

AN ACCOUNT OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY  
AT TURVILLE, BUCKS, AND OF ITS RECENT  
RESTORATION AND ENLARGEMENT.

The village of Turville stands at the head of the Hambleton Valley, close to the Oxford border, 8 miles north-east of Henley, and 7 miles north-west of Marlow; it lies among the chalk hills of the Chilterns, surrounded by beautiful beech woods for which this part of the county of Bucks is famous. The inhabitants, numbering about 100, are chiefly occupied in turning chair legs and rails for the Wycombe chair factories. The village is intersected by the road leading from North End to Fingest and Hambleton, and in addition to the Church, Vicarage, and School, comprises about twenty cottages, built largely of brick and flint walls with tiled roofs; there are also some examples of half-timber work to be seen.

The Church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a very interesting specimen of a small country Church, broad and simple in character, and of good proportions. It now consists of a Nave with a small north aisle, Chancel, Tower, Vestry, Heating Chamber, and south Porch: the internal dimensions of the various parts are as follows:—

	Length.	Width.	Height.
Nave —	43ft. 0in. by	18ft. 9 in.	26ft. 6in. to apex of roof.
Aisle —	19ft. 9in. by	9ft. 9in.	12ft. 6in. to ceiling.
Chancel—	18ft. 10in. by	14ft. 5in.	16ft. 6in. to ceiling.
Tower —	12ft. 0in. by	11ft. 7in.	17ft. 0in. first floor.
Vestry —	14ft. 6in. by	11ft. 0in.	13ft. 6in.
Heating Chamber } —	11ft. 0in. by	6ft. 0in.	
Porch —	9ft. 6in. by	8ft. 10in.	

Seating accommodation is provided for 120 adults, the distribution being 96 in the nave, 9 in the chancel, and 15 in the aisle.

The Fabric possesss features of the principal Gothic periods of English architecture. Of Norman work there

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# CHURCH OF ST. MARY TURVILLE, BUCKS. AS RESTORED IN 1900

## REFERENCE

- A Altar Table
- B Piscina and Credence
- C Altar Rail, adapted from Gallery Balustrade
- D Organ
- E Frontal Press
- F Boiler and Tank
- G Lectern
- H Pulpit
- I Oak Screens
- J Perry Monument
- K Memorial Slabs from
- L Old Brick Floor
- M New Windows
- N Remains of a Norman Window
- O Old Benches
- P Front, adapted from Gallery Balustrade
- Q Norman Font Bowl on New Base and Step
- R Heating Radiators
- S 13th Century Stone Coffin and Lid
- T Brick Channels for Rain Water

## HISTORICAL REFERENCE

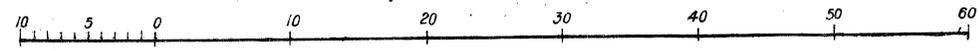
	Norman	12th Century
	Early English	13th "
	Decorated	14th "
	Perpendicular	15th "
	Georgian	18th "
	1872 Additions	19th "
	1900	" "

## SEATING ACCOMMODATION

Nave	96
Chancel	9
Aisle	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120 Adults</b>

