BROOKLAND CHURCH.

Erected on a mound, to lift it above flood-water, this church of St. Augustine,* Brookland, is of much interest. Its early leaden font; its detached and peculiar belfry of wood; its rude stair-turret, west of the north porch; its unsymmetrical nave arcades of seven bays on the north, and of six on the south, all unequally spaced, yet all purporting to be formed upon the same model; its graceful, yet ill-defined, chancel; and its three Early benches of oak at the north west of the nave, all conduce to excite our attention.

We may suppose that the church had assumed its present form by about the year 1300, but not long before that. The piscina, and two ascending sedilia, have good pointed arches with Early English hood-mouldings and shafts. The lancet windows, on each side of the chancel, have hoods with round shafts, the caps of which seem to be of a late period in the Early English style. Looking upward, to the wall plates of the chancel, we observe, in similar positions on each side, one beam or wall plate which is well moulded. It does not extend so far as the east wall. Its western end seems to have been the point at which the chancel was originally considered to begin. When, however, a rood-screen was erected across the nave and south aisle (where its lower portion can still be traced), a line further west was chosen, and the rood-screen cut one of the nave bays, through the centre of its arch.

Examining, narrowly, the unsymmetrical nave arcades, we find that although their piers are all octagonal, and their arches are surmounted by a similar hood-moulding, which stops in each bay fully twelve inches above the level of the spring of the arch, yet there is much diversity in these arcades. Not only are the bays unequal in number, and unequally spaced, but the hood-moulding, which, over the arches of the south arcade, appears on both its sides (being as

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* In Thorn's Chronicle (columns 2086-7, *Decem Scriptores*) we find a Bull of Pope Clement dated 1349, appropriating to St. Augustine's Abbey this church, and others. It had, however, previously been appropriated to that Abbey during the rule of Abbot Ralph.
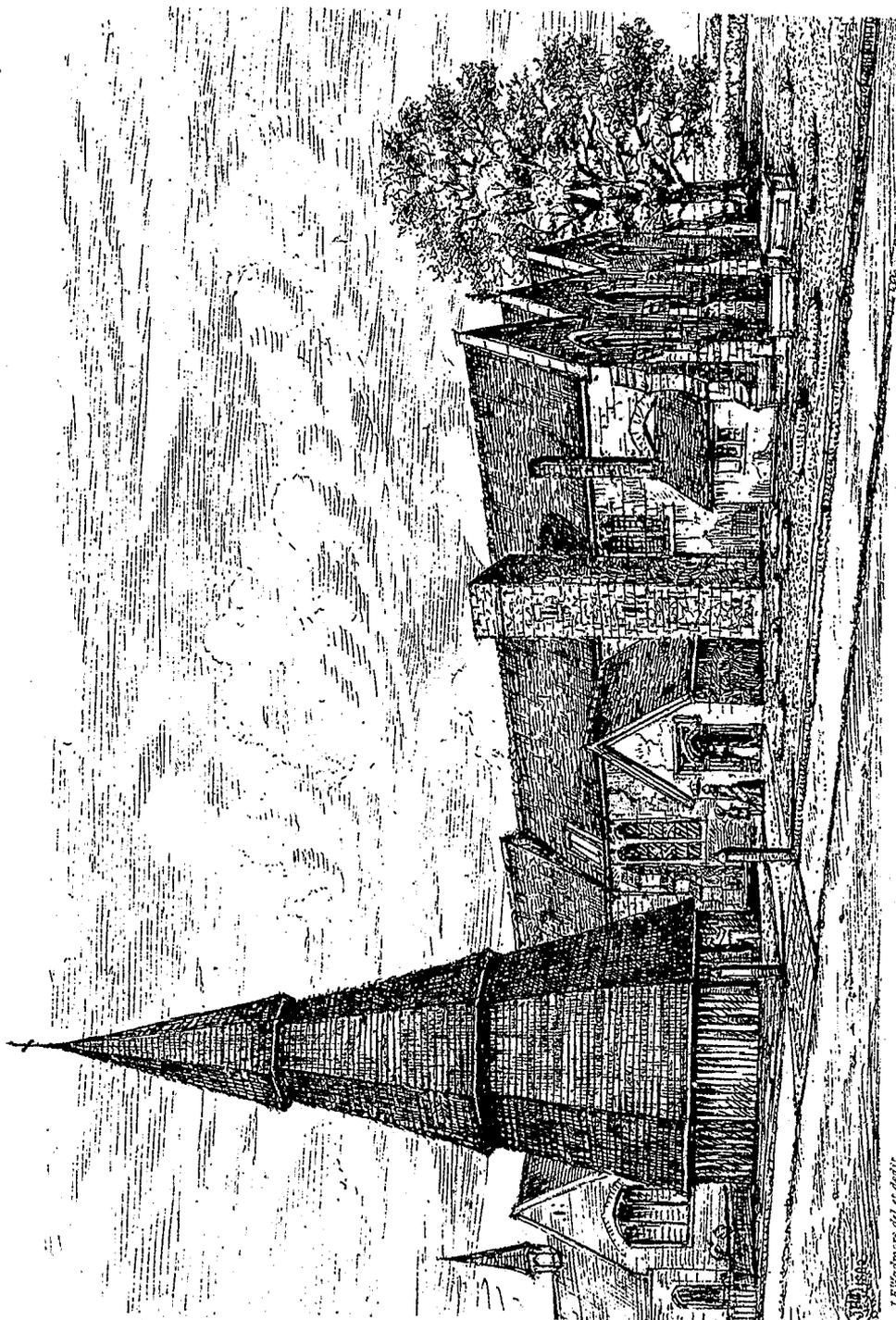
BROOKLAND CHURCH & BELFRY, KENT.

