

**HISTORY OF THE
CHURCH OF ST.
MARY AT PAINSWICK**

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EXETER

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PREFACE

Finding my curiosity aroused as to the History of Painswick Church, it became a matter of regret with me that, turn where-soever I might, the doors of information as to its pre-Reformation History, seemed to be closed. There was no literature on the subject beyond the very meagre references contained in the county histories. There was, moreover, no local Worthy living who might be profitably consulted as an authority, in order to supply my needs. Finding necessity therefore a spur, and at the same time, becoming aware that there must be many others desirous of the same knowledge, I resolved to set apart from other studies, a certain number of hours each day, in order to discover and collate my materials. The results of this proceeding are compressed into the following pages, which are here offered to the reader as a small contribution to the History of Painswick.

In particular, I wish to offer my hearty acknowledgments to Messrs. Morton Ball, Playne, and Upton, of Stroud, who permitted me to examine and search whatsoever Manor Rolls and other documents still remain in their keeping. Also, my obligations are specially due to the Rev. Fitzroy and Mrs. Fenwick, for affording me free access to the MS. Register (fifteenth century) of Lantony Secunda, in their library; to Mr. F. A. Hyett, for placing his great local knowledge and experience at my disposal; to the Mayor and the Town Clerk (Mr. Blakeway) of Gloucester, for allowing me to make use of their valuable MS. City Records; to the Rev. Herbert Seddon, M.A., Vicar of Painswick, and his churchwardens, and to the Rev. J. Melland Hall, M.A., Rector of Harescombe and Pitchcombe, for similar courtesies; and, lastly, to the patient and intelligent officials of the Public Record Office, in London; to Mr. F. Madan, of the Bodleian Library, to Mr.

Cecil Davis, author of "Gloucestershire Brasses," etc., and especially to J. H. Round, Esq., author of "Domesday Studies," "Feudal England," etc.

The Church of St. Mary may be described as a large Rectilinear, or (late) Perpendicular (1490?) one, having a western tower (with lofty ribbed steeple), north and south aisles, and, like that at Haresfield, a double chancel. At the eastern termination of the north aisle is the chapel of St. Peter, having a four-light window, and containing the canopied altar tomb of Sir William Kingston, K.G. (1540). This chapel extends only as far as the western extremity of the first chancel, which consists of two bays. It has a good timbered vault, with carven bosses. The pulpit, chancel-gates, Gyde-screen, are, all of them, quite modern. The octagonal font, given by William Rogers, Esq., and Charles Michell, churchwardens, 1661, is not remarkable. The nave, of five bays, has octagonal pillars. The tombs in the Church-yard exhibit many varieties of slab, altar, and octagonal, decorated with garlands, cherubs, shield and scroll; but though the gracefulness, and no doubt, formerly, the sharpness of the workmanship, at once suggests Italian influence, there is no reason to attribute them to foreigners. Numbers of them are the work of John Bryan, who died in 1787, aged seventy-one, whose own pyramidal tomb humbly recalls that of Caius Cestius at Rome.

¹ For the loan of Photographs of Court-House reproduced here, my thanks are due to my brother, Mr. John F. A. Baddeley (of St. Petersburg), Mr. E. Reed of Painswick, and the present owner, Mr. E. Marsland.

² The alabaster coloured effigies of John Seaman, D.C.L., and Elizabeth, his wife, of the Court House, 1623-5, have been erected upon this earlier monument, having been removed from the north wall of the second chancel, where they were originally placed in a classic frame-monument of their own. The workmanship closely resembles that of a similar monument in the south transept of St. Lawrence, at Stroud, and others of approximate date, at Gloucester.

The Piscina & the wall suffered much

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The Church of St. Mary, at Painswick.

THE Domesday Survey (A.D. 1086) shows us that out of a grand total acreage of 20,760¹ acres included in the then area of *Wiche* (or, as it later, for distinction from other Wicks, came to be written *Wyke Pagani*, otherwise Painswick), 14,400 were wood or forest-land, while 6,360 were regarded as under cultivation or fit for it. The Lord of the Manor, *Roger De Laci*, owned one team, and held this huge but meanly-rated manor, for the service of one Hide,² from the King in Chief. The tenants possessed no less than fifty-two teams. It results, therefore, that there was 120 acres, or one carucate,³ of land to the typical team of eight oxen.⁴ Moreover, Wick had four mills (flour), valued at £1 4s.—very valuable possessions. The Shire at this time possessed 251 mills.

For all this estate, however, there were but sixty-six male inhabitants.⁵ But, this little community of very varying rank was not even then without its spiritual instructor. Painswick was one of about sixty parishes in this county which already had its own priest.⁶ As the Lord of Painswick, in the time of King Edward

¹ The present Parish only contains 3,614 acres. It has, therefore, shrunken almost to one-sixth of its Domesday area. It is to be noted that the entire Hundred of Bisley, in which Wiche was situate, included but 32,294 acres, or only 11,534 outside the manor of Wiche.

² The quality of the land is responsible for the lowness of its assessment. The Hide is merely the unit of assessment, not an area of land-measurement.

³ Carucen: a plough-team.

⁴ It does not follow by any means that each team on the manor had eight oxen. They were often smaller, though probably seldom fewer, than four in number. Cf. "Domesday Studies," J. H. Round, p. 209.

⁵ Three *Ratichenistri*—horsemen of the lord; 35 *Villani*; 16 *Bordarii* (many of these had no teams); 11 *Servi*; 1 Priest.

⁶ Bisley had two Priests.