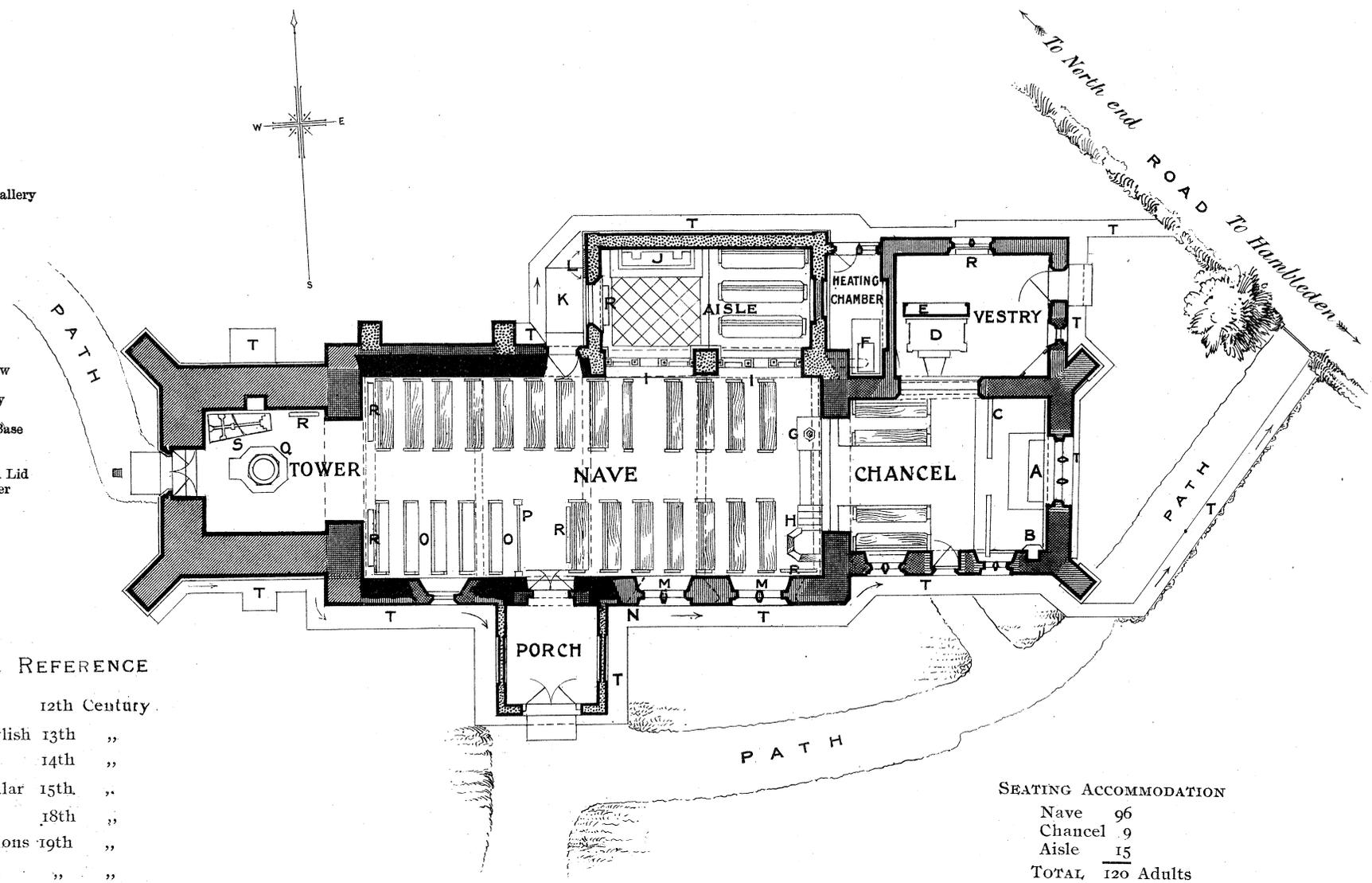
GROUND PLAN.

SCALE OF FEET



March 1901.

W. A. FORSYTH, A.R.I.B.A.,  
 HUGH P. G. MAULE,  
 Architects,  
 16, Great Marlborough St.,  
 London, W.



exist the internal arches of the north and south doorways, the remains of a small arched opening with splayed jambs (probably a window) now visible on the south wall near the Porch and the bowl of an old stone Font. Thirteenth century work is to be seen in the pointed arches at the east and west ends of the Nave, the external pointed head of the north doorway, the south doorway built with chalk and stone, the Nave east gable, and a remarkably fine solid stone coffin with a raised cross lid.

The single light window west of the Porch dates from the early part of the 14th century; other work of this, the "Decorated" period, is to be seen in the Chancel south window nearest the Nave and the single light window which formerly stood in the Chancel north wall and now re-built in the new Vestry.

The Chancel, generally speaking, is of this period, but was restored and strengthened in 1872, when the present east window was inserted and the angle buttresses added; the Sanctuary window and south doorway are restorations, but appear to have been based upon the old work.

The oak roof spanning the Nave dates probably from the end of the 13th or early part of the 14th century, and is of an interesting construction, to which later reference will be made. The Chancel roof, although covered with a modern, boarded ceiling, is also of oak, simpler in construction, and dates from the 14th century. Of the "Perpendicular" or 15th century period no more typical example could be found than the beautiful Tower standing at the west end, the detail of which being perfect in every respect. This forms the most prominent feature of the exterior, although low and massive in proportion.

A four-light brick window from the south wall of the Nave and an oak gallery from the west end, both of which appear to date from the 17th century, have been removed.

The north Aisle used exclusively by the owner of Turville Park was built entirely in the 18th century: a brick in one of the quoins at the north-east angle is inscribed R.G., 1733. It is almost entirely built of red brick, covered with a double hipped tile roof, and opens into the Nave with two large semi-circular arches.

A large brick vault exists below that part of the floor now laid with wood blocks.

A brick Porch, probably of late 17th century work, stands over the south doorway, and possesses but little archæological interest.

The walls of the mediæval parts, generally speaking, are built of random flint-work, strengthened by bond stones, the quoins and dressings to doors and windows of an oolite stone, possibly from an Oxfordshire quarry, and the wall facing of snapped flint, laid in random courses. A good deal of chalk has been used in the internal walls, notably in the Tower and Nave north wall, and also in the internal arches; the walls are plastered throughout, and the roofs covered with tiles.

