H. Middleton, F.S.A., in an article of particular interest on the priory church¹, points out that here the aisle-less church, with its central tower, is the very type of a *Canons'* church of the period, as distinguished from the churches of other orders.

The Manor of Stanlege had come to Roger II from his childless uncle, Ralph de Berkeley, its Domesday possessor, and the essentially Saxon dedication of the parish church to St. Swithin suggests the inference that a church already stood upon the manor. It is perhaps worth considering whether the priory chapel,² with its herring-bone masonry and other traces of early work, may represent that earlier Saxon church, or part of it.

The site of the priory church and buildings was carefully selected, on the rising ground above "Seven Waters," with an abundant supply of water issuing from the hill, and here before or about A.D. 1130 the conventual buildings of modest but massive type began to rise.

The dedication to St. Leonard, confessor, Frenchman, disciple of the great Bishop Remigius, friend and patron of prisoners, seems like a Norman protest against the Saxon dedication of the parish church. Thereafter the sixth of November must have been a day of special observance at Stanley. It is this dedication to St. Leonard which has for nearly eight centuries distinguished this Stanley from its once royal neighbour King's Stanley.

The inclusion of ancient church-lands at Berkeley in the endowment give the foundation the appearance of an act of restitution. Earl

¹ *Trans. B. and G. Arch. Soc.*, vol. v.

² Now in the farmyard, and used as a cattle shed.



Godwin had filched the lands of the nuns of Berkeley, and the de Berkeley family were perhaps not quite comfortable in the possession of them. Anyhow "the prebend which Bernard the chaplain had in Berkeley, and all the lands which he had held in Berkeley Hernesse in franc almoigne," together with the churches and tithes of Arlingham, Coaley, Ozleworth, Slimbridge, and Uley, also houses and lands in Stanley town and elsewhere, formed the principal part of the original endowment given by Roger to his Black Canons. The inclusion of the Berkeley prebend may account for Sabricht or Tabrith, Canon of Berkeley, being the first recorded prior.

These endowments were confirmed by Roger de Berkeley III, son and heir of the founder.

So small a foundation proved too weak to hold its own during the troubled reign of Stephen. The founder's son, Roger de Berkeley III, gave it, for the sake of protection, to St. Peter's Abbey, Gloucester, King Stephen confirming the gift at the request of Walter de Lacy, Abbot of Gloucester, who died A.D. 1139. Perhaps this transfer of a house of Austin Canons to a Benedictine Monastery was not very easy to effect, for it does not seem to have been completed, with the consent of Tabrith the prior and his canons, until 1146, when it was brought to an issue under the auspices of Simon, Bishop of Worcester. It would be interesting to know under what conditions and on what terms the transfer was consented to.

In 1156 the priory received from Roger de Berkeley III the Rectory of Cam, and either then, or shortly after, the lands in Stanley called Five Acre Grove. The donor had then but lately been despoiled of his extensive Manor of Berkeley, and restored to the Honour of Dursley. He died 1170. This Roger III had a daughter, Alice de Berkeley, married to that Maurice Fitz-Harding who dispossessed him of Berkeley. Her son, Robert Fitzharding of Berkeley, increased the endowment with a mill ("*cum scopiolis*"), messuage and lands at Coaley at some time before his death in 1219, and a few years later his brother and successor, Thomas Fitzharding of Berkeley, induced Thomas de Bredone, Abbot of Gloucester, after a law-suit, to give up the Rectory of Slimbridge in exchange for the farm and Manor of Loringe, A.D. 1224. At some time the little priory became possessed of other lands at Ebley, Stinchcombe, Owlpen and Easton Grey; of tithes at Nympsfield, Beverston and Aylburton, with portions or pensions from the Rectories of Dursley and Dodington, some of which may have been part of the original endowment, and some have resulted from transactions connected with corrodies and from various exchanges.

The whole life of the priory did not extend, perhaps, beyond 409 years (c. 1130-1539). During those four centuries we seem to have no

record of any special distinction in learning or piety of the alumni of the house. It is said that some years ago a memorial stone in the south transept of the church recorded the death in 1190 of Prior John Cross, a doctor of divinity. When John Gamage was elected Abbot of Gloucester in 1284, one of the electors was Thomas de Tyringham, Prior of Leonard Stanley, who was possibly identical with the Thomas de Tyringham who viewed the rentals of the Berkeley Estate in 1288. The Furney MS. mentions a Prior Peter of early date.

