NOTES ON NORFOLK CHURCHES

BIXLEY. (F.4) *S. Wandregesilus* (Unique dedication).

W. tower, S. porch, nave and chancel. I should think nearly re-built, except for the small 14c tower with its octagonal turret stairs built on S. side and no belfry windows. There are slight remains of old screen, and built in outside on S.E. corner a stone inscribed "ORATE PRO ANIMA WILELMI DE DONWICO FUNDATORIS HUS ECCLESIE PROPICIETUR DE," showing that William of Denmark was the founder of the old church.

BLAKENEY. (E.1) *S. Nicholas.*

W. tower, N. porch, nave, N. and S. aisles and chancel. The fine 15c tower is over 100 ft. high and has good panelled base course, sound holes and panelled parapet. The turret stairs go up to top of parapet on S. side. There is a second tower only 8 ft. wide, turret stairs go up to top of parapet on N. side. The N.W. buttress of the N.E. corner probably used as a beacon light for mariners. The N.W. buttress of tower, N. aisle is inscribed. Inside there is a lofty tower arch, and a single hammer-beam and arch-braced roof with recumbent angels as hammer-beams, tracery spandrels and flowers at intersection of principal and ridge. In the tower is a recess with six holes in the base, not cresset, and probably used for candles in connection with the Sacrament of Baptism. 15c arcades with six large three-light windows in clerestory. There are considerable fragments of 15c glass in N. aisle with six canopied figures in tracery. There is a simple sedilia with three cusped arched, an Easter Sepulchre, a few misericords, a Stuart table and the Arms of George III dated 1818. The feature of the church is the 13c vaulted chancel with a chamber over it (142).

BLICKLING. (F.2) *S. Andrew.*

W. tower, S. porch, nave, N. and S. aisles and chancel. This church has been much restored, but it has a 13c S. door with an engaged shaft, a typical East Anglian type of font, huge iron-bound chest with five locks, a poor man's box dated 1692, a few plain poppy-headed benches, a Jacobean pulpit with backboard and a 15c angle piscina. Plain arch braced roof to nave, and nice arch-braced roofs to aisles with tracery spandrels. Many old brasses.

BLOFIELD. (G.3) *S. Andrew.*

W. tower, N. porch, nave, N. and S. aisles and chancel. Fine typical Norfolk tower with large W. window, grouped with a good W. doorway, and large rectangular tracery sound holes. The inside is imposing with early 15c arcades and clerestory and a very lofty tower arch with fine W. window, but modern roofs. Some simple 15c bench ends with a few figures and grotesques, and the base of the old screen with repainted apostles in the panels. The chancel was magnificent, with two great windows on either side, now alas blocked up, and a very poor modern E. window. Nice 15c piscina and dropped window sill sedilia. *An old helmet hangs on N. wall.* The font however is the chief feature of the church (132) and I suppose it might be called unique, for I have never seen one like it. The panels of the bowl are filled with scenes from the life of Christ, and though mutilated they can quite easily be made out. W. is the Ascension with the twelve apostles, N.W. the Nativity with the Virgin and Child in a bed, and Joseph on a stool at the foot of it, and to suggest a stable two oxen are eating from a hay rack, N. is the flight into Egypt with Joseph carrying a bundle and leading the ass with Virgin and Child, N.E. Ecce Homo? E. the Mocking, S.E. the Scourging, S. the Crucifixion, S.W. the Resurrection.

BLO NORTON. (E.5) *S. Andrew.*

W. tower, N. porch, nave and chancel continuous. Nice set of James I Arms dated 1610, and a pair of collecting shoes which I should think are contemporary (152). Modern roof and fittings, a 16c timber framed porch, and a 14c tower with the square tower staircase set obliquely on S. side. The 14c font has crudely cut patterns on shaft and bowl, and a graduated dropped window sill sedilia, the piscina drain being cut in a higher section of sill.

BODHAM. (E.1) *All Saints.*

W. tower, S. porch, nave and chancel. Modern roofs and benches, 14c plain font, Stuart table and the Arms of Anne.

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