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ASTON PARISH CHURCH

ITS ANCIENT HISTORY  
AND MODERN RESTORATION.

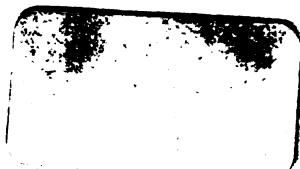
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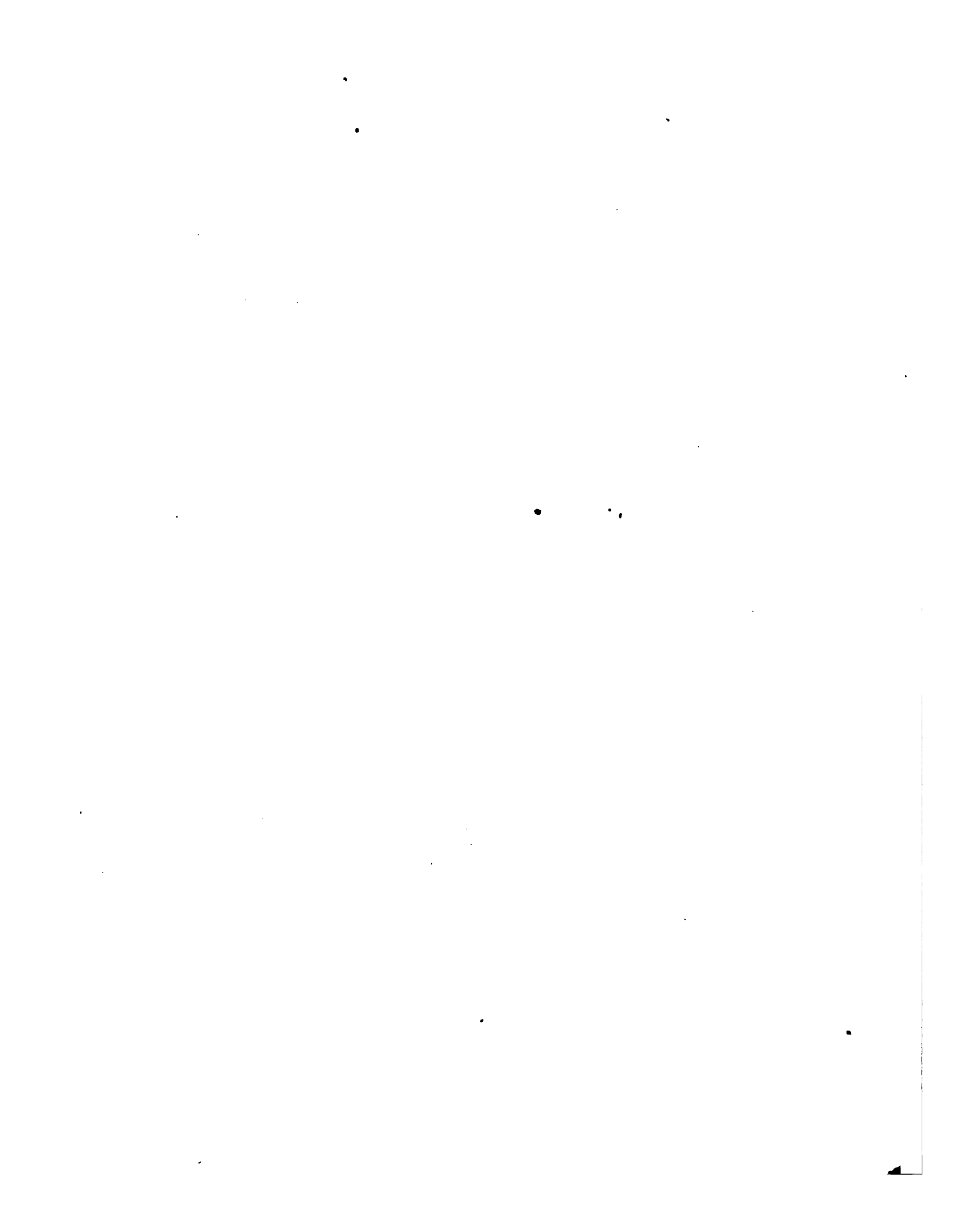


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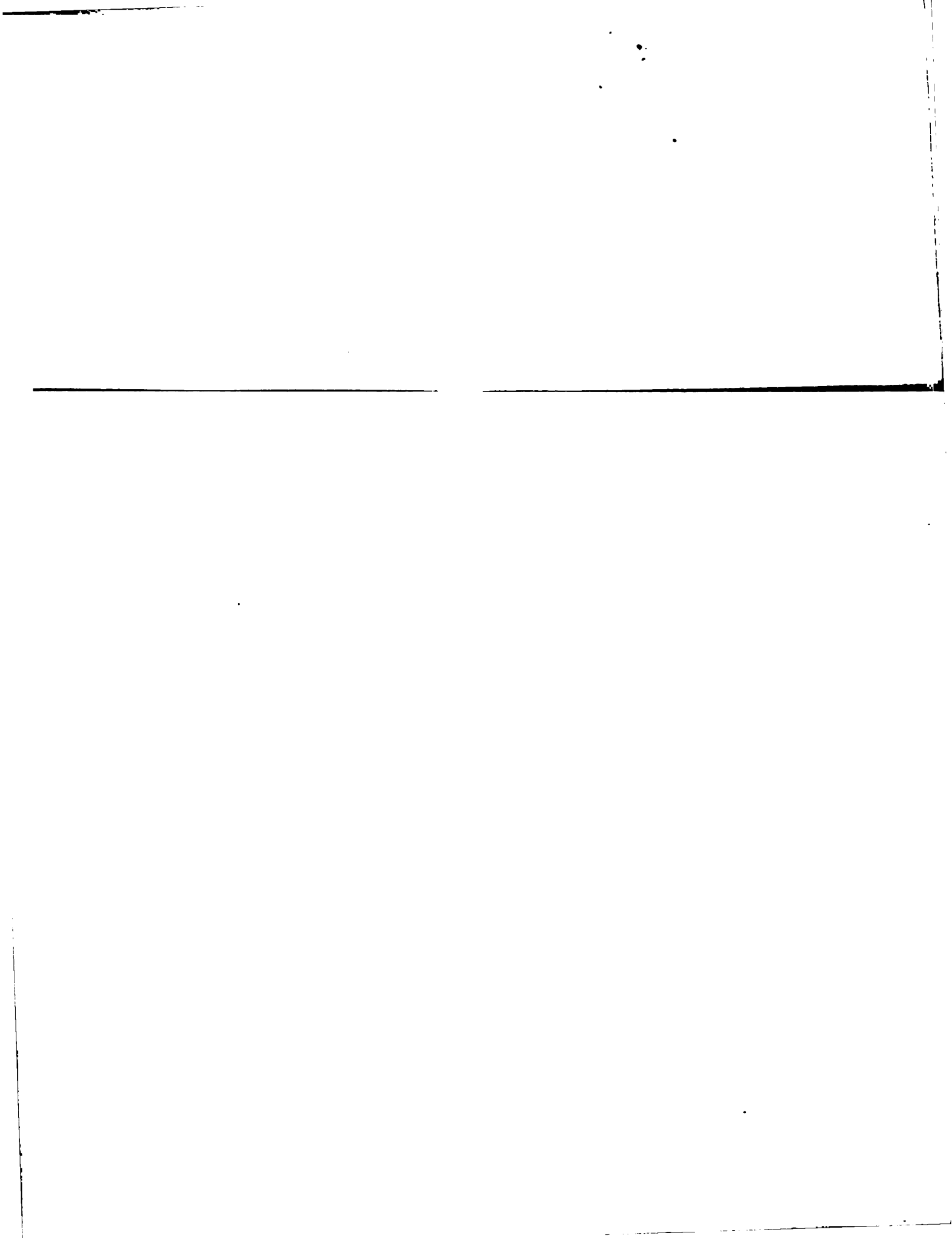




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ERRATA.

- p. 14, Line 1\*.—For Somegi read *Someri*.  
p. 20, Line 13.—For Unique read *Cingue*.  
p. 27, Line 5.—For Aspah read *Asaph*.  
p. 61, Line 13.—For Aætatis read *Ætatis*.



ASTON PARISH CHURCH:

ITS ANCIENT HISTORY,

AND

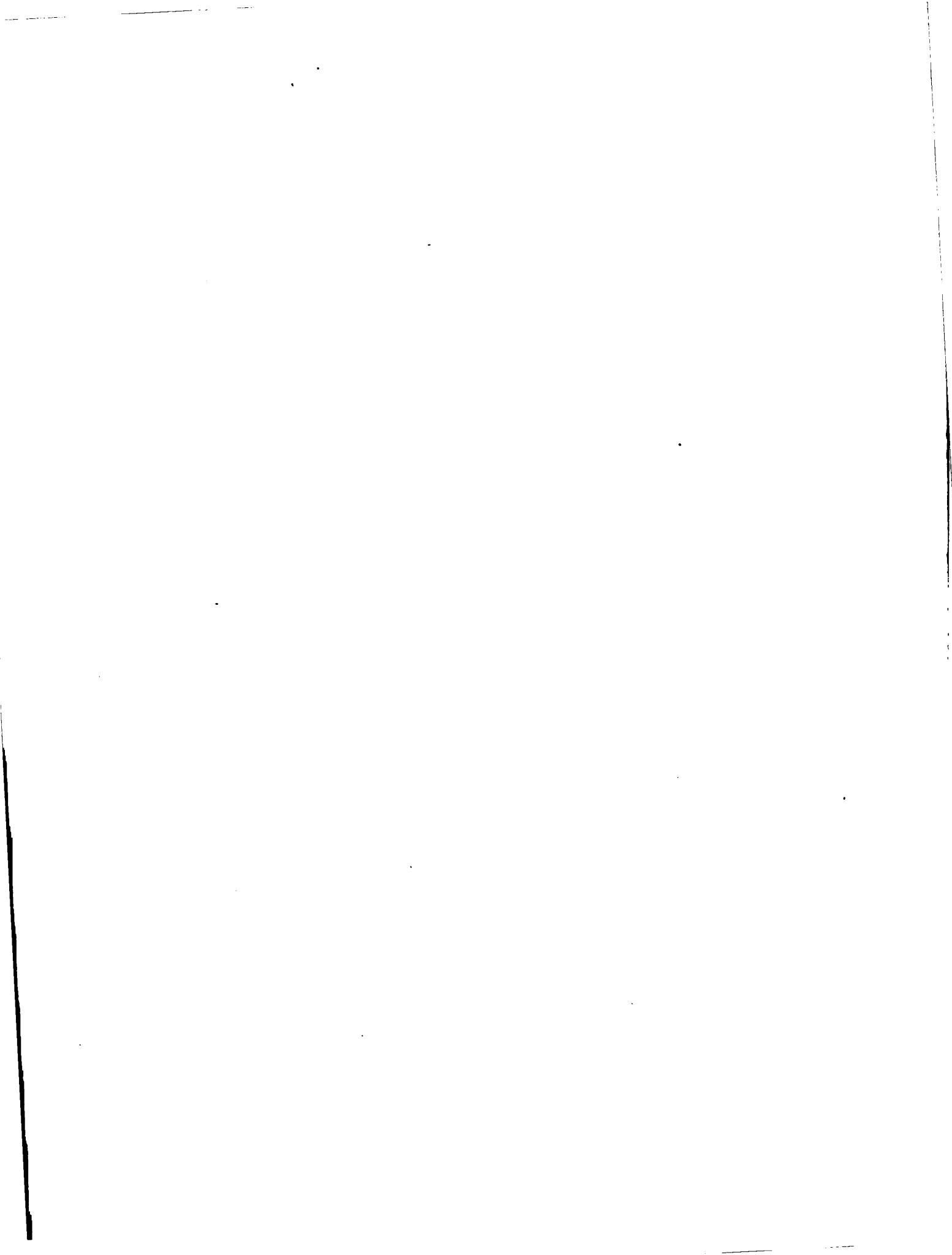
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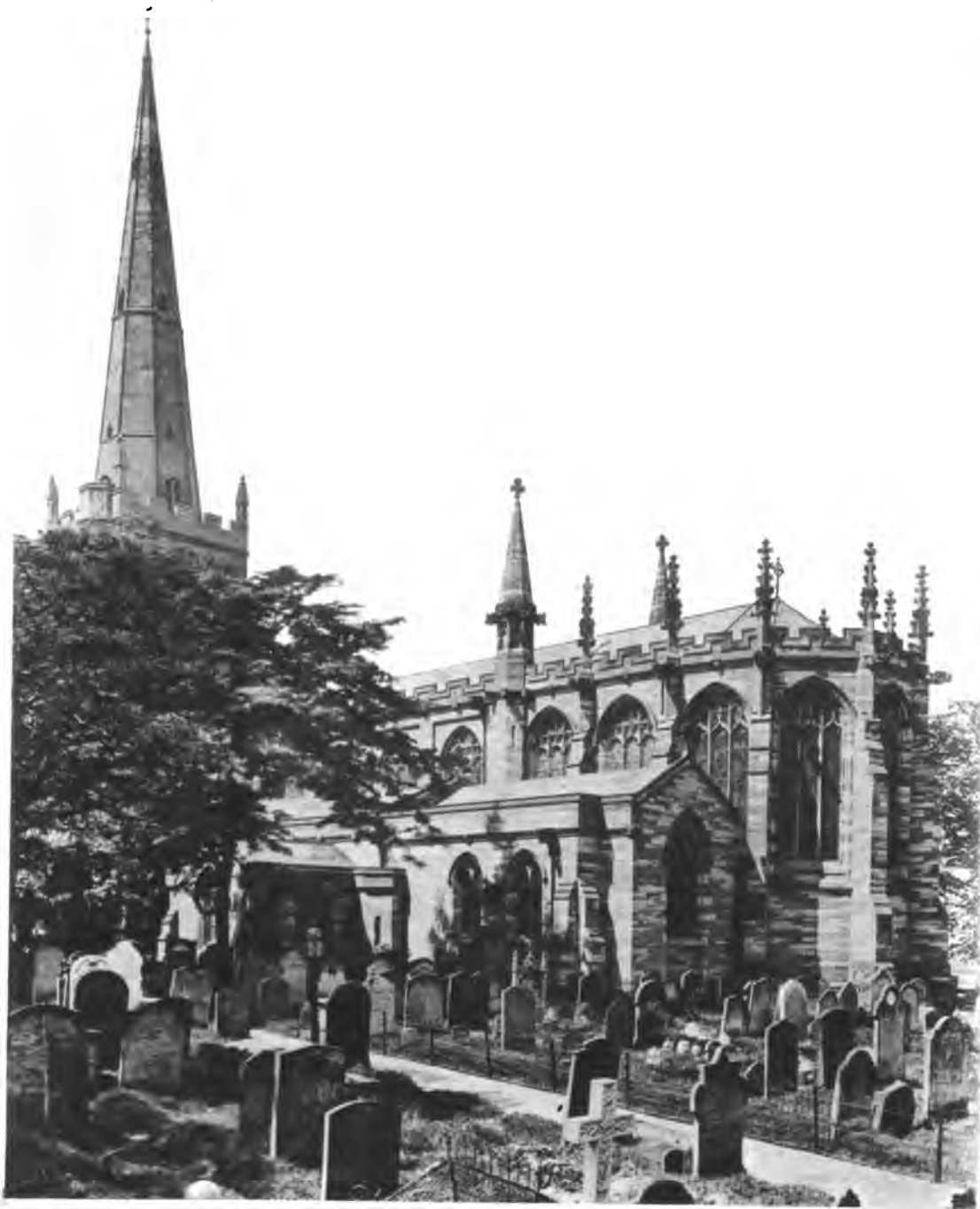


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**1889.**





ASTON CHURCH. THE NEW EXTERIOR.

