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SHELDWICH CHURCH.

BY CANON SCOTT ROBERTSON.

SHELDWICH Church, dedicated to St. James, is built close to the high road from Faversham to Ashford which forms the western boundary of the parish; a most peculiar position for a church to occupy. Parts of the original Norman Church remain, still *in situ* and still visible, at the west end of the nave. In fact, as we enter by the western doorway, through the tower, we find an original Norman wall both on the north and on the south sides of the nave. On the north, it extends only to the commencement of the new arcade, of three bays, erected in 1888. In that northern fragment, however, we still see the western jamb and part of the arch of a small Norman window, close beside the western arch of the new arcade.

Opposite to the position of that Norman window stands another, of which the whole outer arch, and much of the inner arch (widely splayed originally, but now walled up) can still be seen, in the south wall of the nave. Further east, there is a good Norman south doorway, small, but complete, which is still in use, and is approached through a new south porch given in 1889 by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Horder of Throwley House, which stands opposite to Sheldwich Church. On the west side of this Norman doorway, a holy water stoup (of the fourteenth or fifteenth century) remains on the exterior. In the thirteenth century nothing was done to this church, or whatever was done has disappeared.

In the fourteenth century, however, the church was enlarged, and more light was obtained within it, by the insertion of good decorated windows, and by the addition of a northern chancel and a southern transept or chantry. The northern chancel seems to have contained an altar dedicated to St. Mary, and the southern chapel one to St. Margaret.*

A beautiful triangular window, with a wheel centre, having *flamboyant* tracery or the nearest approach to it we may find in England, was inserted in the eastern gable of the nave, early in the fourteenth century. This very remarkable window has round balls, in the hollow mouldings, around all its tracery. These balls are the nearest approaches to be found in Kent, to the ball-flower ornament, so common during the reign of Edward II. in Herefordshire and counties adjacent to it. The window can be better understood by

* At the Visitation of Archbishop Warham in 1511 it was "presented that St. Margaret's chancel is decayed."



SHELDWICH CHURCH.

The Phototype Co., 308, Strand, London.



SHELDWICH CHURCH.—WINDOW IN THE EASTERN GABLE OF THE NAVE.

those who glance at the annexed illustration, obtained from a photograph taken by the Rev. B. S. Malden, than by means of any written description. Its central circle is sex-foiled, but the six compartments are not formed of regular curves; they are flame-like, or *flamboyant*, in outline.

The existence of this window was unknown until the church was restored in 1888. When the chancel roof was removed the window was discovered. Its tracery had been bricked up; and the chancel roof had hidden it. To shew as much of it as possible, Mr. Ewan Christian, the architect employed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to repair the chancel, caused the ridge of the chancel roof to be lowered as far as was practicable. The tracery has been carefully freed from its blocking of bricks, and it is now again completely glazed. From the interior of the church, the view of this beautiful window is much hindered by the timbers of the nave's roof; but from the churchyard's north-east or south-east side the proportions and the tracery of this unique window can be well seen. His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury (when he reopened the church on the 31st of May 1889) suggested to me that when the chancel arch was inserted this window was placed above it to lessen the superincumbent weight, the side walls seeming to be weak. We may also point out that in the adjacent parish of Throwley, the church has a very narrow lancet window in each gable of the nave's roof (one in the eastern and one in the western gable); and we may also call attention to the large circular opening to be seen above the apex of the chancel arch in Cheriton Church, Kent (see an illustration opposite a later page of this volume). These examples of windows, or openings, over the chancel arch were inserted within half a century probably of the time when the Sheldwich window was there placed. The existing windows in the chancel's south wall (two; each of two trefoiled lights with a large cinquefoil above them) and two of those which now stand in the new north aisle were made in the fourteenth century, about the time that the north chantry was added. In that north chancel, or chantry, there is a good trefoiled and ogeed arch over the piscina, in the south wall at its eastern corner.

This chantry was probably built by an owner of Lees Court, in the fourteenth century. At its north-west corner there is a large stone slab, in the floor, commemorating Reynald de Deyk. It has contained two small brass escutcheons of arms, near its western end. Around the four edges of the slab runs an inscription, incised into the stone, in single letters, far apart. Above and below the inscription is an incised straight line. This alone would suggest that the letters had *never* been filled with brass, but the method of cutting the letters and the initial cross shews that no brass had been employed. The initial cross stands *in the centre* of the western end of the slab; and the inscription begins north of that cross. In the western end only three letters appear north of the initial cross; they are Lombardic capitals, and the legend runs thus:—REY | NALD : DE : DEYK : GYST : | YCY : DEV | DE : SA : ALM :

EYT : ME | ROI. The final letters ROI stand south of the initial cross, and the initial letters REY stand north of it.

Reginald de Deyk, or Dyke, came to reside at Lees Court in consequence of his marriage with Lora, widow of the second Sampson atte Lese. Reginald de Deyk was Sheriff of Kent in 1356, and kept his shrievalty at Lees Court in this parish.

His wife's eldest son, Richard atte Lese, who ultimately succeeded to the estate, was Lord of the Manor of Sheldwich, and served as Sheriff for Kent in 1368. He was chosen Knight of the Shire in 1366, and sat in the Parliament that was summoned to meet at Westminster on the 4th of May in that year. The member for Canterbury city in that Parliament was (by a curious coincidence) named John Sheldwich. When Richard atte Lese died, in 1394, he was buried in the north chantry of this church, and a handsome canopied brass upon the floor there commemorates him and his wife Dionisia; it bears effigies of both.