Although the Church is said to have been "beautified" in 1722, and certain new work and repairs carried out in the Chancel in 1872, yet the fabric, in 1898, was found to be in a very bad state of repair, and in some respects dangerous and unfit for worship. As is usual with these ancient buildings, which have suffered decay from years of neglect, matters at Turville were going rapidly from bad to worse until the present Vicar decided to arrest further damage by starting the work of restoration and thorough repair which has recently been finished. On inspection it was found that most of the defects could be traced to the effects of weather; brick channels had been laid round the walls of Nave and Chancel, but, being of insufficient width to catch the rain falling from the roofs, and having been allowed to become loose and broken, much surface water found its way into the walls and foundations; then followed inclined movement and settlements in the walls, followed by corresponding defects in the roofs; water came through the tiles in many places, causing the lathing of the ceilings and the feet of some of the oak rafters to rot to the extent that the ceilings were ready to drop with a slight touch, and some of the timbers in danger of collapsing.

From the same source dampness had also risen in the walls, which, together with the leaking of the roofs, had decayed almost the whole of the plastering of the Nave walls, rendering it beyond repair. The whole of the interiors of the Nave, Aisle, and Tower were covered with whitewash of an unpleasant bluey tone, which was

applied alike to ceilings, walls, stonework, and some woodwork. On closer inspection several schemes of old colour decoration were found to be underlying the surface whitewash of the Nave walls; the uppermost was a series of texts in black letters of a large English type, enclosed with borders of somewhat ornate design in black, red, and yellow colours. This treatment practically covered the whole of the flat wall surface, and would appear to date from the 17th century. Below this was a succession of older schemes, undoubtedly of mediæval work, and principally in reds, blacks, and dark browns, the designs of which it was impossible to decipher. The earliest decoration was chiefly of a red treatment, containing figure work and conventional floral forms. The colour when exposed had remarkable brightness; some star-shaped forms on the walls, door, and window jambs, etc., were also discovered on several of the oak rafters, showing that the whole of the Nave had been decorated in colour. The medium used was a kind of distemper, such as is usually found in work of the period. It was a matter of much disappointment that evidences of this interesting colour decoration could not be retained, but it was entirely owing to the decayed nature of the plasterwork; even with the greatest care nothing could prevent the falling of the coloured parts, which crumbled to small pieces with the slightest movement.

The floor of the Nave and Tower was partly of bricks and partly large square tiles in a much-worn and broken condition; that in the Tower was raised one step high, sloping upwards towards the west door, and was particularly bad, owing to this part of the Church having been used for the storage of coal. Several stones covering vaults were visible in the old floor, and here again signs of dampness were present.

The Chancel arch at the east and the Tower arch at the west end of the Nave are beautiful specimens of simple 13th century work, with plain, broad soffits springing from square jambs; the arch stones only have chamfers.

The Tower arch was barely visible from the Nave owing to the gallery standing in front of it. This gallery had for a long time been found inconvenient, not only on account of the "head-room" in the seats

below it being insufficient, but also owing to the floor passing across the single-light south window and intercepting most of the daylight which was much needed in this part of the Nave. Behind the gallery and filling the whole of the west arch was a large deal panelled partition with a door leading into the Tower; this completely excluded all the light of the west window, and obscured a great deal of the arch when seen from the Tower side. In view of these and other circumstances, it was decided, after due consideration, to remove the gallery and partition, and to open out the interior of the Church to its original proportions. A dormer window, which had been inserted to give light to the gallery, and which resembled similar features to be seen on the cottage roofs, was removed at the same time. The gallery, dating, probably, from the latter half of the 17th century, was constructed of oak, and measured 18ft. 11in. in its greatest width, and had an average projection into the Nave of 13ft. 6in. The front consisted of four square moulded newels and three intervening balustered spaces with moulded rails and capping, the whole being carried by four moulded posts; the beams in the floor were also partly supported by the posts. The newels measured  $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 5in., and the shaped balusters  $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. by  $1\frac{1}{4}$ in.—broad on face and narrow in thickness. The gallery seats were of a somewhat crude description, and had evidently been arranged to accommodate musicians, as some of the back rails were moveable and the seats cut short to allow for the passage of large instruments.

Another feature of some interest which was removed with much reluctance was an oak staircase standing in the Tower and leading to the stage below the Bell Chamber; it was very steep and somewhat dangerous of ascent and descent; the steps were spandrel in shape and of solid oak, many of them being worn and loose. A clear floor space was gained in the Tower, rendering the new position of the Font more convenient.