Known references to this priory seem to be very scanty. A confirmation of "lands" to the prior and monks occurs in 1268. In 1276 there is mention of the fourth part of a knight's fee, presumably in Stanley, which Henry de Berkeley had anciently given to the Prior of Leonard Stanley. In 1375 King Edward III grants to Richard de Northland the corrody at Leonard Stanley, which John Minsterworth formerly had there.

The following list contains the names of some of the priors :—

A.D. 1146	SABRICHT, or TABRITH, ¹ the Canon.
c.1190	JOHN CROSSE, D.D. ²
1284	THOMAS DE TYRINGHAM. ³
—	PETER, ⁴ the Prior.
1510	WILLIAM MONYNGTON. ⁵
1516	RICHARD WOLRYGE. ⁶
1535	JOHN RODLEY. ⁷

Of these priors something has already been said of the first four. William Monyngton voted in 1510 with his monks, Hugh Morton and John Grene, at the election of Abbot Newton. He was afterwards, in 1516, Prior of St. Guthlac's, Hereford, another cell of Gloucester Abbey. Richard Wolryge had been Prior of Bromfield in 1510. In 1516 he voted, with his monks Robert Dursley and Thomas Braunche, at the election of Abbot William Parker, *alias* Malverne. He was still Prior of Stanley when, on August 31st, 1535, he had to sign the instrument acknowledging the royal supremacy. As he was not a pensioner in 1539, he was probably then dead. In October, 1535, John Rodley occurs as prior in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, and he was afterwards admitted as third Prebendary of Gloucester Cathedral at its foundation, September 3rd, 1541.

¹ Consents to transfer the priory to St. Peter's Abbey, 1146. *Cart. Mon. Glouc.*, i, 113.

² Said to be buried under the vestry floor in the south transept. *Cotteswold Nat. Field Club Proc.*, 1865, p. 10.1

³ Present in 1284 at the election of John Gamage, Abbot of St. Peter's, Gloucester. *Cart. Mon. Glouc.*, iii, 22-26; *Jeaye's Cat. of Berkeley Muniments*, p. 308, No. 22.

⁴ *Furney MS.*

⁵ *Cart. Mon. Glouc.*, iii, Introduction, p. xxxiv.

⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. xxxiv, xlix, liij.

⁷ *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol. ii.

Early in June, in the year 1539, the Abbot of Gloucester received a letter from King Henry VIII, in which the monarch expresses a pious regret that so "noble and solempne" a church as Gloucester Abbey should be ill furnished with a sufficient number of monks, and desires the said abbot to recall the monks remaining in the cell of Leonard Stanley. He further requests the abbot to grant a ninety-nine years' lease of Leonard Stanley Priory and all its endowments to his vice-chamberlain, Sir William Kingston, Knt.

Accordingly, by indenture (July 18th, 1539), the whole was so demised to Kingston, except "the rectory and parsonage of Camme and Stynchcombe," the advowsons of churches and part of Buckholt Wood in Frocester, from the 1st of October in that year, at a yearly rent of £36 13s. 4d., to the abbot, and of £8 2s. 4d. to the king for tenths, and a further payment of £40 to the abbey on each succession after the death of the leaseholder and his successors, the said Kingston to pay the Curate of Stanley and all customary charges, with license to pull down and alter such of the buildings as are not convenient for his occupation, he keeping the whole in good repair, and holding the abbot and convent quit of all claims in respect of the property.

At the Dissolution the gross income of the priory amounted to £126 os. 8d., net £106 17s. od. Among the annual payments was one of 5s. to Nicholas Wikes, who must have been a descendant of the founder. £6 was paid to the Parish Curate of Stanley, and £13 6s. 8d. to the Vicar of Cam. Thomas Lane was then steward and John Stradlinge bailiff. The largest item of income arose from the Rectories of Cam (£39), Arlingham (£16), Coaley (£15) and Leonard Stanley (£7 6s. 8d). The perquisites of Stanley Manor were but 6s. 8d., but the rental of tenements in Stanley town amounted to £13 16s. 8d. The Rectories of Ozleworth and Uley had been alienated, only the advowsons remained to the priory.

