

Chilthorne Domer

THE parish of Chilthorne Domer three miles north-west of Yeovil anciently contained two distinct manors called respectively Chilthorne Domer, or Dummer, and Chilthorne Vagg, from the two families who were their lords. As the parish acquired its appellation from the first-named family who also possessed the advowson, it is probable theirs was the principal manor, and for this reason it is not unlikely that an interesting monument which still remains in the church was erected to commemorate one of the Dummers. The monument consists of a recumbent effigy raised very little above the floor and placed in a recess in the north wall, having a plain segmental arch with chamfered margin. The figure is habited in a complete suit of chain mail with gauntlets of the same, and a long flowing surcoat. The legs are crossed, and the knees are protected by *genouillières*, the head rests on a helmet. The right hand grasps the handle of a sword, whilst the left hand holds the *guige* by which a long heater-shaped shield is suspended from the shoulder.

This monument has the appearance of rather greater antiquity than the one at Penne Domer, and may have been erected in the time of Edward I. It is possible therefore it may commemorate Sir William de Dummer, the father of the knight at Penne Domer whose tomb has been more fully described. This, however, is purely conjectural. The heraldry which has been found so useful in the former case is wanting here, and we have no direct evidence to guide us. The Vaggs were a family of some consideration, but of less prominence than the Dummers.

The effigy at Chilthorne Domer is partly covered by a pew which almost conceals the head, and it is unfortunately in a most dirty and neglected condition.