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Abinger Church  
1934

# THE CHURCH PLATE

OF

## SURREY.

BY

REV. T. S. COOPER, M.A.,

ONE OF THE HONORARY SECRETARIES.

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## ARCHDEACONRY OF SURREY.

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### *Rural Deanery of Dorking.*

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#### ABINGER. S. JAMES.

*Silver Cup.*—Weight, 8 oz. 13 dwt. Height,  $7\frac{3}{8}$  in. Diam. of bowl,  $3\frac{7}{10}$  in.; of foot,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. Depth of bowl,  $3\frac{7}{8}$  in.

London hall-marks of 1736:—1. Leopard's head crowned in a plain, pointed shield. 2. I S, a pellet between, in a dotted oval stamp, the mark of Joseph Smith, of Clerkenwell.<sup>1</sup> 3. Roman small a. 4. Lion passant in a plain oblong.

*Silver Cover.*—Weight, 3 oz. 17 dwt. Height,  $3\frac{1}{5}$  in.

The cup is well proportioned, having a straight-sided bowl rounded off below, and slightly moulded at the lip. The knop, dividing the stem, is plainly moulded, as is also the edge of the foot. The usual star ornament is engraved on the bowl. The cover is high with an acorn at the top.

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<sup>1</sup> *Old English Plate*, p. 341. The address of the silversmith here and elsewhere is, as a rule, taken from Chaffers' *Gilda Aurifabrorum*.



*Silver Paten.*—Weight, 10 oz. Diam.,  $8\frac{1}{3}$  in.  
Hall-marks as on the cup.

The star ornament is in the centre, and the edge plainly moulded.

*Silver Plate.*—Weight, 11 oz. 17 dwt. Diam., 9 in.  
Hall-marks as above.

This was formerly a plate for offerings, but is now used as a paten. The centre is raised, and the edge of the rim moulded.

*Silver Flagon.*—Weight, 35 oz.  $10\frac{3}{4}$  dwt. Height,  $11\frac{1}{4}$  in. Diam. of mouth,  $3\frac{3}{10}$  in.; of base,  $6\frac{3}{10}$  in.  
Hall-marks as above.

This is a tankard-shaped vessel with fine spreading base. The lid resembles the cover of the cup, and the star ornament is repeated on the drum.

Each of the above pieces is inscribed underneath: "The Gift of the Countess of Donegall & the Earl Her Son to the Church of Abinger, 1736." This was Catherine, widow of the third Earl of Donegal. She owned Abinger Hall, where she resided during her son's minority.

*Brass Alms Bason.*—

On the rim is, "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord." Under the bason there is this inscription: "Presented to Abinger Church by Miss M. A. Roe, 1880."

#### CAPEL. S. JOHN BAPTIST.

*Silver two-handled Cup.*—Weight,  $4\frac{4}{5}$  oz. Height,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. Diam. of bowl,  $3\frac{3}{8}$  in.; of foot,  $2\frac{7}{8}$  in. Depth of bowl, 2 in.

No hall-marks; date c. 1655.

This is properly speaking a porringer, and is very similar in design and size to one in use as a communion cup at Winterborne Whitchurch, in Dorsetshire, which has the hall-marks of 1653, and the maker's mark, a bird within a plain shield.<sup>1</sup> Under the foot there is a Tudor rose, which is wanting on the Dorsetshire example. It was evidently not originally intended for Church purposes, and may very well have been dedicated to its present use years after it was made. The work on the bowl is repoussé, the circular ornaments being slightly convex, with indications of their having been gilt. Some soldering has been done where the bowl joins the short neck.

<sup>1</sup> *Church Plate of Dorset*, p. 145.