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PAPERS, ETC.

W^rington: a Sketch of Parochial History.

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WHEN the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was founded, in 1849 (26th Sept.), a series of queries were issued respecting Churches and Parishes: relating to the Structure of the Church, and the Archæology of the Parish, and the Botany and Geology of the District. These suggestions, though not fully complied with, have nevertheless been useful in calling attention to these subjects, and promoting enquiry. It is purposed, in the following paper, not to give a complete history of W^rington parish, but rather a sketch of the chief objects and events worthy of notice; which may hereafter be expanded and enlarged into a more perfect form. Many points require to be dwelt upon in writing a parochial history.

1st. The pre-historic remains, which are abundant in Somerset, especially among the Mendip and Quantock Hills.

2ndly. The history of the Manor, which can often be

traced through reference to ancient charters, and to the Domesday survey. Much has already been done in Collinson's *History*, and something more in Phelps and Rutter, but a great deal remains unrecorded, while statements also must be corrected. Very valuable hints for writing the history of a parish may be obtained from a small book, entitled *How to Write the History of a Parish*, by I. C. Cox; published in 1879, by Bemrose and Sons.

3rdly. The Civil and Domestic Architecture should be described.

4thly. The History of the different distinguished persons born in the parish, and who may have resided in it, or been connected with it.

5thly. Parochial Records—as the Registers and Churchwardens' Accounts, Deeds, and family documents; the entries in which are often of historical value, as well as very curious.

6thly. The Architectural History of the Parish Church, which often embraces much interesting historical matter.

This was exemplified at the meeting of the Archæological Institute at Lincoln, in a paper read by Mr. Mickeltheraite, "On the Growth of a Parish Church."¹

7thly. Lists of Monuments remaining in the Church or Church-yard. These are often of value in tracing pedigrees and throwing light upon family history, and a record of these should be preserved.

8thly. Local Traditions and Names.

9thly. Ancient Roads and Track-ways.

These remarks are only preliminary, and the following paper does not pretend to realize what has been here sketched out, but rather to give a general outline of parish history, which has been the result of a residence of sixteen years. It was begun some years ago, and added to as information has been obtained.

It is not my object to go into the *origin* of our English

(1). See *Archæological Journal* for 1880.

parishes; nor is it possible to trace this out accurately. It is enough to know that we find these divisions existing as early as the laws of King Edgar, A.D. 970. The boundaries of a parish seem originally to have been settled by that of the manor or manors, and their limits have been pretty well ascertained since the passing of the Tithe Commutation Act; but the maps are not always correctly laid down, as the same field has been known to be mapped into two parishes. It is advisable that perambulations should still be kept up, where it is possible, as boundary marks are apt to be removed.

The parish of Wrington is bounded by Burrington and Churchill parishes on the south, by Congresbury on the east, by Backwell and Winford on the north, by Winford, Batcombe, and Blagdon on the west; and contains an area of about 5,785 acres. The surface is very varied—hill and plain, pasture and arable. The geology¹ embraces the Carboniferous Limestone, the Lias on Broadfield Down, and the New Red Sandstone on the level ground towards Burrington and Churchill, through which flows the river Yeo. Some outbreaks of Trap Rock are to be seen at the head of Goblin Combe, and these are marked in Mr. Saunder's map (published by Lavars, Bristol). A hard conglomerate is found just above the village, and at Red Hill, a district of Wrington, two miles distant from the village, to the east, on the line of the Bristol and Bridgwater road. This turnpike road intersects the parish, coming from Bristol over Broadfield Down; quitting Wrington as it approaches Langford Inn. This road, made at the beginning of the present century, supercedes a more ancient one, of

(1). GEOLOGY. *Valley*: alluvial, *i.e.*, gravel and sand, with fine-grained Sandstone, difficult to cut, and strong clay; also white, sandy, loam-like chip-pings of stone. *Above village*: conglomerate, with patches of Red Sandstone (between Little Tor and Sim's Wood, also at Beacon Batch). From Barley Wood to Redhill is Red Sandstone, reaching to row of ashes. From Little Tor to Sims Wood, Mountain Limestone, which reaches to Backwell and Bourton Hill, and to Hartcliffe Rocks. At the head of Cleve Combe (called also Goblin Combe) is an outbreak of Green Stone, also near Broadfield House. At Downside House is Oolite (an isolated patch). To the right or east of the main road to Bristol over Broadfield Down is *Oolite*.

which vestiges remain, running along the side of it, in very deep hollows, as you ascend from the level towards Redhill.