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THE  
PARISH CHURCH  
—OF—  
ASTON-JUXTA-BIRMINGHAM:

ITS ANCIENT HISTORY,  
—AND—  
ITS MODERN RESTORATION,



—BY—  
REV. W. ELIOT, M.A.,

*Vicar of Aston and Rural Dean.*

BIRMINGHAM:  
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1889.

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# ASTON PARISH CHURCH.

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## CHAPTER I.

### ITS ANCIENT HISTORY.

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Remains of Old Cross in the Erdington Chapel.

**T**HE Spire of \*Aston Church has pointed many generations to the home above. When it was first erected there is no record to inform us; and the date even of the Tower on which it rests is only a matter of architectural conjecture. But if history is silent on these points it records very distinctly the antiquity of the parish of which the Church has formed the centre of Christian light from before the days of the Norman Conquest. A local antiquary has surmised that the Church cannot claim an earlier date than some year after that event, which opinion he thinks is strengthened by the fact that

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\**Aston*, originally *Estone*, *i.e.* the town East from Wordsbury (Wednesbury) a town of some note in Saxon times.—DUGDALE.

the Church is not dedicated to a local or English saint but to S.S. Peter and Paul. But against this suggestion must be quoted the statement by Dugdale, to the effect that at the time of the Domesday Survey, A.D. 1086, a Church existed here, and, if so, it undoubtedly stood on the same site as the present building occupies.

However this may have been the first authentic fact connected with the parish is the statement in the Domesday Survey that Aston was then held by †Godmund, a Saxon, under William Fitz Ausculf, who was Lord of Dudley. He was succeeded by Gervase Paganel, who owned land in Buckinghamshire as well, and gave his name to Newport Paganel in that county, where there was then a Monastery known as Tykeford Priory. This Priory had been founded in the reign of William II. by Fulk Paganel, and Gervase, when he succeeded to the property at Aston, gave to the Priory the Living of the Church at Aston; and the monks of Tykeford retained their right in it for fully three and a half centuries. For some reason which is not stated, the monks in 1231 obtained a ratification of Gervase Paganel's grant from Giles de Erdington, to whom in return for his compliance with their request, they granted the benefit of their prayers and offices for himself and his heirs for ever. Thus the living was retained by the Priory down to the reign of Henry VIII.

During these three hundred years very little authentic history is recorded. That little however is interesting. In the first place we learn that in 1346 a license was granted for a chaplain to officiate at the hamlet of Overton (Water Orton), at the cost of the inhabitants of that place. Incidentally the account of this license bears testimony to the early existence of the Chapelry of Castle Bromwich, out of which the Chapelry of Water Orton was taken.

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†The Godmunds are said to have possessed a hall or house near the Church, which was inhabited by the Lords of the Manor until about 1367, when it fell into decay. But as no trace whatever of this house has ever been discovered it is a matter of considerable doubt whether it ever really existed.

Thirty years later (1381), at the urgent request of the men of Deritend and Bordesley a "proper Chapel," as it was termed, was erected at Deritend. It was picturesquely situated by the high road which then ran between an avenue of trees. The reason given for its erection in the deed under which the original chapel was built is clearly and distinctly stated to have been the distance of the hamlets of Deritend and Bordesley from the Parish Church of Aston, and the inconvenience, especially in winter time, of repairing to Aston for religious purposes. Another reason has been given by Mr. Toulmin Smith. He states that the men of Deritend and Bordesley were imbued with the spirit of Wickliff, and desired a chapel and chaplain of their own on account of their religious views. But for this interesting statement there does not appear to be sufficient foundation, and "the first chapel of the Reformation" is in reality nothing more than a pleasing fiction. It was for physical convenience and not from religious antipathy to the views and doctrines of the Vicar of Aston that this third chapel was erected within the confines of the extensive parish.

In the next century, about 1449, Sir Thomas de Erdington founded a chantry in Aston Church for one priest to celebrate divine service daily at the altar of the Blessed virgin Mary for ever for the good estate of King Henry VI., and of himself and Joyce, his wife, during their lives in this world, and for the health of their souls hereafter. The original Piscina remains in the old wall of the south aisle and marks the position eastward of the old Chantry. After the dissolution of Chantries the endowment of Sir T. de Erdington was given to Richard Pallady and Francis Foxall, citizens of London, by letters patent, dated 9 Sept. 2 Ed. VI., and in the next year another patent gave it to Thomas Hawkins, *alias* Fisher of Warwick, who had married a daughter of William Holte of Duddeston. The tomb of Sir Thomas de Erdington, after several changes, has found what we may believe will prove its last position in the restored chapel which bears his name.



The next century was marked by that religious movement which was destined to bring great and blessed changes to England, and which affected every parish in the Kingdom. Amongst other changes involved in the Reformation was the suppression of monasteries and the confiscation of their property. Henry the VIII. gave the Living of Aston to Cardinal Wolsey, together with the property of other monasteries, for the purpose of endowing his colleges at Oxford and Ipswich. The Cardinal gave Aston to his college at Oxford, afterwards known by the name of Christ Church.\*

The century of the Reformation was followed by that which witnessed the great disturbance of English social and political life. The flame of civil war in which the country was involved did not spare Aston. The Hall, the seat of the Holtes, was attacked by the Parliamentary forces, and it is doubtless to this event that the following insertion in the Parish Register is due. That record states that in the year 1643 Edward Smart, a soldier, was buried on the 13th December, and that five soldiers were buried on the 28th day of December. These five men no doubt fell in the attack on the Hall by 1,200 men of Cromwell's forces on December 26th and the two following days. Sir Thomas Holte had applied to

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\* In the reign of Edward VI. the Church possessed two chalices and v bells, one of them broken, a velvet cope, a tunycle without an albe of the same sute, vii towels, iiii table clothes.

I am indebted to Mr. Carter for two events connected with the Church in the 16th century.

In 1532 the church was forcibly entered and plundered by three men, described as yeomen of London, who carried off a silver-gilt cross and other valuables.

In the reign of Elizabeth the people of Castle Bromwich were taxed with the rest of the Parish for the repair of the Parish Church. They demurred to this as they had a chapel of their own which they had repaired time out of mind, and accordingly on this ground obtained a prohibition against the Parish Church authorities. But this prohibition was afterwards set aside, and the people of Castle Bromwich were held liable for reparation with the rest of the Parish.

Col. Leveson, Governor of Dudley Castle, for a guard of soldiers, and forty musketeers had been accordingly placed in the Hall. Twelve of these were killed, and marks of the attack in which they fell are still visible on the staircase of the Hall.

From that eventful Christmas peace has reigned at Aston, disturbed only by noisy vestry meetings, and by the echoes of stirring events outside pealed forth from the belfry from time to time. In this century the vicinity of the Church presented an appearance very different to that with which we are familiar. The churchyard then extended but a little to the west of the Tower, and there was a wood with a pathway through it from the Church to the Hall Lodge. The Hall was comparatively new, and the Park extended for a considerable distance in the direction of Birmingham. The road to the neighbouring town was a pleasant rural walk, while large commons surrounded the Parish.

The Registers,\* which commence in the year 1544, and the churchwardens' accounts, whose earliest date is more than a century later (1651), supply a few facts connected with the history of the church.

In 1653 the events of the outer world were reflected in Aston, for in that year the churchwardens' accounts record that a sum of four shillings was paid to the ringers for ringing when Cromwell was proclaimed Protector. In the same year an order was received for pulling down the rood loft in the church, and nine shillings were paid to one Foxall for bringing the order. Thus the reign of Puritanism left one of its marks

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\* The Register of Burials dates from 1544, that of Marriages from 1561, and that of Baptisms from 1563; but all are imperfect. All entries from September 15th, 1586, to March 27th, 1591; from October 17th, 1603, to July 10th, 1604; and from 1646, to 1651 are wanting. Also, Baptisms from April 15th, 1566, to December 8th, 1758, and Burials from 1552 to September 30th, 1560, and from March 23rd, 1571, to February 4th, 1582.

on Aston Church. To the same influence I suppose the following entry is due, for Puritanism was by no means wholly destructive. In the year 1654 a pulpit cushion was provided for the preacher at the cost of one shilling and sixpence, and five years afterwards an hour glass was also purchased for his use, indications we may fairly believe of a revived interest in preaching as part of divine worship.

The bells which announced the Protectorate of Cromwell with judicial impartiality summoned the villagers of Aston on May 29th, 1670, to rejoice on the anniversary of the King's (Charles II's) nativity and return day. They also rang in 1685 when Monmouth was taken at Sedgemoor. In the following year (1686) a collection was made in the church for the French Protestants, an indication of the strong sympathy which was felt in England with Protestants on the Continent. Two years afterwards there was another collection for the same object on the occasion of the Thanksgiving for England's deliverance from Popery. The coronation of William III. in 1690 was announced to the villagers of Aston by a merry peal, and two years later they rang to celebrate the victory over the French at La Hogue. But the sounds which they sent forth were not always of a joyful character, for in 1694 they were tolled on the day of Queen Mary's death.

An event of a more domestic character is recorded in the following year. A yew tree was then planted in the churchyard, which does not however appear to have done well for there is a record of another one in 1727. The last event in this century which is recorded in the churchwardens' accounts is the ringing of the bells on the occasion of the King's return after signing the Peace of Ryswick in 1697.

The 18th Century is very barren of incidents connected with the Church. The bells whose sound was heard chronicling an historical event at the close of the preceding century proclaimed again to Aston

early in the 18th Century the capture of Lisle in 1708, and the fall of Dunkirk, and the signing of the treaty of Utrecht in 1712, and they informed the neighbourhood in 1721 that King George the 1st had ascended the Throne of England.

Another incident of a domestic character was deemed worthy of a record in the year 1735. A sum of £2 16s. 9d. was then expended for an umbrella, probably for use at funerals. The fact that umbrellas did not come into general use until a generation later explains, I suppose, the expensiveness of what was then a strange novelty. Towards the end of this century the Church underwent considerable repairs. In 1776 the steeple was "amended," and new bells were placed in it. In 1784 £8 were expended on the purchase of musical instruments for the church, which were probably the immediate predecessors of the present organ. In 1789 a new roof was placed on the church, and new paving was laid on the floor, both of which lasted until the Restoration of 1879-87.

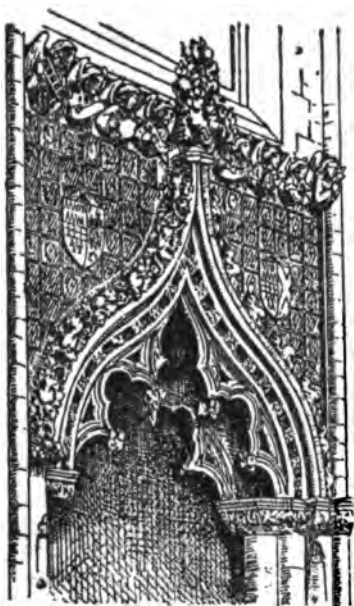
A considerable addition was made to the churchyard in the year 1821, when nearly the whole of the land which lies at the west of the tower was added to the yard. A portion of the land which was then purchased was excepted from consecration, but a part of this, suitable for burial purposes, was consecrated on April 6th, 1889.

During the incumbency of the Rev. G. O. Fenwicke some fine oak stalls were added to the furniture of the church from the Church of S. Margaret, Leicester, of which Church he had formerly been Rector, and his successor, the Rev. G. Peake, presented a handsome oak pulpit to the church, which has since been replaced by the present marble and alabaster structure which will be described in the following account of the Modern Restoration.



## CHAPTER II.

## THE MODERN RESTORATION.—1879-1887.

I.—*General Description.*

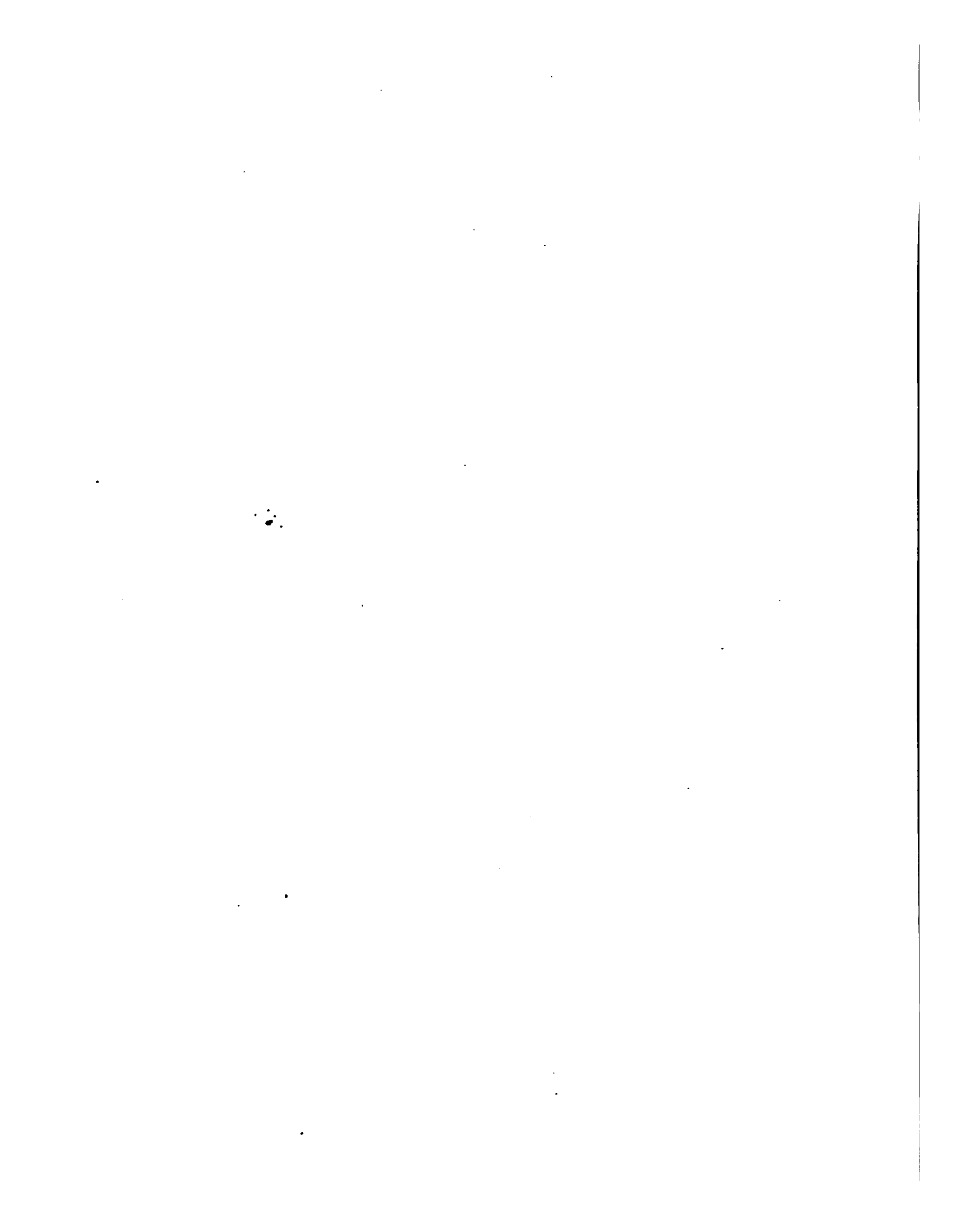
Canopy over the Arden tomb.



THE great growth of population from Birmingham nearly twenty years ago had covered the greater part of Aston Park with streets of brick houses. Thus the lapse of time had not only brought decay to the structure of the Church, but had presented a strong claim for a larger building. The old church which had been sufficient to accommodate the rural population of a large country parish was quite insufficient for the growing needs of a populous town. It was accordingly determined not only to restore the old building but to erect a much larger and more imposing structure, which should preserve the architectural features of the ancient church and restore them to some of the beauty of which they had been deprived by the alterations at the close of the 18th Century.



ASTON CHURCH. THE OLD CHANCEL.



