

# ABINGER PARISH CHURCH

By J. A. GIBBS, M.A.  
(Churchwarden)

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TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE  
Proceeds to the Church Rebuilding Fund

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THIRD EDITION



*Photo by Reginald E. Cooke.*

Abinger Church, as it was after the bomb fell in August, 1944.

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Printed and Published by A. A. Tanner & Son, Dorking



# THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES

ABINGER, SURREY

## PREFACE.

**THE** Second Edition of this booklet issued from the publishers at the very time, ironically enough, that our Church was destroyed on the 3rd of August, 1944, by the blast of the explosion of a flying bomb of the enemy, which hit a cypress tree just outside the West end of the Church. This Third Edition is to be sold, as was the Second, for the benefit of the Rebuilding Fund.

The blast laid flat all the West end of the Nave, with the Belfry, Spire, South Porch and South Doorway, and broke up the Font. Only portions of the North and South walls of the Nave were left, and the only windows remaining were the three-light 15th century one and the round-headed single-light one next to it. The roofs of all the rest of the Church and of the Lychgate were stripped of their external coverings of stone Horsham slabs, tiles etc., but, apart from the Nave, the walls of the rest of the Church remained standing. The South Aisle, consisting of the North-east (the old) Vestry and Organ Chamber, suffered considerably and the organ was ruined, but this Aisle with its arcade that separated it from the Chancel, is to disappear when the Church is rebuilt, and a new organ will, with the choir, be situated at the West end of the Nave. The pews of the Nave were broken in pieces by the weight of the masonry that fell on them and suffered further afterwards by lying for many months deep in the rain-soddened debris. Those of the North Aisle and the Choir stalls escaped serious damage, and so did the Altar, Altar rails, Chancel screens, the two Sanctuary chairs, the Pulpit, Lectern, and Chancel carpets. The glass of all the windows in the Church was so shattered into fragments that none of it can be used again. The Plate, Parish Register books, and all documents were found intact in the North-west Vestry.

In the Churchyard, the blast broke off a great number of the upright gravestones and destroyed the 1914-18 War Memorial Cross.

In October, 1944, the Rector and Church Council selected for the rebuilding of the Church the distinguished architect, Mr. Frederick Etchells, F.R.I.B.A., and when his appointment had been sanctioned by the Bishop and Diocesan authorities, he prepared preliminary plans and a report dated 25th February, 1945, which were unanimously approved on the 3rd March, at a Parish meeting summoned to hear his explanations and to discuss them with him. The new Church, as designed by Mr. Etchells, will closely resemble the lower one of the two pictures facing p. 13. When the war with Germany ended, which it did

in May, Mr. Etchells was called upon to make ready to repair the North Aisle, which had suffered so much less than the main part of the Church, to serve as our temporary Church till such time as the rebuilding could be undertaken. But it was only in July that it became possible to obtain labour and licence for the builder to do the work. The Aisle was then screened off from the Chancel and Nave, and its walls and roof timber having been repaired, it was fitted up as a Church in itself and opened for use, with part of the adjoining Vestry, on Armistice Day, Sunday, the 11th November, 1945. The Chancel roof has also been repaired inside, and the outside of the roofs, both of Chancel and Aisle, have been made weather-proof by rubberoid sheeting. The Nave still gapes to the sky, but the floors, both of the Nave and Chancel, have been cleared of the fallen debris and of damaged pews and stalls, and the tops of the broken walls made weather-proof. The pillars and arches between the Chancel and the Aisle, damaged by the explosion, and since by exposure during two winters to frost and wet, will have to be renewed. We have every confidence that when rebuilt, the Church will be in every way worthy to be re-dedicated to the Glory of God.

In this new Edition a later photograph of the interior of the Church, as it was before the bombing, has taken the place of the former one, and a print of a drawing by the Rev. Martin Gibbs of the exterior, made from a better point of view, is substituted for the photograph of it.

The text of the booklet, which is unaltered, was, as stated in previous Prefaces, abridged from type-written papers written by me, which are bound up in a volume presented by me to the Church, entitled *Abinger Church and Geographical Histories*. The principal authorities mentioned in this booklet are:

Evelyn (John), *Diary*.

Aubrey (John), *Natural History and Antiquities of Surrey*, vol. iv., 1718.

Manning (D.) and Bray (W.), *History and Antiquities of Surrey*, vol. ii., 1809.

Cracklow (C. J.), *Views of all the Churches and Chapels in Surrey*, 1824—27.

Brayley (E. W.), *Topographical History of Surrey*, vol. v., 1848.

(There is a Revised edition by E. Walford, 1878, etc.).

Victoria County Histories, *Surrey*, vol. ii., 1905, and iii., 1911.

Fairbank (Dr. F. R.), *The Churches of Wotton, Abinger, and Oakwood*. Privately printed, 1911.

Cox (Dr. J. C.), *English Church Fittings, etc.*

Surrey Record Soc. *The Parish Registers of Abinger, etc.* (1927).

Powell (Rev. J. W.), *Ms. Notebook, 1857* (belonging to the Church).

Gibbs (J. A.), *Abinger Church and Churchyard Inscriptions*, 1934.

(Typed and Ms. book belonging to the Church).

JOHN A. GIBBS,

"Goddards," Abinger Common,

20th May, 1946.

## INTRODUCTION.

**A**BINGER CHURCH, with the house that was the old Manor House of Abinger on one side of it and the Hatch Inn on the other, is situated on the edge of a shelf in the slope of the Sandstone range of hills that here leads up to the summit of Leith Hill, two miles away to the south-east. Northward it looks across the valley of the Tillingbourne, in which is Abinger Hammer, towards the northern limit of the parish beyond the top of the Chalk "North Downs." At 551 feet above sea-level it is one of the highest-placed churches in Surrey.\*

The Domesday Survey of 1086 A.D., which mentions about sixty of the still existing Surrey churches that are ancient, records that there was one at Abinger at that time.† No Saxon work however has been found in our church, but the Nave is "Early Norman" and might have been built before 1086 as some authorities confidently say that it was†, but the possibility cannot be ruled out that it was not this building that was in existence when the survey took place. If there was a previous Saxon one (built of wood perhaps) it is at any rate very unlikely that it could have been built before the reign of Canute (died 1035), since it is believed that no church in these parts can have escaped his Danish compatriots, whose armies which overran Surrey from 852 to 1016, "especially vented their destructiveness on Christian churches."‡ It is of course quite possible that there was a church here before the Danish invasion, but there is reason to think that Christianity did not come to Surrey before the middle of the 7th century.

As to the site of our church many people connect it with the large mound (hitherto unexplored) that faces the western wall of the churchyard across a wide trench. There are two theories. The most modern is that the mound was the core of a Norman fort and that the church was built in Norman times just to be under the protection of the fort. The other is that the mound is a burial tumulus, as it is labelled in the Ordnance map, and that the site of the church may have been a sacred place from distant pagan times where some hero buried in the mound was honoured with worship. Those who hold this view point to the deep trackways converging on to the level ground where the church stands as possibly affording evidence that it is a place of very ancient resort.

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\*Of ancient churches Tatsfield and St. Martha are higher, and of modern churches Coldharbour and Ranmore.

§V.C.H., Surrey, is mistaken in saying in its article on Abinger that Domesday does not mention a church here.

†e.g., the well known architects Sir G. Gilbert Scott (d. 1878) and Philip M. Johnston, F.S.A. (d. 1937).

‡V.C.H., Surrey, Ecclesiastical section.

For 1,250 years before the Diocese of Guildford was formed in 1927, Abinger was in Winchester Diocese. It is in the Rural Deanery of Dorking, which up to 1928 belonged to the Archdeaconry of Surrey, but is now in the new Archdeaconry of Dorking.

The population of the present ecclesiastical parish of Abinger was 663 at the census of 1931. The said parish with a length of 4½ miles as the crow flies, and an area of about 2,830 acres, is barely half the length and barely half the area of the ancient parish, which reached from the North Downs into the Weald of Surrey as far as the Sussex border, with the Roman Stane Street for part of its boundary. The reduction was brought about by the southern part of the latter being taken in 1853 (and parts of other parishes) to form the ecclesiastical parish of Oakwood with the 13th century Oakwood Chapel for its Church, and by another portion taken in 1878 (and again parts of other parishes) to form the ecclesiastical parish of Holmbury St. Mary round a new Church that was building by Street. The present civil parish of Abinger, 7480 acres in area, includes the whole of ecclesiastical Abinger and Oakwood (except a small portion at the corner marked‡ in the sketch map \* transferred to Ockley civil parish), and the larger half of Holmbury St. Mary.

