

A Humble Hound

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Wigan Parish

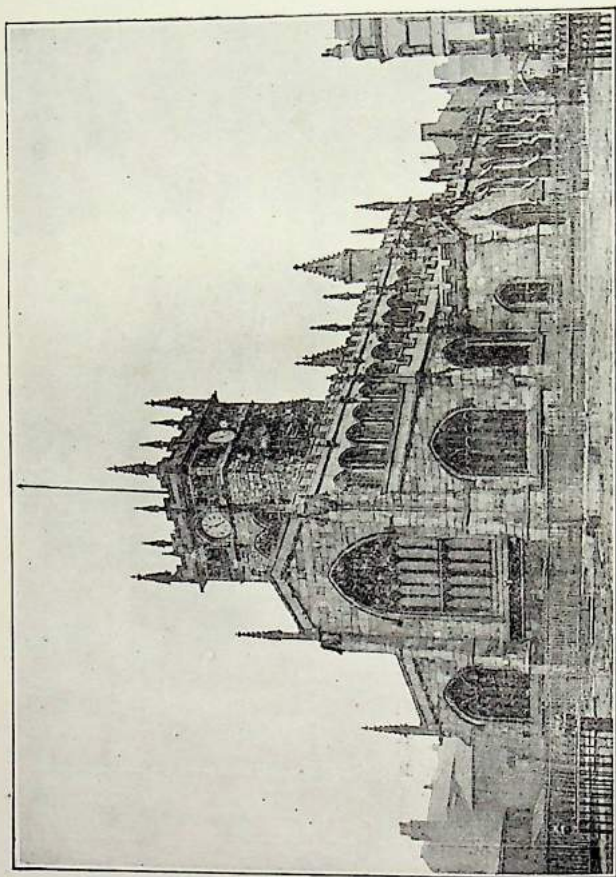
Church



Price 2/-

J. J. Bennett -
26 Richmond St.

Wagon



THE OLD CHURCH.

A
Ramble Round
THE
Wigan Parish Church.

COMPILED BY

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VERGER.

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(ASSISTANT PRIEST.)

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Dedicated by Permission
to the
Rev. R. G. Matthew, M.A.,
Rector of Wigan,
Rural Dean.

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PREFACE.



WHILE the Compiler makes no general claim to original research in the following pages, and is mainly indebted to the exhaustive History of the Church and Manor of Wigan, published privately for the Chetham Society, by the late Rector, the Rev. Canon the Hon. G. T. O. Bridgeman, yet he has in the course of his compilation stumbled upon several new and interesting facts connected with the old Church. Evidence has come to light during the recent repairs which both adds to the general interest and especially in the case of the (so called) Walmesley Chapel clears up some of the points previously left open.

Some quite new information about the Church Yard, and as complete a list of the Churchwardens as it has been possible to make, appear for the first time.

With these words of introduction he leaves his work to the kindly sympathy of those who love the old Church as well as he does.

The Editor would add that he has merely thrown into form and order the facts which have been so laboriously collected.

Both the Author and Editor wish to express their gratitude—in which they feel the reader will join—to Mrs. Graham for the kindness she has shown in providing such successful photos for the illustrations of the Church and its ornaments.

The Ramble.

AMONG the ancient ecclesiastical foundations in the County of Lancaster, the Parish Church of Wigan holds a prominent position.

There was a Church here in Saxon times, as we learn from the Survey of William the Conqueror. Probably from the fact that a heathen Roman altar is preserved in the bay of the window under the tower, the Church, as was often the case, was built upon the site of a temple or other notable place of heathen worship, and would so date back to the end of the Roman occupation of Britain in the fifth century.

Another interesting conjecture connects it with the time of S. Chad and the Heptarchy. Originally Wigan formed part of the diocese of Lichfield, where S. Chad was Bishop in 669, and a due of £20 (still paid by the Rector of Wigan) testifies to the ancient connection.

The earliest mention of the payment is from a record of Roger de Yealand, who states that thirty marks per annum were granted out of the endowments of the Church of Wigan by the nobleman, Sir Robert Banastre, patron of the same, and Mr. Richard Reet, of which ten marks was to be annually paid towards the sustentation of the fabric of the Cathedral, ten marks in bread for the poor, to be distributed by the Sacristan, and the residue for the use of the Sacristan. If at any time the See of Lichfield were to be vacant, the Arch-deacon of Chester had power to compel the payment of the said sum. This donation was attested and dated at Lichfield, VIth Ides of July, a° dni 1255.

In 1541, when the diocese of Chester was formed, the Parish of Wigan passed to this newer see, and when

the diocese of Liverpool was founded in 1880, it fell within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Bishop of Liverpool.

Such a conjecture as this, which takes us back to S. Chad, although possibly unsupported by any direct historical evidence, unless there be traces of a consecration cross of Celtic character in the tower, must remain only at present as a "pious opinion," but a "pious opinion" that is naturally dear to the heart of every Wigan Churchman.

The *Notitia Cestriensis*, published by the Chetham Society in 1850, adds another detail of old time interest. It records the discovery of the remains of a round Norman arch, probably belonging to a doorway and some column bases and cylindrical piers in the first pointed style of architecture. Two new fragments of similar work have been discovered during the late repairs.

We are on firmer historical grounds, when we come to the Rectors and patrons of the old Church.

Canon Bridgeman says: "It is probable that in Saxon times the Manor of Wigan, with the extensive district or hundred of Newton, was held by the parsons in chieftly, and that after the conquest a Mesne lord was interposed between the parson and the great Earl, Roger de Poitou, to whom the King gave the land between the Ribble and the Mersey.

"The various manors in this territory were subinfeuded by him to the several Norman barons, and Wigan being part of the barony of Newton or Makerfield, was held by the parsons under the lords of that fee, who assumed the patronage of the Church. According to Baines, who quotes from the Kenion's MS., the first of them was Warin Banastre, who held under Roger de Poitou; but the statement is not supported by evidence, and it is very doubtful whether such a person ever

existed. It is on record, however, that Robert, son of Robert Banastre, held the fee in the time of Henry II., that Henry de Laci, who flourished in the reign of Stephen and Henry II., granted to him Walatun (Walton-de-Dalle) cum pertinentiis Melder (Mellor) et Heccleshul (Eccleshill) et Harewuda (Little Harwood) et duas Derewentas (Over and Lower Darwen) pro servitio unius militis; that his father, Robert Banastre, came into England at the Conquest and held many lands, amongst others Prestatyn in that part of North Wales, called Englefield; that the tower, which his son Robert Banastre built there, was destroyed when Owen Gwynedd, prince of North Wales, recovered that country from the English in 1167, and that Robert Banastre at that time brought all his people into Lancashire, where, in the time of Edward I. they were still called "las Westroys." This last Robert Banastre had three sons, Richard, who died without issue before 1204. Warin, who married Sarah —, but died without issue, and Thurstan, who finally succeeded. Thurstan Banastre in 1213, 15 John, gave five hundred marks to the King to have an inquisition, whether the land of Makerfield should descend to him on the part of Robert, his father, and Warin, his brother. He married Cecilia —, and died in 1218 or 1219, leaving a son Robert, who succeeded him, and probably another son, Thurstan, the ancestors of the Banastres of the Bank, to whom his brother gave his lands in Newton, in the hundred of Wirrall, Cheshire.

"Robert Banastre was one year old at the time of his father's death. Philip de Orreby, justice of Chester, made a fine of five hundred marks to have the wardship and marriage of this Robert Banastre, which Robert died before the 27th February, 1242, having married Clementina — (who survived him). He had two sons, John, who died in his infancy, about 26 Henry III., and Robert, who succeeded him. Robert Banastre, the fourth of that name and fourth in descent from the first Robert

Banastre, who came into England at the Conquest, had a charter of fee warren in Walton and Newton, in 41 Henry III. (1256-7), and in the following year he obtained a grant for a market and feus in his Manor of Newton. He claimed Prestatyn in 6 Edward I., and in his petition to the King in Parliament, he gives his descent with an account of his family. By deed, dated 13th August, 11 Edward I. (1283) calling himself Sir Robert Banastre, Knight, he gives to the Abbott and Convent called "Locus Benedictus," of Stanlawe, ten acres of land in his Manor of Walton. He was living in 13 Edward I., and died before 21 Edward I. He married Alice, daughter of Gilbert Woodcock, and had with her a daughter, Clementina, married to William de Lea (to whom he gave in frank marriage the Manor of Mollington Banastre, in Cheshire). A son, James Banastre, who married Elena, daughter of William le Botiles, Baron of Warrington, and dying in his father's lifetime left a daughter and heir Alice, who succeeded to her grandfather's estates in 20 Edward I. This Alice Banastre was in ward to Sir John Byrom and espoused to his son John. She was then stated to be under age, and being at that time very young the marriage was probably not consummated, for shortly after this date she was given in marriage to John de Langton, son of Robert de Langton, of West Langton, in the County of Leicester, and brother of John de Langton, Bishop of Chichester and Chancellor in the reigns of Edward I. and Edward II. In 29 Edward I. John de Langton, on the application of his brother, the Chancellor, had a charter for markets, fairs, and feus warren in his Manor of Newton and Walton le Dale, and of free warren in Lowton and Goldborne. Alice was alive in 32 Edward I., as is shewn by a fine levied of the Manor of Walton and Newton, and of the advowson of Wigan, in that year being a settlement of the heirs of John and Alice, with remainder to the right heirs of Alice; but she died before 3 Edward II. Her husband was still alive in 18 Edward II.

This son, Robert de Langton, who had licence to embattle his mansion of Newton-in-Mackerfield in 1341, presented his brother John, or Ivo de Langton, to the Church of Wigan in 1344, and again in 1359 Richard de Langton, probably his son, was instituted to the benefice on his presentation, though the right of patronage had been challenged in the meantime by King Edward III., who presented his clerk, John de Winwick, in 1350. Sir Robert de Langton died in 1361. His eldest son, John de Langton, predeceased him, leaving an eldest son Ralph, who should have been heir to his grandfather, but Sir Robert de Langton divided his estates between him and his own youngest son, Robert de Langton. Robert inherited the Manors of Hindley, in Lancashire, Hendon, in Middlesex, and the parental estates in Leicestershire; while Ralph de Langton, the heir of the line, retained the Barony of Newton, with the advowson of Wigan Church and the Manor of Walton-le-Dale, which last became the chief seat of the family until it was passed away to the Hoghtons by the last Sir Thomas Langton, who died in 1605. The direct descendant of Ralph de Langton, in the male line, Barons of Newton, retained the advowson of Wigan Church for upwards of three hundred years, until the death of Thomas Langton in 1605, when it passed with the remnant of the Langton inheritance to Sir Richard Fleetwood, of Calwich, under a settlement made by the last Sir Thomas's grandfather, Sir Thomas Langton. This last mentioned Sir Thomas Langton, who died in 1569, settled it on failure of the issue male of his first marriage on the issue of his eldest daughter, Jobanna or Joan, wife of John Fleetwood, of Penwortham, whose grandson, Richard, the first Baronet of that family, succeeded his cousin, Sir Thomas Langton, as heir of entail, under the above mentioned settlement, which was made in 1558. Joan Fleetwood was the daughter of Sir Thomas Langton, by his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edward Stanley, Lord Monteagle and sister of

Thomas Stanley, Bishop of Man and Rector of Wigan from 1558—1569. Sir Thomas married secondly Anne, daug. of Thomas Talbot, a younger brother of John Talbot, of Salebury, by whom he had issue, but the issue of the marriage was carefully excluded (by his settlement from succeeding to the inheritance. He was succeeded by his grandson, Thomas Langton, son of his son Leonard, who predeceased him, on whose death without issue Fleetwood obtained all that remained of the inheritance. The advowson of Wigan passed from the Fleetwoods to Sir John Hotham, and from Hotham . . . to Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Knight and Baronet, lord keeper of the great seal, with whose descendant and representative, the Earl of Bradford, it still remains."

The actual date of the earliest Rector, whose name is known, is 1199. This was Ranulf, the Treasurer of Salisbury.

A full list of the Rectors from that day to this is elsewhere appended, but it is here convenient to mention some of the most distinguished.

Parson Maunsell was Rector from 1242—1265. He was the celebrated military Churchman of Henry III.'s time, and saw active service in the King's wars in France. For a great many years he was Henry's chief councillor, and at one time directed his financial affairs as the first Chancellor of the Exchequer. He afterwards became the lord keeper of the Great Seal. Wigan obtained its first charter of freedom through his influence.

John de Winwick, Rector from 1350—1359, was a favourite of Edward III., from whom he received a confirmatory charter, extending the privileges formerly granted by Henry to Maunsell on behalf of the town of Wigan. At the time of his death he also appears to have been lord keeper of the Great Seal.



REV. R. G. MATTHEW.
PRESENT RECTOR.

Thomas Linaere, M.D., was Rector (1519—1524) during the reign of Henry VIII. He did much for the study of both Latin and Greek in the Universities, and was a scholar of considerable attainments himself. His most notable achievement was the rescue of the art of medicine from the charlatany into which it had fallen. Indeed, he may be said to be the founder of the modern healing science.

John Pearson, who held the Rectory of Wigan with the See of Chester from 1673—1686, when Charles II. was King, was the author of the well-known work on the Creed, which, to this day, serves as a text book for theologians.

The connection of the Church with the old families of Lancashire is shown by the existence of three Chantries or private family Chapels, of which the Gerard, or Walmesley, as it is variously called, together with the Tower, forms the oldest part of the Church now standing. The other two are the Chantry at the Altar of Our Lady, now called the Bradshaigh Chapel, and the Leigh Chapel, where the organ now stands.

Each of these Chantries has a history of its own. Little, however, is known of the Leigh Chapel. Its foundation is uncertain, but it was restored in 1620, with the rest of the Church. In 1682 it was handed over to the Rector and Wardens to be used as a vestry by Richard Leigh, of Lyme. In consideration of his gift he was allowed to erect a gallery between the Tower and the Gerard Chapel in the north aisle, which was taken down at the restoration in 1849. At this time the Chapel was opened up again to the Church and is now used as the organ chamber.

The Bradshaigh Chapel was founded by Dame Mabel, the widow of Sir William Bradshaigh, Knight, on the morrow of S. James the Apostle, 1338, and forms the south aisle of the chancel.

This Chantry was suppressed during the reign of Henry VIII., and its revenues seized by the King. A pension was reserved to the Priest for the term of his life. It seems to have been sadly neglected after its suppression, and was in a ruinous condition in 1620, as Bishop Bridgeman says, when he set to work to rebuild the Chancel.

It was restored in 1719 by Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Bart. The vault under the Chapel, which had been used as a family burying place, was demolished in 1849, and the present columbarium was made.

A recumbent figure of Sir William Bradshaigh and Mabel, his wife, occupies the place where the old Altar of Our Lady stood. This is Dame Mabel, the foundress of the Chapel. She was the daughter of Hugh de Norreys, Lord of Haigh and Blackrod. Roby gives the following romantic account in his genealogical roll of the Bradshaighs, which was drawn up in 1647, and is now in the possession of the Earl of Crawford.

“Sir Will^m Bradshaigh, second son of Sir John Bradshaigh, of Bradshaigh, was a great traveller and a soldier, and married to Mabell, daughter and sole heiress of Hugh de Norreys de Haigh and Blackrod. Of this Mabel is a story by tradition of undoubted veracitie, that in Sir Will^m Bradshaigh's absence (being ten years away in the holy wars) she married a Welsh Knight. Sir Will^m returning from the wars came in a Palmer's habit among the poor of Haghe, whom when she saw and conjecturing that he favoured her former husband wept, for which the Knight chastised her. At which Sir Will^m went and made himself known to his tenants, in which space the Knight fled, but near to Newton Park Sir Will^m overtook him and slew him. The same Dame Mabell was enjoined by her confessor to do penance, by going once every week, barefoot and bare-legged, to a cross near Wigan (of which the remains are

to be seen in Standishgate) from the Haghe, where she lived, and it is called Mab's Cross to this day." Sir William was outlawed during the space of a year and a day for the offence, but he and his lady, it is said, lived happily together afterwards.

Roby, also writing in 1829, says that the effigies on the tomb then existed, but as rude and unshapely masses; time and whitewash, the two great destroyers of our monumental relics, having almost obliterated their form.

