

NOTES ON THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST. WILFRED, STANDISH

By William Frederick Price

Read 17th November 1904

INTRODUCTION.

WRAPT in the mist of unwritten history there is some tradition that long before the coming of the Normans, Standish was a fortified station or camp of some importance. Lying, as it does, on an elevated plateau 370 feet above sea-level, on the direct route of the Roman road between Wigan and Walton-le-Dale, there may be some truth in the tradition. The fact that the Romans were acquainted with the use of coal is now fully established, and so great an authority on mining as Professor Hull considers there is good evidence that they discovered and worked the Arley seam which crops out along the banks of the river Douglas between Standish and Wigan. Years ago, while driving a tunnel to divert the course of the river, this coal seam of 6 feet in thickness was found to have been mined in a manner hitherto altogether unknown. "It was excavated into a series of polygonal chambers, with vertical walls opening into each other by short passages, and, on the whole, presenting on a ground plan something of the appearance of a honeycomb. The chambers were regular in size and form, and were altogether different from anything within the experience of the miners of the district ; there is some-



STANDISH CHURCH, SOUTH SIDE, 1905

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thing in the symmetrical arrangement and regularity of the works peculiarly Roman, reminding one of their tessellated pavements."—*The Coalfields of Great Britain*, pp. 12–13, Edward Hull, B.A., 1861.

Other traces of Roman occupation were found at Standish in the seventeenth century in the shape of a Roman hoard of about 200 denarii (Domitian to Gordianus) and two gold rings.

Although the Romans mined coal and other minerals in this Island during their occupation, it was not until the beginning of the fourteenth century that we find documentary evidence of the leasing of land for the purpose of coal mining in various parts of England and Wales. In the series of "Charters and Deeds relative to the Standish family of Standish and Duxbury" there is a lease dealing with land in Shevington in the parish of Standish, in which mention is made of "Fyrston" (fire stone) and "Secole" (sea-coal): the date of this deed is 1350. Possibly the early discovery of that valuable mineral, here called "fire stone," may have some connection with the etymology of the word Standish, for in charters of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the spelling most frequently found is Stanedis or Stanesdis, and at a later date it becomes Stanesdich and Standyshe.

Before the development and working of the Standish coal seams the inhabitants of the parish were employed in the weaving of cotton and silk by hand loom; several of these old hand looms were at work in Standish so late as 1860–5. While rummaging among old documents at the Diocesan Registry at Chester for material for these notes, a list of recusants of the parish of Standish was found for the year 1706; and out of about eighty male inhabitants, only *one* is mentioned as following the occupation of collier; the remainder are chiefly described as yeomen, weavers, and labourers.

The Parish of Standish comprises ten townships—Standish-cum-Langtree, Shevington, Coppull, Worthington, Adlington, Anderton, Charnock Richard, Heath Charnock, Duxbury, and Welsh Whittle. These ten townships are identical in name with the ten ancient manors into which the district was divided in fourteenth of King John, 1212; and the ten manors were, with the exception of Coppull, held at that date by the family of Bussell, Barons of Penwortham.—*Lancashire Pipe Rolls*, W. Farrer.

Dealing now only with the township of Standish-cum-Langtree, in which the church and village of Standish are situated, it is recorded in the *Testa de Nevill* (vol. ii. f. 816) that Richard Bussell [1135–1160] gave two carucates of land in Standish and Langtree to Robert Spileman in marriage with his sister. By a fine levied at Westminster on the Octave of Holy Trinity, 5th June 1206, these two carucates of land were partitioned between Siward de Langtree and Ralph de Standish, Siward taking the carucate of land in Langtree, one moiety of the advowson of the Church of Standish, a moiety of the commonable wood in Standish, and sixteen acres of assarted¹ land lying near the said wood; Ralph taking the carucate of land in Standish, the other moiety of the advowson and of the wood, and sixteen acres of assarted land.

There is ample evidence in early deeds relating to lands in Standish showing that the township was at one time chiefly wood and waste, for we meet with grants of “house bote” and “fire bote” (wood for repairs and fuel), and common of turbary, with pannage for hogs in the woods of Standish and Langtree.

Many disputes took place between the houses of

¹ “Assarted land” = woodland which has been cleared and brought into cultivation.

Standish and Langtree as to their individual rights in taking in at different times the "wastes in Standish and Langtree," and an attempted settlement of these disputes was made in 1357 by an appeal to the "mediation of their common friends." An alliance between the families in 1403-4, when Richard de Longtre, by a dispensation¹ from the Bishop of Coventry, took to wife Elizabeth, daughter of Rauff Standish (Standish Charters, p. 88), does not seem to have ended the disputes, and we find arbitrations and awards going on until the sixteenth century.

ADVOWSON.

In the division of land already mentioned between Ralph de Standish and Siward de Longtree, the advowson of the Church of Standish is specifically dealt with; one moiety thereof being apportioned to Ralph, and the other to Siward.

I have not found any instance of the Longtree family ever having exercised the right of presentation to Standish, while there is evidence in the charters and deeds of the Standish family showing that the Standishes retained and jealously guarded their privileges in this respect. The last presentation made by the Standishes was in 1713. Shortly after that date the Standish estates were confiscated and sold by the Crown, and Charles, Duke of Somerset, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, made the two succeeding presentations in 1722 and 1724. Later, the perpetuity of the rectory for twenty-one years was purchased for the sum of £1200 by the Claytons of Adlington, and in July 1760 Richard Clayton, Esq., of Adlington, presented Edward Smalley to the rectory. The

¹ Mr. Farrer suggests that Siward and Ralph were brothers, sons of Leising, who probably married the daughter and heiress of Robert Spileman; this dispensation for a marriage between a Longtre and Standish strengthens the suggestion of a kinship.

advowson then passed by purchase to the Right Honourable Sir Richard Perryn, knight, one of the Barons of His Majesty's Exchequer, and was again sold to the Rev. Wm. Green Orrett, Rector of Standish in 1826. By June 1841 it had passed to Dr. Joseph Pilkington Brandreth of Liverpool, and from him to the present owner, Miss Adams, in 1886.

CHANTRIES.

There were three chantries within the Church of Standish—the Chantry of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or the Altar of Our Lady; the Chantry at the Altar of St. Nicholas; and the Chantry of the Holy Cross, or Rood Altar.

The Chantry at the Altar of Our Lady.

References made to this chantry in the Standish Charters quite clear up any doubt as to who was the founder:—

“Ralph de Standish, patron of the Church of Standish, and of the advowson of the chantry in the said church, founded by Henry Waleys, admits Thomas Thorpe, clerk, to be chantry priest of the said chantry for life. Date, 1404-5.

“Henry de Standish, patron of the Church of Standish, presents Thomas del Lee, clerk, chanter to the chantry in Standish Church. Date, 1388-9.”

This chantry was the earliest foundation of the three, and from the wording of the above it was *the only* chantry in the Church up to 1404-5: in the Chetham Society's volume on the Lancashire Chantries it is erroneously stated that Christopher (or Alexander) Wall was the founder. Henry Waley, the founder, was Rector of Standish from 1301 to 1338, or perhaps later; the chantry was endowed with lands in Standish, Langtree, and Welsh Whittle. In the Royal Commissioners' Report on the Chantries,

the Chantry at the Altar of Our Lady is described as being situated at the extreme eastern part of the Church, its position being similar to that of the Lady Chapel in ancient churches. (The piscina and aumbrey still exist, and may be seen at the south side of the altar at the extreme east end of the Church.) At the date of the suppression of the chantries, 1548, William Bimson, aged forty-six, "a lame and impotent man," was the priest-incumbent at this altar, and was bound to find thirteen tapers before the Sacrament, and to maintain the service in the Choir every Holy Day. He had a pension of £4, 5s. 6d. He died on the 23rd January 1562, and was buried at Standish. Probably he came of a local family: Bimsons are still resident in Shevington.

Of the priests who served at this altar, we have the names of three—

In 1388 Thomas de Lee, presented by Henry Standish.

In 1404 Thomas Thorpe, presented by Ralph Standish.

In 1548 William Bimson.

Chantry at the Altar of St. Nicholas.

Said to have been founded by Alexander Fairclough, who was Rector of Standish in 1478, but the date of foundation has not been discovered. It was probably situated in the north aisle of the Church. There was formerly a brass plate in the north aisle, with an inscription in Latin to the effect that Robert Pylkington had been custodian and chaplain of this chantry, and gave to the chantry a yearly revenue of six marks. He died on the 6th May 1498. James Nevore was chantry priest at the date of the Commissioners' Report, and the chantry was endowed with land in Rivington, Whittle, Adlington, and Heath Charnock.

There is no reference to this chantry in the Standish Charters.

Chantry at the Rood Altar, or Chantry of the Holy Cross.

It is stated in *History of Chantries* (*Chetham Society*, vol. 60, p. 181) that this chantry was founded in or about the year 1483 by James Standish of Duxbury. The editor has probably fallen into an error here, as appears from the following extract from the Standish Charters (p. 73):—

“Alexander Standish, son and heir of Rauff Standish, as executor of the last will and testament of James Standish of *Erley* (now Arley), gent., inducts Peter Bower chanter or chantry priest, to celebrate in the chantry of the ‘Holy Cross’ in Standish Church.”

(The Standishes of Erley and the Standishes of Gathurst are both frequently mentioned in the Standish Charters.)

It has been orally transmitted that the chapel on the north side of the chancel in Standish Church was originally a chantry founded by the Duxbury house, which still claims some uncertain and undefined right to it, but the Chantry Commissioners are precise in their allocation of the site of this chantry to the Rood Loft.

There is no evidence of the Standishes of Standish, or the Standishes of Duxbury, ever having founded a chantry in Standish Church. There is a piscina in the Standish Chapel in the south aisle, but this chapel was not built till 1589, and the chantries were suppressed in 1548.

The endowments of this chantry consisted of lands or tenements in Langtree, Worthington, and Chorley. In 1548 Peter Bower, chantry priest at the Rood Altar, was aged seventy-two years, and had a pension of £3, os. 8d. He was buried at Standish on 20th day of March 1556 (*Record Society*, vol. i. pp. 69–70).