The Patron Saint of the Church is St. James. No record of the dedication is known, but it is traditionally held that this St. James is he who is represented in art as a pilgrim with staff and scrip and who was the brother of St. John. Many churches remained unnamed even as late as the 14th century; re-naming was not uncommon and an occasion for naming or re-naming Abinger Church and the neighbouring Shere Church, both of which have the same Patron Saint, may well have been afforded by the carrying out of the very extensive alterations made in both churches early in the 13th century. It was the age of pilgrimages. The flow of English pilgrims to St. James' shrine at Compostella in Spain was at its height, and the popularity of pilgrimages to St. Thomas à Becket's shrine at Canterbury was growing fast. How fitting then it was to name the two Churches after the great pilgrim saint! Still more so if the common belief is true that the pilgrims from the West and from the Continent took the route from Winchester to Canterbury by the ancient track along the south side of the N. Downs which we know as "The Pilgrims' Way"† and which actually runs through Shere and Abinger. And even if, as some now contend, their route was on the other side of the Downs, to London, and thence to Canterbury, the stir caused by this novel pilgrimage might well have helped to prompt the name.

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\* The sketch map herewith illustrates all of this paragraph.

†See the 6-inch Ordnance Map.



NOTE FOR THE HISTORICAL SKETCH MAP OPPOSITE.

**Abinger Ancient Parish** is the whole of the tinted area. Up to 1853 it was one unit both for ecclesiastical and civil purposes, and it continued to be the civil parish up to 1879.

**Abinger present Civil Parish**, as constituted in 1879, has the whole of the sketch map for its area, except for its easternmost corner marked ‡ transferred to Ockley in 1901, and for B1, B2 and B3, which are now all in Shere Civil.

A is the present **Abinger Ecclesiastical Parish** as limited in 1878, but from 1853 to 1878 it included also B6.

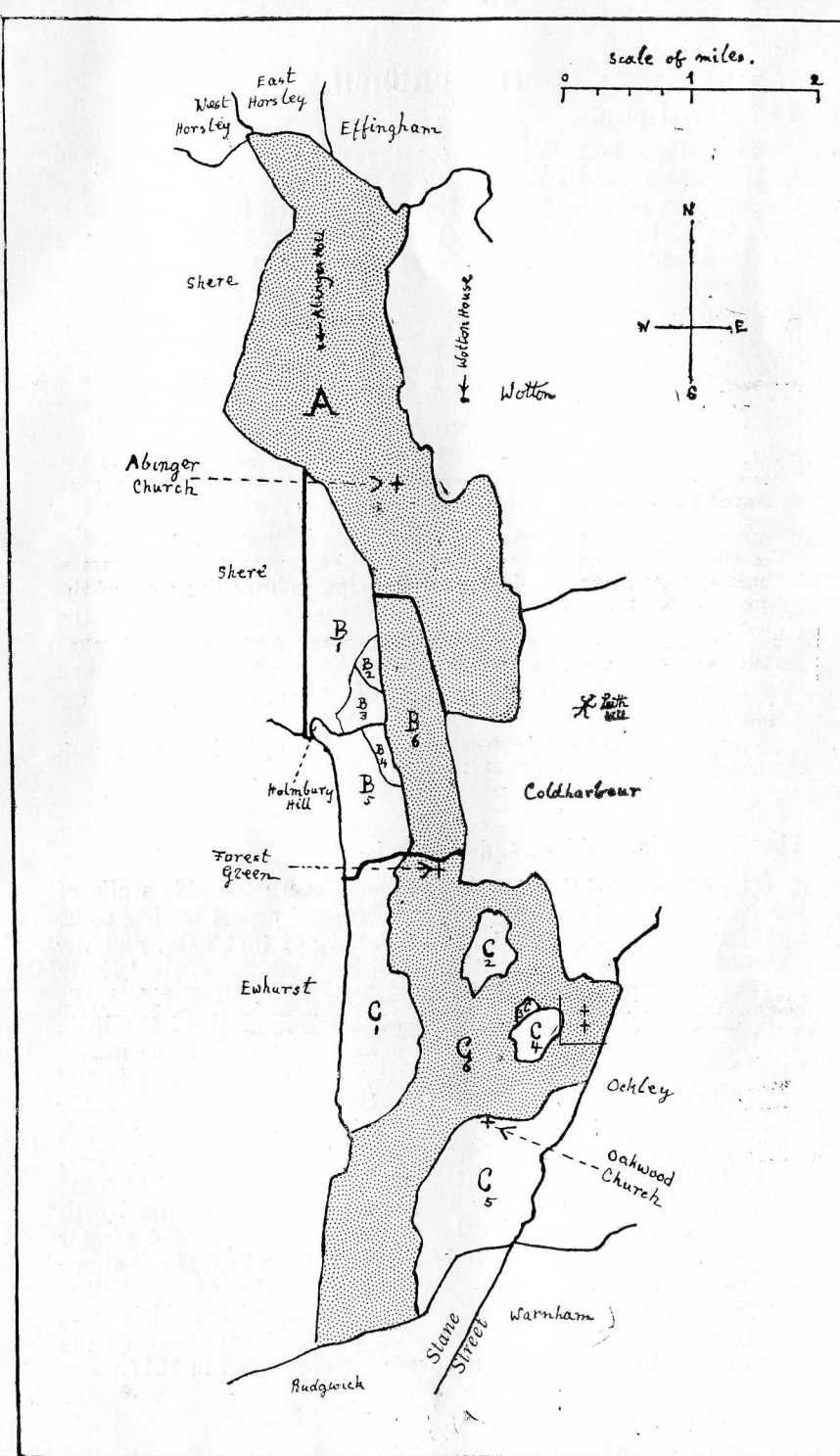
B1 to B6 are **Holmbury St. Mary Ecclesiastical Parish** formed in 1878 out of

- B1, part of Shere.
- B2, an outlier of Ewhurst.
- B3, an outlier of Cranleigh.
- B4, an outlier of Ockham.
- B5, an outlier of Ockley.
- B6, part of Abinger.

C1 to C6 are **Oakwood Ecclesiastical Parish** formed in 1853 out of

- C1, C2, C3, outliers of Ockley.
- C4, C5, outliers of Wotton.
- C6, part of Abinger.

The part marked *Wotton* is that portion of Wotton which is the ecclesiastical parish, and that marked *Coldharbour* is an ecclesiastical parish made up of parts of Wotton and Capel parishes.



## THE CHURCH.

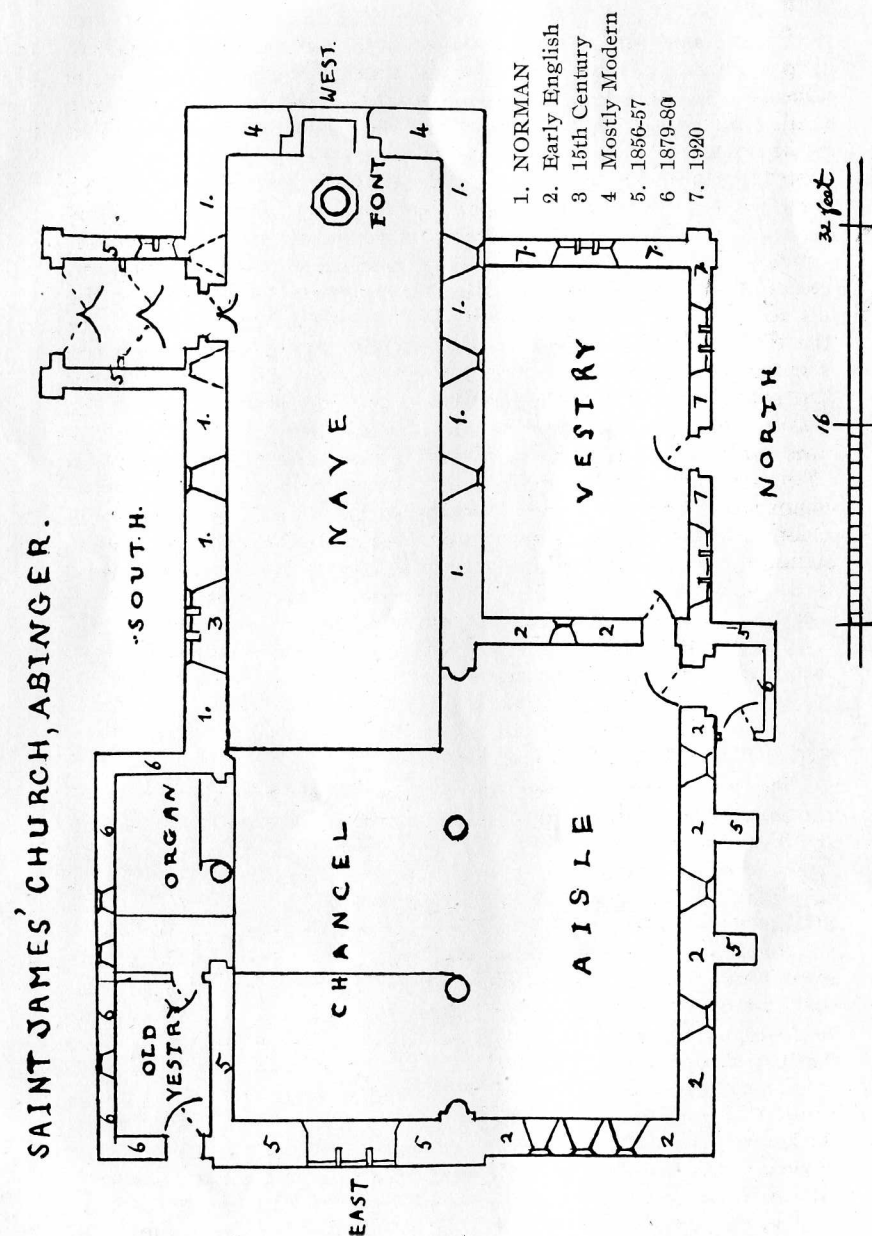
### The general plan.

