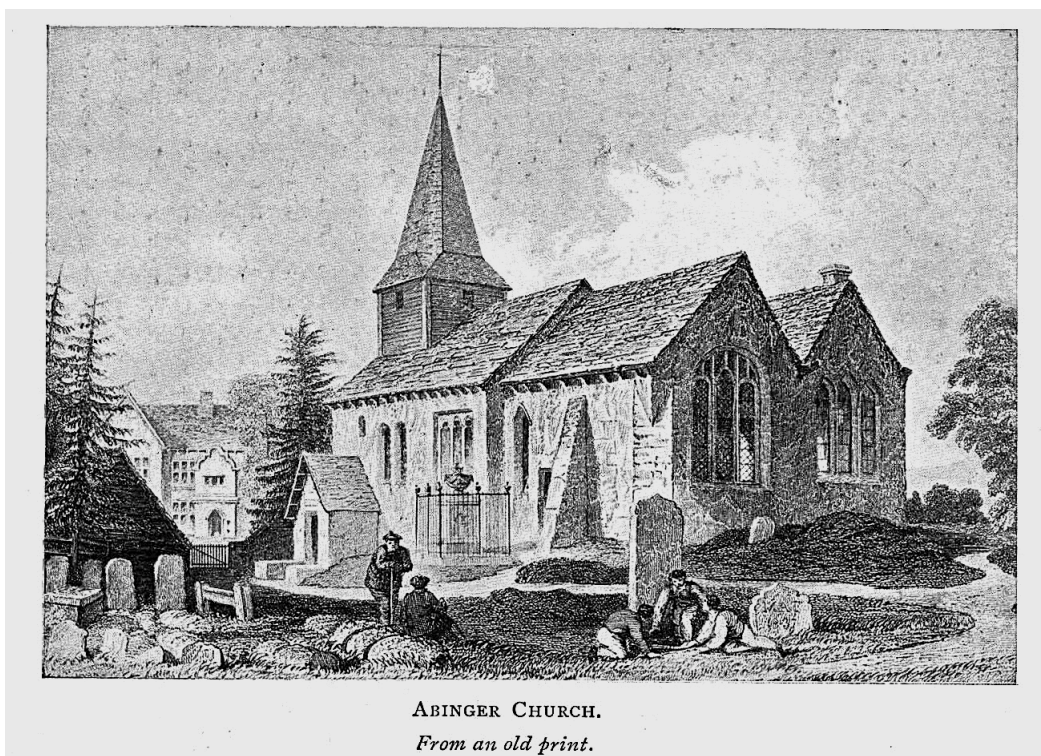


The Churches of Wotton, Abinger and Oakwood in the County Of Surrey

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ABINGER



In Domesday Book this parish is called Abincebourne, and there is said to be a church. Considerable parts of this remain in the building as it at present exists. The benefice is a rectory in the Rural Deanery of Dorking. In the *Valor. Eccles.* of Edward I it is rated at 12 marks, and in the King's Books at £12 8s. 1½d. Until 1364 the patronage was divided, but since that time it has been united, and has descended with the manor.

The church is pleasantly situated, and is well worth a visit. The ground-plan is similar to that at Wotton, except that there is no tower and no architectural puzzle.

The building consists of nave and two chancels, with a short north aisle, a modern vestry, and porch.

The nave is Norman, without aisles. There is a small doorway through the west wall, which at some time has been bricked up. Removal of some of the plaster with which the wall is covered shows that it has no mouldings. The present south doorway is of nineteenth-century style and date; it displaced a round-headed one, which was probably Norman. The nave is lighted by several small round-headed windows high up in the wall. The three on the north side are the original Early Norman lights. Two of the three on the south side are nineteenth-century "restorations", displacing a pair of Early English lancets, like those at Wotton. On the south

side there is also a square three-light Perpendicular window, and at the west end, over the bricked-up doorway, there is a quadrangular nineteenth-century window, with coloured memorial glass. Whether the original chancel was square or apsidal there is no evidence to show; the walls are of rubble, plastered over. About 1200 to 1220 an alteration was made. The chancel was probably rebuilt, and a, second chancel – Lady-chapel – with a short aisle, were added on the north side,

