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**Proceedings at the Autumn Meeting at Gloucester, Tredington,
Stoke Orchard and Swindon**

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Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

PROCEEDINGS

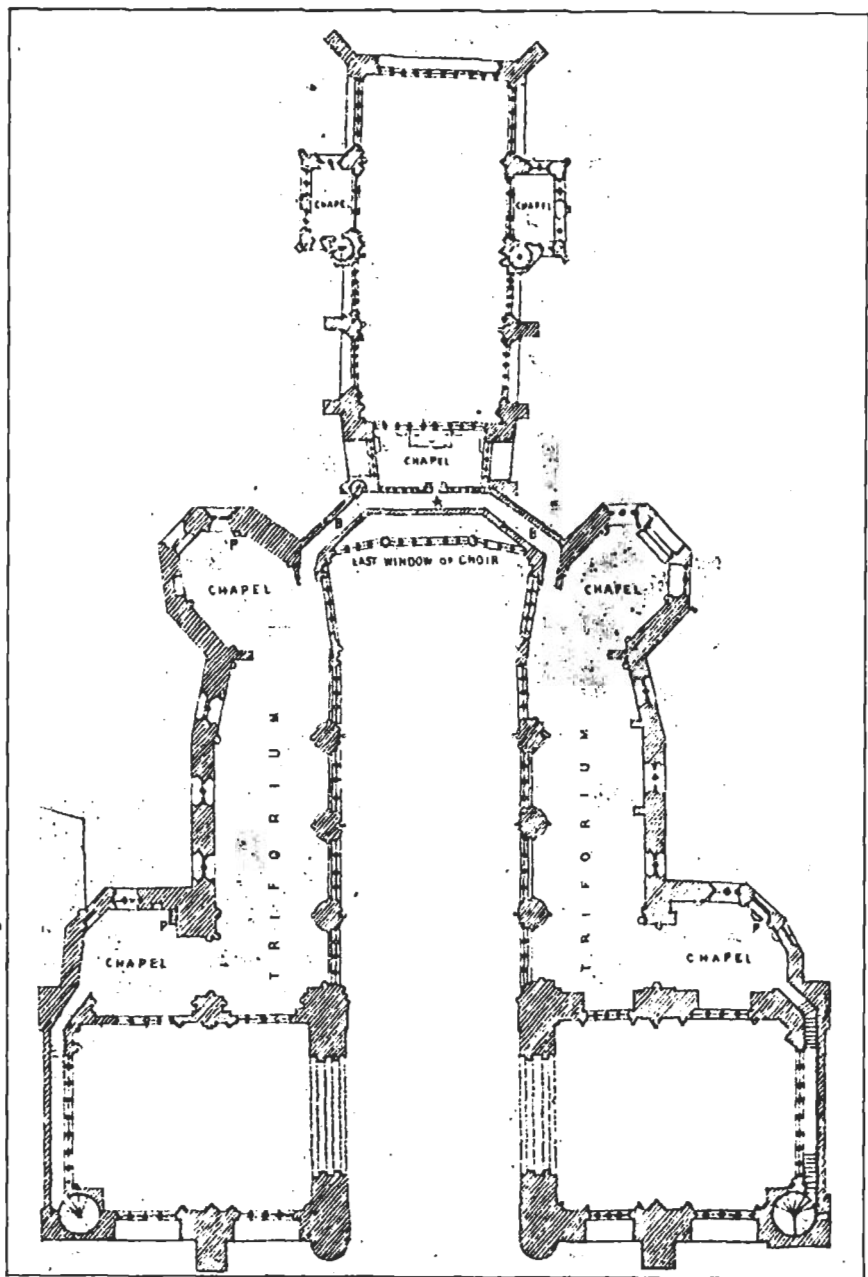
AT THE AUTUMN MEETING,

AT GLOUCESTER, TREDINGTON, STOKE ORCHARD AND
SWINDON,

September 2nd, 1913.

