

The Church, built in the Reign of Henry VI. stands within the Scite of the *Berystede*, dedicated to St. Faith. A Chapel, dedicated to St. Nicholas, stands North of the Chancel, which hath been the Burial Place of the Lords of the Manor. On the Outside of the Chapel are the Arms of the Church of St. Alban's, The Saltire, twice. As they are again in the Chancel upon one of those two Stones that on each Side the Altar are prominent from the Wall, as if they were intended for Lamps, or some such Use. An old Vestry stands North of the Chapel, parallel with the Chancel. Mr. Cross, Lord of the Manor, has an old Book, by which it appears there were in this Parish Lamplands, and that five several Lights were maintained in Honour of the following Saints; St. Faith, Lady Mary, Holy Cross, St. Nicolas Bishop, and Lady Katherine.

In the *Berystede* Windows are *Taverner's* Arms, Argent a Bend indented Sable, impaling Silver, and Lambert, and Docwra, and Needham. This was an ancient Family of Norfolk, brought down to the Middle of the last Century from Ralph de Taverner of North Elmham, in the Beginning of Edward I. which is to be seen from their Deeds.

John Cross, Esq; Patron, has granted the perpetual Advowson of the Vicarage to Christopher Eton of Luton, Clerk, who is generously augmenting it. Mr. Poynts is Impropiator. Mr. — Rossell, Vicar.

MONUMENTS.

In the Chapel. "Here lieth the Body of Peter Taverner, Lord of this Town of Hexton, who married Frances, the Daughter of Tho. Docwra of Putteridge in the County of Hertford, Esq; which two had Issue Thomas, Francis, John, Margaret married to Edward Wingate, Gent. He died Apr. 6. 1601. Frances the Wife of Peter died June 21. 1631."

Johannes Taverner natus in Com. Hertford, Familiâ honestâ, Parentibus Piis et Probis. A primâ infantia Literis operam dedit, primo sub privato Magistro, denuo Westmonasterii institut. Cantabr. Studiit pro annis 8, ubi item Magistri gradum suscepit, dein Oxonii pro an. 5. posteaque Johanni King, Episcop. London. a Libellis pro an. 9. et unus

praefectorum in Colligio Gressam, London, pro an. 28. denique sacris Ordinibus susceptis Vicarius de Tillingham in Com. Essex an. 5, postremo Rector hujus Ecclesie pro an. 9. hic subitus expleto curriculum sepultus felicem Resurrectionem sperat. Natus 1584, denatus 1638.

In this Epitaph there must be a Mistake, the Date disagreeing with the rest.

As a Proof in what Sense this old Word *Hock* and *Hocking* was used, we may refer to an old Church-Warden's Rate of *Bishops Stortford*, made in Edward IV. and Henry VII's Time. Here are three Articles for *Hokying* Ale each, 12 s. 13 s. or 14 s. And once, *Pro exitu cujusdam Potationis vocat le Hokking Ale*, 13 s. And there is yet a Four-won' Way between the Parishes of *Datchwarth* and *Aston*, between *Watton* and *Brayhere End*, known by the Name of *Floke's Cross*, which lies near enough to the six Hills, to support our Conjecture concerning their Original.

There is one Argument more for the *Watling-street* leading this Way, that there hath been a Fort built upon it at *Kaynoe* in *Bedfordshire* by *Clophill*, in the Lands of the Duke of Kent. *Amptill*, according to Dr. Holland, was an Appendage to this Honour: And *Amptill* Mr. Camden makes a Gift of Edward IV. to Edmond Grey Lord of *Rythyn*, being forfeited by Sir John Cornwall, Baron of *Fanhope*, who had erected a noble House there out of his French Spoils, and lost it for taking Part with the *Lancastrians*.

We read of Forts built by *Ostorius* and *Agri-cola*. One at *Brinklow* in *Warwickshire* to strengthen a Camp there, we may very well allow to be Roman, because it stands upon the Fosse, and is within the Oblong of the Camp: And if that be Roman, 'tis highly probable this of *Kaynoe* was so too, from the Form of them both so exactly agreeing. There is an artificial Mount or Keep standing upon the Brink of a boggy Ground, and without the Ditch of it are three semicircular Retrenchments toward the South, one without the other, whose Ditches are all drawn into one, and determine in the Moor, with no other Difference from that of *Brinklow* but this, that as that Keep stands upon an Eminence, the four Ditches are also drawn into one on the North Side, where the Declivity makes the Strength.



P I R T O N,



IN *Lincoln* Diocese, and *Hitchin* Hundred, lies between *Hexton* and *Ickleford*, with *Bedfordshire* on the North West. In *Domesday* it is *Peritone*, but whence I cannot guess. If the first Part of the Word would signify Mire or Dirt, it has as good a Title as *Paris* to *Lutetia*. It seems to have comprehended *Ickleford*, because that Name is not in the Record, and this has a greater Quantity of Land mentioned there, than can now be found in the Parish.