The main chancel is lighted by three lancet lights in the east wall; they are of nineteenth-century date, and replace a three-light Perpendicular window, which had displaced Early English lancets. The north chancel east window, of three lancet lights, is the original one, and so are the three separate lights in the north wall and the one to the west. At the north-west corner, facing north, is an interesting Transition doorway, with a pointed arch and mixed mouldings.

Internally the nave and chancel are not divided, though there is a break in the wall and roof. The bricked-up doorway forms a recess, in front of which stands a nineteenth-century font with an oak cover. Previously there was a circular marble basin on a circular pedestal. The Perpendicular window on the south side is in the position where a window of that date is so often found in village and some other churches. It was to give light to the rood-loft and any altars against the west side of the rood-screen. Here, at Abinger, there are no indications of there having been a loft, though it is pretty certain that there was at least a screen. The north aisle is divided off by three arches of nineteenth-century date. There were previously two, one rounded and the other pointed; the easternmost of the three is in place of a wall which separated the sacarium of the chancel from that of the north chancel, which was the Lady-chapel. The vestry on the south side of the chancel is of nineteenth-century date; a part of it is used as an organ chamber, very much to the disadvantage of the organ. The roof of the nave and chancel is wagon-shaped and original. The pulpit is of oak, with several old oak panels carved with figures; they were the gift of a former Rector, the Rev. J. W. S. Powell. The seating of the church is modern and is exceedingly good. The whole church is kept in very good order. There is some coloured glass in the windows of unequal merit; it is all modern. There is a large painting at the east end of the aisle of the "Pieta". It was the gift of Colonel Lewin, of Parkhurst, Abinger. It is a modern copy.

The inventory of church goods at Abinger in the sixth year of Edward VI is as follows:

Imprimis. A wodden cros platted with silver gilted, with roses and braunches poiz by estimacion xvi oz.
Item ij chalices parcell gilte poiz by estimacion xij oz.
-ditto- j coope (cope) of crymyson velatt.
-ditto- j vestymnt of the same.
-ditto- one olde vestymnt of grene and other colors.
-ditto- ij lateen candelstykes in the parsons handeys.
-ditto- j alter clothe of olde silke or fine cadas.
-ditto- one lynen aulter clothe.
-ditto- three belles in the steple the best by estimacion viij and the residew under after the rate.
Committed to the care of Robert Haryson, William Att Lee, and Raffe Dalton. October 6, 6 Edward VI (Surrey Archaeol. Coll., ii.).
Communion plate committed to the custody of church wardens, October, 1552
Arms : A bend, charged with three cross crosslets, between three storks.
Crest : A stork, holding in his right foot a fleur-de-lis. -ditto- alms-dish.
2 chalices parcel gilt poiz by, estimacion xij oz. (Ibid., xvi., p. 202).

The Countess of Donegal, of whom Swift sang, as the "glory of the Granard race," and who owned and lived at Abinger Hall, gave to the church in 1730:

A silver flagon.
-ditto- cup
-ditto- paten.
-ditto- alms-dish.

They are not described in the report on church plate in *Surrey Archaeol. Coll.*, xiv. and xv.

Among the monuments in the church are the following:

- Rev. Thomas Crawley, A.M., Rector, who died May 4, 1685, and his wife, a daughter of Rev. Dr. Gabriel Offley, a former Rector. Mr. Crawley was a chaplain to Charles II.
- Rev. Robert Offley, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge, College fifty-three years Rector. He died May 10, 1743 aged seventy-six. He was Prebendary of the eighth stall at Durham, being collated to it July 28, 1704. He was a bachelor, and left £70 per annum for "pious uses" Hutchinson's *Durham*, ii., p 259.
- Commodore William Robinson, Bombay Marines; died March, 1803, aged fifty-seven.
- Louise Henrietta, wife of Sir James Scarlett, Knight, the eminent lawyer, and first Lord Abinger, of Abinger Hall. She died April 24, 1810, aged fifty-five. They are both buried in a vault on the north side of the churchyard.