The inscription upon the brass is not now complete; originally it ran thus: "*Hic jacent dominus Ricardus atte Lese miles, & Dionisia uxor ejus, qui quidem Ricardus obiit xx^o die Augusti anno domini m^occc^olxxxiiiij quorum animabus propitiatur Deus Amen.*" This monumental brass has been engraved in Boutell's *Monumental Brasses of England*. Formerly it was covered with the flooring of a pew, but it has now, by the direction of the Vicar (Rev. B. S. Malden), been laid carefully in the north-east of the north chancel where it is entirely visible.

The Lady Dionisia died in 1404, and by her will desired to be buried here in the Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin. Her will was dated April 23rd, 1404, and was proved on the 16th of September following by her executor John Cely.* Sir Richard atte Lese left no children, and the manor went ultimately to John Norton, who had married Sir Richard's niece and heiress Lucy, daughter of Marcellus atte Lese.† The Atte Lese arms, "Gules, a cross-crosslet ermine," seem to have been adopted by the Norton family; these arms remain still in a north window of the north chantry; they are repeated four or five times in that window.

In the high chancel of St. James is the monumental brass of Joanna the first wife of William Mareys.‡ She died on the 31st of October 1431 and was buried here. Mr. Steinman§ says she was a daughter of William Langley of Knolton, whose arms appear

* Archbishop Arundel's Register, i., 214.

† Marcellus had another daughter and coheirress, named Cecilia, who married Valentine Baret of Perry Court in Preston. She and her husband (who died in 1440) are commemorated by a monumental brass in the chancel of Preston Church.

‡ Her husband William Mareys (son of John Mareys) was an esquire of the body to King Henry V., and afterwards to Cardinal Beaufort, uncle of the King. William Mareys survived his last lord for twelve years, and died in 1459, probably at Makenade. His second wife was Joanna, daughter of Bartholomew Bourne of Sharsted, and widow of Thomas Braumston of Makenade, in Preston. She survived him until 1465, when she was buried in Preston churchyard, beside her first husband Thomas Braumston.

§ *The Topographer and Genealogist*, vol. iii., 192.

IN SHELDWICH CHURCH



Fur iact in curia de Tolina quonda de Walle mareys aruigra
 que ad huius iudi vita migravit vltima die mensis Octobris
 Anno dñi. m. cccc. xxxi. cuius anie ad vita etia pducit anie

JOAN MAREYS (NEE LANGLEY) OB. 1431



Quat p. anabz Johis Cely Aruigra et Isabel uxoris sue qui quondam
 Johanes obiit x die Octobris Anno dñi m. cccc. xxxi. quor. anabz p. p. d. a. anie

JOHN CELY (OB. 1426) AND ISABEL HIS WIFE.

on the brass. A shield bearing the Mareys arms is detached, but preserved. Her effigy is on a small scale, and shews three-quarters of the length of her body, nude, but nearly encircled by a winding sheet, the top of which is gathered up on the left side of her head. In her hands she holds a heart inscribed *thc | m'ct*, which signifies "Jesu merci." The inscription is "*Hic jacet in misericordia dei Johanna quondam uxor Willelmi Mareys armigeri; | que ab hujus mundi vita migravit, ultima die mensis Octobris, Anno Domini m^occcc^oxxxi^o. Curjus animam deus ad vitam eternam perducatur. Amen.*"

Likewise in the high chancel is a small parallelogram of brass on the floor inscribed, "Here lyeth the body of John Belke | gent. eldest sonne of Valentine | Belke of Sheldwich, who died a | bacheler March the 30th A^o Dni. | 1633 etatis sue 67." This gentleman's father was in Sheldwich in 1554; his brothers, Michael, Christopher (baptized 1567), Gabriel (1570), and Thomas (1573), were not all bachelors like himself. Michael (born in 1574 and buried in 1616) married Catherine, daughter of William Petit of Chilham, who dying in 1612, aged 32, was buried in Chilham Church. His son Michael Belke, acting as a Justice of the Peace at Sheldwich, signed the parish books of Throwley from 1651 until 1659, and married 103 couples at Sheldwich, during the years 1653—59. In the parish register these marriages are entered under this heading, "The names of those who were married in the Parish of Sheldwich by Major Michael Belke, Justice of the Peace, living in the said Parish." This gentleman was one of the tribunal commonly called "the Regicides," who condemned King Charles I. to death. He and his wife Susanna had many children baptized here, viz., Valentine (1640), Gabriel (1642), Michael (1643), William (1644), Mary (1646), Rebecca (1649), Edwin (1650), John (1651), and George (1653). A relative, William, born in 1602, became a Canon of Canterbury, and died in 1676. Of Canon William Belk's sons, Thomas also became a Prebendary of Canterbury Cathedral and died in 1712; another son, Antony, became Auditor of the Dean and Chapter; Antony's daughter Elizabeth* was the heiress of her uncle Thomas.

The south transept, which opens to the nave by two modern arches in the Decorated style, and has windows of the same style, was rebuilt, or much restored, nearly thirty-eight years ago, by Major Munn. The original transept opened to the nave by one wide arch, its roof was lower and a "lean-to."