When Henry VIII. first set his Commissioners to ascertain what plunder might be got from church

plate and goods, the authorities at Standish seem to have got wind of their coming, and all the three chantries in the Church were declared to be without plate. However, in 1552, when an "Inventory of goods in the churches and chapels of Lancashire" was taken, Rawf Baley, Thomas Johnson, William Brandocke, and Henry Birtewysell, churchwardens, delivered the following goods:—

Three great bells, four sacring bells, two chalices of silver with patens, two whole suits of vestments, two tynnacles, one alb with an amice, three other old vestments, four old copes, two other vestments, three old coverings to three altars, six altar cloths, six towels, two cruets of pewter, two paxes of brass, and "one grene say that hangs before a pycure of Saynct Wylfryde belongyng to the Church of Standish."

A chasuble is preserved at the Roman Catholic Chapel at Standish, a portion of which is assigned to the fifteenth century, also a silver chalice of seventeenth century, and a sacring bell dated 1551. There are also preserved some ancient altar stones bearing consecration crosses, probably removed from Standish Church.

Return of Recusants in 1706.

The following return of Recusants for the Parish of Standish for the year 1706 is from the Diocesan Registry, Chester:—

For
The Right Rever^d Father
in God, Nicholas^l Lord
Bishop of Ches^r.

My Lord!

The enclosed is a perfect list of ye Papists & reputed Papists within our Parish of Standiss which had been sent sooner but that I

expected a form ; their number is very near what I sent before only you have now the servants, their qualities are exact, for though we have too many, yet most of them are poor ; but as to their estates I can give no exact account, much of these being drawn in joyntures and more clogged with debts, their circumstances I think run low in our neighbourhood but they are very high & insolent the reasons I dare not assign.

I wish y^r Lordship a happy journey success in the Church and nations concern, healthy & long life & Heaven at your exit which shall be the daily prayer of

My Lord

Yo^r Lords humble & much
obliged Ser^{vt}

WM. HAYDOCK.

9 *Sept*r. 1706.

A TRUE & PERFECT LIST OF ALL POPISH RECUSANTS
VIZ. HOUSHOLD^{RS} CHILDREN AND SERV^{TS} WITHIN
THE PARISH OF STANDISH WTH Y^R RESPECTIVE
QUALITY'S AS FOLK :—

IN Y^R TOWNSHIP OF STANDISH.

An Incumbred estate	{	Ralph Standish Esq ^r & Patron of ye Rectory of Standish, his moth ^r his wife 5 children 3 men servants 6 women Serv ^{ts} and M ^s Benson.
Serv ^t to R : S	{	Emer Grymbulston his wife 2 children & a woman serv ^t .
Malst		John Walmsley Gent his wife, three children.
	These {	Robert Walmsley his Broth Lin-Weaver. Ralph Taylor Shopkeep ^r Son & Daught ^r . Alice Duxbury Widd her two sons Linn Weavers & a daught ^r .

¹ Bishop Nicholas Stratford, consecrated 1689, died 1707.

These

John Charlton.
 Peter Howorth Labo^r his wife & 4 children.
 Edward Brown Lin weav^r and his wife.
 Edward Standish his Broth^r & 2 Sisters.
 Jane Harvy Widd 2 sons & a daught^r.
 Roger Scott Labou^r his wife & 5 children.
 Ralph Rainford Labou^r.
 W^m Rainford Labou^r his wife & 3 child^r.
 James Naylor Weav^r his wife & 2 child.
 Lawrence Brown Weav^r his wife & 2 child^r.
 Edw^d Brown Weav^r & 5 children.
 Frances Brown Linnen Weav^r.
 Bridget Brown Spinst^r.
 Mary Greenall Wid & 5 children.
 An Hilton her Daught^r & 4 children.
 Marg^r Wife of Edw^d Chamberlin—2 child.
 James Naylor Labourer.
 Richard Lithgoe Labou^r his wife, his sister & 3
 children.
 The wife of James Seddon & 2 children.
 W^m Grunnell Yeomⁿ his wife & one child.
 Thomas Standish Lab^r & 3 children.
 John Sharp Lab^r his wife & 3 children.
 John Rigby.
 Anne Taylor Widdow.
 All persons of small or no Estates.

IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LANGTREE.

Edward Winward Yeomⁿ his wife & daught.
 Rob^t Higham Labou^r his wife.
 Oliv^r Bibby Yeomⁿ & 2 children.
 Richard Armetriding Butcher his wife & 4 children.
 Thomas Winward Taylor & his wife.
 Th^o Hatton Yeomⁿ his wife & 6 children.
 Rich^d Silcock Yeomⁿ wife & a son.
 Roger Woods Wife.
 James Gest Labou^r his wife & 3 children.
 John Watt Taylor & 2 children.
 Margery y^e wife of John Chamberlin Nay^l.
 Henry Preston Dy^r wife & one child.
 Ralph Jackson Weaver his wife and 4 children.
 Henry Fox his wife & a s^{on}.
 Henry Langtree Labourer.
 The wife of W^m Baxonden Blacksmith and a child.
 All Labouring People.

Notes on the Parish Church of

IN YE TOWNSP OF SHEVINGTON.

W^m Brindle Taylor his wife & childe.
 Jane Nighall widdow.
 Thomas Catterall Labou^r his wife & 2 child.
 Margret Baxtonden.
 Richard Ffox Labou^r & his wife.
 Edmund Welsh Carpent^r his wife & 3 childⁿ.
 Joⁿ Rigby Carpenter.
 Elizabeth Blackburn Widd & 2 children.
 Marg^t Heaton widdow.
 most of them Paup^{rs}.

IN YE TOWNSHIP OF WELCH-WHITTLE.

Thomas Whalley Taylor & his wife.
 Joseph Tompsons Wife.
 Joⁿ Fletch^r Naylor his Wife.
 The Wife of Rich^d Nicholson yeomⁿ.

IN YE TOWNP OF WORTHINGTON.

Thomas Steenson wisket mak^r & his wife.

IN YE TOWNSP OF DUXBURY.

Thomas Lucas Son & Daught^r.
 a Broken Ale Keep^r.

IN THE TOWNSP OF COPPULL.

His son in
 Prison and
 Estate
 much
 indebted.

M^r Worthington his Wife, his Son and 3 Children.

Jane Taylor her son & daught^r.
 W^m Egremundy his wife & 2 daught^{rs}.
 John Howard his wife & 2 children.
 Thomas Taylor his wife & 2 children.
 Jane Vaux & her daughter.
 James Watmough & 3 children.
 Edward Waters his wife & 3 children.
 The Wife of Joⁿ Markland.
 The Wife of Thomas Boothe.
 Oliver Taylor & 8 children.
 Catherine Pilkington Spinst^r.
 Miles Dicconson & his wife.
 The Wife of Robt. Cooper.
 The Wife of John Duxbury.

Poor.

IN YE TOWNP OF ADLINGTON.

None.

IN YE TOWNSHIPP OF HETH CHARNOCK.

Edward Brettargh Yeom̄ & daught^r.
His Estate much indebted.

IN YE TOWNSP OF ANDERTON.

{ Hugh Nightingale his wife & 3 childⁿ.
James Frithe & 2 sons.
Both poor Labouring Men.

IN THE TOWNSP OF CHARNOCK RICHARD.

John Foster Tann^r & his wife. } The
Richard Parker Yeoman. } Tanns
James Parker Tann^r his wife & 2 } able
child. } Tradesmen.
William Roscow yeom̄ & 12 childⁿ.
William Smith Husbandman wife & 4 childⁿ.
W^m Fletch^r Nayl^r his wife & one child.
James Day Labou^r wife & childe.
Rob^t Jackson Collier.
W^m Jackson Labourer his wife.
Richard Parker, Webster.
Anthony Morrice Labou^r wife & child.
John Charnock Husband^m his wife.
John Worthington Lab his wife.
John Felton Yeoman.
Mathew Woods Paup^r his wife & 2 child.
James Felton his wife and child.
Richard Parkinson Carpent^r his wife.
Obadiah Parkinson Carpent^r & 2 child.
Joⁿ Armetriding Butch^r his wife & 3 child.
Willi : Sefton Mason his wife & son.
Robt Foster Tann^r his wife & 2 child^r.
an able Tradesman.
Edward Wilding Pauper.
The Rest all Labour^r.

The Persons above written are all the Papists or Reputed
Papists within ye above^d Parish in the County of Lancast^r and
Diocese of Chest^r.

November y^e 15th 1706.

THE CHURCH (EXTERIOR).

Documentary evidence has already been given of the existence of a Church at Standish in 1206. It may have been built long before that date, but of this we cannot at present make certain. In the year 1291 the Church was valued at £13, 6s. 8d., and in the 36th of Edward III. was found to be endowed with the Chapel of Anderton (which has ceased to exist) and with lands there. A tradition prevails that fire has twice devastated the building, and perhaps some confirmation of this may be found in the inscription on Rector Moodie's tomb, which states that the Church "twice suffered ruin." In 1867 the old tower and spire were taken down, being found insecure. Fortunately I have preserved an old photograph (which is here reproduced) taken before the demolition was accomplished. This illustration makes it sufficiently evident that the old tower and spire were out of proportion with the present nave, and formed part of an earlier Church. Rector Perryn (1779-1825) states in his note-book that the old tower bore on its interior eastern wall evidences of a Pointed roof. This is corroborated by Sir Stephen Glynne in his *Notes on Lancashire Churches*, 1833-1873 (p. 110), wherein he describes the old tower as "square below and octagonal above, with a Decorated west window and two light belfry windows; on the embattled parapet are armorial bearings."

From these sketchy outlines of eye-witnesses we seem to get a glimpse of a church of Decorated period, with a tower and spire at the west end, and a nave and north aisle, both with Pointed roofs. The reports of the Chantry Commissioners make it clear that there was a north aisle in the old Church in 1548.

In June 1544 the Commissioners of Henry VIII.