A LONG period has elapsed since our members have had an opportunity of visiting Gloucester Cathedral at one of their regular meetings. The ground they covered on this occasion, which was made the more interesting by the inspection of the Church and Manor House of Tredington, and the churches of Stoke Orchard and Swindon, was last visited by the Society in 1889, under the presidency of Mr. Agg-Gardner, M.P. A return to the Cathedral of Gloucester was made out of compliment to the President, the Lord Bishop of Gloucester, who had sung the praises of his fine edifice when he had attended the Wells meeting in the summer, as it were, to adjust the balance of his sympathy between the two dioceses. Gloucester Cathedral was therefore visited by members, with the exception of the nave, which was closed on account of the necessary preparation for the Three Choirs Festival. And as the crypt and triforium were also withheld from view, the examination was confined to the eastern portion of the building, to the choir and its transepts, the presbytery with its ambulatory and chapels, and the lady chapel. In the south transept more than a hundred members and associates had assembled to hear a brief address from the Sub-Dean, the Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, to whose Mastership a canonry of the cathedral has been annexed since 1713.

After listening to the Sub-Dean the members were divided into parties under his guidance, as well as that of Canon Bazeley and Mr. Waller, to whose care as an architect is entrusted the maintenance of the fabric of the Cathedral, as well as that of Tintern Abbey. They explained the architectural beauties, and narrated the history of this eastern limb, with its story going back to St. Petronilla's Chapel in the first Abbey Church of St. Peter, Gloucester, founded by Osric in 681. In all probability this early chapel was on the site of the northern chapel of the lady chapel, a supposition which leads to its being the burial-place of the Northumbrian king and his sister, Kynenburg, the first abbess. Mr. Waller had much of interest to say about the amazing architectural delicacy of the panelled facing superimposed upon the older and heavier Norman pillaring of the choir, and explained what risks the architect of the fourteenth century took in supporting a beautiful and heavily-embossed vaulting upon the slender support of this Perpendicular facing. Risks were undertaken which would not be dared to-day, and yet the venture was justified, as it had stood the test of five hundred years, and had not shown signs of decay until the fall of stone from the vaulting near the episcopal throne a few years ago—greatly endangering the bishop's life—led to a careful survey and to necessary repairs. The builders of Perpendicular days also trusted to fortune in the delicate fabric of the tower, which they had raised three times higher than that of the Norman building—to 250 feet—without enlarging the Norman foundations. This venture has also stood the test of centuries, although the top story of the tower is only nine inches thick, or the size of a brick, in the depth of its panelling; and it has to carry the weight of pinnacles at each corner of twenty tons each, and also to withstand the wind pressure, often equivalent to many tons, of a gale blowing up the Severn Channel. Across the north and south transept arches of the tower are the exceptionally beautiful and ingenious flying arches, designed to give æsthetic finish rather than architectural support to the groining of the roof. These light arches, which seem suspended in mid-air, have served Mr. Waller as an index of the stability of the tower. They are the lightest piece of masonry in the building, and would be the first to be affected by any subsidence or defect in the heavy masonry above. He compared them to a doctor's thermometer, and held them in great esteem. A visit was also made to the library, where some of the manuscripts dating from monkish times were shown, and in the Lesser Chapter House were arranged several books of great value, one being the Coverdale Bible, dated 1536. It is one of two perfect copies, the other being recently sold by Lord Jersey for £500. The valuable Saxon MSS. narrating the life of St. Mary of Egypt were also exhibited in this room.



GLoucester Cathedral, CHOIR AND LADY CHAPEL.

Canon Bazeley gave an address in the Boteler Chapel of the Cathedral on the rule of Abbot Boteler, 1437-50 A.D., and on the heraldry and sculpture of the reredos and the floor tiles. In his opinion it bears internal evidence that it was used as a chantry chapel by the Abbot and the Boteler family. It is situated at the north-east angle of the choir, and has five unequal sides. The reredos, which has been much injured, still contains twelve statuettes and many heraldic shields though by no means all the shields that were originally there. The nine principal statues have disappeared. They were probably destroyed or removed from their brackets in 1548, and the twelve statuettes which remain appear to represent twelve of the Apostles, including St. Paul.

The following notes were written for the programme by Canon Bazeley :—

In 1330-37 the south transept, called in the abbey registers St. Andrew's Aisle, was transformed from Norman into what we see at present: the earliest example of Perpendicular work in existence. The chapel on the east, with its ancient reredos, was decorated by the late Mr. Gambier Parry with wall paintings illustrating the history of St. Andrew.