In it is a good monumental brass bearing the effigies of a knight in armour and of his wife. It is inscribed, "*Orate pro animabus Johannis Cely, armigeri, et Isabelle uxoris sue; qui quidem Johannes obiit ix^o die Octobris anno domini m^occcc^oxxvj^o. Quorum animabus propicietur Deus. Amen.*"

Respecting this John Cely very little can be learned. I find that in April 1404 the widowed Dame Dionisia atte Lese named him executor of her will, consequently we infer that he was an

* Hasted erroneously calls her May.

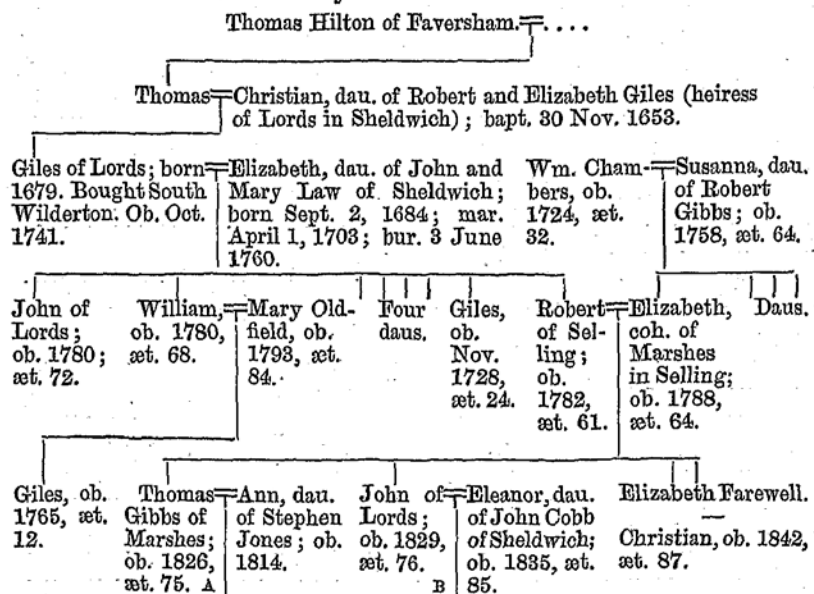
intimate friend, perhaps a relative of that lady. His place of residence in Sheldwich cannot be ascertained, possibly he may have resided at Lees Court after the death of the Lady Dionisa. Burke, in his *General Armory*, states that the family of Cely (Kent) bore these arms: *argent 11 eyes sable, 3, 2, 3, 2, 1*, and for crest, a dexter hand with the two first fingers erected, as seen on Cely's brass here.

Kilburn (*Survey of Kent*, p. 247) and, after him, J. Lewis (*History of the Abbey and Church of Faversham*, p. 24) have stated that in this transept was a medieval memorial for Ricard de Lyle, or Lysle. The monument has disappeared. Perhaps the name was Lydle, and the person commemorated may have owned the land which is now called Little's farm. In September 1349 Ricardus de Lidle resided at Sheldwich, and, as patron of the advowson of Monke-ton rectory, near Ospringe, presented Wm. Jordan to that benefice.*

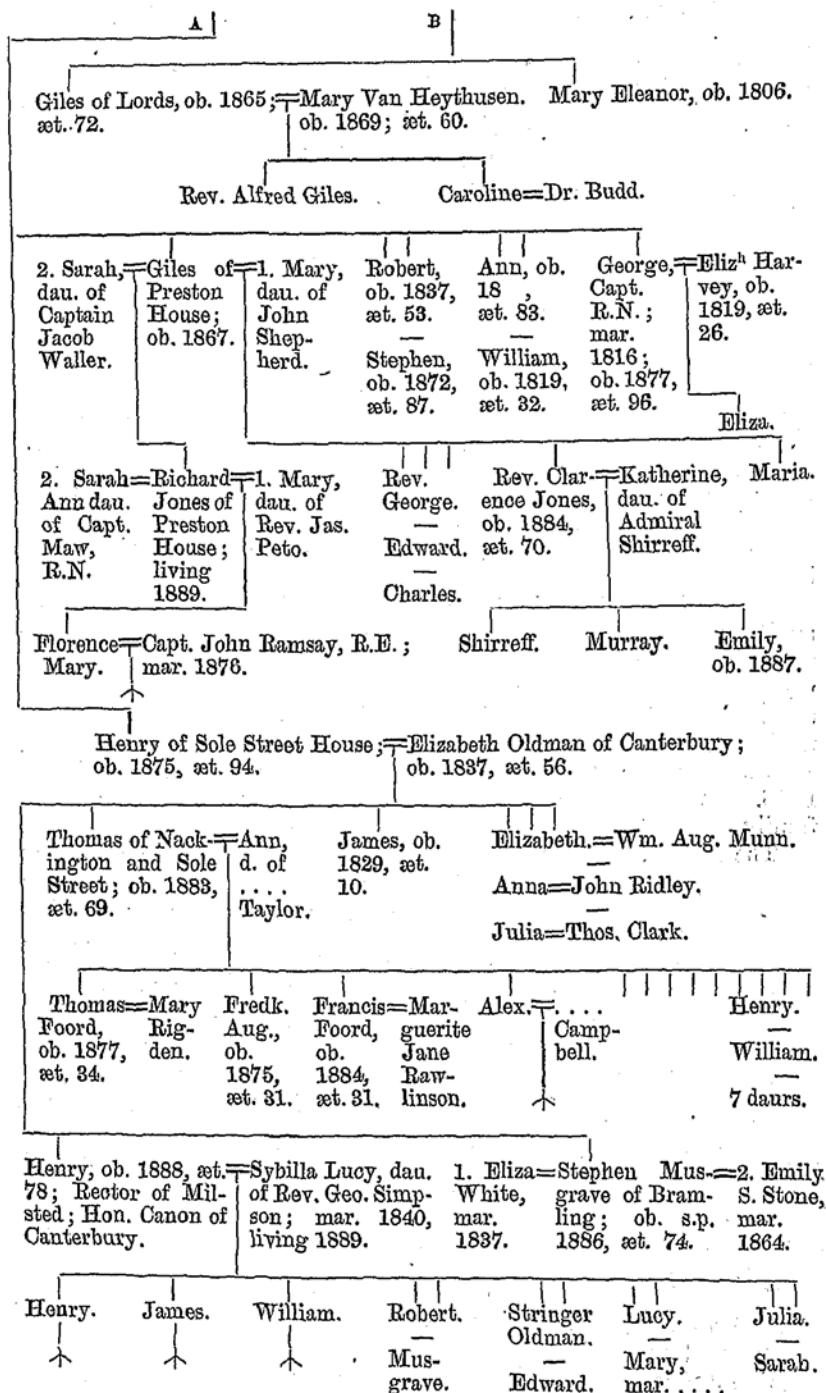
Upon a stone at the south end of this transept is an inscription, probably in memory of "Henery Franklin, gent.," who was buried (says Mr. Malden) on the 3rd of July 1631. It is dated 1631, but we can read only these words all in Roman capital letters:—