The lighting of the Nave was far from satisfactory, and the only window giving direct light was at the east end of the south wall. This was a four-light brick window, apparently inserted in the 17th century; each light measured 5ft.  $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. in height, and 1ft. 4in. in width, finished with a semi-circular head, and the whole

of the brickwork of the mullions, heads, jambs, and sills was splayed and roughly cut to receive a thin coat of plaster inside and out, the general effect being that of a stone window. Thus was the light concentrated near the pulpit, and, being a south aspect, a large blind was found necessary to exclude the strong sunlight and heat of the summer time, and to render that part of the Nave pleasant for worshippers. The brick mullions were strengthened by the wrought-iron saddle-bars of the diamond lead glazing, being built in of one length across the whole width of the window. The central part of the Nave was dark, and the necessity of a more distributed light had for a long time been keenly felt. An inspection of the neighbouring Churches leads one to conclude that two windows originally existed in the south wall, east of the Porch, and on stripping the external plaster, to which reference will be made later, it was seen that the wall had been cut about and filled up. It was therefore decided to remove the brick window, and to insert two new stone windows in the spaces between the three end tie-beams.

The Nave seating, introduced in 1876, chiefly consisted of pitch pine benches fixed on raised deal platforms. There were some old oak seats below the gallery on the south side, also fixed on platforms, which, at some time during the 19th century, had been painted and grained in imitation of pitch pine. All the platforms were in need of repair, the floors in many cases giving way under foot.

It will be seen that a great deal of comfort for worship did not exist, and certainly the slow-burning heating stove added but little to it. Until recently this stood by the north doorway, the iron flue pipe being carried through the head of the external arch into a brick chimney built to receive it. This chimney covered two-thirds of the Early English north doorway, and some of the brickwork pointed to the existence of a former stove; this may be the one to which Lipscomb refers in his history of Buckinghamshire — "A convenient stove was placed in the Church in 1825." Very little heat was obtained from the apparatus lately removed; draughts from the doors and windows were plentiful, and the dampness already alluded to added to the general feeling of want of comfort in the interior.

In the Chancel a better condition of repair existed, but the inconvenience occasioned by the cramped choir space necessitated the removal of the organ, which then occupied the greater part of the north side. To provide for this and other accommodation it was decided to build a Vestry and Heating Chamber on the north side of the Chancel.

With regard to the North Aisle, general structural repairs only were found necessary, and much the same condition obtained in the Tower, with the exception of the old lead roof, which required some new lead flashings and stoppings.

Such, then, was the state of the Fabric in 1899. Towards the end of the year a detailed report was drawn up, setting forth the various works necessary to be carried out; careful measurements and notes were made, and after the plans, details, and specifications had been prepared, estimates were obtained and the work of restoration and repair started in June, 1900. The following is a description of the external and internal works executed in the respective parts of the Church:—

NAVE: EXTERNAL.—The south wall was formerly covered with plaster from end to end, presumably to exclude weather, and was applied alike to stone dressings and flint facing, which pointed to the fact that it was later work. The whole of this wall was found to be in a very dilapidated state; built in rough flint rubble with little or no bond, cracked in many places and inclining at the top, it showed signs of collapsing. The plaster was hacked off, the settlements cut out, and the wall face cut back to receive the new snapped flint facing built in cement, and averaging 9 inches thick. This not only materially strengthened the old wall, but it restored the facing, and it is interesting to note that the mediæval and new flint work resemble one another to a marked degree. Plaster was also stripped from the Gable and flint facing built in; the coping was re-pointed, and the decayed stones replaced with new. An apex stone was also fixed. The four-light brick window previously referred to was taken out, the East mural monument removed, and the two present windows inserted. The design of these is based on others to be found in the county at Chesham and Aston Clinton; the sunk chamfer which is seen

frequently in Bucks has been introduced in the detail of these and other features. The stone used is Chilmark from the "green bed," finished with a tooled surface; inside, the windows have splayed jambs, from which spring moulded "drop" arches. An opening wrought-iron casement is provided for ventilation in each window, and leaded Cathedral glass of a yellow tone is used.

The stripping of the plaster revealed an interesting feature of Norman work, the head of a small arched opening formed by radiating snapped flints with rough splayed reveals, and the whole filled in with rough walling; the head and a short piece of a jamb only remained; the width of the opening is 8in., the centre being 2ft. 1in. from the Porch east wall and the height of the head from the present floor level 10ft. 3in. Evidences of this discovery have been retained both in and outside.

The wall surrounding the single-light window to the west of the Porch was much out of the perpendicular, and the stonework of the window inclined with it. The latter was taken out completely and reset vertically in the new flint facing, together with the old wrought iron saddle-bars. Inside, an oak lintel was removed, which had probably been inserted when the gallery was erected in order to admit more light; a new stone arch was turned in its place, the detail of which has been taken from the heads of the other Decorated arches in the Chancel. The old diamond leaded glass was quite beyond re-use, and new of similar design had to be substituted.

