

STATE OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PARISH CHURCHES IN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES.

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In the year 1585, a survey was made, extending over most counties, relative to the state of parish churches and their management. This survey was an official one, and was ordered and prepared for the purpose of placing a return of the state of these churches before Parliament at the ensuing session. The return showed that after twenty-eight years' establishment of the Church of England, there were only 2,000 ministers to supply nearly 10,000 churches, proving that 8,000 parishes were destitute of spiritual guides. A third part of the ministers of the Church was at this period under the ban of suspension, for some informality of conduct or other causes. A worshipper, to hear a sermon, would, in many cases, have to travel some eight or ten miles from his home to find a minister, and at the same time he would be liable to a fine for absenting himself from his parish church, notwithstanding his attendance elsewhere, and the fact also of his own church being closed against him. The fabrics of churches were generally in a most deplorable condition; indeed, ecclesiastical affairs had been for some years in frightful confusion.

"The state of the fabrics of the churches, and the nature of the services in them, had rapidly gone from bad to worse. Many more of the former were then becoming ruinous. In some dioceses, notoriously those of Oxford and Norwich, numerous churches and chapels were deliberately allowed to become utterly desolate. In certain of them no service of any kind had been held for nearly twelve years. There was often no one either to look after the fabric, to keep up the straggling hedges or impaired fences of the churchyards (in which swine often grubbed up the graves); no one to let fresh air into the building, or to preserve the remaining fittings from the alternative evils of mustiness and damp on the one hand, or of dry-rot or pilferers on the other. Doors at last lost their rusted hinges and imperfect fastenings; dust accumulated; storied windows were broken; starlings found a shelter under the roofs; spiders undisturbed spun their webs in convenient angles; bell-towers were turned into dove-cots and places for

breeding pigeons by some local yeoman; the bells, no longer needed, were sold—for they brought in something; the lead was stripped off the aisle roofs; sometimes the chancel was altogether destroyed, so as to avoid the cost and difficulty of repairing it; while in certain cases these combined evils eventually led to the absolute destruction of whole fabrics, so that even now, in many parishes, it is impossible for any but the duly initiated to trace even the foundation-stones on some secluded slope of what, until Queen Elizabeth's day, had been a fair and stately house of God. Many such at the hands of the 'godly' were wholly 'reformed' off the face of the earth.

"In the diocese of Oxford—though portions were then in Lincoln—may be mentioned the churches of North Weston, Easington, Quarendon, Creslow, Mursley, Littlecote (near Stewkley), Medmenham, Saunderton, Deyncourt (near Wooburn), and Rowsham in Wingrave, as ruined and razed.

"The late Rev. W. Hastings Kelke, in a paper on the 'Desecrated Churches in Buckinghamshire' ('Records of Buckinghamshire,' Vol. III., page 127), asserts that the number desecrated in Buckinghamshire alone may be estimated at sixty."—"The Church under Queen Elizabeth," by the Rev. F. G. Lee, D.D., F.S.A.

In the year 1629 a proclamation was issued commanding the archbishops and bishops to take special care that parish churches, in their several dioceses, being places consecrated to the worship of God, be kept in decent repair, and they were to make use of the Ecclesiastical Courts to oblige the parishioners to attend to this part of their duty. Various churches had since the Reformation fallen to decay, and many were defaced.

The desecration of churches is generally ascribed to the mischievous disposition of the soldiery during the Civil Wars; their state in the reign of Elizabeth shows that the marauders of the 17th century were merely copyists—finishing in rapine and plunder what had been begun through their predecessors' neglect and apathy.

During the internecine struggles of the 17th century the higher order of churches fared the worst. Still, minor buildings did not escape sacrilege. The noblest ecclesiastical structures were plundered and defaced. Soldiers overthrew the Communion tables, tore down all embellishments, violated the monuments of the dead, and utterly demolished many of the finest windows in Christendom. Even beasts were slaughtered in some consecrated buildings, and the carcasses cut up on the altar.

We learn from the letters of Nehemiah Wharton, a Roundhead soldier, of the depredations committed in

1642 in churches of the parishes through which the soldiery passed. Having been offended by one Penraddock, of Acton, Middlesex, they proceeded, first to his house, and then to the church, where they defaced "the ancient glazed pictures and burned the holy rails." At Hillingdon mention is made of converting the surplices into handkerchiefs, and of burning the altar rails and the service books at Uxbridge. At Long Buckby as many soldiers as could be were quartered in the church.

