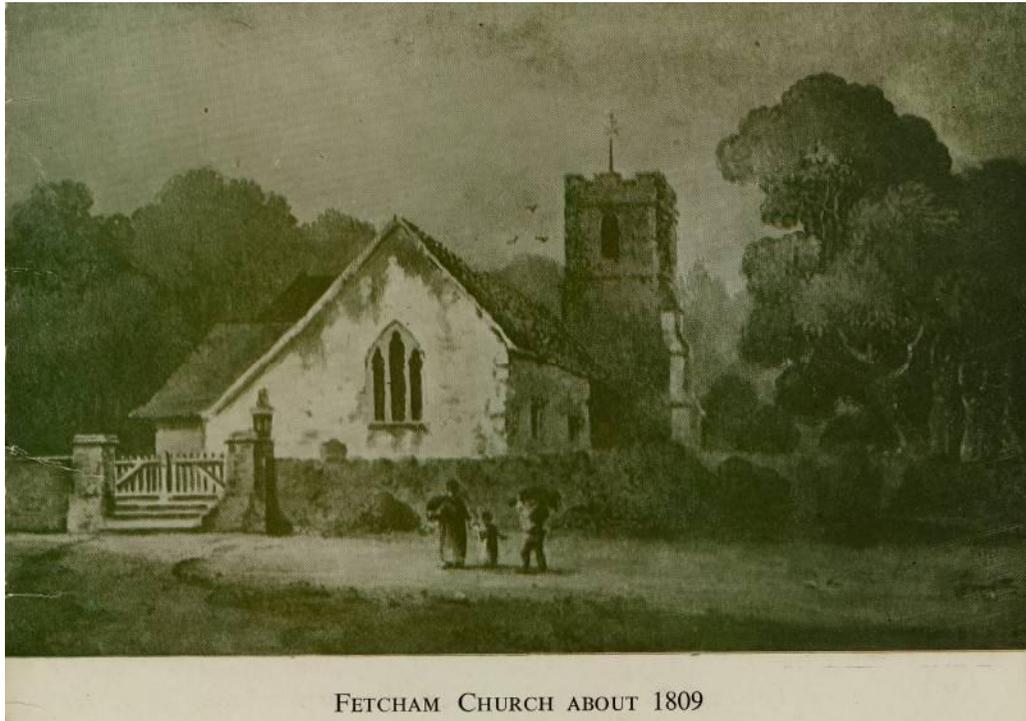


FETCHAM CHURCH GUIDE



PRICE ONE SHILLING

SERVICES OF THE CHURCH



SUNDAY

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 9.45 a.m. Sung Eucharist.
- 11.00 a.m. Matins.
- 12 noon. Holy Communion (first Sunday in month).
- 2.45 p.m. Sunday School in Day School (infants).
- 3.00 p.m. Sunday School in Church (juniors).
Children's Service (third Sunday in month).
- 4.00 p.m. Holy Baptism (by arrangement).
- 6.30 p.m. Evensong.

WEEKDAYS

Holy Communion

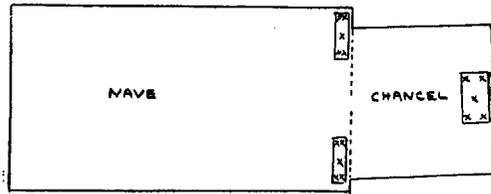
- Thursdays at 10 a.m.
- Fridays at 8 a.m.
- Saints Days, 8 a.m. (see Church Calendar).