The first portion of this work, which was commenced in 1879, consisted in the removal of the old chancel\* and the prolongation of the nave and aisles in an easterly direction. The new portion of the nave was built over the site of the old chancel, and portions of the churchyard were covered by the extension of the north and south aisles. This work was followed by the erection of the new chancel with the Erdington Chapel on the south side and an organ chamber on the north side. A new vestry was also built on the south side of the church, opening to the Erdington Chapel, and the last portion of the restoration was the rebuilding of the old portion of the nave in correspondence with the new extension, together with the opening of the tower arch and the inclusion of the base of the tower in the western portion of the church. Immediately outside the west door a large tomb-stone marks the spot where rest the remains of William Fowler, who according to the dates on this stone achieved the remarkable distinction of having lived in three centuries, for the date of his death is given in 1804, and his age is stated to have been 107 years. In the centre of the floor of the tower there stands a massive font, the gift of pupils at Witton Hall School, and erected in memory of Mrs. Shyrte and her sister, Miss Bodington, who for many years conducted the school; and under whose care a considerable number of residents in the neighbourhood of Aston passed some of the early years of their lives. The arch under which the visitor walks into the nave is one of the finest features in the church. The restoration has rescued it from the obscurity in which it was covered up by ceiling, organ,

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\* On removing the old chancel four coins were found under the sedilia. Three of them belong to the time of Edward I. of England and one bears the inscription of Alexander III. of Scotland, both current in England at the close of the 13th Century. Coins similar to these were discovered in the bed of the Dove at Tutbury in the year 1831. On that occasion some workmen in excavating part of the river for a mill found about 100,000 coins. They formed the treasure-chest of the Earl of Lancaster which was lost in the river on his flight from the castle in the early part of the 14th Century.—*Penny Magazine*, p. 430.



and pews in the old church, and has brought out to view its graceful proportions and beautiful mouldings. The nave is supported by seven arches, over which large and handsome clerestory windows admit a flood of light, which enhances the beauty of the whole building from roof to floor. The chancel is a prolongation of the nave with an apsidal end, and its floor is laid in marble mosaic. The choir stalls are of richly carved oak with clergy desks at the end. Behind the stalls and under canopies of elaborate tracery are placed some of the raised tombs which were almost hidden from view in the old chancel. In the carving over the canopies are inserted eight shields bearing the arms of some of the ancient families connected with the parish \* The roof of the chancel is in keeping with that of the nave from which it is separated by an arch of wood tracery. The ends of the hammer beams are ornamented with carvings of angels. The organ chamber on the north side contains the old organ, which has been placed there until a new instrument takes its place. The Erdington Chapel on the south side is a reproduction of the old chancel. The floor, like that of the chancel is laid with marble mosaic, the roof and side walls contain elaborate carvings, the windows, three in number, are identical in size and shape with those in the old chancel, but the glass is new.

The tower, which was probably erected early in the sixteenth century, has not been touched externally. It stands 110 feet high, and is of noble proportions. It is divided into four stages, and has a staircase

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\* On the south side the shields have the arms of Somezi, Earl of Dudley, impaled with Erdington, Holte empaled with Burnell. Beneath the last named are the effigies of Thomas Erdington and Alice Burnell. On the north side of the chancel there are shields bearing the arms of Arden empaled with Clodshall and the effigies under them are those of Robert Arden (temp. Henry VI., 1422-1461) and his wife, Elisabeth, daughter of Richard Clodshall. Other shields contain the arms of Arden empaled with Hampden of Buckinghamshire; and of Adderly and Bagot empaled with Arden. The marriages with heiresses of the Ardens which are betokened by the latter empalement took place in the 17th Century.

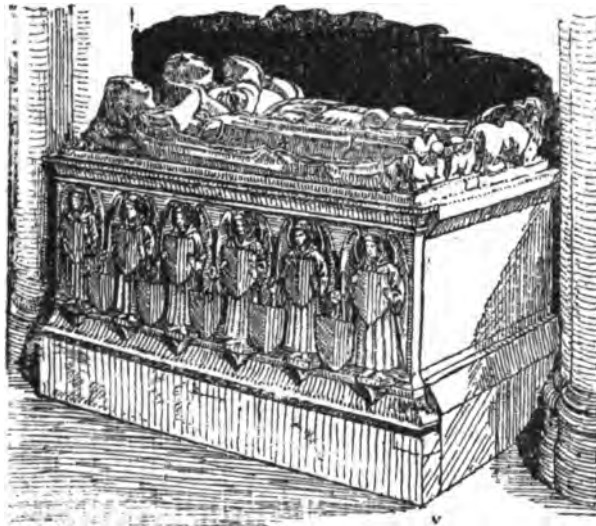
on the south side. Mr. Allen Everitt says:—"This tower has a different character from any in our neighbourhood, and although of late pointed work, yet has a massiveness not often seen." The old belfry floor has been removed, and a new one has been placed above the windows, and thus, by the removal of the organ and its surroundings, the base of the tower has been thrown into the church. The spire which surmounts it is 90 feet high, and is octagonal in shape. It is pierced with three spire lights on each of the sides facing the cardinal points. From the churchwardens' accounts, it appears to have given trouble almost ever since it was erected. Just before the modern restoration of the body of the church was commenced, the vane fell upon the tower, and it was found necessary to take down and re-build eighteen feet at the top of the spire, before the vane could be replaced. Inside the vane were found two newspapers; one of them was "The Mirror of the Times," dated November 10th, 1821; in size rather smaller than a copy of the "Daily Mail," or "Daily Times" of to-day and its price is marked 7d. The other is a copy of "Swinney's Birmingham Chronicle," dated Thursday, June 9th, 1815, which gives the Duke of Wellington's Dispatch, with an account of the Battle of Waterloo, and announces the abdication of Napoleon. Besides these newspapers, there was a circular announcing the re-opening of St. James' Church, Ashted, on Sunday, February 30th, 1830; with a note, "Samuel Marsh put this in, July 21st, 1830." Another piece of paper also gives 1830 as the year in which the repair to the vane was effected.

Such is a general description of the modern restoration, which has preserved the general character of the old work, has rescued much of its beauty from the mutilation effected a century ago, and in making the necessary enlargement has added greatly to that beauty, as well as to the usefulness of the whole building.



### CHAPTER III.

#### THE MONUMENTS.

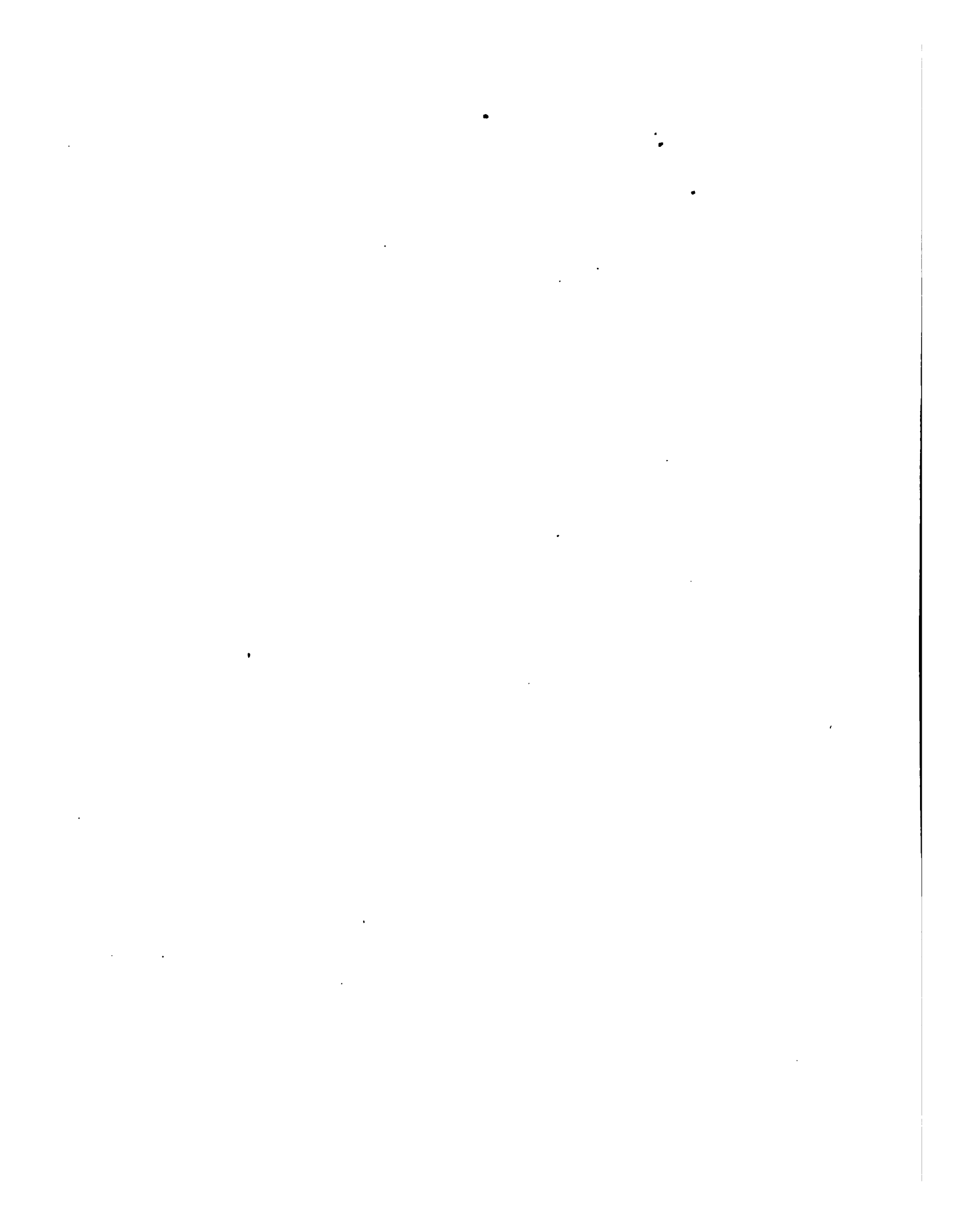


The tomb of Sir Thomas de Erdington in the Erdington Chapel. **I**T has been said "that the especial interest of Aston Church centres in its monumental remains, there being examples of the various styles in use from the 14th to the present century. Side by side we find the raised tombs and effigies of the middle ages, valuable as records of the costumes and as specimens of the art of the early days, the stately structures of the reigns of Elizabeth and of the Stuarts, and the classic incongruities of weeping cherubs, urns and sarcophagi of more recent times. There are few parish churches in which such a perfectly consecutive series of monuments can be found."

There are two groups of monuments of special interest in the church. These will be described first, and the rest will be arranged as far as possible in chronological order.



ASTON CHURCH, THE NEW CHANCEL.



### I.—*The Raised Tombs.*

The earliest, and most interesting from an antiquarian point of view, are the raised tombs of the Ardens and Erdingtons.

Of these the most ancient is the Arden monument, of which the following is a description:—Between the organ chamber and the chancel there is a large raised tomb, divided on the front into twelve square foliated panels. On the tomb are the effigies of a knight and lady. The knight is in plate armour, and wears a bascinet, which has been enriched with lapis lazuli, as have also the camail or tippet of chain mail armour and the belt. The legs, from the knees, are broken. At the foot is the trunk of an animal which once represented a wild boar. The effigy of the lady, represents her with one of the large peaked head-dresses of the 15th century, having many folds or lappets. She wears a necklace, and has a close-fitting bodice, and a long robe reaching to her feet. Her head, like that of the knight, rests upon a cushion, but hers is supported by two angels. This has probably been made up of two tombs, as the knight and front and one end, are of alabaster, whilst the female effigy and the other end of the tomb are executed in grey stone. The knight is in the armour of the time of Richard II., but the head-dress of the lady has more of the character of the next reign, and is similar to one on the mutilated figure on the south side of the chancel. From the arms, this monument must have belonged to the Arden family, who held property in Warwickshire for many generations, and is probably that of Sir T. Arden, of Nechells.

This is the only memorial of the "Arden" family which existed in the church at the time of the modern restoration. Dugdale describes a brass, in the midst of the chancel, which contained figures of a man and woman, with seven small figures, representing sons, underneath the man, and an inscription round the margin of the brass. This, however, has at some unknown date disappeared.

*The Erdington Chapel.*

The Erdington Chapel is so called because it contains monuments of the Erdington family, which originally were erected in the Erdington Chantry, at the east end of the south aisle.

This Chantry was founded by Sir Thomas Erdington, as described on page 7.

These monuments were afterwards—at what date is unknown—moved into the old chancel, where a considerable portion of their bases was buried under the floor. They have now been re-erected with great care in their present positions.

The tomb of the founder of the chantry, Sir Thomas de Erdington, who was knighted in the reign of Henry VI., is the largest erection on the north west of the chapel. He is represented with his head bare, resting on a helmet, and his hair is cut short, according to the fashion of the time. His feet rest on a lion. His wife, Lady Joyce, has a peaked head-dress. She is represented as clothed in a close-fitting bodice and a robe. Over this she wears a cloak, which is thrown open, falling over the shoulders, and fastened at the neck with a brooch.

Next to this tomb, towards the east, underneath another canopy, there is placed the mutilated effigy of a knight, which was found in the year 1859, under the floor of the seats at the west end of the south aisle. The figure is clothed in plate-armour, and wears a bascinet, but without the chain mail. Its date is apparently that of Henry VI.'s reign, and it may probably have belonged to the stone effigy of a lady, under the canopy, on the north side of the chancel, described above.\* No record, however, exists, which leads to any

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\* Mr. Carter has no hesitation in identifying this monument as that of Sir William Harcourt, knight, who, by his will dated 1481, and proved 1494, desired to be buried in the parish church of Aston-juxta-Birmingham, and he thinks that the armour represents that which he wore when a young man, much earlier in the century.

knowledge of the person, to perpetuate whose memory it was erected.

On the south side of the chapel, there is another raised tomb, which probably belongs to the Erdington family. A single effigy of a knight in armour is represented on it, which is supposed to represent Thomas Erdington, the father of the founder of the chantry.\*

Between this and the next tomb, there is placed on a revolving pivot, part of the old cross, which used to stand in the churchyard. It is a good specimen of early English work, and has representations of the Virgin and Child, St. Peter, St. Paul, and the Crucifixion, on its four sides.

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\* Dugdale gives a plate of a tablet over the Erdington tomb, with a latin inscription, to the effect that Sir Robert Holt, Bart., modern lord of the Manor of Erdington, erected this monument in memory of the Erdingtons. The tablet, however, has disappeared. It was probably lost when the tomb was moved from its original position in the south aisle to the old chancel.

Mr. Boutell, in his 'Heraldry,' 3rd edition, page 338, says of the two Erdington tombs:—"In life these knights were certainly contemporaries; probably they were near neighbours, and possibly near kinsmen also; but that they were mortal enemies is clearly indicated by the circumstances that one wears the collar of S.S., while the collar of the other is charged with the suns and roses of York. Long have these

'Knights been dust,  
And their good swords rust.'

Their effigies, however, silently though they repose beneath the same consecrated roof, that has sheltered them for four centuries, have a tale of English history, which they tell eloquently enough to every observant student of historical heraldry."





## II.—*The Holte Monuments.*

The next collection of monuments, both in antiquity and interest, are those belonging to the Holte family which was connected with Aston for several centuries. As this book is a history and description of Aston Church, details connected with the family are not given here, but simply an account of the monuments which record the lives and deaths of some of its most illustrious members. The monuments are not arranged in chronological order on the walls of the church, but I follow the order of time in the details which are given below indicating the positions which the several monuments now occupy.