In the churchwarden's accounts for the parish of Great Marlow, there appears this item under the date of 1642:—"Paid for throwing in the bullworks about the Church and in Duck Lane, and for cleaning out the church when the souldiers laye inn itt." In the same year is recorded the wilful damage done to the Church of Maids Moreton, near Buckingham—"The windows were broken, a costly desk in the form of a spread eagle, gilt, on which we used to lay Bp. Jewell's works, doomed to perish as an abominable idol; the crosse cutt off the steeple by ye souldiers att the command of one called Purefoy quartered at Buckingham."

In August, 1643, the Commons issued an ordinance for demolishing altars, defacing crosses, images, pictures, etc. Accordingly the stained glass windows of Canterbury Cathedral were broken to pieces, and the same wilful destruction followed a few days after in Westminster Abbey. St. Paul's Cathedral shared a like fate, and sacred articles of silver belonging to it were sold to replenish the war treasury. Besides spoiling, embezzling, and taking away ornaments, people used commonly to bring horses and mules into the churches, and there shoot off hand guns for sport.

The amount of damage done in different parts of the country depended upon the disposition of the magistrates, and especially on the conduct of the military.

The Cathedrals suffered severely*—Peterborough, Carlisle, Hereford, Chichester, Rochester, Ely, Norwich, Lichfield, Worcester, Exeter, Oxford, Gloucester, Lincoln, underwent spoliation more or less.

As the Parliamentary soldiers were marching up and down the country, after the fashion described by Nehe-

* Dr. Staughton.

miah Wharton, the Royalists were working out their will in another lawless way. If they did not retaliate on conventicles it was simply because conventicles did not exist, or were not within their reach; their excesses were of another order. Whitelocke, describing the plundering of his own house,* tells us that the enemy consumed whatever they could find; lighted their pipes with his MSS., carried away his title-deeds, littered their horses with his wheat sheaves, opened his chests and trunks, seized his coach and horses. In a word, committed all the mischief and spoil that malice and enmity could provoke barbarous mercenaries to commit.

Amongst the State Papers, domestic of Charles I., valuable MSS. in the original rough drafts exist, referring to the state of the Buckinghamshire churches. These papers appear to be detailed reports, the result of a visitation made in 1637, by or under the direction of Williams, Bishop of Lincoln, in which diocese the greater part of the County of Buckingham was included. In this return no reference is made to the churches in the principal towns of Buckinghamshire; this is an omission to be regretted; it is to be hoped they were in better condition and a less neglected state than the churches in the villages. The churches of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Winslow, High Wycombe, Great Missenden, Wendover, and several others are not referred to; these or some of them may have been peculiars, and thus not within the jurisdiction of the Bishop of the Diocese. The return published in 1637 shows that no improvement had taken place in the condition of the sacred edifices in the intervening half-century from the date of the former survey; no efforts made to avert their threatened destruction; in fact, no care whatever appears to have been taken of them.

The preparations for the restoration of Aylesbury Parish Church in 1848 disclosed injuries which evidently were malicious. The ornamental stone work had been hacked and chopped with intent to destroy it. Not a particle of stained glass was left in any of the windows, and it was denuded of every fragment of sepulchral brass.

* Fawley Court, Bucks.

The following is a copy of the return made in 1637:—

Hartwell.—Two windows on the S. side of the chancel partly boarded (up) . . . no pulpit-cloth . . . no hood . . . the base of the Comm. Table too wide . . . therefore a "banister" to be put between every space . . . the fences of the church porch are naught . . . the N. door broken; Mr. Lea and the minister's wife's (pews) too high.

Dinton.—Some very high seats; church-houses in decay; one of the lights of the window next the porch on the S. side almost dammed up; the board upon the top of the lowest seat to be taken down; the board upon the partition at the S. aisle to be taken down; 4 of my Lady Hodsden's seats in the chancel; Mr. Maine's on the N. side; Mr. Lea's, of Hartwell, on the S. side; Mr. Sergeant's seats in the corner of the S. aisle; (and?) 3 or 4 seats more in that aisle too high . . . the pavement of the chancel and church somewhat in decay, and the seats and back of them (ditto?); the chancel windows at the east end partly dammed up and want iron bars.

Aston Sandford.—The partition board of the chancel too high; no sentences of Scripture in the chancel . . . no reading seat; the pulpit to be raised higher, and set in the corner, and a reading seat now wanting to be made and set before it . . . Mr. Brightwell's seat too high, to be made uniform; the pavements of the church sunk.

Kingsey.—The bench beyond the Communion Table and the rest about it within the rails to be taken away (!); Rand's seat, and Cotton's and Mr. Band's, and Mr. Lillingston, and Jno. Harris' seats too high; a Comm. Table to be new; the E. benches on said first 3 seats to be taken down and made desks . . . 3 windows in the church partly dammed up.

