

Ellins<sup>1</sup>—to T. Eades, Esq. The latter conveyed it about 1841 to G. J. A. Walker, Esq.,<sup>2</sup> from whom it passed to the Rev. Thomas Walker, rector of Abbot's Morton from 1861 to 1904 and joint lord of the manor. The representatives of his widow, Mrs. Walker, of Battenhall Manor, Worcester, are the present patrons.

The chapel is mentioned in 1206 as being held appropriated to the sacristy of the abbey, and in 1231-2 Abbot Thomas Marlborough again granted it for the same purpose.<sup>3</sup>

Early in the thirteenth century this church formed one of the causes of a dispute between the bishop of Worcester and the abbot of Evesham, as to the rights of the monks.<sup>4</sup> The dispute which had begun before 1206<sup>5</sup> does not seem to have been settled until 1248-9, when the bishop's jurisdiction in the church and parish of Abbot's Morton was acknowledged by the abbot and convent. A vicarage seems to have been ordained to which the abbot and convent were to have the right of presentation; the vicar was to receive the obventions of the altar and mortuaries and the greater and lesser tithes, and was

to bear all episcopal and archidiaconal charges, while it should be lawful for the abbot to have a private chapel in his manor at Abbot's Morton without prejudice to the mother church. This arrangement was confirmed in 1269.<sup>6</sup> A portion of the tithes was withheld, apparently as a pension, by the abbot,<sup>7</sup> and since the vicar received the great tithes he became practically rector, and a few years later is so described.<sup>8</sup> In 1291 the abbot's portion in the church of Abbot's Morton in tithes withheld was estimated at 13*s.* 4*d.*;<sup>9</sup> the total value of the church is not stated.

The procurations and synodals were released in 1877.

There is no nonconformist place of worship in the parish. There is a non-provided school, built in 1844, with provision for 56 children.

Mrs. Elizabeth Walker by deed dated *CHARITY* 26 July 1862 gave £174 towards the support of a Sunday School in Abbot's Morton. This sum is invested in Great Western Railway 4½ per cent debenture stock which is dealt with by the Official Trustees.<sup>10</sup>

## BADSEY WITH ALDINGTON

Baddeseia (viii. cent.); Badesei (xi. cent.); Badseie (xvi. cent.).

The parish of Badsey, which formerly comprised the hamlet of Aldington, formed into a separate civil parish in 1883, lies in the south-east part of the county. It contains 1,882 acres, and in 1901 possessed 198 inhabited houses, of which 675 acres and 35 houses were in Aldington.<sup>11</sup> The subsoil is of lower lias and the surface is a fertile mould. The lands in the parish are chiefly laid out in market gardens. The Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton branch of the Great Western Railway passes through Aldington; the nearest station to Badsey is that of Littleton and Badsey, in Offenham parish, opened in April, 1884. There is a siding for goods, chiefly vegetables, in Aldington, about a mile west of the station, opened in 1872. The village of Badsey is situated between the main road from Evesham to Broadway and the main road from Evesham to Chipping Campden, which latter runs through the parish nearly directly from west to east. From Badsey village a road passes southwards through Wickhamford and joins the main road from Evesham to Broadway.

Aldington forms the western part of the parish, stretching along the left bank of the Avon for about a mile. The hamlet is situated to the north of the Campden main road about a mile from Badsey, and from it a road runs to the north-west in the direction of Offenham. Two of the larger farms in the parish are Bower's Hill and Badsey Field, and Netherfield Close is an ancient place name still existing.<sup>12</sup>

Allies quotes from May's *History of Evesham* to the effect that about a mile distant from Badsey church, in a field called Foxhill, human bones and the bones of animals were found together with pieces of coarse dark gritty pottery, and rude slabs of stone occasionally laid kiln-wise and bearing marks of fire.<sup>13</sup> Roman coins and Edward I. pennies have also been discovered in the parish.<sup>14</sup>

An Enclosure Act for Aldington was passed in 1807<sup>15</sup> and one for Badsey in 1812.<sup>16</sup>

Prattinton states in a 'note from a man on the road, July 1817,' that a wake used to be kept on Holy Thursday, but since the enclosure the farmers had endeavoured to put a stop to it. There used to be much cudgel playing at this wake<sup>17</sup> which is now abandoned. The chief scene of revelry was at the Royal Oak public-house near the spot where the road to Badsey turns off to the right from the main road, but the public-house was then shut up, and in 1807 the wake was kept in the angle of the road.<sup>18</sup> A few hundred yards to the east of the spot mentioned the main road turns at a right angle to the left, and shortly again as suddenly to the right.

Badsey is said to have formed part of the *MANOR* grant made by Offa, king of the East Angles, in 703, to Evesham Abbey,<sup>19</sup> while it is also stated that in 709 five and a half 'mansæ' there were included in the joint grant of Offa and Kenred, king of the Mercians, to that house.<sup>20</sup> Badsey was the property of the abbot and convent at the time of the Domesday Survey, which states that it had contained

<sup>1</sup> Prattintion Coll. (Soc. Antiq.).

<sup>2</sup> *Clergy List*, 1841 and 1842.

<sup>3</sup> *Cbron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 276. There was apparently an ordination between these grants, as it is stated in the latter that the sacrist had previously only received 3*s.* yearly.

<sup>4</sup> See under Evesham Abbey, p. 119

<sup>5</sup> *Cal. of Papal Letters*, I. 24, 25, 252.

<sup>6</sup> *Worc. Epis. Reg. Giffard* (Worc. Hist. Soc.), 9 and 10; *Cal. of Papal*

*Letters*, I. 252; *Cbron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 191-4.