1. A raised tomb of early 16th Century date, in the north aisle of the church, is the earliest memorial of the Holte family. The front of the tomb is divided by buttresses of two stays into four compartments, in each of which under a unique foiled arch is the figure of an angel with extended wings bearing a shield. The tomb is surmounted by a slab on which rests the effigies of a knight and lady. The knight is in armour, with his head bare resting on a helmet. He wears a surcoat over his armour. The lady has a peaked head-dress, and wears a close-fitting bodice with a long skirt, and has long gloves open on one side at the wrist. The knight's surcoat was painted blue, and the armour a dark red. The panels of the tomb were of an ochre yellow. The angels had blue wings and dark robes, and the shields were emblazoned with the Holte and other arms. This monument represents William Holte, who died in 1514, and his wife, Joanna, daughter of Adam Knight, Esq., of Shrewsbury. Round the ledge on the top of this tomb there used to be the following inscription according to Dugdale, but not a trace of it is to be seen now. "Of your charitie pray for the sole of William Holte, Esquyer, sometime lord of this towne, and Jane, his wife, which William died XXVIII. September the year of houre Lord God MCCCXXVI."

The date is copied exactly from the engraving in Dugdale, but it is manifestly incorrect. The correct date is given above 1514, not as here 1326.

2. On the floor by the side of this tomb is a brass to the memory of Thomas Holte, who was Justice of North Wales in the reign of Henry VIII. It contains portraitures of himself and his wife. Beneath the figures is this inscription :—

Thomas Holte here lyeth in grave,  
 Thu for thyn passion on him,  
 Thou have compassion  
 and his soolle do save.

And round the edge of the stone runs this inscription :—

“Of your charitie pray for the soolls of Thomas Holte, Esquier, late Justice of North Wales and lord of this town of Aston, and Margaret, his wife, which Thomas, deceased the 23rd day of March, Anno D<sup>ni</sup> 1545, whose soules God pardon.”

3. The next is the oldest *mural* monument in the church. It is situated over the raised tomb described above, and has told its tale to the parishioners of Aston for very nearly three centuries. It is made of marble and two figures are represented on it in a kneeling posture opposite to each other. The inscription is as follows :—

Here lieth bured Edwarde Holte, Esquire, and Dorothee, his wife ; which  
 Edwarde was Lorde of this Towne and Patron of this Church or  
 Vicaradge. He was also Lorde of Duddeston and Nechels, and of divers  
 other landes within this Parishe, who died  
 about Candellmas, beinge  
 about the age of one and fiftie years in the  
 XXXV. year of the raigne  
 of Queen Elisabethe, and in the year of our  
 Saviour Christ 1592.

4. The next monument in the series, situated in the next space but one to the east of the last monument, has a Latin inscription :—

H. S. E.  
 Thomas Holte, Eques et Baronettus,  
 Quibus titulis a Jacobo I<sup>mo</sup>.  
 ob Patrie amorem Vitæ Integritatem  
 Morum candorem erga Principem Fidem  
 Erga Pauperes Liberalitatem, erga omnes Justitiam  
 Insignitus est.  
 Flagrante Bello Civili  
 E re sua Familiari confiscata et decima parte semel proscripta  
 Quicquid reliquit Fanatica Rabies  
 Caroli I<sup>mo</sup>. (cui Edwardus filius a Cubiculis fuit)  
 Incarceratus licet in subsidium contulit.  
 Tandem vero œdes Astonianas nobili magnificentia extruxit.

Nec tamen Egenis defuit  
 Quibus Hospitium pari Munificentia Vicinum condidit  
 Eximia ingentis animi Monumenta  
 Cujus memoriæ alterum hoc monumentum  
 Non supervacaneum censuit  
 Carolus Holte, Baronettus Pronepos.  
 Duas habuit uxores Gratiam Gul: Bradbourne  
 de Hogh in agro Derbiensi Arm. filiam et cohæredem  
 Ex qua Quindinam suscepit Subolem  
 Sed nullam superstitem proeter Gratiam Rich. Shukburghi  
 de Shukburgh in agro Warwicensi Militis, uxorem.  
 Annam, Edv. LITTLETONI de Pillerton  
 In agro Staffordiensi, Baronetti Filiam,  
 quam sine prole reliquit viduam  
 Obiit anno { ætatis suæ L XXXIII.  
 Sal. Hum. MDCLIV.

## [TRANSLATION.]

"Here lies buried Thomas Holte, Knight and Baronet, with which titles he was endowed by James I. on account of his love to his country, the integrity of his life, the purity of his morals, fidelity to his Prince, liberality to the poor, justice to all. While the Civil War was raging, although in prison, he sent to Charles I., to whom his son Edward was Groom of the Bed-chamber, all of his estates which fanatical rage had left him, his property having been twice confiscated and once taxed to the amount of one-tenth. But at length he built Aston Hall\* with a noble magnificence, and yet he was not wanting to the poor, for whom he built the neighbouring almshouse † with a similar munificence, striking monuments of his great mind. To whose memory Charles Holte, Baronet, his great grandson, did not think this monument superfluous. He had two wives, Grace, the daughter and co-heiress of William Bradbourne, Esquire, of Hough, in the county of Derby, by whom he begat fifteen children, but none of them survived except Grace, the wife of Sir Richard Shukburgh, Knight, of Shukburgh, in Warwickshire, Anna, the daughter of Edward Littleton, Bart., of Pillerton, in the county of Stafford, whom he left a widow without issue. He died in the 83rd year of his age in the year of man's salvation 1654.

5. The first of the series situated between the first and second windows in the north aisle is in memory of a servant of the family—

Near  
 this place  
 lyeth the body of  
 Henry Charles,  
 Servant for the space of

---

\* Aston Hall was built 1618-1635. Charles I. stayed two nights in the Hall about a week before the battle of Edge Hill.

† The Alms House referred to in this tablet was not erected until 1655-6. The following inscription over the building records its history:—

"This Almshouse was (by the charity of Sir Thomas Holt, late of this town and county, Knight and Baronet, deceased,) provided for and appointed to be built, and was in order thereto accordingly erected by his grandson and heir, Sir Thomas Holt, Baronet, in the year of our Lord God, 1655-6. *Laus Deo.*"

33 years to  
 S<sup>r</sup>. Robert Holte and S<sup>r</sup>. Charles Holte,  
 of Aston, Baronets.  
 He died  
 on the 30th day of January, in the  
 year 1700,  
 and in the 54th year of his age,  
 in memory  
 of whose true and faithful service  
 his Master, S<sup>r</sup>. Charles Holte,  
 caused this monument  
 to be  
 erected.

6. In the space immediately above the raised tomb there is part of a monument, which has found a place among the Holte collection. The inscription is as follows :—

Vir  
 Quem nec Divitiæ nec Honores  
 Neq : ulla Fortunæ dona  
 Illustrarunt.  
 Sed mens rite exulta,  
 Prisca morum sanctitas,  
 Fides metuens mutari,  
 Fecere in Secessu nobilem.  
 Rerum civilium procellis  
 Homo non levis  
 Huc et illuc jactari noluit,  
 Sed studiis amicis et Deo semper vacans  
 in otio literato et Pio  
 Bene delituit.  
 Motus cœlestes et astrorum vias  
 et quicquid Mathesis recludit  
 Aut Physica habet secretius  
 Usque investigans,  
 Per devias naturæ semitas  
 Diligenter explorabat Deum  
 Neminem lædere. assentire nemini,  
 Amicos et pati, et in loco monere,  
 Quicquid novit facile impertire,  
 Sale attico attemperare sapientiam,  
 et verecundam lætitiæ cære,  
 Hæ erant artes  
 Quibus vitæ severitatem lenire  
 et hominibus frui dedicerat.  
 Hocce monumentum  
 Ricardus Cullifordus levir  
 Betticæ navis præfectus  
 Extruendam curavit.

## [TRANSLATION.]

A man whom neither wealth nor honours nor any gifts of fortune adorned, but one whom a mind properly cultivated, an old-fashioned holiness of manner, a faith which feared change, made noble in obscurity. In the storms of State he was not easily moved, and refused to be tossed about from one side to another. But always finding time for congenial studies and for God he sought a happy retirement in literary and pious ease. The movements of celestial bodies and the spheres of stars, and whatever mathematical science discloses or whatever secrets physical science possesses he constantly investigated. Through the obscure paths of nature he diligently sought for God. To hurt no one, to subscribe to no one, to bear with friends and at proper times to admonish them, to impart with ease whatever he knew, to temper his wisdom with attic wit, and to excite modest joy—those were the arts by which he had learned to sooth the severity of life and to enjoy men.

The upper part of this monument has been lost, but its words containing the name of the person to whose memory it was erected are supplied by Dugdale, "Here is buried Charles King, great-grandson and only surviving heir of John, Bishop of London. He died March 2nd, 1712."

These words explain the connexion between Charles King and the Holt family; for Edward Holt, who was groom of the bedchamber to Charles I., married Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. John King, Bishop of London. She buried her husband at Christ Church, Oxford, where he died of fever before the town surrendered to the Parliamentary forces in the summer of 1646.

7. In the space next to the raised tomb eastward, there is another monument belonging to the Holte family, removed to its present position from the east end of the old north aisle. The inscription is in Latin.

H. S. E.  
 Carolus Holte,  
 de Aston in agro Warwicensi, Baronettus,  
 Qui natus XXII<sup>o</sup> die Martii Anno MDCXLVIII<sup>o</sup>.  
 Denatus est XV<sup>o</sup> Junii MDCCXXII<sup>o</sup>.  
 Primarum nuptiarum Filius Patrem habuit Robertum Holte  
 Baronettum matrem Janam Brereton Neptam Gulielmi D<sup>ni</sup>.  
 Brereton, Baronis de Laughlin in regno Hiberniæ,  
 Cujus prænobili familia teneram fere exegit ætatem ubi amoris  
 Et in Deum et in patriam iis imbutus est principiis Quibus  
 Futurum erat, ut sequentis vitæ decensu splendide  
 Uteretur ab iisdem nunquam decesseret.  
 Universitate Oxon: per complures annos Studiis vacavit ubi  
 magistratus in artibus in Medicina Doctoratus suscepit gradus huic

Facultati ideo potissimum incubuit quod post æternæ salutis curam  
 Hominibus utilissimum fore duxit confectos Cruciatu ægrotantes  
 Sublevare per Peritiam in re Medicinali Medicamenta etiam egenis  
 Suppeditando plurimos ad sanitatem reduxit Qui morbis occubuerant  
 Nisi eorum inopitæ pariter ac adversæ valetudini pie subvenisset.

Multa quoq : quæ in medicis ac physicis accuratissime

Notavit penum locupletassent publicum, nisi

Modestia nimis injuriosa ea omnia

Igni devovisset.

Perantiqua e stirpe ortus quum familiæ suæ dignitate præesset,  
 Reipublicæ munia istius modi viris deferri solita ita obivit ut in  
 iis fungendis erga Ecclesiam Anglicanam pietas spectatissima,  
 Erga regem fides intemerata, publicæ simul libertatis studium,  
 Accerrimum Jurisque exquisita et castissima

Administratio semper effulserint.

Hospitio usus est perquam liberali ea tamen prudentia rem  
 Familiarem gessit ut avitas possessiones flagrante rebellionem raptas  
 et vastatas ingentibus insuper quo regias partes defenderint majorum  
 Impensis hand parum imminutas Hæredi reliquerit non modo in

Integrum restitutas sed et multo auctiores

Blandissimus erat atq. indulgens Conjux Pater Providus et

Amantissimus, Lucidum pietatis et charitatis exemplar

Dignus deniq : qui inter optimos viros

Jure merito, nec uno nomine

Annumeretur

M. S.

Monumentum hoc posuit

Vidua ejus Anna filia primogenita et cohæres

Joannis Clobery

Wintoniensis in Comitatu Hantonice Equitis, ex qua

Filios quatuor filiasq : octo suscepit horum

Filius natu maximus

Clobery Holte

Baronettus Titulum atque

Rem paternam

Possidet.

[TRANSLATION.]

Here was buried Charles Holte, of Aston, in the County of Warwick, Baronet, who was born on the 22nd March, 1648, and died 15th June, 1722. He was the son of Robert Holte, Baronet, by his first wife, Jane, grand-daughter of William Lord Brereton, Baron of Laughlin, in the Kingdom of Ireland, in whose noble family he passed nearly all his tender years, where he was imbued with those principles of love, both of God and his country, which he used in the splendid course of his future life and never departed from them. He followed his studies for several years at the University of Oxford, where he took the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Medicine. He gave his attention chiefly to the latter faculty because, next to the care for their eternal salvation, he considered it most useful to men to alleviate the sufferings of those who were in pain by skill and medicine. By supplying medicine also to the poor he restored many to health who would have succumbed to their diseases had he not

piously aided both their poverty and sickness. Many accurate notes which he made on medicine and physics would have enriched the public had not a too destructive modesty committed all of them to the fire. Descended from a very ancient family and surpassing the dignity of all his ancestors, he so fulfilled the duties of the State, which are usually given to men of his rank, that in the discharge of them his marked attachment to the Church of England, his untarnished loyalty towards the King,—coupled with the keenest care for the liberty of the people,—and an impartial and pure administration of justice was always conspicuous in him. He displayed most liberal hospitality, yet he managed his private affairs with such prudence that he left to his heir the possessions of his ancestors—which, in the flames of the rebellion had been seized and injured, and besides had to no small extent been reduced by the great expenses with which he supported the King's side,—not only in their entirety, but even much increased. He was a very kind and indulgent husband, a prudent and very affectionate father, a bright example of piety and charity; in short, worthy to be reckoned not only by name but by just right among the very best of men.

This monument was erected by his widow, Anna, eldest daughter and co-heiress of John Clobery, Esquire, of Winchester, in the County of Hants., by whom he had four sons and eight daughters. The eldest son of these, Clobery Holte, Baronet, possesses the title and family estate.

8. In the last space eastwards of the North Aisle there are two monuments. The higher of the two has this inscription :—

In the vault underneath is  
deposited  
the body of Diana Holte,  
daughter of Sir Charles Holte, Bart., and Dame Ann, his wife,  
She was born on the 8th day of Aug<sup>st</sup>.  
in the year of our salvation 1696,  
and having fought y<sup>e</sup> good fight,  
kept y<sup>e</sup> faith, and finisht her course,  
obtained eternal life whereunto she was called,  
on y<sup>e</sup> 9th day of September 1724.  
In memory of  
whose exemplary virtue  
and most dutiful and affectionate behaviour to her parents  
her afflicted Mother  
caused this marble to be erected.

9. The lower monument has this inscription :—

In memory of Sir Lister Holte, Baronet.  
He married  
1st. Lady Anne Legge, youngest daughter of William,  
Earl of Dartmouth  
2nd. Mary, youngest daughter of Sir John Harpur, Bart. of  
Calke, in the county of Derby,  
lastly, Sarah, youngest daughter of Samuel Newton,  
Esqr., of King's Bromley, in the county of Stafford  
she died 1st April, MDCCXCIV. aged 79.

Sir Lister died without issue 1st April, MDCCLXX. aged 50.

His real estates after the death of  
Charles, his surviving brother,  
He entailed successively on Heneage Legge, Esqr.,  
and Lewis Bagot, Bishop of St. Aspah,  
nephews of his first wife,  
and Wriothesley Digby, Esq., of Meriden, in this County,  
on failure of whose respective issue he gave  
the same to his own right heirs for ever.

This monument was erected  
MDCXCIV.  
as a memorial of his virtues,  
and in compliance with the wishes of his widow  
by her affectionate sister,  
Elizabeth Newton.

10. The last of the series between the second and third windows in  
the north aisle bears this inscription :—

Sacred  
to the memory of  
Sir Charles Holte, Bart.,  
who after a decline of three years,  
which he bore with the greatest patience and resignation,  
departed this life the twelfth of March, 1782,  
aged 60 years.

Sir Charles was the second son of Sir Cleobery Holte, Bart.  
He married in 1755, Ann, the daughter of Pudsey Jesson, Esq., and left only  
one child, Mary Elizabeth, the Heiress of this family, married in 1775,  
Abraham Bracebridge, Esq., of Atherston. By the will of her uncle,  
Sir Lister Holte, Bart., the large estates in this County and other valuable  
possessions were alienated : and his niece, then an infant,  
was deprived of the patrimony of her ancestors.