The Nave and Chancel together measure 77-ft. 4-in. in length inside. There is no Chancel arch. The north side of the Chancel and nine feet of the Nave are flanked by a North Aisle (called also the North Chancel or the Patron's Chancel) which is separated off by an arcade of three pointed arches. The easternmost of the arches forms the side of the Sanctuary. The westernmost covers the division between the Nave and Chancel but its crown does not correspond with the division. The Nave, Chancel, and North Aisle each measures 18-ft. in breadth excluding the shafts of the pillars from the measurements of the last two. The Aisle is 38½-ft. long. Behind the west wall of the Aisle the "New Vestry" with its low roof extends along the greater part of the rest of the north wall of the Nave. Along the south side of the Chancel there is what may be called the South Aisle, which is divided by a wall into two portions; the one, which was formerly a Vestry and is commonly called the "South-east," or the "Old" Vestry, lying behind the wall of the Sanctuary, while the other, containing the Organ, is open to the Choir through an archway which embraces a pair of arches springing from a central pillar, with a cross carved and pierced in the spandrel between them. There is a Crypt under the "New Vestry" containing the furnace chamber at its inner end.

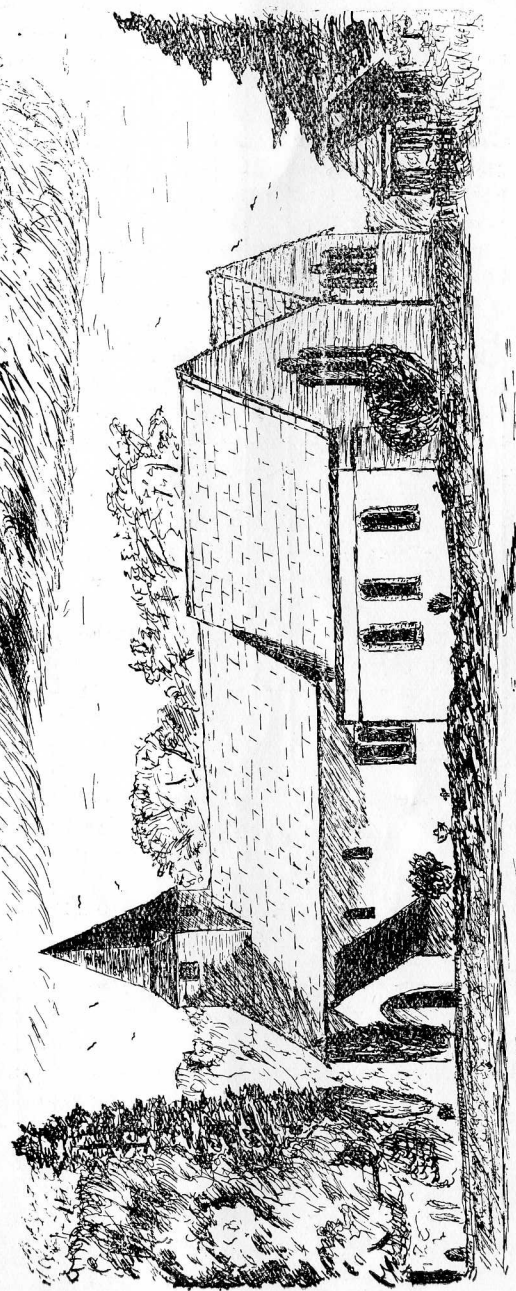
The wooden Belfry with its oak-shingled spire issues through the roof at the west end of the Nave.

### The Nave, North Aisle, and Chancel.

The most ancient parts of the Church are the side walls of the Nave which are of the "Early Norman" period having some small, round-headed, single-light windows of that date, and the walls of the North Aisle, which, with their windows, are "Early English" of the first half of the 13th century. The side walls of the Nave are nearly 4-ft. thick up to the splays of the little windows, but from that point upwards are set back some inches except for the easternmost 6-ft. of the North wall, while in the easternmost 12-ft. of the South wall the extra thickness is made to disappear by being tapered down from the west side of the 15th century window near the pulpit. The west wall, which is 4-ft. thick, and also has setting back, has been partly rebuilt at some time. The side walls of the Nave and the walls of the North Aisle are of rubble, as may be seen outside where the plaster covering has perished, namely in the parts of both that are above the New Vestry, and in the north wall of the Aisle. Till a few years ago the rubble of the East wall of the Aisle was also exposed. The three buttresses on the North wall of the Aisle, built of squared local sandstone, were added in 1857.







South-east view of the Church as it was before the bomb fell in August, 1944.

*The tall tree at the west end is the one that the bomb hit (see Preface). Till a short time before there was a weather-vane on the spire, a cross on the point of the gable of the Chancel, and a cross on the lychgate, all of which had fallen off before the drawing was made.*

There has been a succession of three Chancels. The original Norman one was followed in the 13th century by the second one and the third is the present Chancel, which replaced the latter in 1857. Since the Norman one would have been much narrower than its successor, the Aisle must have been built at the same time as or after the latter, and, judging by its architecture, some authorities hold that the Aisle was built as early as 1200, while none assign to it a later date than 1240. There are two stones at the base of the outside north-east angle of the Aisle of a different kind to those above them, the upper one chamfered, the other grooved, which it has been suggested may have belonged to the Norman Chancel. The need for the rebuilding of the second Chancel in 1857 was due to the extreme weakness of its walls in spite of the support of large buttresses. The new walls are of squared and coursed local sandstone and on the outside the parts above 7-ft. from the ground are slightly set back. The Sedile, and probably the dog-toothed string-course in the present Chancel, were copied from the previous Chancel. Remains of a Piscina were found at the demolition, but it was not reproduced, the present Credence Table shaped like a Piscina dating only from 1880.

The pillars and the three arches of the North Aisle in 13th century style are not original, and there is good reason to believe that formerly the north wall of the Nave reached to the Chancel. The Sanctuary had a north wall (instead of the present arch) dividing it from the Aisle, the space between the Nave wall and that Sanctuary wall being covered by one round and one pointed arch. In 1857 the two arches were replaced by two new ones, both pointed, and with a wider total span so as to extend over the space between a shortened Nave wall and the said Sanctuary wall. Probably much of the chalk clunch stone in the new pillars and arches came from the old ones. It was only in 1880 that the north wall of the Sanctuary was replaced by the present easternmost arch, which is narrower than the two others and of a different stone.

The North Aisle was originally a chapel, probably dedicated to Our Lady. Remains of a Piscina found in the wall at the restoration of 1857 attest the Altar that was there which was probably removed in the middle of the 16th century. Under the east windows of the North Aisle there is an oil painting of the "Entombment of Christ" after the Italian Artist Francia, given in 1908; and in one of the spandrels of the arcade a cast copy of a "Madonna and Child" by Michael Angelo, given in 1926.

#### Restorations and Changes.

In contrast to its present state, John Evelyn, in Charles II.'s time, spoke of "the melancholy church of Abinger,"\* and, "in giving some advice to his grandson he contemplated the demolition of the church,"\* but there is no actual record of

\*Quoted by W. J. Evelyn in a speech at the re-opening of the church after restoration in 1880 from papers of John Evelyn in his possession.

repairing before 1797 and 1824 and then little more than that at the latter date the church was "in part newly-pewed."†

An extensive "restoration" in 1856-57 under Rector Powell and Architect Henry Goodyer quite transformed the church. I have referred to the rebuilding of the Chancel‡ and the arches of the North Aisle, but many things were done besides, of which I will only mention the chief here, leaving details and other changes for later paragraphs. A modern window that was over the porch, and a pair of Early English ones east of it were walled up, and the three round-headed ones that are on that side were opened. A door that there was in the west wall was abolished, the present south doorway, south porch, and north doorway made; stained glass placed in many windows; the floor, which sloped up all the way from the west end of the Nave to the east ends of the Chancel and North Aisle without the break of a single step, was levelled by putting in steps; a large "Singers' Gallery"§ that there was at the west end and the high square pews and three-decker pulpit of that day removed; some stalls placed in the Chancel, and the present pews in the Nave. The total cost was about £1,500, of which Robert Campbell (Scarlett), second Lord Abinger, and his relations subscribed about £250, and the patron, W. J. Evelyn, spent about £500 on the North Aisle of which at that time he claimed the ownership.\*

The next important changes were made in 1879-80 under Rector Hill and Architect Basil Champneys. The principal were: building the South Aisle with its low, leaded, flat roof, the North Porch, and Lychgate; providing the North Aisle with the present pews, and its arcade with the third arch already mentioned; and introducing the present Choir Stalls, Screens, and Altar Rails. The cost was again about £1,500, of which W. J. Evelyn gave £1,000.