Pre-historic Remains.—There are none now existing in the parish of Wrington, as Broadfield Down has been enclosed, and is now under cultivation; but an ancient perambulation of the parish, contained in the Bath and Glastonbury Register, in the library of the Marquis of Bath (p. 341), makes mention of a Barrow as one of the boundaries.¹ Roman remains have been discovered at two places. They were found on Havyatt Green, in making the Bristol and Bridgwater road, one mile from the village of Wrington, which was carried at this distance from it, in deference to the wishes of Dr. Waterland, then Rector; an account of its construction is given in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, at the beginning of the present century.

In July, 1876, after a very dry summer, the traces of a villa were found at Lye Hole, at the eastern extremity of the parish, about two miles and a half from the village, on the higher ground, in the direction of Nempnett. These, when examined, were proved to be the undoubted traces of a Roman villa. Many of the pillars supporting the suspended floors remained, but the floors had been broken up. Tesserae were found, and red ware, as well as other pottery.² The pilæ, or supports, had been formed in places of hexagonal tiles, which had been used previously for roofing, the nail-holes remaining, and the mortar; and this seems to show that the villa had been rebuilt. These remains were about one foot and a half under the turf, and there were evident marks of fire upon the stones. The place is known by the name of "the old Burrying Ground," probably in consequence of ancient interments having been found there. It is on the farm of Mr. William Body, who first called my attention to it. A deep lane (now disused) leads up to the site of the villa, and can be traced

(1). *Liber Hen. de Soliaco Abbat. Glaston.* An inquisition of the Manors of Glastonbury Abbey, A.D. 1189. Edited by S. E. Jackson, M.A., F.S.A.

(2). See *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries*, March 8th, 1877.

towards the Lodge at Aldwick Court, from whence it seems to have gone in the direction of Havyatt Green, where the other Roman remains were found. From hence an old deserted road leads to Burrington Comb, above which is the camp, where Roman remains have also been found, and interments in the caverns in the combe. Roman coins have also been found at Wrington. One (said to have been picked up in the Church-yard), of the Emperor Posthumus, was found in process of levelling the ground; and another in a garden in the village, being a coin of the Emperor Dioclesian, of a rare type. Other Roman remains have been found a mile beyond the boundry of the parish, on the west, on the property of Colonel Long, at Woodlands, in the parish of Congresbury.

The Mendip Hills, a mile to the south of the boundary of Wrington parish, abound in vestiges of Roman mining, and several pigs of lead, bearing the Roman stamp, have been found and recorded. One was discovered at Blagdon, bearing the stamp of Britannicus, and of the date of the Emperor Claudius, and several at Charterhouse, one with the stamp of Vespasian.¹ On Burrington Ham, a mile beyond the boundary of Wrington, is a Roman camp, and remains have been found in the comb; also Roman coins in the large camp on Dolebury. These discoveries mark the complete possession which the Romans had obtained of this district; and still further traces may yet be brought to light.

Wrington is a Hundred combined with Brent. In old documents it is styled the Hundred of Brent cum Wrington.² Brent is on the west, and Wrington on the south-east, side of the Mendip Hills; and Wrington Hundred is watered by the little river Yeo, which, rising at Compton Martin, flows through the vale, and falls into the Bristol Channel between Wick St. Lawrence and Kingston Seymour.

Both these Hundreds formerly belonged to the Abbey of

(1). See *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries*, 8th March, 1877.

(2). See Collinson's *History of Somerset*, vol. i, p. 195.

