

**ANCIENT COTSWOLD
CHURCHES. ILLUSTRATED WITH
PEN-AND-INK DRAWINGS BY
CECILY DAUBENY AND THE
AUTHOR'S PHOTOGRAPHS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9781760578107

Ancient Cotswold churches. Illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings by Cecily Daubeny and the author's photographs by Ulric Daubeny

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ULRIC DAUBENY

**ANCIENT COTSWOLD
CHURCHES. ILLUSTRATED WITH
PEN-AND-INK DRAWINGS BY
CECILY DAUBENY AND THE
AUTHOR'S PHOTOGRAPHS**



EARLY ENGLISH ENRICHMENTS.—WYCK RISSINGTON.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

Ancient Cotswold Churches



Illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings by Cecily
Daubeny, and the author's photographs.

By
ULRIC DAUBENY

CHELTEMHAM :
Ed. J. Burrow & Co., Ltd.
and 93, Kingsway, London.

219 212

TO VINDI
ANNO 1812

DA 662
C7D3

ANCIENT COTSWOLD CHURCHES.

CONTENTS.

- Chapter 1. GLOSSARY AND INTRODUCTION.
- Chapter 2. THE WINCHCOMBE-BROADWAY VALLEY.
Postlip, Winchcombe, Sudeley, Hailes, Didbrook, Stanway, Stanton, Buckland,
Broadway, Willersey, Saintbury, Weston-sub-Edge.
- Chapter 3. THE NORTH-WEST COTSWOLDS.
Chipping Campden, Snowhill, Cutsdean, Farmcote, Temple Guiting, Guiting Power,
Hawling, Naunton.
- Chapter 4. AROUND STOW-ON-THE-WOLD.
Condicote, Upper Swell, Lower Swell, Stow-on-the-Wold, Upper Slaughter, Lower
Slaughter, Bourton-on-the-Water, Wyck Rissington, Little Rissington, Great Rissington.
- Chapter 5. BURFORD AND DISTRICT.
Burford, Taynton, Great Barrington, Little Barrington, Windrush, Sherborne.
- Chapter 6. THE CENTRAL COTSWOLDS.
Northleach, Hampnett, Turkdean, Hazleton, Salperton, Notgrove, Aston Blank,
Clapton, Farmington.
- Chapter 7. THE SOUTH-EAST COTSWOLDS.
Aldsworth, Westwell, Broughton Poggs, Southrop, Eastleach Martin, Eastleach
Turville.
- Chapter 8. CIRENCESTER AND AMPNEY.
Cirencester, Ampney Crucis, Ampney St. Mary, Ampney St. Peter.
- Chapter 9. THE COLN VALLEY.
Charlton Abbots, Sevenhampton, Whittington, Dowdeswell, Shipton Oliffe, Shipton
Solvers, Withington, Compton Abdale, Yanworth, Stowell, Chedworth, Coln St.
Dennis, Coln Rogers, Winson, Barnsley, Bibury, Coln St. Aldwyns, Hatherop,
Quenington, Fairford, Lechlade.
- Chapter 10. THE CHURN VALLEY.
Coberley, Cowley, Colesbourne, Rendcombe, North Cerney, Bagendon, Baunton.
- Chapter 11. OFF ERMINE STREET.
Brimpsfield, Elkestone, Syde, Winstone, Duntisbourne Abbots, Duntisbourne Rouse,
Daglingworth, Stratton.
- Chapter 12. THE STROUD DISTRICT.
Miserden, Edgeworth, Sapperton, Bisley, Stroud, Randwick, Pitchcombe, Painswick,
Cranham.
- Appendix: (1) Representations of musical instruments.
(2) References.
- Analytical index under place-names.
- General index.

FOREWORD.

In the following pages it has been attempted to give a methodical account of the ancient churches within a certain well-defined area of the northern Cotswolds.

Although so remarkable for their wealth of early work, these churches have been accorded surprisingly little *printed* notice. Some of the more important ones are described in the earlier archæological journals, but even where such information is conveniently accessible, much of it has been superseded by later study or rendered obsolete by subsequent "restorations." Meanwhile, a great mass of interest, distributed mainly among the smaller churches, remains unrecorded, and in the majority of cases is yet scarcely appreciated, even in the immediate neighbourhood.

