

## WEST HYTHE CHURCH

AND

THE SITES OF CHURCHES FORMERLY EXISTING  
AT HYTHE.

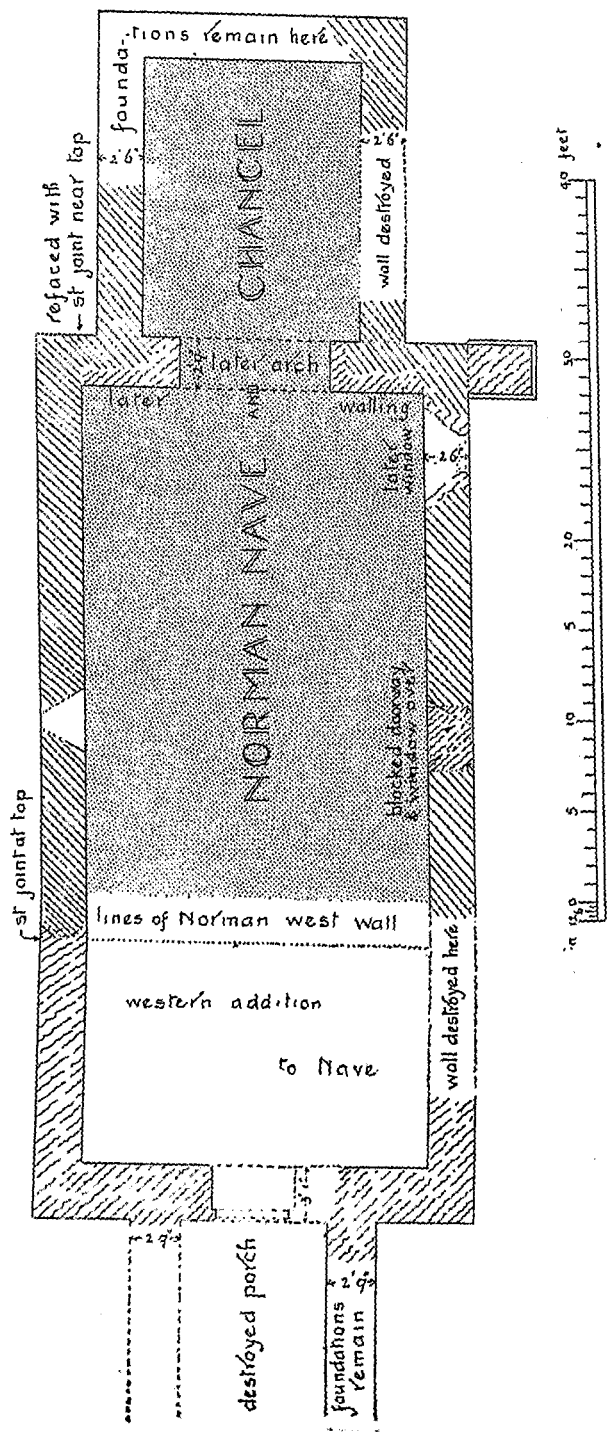
BY THE REV. G. M. LIVETT, F.S.A.

### WEST HYTHE CHURCH.

THE church of Our Lady of West Hythe is now a neglected ruin.\* The chancel is almost destroyed: a great gap has been made in the south wall, and the north-east angle with most of the east wall has been pulled down: it is evident that the work of destruction has been done for the sake of the materials, removed for use in the erection of buildings near at hand. The walls of the nave are in better condition, despite a gap from top to bottom on the south side near the west end, a crack in the main wall further east, and the removal of much of the cut-stone (Kentish rag) from the west door and window over it. The entire removal of the roofs has, of course, allowed the rain and weather to destroy the top of the walls, so that here and there they are lower by several feet than they ought to be. The west gable-wall of the nave still stands to nearly its full height, but the east gable-wall is in a bad condition, and if this process of natural disintegration be allowed to continue some parts of what remains must soon fall and the rest will gradually weather away. It might be arrested, at small expense, by pointing the faces of the walls near the top and covering the top all along with a liberal shield of good Portland cement.