St. John Baptist's Chapel on the north contains the remains of the reredos erected by John Tyron. In the ambulatory we have two chapels, one called St. Philip's on the south-east, and another known as Boteler's Chapel on the north-east, dedicated to the Holy Trinity and in honour perhaps of St. George or SS. Edward and Edmond. In the north transept, St. Paul's Aisle, transformed in 1368-73, we have the chapels of St. Thomas of Canterbury on the east and St. Dunstan on the south. The vestibule of the lady chapel stands on the site of the eastern Norman chapel, destroyed about 1345 in order to make room for the great east window, unless indeed the de Willington lady chapel in 1224-27 was a new erection, and not, as many believe, merely the adornment of the Norman apsidal chapel.

The lady chapel, built between 1457-99, principally in the reign of Edward IV (1461-83), has a chapel on either side with a minstrels' gallery above. The chapel on the north side probably occupies the site of St. Petronilla's Chapel in the first abbey church of St. Peter, Gloucester, founded by Osric in 681. If so, here was the burial-place of the Northumbrian king and his sister, Kyneburg, the first abbess.

The whole of the eastern limb is very rich in sculpture, stained glass, tombs, mediæval floor tiles, heraldic shields and badges, and ancient inscriptions, but the vast majority of visitors give but a hasty glance at all these treasures of ancient ecclesiastical art.

Boteler's Chapel derives its name from Reginald Boteler or Boulars, Abbot of St. Peter's, Gloucester, from 1437 to 1450.

It bears internal evidence that it was used as a chantry chapel by the Boteler family. It is situated at the north-east angle of the choir, it has five unequal sides, and is separated from the ambulatory by a light stone screen. The brackets remain which supported the back of the altar, but the slab and the legs on which the altar rested in front are gone.

The reredos, which has been much injured, still contains twelve statuettes and many heraldic shields, though by no means all the shields that were originally there. Mr. Dugdale very kindly photographed the statuettes for me, and about 1880, with the help of Mr. J. D. T. Niblett's notes, I copied the bearings of the shields. Mr. Howitt some years later drew them for Mr. C. H. Dancy, and I believe his drawings are now in the public library. See also Fosbrooke's *History of Gloucester*, fol. p. 128.

A few days ago I examined these shields again and found that the heraldic bearings and tinctures had become during the last thirty-three years still more indistinct and difficult to decipher.

I now propose to describe the statuettes and shields. The nine principal statues have disappeared. They were probably destroyed or removed from their brackets in 1548 by order of council, dated February 11th (*Dixon's Hist. of Church of England*, II, 492).

The twelve statuettes which remain appear to represent twelve of the apostles, including St. Paul. (1) Apostle holding book in right hand and staff in left, (?) St. Jude. (2) St. Matthew with a locked tax gatherer's purse hanging from his right wrist. (3) An apostle holding a boat in his two hands, (?) St. Simon Zelotes. (4) St. James the Less with fuller's club and book. (5) St. Bartholomew with flaying knife. (6) St. Paul with sword and book. (7) St. Peter with book and key. (8) St. Philip with three loaves. (9) An apostle holding up his right hand and grasping a halberd with his left, (?) St. Thomas. (10) St. John with serpent coming out of a chalice in right hand and palm branch in left. (11) St. James the Great with pilgrim's staff and the book of the gospels in his hand and cockle-shells on his cloak. (12) St. Andrew with his transverse cross.

Upper row of Shields:—

(1) and (25) "Argent a cross gules," ST. GEORGE.

(3) "Gules seven mascles 3.3. and 1. argent," GUISE.

(4) "Ermine a millrind sable," MILL OF HARESCOMBE.

(5) "Quarterly per fess indented argent and azure," ACTON OR LANGLEY.

(8) "Gules a chevron ermine between ten crosses patty argent," within a bordure of the last. BERKELEY OF BEVERSTONE OR STOKE.

(11) "FRANCE quartering ENGLAND."

(12) "Gules diagram of the Holy Trinity or."

(16) "Or a chevron gules," STAFFORD.

(18) "Gules three covered cups or," BOTELER OF HARDWICKE,
ABBOT BOTELER.

(19) "Argent on a quarter gules a rose or," BRADSTONE.