STANDISH CHURCH, SHOWING THE OLD TOWER AND SPIRE, WHICH WERE TAKEN DOWN IN 1867

From a photograph taken by J. L. PRICE, Esq., of Standish

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found that the Church of Standish was "in grete ruynes and decaye"; and John Holcroft and Thurstan Tyldsley, Esquires, gave orders for the re-edifying of the same under heavy penalties. Later in the same year Edward, Earl of Derby gave further peremptory orders for the rebuilding of the dilapidated edifice. Thirty-eight years later, on 22nd October 1582, a contract was signed for the "building and setting up of the Church." A fund was raised by means of a levy on the whole parish, and the names of those liable to contribute were, with the sum which each was called upon to pay, inscribed upon a roll, a separate roll being made out for each township. The proclamation calling this levy is signed by Henry, 4th Earl of Derby and Alexander Rigby. These parchment rolls, along with the contract, were found on an old book-stall some years ago by the Rev. R. H. Whitworth, a former curate of Standish, now Vicar of Blidworth, who, recognising their value, purchased and restored them to the present Rector of Standish.¹ The contract and agreement for the rebuilding were transcribed for Baines' *History of Lancashire* (edited by Harland and Herford, 1870 edition), where they may be studied in detail. For the purposes of these notes, it will be sufficient to give a short summary:—

"Robert Charnock, Esq., of Astley,² in the County of Lancaster, is contented to take upon himself the charge and oversight of the building and setting up of the Church of Standish along with Lawrence Jolly,³ freemason."

¹ It is to be hoped the churchwardens of Standish will have these rolls transcribed, and a full copy kept among the Church muniments.

² In the late Mr. Patchett's *Ancient Charters and Documents relating to lands in Aughton*, there are some deeds concerning the Charnocks of Harrington. In one of these deeds, dated 1571, Robert Charnock of Astley is mentioned.

³ Lawrence Jolly was baptized at Standish 21st January 1561-2, and buried at Standish in 1631. He married Helen, daughter of

Robert Charnock left a record of the various sums he disbursed and received. He states that "the seven payments cessed within the paryshe of Standyshe for buylding of the Church there come to the sum of £244, 18s. 9d., whereof he received £223, 5s. 2d. :—

	£	s.	d.
Payments to masons	120	0	0
Several bills certified by Edward Standish and Thomas Standish	25	2	5
For divers things touching said building	31	14	10
Item paid to Mr. Docter Lawyher	16	0	0
Disbursed by Mr. Alexander Standish without warrant	28	16	11
	<hr/>		
	221	14	2
Leaving a balance in Mr. R. Charnock's hands of	1	11	0

The total sum disbursed by Robert Charnock for the rebuilding was £221, 14s. 2d.

It may be these accounts deal only with a final effort to complete a Church which had probably been in process of rebuilding many years previous to 1582; for in 1539 Rauff Standish bequeathed £20 for the repair of Standish Church; in 1557, John Dicconson of Coppull, in Standish Parish, bequeathed by will the sum of 13s. 4d. to "ye building of my parish church," and he desired to be buried in "Our Ladye Chancell"; and in 1558 John Wrightington of Wrightington bequeathed 40s. to the building of the Church, and 6s. 8d. to Sir Richard Mody "for his pains with me." These bequests seem to indicate that some rebuilding was in process between 1539 and 1582.

Miles Gerrard of Ince, and had a son, James, baptized at Standish 1st August 1595, who was slain at Marston Moor. An old water-mill, situated $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile south-east of Standish Church, called "Jolly Mill," perpetuates the family name. Over the door of the mill-house are the initials $\begin{matrix} E \\ I \end{matrix}$ and date 1654. There is an account of the Jolly family of Standish in *Chetham Society*, vol. 33, by Lieut.-Col. Fishwick.

Unfortunately, the rebuilding contract of 1582 does not give us any information of the nature of the work which was then executed; there is no mention of payments to carpenters; but if the present beautiful oak roof was then erected, it must have cost a very considerable sum. The builders of 1582 left the nave, as regards the exterior, much as we see it now, except that the tracery of all the windows has been renewed.

For examples of the old tracery, a reference must be made to the illustration showing the exterior previous to 1867: the three easternmost windows in the Standish Chapel, and the clearstory windows of the nave, then all contained the original tracery, and a mutilated clearstory window on the south side of chancel should also be noticed. Mr. Perryn, in his note-book, states clearly what was done during his rectorship as regards the windows of the chancel:—

“*Sept. 3, 1799.*—Robert Holbrook, mason, was paid £49, 19s. for the erection of a new east window in the chancel.

“*1806.*—I put two new mullions and a new window into the chancel SW. In March I put a new window into the chancel, thus I have completely repaired the mullions and new ironed and glazed all the Rector's windows in the Church of Standish.”

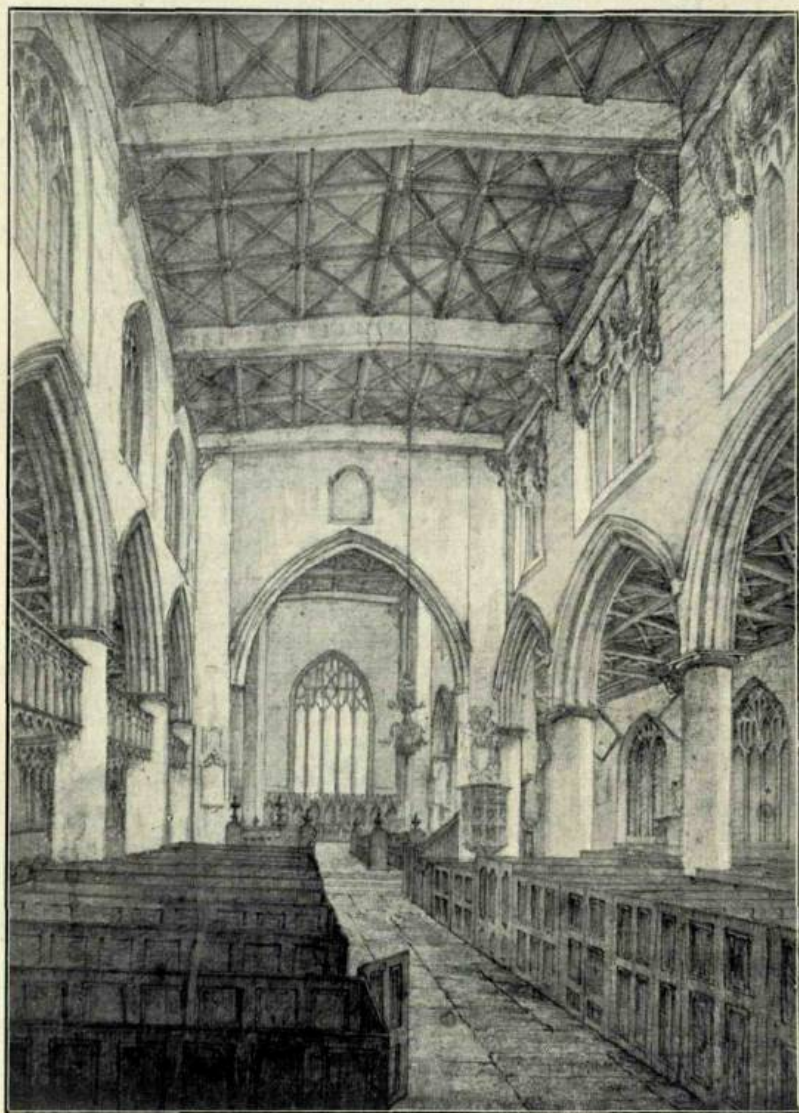
The coursing of the masonry on the exterior walls is generally even and regular, indicating a continuity of work and a unity of design. Here and there may be detected stones of a different quality, especially on the north wall of the north chapel: these fragments of yellow and red sandstone are probably remnants from the earlier church, incorporated with the present building when the exterior walls were rebuilt in 1582, the stone then used being millstone grit, which is extensively quarried at High Moor and Parbold. An alteration or break in the level of the lower plinth may be noticed on the south-west side of

the chancel, which, with the mutilated clearstory window above (before mentioned), shows that the nave and chancel were not quite contemporaneous.

The date 1511 is cut into the south-west wall of the chancel about a foot above the ground. Some archæologists pronounce this date to be spurious, exception being taken to the formation of the figure 5: an examination will show that it is not the work of an idle scratcher, but is exceedingly well and deeply cut. A break in the coursing of the masonry may be noted on the eastern wall of the chancel below the east window, showing indications of a blocked-up doorway. There is a doorway leading from the altar at Sefton Church into a vestry built out beyond the eastern wall of the chancel, which is in exactly the same position as this blocked-up door at Standish. Some difference is observable in the eastern walls of the north and south aisles, the wall of the north aisle being "stepped" and carried higher to its junction with the nave wall than the corresponding wall of the south aisle. The porch and priests' doorways and the north doorway (now blocked up) are all of Perpendicular character, with square hood mouldings and carved spandrels.

THE CHURCH (INTERIOR).

Entering by the south porch, which has an oak ceiling with parvise above, a small niche 7 inches by 7 may be noticed in the west wall about 5 feet from the floor. It is of similar design to the piscinæ in the chancel and Standish Chapel, and appears to be a very unusual feature in Lancashire churches. I have not yet met with any one who can satisfactorily explain what use it has served. The door of the parvise is over the south door of the Church, and there is now no means of access to it except by a ladder.



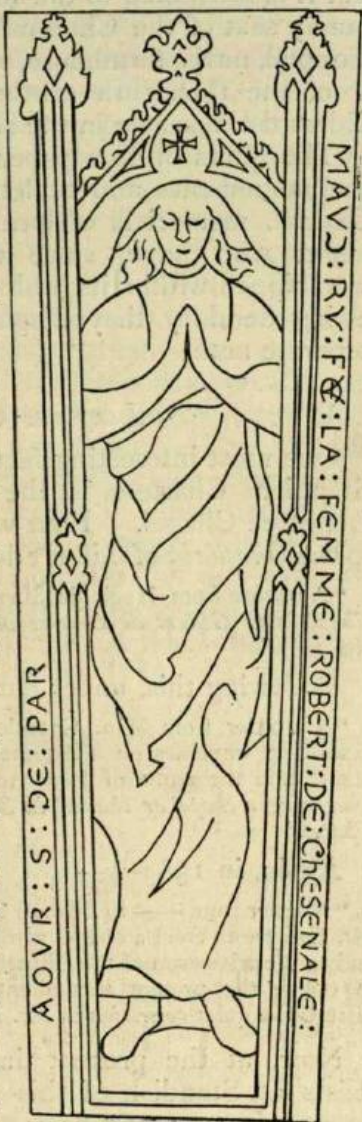
INTERIOR OF STANDISH CHURCH PREVIOUS TO THE RESTORATION OF 1859

From a pencil drawing by the Rev. Wm. PRICE, B.A., late Vicar of Douglas, Parbold

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Standish Church has an interior of great beauty, its faultless proportion, height, and absence of unnecessary detail giving supreme dignity, and it is to be hoped that no fads of parochial authorities will ever be allowed to destroy or mar its charm. It was restored in 1859, when the gallery on the north side was removed, benches substituted for the old pews, and the walls cleaned and pointed. The illustration shows a view of the interior drawn by the Rev. William Price previous to this restoration, and it is obvious that the structural alterations then made were fortunately few and unimportant.

