

is not mentioned until the inquisition taken upon the death of Thomas Knightley in 1622.<sup>1</sup> It is said to have been sold by the Foleys to William Holyoake in 1705 for £110.<sup>2</sup> In 1754 Thomas Chambers and Mary and John Holyoake conveyed it to William Tibbatts;<sup>3</sup> on 5 August, 1758, Holyoake mortgaged it to one Underhill for £150, and on 25 November, 1761, sold it to the Rev. John Peshall of Guildford for £500.<sup>4</sup> It still remains in the Peshall family, the present patrons being Mrs. Peshall and the incumbent, the Rev. Samuel Peshall.<sup>5</sup> The living has recently been annexed to Morton Bagot, and is now known as Oldberrow cum Morton.

There is no Nonconformist place of worship in the parish.

The children of Oldberrow attend the National School at Ullenhall.

## WICKHAMFORD

Wikewane (viii. cent.); Wiguene (xi. cent.); Wykwanford (xvi. cent.); Wykewantford (xvii. cent.).

The parish of Wickhamford is situated in the south-east of the county, to the east of Bengeworth. It has an area of 1,266 acres, and contains thirty-three inhabited houses.<sup>9</sup> The land slopes gently upward from the valley of a branch of the Badsey Brook, which flows through the parish from south to north. The subsoil is lower lias, and the surface is a rich mould. Nearly the whole of the parish is devoted to market gardening and fruit culture, and asparagus is largely grown. The main road from Evesham to Broadway and Stow-on-the-Wold passes through the parish about half a mile south of the village, with which it is connected by a branch road running northward to Badsey.

The village consists of a single street of small houses, running north and south, bounded towards the north by the buildings of the manor house.

The railway stations of Evesham on the Great Western and the Midland Railways, opened in 1852 and 1864, and of Littleton and Badsey on the Great Western Railway, opened in April, 1884, are about equally distant from the village to the north-west and north respectively. Among the place-names in the parish are Green Street, Pitcher's Hill, Came's Acre, and Coomb Nap.<sup>10</sup>

Three 'mansæ' in Wickhamford passed *MANOR* into the possession of the monastery of Evesham early in the eighth century as part of the foundation gift of Offa of Essex in 703,<sup>11</sup> or of the joint gift of Offa and Kenred in 709.<sup>12</sup> At the time of the Domesday Survey Wickhamford was held by the abbey and contained 3 hides.<sup>13</sup> Among the free tenants of the abbey there during the twelfth century were Walter Trusselun or Frusselun, who held 1 hide, and John de Wickwana, who held 1 virgate.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Chan. inq. p. m. 20 Jas. I. ccccxxvii. 75.

<sup>2</sup> Nash, *Hist. of Worcs.* ii. 204.

<sup>3</sup> Feet of F. Worc. Mich. 28 Geo. II.

<sup>4</sup> Nash, op. cit. ii. 204.

<sup>5</sup> Clergy List, 1904.

<sup>6</sup> A statement of charities was made in that year by Thomas Hayes, churchwarden, and is quoted in the Prattinton Coll. (Soc. Antiq.).

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*; *Char. Commrs. Rep.* xxvi. 554-5; *Gen. Digest of Endowed Char.* Parl. Papers, 1876, vol. lviii.

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

<sup>9</sup> *Worc. Co. Coun. Handbk.* (1903), 148.

<sup>10</sup> *Allies, Antiquities*, 336.

<sup>11</sup> *Chron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 72.

<sup>12</sup> *Birch, Cart. Sax.* i. 183. This charter is marked spurious by Kemble, *Cod. Dip.* i. 70.

<sup>13</sup> *V. C. H. Worc.* i. 306b.

<sup>14</sup> Cott. MS. Vesp. B. xxiv. ff. 9 and 45.

<sup>15</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 229a.

<sup>16</sup> *Chron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 304.