<sup>7</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 217*b.*

<sup>8</sup> *Worc. Epis. Reg. Giffard* (Worc. Hist. Soc.), 212; *Sede Vac. Reg.* (Ibid.) 210.

<sup>9</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 217*b.*

<sup>10</sup> *Digest of Endowed Charities, Worc., Parl. Papers*, 1900, lxiii.

<sup>11</sup> *Worc. Co. Coun. Handbk.* (1903), 148.

<sup>12</sup> *Chan. inq. p.m.* 4 Jas. I. ccccx. 148.

<sup>13</sup> *Allies, Antiq. of Worc.* 88.

<sup>14</sup> *V.C.H. Worc.* i. 218 and information supplied by Mr. O. G. Knapp.

<sup>15</sup> *Stat. 47 Geo. III.* c. 15.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* c. 45.

<sup>17</sup> Prattintion Coll. (Soc. Antiq.).

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

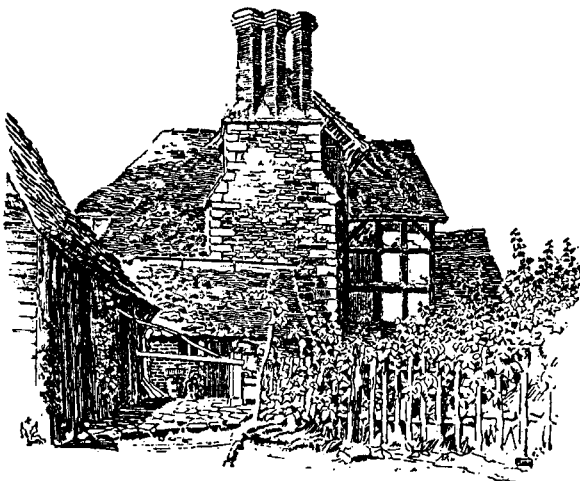
<sup>19</sup> *Cbron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 71.

<sup>20</sup> *Birch Cart. Sax. I.* 183. This charter, however, is marked as 'spurious in Kemble, *Cod. Dip.* I. 70.

# A HISTORY OF WORCESTERSHIRE

six and a half hides in the time of Edward the Confessor.<sup>1</sup> Abbot Walter afterwards granted five virgates of this land to William, one of his Norman kinsmen,<sup>2</sup> to whom he also granted in inheritance the office of steward of the abbey lands, of which office he had deprived the prior.<sup>3</sup> William was succeeded by Philip the steward, probably his son, who is said to have held five virgates and a half, and who was contemporary with Richard Francis who held half a hide in Badsey by the service of going with a packhorse to carry the cloths of the monks throughout England at the expense of the abbot.<sup>4</sup>

In 1246-7 William of Evesham, steward of the abbey, brought a suit against Abbot Thomas of Gloucester because the latter would not permit him to hold the hallmote and hundred courts in the Vale of Evesham as his ancestors had held them from time immemorial, and had detained from him a daily corrody and other perquisites pertaining to his office. William appears to have won the case by default of the abbot,<sup>5</sup> and was probably restored to his stewardship.



BADSEY: THE SEYNE HOUSE.

In the Lay Subsidy Roll of about 1280, William the Steward occurs under Aldington, which apparently included Badsey, and from the amount 20s. which he contributed it is evident that he was the wealthiest landowner there.<sup>6</sup> After this date, and some time before 1316, he conveyed his land in Badsey, which produced a rent of 60s. a year, to Abbot John Brokehampton.<sup>7</sup> Shortly afterwards, John Wellesley, knight, conveyed to the succeeding abbot, William of Cheriton, a messuage and two carucates of land 'which formerly belonged to William the steward of Evesham.'<sup>8</sup> Possibly Sir John Wellesley was William's heir, since he held and surrendered to the abbey the corrody which the steward and his heirs had held *ab antiquo* from the monastery.<sup>9</sup>

At an early date there appears to have been a house at Badsey for the use of the sick and blooded (*minuti*)

monks of Evesham. In 1328 Abbot Chiriton assigned the lands above referred to as belonging to William the steward with all the tithes of sheaves there to the chamberlain, who, in return, was to render every year for the bettering of the clothes of the brothers £10 of silver. Buildings were to be erected in the garden to accommodate the sick monks, and as often as they or other monks of the monastery who had obtained permission from the prior wished to feed there they should receive from the cellar and kitchen the corrody belonging to them as fully as at the monastery.<sup>10</sup> On 8 March 1333-4 Thomas of Evesham, the king's clerk, had licence to alienate to the abbot and convent of Evesham a messuage with a garden and virgate of land in Badsey for the refreshment of the monks in sickness, and to find a chaplain to say one mass at the high altar in the convent church for his soul and the soul of Robert de Netherton his uncle, late a monk of the abbey.<sup>11</sup> Later on, Abbot Roger Zatton (1380-1418) appropriated the demesne lands of Badsey to the use of himself and his successors, abbots of the monastery, at the same time charging the lands with the payment of 10s. a year to the monks and three cartloads of straw for the beds of the monks and the blooded, to be taken from the manors of Aldington and Wickhamford.<sup>12</sup> This house for convalescents was granted in 1545, under the name of the 'Seyne house,' to Sir Philip Hoby;<sup>13</sup> it passed with the manor of Abbot's Morton to Sir Edward Hoby, and in 1595 Richard Hoby resided there.<sup>14</sup>

Badsey continued in the possession of the abbey of Evesham until its suppression in 1539. In 1535 it was annexed to Aldington, which seems to have been at that time the more important manor; the demesne lands were then on lease. In 1539 the manor came into the hands of the Crown, with whom it remained until 24 April, 1562, when Queen Elizabeth granted it, with that of Aldington, to Sir Robert Throckmorton of Coughton and his heirs, to hold in chief by the service of a twentieth part of a knight's fee.<sup>15</sup>

Sir Robert died seised of the manor on 12 February, 1580-1, leaving as heir his son Thomas, then forty-five years of age.<sup>16</sup> Thomas Throckmorton seems to have held it until 1589, when jointly with Margaret his wife, the daughter of William Whorwood, who had been Attorney-General of Henry VIII., he had licence from the Crown to alienate it to Rice or Richard Griffin,<sup>17</sup> in whose favour a fine was accordingly levied in Michaelmas term of the same year,<sup>18</sup> probably on Richard's marriage to their daughter, Margaret Throckmorton.