From the absence of any monuments, tombs, tablets, or brasses of an earlier date than 1582, it seems probable that the rebuilders of that date made a clean sweep of all such relics, with one exception. This exception is a sepulchral slab, now hidden beneath the platform upon which the reading desk stands. It bears an incised effigy of Maud Chesenale, wife of



Robert de Chesenale ; the date has been obliterated, but it is attributed to the fourteenth century. The family seat of the Chesenales was Chisnal Hall in Coppull, now a farmhouse, which was their residence from the thirteenth century to the death of Sir Edward Chesenale in the seventeenth century.

The limits of this paper prevent me describing the monuments and tablets contained in Standish Church, memorials of local and important parishioners who have, since the days of Elizabeth, worshipped within its walls ; these, with the interesting heraldry they display, would suffice for a separate note.

Longtree Chapel.

One most interesting fact brought to light by the Standish Charters is the former existence of a Longtree Chapel. First we meet with a reference to the *Chaplain* of Gilbert de Longtre, dated 1383-4.

“A release from Hugh de Standish and Thomas Lighlesden *Chaplain to Gilbert de Longtre* of the manor of Longtre (Deed No. 347).”

Following this, under date 1566-7, is—

“An order from Wm. Chadderton, Bishop of Chester, for examining witnesses on a dispute amongst the parishioners of Standish in the name of John Adlington and Gilbert Longtre, *concerning a chapel or chancel in Standish Church called Longtre Chapel.*”

Again, in 1583-4—

“A letter from — to Edward Standish desiring him to permit Mr. Longtre to erect a chapel within the churchyard of Standish, and as the advowson of the Church was solely his, requested him to oblige the present incumbent and his successors not to disturb the quiet *possession* of Mr. Langtre.”

Now, at the present time not even a tradition exists at Standish of this chapel so far as I have been able to ascertain, and I have searched the books and documents at Chester without being able

to find any reference to the Bishop's order in 1566-7.

Some years ago the old glass in the clearstory windows of the north side of the nave was destroyed, but fortunately, Mr. Cottle, parish clerk, preserved a fragment which may throw some light on the site of the Longtre Chapel. This piece of glass was taken from the second clearstory window west of the chancel pier, and it is inscribed in old English characters: "Richard Langtre made [a gift] of the glazing of this window Anno. D^o. 1590."

The old drawing of the Church, previous to the restoration of 1859, shows a screen across the north aisle from the second pillar of the nave arcade west of chancel pier, and below the window from which the fragment of glass was taken. The filled-up sockets in the pillar and wall which carried this screen can still be detected. These facts have suggested to me that the Longtre Chapel was possibly here in the north aisle; in any case, the inscribed glass is a silent witness that Richard Langtre¹ had some interest in the Church eight years after the rebuilding of 1582, and for some reason he elected to place his record in that particular spot. Under the tower there is an old bench, which has the coat-of-arms and crest of the Longtres carved upon one end.

Standish Chapel.

This chapel, at the east end of the south aisle, was built by Edward Standish; the eastern beam of the roof bears the inscription, "Edward Standyshe, 1589." It was "restored" in 1878 by Henry Standish.

¹ In Farnworth Church there was a coat-of-arms in 1598, Ashton de Penketh impaled by Langtre of Langtre. Richard Langtre of Langtre married Grace Ashton of Bamfurlong about the beginning of sixteenth century. See Notes by J. P. Rylands, F.S.A., *Trans. Hist. Soc. of Lancashire and Cheshire*, vol. 42, p. 259.

In the south wall of the chapel is a small piscina. The roof is very beautiful: the shields at the intersection of the massive oak beams are carved with coats-of-arms showing the alliances of the Standish family; there are two carved grotesque figures, supporters to one of the beams of the roof, which are quite different in character to the other carving in the Church. A small quantity of heraldic glass has been preserved in the south window of this chapel.

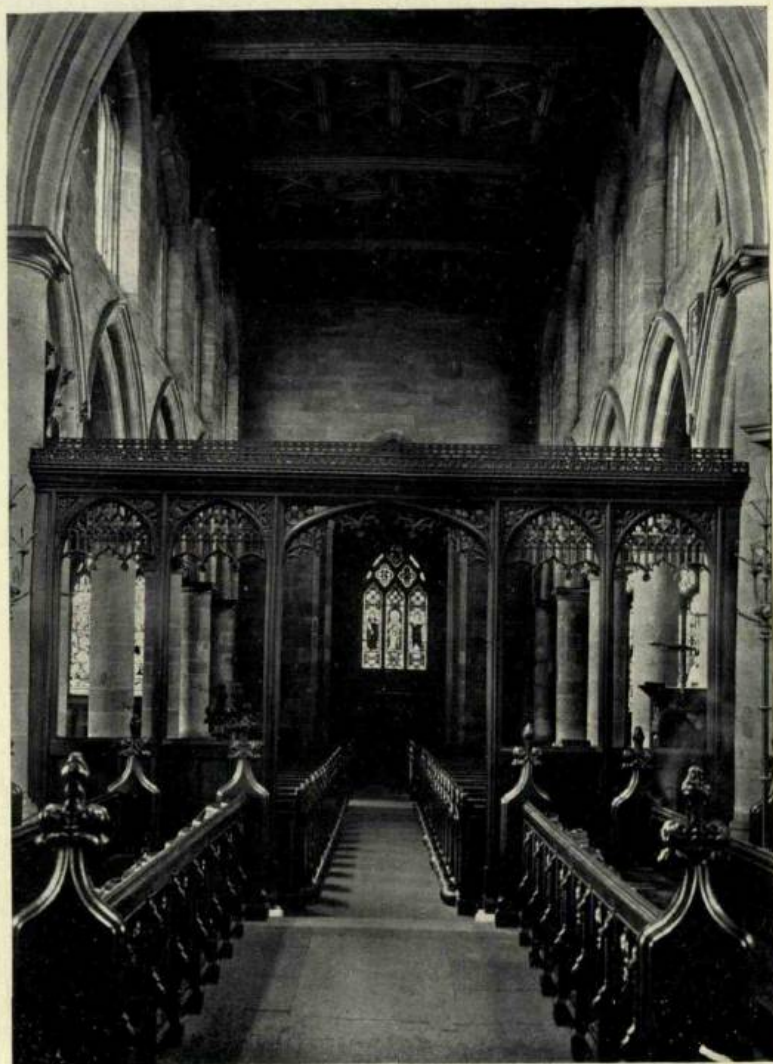
There is a vault beneath the chapel, in which some members of the family have been buried during the nineteenth century; but from Rector Perryn's note-book we find that the earlier burial-place of the Standishes was on the north side of the Rector's chancel. Here is the extract—

"Dec. 4, 1813.—Thos. Strickland Standish, Esq., died at York, upon which occasion a vault was made on the south side of his own chancel near the door, the family having heretofore been interred on the north side of the Rector's chancel."

The Standish Chapel has recently been conveyed to the Rector and Wardens of Standish. A history of the Standishes of Standish and Duxbury has yet to be written; some of the family hatchments are preserved in the parvise.

Nave.

The interiors of both the north and south piers of the chancel arch have spiral stone staircases which lead to the tops of the campaniles. The north staircase has a doorway, now blocked up, which provided access to the rood loft; the foot of this doorway is marked by the small glazed aperture which may be seen in the north pier. Under the dome of the north campanile there are four sockets in the masonry, probably to carry crosstrees for a bell. The filled-up sockets, which carried the



THE CHANCEL, LOOKING WEST

To face p. 258.

beam of the rood screen, may be seen about one foot below the capitals of the pillars of chancel arch. In the north aisle the interior wall is finished with ashlar, while the south aisle wall is rough masonry.

Roof.

The oak timber of which this magnificent roof is constructed is reported to have been grown at East Charnock in Standish Parish. When the roof was erected an insatiable desire seems to have seized the authorities to have their names inscribed upon the beams. The beam over the east window was appropriated by Rector Moodie, who had carved thereon "Rich^d. Moodye p'son of Standyshe 1585."

Second beam in chancel bears initials **AS** in centre.

Third beam, **ES**. 1585.

Fourth beam, **R. Brideoake** 74.

In the nave the beam against the chancel arch has carved upon it four shields, with crests and initials **ES. A.S. EW. IC.** [Edward Standish, Alexander Standish, Edward Worthington, John Chisenal?].

The second beam westward from chancel arch is inscribed with a number of letters, the meaning of which I cannot interpret, they are—

SASDWIREGR ANNO DOMINI § 1589.

Most interesting of all are the names of the carpenters who made the roof: William Weegan, charpintar; W. Charnock, carpenter; and Richard Southworth, carpintar. These names will be found inscribed upon the oak brackets which support the beams. The brackets stand on small stone corbels; the bracket on the north side of nave against the chancel arch bears the initials **BC. WL.**

Pulpit.

The Canon of 1603 ordered "a comely and decent pulpit to be set in a convenient place in every church," and many beautiful examples of Jacobean carving resulted from this order. Rector Leigh presented this pulpit, which is of oak, octagon in shape, each side being divided into three panels of unequal size and form. Under the moulding round the top is a Latin inscription in Old English letters:

Necessitas | mihi incumbit | Væ | mihi sinon |
 Evangelizem | ex sumptibus | W. Leigh Rec. 1616. |
 donum dei deo 1616 |

On a panel on the north side of this pulpit is the coat-of-arms of Ralph Standish, with crest, initials **RS**, and date 1616.