Since Roby's time the monument has been restored, or more correctly speaking, one of the old mutilated figures has been rechiselled and repaired, and the remains of the other have been encased within an altar tomb, on which a new figure of the Knight has been placed by the side of his lady, and the story is sculptured in bas relief upon the sides.

No doubt this tomb is familiar to readers of Sir Walter Scott, for it is illustrated in his novel, "The Betrothed," of which the plot is the romance of Dame Mab and her penance. Sir Walter also adds that the whole history was pourtrayed within the memory of man upon a glass window in Haigh Hall, which unfortunately has not been preserved.

The Gerard or Walmesley Chapel is one of the most interesting parts of the old Church, because it was not touched at the restoration in 1849, and until the late repairs remained unaltered. It is in the possession of Humphrey Walmesley, Esq., of Westwood House, as successor to the Gerards of Ince, who has lately restored it by removing the old box seats, levelling and tiling the floor, and erecting an iron screen by Hardman and Powell, with a scutcheon of his family arms.

Its style is debased early English, and the narrow lights of one of its windows contains some fragments of old glass.

Its date is a matter of some dispute. The late Rector says that it was probably built at the same time as the Chancel was built by Bishop Bridgeman. This would give the date 1619 or 1620. He conjectured that it was raised upon the site of an earlier chantry. The late repairs have made this quite certain. For it is apparent that there was a floor at the lower level still than the floor of 1620. Remains of whitewashing have been discovered on the walls beneath it, while an interesting find was made of an hammered Elizabethan sixpence of the date 1571, her first issue.

More conclusive evidence still is an entry in the burial register of one "Miles Garrat (Gerard) of Ince, Esquire," who "was buried att Wiggan in his own Chancel, the 28th day of Sept., 1615."

An earlier date than 1620 agrees better with the style of architecture.

The present Church is late perpendicular and is supposed to be a faithful copy of the Church which stood before the restoration of 1849, probably that is what remained of the old fourteenth century Church.

This is the earliest account we have of any work done to the Church. Between the years 1619 and 1620 Bishop Bridgeman of Chester and Rector of Wigan had the Chancel restored, which was in ruins and open to the grave yard. Probably the two side Chapels, forming the north and south aisles of the Chancel, belonging to Sir Peter Leigh and Mr. Bradshaigh, were in like condition and were being restored at the same time as the Chancel; for Bishop Bridgeman says that he had some painted glass for the great east window, but could not put it in for fear of getting it broken, as the two side Chapels were not finished at the time the Chancel was. Certainly it was not until February, 1624—5, that the Bishop set to work to paint, wainscot, and seat the

restored Chancel (called the Bishop's Chancel). From this it may be inferred that the Bradshaigh and Leigh Chapels were either finished at this time or temporarily screened off from the Church.

Before the restoration of the upper or Bishop's Chancel, the altar stood in the midst of what was called the old Chancel, which formed the east end of the nave, and the choir seats were round about it, while the organ was built above, where, in old times, the Rood stood. In the north turret, at the present day, distinct traces may be seen of the old doorway, which led to the Rood.

In 1622 Bishop Bridgeman ordered all the old seats in the body of the Church, from the old Chancel downwards, to be removed, in order to make them uniform. Parson Fleetwood had formerly caused plain forms to be put in the body of the Church. They were framed from "the old timber which was taken from the Rood Loft and some other timber."

But divers townsmen and others began afterwards to set up other fashioned seats over their pretended burial places, and every one was of a different pattern, which so deformed the Church that the Bishop insisted upon them being taken out. Notwithstanding the people's promises nothing was done, whereupon the Bishop engaged John Wigan, of Leigh, carpenter, who had made his Chancel roof, and others to buy timber in Standish Wood, and set them about the work, and for the first six seats in the Nave, next below the old Chancel, he paid John Wigan four pounds, and for the rest agreed with them to pay ten shillings for every single seat. John Ince, of Ince, Robert Molyneux, of Hawkley, Robert Mawdsley, and others promised to repay the money for the cost of those seats, which are set over the places where their ancestors lie buried; if they did not, he intended to bestow them upon others. Apparently they never paid. For Bishop Bridgeman found that

none of the parishioners had any right to any seats, although they had begun to challenge a right; but, it appears, by the oaths of divers old men, that within the memory of man there were few, if any, seats in the Church at all.

In 1719 Sir Roger Bradshaigh restored his Chapel, as has been said.

In 1733 the roof of the Church was repaired and put in good condition, while new timber was substituted where any was decayed.

A new clock, made by Peter Tiernley, which had four faces, was put into the Tower in 1788.

In 1810 the lead roof of the Chancel was stripped and the timber examined and found perfectly sound, and the same year the whole of the Church walls were examined. There was then no appearance of danger and all was in safe condition, but on a Sabbath day (Sunday) in 1813, during Divine Service, some plaster fell from the roof of the Church and gave great alarm. Rector George Bridgeman therefore had the Chancel walls and roof re-examined by an architect, who again pronounced them in a safe condition, but for greater satisfaction for the congregation he had the walls secured with iron bars and the Chancel newly roofed with oak and covered with lead.

However this may have been, a few years later the most thorough restoration of the whole Church was carried out. It began in 1846, when Rector Gunning restored the Chancel, and three years later the efforts of the Hon. Colin Lindsay were directed to the fabric of the whole.

The rebuilding was mainly on the lines of the old Church, although it is said that the walls were entirely taken down. They were doubtless much thicker than they are at present, and wonderful stories are extant to

the effect that it required charges of gunpowder to remove them, so well and truly were they built.

With the exception of the great east and west windows, which were a debased decorated style, all the windows were similar to those now in the Walmesley Chapel. These were all removed and the modern perpendicular substituted.

All the galleries which had been put in during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were also happily removed. The old roof was found mostly to be quite sound, and where it was decayed new timber was inserted, while care was taken to preserve the old pattern. The stones of the columns are the old fourteenth century ones, rechiselled, but the capitals are new. The oak of the galleries was probably used as floor joists, as some of those now existing are of that wood and of the same pattern as the roof. Some even of the old foundations remain untouched.

Canon Bridgeman states that it was impossible to say if any of the stones in the present Church formed part of the original structure or not, but when the plaster lately fell away from the Baptistry walls it showed that there was a great number used in the inside walls. Some of them are of the same red sandstone as is used in the Tower, and others of a similar stone to the pillars in the Church. These are probably part of stones of the old Church, and all show unmistakable marks of white-wash.

In connection with this the copious notes of Mr. Richard Burland, of Poolstock, who contracted for part of the work, are interesting. He says that a number of carved stones were found built into the old structure, indicating the existence of former buildings of certain dates, as early as the Norman period.

The angels composed of terra-cotta on the corbels

supporting the roof were substituted for angels of carved oak, which stood there before the restoration. It is said that some of the original figures are still in existence in the town, and the compiler has lately seen one, which was supposed to have been carried away by one of the ringers at the time. It seems a great pity that they were not retained in the Church, for the one seen, if genuine, appears to be of really ancient workmanship and is in a good state of preservation.

The present clergy vestry was added upon the site of a building, which was known as the bone house and lumber room.

But the most notable improvement must have been in the removal of the unsightly galleries, which has been mentioned.

One gallery ran the whole length of the south aisle up to the Bradshaigh Chapel, and was approached by a flight of stairs at the west end, and by another flight at the east end for the Earl of Crawford's pew, which occupied the eastern portion of the gallery.

The organ was situated in a gallery, placed under the Chancel arch, while the arch itself was cut away to make room for it. It completely obstructed the view of the Chancel from the Nave, as the passage under the organ was not more than twelve feet high. The organ and singers' gallery, in which it stood, were approached from the north turret.

There was a gallery at the west end of the Church, which was occupied by the Mayor and Corporation, and next to it on the north west end of the Church was another gallery for the use of strangers, built by Peter Shackerley, as an inscription in front of it declared.

Besides the one already noted for the use of the Leigh family, there was another in the arch of the Tower,

looking into the Church, which was used by the Bellingers, and approached from the belfry.

The history of the Mayor's gallery is so remarkable that it deserves special mention.

In the Rebellion of 1680, the organ, which was situated in the Rood loft, was pulled down and a gallery with seats for the Mayor, Aldermen, and Corporation was erected by the licence, permission, and consent of the Rev. Father in God, John, Bishop of Chester and Rector of Wigan, to continue only till such time as the parishioners should think fit to promote so good a work as the building or restoring the organ.

In 1707 one Richard Welles, gentleman, who had been a most generous benefactor to the Church, died and left provision in his will for the building of a new organ. This bequest caused a serious dispute. The Rector, the Hon. Edward Finch, son of the Earl of Nottingham, and the Churchwardens in 1709 set about the work of the new organ. This met with considerable opposition from the Protestant sentiment of the day, and the Corporation, backed by Sir Roger Bradshaigh, afraid of losing their seats in the organ gallery, voiced the opposition. They actually indicted the workmen engaged to carry out the work. On the third of February, 1709-1710, an indignation vestry meeting was held to support the Rector and Churchwardens, when the following resolution, signed by 327 persons, ending with the Churchwardens, William Holland and William Taylor, was passed: "At a vestry meeting it is this day agreed and ordered at a parish meeting, that the thanks of the parish be returned to ye Hon. and Rev. Mr. Edw. Finch, our Rector, for ye great trouble he hath undergone and the favour he hath shewd us in endeavouring to procure a good organ for our Church, and the preparations he hath already made to set it up in a proper place. We are very sorry yt some persons have used their endeavours to obstruct so good a

work and given him so much groundless trouble by enditing the workmen he employed and making use of many names in our parish, pretending the greater part of it to be of the same opinion for a foundation for instituting a suit in the Bishop's Court to put a stop to the work, and we do hereby disclaim every such act and deed, and heartily entreat our said Rector to continue his kindness to us, to cause the organ left us by the will of Mr. Welles to be set up as soon as may be, and we agree that this order be entered in our parish book, there to remain as a testimony of our earnest desires to have the worship of God performed in our Church with all due decency and for a grateful memory of our obligations to our Hon. Rector for the great trouble and charge he hath undergone to the completion and setting up the organ."

Despite this expression of parochial opinion, the Corporation went to law, but lost their suit and were cast in one hundred pounds damages. The ill-feeling unhappily caused Rector Finch to resign.

The result of it was, as we learn in a letter from Mr. Henry Prescott, the Vicar General and Official Principal to Bishop Gastrell, then at Oxford, dated November 9th, 1717, that the Corporation either sat promiscuously in the Church or absented themselves altogether from its services.

However, Mr. Shackerley, who had been member of Parliament and was then an alderman of the borough, came to the rescue at this time. With an eye to future representation he offered to build or buy a proper seat for the Corporation. This he did, and was given the west gallery, which was over the present Mayor's gallery. Mr. Shackerley's proposal suited the Church admirably. The west gallery had been set aside to provide a stipend for the organist, but had not come up to expectations. Mr. Shackerley's offer was accepted upon payment of a

sufficient sum for that purpose. The new seats were built of oak and designed to hold eighty persons. Mr. Shackley evidently found that he had done the right thing, for shortly afterwards he was returned to Parliament. This gallery was of course pulled down with the rest in 1849, and the present so-called Mayor's gallery, which is not a gallery at all, took its place.

Although the work of restoration had seemed to have been done so thoroughly and effectively in 1849, manifest signs made it clear during the past four years that something must be done and quickly done, if the old Church was to remain standing worthily of the high place which it holds among the Churches of Lancashire. An examination, by experts, revealed a great deal to be repaired. The stones were fast decaying, much of the old timber was rotten, the leadwork of the windows utterly worn out.

Four years ago the work was taken in hand. About eight hundred pounds was generously subscribed, and the whole of the exterior of the Church was re-pointed, new stone inserted to take the place of the old decay, all the pinnacles taken down and reset and dowed with copper in place of the iron, which had previously been used and which had corroded and split the stone. A new slate roof was put on the vestry, all the clerestory windows re-made, and the whole of the walls were given three coats of sizerelmy to arrest the progress of decay. The porch was cleaned, the stone bishops replaced, and the windows filled with glass.

Quite as imperative were internal repairs, and under the superintendence of Messrs. Heaton and Ralph the work has been most thoroughly done. Messrs. Winnards took the contract. The Parish Magazine gives the following account of what has been done: "New tiles have been laid in the nave passage and in the passage between the north and south doors. The whole of the

stone work has been cleaned and re-pointed. The gaps in the timbers of the roof have been filled with strips of wood. The plaster was loose in many places, and, where necessary, it has been cut out and replaced. In the Baptistry, where it was very bad, it has been covered with an oak panelling. The vestry roof has been covered with fresh slates. Finally, the Church has been painted. The Walmesley Chapel has been cleared of the old seats, the floor has been tiled in black and white, and handsome wrought-iron screens have been placed in the arches. This has been done at the expense of Mr. H. J. Walmesley, as the Bradshaigh Chapel has been at the expense of Lord Crawford and the Chancel of the Rector." It should be added to this that a great improvement has been effected by the stripping of the plaster and paint of the Tower and Walmesley Chapel arches, as well as the doorways, window mullions, and mantelpiece of the vestry, so laying bare the old red and grey sandstone. The divisions of the seats between the nave and the aisles have been cut away and the whole re-varnished or oiled.

The opportunity has been taken of re-building the organ. This has been carried out by Messrs. Norman and Beard.

These repairs have cost over three thousand pounds, a large amount of which has been raised by a monstre bazaar, in which a vast number of people were engaged, and which was supported with generous and self-sacrificing sympathy.

Throughout all these repairs and restorations, the old Tower has been untouched. Indeed, with the two turrets at the north and south of the Chancel arch, of which the north is practically intact, it alone survives of the original buildings. All these are built of red sandstone.

The Tower is immensely substantial. Its walls,

as is evident from the passage between the Clergy and Choir vestry which cuts them, are about seven feet thick. Its base is unusually large, and its height is about one hundred feet from the ground to the battlements.

Its age is difficult to determine, but it may safely be assigned to the late Norman period. What makes it more difficult to estimate is the fact that the old string course is much decayed, and a considerable portion of the old stonework has been at some time encased with cement in order to preserve the red sandstone from perishing.

The lower window of the west wall of the Tower, which was once an external wall, gives us a more exact date, because it preserves the early English character. It had been blocked up probably when the Gerard Chapel was built, was opened out again at the time of the Restoration in 1849. This and the four two-light windows in the middle of the Tower are probably fourteenth century work.

No doubt it was often used by the townsfolk of Wigan as a fortress, and marks of cannon balls may still be seen.

The late Rector quotes the following: "During the Civil Wars the Tower was held by sharpshooters after the rest of the town had been taken by Colonel Ashton, and it is said they kept up an incessant fire by which more were killed than had fallen during the taking of the town by Cromwell's soldiers. In the end, however, they deemed it prudent to surrender on a threat of Colonel Roseworm to blow up the Church."

The Tower was raised to hold the clock in the restoration of 1849. New dials were put into the clock in 1900, when some surprising measurements were made. The diameter of the face is seven feet one inch, and the length of the minute hand is nearly four feet. The clock is lighted by gas and is under control of the Corporation.

The two turrets are part of the original building. The north in particular is practically untouched. Both contain stone spiral staircases. The doorway which led to the Rood may still be seen. Another doorway may also be seen at the top, which upon careful measurement proves to be on a level with the sills of the clerestory windows. This tempts one to suspect that there may have been a triforium in the old Norman Church.

So much, then, for the general history of the Church. Fuller details will become apparent as we proceed round the building.

To start with the Churchyard.

The ancient Churchyard lay on the north and south sides of the Church. The part known as the new burial ground to the west of the Church was added about one hundred years ago. There appears to have been a sunk fence running along the west end of the Church at a few yards' distance. It was lately discovered on the opening of a vault, of which it formed one end. Probably it was filled up when the new burial ground was added to the Churchyard. The ancient burial ground on the north side of the Church seems also to have been filled up; for some years ago, while workmen were engaged in laying down a gas pipe a few feet below the surface, they came across other slabs of stone laid flat. There are a few interesting inscriptions which are worth quoting.