(21) "Argent a fesse sable in chief three hurts," LANGLEY OF
SIDDINGTON.

(22) "Gules three lions passant in pale argent," GIFFORD OF
BRIMPSFIELD.

(25) ST. GEORGE.

Lower row of Shields:—

(1) ST. GEORGE.

(2) "Argent a stag's head cabossed gules," A PARKE, BOTELER AND
TYRE OF HARDWICKE.

(3) "Gules a fesse checky or and azure," WHITTINGTON OF
PAUNTLEY.

(4) "Sable a cross fleurie or within a border engrailed argent, in the
first quarter a mullet pierced of the second," GREVILLE.

(5) "Or between two bendlets gules an escallop in chief sable,"
TRACY.

(6) "Gules on a chevron argent three bars gemelles sable,"
THROCKMORTON.

(7) BERKELEY.

(8) "Gules a fesse between six martlets or," BEAUCHAMP.

(9) "Quarterly argent and gules 2nd and 3rd fretty or, over all a
bend sable," DESPENCER.

(10) FRANCE quartering ENGLAND.

(11) "Azure a cross fleurie between five martlets or," EDWARD THE
CONFESSOR.

(12) "Sable two keys in saltire surmounted by a sword in pale or,"
(tampered with), ST. PETER'S ABBEY.

(13) "Gules two swords in saltire point downwards argent pommelled
and hilted or bladed argent," ST. PAUL.

(14) "Azure three crowns or," ST. EDMOND.

(15) ENGLAND quartering, "lozengy" (Fosbrooke says "2nd and
3rd or a cross azure").

(16) "Argent and gules three fusils in fesse gules," MONTACUTE.

(17) "Argent a fleur de lys between three bulls' heads cabossed
sable," WALROND OR BULLEYN.

(18) "Azure an eagle displayed within a double tressure fleurie
counter-fleurie argent," VAMPAGE.

(19) " Azure a chevron between three falcons' heads erased gules,"
CASSEY OF CASSEY COMPTON AND DEERHURST.

(20) " Or a chief indented azure," BOTELER.

(21) " Argent on a bend sable three calves passant or," VEALE.

(22) " Argent on a cross sable a leopard's face or, in dexter chief a fir-cone gules" (Fosbrooke says " pomegranate"), BRYDGES.

(23) " Sable two bars sable within a bordure gules," DEANE.

(24) ST. GEORGE.

Fosbrooke gives many of these shields, but the tinctures are not always as above. It is impossible to be sure of them. I have to thank Mr. F. Werc, who has examined the reredos since our meeting, for some suggested corrections. Rudder has confused this chapel with that of St. John Baptist, which is at the north end of the south transept, behind the choir stalls. On the floor of Boteler's Chapel are many interesting tiles bearing (1) three covered cups, (2) a fish, (3) a cross fleurie between two birds, (4) a lion's head reversible, etc., etc. There was also an escutcheon in this chapel bearing three golden cups, but it disappeared long ago.

After lunch members travelled by motor car or motor brake to see Tredington church which was described by Canon Bazeley.

The Manor of Tredington was part of the great lordship of Tewkesbury, and shared its fortunes until the time of Henry VII, when it passed into the hands of the king. Queen Mary granted it to Anne, widow of Sir Adrian Fortescue. Sir Francis Fortescue was lord in 1608; William, Lord Craven, in 1712; Augustus Berkeley Craven in 1785; and William, Earl Craven, in 1825. But none of these dwelt at Tredington. The principal resident landowners in the time of King James I were Thomas Surman, Charles Cartwright, and Charles Bick. The following descendants of Thomas Surman appear to have been owners of a house and estate in Tredington: John Surman, died 1687; William Surman, who married Jane Packer, an heiress, died 1742; William Surman, died *s.p.*; his brother, John Surman, in possession 1803; and John Surman, D.L., who gave a flagon to the church in 1887.

A stream called the Swillgate, which rises at Marl Hill, Cheltenham, flows through Swindon, Stoke Orchard, and Tredington towards Tewkesbury, and there are many traces of the ancient road, known as the Ridgeway, which passed through the same villages. It was along this road that Edward IV marched on May 3rd, 1471; and he spent the night before the Battle of Tewkesbury at Tredington, either at the old rectory or the manor house. The advowson of the living belonged to Llanthony Priory, and after the Dissolution to the Fortescues and Cravens. The Bishop of Gloucester is now the patron.