This monument marks the hallowed spot where the remains of a beloved  
and revered friend are deposited : but it cannot represent the unutterable grief  
occasioned by his death, or convey an adequate idea  
of her gratitude, who for  
twenty-seven years experienced all the happiness  
that the most indulgent and affectionate  
husband could bestow.

These are all the Holte monuments at present in the church.  
Davidson in his history of the Holtes says that there used to be a stone  
on the floor of the north aisle with this inscription :—

In a vault  
beneath this marble rest  
the remains of  
Sir Charles Holte, Bart.,  
and Dame Ann, his wife,



On the adjacent wall of this church,  
she caused a monument to be erected  
to perpetuate the memory of  
the best of husbands.

She died on the 14th of March, 1799,  
aged 65 years, having survived her irreparable loss  
seventeen years.

III.—*The following Monuments belong to the 17th century.*

1. A tablet belonging to the Booth\* family, of Witton, has been removed from the old chancel and has been re-erected on the south side of the Erdington Chapel over the Erdington tomb, and bears this inscription :

Here lieth Will. Booth, of Witto, in com. War., Gent., who had 3 wives, the first Dorothe, daugh. of Rich. Dilke of Kirkby Malory, in com. Leic., Esqr., by who he had issue 6 sonns and 4 daughters, Will., Rich., Edw., Thomas, Percivall and George, Ann, Mary, Dorothe and Joan, the second Martha, ye widdow of Will. Person of Bicknel, in com. War., Gent., by whom he had issue Will. ; thirdly he married Dorothe, daugh. of Edward Sanders, of Flowk, in com , Norc., Esqr., which Will. was buried Ap. 18, 1610.

Underneath the above, forming part of the same tablet, there is this inscription :—

Here also lieth Will. Booth of  
Witto., in com. War., Gent., sonn  
and heire of y<sup>e</sup> above said Willia<sup>m</sup>.  
who married Alice, daugh. of  
Rich. Foxe of Moseley, in com. Wigo,  
Gent., and had by her 7 sonns and 3  
Daugh., Will., Rich., Josep<sup>h</sup> Sam., Benja<sup>m</sup>.  
John and Tho., Elinor, Mary and Sarah :  
wh : Will. died y<sup>e</sup> 23rd of Nov., 1637.

2. The remaining large tomb in the Erdington Chapel, not yet described, is a monument of coloured marble, erected to the memory of Sir E. Devereux, and Lady Katherine, his wife. The effigies are in Jacobæan costumes, and on the front of the tomb are represented their five sons and four daughters in similar dress. Against the wall

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\* William Booth was a friend of Dugdale, whom he assisted in the "History of Birmingham."

at the back is a semi-circular arch and projecting entablature, supported by columns, with Corinthian capitals. Within the arch is a shield of many quarterings, surmounted by helm and crest, and under the shield is a tablet with an inscription which is given below, and this is flanked on either side by projecting oval bosses of grey marble.

Here lieth Edw. Devereux of Castle Brom<sup>wch</sup>. Knight and Baronett, youngest son of Walter Lord Ferrers of Chartley, and Viscount Hereford, by Marga, his second wife, Daug. of Robt. Garnish of Kinto Hall, in comit : SVF : Esqre., who married Kathe. eldest Daugh. of Edw. Arden, of Parkhall, Esqre., by who he had issue 5 Sons and 4 Daughrs. Sr Walter, Kni. and Baronett, Willia<sup>m</sup>. George, Edw., and Henry, Margaret, An<sup>a</sup>. Howard, and Grace Sr Wal. married Eliz., second Daugh. and Heire. of Rob. Bayspoole of Aldeby, in com Norf : Esq., who died w<sup>thout</sup> issue. Secondly he married Elis., second Daugh. of Tho<sup>s</sup>. Knightly of Brovghall, in com Staff., Esq., Brother to Sir Rich. Knightly of Favsley, in com Nort<sup>h</sup>. Kni. George married Blanch, Daug. and Heire of John Ridge, in com Sallop, Gen. Hen. married Barbara, Daugr. and Heire of Rob<sup>t</sup>. Smallbrooke, of Yardly, Gen. Willia<sup>m</sup> and Edward died unmarried. Marga. married Sr Hugh Wrotsley of Wrotsley in com Staff, Kni. Ann married Rob. Leighton, of Wattelsborowe, in com Sallop, Esqre. Howard married Tho., son and heire of Sr Tho. Dilke of Macstoke Castle, in com War, Esqre. Grace, the youngest, w<sup>ch</sup> Sir Edw., died the 22nd of September, An<sup>o</sup> Dni 1622.

At the foot of the female figure on the end of the tomb, there is this inscription :—

Here lieth Ladie Kathrin,  
wife to Sir Edward Devereux,  
who died the 2nd of Novemb<sup>r</sup>. 1627, to whose  
memorie Sr George Devereux,  
her second sonne,  
caused this part of this  
monum<sup>t</sup> to be erected according  
to her command.

3. Another tablet in the Erdington Chapel is affixed to the column of the arch, close to the Vestry door. It was erected in memory of Oliph Boys, and has the following Latin inscription :—

Memorie Sacrum  
pientissimi atq : optini juvenis Olliphi Boys,  
ex antiquâ et generosâ Boysiorum in cantio

stirpe orivndi patre Antonio Boys, verbi divini  
 ministro apud Cullesden in Surria nati in  
 celeberrimâ Wicchamicorum Societate Wintoniæ  
 primum dein Oxoniæ educati bonis literis  
 egregie instructi gradu magisterii in artibus  
 ornati sacrisque ordinibus initiati qui quum unâ  
 et alterâ concione ad populum habitâ magnam  
 apud omnes spem sui et expectationem  
 fecisset gravissimis calculi doloribus interceptus ac  
 demum oppressus hic apud affines suos  
 expiravit die 5<sup>o</sup> Augusti An<sup>o</sup> Dom<sup>i</sup> 1630 ætatis suæ 31  
 Monumentum hoc Dorothea Gilmin  
 mater amantissima L. M. Z. posuit.

OF WHICH THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSLATION :—

Sacred to the memory of a most affectionate and excellent young man, Oliph Boys, who was descended from the old and noble family of Boys, by his father, Anthony Boys, a minister of God's word. He was born at Cullesden, in Surrey, and was educated first in the celebrated School of Wykeham, at Winchester, then at Oxford; was well read in literature, took the degree of Master of Arts, and was admitted to holy orders. Then, after he had by one or two addresses in public raised great expectations of himself for the future in all minds, he was siezed with the severe pains of calculus, and at last died here among his neighbours on the 5th day of August, A.D. 1630, in the 31st year of his age. His most dearly beloved mother, Dorothy Gilmin, erected this monument.

Oliph Boys was brother-in-law of John Grent, Vicar of Aston, who died 1645, to whose memory there used to be a stone on the floor of the Chancel, with a Latin inscription given by Dugdale.

4. The next in point of age, on the south wall, is the following :—

Here lieth  
 William Booth, of Witton, Esq.:  
 Barrister at Law of ye Middle Temple.  
 Eminent  
 For great learning in Antiquitys  
 and his unblemisht integrity  
 in the practice of his profession.  
 He married Esther, y<sup>e</sup> daughter of John Jennens,  
 of Birmingham, Gent :  
 By whom he had issue 4 sons and 4 daughters,  
 of which William was buried April 19,  
 In the 54 yeare of his age, Anno Domini 1673.  
 Only two of his children survived him,  
 William and Alice.  
 William, the last of that name and family, dyed unmarried  
 in ye 21st yeare of his age, and was here buried  
 November the X., 1679,  
 whose pious zeal for the service of God did early appear

in the care he took to adorn the Holy Table of this Church  
with Communion Plate.

Alice married William Allestry, of Walton,  
In the County of Darby, Esq., by whom he had 3 sons,  
Booth, William, and Roger,  
of which only Booth remains liveing.  
Esther, the devout widow of William,  
to whose benefaction this Church oweth  
the linen clothes  
now used at the Communion Table,  
Dyed 5 November, 1696, being 70 years of age,  
and lyeth here buried by  
William her husband,  
and William her son,  
To ye memory of whom she ordered  
this monument  
to be erected.

5. This brass is at the east end of the South Aisle on the floor :—

Here lyeth the body of Mary,  
late wife of Robert Lloyd,  
of Aston, in the county of Salop, Esq.,  
eldest daughter of Sir John Bridgman,  
of Castle Bromwich, in this county, Baronet,  
who departed this life the 25th of August,  
A.D. 1689.

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*The following Monuments belong to the 18th century.*

1. The first monument at the east end of the South Aisle is a large  
marble structure, removed from the old Chancel and re-erected here in  
1883. The inscription is as follows :—

In hopes  
of a joyful resurrection  
lies near this place  
the body of Sir John Bridgeman,  
of Castle Bromwich, in this Parish, Bart.,  
who died August 24th, A.D. 1710, aged 80.  
He was eldest son and heir of Sir Orlando Bridgeman,  
of Great Lever, in the County of Lancaster, Bart.,  
Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England,  
by Judith Kynaston, daughter and heiress  
of John Kynaston, of Moreton, in the County of Salop, Esq.  
He married Mary, one of the daughters  
and co-heiresses of George Craddock, of

Caverswall Castle, in the County of Stafford, Esq.,  
 By whom he had five sons and seven daughters,  
 Orlando, John, George, Orlando. and Thomas,  
 Mary, Judith, Elizabeth, Dorothy, Charlotte,  
 Bridget, and Penelope.

He was justly lamented by all who knew him,  
 being a pattern of Christian Piety, a tender Husband,  
 a most affectionate Father, a steady friend,  
 Liberal to the poor and kind to his neighbours.

Mary, Lady Bridgeman, died Dec<sup>r</sup>. 30. 1713, aged 73.  
 And lies buried by her husband.

Charlotte Bridgeman,  
 out of a filial regard to the  
 memory of her dear and worthy  
 Parents, erected this monument  
 at her own expense,  
 Anno Domini 1726.

2. On the north side of the west end of the Nave there is a marble  
 tablet :—

Near to this place  
 Lyeth the body of the Reverend Josiah Foster, A.M.,  
 Late vicar of this parish,  
 He was a diligent pastor of his flock,  
 A faithful minister of the Church of England,  
 And an exact observer of her ordinances,  
 He was a man  
 Of great integrity, strict temperance,  
 And primitive piety,  
 He was hospitable without extravagance,  
 Charitable without vanity,  
 Humble without mean compliances,  
 And good without affectation.  
 His admonitions were grave and powerful,  
 The repentant found comfort from them,  
 and the obstinate sinner confusion of face.  
 In a word  
 He lived the life of the righteous,  
 And his last end was like His.  
 He married Susannah Jannes, daughter of the  
 Reverend Mr. Thomas Jannes, late Vicar of Sedgley,  
 In Staffordshire, whom he left a widow.  
 She  
 In testimony of his love and affection to her,  
 Caused this monument to be erected.  
 He died October 28, 1727, in the sixtieth year of his age.

## 3. In the South Aisle there is a large marble monument :—

In memory  
 Of Robert Holden, of Erdington, Esq., and Lætitia, his wife,  
 One of the daughters and coheirs of Thomas Levinge of  
 Sheppy  
 In the county of Leicester, Esqr, by whom he had three  
 children, Thomas, Catherine, and Lætitia,  
 and in testimony  
 of the filial duty of their eldest daughter, Catherine 1752.  
 This happy pair preferred retirement  
 'To city noise and courtly gaiety,  
 were frugal, humane, and benevolent,  
 Tender parents, and good to all below them,  
 By few or none excelled in faith or virtue,  
 He { died } 29th July, 1730.  
 She {    } 5th July, 1751.  
 In memory of Thomas Holden, of Erdington, Esqr.  
 who died Novr. 26, 1759, aged 40.

Dugdale gives accounts of other monuments of the Holden family.  
 (1) Humphrey Holden, died 1641 ætat 68. (2) Theodosia, wife of  
 the above, died Nov. 2, 1692. (3) Henry Holden, doctor of physick,  
 one of the Senior Fellows of Magdalen Coll., Oxford, died Oct., 10, 1710  
 (4) James Holden, 4th son of Humphrey Holden, died Feb. 27, 1712.  
 None of these, however, were in the church at the time of the  
 restoration, 1879.

## 4. Then follows a high marble monument, also in the South Aisle :—

Sacred  
 to the memory of  
 Edward Brandwood, Esq., of  
 Little Bromwich,  
 who departed this life Aug. 31, 1731, aged 38 years ;  
 Mary Birch,  
 Daughter of Edward and Sarah Brandwood, and wife of  
 Saml. Birch of Birmingham. She died July 5, 1755, aged 32.  
 Sarah Brandwood,  
 Wife of Edward Brandwood, who died Dec. 2, 1762, aged 66 ;  
 Samuel Birch,  
 who died Aug. 3, 1769, aged 62 ;  
 Samuel Birch,  
 Son of the above said Samuel and Mary Birch,  
 who died Dec. 19, 1775, aged 28 ;  
 Elizabeth Brandwood,  
 Daughter of Edward and Sarah Brandwood,  
 who died April 10, 1781, aged 62 ;  
 Charles Birch,

Son of Samuel and Mary Birch,  
 who died June 27, 1782, aged 29 ;  
 Jane Brandwood,  
 Daughter of Edward and Sarah Brandwood,  
 who died February 20, 1797,  
 Aged 76.

5. An oblong brass tablet in the South Aisle has the following inscription :—

Near  
 this place lyeth ye  
 Body of John Legard,  
 Son of the late Rev. Mr.  
 William Legard, Vicar  
 of Tardibigg, Worcester-  
 shire, by whose quiet  
 agreeable complying  
 Temper was universally  
 beloved. He died Jan.  
 the 16th, 1752,  
 Aged 4 years.

6. The last monument in the South Aisle has the following Latin inscription :—

Sub hoc marmore  
 Requiescit  
 Quicquid mortale fuit  
 Johannis Hansted, A.M.  
 nec non  
 Ecclesie Anglicanæ Presbyteri  
 Dignissimi  
 Qui  
 Per xxxiv. annos  
 Juvenum Gubernator fidus et habilis  
 Concionator doctus et facundus  
 Integrâ Pietate  
 et  
 Singulari Morum Suavetate  
 omnium animos sibi conciliavit  
 Qui tandem  
 Priscâ fide  
 Probitate incorruptâ  
 et  
 Fortitudine vere Christianâ  
 eximie ornatus  
 In spe beatæ Resurrectionis  
 Animam Deo placide reddidit  
 anno  
 cætatis suæ LXI.  
 Christi MDCCLV.

## [TRANSLATION.]

Under this marble rests what was mortal of John Hansted, M.A., a very worthy Presbyterian of the English church, who through 34 years as a faithful and clever trainer of the young and a learned and eloquent preacher, won the goodwill of every one by his upright piety and singular suavity of manner. At last, distinguished by his adherence to the primitive faith, by his unstained uprightness, and by a courage truly christian, he quietly gave up his soul to God, in hope of a blessed resurrection, in the 61st year of his age, A.D. 1755.

7. The first monument at the west end of the North Aisle, between the west wall and the north door, is a marble tablet, with the following inscription :—

This monument is here placed  
To perpetuate the memory of  
William Dallaway,  
late of Camp Hill, in this Parish, Gent,  
and Sarah, his wife,  
whose remains are deposited  
in a vault near this place.  
She died April 30th, 1773, aged 46 years,  
and he died April 16th, 1781, aged 60.

Underneath this there is another marble tablet, to the memory of another member of the same family :—

Sacred to the memory of  
Robert Dallaway,  
of Deritend, in this Parish,  
and Priscilla, his wife.  
He } died { XXII. Feb., MDCCLXXIX., } aged { LXXXII.  
She } died { XVI. June., MDCCLXXXVIII., } aged { XCV.  
Also of their children,  
Robert, William, John,  
Elizabeth, wife of Richard Anderton,  
Mary, Hannah, and Sarah,  
the last named of whom  
Died III<sup>rd</sup> April, MDCCCXXII., aged LXXX.,  
And by her will directed this  
Monument to be here placed.