The late Rector quotes from Rawlinson's MSS. the following epitaph, which has since disappeared :

This monument
 Sacred to Honesty and the memory
 of WILLIAM WOOD
 Alderman
 Some time Mayor of this
 corporation
 gentleman
 Orthodox in principle
 Steady in allegiance
 Trusty in magistracy
 and to his Friend
 (maugre little artifices)
 invincibly faithfull
 Underneath him lies here interred
 his dearest comfort [consort ?]
 Mrs Susannah Wood
 a Pious Pair
 united in the same loves
 and the same interests
 ascertained of
 a Blessed Resurrection.
 She died November 30th } 1703.
 He December 27th

In the north-east boundary wall of the old burial ground is a tablet with the following :

WILLIAM BOLTON, JOHN RIGBY, CHURCHWARDENS,
 1768.

In the south boundary wall is another tablet.

THIS WALL WAS FINISHED BY ... IS ... : CH : WA :
 ANNO 1686.

Possibly this stands for Henry ffisher, Churchwarden, who filled the office during part of this year.

On the iron arch (modern) over the entrance to the Churchyard from the Old Market Place may be read.

JAMES BULLOCK }
 JOHN RANSOM } CHURCHWARDENS, A.D. 1824.

Cut into the stone curb, south-east of the old Churchyard is :

THIS STONE CURB AND RAILING BELONG TO THE
 RECTOR AND CHURCHWARDENS. 1888.

There were formerly three gates into the Churchyard, one at the Bishopgate entrance, one from Wallgate, and the third from the Old Market Place. All the gates were locked after the curfew bell, which was rung at eight every evening, was afterwards changed to half-past ten, and a few years ago discontinued. They were re-opened in the morning at a quarter to six. A bell was also rung in the morning at half-past five.

The centre of the old south burial ground has been enclosed with iron railings. By a happy coincidence this enclosure has taken the form of a heart, as may easily be seen from the top of the tower.

In this enclosure is a fine, though quite modern Celtic cross, which marks the vault of the Thicknesse family, and just to the left of the Bradshaigh Chapel door is a really ancient cross, which dates back to 1320.

There have been exciting scenes in the old Churchyard, and one in particular is worth noting.

Oliver de Langton was Rector in 1451. It was during his time that a celebrated brawl took place in the Churchyard, as we learn from a letter dated March 15th, 1457-8, of Reginald Boller, Bishop of Lichfield. He issued a commission to Ralph Duckworth, S.T.P. Vicar of Prescote, and Sir Edward ffarington, Rector of Hall-sall, to enquire into the facts of a supposed fight. He



NAVE AND CHANCEL.

tells them that since he had heard that the cemetery of the Parish Church of Wigan, in his diocese, had been notoriously polluted by violence and the unlawful shedding of human blood, he had interdicted it from ecclesiastical sepulture until full reconciliation should have been made, and desired them to hold a legal inquiry as to the person by whom it has been polluted, and who had been the cause or occasion of it, and return to him a faithful report of the matter. No record of such a return has, however, been found.

If you enter the Church by the south-west door you pass through the restored porch. On each side of the archway is the figure of a bishop in full canonicals, and over the great oak door is a canopied effigy of Our Lord as the Good Shepherd, with an inscription in gilt lettering:—"I am the way, the truth, and the life."

An iron lamp of specially graceful design hangs in the porch.

Inside the Church immediately over the door is a large piece of old tapestry, somewhat faded, but otherwise in good preservation. It represents the story of Ananias and Sapphira. Once it hung over the altar as part of the reredos. In 1849 it was put away and forgotten, but of late years it has been brought to light again, framed and hung up over the south-west door, where it may now be seen.

On your left hand is the Baptistery, with brass rails of a fine twisted design. Round the two walls is some new oak panelling, which was made by Mr. Butler Holmes, from a design by Mr. Ralph, and worked by a local artist. The other side of the Baptistery is formed by the Mayor's Gallery.

There are two windows in the Baptistery. On the south wall is one by Lavers and Barraud. It was put in in 1866 by the Rev. F. H. Thicknesse, then Vicar of

Deane, the present Suffragan Bishop of Leicester, in remembrance of Ralph Thicknesse, Esq., M.P., his father-in-law, of Beech Hill, Wigan, and other members of his family, who are interred in the Churchyard.

The window consists of four lights, descriptive of eight occasions on which angels appeared as ministering spirits. In the upper part of the first light is Elijah under the juniper tree, with the words, "An angel touched him and said, Arise and eat." Below is Manoah's sacrifice and the words, "And the Angel of the Lord ascended in the flame."

In the second light are the Pool of Bethesda with "An angel went down into the pool," and the appearance to the Shepherds at Bethlehem, with "Fear not, behold I bring you good tidings."

The third light contains the appearance to the Apostles at the Ascension of Our Blessed Lord and the words, "Behold two men stood by in white," and the Agony in the Garden and "There appeared an angel unto him from heaven."

In the fourth light are S. Peter's miraculous release from prison and the words, "Forthwith the angel departed from him," and the appearance to S. Paul during his voyage to Rome, with "There stood by me this night the Angel of God."

Above in the tracery of the window are figures of angels.

The window in the west wall of the Baptistery is by Wailes, and was put up shortly before the restoration in 1849 by the Rev. John Lingham, one of the curates at the Parish Church, and others. It contains the symbols of the four Evangelists. In the centre is a representation of the baptism of Our Lord, with the text, "Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter

into the Kingdom of God." Below is a shield with the arms of Sir Henry J. Gunning, Bart., Rector, impaling ermine a fesse between three fireballs argent, two fired (for Cartwright).

There are two mural monuments in the Baptistery. The first on the south wall is

Sacred

To the memory of

RALPH ANTHONY THICKNESSE

Some years a member for this town

Who died at Harrogate, August 22, 1854

Aged 54,

In the midst of a life of extended usefulness
Earnestly desiring to promote the love of God
And the good of his fellow creatures.

He was suddenly cut off

The last of his name and race, having followed
His only son to an untimely grave
But a few months before.

He died in a humble but clear and firm hope
Through the merits of his Saviour
Of a blessed immortality.

The sorrowing wife and daughter by faith in the
same Jesus, trust one day to rejoin those
so dearly loved, so early lost, yet
Not lost but gone before.

The second on the west wall is of marble, and dedicated to the memory of

RALPH THICKNESSE AND THOMAS WOODCOCK

The one twenty, the other nineteen years of age

By the upsetting of a boat on Windermere
xij September MDCCCLIII.

a monument more euphemistic than grammatical.

In the centre of the Baptistery is the Font, designed by Mr. Carpenter, architect, and sculptured by Mr. Thomas, sculptor to the New Palace, Westminster. It

was presented to the Church by the Misses Kenyon, of Swinley, Wigan, in 1844.

It is made of Caen stone, and is very badly worn. On the sides are carved the symbols of the four Evangelists and the instruments of the Passion.

The Font has an elaborate oak cover of perpendicular design.

It took the place of an old Font, which may be described of classic design, and is to be seen in St. George's Church, where it is now in use. This was put into the Church probably in Bishop Stratford's time (1689-1717).

In 1849 there were also the remains of an earlier Font of Norman pattern, which is now in the Hall. Its ruinous condition entirely unfits it for use.

Passing by the Baptistery we come to the Mayor's Gallery, of which the history has already been briefly sketched. The panelling and the elaborate Chair for his Worship are of oak, which is sometimes well and curiously carved. The arms of England, Wigan, and the See of Chester surmount it.

Above the Mayor's Gallery is the great West Window, by Wailes, which was put in in 1849.

It contains figures of the twelve Apostles, the four Western and four Eastern Doctors of the Church, and four Bishops, representing the ancient British Church and the Church of England in the Saxon, Norman, and post-Reformation periods of its history.

North of the Mayor's gallery is the Strangers' gallery, so called from a gallery which stood over the present one before the restoration in 1849. Nothing further is known of its origin or history. It contains one of the best windows in the Church.

On the west wall is a Jesse window by Clayton and Bell. It was put in by James Taylor, Esq., of Whitley Hall, Wigan, in memory of Jane, his wife, who died 16th Dec., 1872. It is really successful.

In the north-west wall is a second window, the subject of which is The Good Samaritan, executed by the same firm. It was put up in memory of Egerton Leigh Wright, Esq., who died at Hartford 27th Nov., 1878, by Mrs. Thos. Hargeaves, her two sons and daughter. It also holds two monuments.

That on the west wall is

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
 JAMES BROWN OF WIGAN GENTLEMAN,
 WHO DIED AT SOUTHPORT APRIL 18, 1848
 AGED 85 YEARS.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIS MUNIFICENT BENEFACTIONS
 TO THE WIGAN DISPENSARY.

THE WIGAN NATIONAL AND BLUE COAT SCHOOL,
 THE WIGAN PARISH CHURCH
 THE CHURCHES OF ST. GEORGE AND ST. CATHARINE
 AND ALSO FOR CLOTHING POOR PEOPLE OF WIGAN
 HIS TRUSTEES HAVE ERECTED THIS MONUMENT.

The other on the north wall contains the following inscription :—

Near this Pillar is interred
 the remains of
 WILLIAM MAYOR
 of
 Wigan
 who departed this life in May 1772
 Aged 27 Years
 And his Widow
 ALICE MAYOR
 Who died May 14, 1814
 in the 69th year of her age
 Also their Son
 THOMAS MAYOR
 of Ardwick
 who departed this life Decr 1st, 1822,
 Aged 52.

As you pass up the north aisle the ironwork on the north-west door claims attention, while the Poor's Box, similar to the one at the south-west end of the Church, is also noticeable.

Immediately beside the door is a monument in white and black marble :

“ I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH.”

This Tablet was erected by friends
 In Memory of
 THOMAS BYROM
 Of Wigan, J.P.
 Who died 8th October, 1882
 Aged 82 years.

“ To live in hearts we leave behind
 Is not to die.”

Next is a window, again by Clayton and Bell, put in by Miss Hargreaves to the memory of Captain Arthur Augustus Macleod, who died at Bonny, on the West Coast of Africa, March 16, 1878. The subjects are Our Blessed Lord teaching the people out of the ship on the Lake of Gennesaret, Our Lord walking on the sea, S. Peter sinking and saved by Our Lord, the Miraculous Draught of Fishes, Our Lord sleeping during the storm, Our Lord rebuking the winds and the sea, S. Paul at Miletus accompanied to the ship by the elders of the Church at Ephesus, S. Paul's shipwreck on the journey to Rome. In the tracery the sea is represented giving up her dead. A most remarkable window.

To the east of the window is a small mural monument in marble and freestone.

IN MEMORY
OF
MAXWELL F. REILLY
SURGEON
TO THE WIGAN UNION
WHO DIED ON THE 17TH FEBY
1871

IN HIS 26TH YEAR
OF FEVER CAUGHT IN THE FAITHFUL
DISCHARGE OF HIS DUTIES
AND WAS INTERRED IN
MOUNT JEROME CEMETERY
DUBLIN.

ALTHOUGH ONLY RESIDENT IN WIGAN
FOR A BRIEF PERIOD HE HAD GAINED
THE AFFECTIONS OF MANY.

THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY SOME
OF THOSE TO WHOM HE HAD
ENDEARED HIMSELF.

This brings us to the Walmesley or Gerard Chapel, with its new iron railings and black and white tiling. Right in the centre is a stone slab, which covers the entrance to the family vault. There are some fragments of old glass preserved in one of the windows, which are without any doubt pre-Reformation. Similar fragments of early glass are kept in a chest in the vestry.

On the west wall is a monument of white marble, with the following Latin inscription:—

MEMORIAE.

CAROLI. WALMESLEY. DE. WESTWOOD. ARMIGERI. QUI.

ANN. NATVS LII. PIE. DECESSIT

III. KAL. JVI. AN. MDCCCXXXIII.

ITEM. MEMORIAE. CAROLI. FILII. NATV. MAXIMI. QUI

AN. AET. XXV. AGENS. PRAECEPTVS. EST.

XI. KAL. IVNI. AN. MDCCCXXX.

MARITO. ET. PATRI. AMANTISSIMO. FILIO. AC. FRATRI. OPTIMO.

CONIVNX. ELIZABETHA. ET. GVLIELMVS. FILIVS

FLENTIS. POSVERE. PIETATIS. CAUSA.

R.I.P.

Which may roughly be translated thus :

To the memory of Charles Walmesley of Westwood, gentleman, who departed this life with the rites of the Church, aged 52, on the 29th of June in the year 1833.

Also to the memory of Charles, his eldest son, who was taken away in the 25th year of his life, on the 22nd of May, in the year 1830. In memory of a most affectionate husband and father, the best of sons and brothers, his wife Elizabeth and son William have erected this monument in their bereavement, of the duty they owed them. May they rest in peace.

The other monument of white marble in a black frame runs as follows :

Sacred to the Memory
of the Gerards of Ince within Mackerfield, who for several
centuries were Lords of that Manor and also of Aspull in
this County
and whose mortal remains are deposited underneath
this Chancel
belonging to the family. Thomas Gerard Esquire, the last
Heir in a direct line dying without male issue soon after
the Restoration
of Charles the Second, that property became vested in his
kinsman
Colonel Richard Gerard, who was a grandson of the first
Sir Thomas Gerard, Baronet of Bryn and who during the
Civil Wars raised a Body of Foot for the immediate guard
of the Queen and
eminently distinguishing himself in the Royal Cause was
severely wounded
at the siege of Burton upon Trent, which Town being
garrisoned by the
Parliamentary Forces he invested and together with Sir
Thomas Tyldesley
carried by Storm. Immediately after the Restoration in
acknowledgement of his
service he was appointed Cupbearer in ordinary waiting
on her Majesty

Queen Dowager. This Branch of the family became
 extinct in the year of our Lord
 One thousand, eight hundred and five on the demise
 of MARY WALMESLEY
 Relict of JOHN WALMESLEY Esquire and ELIZABETH GERARD
 Spinster Sisters and coheireesses of William Gerard Esq.
 This Tablet was placed here by CHARLES WALMESLEY
 Esquire of
 WESTWOOD in INCE, aforesaid Grandson of the above named
 MARY WALMESLEY. 1816.
 R.I.P.

Another monument and a couple of brasses call for
 attention before you reach the vestry.

The monument is probably a brass set in a stone
 frame. The inscription is

In Memory of
 Thomas Woodcock of Newborough House
 Upwards of Lviii years a Banker in Wigan
 His Widow and Children have erected
 this monument
 He was a man of strict integrity
 firm yet meek, zealous yet temperate.
 The poor were always with him
 He loved to do them good
 The stream of his benevolence was silent
 for it was deep.
 He was humble
 for he counted himself an unprofitable servant.
 His old age was happy
 and his end was peace.
 For his end was stayed upon the sole merits
 and the perfect atonement
 of his blessed Lord and Saviour.
 He died in the Lxxxii Year of his Age
 November VI. MDCCCL.
 Elizabeth Li. Years his wife
 Died Xxvi June. MDCCCLVII.
 Aged LXXXII.

Above are the arms of the Woodcock family.

Next are the two brasses, one above the other. The top one reads

ANHELANTEM ET COELESTIA
SITIENTEM ANIMAM EFFLAVIT INTE-
MERATA SUSANNA: SAMUELIS
SHAW CONJUN OBSEQUENTISSIMA
VIRTUTIS NORMA
E
CHARITATIS EXAMPLAR (sic)
ASSIDUA CHRISTI PEDISSEQUA
OCT: XIX: M:DC:LXXXV
Multis illa bonis flebilis occidit.

Of which the translation is :

Susannah, the virtuous wife of Samuel Shaw, gave up the ghost, hungering (literally panting) and thirsting for heavenly things—a most gracious model of chastity, a pattern of charity, an untiring disciple of Christ, on October 19, 1685. She died mourned by all good people.

Beneath is the following brass :

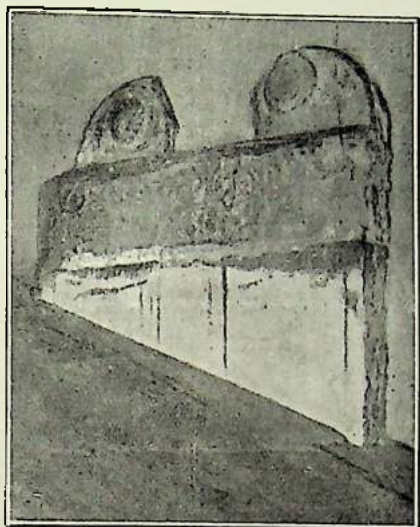
In affectionate Memory of
LUCY BEESTON
for more than thirty two years
the faithful servant of
The Revd Canon the Hon G. T. O. Bridgeman
Rector of Wigan
Born 7th March 1815. Died 18th July 1883.