good in the south aisle as in the nave), is entirely omitted upon the north side of the north arcade, which has in the north aisle a plain surface without ornament. The north aisle is narrower than the south aisle.

In the south aisle, we find that the south doorway is wider than the opposite door on the north. The tie-beams and king-posts, at the east end of this aisle, are well moulded. Entering the south chancel, we go down two steps; one being the base of the rood-screen's framework on the ground; and the other an actual step. This should be noticed; it resembles the arrangement at Boughton Alulph, and at the ancient church of Stone, near Faversham. This primitive arrangement is now being completely destroyed and reversed: modern architects, like those of later mediæval times, cause us to ascend by steps to a higher level as we enter the chancel. The alteration was made at Monkton in Thanet not many years ago. At Hollingbourne Church there is an original instance of ascending without a step; there the whole floor rises by a very gradual ascent from its west end towards the east.

In the north chancel aisle there is an early Decorated east window of three lights, having in their upper portions remnants of stained glass. The border seems to contain crowned initials. There is a blocked lancet window in the north wall.

The Perpendicular windows of this church are large, but not handsome.

The ancient benches (probably of the fifteenth century) have been surmounted by matchboarding to form high pews, as was so frequently the case in our churches, e.g., at Leeds Church near Maidstone, and in the destroyed church at Murston.

A curious specimen of rural screen-work of the seventeenth or eighteenth century appears at the west end of the south aisle.

The doorway of the stair turret, beside the north door of the north aisle, is acutely pointed and somewhat rude. It appears to be of Early English work, but there are features which may render this doubtful.

The octagonal wooden belfry covered with shingles, painted black, has a conical roof of three separate portions, such as we find at Upchurch and at Willesborough. Entering by the door, on the west, we see that the four tall principal balks of timber, which form the angles of the framework that bears the bells, are from 18 to 19 inches square.

The wooden framework shews to best advantage when seen from north to south. Four huge pointed arches are formed above us, and there is a gigantic saltire, or St. Andrew's cross of timber, at the extreme north, and extreme south. The framework is not so elegant on its east and west sides. For strength, several horizontal beams were needed, in stories, bound together with cross pieces.

There are five bells, all of them cast in 1685.

The customs of the Middle Ages were such as do not accord with our religious feelings. In 1453-4, on Sunday before the Feast of the Assumption of St. Mary, the Jurats and Commons of Lydd came to Brookland to witness a wrestling match, in which Cok of Sandwich won from the Jurats a prize of 3s. 4d. (*Hist. MSS. Comm.*, 5th Report, 520).