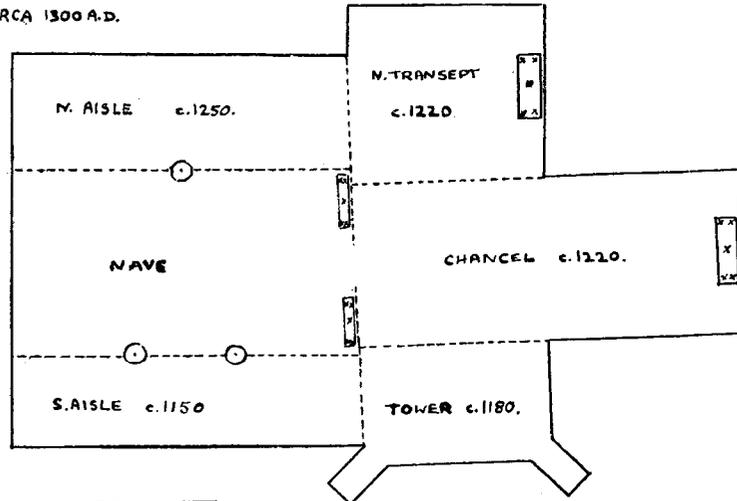
*Baptisms, Marriages, Churchings, and Communion of
the sick, by arrangement with the Rector*

DEVELOPMENTS OF FETCHAM CHURCH AS SHEWN BY GROUND PLANS

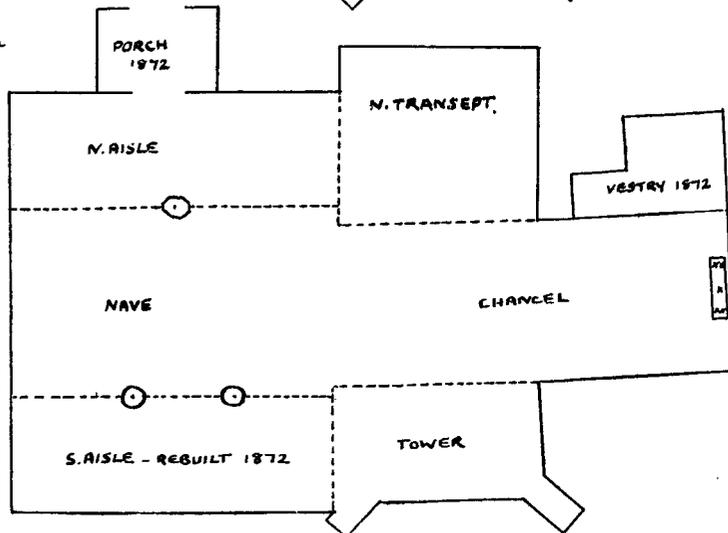
CIRCA 1000 A.D.



CIRCA 1300 A.D.



1954



NORTH TRANSEPT WALL PAINTING



By courtesy of Surrey Archaeological Society

FETCHAM CHURCH



FOREWORD

by
THE RECTOR OF FETCHAM



THIS LITTLE GUIDE is the result of many years of patient study by its author, and as we launch it on its first edition in 1956, we do so with grateful thanks to Mr. J. G. W. Lewarne for his enthusiasm and knowledge which has already helped so many of us to deepen our love for this very beautiful House of God.

The words that you read here are a history - a history of men and women who lived here in Fetcham, and whom, in the midst of lives often laborious and humble, kept clear and bright their search for God. If we, who follow them, can keep our search alive and unflinching, then we, like them, will leave something to help those who follow after.

May God strengthen us and guide us in our common pilgrimage.

I. THE ANCIENT BUILDING

FETCHAM is a Parish in the Copthorne Hundred, the Rural Deanery of Leatherhead, the Archdeaconry of Dorking, and the Diocese of Guildford. Prior to the creation of the latter by order in Council on the 1st of May 1927 it was within the Diocese of Winchester.

The Parish is situated 20 miles from London and its area is approximately 1,840 acres with a population of about 7,000 (1954).