This brings us to the vestry, but as you pass in there is the old Rector's stall to be noticed. It used to stand where the present lectern now is, and was moved to its present position a short time ago. It is so capacious that two clergy used to sit in it side by side. The seats behind it are occupied by the ringers, who before the restoration had a gallery leading from the belfry above it.

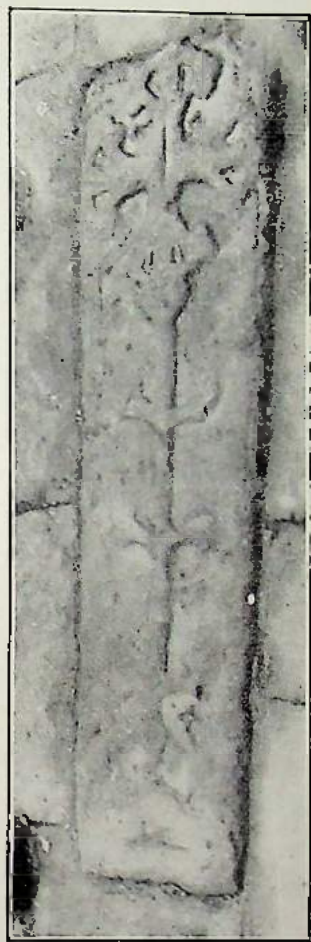
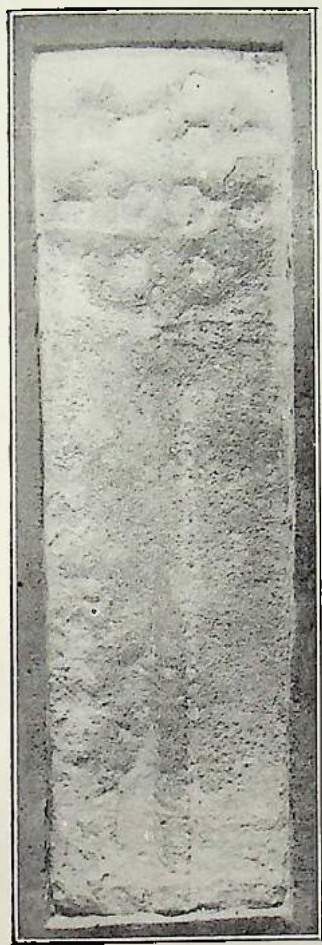
In the choir vestry are some interesting monuments.



ANCIENT TOMBESTONE.



HEATHEN ROMAN ALTAR.
A.D. 400-500.



CELTIK CROSSES.

The window between the tower and the Walmesley Chapel is a lancet-shaped early English window of three lights with plain glass.

In the north wall is a window by Burlington and Grill.

It was erected to the memory of Henry Woodcock, born 1814, at rest 1891.

The subjects are Our Lord in the act of Blessing, with Nathanael studying the law under the fig tree and David playing upon the harp in either of the side lights.

In the tracery glass are the symbols of the Four Evangelists and Four Angels.

In the bay of the window at the east end is the old stone altar, to which reference has already been made. It is confidently pronounced by archæologists an ancient Roman heathen altar. (*Illustrated.*) It is believed to have been found in the east wall of the Church, but it is not known when it was placed in its present position—an unfortunate one, as it does not allow of being carefully examined.

Embedded in the plaster of the same bay is the full length recumbent figure of an ecclesiastic in cope and mitre. The *Notitia Cestriensis* informs us that it was the figure of a prior of the Norman era, which had been used by the masons in the restoration of 1621 as one of the foundation stones of the Chancel, from which position it was rescued sometime before the last restoration. The late Rector says that it was found well below the ground of the tower and placed in its present position. It is so covered with plaster that it is impossible to judge from the portion of the face, which alone is exposed, in what sort of condition the whole figure is.

On the right of the doorway leading into the clergy vestry is a cross of Celtic design, rather badly worn. It

is impossible to say anything definite about its history. It might be a consecration cross; it might equally well be a slab from some tomb of early days, which had been let into the wall of the tower on account of the beauty of its workmanship. (*Illustrated.*)

There is also an old tombstone preserved in the tower with a date, which is a matter of interest to antiquarians. Some declare it reads 1106, others 1506. The second figure is crossed, and it is perhaps safest to leave the determination of the date one way or other to enthusiasts. They are as likely to be right as anybody. Above the figures is a small cross, and below the letters O.L., both crossed like the second figure. (*Illustrated.*)

From the choir vestry, a couple of steps and a passage in the wall of the Tower, seven feet thick, lead to the Clergy Vestry.

There stands an old oak chest—of Elizabethan date—which contains plans, &c., and a fine oak table of undoubted age, which may possibly have once been used as an altar.

The Church possesses a fine, though in its present form a modern collection of plate.

There are three large complete sets of silver gilt communion plate, two sets of the same pattern and metal for private celebrations, another of different design for the same purpose. There is also a smaller silver gilt set, which is in daily use. There are three large silver flagons and a set of cruets, encrusted with stones, which were given to the Church by Sister Agatha, the daughter of the late Henry Woodcock, Esq., of Bank House. A small silver cruet for private celebrations completes the list.

Most of the plate was the gift of Richard Welles, Esq., in 1706, as the inscriptions, which have been

retained, show. It is evident that they were melted down and remade about fifty years ago.

There is one piece of real antiquity. It is in the form of a large paten. A modern rim with the same inscription as the rest of the plate surrounds an old paten of beaten silver, representing the Wise men offering gifts to the infant Saviour.

The inscription referred to in all cases runs

“*Reverentia qua potuit eucharistica super hoc altare dicat, devovet, consecratque Richardus Welles generosus anno dui MDCCVI,*” which probably means, “Richard Welles, gentleman, with the utmost devotion gave, dedicated, and consecrated (these) Eucharistic vessels in the year of our Lord 1706;” while the face of the paten contains the words “*Per crucem et passionem tuam libera nos domine,*” that is, “By Thy Cross and Passion O Lord deliver us.”

The old Church suffered, of course, from the deprivations of Henry VIII.'s rapacious commissioners, and no doubt much of the valuable plate found its way to that Defender of the Faith or his favourites.

In 1552, the ascendancy of the Protestant party in the council of Edward VI. caused a further commission to complete the inventories of Church plate already made with a view to their appropriation by the Crown, and Wigan was visited by the Earl of Derby, Sir Thos. Gerard, Knight, and Thos. Boteler, Esq., commissioners for the Hundred of West Derby, for that purpose. They made a tour of the old Church with its Chapels of ease, and when they had formally taken possession of all Church goods, they handed a portion of them back to the Rector and Churchwardens to be kept on the King's behalf by virtue of the following indenture:—

Wigan Church en Holland Chapel and Billynge.
This indenture made the iijth da of October in the sixt

yere of the Reigne of ou^r Sou'aigne lord Edward the sixt
 by the grace of God, Kinge of England, Fraunce and
 Ireland, defendo^r of the faith and of the Church of
 England & Ireland in erthe the supreme hedde (1552)
 Betwene the right honorable Erle of Derby of the honor-
 able order of the garter Knight, Tho^s Gerrarde and Thos
 Boteler esquier, comissioners to our Sou'aigne lord
 the Kyng upon the behalf of his highnes of the one partie
 and Ser Rauf Scotte prieste, Nycholas Lawe & Nyc,
 Penyngton, church Wardons of the parishe church of
 Wigan in the hundreth of Weste-derby in the Countie of
 Lanc', of the other partie Witnessithe that wher[as] the
 said comyssioners have delyv' at the tyme o^r
 sealyng & to the said Ser Rauf fawre bells warof xijⁿ
 as thei alledge is yet unpaid, one chalice vij coapes of
 grene silke ij of redde silke ij of whit twille & ij of
 yelowe silke and vestments of suche like silke & colof
 and iiij tynacles thereof ij of redde silke & ij of grene
 silke. It^m at Holland Chapel two bells, a chalice & j
 olde vestement. It^m at Billynge Chapel j littil belle
 belongynge to the saide church and chapels, saulfely to
 be kept th' use of ou^r Sou'raigne lord the Kyng &c &c . . .

Another entry of interest is the following :—

"It may be stated that in the account of John
 Birde, Bishop of Chester, giving the result of the
 enquiry made into the misappropriation of Church
 ornaments plate & Bells &c., in his diocese 12th Jan 1548,
 it is said of Wigan that James Anderton and Robt
 Chaloner, the Church wardens had sold iiij Chalcies viijⁿ,
 xvijⁿ, ix^d, which they said was bestowed toward the
 payment off or* bellis bought off the king."

It is pretty clear from such entries that the Parish
 Church possessed a goodly share of the old ornaments
 of the Church and ministers thereof as were in use in
 the second year of Edward the Sixth.

* "or" means "our."

To-day they have all gone, and one paten alone represents the gifts of our forefathers for God's service in the old Church, although this exception is open to doubt.

There is a large collection of alms dishes, ranging in date from 1724—two silver ones, a modern brass, which is in constant use, six small brass and 16 pewter, of which two bear the date 1825 and the rest 1840.

The silver dishes were "the gift of Grace Browne, relict of W^m Browne, Brazier To the Parish Church of Wigan for the use of the Communion Service, 1724," as the inscription shows.

Most of the inscriptions on the brass dishes are worn away, but they were the gifts of different Churchwardens, who chose such a manner of commemorating their years of office.

The large brass alms dish has the following inscription: "He that hath pity on the poor lendeth to the Lord."

The Vestry is to-day ornamented with six portraits of previous Rectors of Wigan, presented by the present Rector. Four of them were Bishops of Chester, viz., John Bridgeman, John Wilkins, John Pearson, and Thomas Cartwright. The others are Thomas Linacre, M.D., and Sir Henry John Gunning.

There are a large number of books; among them is a chained homily, suggesting a parish library, as may be seen in other Lancashire churches.

The Churchwardens' Account Books are complete from 1651. They are full of interest, but space forbids us to quote much. A great deal of money seems to have been spent in ringings upon all sorts of occasions, and on the curiously unspiritual work of exterminating hedgehogs, foxes, and other varieties of ground vermin. It is worth noting, too, that the ancient borough testified to

its loyalty to the Stuart cause, for an entry runs: "Paid to the clerke for ringinge ye 29th May, being the day of the King's retorne," which is curiously assigned to the year 1666 instead of 1660. Another extract worth quoting is the following: "14th Nov., 1715. Spent upon assistance to remove the church goods, when the rebels were brought into the church 1/-. Paid the centuary for guarding the organ 4/. Paid to seven men for cleansing the church w^m the rebels went out 11/6. Paid for besoms, canell, candles, sand and mops 2/5. Paid to 3 men, 9 women 1 day and half cleansing and washing and scouring 12/9." This refers to the remnant of the Chevalier St. George's army, who were brought to Wigan after the general surrender of Preston."

The registers consist of some seventy-seven volumes dating from 1580. The earliest volume has lately been published by the Lancashire Parish Register Society, under the care of Mr. Josiah Arrowsmith. This register was lost for many years, but was happily discovered by the late Rector at Weston Hall, Shifnal, in Shropshire, the seat of Lord Bradford, and by him restored to the old Church.

Here again there are many extracts of interest, which we might well quote, but we content ourselves with merely referring to the sorrowful times of Puritan ascendancy, when the publication of marriage banns was made in the Market Place. This extended from June 4th, 1655, to the end of 1658, and is most harshly stigmatised in the registers.

Some of the cavalier army were buried in the Churchyard, and the following entry occurs, which is here given for the first time.

"Aug 27th 1651.

My Lord Witherington de Northumberland
Collnell Boyneton de Yorkshire.
Collnell Trolpe Governer of Newark."

The last we quote has reference to the great plague.

From March 4th, 1649, to July 23 of the same year, 71 persons were buried who died from the plague, the greater number of whom were brought from the cabins—a mysterious phrase, which may refer to some sort of isolation hospital.

On the flyleaf of one of the registers is the following: "Aug 26. 1687. An Account of Certificates given to Persons within the town and Parish of Wigan to be touched for the king's evil by king James second at Chester City," and then come the names of twenty-two persons.

A book which well repays study is the old Sexton's day book. One excerpt may be given here. The original spelling is preserved:—

"Isabel Wife of Nicholas Cowell Market place she lies in Bankes' Breadths in the Isle under the Flags under that Row towarde South Jest at the Heage of the Pews All the Pews and Flags Fell in When I was Making the Grave that We had all the Flags Both under the pews and in the Isle to New Sett But when that Grave is opend again you Must tie a Rope Round the one End of the Pew and Round the Pillor wich Will Prevent a great Deal of trouble

It will hold 2 More Verry Well."

A rather breathless and incoherent piece of advice, but no doubt thoroughly practical.

Two large old Prayer Books, dated 1700, with a fine engraving in each, are among the few treasures in the library line.

There is also a well illuminated missal of modern date.

Some old Churchwardens' prayer books exist, and are chiefly interesting from pencil notes which they contain.

We learn from such that the Church was first lighted with gas by subscription on Sunday, Oct. 19,

1833; on Jan. 27, 1836, an enormous congregation, which reached seven thousand, was present to hear a sermon on "A compleat Refutation of Purgatory;" in 1808 the number of persons confirmed was 2,227, and in 1811, 2,972; while a Chant book preserves the fact that on All Saints' Day, Nov. 1, 1847, when the Chancel was re-opened after the restoration, the collection amounted to £1,300, and over a hundred clergy communicated at the Celebration.

An interesting canvas sheet of General Regulations' dated January 9th, 1849, and signed by H. J. Gunning (then Rector) and Colin Lindsay and R. Darlington (then Churchwardens), has lately been found.

Some of the more interesting details are subjoined:

"1. That no Servant of this Church shall on any pretence whatever receive any order for Christenings, Marriages, Funerals, or for any other purpose whatever connected with the Church, nor shall any fees be received, in any public-house, under pain of instant dismissal, or Ecclesiastical censure."

"3. That the Clerk, Sexton and Verger shall always appear in Church and in public, dressed according to custom, that is in black suit, and a white neckerchief."

"6. That clean surplices for the Clergy and Altar Linen be provided, every Sunday and Holy-day."

7. That these directions concerning the Altar hangings be observed:—

1. During the season of Lent, *i.e.* from Ash Wednesday until Easter Eve, the Purple Cloth to be in use.

2. During Christmas, — Easter, — Ascension, — and Whitsuntides, and likewise upon Trinity Sunday, and other Holy Days, the Crimson one to be in use.

3. Upon all other days in the year, the Green one."



REV. CANON THE HON. G. T. O. BRIDGEMAN.
LATE RECTOR.

"9. That the Churchyard Gates be locked every night after the Curfew has been tolled and re-opened on the following morning at a quarter before Six o'Clock.

10. That the bells be rung punctually at the usual hours; that they never be rung for any special purpose without the sanction of the Rector and Churchwardens; that no tune or air be ever played upon them, except the usual changes."

From the vestry we pass outside the Church and up the Tower by a doorway in the west wall, near the Walmesley Chapel. The old entrance may still be found behind a book cupboard in the choir vestry.

The Tower consists of the Ringers' Chamber, a machinery room, the belfry proper, where the bells are hung, and the dial room. Above the dial room it is possible to mount to the roof, where a flagstaff stands, 40 feet high, and a wonderful view of Wigan and the surrounding country rewards those who are lucky enough to arrive at the top, provided the neighbouring factories do not choose that particular moment to expel their accumulated smoke.

The Ringers' Chamber contains lists of various teams of ringers who have won contests and the various sorts of peals which they have executed.