There were some Fraternities or Guilds connected with this church, but I have only found the name of one :—the Fraternity of St. James.

One principal light, or candelabrum, was kept constantly burning here before the High Altar; it was called the "Common Light." To honour other saints, lights were burned before the altars, or before the images, of Holy Cross, St. Mary, St. Katherine, St. Stephen, and the Herse Light. In 1467, the vicar of Brookland, John Eynon, making his will, desired to be buried at Canterbury, in St. Augustine's cemetery; and he wished that in two churches of that city a chaplain should sing masses for his soul, but, said he, the chaplain must not be a Scotchman nor an Irishman.

BROOKLAND FONT.

One account of this Font will be found in the *Archæologi-cal Journal*, vol. vi., for 1849; and another in *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. IV., p. 89; engravings accompany both de-scriptions.

Made of lead, and circular in form, the upper part of this font is completely covered with ornament. Two tiers of round-headed arches, twenty in each tier, contain represen-tations of the signs of the zodiac (in the upper and smaller
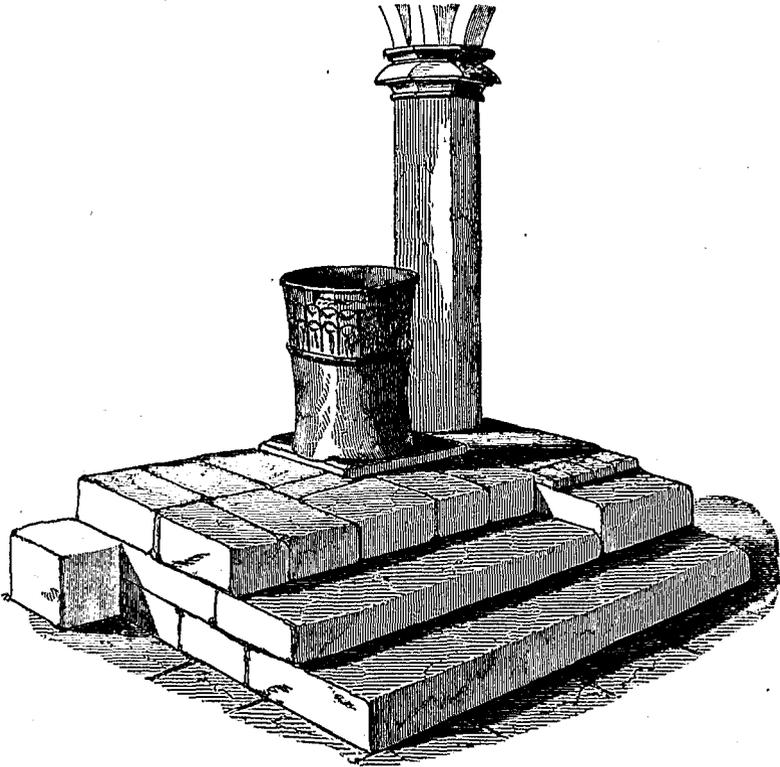
compartments), and of the months of the year (in the lower and longer compartments). The arch above each compart-ment is inscribed with the name of the zodiacal sign, or of the month, represented beneath it. To complete the twenty compartments, the eight months from March to October, both inclusive, are repeated a second time; and so are the zodiacal signs from Capricornus to Scorpio inclusive. Above

the upper tier, of zodiacal signs, runs an ornament formed of two cable mouldings between two bands of sharks' teeth. In the midst, however, of these cables and teeth, appear small representations of our Lord's resurrection, which are more appropriate to the Font than are the other designs.