TYMPANUM OF NORTH DOORWAY, TREDINGTON.

The Church of St. John the Baptist consists of a nave with south porch, south and north doorways, and a western bell tower, rebuilt in the nineteenth century, and a chancel.

There was a chapel attached to the north side of the nave.

The Norman south doorway is of two orders with a hood-moulding decorated with pellets and dragons' heads. The inner order springs from detached shafts and carved capitals. The north doorway, now bricked up, has an interesting Norman tympanum. The subject of the carving may be the adoration of our Lord by two evangelists. The central figure holds a pastoral staff, but has no nimbus. The door with its ancient ironwork has been removed to a private residence. It surely ought to be repaired and replaced.

Let into the floor of the porch are the fossil bones of an ichthyosaurus, or some other extinct saurian. How they came there I know not.

The plaster has been stripped from the inner walls. This gives the church a cold, vault-like appearance which was never intended by the original builders. The plaster should be replaced.

The low, twelfth-century chancel arch remains, and there are traces of the rood beam and rood loft. In the rood beam are mortice holes for the crucifix and the figures of St. John and St. Mary. A stone seat runs along the north side of the chancel. Some fragments of stained glass remain. There is an aumbry, or cupboard for the sacred vessels, in the east wall of the chancel. The altar rails are Jacobean, of the time of Archbishop Laud. It has been thought that the carved flat stone, covering a nameless tomb, opposite the entrance to the south porch, is the original altar slab. If this could be shown to be the case, the slab should be placed on the Holy Table, which is now too small for such a large chancel, and lacks dignity.

In the churchyard are the steps and a very attenuated shaft of a fine fourteenth-century cross. On the summit of the shaft, which is 12 ft. 8 in. high, a Maltese cross has been placed in modern times. There are holes drilled in the shaft indicating that some object has been affixed to it. A cross of similar date at Stalbridge, Dorset, has attached to its shaft a figure of the patron or donor beneath a crocketed canopy.

The ancient wooden campanile was replaced in 1883 by a half-timbered tower, the gift of the late John and Elizabeth Surman. The five bells were cast by the Rudhalls at Gloucester, three in 1700, and two in 1760, and bear the names of William Surman, William Cartwright, and Charles Bick. The nave is ceiled with plaster and is ornamented with rude figures.

The communion plate consists of a small Elizabethan chalice and

paten cover, hall-marked 1576, and a flagon given in 1887 by the late Mr. and Mrs. John Surman.

The parish register dates from 1550, but is imperfect.

In the autumn of 1610 the plague raged at Tredington, and a fourth of the inhabitants perished. It broke out again in the spring of 1611, and three members of the Cornwall family were buried within eighteen days. It would be an interesting inquiry whether there are more than the usual number of deaths recorded in 1610 and 1611 in the registers of neighbouring Gloucestershire parishes.

The illustration of the tympanum has been very kindly lent by Charles E. Keyser, Esq., F.S.A., from his beautiful work on Norman tympana.

On leaving the church the party went to Tredington Court where they were courteously received by the owner, the Rev. W. Surman Mansell.