Haddenham.—More "banisters" to be put in the rails, 2 into every space; there is new-built seats in the N. aisle too high (built without authority); Mr. Grigg's seat too high . . . seat next the chancel too high; no sentences of Scripture in the chancel; Rose's seat too high next the chancel . . . the seat next the partition at the S. side of the chancel too high, to be made uniform with that which is against it; some of the windows broken, and one window next the churchyard part of it boarded up . . . (!)

Elsborough.—The chancel is not paved . . . the rails of the Comm. Table to be set nigher to the wall, and a "banister" to be put in each space betwixt the rails . . . sentences of Scripture wanting in the chancel; part of the church wants sentencing; a hood wanting; the chancel doors to be cut off even with the partition; 3 seats of the N. side of the church, and the parsonage seat, and the "Chequer" seat too high; the seats of the church want boarding, and also in the chancel . . . one window in the chancel partly supported by a wooden prop . . . (to provide) a new carpet (*i.e.*, altar-cloth), the old one is of serge; the minister buried north and south.

Kimbell Magna.—A window at the east end of the north aisle, made like a house window, and therefore to be made uniform with the rest of the church windows . . . the church in the middle aisle,

and also the chancel, wants sentencing . . . the benches of the two upper seats below the cross aisle to be turned into desks; the belfry and the W. end of the N. aisle unpaved; all the east benches of the seats to be made desks . . . the poor man's box to be set and made fast to a post; the middle pillar on the N. side of the chancel to be repaired at the bottom; the E. bench of the "farm seat" in the chancel to be made a desk, and the seat itself too high.

Risborough Parva.—The new seats in the chancel too high, therefore to be made uniform with the seats on the S. side; the Comm. rail to be set up to the wall; the pulpit wanteth stairs; the pavements of the church are sunk, and the seats in decay in the bottom in the boards . . . a board to be taken down standing on the top of Tollard's and Godfrey's seat; the double window in the S. aisle in decay in the stone wall . . . the high ceiling over the King's arms to be mended; 3 seats next the S. door and one next the N. to be made uniform . . . the bottom of the church walls in decay in the foundation.

Horsington.—The parsonage-house altogether in decay; the S. aisle of the church seems to be taken away; the steeple in decay; the chancel in the roof, buttresses, windows both in stone and glass, and in the foundations in decay; the fences are a quick and dead hedge; we could not go into the church.

Sawderton.—The rails of the Comm. Table to be set (across) close to the wall; all the windows in the church (except the E. and W. windows) stopped up in part with boards, and some of them to be glazed; W. windows stopped up in part . . .; the seats in the chancel too high; the chancel wants tiling (and) . . . sentencing; the seats in decay in the bottoms; seats above the S. door too high; the N. door and chancel door in decay, so that there ought to be new ones; the E. benches of the seats to be made desks . . .; the church-house in the lord's possession.

Bedloe.—The seats in the chancel broken . . .; the chancel wants paving; the S. window in the chancel is partly stopped up, and the windows broken in church and chancel; the ceiling over the Comm. Table broken . . .; no sentences in the chancel . . .; the upper window in the S. aisle stopped up quite; seats in the church in decay, both in the backs, benches, and bottoms, and a piece of a coach in Sir Richard Moore's seat . . .; the S. aisle in decay in the leads, so that it raineth in into the said seat . . .; 3 seats together in the S. aisle too high, and a board under the partition on the top of a seat to be taken down; the 4 short seats on the N. side of the S. side to be made into 5—*ad petitionem Vicarii*; it rains in at the W. end of the church; the E. benches throughout to be made into desks; a seat is desired to be built in a vacant place on the N. side, by the leave of the Ordinary.

Ilmer.—The seats are uniform, but in decay; the church and chancel must be unrippled; no reading seat; the church wants paving; the S. aisle employed to lay timber (!!!); 3 windows in the chancel partly dammed up, and 1 window in the aisle; the steeple to be repaired in the whole; no poor man's box; the vicarage-house in decay, and the rest of the things not seen.

Broughton.—The seats want boarding some of them, and also broken; the seats on the S. side of the church—viz., Mr. Duncomb's

(&c.); the E. benches to be made desks; the seats of the chancel want boarding or paving; Mr. Duncomb's high seat to the first frame to be taken down; the board to be taken down standing upon the seat next to the high seats on the S. side. The pavements to be mended both in church and chancel . . . the N. window of the chancel and the belfry window partly boarded up . . . no hood.

