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- “The Ancient Borough of Bridgewater.” Rev. A. H. Powell, M.A., LL.D.
Presented by the Author. November 1907.
- “Bridgewater in the Later Days.” Rev. A. H. Powell, M.A., LL.D.
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- “Ashford: its Church, Vicars, College, and Grammar School.” Rev. A. J. Pearman, M.A.
Purchased. June 1908.
- “Some Account of the Church, College, Free School, etc., of Ashford.” B. William Warren, LL.B.
Purchased. June 1908.
- Proceedings of Archæological Societies in Union with the Kent Archæological Society.
H. ELGAR.
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To the Editor, “ARCHÆOLOGIA CANTIANA.”

HORSMONDEN CHURCH.

DEAR SIR,

Since our Society's visit to Horsmonden in 1907, at which I hazarded an explanation of the two rood-turrets on the same side of the building, Dr. Francis Grayling, of Sittingbourne, has been kind enough to go and examine the Church at my request, and I too have had the opportunity of paying a second visit there in April last. As a result of his researches Dr. Grayling kindly sent

me a full report, a summary of which, embodying my own more recent investigations in detail, I here subjoin with his authority, in the hope that you may find space to publish his valuable and expert elucidation. I need not say I entirely agree with Dr. Grayling, though he disposes of my former theory on the subject as completely as he disposes of that of the late Canon Scott-Robertson.

Yours faithfully,

AYMER VALLANCE.

HORSMONDEN.—This Church presents the remarkable phenomenon of two rood-stair turrets, not at opposite sides of the building, but both on the same side, the south aisle wall. One of them occupies a normal position, in line with the chancel arch; the other stands at a distance of one bay to the west of the first-named. Externally both turrets are polygonal in plan, and are capped with polygonal lean-to roofs of ashlar, the apex of which rises to within a little of the top of the aisle parapet. The turrets correspond in spacing with the buttresses. They are, in fact, structurally built in with the latter, and so much in bulk of the buttress is occupied by the turret that what of buttress there is to project beyond the southward face of the turret is a mere pilaster strip. Each turret is lit by one narrow window-slit, glazed.

The entrance to the eastern rood-stair is in the south wall of the south chancel aisle. The doorway, surrounded by a hollow bevel, is 2 feet wide by 6 feet 10 inches high to the crown of its four-centred arch. The turret internally is polygonal. The stair emerges at a height of 7 feet 9 inches above the nave floor-level, 1 foot 9 inches to west of the entrance, and at the eastern extremity of the south wall of the nave aisle. The upper doorway is 1 foot 8 inches wide by 6 feet 4½ inches high to the crown of its four-centred arch. There is no sign of door nor hangers.

Thence the rood-passage spanned the (8 feet 1 inch wide) aisle to the easternmost spandrel of the south arcade of the nave. The south pier of the chancel arch was then tunnelled through to provide a way on to the rood-loft proper across the 25-foot wide nave. The tunnel is blocked, but the doorway, a recess 8 inches deep, remains in the north wall of the south aisle. The entrance measures 16½ inches wide by 5 feet 7½ inches high, under a horizontal lintel of stone, badly cracked. At the foot of the doorway a stone corbel, 25 inches in length, and projecting 5 inches from the wall, was

fixed, at a height of 8 feet above the nave floor, to carry the gangway of the southern division of the loft. The passage entered the pier in a northerly direction, but the chancel-arch abutment on the other side prevented its advance through the pier in a direct line. The passage continued, therefore, with a turn to the left, emerging westwards on to the rood-loft. The exact point of issue cannot now be determined, owing to subsequent stopping up and rebuilding. The masonry here has been much disturbed, and the fact of the stone lintel being cracked points to a violent dislocation having occurred. The whole pier, weakened by the reckless boring through of the rood-passage, was unable to bear the thrust of the eastern abutment of the nave's south arcade, and bulged toward the east. Indeed, it is clear that the stability of this part of the fabric was found to be so seriously endangered that the only way to save it from collapse was to refill the tunnel with solid masonry again, apparently within a very short time after it had been hollowed. Under these circumstances, the period having come when a rood-loft was an indispensable adjunct of Divine services, a fresh arrangement had to be adopted without delay—an arrangement that involved the erection of a second rood-stair on a different site. The earlier one, though abandoned, was left standing, but it might just as well have been taken down when no longer wanted. Perhaps the parishioners preferred not to meddle with it, for fear lest they should only increase the damage already done. However, be that as it may, one thing must be clearly understood, viz., that the use of the two sets of rood-stairs was not simultaneous, but consecutive. And yet the one followed so closely upon the other, that the outward appearance of the two is very much alike. The architectural style is that of the late fifteenth, or early sixteenth, century.

The second rood-turret is opposite to the pillar between the first and second arches from the east in the nave. The entrance doorway in the south wall is handsomely moulded. A pair of iron hangers remains in the eastern jamb, while the stone of the western jamb is cut away for the bolt. The door swung outward from the stair into the church. The opening is 2 feet wide by 6 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches high to the crown of its four-centred arch. The interior of the turret is rounded. The stairs turn to the left, and emerge at a height of 7 feet above the nave floor, and at a distance of 13 inches to east of the entrance, and 12 feet 9 inches from the issue of the eastern rood-stair. The western issue has a plain-moulded doorway with diamond stops. The opening is 20 inches wide by

6 feet 1 inch high to the crown of its four-centred arch. The loft must have afforded a passage across the church from side to side, notwithstanding there is no sign of the arcade spandrels having been pierced for it.

A bequest was made in 1532 toward the gilding of the rood in this church. Although the gangway between the south chancel aisle and the nave aisle in connection with the original rood-loft was dismantled when the former rood-arrangements had to be altered, the oak screen beneath the said gangway was still retained, as forming a convenient reredos for the altar, which stood at the east end of the south aisle of the nave. The name of the donor of the screen is recorded in an inscription carved in black-letter along the cornice: "*Orate pro bono statu Alicie Campson.*" The screen is of Perpendicular workmanship, and is in a moderate state of preservation. The total height (cresting included) is 8 feet 9 inches, the total length of it 7 feet 5 inches. Rectagonal in construction, it comprises, in the upper part, eight compartments, centering at 10 inches, with moulded muntins between them, and cinquefoiled ornaments in the heads to the depth of $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The stile at either end is faced by a square buttress. The design of the cresting, suggestive of fourteenth-century work, consists of a series of octofoils, each with a vine-leaf issuing from the top. The solid part below the fenestration stands 4 feet high, and, on the east side, is divided into panels by moulded stiles. There are slight traces of scarlet paint and also of whitening, which may possibly have been applied as a priming for gesso decoration, if, indeed, it does not rather represent the familiar Reformation process of defacement.

EDITORIAL NOTE.

The Editor wishes to apologise for the belated circulation of this the first volume of *Archæologia Cantiana* issued under his supervision. While refraining from citing the causes which have contributed to the delay, he is glad to announce that he has already in hand, or promised, sufficient material for its successor.

Early Churchwardens' and Chamberlains' Accounts of Lydd, with a description of the Parish Church, would alone almost suffice for a volume; and whether they shall be issued as an Extra Volume will be a question for further consideration. There are promised