

HERRINGSWELL CHURCH.

THE Church is dedicated to the Saxon Saint, Ethelbert, King of East Anglia, and possibly occupies the site of a more ancient foundation, as a church, presumed to be of stone, is mentioned in Doomsday Book, and had 60 acres of land for its minister's maintenance. The present Church dates from 1350. It is almost entirely of the decorated style. A notable feature is the square tower; this is open within and supported by two octagonal columns, with flying buttresses.

The Font was probably of much earlier date, possibly Norman. Its cylindrical bowl, which sprang from a fluted column, was carved with a representation of Adam and Eve in Paradise with the Tree of Life and the Serpent in relief. This was destroyed by fire in 1869. The bells and interior fittings of the Church were also destroyed. A double piscina in the Chancel is a rare feature.

The restoration of the Church after the fire was carried out by Mr. Arthur Blomfield.

THE WINDOWS.

EAST WINDOW.

This window, put in by Mr. Leopold Davies in memory of his brother, Mr. Herbert Davies, is a very beautiful study of sheep life, and especially interesting to Herringswell, as the Suffolk black-faced sheep in the centre on each side of Christ are exact portraits of sheep in the pedigree flock owned by Mr. Davies, Miss Chaplin, who was sculptor to Queen Victoria, having spent some time in Herringswell making models of the sheep and taking sketches of local colour. On the upper left-hand may be seen the sheep in green pastures, and exactly opposite those by still waters. In the lower, left of the window, a sheep is seen struggling in a thicket, illustrating the text, "All we, like sheep, have gone astray," and opposite this are a flock of sheep hurrying into the fold, while the shepherd, at the risk of his life, is seen in the distance, battling with the wolf.

Above there is a group of various kinds of sheep, illustrating the text, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold, them also I must bring"; and in the top light of all the "Lamb of God," the rays from which light up the whole of the window. The beautiful mother-of-pearl effect in the lower part of the window is worthy of notice. This window was designed and carried out by Mr. Christopher Wahll, who is in the front rank of artists in stained glass, much of his work being in English Cathedrals, Canterbury and Gloucester amongst the number. On the left-hand of the Chancel is a window by Mr. Jasper Brett, son of the famous artist of the name. He was a pupil of Mr. Wahll. This window is very striking, the colouring being rich and beautiful. It illustrates the text, "Come unto Me, all ye that are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

On the north side of the Chancel is the Children's Window, which is one of great charm, illustrating Christ with the children. This was designed by another pupil of Mr. Wahll's.

At the back of the choir is a window by Mr. Whall, put up in memory of the late Dr. Image.

Another window by Mr. Wahll is on the south side of the Church, and is illustrative of the Resurrection of Christ. This window has some remarkably fine colouring, and the "fish nimbus" (a very ancient form of it) entirely surrounds the figure of Christ. This window was put in in memory of Mr. Herbert Davies by his widow.

The two landscape windows, given by Mrs. Leopold Davies in memory of her husband, mark a new departure in stained glass and are unique of their kind. They contain no figures, but are representative of Herringswell in Spring and Autumn. They are of great beauty and are the work of the well-known artist, Mr. James Clarke. The workmanship, which is very fine, was carried out under his personal supervision by Messrs. Dix, of Gower Street. Mr. Clarke is particularly well-known as the painter of the picture, "The Great Sacrifice" (now owned by Queen Mary), and also by his painting of Scenes in the Holy Land, reproduced in the Palestine Bible.

The subject of the window in the south transept is "Herringswell in Springtime," and the scenery, characteristic of Herringswell, has been faithfully reproduced. A graceful group of birches in their early spring leaf, together with the pink may and lilac, so abundant in Herringswell, form a delightful background. In the foreground is water with the heron (from which tradition says the village takes its name) standing by it. Rabbits on the ground and squirrels and wood-pigeons in the trees, make the picture a very real one to the Herringswell people. On a scroll in the centre is the text, "O Lord, how manifold are Thy works."

The window on the north side of the Church represents Herringswell in Autumn. In the centre is a group of pine trees; graceful silver birches are at the side. Behind these bushes of various hues, and in the foreground gorse and heather, and amongst them the pheasants, so familiar a sight to the Herringswell people. On a bush is a thrush and a flight of birds are crossing the sky. The colour is particularly rich and effective. The time of year is Autumn and the whole picture is suffused with the glow of sunset. On a scroll in the centre of the window are the words, "All Thy works praise Thee, O Lord."