Moulshoe.—Buttresses of the church and chancel all in decay . . . steeple . . . church and chancel wants pargetting . . . chancel wants tiling . . . windows of the chancel, in the stone and glass, in decay . . . boards on the top of the chancel seats to be taken off, the said seats to be mended . . . some of the windows in the church partly boarded up; (to provide by) 5 Novr. a flaggon . . . back of Mr. Rood's seat to be taken off in part, and made uniform to the fore part; the tester of it to be taken down; the little high windows of the church not ceiled; the reading seat to be set close to the partition, and the pulpit to be placed in the corner, and the top of the other said seat to be taken off . . . the church windows that are partly dammed up to be glazed throughout; the birds defile the chancel by coming in under the eaves; the W. end of the timber-work in the south aisle in decay; it raineth in the church, especially at the W. end; the cushion, pulpit-cloth, and carpet (*i.e.*, altar-cloth) moth-eaten . . . the seat bottoms broken.

Astwood.—The chancel to be paved; a S. seat in it too high . . . All the E. benches to be made desks . . . seats in the chancel not paved nor boarded . . . seats in the church next the partition of the chancel to be made uniform with the height of the partition, and the boards standing upon the partition to be taken off; Mr. Chibnall's seats to be of the same height; the pulpit to be enlarged, and stairs to be made unto it, or else the reading (desk) to be raised higher and set in the pulpit place, and that with a cover over it to serve for both.

Hardmead.—The windows next to the church porch dammed up . . . the church windows, and chancel windows especially, broken in glass and stone, and want iron bars; a new Communion Table (ordered); chancel not paved; the desk upon the partition to be taken off; a step or bench to be made before the rail . . . the boards upon the partition to be taken away . . . seats next to the partition on both sides too high, and the board under the aforesaid desk and canopy over Mr. Catesbye's seats to be taken down, and the said seats to be taken lower in the first pane . . . the reading seat to be raised 2 feet higher; a new cover for the font (ordered); no hood; the pulpit and Communion cloth not fringed . . . the register book cannot be seen.

Chicheley.—The desk upon the S. part to be taken off; the banisters of the high seats to be taken off and the backs of them to be broken down even with the partition; the reading seat to be now set higher by two feet or more; all the E. benches of the seats to be made into desks; the high seats in the N. aisle to be made uniform with the rest; a monument erected at the E. end of the N. aisle, which dammed up the light of the window; chancel wants sentencing; carpet for the table wants a fringe; no hood; no poor man's box; books not seen; windows broken; vicarage in decay. A book of strange preachers is wanting ("Registrum incipit 2

Regina Elizabeth, 1559. Non suscript. fol.) S. aisle window stopped up in part; church and chancel want paving, and seats' bottoms broken; the rafters and cross "baulke" in the chancel new made but slightly done; no hood; the E. benches in every seat to be turned into desks . . . seats next the chancel to be made uniform, and also in the S. alley, and the rest; the S. window next to the S. door partly dammed up . . . the S.W. window partly stopped up . . . buttresses of the church and walls of the church and chancel in decay, and the windows broken of both.

Bowchickhill (Bow Brickhill).—The church in the E. end on the S. side wants lead in the W. end, which is stolen away; seats in the chancel too high, and to be cut off to the first pane; the pulpit wants a cover . . . Seats want boarding, and are decayed in the bottom . . . Chancel decayed in the pavement.

Bowchickhill Chapel.—The font to be removed into lower end of the church; the Service-book rent; the floor to be paved and made even; the seats to be repaired and to be boarded; a new poor man's box, and the Communion Table, to be set up to the east wall, and the Table to be railed in . . . The seat above the reading seat too high, and to be taken lower and narrower . . . Desk to be made upon it.

Warenden.—The Service-book wants ordering of Priests . . . N. side of the church and the chancel is in decay . . . The two new seats in the chancel to be made lower to the partition . . . Seats want mending . . . Benches on the E. side of the seats to be turned into benches (desks?) . . . All the high seats to be taken lower . . . The partition in the seat in the middle aisle to be taken down, viz., betwixt Mr. Wells' son's seat; font wants a new cover with a pyramid . . . register not seen; no hood . . . A carpet for the Communion Table to be made new of green, fringed . . . the old pulpit to be taken down; the Communion Table to be made new to the old frame.

Walton.—The chancel-seat to be made even with the partition; Mr. Beales' seat to be made uniform, it is too high; east benches of the seats to be made into desks . . . two seats on the S. side too high . . . windows broken, especially in the belfry.