The lease to Sir Wm. Kingston included specifically the "priorye church theire and the chappellys and cloyster to the said priorye belonging." Whatever this may have been intended to include, and one would naturally suppose it to cover the chancel, transepts, and tower, which had belonged to the priory, in contradistinction to the nave, which was the parish church, duly screened off by a wall from the monks' part, the abbot considered the four bells and the priory clock in the tower to be still the property of St. Peter's Abbey. Accordingly on November 4th, 1539, only thirty-five days after Sir Wm. Kingston's lease came into force, he sold for £30 to John Stradlinge, Gent., Richard Selwyn, Robert Partriche and John Towson, clothiers, on behalf of the parishioners, the said "iiij. bells and a clocke late callyd the pryorye bellys and clocke of Stanley aforesaid." It was one thing to buy the bells and

quite another to get access to them. Perhaps there were difficulties. However, six days later Sir Wm. Kingston executed a ninety-nine years' lease to the same four representatives of the parish and to all the parishioners "for the use of the tower and the ringing of the bells there" . . . "with free ingress and egress through the same tower and church at all tymes convenient for the only usinge, exercisinge and ringginge of the bells and clocke now hanged or beyng in the tower . . . and alsoe to breake up and make a way into the said church and tower for the recourse of the said parishioners for the use aforesaid." The parishioners to repayre the said tower." It is dated 10th Nov., 30 Hen. VIII. It is probable that the entrance which the monks had to the tower was under the roof and above the ceiling of the south transept. The way that the parishioners were "to break up and make" may refer to the existing stairway up the tower or to a way through the stone wall that screened the parish church (nave) from the priory church (choir and transepts).

A note to the documents recording these transactions informs us that Sir W. Kingston surrendered his ninety-nine years' lease to Henry VIII, taking another lease for seven years from the Court of Augmentations, and he afterwards obtained "a graunt in fee of the premisses from the king by his letters patent the estate of which Sir W. Kingston therein Mr. Sandford by sufficient parchments now hath." One of the Sandford family built the classical Manor Farm which now occupies the site of the monks' living rooms, in the gable of which is carved a fine blazon of the Sandford arms.

For an architectural description of Leonard Stanley Church, with ground plans and lithographed drawings of many details, see the late Professor J. H. Middleton's invaluable paper in the fifth volume of our *Transactions*, pp. 119-32. This volume is rather scarce, owing to most of the surplus copies having been destroyed in a fire at the printers', c. 1881; but members who do not possess it can obtain it for 10s. 6d. on application to the Hon. Treasurer.

The illustrations of Leonard Stanley are reproduced from pen-and-ink etchings, copied thirty years ago from *Grosse's Antiquities*, 1786-87, vol. viii, pp 75, 76, by Mrs. James Gabb, of Charlton Kings. The drawing of the conventual kitchen, with the openings in the roof for the escape of the smoke, is particularly interesting, as the building was long ago destroyed.

Mr. A. BARNARD added a few details as to recent discoveries, and said it had been found from examination that the two transepts, as Professor Middleton had anticipated, were chapels, and one had two altars, and the other probably an apse. He explained the plan of the church, pointing out there was formerly a screen across separating the people's

church from the canons' church. The whole of the work was probably about the beginning of the twelfth century, and they had transitional work on the capitals.

CANON BAZELY added a few words, and said the architect and the archæologist could spend several hours with profit in seeing the interesting things in the church. While it was a Norman church, the tower was fifteenth century, and a copy of the Norman style.

Leonard Stanley Priory, which was founded by Roger de Berkeley II about 1130, was visited, and the party subsequently strolled through the pretty little village to the National School, where they were entertained to tea by the Vicar, the Rev. G. W. Barnard.

After a pleasant ride, Stonehouse was reached, and the party returned by early evening trains, having spent a thoroughly enjoyable day, thanks to the guidance of the President, the control of the Secretary, and the care which had been bestowed on the programme by the President and the Rev. W. Symonds.