The old, defective brick channels were taken up, the ground excavated to the floor level, and a vertical dampcourse of slate and cement was laid to the face of the old walls to a height of 9 inches above the level of the new channels. These brick channels were then laid to a sufficient width on good concrete beds almost round the whole of the Church.

In the course of these and other excavations a large number of human bones were found, and, after being carefully collected, were re-buried.

On the north wall the brick chimney from the heating stove was taken down, and disclosed the 13th century north doorway already referred to; the brickwork which

filled up the opening was also cut away, and it was then seen that the stonework of the pointed arch was only 6 inches thick, and is an insertion in a larger Norman arch now seen in the Nave; there are no external traces of this latter arch. The original hooks to which the door had been hung were also found. The external decayed and broken stones were cut out and replaced with new, and an oak door hung in the opening.

INTERNAL.—The largest and most important of the works carried out was the repair and opening out of the Nave roof. This is entirely an oak roof of interesting construction, and dates, very probably, from the latter half of the 13th century. Five large tie-beams, roughly squared, and having a natural camber, span the Nave; these are about 21 feet long, of an average thickness of 11 by 10 inches, and the ends are secured to the wall plate which is, roughly speaking, 10 by 6 inches. The rafters—25 pairs in all—are framed to the wall plates, and, in some cases, to the ends of the tie-beams; they measure 18 feet in length, and have an average substance of 5 by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches, laid flatwise. Four by five-inch collars, 10 feet long, are framed to every pair of rafters, and are supported in the centre by a 5 by 4-inch stiffening piece running from end to end of the Nave: from the middle of each tie-beam a 6 by 6-inch post supports the stiffener, and, to further this object, “four-way” struts, each 4 by 4 inch, are thrown out from the posts. Early in the 18th century lath and plaster ceilings were added to the lower lengths of the rafters and to the underside of the collars, giving two sloping sides and a narrow central flat surface; the oak timbers were battened out to receive these ceilings, which completely shut out the upper construction from view. For a long time various parts of the roof had been leaky; the tiles were badly laid in straw, and hung upon slight beech laths; the straw had retained moisture blown in under the tiles, the laths were rotten, and much of the oak timber had suffered from the same cause; the lathing of the ceilings was also much decayed, and it is difficult to understand why large portions had not fallen.

The roof work was first begun by stripping the whole of the tiles, laths, battening, and straw; the ceilings and battening, together with the dormer window of the gallery, were next removed, leaving the timbers exposed for careful examination. These proved to be in fair

condition only; 8 pairs of rafters with collars had to be taken out, new ones of English oak were substituted, and most of the remaining old timbers were scarfed at the feet with old material and re-framed.

The rafters were then covered with stout oak battens, 2 by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, laid diagonally, and upon these were laid  $1\frac{1}{4}$  by  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch sawn oak tiling battens, to which was re-hung the whole of the old tiling to a uniform gauge of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The tiles were laid in the local manner of one peg to each tile, but without straw, and the battens were secured with stout copper nails. The spaces between the rafters were lathed, plastered, and whitened—the lathing being applied to the underside of the diagonal battens.

Most of the wall-plate of the south wall had to be renewed, and, in taking out the old, a piece of a moulded oak beam was found; this proved to be the head of a screen or cornice of a rood loft, judging by the mouldings and by mortices which at one time received moulded posts, and moreover was covered in exposed parts with traces of coloured decoration. When tested it was found to fit no space in any part of the Church, although having the appearance of having fitted a space between arches or piers.

The tie-beams were secured to the wall-plates by means of heavy wrought-iron straps; some of the ends of these beams were found to be decayed by the action of weather, but in order to strengthen them oak corbels were bolted through the beam ends and wall-plate. A missing post with struts was fixed to the beam next the Tower, and three struts put to the post of the beam by the Chancel wall. Several short extra collars were framed to rafters where the heads were weak. All the new timbers were slightly stained, varnish removed from the tie-beams, posts, and struts, the rafters and collars were thoroughly cleaned after removal of the lathing nails of the ceilings, and the whole of the roof timbers—new and old—were coated with raw linseed oil.

The wall plastering of the Nave and Tower was hacked off, and, unfortunately, the colour decoration underlying the surface whitewash came away with it, but, as previously explained, both the plasterwork and its decoration were quite beyond all possibility of preservation.

Whitewash and thin coatings of plaster were brushed off from all the stone and chalk dressings of the

windows, doorways, and arches. A cement dado, four feet high, which had been placed to resist damp rising in the walls, was also cut away, as there was no longer any necessity for its retention, and, moreover, the line made by the upper edge of the dado had somewhat spoiled the proportions of the interior. The removal of the plastering laid bare the rough flint walling, at the same time disclosing several points of interest; chief of these were the stone and chalk dressings of the arches and recesses; another interesting feature was the strong extra brick arch, inserted, probably, early in the 15th century over the "Early English" Tower-arch to strengthen the latter in raising the west Nave wall to its present height. The new plastering was then applied to the walls and recesses, and care was taken to leave all quoin and arch stones exposed. The plaster was finished with a rough surface by a hand float, the final coat being mixed with some colour.