<sup>17</sup> *Mins. Accts.* 31-2 Hen. VIII. L.R. 1330, m. 15d.

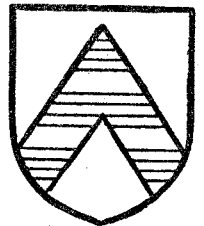
Edmund Court some time before *CHARITIES* 1780 conveyed to trustees certain property in Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, to the use of the poor of Oldberrow. The houses, becoming ruinous, were pulled down before 1830,<sup>6</sup> and the material was sold for £12 10s., which was distributed in kind amongst the most deserving poor. The land is let for £5, which is given away on St. Thomas's Day and Whitsunday to sixteen or eighteen persons, chiefly widows, who when once placed on the list continue to receive the charity for their lives.<sup>7</sup>

Francis Court settled certain property for the payment of 5s. yearly to the poor, and a similar sum was left by Richard Freeman. These two charities were distributed on St. Thomas's Day with that of Edmund Court.<sup>8</sup>

In 1291 the abbey's possessions at Wickhamford were valued at £9 6s. 9½d.;<sup>16</sup> and from the improvements afterwards made by Abbot Roger Zaton (1379-1418)<sup>16</sup> the manor seems to have increased in importance. On 10 March, 1528-9, the abbot and convent granted a lease of the demesne lands with the site of the manor to William Spon or Sponer and his assigns for a term of fifty-one years,<sup>17</sup> and this lease remained in force when the manor came into the hands of the Crown.<sup>18</sup>

The manorial rights were held by the Crown until 1561-2, when the manor of Wickhamford was granted to Thomas Throckmorton and Margaret his wife and their heirs to hold in chief by the service of the twentieth part of a knight's fee.<sup>19</sup> They remained in possession of it until 1594, when they levied a fine, to which their son John Throckmorton was a party, by which the manor was conveyed to Samuel Sandys and Mercy Culpeper his wife.<sup>20</sup> It is then described as consisting of fourteen messuages, 1,100 acres of land, and a mill.<sup>21</sup> Samuel Sandys was the son of Edwin Sandys, bishop of Worcester, afterwards translated to York. He purchased the manor of Ombersley and considerable property round Evesham, and died seised of Wickhamford on 18 August, 1626, leaving as his heir his son Edwin. The manor was, however, held by his widow Mercy until her death in 1629; Edwin had predeceased her on 6 September, 1626, leaving a son Samuel,<sup>22</sup> to whom the manor then passed.

Wickhamford after this date followed the descent of the Sandys family,<sup>23</sup> being dealt with at various



THROCKMORTON.  
*Gules a chevron silver  
with three gimels sable  
thereon.*

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

<sup>19</sup> Pat. 4 Eliz. pt. ii. m. 1.

<sup>20</sup> Feet of F. Worc. Trin. 36 Eliz.

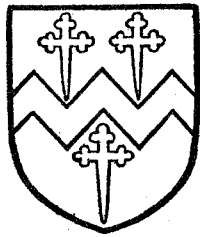
<sup>21</sup> W. and L. inq. p. m. 22 Jas. I. xl.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> See Ombersley. Wickhamford is said to have been leased by Samuel Sandys and his wife Mercy, and Dame Penelope his mother, to Field Whorwood of Nethercote, Oxfordshire, for forty years from 15 February, 1637. *Visit. of Oxon.* (ed. Sir Thos. Phillipps), 32.

# A HISTORY OF WORCESTERSHIRE

times for the purpose of marriage settlements. Thus, in 1657 it was conveyed by Samuel and Mary Sandys to Sir John Pettus, of Cheston Hall, Suffolk, royalist, deputy-governor of the royal mines and author of various books on metals, on the marriage of their son Samuel with Elizabeth Pettus, only daughter of Sir John. In 1694 Samuel Sandys and his wife Elizabeth, and Edwin Sandys their son, conveyed the manor to Sir James Rushout and William Bromley,<sup>1</sup> Edwin Sandys having married Sir James's daughter Alice. In



SANDYS. Gold a dance between three crosslets fitchy gules.