The architectural history of the ruin can easily be read from the remains, or deduced from a study of the plan and

\* The church was falling into bad repair early in the sixteenth century—see under John Dove, in the Rev. T. S. Frampton's *Vicars* (p. 238). Leland in his *Itinerary* (1535—1543) wrote: "From Hithe to Holde Hithe, alias West Hithe, about 2 myles. Mastar Twyne sayth that this was the town burnid alonge on the shore, where the ruines of the church yet remayne."—Ed. L. T. Smith, parts vii. and viii., p. 46. Its destruction was completed by another fire in 1620 (see Frampton, p. 242).



PLAN OF RUINS OF WEST HYTHE CHURCH. G.M.L. 19-VII-1912

Archaeologia Cantuar. s. XXX.

photographs that accompany this brief description. In the plan the walls of the original early-Norman church are distinguished from later additions or insertions by a difference of shading, and the ground area within them is slightly tinted. The chancel remained unaltered from the time of its erection till it fell into ruins. It was of the common Norman type: a short rectangular building measuring 15 feet by 12 feet within the walls. The existing nave is 43 feet long and 19 feet wide within the walls; its entrance was under a porch at the west end. The original nave was shorter by about 12 feet and had its entrance in the south wall: that entrance is now blocked. I think the westward addition to the nave was built early in the fourteenth century, or possibly late in the thirteenth. It was made, probably, in connection with the alteration in the position of the entrance: the south door must have been exposed to the weather, admitting a cold draught of air whenever it was opened; and its proximity to the road and the slope of the ground rendered protection by the erection of a porch inadvisable. The alternative adopted was a west door and porch. One cannot imagine that the enlargement of the nave was necessary for the accommodation of the worshippers, but it implies prosperity in the little hamlet.

The porch has been destroyed, but the lines of its walls remain in the ground, and their junction with the west wall, rising to about 4 feet above the present ground level, is visible on its face. The south jamb of the doorway and the head of the arch have been destroyed, but a portion of the north jamb remains  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet within the vertical line of the inner face of the side-wall of the porch. The head of the door-arch was evidently of a depressed pointed form, as indicated by the rere-arch which remains, and suggesting an early fourteenth-century date. The haunches of the rere-arch, formed of rough voussoirs of rag-stone, run down through the walling on either side to the level of the top of the side walls of the porch. These features may be studied in Mr. Youens' photographs. Above the porch there was a tall single-light window, of which the northern jamb and



THE  
CHURCH  
OF  
ST. MARY,  
WEST-  
HYTHE.

SOUTH  
DOOR  
AND  
WEST  
FRONT

*from  
photos  
by*

*E. C. Youens.*

*Arch. Cant. XXX.*



part of the rere-arch remain visible on the inside. All the rest of the cut-stone of the opening has been wrenched away. The height of the window from sill to springing was about 5 feet. The masonry of this fourteenth-century west wall is rough and massive in character: the quoin-stones of Kentish rag are particularly large, four of them sufficing to fill five feet of vertical height.

Standing inside the building, and looking from various points of view so as to catch a good light on the interior face of the north wall of the nave, one easily detects the difference in character of the walling of the original Norman building from that of the western addition. The junction of the two works is apparent, and towards the top one sees the west face of the angle of the original west wall and also the broken core of that wall, shewing its exact width. The early-Norman walling to the east of this is of the kind usually found in buildings of that date—faced with rough stones, often set aslant, in courses, seven courses in four feet of vertical height, with a plentiful amount of mortar. The Norman mortar contains a large quantity of shells and pebbles; the later mortar has a few shells and smaller pebbles. High up in the centre of the original north wall there remains the lower half of a Norman window with splayed jambs of Caen-stone: the upper part has disappeared.\* Exactly opposite, in the south wall above the original entrance, there are the remains of a similar window.

This entrance demands particular notice. Internally it was square-headed, a wooden beam resting on Caen-stone jambs.† The beam has rotted away, but its matrix remains. The blocks of squared Caen-stone shew the characteristic diagonal marks of their axed facing. Externally the jambs have disappeared, having been removed when the doorway was blocked. On this face, as may be seen in Mr. Youens' very clear photograph, a long massive block of dark green Kentish rag, measuring on the face  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length and

\* The sloping sill is, by estimation, about  $14\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the ground.