THE ADVOWSON

Probably in the 13th Century the advowson of the Church was in the gift of the de Abernons who held the Manor of Fetcham and it is certain that from early times it descended with the Manor until the latter was sold by the Vincents, when it appears that the advowson was conveyed with the mansion to Arthur Moore, Esq. Thomas Revell presented to the living in 1748, after which Sir George Warren succeeded to, and later sold, the advowson to Mrs. Ann Kirkpatrick, under whose will it passed to the Rev. Abraham Kirkpatrick Sherson, who was instituted as Rector of Fetcham in 1794. In 1818 the patronage was vested in John Bolland, Esq., later to his son, the Rev. John Gipps Bolland at whose death in 1833 it passed to the Rev. Robert Downes. The advowson was acquired in 1864 by Thomas Sidney, Esq., Alderman of London, trustee for Lady Moon, and from the latter it passed to her son, Lt.-Col. Sir F. S. G. Moon, Bt. and afterwards to Sir Wilfred Graham Moon, Bt. At present, the living is in the gift of the Bishop of Guildford.

THE BUILDING

The Church is cruciform and consists of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, a north transept and a tower on the south side. The earliest existing part of the Church is the Nave, but it is not possible to assign any date with certainty. Over the arcading on the south side may be seen a window with dressings of Roman bricks which can be assumed to belong to an earlier form of the Church. The incorporation of material easily available locally was a feature of Saxon work, and these Roman bricks together with those to be seen on the outside of the west wall of the nave, which clearly define its limits, were probably obtained from a nearby Roman site. The window may be either Saxon or early Norman work. The exceptional height of the nave walls suggests a Saxon origin. In this connection it is interesting to note that on several occasions Saxon burials of the

6th and 7th centuries have been uncovered in the Parish, and although by the method of burial these were pagan burials, one may suppose that a considerable Saxon settlement was located at Fetcham and still existed when Christianity came to the district. It is therefore not unreasonable to date the Nave between the years 1000 and 1100 A.D.

THE SOUTH AISLE

About the middle of the twelfth century the South Aisle was built, the south wall of the Nave being tunnelled and under-built, and the upper parts of the wall were supported by the typically Norman pillars to be seen to-day. At the end of the century the lower stages of the Tower were erected. In the early 13th century the Chancel was extended and the North Aisle constructed. The beautiful lines of the arches between the latter and the Nave should be noted. About this time the North Transept, which was probably a manorial chapel, was constructed. There is some reason to believe that the floor of the transept was at one time between 18 inches and 2 feet lower than at present.

THE CHURCH ALTARS

In the 14th and 15th centuries the Church would, in accordance with English custom, and in addition to that of the chapel, have three Altars, the High Altar in the Chancel, and one each side of the opening to the Chancel from the Nave. At the north side of the Chancel arch in the wall is a fragment of an arch indicating the position of one of these Altars. An imaginary continuation of this arch is a measure of the narrow entry to the Sanctuary at this period. Within this fragment of arch are traces of colour suggesting the possible existence of a painting in medieval times. These Altars would almost certainly have been made of stone.

From the Will of Agnes Padycke of Fetcham, dated 27th March, 1535, it is learnt that she bequeathed "to the High Altar of my Parish Church 2d., to our Lady Light therein a sheep, to St. Blaise Light a sheep, to St. Katheryne Light a sheep". This provides the identity of these Altars. This will is deposited at Somerset House where it was inspected by the writer of these notes.

THE ROOD STAIRS

The remains of the rood stairs on the south side of the Chancel arch may be observed, these being used to give access for lighting the rood lights on the Candle beam which extended across the entry to the Chancel. The hanging of the Lenten veil was also effected in this manner. On the rood beam was a carved figure of Christ on the Cross with images of the Virgin and St. John either side. These beams were nearly all removed at the Reformation, but their purpose, to give a simple picture of the central truth of Christianity, has reappeared in our stained glass windows.

THE CHANCEL

In the Chancel on the north side is an aumbury or small wall cupboard for the reception of the Pyx and the Holy Oils; the doors are modern. On the south side is a three-seated sedilia where sat the Priest, the Deacon, and the sub-Deacon during the singing of the Gradual and the Allelulias.

