



THE PARISH OF FARNDON.



CONTAINS THE TOWNSHIPS OF

FARNDON
BARTON
CLUTTON

CREWE
AND
CHURTON (a MOIETY.)

HINDMARSH—EXTRA-PAROCHIAL.

FARNDON,

Is pleasantly situated on the declivity of a Hill, overlooking the Dee, about eight miles S. of Chester. The Bishop of CHESTER (Lichfield), is noticed in Domesday Book as holding one part of the Township, previous to, and after the Conquest. It appears from an Inq. temp. Hen. VII. that William Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry held the Manor from the Prince, Earl of Chester, in right of the See, valued at £10. 9s. 8d. per ann. The Manor is now leased from the See of Lichfield by Roger Barnston, Esq. and he holds for it a Court Lett and Baron. There is a narrow old Bridge here over the Dee, connecting Farndon with Holt, and also the counties of Chester and Denbigh, of which there is a fine, but considerably heightened view, in Mr. Ormerod's History of the County.*—There is much travelling through Farndon, it being situated on the cross-roads from Wrexham to Barnhill, Whitchurch, &c.—The view from the north side of the Bridge is delightfully picturesque.—John Speed the author of the Theatre of Great Britain, &c. was born here in 1552; he was buried at St. Giles's, Cripplegate, London, in 1629, where there is a monumental inscription to his memory, in Latin, in which he is described:—"Civis Lon-

* There is a tragical tradition relative to this Bridge:—"Edw. I. on the death of Madoc lord of Dinas Brân, appointed the guardians to his two sons: Of the one, who was to have had for his share the lordship of Bromfield and Yale, the castle of Dinas Brân, and the reversion of Maelor Saesneg, after the death of his mother Emma, daughter of James Lord Audley, to John Earl Warren; and of the other, who was to have possessed the lordships of Chirk and Nantludwy, to Roger Mortimer, son of Lord Mortimer, of Wigmore.—These lords soon conspired to free themselves from their charge, and

dinensis, mercatorum scissorum fratris, servi fidelissimi regiarum majestatum Elizabethæ, Jacobi, et Caroli, tunc superstitis."

A School was built at Farndon in 1629; the Master's salary is about £14. per annum, with a small croft, and garden.

Earl Grosvenor is the impropriator of the Church, and he appoints the Curate: the gross annual value of the living in 1810,† was £72. 1s. 10d. The great † Parl. Returns. tithes of Farndon, with a moiety of Churton and Clutton are attached to the impropriation; the great tithes of Barton, however, are the property of Lord Kenyon, by purchase from the Grosvenors; those of Crewe were purchased from the present Sir John Grey Egerton, Bart. (who bought them together with the royalty of the Township from Lord Crewe) by Mr. Rich. Browne. There was a Church at Farndon before the Conquest; and the unappropriated rectory was the property of the Collegiate Church of St. John, in Chester. The Church with all perquisites were afterwards leased by the Dean and Chapter of St. John's, to John Dutton, Esq. of Hatton, in 1449, for nine years, at 15 marks per ann. The valuation, 4th Edw. VI. was £16. The present

possess themselves of their estates: and accordingly caused the poor children to be drowned under Holt Bridge. This I discovered in a manuscript, communicated to me by the Rev. John Price, keeper of the Bodleian library. Before that, the manner of their deaths was current in the country, under the fable of two young fairies, who had been destroyed in that manner, and in the same place; but the foundation of the tale was, till very lately, totally lost."—PENNANT'S TOURS IN WALES.

ITINERARY OF THE COUNTY, &c.

CHESHIRE

• 1645.

Church stands on a red sand-stone rock, and is described in Webb's *Itinerary*, written in 1622, as a fair new building. During the Civil Wars, it was made a garrison; and at the time Holt Castle was besieged,* it was greatly injured. In 1658 it was repaired, and the window of the Barnston Chancel was ornamented with the stained glass which still remains nearly perfect. It is altogether a military memorial, the centre part representing a field of war, bordered with portraits of Sir Francis Gamul, Sir William Mainwaring, Roger Grosvenor, Esq. Capt. Barnston; pikemen, musqueteers, &c. in the costume of the day. The arms of Sir F. Gamul, have the badge of baronetcy, and it is therefore conjectured he was raised to that dignity by his ill-fated Sovereign.† The architecture of the Church is much varied, alto' the pointed Gothic is most prevalent. Five pointed arches, rising from cylindrical columns, separate the body of the Church from the side aisles. There are chancels at the end of each aisle, that on the south side is the property of the Barnstons, as is also the other, formerly possessed by the Massies of Coddington. In the Massie Chancel, is a marble monument, inscribed—

In hope of a blessed and joyful resurrection, are laid underneath this, y^e bodies of John Puleston, of Pickhill, Esq. and Anne his wife, the second daughter of Richard Alport, of Overton, Esq.; she dyed the 14th Aug. 1715; and he dyed the 14th Jan. 1721. They were interred here by the leave of their son-in-law, John Massie, of Coddington, Esq. Here also lies by the leave of her nephew Richard Massie, Esq. the body of Hester Janna, y^e younger daughter of the aforesaid John Puleston, Esq. and relict to the Rev. Mr. Thomas Janna, late Rector of Hordley, in Shropshire; she dyed the 12th Oct. 1732.—With earnest desire that their bones may remain unmoved to y^e last day, this monument is erected by Mrs. Anne Maddocks, in memory of her dear and very valuable father, mother, and sister.