Hee died | DO. WE | 1631 In June 29.
 THOV : FOLE : FEARE : NOT : TO :
 DEY < TIES : SLEPE : BRINGS ·
 JOY · E · TER · NALE · LY.

In the south transept are several mural monuments commemorating members of the family of Hilton, of Lords in this parish. The following pedigree of the family will explain the connection between the persons commemorated by these tablets, and by several tombs in the churchyard:—



* *Christ Church, Canterbury, Register H*, folio 3, or 37 (both numbers appear on the folio).



About 1845, Elizabeth Hilton, a niece of Mr. Giles Hilton of Lords, married Major William Augustus Munn, of Throwley House. That residence stands immediately opposite to Sheldwich Church, being separated from it by the highway only, although the house is within the adjacent parish of Throwley. Major Munn restored the south transept of Sheldwich Church, and a monument on the west wall of that transept commemorates his father Col. Henry Munn, who died in 1833, aged 44. It names his grandfather William Munn, Esq., of Blackheath, and Catherine his wife; and commemorates Major Munn's uncles Matthew William (ob. 1796), and Captain Thos. Callis Munn, R.N. (ob. 1815). In the middle of the north wall, of the new north aisle, stands a Decorated window of three lights which was filled with stained glass by Major Munn in memory of his first wife Elizabeth (*née* Hilton), who died on the 6th of February 1850. This window, the glass of which was made by T. Willement, was carefully removed from the ancient north wall when the new aisle was built. In the middle light we see Charity (as a female feeding a child with bread), and in the side lights (i) Faith, and (ii) Hope. In the floor of the new aisle is a flat stone which commemorates the children of Major Munn, who himself died in October 1873.

The painted glass in three windows of the south transept was made by Thomas Willement for Major Munn. In the south-eastern window a memorial of Mary Elizabeth Munn, who died 9 Dec. 1846, we see (i) Christ raising the widow's son at Naim, and (ii) Christ raising Jairus's daughter; in the south-western window (i) Christ raising Lazarus; and (ii) The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This window is a memorial of Alice Harvey Munn, who also died in 1846. In the third window, rose-shaped, are the arms of the Munn family.

The Tower (at the west end of the nave) is handsome, and has a south-eastern angle-turret with a beacon at its summit. The diagonal western buttresses give the tower an appearance of being a work of the Decorated style; but, as Sir Stephen Glynne says, "The tower is perpendicular, of flint and stone; it is embattled, with octagonal turret at the south-east; it has two string-courses, and belfry windows plain without foliation. The west window is of three lights, and the west doorway has continuous arch mouldings." Over the west doorway stands a miniature niche for an image; probably a figure of St. James, or of the Virgin Mary, once occupied this niche. The tower opens to the nave by a good Perpendicular arch; below the springing points of this arch, but inside the tower, is a gallery, used by the ringers when ringing. This will be removed as soon as funds can be obtained for inserting, on a higher level, a new ringing floor for the use of the ringers.

From early entries in the Parish Registers, it seems probable that members of the family of Sondes resided in Sheldwich long before Sir George Sondes, in the reign of Charles I., built, from the plans of Inigo Jones, Lees Court, which is now the family residence.

Sir Michael Sondes (who married Mary Finch, the heiress of Norton) was resident in Sheldwich from 1576 to 1587, at which time he had not been knighted; and in Sheldwich Church were baptized four of his children, viz.:—Thomas (1576-7), Paulina (1579), Hobie (1584-5), and Ann (1587).