8. In the South Aisle is a large monument, with this inscription :—

Sacred to the memory of  
Thomas Caldecott, of the Middle Temple, Esq.,  
Barrister at Law,  
descended from an ancient family of that name  
at Catthorpe, in the County of Leicester,  
who departed this life on the 3rd day of September,  
in the year of our Lord 1774, aged 62.



He married Catherine, the eldest daughter of Robert Holden,  
of Erdington, in the County of Warwick, Esquire,  
by whom  
in testimony of his many virtues  
this monument is here placed.  
Catherine, widow of the above Thomas Caldecott,  
died December 6th, 1788, aged 69.

9. Near the preceeding tablet in the South Aisle, come two  
belonging to the Bagot family. The upper one of the two bears a  
Latin inscription:—

Subtus  
in Sepulchro  
Impensis propriis et curâ  
extracto  
conduntur Reliquiæ  
Egertoni Bagot  
Armigeri  
De Pipe in agro Varviensi  
Vixit amicis charus Patriæ fidus  
Mortem obiit Christianus Pœnitens  
13 die Aprilis Anno Redemptoris 1775  
ætatis suæ 63  
Hoc marmor memoriæ ejus  
Consecravit  
Amicus, Cognatus, Hæres  
Gualterus Bagot.

[OF WHICH THIS IS THE TRANSLATION.]

In a tomb underneath, built at his own expense, are buried the remains of Egerton Bagot, Esq., of Pipe, in the County of Warwick. He lived beloved by his friends and faithful to his country, and died a penitent christian, April 13th, 1775, aged 63. This tablet was dedicated to his memory by his friend, relative and heir, Walter Bagot.

The lower tablet bears this inscription:—

In memory of  
Honora Bagot,  
Sole daughter and heir of  
Sir William Egerton,  
Knight of the Bath and second son of  
Earl of Bridgewater, by Honora Leigh,  
Sister of Lord Leigh, (Baron of  
Stoneleigh), wife of Thomas Arden Bagot,  
of Pipe Hall, Esqr.,  
This monument was erected  
March 1776.

In the organ chamber, on the north side, a window has been inserted, which was originally placed at the east end of the south aisle, and was removed to its present position at the erection of the east end of the church, 1883. It is a specimen of Eginton's skill, and bears date 1798. Underneath it are two marble monuments, with Latin inscriptions:—



Laetitia  
 Thomæ et Laetitiæ Wearden Fil : nat : max :  
 Quæ vixit Ann XXXVIII. Mens : III. Dies XXVIII.  
 Decessit Quart : Calend : April :  
 Anno Sacro MDCCLXXXII.  
 Catherina Soror Ejus superstes  
 Et Conivx Edwardi Johnstone, M.D.,  
 Monumentum hoc Marmoreum  
 Et Fenestram ei supperadditam  
 D. S. I. F. C.

In eodem sepulchro sunt mortales  
 Reliquiæ et ipsius prædictæ  
 Catherinæ quæ nata est Kal. Feb. A.D. MDCCLVII.  
 Nupsit prædicto Edwardo Johnstone  
 Tertio Die Octobris A.D. MDCCXCII.  
 Decessit 8<sup>to</sup>. ante kal : April, A.D. MDCCCL.  
 et Hannæ Mariæ Johnstone Filicæ nat : minim : prædictorum,  
 Edwardi et Catherinæ quæ fil. nata est  
 V post id. Decemb. A.D. MDCCXCVI. decessit  
 IX. ante kal. Nov. A.D. MDCCCII.

[TRANSLATION.]

To Letitia, the eldest daughter of Thomas and Letitia Wearden, who lived 37 years 3 months and 28 days, and died April 5, 1782. Catherine, her surviving sister and wife of Edward Johnstone, M.D., erected this marble monument and the window over it.

In the same tomb are the mortal remains both of the above-named Catherine, who was born February 1st, 1757, married the above-named Edward Johnstone October 3, 1792, and died March 23rd, 1801, and of Hannah Maria Johnstone, the youngest daughter of the above Edward and Catherine, which daughter was born December 14, 1796, and died October 22, 1801.

*The following have been erected during the present century.*

1. At the west end of the North Aisle there is a large marble tablet:—

Sacred  
To the memory of  
Tho. Brooke, Gen<sup>l</sup>.  
who died February 24, 1780,  
Aged 29 years.  
Also of John Brooke, the  
Coroner of the County of Warwick,  
who died June 6th, 1802,  
aged 45 years.  
Likewise, of Sophia Jane Allicia Kelly,  
Daughter of Lieut. Kelly, 23rd L<sup>t</sup> Dragoons,  
who died July 3rd, 1810, aged 2 years  
and 9 months.

2. On the east side of the North door between it and the first window there is a monument with this inscription :

As a grateful tribute  
of filial piety  
this monument is erected to the memory,  
of James Goddington, Esquire,  
and of Ann, his wife,  
third daughter of Joseph Ashton, Esquire,  
the latter of whom  
died on the 16th March, 1793,  
aged twenty-eight years,  
the former  
on the 7th September, 1821,  
aged 72 years.

3. On the north side of the west window of the South Aisle there is a double marble tablet:—

Sacred to the memory of  
Rebecca, the wife of William Astbury,  
of Ward End, in this Parish,  
who resigned this life in the humble hope  
of partaking in a blessed immortality,  
March 13th, 1803, aged 61 ;  
also of the above-named William Astbury,  
who departed this life on the 13th day of  
October, 1812, in the 71st year of his age ;  
and of James Astbury, youngest son of  
the said William and Rebecca Astbury,  
who departed this life on the 16th day of  
January, 1812, in the 32nd year of his age ;  
likewise of William Astbury, second son  
of the said William and Rebecca Astbury,  
who departed this life on the 22nd day of

January, 1813, in the 39th year of his age  
and also of Thomas Astbury,  
eldest and only surviving child of the said  
William and Rebecca Astbury,  
who departed this life on the 6th day of  
September, 1820, in the 30th year  
of his age.

4. And underneath :— Thomas Astbury,  
Esquire, by will dated  
2nd August, 1820, gave to William  
Webb Ward, William Palmer,  
Henry Marshall, Samuel Rock, and  
Philip Twells, and their successors, the  
sum of £400, which is reduced by payment of the  
legacy duty to £360, upon trust to apply the annual  
interest arising therefrom for ever towards the  
support of a National School upon the Madras  
establishment, within the Manor of Little  
Bromwich, in this Parish.  
Will proved in Doctors' Commons,  
14th October,  
1820.

5. A small tablet in the South Aisle has this inscription :—

Sacred  
to the memory of  
Lieutenant Colonel William Conolly,  
Formerly of His Majesty's 13th or Royal Irish Regiment,  
youngest son of the Rev. Arthur Conolly,  
Of Elm Grove, County of Dublin,  
who died at Birmingham, the 9th July, 1817,  
Aged 69.  
An honest man, a brave soldier, a sincere friend,  
and an exemplary parent.

6. At the west end of the South Aisle there is the following marble  
tablet :—

In memory  
of  
Ann Lander,  
Daughter of John Lander,  
Gen<sup>l</sup>, and Ann, his wife, and  
Niece of William Astbury, Esq<sup>r</sup>,  
late of Ward End, dec<sup>d</sup>,  
who departed this life on  
the 21st day of November, 1820, after  
a lingering illness borne  
with great fortitude  
and resignation, in the 22nd  
year of her age.

7. One of the two tablets which have been removed from beneath the old Organ Gallery, has been re-erected on the south side at the west end of the Nave, near the Tower Arch, as near as possible to its original position, and has the following inscription :—

Near  
the North door of this Church  
(in the Churchyard)  
are deposited the remains  
of  
Benjamin Spencer, \* L.L.D.,  
upwards of Fifty-two years  
Vicar of this Parish,  
Forty-three years Rector of Hatton,  
in the County of Lincoln,  
and for nearly half a century  
one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace  
For the Counties  
of Warwick and Stafford,  
He departed this life at Aston,  
To the universal regret of his Parishioners  
on the second day of September,  
in the year of our Lord MDCCCXXIII.,  
in the LXXX year of his age..

8. On the north side of the west window of the North Aisle there is a marble tablet :—

Sacred to the memory of  
George Yates,  
of Bordesley,  
in this Parish,  
died June XII., MDCCCXXVIII.,  
aged XLVI. years.  
Beloved and regretted.

And underneath :—

In  
Affectionate remembrance of  
of  
James Yates, B.D.,  
who died at Swanscombe, Kent,  
March 20th, 1868,  
aged 46 years.

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\* He lost his only Son at the Battle of Trafalgar, on board Nelson's ship the "Victory."

9. At the west end of the South Aisle there is a small marble tablet :—

Sacred to the memory of  
Ann Alice, wife of George Marshall,  
of Ward End, in this Parish.  
She died on the 15th day of July, 1828,  
aged 19 years.  
also, of Walter, their infant son.  
He died on the 24th day  
of December, 1826.

10. In the South Aisle there is a small marble tablet :—

To the memory of the Rev. George Peake,  
Vicar and Patron of this Living,  
who died Oct. 8, 1830, aged 39; also of Matilda Hanwell  
relict of the above, who died January 15, 1864,  
aged 67.

“I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life  
of the world to come. Amen.”

11. There is this marble tablet at the west end of the North Aisle :—

In memory of  
Henrietta,  
the beloved wife of Thomas Small, Esq.,  
of Westbourne Road, Edgbaston,  
who died January XIII., MDCCCXLV.,  
Aged XLVIII. years.

The enduring marble bears her name,  
Her worth, all wealth above,  
Is written on surviving hearts  
In characters of love.

“I say unto all—Watch.” *Mark xiii., v. xxxvii.*

12. There are three tablets in the South Aisle, the highest of which  
has this inscription :—

In memory of the  
Rev. Egerton Arden Bagot,  
of Pype Hayes, in this Parish,  
where he resided 54 years,  
and died Feb. 4, 1861,  
Aged 84 years.  
He was the eldest son of the  
Rev. Walter Bagot,  
Late Rector of Blithfield and Leigh,  
in the County of Stafford.  
He was interred in Erdington Churchyard.  
Ps. 49, v. 10.

13. A marble tablet has recently been erected in memory of several members of the Chattock family, of Castle Bromwich, in the South Aisle :—

Edward, Fil : Thom : Chattock De Bromwic : Sepult : 24 Die July 1568  
 Margre Filia Thom : Chattock De Castel Bromwic : Sepult : 9 Die Feb : 1583.  
 Helen, wife of John Chattock, Buried 12 June, 1639.  
 John Chattock, Buried 16 June, 1658.  
 Thom : Chattock, Senr., Buried 21 March, 1697.  
 John Chattock, Buried 9 June, 1722.  
 John Chattock, Buried 8 Dec : 1771.  
 Christopher Chattock, Buried 19 Oct : 1791.  
 Thomas Chattock, Buried 30 Aug : 1813.

This tablet was erected in consequence of the removal of the memorial stones on the outside of the old Chancel, 1879.

14. Underneath the easternmost window in the South Aisle the following tablet has been erected :—

In memory of  
 Stephen Wallis, who died July 3rd, 1644, aged 78,  
 Mary, his wife, who died Febr. 23rd, 1832, aged 62,  
 also, the following sons and daughters of the above :  
 John, died May 9th, 1860, aged 72,  
 Thomas, died Sepr. 28th, 1862, aged 72,  
 Joseph Osborn, died May 27th, 1858, aged 63,  
 Elizabeth Chawner, died Decr. 3rd, 1872, aged 75,  
 Stephen, died March 25th, 1835, aged 35,  
 William, died August 17th, 1869, aged 68,  
 Mary Ann Hudson, died March 25th, 1885, aged 81,  
 Frederick, died June 4th, 1862, aged 56,  
 Charles, died Decr. 15th, 1837, aged 28,  
 Ann, Susanna and Henry, died in infancy.  
 This Tablet is erected to their memory  
 By desire of Mary Ann Hudson.



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ASTON CHURCH, THE OLD EXTERIOR.



## CHAPTER IV.

## THE WINDOWS.

*The Windows in the Erdington Chapel.*

The West Window.

THE windows in the Erdington Chapel are three in number, and are identical in size and shape with those in the old Chancel, but the glass is new. The subject of the design of the east window is "Christ blessing little children." Our Lord is represented seated, and is approached by angels, who are bringing to Him children of all ages and conditions of life, and of various races. The words below are "Suffer little children to come unto me," and above, "For of such is the kingdom of heaven." Other angels are bearing infants to heaven, and in the upper parts of the three lights they are welcomed by a band of "holy innocents," who hold palms in their hands. In the side openings of the tracery are introduced lilies, as emblems of purity; and in the centre opening the Holy Spirit is represented under the figure of a Dove.



On the south side of the Chapel are two windows, chiefly filled with armorial bearings of the Arden and Erdington families. In the "Arden" window, Sir Walter and Dame Alianore are portrayed as described by Dugdale, from the stained glass windows of Aston and Deritend Churches, with the prayer, *Salvator mundi, miserere mei* (Saviour of the world have mercy upon me). Over the head of the Knight, and again over the head of the Dame, there are the words, *Jesu, fili Dei, miserere mei* (Jesus, son of God, have mercy upon me). Above and below, filling up the two lights, and hanging from an interlacing oak branch, there are the coats of arms of families who have been connected with, or who have inter-married with the Arden family. Beginning with Arden of Wilmcote, these include Bracebridge, Andrews, Arden, Clodshall (the benefactor of S. Martin's, Birmingham), Vernon, Hampden, Walesbro', Arden and Hampden (from whom descended the patriot), Conway and Throckmorton, and end with Shakespeare,\* indicating his maternal descent through Mary Arden, of Wilmcote. In the tracery are the bear and ragged staff, the ancient badge of the Arden family.

The corresponding window, on the east side of the window described above, is devoted to the arms of families connected with the "Erdingtons," and in the centre, an event is pictured which occurred in the early history of the principal family. Roger Erdington is shewn handing a deed of gift, referring to land at Erdington, to the Prior of the Knights of Jerusalem in London. The deed in question is now in the possession of a firm of solicitors in Birmingham. The coats of arms are those of Pagonel, Holte, Someri, Harcourt, Holden, Bagot, Adderley, Botelourt, Wolsey, Corbet and Devereux. In the tracery there is the banner of the order of the Knights of Jerusalem.

All of these windows were the gift of the anonymous donor who built the Chancel and Erdington Chapel.

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\* Russell French in his *Shakespereana Genealogica* says:—"As containing memorials of William Shakespeare's relations on the mother's side, Aston Church may be regarded with interest second only to that which surrounds his own last resting-place."

*The Windows in the South Aisle.*

1. The window at the eastern end of the South Aisle was originally placed in the Chancel, whence it has been removed and re-erected with enlargement in its present position. It has two lights, in one of which there is a representation of the "Agony of our Lord in Gethsemane," and in the other the betrayal by Judas, and Peter smiting Malchus. Underneath there is a brass plate, with the following inscription :—

"In mem : G. Peake hujus ecclesie Vicarii et Patroni ob : Die Kal : Nov ; 1830 ætat : suæ 39."

2. The next towards the west is also a two-light window, removed from the old Chancel. The subjects in the window are "The Annunciation" and "The Nativity." On the brass plate underneath there is the following inscription :—

"Sacred to the memory of Joseph Plevins, who died July 23, 1846, aged 62, and Frances Plevins, his wife, who died July 10, 1844, aged 52."

3. The subjects in the two lights of the next window are "Moses lifting up the serpent," and "The good Samaritan," with an inscription to this effect :—

"Given to the glory of the Eternal Trinity, by W. H. Osborn, of Perry Pont House."

4. The next window has for its subjects "The raising of Jairus' Daughter," and "The Resurrection," with an inscription :—

"In honour of God and in pious remembrance of Martha, wife of Joseph Potter, of Witton, who departed this life Jan. 9, 18—."