† Nine squared stones on each side; total height from present ground level to lintel about 5 feet 8 inches.

about 8 inches in breadth, served as a lintel.\* From it there springs a small arch, a semi-circle slightly stilted, 2 feet 10 inches in span and 1 foot 6 inches in height to the apex. It consists of voussoirs of Caen-stone ornamented with a hatchet pattern. The tympanum is filled with small diamond-shaped blocks of the same material, set rather irregularly. The arch is not merely ornamental: it serves, or rather served (before the doorway was blocked) as a relieving arch to take the weight of the wall-face from the stone lintel. The whole of the work is exceedingly rough. An interesting feature is the use of mortar containing crushed Roman brick—a veritable ‘pink mortar’ *more Romano*. Its use here is restricted to the arch and tympanum. In genuine Roman work, as everyone knows, the use of pink mortar is often confined to the portions which consist of Roman brick or tile. It is so in the case of the Roman *pharos* in Dover Castle, where the arches are turned in Roman brick with pink mortar. In the Saxon nave of St. Martin’s, Canterbury, the arches of the windows of the west wall, turned in brick and stone (alternating), pink mortar similarly appears. And here, at West Hythe, local builders† use pink mortar in their arch turned in stone *without* Roman brick! If there be a parallel instance of the use of pink mortar in Norman times one would be glad to hear of it.

The chancel, or the little that remains of it, calls for no comment. On the other hand the east gable-wall of the nave, with its chancel-arch, is full of interest. This wall has,

\* This stone differs somewhat from the ordinary Kentish rag of “grayish blue colour” commonly used as a building-stone; and it deserves a special note, as its occasional appearance in buildings suggests an enquiry as to what it is and whence it comes. It occurs in the lower part of the Hythe Beds (Kentish rag), and some beds of it are found in the quarries near Hythe and Lympne. Mr. Drew described it as “a softer stone, full of dark green grains.”—William Topley, *Geol. of the Weald* (Memoir of the Geol. Survey).

† Of course they had the Roman style in evidence before their eyes at Stutfall *castrum*, but, strange to say, no pink mortar seems to have been used there. Mr. G. E. Fox in his Paper on *The Roman Fortresses of Kent* (*Arch. Journ.*, liii., 366) misinterprets Roach Smith (*Antiq.*, pp. 255, 6, and Report, pp. 14, 15) in attributing to him the assertion that “in the facings” of *Lympne castrum* “mortar of the pink variety was employed”: Roach Smith in the passages cited referred not to Lympne, but to Richborough and Reculver.

to a great extent, been rebuilt: the whole of its western face is post-Norman work, and the arch is a post-Norman pointed arch. In fact, the original Norman chancel-arch has been replaced by one of about the same span, or possibly a few inches narrower, and a little taller. Including the imposts, which are 6 inches thick, and have their under-edge chamfered, the responds contain twelve courses of stone and are  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. The span between the responds is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and at the springing-line 3 or 4 inches less. The arch contains only six voussoirs between impost and apex on either side, and the apex is (by estimation) about a foot lower than would be that of an equilateral arch, *i.e.*, an arch struck from centre at the springing point on each side and radius equal to the span. Above the voussoirs there is a relieving arch of thin rag-stones, struck from the same centres. The responds are square-edged, while the arch is slightly chamfered. The material of the voussoirs is Kentish rag; that of the responds is a mixture of Kentish rag and axed-faced Caen-stone, and the filling-in contains many blocks of the same axe-faced Caen-stone, of which not a few are evidently voussoirs taken from the original Norman arch. These dull details, in particular the length of the voussoirs of the existing arch and the character of the relieving arches (similar in workmanship to that of the west doorway), suggest an early fourteenth-century date for the rebuilding: in an Early English or thirteenth-century arch one would expect to find smaller voussoirs, probably of Caen-stone.