1743 Samuel Sandys of Ombersley and Wickhamford was created Baron Sandys of Ombersley, and was succeeded by his son Edwin Sandys, who died without issue in 1797. Five years later his niece Mary, dowager marchioness of Downshire, was created Baroness Sandys of Ombersley with remainder to her second son, Arthur Moyes William Hill, and his younger brothers and their heirs male successively, failing which to his eldest son Arthur, marquess of Downshire, and his heirs male.

The manor remained with the family until about 1860, when it was purchased by the late J. P. Lord, who resided near Worcester, whose trustees still hold it.<sup>2</sup>

Abbot Randolph (1214-1229) is said to have built a grange at Wickhamford;<sup>3</sup> and one of his successors, Roger Zatton (1379-1418), also erected a tithe grange there, next the fishpond, and afterwards a great grange in the same court.<sup>4</sup> He also rebuilt a tenement called Hodysplace, 'on which he spent at least 20 marks.'<sup>5</sup>

The manor house stands near the church, and has a picturesque half-timbered east front, with gables facing east at either end. No features appear to be older than the sixteenth century, though parts of the walls may be earlier. In the room now used as a dining-room, on the south side of the house, is a wide fireplace with a flat four-centred stone arch and a seventeenth-century panelled wood chimney-piece with inlaid patterns in the panels. The large fishpond of the monastic grange remains, and a round stone pigeon-house. Between the house and the church stood the great stone barn, now destroyed.

The Domesday Survey mentions a mill at Wickhamford.<sup>6</sup> In 1206 it was leased for a rent of 8*s.*, which was appropriated to the kitchen of the monastery;<sup>7</sup> some time afterwards, its holder having died while the king had the custody of the abbey, the next abbot, Thomas of Marlborough, retained it for the use of the convent.<sup>8</sup> In 1291 it was said to be worth 6*s.* 8*d.* yearly,<sup>9</sup> and in 1535 it had again been leased at an annual rent of 8*s.*<sup>10</sup> In 1540 it produced,

with a parcel of land anciently belonging to it, the rent of 26*s.* 8*d.*<sup>11</sup> The mill is still in existence, and stands on the Badsey Brook about a quarter of a mile from the village of Wickhamford.

Wickhamford Church, dedicated in *CHURCH* honour of St. John the Baptist, stands on low ground near a small brook to the north of the village, and separated from it by the manor house and its grounds. It consists of chancel, nave with south porch, and west tower.

The chancel is of the thirteenth century, rough-cast externally, having a fourteenth-century two-light east window, of which only the jambs and mullion below the springing remain, as the rebuilding of the gable in brick has destroyed the head, which is replaced by a wood lintel. In the north wall are two plain thirteenth-century lancet windows, that to the east blocked by the Sandys monument to be described below; the other, also blocked, is, like the corresponding window in the south wall of the chancel, at a lower level than the rest. In the south wall are two windows, and a door with a square chamfered head. The western window is a thirteenth-century lancet, that towards the east being of the fourteenth century with two trefoiled ogee lights and a trefoil in the head. There is a small arched recess for a piscina, and on the east wall, south of the east window, a defaced wall-painting of our Lady and Child, on a red ground, of late thirteenth-century date. The altar rails are good turned-work of the eighteenth century. The greater part of the north side of the chancel is taken up with the Sandys monument. The chancel arch is of the fourteenth century, of two chamfered orders dying out at the springing.