The New Vestry was given in 1920 by Mrs. Waterhouse of "Feldemore" in memory of her husband Edwin Waterhouse (d. 1917); the architect was Wilfred Hardcastle. Its walls are

†Cracklow (1824).

‡In a note book preserved in the Vestry, Rector Powell noted many of the changes in the Church made at the restoration of 1856-57, and among them, the re-building of the Chancel, a fact which is not noticed in any subsequently printed books that I have seen, while some of them actually speak of the present Chancel as of 13th century date.

§Brayley, vol. V. (1848).

\*Among the subscribers were, John Labouchere, the High Sheriff; Mr. Justice Vaughan Williams, afterwards Sir Edward Vaughan Williams, P.C.; Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of the Diocese; Charles James Hoare, Archdeacon of Surrey; Martin F. Tupper, F.R.S., A.C.L.; and Richard Redgrave, R.A. (The lives of the last five are in the *Dict. of Nat. Biog.*) Also "Master Redgrave" (son of the last-named). This was Mr. Gilbert R. Redgrave of "Grovedale," who died in 1941, aged 97, the last survivor of the subscribers.

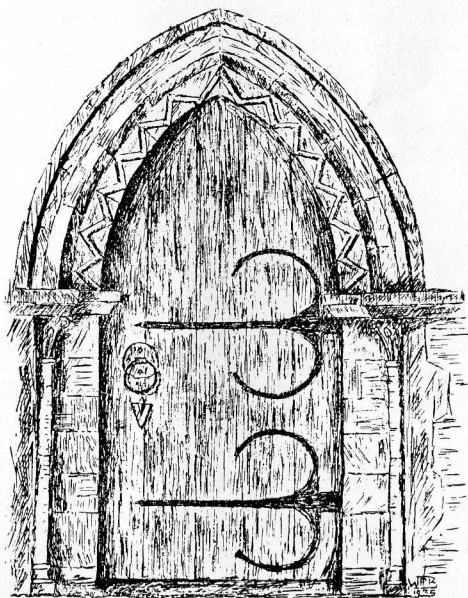


April, 1942.





Pulpit.



North Doorway.  
Drawn by F. Brooker, 1937.

faced outside with local stone irregularly shaped to match the stonework of the north side of the North Porch and of the lych-gate.

In the years 1935 to 1938 the organ was taken to pieces and repaired, and under the Architect to the Diocese, Mr. W. H. R. Blacking, the great work of putting in order all parts of the roofs and their woodwork that appeared to need it was undertaken, brick trenches were made round the base of the walls, and all the outside of the Church lime-washed except the North Porch and New Vestry. The cost of all this with other minor works was about £870.

#### Doorways and Porches.

The present South Doorway and its Porch of squared stone, made in 1857, are in 13th century style. The Porch, with its internal grille doors, was given by the farmers of the parish to take the place of a former much smaller brick Porch. The outside entrance to it is through a pointed arch which was not furnished with doors till 1880. The doorway into the Church has a round arch with dripstone, and an inner one which has tooth ornament and jamb pillars. The opening is trefoil-headed. The old South Doorway, which was probably Norman, was "narrow and rude, without any ornament, and round headed. It would not admit a corpse."\*

The West Doorway, which for many years had not been opened, except, since it was wider than the old South Door, for funerals, was built up when the new South Doorway was made. The inner part of it remains as a round-headed recess, without any moulding, in the West wall, and its date was probably only that of the rebuilding of the West wall.

There was a "Priest's Doorway" in the south wall of the Chancel which when the latter was rebuilt in 1857 was not replaced. It was "a pointed one but altered to a square-headed one," and on the outside it was quite plain, as old drawings show.†

The present North Doorway into the Church (pointed outside but round-headed on the inside), dating from 1857, is at the western end of the north wall of the North Aisle; its oak door is pointed. On the outside it is ornamented with work of ancient appearance, viz., a pointed arch with a raised zig-zag moulding and jamb-shafts with foliate capitals, and some have thought that this is genuine "Transition" work, but others that at the most only parts are genuine and that the arch at least is modern. Whence it came is unrecorded, but it has been suggested that it was moved from the inside of the Priest's Doorway above mentioned, and altered for the North Doorway. The small, half-timber porch that protects the North Doorway, added in 1879-80, has a square-headed outside door.

\*Rector Powell's notes.

†See plates herewith.

There was no external door in the North Aisle till about 1800 when a square-headed one was made† in the east end of its north wall to serve the eastern part of the Aisle. That part had been divided from the rest by a wall, for use, at first as a school, afterwards as a Vestry, with a way into the Chancel through the easternmost of the two arches of that day. At the restoration of 1857 a doorway, found plastered up in the wall between the Aisle and Sanctuary, was reopened, the outer doorway in the North wall was built up, and a screen substituted for the dividing wall in such a manner that the Sanctuary door became the only way into the Vestry. At the same time the present doorway was put in at the other end of the north wall to give people an entrance into the Aisle from the outside, and, the arcade being simultaneously extended to the west wall of the Aisle, a through way to the Nave. (The western part of the Aisle was used for the school till the separate school was built in 1863, and it also usually accommodated the Parish Vestry Meetings till 1920. When the South-east Vestry was made in 1880 the Aisle ceased to be divided and was filled with the present pews.)

The South-east Vestry and the New Vestry each has an external and an internal door. The external doorway of the South-east Vestry is pointed outside, but inside has a low arch, while the door itself is round-headed. Its inner doorway has a square head outside but inside a flattened ogee arch. In the New Vestry the external doorway is square-headed on both sides, but the inner doorway has a low arch on both sides.

### The Windows.

The round-headed, single light, windows in the Nave are six in number, three on one side opposite to three on the other. They are narrow, and short, and high up in the walls, all within an inch or two of the outside faces of the walls, and all in deep, round-headed recesses inside, the sides and sills of which are splayed. It is not doubted that the three in the north wall and the westernmost one in the south wall are the original Norman ones repaired, though not all of them have been continuously open. As to the two easternmost in the south wall they have taken the place of the pair of Early English ones (long single lights side by side\*), introduced in the 13th century. Their abolition took place in Powell's time, almost certainly in 1857, though neither their former existence nor their removal are mentioned in his account of the works carried out at that time. It must be supposed that he found traces in the wall which enabled him to reproduce the two Norman windows, but it

†Its position is still visible on the outside of the wall.

\*See Fairbank (1911) and plates herewith.

seems a pity that he removed original 13th century windows even if they had displaced Norman ones. At the same time he walled up the window over the middle of the South Door† that had been opened at some date between 1810 and 1848 to improve the lighting of the Gallery.

The late 15th century window in the south wall near the pulpit has three trefoil-headed lights of equal height. On the inside they are in a deep recess of which the sides and the sill are splayed and the top is a low arch, while on the outside the top is straight and the recess shallow. A window of that date and in that position was usually intended "to give light to the rood-loft or to altars against the west side of the rood-screen. Here at Abinger there are no indications of there ever having been a loft, though it is pretty certain that there was at least a screen."\*

The west wall of the Nave formerly had a window which was like the one near the pulpit, but much more recent. In order to lighten the Church, though at the expense of appearance, it was replaced in 1880 by the present window, twice its size. This window has, above its three trefoiled lights of equal height, a traceried heading in 14th century style topped by a low arch. Internally it is shallowly recessed, and externally the sides and straight top of its deep recess are hollow splays and the top is furnished with a dripstone.

Of the 13th century windows in the North Aisle already referred to the one in the west wall was taken out and replaced higher up when the New Vestry was built. These windows are all alike except that the middle one of the three in the east wall is higher than the other two and that the sides of the external arches of the east and west windows are chamfered, while those of the northern ones are rebated. Being nearly flush with the exterior these windows are, on the inside, in deep recesses the sills and sides of which are splayed while their tops are pointed hoods.

In the Chancel, before it was rebuilt in 1857, there was a large East Window, "Perpendicular" in style,† but, according to Rector Powell, this had only been put in about 100 years before, taking the place of 13th century lancet windows. The stonework of the present window is a "restoration" in the original 13th century style. It consists of three lancets, the middle one higher than the others, not very deeply recessed, their sides only slightly splayed. They are combined into one by a pointed containing-arch resting on pillars and with a dripstone above it. Outside there is no containing-arch but a dripstone follows

†Its position is still visible on the inside of the wall.

\*Fairbank (1911). Marks on the tie-beam and king-post indicate former braces, not a rood as some have thought.

†See plates.



round the contours of the lancet arches. The latter have tooth ornament and their mullions have pillars. In the south wall of the 13th century Chancel there was a "low side window." There was also a window to the east of it as was discovered at the demolition of the wall. When the wall was rebuilt three lancet windows were made in it, the easternmost one of which (trefoil-headed) still retains its position in the Sanctuary, but the other two are now in the south wall of the organ chamber. These two and the window in the South-east Vestry are copies of those in the North Aisle.