In their rebuilding of this wall, involving the rebuilding of the chancel-arch, the fourteenth-century builders thickened it by 3 inches: the old wall was 2 feet 6 inches thick, the new wall was 2 feet 9 inches; and they failed to bond their new work effectually into the side-walls of the nave: the resulting 'straight joint' appears very plainly in both the angles of the nave. Above the level of the top of the side-walls of the chancel, as appears on the east face of the chancel-arch wall, the gable-wall was entirely rebuilt. There must have been some good reason for all this rebuilding: it was not done for the mere fun of the thing, nor for the sake of

replacing the original chancel-arch by one of a new pattern but of practically the same dimensions. The addition of a fairly massive buttress to the south-east angle of the nave suggests the reason, namely, that the chancel-arch had begun to crack, just as the Norman chancel-arch at Dymchurch cracked, and it was decided to rebuild it, and the gable-wall above it, to support a new roof over the whole of the nave, at the time when the nave was extended westwards.

The three holes in line above the chancel-arch, as seen from the nave, are putlog holes. These holes received the cross-beams of the builders' scaffolding. They may be seen in all the walls of the church.

Two plain corbels, which project from the west face of the chancel-arch wall, one on either side and close to the corners of the nave, must have been placed there as supports of the high-rood beam, which crossed the chancel-arch at the level of its imposts. Underneath, and against the wall between the chancel-arch and the south wall of the nave, there must have been an altar, for at the end of the south nave-wall there is inserted a small window which can only have served to give light to an altar in that position. The window is rather low and wide, with very widely-splayed rere-arch jambs and a plain trefoiled head. The opening is rebated for an internal shutter. The rere-arch is constructed with mediæval bricks ( $8\frac{1}{2} \times 4 \times 2$  ins.). The material of the cutstone opening is Kentish rag in thin blocks. The rere-arch is broken away, as is also the interior sill, which seems to have had a slight slope. The height from the ground is about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet. The insertion appears to be early fourteenth-century work.\*

\* The following measurements would enable the reader to reconstruct the opening. From sill of actual exterior opening to springing of trefoiled head, 3 feet 5 inches; from springing to horizontal line of cusps, 7 inches; from springing to top of trefoiled head, 1 foot  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch; thence to apex of rere-arch about 5 inches; between cusps, 1 foot 2 inches. The trefoiled head is constructed of two flat stones without rebate,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick, with external chamfer and vertical joint at apex. The sides and sill shew the rebate, 2 inches. The sill is one long stone; the east jamb has four stones, 11 inches, 14 inches,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches; the west has three stones,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches, 13 inches,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The extreme width of splayed inner jambs is 6 feet 9 inches. Thickness of wall, 2 feet 6 inches.





*Photo*]

LOOKING WEST FROM CHANCEL

[*E. C. Youens*



*Photo*]

LOOKING EAST FROM NAVE.  
WEST HYTHE CHURCH.

[*E. C. Youens*

*Arch. Cant. XXX.*

There are two original Norman quoins: the south-east quoin of the nave and also of the chancel. The latter is all of Kentish rag in large blocks, four blocks in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet of height; the latter has two blocks of squared Caen-stone at the base and above it large blocks of Kentish rag, four in 3 feet. The quoin-stones of the western addition to the nave are blocks of Kentish rag still larger in dimensions.

Sundry notes of the history of this church occur in the list of Vicars compiled by the Rev. T. S. Frampton, and printed in this Volume, to which the reader is referred. It is noteworthy that the church never possessed a burial-ground. It stands unprotected in a field and within a few feet of the road which led to St. Michael's Ash and, before the canal was made, on to Hythe.

#### THE SITES OF CHURCHES FORMERLY EXISTING AT HYTHE.

Leland in his *Itinerary* (1535—43) wrote :

Hithe hath bene a very great towne yn lenght, and conteyned iiij. paroches that now be clene destroyed, that is to say S. Nicolas paroch, our Lady paroch, St. Michael's paroch, and our Lady of Westhithe, the which is with yn lesse then half a myle of Lymme Hille. And yt may be well supposed that after the haven of Lymme, and the great old town ther fayled, that Hithe straye therby encreased and was yn price. Finally to cownt fro Westhyve to the place wher the substans of the towne ys now ys ij good myles yn lenght, al along on the shore to the which the se cam ful sumtyme, but now by bankinge of woose and great casting up of shyngel the se ys sumtyme a quarter, sumtyme *dim.* a myle fro the old shore. In the tyme of King Edward the 2. there were burned by casuelte xvij. score howses and mo, and strayt folowed great pestilens, and thes ij. thinges minished the town. There remayne yet the ruines of the chyrches and church yades. It evidently apereth that wher the paroch chirch is now was sumtyme a fayr abbay.\*

In illustration of this subject we are able, by the kindness of the Vicar of Hythe, to publish the accompanying map of

\* Leland, *op. cit.*, p. 64. The story of this fair abbey is a fable—a figment of the imagination of Leland's informants.

