

ARCHITECTURAL NOTES ON GODSFIELD CHAPEL.

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The chapel at Godsfeld consists of a small building of lime stone and flint, at present covered with a tile roof, and the east end is overgrown with ivy. It has been much patched and altered, having been applied to various rustic purposes, and was used at one time as a dovecote and later as cottage and threshing barn, or granary. The only timbers now remaining which appear to be original are three of the western ribs of the chapel roof and the heavy joists of the chamber floor, one of the chimneys, a good example of its period, is intact, and the other is destroyed. The quoins and other worked stones are missing and have in various places been supplied by brick. The accompanying plans and details will sufficiently indicate the arrangements. The building is a parallelogram, mostly of the late Decorated period (14th century) and consists at the east end of a chapel, with one door and window, possibly a hagioscope, on the north, and three windows on the south, the bricked up opening of one on the east, an oilet or hagioscope (from the priest's chamber)¹ in the western wall; near the place of the altar there are corbels that may have formed part of a reredos, or perhaps supported statues. The three supposed old roof timbers, consisting of rafters, with carved ribs and no principals or tie beams, are types of the style. There is no clue to the material of the original covering, which was probably, as at present, of tile. The orientation is to the true east. The west end of the building consists of the abode of the resident priest or chaplain. It has a dwelling room or

¹If the chamber were used also as an infirmary the sick would, by means of this opening, be able to hear mass.

kitchen on the ground floor, with windows west and south, the entrance door on the north, and fireplace on the west side. On the west side and opening from this lower chamber is a buttery or larder, lighted from the north. A flight of stone stairs leads from the lower chambers over the larder, to a chamber above, lighted by a window on the south side, and having a fireplace in the east wall, and the oilet or hagioscope (before mentioned) communicating with the chapel. On the west side is a door leading into a small wardrobe. The remains of ancient enclosures can still be traced on the surrounding land;¹ the chapel floor line is on a level with the present ground, that of the kitchen is one step below it, and the larder is two steps below the kitchen.

The following is the balance sheet rendered by Prior Philip de Thame, and embodied in his report to the Grand Master Elyan de Villanova for A.D., 1338:—

BAJULIA DE GODESFELD,

IN COMITATU SUTHAMPTON.

Apud Godesfeld est unum mesuagium debiliter edificatum, cum gardino, et valet iij s. iiij d.

Item sunt ibidem ccc. acre terre, unde c. acre, quelibet acra valet iiij d., et c. acre, quelibet acra ij d., et c. acre que non coluntur, quelibet acra ij d. Summa, lvij s. iiij d.

Item de redditu assiso solebat esse xx li. iij s. iiij d., et nunc in presenti, propter paupertatem terre, et combustionem de Portesmouth et de Hampton per alienigenas, non possunt levare ultra xliij li. x s.

Item apud Swarweton j. acra prati, et valet per annum ij s.

Item de operibus nativorum in autumpno x s. vj d.

Item placita et perquisita curiarum ibidem valent xliij s. iiij d.

Item ibidem pastura pro ix. bobus et vj. affris, pretium pasture pro capite xij d. xv s.

Item pastura pro ix. bidentibus, pro capite j d. lxxv s.

Item confraria ibidem solebat valere lx. marcas; et nunc, pro paupertate terre, et prisis Regis, et taxationibus x^{mo} et xv^{mo} omnium mobilium de anno in annum, ac etiam prestatione lanarum, et custodia maris, et multis aliis oppressionibus, que die in diem emergunt; et quia illud subsidium est omnino ad voluntatem donantium, vix possunt levare in presenti xl marce

¹The present owner, on the occasion of the visit of the Hants Field Club, informed the members that coins had been found; also a pyx of latten, gilt and engraved, now preserved at Armsworth House.

GODSFELD—Reprise.

In expensis domus; videlicet, pro preceptore et confratre suo, et aliis de familia domus, et etiam aliis supervenientibus causa hospitalitatis, prout fundatores dicte domus ordinaverunt; videlicet—

In pane furnito per annum xxxiiij. quarteria frumenti, pretium quarterii iij s. et valent liij li. xix s.