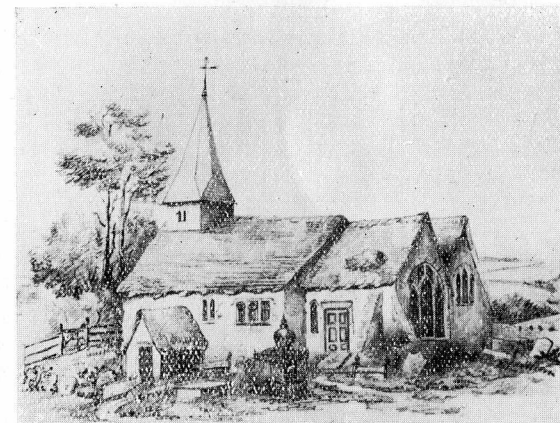
In the New Vestry there are three square-headed unsplayed windows, each with three trefoiled lights, and a skylight in the hipped east end of the roof.

In the South Porch there is a window with two rectangular lights and in the North Porch a small lancet window.

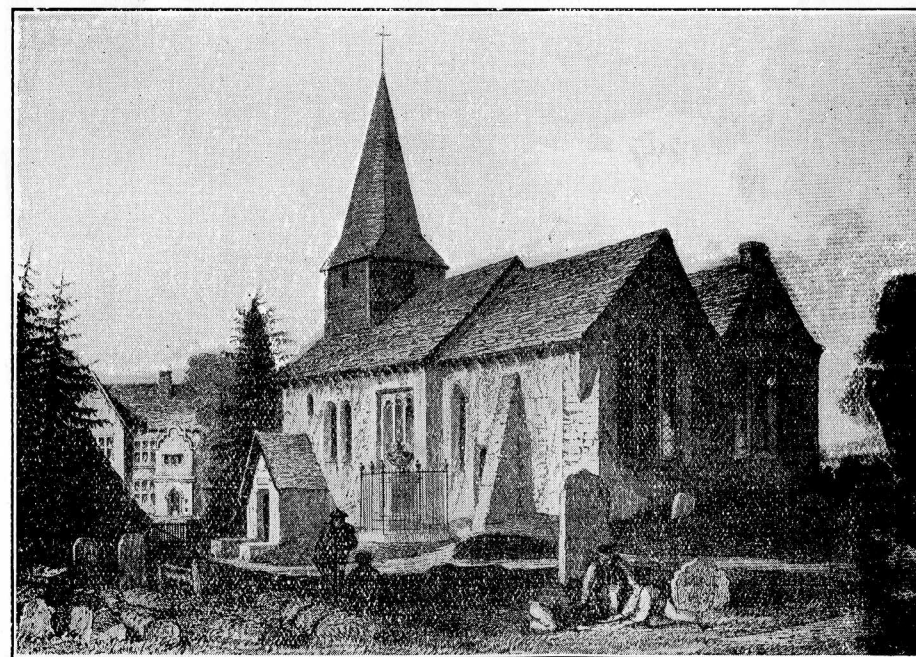
### Stained Glass.

The glass in the three-light window near the pulpit, representing Faith, Hope, and Charity, given in 1874, was made by Morris and Co. of Merton Abbey from a design by Burne-Jones. (They used the same figures for a window in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.) The glass in the three lights of the East Window of the Chancel represents three occasions when St. James (to whom the church is dedicated) was present with our Lord, namely the raising of Jairus' daughter, the Transfiguration, and the Agony in the Garden. The glass of these three lights, of the three in the east wall of the North Aisle, and of the two now in the organ chamber was all given at the rebuilding of the Chancel in 1857 when the art of making stained glass was at an unfortunately low ebb. The Ascension light in the organ chamber is by Willement; the other seven windows by O'Connor. Only ten years later the better glass representing The Crucifixion was inserted in the little window in the south wall of the Sanctuary. The glass in the West window of the North Aisle, designed and executed by Professor Gerald Moira, representing St. Margaret, was given in 1902, and that in the West window of the Nave in 1880, but this glass is merely edged with a coloured floral pattern. The origin of the conventionally spangled glass in the three Norman windows in the North wall of the Nave is uncertain but its date is thought to be about 1870\*

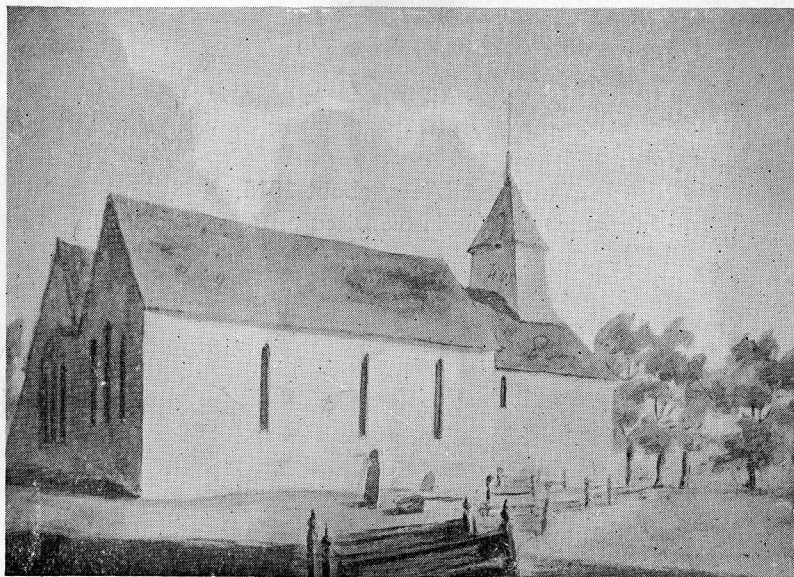
\* On 6th May, 1942, the east window of the chancel had much of its glass (which was given by the second Lord Abinger) shattered by the blast from explosions of munitions due to a fire on the Common. It is hoped that it will be replaced by new glass after the war. The other glass in the chancel and that in the N. and S. aisles suffered, but much less, the worst being that of the east windows in the N. aisle (which W. J. Evelyn gave), but all this is reparable.



South-east View, about 1815.  
From a pencil drawing in the Diocesan House, Guildford.



South-east view, 1848. From Brayley's *Surrey*.



N.E. View.  
Drawn by H. Petrie about 1793.

### Mural Monuments.\*

The well-cut 18th century inscriptions to members of the Worsfold and Rowzier families on a double white marble tablet are the oldest. Next in age comes the white marble tablet to Commodore William Robinson (d. 1803), the inscription on which records that he made a survey of the coast between the mouth of the Indus and the Persian Gulf, the first that was undertaken since that made (in 325 B.C.) by Nearchus for Alexander the Great. The most recent is the bronze tablet to Lady Lugard, D.B.E. (d. 1929), born Flora Louise Shaw. Amongst others, there are brass or bronze tablets to James (Scarlett) the first Lord Abinger (d. 1844) of Abinger Hall, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and to other members of that family, including one to General Sir James Yorke Scarlett (d. 1871) of Crimean War fame; to those of the ecclesiastical parish who fell in the 1914-18 War; and to Richard Redgrave, C.B., R.A. (d. 1888). In a niche made for it in the North wall of the North Aisle there is a beautiful half-length portrait sculpture in marble, by Albert Toft, of Alastair Ian Mackenzie (d. 1910); and in the Vestry a fine bronze relief of the Crucifixion bearing the signature "Justin," which is believed to be that of the French Artist, Matthieu Justin (d. 1864), given in memory of Edwin Waterhouse.

### The Roofs.

The ceiling of the Nave is of the wagon type and seven-sided in section. The four great tie-beams, the king-posts, rafters, and ceiling-boards are many centuries old. Before 1857 the boards were whitewashed. The ceiling of the 13th century Chancel, which was coved (as is the present one), was of plaster, but, at the rebuilding, boards were substituted. Timber from the Glebe was used in reconstructing this roof. A barge-board is introduced at the end of the Chancel ceiling where it abuts on the Nave ceiling. The ridge of the present Chancel roof is higher than that of the Nave and its sides are of steeper pitch, but in the 13th century building the Nave had the higher ridge and the sides of both roofs were of equal pitch.† The North Aisle has an open, pointed, roof, boarded above rafters, and with three tie-beams and queen-posts. Its timbering is modern, and before 1857 it had a flat plastered ceiling. Externally all the gable roofs are covered with Horsham stone slabs, except the North face of the Chancel roof, a small piece at the east of the Nave roof on the north side, and the South Porch, which are tiled, and the low gable roof of the New Vestry which is slated. The low, flat, roof of the South-east Vestry is leaded. Parapets hide from below the roofs of the two Vestries.

\*Copies by the writer of all inscriptions that are or are known to have been in the Church and Churchyard, are to be seen in a "Book of Inscriptions" in the Vestry.

†See plates herewith.



## Floors and Pavings.

I have already mentioned the slope of the floor. It was corrected in 1857 by making the floors of the Choir and North Aisle on one level, one step above the Nave and one step below the Sanctuary. Before 1857 the whole Church was paved with brick (laid in 1824\*) and with the old, mostly broken, grave-stones. Tiles took the place of the bricks when the floors were levelled, but there is reason to think that both Nave and North Aisle have been re-tiled since. The patterned encaustic tiling that now paves the Choir, and, more ornately, the Sanctuary, was probably put in in 1857.