The floor was next dealt with, and the first operation, after the platforms, seating, etc., had been removed, was the taking up of the old bricks and tiles, together with some stone slabs and two memorial marble slabs. One of these latter has been laid down outside the north door, and the other fixed on the west wall of the Aisle.

Several features of very considerable archæological interest were brought to light at this stage of the works. First, chamfered stone plinths to the Tower-arch were uncovered, which completed the fine proportions of this arch, and gave the approximate level of the original floor of the Church. Second, a remarkably fine solid stone coffin, with sepulchral slab lid, dating from the 13th century; this has already been illustrated and described in detail by Mr. A. H. Cocks, in the "Records," but a short description here may not be out of place. The coffin measures 6ft. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. by 2ft. 4in. over all, 1ft. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep outside, and 1ft. 1in. deep inside, with a round-shaped head recess to receive the skull. The sides and ends, which slope inwards, are 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick, and the stone is of the same formation as that used in the early parts of the fabric, probably quarried in Oxfordshire. Two sets of bones were found almost complete, and the remains of a third were also traced, but the contents had been disturbed at much later dates. The stone lid, which is fractured across the centre, measures, in width, 2ft. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. at the head,

1ft. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. at the foot; the length of the sides is 6ft. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ in., and the thickness averages 4 inches. It is slightly "saddle-back" in form, with a very graceful raised Calvary cross extending from end to end. The cross itself has a delicate stem and arms extending the full width of the lid, finishing with four broad flat terminals, whilst at the foot are three diminishing steps. The relief of the cross is only a quarter-of-an-inch, and the rise of the "saddle-back" barely one inch. The coffin and lid now stand inside the west door; the remains were re-buried.

Third, a small hole, 1ft. 2in. in diameter, was also found immediately under the Tower-arch; this, to all appearances, was an old soakpit to the font, and was formed in an ancient bed of rough concrete. This bed probably received an early stone paving; it was composed of pieces of stone and lime mortar of a bright yellow colour of similar composition to the mortar found in the flint walls and in the first coat of the original plastering already referred to.

In removing the old brick steps from the Tower door the original stone step was uncovered; this was a solid jointed step, very much worn away at the north end by foot traffic. The road through the village, until the beginning of last century, passed close by the west door, and this, therefore, was a much more important entrance to the Church at that time.

A cement concrete bed was put down over the whole of the nave and tower, and on this was laid a maple wood block floor of herringbone pattern, finishing at the level of the original floor of the Church; this was the generous gift of an anonymous donor. The new level necessitated additional steps in doorways and to the Chancel approach. The old steps of the former consisted of brick and tile treads, brick risers, and oak curbs; these were all removed, and York stone steps substituted of more convenient "going." Two new steps were also fixed to the Chancel.

The Norman Font stood under the Gallery near the south door, but it has now been erected in a more fitting position in the Tower upon a new base of Guiting stone.

The Font is a large circular bowl of limestone, 2ft. 8in. external and 2ft. 3in. internal diameter, 1ft. 11in. high, and sufficiently deep inside to admit of immersion: the sides diminish to an external diameter of 1ft. 8in.

The inside and part of the rim are lined with lead, which, from its appearance and condition, it would be almost safe to conclude is the original 12th century lining. A new oak cover, with wrought-iron lifting ring, has been added.

The south door, which folded in unequal parts, was of uncertain date, but, judged by its detail and iron-work, was probably inserted about the time of the building of the Porch; it had been painted and grained, and, as an alteration was necessary to make it fit the new steps, the door was removed. The west door was a moulded and square panelled door of deal, painted and grained, hung folding, and looked quite out of place in the beautiful "Perpendicular" stone doorway; it was also removed. New ledged, braced, and boarded doors of oak were hung in these two openings, fitted to the shape of the stone heads, and provided with new stock locks, wrought-iron bolts, hinges, and handles. A single door of similar construction was placed in the north doorway, which had but previously been opened out. All these doors were coated with raw linseed oil.

Oak seating has taken the places occupied by the former pitch-pine benches. The old oak seats in the south-west corner of the Nave are of great age; they have recently been cleaned of painting and graining, repaired, and fitted with new framed ends on the wall side, and treated with linseed oil; the spacing was also increased. A front, consisting of two newels and a length of balustrade adapted from the gallery front, has been placed in front of these old seats.