Mr. Woodyer was the architect for the alterations, and, though the "restoration" has been overdone, the church is, for a village, a handsome one.

There is at the west end a small wooden tower, rising from the roof, topped with a short shingled spire. It contains three small bells, which bear the following inscriptions:

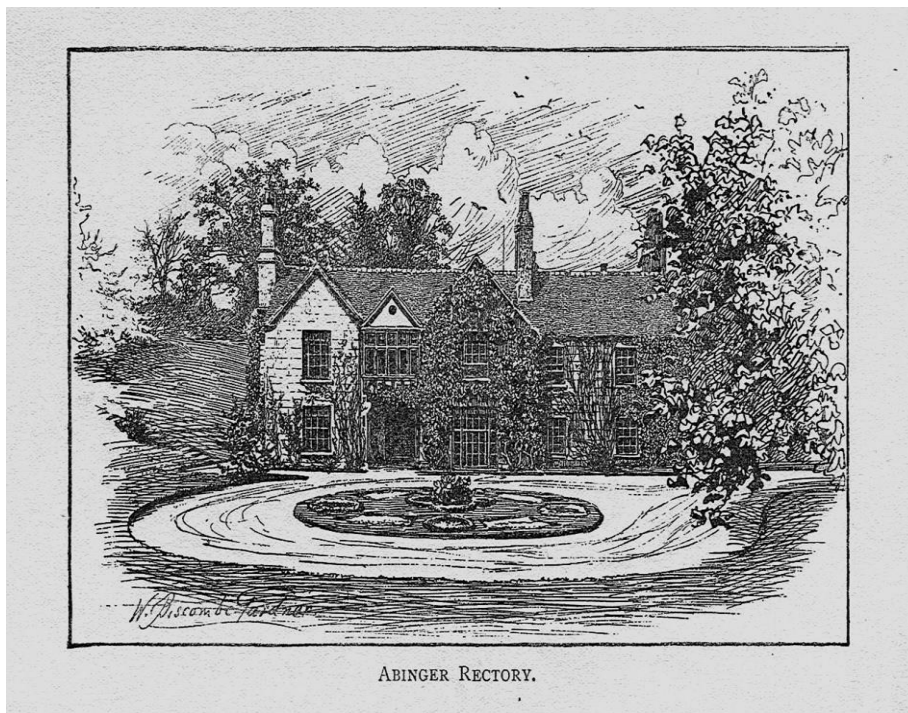
- 1 and 2. "William Elldridge made me. 1674"
- 3. Mears and Stainbank, Founders, London, 1880"

The diameter of the treble bell is 25 inches; that of the tenor is 30 inches. No. 3, before it was recast, was inscribed:

"H. S. ♦ D. D. ♦ Churchwardens."

The village school and the vestry were formerly in the north aisle. At the west end of the nave was a lane gallery, used for "the cornet, lute, harp — and the rest of the band", as that passage was once read out in church!

The Rectory house is ten minutes' walk from the church. It is pleasantly situated, and a very attractive residence.