In 1598 the manor of Badsey passed from Richard and Margaret Griffin to Richard Hoby,<sup>19</sup> who two years later conveyed it by fine, with the manor of Abbot's Morton, to Richard Mottershed and Ralph Hodges.<sup>20</sup> For some years afterwards Badsey seems to have followed the same descent as Abbot's Morton. In 1609 Charles Kettilby and Elizabeth his wife conveyed it with the latter manor to John Kettilby and

<sup>1</sup> *V.C.H. Worc.* i. 306b. In an extent marked in the margin T.R.E. which occurs in Cott. Vesp. B. xxiv. f. 49d, five and a half hides are said to be in Badsey, and one and a half in Aldington.

<sup>2</sup> Cott. MS. Vesp. B. xxiv. ff. 12d.

<sup>3</sup> *Chron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 97.

<sup>4</sup> Cott. MS. Vesp. B. xxiv. f. 46.

<sup>5</sup> Assize R. Beds. 31 Hen. III. No. 4, m. 22d.

<sup>6</sup> *Lay Subs. R. c.* 1280 (*Worc. Hist. Sec.*), 83.

<sup>7</sup> *Chron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 285.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* 289.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* 291; Tindal, *Hist. of Evesham*, 108-9.

<sup>11</sup> Pat. 8 Edw. III. pt. i. m. 24.

<sup>12</sup> *Chron. de Evesham*, 309.

<sup>13</sup> Pat. 37 Hen. VIII. pt. 5.

<sup>14</sup> Com. Pleas Deeds Enr. 37 Eliz. m. 3.

<sup>15</sup> Pat. 4 Eliz. pt. 4, m. 46.

<sup>16</sup> Chan. inq. p.m. cxciij. 89.

<sup>17</sup> Pat. 31 Eliz. pt. 14, m. 27.

<sup>18</sup> Feet of F. Worc. Mich. 31 & 32 Eliz.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* Trin. 40 Eliz.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.* Hil. 42 Eliz. See Abbot's Morton.

John Hopkins,<sup>1</sup> but the purpose of this conveyance does not appear. Richard Hoby is described as being 'of Badsey' in 1617,<sup>2</sup> and probably retained property in the parish until his death, which seems to have taken place there in February, 1616-7.<sup>3</sup>

The manor of Badsey was afterwards purchased by Sir Sebastian Harvey, alderman of London, who at his death left an only daughter and heir Mary, his widow, who afterwards married Sir Thomas Hinton, being administratrix of his property. Mary Harvey married John, the son of Sir Francis Popham, and about 1627 she and her husband presented a petition to the Council stating that Sir Thomas and Lady Hinton refused to surrender her share in her father's property, and asking redress. Litigation followed, and both parties, tired of the delay and expense, which was 'not so little as £20,000,' besought Lord Dorchester and Endymion Porter, a cousin of John Popham, respectively to use their influence with the Lord Keeper to terminate the matter, which was finally 'happily settled' in 1631.<sup>4</sup> Both parties then united in levying a fine by which the manor of Badsey was conveyed to trustees to the use of John and Mary Popham.<sup>5</sup> Mary survived her husband, who died without issue in 1638, seised of Badsey, leaving his brother Alexander as his heir.<sup>6</sup>

The subsequent history of Badsey is obscure. It is said to have been conveyed in the seventeenth century by one Christopher Popham to a member of the Wilson family on a thousand years' lease, but the conveyance has not been found. In 1866 Mr. Edward Wilson, a descendant of the lessee, sold the manorial rights and the churchyard to the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, who are the present lords of the manor.<sup>7</sup>

**ALDINGTON** (Aldintone, xi. cent.; Aunton or Aldington, xvi. and xvii. cent.) One 'mansa' here was included in the grant made to the abbey of Evesham by Kenred, king of the Mercians, and Offa, king of the East Angles, in 709.<sup>8</sup> Although it is not mentioned in Bishop Egwin's statement of the lands of the monastery in 714,<sup>9</sup> it occurs in Domesday Book as a berewick of the adjoining manor of Offenham.<sup>10</sup>

It is not clear when Aldington became separated from Offenham, but the change had evidently taken place during the twelfth century, when it had become connected with Bretforton, and the tenants of one of these manors are occasionally entered under the other. Thus Hugh son of Robert, a twelfth-century tenant, is stated to hold 2½ hides in Aldington (q. v.)<sup>11</sup> while another entry assigns him to Bretforton (q. v.)<sup>12</sup>; and Robert Ewen, who was clearly a Bretforton tenant, appears in the Subsidy Roll of about 1280 under Aldington.<sup>13</sup> In 1291 Aldington had become joined to Badsey.<sup>14</sup>

Abbot Roger Zatton (1380-1418) is said to have built a great grange at Aldington,<sup>15</sup> which probably superseded an earlier one built by Abbot Randolph in the early part of the thirteenth century.<sup>16</sup>