At the time of dismantling the Church a small pitch-pine pulpit and a reading desk were taken away, and in place of them an oak pulpit, standing on a Guiting stone moulded base, and an oak lectern on a stone step, have been erected as memorials. The pulpit stands at the south side of the Chancel arch, and bears the following inscription on a metal plate:—

"To the glory of God and in affectionate remembrance"  
 "of George Evelyn Mackarness of Poynetts"  
 "in the parish of Hambleden, Major 4th"  
 "Battalion Derbyshire Regiment, born"  
 "11th April 1851, died 17th November 1896."  
 "This pulpit was erected by his brother"  
 "Officers, friends and Neighbours."

The Lectern is a memorial to a former Vicar, with the following inscription:—

“To the glory of God and in”  
 “affectionate remembrance of”  
 “Richard Wallace Deane, Vicar”  
 “of Turville from 1861 to 1873.”  
 “This lectern was given by his”  
 “Widow, Son and Daughter.”

The pulpit and lectern were carried out by Mr. J. P. White, of Bedford.

CHANCEL.—The only external works carried out to the Chancel were the substitution of a plain half-round tile ridge for one of an ornamental pattern, repairs to the rough cast on the walls, and the new brick channels already referred to.

The principal work of the interior has been the cutting away of part of the north wall and the insertion of a Chilmark stone arch, 7ft. 4in. wide, opening into the new Vestry; in the course of this operation it was necessary to remove a small single-light “Decorated” window, built of clunch, the position of which lay practically in the space now occupied by the west jamb of the new arch; this window was entirely re-fixed in the east wall of Vestry.

The most noticeable change in the Chancel, however, and one which has added materially to the convenience of the services, was the removal of the organ; this is a small, independent instrument, and formerly stood against the north wall, occupying a large amount of space; it was taken down, cleaned, repaired, and re-erected in the Vestry.

The old choir seats, which were of pitch-pine, and providing insufficient accommodation for the enlarged choir space, were entirely removed. Two new oak benches and open panelled fronts now take the places left vacant by the removal of the organ and the former seats, and are fixed on the old deal platforms. These new benches, together with those in the Nave, have been made by the Bennet Furnishing Co., of London, from the architects' designs.

A moulded pitch-pine altar rail, carried on two thin wrought-iron standards, formerly extended to the full width of the Chancel, and having practically no interest or design, was cleared away to make room for the

present oak rails, which have been adapted from two lengths of the old gallery balustrade. Some slight reduction of height was made, varnish cleaned off, and the whole covered with linseed oil.

On the south wall within the sanctuary is a small Decorated piscina built in chalk; a moveable oak shelf has been provided in the opening, projecting a few inches; the feature is now used as a credence.

The east window and carved stringcourse were built at the time of the general restoration of the Chancel; a dossal covered with a pattern velvet has now been placed on the window sill, and side hangings of jute on the east wall partly covering the stringcourse.

**TOWER.**—This is the most conspicuous feature of the exterior of the Church, although somewhat low in proportion. It is a massive buttressed structure rising 35ft. 2in. out of the ground, built almost entirely of rough flint walls faced inside with a good deal of chalk, and outside with snapped flint with stone dressings to door and window openings and to the buttresses; the parapet is built of red brick, the battlements being formed of moulded bricks. The walls above the moulded plinth have an average thickness of 4 feet, but they diminish at higher levels to receive the floors of the 1st Stage and Bell Chamber and the oak roof. Both these floors are framed with heavy oak timbers, the upper one receiving the bell-carriage.

The Bell Chamber contains three large and one small bell, which hang in an interesting oak carriage. The tenor bell is dated 1744, the next in size 1628, and the treble 1670, and each has an inscription; the sauce bell is dated 1729. A correct and complete description will be found in "The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire," by Mr. A. H. Cocks.

The detail of the stonework of the doors, windows, and buttresses of the Tower is identical with that of the best period of the Perpendicular style; the greater part of the moulded work has unfortunately perished, owing to a heavy growth of ivy which completely covered it for a very long time; further injury from this cause has been averted by the removal of a large part of the growth, but at present none of the decayed stone has been removed. Two missing stones were, however, fixed to the lower weathering of the north-west angle

buttresses to prevent further damage by weather; these were worked from pieces of old stone taken from the north-east angle of the Nave.

Brick channels are provided to catch surface water.

A new vane, replacing an obsolete one of modern workmanship, has been fixed to the roof; it is of "weathercock" design, made in beaten copper, and revolving upon a wrought-iron standard, from which are fixed the arms denoting the points of the compass.

Beyond repairs to the lead roof no other external work has been undertaken, and internally little has been attempted further than the plastering of the ground-floor walls and the laying of the new floor, already referred to.

**NORTH AISLE.**—A better state of repair was met with here, and little was required to be done externally; the actual works carried out were new brick surface water channels, re-laying of the lead gutter between the two roofs, the removal of the lead spout from same and substitution of a rain-water pipe with cistern head, and the pulling down of a chimney from the north-east angle.