Sir Michael's son, Sir Richard (who himself was baptized at Throwley Church in 1571), seems also to have resided for some years (1600-17) in Sheldwich. In its parish church were baptized eight of his children, viz.:—Susan (1600), Ann (1602), Edward (1604-5), Antony (1605-6), John (1608-9), Roland (1612), Katharine (1616), and Mary (1617).

The children of the "Squire" of Lees Court, Sir George Sondes (afterwards Earl of Faversham), by his second wife Mary Villiers, were both christened and married in Sheldwich Church; and five grandchildren of Sir George were baptized there, after Sir George's death.

Baptized.

1656-7 March 15 Mary, daughter of Sir George and Dame Mary Sondes.

1658 April 20 Katharine, daughter of Sir George and Dame Mary Sondes.

Married.

1675-6 Lord Lewes Deurose [*i.e.* Duras] and Ladey Mary Sondes, March y^e 9th.

1677 The honorable Lewes Watson* and the Ladey Katherine Sondes, July the 17th.

Baptized.

1680 May 10	Ann (buried two days after).	}	Children of the Honorable Lewis and Dame Katharine Watson.
1681 Nov. 18	Katharine.		
1683 July 13	Ann.		
1684-5 March 6	Ellenare.		
1686 July 3	Edward.		

A flat stone in the chancel, and a mural tablet on its north wall, commemorate Lewis Richard, third Baron Sondes, who died un-

* The Hon. Lewis Watson was M.P. for Canterbury in 1681, and he became third Baron of Rockingham in 1691. Four years later, his wife (*née* Lady Katharine Sondes) died, in 1695. Her husband was created the first Earl of Rockingham, Viscount Sondes, and Baron of Throwley in 1714. He had in 1709 inherited (in right of his deceased wife) Lees Court and the Sondes Estate in Sheldwich, on the death of his brother-in-law Lewis Duras, Earl of Faversham. His son Edward Watson, Viscount Sondes (baptized at Sheldwich in 1686), died in 1722, before his father the Earl of Rockingham; but this Edward left one son, Lewis, who in 1724 succeeded as second Earl, and another son, Thomas, who in 1745 became the third Earl of Rockingham. Both these sons of Edward Watson became Lords Lieutenant of Kent, and both died without issue. Their cousin, Lewis, the second son of their aunt, Lady Margaret Monson (*née* Watson), inherited their Kentish Estates by the provisions of the will of his uncle Thomas, the third Earl of Rockingham, and he was created Baron Sondes.

married on the 14th of March 1836, aged 44. Both bear his arms, viz.: Quarterly—1 and 4, Watson (*argent*, on a chevron *azure*, between three martlets *sable*, as many crescents *or*); 2 and 3, Monson. His brother Edward, a clergyman, was buried here also.

VICARS OF SHELDWICH (often spelt Scheldewych).

The PATRONS were the Abbot and Convent of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, until September 1538. John Raynolde presented an Incumbent in 1545; but from that time forward until now the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury have been Patrons of this benefice.

- 1279 July (15 Kal. Aug.) THOMAS DE HORSEHAM was admitted to this Vicarage by Archbishop Peckham.
- 1283 April (5 Kal. May) WALTER DE SUTHMALLYNG was (*Peckham's Reg.*, f. 53^b.) instituted, at Chartham, by Archbishop Peckham.
- 1316 Oct. ROBERT DURANT, of Faversham, was admitted to (*Reynold's Reg.*, f. 18^a.) the Vicarage of Sheldwich by Archbishop Reynolds, in October 1316. How long he retained the benefice we cannot ascertain.
- WILLIAM ALEXANDER remained Vicar of Sheldwich until his death, late in the year 1379.
- 1378^g Jan. SALOMON DE ALDYNGTON, *Presbiter*, was admitted (*Sudbury's Reg.*, f. 130^b.) to this benefice by Archbishop Sudbury.
- RICHARD ARNOLD was Vicar of Sheldwich when he died in 1396.
- 1396 Aug. 20 ARNOLD TONGE was admitted to this benefice (*Christ Church Reg. G.*, f. 271^a.) (during the vacancy of the See of Canterbury) by Thomas Chillenden, Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury. A. Tonge resigned Sheldwich Vicarage in 1400.
- 1400 Nov. 18 WILLIAM HART, *Chaplain*, accepted this Vicarage; (*Arundel's Reg.*, f. 271^b.) but he resigned it in the following month.
- 1400 Dec. 20 JOHN CREK, *Chaplain*, was admitted to this (*Arundel's Reg.*, f. 273^a.) benefice, but three years and a quarter formed the limit of his incumbency here. He then exchanged with the Vicar of Eastbridge.
- 1403¹ Mar. 12 JOHN CROUCHMAN, who had been Vicar of (*Arundel's Reg.*, f. 288^a.) Eastbridge, came to Sheldwich by exchange with John Crek. Little more than three years later he exchanged with the Vicar of Tonge.
- 1407 Sep. 29 Dom. RICHARD MARCHALL, who had been (*Arundel's Reg.*, f. 316^b.) Vicar of Tonge, by exchange with John Crouchman, became Vicar of Sheldwich. He took the Vicarage of Horton Kirby, in 1413, by exchange with J. Grenelane.