It is with these less-known buildings that the present volume particularly deals. Descriptions of famous churches such as Cirencester, Fairford and Burford have been purposely compressed, in order to leave all possible space for new material; even so, at an early stage this became so voluminous that no absolutely exhaustive account of any one particular church could be entertained. Much had to be omitted, in order to keep the letterpress within tolerable bounds. For this reason no very detailed descriptions have been attempted of Norman doorways, of fonts, of bells, of monuments or of plate, these in most instances having been set forth in the monographs enumerated in the appendix, or mentioned in the footnotes. It falls as a significant sidelight upon Cotswold churches that, having touched even so lightly upon such details, there remains so much of genuine interest to record.

The Introduction, while classifying the main characteristics of the churches, provides also a short glossary, the various paragraphs of which may be read in conjunction with the description of any individual church. As an appendix, an index has been designed to give, at a glance, the most outstanding features, arranged according to place-names.

In the preparation of this volume, help was received from various sources, and this, wherever possible, has been acknowledged in the following pages. A particular expression of gratitude, however, is due to Mr. St. Clair Baddeley, who, besides so often and so readily responding with valuable advice, annotated a number of the proofs. Many profitable hours have been spent in the library of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society, at Gloucester, where Mr. Roland Austin obligingly placed his wide knowledge of local literature at the writer's disposal and also revised the list of references. Thanks must be rendered also to my wife, for her ever-available help and for the patient care with which she prepared the drawings.

1921.

ULRIC DAUBENY.

CHAPTER I.

GLOSSARY AND INTRODUCTION.

The Mediæval saying, "As sure as God is in Gloucestershire," has by some been thought to refer to the traditioned relic of the Blood of Christ, erstwhile at Hailes Abbey, but possibly it is an allusion to the extraordinary number of monastic foundations, parish churches, and isolated chapels at that time strewn about the county. This characteristic of Gloucestershire prevailed in the north-east, or upland tracts, known as the Cotswolds, which, although ever a sparsely-populated agricultural and grazing district, could anciently boast the possession of no less than three great abbeys—two of them, Cirencester and Winchcombe, mitred, while the third, Hailes, was at one time perhaps the most popular place of pilgrimage in the West of England. Among minor monastic institutions were numbered a nunnery (of Saxon foundation) at Withington, one at Daglingworth, another at Pinbury; priories at Brimpsfield, Broadway, Burford (Oxon), and Lechlade; a Preceptory of Knights Hospitallers at Quenington, and a cell attached to the same Order, formerly to the Order of Knights Templars, at Temple Guiting. Scarce a hamlet but possessed its humble Norman church, and the more important foundations, such as still attract the visitor to Cirencester, to Fairford, to Northleach, and to other Upland towns, even now compare in grandeur with any that remain in England.

The smaller churches, with which it is the ambition of this volume particularly to deal, constitute one of the most consistently interesting and well-preserved groups found anywhere in the United Kingdom.

SITES. The situation of the church is naturally influenced by the position of the village; Cotswold villages and hamlets in general occupy sheltered and secluded sites in valleys, leaving the bleak hill-tops to primitive trackways and later, coach roads, which sometimes stretch for miles without touching a single group of human habitations. It is partly on this account that the unique interest of the smaller Cotswold churches is so little realised, tourists heedlessly passing lanes which lead down sometimes to the most lovely and romantic beauty spots.

Among Cotswold churches there are several which illustrate what is perhaps one of the most deeply fascinating by-paths in ecclesiology—the continued association of one particular spot with religious observance throughout the successive ages. It is a fact seldom recognised, that in many instances churches in present use occupy sites upon which not only Normans and Saxons, but Romans worshipped, and, incredible as it may seem, some-

times even ground held sacred among the pre-historic peoples of the Stone Age. Lower Swell is a case in point, for there the church is literally surrounded by Neolithic tumuli, and in the actual churchyard there remains a round-barrow, near which formerly stood a monolith of equal age. When digging foundations for a new nave, on the north side of the ancient church, large quantities of Roman crematory ashes were discovered, while evidences of Saxon, and, of course, of Norman occupation are likewise present.