The nave is of the fourteenth century, refaced externally with ashlar in the sixteenth, and retaining of its original features, beside the chancel arch, only the first window from the east in its north wall, of two trefoiled lights with a quatrefoil in the head, and the quoins of the external south-east angle. The south doorway with a low four-centred head, and the windows east of it, of two trefoiled lights with a square head, are of the sixteenth century, and the south porch may be the same. At the west end of the south wall is a round-headed window of seventeenth or eighteenth century date, to light a now destroyed west gallery. In the north wall, beside the window already described, is a sixteenth-century window of two uncusped lights under a square head. The nave roof retains its ancient framing, with tie-beams, queenposts, collars, and purlins; in the east bay windbraces also occur. Above the chancel arch at the level of the plate of the nave roof runs a beam with fifteenth-century cresting, which is returned some six feet along the north and south walls of the nave. The roof over this length is boarded in to the underside of the collars with oak boarding divided into panels by moulded oak ribs, and over the beam the wall is boarded in to the same height. On this boarding are painted the royal arms of Charles II., dated 1661, doubtless the successors of a painting of the doom (which may still exist beneath the later paint) surrounding the rood. Whether the rood was also painted or carved in relief there is nothing to



HILL, MARQUESS OF DOWNSHIRE. Sable a fesse silver between three spotted pards passant guardant with three scallops gules on the fesse.

<sup>1</sup> Feet of F. Worc. and Oxf. Mich. 6 Wm. and Mary.

<sup>2</sup> Information supplied by J. W. W.-B.

<sup>3</sup> *Cbron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 261.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* 304.

<sup>5</sup> *V.C.H. Worc.* i. 306*b.*

<sup>6</sup> *Cbron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 217.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* 276.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* 305.

<sup>9</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 229.

<sup>10</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii. 250*a.*

<sup>11</sup> *Mins. Accts.* 31-2 Hen. VIII. L.R. 1330, m. 15*d.*



WICKHAMFORD : EAST FRONT OF THE MANOR HOUSE.

show, but in the middle of the panelled ceiling where it joins the upright boarding is a series of wavy lines alternately white and blue, with a black border, which looks as if it may have formed part of a nimbus over the head of Christ.

The west tower is of three stages, ashlar faced, of the sixteenth century or later. On the ground stage it has a square-headed west window of three trefoiled lights, on the first story a single round-headed light on north, south, and west, and in the belfry a two-light window with pointed uncusped lights and a vesica in the head on the same three faces, with a square-headed two-light window on the east. It has an embattled parapet with small angle pinnacles. It opens to the church with a plain pointed arch, with a string of renaissance detail at the springing, seventeenth or eighteenth century.

The seating of the nave consists of high eighteenth-century pews, into the ends and doors of which are framed an interesting series of carved panels, mostly of the linen pattern, of which there are several types, the more elaborate having vine leaves and grapes at top and bottom. The pew next to the pulpit has six richly-carved panels, apparently French work of the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century. The pulpit has the reading desk and clerk's desk below all fitted with carved panels like the pews. The pulpit is octagonal, and appears to retain, within a later casing, a fifteenth or sixteenth century pulpit of which the inside only can now be seen, of very solid construction, with panels framed into angle posts. The outer casing has carving in high relief in panels of cherubs' heads and standing figures of saints, seventeenth-century work, and perhaps Flemish. The clerk's desk has six panels of sixteenth-century English work of the type most widely known by its occurrence at Layer Marney Hall in Essex. At the west end of the nave over the tower arch is a row of panels which formed the front of the west gallery, now destroyed. Three of these are seventeenth-century work in high relief, the rest linen panels. In an account of the church in May's *History of Evesham* (1845) it is mentioned that 'several pieces of carving have been added to the panels of a later and too elaborate character.'