George Herbert's lines on the symbolism of *A Church Floor* and reference to a gently rising one may appropriately be quoted here.

Mark yon the floor? that square and speckled stone  
Which looks so firm and strong  
Is *Patience*.

And the other black and grave wherewith each one  
Is checkered all along

Is *Humility*.  
The gentle rising which on either hand  
Leads to the Quire above

Is *Confidence*,  
But the sweet cement which in one sure band  
Ties the whole frame is Love  
and *Charity*. †

## Gravestones in the Floor.

The only ones that are now in the floor, and they are not in their original positions, are two black marble ones under the Altar, to former Rectors of the parish, namely Rev. Thomas Crawley (d. 1685) and Rev. Robert Offley (d. 1743). The latter is mentioned in Evelyn's "Diary" under 1695. His incumbency of over fifty-two years was longer than that of any other Rector of Abinger, and in his will of 1741 he left several farms in Trust for the better endowment of Oakwood Chapel.

There are records† of the inscriptions of fourteen other grave-stones that were formerly in the Nave, Chancel, and North Aisle, the earliest of them 1702 and all of the 18th century. One of these (of Sussex marble) to Ann Worsfold (d. 1704) is now fixed to the outside of the Church near the North Porch, and it is possible that three others, known to have been of Purbeck marble, survive (reversed) in the Purbeck slabs that form the thresholds of the inner and outer doors of the South Porch and of the outer door of the North Porch.

\*Brayley, vol. V. (1848).

†George Herbert's *Temple Poems* (1633 A.D.).

‡Aubrey, vol. IV. (1718); Manning and Bray, vol. II. (1809); Brayley, vol. V. (1848); and a MS. list by Rector Powell (1857).

## Pews and Stalls.

The present pews in Nave and North Aisle were, as I have said, introduced in 1857 and 1880 respectively. They are all of oak, except two of deal at the west end of the south side of the Nave. Those in the Aisle, all of which face south, were given by W. J. Evelyn (the patron) and those in the eastern part of it have their ends carved alternately with his crest and initials. There were seats in the west part of the Aisle before 1880 which the new ones replaced. The oak stalls in the Chancel replaced in 1880 the stalls that had been put in in 1857, before which latter date the pews in the Church were all "large, square, very high, irregular in their disposition, and all of deal,"† and some of them but thirty-three years old.‡ "No fragment of the original woodwork remained"† It may be mentioned as a curiosity that in the time of the Commonwealth the Rector and Churchwardens gave a lease to Thomas Hussey of "*Sutton Place*" in Shere and his son Peter, their heirs, administrators and assigns, for 1,000 years, of seat-room 7 by 5½ feet "adjoining the pulpit, the reading desk, and the clerk's seat," for £5 down and a peppercorn rent. The Deed belongs to Col. Edmund Bray of Shere, but the right is no longer claimed.§

## Sanctuary Furniture, Screens.

The Altar, which survived the 19th century restorations and may be of 17th century date, has a painted wooden board top with fluted edges, attached to a plain wooden framework. The present oak Altar rails, the carved oak Screen across the arches which divide the Choir from the organ, and that across the arch on the north side of the Sanctuary, were introduced in 1880. In former times the Altar was "railed in by balustrading," but this was removed in 1857 when the Sanctuary step was formed. There are two oak chairs in the Sanctuary, the one early, the other (given in 1918) late Jacobean, the former perhaps an old possession of the Church.

## The Font.

Both the Font and its pyramidal oak cover were made, in 13th century style, in 1857. The bottom of the bowl is formed by the previous Font's white marble bowl removed from the stone pedestal on which it stood in a pew under the north wall. That Font had itself replaced an earlier one of Sussex marble of which portions were found in 1857 in the ground under the other.

†Rector Powell's notes.

‡Brayley, vol. V. (1848).

§The minutes of the Vestry meeting, 20th June, 1654, that ordered the lease are in the Parish Registers.

### The Pulpit.

The oak pulpit that was put in in 1857 has since been reduced in height and moved to its present place against the wall from further out. Rector Powell gave the three well-carved panels with which it is enriched, representing the Resurrection, the Annunciation, and the Visit of the Shepherds. They are believed to be foreign, and of Renaissance date. The pulpit that was removed in 1857 was, to quote Rector Powell, "a mean one of the usual Jacobean pattern with a heavy sounding board over it. Under it was a mean deal reading desk," and under the latter the Clerk's seat.

### The Organ.

Built by Alfred Kirkland of London in 1887, the organ was restored and enlarged in 1924 and again thoroughly repaired in 1937. It took the place of a "chamber-organ," which had been preceded by a harmonium, and that by a barrel-organ with two barrels and ten tunes on each, which was installed in 1857 when the "Singers' Gallery" across the west end of the Church, in which there were "a bass-viol, clarionet etc. for the band,"\* was removed.

### The Plate and Ornaments.

Of four Silver Holy Communion sets, three are of this century. The fourth, with hall-mark of 1736, consisting of Chalice, Flagon, Paten and Alms Dish, were given by the Earl of Donegall (b. 1695) of Abinger Hall and his mother the Countess of Donegall. The Altar Cross and Candlesticks were given in memory of Walter Selwyn Orpen who was killed in the War in 1916.

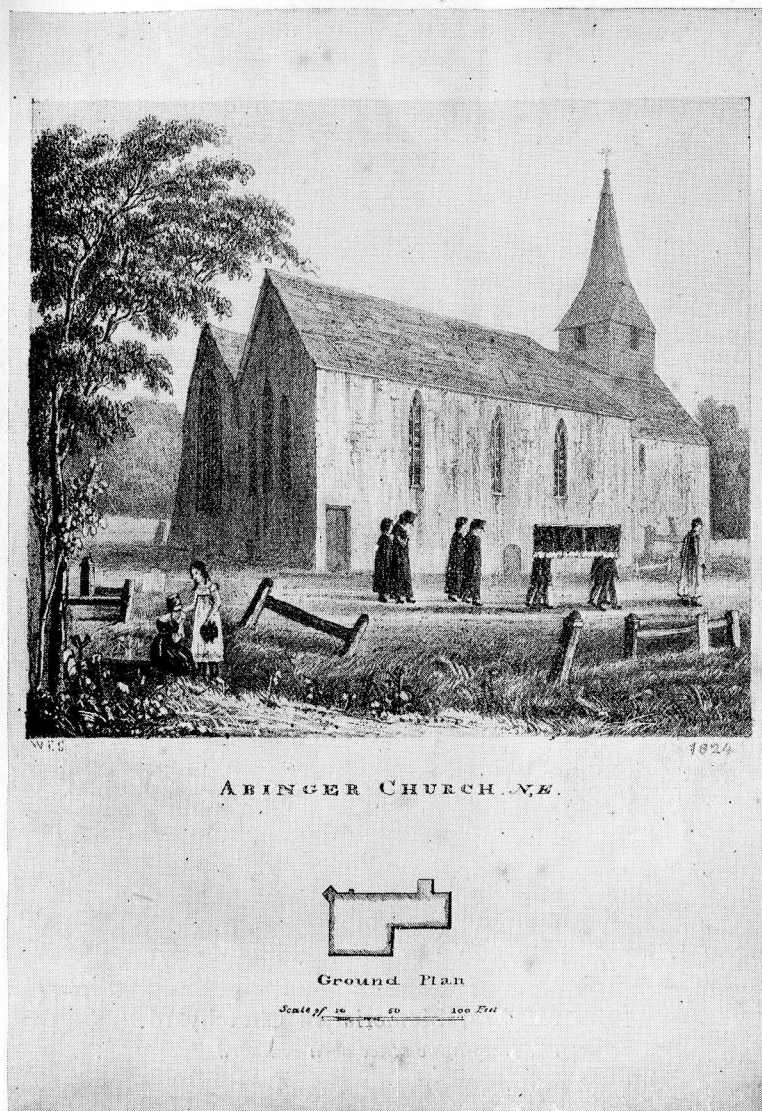
In the inventory made at the spoliation of the Churches in 1552 there were 2 "chalices parcell gilte," "a woden cros platted with silver, gilted with roses and braunches," 2 "latten candlestyckes," "vestymments," and "aulter clothes."

### The Belfry and Spire.

The eight-sided pyramidal spire tiled with oak shingles, borne on a short square wooden turret, was made late in the 18th or early in the 19th century. Previously there was a nearly similar turret but instead of a spire it only bore a small four-sided pyramidal cap.† A weather-vane which terminated the spire was broken off in a storm in 1937. The original belfry was probably added to the Church in the 15th century. In the inventory of 1552 there is a record of three bells, but of the present three, two are inscribed "William Eldridge made me 1674" and the third was recast in 1880. The timbers supporting

\*Brayley, vol. V. (1848).

†Shown in a water-colour drawing by Henry Petrie of about 1798 ("Sharpe's Collection" in Surrey Archæolog. Society's Library). See plates.



North-east view, 1824. From Cracklow's *Churches in Surrey*.





1914-1918 War Memorial in Churchyard.