Hythe Town, "Surveyed and Mapt (by order of the Mayer and Jurates of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Port of Hithe) by Tho. Hill sworne Surveyer in Cant. 1684," in order to shew the possessions of the hospitals of St. John and St. Bartholomew at that date. In the following year the same surveyor made a second and more accurate survey by the order of the wardens of the two hospitals. These two maps, which are enriched with notes written evidently towards the end of the eighteenth century, will be referred to herein as "M.H. 1684" and "M.H. 1685." An inset inscription on the later map informs us that "the Church is called St. Leonard, and was anciently a Chapell to Saltwood, and formerly there were four other Churches (viz.), St. Mary, St. Nicholas, St. Michael, and St. Barnard [*sic*], but all demolished, this last anciently was the place of the Election for the Mayors." This is the only known reference to St. Barnard: possibly there is an error.

There is no mention of a church at Hythe either in the Domesday survey or in the *Taxatio* of 1291. In a list of the rectors of SS. Peter and Paul, Saltwood, compiled by the Rev. T. S. Frampton, an abstract from *Papal Letters* (I., 281) mentions, under date 1252, "the rector of St. Peter's, Salthewede, and of the chapels of Hedwa" (Hythe), proving the existence of more than one church in Hythe at the time mentioned. Also, the register of Archb. Reynolds, under 1321-2, speaks of *Saltewode, cum suis capellis*. But in 1366 certain royal letters of presentation refer to the church *de Saltewode cum capella de Hethe eidem ecclesie annexa*, and "clearly shew that there was but one church at this date in use at Hythe."

In a private letter Mr. Frampton writes as follows:—

The sites of the destroyed Churches at Hythe are, I believe, pretty well known; but it has always appeared to me remarkable that, with a solitary exception or two, they are not referred to—as far as I can ascertain—in the Lambeth Registers from Peckham onwards. The only reference I can remember is that of *Mag. Will. de Hethe, rect. eccl. S. Nicholai de Hethe*, 7 id. Sept. 1282 (Reg. Peckham, f. 188 b.). I think this church is also mentioned in one of the Reports of the Hist. MSS. Commission.

NORTH

THIS TABLE Sheweth by the letter in each peece to be referred to y<sup>e</sup> correspondent letter in this Table, against the amount aswell as y<sup>e</sup> name of y<sup>e</sup> peece, the quantity thereof in Acres, Roods, and Perches, &c.

Letter	Name of Piece	Acres	Roods	Perches
A	The house & garden of St. John's Hospital	0	0	24
B	The Brine Cyle, also in the East Ward	0	1	24
C	A small Tenement in the Market Ward	0	0	94
D	A Garden also in the Market Ward	0	0	74
E	Two peece in Saltwood called Cop. dale	6	1	13
F		5	3	14
G	Another peece in Saltwood, near Locket Green	2	2	29
H	Called St. Nicholas Roke in Saltwood	1	3	10
I	Called St. Nicholas Wall in Hith	2	1	11
J	Adjoining to the West of St. Nicholas Roke	2	1	0
K	A peece, St. Bartholomew Hospital, in Saltwood	3	3	17
L	Part of the forest peece in Hith	1	3	11
M	Adjoining to y <sup>e</sup> forest peece South	1	0	34
N	St. Michael's Ahe	1	0	10
O	Two peece near St. Michael's Ahe & East	1	2	37
P	Little Noyl downs near St. Nicholas Roke	14	0	0
Q	Wentgate field, also near St. Nicholas Roke	7	0	0
R	Summa Totale	54	3	19