Before the restoration of 1859, the pulpit stood against the south pier of the chancel. A faculty,¹ dated 23rd April 1825, sets out that "the pulpit being inconveniently situated the Rector and Wardens do agree to remove it to a seat now occupied by Frank Hall Standish Esqr., whose consent has been obtained." Signed

RICHARD PERRY, *Rector.*
 WM. HODGSON, *Curate.*
 G. WHITLOCK, *Assistant-Curate.*
 MATT ELLAM, } *Churchwardens.*
 T. ROSBOTTOM, }

Font.

The font seems to be a patchwork of three distinct periods, each marked by a different quality of stone. The bowl is of yellow sandstone, octagonal in shape, the eight panels being alike

¹ Preserved at Chester.

in design, and having a six-leaved ornament deeply cut, with a shield in the centre; this bowl corresponds exactly in every detail with the bowl of the font in Sefton Church. It stands upon a circular stem of plain clustered columns of a hard grey stone; this appears to be the remains of an earlier font of perhaps late Norman date. The base upon which the stem stands is again of a different stone, and in design is out of keeping with the other parts of the font.

THE CHURCH PLATE.

Flagons.

Standish possesses some beautiful examples of silversmiths' work of the seventeenth century made and given by parishioners. The Holt family seem to have been most generous donors. The two large flagons were presented to the Church by Alexander Holt, citizen and goldsmith of London, who was born in the parish of Standish, and one of the chalices was given by Edward Holt of Shevington. Probably both these donors belonged to the family of Holt, who resided at Holt Farm, Shevington.

The two flagons are of the same size, and each bears the arms and crest of donor with the following inscription:—

“Alexander Holt Esqr Citizen and Goldsmith of London gave these two flagons of silver to the parish of Standish where he was borne: for ye service of God and ye use of the Parishioners att the celebration of the Holy Communion. Anno: Dom: 1657.

“ Height of flagons	.	1 foot.
Diameter at top	.	4½ inches.
„ base	.	7¼ inches.”

Chalices.

The two silver chalices are of the same size and shape, being $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches in height, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches length in stem; diameter of cup, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches. On both vessels the plate marks are almost worn away. The earliest of these two chalices is dated 1608, and was the gift of Alexander Prescott, a parishioner of Standish. It is inscribed—

“This cup and cover was given to the Parish Church of Standish in the County of Lancaster for a Communion Cup by Alexander Prescott the sonne of William Prescott of Coppull and nowe Citizen and Gouldsmith of London. Anno 1608.”

The second chalice was evidently made to match the earlier one, as it is exactly similar in size and shape, and bears the crest and arms of Edward Holt, the donor, with this inscription—

“This cup and cover was given to the Parish Church of Standish in the County of Lancaster, a Communion Cup. by Edward Holt late of Shevington, Gentleman, in the Parish aforesaid, dececed in the year of our Lord 1677.”

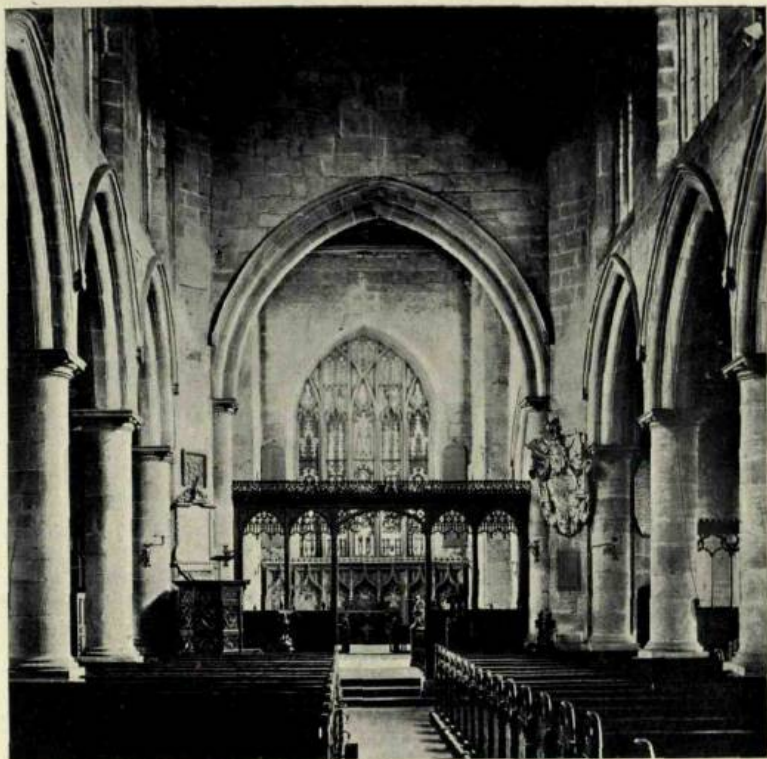
Patens.

Each of these two chalices has a plain silver “cover,” serving the purpose of a paten when turned upside down.

There is in the Standish collection of church plate another paten of silver, 9 inches in diameter. The outer rim is silver gilt, and bears a pattern. In the centre of this paten is the crest of the donor, with this inscription around it—

“Ex dono Jacobi Holt, Mercatoris Londinensis Filii Edwardi Holt Generosi, nuper de Shevington defuncti, in usum singularem Parochialis Ecclesiæ de Standish in Comitatu Lancastriensi (ubi natus est) ad cænam dominicam celebrandam. Anno Domini 1677.”

In the illustration this paten will be seen placed between the two flagons. It bears no plate marks.



INTERIOR OF STANDISH CHURCH, LOOKING EAST



SILVER FLAGONS AND PATEN

To face p. 262.

Alms Dish.

The silver gilt alms dish is $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, and has a plain rim. In the centre of the dish are the letters I.H.S., and at the back it is inscribed—

“Deo & Ecclesiae de Standish Sacrum.”

Other items of plate which once belonged to the Church have been recorded by Rector Perryn. In his parish note-book, under date 5th January 1802, he says—

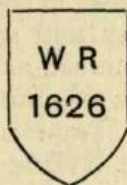
“There is belonging to Standish a small silver poculum for the use of private sacraments.”

And again, under date 27th November 1803, he makes this note—

“I presented to the Parish an ewer silver gilt for the use of the Baptistry. Some years ago it was sold to help to defray the cost of restoring the Communion Plate.”

CHURCH FURNITURE.

In the Standish Chapel there are six old oak benches, the ends bearing the crest of the Standishes, the owl and rat, with the initials R.S.; and in the vestry (called the Duxbury Chapel) the bench ends bear the initials E H 1625, and in a shield



Under the tower a bench bears upon one end the crest and coat-of-arms of the Longtres, and upon

the other end the crest of the Rigbies of Layton and Burgh.

In a shed adjacent to the churchyard there is a large oak chest about 7 feet in length; it is Elizabethan in character and quite plain, and is now used as a mason's bench; probably it was at one time the Church muniment chest. Another small carved chest which stood in the Church two years ago has now disappeared. It is to be hoped that the wardens will see to both these chests being brought back to their proper place, the interior of the Church. Mr. Cottle has preserved from destruction and neglect an interesting lot of old collecting boxes of different periods.

MASONS' MARKS

Though some may have escaped my notice, I have found a larger number of masons' marks on the interior walls of the Church than I anticipated, for it is probable some retooling of the masonry took place during the restoration of 1859. One interesting group of marks may be seen on the newels and interior walls of the chancel arch piers, showing that the material for both north and south piers was worked by the same masons. Four marks found at Standish occur also in Sefton Church on work attributed to 1530. Two of the marks found at Standish, in the chancel and interior staircases of the north and south piers of chancel arch, are of special interest, as they occur at Stonyhurst College on work of date 1585-1600. I have looked through the large number of "masons' marks" in Mr. W. H. Rylands' Paper on "Masons' Marks in Lancashire and Cheshire," printed in this Society's *Transactions* (vol. 43-4, p. 123), and find these two marks are exceedingly uncommon, and

seem to be peculiar to Stonyhurst College and Standish Church.

STONE COFFIN.

Lying in the garden of a house at the south-west side of Standish Churchyard is a large stone coffin, hewn from a solid block of local freestone. There can be little doubt that it has been removed from within the Church, probably when it was rebuilt in 1582, and in the memory of those still living this coffin lay against the tower wall. Internally, it is shaped to receive the head and shoulders, and tapers towards the feet, where there is a drain-hole in the end. Stone coffins of this description were used only for the burial of persons of distinction; the corpse was usually salted and wrapped in hides: at the end of the thirteenth century stone coffins were gradually superseded by coffins of lead. The sides are 5 inches thick, and the outside measurements are: length, 7 feet 1 inch; breadth at head, 2 feet 11½ inches; breadth at foot, 2 feet 2 inches.

In the same garden, near the coffin, there are some stones which appear to be portions of window mullions and tracery, but as they form part of a rockery, I was not able to examine them thoroughly. These, with the coffin, ought certainly to be removed, and carefully preserved *inside* the Church.

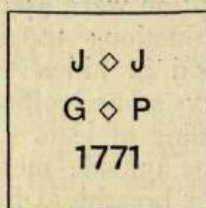
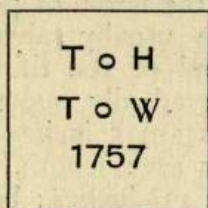
OLD LEADWORK.

A solitary example of the old spoutheads will be found on the south side of the nave; it is ornamented with a cable pattern, and bears the initials L.F and date 1669. During the Commonwealth many Lancashire churches were stripped of all their leadwork for the purpose of making cannon balls.

The date of this spouthead suggests that Standish Church had shared that fate (being on the direct line of march from north to south), and that after the restoration the leadwork was renewed.

There are many very fine examples of decorative leaden spoutheads of seventeenth and eighteenth century date to be found on country houses and in the old towns of South-West Lancashire; they were probably all made in Wigan, then a great centre for metal workers in various branches, iron-founders, bell-founders, lead-casters, and pewterers.

The parish clerk of Standish has preserved two portions of lead flashings which were removed from the roof of the Church; they bear initials and dates.



THE CHURCHYARD.

A very interesting group of the oldest tombstones may be seen under the east window, dated 1645, 1651, 1682 (?), 1696, 1698, and 1715; all but one are laboriously cut in relief; the quaint and ingenious devices of the stonecutter to economise space being very amusing; the spacing and punctuation is also curious.