The party then left for Stoke Orchard, which derives its name from the family of le Archer, who held the manor from the time of Richard I till 1350. Lettice, wife of Robert the archer, paid four marks for having her dowry near Clevee, A.D. 1196 (Rot. Pip. 7 Ric. I). In 1285 Nicholas the archer held part of Stoke Archer of the king *in capite*, by the service of the serjeanty of finding one man with bow and arrows in time of war for forty days at his own cost (Kirby's quest). He died in 1309, seized of 240 acres of arable and five acres of meadow land, his son, Edmond le Archer, being his next heir, aged forty years and more (Inq. P. M. 2 Ed. II, No. 39). Edmond died in 1314, his son, Geoffrey le Archer, being his next heir, aged twenty-one (Inq. P. M. 7 Ed. II, No. 7). Geoffrey died in 1349, leaving his daughter, Joan, wife of Sir Thomas Berkeley of Coberley, his sole heir, aged twenty-four (Inq. P. M. 24 Ed. III, No. 74). After the death of Joan, who married as her second husband William de Whyttington, her Manor of Stoke passed to her son, Thomas of Coberley. He died without issue, leaving his manor to his half-brother, Sir Thomas Berkeley. This knight died in 1405, leaving by his second wife, Elizabeth Chandos, two daughters, co-heiresses. The elder, Margaret, who was the wife of Nicholas de Mattesden, had a son, Robert, who died without issue; the younger, Alice, married Thomas Brydges, and had a son, Giles Brydges, Lord Chandos, who after a while inherited the whole manor (Inq. P. M. 47 Ed. III, No. 551, and 6 Hen. IV, No. 5). See also *Trans. B. & G. Arch. Soc.*, vol. xvii, pp. 96-125. In Queen Elizabeth's reign the manor of Stoke Archer passed by marriage to Sir John Kennedy, and he sold it to Sir Richard Baker. The Bakers sold it to the Baynings, who held it for four generations. It then became the property of the Rogerses of Dowdeswell.



Stoke Orchard

Another manor was held by the de Clares, Despencers, and Beauchamps, and came to the Crown after the death of Anne Neville. Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, died in 1314, seized at Stoke Archer of one capital messuage with garden and curtilage adjoining, 230 acres of arable land, seven acres of meadow, two acres of pasture, and a certain old water mill (Inq. P. M. 8 Ed. II, No. 68).

One of the ancient manor houses probably stood on the site of the Manor Farm, now occupied by Mr. Thayer. Parts of the moat remain.

The church of Stoke Orchard, a chapel of Bishop's Cleeve, consists of a nave and chancel, with a campanile or bell turret over the chancel arch. The nave has north and south doorways and small round-headed windows deeply splayed. The shaft and impost of the chancel arch are Norman, the arch itself is Perpendicular.

The side windows of the chancel are square-headed, and the late fourteenth-century east window is pointed with two lights. There are mural paintings on the west wall. There is a similarity between the Church of Stoke Orchard and Postlip Chapel. The font is Norman.

The communion plate consists of a slender chalice and a paten cover, with the hall-mark of 1618. The two bells have no inscription. See *Trans., B. & G. Arch. Soc.* vol. xiv, p. 201, and vol. xxviii, p. 32.

The view of the church is from a sketch by Mr. Petit, 1847.

The company then made their way to Swindon, which appears to have been part of the original endowment of St. Oswald's priory, Gloucester, granted by Ethelred and Etheltheda in 909; but in the time of the Confessor, Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury, obtained possession of it. Stigand was deposed by the Conqueror, and the manors belonging to St. Oswald's which he held in Gloucestershire, Swindon, North Cerney, Churchdown, Hucclecote, Compton Abdale, and Widford (now in Oxon), were placed under the protection of Thomas, Archbishop of York, and remained in the hands of his successors till the dissolution. Parishes thus held have no history. Their inhabitants lived and died in peace. I find Robert Moryn paying aid for making the Black Prince a knight in 1349, for half a knight's fee in Swindon. A hundred years earlier Simon Moryn, "lord of Swindon," leased his null "below Arle" to Simon the Chaplain, son of Michael the Miller of Arle, and Simon gave it to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Gloucester (*Calendar of Glos. Corp. Records*). Simon Moryn was the son of Robert Moryn, a coroner of the county, who died in 1246. The Moryns were a Gloucester family who gave their name to Moryn's Mill on t'Wyver, which, however, passed out of their hands in 1220. The chaplain's deed of gift (Cal. No. 478) contains many Swindon place-names, amongst others the Sandy Way, *i.e.* the Sarn, a British or Roman road. The mill was called Priest's

Mill, no doubt because of the gift of it by the Chaplain. It was on the Swillgate; but his father's mill at Arle was on the Chelt. Priest's Mill existed within the memory of many inhabitants of Swindon in the field opposite the church, but it has now entirely disappeared.

After the Dissolution all the manors of St. Oswald passed into lay hands. Swindon was held successively by the families of Clifford of Frampton, Walwyn, Trotman, Ashmead, Stormy, Stratford, Beale, and Stratford. A branch of the Surman family lived at Swindon Hall, and it passed with an heiress to the Goodlakes.