Milton Regnes (Keynes).—Church and chancel windows greatly in decay in the glass work . . . wainscot partition to be taken down in the chancel to the midst, and banister to be set upon it (in its place?), and the N. aisle to be repaired in the walls and tiles, and to be whitened, and it and the chancel to be adorned with sentences, and the door leading into the said aisle and also the partition thereto; the seats of the chancel to be boarded and repaired; the belfry-window exceedingly in decay and stopped up with boards . . . James Worrell's seat too high.

Hulcott.—Required: A new Table; the N. bench to be repaired or round seats to be made . . . the seats in the South aisle of the church to be made uniform to the partition . . . A board to be taken out of the little window and (it) to be glazed. Some of the windows to be mended in the glass; no school to be kept in the church.

Wingrave.—The chancel in decay in the tiling, and the chancel-seats to be boarded . . . all the E. benches to be made desks . . .

sentences both in churches and chancel wanting . . . things belonging to the pulpit and Table not seen . . . high desks in the N. and S. alley too high, to be made equal with the partition . . . the ledge of Mr. Abram's seat to be taken off; the back of the N. seat and the back of the seat in the N. aisle to be uniform.

Mentmore.—The roof betwixt the partn. of the chur. and chanc. to be mended . . . seats in the chancel want boarding; chancel wants sentencing . . . 2 "banisters" to be put in every space of the rails afore the Com. Table; the "high seat" in the chancel to be made uniform in the old one; the window of the chanc. partly dammed up; a new cover (ordered) for the frame of the Com. Table; a seat in the upper cross alley . . . are built without authority; 2 high seats at the upper end of the S. Alley—viz., &c., where no seats were known to be . . . *absque* authority—which 2 seats are to be made into 1, and uniform to the rest . . . some of the seats want boarding and reppg.; a new pulpit to be set higher in the corner, and the readg. seat made higher to it; the chur. windows partly dammed up . . . no pulpit cloth; no hood . . . the E. benches to be turned into desks.

Cheddington.—Windows in the glass insufficient . . . the feet of the rails to be cut off, so that the frame of the rails may be set on the ground . . . the S. seat to be made uniform to the N. seat in the chancel, and the E. benches, &c.; Mr. Coome's seat on the S. side very high, containing the room of 3 seats, built about 5 years ago; and the new seats on the S. side to be equal in height to the seats of the N. side, which seats have been built without authority; the porch formerly leaded, now tiled; a window stopped up within the porch which gave light, standing above the porch when it was leaded.

Musworth.—(To provide) a new surplice (and) a carpet suitable to the pulpit cloth; the pew on the N. side of the chancel to be made uniform with the pew next to it; the chancel is in some decay . . . the N. window in the chancel partly stopped up with boards; the Bible wants the Translation, &c., unto the Calendar, and part of the Revelation; the east benches, &c., the chancel, and also the church wants sentencing and whitening . . . (required) a new reading seat for the minst.; sufficient stairs to the pulpit; a new cover for the font; Mr. West's seat to be no higher than the partn.; and some of them (the seats) want boarding; Widow Leare's seat of Cheddington, too high and built by the wall lengthwise; she comes but once a fortnight to church. The belfry unpaved, and the ropes in decay, and some seats also; the belfry-door wants hinges, so that it stands on the ground; Kellyes and Mr. West's seat too high on the back part, and likewise Duncomb's; the porch broken in the wall, and not paved, and broken in tiles, and wants benches . . . the steeple greatly in decay . . . the buttresses . . . in decay; the foundation of the S. side . . . in decay; the curate liveth out of the parish; Mr. West's aisle somewhat in decay . . . the battlements of the steeple, and church, and staircase, and stonework of the windows in decay.

Picklesthorne.—All the buttresses of steeple, church, and chancel in decay, and likewise the foundn. of the S. side of the chancel; the window next the porch, part of it stopped up with boards, and

one window at the S. side of the chancel with brick; the lower seats next the belfry standing into the aisle . . . all the E. seats, some of them are not boarded in the bottom; the great seat next the pulpit to be made into two . . . the reading seat to be set close to the partition, and a pulpit to be made and joined to it; the cover of the font to be made in a better manner; the way to the rood-loft to be made up . . . the seats before and behind the church-door, the backs of them to be made lower and uniform with the other; Mr. Bruer and Mr. Duncomb's seats, and seats in the N. alley, to be made uniform, &c.