NORTH TRANSEPT

In the North Transept there were three wall paintings within the very unusual dog-toothed arch, depicting the Coronation of the Virgin, the Extreme Unction and the Legend of the Three Living and the Three Dead. Rare features of these paintings were that John the Baptist was depicted as a child and the dying person receiving the Extreme Unction was seated and not recumbent. Unfortunately the remains of these paintings were destroyed during the restoration of 1852 but happily, coloured drawings are preserved at Castle, Arch, Guildford. A reproduction is included in this Guide.

INVENTORY OF 1549

The inventory of Edward 6th is of considerable interest inasmuch as it details the possessions of the Church at this period. It reads as follows:-

"This Inventory indented made the XVTH daie of March in the III de yere of the reigne of our soveraigne Lord Edward the Sixt by the grace of God Kyng of Englund Fraunce and Irelande (Defensor of the Fayth and in Erthe of the Churche of Englund and Ireland) the supreme hed witnesseth that we Sir Thoms Denys clerk parson of Fetcham, John Rykman and John a Dene churchwardens ther, Humfry Cholmeley, William Roger and Thorns Blundell, parishoners ther, do make our Inventory of all the ornamentes, plate and juelles belonging to the said churche as hereafter foloweth, viz:

- First. ij vestements of silk with sute to the same wherof the one is full of branches and birdes.
- Item. An old vestment of thred without any sute.
- Item. A cope of blewe saten of Bruges with branches and ij other old copes.
- Item. iij corporas cases wherof the one is of blewe velvet.
- Item. vj Banners clothes and crosse clothes of paynted lynen clothe.
- Item. An old curten of red saye and an old coverlet.
- Item. v altare clothes of lynen clothe and ij towelles of the same.
- Item. ij curtens that was wont to hang cros the chauncell
- Item. iij curtens of paynted clothes to hang afore the aultars
- Item. a crosse of copper not gilted
- Item. ij chalices with ij patentes of silver parcell gilt

Item ij cruettes of lead with a sacryng bell
 Item a holy water stok of latten Item a lamp of latten
 Item iij surplices of lynen clothe with ij stoles
 Item j pair of candelstikes of latten Item ij font clothes of lynen clothe
 Item iij belles in the steple and a little bell besides
 Item A Bible boke, the paraphrase of Erasmus, ij masse bokes,
 an antiphon and a manuell.

Nicholas Leigh
 Willelmus Saunder."

The two curtains which were used to hang across the Chancel and the three curtains to hang before the Altars would be utilized in Lent, the former being hung over the rood beam. The antiphon was a book containing music for the hours, anthems, hymns and psalms in plain chant, and the manuell contained the forms to be observed by the Priest in the administrations of the Sacrament. Latten was a metal resembling brass.

INVENTORY OF 1553

A further inventory made in the seventh year of Edward 6th tells that "To the fourte article we say that there wasse nor ys no parte nor parcell of our churche goodes neyther sold nor putt awaye since the first yere of the reign of our soverign the Kyng that nowe ys. Md the seid church being broken in the nyght at towe sundrye tymes and there was stolne and taken awaye ij lat cantylsteckes iij alter-clothes a lynnene cloth to cover the funte ij corpras casys wyth the clothes j coverlett ij long towelles.

To the Vth article we say that the seid Thomas Edfall and Thomas Blundell churchwardens in the first yere of the reign of our soverign lord the kyng that now ys whych left in the churche box vj s. viij d. to use of the church. John Rychman and John Deyne churchwardens the seconde thyrde fourth fyfte and sixte yere and John Ryckman havying the churche box in hys kepyng was robed in hys howse by nyght and there the churche box was broken and the said vj s. viij d. taken awaye and so th re remayneth in the box nil ...

II. THE CHURCH AFTER THE REFORMATION

With the reformation came the inevitable changes, the rood was doubtlessly taken down and the side altars and many ornaments removed.