According to the reckoning of the Eastern Church, in the twelfth century, Christmas, or the Nativity of our Lord, was observed on the 6th of January. Accordingly, on this Font we find that January is called *Christ*-month. Above that name appears Aquarius with his water jar inverted; below, is a figure having two faces under one hood; in one hand he holds a Saxon horn, and in the other a goblet. *Februari* is surmounted by *Pices* the Fishes; while below is a man ploughing. *Marchi* has above it the name and form of Capricornus, a goat; while below a rustic prunes a tree. *Avril* has above it Taurus, and below is a man in long robes, bearing in each hand a tall plant. *May* is surmounted by The Twins (*Gemini*), wearing hats; while below that month's name rides a gentleman, with a hawk upon his wrist. *Jvni* has the Crab *(Cancer)* above, and below is a rustic mower with scythe, whetstone and leg-guard. *Jvlivs* is surmounted by Leo, and beneath is a haymaker with broad brimmed hat, short coat, long boots and a rake; appropriate to the Saxon haymonth. *Avgvst* has above it a Virgin, holding a spike of corn; while below is a reaper, stooping down to cut corn with a sickle. The Saxons called August the Barn or Harvest month. *Septembre* is surmounted by Libra, a female figure holding even scales; while beneath stands a thresher, wielding his flail; his head and his feet are bare. *Octobre* is distinguished by a huge toad-like scorpion, and by a man, who standing in a wine-vat or cider-vat, holds in his right hand a conical bunch of grapes, like a pine apple. *Novembre*, surmounted by the equine Sagittarius *(Sagvtarivs)*, with bow bent, is represented by a hooded and cloaked swineherd, who with crooked stick knocks down acorns, for a pig at his feet. *Decembre* shews, below, a butcher with hatchet raised on high to fell the ox (which must be salted down for winter food) with the pointed reverse of the hatchet blade. Above

is a very singular and nondescript animal, which does duty as a second edition of Capricornus. It might have served better for Aries, which is omitted.

This font is supposed to be of the twelfth century. It is 2 feet 1 inch in diameter, and 16 inches deep. Its circumference is about 6 feet. In the ornamental arcading, every fifth pillar rests upon a minute round arch, and thus divides the year into three terms. The workmanship has been ascribed to Norman or Flemish workmen.

In Registers of the Consistory and Archdeacon's Courts, at Canterbury, there are copies of the wills of several parishioners of Brookland, and of other persons who mention this church :

1459 *Isabella* (wife of Ric.) *Rolfe*, of Ivechurch, left 6d. to the Parish Chaplain of Brookland, and 4d. to the parish clerk (*Cons.* ii. 3[b]).

1463 *Richard Rolf*, of Ivechurch, left 13s. 4d. to the works of this church, and 4d. to its high altar (*Cons.* ii. 137).

1463 *Tho' Colyn*, of Brokeland, left his best " co-oportorium " to this church, 6d. to " the Light," and 4d. to S[t] Stephen's light (*Archd.* i. § 6).

1462 *Stephen Curtays*, of Brokeland, left nothing to the church (*Ibid.* §11).

1468 *John Lewys*, of Brokland, left 12d. to the Common Light, 12d. to every Fraternity here, and 12d. to the high altar ; but he was to be buried at Ivychurch (*Ibid.* § 20).

1471 *John Curteys*, of Brokland, left 6d. to the high altar, 4d. to the Light of S[t] Mary, and directed that a priest should here say masses for his soul during 6 months (*Ibid.* § 17).

1471 *Gabriel Tylden*, of Brokeland, left 8d. to the high altar, 4d. to the parish clerk, mentions wife Joan, and his sister Cristina (*Ibid.*).

1471 *Walter Woodford*, of Brokelond, left 2d. to every Fraternity light (*Ibid.*).

1480 *Thomas Jan*, of Newchurch, left 20s. to the fabric of this church, and 6s. 8d. to Fairefeld Church (*Cons.* i.).

1484 *Thomas Leche* desired to be buried here, left 2s. to high altar, 12d. to parish clerk, 4d. to Fraternity of S[t] James, 6s. 8d. to the fabric, and to the Lights of Holy Cross 2s., St Mary 13d., St Stephen 4d., St Katherine 4d., the Herse 4d. (*Cons.* ii. 619).

Parsons, in his *Monuments in Kent*, gives the inscriptions on some tombstones here.*

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* John Plomer, died 1615, æt. 48 ; M.P. for New Romney ; had by Rebecca, dau. of Wm Jenkine, of Folkstone, 11 children.

 Wm Symons, of Brookland, died 1650, æt. 62.

 Nicholas Marsh, died 1636, æt. 45.

 Alice Marsh, of Brookland, widow, died 1650, æt. 79.