Such a continuous chain of evidence must naturally be regarded as exceptional, but Roman burials have taken place on the ground now occupied by Notgrove church, relics of the same period have been discovered in Bisley churchyard, a Roman altar appears at Daglingworth, portion of a pillar at Cirencester,¹ and the church at Bourton-on-the-Water is traditioned to occupy the site of a "heathen temple," in part confirmed some years ago by the discovery of a supposed Roman culvert running beneath the present building. Roman mortar has been brought to light among the foundations of Winchcombe Abbey, and the neighbouring parish church gives evidences of early associations—though not necessarily religious—excavators having found fragments of supposed British pottery on the site of the new heating apparatus.

MATERIAL. Cotswold churches are built of a durable local oolite, a limestone which is of deep cream colour when freshly dug, but, rendered mellow by age and lichen, becomes a beautiful golden grey, to be lit with vivid warmth when the sun is bright. The most notable stone quarries were anciently those of Taynton, from which came the material for Blenheim Palace, and, so tradition says, for Old St. Paul's; but huge excavations, dating from mediæval times, are found scattered about the hills, the most extensive being those of Cleeve, Painswick, and near Stump's Cross (above Stanway)—the latter perhaps supplying the stone for Hailes and Winchcombe Abbeys.

STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE. The predominating architectural styles in the Cotswolds are the Norman and the Perpendicular, with occasional noteworthy Early English examples, but an almost entire absence of the richly ornate Decorated work which is found in certain of the bordering counties. The proximity of so many great abbeys and monastic foundations—such as Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Pershore, Worcester, Evesham, to make no mention of the local abbeys—naturally enabled Cotswold architects and masons to keep in touch with the latest developments of style in building, and so the general divisions of architectural time no doubt apply with as much approximate accuracy in this seemingly isolated district as they do elsewhere. In actual fact all architecture was of course transitional, one style growing out of and fading into another, and therefore without clear-cut

1 Possibly brought from elsewhere.

limits of time ; for convenience, however, the periods have been differentiated, and in the simplest form, may be re-stated thus :—

Pre-Norman, or Saxon.	
Norman. Early to Middle	1060-1160.
" Transitional	1160-1200.
{ Early English	'1200-1250.
{ Geometric (or Transitional)	1250-1300.
Decorated	1300-1375.
Perpendicular	1375-1539.

Upon these followed the more or less debased fashions known as Renaissance, Queen Anne, Georgian, while finally came the revival of pseudo-Gothic.

SAXON. Of Saxon work there are considerable remains in the Cotswolds, much more indeed than hitherto has been supposed. Obvious structural features of the later Saxon period are found at Ampney Crucis, Bibury, Broughton Poggs, Coln Rogers, Daglingworth, Duntisbourne Rouse, Edgeworth, Miserden, and Winstone ; fragmentary remains such as mouldings, carvings and sundials, which point to formerly existing pre-Norman fabrics, appear at Ampney St. Peter, Aston Blank, Bagendon, Burford, Coberley,* Elkstone (*i*), Lower Swell, Naunton, Notgrove, Saintbury, Stowell, Temple Guiting, and possibly also at Turkdean and Westwell. Foundations, apparently of Saxon making, have been brought to light beneath several churches, including Cirencester and North Cerney, and in other cases there is documentary proof of the existence of Saxon chapels, which otherwise have failed to leave behind them any visible reminder.

NORMAN. The Cotswolds are extraordinarily rich in Norman work. Of the 100 churches described in the present volume, no less than 77 retain structural features or other details which bespeak a Norman origin, whilst at least three more remain open to dispute. This means that approximately eighty per cent. of existing Cotswold churches³ stand upon the identical sites they occupied in Norman times, and there were numerous Norman churches and chapels of which slight, if any, trace remains, as at Bisley, Broad Campden, Chedworth, Eastington,⁴ Guiting,⁵ Laverton, Sevenhampton, Sherborne, Winchcombe, and elsewhere.

Norman architecture in the Cotswolds favours generally the two

-
- 1 A cessation of building due to the Interdict (1207-1216) perhaps more accurately marks the break.
 - 2 A Saxon cross, since disappeared.
 - 3 Omitting, of course, the few obviously new foundations, clustering mainly about the Stroud district.
 - 4 In "Chapel field" (near Northleach), where in Atkyns' time (1712) there yet stood the ruins of a chapel, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene.
 - 5 A chapel of the Grange, which was attached to Bruern Abbey, near Kingham.