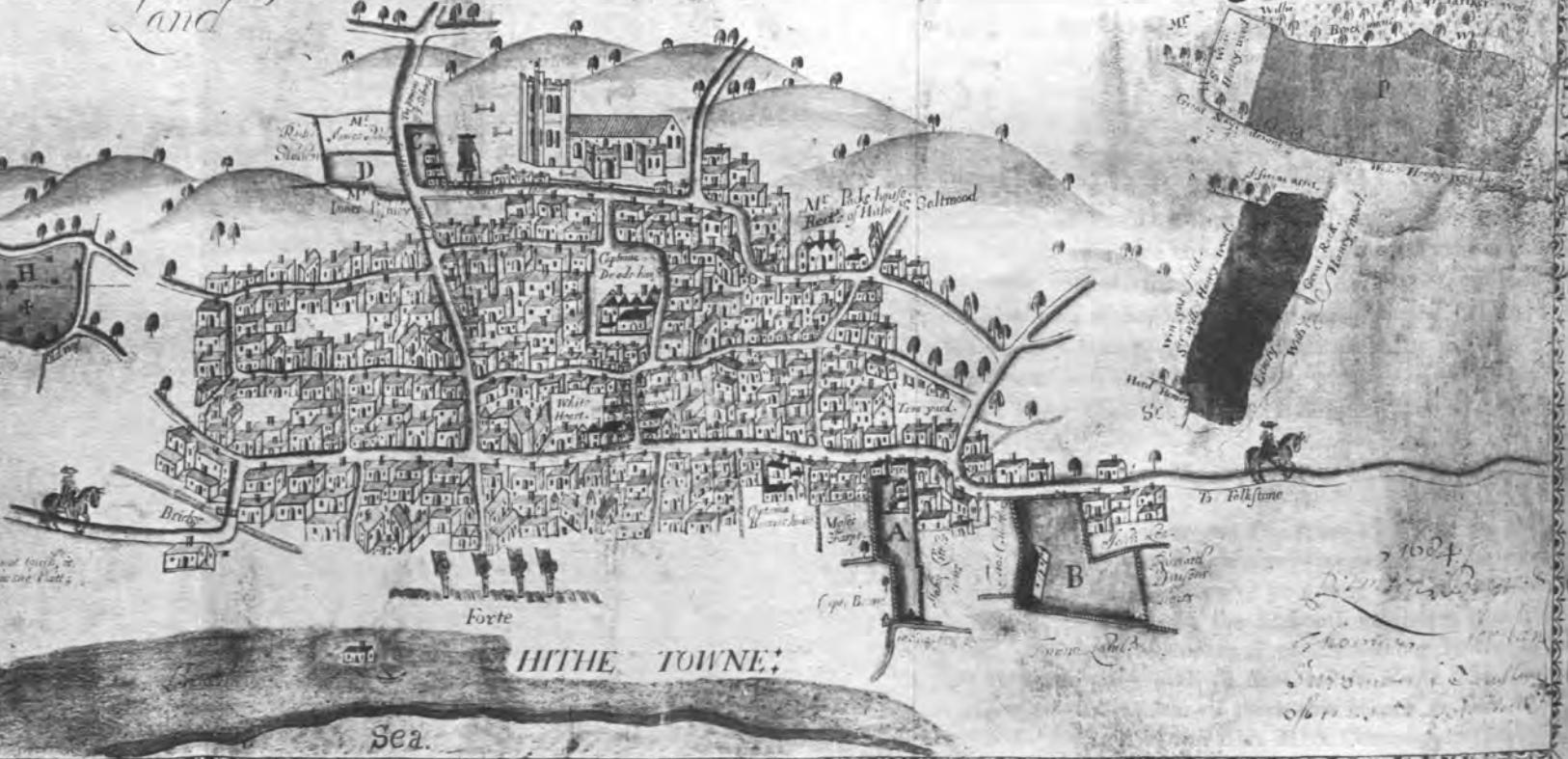
Johns Hospital Land



This Note, the Plot is drawn from two scales divided into Roods, or 160, and four parcels (viz.) A, B, C, D is drawn from the upper Scale, and all the rest from the lower Scale, in y<sup>e</sup> Horizon of y<sup>e</sup> Globe.



