

January 28th 1988

14 Longport,

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Canterbury,

CT1 1PE

(22)

Dear Mr Williamson,

Patrisbourne belonged to a French house of Augustinian Canons, Beaulieu near Rouen, and there seems to be evidence that sometimes a small group of canons lived in the village, instead of it being merely a manor which was leased out to provide an income. The Hundred Years War was made difficult for these alien cells. In 1390 the manor was rented by a layman who sold his lease to Merton Priory in Surrey (also Augustinian Canons) in 1409. In the same year the manor was acquired by Merton & it remained among their possessions until the dissolution of the Priory in 1538.

Walter de Merton, the founder of Merton College, is said to have taken his name from Merton Priory because he was educated there.

The Augustinian Canons, or Black Canons, were founded in the 11th century & had houses in most western European countries. They followed the 'Rule' of St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430) & have nothing to do with St. Augustine of Canterbury and his abbey

here. The Black Canons in Canterbury were at St. Gregory's Northgate, but they don't seem to have had any connection with Patricbourne.

I enclose a page from the Victoria County History, which gives a history of the alien cell at Patricbourne. I expect your enquirer had seen this & wondered if there was anything interesting on the site. I enclose also a writing of S.E. Rigold, ^{which} suggests that the founder of Beaulieu built the ^{Patricbourne} church for the canons, as an extension of a smaller church. In that case the church at Patricbourne could not be earlier than the 1190s, which some people think is too late a date for the sculpture etc. (!). All very difficult. Anyway I am sure your enquirer would be interested in any account of the church which your parish may have. There is of course one in Newman/Pevsner, Buildings of England. NE & E Kent, at which your enquirer ought to have looked before he wrote to you - if he is at all serious in his researches.

I knew nothing about all this when your letter came, but it's amazing how much is available once one starts to look!

Best wishes

Margaret Sparks

72. THE PRIORY OF PATRIBOURNE

John de Pratellis, who founded the priory of Beaulieu, in the forest of Preaulx^{*} in Normandy, about the end of the twelfth century, granted¹ to it the manor of Patribourne, of the inheritance of his wife, and a cell was established there. The prior and canons of Patribourne were afterwards dispossessed by King John, but were allowed to have the land again in 1207 for a payment of 30 marks and a palfrey.²

On the death of Simon, prior of Beaulieu, in 1332, the king took the manor of Patribourne into his hands, but at the complaint of the next prior an inquisition³ was taken by which it was found that the king had no right in it, and the king accordingly on 4 October, 1333, ordered the escheator not to meddle further.⁴ During the war with France the manor was taken into the king's hands with other lands of aliens and committed to the custody of the proctor of the prior of Beaulieu, at a rent of £10 yearly; but in 1340 it was surrendered by him on the ground that he could not pay the rent, and committed to the custody of the abbot of Langdon on the same terms.⁵

On 7 June, 1390, Richard Altrincham had licence to acquire the manor from the prior and convent of Beaulieu for sixty years, on condition that he rendered to the king as much as they then did.⁶ He sold his estate in it to the prior and convent of Merton, in Surrey, on 3 October, 1409;⁷ and on 11 August following the king granted licence for the prior and convent of Beaulieu to grant the manor to the prior and convent of Merton in mortmain under the condition that the latter should pay 100s. yearly at the Exchequer during the war.⁸

PRIORS OF PATRIBOURNE

Walter, occurs 1297⁹

Ralph de Valle, occurs 1326¹⁰

73. THE PRIORY OF NEW ROMNEY

The Cistercian Abbey of Pontigny in France owed its possessions at Romney to its connexion with the archbishops of Canterbury. Thomas Becket was received at the abbey while in exile,¹ as was also Stephen Langton; and the latter in 1222 granted to the abbey 50 marks yearly from

¹ *Neustria Pia*, 917. ² Fine R. 9 John, m. 13.

³ Inq. p.m. 6 Edw. III (2nd Nos.), No. 48; Dugdale, *Mon.* vii, 1012.

⁴ Close, 7 Edw. III, pt. 2, m. 6.

⁵ Pat. 14 Edw. III, pt. 1, m. 35.

⁶ Pat. 13 Ric. II, pt. 2, m. 8.

⁷ Pat. 11 Hen. IV, pt. 1, m. 21.

⁸ Ibid. pt. 2, m. 5. ⁹ Prynne, *Records*, iii, 707.

¹⁰ Exch. K. R. Alien Priorities, bdl. 10, No. 10.