A general re-arrangement of the pew part of the interior has been made. The aisle is entered through the western arch, that half of the floor space being paved with stone; the other half, containing the sittings and covering a vault, formerly had a boarded floor, but owing to the absence of ventilation the joists had become decayed, and the floor gave way when walked on. The whole of this deal floor was cleared away, the vault covered over with cement coke-breeze concrete, and upon this a maple block floor was laid; the stone paving had some slight repairs.

The sittings were formerly enclosed by a deal-panelled framing, painted and grained, on which curtains were also hung, and in the north-east corner stood an angle fireplace with iron grate and stone mantel. The pew was lighted through a large oak mullioned window in the east wall. The whole of the panelling, seating, etc., were removed, the brickwork of chimney breast cut away, together with the hearth and fireplace and the newly-formed corner plastered.

An open pew, used by the servants of Turville Park, and standing under the west window of the Aisle, was

also taken away. The roof of the new Heating Chamber necessitated the removal of the east window; in bricking up the opening, recesses have been left both in and outside in order to show the previous existence of the window; a beautifully-painted heraldic glass panel was taken from one of the upper lights and re-fixed in a similar position in the west window; the upper lights of the latter contained two incomplete heraldic shields, and these were taken to pieces, re-arranged in one light, and re-leaded; the motto, although still incomplete, reads, according to Langley, "stat libertate parentum."

In place of the old pew three oak panelled benches, nine feet long, with moulded ends and carved elbows, have been fitted, facing the Nave; in each arch an oak screen, with moulded pediment and cornice carried by small columns upon a low panelled front, has been inserted; the whole of this new oak work has been designed in keeping with the Georgian character of the Aisle and its monuments, and has been carefully executed by Messrs. West and Collier, of Frieth, near Hambleton.

The roofs of the Aisle are framed in oak, supported in the centre by a large beam, and the whole of the timbers were hidden from view by the plaster ceiling. Being in a much-decayed state, this ceiling was stripped, and was re-plastered at a higher level by raising the joists to the top of the beam referred to; the latter is now seen in the ceiling.

ADDITIONS.—The enlargement comprises a Vestry for choir and organ, and a Heating Chamber, placed in the angle formed by the Chancel north wall and the Aisle east wall. The Vestry is entered from the Chancel through the arch before referred to, and from the exterior by a door in the east wall. The floor, which is of maple blocks, is 12 inches down from the Chancel level, and the organ has been re-erected centrally with the arch. The Heating Chamber is separated by a brick wall, and contains the boiler of the new heating apparatus and space for fuel; the floor is of granite concrete, laid 4ft. 6in. below that of the Nave level; the boiler stands in a galvanized iron tank in order to keep water from the apparatus which is known to make its appearance in very wet seasons. The heating system is low-pressure hot water, connected to wrought-iron

radiators, which stand in various parts of the Church; the flow and return pipes are laid below the wood block floors in brick channels, which are filled with sawdust and covered with tiles and concrete. The boiler and radiators are of English make, known as the Beeston, and this part of the work has been carried out by Messrs. Meakes and Son, of Marlow.

The materials used in the additions are almost identical with those used in the other new works in the Church. The walls have an average thickness of 18 inches, built chiefly of brick, and faced with coursed snapped flintwork, with Chilmark stone dressings to doors, windows, and quoins; the steps are of hard York stone. The roofs are framed with oak timbers, laid flatwise, covered with old tiles hung to oak tiling and diagonal battens; the wall plates rest on moulded stone stringcourses. All the Vestry walls and spaces between rafters forming ceilings are plastered with the same materials and in the same manner as those in the Nave have been treated; the walls of Heating Chamber are distempered.

The external doors are of oak, hung with ornamental strap hinges, and fitted with wrought-iron bolts and handles. The glass of the new windows is "white cathedral," leaded to a simple design in small squares. An oak cupboard is fitted up in the south-east corner for clergy's use, and a large press provided behind the organ for hanging the altar frontals when not in use.

The works were not finished until about the end of November, 1900, but were sufficiently advanced for the re-opening ceremony on All Saints' Day. During the progress of the operations the work was constantly supervised by the Vicar, the Rev. M. Graves, and it is mainly due to his exertions that so much that is interesting was found, cared for, and properly preserved. Very valuable advice upon matters of archaeological importance was at all times forthcoming from Mr. A. H. Cocks, of Poynetts. It was indeed fortunate that from these two sources such material assistance was rendered from time to time. Mr. H. Harris, of Boulter End, West Wycombe, was the general contractor, and the architects Messrs. Forsyth and Maule, of Great Marlborough Street, London.

W. A. FORSYTH.