The Sandys monuments in the chancel were very elaborately repaired and repainted some time since, and are fine specimens of this kind. They consist of two panelled alabaster altar tombs against the north wall, under one long tester carried by round arches springing from five black marble columns with Corinthian capitals. The arches are ornamented with charges from the Sandys coat, and the soffit of the tester is panelled. Against the wall at the back of the tomb are similar arches, carried alternately on pilasters, and corbels in the form of angels holding shields. The tomb to the east is at a somewhat higher level than the other, but the tester is of the same height throughout. On the eastern tomb lie the alabaster effigies of Sir Samuel Sandys (1626), 'eldest son to that famous prelate Edwyn, archbishop of Yorke,' and his wife Mercy (Culpeper), 1629. On

the second tomb are the effigies of Sir Edwin Sandys (1626), son of Sir Samuel, and his wife Penelope (Buckley), who died in 1680. The date of the monument is about that of the death of Sir Edwin Sandys, and the effigy of his wife is that of a young woman. The inscriptions, which are very short,<sup>1</sup> are on the cornice of the tester, on the top of which stand two alabaster shields, gilded and coloured, with crest, helm, and mantling, flanked by twin obelisks. Alternately with these are small alabaster figures, partly gilded, of Faith, Hope, Charity, and Time. On the fronts of the altar tombs are kneeling figures of children, with in some cases shields above them denoting their marriages. On Sir Samuel's tomb are four sons and seven daughters.

On Sir Edwin's tomb are five sons and three daughters, but no shields; their father dying young, none of them were married at his death, and this helps to fix the limit of date for the tomb. At the back of the tomb, under the arcade, above the figures of Sir Samuel and his wife, are an oval with the Sandys coat, and a lozenge with the Culpeper arms and various alliances. On the spandrel of the arch between these shields are the arms of Sandys impaling Culpeper, and below, on the shield held by an angel, an impaled shield showing the full bearings of Sandys and Culpeper. The same arrangement is followed over Sir Edwin's tomb, with the Sandys and Buckley arms.

The font is modern, with a round tapering bowl and octagonal shaft and base; it stands under the tower.

There is one bell, by Matthew Bagley, 1686.

There is a communion cup with paten cover of 1571, and a pewter flagon and alms dish, dated 1692.<sup>2</sup> The registers begin in 1538.<sup>3</sup>

Wickhamford was a chapelry of *ADYOWSON* the mother church at Evesham until the dissolution. It seems to have been connected with the chapel of Badsey and Aldington, as in 1291 their value was given jointly as £15 6s. 8d.,<sup>4</sup> and in 1535, though each chapel appears to have had its own curate,<sup>5</sup> Wickhamford is stated to have been annexed to Badsey.<sup>6</sup> It was then in lease to Nicholas Wyke, chaplain and curate, for the term of his life.<sup>7</sup> It is referred to in 1540 as the parish church.<sup>8</sup> After the dissolution it followed the same descent as Badsey, and is now held by the dean and chapter of Christ Church, Oxford.

In the early part of the thirteenth century the lesser tithes of Wickhamford were appropriated, with those of Badsey and Aldington, to the repair of the spoons, cups, and glass windows of Evesham monastery.<sup>9</sup>

In 1574 the churchwardens of Wickhamford held  $\frac{1}{2}$  virgate of land and the pasture for certain animals,<sup>10</sup> but no church land or charities are mentioned in the Charity Commissioners' Reports.

The children of Wickhamford attend Badsey Council School. There is no place of worship for Nonconformists in the parish.

<sup>1</sup> But see Habington, *Surv. of Worc.* (Worc. Hist. Soc.), ii. 314, for the original inscriptions.

<sup>2</sup> Lea, *Cb. Plate Worc. Arch.* 33.

<sup>3</sup> Dioc. Conf. 1899, *Digest of Par. Reg.* 19.

<sup>4</sup> *Pope Nich. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 219b.

<sup>5</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii. 255, 256.