Item, pro cerevisia bracianda, xx. quarteria brasei orde, pretium quarterii ij s., et xx. quarteria brasii avenarum, pretium quarterii xvj d. et valent lxvj s. viij d.

Item in coquina ibidem, ut in carne, pisce, et aliis victualibus .. ciiij s.

Item, in robis, mantellis, et aliis necessariis preceptoris et confratris sui lxix s. iij d.

Item, Radulphus de Basyng capit per annum, per cartam capituli, ad terminum vite sue, vj. quarteria et dimidium frumenti, pretium quarterii iij s., et valent per annum xix s. vj d.

In roba senescalli pro placitis et querelis defendendis per annum .. xx s.

In robis iij. famulorum, pro capite viij s. xxxij s.

In stipendio j. messoris custodientis boscum x s.

In visitatione Prioris, per iij. dies iij li.

In emendatione domorum per annum xx s.

In stipendio j. capellani deservientis capellam de Godesfeld, non ad mensam iij marce.

Item in redditu resolutio; videlicet, episcopo Wyntoniensi xij d.; ecclesie de Afford vj d.; domino Rogero Daundel v s.; Henrico le Wayte, v s.; abbatisse beate Marie Wyntonie viij s.; priori de Clatsford vj s. viij d.; priori Sancti Swythan, Wyntonie, viij s.; et domino Thome Querls j. libra cimini, que non appreciatur Summa, xxxiiij s. ij d.

§ Summa omnium expensarum et solutionum xlv marce, iij s. viij d.

Summa Valoris,—Et sic remanent ad solvendum ad Thesaurarium, pro oneribus supportandis .. liiij marce, x s. iij d. ob.

Nomina Fratrum { Frater Willelmus de Multon, s. preceptor.
Frater Johannes Couffen, capellanus.

From these details we can imagine the state of things with regard to the Hospitallers at Godsfield, in the 14th century. with their house and garden, 300 acres of land around besides a meadow at Swarraton. Of live stock, nine oxen, six animals for plough, and 900 sheep. The harvest gathered in by the neighbouring serfs. Their manor courts, and the collection of the confraria, or voluntary contributions from the neighbourhood, which although in 1338 they produced for the Order throughout England eight hundred and eighty-eight pounds, four shillings, owing to commercial depression and other taxation in the Manor of Godsfield, only amounted to xl. marks which sum they can now hardly raise. The accounts of expenditure help to people the scene. We have mention of the Preceptor William de Multon, and his confrater

whose clothing and cloaks cost 69s. 3d, while the coats of the steward (Senescallus) cost 20s.—and the four servants 8s. a-piece, the wages of the woodman 10s., and the stipend of the chaplain 4 marks without board, are also given, together with cost of bread, malt, meat, fish, and other victuals for the maintenance of the household and their visitors, among whom was the Prior, whose visitation for four days entailed an expense of £4, while they spent in annual repairs but 20s. The Hospitallers were accustomed to place upon their manors and estates small societies of their brethren under the government of a commander. Such societies were in consequence called Commanderies. What were Commanderies with the Hospitallers were called Preceptories by the Templars, though the latter term was in use with both Orders.

The Order was suppressed in England (32nd Henry VIII., c. 24) on the ground that the Knights sent money out of the Kingdom, abetted the usurpation of the Pope, defamed the King and his subjects; adding that their revenues would be better spent in the defence of the Kingdom.

The cartulary of Godesfield is in the possession of the Duke of Portland, and is referred to by Tanner,¹ and by Dugdale.² A transcript³ will be found in the British Museum, Harl. 6602-6603. It is entitled "Kalendarium omnium cartarum et munimentorum de Godesfield Badeslegh et Rughenham, et omnium maneriorum ad dictum manerium de Godesfield pertinentium in comitatu de Southampton renovatum per Wm. Hulle, preceptorem de Badeslegh. 21 Ric. ii."

¹Notitia Monastica.

²Monasticon, p. 803.

³This transcript has been collated and compared with the original by Sir Henry Ellis, and is of great interest.