 H[y] Barton, of Folkestone, died 1725 ; his wife Frances, dau. of Tho' Kirril, of Hadlow, died 1714 ; also their only son Kirril, died 1713.

This church was sequestered by Archbishop Peckham,[*] but for what reason we do not know.

The advowson was in the possession of St. Augustine's Abbey in 1314, when, probably, the first Bull of appropriation was granted, by Clement V., to Abbot Ralph Bourne, but on several occasions, when the Abbacy was vacant, or for other reasons, the King presented vicars to the benefice. Previously there had been rectors, of whom the names of three are upon record : William (29 Edward I),[†] Bartholomew de Ferentino (1249),[‡] T. Mason.[§]

VICARS OF BROOKLAND.

Admitted		
1314-5	Feb.	Rob. Paulyn (Reynolds' Reg. 14[b]).
1360		John de Hoghton (Thorn's Chronicle, Decem Script. col. 2088).
1376	Sep.	Rob. atte Hulle (Sudbury's Reg. 114[b]).
1377	Sep.	Tho[s] Cokyl, of Selling, by exch., with atte Helle (Ibid. 121[b]).
1384-5	Feb.	Wm. Wilflete, rec. of Stannysfield, Norwich, by exchange with Cokyl (Courtenay's Reg. 342[b]).
1390-1	Jan.	Wm. Stowford, rec. of Dimchurch, by exchange with Wilflete (Ibid. 279[a]).
		Ric. Sextayne, resigned in 1404-5.
1404-5	March	Rob. Marchal, vice Sextayne (Arundel's Reg. i. 302[a]).
1409	March	Jno. Clyfford, vice Marchal, resigned (Ibid. ii. 52[b]).
1410	July	Hy. Sheffeld, vice Clyfford, resigned (Ibid.)
		John Hille, resigned in 1445.
1445	Sep.	Wm. Enge, vice Hille (Stafford's Reg., 85[a]).
1453	Aug.	Wm. Amy, vice Enge, deceased (Kemp's Reg., 325[a]).
		John Brede, died 1464.
1464	Aug.	John Abele, vice Brede (Bourgchier's Reg., 89[a]).
1466	Nov.	John Eynon, vice Abele, dec[d] (Ibid., 94[a]).
1467		Rob[t] Waynflete, Canon regular of S[t] Augustine's, on the death of Eynon in 1467 (Ibid., 97[b]).
1474	Oct.	Tho[s] Ledys, vice Waynflete, resigned (Ibid., 111[a]).
		Ric. Turnebull, resigned in 1556.
1556	Oct.	Ralph Blunte, vice Turnebull (Pole's Reg., 70[a]).

[*] Peckham's Register 61[b].　　[†] Prynne, p. 906.
[‡] Thorn, Decem Script. col. 1896.　　[§] Thorn, Decem Script. col. 2088.

Hasted gives, in vol. viii, pp. 387-8, the following additional names of vicars :

1597	Dec.	*Richard Birde*, S.T.B., ob^t 1609.
1609	July	*Richard Martyn*.
1660	March	*Geo. Guild*, ob^t 1661.
1661	Dec.	*Thomas Russell*.
1677	Dec.	*Thos Johnson*, ob^t 1727, rec. St Margaret's, Canterbury.

The next seven vicars had all been minor canons of Canterbury.

1727	Jan.	*John le Hunt*, ob^t 1731, April.
1731	Aug.	*Simon Devereux*, ob^t 1733, July.
1733	Dec.	*Thos Buttonshaw*, resigned 1737.
1737	April	*Robert Jenkins*, resigned 1743, Jan.
1743	Oct.	*Wm. Broderip*, ob^t 1764, April.
1764	Aug.	*Wm. Taswell*, resigned 1772, June.
1772	Aug.	*Joshua Dix*, resigned 1788.
1788		*Richard Sharpe*.

NOTE.

DIMENSIONS OF NEWCHURCH CHURCH.

Communicated by the Rev. WM. COBB.

Interior of tower	18 feet 4 inches by 13 feet 4 inches.
„ nave	60 feet 10 inches by 17 feet 6 inches.
„ chancel	40 feet by 17 feet 6 inches.
Total length	119 feet 2 inches.
Length of aisles	85 feet 4 inches.