Glastonbury, but at the suppression of the Abbey were granted to Sir Henry Capel, afterwards Earl of Essex.¹ The Hundred takes its name from the chief place or village within it. The Hundred of Wrington, from the village of Wrington, once a market town, with the privilege of a fair. The market and fair were procured by Adam de Sodbury, Abbot of Glastonbury, in the time of Edward II.² The Market was held on the north side of the village street, beyond the Golden Lion Inn, nearly opposite the Rectory gate, and modern houses, built in the first half of this century, occupy the site of the stalls.

It is stated in Collinson's *History*, vol. i, p. 206, from Adam de Domerham, that King Athelstan, A.D. 926, gave the manor, consisting of twenty hides, to Duke Athelstan.³ He took the habit of a monk, and conferred them upon the Abbey of Glastonbury, and the grant was confirmed by King Edmund. Collinson also gives the survey of the manor at the dissolution.

Part of the Glastonbury Registers, containing the rental of the Abbey, is now in the library of the Earl of Aylesbury, at Tottenham House, Wilts,⁴ and is called Abbot Beer's Terrier; the date is A.D. 1514,⁵ and contains a list of the possessions of the Abbey in Wrington parish, giving the dedication of the Church,—*All Saints*,—the account of the *Church House*, which stood near the present lych-gate (and the deed by which it was conveyed to the parish still exists in the parish chest, and is dated 1447.⁶) Abbot Beer's rental mentions the *Mill*, which stood just outside the present Rectory *garden*, to the south (the mill pond was in the Rectory garden); the *Manor House*, and a list of the *private woods of the Abbot*, and the *woods*

(1). See Appendix.

(2). See Collinson, vol. i, p. 206. Mr. Jerdone Braikenridge, of 16, Royal Crescent, Bath, and late of Newton House, Clevedon, has in his possession the original grant from Edward II to Glastonbury Abbey of a market and fair at Wrington.

(3). Adam de Domerham's *History*, p. 70.

(4). The Wrington portion is printed in vol. ii of Hearn's *John of Glastonbury*.

(5). See p. 197. Robert Beer was Rector of Wrington, and instituted May 18th, 1514.

(6). See Appendix to this paper.

held in *common*, and their respective acreage; also the names of the fields and sheep walks.¹

We learn from an entry in this Terrier that the river now called the *Yeo* was anciently called the *Wring*, as *Wringbridge* occurs, and the same name is also given in the perambulation of an older date, already mentioned.² Hence the name of the river has been changed, and I can only account for this by supposing that the name *Yeo* is a corruption of *Eau* (Norman-French), which is a name common to the small rivers in this locality, simply indicating the *water*.

It is clear that the village takes its name from the river running at a short distance from it.³

There are two hamlets in Wrington parish, viz., Lye and Havyatt Green; in each of these ancient Roman remains have been found, which testify to their very early occupation.

From the account in Domesday Book, printed in Collinson, we ascertain the condition of the parish in the time of King William I, A.D. 1085-6;⁴ from Abbot Beer's Terrier, its condition 500 years later, A.D. 1514; and if we come to 300 years

(1). The particulars are given at length in the *Proceedings of the Bath Field Club*, in a paper read January 15th, 1879.

(2). No perambulation is given in Abbot Beer's Terrier. Two or three pages are left blank, as if for the insertion, and the same is the case with all the other manors in this volume, except Glastonbury 12 hides, where the perambulation is given.

(3). This is not unfrequently the case, as Bitton is supposed to be a corruption of Boyd-town; the river Boyd running through the parish. (See Ellacombe's *History of Bitton*.)

(4). The temporalities of the Abbey were valued in A.D. 1291-3, at £41. See Collinson's *History*, vol. i, p. 206-7.

It is difficult to ascertain precisely the amount of population from the records of Domesday survey, but the population of Wrington may be roughly estimated at about 400. From Langtoft's *Chronicle* it would amount to about the same number. By the Register, A.D. 1538, the number of baptisms was 10; or, taking an average of 15 years after that date, 14. By the Register of Burials, A.D. 1538, the number of burials is 7, and in the succeeding years they seem to have averaged 11.