In 1535 the clear annual value of 'the manor of Aldington with Badsey annexed' is given as £38 5s. 4d.<sup>17</sup> Together they rendered yearly to the abbey 18 quarters of wheat, 26 quarters of barley, and 10 quarters of peas and beans. The demesne lands of Aldington, like those of Badsey, were in lease.<sup>18</sup> On 12 December, 1538, the abbot and convent of Evesham granted a new lease of the demesne lands with the site of the manor of Aldington to Richard Pygion for a term of 61 years.<sup>19</sup> In the following year the manor came into the hands of the Crown, to whose bailiffs Richard Pygion and the other tenants paid their rents in 1540.<sup>20</sup> On 20 February, 1539-40, the grain rents already referred to, paid by the farmers of the manor of Aldington, probably including Badsey, were granted by Henry VIII. to Sir George Throckmorton.<sup>21</sup> In 1562 Queen Elizabeth granted the manor with that of Badsey to Sir Robert Throckmorton, son of Sir George, and his heirs.<sup>22</sup> It does not appear how or when Richard Pygion's lease terminated; he probably<sup>23</sup> continued to hold from Sir Robert Throckmorton as he had formerly held from the monastery and afterwards from the Crown, or he may have been then deceased. The manor of Aldington then followed the descent of Badsey (q. v.) until 1598, when it was conveyed by Richard and Margaret Griffin to Philip Bigge,<sup>24</sup> second son of Thomas Bigge of Lenchwick, another conveyance to the same effect being executed in the following year.<sup>25</sup> Philip Bigge appears to have held the manor until 1614, when jointly with Hester his wife he levied a fine by which it was conveyed to William Courteen and John Mounsey,<sup>26</sup> apparently for the use of the former, who afterwards held it.

William Courteen, who was knighted in 1622, was one of the most prominent merchant traders of the period, and was connected with the Company of Merchant Strangers.<sup>27</sup> He incurred heavy losses by the failure of his attempt to colonize Barbadoes, which had been granted to him, his colonists being expelled by the earl of Carlisle in 1629. He was further embarrassed by the fact that large sums of money lent to James I. and Charles I. were never repaid.<sup>28</sup> In his time of prosperity he made extensive purchases of landed property, including several manors in Worcestershire. He seems to have settled the manor of Aldington on



COURTEEN. Gold a talbott sable.

<sup>1</sup> Feet of F. Worc. Trin. 7 Jas. I.

<sup>2</sup> Exch. Dep. Hil. 14 Jas. I. No. 20.

<sup>3</sup> A monument was erected to him in the church of Badsey by his step-daughter, Margaret Newman, wife of Richard Delabere (Nash, *Hist. of Worc.* i. 53). His mother, Katherine Hoby, was also buried at Badsey. (Ext. from Par. Reg. made by Mr. O. G. Knapp.)

<sup>4</sup> *Cal. of S.P. Dom.* 1627-8, 174, 497-8; *ibid.* 1629-31, 99, 281; *ibid.* 1631-33, 101; *ibid.* 1634-5, 151.

<sup>5</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Hil. 6 Chas. I.

<sup>6</sup> Chan. inq. p. m. cccclxxvi. 133.

<sup>7</sup> Information supplied by W. B. Skene, Esq., Treasurer of Christ Church.

<sup>8</sup> Birch. *Cart. Sax.* i. 183.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* 190-1.

<sup>10</sup> *V.C.H. Worc.* i. 306b. The Survey assigns 1 hide to Aldington, but an extent which occurs in an abbey chartulary states that the abbey had at Aldington T.R.E. 1½ hides, 3 ploughs, 6 oxmen, and 2 bordars. (Cott. MS. Vesp. B. xxiv. f. 49d.)

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* f. 47.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.* f. 12.

<sup>13</sup> *Lay Subs. R. c.* 1280 (Worc. Hist. Soc.), 82-3.

<sup>14</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 229.

<sup>15</sup> *Cbron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 304.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* 261.

<sup>17</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii. 249.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> *Mins. Accts.* 31-2 Hen. VIII. L.R. 1330, m. 14d.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.* m. 14-15.

<sup>21</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xv. 563.

<sup>22</sup> *Pat. 4 Eliz.* pt. 4 m. 46.

<sup>23</sup> The lease of the 'site' of the manor and the demesne lands carried with it no manorial rights.

<sup>24</sup> Feet of F. Worc. Trin. 40 Eliz.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.* East. 41 Eliz.

<sup>26</sup> Notes of F. Worc. Mich. 12 Jas. I.

<sup>27</sup> *Cal. of S.P. Dom.* 1619-23, i. 45, 101, 170 et seq.

<sup>28</sup> *Dict. of Nat. Biog.*

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Peter Courteen, his son by his first marriage, who was described as of Aldington when he was created a baronet in 1622,<sup>1</sup> and who died without issue in 1625.