THE PULPIT

Churchwardens were ordered to provide pulpits in 1603, but no record has been discovered to give any information of Fetcham in this connection. However, the registers inform us that a new pulpit, reading desk, and clerk's desk were erected in the year 1761 at a cost of £17, and this probably was a characteristic

three decker, which is elsewhere described as "hexagonal with the sounding board neatly painted in imitation of wainscot". (It was sited against the north wall on entering the Chancel.) The present pulpit on the south side of the Chancel was placed in the Church in 1891.

THE FONT

Nothing is known about the font which was displaced in 1632. From the Vestry Book, 1842, is learnt that "The Rev. John Craig be allowed to remove the marble font which he placed in the Church in 1837 ... and the Archdeacon has ordered that the old font be used". Presumably the latter refers to that of 1632, and this is to some extent confirmed by the description of the font later, as "old, small plain and massive". The present font dates from 1868.

THE SOUTH AISLE

During the 18th Century the south aisle became ruinous, the Norman arcading was blocked up, and the Church was otherwise in a dilapidated condition. One writer in 1825 stated "There are vestiges, on the south wall, of another aisle, which seems to have formed an original part of this Church", and another, in 1866, wrote "There was formerly a south aisle which has been destroyed, leaving its columns and arches exposed to the outer side" . . . "The south windows inserted in the blocked Norman arcade are all very poor..."

However, the Church was repaired, reseated, and restored during the summer of 1857 at a cost of about £675 and in 1872 the south aisle was rebuilt. Although this work was in so many important respects necessary, it is tragic that so much Victorianism was permitted to enter into the designs, and it is regrettable that many interesting features of the Church disappeared. Gone are the hatchments which at one time decorated the North Transept, and much of the plaster work covers fabric which would be of interest to-day.

THE ORGAN

The present organ, situated in the tower, is believed to be a Father Willis instrument, and was installed in 1875, but nothing is known of music in the Church prior to 1837, when the Rev. John Craig donated an organ which stood against the west wall of the nave. In 1857 a harmonium was presented to the Church and this appears to have provided the accompaniment for the next 18 years.

THE BELLS

There are three bells in the tower, inscribed as follows: "Robertus Mott me fecit 1588", "William Land 1613", and "William Eldridge made mee 1665".

THE CHANCEL MEMORIALS

In the Chancel are memorials to Anthony Rous and Henry Vincent which have some excellent carving, but these and others in the Nave and Transept do not warrant detailed comment.

THE CHURCH PLATE

Five pieces of old plate are carefully preserved. They are, a silver cup and paten cover, with London hall marks of 1636, a plated flagon of probably early 19th century date, and two pewter plates made about 1685. There is also preserved a pewter-covered basin dated 1685 which is thought to have come from an old font. It is inscribed "John 1685 Kidwell" and "Fetcham 1685 Fant". The Communion plate at present in use was given by the Hon. Mrs. Hankey of Fetcham Park in 1864, and consists of a silver cup, silver paten, and silver flagon.

THE PARISH REGISTERS

The Registers begin in 1559 and with the exception of a gap during the years 1660 to 1685 are complete. At the end of the first volume of the registers is noted "that this register is very defective especially during the unnatural rebellion begun in 1641 until the happy Restoration of our Sacred and Civil Liberties in the year 1660". Further, on a loosely inserted sheet is written "On this note I ought in justice to remark that the memory of Restoration was so powerful in the Revd. Minister's mind that he forgot to enter in this Register any marriages from 1660 to September 1685, nor more than 23 baptisms from 1660 to June 1683, many of them irregularly inserted, also any entry of burials from 1660 to Feby., 1684/5."

THE WINDOWS

There is no old glass in the Church. The majority was given in memory of members of the Hankey and Moon families during the 19th century.

THE DEDICATION

The dedication of the Church is uncertain, and although known as St. Mary's Church, all known references prior to 1899 refer to the Church as Fetcham Church. While the mansion next to the Church remained in private use, the entry to the Church was attained through the mansion drive, but in recent years this right of way has been relinquished.