- 1413 Sep. 10 JOHN GRENELANE, Vicar of Horton Kirkeby
(*Arundel's Reg.*, f. 368.) (Rochester Diocese), came to Sheldwich by exchange with R. Marchall.
- Dom. JOHN FYNCHÉ exchanged with the Vicar of Ryarsh in 1418. How long he had been Vicar of Sheldwich we cannot ascertain.
- 1418 Oct. 15 Dom. PHILIP HOME, Vicar of Ryarsh, came to
(*Chichele's Reg.*, f. 173.) Sheldwich by exchange with Jno. Fynche. He died, holding this benefice, ten years afterwards.
- 1428 July 27 Dom. MATTHEW SCANDELL was instituted by
(*Chichele's Reg.*, f. 369.) Archbishop Chichele. How long he remained Vicar of Sheldwich we do not know, but it was less than four years.
- 1432 June 16 Dom. JOHN CAUDEBEK, *Chaplain*, was instituted
(*Chichele's Reg.*, f. 437.) by Archbishop Chichele, but he retained this benefice little more than one year.
- 1433 Oct. 19 Dom. JOHN JORDAN, *Chaplain*, was Vicar for
(*Chichele's Reg.*, f. 449.) nearly four years. He died in 1437.
- 1437 June 5 Dom. WM. SUTTON, *Chaplain*, may perhaps have
(*Chichele's Reg.*, f. 467.) held this living longer than any of his predecessors in this century. He may have retained it for eleven years; but we are not certain that he did so.
- 1448 Nov. 29 Dom. JOHN YORK, *Chaplain*, remained Vicar
(*Stafford's Reg.*, f. 171.) of Sheldwich thirty-one and a half years, until he died in 1480.
- 1480 July 18 Dom. JOHN SAYAR, *Chaplain*, was instituted by
(*Bourgchier's Reg.*, f. 225.) Archbishop Bourgchier in 1480, and probably remained Vicar of Sheldwich for a dozen years or more.
- WILLIAM CRYPPON, died in 1505, being then Vicar of Sheldwich, but we know not in what year he was admitted to this benefice.
- 1505 July 17 ROBERT BRADLEY, who died within six months,
(*Warham's Reg.*, f. 166.) was admitted by Archbishop Warham in July 1505.
- 150 $\frac{5}{8}$ Jan. 23 Dom. THOMAS SWAN, *Chaplain* (on the death of
(*Warham's Reg.*, f. 170.) R. Bradley). He retained this benefice until his death in 1545, having held it longer than any previous Vicar of whom we have record.
- 1545 Dec. 10 GEOFFREY WYLSON, *Presbiter*, was presented by
(*Cranmer's Reg.*, f. 235.) John Raynolde, Yeoman, who had obtained the patronage for this turn. G. Wylson resigned Sheldwich Vicarage in 1550-1.
- 155 $\frac{1}{2}$ Mar. 19 HENRY BREDKYRKE, *Olerk*, was the first incum-
(*Cranmer's Reg.*, f. 273.) bent whom the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury presented. This Vicar was deprived by Cardinal Archbishop Pole late in the year 1557.

Probably he had previously been prevented from officiating, as in 1554 there was here a curate named John Raper, and in 1555 Geoffrey Asheley was curate here.

- 155 $\frac{1}{2}$ Jan. 15
(*Pole's Reg.*,
f. 98.) EDWARD KEBLE, *Presbiter*, was the next nominee of the Dean and Chapter. He remained Vicar for three years, until he died in 1561.
- 1561 April 10
(*Parker's Reg.*,
f. 210.) JOHN AVEN, *Olerk*, on the death of the last Vicar was instituted by Archbishop Parker in April 1561.
- 156 $\frac{1}{2}$ Mar. 10
(*Parker's Reg.*,
f. 278.) THOMAS HEWTON, *Olerk*, was here for little more than three years, from 1568 until 1571.
- 1571 Sep. 5
(*Parker's Reg.*,
f. 310.) RICHARD ARMSTRONG, *Olerk*, was here for more than eight years. During that time he buried two sons at Sheldwich, Thomas (1575), and Nicholas (1576).
- 1580 April 14
(*Grindal's Reg.*,
f. 307.) Master LUKE TAYLOUR, *Olerk*; he resigned this benefice in 1582, after holding it for two years.
- 1582 May 2
(*Grindal's Reg.*,
f. 323.) Master WILLIAM COWELL, *Olerk*, was admitted by Archbishop Grindal, and remained Vicar for nearly forty-three years. His son Robert was buried here, Feb. 25, 1597-8. While Mr. Cowell was Vicar of Sheldwich, the Parish Registers were fair-copied in the year 1598; all entries from the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign being copied in that year (1598) into one book, every page of which was signed by Mr. Cowell and the two Churchwardens for 1598. Mr. Cowell died here in February 1624-5; he was buried at Sheldwich on Feb. 15. His widow, Susanna Cowell, was buried here on the 5th of November 1644.
- 162 $\frac{1}{2}$ Mar. 16
(*Abbott's Reg.*,
f. 128.) Master ABRAHAM BROMIDGE, *Olerk*, M.A. His successor wrote thus in the Parish Register: "He was Vicar 35 years of Sheldwich only; but I hope his and my successors will have better luck." This is a testimony to the small value of the Vicarage in those days. While here he buried three of his children, John (19 Jan. 1626-7), a daughter (9 Sept. 1629), and a son William who was buried August 15th, 1633. He himself was buried at Sheldwich on the 18th of March 1659-60. More than five years later was buried his widow, Lydia Bromidge (19 Sept. 1665). They seem to have had a large family, as at least eight of their children were christened at Sheldwich, viz.:—Mary (1625-6, Feb. 24), George (1627, Dec.

