

**AN ATTEMPT TO
ASCERTAIN THE AGE OF
THE CHURCH OF
MICKLEHAM IN SURREY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649340774

An attempt to ascertain the age of the church of Mickleham in Surrey by P. F. Robinson

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P. F. ROBINSON

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ASCERTAIN THE AGE OF
THE CHURCH OF
MICKLEHAM IN SURREY**

SOME ACCOUNT
OF
MICKLEHAM CHURCH,
IN SURREY.

AN
ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN
THE
AGE OF THE CHURCH
OF
MICKLEHAM, IN SURREY,

WITH
REMARKS ON THE ARCHITECTURE OF THAT BUILDING.

BY
P. F. ROBINSON, ARCHITECT,
AUTHOR OF A WORK ON RURAL ARCHITECTURE.

LONDON:
CARPENTER AND SON, BOND STREET.

1824.

C. WILSTROHAM, CHISWICK.

TO
THE RIGHT REVEREND FATHER IN GOD
THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER,

ETC. ETC. ETC.

THIS WORK
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EVERY SENTIMENT OF RESPECT

BY
THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

THE Church of Mickleham in Surrey having been found too small for the accommodation of the parishioners, a plan was adopted in the year 1822, for increasing that accommodation, by repewing it and by erecting a gallery. In the course of the work the antient walls and roof were discovered to be in a state of absolute decay from extreme age, so much so that it became necessary to rebuild the whole of the nave and part of the tower. Animated with a desire to preserve the original form of the building, an elegant and curious specimen of early Norman architecture, as far as was compatible with the wants of the inhabitants, my attention has been directed to this end (the work having been submitted to my superintendance by an order of vestry dated Oct. 7, 1822). The plates which accompany the following attempt to ascertain the age of the church will explain, in some degree, the success which has attended my endeavours.

It is much to be regretted that our country churches, many of which exhibit features of great architectural beauty, and which are valuable to the antiquary and man of taste, for the historic recollections they afford, are daily perishing from neglect, or mutilated and distorted by the hand of ignorance, while no protecting care is exerted to save them from destruction. The Incumbent for obvious reasons is unwilling to involve himself in a dispute with his parishioners, and the Churchwardens are left at liberty to add thicker and thicker coats of whitewash (if they do no worse), aided by broad stripes of lamp black, con-

cealing forms to which the devotion of early ages and pure taste gave birth. A better feeling, however, has of late years displayed itself; and the care and attention, which has been exerted in restoring our cathedrals to their antient purity and magnificence, will, it may be hoped, soon extend itself to our churches. The science of architecture has become a favourite study with many of our nobility, and the time may be at hand when our village churches will be rescued from the control of the spoiler.

Previous to the reformation every attention was paid to our sacred edifices, and wealth was lavished in creating effects which certainly inspired religious awe. The very reverse of this feeling is now unfortunately observable in our country churches; and it is not surprising that the rustic enters the place of worship with little ceremony, when neglect is evident throughout, when its sacred walls are covered with dust and damp and cobweb, the very altar more desolate than the rest. At a time when the seceders from our national religion are daily increasing, it is surely not impolitic to consider the causes which occasion the defection, and among many others, this want of attention to the building dedicated to the service of the Deity may be considered most important. Were the comforts of the poor attended to by affording them proper accommodation in the parish church, numbers would be withheld from joining the dissenters, and from becoming hostile to our venerable establishment.

P. F. ROBINSON.

BROOK STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE,
May 5, 1824.