*The trees have since been removed.*

the belfry, one of which is the westernmost tie-beam of the Nave, rest on the side walls of the Nave, and are enclosed in a boarded chamber between the tie-beam and the west wall.

### THE CHURCHYARD.

The churchyard with the site of the church occupies now a little over one acre. It was enlarged southwards in 1862 and again in 1917. The cross in the middle of the second extension and the stone-paved paths that lead to it were given by Mrs. Margaret Lewin, of "Parkhurst" in this village, in memory of those of the ecclesiastical parish of Abinger who fell in the 1914-18 War and of her son. The cross and its setting were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, P.R.A., the former similar in shape to War Memorial Crosses designed by him for the City of York and for Busbridge near Godalming. The earliest gravestone with a readable inscription is the table-tomb on the north side of the church to Henry Spooner, who died in 1727, but on the south side there is a broken and defaced table-tomb which there is reason to think may be the grave of a yeoman, Thomas Russell, who died in 1621. The old-fashioned wooden inscribed rail along the length of the grave-mound, that used to keep sheep grazing in the churchyard from walking on the grave, is still represented by twelve specimens that have not decayed, the earliest of 1846 (restored), the latest 1883. There were nineteen more 55 years ago. In the north-east corner of the churchyard is the vault of the Scarlett family in which are burials from 1844 to 1937, the earliest being the first and second Lords Abinger, both of this parish. The tomb of their predecessor at Abinger Hall,\* John Humphrey Skardon (d. 1810), is a well-designed square monument beside the south wall of the Nave.

The following rather remarkable inscriptions from the churchyard may be quoted.

It is recorded† that there was on the rail (no longer existing) of the grave of one George Nye who died in 1707.

George Nye was my name  
And Inland my Nashon  
Abinger was my dwelling place  
And Christ is my salvation.

The next one which (in some form) occurs in a few other churchyards is repainted on a restored rail in memory of a blacksmith, Henry Hubbard, who died in 1849.

My hammer and anvil have lost its ring  
My bellows too have lost its wind  
My fire's extinct my forge decayed  
My rasp and vice in the dust are laid  
My coal is spent my iron gone  
My last nail's driven my work is done.

\*Thomas Henry Farrer, afterwards the first Lord Farrer, who was a subsequent owner, pulled down their house and built the present Abinger Hall on a higher site close by in 1872.

†Aubrey, vol. IV. (1718).

The next is part of an inscription on the gravestone of Mary Ann Tegg who died in 1857.

From weakness pain and long disease  
Death set me free when God did please  
I hope the change is for the best  
To live with Christ and be at rest.

In one of the Parish Register books there is a copy of an undated document, probably written into the book late in the 16th or early in the 17th century, recording "The Enclosing of the Churchyard of Abingeworth alias Abinger" and stating the length of fence for the making of which each of sixty-four properties in the parish was responsible. The neighbouring parish of Wotton has a similar document regarding their churchyard. The custom of thus distributing the work of fencing was commoner in the Weald of Sussex than in this County and is said to date from early post-Reformation days.\* Initials are carved in several places on the back of the oldest part of our churchyard wall, one of them opposite the east end of the Church with the date 1679, but doubtless it was wooden rails that were referred to in the document.

The southern part of the churchyard is surrounded by a field that was bought after the 1914-18 War as part of the civil parish's War Memorial. The dedication of the field as a Village Green together with the names of those who gave their lives is recorded on the back of the wall at the south end of the churchyard. This field is vested in the Parish Council together with the adjoining plot opposite to the Hatch Inn across which runs the church path to the Lychgate and on which the village Stocks† are preserved in an iron-railed enclosure. In this field was held up to 1933, on the Festival of the Patron Saint of the Church, "St. James Fair," which for a long time had been merely a pleasure Fair, but 215 years before it was spoken of by Aubrey as "a Fair kept on St. James' day for cattle etc. . . ., now much decayed." If the implication is that it was an ancient fair (though no charter is known) the fact that it was held just outside the churchyard might be significant, as it is in many places, of the time when it was held inside it, a practice that was so common that it had to be prohibited by Statute in 1285. The custom is thought to have descended from the time when churchyards were places of assembly and trading in pagan burying places. In later times "the fair day was usually held on or

\*Dr. J. C. Cox, *English Church Fittings*, etc. (1923). Cox only mentions Sussex, but in Surrey, besides Abinger and Wotton, Dunsfold and Ockham had the custom, and probably other parishes.

†Alfold, Newdigate, and Shalford seem to be the only other places in Surrey where stocks remain.

changed to the day of the festival of the Saint to whom the church was dedicated."† Here then is another possible link with pagan times in addition to that put forward in the Introduction.

### The Registers, Rectors and Benefice.

The Parish Registers begin with 1559. They have been well transcribed in print up to 1812 in a volume brought out by the Surrey Record Society in 1927, which contains also the Registers of Oakwood and Wotton to about the same date.

In the same volume there is a list of Rectors of Abinger from 1285 to 1923, but the list that is herewith is extended, with notes on some of the Rectors, to the present day.\*

The patronage of the Living was at first divided between the Lords of the Manors of Abinger and Paddington, but the two halves were united in 1364. Now, for over 300 years, it has belonged to the Evelyn family, owners of Wotton House and Lords of the Manors in Abinger.

In the official valuations of English Benefices made in 1291 (Taxation of Pope Nicholas iv.), in 1535 (Henry viii's. *Valor Ecclesiasticus*), and in 1658 (Parliamentary Survey under the Commonwealth), the worth of Abinger was returned as £6 13s. 4d., £12 7s. 11½d., and £150 per annum respectively.

The present Rectory was built in 1933, taking the place of, and more conveniently situated than, the attractive but uneconomical old Rectory (now called "Glebe House") in the hollow below it. The Glebe land has been reduced by sales from ninety-three-and-a-half acres to the three in which the new house stands. The Tithes (commuted for an initial gross Tithe rent-charge of £600 under the Act of 1836) were derived from the titheable lands in the whole of the original Parish, but the Act of 1936 will reduce the income that now represents them by over £100 a year to future incumbents of the Living. The Tithe Barn, close to the old Rectory, still exists.

†See Dr. Dexter's *The Pagan Origin of Fairs*, 1930.

\*Manning and Bray, vol. II (1809), and Brayley, vol. V. (1848), had lists which were copied by Fairbank (1911) with additions. The 1927 list was a revised edition.



## Rectors of Abinger.

Based on the list of 1927 in the printed Parish Registers and continued to 1938. For Patrons see that list. Notes following the present list are added by J. A. Gibbs.

	<i>Institution</i>	
Richard Fulvenne ... ..	1286, April 28	To Padingden portion
Nicholas ... ..	1294, May 4	Rector of Abinger
Peter Goshalin de Stanes ... ..	1305, June 24	To one portion
Robert de Stokes ... ..	1305, July 27	do.
William de Jarpenville ... ..	1314, Oct. 24	do.
Thomas de Jarpenville (resigned)	1314, April 25	do.
William de Jarpenville ... ..	1316, June 20	do.
Richard de Polyngford ... ..	1349, April 1	
Richard de Folefenne (dead 2 April, 1349)		Of the other portion
Peter de Berenden ... ..	admitted 1349, April 2	
Robert Fraunks ... ..	1361, Oct. 23	
Robert de Warwedon ... ..		Rector of a portion in 1362
Robert de Snokeshulle ... ..	1364, April 8	
	and 1364, July 12	To the united Parish
(Certificate of the union of the two portions, 1 July, 1364.)		
Peter de Berendon ... ..		Had been Rector of a portion
John Douny (or Donny) (dead in 1404) ... ..	1375/6, Feb. 24	
Reginald Longespee ... ..	1404, April 6	
William Malpas ... ..	1405, Dec. 8	
Thomas Delham ... ..	1409, April 4	
John Ardelthorpe ... ..	1410, May 7	
John Moreys ... ..	1411, June 10	
John Cryps (dead in 1462) ... ..	(Registers 1415-46 lost.)	
Richard Bateman ... ..	1468, Dec. 11	
Ralph Dalton ... ..	1484, June 26	
(Registers 1492-1500 lost.)		
John Jonys ... ..		
Robert ap Jenkin (dead in 1548/9) ... ..	1520, April 14	
Richard Dean (dead in Oct., 1558*) ... ..	1548/9, Feb. 20	
Henry Latham (resigned 1603) ... ..	1558, Oct.*	
Edward Griffith (buried here 13 May, 1637) ... ..	1603, Nov. 17	
Anthony Smith, B.D. (deprived 1646) ... ..	1638, May 25	
(Registers 1643-64 not remaining.)		
Nathaniel Durant (left 1646) ... ..		
Stephen Geree (buried here 9 Feb., 1664/5) ... ..	1646 (sic)	
Gabriel Offley (died 1685*) ... ..	1665, Oct. 10	
	and 1670, June 1	
Thomas Crawley (buried here 7 May, 1685) ... ..	1683, July 6	
Robert Gery ... ..	1685, June 2	
Robert Offley (buried here 19 May, 1743) ... ..	1690, July 12	
Thomas Fitzgerald (buried Wotton 21 Aug., 1752) ... ..	1743, June 11	
Thomas Duncumb (buried Shere 24 June 1764*) ... ..	1752, Nov. 7	
Richard Penneck (died 1803) ... ..	1764, July 26	
Thomas Taylor (died 4 Jan., 1808*) ... ..	1803, Mar. 12	
Henry Jenkin (died 21 Dec., 1817*) ... ..	1808, May 22	
John Townsend* Lawes (died in 1828*) ... ..	Before 25 Jan., 1818	
Henry John Ridley (died 11 Nov.,* 1834) ... ..	1821, May 26	

John Massy Dawson (died 8 Oct., 1850*) ... ..	1835, Mar. 26
John Wellsted Powell (resigned, buried here 1881*) ... ..	1850, Nov. 12
Thomas Prince Hill (buried here Jan., 1916) ... ..	1877, Oct. 16
James Phelps (resigned, died 22 Mar., 1930) ... ..	1916, July 12
Charles Alexander Shaw Page, Lt.-Colonel (living 1938*) ... ..	1923, Feb. 7
*Henry Lyttelton Lyster Denny, Bart. (living 1938) ... ..	1930, July 1
*Lionel Grant Meade (the present Rector) ... ..	1936, July 17

\*Indicates new matter.