Of Sir William Courteen and his son, Habington says that they 'left to Mr. William Corteyn, who now succeedeth them, yea, to us all, suche an example of bounty and pietie in beinge more like parentes than landlordes to theyre tenauntes, as all must needes prayse, and I wish all able gentellmen would imitate.'<sup>2</sup> Sir William Courteen died in 1636, seised of the manor of Aldington, leaving as his heir, William, his son by a second marriage, twenty-seven years of age.<sup>3</sup> His father's losses brought him into great difficulties, and all his efforts to secure repayment of sums lent to the Crown were unavailing. In 1614 his East India ships were seized by the Dutch, and two years later he became bankrupt.<sup>4</sup> Some time afterwards he withdrew to Italy and died at Florence in 1655, leaving a son William. In 1651 Aldington and other manors were claimed by the Committee for Sequestration,<sup>5</sup> who in Michaelmas term of that year conveyed it to John Pettyward.<sup>6</sup> Aldington was also claimed by many creditors,<sup>7</sup> and in 1665 it was sold to Thomas Foley, the celebrated iron-master, who was high sheriff of Worcestershire, and founder of Old Swinford Hospital, the parties to the sale being William Courteen the naturalist, grandson of Sir William, Samuel Baldwin, George Carew, William Willoughby, and William Cherry.<sup>8</sup> The manor remained in the Foley family for nearly a century and a half; in 1806, some time after the death of Thomas, fifth Baron Foley of Kidderminster, his property in Aldington, comprising about 250 acres, was sold to several persons. The manor was purchased by Mr. George Day, merchant of Evesham,<sup>9</sup> who in 1807 was lord of the manor, or reputed manor, of Aldington,<sup>10</sup> which was then apparently leased by him to William Preedy.<sup>11</sup> In Michaelmas term of 1808 the manor, described as Aldington Farm, was purchased from Mr. Day by Mr. James Ashwin for £12,000.<sup>12</sup> The latter left it to his second son Richard, on whose death in 1866 it passed by bequest to his nephew, Henry Ashwin, who was succeeded in 1892 by his son James Ashwin, Esq., of Bretforton, the present lord of the manor.<sup>13</sup>

**SHRAWNELL PARK** (Schrewenhulle, xiv. cent.; Srawnell, Shrawnehull, xvi. cent.) is said to have been first enclosed by William Cheriton, abbot of Evesham from 1317 to 1344, and to have been planted by him with oak, ash, and other trees.<sup>14</sup> He may possibly have intended it for the recreation of the sick monks in the infirmary which he founded there.<sup>15</sup> In 1535 'the

pasture of Srawnell' was in lease at a yearly rent of 24s.<sup>16</sup> In 1542 the king granted to Sir Philip Hoby 'a park called Shrawnell,' described as being in the parish of Bengeworth.<sup>17</sup> This was probably, however, a wrong description, as two years later he received another grant in which the property is described as being 'in the parish of Badsey within the lordship of Aldington.'<sup>18</sup> In the latter grant a house called 'The Lodge' is mentioned. On his death in 1558 it was found that he died seised of this property and a number of tenements in Badsey,<sup>19</sup> which would seem to have then passed to his half brother Sir Thomas Hoby and afterwards to Sir Edward Hoby. On 31 January 1570-1 Lady Elizabeth Hoby, widow of Sir Thomas, who had the wardship of her son during his minority, applied to Sir William Cecil for timber out of Shrawnell Park for the repair of a bridge and certain mills in Evesham.<sup>20</sup>

Shrawnell afterwards passed to Francis Dineley of Charlton, who died seised of it in 1626, his heir being his grandson Edward Dineley, then aged twenty-four,<sup>21</sup> and continued in the Dineley family till the break up of their estates in the eighteenth century.<sup>22</sup>

The park seems to have lain along the banks of the Faulk Mill Brook,<sup>23</sup> and to be now represented by a farm called the Parks, standing near the Avon in the west of the parish.

A mill at Aldington is mentioned in the Domesday Survey,<sup>24</sup> and it is stated that Ralph, abbot of Evesham (1214-1229), bought a mill there and gave it to the almonry.<sup>25</sup> A mill at Badsey was held in the twelfth century by Philip the steward, who rendered for it 1 mark annually.<sup>26</sup> Mills were in existence at both places in 1535 and in 1540.<sup>27</sup> Aldington Mill seems to have been the more valuable; it was leased by the abbot and convent on 24 January 1538-9 to Thomas Bugden and Elizabeth his wife at an annual rent of 30s. 4d.<sup>28</sup> Badsey Mill produced an annual rent of 24s.<sup>29</sup> The mill at Aldington is still in existence.

Badsey church is dedicated in honour **CHURCH** of St. James. There is a record<sup>30</sup> of its dedication by the bishop of St. Asaph on the feast of St. John, 1295. This may refer to a rebuilding of the chancel, as at Church Honeybourne and Bretforton.

It stands to the east of the main street of the village, in a churchyard<sup>31</sup> of some size, and consists of chancel with vestry and organ chamber on the north, a north transept, nave with south aisle and porch, and west tower.

The history of the building, to be deduced from existing evidence, is as follows: About 1120<sup>32</sup> was built an aisleless nave with north and south doorways,

<sup>1</sup> *Dict. of Nat. Biog.* He is there stated to be of Aldington, Northants, but there is no Aldington in that county.

<sup>2</sup> *Surv. of Worc.* (Worc. Hist. Soc.), ii. 257.

<sup>3</sup> Chan. inq. p. m. 12 Chas. I. cclclxxix. 96.

<sup>4</sup> *Dict. of Nat. Biog.*

<sup>5</sup> Abstracts of Claims to Delinquents' Lands.

<sup>6</sup> Com. Pleas Recov. R. Mich. 1651, m. 17.

<sup>7</sup> Abstracts of Claims to Delinquents' Lands.

<sup>8</sup> Feet of F. Worc. Mich. 17 Chas. II. Prattinton Coll. (Soc. Antiq.).

<sup>9</sup> Enclosure Act, Stat. 47 Geo. III. c. 15.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> From a document in Mr. Ashwin's possession.

<sup>13</sup> Information kindly supplied by Mr. Ashwin.

<sup>14</sup> *Cbron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 292.

<sup>15</sup> See p. 354.

<sup>16</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii. 249.

<sup>17</sup> Pat. 34 Hen. VIII. pt. 6, m. 33. The parishes adjoin, and part might have been in Bengeworth.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* 35 Hen. VIII. pt. 9, m. 30; *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xix. (1), 276.