- 13), Lydia (1629, Dec. 6), William (1630-1, Jan. 6), Nathaniel (1632, Sept. 30), Thomas (1634, April 16), James (1635-6, Jan. 24), and Elizabeth (1638, July 29).
- 1660 The name of Mr. Bromidge's successor I have not yet ascertained.
- PERCIVAL RADCLIFFE, Vicar of Boughton-under-Blean from 1663 to 1666, was presented to this benefice also. He was buried at Boughton on the 12th of September 1666. In Boughton Register we read, "He preached also at Sheldwich, and was a retainer to Sir George Sondes."
- 1667 Nov. 2 ISAAC BATES, M.A., was instituted by Arch-
(*Sheldon's Reg.*,
f. 332.) bishop Sheldon on the death of P. Radcliffe.
- EDWARD FISHER, who was instituted to the Vicarage of Selling in 1680, seems to have been Vicar of Sheldwich in 1685 and 1688. Yet I can find no record of his institution to this benefice. Probably also he resided nearer to Sheldwich Church than to Selling Church. In the Parish Register of Sheldwich we find these entries: baptized October 18, and buried October 23rd, 1685, "John son of Edward and Elizabeth Fisher, Vica^r;" among the baptisms is this entry: "1688 Edward, son of Edward and Elizabeth Fisher, Vica^r, Aprill the 8." Another incumbent was admitted in March 1689-90. Yet in the Sheldwich Register of Burials we read: "1695 Eliza^r y^e wife of Mr Edward Fisher was buried March y^e 27th." Mr. Fisher remained Vicar of Selling until he died in 1710.
- 1688²/₈ Mar. 6 WILLIAM SALE, B.A., was instituted to this benefice, being presented by King William and Queen Mary, through lapse. He was two days later admitted to the Vicarage of Bac-child (now called Bapchild) in the same way, through lapse, by the King and Queen. The Bapchild benefice he retained over seven years, but this Vicarage of Sheldwich he resigned in little more than twelve months. As *Richard* Sale was presented to the Vicarage of Throwley a few months before *William* Sale became Vicar of Sheldwich (the adjoining parish) we may not unfairly infer that these two gentlemen were near relations. It is worthy of remark that the record of *William* Sale's institution, and that of his

successor also, are found in the Register of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, his Grace the Primate, Archbishop Sancroft, being at that time suspended and deprived.

- 1691 May . . . FRANCIS GREENE was collated to this benefice
(*Reg. of D. and C.*, by Dr. John Sharp, Dean of Canterbury (just
f. 53^b, 54^a.) before he became Archbishop of York),
when the Dean and Chapter were still acting
as custodians of the See of Canterbury,
through Sancroft's suspension. Mr. Greene
became Vicar of Reculver on March 7th,
1692-3, and about twelve months later he
vacated Sheldwich Vicarage.
- 1694 June 7 BENJAMIN HOLLINGWORTH, M.A., was instituted
(*Tillotson's Reg.*, by Archbishop Tillotson to Sheldwich, and
f. 164^{a b}.) held this benefice for two years and a quarter
only. Towards the end of that time (in May
1696) he acted as Curate of Throwley also.
In September 1696 he became Vicar of Stone
in Oxney. He made the following entry in the
Sheldwich Register: "Sept. y^e 29th 1696
Then Mr Hollingworth left Sheldwich and
Throwley for Stone in y^e Isle of Oxney," to
which his successor, or some one else, added
this note, "where I wish he may behave
himself better than he did at Sheldwitch."
- 1697 Sep. 23 JOHN KITCHENMAN was instituted by Archbishop
(*Tenison's Reg.*, Tenison in September 1697, but he had
f. 197.) probably been acting as Curate in charge of the
parish, for several months before he became
the Vicar. At all events his wife was buried
here (Jane, wife of John Kitchingman, Clerk)
on the 10th of June 1697. Mr. Kitchenman
had a statistical mind. He made annually in
the Registers a note of the number of males
and females entered during each year. He
also in the margin noted the occupation or
rank of each person whose name was
registered. He seems to have held this
Vicarage for about eight years.
- 1705 JOHN NICHOLLS, the next Vicar, was admitted in
1705, and retained this benefice for about
nine years. When he became Rector of Ford-
wich he made the following note in the Sheld-
wich Register: "Mem. at Mich. 1714 J.
Nicholls, vicar of Sheldwich nine years past,
left this liveing for the Rectory of Fordwich,
near Canterbury." Nevertheless his hand-
writing may be traced in the Registers (Mr.
Malden says) until the 24th of July 1715,
when he entered a baptism. He died in 1741.