¹ Edmund Martene, *Thesaurus Novus Anecdotorum* iii, 1874.

the church of Romney,² the grant being confirmed by the convent of Christchurch, Canterbury,³ and Pope Honorius III⁴ in the same year. Archbishop Edmund, who was afterwards buried at Pontigny,⁵ added 10 marks in 1238,⁶ the convent of Christchurch confirming the grant in 1245.⁷ Archbishop Boniface in 1264 granted⁸ the whole church to the abbey, reserving a vicarage; and Romney thus became a cell to Pontigny, though it is doubtful whether there was ever any regular settlement of monks at it.

During the war with France the possessions of the abbey were taken into the king's hands and let at farm. In 1342 John de Wymbourne held them at a rent of 40 marks yearly, but was unwilling to pay more, and they were let to Joan de Bare, countess of Warenne, and William de Wath, clerk, at a rent of 45 marks.⁹ The advowson of the vicarage was also seized by the king.¹⁰

The possessions of aliens were finally confiscated by Act of Parliament in the reign of Henry V; and Henry VI on 20 May, 1439, granted 'the priory' of Romney to the warden and college of All Souls, Oxford.¹¹

74. THE PRIORY OF THROWLEY

The alien priory of Throwley, a cell to the abbey of St. Bertin at St. Omer in France, was founded about the middle of the twelfth century. Hugh de Chilhams, son of Foubert of Dover, by a charter¹ near the end of the reign of Stephen granted the church of Chilham to the abbey; and William de Ipra by another charter about the same time granted the churches of Chilham and Throwley. The grants were confirmed by Stephen, Pope Anastasius IV, and Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury; and afterwards by Henry II and Richard I and by later archbishops.

Sir Nathanael de Levelande claimed the chapel of Leaveland against the monks, but yielded when the abbots of Faversham and Boxley were appointed to settle the dispute. Richard, archbishop of Canterbury, then claimed it; but Pope Alexander III ordered the bishops of Exeter and Worcester to hear the case, and it was proved that the chapel was one of those belonging to the church of Throwley, as granted to the monks by Archbishop Theobald.² About the same time Henry de Insula endeavoured to withdraw himself from the parochial jurisdiction of Throwley,

² Ibid. 1246.

³ Ibid. 1247.

⁴ Ibid. 1248.

⁵ Ibid. 1767.

⁶ Ibid. 1250.

⁷ Ibid. 1251.

⁸ Ibid. 1254.

⁹ Fine R. 16 Edw. III, m. 28.

¹⁰ Pat. 5 Ric. II, pt. 1, m. 21.

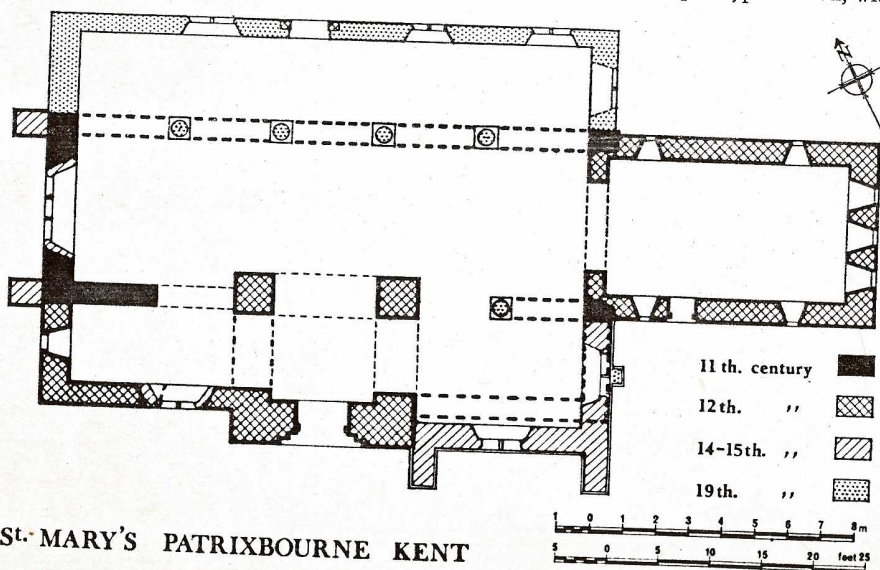
¹¹ Pat. 17 Hen. VI, pt. 1, m. 2.

¹ For these charters see *Cal. of Doc. France*, 483-491.

² Ibid. 487-8.