<sup>19</sup> Chan. inq. p. m. 5 and 6 Phil. and Mary, cxv. 74.

<sup>20</sup> *Cal. of S.P. Dom.* 1547-80, p. 407.

<sup>21</sup> Chan. inq. p. m. 2 Chas. I. ccccxliii. 74.

<sup>22</sup> See under Charlton.

<sup>23</sup> Mins. Accts. 31-2 Hen. VIII. L. R. 1330, m. 14, 14 d.

<sup>24</sup> *V.C.H. Worc.* i. 306b.

<sup>25</sup> *Cbron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 262.

<sup>26</sup> Cott. MS. Vesp. B. xxiv. f. 50.

<sup>27</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii. 249, and Mins. Accts. 31-2 Hen. VIII. L. R. 1330, m. 14, 14 d.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> MS. Harl. 3763, f. 115.

<sup>31</sup> The churchyard was not enclosed towards the road till after the middle of last century.

<sup>32</sup> There is no evidence of earlier work above ground.

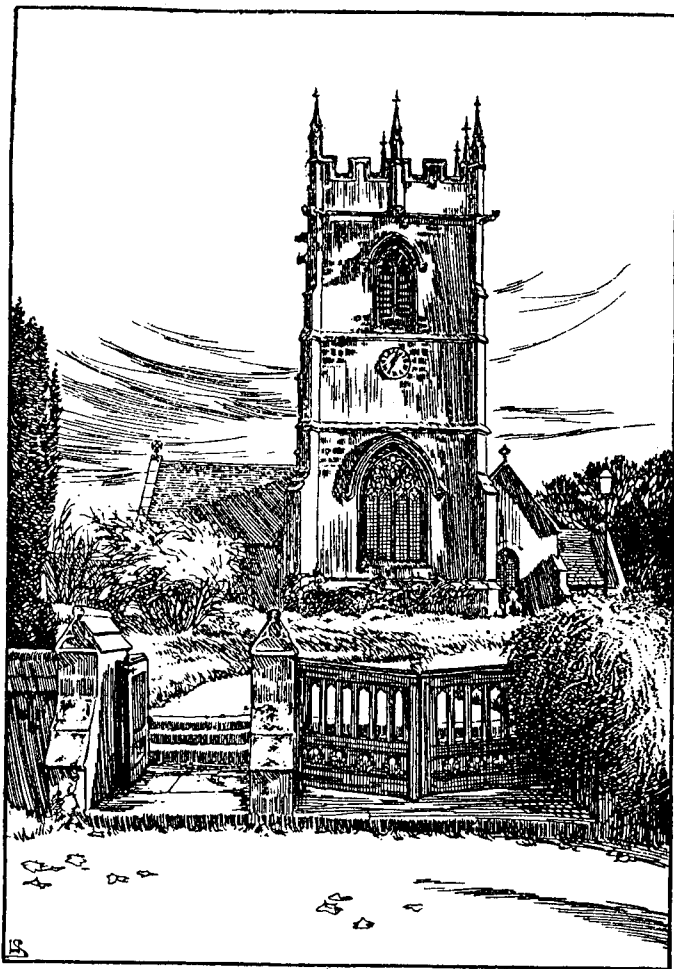
lighted by two windows, one in each side wall. There was probably a short chancel, narrower than the nave, of this date. At the end of the thirteenth century the chancel was rebuilt, of the full width of the nave, no doubt outside the lines of the older chancel, after the usual manner. There may have been structural alterations between these dates, but the evidence is not conclusive.

A north transept was added about 1330, and a west tower about 1450. The south doorway of the nave replaced an earlier doorway in the fourteenth century. In 1885 the south wall of the church was pulled down and a south aisle and porch built, opening to the nave with an arcade of four bays. The twelfth-century window from the south wall was built into the north wall of the nave to the west of the north doorway. A vestry was built on the north side of the chancel.

The main features of the church are as follows:—The east window of the chancel is of three lights trefoiled, late fourteenth century; the window arch within and without is made up of the moulded voussoirs of an early thirteenth-century arch set in a flattened curve; but whether originally belonging to this church or brought from elsewhere is not clear. There are no sedilia or piscina. The altar rails are good work of the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. Against the north wall of the chancel is the monument of Richard Hoby, to the west of which is a modern arch opening to the organ chamber and vestry. In the south wall are two windows with a plain arched doorway between them. The eastern window in this wall is of two lights with a trefoil in the head, and may be of late-thirteenth-century date, part of the new work consecrated in 1295. The work is inferior to that in the chancels of Church Honeybourne and Bretforton, recorded to have been dedicated in the same year. The western window in this wall is of two trefoiled lights under a square head.

The chancel arch is modern :<sup>1</sup> before 1885 there was no arch between nave and chancel: no doubt the original east wall of the nave had been removed to make way for a screen and rood loft. The north transept is of the fourteenth century, opening to the church by an arch of two chamfered orders, with small shafts and half-octagon capitals. The north window is modern, of two trefoiled lights, but retains its fourteenth-century rear arch; the east window is of two lights uncusped, of the fourteenth century; the west also of two lights, trefoiled, of the same date. In the north wall of the nave the original doorway, c. 1120, remains, though blocked. It is square headed, with a plain tympanum and semicircular arch and label over. The label is chamfered, with rosettes in relief on the inner face, and the arch has a line of incised zigzag. The lower edge of the tympanum is cable moulded, and the jambs are plain.