The Lych gate was erected as a memorial to the Rev. Sir Edward Graham Moon, Bart., who was Rector from 1859 to 1903.

THE CHURCHYARD

The Churchyard has twice been enlarged, in 1904 and in 1949.

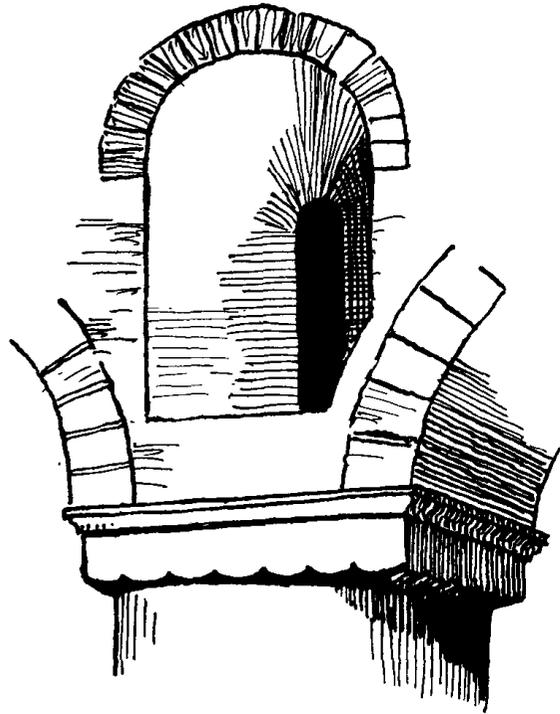
To conclude this short account of Fetcham Church, is appended a list of the Rectors since 1216.

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|--|
| Reign of Henry III. | 1216-1272 | Peter de Abernun |
| | 1284 | Robert D'Abernon |
| | 1380 | Thomas Barscote |
| | 1386 | Reginaldde Circeste |
| | 1395 | William Mayon |
| | 1400 | Henry Hyde |
| | 1416 | John Bremmesgrave |
| | 1419 | Roger de Bulkeley |
| | 1420 | John Maukyn |
| | 1460 | Henry Rymore |
| | 1462 | John Halsall |
| | 1471 | Thomas Trott |
| resigned | 1513 | John Clark |
| | 1543 | Thomas Denys |
| | 1564 | William Tubbsman |
| | 1574 | William Williams |
| | 1596 | Leonard Fetherston |
| | 1625 | Ephraim Udall |
| | 1634 | Thomas Tumor, D.D. (Dean of Canterbury) ejected, 1643 |
| | 1643 | Fisher, ejected 1660 and Tumor restored |
| | 1672 | Nicholas More |
| | 1683 | Hugh Shortridge, D.D. |
| | 1720 | Thomas Croft, B.A. |
| | 1724 | Ezekiel Mills |
| | 1726 | Samuel L'Isle (later Bishop of St. Asaph and afterwards of Norwich) |
| | 1737 | Rowland Johnson |
| | 1748 | Henry Warner |
| | 1772 | Jno C. Knowles |
| | 1793 | Richard Kilsha |
| | 1794 | Abraham Sherson |
| | 1818 | John Bolland |
| | 1833 | Thomas Foster |
| | 1836 | John Craig |
| | 1839 | Robert Downes |
| | 1859 | Sir Edward Graham Moon, Bt. |
| | 1904 | John D. Henderson |
| | 1917 | W. H. Mc. K. Caldwell |
| | 1926 | Webster W. Whistler |
| | 1932 | Herbert Charles Collings |
| | 1939 | George Herbert Newton |
| | 1947 | Harry Grant Maby (known as Anthony Maby) |



The Author acknowledges with gratitude the assistance given by the Rector and Churchwardens, William Harvey, Esq., S. Pickering, Esq., and others in the preparation of this short guide.

EARLY WINDOW IN SOUTH ARCADE



De S. Pickering