I found a document at the Bishop's Registry at Chester of some interest with reference to the enlargement of the churchyard and the site of the old cockpit; it is an Indenture dated 7th March 1805, in which "Edward Townley Standish of Standish Hall, Lord of the Manor of Standish,

and patron of the Rectory and Parish of Standish, '*generously*' conveys a parcel of the waste land of and in Standish to the Revd. W. Perryn, William Orford yeoman of Standish, and James Aspinall of Worthington, the piece of land being commonly called and known as the Cock-pit Yard or Waste. It is bounded on the S.E. side thereof by a fence which divides it from a close of glebe land belonging to the Rectory of the parish called the Moody Croft: 2450 square yards is the content of above Waste."

Bearing upon this indenture Rector Perryn made this note in his book—

"1805. I paid Mr. Wm. Clayton, attorney, £12, 19s. 3d., being amount of his bill for charges attending Mr. Standishes grout of the Cock-pit Yard, the expense of adding which to the churchyard I mean to defray on account of the Parish."

THE RECTORY.

The Rectory has been much altered from time to time to bring it up to modern requirements, and not much of the old portion is left. At Chester I met with a memorandum relating to permission which had been obtained to pull down a building known as the "Old Chapel." This was a private chapel at one time incorporated with the Rectory. It is said that in Rector Leigh's time the services in this chapel were kept up with much ceremony.

In 1719 a faculty was obtained by Rector Turton to pull down much of the old Rectory, including a "dove house." There are several fine old yew trees in the Rectory grounds, which, from their size and growth, are undoubtedly of great age, and may easily have been planted by Rector Waley in 1301.

RECTORS OF STANDISH.

For the names of Rectors previous to the Reformation my chief source of information has been the Standish Charters, from which I have been able to fill up many gaps; but the list is probably not yet complete previous to 1558. After that date the records at the Diocesan Registry, Chester, have been carefully searched—

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Hugh. | 17. William Leigh. |
| 2. Robert. | 18. John Chadwick. |
| 3. Henry Waleys. | 19. Sam. Hinde. |
| 4. Gilbert de Standish. | 20. Paul Lathom. |
| 5. Alexander de Standish. | 21. John Bowker. |
| 6. Roger de Standish. | 22. Ralph Brideoake. |
| 7. Alexander Fairclough. | 23. William Haydock. |
| 8. Thomas Radcliff. | 24. William Turton. |
| 9. Roger Standish. | 25. John Johnson. |
| 10. Robert Mody. | 26. Thomas Pilgrim. |
| 11. Peter Bradshagh. | 27. Edward Smalley. |
| 12. Richard Standish. | 28. Richard Perryn. |
| 13. John Moodye. | 29. Wm. Green Orrett. |
| 14. Thomas Thorneton. | 30. Wm. H. Brandreth. |
| 15. William Cliff. | 31. Joseph P. Brandreth. |
| 16. Richard Moodye. | 32. C. W. N. Hutton. |

1. "HUGH" is the first Rector of Standish of whom I have so far been able to find any reliable record. His name appears as a witness to one of the undated Standish Charters (No. 362, p. 88), wherein he is mentioned as "Hugh parson of Standish." The date of the deed is uncertain, but is probably about 1270.

2. "ROBERT." This Rector was at Standish in 1298, as appears in a note in Gastrell's *Notitia* (vol. ii. part ii. p. 299), in connection with the institution of John de Whalleye to the Vicarage of the Parish Church of Whalley.

3. HENRY WALEYS, or HENRY DE WALSCH, was the son of John le Waley. In a note in Gastrell's *Notitia* (vol. iii. p. 391), Henry Waleys is stated to have been instituted in London to the Church of Standish on 8th January 1301, on the presentation of William de Standish. He founded and endowed the Chantry of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or Altar of Our Lady, in the Church of Standish (Standish Charters, No. 59); and in West's *Antiquities of Furness*, Henry Waleys is said to have founded a chantry and a bed and entertainment for one poor man for ever in the Abbey of Cockersand. His name occurs frequently in the Standish Charters from the year 1309 to 1336, and we have evidence of his being "Parson of Standish" until 1338 (*Lancashire Chantries*, vol. i. p. 126).

In the Record Society's *Final Concords* (vol. No. 46, pp. 76-7), there is an interesting note with reference to Henry Waley. It reads as follows:—

"At Westminster, on the Quindene of St. Hilary, 4 Edward III. [27 January, 1330].

"Between Simon le Waleyes, chaplain, plaintiff (vicar of church of Huyton), and Henry, son of John le Waleys, 'chapeyn' (Rector of Church of Standish), deforciant of 2 messuages, and 60 acres of land in Standish and Longetre.

"Henry acknowledged the said tenements to be the right of Simon, and rendered them to him, to have and to hold to him and his successors, chaplains celebrating divine services for the soul of the said Henry, and the souls of his father and mother, and all the faithful deceased at the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the parish church of St. Wilfrid, of Standish, every day, for which Simon gave him a sore sparrow-hawk."

This concord was made by the King's command.

4. GILBERT DE STANDISH. This Rector appears several times in the Standish Charters between the dates 1358 and 1396-7, wherein he is designated "Sir Gilbert de Standish, parson of the Church of Standish."

5. ALEXANDER DE STANDISH. All we know of this Rector is found in Charter No. 83, p. 35, Standish Charters: "Mandate from Richard de Conyngton, Vicar-General to Richard, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, addressed to William de Newhagh, Archdeacon of Chester, to induct Alexander de Standish, clerk, into the parsonage of Standish, to which he had been presented by the honourable Ralph de Standish, lord of Standish. Dated 22 Richard II. [1398-9]."

The name of this Rector as "parson of the Church of Standish" occurs in other charters under the dates 1403, 1405, 1411-12, 1415.

6. ROGER DE STANDISH. First mentioned in Standish Charter, No. 135, p. 47, as "Roger de Standish, Rector of Standish," under date 1451-2; and again in other Standish Charters dated 1454, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1465, and in 1468, when he makes an award on a dispute in the Standish family.

7. ALEXANDER FAIRCLOUGH. Is credited with having been the founder of the chantry at the Altar of St. Nicholas in Standish Church, but the date of the foundation is unknown (see Lancashire Chantries, *Chetham Society*, vol. 2, p. 176). He is only once mentioned in the Standish Charters, under date 1478-9. Probably closely connected with Thomas Fairclough, S.T.P., Rector of Walton on the Hill, 1459.

8. THOMAS RADCLIFF, M.A.

"Thomas Radcliff, parson of Standish, leases his parsonage, with all thereto belonging, to Ralph Standish of Standish, son and heir of Sir Alexander Standish, knt., 1505-6 (Standish Charter, No. 193, p. 62).

"Acquittance from Richard, Bishop of Winchester, to Ralph

Standish, farmer, of the Rectory of Standish, for £50. Thomas Radcliff, Rector of Standish, is mentioned, 1510-11" (*ibid.*, 208, p. 64).

Rector Radcliff became of unsound mind in 1513. He was instituted to Standish in 1501.

In the Standish Charters (No. 229, p. 66) there is—

"A quitclaim and discharge from Mr. Thomas Radcliff, Master of Arts, Rector of the Church of Standish, to Rauff Standish, Esqr., of all and all manner of actions, personal or real, spiritual and temporal, with all debts, demands, or arrears to which the said Thomas had any claim against the said Rauff. Dated at Wynton 12 June 1516.

"Thomas Radcliff upon account of insanity was in the care and custody of Rauff Standish until an assistant was appointed in 1521."

On the 9th September 1521 an Inquisition was taken at "Lithom" before the Commissioners of the King by fifteen jurors, to inquire as to the insanity of Thomas Radcliffe, Rector of Standish. It appears that the said Thomas Radcliffe was fifty years of age and more, that he had been Rector of Standish for twenty years, and that from his nativity till within these eight years past he had lost all memory, understanding, and reason, and remains *non compos mentis*, incapable of governing the said Rectory or his own private affairs, and has been ever since and now is in the custody of Rauff Standish of Standish, Esq., patron of the aforesaid Church, to whom the advowson of the same Church doth belong; and he has received the profit of the said Church and Rectory during these eight years, and that the revenues are £60 per annum, to the truth of which the jury set their hands and seals.

Thomas Radcliffe died shortly after this Inquisition.

There seems to have been a short period here during which the Rectory and Church of Standish

were in the hands of a committee of management owing to the inability of Rector Radcliffe to manage his affairs.

Among the Standish Charters (No. 263, p. 71) is a deed of much interest in this connection—

“A deed from Geoffrey, Lord Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, to Sir Edward Molineux and Richard Smith, the Rectors of Sephton and Bury, and to Roger Linney to be coadjutors and to take care of the Rectory of Standish during the life of Mr. Radcliff the infirm Rector. Dated 4th October 1521.”

It is evident that this arrangement was but of short duration, for in the following year another member of the Standish family, a second Roger, had filled up the vacancy.

9. ROGER STANDISH. Under date 17th November 1522, an acquittance is recorded from the Abbot of Vale Royal, collector for a certain sum to be raised by the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry for the King, to Roger Standish, Rector of Standish, for £10. This tax is equivalent to one-fifth of the yearly income of the Rectory. Roger's tenure of the living was a short one, for in 1524-5 we find (Standish Charters, No. 279, p. 73)

10. ROBERT MODY installed as Rector of Standish. His successor appears to have been

11. PETER BRADSHAGH (Doctor of Decrees), who is mentioned in Standish Charter (No. 245, p. 75) as “parson of Standish and Eccleston.” Date, 20th May 1538.

12. RICHARD STANDISH. Paid his first-fruits as Rector of Standish, 14th May 1540 (*Chetham Society*, vol. 113, p. 129).

He was born in Lancashire. Took his B.A.

degree in 1525, and M.A. in 1529. He held the Prebend of Llanfydd in the Church of St. Asaph, with the Chancellorship of that Church, in 1534. He was probably a relative of Bishop Standish of St. Asaph.

In 1537 he was a Proctor of Cambridge, and became Vice-Chancellor in 1542 (*Dictionary of National Biography*).