The real point of interest is of course the Bells. How early Bells were hung in the Tower is unknown, but entries may be found from the commencement of the Churchwardens' expenditure books, which date back to 1651, of the cost of repairs to the bells, while there is a separate account of the little Bell, called the Catherine, being recast after having been broken in 1717. In 1732 the whole of the Bells were recast by Mr. Rudhall, of Gloucester, and new metal added to make up a peal of eight Bells at a cost of £228 2s. 1d.; and with the other expenses added for fitting, hanging, &c., the total amount was £393 9s. 0½d.

The weight of the old Bells was

	cwt.	qr.	lbs.
1st Bell	10	1	12
2nd "	11	2	25
3rd "	12	2	21
4th "	17	1	13
5th "	22	2	25
6th "	25	3	22
	<hr/>		
New metal added ...	100	3	6
	017	2	10
	<hr/>		
Total	118	1	16

The weight of the new Bells is

	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
1st Bell	7	2	26
2nd "	8	1	2
3rd "	9	0	11
4th "	11	2	13
5th "	14	0	8
6th "	16	0	27
7th "	21	2	27
8th "	29	2	14
	<hr/>		
Total	118	1	16

There is another little Bell, called the Priest's Bell, which weighs $69\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., upon which is the following inscription:—

"Come away, make no delay. A.R. 1732."

Each of the big Bells has its own inscription. They run as follows:—

1st Bell, "Fear God, honour the King. A.R. 1732."

2nd Bell, "Peace and good neighbourhood. A.R. 1732."

3rd Bell, "Prosperity to the Church of England. A.R. 1732."

4th Bell, "Prosperity to this town and parish. A.R. 1732."

5th Bell, "We were all cast at Gloucester together by Abr. Rudhall. A.R. 1732."

6th Bell, "James Leyland and Thos Low, Churchwardens. A.R. 1732."

7th Bell, "Samuel Aldersley, Rector. A.R. 1732."

8th Bell, "I to the Church the living call, and to the grave do summons all. J. Taylor, Loughborough."

The Bells were last re-hung in 1786, and the tenor bell, which had been cracked, was recast in 1876 by J. Taylor. The weight of the new tenor is 28cwt.

Descending from the Tower we re-enter the vestry, and pass through into the Leigh Chapel, which, as we have already mentioned, was given up to the Church by the Leigh family in 1682.

It is now used as the Organ Chamber, and contains a new window, by Clayton and Bell, put in by J. Walmesley, Esq., in memory of his father and others in 1899.

The subject is Our Lord calling the little children to Him and blessing them, with the text (S. Mark x. 15) from the Vulgate: "Amen dico vobis: quisquis non receperit regnum Dei veluti parvulus non intrabit in illud."

A large brass below the window has the following record:

"Impious memory of Richard Walmesley, Esq., of the Hall of Ince and Lucknam, Wilts. Died 1893, who is Buried in his private vault in the Garden of the Manor House at Colerne, Wilts. Of his father John, died 1860, and is buried at Whitcombe Cemetery Bath. Of his father John, died 1827 and is Buried at Walcot Cemetery, Bath. Of his father John. Died 1750, Buried near this place. Of his father John. Died 1726, Buried near this place."

Immediately above the vestry door are two monu-

ments, and by their side used to be a list of Rectors, which is at present removed, but which it is intended to erect in some other part of the Church.

The first monument is of Dr. George Hall, Bishop of Chester and sometime Rector.

The inscription reads thus :

P. M. S.

Ejus repostus pulvere in sacro Cinis
Expectat istic ultimae sonum Tubae
Mendace qui ne falleret Titulo lapis
Solum hoc Sepulchro jussit incidi suo
GEORGIUS HALL : S. THE. PR. ECCLESIAE DEI SERVUS
INUTILIS SED CORDATUS. D. JOSEPHI HALL PRAESULIS
PIENTISSIMI, PRIMO EXONIENSIS DEIN NORVICENSIS
SCRIPTIS SEMPER VICTURI FILIUS IMO UMBRA POTIUS
SEX INTER SEPTEMQUE ANNOS SEDIT NON MERUIT
CESTRIAE EPISCOPUS ; DENATUS AETATIS SUAE ANNO LV
CHRISTI VERO MDCLXVIII.

Mirare, Lector, Praesulis modestiam
Aliunde quaeras caetera.

Which may be translated

In Sacred Memory.

Yonder (that is in the Sanctuary, where the Bishop is buried) await the sounding of the last trumpet, laid in sacred dust the ashes of him who lest this stone should deceive by a lying epitaph, bade this only be engraven on the tomb,

George Hall, Professor of Theology, an unprofitable but devoted servant of God's Church, the son or rather shade of Dr. Joseph Hall, most holy Bishop, first of Exeter, then of Norwich, destined ever to live in his writings. Between six and seven years he filled unworthily the See of Chester, and left this life in the year of his age fifty-five, of Christ, 1668.

Marvel, reader, at the Bishop's humility.
Seek the rest elsewhere.

He came by his death in rather a curious manner. He happened to fall in his garden, and a knife, which was in his pocket, inflicted a wound, which caused his death. He was buried next day within the Sanctuary.

The other monument by the side of the above, in white marble, runs :

To the Pious Memory
of RICH^d WELLES LATE OF WIGAN, GENT
And ELLEN his beloved Wife.
He ye Son of FR WELLES of Sandbach in Cheshire, gent
She ye daughter of ROBT LEATHERBARROW Alderman of
Wigan.
They were both shining examples of Piety, Charity and
Hospitality
Nor were they less remarkable for conjugal affection
and mutual compliance.
His Will was hers and her Will his.
'They were joined in giving Organs and Ornaments to this
Church
Beside thirteen Hundred Pounds
To other Public Pious Uses.
She died Sep 1707.
He died Mar 1708.
This monument of Her Sincere Love and Respect
Was given by Mrs BOWYER Sister to Mrs WELLES
Who gave her House in Millgate
To the Head Schoolmaster of Wigan
& was interr^{ed} here
Sep 1717.

Above the monument is a shield of arms bearing a lion rampant, with two tails.

There remains now the Organ before entering the Chancel.

The earliest record of any organ, which is extant is to be found in some of the old documents, still preserved

in the vestry. A quotation from one runs as follows:—
 “The organ and loft were taken down and demolished in the time of the late rebellion, that in the year of Our Lord 1680,” an act of vandalism, which was due to the rampant Puritanism of the day. For about thirty years the old Church seemed to have got on as best it could without an organ. The matter began to agitate the minds of the parishioners about the year 1696, but no further steps were taken until 1707, because an organ was regarded as a dangerous innovation by the prevailing Protestantism of the time. However, an organ was left to the Church by Mr. Richard Welles at the beginning of the eighteenth century, and the trouble which the gift caused has already been mentioned.

The modern organ may well be said to date from the restoration in 1849. An extract from the *Wigan Times* of Friday, August 9th, 1850, which is here appended, gives a contemporary account of that organ and also what was believed about its predecessors.

The account is as follows:—

“It has been very generally asserted and believed that the organ as it was, was one of the finest organs in the kingdom, and that it was built by Father Schmidt. The facts are simply these so far as we have authentic record:—In the year of Our Lord, 1708, Mr. Wells, gentleman, presented a small organ to the Parish Church of Wigan. Now Father Schmidt died in this very year 1708, whilst engaged in the erection of a large organ in the chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge; and as he did not live to complete it, it was finished by his son-in-law, Christopher Schrieder, May 3, 1708. During the same period, from 1680 to 1708, Father Schmidt had a very formidable rival in Harris, who came over to this country from France a few months after Schmidt arrived from Germany, and who successfully contended with him by the erection of many larger organs than his. From this we concluded that if that portion of the old organ pre-

sented by Mr. Wells in 1708, called the great organ, was built by Father Schmidt, it must have been built some time previous to the above date, and, moreover, must have been a small finger organ with but one manual. From the great similarity of the pipes used by the contemporary organ builders, Schmidt, Schrieder, and Harris, it is impossible to say which was the builder, as it is only by the pipes that organs of different periods and different builders can be recognised. For the space of sixty-three years there appears to have been no addition made to this organ; but in the year 1701 we find an entry in the church books that a swell organ and choir organ were added by Byfield and Green, of London, and this work was unquestionably the best portion of the old organ. During a lapse of many years the organ had evidently been much neglected, and the tuning, &c., committed to very unskilful hands. On examination many of the pipes were choked up with dirt, and the ends of the metal pipes torn open, so that a great part of the organ, it appears, had long been disused until Mr. Jackson, the present organ builder, was engaged by the late Mr. Fairhurst, then churchwarden, to repair the organ. Still, after all that could be done for it, the windchests were fast going into decay, and other parts completely rotten, so that when the organ was taken down to be repaired and enlarged it was found impossible to put it together again. This state of things led to a determination to rebuild the organ, and to introduce all those improvements which of late years have excited the admiration both of mechanics and organ connoisseurs. The old organ in its completest state was simply a finger organ, with three rows of keys and one octave of German pedal pipes. The compass was from G G to E in *all* choir and great organs. The swell from F below fiddle G to F in *all*, in all twenty-one stops.

“The present organ, as rebuilt by Mr. Richard Jackson, of Liverpool, does him infinite credit, both for

the mechanism, the execution of the work, and the beautiful quality of tone. This is the most perfect organ in the county, if not the largest and most extensive also. It contains four complete organs, all independent one of another, and yet so constructed that any two or three, or all four, may be coupled and used in combination. The complete organ occupies the whole space between the tower and the first arch in the chancel, which is twenty-one feet by fourteen feet six inches, and stands near the east end of the north aisle. A cellar four feet deep has been excavated to receive the bellows."

It really was a large organ, and for the time a surprisingly good one. It consisted of 42 stops, 6 composition pedals, 6 copulae and 2,345 pipes.

This organ has been removed at least three times, and various additions and alterations made. From its original position it was moved under the Tower. From the Tower, where it had been badly damaged by rain during the repairing of the Tower roof, it was again moved to the east end of the Leigh Chapel; and there again, after being deluged from a choked gutter, it was returned to its present and original position in 1887, when it was restored by Messrs. Hill and Son.

By this time its character was greatly changed from the original instrument in 1849, although it consisted of the same number of manuals. The Great Organ had 10 stops, and in it was contained an Open Diapason, which formed part of the eighteenth century organ. A pipe of it may now be seen in the vestry. The Swell Organ contained eleven stops; the Choir Organ, which contained some of the sweetest stops in the whole instrument, consisted of 11 stops; while the Pedal Organ had 8. There were three composition pedals to the Great Organ, 2 to the Swell, 2 to Pedal, and a tremulant to the Swell.

This is now to be replaced by the New Organ, which is being erected by Messrs. Norman and Beard, of



COL. FFARINGTON, V.D.,
CHURCHWARDEN.

Norwich. As much as is possible of the late organ is being worked up into the new, which promises to be a very fine instrument.

Dr. Bairstow has kindly drawn up the following specification:—

Organ as rebuilt by Norman and Beard.

GREAT ORGAN.

Double Diapason, 16.
Open " 8.
Open " 8.
Hohl Flute, 8.
Harmonic Flute, 4.
Principal, 4.
Fifteenth, 2.
Mixture, 3 ranks.
Trumpet, 8.

SWELL ORGAN.

Bourdon, 16.
Open Diapason, 8.
Salicional, 8.
Robr Flute, 8.
Voix Celeste, 8.
Leiblich Flute, 4.
Principal, 4.
Fifteenth, 2.
Mixture, 3 ranks.
Oboe, 8ft.
Cornopean, 8ft.
Contra Fagotto, 16ft.
Vox Humana, 8ft.
Clarion, 4ft.
Tremulant.

CHOIR AND SOLO ORGANS

(In Swell Box, except Tuba).

Tuba (on 7in. wind), 8ft.
Dulciana, 8ft.
Harmonic Flute, 8ft.
Clarabella, 8ft.
Gamba, 8ft.
Suabe Flute, 4ft.
Clarinet, 8ft.
Orchestral Oboe, 8ft.

PEDAL ORGAN.

Sub Bass, 32ft.
Open Diap., wood, 16.
" metal, 16.
Bourdon, 16.
'Cello 8.
Bass Flute, 8.
Contra Posaune, 8.

4 Composition Pedals to Great and Pedal Organs.

Swell Organ.

Gt. to Pedal on and off Pedal.

4 Combination Pistons to Set and Pedal.

4 " Swell.

Tubular Pneumatic throughout.

Blown by 3 patent Swanton Economisers.

Two stops are not yet complete. They are included in the above specification, and are prepared for in the rebuilding of the organ. They only await some generous donor for completion.

A large library of music, both ancient and modern, has been accumulated. It includes three volumes of Boyce's Cathedral Music, eight copies of each, all full score (presented by the Earl of Crawford). Single parts of Croft's, Hayes's, Purcell's, and Clark; Whitfield's anthems complete, and bound in magnificent volumes, such as few churches possess.

The modern element goes on increasing, and services and anthems by Stainer, Sullivan, Martin, Selby, and others have been added lately. There is also a good collection of oratorios, cantatas, and Mendelssohn's Psalms. Much of the music has recently been rebound by subscription.

From the organ and Leigh Chapel we enter the Chancel on the north side.

The Reredos strikes one at once. The excellent account which the present Rector wrote of it in the *Parish Magazine* in September, 1897, best describes it:—

“ The Memorial to the late Canon Bridgeman is now complete
 “ in our Church, except that the inscription* has to be added :
 “ it has added not a little beauty to our old church, and will
 “ remain as a not altogether unworthy memorial of the great
 “ work the late Rector effected in this parish ; of which the
 “ preacher spoke so fully on the day the memorial was
 “ dedicated. The stonework of the Reredos remains un-
 “ changed, except in the centre ; there the two panels have
 “ been thrown into one, and raised, so as to give room
 “ for a stone retable ; this is handsomely worked, and
 “ behind it are shown the instruments of the Passion.
 “ Above this again, is the large centre panel, which
 “ contains a picture of the Adoration of the Lamb by
 “ the Church of GOD. The Church is represented by
 “ the figures of saints, on the one side are saints of
 “ the New Testament, and the apostles are represented by
 “ SS. Peter and John, the martyrs by S. Stephen, and the
 “ prophets by S. John the Baptist, and there is added the
 “ figure of the Blessed Virgin Mother, the type of all pure
 “ and holy womanhood. On the other, are some of the
 “ founders of the English Church : S. Chad, the first bishop
 “ of Lichfield, of which diocese Wigan was a part until

* The inscription is now added.

- " Chester was founded in 1542; S. Etheldreda, sometime
 " Queen of Northumbria, and afterwards the foundress of the
 " great Church of Ely: S. Augustine, who first preached the
 " gospel to our English forefathers, and S. Paulinus, the first
 " archbishop of York, placed there because we have formed a
 " part of the province of York since the see of Chester was
 " established. The scroll beneath the Lamb, bears, in Latin,
 " the words, 'Behold the Lamb of GOD, which taketh away
 " the sins of the world.' The inscription immediately above
 " the re-table is 'JESUS, the Way, the Truth, the Life.'
- " In the two niches, which used to serve for a credence table,
 " are placed statues of the two great Archangels, SS. Michael
 " and Gabriel. S. Michael bears the sword as the Prince of
 " the armies of Heaven, and the scales as the Angel of
 " judgment. S. Gabriel, the lily, as the Angel of the
 " Annunciation.
- " The four figures in the side panels are of those who specially
 " bare witness in Holy Scripture to the Priesthood of Our
 " Blessed LORD. Each bears his witness in the scroll in
 " his hand. There is King David, his emblem the harp,
 " and his scroll is inscribed, 'Thou art a Priest for ever.'
 " (Ps. cx. 4.) Next, the prophet Isaiah, his emblem the
 " branch, his scroll, 'When He shall make His soul an
 " offering for sin.' (Isa. liii. 10.) On the south side,
 " Zechariah, his emblem the man upon a red horse, his
 " scroll, 'He shall be a Priest upon His throne.' (Zec. vi. 13.):
 " and lastly S. Paul, his emblem the Roman sword by which
 " he suffered martyrdom, his scroll, 'We have a great High
 " Priest, JESUS, the Son of GOD.' (Heb. iv. 14.) Thus
 " the central panel shows Christ as the Victim, 'the Lamb as
 " it had been slain,' the side panels Christ as the Priest.
- " All these subjects are worked in *opus sectile*, a kind of glass
 " mosaic, and are executed by Messrs. J. Powell and Son.
 " The stonework is richly adorned by gilding and painting.
 " There are besides new altar rails on iron supports, supplied
 " by the same firm, and which take the place of the old
 " wooden ones, which were too high and heavy for convenience.
- " Lastly, we have placed in the sanctuary a very handsome oak
 " credence table, worked by Mr. Advent Hunston, of Tides-
 " well. The inscription will be shortly added, and will run
 " as follows:—
- " 'To the glory of GOD and in memory of George
 " 'Thomas Orlando Bridgeman, for thirty-one years
 " 'Rector of this Parish, this Sanctuary and Reredos
 " 'were adorned by his friends and parishioners.
 " 'August, 1897.'