Edgborough (Edle).—An organ case is there, and organs (once existed) in the memory of man; the windows of the chancel broken in the glass, and the upper circle of the east window dammed up; seats in the chancel in decay in the backs of them . . . the painting (*sic*) in the church decayed, and the chancel not sentenced; the chancel above the uppermost ascent to be paved as the rest; a high seat in Mr. Langford's aisle of his; all the east benches, &c.; the 2 great seats next to the partn., that on the S., Mr. Bridges, and also the N. one to be made uniform; 2 seats in the middle aisle on the N. side too high—viz., one belonging to the Earl of B. (*sic*), and the other to the Vicar's wife; and one seat in the corner of the S. aisle, which is John Smith's, too high; and another in the N. aisle, *absque* authority, to be made uniform . . . no hood; the porches want doors, and seats, and paving; the under part of the cover of the font to be carved as the top; a N. end to the upper ascent to be taken away, being 3 or 4 stones in length; the buttresses of the steeple, and church, and aisles, and also in the battlements in decay in the stone work . . . and also the battlements of the porch.

Ivinghoe.—There have been organs, for the case is standing; the choir and chancel want sentencing; the seats want boarding . . . and repairing; (to provide) a new Com. Table, a new carpet, a pulpit-cloth, and cushion suitable . . . a new surplice, and hood, &c.; the pulpit to be removed to the next pillar below on that side, and a reading seat to be annexed, and the clerk's seat by it, so that they do not extend beyond the old seats into the aisle, all the high seats to be made uniform with the old ones, and all the east benches, &c.; Mr. Duncombe's aisle out of repr. in the seats, and wants paving; 4 seats stand into the aisle; the ringing loft to be taken down, and the next loft to be laid lower as formerly; wooden rails to be taken down before the windows in the S. and N. aisle; (required) new cover for the font; porch wants paving, and seats, and some of the pavements of the church in decay; the windows broken, and battlements of the church and buttresses in decay.

St. Lawrence, Nettleden.—All the seats in decay in the bottom both of church and chancel, and also out of repair most of them . . . two "banisters" to be put betwixt every space of the rails before the Com. Tab.; the pavement in the chancel above the ascent in decay; the feet of the rails to be cut off, so that the frame may stand on the ground; the chancel wants tiling, and so decayed that the east wall yields back and greatly cracked; the S. window in the chan. stopped up; the high seat in the chan. to be

taken away and the old seat before it to be placed there; the chanc. walls to be whitened, and sentenced together with the church; the pillars withinside the partitn. decayed in the stone work; Mr. Dancie's seat and the back of Hayden's seat to be taken away, and one uniform seat to be placed where Dancie's is, being no parishioner; the pieces of boards upon the partn. of each side to be taken away; (to provide) a new Service Book, a new pulpit-cloth, cushion, and carpet, to be smaller, of green, and fringed; all the rest of the Books wanting; no hood; the cover of the font in decay, and the pulley to be mended; Asheridge do not communicate here; £10 p. ann. given by Mr. Bracey to preach 12 sermons every year; 21 July, Roger Sandersou *Dixit Dno Judici*, that he the said Judge would find faults enough for money, or words to that effect.

Trayghton Beach (Drayton Beauchamp).—The seats in the chancel want boarding . . . and mending . . . the E. window in decay, and one of the upper small lights stopped up; the rails to be set overthwart; the steps before the Com. Table to be made lower, and another ascent to be made above that nearer the rail; some of the seats in the church in decay . . . (Reqd.) a carpet on table to the pulpit-cloth; the cover of the chalice to be changed for a larger; Mr. Cheinies' seat too high: the frame of the bells in decay.

Wing.—(To prov.) a new Com. Table, a carpet, a pulpit-cloth, and cushion suitable of green, with silk fringe; the partn. in decay both in the wood and stonework; the church (wants) some sentencing; (to prov.) a hood; the organs in decay; Mr. Ligoe's seat a foot too high above the old seat beside the banisters; all the E. seats and some seats want boarding . . . and repg.; bell frames in decay; Mr. Moore's and Mr. Jones' seat to be of the height of the partn.; the desks of the sd. seats to be taken down; John Woodman's seat to be of the height of the partn.; a poor man's box to stand upon a post; the Commandments to be set at each side of the east window; the vault under the chancel to be filled up.

Slapton.—The buttresses and battlements both in church and chancel in decay, and glass windows broken in church and chancel, and one behind the porch stopped up in part . . . a little window on the S. side of the chancel partly stopped up; the chancel in decay in the pavement; the rail to be overthwart, and 2 banisters to be put between every space, and the benches within the rail to be taken away; (to prov.) a new Service-book, and the old one to be made fit for the clerk; (to prov.) a new Bible, Homilies, Canons, &c. . . . a new cover for the font; a poor man's box upon a post; the parson's wife's seat and the Lord's seat too high, and the first pane of them to be taken down; the pulpit to be set further into the corner nearer, and the reading seat to be set further on the N. corner; the partition to be taken down to the bottom of the "banisters," and the steps to be taken away that are on each side of the partn. door; and one ascent to be made near the Com. Table stairs for the going into the pulpit; (to provide) a new carpet suitable to the pulpit-cloth.