In this wall part of the internal dressings of the original window are to be seen: its east jamb and part of the head were destroyed at the building of the transept arch. To the west of the north doorway is a complete twelfth-century window, moved here from the destroyed south wall.<sup>2</sup> It is a plain, narrow, round-headed loop. All the outer face of this wall has been renewed in lias masonry. The door, built up in the north doorway, is ancient, though probably later than the doorway. The modern south arcade, of four bays, has pointed arches of two hollow chamfered orders on octagonal pillars with capitals and bases. In the south wall of the modern south aisle



BADSEY CHURCH FROM THE WEST.

the doorway from the old south wall is inserted under a modern stone porch with a panelled gable. It has a plain chamfered arch and jambs, and retains its old wooden door with wrought-iron hinges. In its east jamb, outside, are remains of a holy-water stone.

The west tower is of the fifteenth century, of good design, with simple and effective details. It is of three stages with an embattled parapet with angle and central pinnacles and projecting gurgoyles, and has a stair turret at the south-east angle. The belfry windows are of two lights: the west window on the ground stage is a large tracery window of four cinque-

<sup>1</sup> A former description of the church speaks of the ancient chancel arch as 'supplanted by a trumpety curve not very dissimilar to a piece of bent timber.' May, *Hist. of Evesham* (1845), 243.

<sup>2</sup> See above.

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foiled lights; a little old white and gold glass remains in the tracery. The tower arch is of two continuous orders. Two ancient gable crosses remain—one, of the fourteenth century, on the north transept, of good design, but with a curious effect, as it is set north and south instead of east and west.<sup>1</sup> The other, on the chancel gable, looks early, perhaps of the beginning of the thirteenth century or earlier, and is older than the gable on which it stands.

A stone, with the date 1653 in lead letters, in the same gable, is no doubt a record of repairs of the time. The roofs of the church are covered with grey stone slates, and in nave and chancel retain most of their old timbers, which may be of the fourteenth century. The work is simple; the chancel has arched braces, and in the nave the studs and collars give a half octagonal form. The transept roof timbers are modern.

The wooden pulpit<sup>2</sup> is octagonal on a modern stone base. It has some linen pattern panels probably of sixteenth-century date. There are no old pews. The communion table<sup>3</sup> is dated 1730, and forms part of the gift of William Seward, who gave the table, the ornaments over it, the other tables in the church, and the clock, reseating the church at the same time. A western gallery, now gone, was given by Thomas Byrd. The font has a plain modern octagonal bowl, standing on an early-fourteenth-century hexagonal stem with angle shafts and foliated capitals of excellent detail of the time. In the church are two oil-paintings attributed to Count Carlo Cignani (1628–1709) and Otto van Veen of Antwerp.

The monument against the north wall of the chancel is of early-seventeenth-century date, having the figures of Richard Hoby (ob. 11 February, 1616–17) and his wife Margaret, kneeling at a desk under an entablature carried by columns. Above are the Hoby arms, and on the panelled base of the tomb the figures of two sons and one daughter. The figure of Margaret Hoby is much damaged.

There are eight bells, the treble and second having been added in 1902. The rest are by Michael Bushell and William Clark of Evesham, 1706. These founders had a habit of dating their bells by chronograms, and on the tenor is the following inscription:—<sup>4</sup>

+

I H S

MVTA VIT VIGILANS IN SEX NOS CVRA  
ROBERTI

HILL IBI VIC: GVL CLARK EFFICIT  
ANO (sic) ARTE sVA.

The word ANO is apparently a blunder.

The church plate<sup>5</sup> consists of an Elizabethan cup with paten cover, with dotted line ornamentation, and a pewter flagon and two plates.

The parish registers, complete from 1538, are contained, previous to 1812, in two volumes. A book

of churchwardens' accounts of considerable interest, though not in perfect condition, exists. The earliest entries are of 1525.

The advowson of the chapel of *ADVOWSON* Badsey belonged to the abbey of Evesham until the suppression of that house in 1539. When in 1540 Henry VIII. erected the bishopric and established the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, he stipulated in the foundation charter for the maintenance of ten readers at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.<sup>6</sup> Two years later, on 15 August, 1542, he granted to the Dean and Chapter the rectory and church and the advowson of Badsey and Aldington and other property<sup>7</sup> apparently towards the support of these readers.<sup>8</sup> On 4 July, 1546, the Dean and Chapter surrendered the advowson to the king,<sup>9</sup> who on 11 December granted it with the rectory and church to the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford,<sup>10</sup> who still remain the patrons.

The chapel of Badsey is mentioned in 1206.<sup>11</sup> One of the many charges brought against Abbot Roger Norreys in 1213 was that he had twice simoniacally sold this chapel and that of Bretforton.<sup>12</sup> From a very early date Badsey, Aldington, and Wickhamford seem to have been closely connected for spiritual purposes, and it is probable that for some time one chapel served for all three. In 1291 the value of the chapel of Badsey with Aldington and Wickhamford annexed was £15 6s. 8d.,<sup>13</sup> and in 1340 the 'chapel' of Badsey, Aldington, and Wickhamford is referred to.<sup>14</sup> In 1535 the clear yearly value of the chapel of Badsey was £5 6s. 8d. It was at that time in lease to Thomas James, chaplain and curate, for the term of his life.<sup>15</sup> Wickhamford had then a separate chapel, but the livings were still connected, since in 1542, when the Dean and Chapter of Westminster received the advowson, they were required to pay £3 11s. 4d. yearly to the vicar of Badsey, Aldington, and Wickhamford.<sup>16</sup>

It is stated in 1206 that the lesser tithes of Badsey and Aldington were applied to the repair of the spoons, cups, glass windows, etc., of Evesham monastery,<sup>17</sup> and the tithes of five yardlands in Badsey were appropriated to the sacristy.<sup>18</sup> The infirmary had two and a half marks yearly from the chapel of Badsey.<sup>19</sup>

In 1651 it appeared that the means and allowances which anciently belonged to the minister there were the tithes of about seven yardlands for Badsey and two in Aldington and all the privy and small tithes in the parish, being worth for the whole £20 yearly.<sup>20</sup>

In Badsey there is a meeting house for Quakers, and at Aldington a place of worship for Baptists.