In 1821 the number of baptisms was 24; burials, 19.

In 1830 " " 46; " 37.

*In 1880 " " 30; " 21.

*This does not include Redhill nor Lowlesgate; a separate Register has been kept for Redhill since 1844, and for Lowlesgate since 1872—the most northern part of the parish being attached to that Church for ecclesiastical purposes.

Average baptisms at Redhill, per annum, 13; burials, 8.

later still,—at the time of the passing of the Enclosure Act,—1810,¹ we do not find much variation in the wood, arable, and pasture land. The unenclosed land under the Abbot fed 400 sheep on Broadfield Down; and before 1810 it was 500.

From an account drawn up of the condition of the parish at the time of the passing of the Enclosure Act, I find it stated that previous to that Act the farms were comparatively small, and a small portion only of each under tillage. The “sullow,” or plough, the drag, and the wooden roller, were the only agricultural implements used. These were of clumsy make, and generally drawn by oxen. The men dug considerable quantities of *Lapis calaminaris* from the northern part of the parish. The waste wool was collected from the brambles and furze bushes by the women and children, and by them used in the home manufacture of stockings.

Since the early part of the present century, agriculture in Wrington has kept pace with the general improvement, and the farming is now not inferior to that of other localities. Draining has been carried out, and is still progressing. Ploughing matches are annually held, and rewards given for the best work, as well as for the best teams, and the breed of cattle has been greatly improved. The late Rector, the Rev. John Vane, who held the living for forty-two years, did much to improve the agriculture and breed of cattle, as well as to encourage industry. But this was not the only work he effected: he built and maintained at his own cost a School, at the extreme north-east end of the parish, and got a Chapel of Ease built for Redhill, A.D. 1844, where he placed a curate, and where another School has since been built, 1873. By his efforts also, aided by the leading parishioners, Schools were built at Wrington in 1857, and superceded a small and confined building, still remaining on the left of the road to the

(1). Entitled “An Act for enclosing Lands in the Parishes of Wrington, Yatton, and Kenn, in the County of Somerset. 50 Geo. III, 1810.” This Act specifies certain commons or waste lands, called Wrington Hill and Broadfield Down.

Court Farm, which had before been adapted to the purpose. These Schools now meet all the requirements of the parish and are maintained almost wholly by voluntary effort, and by the annual Government grants. During his incumbency, also, the parish Church was completely restored, and an organ replaced in the Church, after an interval of 200 years.

Previous, however, to the improvement of agriculture, and of Schools, and Churches, came the improvement of the roads. It is stated that before the beginning of the present century the manner of conveying goods and agricultural produce to and from Bristol and other markets, was by fixing them in panniers, and conveying them on the backs of pack-horses, which were driven in single file, to the number of 40 or 50 together. These followed a deep, miry track; in many places rendered scarcely passible by numerous bogs and rivulets intersecting its course. Traces of these primitive roads still remain in different parts of the parish, and may be seen marked upon the old maps. It is stated that the jaded and overloaded animals not infrequently sunk in the mire, and remained there until they could be unloaded and dug out by the neighbouring cottagers. Most of the bye-ways were in a similar condition; narrow, and overgrown with brambles. Wheeled conveyances were scarcely known, and the only horse furniture was pack-saddles and panniers for goods, and saddles and pillions for passengers. The farmer and his wife rode the same horse to Church or fair, the lady riding behind.

Before the Enclosure Act, the pathway to Bristol, over Broadfield Down, was marked by clumps of fir trees, planted at intervals, and a line of yew trees marked the path, at a point above Redhill, where a branch diverged to Butcombe. Some of these are still standing. An Act of Parliament was obtained, at the beginning of this century, for making a new highway from Bristol to Bridgwater, and thence to Exeter. It was proposed to carry this through Wrington, then a market town, but it is stated to have been carried a mile off, at

the instance of the then Rector, Dr. Waterland, who feared the bad effect it might have upon the place, by introducing a stream of traffic.