## Notes on some of the Rectors.

Ox. = Oxford; Ca. = Cambridge; Al. Ox. = *Alumni Oxonienses*: Al. Ca. = *Alumni Cantabrigienses*. Not all the facts about Abinger Rectors recorded in these two works are repeated here, but chiefly degrees, things of local interest, and livings held in plurality by Abinger Rectors.

**Robert ap Jenkin** (ap Jenkin, Welsh for son of John). Doubtless the same as Robert Hope named in "Valor Ecclesiasticus" of 1535 as the Rector of Abinger.

**Dean.** Probably the Richard Dean of Al. Ca., described there as Bachelor of Canon Law, 1505, and Vicar of Harrow 1552 to 1558. He was Rector of Abinger to the same date.

**Latham.** B.A., instituted to Abinger October, 1558; resigned 1603. He was also Rector of Shere 1552-72, and residing there in 1562 (1927 list and Surrey Archaeolog. Soc. XLV.—1937).

**Griffith.** Perhaps the Edward Griffith in Al. Ca. who was B.A. (Clare Coll.) 1592/3, M.A. 1596.

**Smith.** St. John's Coll. and Gloucester Hall, Ox., B.A. Feb. 1620/1, B.D. Mar. 1631/2; rector Abinger 1638 till sequestrated 1646 by the Westminster Assembly; vicar of St. Peter's, St. Alban's, Herts. 1637-47. (Al. Ox.)

**Geree.** Perhaps the Stephen Geree in Al. Ox. who was B.A. (Magdalen Hall) 1615, and sometime "minister of Womersley, Surrey."

**G. Offley.** B.A. Ca. (Trinity Coll.) 1632/3, M.A. 1636; Chaplain to King Charles II.; D.D. by royal mandate; Rector of Abinger from 1665, rector of Mackeston, Staffs. and prebendary of Lichfield from 1663, rector of Worpleston, Surrey, from 1670, all four to 1683; fourth son of Sir Robert Offley, Knt. (Al. Ca.). Brother of the second wife of George Evelyn (d. 1699) of Wotton (patron of Abinger), who was elder brother of the diarist John Evelyn, his successor at Wotton, who d. 1705/6. In a foot-note to 1666 in W. Bray's edition (1827) of Evelyn's *Diary* Dr. G. Offley is confused with Thomas Offley, groomporter, and with Rev. R. Offley, named below.

**Crawley.** B.A. Ca. (Trinity Coll.) 1675/6, M.A. 1679 (Al. Ca.). He was son of Francis Crawley, Cursitor Baron of the Exchequer. Married a daughter of the above-named G. Offley. Gravestone in Abinger Church.

**R. Gery.** B.A. Ca. (Trinity Coll.) 1674/5, M.A. 1678; prebendary of Lincoln 1701-07 (Al. Ca.). (The 1927 list says prebendary of Durham without giving date).

**R. Offley.** Son of the above G. Offley; school Eton; B.A. Ca. (Trinity Coll.) 1688/9, M.A. 1692; chaplain to Bishop Crew of Durham; rector of Abinger from 1690, prebendary Durham from 1704, both to 1743 (Al. Ca.). In his will he left farms for the better endowment of Oakwood Chapel. Gravestone in Abinger Church. He is referred to in Evelyn's *Diary* under 1699.

**Fitzgerald.** B.A. Ca. (Trinity Coll.) 1717, M.A. 1721; rector Wotton from 1739 and of Abinger from 1743, both to 1752; previously an under-master of Westminster school (Al. Ca. and Brayley's *Surrey*). M.I. in Wotton Churchyard.

There is reason to believe that neither he nor any of his five successors, Duncumb, Penneck, Taylor, Jenkin, Lawes, resided at Abinger; they all had curates there and all, except perhaps Lawes, held livings in plurality.

**Duncumb.** Son of George Duncumb of Albury, Surrey; B.A. Ox (Hart Hall) 1722, M.A. 1725; rector of Shere from 1746 and of Abinger from 1752, both to 1764.

**Penneck.** Chaplain to Earl of Bristol in his embassy to Spain 1760; besides being rector of Abinger he held the living of St. John, Southwark, and was Keeper of the Reading Room in the British Museum (Manning and Bray, vol. II.) He had a succession of twelve curates at Abinger (Parish Registers). Abinger church restored under him in 1797.

**Taylor.** B.C.L. Ox. (St. John's Coll.) 1763, D.C.L. 1790; chaplain to King George III; professor of law at Gresham Coll. 1783; rector of Wotton from 1778, rector of Abinger and archdeacon of Chichester from 1803, all three till 1808 (Al. Ox. and Brayley's *Surrey*).

**H. Jenkin.** B.A. Ca. (St. John's Coll.) 1754, D.D. 1792; rector of Abinger and of Wotton from 1799, dean and rector of St. Buryan, Cornwall from the same year, prebendary of Winchester from 1810, all four till 1817 (Al. Ca.). He married the Hon. Augusta, sister of Sir Frederick Evelyn, Bart. of Wotton (d. 1812) and maid-of-honour to the Dowager Princess of Wales. Buried in the Evelyn vault in Wotton church.

**Lawes.** No doubt an absentee as a survey of Abinger tithes made in 1818 shows that his curate occupied the Rectory. Exchanged livings with his successor Ridley. Left money in trust for the poor of Abinger.

**Ridley.** B.A. (Christ Ch. Ox.) 1811, M.A. 1813; rector of Newdigate, Surrey, from 1814, rector of Abinger from 1821, rector of Kirkby Underdale, Yorks. from 1827, prebendary of Norwich from 1832, all four till 1834 (Al. Ox.). His widow, daughter of Lee Steere Steere of "Jayes," Wotton, was second wife of the first Lord Abinger. Abinger church was restored under him in 1824. He practically rebuilt Abinger Rectory at a cost to himself of £2,000,\* the need for it being perhaps due to the house having been either unoccupied or occupied only by curates during the incumbency of his pluralist predecessors since 1743.

**Massy Dawson.** Rector of Abinger and vicar of Oakwood both 1835-50. His niece, Mary Jane Massy Dawson mar. 1821 George Evelyn of Wotton (d. 1829), whose son, William John Evelyn presented Dawson to the living.

**Powell.** B.A. Ox. (St. Edmund Hall) 1830, M.A. 1833 (Clergy List). Rector of Abinger 1850-77 and sometime Rural Dean. Under him Abinger church was restored 1856-57. M.I. in Abinger church and churchyard.

**Hill.** B.A. (Trinity Coll, Dublin) 1859, M.A. 1875. Curate of Shere in charge of Felday 1871-77. Rector Abinger 1877-1916. Abinger church was further restored under him 1879-80. M.I. in Abinger church and churchyard.

**Phelips.** B.A. Ca. (Jesus Coll.) 1875, M.A. 1880. Prebendary of Wells 1900-16. Rector Abinger 1916-23.

**Lt.-Colonel Page.** Served in the Boer War of 1899-1902 and in the European War of 1914-18. M.C. 1917, D.S.O. 1918, wounded and prisoner 1918. B.A. Ca. (Jesus Coll.) 1921, M.A. 1925. Ordained 1921. Rector Abinger 1923 to 1930 when he exchanged livings with his successor Denny. (See his career in Black's *Who's Who*).

**Sir H. Denny.** B.A. (Trinity Coll., Dublin) 1901, M.A. Rector Abinger 1930-36 when he exchanged livings with his successor L. G. Meade. (See his career in Black's *Who's Who*).

**L. G. Meade.** B.A. Ca. (Selwyn Coll.) 1908. Ordained 1914. Served in the War of 1914-18 as a combatant officer in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Rector Abinger from 1936. Further restoration of the church, begun under his predecessor, was completed under him. In the renewed war an Officiating Chaplain to the Forces from May, 1941.

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\*Inform. from Ecclesiastical Commission.