Iwer.—A great tomb of Mr. Blunt's and his wife standing in

the middle of the chancel . . . seats in the chancel want boarding . . . the 10 Commts. to be placed over the Com. Table under the E. window; the boards on the top of partn., whereon the Commts. are written, to be taken down, as it is said that the place hath been open . . . the east benches, &c. . . the Lady Sallter's and Mr. Boyer's seats too high; the two seats near the S. side of the partn.; being Sir John Lawrence's, to be set lower as formerly they were. (other seats too high, &c.) Sir Ric. Barringer's seat to be taken down to the mark . . . the 2 seats in the chancel to be taken away, and the old seats on the N. side to be placed as formerly; the Commn. rails to be placed quite cross upon the lower ascent, so that there may be a convenient kneeling-place, and a new Communion Table to be made; another of Sir Edw. Sallter's seats and Yeoman Martin's wife's and others standing in the said aisle; the next to them is Mr. Henry Arlin's, Mr. Hines, and Sir Edw. Sallter's men, and Francis Sanford's, all being of one frame of fir, too high; Mr. Walter Barringer's wife's seat too high; the Minr.'s seat wants benching; the 2 seats under the gallery to be taken down as formerly . . . seats in the S. aisle to be made uniform . . . chancel wants sentencing; a window stopped up in the N. side (of the chancel?), Lady Sallter's tomb being erected against it; a chalice to be new; foundation of the chancel in decay; there hath been organs.

Langley Marsh.—The boards upon the partn. to be taken down, and the seats annexed to be made equal with it . . . sentences wanting in the S. aisle and chancel; a monument of Edmund Kiddermaster, Esq., a great iron bar standing before it, hinders the rails of the Commn. Table that it cannot stand cross; a seat next the partn. on the N. side to be taken down even with the partn.; the seat that now is the minister's to be made two, and for the minister by itself to be desked round, and the other for the clerk, only the minr.'s seat to be raised higher, and a door to be made to the reading-seat, which is on the S. side; a catalogue of those books which do belong to the church of Langley to be brought into the registry, with their several impressions, Robt. Pallen, custos; the rails to be set quite across the chancel, and kneeling benches to it, and the seats in the chancel to be boarded; (required) a new cover for the font; no hood; the chancel door to be mended, and the walls within side . . . the seat next the partition on the said side stands in the middle aisle; the Lady Fisher's seats too high; it rains in betwixt the wooden pillars in the church; a brick tomb to be taken away; 2 great seats in the N. aisle to be made 4 . . . the floor of the vault is 9 steps high from the church, and upon that vault Sir John Parsons hath a seat 7 feet high, and 7 yards long, or thereabouts, and covered overhead, and 8 lattice windows to open in the sides towards the church (!!!), besides a door in the midst, which vault and the building over seems to be added to the S. side of the church, and the aforesaid vault is betwixt 5 or 6 yards over, and of the length of the said seat; the library wall seemeth low, dammed up at the S. windows, and a door openeth out of Sir John Parsons' seat into the churchyard.

Upton.—A new Service Book, with the ordering of priests and deacons bound in the volume . . . strange preachers; no hood;

font to be raised 2 foot ; 3 high seats—viz., 2 of Mr. Bulstread's seats, and the other Mr. Woodward's—to be cut down to the mark, and also Mr. Stiles', his seat on the S. side ; the clerk's seat to be taken down, and a seat to be set up for him not to prejudice the passage-aisle ; the little window at the W. end of the church to be glazed ; (to provide) a foot-pace about the font to kneel on . . . all the laths to be taken out of the windows and iron bars.

Datchet.—Chancel wants paving ; the cupboard to be removed from within the rails ; the ceiling of the chancel over the Com. Tab. in decay, and the ceiling at each side of the bottom of the roof in decay ; the partn. doors to be mended ; the reading-desk to be joined to the pulpit ; the great seat in the chancel to be taken away, and the old seat to be set there again, uniform to that on the N. side ; a pair stairs to be made for the going up into the pulpit, and the going up to be made out of the reading-seat ; the windows that are stopped up, both in church and chancel, to be unstopped and glazed ; Christopher Barker, Esq.'s monument, erected on the north side of the chancel 1549, and compassed in with iron bars, which taketh 3 quarters of a yard of the chancel ; the Lady Wheeler's and Mr. Griffin's seats to be taken lower down to the marks ; the Lady Darrell's seat also . . . (to prov.) a new cover for the font ; Mrs. Vauke's seat in the N. aisle to be taken lower to the mark ; a board to be plucked down standing upon the back of a seat near the S. door of the middle aisle ; Mr. Wase's seat to be taken down to the mark ; and the Vicar's seat, standing in the S. aisle, to be taken away ; a seat in the chancel and some seats in the church want boarding and repg. ; the windows in decay in the glass ; the chancel wants sentencing ; the Bible and Service Book to be new bound, which are much torn ; no hood ; no door to the porch ; the western window to be new ; chancel and chur. in the foundations decayed.