**A Description of Map**  
 This certain parcel of land lying in y<sup>e</sup> Parishes of Hith, and Saltwood, in the County of Kent, belonging to An ancient Hospital named St. Johns, situated in the Part of Hith Towne, described by the letter A:  
 This Plot, hath each peece distinguished by colours, and to a letter plac'd therein, to be referred to the correspondent letter in the Table, against the same, as well as the names of each peece, the quantity thereof in Acres, Roods, & Perches.  
 Also is shew'd the persons names who's lands bound thereunto. The English bounds, are described by a linked line thus:  
 Surveyed, and Map'd (by order of the Mayor, and Jurators of y<sup>e</sup> St. Dun's of Hith) by Tho. Hill Surveyor in Oct. 1684.



SOUTH

The institution of a *rector* of the church of St. Nicholas of Hythe is very puzzling. In the fourth report of the Royal Commission on Hist. MSS. there are abstracts from the papers of the Hundred court preserved among the corporation records, dating from 1399 to 1428, and containing the following among other references: "From the church of St. Nicholas to Crowolle the King's highway is blocked by the overgrowing of the hedges"; "the burial-ground of the church of St. Nicholas"; "a piece of land in the West Ward in the Parish of St. Nicholas"; the same "in the Middle Ward"; and lastly, under date 1426, "that the King's highway leading from the gate of Alexander Appulford to the Kedne by the broken church [*fractam ecclesiam*] is blocked through the making of hedges and stekelys" (? *stekyl*—style). It is assumed that 'the ruined church' has reference to St. Nicholas.

Hasted, in a footnote (vol. iii., p. 420, fol. ed. 1790) to his quotation from Leland, says:—

It appears by the map of the hospital lands, made in 1685, that there is a field about half a mile *westward* from *Hythe* church, called *St. Nicholas's church-yard*, with some ruins of a building at the *south-west* corner of it. Upon the side of the Quarry-hills, and between *Hythe town* and *West Hythe*, is *another field*, called *St. Michael's Ash*, probably from that church having been once near it.

The traditional site of St. Michael's Church is said to be the little plot of ground marked M in the Hospital Maps, and described in the Table of lands belonging to the hospital of St. John as St. Michael's Ashe, containing 1 acre and 10 perches. In H.M. 1685 the words "St. Mic<sup>s</sup> Ash" are written on the plot in the later hand. It can be identified on the 6-inch Ordnance Survey Map (sheet lxxiv, S.W.) as a long strip between three "stones" between the Military Canal and a farm (now occupied by Mr. Chittenden) on lat. 51° 4' to the north of the canal, about a furlong east of the boundary stone of the parishes of Hythe and West Hythe (though the boundary line is not marked on the O.S.) and nearly a mile east of West Hythe Church. Two stones mark its western

limit and the third its eastern. On each of the former is incised the letter "B," and on the latter "B H": evidently for *Bartholomew's, Hithe*, the lands of the two hospitals being under one trust and not in practice distinguished. The strip of land lies on the lowest terrace at the foot of the hills, separated by a sharp slope from the terrace on which the farm buildings stand, and by another slope from the alluvial level between the foot and the canal 'back ditch,' some thirty yards to the south of it.

The site of St. Nicholas Church is marked with a cross on the 6-inch O.S. map (sheet lxxiv, S.E.) on the War Department's property north of the School of Musketry, but its exact limits are not so easily determined as in the case of St. Michael's Ash: the boundaries of the plot marked "St. Nicholas Churchyard" in the hospital maps, and some of those of the adjoining properties in the same maps, have entirely disappeared. These properties are marked "K, I, H," and "John Greenland" in both maps, and they are bounded on the north by "Hospital Lane" (so named in H.M. 1685 only), which is identified with the unnamed road in the O.S. map which runs west from St. Bartholomew's Farm and is continued as North Road. Barrack Road in the O.S., running south from the same farm, is represented by a boundary line in the H.M., and the road running parallel to it to westward (called "An old Way" in H.M. 1684) has become a foot-path (F.P.) in the O.S. map. On this foot-path in the O.S. there is marked a boundary stone, which bears the letter "H," and is evidently a boundary stone of the parishes of Hythe and Saltwood. A line drawn westwards from that stone to a point about half-way down the short road\* that runs down from the junction of Hospital Lane (1685) and North Road (O.S.) and turns west into Hillside Street (O.S.) would correspond with the line in the old maps which is marked "Parish Bounds" with "Saltwood" on the north and "Hithe" on the south,