On the east wall of the Church, a painted wooden tablet, with the inscription—

William Barnston, of Churton, Esq. had to wife Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Roger Massy, of Coddington, Esq. Obiit (ille) 21 July, 1620: obiit (lla) 15 Jan. 1606.

On a similar tablet underneath—

Near this lie the remains of John, son and heir of William Barn-

† It was repaired at the expense of the late H. Cholmondeley, Dean

ton, of Churton, Esq. who died May 8, 1661: he married Alice, sole heiress of Thos. Trafford, of Bridge Trafford, Esq. by whom he had one son, Trafford Barnston; she married to her second husband the Hon. Richard Savage, by whom she had one son, who became Earl Rivers. She died Oct. 23, 1666, and was buried at Pleminstall, near Chester.

Below this a third tablet—

Here lie the remains of William Barnston of Churton, Esq. He married Dorothy Brooke, daughter of Thomas Brooke, of Little Sankye, Esq. ancestor to Sir Richard Brooke, of Norton, Knt. He was a person of great worth and integrity, ventured his life and fortune with King Charles the First; was sent Prisoner from Oxford to London, where he continued till he paid his composition for his estate. He died March 8, 1664.

There are four achievements hung round the Chancel; the first for Roger Barnston, Esq.; the second for the wife of Prebendary Barnston; the third for Prebendary Barnston; the 4th the arms and crest of Robt. Barnston, Esq.

In this Church were, about the middle of the 17th century, the tombs of Sir Patrick de Barton, and two other Knights, with their effigies in mail armour, with large lozenge shields, round the edges of which were inscribed their names in Lombardic capitals. The 1st was inscribed—"Hic jacet Patricius de Barton. D'p'to"—another had—"Hic jacet Radocus . . . Daur . . . or . . . pro to." The 3d was cut on a flat stone; the arms a lion rampant.—A few years ago, whilst the building was undergoing some repairs, these three figures were discovered at the east end of the Church: they were of white stone, and two of them were immediately converted into sand by the Vandals of the neighbourhood.—That of Patrick de Barton was rescued from them, and is placed under the tower. It is of considerable antiquity, representing a Knight in mail armour, recumbent, his head reclining on a cushion, his feet on a dog. The helmet is conical, and the shield bears a bend cotised.

The arms of Lethe of Carden, Hurleston, and Bostock of Churton, which formerly ornamented the windows, no longer exist. The Church register, which is in a very dilapidated state, commences in 1603.

of Chester, whose autograph appears on the glass.

HISTORY.

ITINERARY OF THE COUNTY, &c.

CHESHIRE

CREWE

Is situated about 9 miles S. E. of Chester. Little is known of the first possessors of this manor. The Crewes, the ancient Lords, are stated* to be the descendants of the Crewes, of Crewe, in Nantwich Hundred, and they became extinct temp. Hen. IV. when Margaret and Alice, the coheirs of Jenkin Crewe, married Walter Dod, of Broxton, and Thomas Bird; the grandson of this Thomas, John Bird, had two daughters, and they again divided the estates between the Stringers, and Catherals.†—After the Dissolution, the Royalty of the township, which had belonged to the Abbey of Chester, was vested in the Crewes, of Holt, a younger branch of the Crewes, of Crewe Hall.‡—Mr. Thomas Crewe, of Holt, was the proprietor of the manor in the beginning of the last century; and he sold it to Sir J. Crewe, of Utkinton, from whom it passed to the Crewes, of Crewe, in Nantwich Hundred. The present Lord Crewe, sold it and the tithes to Sir J. G. Egerton, Bart. by whom it has subsequently been sold, the manor to Ambrose Dutton, Esq. and the tithes to Mr. Richard Brown.

* In a paper signed by Sir J. Crewe, of Utkinton.

KING'S MARSH,

HISTORY.

Sometimes called Over, is an extra-parochial township, between Farndon and Shocklach, and nearly opposite the ruins of Holt Castle. The manor is the property of T. S. Moulson, Esq. whose mother was the daughter and coheir of Geo. Spurstow, Esq. a younger branch of the Spurstows, of Spurstow. It was formerly called Over Marsh, and was one of the three sanctuaries of the ancient Earldom, set apart for the reception of fugitive strangers, who, in time of war, should come under the protection of the Earl. They were allowed to live there in booths, or tents, for a year.

In an Inq 7 Edw. II. it is stated, that a certain large piece of waste, called *Overmarsh*, was in ancient times ordained for strangers of what country soever, and assigned to such as came to the support of the Earl of Chester, or to his aid, resorting there to form dwellings, but without building any fixed houses, by the means of nails or pins, save only booths and tents to live in. Over Marsh was given by Richard III. to Sir William Stanley.

† Vill. Cest. ‡ Lysons.

PLAN OF HOLT CASTLE, 1620,

Sometime called the Castle of Lyons.—The *Castrum Legionis* of the Romans, and an outpost to Deva.