Wyngardsbury.—The Commn. rails to be thicker with "banisters"—1 in a space—2 windows in the chancel dammed up ; the 2 new seats in the chancel (built *absque*) to be taken down, and the old ones set there, or else others like them ; the windows in the N. aisle partly dammed up ; Sir Wm. Salter's to be taken down according to the mark (with others) ; all the windows broken in the glass ; most of the seats . . . want boarding ; a gallery set under the belfry, *absque*, &c., the last year, and the frames of the bells broken . . . the wooden bars in the windows to be thicker . . . the S. aisle of the church seems to be apparently taken away ; the S. window next the partn. in the chancel to be made lower as formerly ; the chancel wants sentencing ; one of the windows over the S. door dammed up ; the chur. hath need of ceiling ; the bell frames so in decay that the bells cannot be rung . . . the pavement of the church in decay ; the steeple in great decay, and braced round with timber and iron pins . . . roof of the chancel in decay ; the church wants ripping in . . . so much that it snows into the church ; the pulpit wants a back . . . (ordered) a convenient settle to kneel before the rails ; the churwns. have not passed their accounts ; the N. aisle, belonging to Mr. Bulstrode, lately leaded, now newly tiled (Mr. Bulstrode took it away) ; Citetur Jacobus

Sparke Gard (ianus Ecclesie) pro ommiss, and, viz., for that (he abs.) he absented himself from church oftentimes; and divers absent themselves from church on Holidays, and keep on their hats in prayer and sermon-time (!!!), and for that he made a gallery, *absque*, &c. . . . a new large pulpit.

Colbrook Chapel.—Sir Edwd. Sallter's seats and Mr. Wilson's in the chancel too high; the new seats in the N. aisle to be taken down as low as the doors of the said seats; Mr. Burton's seat to be turned; the chapel and all things about it are repaired and maintained by the profits of markets and fairs; Mrs. Meal's seat to be taken lower according to the mark, and it stands into the aisle *absque*, &c.; the new partn. boards to be taken down; Mrs. Meal's seat and the next to it to be made into 3; the seat on the N. side of the middle side of the middle aisle so broad that it would make 4; the 2 first panes of the wainscoat to be taken down of the gallery; the consecration of the chapel to be certified next visitation; the entrance to the seat at the S. side of the rails to be made at the other end of the seat, and the seat on the N. side to be turned; and the entrance into that to be so convenient as the rails may stand from one pew to the other, quite cross, and the rails to be made of the height of the door, and the knobs to be taken off, and a convenient kneeling bench to be joined to the rails; and the 10 Commmts. in a frame to be fixed over the Table; (to prov.) a larger Table; no books but Bible and Service Book; there are no chapel wardens for the town; no Table of Degrees nor Instructions; no hood nor surplice that is fitting; the chalice to be mended; the great seat next the partition to be made 4 inches narrower; the glass windows in decay; Capt. Butler's and his wife's seat to be taken lower; the new font not to be used, but the old one and it to be repaired with a cover.

Wecham.—Chancel wants tiling and sentencing, and the windows of the chancel partly dammed up, and they want glazing; the seats of each side of the rails to be taken away, and the rails to be set overthwart from wall to wall, and a little more set in, so that there may be made a convenient place; pavement near the Com. Table somewhat sunk; seats at the lower end of the church too high, therefore to be made uniform, and the round seat by the font; the great seat next the part. (being Mr. Woodward's) to be taken down to the mark; no hood; the light of the little window in the church to be made fairer and broader, and glazed; the N. seat in the chancel to be made lower according to the mark; a pewter (!!!) flaggon given by Mr. John Woodward to the church.

Fullmer.—(To provide) a new chalice and cover; the Parish Clerk to have a bench joined to the partn. . . . 4 seats in the S. aisle too high—built by Sir Marmaduke Darell, Kt., founder of the church—viz., two of the seats being 5 foot high, and two of them 4 foot high, and a vault under the said aisle for a burial; the said church was built Ann. Dni. 1610, and also consecrated by Bishop Barlow.

(To be continued.)