PATRIXBOURNE CHURCH (TR 189552). By S. E. RIGOLD

St Mary's, Patricbourne, is the most mature of a local group of enriched romanesque buildings, incorporating remains of the narrow nave of an earlier church, presumably that known to have existed in Odo's time. John de Préaux, a companion-in-arms of Richard I, gave his share of the vill to the Augustinians of Beaulieu in Préaux, near Rouen, to found a cell, which the Augustinians of Merton, Surrey, subsequently took over. Beaulieu was only founded in the 1190's and the refashioning of Patricbourne can hardly be earlier. Though the knapped flint surface is largely a restoration enough remains to attest its use by c. 1200, in contrast to the raw coursed flint of the nave. Dr C. A. Raleigh Radford judges that the new ornate chancel was sufficient quire for the tiny cell and that no more conventual-looking church should be sought beside the present one, which is essentially a normal, two-compartment parish church, with the addition of a lateral tower, set in a narrow aisle and forming a porch of honour, an arrangement most exceptional in England but not unusual in Normandy. The pediment over the grand door is also a fairly common Norman and Breton feature, found occasionally in England, as in the (? royal) north door of Portchester; evidently somebody (de Préaux, or his wife, the heiress of Patricbourne?) thought they merited such a 'state'. If the other affinities are strictly Norman, the sculpture of the group, beginning with the west door of Rochester, has long been recognized as being rather Poitevin. There is no known local major building to inspire Patricbourne, but there are very late elements in the strictly radial motifs of the great door — undercut foliage and a variety of dog-tooth, in the finest Caen stone. The Agnus Dei (associated with the Baptist) on the pediment and the apocalyptic vision, with



St. MARY'S PATRIBOURNE KENT

Fig. 8. St Mary's Church, Patricbourne

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(Summer meeting at Canterbury 1969)

the 'Theologos', on the tympanum may indicate de Préaux's name-saints. The chancel, with a wheel-window over three lights and quite ornate priest's door, is substantially unaltered. It has a plain collar-rafter roof and the piscina has an elegant geometric gablet, both rather later. The crown-post roof of the nave is one of several late medieval modifications, including the conversion of the eastern part of the aisle into a chapel for the residuary manor-house of Bifrons, containing a late gothic tomb, and perhaps the breaking-through of the west wall of the tower. Bifrons was acquired by the Marquess Conyngham, who, together with his wife, exercised great influence over George IV. Their son, Lord Albert, afterwards Lord Londesborough, presided over our first Canterbury meeting in 1844, as President of the yet undivided Association and an antiquary in his own right. The Marchioness, his mother, 'improved' the church at various times in the earlier 19th century. She made her chapel into a comfortable pew, with a fireplace and a clear oversight of the north aisle which she added for her tenants, while preserving the plain romanesque north door. She also inserted an interesting collection of Swiss mannerist glass. There are monuments to the Conynghams and their predecessors the Taylors: a neo-classic Faith wears a liturgical stole over an Ionian chiton.

WALMER CASTLE (TR 378501) By A. D. SAUNDERS

To the north and south of Deal Castle were the other two castles which protected the Downs anchorage: Walmer and Sandown. They were part of the same defensive scheme and their early history is closely linked. They were all built by Henry VIII in 1539-40.

Walmer and Sandown shared a similar plan. They were not as large as 'the great castle' in the Downs. There were just four large, rounded bastions in the outer curtain which surrounded a circular keep rising from the centre. A narrow courtyard separated the keep from the outer curtain. The defensive principles remained the same, although there were differences in the shape and size of the gunports from those at Deal. There were three main tiers of guns, two in the bastions and more guns mounted on top of the keep. A continuous gallery below the outer curtain connected hand-gunports which defended the bottom of the moat. The keep is similar to Deal in its internal arrangements and served as the principal accommodation for the garrison.

Sandown has been almost totally eroded by the sea and although Walmer survives, it has been vastly changed in character by its adoption as the official residence for the Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports. By the 17th century its military usefulness had greatly declined because of its obsolete design. From the early years of the 18th century its uses were principally domestic. At the present time, the current Lord Warden, Sir Robert Menzies, retains a flat over the gatehouse for use during his occasional visits to England.

Of the various Lords Warden, William Pitt, Lord Liverpool, the Duke of Wellington and Lord Granville made Walmer a home. To the Duke of Wellington it was 'the most charming marine residence he had ever seen'. The first resident Lord Warden, the first Duke of Dorset (1708-13) built a suite of rooms out from the keep onto the North Bastion. In the 1860's the castle was further altered by Lord Granville (1865-91), who built thirteen extra rooms above the Gatehouse. Lord Granville's successor, W. H. Smith (1891), instituted the collection of heirlooms which has safeguarded relics of previous Lords Warden. The interior today is chiefly reminiscent of the Duke of Wellington (1829-52), and of the summer holiday spent at the castle by Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and two of their eldest children in 1842.

WALMER OLD MANOR HOUSE (TR 367504) By S. E. RIGOLD

Walmer formed part of the Honour of Folkestone, which had two minor castles at various dates and was, in turn, held by castle-guard of Dover. The sub-tenants, probably by the 1130's, were the Aubevilles, who had many scattered holdings in and out of Kent, some

536