13. JOHN MOODYE. In an editorial note on the Standish Chantries (*Chetham Society*, vol. 2, p. 179) Canon Raines states that John Moodye was presented to the Rectory of Standish by Edward, Earl of Derby on the 10th July 1544, and he quotes as his authority for this statement Lancashire MSS., vol. 22. I have been unable to verify this, but have placed John Moodye among the Rectors of Standish, assuming Canon Raines to be correct.¹ John Moodye was chaplain to the Earl of Derby, and chantry priest and almoner at the "Hospital of St. John in the Chapel of Lathom." Having renounced the Romish and embraced the Protestant faith, he became Rector of Eccleston (Lancashire) in 1546.

The burial of John Moodye is recorded in the registers of the Parish Church of Ormskirk as follows:—

"Oct. 16, 1562.—Sir John Mouldrie, parson of Eccleston."
(See vol. 5, 3rd Series, *Trans. Hist. Soc. of Lancashire and Cheshire*, p. 127.)

14. THOMAS THORNETON. Paid his first-fruits as Rector of Standish on 18th June 1552. He did not hold the Rectory long, as his successor

¹ Bishop Bird's Visitation of 1548 states that Richard Standish was Rector of Standish in that year; this throws much doubt upon Raines' statement that John Moodye was instituted to Standish in 1544.

15. WILLIAM CLIFFE paid his first-fruits as Rector of Standish on 15th September in the same year (*Chetham Society*, vol. 113, p. 129).

16. RICHARD MOODIE, or MOODYE, was presented (on the death of William Cliffe) on 2nd January 1558 by Edward Standish, and was instituted 3rd January the same year. He had been curate or chantry priest at Standish under the three previous rectors, as we find him mentioned as being at Standish in 1548 in Bishop Bird's Visitation of that date. How he procured his appointment to the Rectory of Standish may be gathered from Standish Charter, No. 313, p. 78—

“Sir Richard Mody chaplain in the Church of Standish gives a bond to Robert Shaw that he the said Richard Mody will at the request of the said Robert Shaw grant him a lease of all and all manner of tithes belonging to the Rectory of Standish, in the hamlets of Standish, Shevington, Coppull, Chernock Richard, and Walsh Whittle on condition that he the said Richard Mody be instituted and inducted parson of the said Rectory or benefice.”

The sequel of this is Charter No. 314—

“A lease from Richard Mody parson of Standish to Robert Shaw of the tithes belonging to the Rectory of Standish which Shaw afterwards conveys to Edward Standish of Standish Esqr. by a deed dated 2nd Elizabeth (1560-1).”

Richard Moody's religious tenets seem to have been of a somewhat elastic nature, for after being priest at Standish during the latter part of the reign of Queen Mary, he conformed as Rector in 1559 to the observance of Protestant formularies as established by Queen Elizabeth. He was Rector during the rebuilding of the Church in 1582, and from the inscription on his tomb appears to have provided food for the masons during the restoration, and also directed that the chancel should be finished out of his estate.

The effigy of Richard Moodye, as seen upon his tomb on the north side of the chancel in Standish Church, is probably a portrait, carved during his lifetime by one of the masons engaged on the work in the Church. It seems to be cut from a block of local freestone. He is represented as a man of powerful build, broad shouldered, with a long thick neck, and a heavy, sensuous face, clean shaved; his hair is curly, and head tonsured; the nose and mouth are much broken and defaced. In an article "On certain Rare and perhaps Unique Effigies of Ecclesiastics," written by Mr. Matthew H. Bloxam in 1875, he says—

"Although there are numerous sepulchral effigies of the secular clergy represented in their priestly vestments, both sculptured and incised in brass of the fourteenth, fifteenth, and early part of the sixteenth century, we find but few such effigies of the parochial clergy below the grades of deans and bishops in the latter part of the sixteenth century and subsequently. They are very rare; . . . one is in Standish Church. In this effigy of Richard Moody I found him represented in the ordinary clerical habit, the cassock or side gown as it was then called, with the surplice over, and hood; the close fitting sleeves of the doublet appearing from within the sleeves of the cassock. This is the only recumbent sculptured effigy of a parish priest of the reign of Elizabeth I have met with represented as vested in the surplice."

A recess in the side of the tomb contained a curious bas-relief representing "two angels pulling at each end of a winding-sheet containing a corpse" (Sir S. Glynne, *Notes on the Lancashire Churches*, p. 110). This bas-relief is now defaced, but still bears the words, "As you are—I was—and as I am you shall bi."

It is unfortunate that the authorities at Standish Church should have allowed this rare and interesting effigy to be daubed over recently with a coat of leaden-coloured paint, with the inscription picked out in black, and a dismal coat of black round the

moulding at the top. In these days of "higher education" one expects to see a more enlightened treatment meted out to the artistic treasures handed down to us in our old churches.

In the *Pall Mall Magazine* for April 1897 there is an account written by Lady Newton of an old missal possessed by Lord Newton. It was printed in Paris in 1487, and seems to have some connection with Standish, as it contains the following notes written in ink:—

"Richard Mody and Peter Batson had gyffen ym gud hesse the."

"I otterly Beshrew Rychard Mody wt all my hert and a peyse of my stomycher, for he is a knave of the noneset fare you well wt."

According to the inscription upon his tomb, Richard Moodie died in November 1586, having been connected with Standish Church as priest and rector for about forty years.

17. WILLIAM LEIGH, B.D. Presented on 15th November 1586 by "Edward Standysse," and instituted on 17th November the same year. The letter of presentation bears a beautiful signature of Edward Standish, and a red wax seal of the Standish crest, the owl and rat. William Leigh was born in Lancashire. He was at Brasenose College, Oxford, in 1571, and was made Fellow of that College in 1573. He took his B.A. degree in 1574, M.A. in 1577, and B.D. 1586. He preached before the Court of James I., and greatly pleased the King, who appointed him tutor to his son, Prince Henry. He obtained a licence to preach at St. Paul's Cross, and was chaplain to the Earl of Derby. The carved oak pulpit, dated 1616, now in Standish Church, was given by Rector Leigh, who devoted much time and energy to the restoration of the Church, and seems to have

finished the work left uncompleted at the death of Rector Moodie. He died 28th November 1639 at the age of eighty-nine, and was buried in the chancel of Standish, having held the Rectory fifty-three years.

18. JOHN CHADWICK. Presented by Robert Wyemon of Mayland and Edward Herriss of Buddow Magna, "the undoubted patrons." Instituted 27th November 1639, but for some reason, not made evident by the documents at the Bishop's Registry at Chester, the institution seems to have been annulled very shortly, for Samuel Hinde was instituted the following month (30th December 1639). In his turn this Rector seems to have been removed, and John Chadwick was again instituted on 27th August 1640.

19. SAMUEL HINDE. Instituted 30th December 1639 by "Our Sovereign Lord the King." This document bears the Great Seal of Charles I., much broken, and contains a provision (very curious when viewed in the light of the "Divine right of kings" so persistently maintained by the Stuart dynasty) that "the said Sam. Hinde shall sign a bond to give up the rectory *in case the title of the King's Majesty shall happen to be in law evicted,*" in which case Hinde was to surrender and give up his letters of induction. In 1640 John Chadwick was again instituted, and was succeeded by

20. PAUL LATHOM. Puritan Rector, "who came in by the election of the Parishioners." He signed the "Harmonious Consent in 1648, and Agreement of the People 1649."

In the *Lancashire Church Surveys* (Record Society, vol. 1, p. 97), under date 1650, we find a note relating to Standish—

“Rauff Standish Esq. claimes to be patron and donor thereof, the tithes of the parish of Standish are worth £146 and that Mr. Paul Lathom is now the present incumbent and rector of the same parish and in persuance of the order of this present Parliament came in by the election of the parishioners of Standish and all present save one voted for Mr. Lathom.”

Paul Lathom was ejected in 1662. Within the altar rails in the chancel of Standish there is a brass plate with an inscription to the memory of the wife of Paul Lathom, who died 2nd August 1656.

21. JOHN BOWKER. There is some doubt whether John Bowker was ever Rector of Standish, but he appears to have followed Paul Lathom as curate in charge. Among the transcripts of the parish registers of Standish, now preserved at Chester, I found one for the year 1665 signed

JOHANNES BOWKER, *Curate.*

WILL. ROTHWELL, *Churchwarden.*

It is most probable that he was merely curate under

22. RALPH BRIDEOAKE, D.D. I can find no trace of this rector at the Diocesan Registry at Chester. In the *Dictionary of National Biography* it is stated that Brideoake was presented to Standish by the Earl of Derby on 2nd August 1660, and from the same source I glean the following:—

“Ralph Brideoake was born in 1613 of lowly parentage, and was said to be the son of Richard Brideoake of Cheetham Hill, Manchester, by Cicely, daughter of John Booth of Lancashire. Ralph was born at Cheetham Hill, and educated at Manchester Grammar School, from whence he went to Brasenose College, Oxford. He graduated B.A. in 1634, and had the reputation of being a Greek scholar and a poet. He wrote an Elegy on the death of ‘Master Ben Jonson.’ Appointed Curate of Wytham, near Oxford, and acted as corrector of the press in the University. Dr. Thomas Jackson, President of Corpus Christi College, gave

him the Mastership of Manchester Grammar School. He was present at the siege of Lathom, and was a zealous servant of the family, and it is said he had some share in the authorship of the account of the siege. After the battle of Worcester he proceeded to London, and pleaded before Speaker Lenthall for the life of his patron, the Earl of Derby. His eloquent appeal made a great impression on Lenthall, who subsequently gave Brideoake the vicarage of Whitney in Oxfordshire (1654). He seems to have made a lasting impression on Lenthall, as the latter summoned Brideoake to his deathbed. In 1660, on the presentation of the King, Brideoake was instituted to the rectory of St. Bartholomew, London. He afterwards became chaplain to the King, and on 28th July 1660 was made Canon of Windsor and created D.D. In 1667 he was made Dean of Salisbury, and on 9th March 1674, through the influence of the Duchess of Portsmouth, became Bishop of Chichester. He died on 5th October 1678, and was interred in Bray's Chapel, Windsor."

The statement made in this biographical sketch of Brideoake, that he was instituted to Standish in 1660, is probably incorrect, as Paul Lathom was Rector at that date, and was not ejected till 1662.