"The Memorial was dedicated at Evensong on Thursday, August 19th, when there was a large congregation. The preacher was the Rev. W. H. Jackson, Rector of Thorpe Arch, an old friend of Canon Bridgeman."

On the north of the Sanctuary stands the Bishop's chair, which is made of oak, of fine work, and some age. Before it is a kneeling desk, which used to serve as the old Litany desk. It was presented to the Church by friends of Sister Agnes Jane, on her leaving the parish after seven years' work in it.

The present altar is an old oak table with a black marble top. Probably it is the same, judging from the character of its workmanship, as one which an entry in the Churchwardens' Book for 1683 records being made.

It used to be fixed in the midst of the old Chancel, that is, under the present Chancel arch. Above it was the organ, where the Rood had originally stood. It was put into its present position in 1620, when Bishop Bridgeman restored the ruined Chancel.

It is now vested with the proper liturgical frontals of silk, most of which have been generously given to the Church.

Above the altar is the great East window. Bishop Bridgeman filled it with painted glass, on which was represented the several coats of arms of the nobility of England, Scotland, and Wales. Indeed, most of the old glass in the Church, including the fragments, which are extant, seems to have been of heraldic design.

In 1847 the Hon. Edward Kenion put in a new window, by Wailes, in memory of his cousins, the two Misses Kenions, of Swinley, Wigan. The subjects of the window are the Visit of the Magi, the Baptism, the Carrying of the Cross, the Crucifixion, the Burial and Ascension of Our Blessed Lord.

Above are the symbols of the Evangelists and the Instruments of the Passion, with angels and archangels throughout the tracery.

Around the Sanctuary and Chancel are a series of quaint angels holding chalice, paten, and musical instruments; while just outside the Chancel arch are two others to represent Holy Baptism and Confirmation as the entrance to the full Christian life.

The Chancel is surrounded by light oak screens. The organ front, which is oak perpendicular work, forms the north side of the Chancel. Just west of it is a small brass let into the wall of the pillar behind the pulpit, which commemorates the restoration of the Chancel in 1846-1847 by Sir Henry John Gunning, the Rector.

From the Chancel on the south side we enter the Bradshaigh Chapel (of which the general history has already been given) through a small wicket.

Most noticeable is of course the altar tomb of Dame Mab and her husband.

On the east wall are two marble monuments, one on either side of the window, beautifully executed by Florentine artists.

On the northern side is the following:—

Alexander
Wm Earl of Balcarres
Lord Lindsey and Balneill
born 18th Jan. 1750
General in the Army
And Governour of Jersey and Jamaica
during the revolutionary war
succeeded
as xxiiijrd Earl of Crawford
in 1808
died 25th March 1825
and lies buried
in this Chapel.

Except the Lord build the house they
labour in vain that build it.

Elizabeth
Bradshaigh
daughter of
Charles Dalrymple Esq of
North Berwick
sole heiress and representative
of the knightly family of
Bradshaigh
of Haigh Hall
in this county
and wife of
Atex Earl of Crawford and Balcarres
died 10th Aug 1816
and lies buried
in this Chapel.

Our help standeth in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

“Over the monument are the coats of arms, viz., on the dexter side gules a fesse chequy, argent and

azure for Lindsey ; on the sinister side argent two bendlets, between two martlets, sable (the Bradshaigh coat), for Dalrymple as the heiress of Bradshaigh ; and above them in the centre, quarterly first and fourth Lindsey as before, second, or a lion rampant, gules debruised of a bend sable (for Abernethy).”—(*Rector's Book.*)

The other monument runs thus :—

MARIA MARGARET FRANCES
 daughter of
 John Lord Muncaster
 heir of line of
 the ancient and loyal house of Pennington
 and wife of
 James Earl of Crawford and Balcarres
 Born April 1783
 died 8th Nov 1859.
 and lies buried
 in this Chapel.

Her children rise and call her blessed
 her husband also and he praiseth her.

Above the tomb is a shield bearing or five fusils in fesse azure.

Between these two is the east window of the Chapel, a really beautiful piece of work, designed by Lady Jane Evelyn Lindsay, who, with her sister Lady Mabel Mary Lindsay, put it in in memory of their father, Alexander William late Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, who was a munificent supporter of the Parish Church. The work was executed by Messrs. Heaton, Butler, and Bayne. It consists of four lights, containing figures of S. Paul, S. George, S. Martin, and S. Oswald, as characteristic of the qualities of the deceased Earl. Below each of the figures is a vignette. S. Paul is presented as preaching to the people at Athens, S. George in his conflict with

the Dragon, S. Martin dividing his cloak with a beggar, S. Oswald, from whose Saxon race the family claimed descent on the mother's side, at the battle of Heavenfield.

There are eight shields of arms in the lower part of the window:—1. Argent, two bendlets between two martlets, sable (with the bloody hand), for Bradshaigh of Haigh, baronets. 2. Gules, seven lozenges vair, three, two, and one, on a canton or a mullet pierced argent (with a bloody hand), for Guise of Ellmore, baronets—*i.e.*, for Rachel, daughter of Sir John Guise, bart., and wife of Sir Roger Bradshaigh. 3. Quarterly, 1st and 4th, a fesse chequy argent and azure; 2nd and 3rd, or a lion rampant gules debruised of a ribbon in bend sable, all within a bordure azure semée of stars, or for Alexander Earl of Balcarres. 4. Or on a saltier azure, between a crescent in chief gules, and two water bougets in the flanks sable, nine lozenges of the field, for Elizabeth Dalrymple, great granddaughter of Bradshaigh and heiress of Haigh. 5. Same as 3, without the bordure, for James 24th Earl of Crawford. 6. The same as 3, for the Countess Dowager of Crawford. The idea conveyed by these shields of arms is the Bradshaigh-Lindsay descent, showing how the persons interred in the vault beneath the Chapel came to lie together there as possessors of the property and Chapel.

In the tracery of the head of the window are a crucifixion, with representations of the four Sacraments of Holy Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination, and Holy Matrimony.

Beneath the window is a fine brass describing the principal features which it contains. This is far and away the most noticeable window in the whole Church, and well worth a careful visit.

The Chapel contains a second window on the south wall, which was erected in memory of Lieut.-General

the Hon. Sir James Lindsay, K.C.M.G., M.P. for Wigau for twenty-one years, and also of his wife, the Lady Sarah Elizabeth Lindsay, who survived him fifteen years. It was designed and executed by Messrs. Heaton, Butler, and Bayne. In the four lights are four angels, representing mercy, truth, righteousness, and peace, while in the head are six other angels.

The whole Sanctuary is enclosed with brass and iron rails of elegant design, which, with the tiles which paved it, were copied from the chapel in Westwood Hall.

On the north wall is a hatchment, similar to three hatchments which Mr. Walmesley has lately sent to be put up in his Chapel.

On the south wall is a monument to Sir Roger Bradshaigh, with a long Latin inscription :—

Hic Jacet Dominus Rogerus Bradshaigh
 Eques et Barronettus, Jacobi Bradshaigh de
 Haigh in Comitatu Lancastriae, Armigeri
 Annaeq filiae Gulielmi Norris de Speak in
 Eodem Agro, Militis Balnei, filius et Haeres
 Unicus, In Senatu (qui Carolum 2^{duo} ad Sceptum
 Et Solium restauravit) Miles Comitatus Publico
 Suffragio delegatus, Iterum Una voce in Conventu
 Proximo insequenti in eodem Statu perstitit tam
 pro Rege quam pro Republica Column firmum
 et inconcussum, Unaq. cum his Patriae Praefecturis
 in eodem Comitatu Audiendi et terminandi
 Constitutus erat Justiciarius et Sublegatus
 Mandatum A Rege habitum exercuit Atq. in
 ejus Exercitu Lancastriensi Equitavit Dux
 Animosus et intrepidus. Posteq Vicomes
 hujusce Palatinus generose et fideliter Superemi
 nuit. Tandem cum a Principe et Patria optime
 meritis esset A Laboribus Publicis et privatis
 56 is Aetatis suae Ano conquievit Martij 31^{mo} Annoq
 Domini 1684

In eujus Memoriam Elizabetha (Gulielmi Pennington de Muncaster in Comitatu Cumbriae Armigeri filia) viri hic contumulati Superstes et Vidu Lugubris hoc monumentum constituit.

In English thus :—

Here lies Roger Bradshaigh Esq., knight and baronet, son of James Bradshaigh of Haigh, in the County of Lancaster, gentleman, and of Anna, daughter of William Morris of Speke, in the same county, Knight of the Bath, his son and sole heir, a publicly elected member of the Parliament (which restored Charles II. to his crown and kingdom). He was the second time unanimously elected to the same position in the following Parliament, a firm and unshaken supporter of King and Country alike. In addition to his offices of state, he was created a justice of the peace in the aforesaid county, and as Sheriff he exercised full authority by the King's commission, and in his county duties in Lancashire he evinced the incorruptible integrity of a courageous and fearless magistrate. After as Lord Lieutenant of this aforesaid County Palatine his nobility and loyalty were conspicuous. At last after serving well his King and his country he gained respite from his public and private duties in the fifty-sixth year of his life on March 31, in the year of Our Lord 1684.

And Elizabeth (the daughter of William Pennington, of Muncaster, in the county of Cumberland, gentleman) the sorrowing widow and relict of him, who is buried here with her, erected this monument to his memory.

On the wooden screens are the Bradshaigh family arms.

Leaving the Crawford Chapel as we entered it, we pass through the Chancel into the Nave. On the north side is the pulpit.

During the eighteenth century, the pulpit, which was a wonderful and characteristic erection of the time, with a reading and clerk's desk in three tiers, stood against the fourth pillar near the centre of the Church. It had a sounding board above.

The present pulpit was erected in 1848, designed by Messrs. Sharp and Paley. It is finely carved in Caen stone. The sculptor was Mr. Young, who also executed the font. In 1888 it was painted with a design by Kemp, and bears on one of the panels the inscription: "Thanks be to God: for He hath shewn me marvellous great kindness.—1863-1888." Below this are the initials "H.W." and "E.S.W.," with a cross between them. In the alternate panels are the Greek initials of Our Lord's name, viz. :—

Ι Η Σ and Χ Ρ Ι Σ .

It was the gift of Henry Woodcock, Esq., of Bank House, Wigan, and his Wife, in thanksgiving for their silver wedding anniversary.

On the opposite side is the large brass eagle which serves as lectern, which was placed in the Church in 1848. The Bible which is in use was a gift of the Rev. H. F. Lloyd, Senior Curate, on leaving in 1896 to become Vicar of S. Michael's.

Between the pulpit and the lectern is a magnificent faldstool, which, in accordance with the old Lichfield use, is built double, in order that a priest and lay-clerk may sing the Litany together.

It was given to the Church by the friends of Miss Agnes Cheetham, for ten years head mistress of the Girls' Church High School. It was carved in Derbyshire, by Mr. Advent Hunston, and bears the following inscription: "To the Glory of God and in memory of Agnes Cheetham, first head mistress of the Church High School for Girls. 1887-1897. This desk was given by her pupils and friends. All Saints' Day, 1898."

If you raise your eyes over the turret doorway by the Lectern, there is a brass in memory of a former curate to be seen. It is a really large brass of good design made by Hart, Son, and Peard.

The inscription runs:—

“IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED PRIEST, ALBERT HARRY HODD. AT REST 6th AUGUST, 1871. JESU MERCI.”

Mr. Hodd is represented kneeling at a *prie dieu* in full vestments.

On the south-west of the same pillar is a tablet:—

Sacred
to
the memory of
WILLIAM PEARSON
Who died May 13th.
Aged 54 years
and was interred at the Wigan Cemetery
May 17, 1863.

The south wall contains five windows with mural tablets interspersed, which now claim attention.

The most easterly is by Hardman, and was put in by the parishioners in 1866 in memory of Sir Henry Gunning, thirty years Rector of Wigan. The design is symbolical of the Pastor of Souls as the Good Shepherd, while the two side lights contain the two Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. Beneath is a kneeling figure of Sir Henry Gunning in his surplice. On each side is an angel, one holding a chalice and paten and the other a font of water.

Next to it is a marble monument:—

TO THE MEMORY OF THE
HON^{BLE} AND REV^D GEORGE BRIDGEMAN, M.A.,
FORTY TWO YEARS THE BELOVED RECTOR OF THIS PARISH
(WHO DIED OCTOBER 27TH 1832
IN THE SIXTY EIGHTH YEAR OF HIS AGE)
AND IN REMEMBRANCE
OF THE KINDEST AND DEAREST OF HUSBANDS
THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY HIS WIDOW.

What shall I write on His memorial Stone ;
Thy Merits ? Thou did'st rest on Christ alone ;
My Sorrows ? Thou wouldest chide the selfish Tears ;
My Love ? Alas ! That needs no record here ;
Praise to Thy God and mine ? His truth and love
Arc sung in nobler strains by those above.

Opposite this on the arcade is a marble monument,
which reads thus :—

Sacred
to the memory of
BRYAN WILLIAM MOLYNEUX ESQ
of Hawkley
who was interred near this pillar.
He died July 29th 1805, aged 50,
Esteemed and regretted by those
who knew his worth
as a friend and a man of integrity.

On the monument is a shield bearing a coat of arms,
viz. :—Azure, a cross molines with a mullet in the first
quarter or.

The next window is also by Hardman. It was put
up in memory of his first wife by Henry Woodcock,
Esq., in 1855. She was Jane, daughter of Thomas
Marriot, Esq., who died November 21st, 1854.

The subjects are the Birth of Our Lord, with the
text, "Christus natus est pro nobis," the Ascension, and

the Appearance to S. Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection, with the text, "Apparuit primo Mariae Magdalene." In the lower part of the centre light is a portrait of Mrs. Woodcock, with the words, "Jesu mercy" on a scroll. Each of the side lights contains a text, viz., "Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord," and "Patient in tribulation, rejoicing in hope, continuing instant in prayer;" while in the Nativity two angels hold above Our Lord's head the words, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo."

Beneath this window is a brass, which really belongs to the window in the Tower. It reads, on a scroll held by two angels:—

✱ Henry Woodcock at Rest. 11 Dec. 1891. ✱
Buried at Cuckfield.

"O ye Spirits and Souls of the Righteous, bless ye the Lord, praise Him and magnify Him for ever."

This Brass was made by Hart, Son, Peard, and Co., London.

Next the window is a monument of marble, with a double inscription in Latin and English.

Rogerus Downes
de Wardley Armiger filius
Johanis Downes Hujus
Comitatus Armigeri
Obijt 27^o Junij
1676
Ætatis Suxæ 28^o

TO ROGER DOWNES
OF WEARDLEY ESQ SON OF
JOHN DOWNES OF THIS
COUNTY ESQ.
DIED JUNE 27TH
1676
AND OF HIS AGE 28.

From Rawlinson's MSS. we derive the following fact of interest:—"This monument was in the nave on a marble tablet, supported with two black marble pillars. On the top was a coat of armour, and on the bottom a hart sitting."

But these armorial bearings are no longer on the monument, which was evidently curtailed at the time of the restoration of the Church in 1849.

There is an interesting legend in connection with this monument, which is worth briefly quoting.

Roger Downes was supposed to be one of the most abandoned courtiers of Charles II. He met his death in a brawl with watchmen on London bridge, when the story runs after trying to slay one by running him through with his rapier, he killed Roger with a blow from a bill, which he carried. His body was flung into the Thames, and his head carefully packed in a box and sent to his sister Maria. The skull was long kept at Whardley Hall, but after a while attempts were made to bury it. These always failed, for the skull invariably returned to its place at Whardley Hall. Its uncanny reputation led to many further attempts to dispose of it, and it was burned, crushed to pieces and destroyed in many ways, but it always returned to its old place.