The improvement of the bye-ways followed that of the highway, and in course of time three principal bridges were built over the river Yeo, called respectively—*Perry Bridge*, over which passes the main road to Bridgwater; *County Bridge*, on the road from Wrington to Burrington and Blagdon; and *Beam Bridge*, on the road from Wrington to Langford and Churchill. A bridge was also constructed over the small rivulet which runs past the village, and it is stated that the battlement of this bridge is formed of the stones of the ancient cross, which stood opposite the Golden Lion Inn, at the division of two roads in the village. The cross was removed almost within living memory, and in the time of the Rev. W. LEEVE'S incumbency; and the cause of removal is said to have been that on a dark night a coachman, not very steady on his box, ran his master's carriage against it, and it was thought wiser to remove this ancient land-mark than dismiss the careless driver! Wrington, therefore, lost this record of its former importance. The Church-yard cross, now also removed, stood one the north side of the Church-yard. I have not been able to ascertain the date of its removal.

As the roads and bridges improved, so did the form of conveyance. Drove of pack-horses gave way to heavy and cumbrous wagons, drawn by eight or ten heavy horses, with cropped tails, and bells on their collars. What was called a "dilly," conveyed passengers to and from Bristol once a week, and this was in time succeeded by a lighter conveyance, called the "long coach," which by degrees took the form of the stage coach. Nearly twenty stage coaches passed along the high road as late as 1841, when they were gradually superseded by the all-engrossing railway.¹

(1). I am indebted for some of this information to an account drawn up in 1861, and published in the *Wrington Hand-book*.

As access to Bristol became easier, the market at Wrington gradually declined, and at length ceased, and the site of it is now partially covered by houses, erected in recent times. Much has been expended on the improvement of the bye-ways, which are now kept in excellent condition.

From the roads we may pass to the buildings, all of which, except the beautiful Church, have lost their ancient characteristics, recorded by Collinson—except the thatch, with which many are still covered. The old Market House stood on the site of the houses erected in 1823, on the north side of the main street, nearly opposite the Rectory, but lower down. The corn market was held in front of the Rectory. The Court House, once the residence of a member of the Essex family, to whom the property was granted at the suppression of the Abbey of Glastonbury, is quite modernized. It seems to have been the Manor House belonging to the Abbot of Glastonbury, mentioned in the rental of the Abbey already referred to, and which is described as containing a “large hall, with spacious chambers on each side. Promptuarium, cellars, kitchen, larder, and stable in the inner court, together with walls, erected with high battlements, in the eastern circumference, and with deep ditches dug in the western circumference; which contains, with the lower court, one acre.” No remains of this are now apparent, and very little of the ancient Priory, which stood east of the Church, on the opposite side of the Langford road, at the side of the Church path leading from the lych-gate, where a portion of the walls may be seen. The site is now occupied by small and ruinous houses. every architectural feature has been removed—unless it be the labels of one or two small windows. The late Vicar of Chard, the Rev. Henry Thompson, who was for more than twenty years curate of Wrington, states that the work of destruction was completed in the memory of men then living. He wrote an account for the Oxford Architectural Society, about sixty years ago, and states that no important portion of the building

was then standing; but from what remained of the Priory in his time, there seemed to be no reason to think that it was worthy of the Church and Monastery with which it was connected: "Some square-headed windows, with cinquefoil mullions, were all that marked the antiquity of the building."

Passing from the Priory across the street, we pass through the *lych-gate* at the east entrance into the Church-yard. The *lych-gate* is a recent erection, given by the munificence of a parishioner, C. Edwards, Esq., of the Grove, in the year 1873. The design is by Mr. Hanson, Architect. On the right hand originally stood the *Church House*, conveyed by the then Rector, A.D. 1447, to the parish; and the deed of gift, bearing that date, is still extant. It was granted by "John de Obigis, Doctor of Decretals, Auditor of Causes in the Holy Apostolic Palace, also Nuncio and Collector for the Apostolick See in the Kingdom of England and Scotland, and the Island of Ireland, and Rector of the Parish Church of Wrington," on condition of "paying annually to me and my successors one penny at the High Altar, at the Feast of Easter, amidst the solemnities of the High Mass, at the time of the offering, by the hands of the Churchwardens of the said Church, for all services; and they pay as a fine 20 capons, price 6s. 8d."¹ This gift was made in the reign of Henry VI.