In the *Diary of John Evelyn* there is a note referring to Bishop Brideoake—

"24th Feby. 1676.—Dr. Brideoak, Bishop of Chichester, preached; a mean discourse for a Bishop."

23. WILLIAM HAYDOCK. Instituted 14th October 1678 on the presentation of Edward Standish, and again on 15th September 1680 by King Charles II. The words, *Lapsus temporis Simonia*, used in the deed of institution at Chester, seem to indicate that the first presentation was a Simoniacal contract. Rector Haydock erected a Corinthian altar-piece "in the chancel of Standish, and a gallery for the singers at the west end of the Church." The altar-piece was removed in 1835 (Mr. Bensted's Notes, *Standish Parish Magazine*) to make way for the present stone reredos. There is a brass plate in the Church to the memory of William Haydock. It bears a long inscription in Latin, extolling his virtues in the usual pompous style of the period.

He died on 13th April 1713, aged sixty-seven, and was buried in Standish Church.

24. WILLIAM TURTON. Presented on 2nd May 1713 by Ralph Standish, this being the last presentation made by the Standish family.

25. JOHN JOHNSON. Bishop Gastrell states in his *Notitia* that in 1722 "the right of presentation to Standish is now in dispute." But the institutions at Chester show that on the 27th September of that year John Johnson was presented to the Rectory by Charles, Duke of Somerset, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge.

Rector Johnson is buried in the chancel at Standish.

26. THOMAS PILGRIM. Presented 23rd January 1723-4 by Charles, Duke of Somerset. A brass plate on the south side of the Rector's chancel marks his burial. He died 16th February 1760, aged eighty-four (Mr. Bensted's *Notes in Parish Magazine*).

27. EDWARD SMALLEY was Curate of Standish under the last Rector, Thomas Pilgrim, by whom he was nominated to the office on 22nd August 1739 at a salary of £40 per annum. He was presented to the Rectory of Standish by Richard Clayton, Esq., of Adlington, "the undoubted patron of the Rectory of Standish," and was instituted in July 1760. Rector Smalley married a sister of Chief Justice Clayton. A brass plate in the chancel at Standish states that he died on 10th April 1779. In 1778 Edward Smalley states in the Visitation Report to his Bishop that "the Revd. Thomas Knowles does all the duty, the Rector's infirmities being such as not to admit of his discharging any

part but that of administering the Cup at the Lord's Table. I allow him £20 per quarter." Edward Smalley had previously been Rector of Aldingham, near Ulverstone.

28. RICHARD PERRYN, M.A. Instituted 10th May 1779, and presented by the Right Honourable Sir Richard Perryn, knight, one of the Barons of His Majesty's Exchequer.

Mr. Perryn kept a note-book, which contains much interesting information about the Church, the parish, and parishioners. With reference to his presentation to Standish he says: "The presentation to the living of Standish was purchased by my father from Mrs. Cecilia Townley, widow of Edward Standish, on the 20th May 1777, for the sum of £3200."

He was Rector of Standish forty-six years, and died in 1825, aged seventy-two. There is a marble tablet in the chancel to his memory.

29. WILLIAM GREEN ORRETT. Instituted 29th April 1826.

30. WILLIAM HARPER BRANDRETH, M.A. Presented 14th June 1841 by Joseph Pilkington Brandreth of Liverpool, Doctor of Medicine. Christ Church, Oxford, B.A. 1835, M.A. 1839, Honorary Canon of Manchester Cathedral 1855, Rural Dean of Leyland 1875. Died 17th April 1885. Buried at Standish.

31. JOSEPH PILKINGTON BRANDRETH. Resigned 1886.

32. C. W. N. HUTTON. Present Rector.

RECTORS, CURATES, AND CHANTRY PRIESTS AT
STANDISH AT THE TIME OF BISHOP BIRD'S
VISITATIONS IN THE YEARS 1548, 1554, AND
1562.¹

1548.

Ricūs Standish	. . .	Rector.
Dnš. Ricūs Modie	. . .	One chantry vacant.
Dnš. Petrus Bower	. . .	C.P. Rood Altar.
Dnš. Milo Ugnall.		
Dnš. Willūs Forstar.		
Dnš. Willūs Bimson	. . .	{ C.P. B.V.M., lame and impotent.
Dnš. Thomas Brodhurst.		

Thomas Ionson	}	Iconimi.
Henricus Bastwisell		
Gilbtūs Frith		
Willms Lowe		
Johēs Gibson.		
Xpoferus And'ton.		
Iacq. Forstar.		
Willm Brandoke.		
Ric. Nyghtigale.		
Iohannes Yate.		

1554.

Willms Cliff	. . .	Rector.
Dnš. Ricūs Modie	. . .	Curate.
Dnš. Thomas Brodhurst.		
Dnš. Milo Ugnall.		
Dnš. Petrus Bower.		

1562.

Dnš. Ricūs Modye	. . .	Rector.
— Gilbtūs Rigbe	. . .	Curate.
— Thomas Brodhurst	. . .	Mortuus.

¹ For this list I am indebted to the Editor.

John Crochlowe }
 Rich. Haworth } Iconimi.¹

Rog. Besleye.
 Rog. Tetlowe.
 Radus Prescott.
 Ricus Nyghtingale.
 Rog. Heydoke.
 Thos. Rothwell.
 Thomas Tothill.
 Geo. Asshall.
 Olyvr. Anderton.
 Henrie Roper.
 Hugh Bolling.

THE FAMILY OF MODY, OR MOODY, OF STANDISH.

A local family, from whom came two or perhaps three Rectors of Standish, cannot fail to be of interest, and I append a few notes thereon. They are first met with in the Standish Charters in the middle of the fifteenth century :—

In 1463 Gilbert and Robert Mody, sons of John Mody, are mentioned in the Standish Charters; also in 1508, Margaret, daughter of Robert Mody, and relict of William Strickland; Margaret Strickland afterwards married Christopher Walton.

1512. Robert Mody son and heir of Rauff Mody, settled upon Matthew Standish a close called Urchinsnape in Shevington, which Robert had by gift of Margery Strickland. At this date Ralph Mody sells houses and lands in Standish to Matthew Standish.

1515. An acquittance from Robert Mody to Matthew Standish for £8 and other obligations.

1516. A quitclaim from Robert, son and heir of Rauff Mody, to Matthew Standish, of a close in Shevington called Urchensnape, and for the purchase money of same.

1524. Richard Mody sells all his estates in Standish to Matthew Standish.

1524-5. A quitclaim from Robert Mody, Rector of Standish, of all his rights to certain lands in Standish to Matthew Standish.

¹ Churchwardens. The long list of names given is to be accounted for by the fact that each township had the privilege of electing a sidesman.

1546. John Mody, Rector of Eccleston.
 1558-9. Richard Mody, Rector of Standish.
 1627. Will of John Moodye of Standish proved at Chester.
 1631. Marjory Moodye buried at Standish 10th September.
 1662. William Moodie married at Standish on 22nd October to Elizabeth Sephton.
 1672. 16th March, William, son of William Moodie of Standish, baptized at Standish.
 1682. William Moody of Standish buried at Standish.
 1683. William Moody of Standish christened.
 1696. April 9th, Mary Moody of Standish buried.
 1730. Will of Edward Moody of Atherton, gentleman, proved at Chester.

At Standish the family name is still perpetuated in "Moody Croft" and "Moody House"; the latter is an old dilapidated brick building. In the west gable there is a decorative stone panel bearing the initials **E M** and date 1700. A drawing of this panel may be found in a little volume by the writer (*Inscribed and Dated Stones on some Old Lancashire Houses*, p. 45). Moody House is situated about one hundred yards to the south of Standish Church.

CONCLUSION.

Standish Church was rebuilt at a period when it may be said that church building in England had come to a stand-still. During the reign of Elizabeth and James I. the existing churches were probably sufficient for the population, and the money which one hundred years before would have been spent in building and endowing new churches and chantries, was now devoted to sumptuous monuments of marble and alabaster. The Gothic tradition was preserved in masonry long after it had died out in the other building trades. St. John's Church, Leeds, is a rare and interesting example of an entirely new church of this period, all the details of the masonry being late Gothic.

It was built 1632-3, and the Pointed arches and mouldings of the aisle arcades and the arch labels are remarkably similar to those of Standish. In Elizabeth's reign the architect, as we understand him, "had not yet detached himself in England from the general body of craftsmen."

Such buildings as Standish Church are the result of the work of many generations of simple-minded men, and bear the impress less of a single personality than of a collective body of experienced craftsmen, with the accumulated results of years of labour along familiar paths. As a result we find in them the happy unconsciousness, the excellent fitness of buildings which have grown to their purpose. We have seen how the Church of Standish was rebuilt by the unaided exertions of its parishioners—country bumpkins, if you will, but men who, when they set to work, produced a work of art, and it gave them pleasure to make it. Witness Robert Charnock, Esq., country gentleman, who took upon himself the "setting up and rebuilding" of the Church; of Lawrence Jolly, who came of an old Standish family, and to whom the mason's work was entrusted; of William Wigan, another local man, who describes himself a "charpintar" (if he couldn't spell, he *could* carve); of his mates, W. Charnock and Richard Southworth, who were responsible for the roof; and those no less able craftsmen of Standish parish, Alexander Prescott and Alexander Holt, citizens and goldsmiths of London, who with laudable local patriotism presented to their old parish church those beautiful specimens of silversmiths' art. Such are the men who built our old parish churches, and they have left us a goodly heritage.

More than two hundred and fifty years have elapsed since the little band of "Pilgrim Fathers," with Captain Myles Standish as their military

leader, left the shores of Old England to found the New England across the seas; and it seems strange that of the hundreds of those kinsmen (to whom the history of the Fatherland has such a charm, and who reach these shores at a port within an hour's journey of Standish), so few should visit the old Parish Church where the forefathers of Myles Standish worshipped seven hundred years ago.

I tender my thanks to the Rector of Standish for permitting me to examine the original rolls now in his possession relating to the rebuilding of the Church in 1582; also to Dr. Ellis of Liverpool for his kindness in preparing a negative from the old pencil drawing of the interior, and to Mr. Waite for the loan of negatives for the illustration of this paper.