Such is the legend. Unfortunately it was exploded in 1779, when Roger Downes' tomb was opened and his whole skeleton found intact in a shroud. The only noticeable feature was the top of the skull, which had been sawn through (probably after his death) by a surgeon in order to ascertain the disease from which he died. The skull at Whardley Hall is probably that of a renegade Roman Priest, who was executed in Lancaster Jail for seditious practices in the times of William III.

Above the inscription is a shield of arms bearing (sable?) a plain cross or, and a canton . . . (for Bankes)

impaled with azure two bars argent, a bend componée (for Legh). Crest an eagle (?) statant . . . crowned round the neck or.

This inscription is described in "Rawlinson's Church Notes," written about 1708-1710, as being then "on a Northward Pillar near the pulpitt on a marble Tablett with a curtain drawn over it." Such is Rector Bridgeman's account.

The next window is one of the most beautiful in the Church. It is by Morris and Fawkner, after the design of Sir Edward Burne Jones. It was placed there in 1868, in memory of Edward Scott, of Beech Hill, Wigan, by his widow.

The centre light represents the story of S. Christopher, and the side ones have figures of the four archangels.

Martin Luther, the Protestant monk, gives the following account of the legend :—

"It is (says he) no Historie; but the Grecians (a wise, learned, and sensible people) feigned the same to show how a true Christian should bee, and how it went with him, namely, a very great, tall, and strong man, who carrieth a little child (Jesus) upon his shoulders, which was heavie, insomuch as he was constrained to bend and bow under him (as the name of Christopher, that beareth Christ, sheweth) through the raging and boisterous sea, the world; where the waves (The Tyrants, the Hereticks, and all the Devils) beat upon and persecute him, would willingly bereave him of body and life, of honour and wealth; but he holdeth himself on a great tree as upon a staff; that is God's Word. On the other side of the sea standeth an old man with a lanthorn in which a candle burneth; the same are the prophets. Afterwards he lifteth himself up, and so arrived safely on the shore, where is secure; that is, into everlasting

life. But at his side he hath a sash (script) wherein is fish and bread; to show that God here on earth will also nourish and take care for the bodies of his Christians in such persecutions, crosses, and mishaps, which they must endure, and will not suffer them to die of hunger, as the world willingly would have."

Next is a window by Hardman. It was put up in memory of John Woodcock, Esq. (eldest son of Thomas Woodcock, Esq.), of Newborough and The Elms, Wigan, who died in 1865, and Alice, his wife, who died in 1857, by their children. The subjects are scenes from the life of S. John the Evangelist. First light: His call by Our Lord with his brother, with the explanatory text, "They left their Father and followed Him." Centre light: S. John himself. Third light: SS. John and Peter at Our Lord's Sepulchre, with the explanatory text, "Looking in, I saw the linen clothes lying." Below is the Evangelist writing his gospel, "In the beginning was the Word."

Beside it is a marble monument, curiously carved and picked out in colour, which is fast fading:—

Juxta hic Reconditur
 Gulielmus Gulielmi Bankes
 de Winstanley Armig.
 non degener Filius
 vixit Annos XXXI
 Omnium quibus notus
 Deliciae Omnium Desiderium
 Flebilis occidit January X^{mo}
 Anno salutis
 MDCLXXXIX
 Affectus moestissimae uxoris
 Possidet istus marmor.

Which may thus be translated:—

"Near this monument is buried William, the son of William Bankes, of Winstanley, gentleman, no

unworthy scion. He lived for thirty-one years the delight of all his friends, missed by all. He died, well mourned, on the 10th of January, in the year of Salvation, 1689. The affection of his deeply bereaved widow erects this marble here."

Beside it is a monument of quaint marble work, with the inscription :—

JOHANNES
 Joliannis BALDWIN Generosi
 Filius natu maximus
 Cessit Fato, coelebs non improbus
 hujus Oppidi Aldermanus,
 21^o Junij A.D. 1726 Ætat^o 38
 S.B.R.

CHARISSIMI FRATRIS
 memoriae pie consulens
 Tho^s Baldwin
 Rector de Liverpool
 Moestens P.M., deflens P.

Which roughly means: John, the eldest son of John Baldwin, gentleman, died on the 21st of June in the year of our Lord 1726, aged 38. He was a bachelor of high integrity and an alderman of this town. Thomas Baldwin, Rector of Liverpool, with pious intent erected this tablet to the memory of his beloved brother.

On a shield of arms at the foot of the monument are argent a cross of S. Andrew sable, charged with a crescent or.

The last window which remains to be seen is by Laver, Barraud, and Westlake. It was put up in memory of Beatrice Jane, the wife of Egerton Leigh Wright, Esq., who died at Hindley Hall on the 27th June, 1867, aged 23. It contains a representation of the Ascension of Our Blessed Lord.

Between this window and the south-west door is a marble monument :—

SACRED
 TO THE MEMORY OF
 AND WHOSE MORTAL REMAINS
 LIE INTERRED UNDER THESE PEWS
ELLEN KENYON, WIDOW OF
GEORGE KENYON OF PEEL, ESQUIRE
 AND DAUGHTER OF **WILLIAM CURGHLEY**
 OF **SWINLEY ESQUIRE,**
 BOTH IN THE COUNTY OF **LANCASTER**
 DIED **18 JUNE, 1789, AGED 59 YEARS**
 AND OF **MARGARET CURGHLEY**
 DAUGHTER OF SAID
WILLIAM CURGHLEY
 DIED **28 MAY 1800**
 AGED **64 YEARS**
 ALSO OF **PEREGRINA KENYON**
 DAUGHTER OF THE SAME
GEORGE KENYON
 DIED **26 JUNE 1785**
 AGED **28 YEARS.**

Before you leave the Church, the Nave claims attention in one or two points. There are two rows of angels running round the Church just above the capitals of the arches, while five of the stone shields in the aisles contain a Hebrew inscription to the following effect :—

יהוה נאדרב קדש נורא תהלת

from Exodus XV. 11., which means "The Lord is glorious in holiness, fearful in praises." The rest are filled in with symbols of various character.

It is noteworthy that the corbels on the north wall of the north aisle are elaborately carved, and also the brackets which rest on them, as in the nave, and left perfectly plain all along the south.



J. BROWNE, Esq.,
CHURCHWARDEN.

On festivals six banners are hung up in the Church. They were the gift of Mrs. Woodcock, of Bank House, and contain a Latin inscription from the Gloria in the Holy Communion Service with appropriate symbols. They take the place of an older set, which is entirely worn out.

The inscription is curiously worked in Gothic characters, with frequent abbreviation. It may, therefore, be worth while to reproduce it.

The large banner has the words:—

“ ihesu corona factorū omniu
miserere nobis ”

For “ Jesu, the coronal of all Saints, have mercy upon us.”

The rest read:—

“ laudam' te, benedican' te, adoram' te
glorificam' te.”

For “ We praise Thee, we
bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee.”

One has no inscription.

One other quaint feature calls for comment, and the ramble is finished. On the third pillar in the north side is a curious niche, evidently for a patron saint, with a mysterious trident-like symbol. Possibly this is some relic of the old Guild days; the mark left by some of the workmen, who were responsible for the original stone carving in the Church.

The whole of the Church is free, except the Churchwardens' seats, which are marked by wands bearing copper heads with the sacred monogram. The Church is always open, either for the curious who would like to learn more of its old history, or for the devout who care to take the opportunity for silent prayer and meditation

In **Deo.**

LIST OF RECTORS.

	Names Occur.	
Ranulph ...	... 1199-1205.	
Robert de Dunolm (or Durham) ...	... 1205.	
John Maunsell ...	... 1242-5-1265.	
Richard ...	... 1265.	
Adam de Walton ...	... 1292-1303.	
Robert de Clyderhou ...	... 1303-1334.	
John (or Ivo) de Langton	1334-1344.	
John de Craven ...	... 1344-1350.	
John de Winwick ...	... 1350-1359.	
Richard de Langton ...	... 1359-1359.	
Robert de Lostock ...	... 1359-1362.	
Walter de Campeden ...	... 1362-1370.	
James de Langton ...	... 1370-1415.	
William de Langton ...	... 1415-1432.	
James de Langton ...	... 1432-1446-7.	
Oliver de Langton ...	... 1451-1462-3.	
John Langton ...	... 1485-1504.	
Thomas Langton ...	... 1504-15 6.	
Richard Wyot ...	... 1506-1519.	
Thomas Linacre, M.D. ...	... 1519-1524.	
Nicholas Towneley ...	... 1528-1532.	
Richard Langton ...	... 1532-1535.	
Richard Kyghley ...	... 1535-1543.	
John Herbert ...	... 1543-1550.	
John Staudish ...	... 1550-1551.	
Richard Smyth ...	... 1551-1554.	
Richard Gerard ...	... 1554-1558.	
Thomas Stanley ...	... 1558-1569. (Also Bishop of Sodor and Man.)	
William Blackleach ...	... 1569-1570.	
Edward Fleetwood ...	... 1571-1604.	
Gerard Massie ...	... 1604-1616.	
John Bridgeman...	... 1616-1643. (Also Bishop of Chester.)	
<small>Ep. Bridgeman deprived and there was a lapse till Ep. Hall.</small>		
James Bradshaw ...	... 1643-1653. Presbyterian minister.	
Charles Hotham...	... 1653-1662. Independent minister.	
George Hall ...	... 1662-1668. (Also Bishop of Chester.)	
John Wilkins ...	... 1668-1672. " "	
John Pearson ...	... 1673-1686. " "	
Thomas Cartwright ...	... 1686-1689. " "	
Nicholas Stratford ...	... 1689-1707. " "	
Hon. Edward Finch ...	... 1707-1713.	
Samuel Aldersey ...	... 1714-1741.	
Roger Bridgeman ...	... 1741-1750.	

Shirley Cotes	...	...	1750-1775.
Guy Fairfax	...	...	1776-1790.
George Bridgeman	...	...	1790-1832.
Sir Henry John Gunning.			1833-1864.
Hon. George Thomas			
Orlando Bridgeman	...	...	1864-1895.
Roland George Matthew			1896.

LIST OF CURATES.

Names Occur.	
1199-1205	Adam de Frekelton occurs as Vicar of Wigan.
1340-	Robert de Kendala, Clerk of Wigan (probably curate)
1532-	William Hasteley curate of Wigan
c. 1543-1552.	Ralph Scott curate of Wigan
c. 1543-1550.	Henry Grange, Stipendiary of Robert Langton
c. 1543-1550.	Hugh Cokson, Chaplain to Thomas Gerrard Esq. and Sir Gilbert Aspull, also appeared and answered their names at the Bishop's Visitation as priests serving in the parish of Wigan (of whom Hugh Cokson had now become Chantry priest of the Bradshaigh Chantry). The following answered their names or were excused from appearing at the Bishop's Visitation, namely,
c. 1543-1550.	
c. 1550-	William Aspull (Astley), Chaplain to Miles Gerard, Esq., John Gerard, Thomas Barnes, and Matthew Heye
1594-1604.	Robert Thompson, minister, signs his name at the bottom of the pages of the Wigan register.
1605-1610.	Henry Reynolds signs name together with the Churchwardens, from 1605 to 1610; he appeared as curate at Wigan at the Bishop's Visitation call in 1609. Mr. George Bordeman was the Schoolmaster, Mr. Edward Tempest curate at Holland, and Mr. Richard Bolton reader at Billinge
1617-1621.	Augustine Wildbore
1619-1620.	William Sherlock, curate
1621-	William Lewes
1621-1625.	Thomas Bridge
1625-1627.	Robert Fog held the cure from midsummer 1625 to midsummer 1627, when he left Wigan and went to Eccleston.
1628-	Henry Helyar
1628-1630.	James Starky
1631-1632.	. . Whitacre
1634-	. . Hudson

c. Chantry Priest.

1637-	Charles Knot
1637-1640.	Richard Collingwood
1641-	William Aynsworth and William Leigh, curates
1664-1667.	Peter Earle, curate
1671-1672.	John Rawler, curate at Wigan
1675-1676.	Samuel Shaw, curate at Wigan
1668-1670.	Edmund Lees, curate
1679-1681.	Richard Wroe, curate
1686.	. . . Callis
1686-	James Peake
1686.	Thomas Turner
1688-1691.	Peter Haddon, curate
1692-1693.	Richard White, curate
1693-	John Jackson, reader at Wigan
1695-1704.	Zachariah Taylor, curate
1703-1704.	Thomas Johnson, curate
1707-1715.	George Bowyer, curate
1711-	John Lowe, reader of Wigan
1717-1723.	Thomas Eden, curate
1723-1740.	John Baldwin, curate
1739-1768.	Thomas Edge, curate
1748-1751.	Robert Cawley, curate
1768-1776.	Stephen Ellis, curate
1768-1782.	Thomas Whitehead, curate licensed 12 Oct. 1768.
1777-1779.	Robert Knowles
1780-1798.	John Fawel, licensed 11 July 1783.
1782-1807.	John Gibson, literate, nominated 29 June 1783.
1798-1803.	Thomas Meyrick, B.A. licensed 11 July 1793.
1802-1809.	Cecil Daniel Wray, licensed 1 Oct 1803.
1808-1816.	Thomas Pigot, licensed 1 Mar 1808.
1809-1811.	Edward Grime
1811-	George Henderick
1811-1814.	Samuel Hall, licensed 21 Jan 1812.
1814-1831	Edward Hill, B.A. licensed 21 Feb 1814
1816-	Christopher Bateson
1816-1821.	Benjamin Powell, licensed 6 Jan 1816.
1821-1825.	George Goodwill, licensed 16 Jan 1823
1826-1833.	John Bromilow, B.A. licensed 22 May, 1826.
1831-1840.	James Kirkland Glazebrook
1832-1832.	Joshua Paley
1832-1837.	Henry B. O'Neill
1837-1839.	Edward Jones
1837-1844.	Charles Bisset
1841-1841.	Benjamin Wilson
1841-1842.	Henry B. Jones
1842-1846.	John Lomas
1843-1844.	John Lingham
1844-1847.	John Taylor Pigot

1846-1849.	Arthur Coates	
1846-1847.	Henry Veale	
1847-1848.	Edward Pigot	
1848-1849.	Edmund Wolryche Orlando Bridgeman	
1848-1848.	George Dunbar Houghton	
1849-1851.	Peter King Simmons	
1850-1853.	Howard St. George, licensed 18 Jan 1850.	
1850-1855.	George Huntington	
1854-1855.	Francis Henry Coldwell, licensed 28 Jan 1854.	
1855-1856.	Henry Maclean, licensed 12 June 1855.	
1855-1858.	William Thomas Whitehead, B.A. licensed 6 June 1855.	
1856-1863.	Charles Hutchinson Newbold, licensed 20 June 1856.	
1858-1860.	Alexander Smith, B.A. licensed 6 May 1858.	
1860-1863.	Thomas Higham, B.A. licensed 27 July, 1860.	
1863-1864.	Edward Henry Aldridge, B.A. licensed 1 May 1863.	
1863-1864.	James Frederick Goggin, licensed 21 Sep 1863.	
1864-1870.	Arthur Henry Webb, licensed 28 Oct 1864.	
1864-1870.	Albert Harry Hodd, M.A. licensed 27 Jan 1865.	
1865-1871.	William James Webb, B.A. licensed 16 June 1867.	
1870-1872.	Lewis Richard Charles Bagot, B.A. " 25 Sep 1870.	
1870-1872.	Francis Slater, B.A. " 18 Dec 1870.	
1871-1877.	George Arthur Edwin Kempson, B.A. " 29 Nov 1871.	
1873-1875.	John Elount Meredith, B.A. " 28 June 1873.	
1874.	Henry Hutchinson	
1875-1877.	Frederick Augustus Holden Vinen, licensed 25 May 1875	
1875-1881.	Roland George Matthew, M.A. " 19 Sep 1875.	
1876-1881.	Andrew Edward Phillimore Gray, B.A. licensed 12 Mar 1876.	
1877-1879.	Douglas Stuart Murray, B.A. licensed 27 May 1877.	
1878-1881.	Charles Dudley Pater, B.A. " 16 June 1878.	
1878-1880.	James Bailey	
1880-1885.	Charles John Buckmaster, B.A. " 22 Feb 1880	
1880-1883.	Edward Percy Alexander " 4 Jan 1880	
1882-1885.	Edmund Ralph Ruck-Keene " 17 Dec 1882.	
1883-1895.	Hugh Francis Lloyd M.A. " 23 Dec 1883.	
1885-1896.	Arthur Champion Brown M.A. " 31 May 1885	
1886-1891.	Edward Henry Herbert Brodhurst, M.A., licensed 9 Nov 1886.	
1889-1900.	Henry William Maud Gunning M.A. licensed Dec 1889.	
1891-	William Evelyn Kingsbury, M.A. " July 1891.	
1896	J. C. Kerry	
1896-1898.	Frederick Reginald Evans, B.A. " May 1896.	
1897-	Edgar Rogers, M.A. licensed 11 June 1897.	
1899-	Frederic Cyril Wallis, M.A. licensed June 1899.	
1901-	George Herbert Horton, B.A. " June 1901.	