\* The point coincides with the spot where the 100 ft. contour line crosses this road, a few yards south of a 'stone' (O.S.) which bears the marks "T" and "S<sup>r</sup> B. H<sup>s</sup>" on its north and south faces respectively.

and which divides the property of "John Greenland" into two long strips. This parish boundary very nearly coincides with the hedge and fence which constitutes the northern boundary of the War Department's property. The hedge runs along the top of a steep bank, and on the slope under this bank lies St. Nicholas Churchyard, about 125 yards in length from west to east and about 35 yards in width. The new Officers' Quarters stand on its southern boundary; the new miniature rifle range, a corrugated iron building, stands within the eastern half of the area; while the western half is open ground, including a small portion of some cultivated ground fenced off, and containing the stump of a tree which appears to occupy the position of the cross marked "Church (site of)" in the O.S. map. When in 1902 an attempt was made to level the slope west of the rifle range, for the purpose of making a tennis lawn, the ground was found to be so insecure that the attempt was abandoned. It was found to be full of bones, and every shower of rain washed away the soil and left bones protruding from the sloping surface. No foundations of building were discovered.\*

There remain for consideration the sites of the chapels of St. Mary and St. Barnard. On the line of longitude  $1^{\circ} 6' E.$  in the 6-inch O.S. map (sheet lxxiv, S.E.) just above Canon Gate there is a cross marked "Church (site of)". Mr. Horton preserves a tradition that about 40 years ago, at the time of the extension of the borough, when Canongate Road was under construction through a plot which was "always called Chapel Field," sculptured stones and some bones were turned up out of the ground at this spot. It is possible that this may be the site of one of the chapels. There is also a "Chapell Field," so marked in the H.M. 1685, north of Hospital Lane and east of the plot marked "Bartholomew's House" in the same map, and in

\* I am indebted for these particulars to Ex-Quarter Master Sergeant Down, R.E., who superintended the work. At first the cadets would purchase the skulls that were found for a shilling apiece; but as soon as it was realised that this was the burial ground of a churchyard the bones were removed for re-interment in St. Leonard's Churchyard.

H.M. 1684 "The Hospitall of St. Bartholomew". Mr. Dale tells me that a few years ago, when the corner of this field immediately opposite St. Bartholomew's Farm was rounded off by the authority of the borough, bones were disinterred; but this is so close to the site of St. Nicholas Church that it is unlikely that it is the site of one of our chapels: perhaps the Hospital of St. Bartholomew owned its private chapel and burial ground.

Lastly, it is worthy of record that two fragments of what may have been a font were recently dug up in what is now the market-garden of Messrs. E. Longley & Sons, which lies north of the military canal and east of Scanlan's Bridge, which crosses the canal between Gallows Corner and Barrack Hill. The exact spot is lat.  $51^{\circ} 4' 20''$  and long.  $1^{\circ} 4' 20''$  E. by the footpath just north of "Stone" in O.S. (sheet lxxiv, S.E.). The foot-path represents "Greene Lane" in H.M. 1685, which is not included in the earlier map. (The burial-ground marked in the O.S. map is not ancient and was used as such for only a brief period.) Here is a bank, and the stones were dug up just at its foot, having slipped down probably from the terrace just above. We have already seen that the builders of the mediæval chapels of Hythe placed their chapels of West Hythe, St. Michael's and St. Nicholas on this northern bank of the gut along which the canal now runs, and these stones may possibly mark the site of another of their chapels, though no reliable tradition is connected with it. The fragments indicate a bowl of 27 inches internal diameter and a depth of 16 inches at the side, running down two or three more inches in the centre. The top shews a rebate, which may indicate a lining of lead which has been wrenched away. The material is Caen-stone. The outer surface of the bowl was adorned with arcading containing figures, which have been too much mutilated to enable one to describe them. I wish I could feel confident that the fragments belong to an early font. Perhaps more of them will be discovered.