5. The subjects in the window nearest to the west end of the Church, in the South Aisle are "Christ blessing little children," with an inscription underneath :—

"Suffer little children to come unto Me."

And "The Baptism of our Lord," with an inscription :—

"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

This window was erected by public subscription, and was the first piece of coloured glass in the South Aisle.

*West End of the South Aisle.*

This is a three-light window, designed by Pugin. The centre light has a representation of "The Crucifixion," with figures of the Virgin Mary and S. John standing near, and underneath the words "Salvator mundi." On a brass plate underneath there is the following inscription :—

"Barbara Mander, late of Ward End, spinster, who departed this life Oct., A.D., 1843, aged 26 years, directed this window of stained glass to be erected, as a memorial of herself and her late sister, Ann Alice, the wife of George Marshall, of Ward End. She deceased on the 11th day of July, 1848, aged 19 years. R.I.P.

*Windows in the Tower.*

1. At the west end, over the door, there is a beautiful six-light window, of which a sketch is given at the beginning of this chapter. The subject is "The Ascension." In the centre of the three upper lights our Lord is represented in the act of ascending. Angels on either side fill the other two lights. In the three lights below the eleven apostles and the Virgin Mary are represented following with upturned gaze their ascending Lord.

"This window was erected in May, 1884, by Mr. G. Marshall, in memory of his Father and Mother,—the late Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, of Ward End."

2. On the north side of the Tower the window from the east end of the old Chancel has been re-erected. In the centre of the upper three lights there is a representation of the crucifixion, with the resurrection on one side and the ascension on the other. The following inscription is at the bottom of the window :—

"This window was given by John Mistus, who was twice Vicar's Churchwarden, in affectionate remembrance of his wife, Sarah, who died on Monday, May 19, 1862."

*West End of North Aisle.*

This is a large three-light window. On the left side Christ is represented in the act of healing the impotent man, at the pool of Bethesda ; in the centre He is represented opening the eyes of the blind

man ; and on the right is depicted the scene in a Pharisee's house, when Mary washed His feet with her tears. Underneath there is a brass plate with this inscription :—

“ This window was placed in this Church May 6th, 1863, to the glory of God, and in affectionate memory of William Henry Osborn, of Perry Pont House, Perry Barr, in the County of Stafford, who died Dec. 22, 1862, in his 74th year, and is interred in this Churchyard, in the full hope of the glorious resurrection to eternal life, by his sorrowing widow, Mary Ann Osborn.”

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*North Aisle.*

1. The first window from the west end of the Church has two lights, which represent the following scenes from scripture. In the upper part, “ Abraham offering up Isaac,” and “ The death of Abraham.” In the lower part, “ Abraham, Sarah and Lot,” and “ Abraham receiving the angels at his tent door ” The inscription is ;—

“ This window is erected to the glory of God and in memory of Philip Mellor Twells, of Birmingham,—died Feb. 25th, 1863, aged 81 years.

2. The next is also a two light window, the subject of it is “ The good Samaritan ” and the inscription on a brass plate underneath is :—

“ In affectionate remembrance of George Peake, for 24 years Vicar of this Parish,—died at Weymouth, 9 July, 1876—1878.

3. The third window on this side of the Church is of the same size as the others, and represents “ Christ healing the sick.” The inscription runs thus :—

“ To the glory of God and memory of Samuel Winter Burbury, M.D., of Birmingham, who died August 31st, 1866, aged 42 years. This window was erected by Jane, his widow, William Winter, and Helen Elizabeth, his children.

4. The fourth window contains in its upper compartment the Holte arms. The left half of the shield is barry of five pieces, alternately azure and or. On the chief, or head bar, is emblazoned a cross fitchée or. A canton, argent, contains a human hand, gules, with thumb and fingers extended. The right half of the shield has a sable field on which is emblazoned emblems of mortality, viz : the cross bones, argent.

5. The fifth window, removed from the old Chancel and re-erected in the new portion of the North Aisle, has two lights. In one of them our Saviour is represented as King, holding the emblem of sovereignty, with an angel holding a scroll underneath, on which is inscribed "Salvator Mundi." In the other light He is represented as the Good Shepherd holding a lamb in his arms, and underneath there is an angel with a scroll, inscribed with the words "Bonus Pastor." On a brass-plate underneath there are these words :—

"This window is placed to the glory of God and in pious memory of William Phillips, who departed this life Oct. 4, 1860; also of William Henry, his only child, who died January 24, 1845, by the sorrowing widow and mother, Ann Mary Phillips, A.D. 1864."

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#### *The Organ Chamber.*

On the north side there is a peculiar window by Eginton, representing a lady ascending to heaven, attended by angels. (For inscription underneath, see p. 37.)

At the east end of the Organ Chamber there is a two-light window, removed from the old Chancel, with allegorical figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Underneath there is a brass-plate, with the inscription :—

"To the glory of God and in pious memory of Matilda Hanwell, relict of George Peake, Vicar and Patron of this living."

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#### *The Chancel.*

The five windows in the apsidal end of the Chancel were the gift of the anonymous donor of the east end of the Church. The work was executed by Messrs. Hardman, under the direction of Mr. Chatwin, the architect of the restoration.

The main idea running through the whole of the series is "The Praise of God in Heaven and Earth." The subject chosen for the three central windows is "The Adoration of the Lamb," treated in a picturesque fifteenth century manner. There is a belt of angels carved in stone

round the Chancel, and this belt has been continued through the windows, and the angels composing it hold a scroll bearing the words of the angelic song (Rev. v., 12th and 13th), "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Amen." "Blessing, and honour, and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen."

In the central light of the centre window the Lamb is in the form of the Son of Man, seated on a golden throne, holding the book of the seven seals, on which is inscribed, "In the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength," and he is surrounded by a great halo of light. Below the throne are the emblems of the four Evangelists. The Church being dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul, these two saints are represented kneeling on either side of the throne, in the places of honour—S. Peter on the right side, and S. Paul on the left. S. Peter, as the apostle of the Jews, has patriarchs, prophets, and holy men and women, mostly of the Old Testament, on his side. Next to him are S. John and S. Andrew, his brother; and above are the Blessed Virgin, S. Agnes, and S. Lucy. In the next window, on the north side, the series is continued with King David, S. John the Baptist, Holy Simeon, Elijah, Zachary, S. Anne (mother of the Blessed Virgin), and S. Elizabeth (mother of S. John the Baptist). In the central light of the same window are Abraham, Isaac, Tobias, Queen Esther, Judith, Susanna, and Ruth; and in the light to the right Adam, Noah, Abel, Moses, Eve, and Miriam. S. Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles, has behind him holy men and women of the New Dispensation, and many of those represented belong to England—some of them, indeed, being local saints. Immediately next to S. Paul is S. Stephen, and behind are S. Catherine of Alexandria, S. Margaret of Antioch, and S. Cecilia.

In the next window on the south side are the following Saints :—S. Joseph of Arimathea, S. Alban, S. George, S. Barbara, S. Dorothea,



S. Ursula ; in the centre light, S. Kenelm of Clent, S. Edward the Confessor, Constantine, S. Edith of Polesworth, S. Sidwella, and S. Monica ; and in the light to the left, the Venerable Bede, S. Aidan, S. Wulstan of Worcester, S. Chad of Lichfield, S. Dunstan, S. Helen (the mother of Constantine), and S. Etheldreda. Above all these figures, and running through the three windows, are choirs of angels singing and adoring the Lamb. In the first window of the series on the north side is the Hymn of Praise of all created things in the beginning (Rev. v. 13). In the centre light are the figures of Adam and Eve offering up their prayer on bended knee ; and around them on either side are animals, birds, fishes, water, mountains, vegetation, and cloud. In the upper part of the lights are angels, with their hands uplifted, adoring God ; and above them are seen emblems of the spheres and planets.

In the last window on the south side is represented the Holy City—the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven. Within is the Lamb, surrounded by his company—"The nations of them that are saved," encircled by the walls with "the twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon"—taken from Rev. xxi.

Beneath the band of angels in each window are groups showing the worship of the Lamb on earth by the faithful employed in the various avocations of life ; and reading from the north the subjects selected for representation are as follows :—Musicians, sculptors, physicians, ploughmen, sailors, carpenters, fishermen, shepherds, ironsmiths, bellringers, gardeners, merchants, authors, printers, and artists. Beneath these groups is a scroll containing the words "Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name, for Thou only art holy, for all nations shall come and worship before Thee, for Thy judgments are made manifest."

In the traceries of all the windows are cherubim and seraphim, and angels with lamps. The work is carried out to accord with the style of the architecture, and is exceedingly rich, harmonious, and brilliant in colouring.



## CHAPTER V.

## THE CARVINGS, PULPIT, &amp;C.

*The Carved Figures on the Stalls.*

1. On the Clergy desks are the four Evangelists.
2. On the upper stalls are the four greater Prophets.
3. On the lower stalls are David, Tubal-Cain, Miriam, and Jephthah's daughter.
4. On the front of the stalls are the twelve Apostles.

*The Pulpit.*

The Pulpit.

**T**HE Pulpit is a beautiful work of art, constructed of marble and alabaster. At the three angles are figures of Moses, Elijah, and S. Paul, representing respectively, the Law, the Prophets, and the Gospel. In the space between Moses and Elijah are two carved alabaster panels, representing two typical scenes from the life of Moses, viz.: The Brazen Serpent and the Smiting of the Rock.

In the next space, between Elijah and S. Paul, are two similar panels, descriptive of our Lord's appearance in the Temple in his youth and the miraculous draught of fishes, while the remaining space is occupied by a representation of S. Paul preaching at Athens, and Timothy, as a child, learning the scriptures. Underneath there is the inscription :—

“Erected to the glory of God and in affectionate remembrance of Henry Yates, by his sons, John William, Robert Perks, and Henry Edwin Yates, January 1, 1885.”

---

*The Bells.*

There are ten bells in the Tower,—one was erected in 1775, five in 1776, and four in 1814.

1. On the north side of the Tower there are two bells, the 10th and the 9th.

The former has this inscription :—

“The Rev. B. Spencer, LL.D., Vicar, Josh. Armishaw, Thos. Perrens. Jno. Deykin, Churchwardens, 1814.” Thos. Mears, of London, fecit.

The 9th bell has the following :—

“Ye ringers all, that prize your health and happiness,  
Be sober, merry, wise, and you'll the same possess.”

Pack and Chapman, of London, fecit, 1776.

2. The middle now contains five bells, the 3rd, the 2nd, the 1st, the 8th, and the 7th.

The 3rd is inscribed with :—

“Pack and Chapman, of London, fecit, 1775.”

The 2nd has :—

“Peace and unanimity with all the world.”

T. Mears, of London, fecit, 1814.

The 1st has :—

“To honour both of God and King  
Our voices shall in consort ring.”

Pack and Chapman, of London, fecit, 1776.

The 8th has :—

“James Cooke, Esq., Secretary.”

Pack and Chapman, of London, fecit, 1776.

The 7th has :—

“Music is medicine to the mind.”

Pack and Chapman, of London, fecit, 1776.

3. On the south side of the Tower there are three bells, the 4th, 5th, and 6th.

The 4th is inscribed with :—

“This treble bell was presented to the Parish of Aston by the interest of Job Perrins, Joshua Short and William Hassall, 1814.” T. Mears, of London, fecit.

The 5th has :—

“Ye people all who hear us ring,  
Be faithful to your God and king.”  
Pack and Chapman, fecit, 1776.

The 6th has :—

“Peace and good neighbourhood,”  
T. Mears. of London, fecit, 1814.

---

### *The Gurgoyles on the Chancel.*

The seven Gurgoyles\* are intended to represent certain sins driven out of God's House.

*Lust* is personified by a goat.

*Gluttony* is personified by a sow, with a grotesque human head and hand, devouring food.

*Pride* is personified by a peacock, with the head of a woman, holding a mirror.

*Avarice* is personified by an ape, clutching a bag of money.

*Cunning* is personified by a fox, with a goose in his mouth.

*Sedition* is personified by a wolf, with a human head, wearing the cap of liberty, and holding a dagger in one hand and a box (dynamite?) in the other.

*Drunkenness* is personified by a beast's body, with a grotesque human head, holding a jug to its mouth.




---

\* Gargoyle is a name given in Gothic architecture to the end of a waterspout, which is generally carved with some grotesque figure.

Such is a description of the Church as it now exists. The modern enlargement and re-arrangement of some of the monuments and windows necessitated thereby, commenced in the year 1879. In that year, on September 24th, Lord Leigh laid the foundation stone. This stone is on the southern side of the Arch of the Erdington Chapel, and bears the following inscription :—

“ This stone was laid on Sep. 24th, 1879,  
with Masonic rites, by the  
Right. Hon. Wm. Hy. Lord Leigh,  
Lord Lieutenant of the County and Provincial  
Grand Master of Warwickshire, assisted by  
Brothers J. Machen, D.P. Grand Master,  
J. T. Collins, Prov. Grand Treasurer, and  
G. Beech, Prov. Grand Secretary,  
and a large assemblage of Freemason of Warwickshire.

J. ANSELL, } Churchwardens.      W. ELIOT, M.A., Vicar.  
C. H. COOPER, }

The enlargement of the Nave was completed in the next year. This work was followed by the erection of the Chancel, together with an Organ Chamber on the north, and the Erdington Chapel on the south side. The whole of this beautiful work was the gift of a single donor, who made his generous offer and conveyed his munificent benefaction through Mr. J. H. Chatwin, the architect of the whole work, but who prefers to be known to this day as “the anonymous donor.” On the completion of the work, the Restoration Committee expressed their gratitude to him in the following resolution, passed September 5th, 1883 :—

“The Committee for the restoration and enlargement of Aston Church, on the completion of the Chancel and eastern end of the Church, desire to convey to the donor their sense of his generous munificence. Although the Committee are unable to address him by name, they nevertheless beg to assure him that his gift is accepted with sincere gratitude, as well as with profound admiration. They feel that any thanks expressed in words are but a feeble acknowledgment of such a splendid gift. The best return which the recipients of such bounty can bestow is to use it as a direct help to them in their worship of Almighty God ; and such an acknowledgment they trust will for long years to come testify to the donor the gratitude of the Parishioners of Aston.”

Stimulated by this splendid gift, the Restoration Committee quickly undertook the restoration of the old portion of the Nave, and the opening of the base of the Tower. This was completed in April, 1884, just five

years after the commencement of the modern work. Internally the Church has since been enriched by the marble and alabaster Pulpit and the Lectern, which beautiful gifts were presented to the Church on New Year's Day, 1885. The former was erected by Messrs. J. W., R. P., and H. E. Yates, to the memory of their father; and the latter was presented by Messrs. William, Joseph, and Edward Ansell, in memory of their father, who was churchwarden of the parish for 16 years. The marble and alabaster Septum and the coloured windows in the apse were presented by the anonymous donor, on Easter Day of the same year. And as a memorial of the Jubilee of Her Majesty's accession, the congregation erected new seats in the old portion of the North and South Aisle in the year 1887.

The work of restoration is still (1889) incomplete. The old North and South Aisles retain their old walls, windows, and roofs, which form a striking contrast to the new work. They remind the spectator of the need which existed when the work was first undertaken, and we may hope that they will act as a stimulus to further effort in behalf of the Church in years to come. The great and pressing need of a new Church in the upper part of the Parish demands—for the present—the energies of all those who are concerned for the welfare of the Church in Aston.