LIST OF CHURCHWARDENS FROM 1580-1.

Note that the spelling of the names as in the original is retained.

Alexander Forth	...	...	1580-1599.
James Snart & Edw Marcland	...	...	1599 1600.
Wyllyam Bancke & Willm Forth	...	...	1600-1.
Hūphrey France & Raphe Leigh	...	...	1601-2.
Wm Pilkinton & John Scotte	...	...	1602-3.
Alexander Forth & Peter Brighthouse	...	...	1604.
Gilbart Banke & Peter Brigghouse	...	...	1604-1605.
Petter Brighthouse & Gilbart Banckes	...	...	1605 6.
Edwarde Boulton & Hugh Challiner	...	...	1606-07.
Hugh Scott and Thomas Taletonne	...	}	1607-8.
Willia Laithwatt & Thomas Forthe	...		
Thomas Banckes & Mathew Marklande	...	...	1608-9.
Thomas Banckes & Matthew Markland	...	...	1609-10
Edward Boulton	...	...	1610-11.
Willia Bankes & Humfra France	...	...	1611-12.
Willia Ascrofte...	...	...	1612-13.
Willia Ascroft & Robart Litherbarow	...	...	1613-14.
Willia Leathwhet & Gilbart Gardner	...	...	1614-15.
James Scott & Roger Browne...	...	...	1615-16.
Thomas Bank & Henry Marshden	...	...	1616-17.
Robart Markeland & Raph Asley	...	...	1618.
Willm Ford & Robart Forth	...	...	1619-20.
George Birtchall & Thomas Briggs	...	...	1620.
[No record]	...	...	1620-27.
Gilbert Barowe & Cristopher Robie	...	...	1627-8.
[No record]	...	...	1628-34.
Wm. Banks & Hugh Scott	...	...	1634.
James Patrick & Lewes Orrell	...	...	1635.
William Markland & George Greene	...	...	1636.
Hugh Barrow & Willm Boocere	...	...	1637.
John Standish & Raph Brownlow	...	...	1638.
Robt Markland & Mr Brocke	...	...	1639.
Peeter Greene & Gilbt Langton	...	...	1640.
Robt Langshaw & Humphree Cowley	...	...	1641.
Willm Tempest & Rich : Arasmith	...	...	1642-3-4.
Thomas Bancks & James Locker	...	...	1645-6.
Jeffrey Scott and Rich Boulton	...	...	1647.
Thomas Banckes & Rich : Greene	...	...	1648.
James forth & Raph fozg	...	...	1649.
Mathew Markland & Hugh Oultcheth	...	...	1650.
Robt Litherbarrow & Roger Rycroft	...	...	1651-2.
John Wakefeild & Mathew Peetersoun	...	...	1652-3.
Raph Deane & Robt Hindley.	...	...	1653-4.

John Lathwate & John Rycroft	...	...	1654-6.
Willm North & Roger Hindley	...	...	1655-6.
Christop ^r George Sumner & Richard Waite	...	...	1656-7.
James Asley & Humphrey Platt	...	...	1657-8.
James Browne & Richard Low	...	...	1658-9.
Robert Markland & William Latham	...	...	1659-60.
Charles Bancks & Peter Williamson	...	...	1660.
Gilbert Baldwin & James Partington	...	...	1661-2.
Peter Higham & Richard Mather	...	...	1662-3.
Thomas fford & Lawrance Halluwell	...	...	1663-4.
Willm Naylor & Willm Deane	...	...	1664-5.
William Curghey & Adam Richardson	...	...	1665-6.
Richard Brocke & Thomas Nailor	...	...	1666-7.
James fford & James Browne	...	...	1667-8.
William fford & Christopher Pennington	...	...	1668-9.
James Marsden & Gilbert Pennigton	...	...	1669-70.
Henry Robie & Thomas Cooper	...	...	1670-71.
Thomas Layland & Raph Rothwell	...	...	1671-72.
George Browne & Raph Culbeth	...	...	1672-3.
Gilbert Lancshawe & Robert Stopford	...	...	1674-5.
William Higham & William Ranickers	...	...	1675-6.
Robert Bancks & John Laland	...	...	1676-7.
John Baldwin & Will: Bertchall	...	...	1677-8.
Robert fford & Adam Hindley	...	...	1678-9.
Robt Brown & Tho: Winstanley	...	...	1678-9.
Gilbert fford & William Grymshaw	...	...	1679-80.
William Brocke & Edward Glest	...	...	1680-1.
Raph Lankshaw & Peter Worthington	...	...	1681-2.
John Keeling & Wm Blackburn	...	...	1682-3.
Gilbert Orrell & James Scott	...	...	1683-4.
Adam Bancks & Richard Lockar	...	...	1684-5.
James Haruye & Henercy fisher	...	...	1685-6.
John fford & Henry Orrett	...	...	1686-7.

Henry Orrett elected in the ye steed of Edward Holt the seventh
day of May.

Raph Leigh & William Cheetham	...	...	1687-8.
John Curghey & Jabez Leyland	...	...	1688-9.
William Scott & John Richardson	...	...	1689-90.
Gilbert fford & John Worthington	...	...	1690-1.
Wm. fforde & Roger Grimshaw	...	...	1691-2.
Wm. Bancks & Wm. Whaley	...	...	1692-3.
John Markland & John Prescott	...	...	1693-4.
Robert Greene & James Colashead	...	...	1694-5.
Robert Hollinshead & Richard Prescott	...	...	1695-6.
Richard Arrowsmith & William Brown	...	...	1696-7.
William Baldwine & James Hodgkinson	...	...	1697-8.

John Latham & John Ranicars	... ..	1698-9.
Roger Bullocke & James Richardson...	... ..	1699-1700.
William Smith & John Rigby...	... ..	1700-1.
John Harvey & James Leyland	... ..	1701-2.
James Anderton & John Owen	... ..	1702-3.
Robert Wackerfeldt & Samuel Hilton	... ..	1703-4.
James Molineux & Thomas Lathom	... ..	1704-5.
Robert Foster & John Leyland	... ..	1705-6.
James Boon & Henry Arrowsmith	... ..	1706-7.
Henry Fleetwood & Christopher Pennington...	... ..	1707-8.
William Holland & William Taylor	... ..	1708-9.
Thomas Bancks & Robt Markland	... ..	1709-10-11.

The Hoable, Reverend Edward Finch, Rectr. of Wigan, chose Thomas Bancks of Winstanley Parr Churchwarden according to the Cannon and a cleint custom before the horrid Rebellion against King Charles the first of ever Blessed memory.

Richard Heys & Richard Southworth	... ..	1711-12-13.
Robert Holt & Leigh Culcheth	... ..	1713-1714.
Jno. Anzark & Richd. Prescott	... ..	1714-15.
Gerard Browne & John Chaddock	... ..	1715-16.
William Curghey & Robert Locker	... ..	1716-17.
Jno. Rigby & Jeremiah Taylor	... ..	1717-18-19.
James Acton & Peter Knight	... ..	1719-20.
Geo: Valentine & Adam Chaddock	... ..	1721-22.
James Layland 1721 (chosen in the place of Adam Chaddock who died during his year of office	... ..	...
George Valentine & Henry Bispham...	... ..	1722-23.
Robt Banks & John Marsh	... ..	1723-4.
Robert Bancks & George Browne	... ..	1724-5.
Edward Kenwick & Henry Winstanley	... ..	1725-6.
James Hollinshead & Grundy Hindley	... ..	1726-7.
Tho: Parr & Henry Fisher	... ..	1727-8.
Jonathan Johnson & Henry Suthworth	... ..	1728-9-30.
James Bancks & George Birchall	... ..	1730-1.
James Layland & Tho: Low	... ..	1731-2-3.
Gerard Taylton & Timothy Heys	... ..	1733-4-5.
Thomas Owen & Hugh Holme	... ..	1735-6.
Jno. Latham & John Rigby	... ..	1736-7-8.
William Finch & William Derbyshire	... ..	1738-9-1740.
James Hartley & Lawrence Eaton	... ..	1740-1-2.
Tho: Barton & William Hampson	... ..	1742-3-4.
Tho: Marsden & Jam: Na'or	... ..	1744-5-6.
Thos. Rainford & Thos Heys	... ..	1746-7-8.
" " & Henry Martin	... ..	1648-9.
" " & John Chaddwick	... ..	1750-1.
John Latham & John Chaddock	... ..	1751-2-3.
John Hodson & Nicholass Thomason	... ..	1753-4-5.

Thos. Barton & Gerd. Hindley	...	...	1755-6-7
Thos. Bannister & John Southworth	...	...	1757-8-9
Robt Ward & James Scott	...	...	1759-60.
" " & Henry Rigby	...	...	1760-1.
Nicholass Latham & Henry Rigby	...	...	1761-2-3.
" " & James Wood	...	...	1763-4-5.
Robt Green & Humphrey Atherton	...	...	1765-6-7-8.
Willm. Bolton & John Rigby	...	...	1768-9-10.
Willm. Ollerhead & James Eckersley	...	...	1770-1.
Thos. Doncaster & Jams Eckersley	...	...	1771-2.
Hugh Bullock & Willm. Rigby	...	...	1772-3.
Willm. Bolton & Will. Rigby	...	...	1773-4.
Willm. Finch & Willm. Rigby	...	...	1774-5.
" " & Peter Lowe	...	...	1775-6-7
Thomas Woltum & William Berry	...	...	1777-8.
" " & Wm Farrimond	...	...	1778-9.
Thos. Barton Junr & " "	...	...	1779-80-81.
Robert Rowbottom & John Rigby	...	1781-2-3-4-5-6.	
James Rowbottom & " "	...	...	1786-7-8.
" " & John Vause	...	...	1788-9.
Elias Chadwick & Jno Unsworth	...	...	1789-90.
" " & Richard Ball	...	...	1790-1-2.
John Chadcock & " "	...	...	1792-3.
" " & John Hopwood	...	...	1793-4-5.
James Penson & Thomas Birch	...	...	1795-6-7.
" " & John Acton	...	...	1797-8
Richard Ball & " "	...	...	1798-9
" " & Jeffrey Langshaw	...	...	1799-1800-1.
Thomas Birch & " "	...	...	1801-2-3-4.
Robert Bolton & James Brown	...	...	1804-5-6.
Thomas Birch & " "	...	...	1806-7.
" " & Richard Hibbert	...	...	1807-8.
" " & Richard Holmes	...	...	1808-9.
Thomas Prescott & " "	...	...	1809-10.
Thos. Newsham & Henry Lomax	...	1810-11-12-13-	
Jas. Tennant & Jno. Hodson Kersley	...	1813-14-15-16.	
John Fisher & Thomas Burrows	...	...	1816-17.
Robert Marsden & George Caldwell	1817-18-19-20-21-22.	...	
James Bullock & John Hanson	...	...	1822-3-4.
" " & George Caldwell	...	...	1824-5.
Thomas Moorfield " "	...	...	1825-6.
George Caldwell & William Lamb	...	...	1826-7.
John Peet & John Mather	...	...	1827-8.
" " & " "	...	...	1828-9.
Richard Marsden & John Mather	...	...	1829-30.
" " & William Potter	...	1830-31-32-33-34.	
" " & James Catt-rall Leach	...	1834-5-6-7.	

John Fairhurst & Joseph Griffiths	...	1837-8-9-40.
" " & Thomas Byrom	...	1840-1-2-3-4.
Henry Woodcock & Thomas Tebay	...	1844-5.
The Hon. Colin Lindsay & "	...	1845-6-7.
" " & Richd. Marsden	...	1847-8.
" " & Ralph Darlington	...	1848-49-50-1-2.
" " & Brice Grant Dean	...	1852-3-4-5.
Joseph Ingram & Thomas Byrom	...	1855-6-7.
" " & Nathaniel Eckersley	...	1857-8.
" " & Charles Pigot	...	1858-9.
Charles Pigot & Thomas Woods	...	1859-60.
Henry Woodcock & Thomas Woods	...	1860-1-2-3-4.
" " & Ralph Darlington	...	1867-8-9.
" " & Thomas Woods	...	1869-70.
" " & Ralph Darlington	...	1870-1-2-3-4-5-6.
Henry Woodcock & Walter Mayhew	...	1876-7.
R. A. Harrington & " "	...	1877-8-9-80-1-2-3-4-5-6.
R. A. Harrington & John Browne	...	1886-7-8-9-90-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-1900-1.

A List of Charities which used to be on a tablet of wood fixed to the north wall previous to the restoration in 1849-50 :—

	£	s.	d.
Edmund Mollyneux citizen and mercer of London gave £20 per annum for ever	20	0	0
The same Edmund Mollyneux towards the reparaire of the Parish Church of Wigan	6	0	0
And to the Schoole per annum for ever	6	6	0
He gave towards the reparaire of the Chapell of Upholland...	4	0	0
Hugh Bullock, gent., gave to the poor of Wigan	100	0	0
And to the Schoole per annum for ever	20	0	0
Henry Mason clerk gave to the poore of Wigan	130	0	0
Mr. Lawrence Maudsley gave to the poore of Wigan.....	10	0	0
Alice Wood gave to the poore of Wigan.....	10	0	0
John Bullock gent. gave to the poore of Wigan per annum for ever	5	0	0
Garard Markland Alderman gave to the poore of Wigan.....	5	0	0
Mr. John Guest gave to the poore of the Parish of Wigan per annum	3	0	0
Matthew Markland Ald gave to the poor of Wigan	5	0	0
James Mollineux Ald gave to the poor of Wigan...	3	0	0
George Lord Bishop of Chester and Gertrude his Lady, gave to the poore of Wigan either £20	40	0	0
Mr. Thomas Markland gave to the poore of Wigan	3	0	0

Roger Laithwaite gave to the poore of Wigan	20	0	0
Roger Dawnes of Wardley Esq An Dom 1626 gave to the poore of Wigan	20	0	0

WILLIAM BALDWIN } churchwardens,
JAMES HODKINSON } ano Dom. 1697.

On the right hand of the above mentioned catalogue of Benefactors is a wooden tablet containing as follows :—

Robett Sixsmith, of the Scoles,
in Wigan, Dyer, hath given to the
poore of the said towne in lands £ s. d.
to the yearly value of..... 6 0 0

That this may therefore putt in mind

Some others for to be as kind

John Laythom, Roger Browne,
Alexander Ryard, Willm White, Trustees.

On a cupboard underneath, on the eighth shutter,
this :—

Edward Holt of Wigan,
gentleman, for encouraging
the poor to frequent the church
did that he might see it settled in
his lifetime anno do: 1700 give the
sum of £150 the growing interest [£150 0 0]
thereof to be employed in providing
a certain number of 2d loaves
to be given each Lord's day
to such poor old people of this towne
and parish as most constantly attend
the church, and finding the good
effect of his charity, he did an. do.
1704 advance a further gift
of £75, the interest of it to bee [£75 0 0]
disposed of every Lord's
day in 2d loaves to such poore
people as are inhabitants of
the Town of Wigan in the
Form and manner aforesaid.

On the other cupboard door :—

Edmund Mollineux,
citizen and mercer,
of London gave to
the poore per annum
for ever..... £20 0 0

