

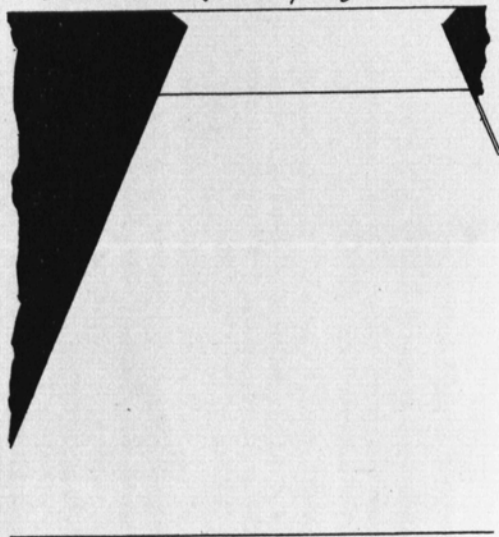


<http://kentarchaeology.org.uk/research/archaeologia-cantiana/>

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*Plan of N. Window
Scale of 1 Inch to a Foot.
Note. No Rebates for glass.*



ALL SAINTS: FRINGSBURY, KENT.
Figure on E. Jamb of Window in North Wall.
(*S. Edmund Abp. Canterbury. 1234-40.*)

FRINDSBURY CHURCH WALL-PAINTINGS.

BY CANON SCOTT ROBERTSON.

MR. ST. JOHN HOPE described in our last volume (*Archæologia Cantiana*, XV., 331-2) some wall-paintings, discovered on the jambs of Norman windows, in the chancel of All Saints Church, Frindsbury, near Rochester. We are now able to insert illustrations of those wall-paintings, through the kindness of Mr. P. M. Johnston, who sketched them, and allowed Mr. G. M. Arnold to place his sketches at our disposal.

The Frindsbury chancel, which is 32 feet long and 22 feet wide, had originally three Norman windows in its east wall, and probably three more in each of the side walls. Traces have been found of two of the eastern windows, and of one central window in each of the side walls. Perpendicular windows inserted in the walls had obliterated all signs of the Norman windows, so that, before the removal of the external plaster, no one suspected that any Norman windows could be traced in the walls. A plain Norman arch (10 feet wide), by which the nave opened into the chancel, remained to testify the Norman origin of the chancel, but no other sign of it was visible, until these painted jambs of Norman windows were discovered.

The chancel had been rendered remarkable by its low side-windows of the Perpendicular period, which stood at the extreme west end of its north and south walls. Each low side-window has two lights, and that upon the south side has a priest's door close to it eastward; and west of it was a hagioscope, or squint from the nave, through the west wall of the chancel.

The wall-paintings, upon surviving jambs of destroyed Norman windows, are well described by Mr. St. John Hope, who identified the figures (each about 4 feet high) as those

of St. Edmund of Pontigny, Archbishop of Canterbury, called also St. Edmund the Confessor, who died in 1240, was canonized in 1246, and translated in 1247; St. Lawrence (the patron saint of a Bishop of Rochester, Lawrence de St. Martin), as an abbot with his crosier; St. William (a pilgrim baker of Perth who was murdered outside Chatham), whose canonization, in A.D. 1256, was obtained by that Bishop of Rochester; and St. Leonard with his fetters. Frindsbury Church was granted to Bishop Lawrence de St. Martin by the monks of Rochester in A.D. 1256. Mr. Hope attributes the paintings, done in pink, red, yellow, and black, upon a thin coat of wash on the Norman plastering, to that period, *circa* 1256—1266.

These paintings are valuable, as we know of no other representations, in mural paintings, of St. Edmund (Archbishop of Canterbury) and St. William of Perth, whose shrine in Rochester Cathedral was visited by crowds of pilgrims. The artist removed all doubt respecting the person whom he intended to represent, by writing the name "St. Eadmund" above the head of the archbishop whom he represents as wearing the archiepiscopal pall, and mitre, and holding the archbishop's cross.

The colours are somewhat faded, after a lapse of six centuries; but the figures were carefully preserved during the recent restoration of the church, and these examples of the art of the thirteenth century will, no doubt, attract many visitors, as the church is easily accessible.



Rubble blocking partially removed.

(St. Lawrence)

ALL SAINTS: FRINDSBURY. KENT.
On N. Jamb of N. Window in E. Triplet.



ALL SAINTS: FRINDSLEY, KENT.

Portion of Figure on S. Jamb of South Window in East Wall.
(*St. William of Perth.*)

P. M. Johnston, del.



ALL SAINTS: FRINDESBURY, KENT.
Portion of Figure on W. Jamb of Window in North Wall.

P.M. Johnston, del.