The Church of St. Lawrence, Swindon, consists of a nave with aisles, a chancel, and a western hexagonal tower. The nave, with the exception of the east wall of the south aisle, was entirely rebuilt about seventy years ago, and is therefore not of archaeological interest. The chancel was also restored, but it retains its fourteenth-century character. The chief interest of the church lies in its hexagonal tower, which has been ably described by Dr. A. Harvey in the *Proceedings of the Clifton Antiquarian Club*, vol. v. It seems probable that this tower was built as a nave of a small Norman church, and that the nave, destroyed about 1845, was an after-thought of the twelfth-century builders. As at Ozleworth, which we visited last year, each face of the uppermost stage has a two-light Norman window with a semi-circular arch.

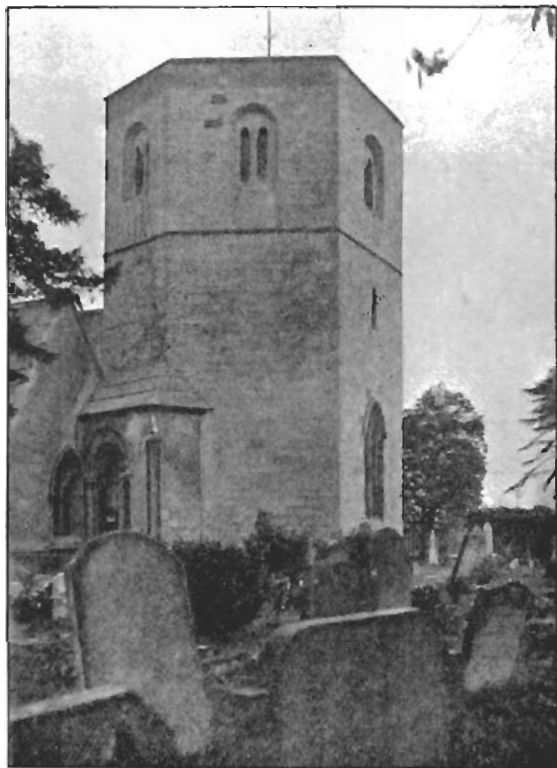
A fourteenth-century traceried window was inserted in the west face in the fourteenth century, when much else was done to the church. There is a Norman doorway with moulded arch, jambs and shafts in the north-east face of the tower. A porch of Norman character was added in the nineteenth century. Internally the tower has three stages; but there is evidence that before the fourteenth-century window was inserted the tower was open to the roof.

The tower arch, which is eleven feet wide, is ornamented on the west side by massive circular shafts with plain Norman capitals, whereas on the east side it is perfectly plain. This fact, and the unusual position of the doorway on the north instead of the west face, certainly favour Dr. Harvey's contention that this tower, though comparatively small in area, was intended by its builders to serve as the nave.

The blocks of these illustrations of Swindon Church have been very kindly given to this Society by the Clifton Antiquarian Club.

Members then drove on to Arle House, where they were most kindly and hospitably welcomed by Mrs. Welch, who provided afternoon tea.

Canon Bazeley was asked by Mr. F. Were to call the attention of our members to the dials scratched on our church walls, with a view to notes being made of such as exist. They appear on fifty or sixty churches in Somerset and on many churches in Gloucestershire.



TOWER OF SWINDON CHURCH.

Sometimes pieces of the gnomons are found in their holes. The dials are commonly from five to seven ft. above ground, and vary according to the orientation of the church. No figures are found, but holes marked the time of day as the shadow of the gnomon fell upon them. It is supposed that these dials were made for the use of the clergy and the ringers.

After the Bishop had expressed the thanks of the members to Mrs. Welch for her kindly hospitality, the company separated for their homes, most of them finding their way by motor cars to Gloucester.

And so ended a very pleasant day. The thanks of members are due to Mr. Roland Austin, who so kindly discharged the duties of Local Secretary, to Bishop Mitchinson, Canon Bazeley and Mr. Waller, for conducting them round the Cathedral, to the clergy of the churches visited, and to Mrs. Welch for so courteously receiving them at Arle House. A special word of thanks also is due to Canon Bazeley for preparing the archaeological notes for the programme, which proved to be so helpful.