The Council School at Badsey was built in 1895 as a Board School for Badsey, Aldington, and Wickhamford, and provides accommodation for 260 children.

<sup>1</sup> This is at any rate not a modern alteration.

<sup>2</sup> Its date is suggested by an entry in the churchwardens' accounts for 1529: 'reasyd for y<sup>e</sup> old pypet iiiiijd.'

<sup>3</sup> Prattinton MSS. s. v. Badsey.

<sup>4</sup> From a MS. of 1660 it is known that the inscription on the old tenor—recast 1706—was: Det sonitum plenum Jesus et modulamen amoenum.

<sup>5</sup> Lea, *Ch. Plate Worc. Archd.* 31.

<sup>6</sup> Pat. 34 Hen. VIII. pt. 5, m. 5; Deeds of Purchase and Exchange, Box E, no. 76; *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xvi. 154.

<sup>7</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xvii. 395–6.

<sup>8</sup> Deeds of Purchase and Exchange, Box 2, no. 76.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Pat. 38 Hen. VIII. pt. 8, m. 19.

<sup>11</sup> *Chron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 213.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. 241–2.

<sup>13</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 219.

<sup>14</sup> *Non. Inq.* 1340 (Worc. Hist. Soc.), 39.

<sup>15</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii. 235.

<sup>16</sup> *L. and P. Hen. VIII.* xvii. 396.

<sup>17</sup> *Chron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 209.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid. 211.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid. 213.

<sup>20</sup> *Parl. Surveys of Church Livings*, Lambeth, xvi. 430–1.

The following sums of money have **CHARITIES** been bequeathed for supplying bread to the poor of the parish:—Mr. Thomas Martin £5; Mrs. Jane Jarrett £5; Mr. Augustus Jarrett £20; Mrs. Elizabeth George £7; Mr. Jarrett Stevens £6. It is known traditionally that many years ago these gifts, amounting to £43, were laid out in the purchase of land lying in the common fields. By the Act of Enclosure, 1812, this land was exchanged for nine acres called the Old Lays, and the rent of £7 10s. derived from this land is distributed quarterly by the churchwardens in bread at the church, two-thirds being allotted to Badsey and one-third to Aldington.

Several dispersed pieces of land held by the parish from time immemorial were at the Enclosure exchanged for a piece of ground adjoining the Poor's Land. The rent from this land is expended in keeping the church in repair.

Under the will of Elizabeth Seward, dated 2 June, 1753, the parish of Badsey is entitled to 6s. monthly to be applied for teaching poor children to read. In 1830 there was a school-mistress in Badsey, appointed by the Baptist minister at Evesham, who had the teaching of nine poor children in consideration of this payment, and received day scholars from the parish at small weekly payments.<sup>5</sup>

## BRETFTORTON

Bretfortona (vii. cent.); Bratfortune (xi. cent.); Brackforton (xii. cent.); Bradforton (xvii. cent.).

The parish of Bretforton has an area of 1,706 acres, and in 1901 contained 139 inhabited houses.<sup>1</sup>

The parish slopes gently from south to north, and is traversed by three streams flowing westward from the Cotswold Hills to the Avon. The subsoil to the west is of lower lias, and to the north-east of oolite, and the surface is of gravel with pliable light mould. A large extent of the parish is devoted to fruit culture and market gardening, but formerly it was famed for the excellence and abundance of its corn. In 1782 and succeeding years the cultivation of hemp and flax was attempted by Joseph Cooper of Evesham, who is said to have obtained the bounty offered by the Acts of 21 and 26 George III. for their cultivation.<sup>2</sup> About the same time, Penny Hancock, a landholder in the parish, is said to have sunk for coal on the Manor Farm.<sup>3</sup>

The Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Branch of the Great Western Railway passes through the northern part of the parish, but the nearest station on this line, two miles distant from the village, is Littleton and Badsey, in the parish of Offenham. In 1904 a new station outside the parish was opened for Bretforton and Weston Subedge on the Great Western Railway line from Honeybourne to Winchcomb and Cheltenham then in process of construction.<sup>4</sup>

The village lies on the main road from Evesham to Chipping Campden, and near to it roads branch off north-east and north-west to South Littleton and Cow Honeybourne respectively. The old Worcester and London road which crossed the Avon at Twyford Bridge passed through the parish.

In the middle of the village is a small square known as the Cross, having the church on the west, while the present main road passes along its north side. The road has been diverted from the south side of the churchyard to the north, and formerly crossed the square

diagonally from south-east to north-west. The parish stocks still remain to the south of the churchyard, though now in the garden of Mr. Ashwin, adjoining



BRETFTORTON.

the church. On the south boundary of the churchyard is a stone wall in which are two narrow square-headed windows, belonging to a destroyed mediæval building, and elsewhere in the village are several old stone and timber houses.

The Manor House, a little distance north-west of the village, is of considerable interest. The original

<sup>1</sup> *Worc. Co. Coun. Handbk.* (1903), 148.

<sup>2</sup> *Shawcross, Bretforton Memorials*, 148.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* 150; *V.C.H. Worc.* i. 21.

<sup>4</sup> Information supplied by Mr. O. G. Knapp.

<sup>5</sup> *Bar. Com. Rep.* xxiv. 501.