## APPENDIX I.

The following District Parishes have been formed out of the old Parish of Aston :—

1. *Castle Bromwich*. A Chapel was erected here in the 14th century. The present Church, dedicated to SS. Mary and Margaret, was built in 1731, and a District was assigned to it, and a separate Parish created September 14th, 1878.
2. *Water Orton*. A Chapel was also built here in the 14th century. A separate Parish was created August 19th, 1871, and the present Church was erected in 1879.
3. *Deritend, St. John's*. A Chapel on the site of the present Church was opened at the close of the 14th century. The present Church was built in 1735. No District is assigned to it, but the portion of Deritend which is near the Church is still legally and ecclesiastically a part of Aston.
4. *S. Basil's*. A portion of the unassigned District of Deritend was created a separate Parish, without a Church, December 29th, 1885.
5. *S. James', Ashted*. The Church was consecrated in 1810, and the District was assigned 8th August, 1853.
6. *Trinity, Bordesley*. The present Church was consecrated in 1823, and the separate Parish was created April 7th, 1864.
7. *Erdington*. The Church, dedicated to S. Barnabas, was built in 1823, and a District was assigned April 6th, 1858.
8. *Ward End*. The Church was built in 1835, and the separate Parish was created February 22nd, 1870.
9. *S. Matthew's, Duddeston*, was consecrated October 20th, 1840, and the Parish was assigned January 17th, 1842.
10. *S. Andrew's, Bordesley*, was consecrated September 30th, and the Parish assigned August 27th, 1846.
11. *S. Saviour's, Saltley*. A District was assigned August 11th, 1848, and the Church was consecrated July 23rd, 1850.
12. *S. Silas, Losells*. The Church was consecrated January 10th, the District assigned May 8th, 1854.

13. *S. Clement's, Nechells.* The Church was consecrated August 30th, 1859, and the District was assigned May 10th, 1860.
14. *S. Mary's, Aston Brook.* The Church was consecrated December 10th, 1863, and the District was assigned January 28th, 1864.
15. *Christ Church, Sparkbrook.* The Church was consecrated October 1st, and the District was assigned November 21st, 1867.
16. *S. Lawrence.* The Church was consecrated June 25th, 1868, and the District, taken out of S. Matthew's, Duddeston, was assigned September 14th the same year.
17. *S. Anne's, Duddeston.* The Church was consecrated October 22nd, 1869, and the District, taken out of S. Matthew's, was assigned December 11th the same year.
18. *All Saints, Small Heath.* The District was assigned August 5th, 1875, and the Church was consecrated July 28th, 1883.
19. *S. Catherine's, Nechells.* The Church was consecrated November 8th, 1878, and the District, taken out of S. Clement's, Nechells, was assigned March 22nd, 1879.
20. *S. Paul's, Lozells.* The Church was consecrated 11th September, 1880, and the District, taken out of the Parish of S. Silas, was assigned April 1st, 1881.
21. *S. Alban's.* The District, taken out of Holy Trinity, Bordesley, was assigned 19th August, 1871. The Church was opened in 1881, but it is not yet consecrated.





## APPENDIX II.

*Names of Vicars.*

	INSTITUTED		INSTITUTED
Galfr. de Wenrich, Pbr.* ...	... 1303	Simon Brooke died April 26,	1551 (entry
Henr : de Schirington, Pbr. ...	... 1326	Aston Register).	
Joh : Draper ...	... 1349	D. Thomas Byrde, Cler : ...	... 1552
Petrus Boterell ...	... 1349	Lawr : Blakeway ...	... 1561
Ric : de Tykenhall... ..	... 1355	Henry Williams ...	... ?
Thomas Skyll, Pbr. ...	... 1383	Joh : Machon, Cler : ...	... 1603
Thomas atte Crulke ...	... 1391	Ric : Dickleg, Cler : ...	... 1611
William Pollard ...	... 1404	Joh : Grent, Art : Mag ...	... 1621
William Tonge, Cap : ...	... 1405	Thomas Fawcet, Cler : ...	... 1645
Robt. Hunte ...	... 1425	Thomas Yardley, M.A. ...	... 1657
Ric : Hancocks, Pbr. ...	... 1433	Will : Cradock, Cler : ...	... 1687
Ric : Bryan... ..	... 1440	Will : Persehouse. Cler : A.M.,	... 1690
Thomas Gayton, Pbr. ...	... 1440	Henr : Hollier, Cler : A.B., (trans-	
D. Joh : Drover, Pbr. ...	... 1441	lated Chysostom de Sacerdotio)	1696
Will : Musselwyke ...	... 1451	Josias Foster, Cler : A.M. ...	... 1716
(ordinis fratrum Heremitarum S. Augustini.)		William Thomas, B.A. ...	... 1728
David Styward, Cap : ...	... 1453	Streyntsham Master ...	... 1732
Joh : Albod, Cap : ...	... 1456	R. Phillips ...	... 1737
Thomas Baker, Cap : ...	... 1458	J. Noel, B.D. ...	... 1762
Joh : Albod, Cap : ...	... 1459	Benjn : Spencer, M.A. ...	... 1771
Will : Huxny, Pbr. ...	... 1461	George Peake, M.A. ...	... 1824
Rad : Hethcote, Pbr. ...	... 1461	Nathaniel Morgan ...	... 1831
Joh : Ursewyk ...	... 1463	G- O. Fenwick, M.A. ...	... 1834
		George Peake, M.A. ...	... 1853
		William Eliot, M.A. ...	... 1876

Blank for nearly 100 years.

The list of Vicars is taken from Dugdale down to 1716, and from that date the names have been supplied from the Registry at Lichfield. Nevertheless, the list is certainly not complete—*e.g.*, Dugdale does not give the name of the vicar (Sir Richard Shobenhale) who is mentioned in the deed which assigned to the inhabitants of Deritend and Bordesley the right to build a Chapel of their own, A.D. 1381—and it is possible that there are other names besides which are not found in the list.

The Parish of Aston is in the Archdeaconry of Coventry, and was transferred with the whole of the Archdeaconry from the Diocese of Lichfield to that of Worcester, in the year 1837.

\* Pbr. is an abbreviation for "Presbyter." In old days Incumbents of Parishes were not always in what we call "Priest's (*i.e.*, Presbyter's) orders." In Dugdale's "Lists of Incumbents" there is often attached to a name "Clericus," "Capellanus" (*i.e.*, Chaplain, abbreviated as in the list above to "Cap:"), "Diaconus," and even "Acolitus."

## APPENDIX III.

Dugdale mentions some monuments, windows, and inscriptions which are not in the Church now and were not there at the time of the modern restoration in 1879. There is no record of their removal.

Some have been mentioned above,—the rest are given below.

[NO DATE.]

1. The utmost window, on south side, towards the west has this inscription :—

Orate pro bono statu fratrum de Bromwich  
qui hanc fenestram fieri fecerunt.

2. In the next window, a man kneeling, with four sons behind him over whose heads there are these words :—

Mater Dei memento mei.  
(Mother of God remember me.)

Behind them a woman with four daughters, with scroll over :—

Fili Dei miserere mei.  
(Son of God remember me.)

And under them this inscription :—

Orate pro bono statu Roberti  
Massey et Elizabeth, uxoris his wife.  
(Pray for the good estate of Robert Massey and Elizabeth, his wife.)

3. Again, under the fourth window :—

Orate pro bone statu Roberti  
Massey et Elizabeth, ejus ux: qui  
hanc fenestram fieri fecerunt.

4. On a stone fixed in the north wall of the Chancel :—

Henry Williams, Vicar (once of  
this Church) and Patron,  
of Aberffraw, in Anglesea, lyeth here-  
under, who died 1603, Feb. 14.

Quod sibi quisque serit presentis tempore vitæ,  
Hoc sibi messis erit cum dicitur Ite, Venite.

[FREE TRANSLATION IN ENGLISH VERSE.]

The seeds men sow in this life's passing day  
Their harvest bring when hence they're call'd away.

5. On a flat stone within the rails of the Communion Table :—

Gul. Pershouse, M A.,  
Ecclesie hujus Vicarius,  
Hic ubi vitam suam  
Piiis, assiduis, eruditis, laboribus, exhaust  
Citius quam boni omnes optarunt,  
Requiescit,  
Cujus jam consuetudinem Literati  
opportuna consilia amici  
Sanctissima monita Parochi  
Singularem benevolentiam necessari  
Plurimum desiderant  
obiit 27 die Junii,  
A.D. 1696, ætatis 32.

[TRANSLATION.]

William Pershouse, M.A.,  
Vicar of this Church,  
Here where he spent his life in pious, diligent, and  
learned labours, fell asleep sooner than all good  
men desired—  
Whose conversation men of letters,  
Whose wise counsels his friends,  
Whose most holy advice his parishioners,  
Whose singular benevolence the poor  
now greatly miss.  
He died 27th June, 1696, aged 32.

6. On a flat stone in the Chancel :—

M S.  
Johannis Grent, C. N. Oxon. Socii Funda  
toris Munificentissimi Consanguinei A.M. Postea  
hujus Parochiæ Vicarii ubi multis annis vir  
exploratâ integritate humiliter vixit : In con  
cionando frequens, Facundus, Præpotens, Primordiæ  
Pietatis Decus simul et exemplar, orthodoxæ  
Religionis index, errorum malleus, annumer  
andus Patribus, Tandem Sæculi Rebellis ac  
scismatici Pertæsus, Maturus Cælo Mortales

exuvias hoc in  
 Angulo Latere voluit  
 O' Μακαρίτης obiit Nov :  
 Sepultus Nov : 5, 1645, Ætatis.  
 Nec non ejus uxoris Priscillæ, stirpe  
 Antiqua Boysiorum in agro Cantiano  
 Oriundæ, Fœminæ Lectissimæ Pariter et  
 Dilectissimæ ex quorum Copula emanarunt  
 3 Filii 4 Filioe vitam mortalem cum  
 Immortalitate commutavit Hic quoque in  
 Spe beatæ Resurrectionis corpus deposuit  
 Obiit Martii 10 168½  
 Ætatis suæ 77.

## [TRANSLATION.]

Sacred to the memory of  
 John Grent, B A., Founder's Kin Fellow of New College, Oxford : afterwards Vicar of this parish, where he lived in a humble manner, with conspicuous integrity. He was frequent in preaching, eloquent, of great power, the ornament and pattern of primitive piety, a guide of true religion, the destroyer of errors, fit to be reckoned among the Fathers. At last, weary of a rebellious and schismatical age, and ripe for heaven, he desired his mortal remains to lie in this corner ; the blessed one died Nov. 1, was buried Nov. 5, 1645. Also of his wife, Priscilla, who was a descendant of the old family of Boys, in the County of Kent, an excellent and beloved woman, from whose marriage there issued 3 sons and 4 daughters. She changed this mortal life for immortality, and her body was laid to rest here, in hope of a blissful resurrection, March 10, 168½, in the 77th year of her age.

## 7. On the south wall, in black and white :—

M. S.  
 Josuæ Yardley, qui apoplexia  
 obiit Febru 14 aº 167½ ætatis suæ  
 79. Secundum desiderium suum  
 extra parietem orientalem in hoc  
 Cœmeterio corpus ejus est depositum  
 Nec non  
 Filii sui Thomæ Yardley, olim ex cœde Christi  
 in Oxonio Studentis M.A., postea hujusce  
 Parochiæ vicarii annos 30 Cœlebs vixit  
 et obiit Julii 20th, 1687, Ætatis suæ 59.  
 Matrem ejus charissimam Annam Yardley,  
 prædicti Josuæ viduam, tristem fœminam  
 pientissimam in ætatis suæ 84  
 Lachrymarum valle post se reliquit, at  
 spe beatæ resurrectionis et citioris conventus  
 in mansionibus pro spiritibus justorum perfectorum  
 paratis a Domino nostro Jesu Christo. Amen.

## [TRANSLATION.]

Sacred to the memory of  
Joshua Yardley, who died of apoplexy Feb. 14, 167 $\frac{1}{2}$ , in the 79th year of his age. According to his wish his body was buried outside the east wall in this churchyard.

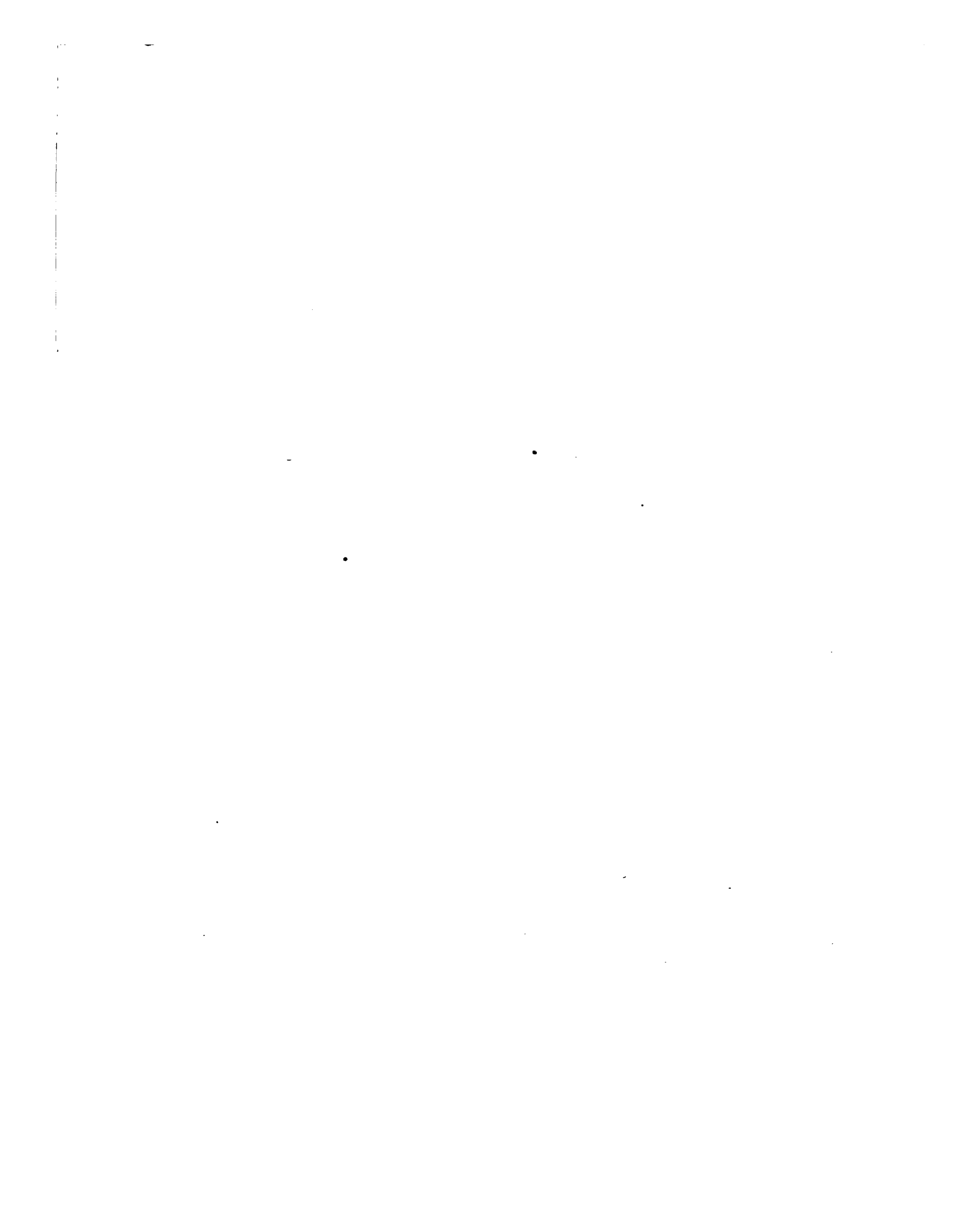
Also,  
of his Son, Thomas Yardley M.A., formerly a student of Christ Church, Oxford, afterwards Vicar of this Parish. He lived for 30 years a widower, and died July 20th, 1687, in the 59th year of his age. His dearly beloved Mother, Anna Yardley, widow of the above-named Joshua Yardley, a sorrowful woman of great piety, he left behind him in this vale of tears, in the 84th year of her age, but in the hope of a blessed resurrection, and of a speedy meeting in the mansions prepared by our Lord Jesus Christ for the spirits of the just made perfect.—  
Amen.



The Lectern.

W. BROWN









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