Patrons	Rectors	Institution
Sir Adam Gordon, or Gurdon	Richard, son of Reginald.	To Pad. Portions, 28 Apr 1286
Thos. de Jarpenville.	Peter Goshalin de Stanes, <i>in portione medietatis</i> ¹	24 June, 1305
	Robt. or Richd de Stokes, <i>in portione medietatis</i>	27 July, 1305
Hy. Somerbury, <i>hac vice</i>	Wm. de Jarpenville, clerk, <i>in portione medietatis</i>	24 Oct., 1314
Roger de Jarpenville.	Thos. de Jarpenville, clerk, <i>in portione medietatis</i>	25 Apr., 1316
	Wm. de Jarpenville, clerk, <i>in portione medietatis</i> (registers 1346-1366 lost.)	20 June, 1316
	Robt. de Warwed was Rector of <i>om. med.</i> in 1362.	
	Peter de Berondon was a Rector.	
Bishop of Winchester, by lapse.	John Donny	24 Feb., 1375-6
Sir John Aylesbury, Kt.	Reginald Longspee	6 April, 1404
	William Malpas	8 Dec., 1405
Bishop of Winchester, by collation.	Wm. Hawksword	—
Sir John Aylesbury, Kt.	Thomas Delham	4 Apr., 1409
	John Ardelthorpe	7 May, 1410
	Peter Henewyk	—
	John Mareys (registers 1415-1446 lost.)	10 June, 1411
	John Cryps	
Elenor, widow of Sir Hum. Stafford.	Richd. or John Bateman	11 Dec., 1468
Humphrey Stafford.	Ralph Dalton (registers 1492-1500 lost)	26 June, 1484
	John Jonye	—
Sir Richard Germyngham	Robert ap. Jenkin	14 April, 1520
K. Edw. VI through minority of Hum. Stafford	Richard Dean	20 Feb., 1548-9
	Henry Latham	—
Robt. Griffith, clerk	Edward Griffith, M.A.	17 Nov., 1608
The King for his turn and Richd. Evelyn	Anthony Smith B.D. (registers 1643-1664 lost)	May 25, 1638
	Stephen Geere	—
Geo. Evelyn, Esq.	Gabriel Offley, D.D.	10 Oct., 1665 1 June, 1670
Henry Herbert and Jos. Offley	Thos. Crawley, M.A. (monument)	6 July, 1683
	Robert Gery	2 June, 1685
Geo. Evelyn, Esq.	Robert Offley	12 June, 1690
Sir Jno. Evelyn, Bt.	Thos. Fitzgerald, M.A. ²	11 June, 1743
	Thos. Duncumb	7 Nov., 1752
Sir John Evelyn	Richd. Penneck	26 July, 1764
Sir Fredk. Evelyn, Bt.	Thos. Taylor, L.L.D.	26 Jul., 1803
	Henry Jenkin, D.D. ³	26 May, 1808
	J.T. Lawes	1818, vacated by exchange
	Hy. John Ridley, M.A.	26 May, 1821
W. J. Evelyn, Esq.	John Massey Dawson, M.A.	26 Mar., 1835

¹ for a portion of the moiety (half) of² Monument in churchyard at Wotton³ Buried in the Evelyn vault at Wotton

Patrons	Rectors	Institution
	J. W. S. Powell	—
	Thos. Prince Hill, M.A., Trinity College Dublin, present Rector	1877

Rectors of Abinger

Under the Long Parliament, the incumbent of Abinger was dismissed.

Outside the churchyard is an old pair of stocks, which the "oldest inhabitant" boasts were never used. Perhaps not in his time; but even Abinger may at some time have found a use for such a piece of furniture, and for the whipping-post also! The stocks are reported to have been used for the punishment of obstreperous boys in the school.

There are not many who can say that they ever saw anyone in real life undergoing the punishment of the stocks. The writer well remembers as a boy being sent, with some of his schoolfellows, to see the "Babes in the Wood." Mr. M. H. Bloxam, the author of the well-known book on Gothic Architecture, was clerk to the County Magistrates at Rugby, and he got them to have the stocks there repaired; and they of course had to be used! So two delinquents, who had drunk "not wisely but too well" on a Sunday, had to do penance publicly in them. Hence the "Babes in the Wood"!

The last occasion of stocks being used was in 1860, at Stanningley, near Leeds.

Old stocks are not infrequently found in villages, either on the village green or near the church.