The *Church House* stood for many years, and becoming dilapidated, was removed within the present century, and the site used as an open space. It was then enclosed within the Church-yard, and finally consecrated in 1873, and incorporated into the Church-yard. The gate at the northern entrance was restored, and new stone pillars placed in 1871. This gate (near to which the Church-yard cross once stood) adjoins the house in which John Lock, the philosopher, was born, and an inscription to that effect is placed on it, but the date is wrongly given. The date of Lock's birth was 1632, and he was born when his father and mother were on a visit to Wrington, as

(1). See deed in parish chest, with copy and translation.

their residence was at Pensford, where his father had some property. There were other families, of that name, as an entry of *John*, son of *Jeremy* Lock and Elizabeth his wife, is found under the date of 1637, and this has been mistaken for the date of the philosopher's birth, whose father's name was *John*. The true date of his birth is given on his monument in the Church of High Laver, near Chipping Ongar, Essex, where he lies buried. The house in which he was born is now divided into two cottages, and the roof was lowered (about 1843) from its original pitch, but the rooms remain as formerly.¹

Passing into the Church-yard, which was levelled and put into order in 1875, we find at the south-east angle the burying place of Mrs. Hannah More and her four sisters ; who resided first at Cowslip Green, and afterwards at Barley Wood; now the property of W. H. Harford, Esq. There is an inscription on a marble monument to Mrs. Hannah More in the Church, over the south door, written by John Scandred Harford, Esq., of Blaize Castle. Her memory still survives in Wroughton, and her good works do follow her, in the benefit societies she originated, and the spirit of piety she awakened. The old people that knew Mrs. More are now fast passing away, but her life has been written by the late Rev. Henry Thompson, late Vicar of Chard, and by Mr. Roberts ; and a little book, called *Mendip Annals*, details the labours of herself and sisters in behalf of Schools among the Mendip Hills.²

The Church of Wroughton is dedicated to "All Saints." The chancel, the oldest portion, is of the Decorated period.

(1). There is a print of the house in the *Saturday Magazine* (1886).

(2). Mrs. Hannah More was the last of her family, and died in 1833, and the entry of her burial is given in the Wroughton Register under that date. The following is inserted in the Wroughton Register after the name of *Hannah More* :—

"The illustrious Christian and moral writer. Her body was met by the clergy and other gentry of the neighbourhood, and the children of the national schools, at Barley Wood, her former residence, and is deposited in a vault on the south side of the Church, near a yew tree, about 32 yards from the chancel door."

The Register is signed by T. T. Biddulph, Rector of St. James's, Bristol.

There are traces of an Early English nave, transformed now into a Perpendicular, with aisles and a clear-storey added. It consists of only four bays, and the side aisles project beyond the nave, so as to form two chapels—one on each side of the chancel, reaching to half of its length. The tower is Early Perpendicular, of a very beautiful type. It is mentioned particularly by Dr. Freeman, in each of his “Essays on Somersetshire Towers,” in the *Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society*.¹ He speaks of it as one of the “highest achievements of architectural genius,” and says that Wrington Church tower “may fairly claim the first place, and is therefore probably entitled to the designation of the finest square tower, not designed for a spire or lantern, in all England—and therefore, possibly, in the whole world.” The late Sir Charles Barry took the proportions of this tower as the model for the “Victoria Tower” for the Houses of Parliament, when they were rebuilt by him, after their destruction by fire, in 1835. This information I had from his son. The “Victoria Tower,” however, has not the elegance and lightness of structure which characterises the tower of Wrington. It is needless to enter into its different details; suffice it to say that the beauty grows upon you by careful examination; and like the Campanile of Giotto at Florence, you are never weary of contemplating its symmetry.