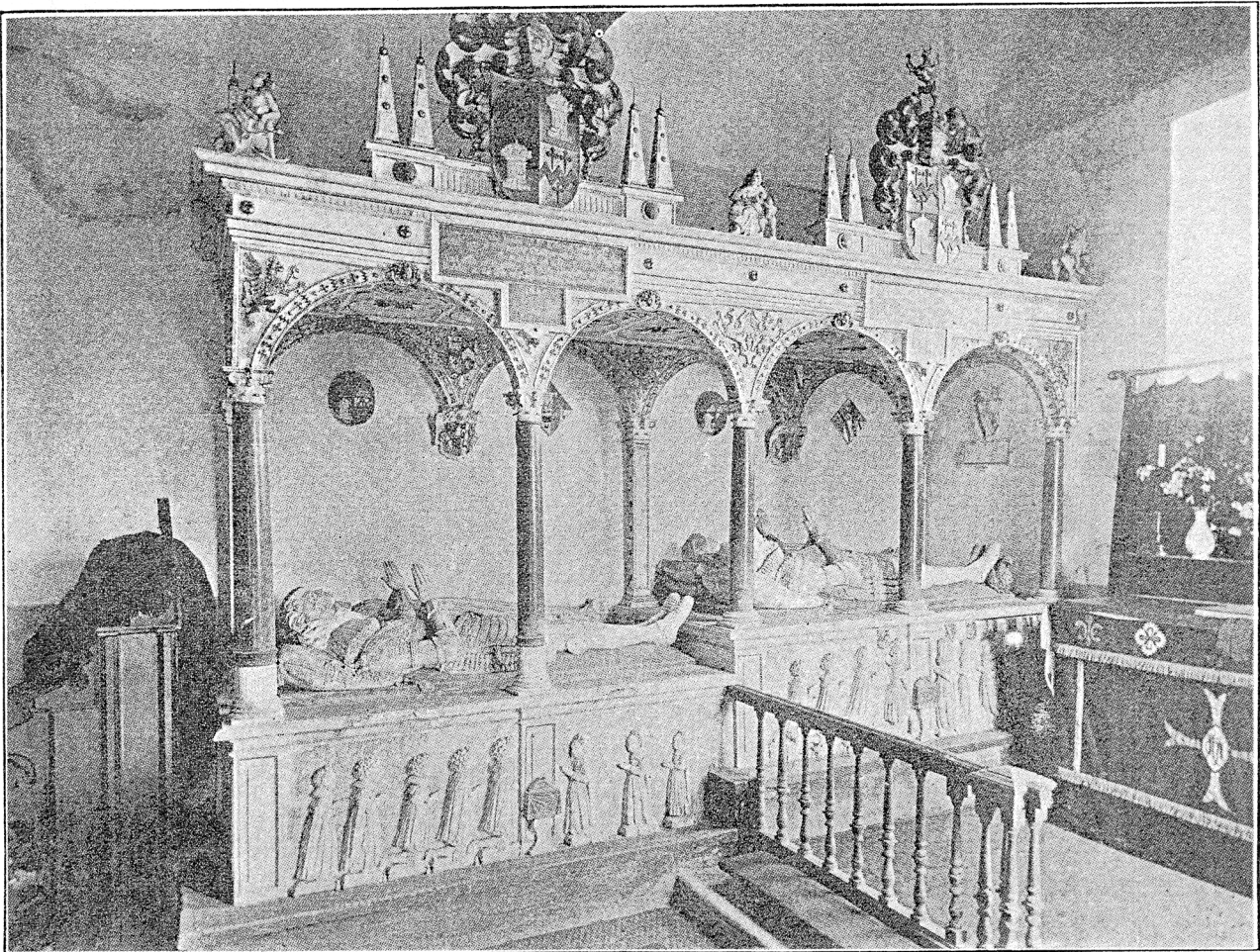
<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* 253a.

<sup>7</sup> Mins. Accts. 31-2 Hen. VIII. L. R. 1330, m. 15d.

<sup>8</sup> *Chron. de Evesham* (Rolls Ser.), 209.

<sup>9</sup> *Pat.* 16 Eliz. pt. 12.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* 256b.



WICKHAMFORD CHURCH : THE SANDYS MONUMENT.