- 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ ₁₅ Jan. 17 JOHN WILLIS, B.A., of Oriel College, Oxford, was admitted to Sheldwich Vicarage by Archbishop Wake. The Patrons of this benefice were the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, and the Patron of Throwley Vicarage, to which he was admitted in August the same year (1715), was Mr. Barker, Prebendary of Rugmer in St. Paul's Cathedral, yet Mr. Willis makes this note in the Sheldwich Register: "to both, by the favour of the Right Hon. Edward, Lord Sondes, whom God long preserve to be the defender, and the father of many defenders and Patrons of Religion and Libertie." Perhaps he had been the tutor of the young Edward, Viscount Sondes, who was the eldest son of Lewis Watson, first Earl of Rockingham. This young man, however, died in March 1721-2 (during his father's lifetime), and in 1728 his widow (whom, as Lady Catherine Tufton, he had taken to wife in 1708) erected over his grave, in Throwley Church, a very handsome altar-tomb of black Irish marble. Mr. Willis resided, at first, in Sheldwich, where his children George and Theophilus were baptized, November 29th, 1715, and buried on the 6th of December following. He seems, however, to have removed to Throwley and dwelt there. His son George Lewis was baptized at Throwley, March 18, 1717-18, and a second Theophilus May 2, 1720. His wife Henrietta was buried at Throwley in May 1728, and his sons Theophilus and John (the eldest) were also buried there in 1720 and 1730. Hasted says that, in 1750, he was suspended *ab officio*, and his benefice was sequestered. His handwriting in the Parish Registers continues until December 1748. Mr. Willis died at Throwley on the 1st of February 1756-7, and was buried in the middle aisle of Throwley Church. Forty-two years is a long tenure of a benefice, yet he held Sheldwich for that period, and Throwley nearly as long.
- 1757 Nov. 17 JOHN TUCKER, M.A., was inducted on the 17th of November 1757, and held this Vicarage for nineteen years, until he died on the 12th of December 1776. For the last six years of his life he was also Rector of Ringwold, near Dover. He was second master in the King's School at Canterbury, and held other prefer-

ments (*vide* Nichols' *Literary Illustrations*, vol. vi., p. 698).

- 1777 May 1 BENJAMIN SYMONDS was instituted by Archbishop Cornwallis on the 1st of May 1777, and inducted on the 1st of June. In the Parish Register he wrote his London address, "B. Symonds, Wilderness Row, near Charterhouse, London." He died in 1781, so that he was Vicar here for little more than four years.
- 1781 Dec. 23 MATTHIAS RUTTON, M.A., Oxon, was inducted just before Christmas 1781, and remained Vicar for thirty-seven years. He was a son of an Ashford gentleman, Mr. Isaac Rutton, who had matriculated at University College, Oxford, in 1729, at the age of 17, and who died in 1792. Mr. Matthias Rutton went late to Oxford; he was 27 years of age, when he matriculated from St. Alban's Hall on the 24th of November 1775. When he left Oxford he was ordained by Archbishop Cornwallis; and he became Curate of Selling in January 1778, serving there as Curate first for the Rev. Henry Thompson, and then for the Rev. Richard Halke (who was also Vicar of Faversham) until 1805, when Mr. Halke succeeded Mr. Thompson in the benefices of Badlesmere and Leaveland, and Mr. Rutton became Vicar of Selling. Mr. Rutton acted also as Curate for Mr. Symonds at Sheldwich from 1778 to 1781, when he succeeded to this benefice. Two years later he obtained also the Rectory of Cooling. He was likewise one of the Six Preachers of Canterbury Cathedral and Chaplain to Lewis Thomas, second Baron Sondes (who died in 1806), and to his son Lewis Richard, third Baron Sondes. Mr. Rutton married Margaret, daughter of William Loftie of Canterbury, surgeon, she died in 1800, aged 40, and is buried in a vault beneath the vestry on the north side of the chancel of Sheldwich Church. Beside her lies her brother, Captain Wm. Hy. Loftie. In the same vault lies Vicar Rutton himself. He was buried on the 13th of June 1818, aged sixty-nine. Where Mr. Rutton resided is not certain, but he hired the Vicarage-house at Throwley, which was then very small, little better than a cottage.
- 1818 J. B. BURGER, who succeeded Mr. Rutton, resided at Harbledown, and held this benefice until

his death June 15, 1850. Two of the clergymen who served as his curates here were the late Rev. George Simpson (afterwards Vicar of Northbourne, and later Vicar of Loose) and the Rev. George Hilton, who was for some years Rector of Badlesmere.

1850 THOMAS WOODS GOLDHAWK, M.A. Oxon, was presented to Sheldwich, through the interest of his wife's father, the Rev. Canon Spry. He was the eldest son of Mr. G. Goldhawk of Sheen in Surrey, and matriculated at the age of eighteen, from Worcester College, in June 1831. He graduated as B.A. in 1835; and M.A. in 1843. For him was built the original portion of the existing Vicarage-house at Sheldwich. It was small; and the architect, Mr. Harry Austen of Canterbury, estimated its cost at £650. Mr. Goldhawk died April 9th 1870.

1870 July 28 BINGHAM SIBTHORPE MALDEN, B.A. Cantab., was presented through the influence of Archdeacon Harrison, and succeeded Mr. Goldhawk. One of Mr. Malden's Christian names was derived from his godfather, the Rev. Richard Bingham, who for many years was Vicar of Queenborough, and who edited *Bingham's Antiquities*, and many other books. During Mr. Malden's incumbency the Vicarage-house has been much enlarged; and, in 1888, the church was well restored, and was enlarged by the addition of a north aisle.