The height to the top of the tower, *i.e.*, from the ground to the battlement, is 99 feet; and from the top of the battlement to the top of the pinnacles is 14 feet 6 inches. It is built of Downside stone, taken from the quarry on Mr. Thatcher’s farm, but the date of its erection is not known. It evinces the science and skill of the architects connected with Glastonbury Abbey,² to which the Church then belonged.

(1). See *Proceedings* for 1851, p. 55.

(2). The Church clock in the tower, with the Cambridge chimes (composed by Handel for St. Mary’s Church, Cambridge), was placed there in 1870. The cost was £200, raised by subscription, chiefly by the effort of W. Long, Esq., of Westhay.

A beautiful rood-screen of carved oak extends the whole width of the Church, separating the chancel and two side chapels, in the northern of which the organ is placed. The organ once occupied the lower space of the tower, being placed there when the Church was restored, in 1859;¹ but was transferred in 1880 to its present position, when the instrument was enlarged and otherwise improved.

The rood-screen formerly supported a rood-loft, as may be seen by the brackets, still remaining attached to the pillars, and from the stair in the north wall leading to it, just beyond the screen.

The chancel is terminated by a stone reredos, the plan for which was given by Sir Charles Barry, and is executed in Caen stone. This was done during the incumbency of the late Rector, the Rev. I. Vane.

The font is Perpendicular, and the basin an octagonal bowl, supported by figures of angels, and is well known, from the models made of it in plaster, and sold by the vendors of plaster images. The exact date is not known. The pulpit, made of Caen stone, was the gift of the Rev. I. Vane, when the Church was restored,² in 1859, and so was also the east window, containing the figure of the "Good Shepherd," executed by Bell of Bristol. The stained windows placed in the chancel at the time of the restoration are by the same artist, and are the gifts of different parishioners. They are much inferior in execution to those which have since been inserted: one to the memory of Mr. Vane, Rector for forty-two years; one to W. H. Harford, Esq., of Barley Wood; one to John James, Esq., Solicitor, and the James family. Mr. James was for many years Churchwarden of Wrington, and greatly respected; he resided at Aubreys, just above the

(1). The organ was taken down in the incumbency of Mr. Crook, before 1649, and not replaced until 1859.

(2). The stoop or "Holy Water Basin" in the chancel was destroyed at the restoration, and the sculptures on the sides of the west door, containing a "Ring" and a "Tun"—a punning rebus on the name of the village.

village. There is a window in the chancel to the Leeves family, Mr. Leeves having been Rector of Wrington for forty-nine years; and a tablet to his memory is placed in the south porch. He died, A.D. 1828, and was succeeded by the Rev. I. Vane, who died in December, 1870.¹ The window to Mrs. Hannah More and her sisters, placed in the chancel in 1884, was by public subscription.

The history of the Rectors of Wrington, as far as it can be gathered, and the works carried out by each, as well as of the Rectory House, and other places, must be deferred to another occasion, as these particulars would prove too long for a single paper. Suffice it to say many interesting particulars have been preserved, and some well worthy of record. If another opportunity is allowed, and life is spared, they may form the subject of another paper.

(1). The Chapel of Ease at Redhill, built during Mr. Vane's incumbency, is a simple, plain structure, with a tower. The windows are lancet, and the font of stone. This Church provides for the north-east portion of the parish. The School was built in 1872, near to the Church. The stained windows in the chancel are gifts in memory of the Elton family. The chancel was improved in 1880, and the lecturn added in 1886.

APPENDIX.

Record by King Edward, at the request of Duke Ethelfrith, who had lost the original deed by fire, of a grant to the latter of land at Wrington, co. Somerset. With later additions.
A.D. 904.

WRINGTONE: CARTA EDDREDI REGIS DE WRINGTONE
DATA ECCLESIAE.

Regnante imperpetuum et mundi monarchiam gubernante altritoni patris sobolo qui celestia simul et terrena moderatur illius etenim incarnationis anno . D . C . C . CC . IIII^{to} . indictione vero sexta . contigit quod ETHELFRITHO duci omnes hereditarii libri ignis vastatione combusti perierunt . Tali igitur necessitate cogente predictus dux rogavit EDWARDUM regem et ELREDUM quoque et ETHELFLEDAM qui tunc principatum et potestatem

gentis Merceorum sub prædito rege tenuerunt omnes etiam senatores Merceorum ut ei consentirent et licentiam darent alios libros rescribendi .

Tunc illi unanimiter omnes devota mente concesserunt ut alii ei libri scriberentur eodem modo quo et priores scripti erant in quantum eos memoriter recordari potuisset . Si vero quoslibet recordari minime potuisset . tunc ei ista cartula in auxilio et affirmatione fieret . ut nullus eum contentiose cum aliis libris affligere voluisset nec propinquus nec alienus quamvis aliquis homo aliquem de vetustis libris protulerit quem prius fraudulenter vel hora ipsius incendii vel alio quolibet tempore per furtum abstraxisset . novimus namque quod omnia que in hoc mundo contigere solent aliquando citius aliquando tardius ex memoria mortalium delapsa deveniunt nisi in cedulis litterarum characteribus annotentur . quapropter in hac cartula innotescere ratum atque gratum satisque commodum duximus de illa videlicet terra . at . WRING[STONE] hujus quantitas est . viginti cassatorum .

Et hanc præfatam largitionem . ego EDRED rex et totus senatus Anglorum devoto animo Ethelfrizo duci in perpet[u]am hereditatem persolvimus ut nemo post nos percipientes sine indignatione Dei omnipotentis illam irritam faciat .

✠ Ego Athelret consensi et confirmavi .

✠ Ego Edward rex consensi et subscripsi .

Hii sunt termini prefati ruris a rege recuperati .

Erest on preosteselwe . of preosteselyn on . wrythwey . of Writhweie . of wryoheme on Egelescombe of Egelescombe on etecombe of etecombe on Wulfcombe . endelanges Wolfcombe midwardes þar on Stifcleie northward of þar leighe on wynter acres estward . þanen on Swynhage . þanen þoru atteleighe to farnhamme of farnhamme on histlyngdene estward . þare on þane Berghe of þan Berghe to likelan . of likelan to credelinghales of credelinghale on suwardynglegh estward to Wetheleighe brok and endelanges broke to merewollen . of merewollen on estmedewen of estmedewen on wilbicanhulle . of wilbicanhulle on the heghe rewe bi southensuddoñ . of þare hege rewe on mererigge of mererigge on hagenmedewe of hagenmedewe endelang stremes on wring to wringforde . of wringforde on þe heghe rewe est to schirebourne elm of þan elme on carstie on þa heghe rewe . eft endlang þare heghe rewe on wythescombe . of þan combe on brokenanbrugge of þar brugge to stanbrugge of stanbrugge to wetmedewen of wetmedewen to watercombe of watercombe to ethecombe of ethecombe to elkanleighe of elkanleigh to hilisbrok on þane holm þane endelanges thes

brokes eft in on wryng . þanen endlang wryng . eft on the mede westward þanen on preostwlwe .

Hanc prefatam hereditatem . Athelstan dux filius Etheredi conversus et factus monachus optulit secum ad monasterium Glastingensis illamque sibi largitus est Athelstan . Rex .

Patent Roll, 38th Henry VIII.

The King grants in consideration of the sum of £1,952 ls. 6¼d. paid into the Treasury of the Court of Augmentations by Henry Capell, Knt., to him and to his wife Anne, all the Manor of Wrington, etc., lately the property of Glastonbury Abbey, with the advowson of the Rectory and parish Church of Wrington and of the Chapel of Burington annexed thereto; all the woods, etc., containing 160½ acres (more or less), called Lyttlebarrow, Hurdacres, Kyngeswoode, Colecloff, Landgrewe, Prescover, Lyttleover, and Blakemore; all messuages, mills, etc., fisheries, etc., etc., all of which are now of the clear annual value of £102 16s. 6¼½d.; to be held by H. Capell, and his heirs, on the service of one-twentieth of a knight's fee and the annual payment to the Crown of £10 8s. 9d. Nov. 14.