Ralph de *Limesy* had a Grant of this at the

Conquest, with a great many other Manors. He was Baron of *Wolverlie* in *Warwickshire*, where he had a Seat. He gave two Thirds of the Tythes of that Estate to the Church of *Pirton*, which he built. This *Hulwerlie* or *Wolverlie* is now reckoned in the Parish of *Solihull*. He afterwards built a Church at *Hertford*, but gave away the Tythes belonging to it, as also the Tythes of this of *Pirton*, to the Abbey of St. Alban's. His Son *Alan*, who succeeded him, gave the Church of *Ichenton* in *Warwickshire* to the Priory of *Hertford*. He left a Son *Gerard*, who

who married *Amy*, Daughter of *Hornelade de Bidun*, by whom he had *John*; *Basilia* married to *Hugh d'Odingsfels*, Grandson to *Hugh d'Odingsfels*, a *Fleming*; and *Alienor* married to *David de Linsey* a *Scot*. He gave to the Priory of *Hertford* half a Yard Land in *Pirton*, a Croft called *Grasscroft* in *Ickenton*, and two Yard Land in *Ickleford*, to pray for the Health of his Soul, and the Souls of *Amy* his Wife and his Son *John*.

John had a Son *Hugh*, who died before his Father. Upon which the Estate fell between *Basilia* and *Alienor*: The first with *Hugh d'Odingsfels* her Husband, paid a Fine of five hundred Marks to King *John* for Livery of the Manors of her Inheritance. These lay in the Counties of *Hertford*, *Oxford*, *Worcester*, *Suffolk*, and *Warwick*. Upon the Death of *John de Limesy*, *Alice* his Widow married *Walter* Earl of *Warwick*.

Hugh d'Odingsfels, Kt. attended *Henry III.* at the Siege of *Bitham* Castle in *Lincolnshire*, had a Warrant to levy Esuage on all his Tenants. He died the 23d of that King, and *Gerard* his Son succeeded. He had Livery of the Lands of his Mother's Inheritance, which he held in Capite, did his Homage, and gave Security to the Sheriff for the Payment of fifty Pounds for his Relief. *Gerard* was a Knight. He, in the 26th of *Henry III.* paid fifty Marks Fine for being excused his Attendance upon the King into *Gascony*. He had Power to levy this upon the Knights Fees that held of him. He was twelve Years after summoned to *Oxford*, with other great Men, with Horse and Arms, to give the King Advice and Assistance against *Llewellyn* Prince of *Wales*.

David de Linsey had the other Part of *Limesy's* Estate in the Right of *Alienor*. *Alexander*, King of *Scots*, gave in the 6th of *Henry III.* 200l. for the Wardship and Marriage of the Heirs of *David*, and for the Lands of the *Limesays* in the Counties of *Essex*, *Hertford*, *Oxford*, *Warwick*, *Leicester*, *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*. *David de Linsey* had a Son *David*, who dying, his Brother *Gerard* was his Heir. He did Homage, had Livery of his Lands, and died without Issue in the 33d of *Henry III.*

Henry de Pinkney married *Alice*, *Gerard's* Sister and Heir, paid fifty Pounds for his Relief of half the Barony of *Limesy*, and died. His Son *Henry* paid one hundred Pounds for Relief. He was summoned with Horse and Arms to attend the King, in the 42d of his Reign, at *Chester*, to restrain the *Welsh*.

This Part of the Manor was afterwards possessed by *William d'Odingsfels*; but it is not said by what Title. *Gerard d'Odingsfels* had the other Moiety, but dying, the Guardianship of his Son *Hugh*, and his Lands held of the King in Capite, were granted to *Edmond Cromback*, the King's Son. *Hugh* came of Age, and possessed the Estate, which was held of the Barony of *Wolverly*, and *William* held the other Moiety by the Service of two Knights Fees. *John* Son of *Hugh* succeeded his Father in the 33d of *Edward I.* who being engaged with the Earl of *Warwick* and others in the Murther of *Piers de Gaveston*, had the King's Pardon in the 9th of *Edward II.* He was Knighted, and left *John* his Son and Heir, who was Knighted too. But this Sir *John* it seems was outlawed for Felony and Sedition.

He married *Amy*, Daughter of *Roger Corbet*, and dying, left his Son *John* under Age. He in the 31st of *Edward III.* paid a Fine of 200 Marks for marrying whom he pleased. He left a Son *John* under Age, who was Knighted, and left *Edward* under Age. *Edward* was Knighted, and in great Employments. He married *Margaret*, Daughter of *John Cokayne* of *Bury Hatley*, now called *Cokayne Hatley*, in *Bedfordshire*. He had a Son *Gerard*, and *Gerard* a Son *Edward*, who was in Commission of the Peace for the County of *Warwick*. He married *Ann*, Daughter of *Richard Verney* of that County, Esq;.

Half of this Manor came in some time to *Samuel Marow* of *Berkswell* in *Warwickshire*, who married *Margaret*, Daughter of Sir *John Littleton* of *Frankley* in *Worcestershire*. He had a Son *Edward*, and he another *Edward*, Knighted, who married *Ursula*, Daughter of *Richard Fines* Lord *Say and Seal*. He in the 8th of *James I.* sold this Manor of *Pirton* to *Thomas Docwra* of *Putteridge*, Esq;.

Mr. *Docwra* left a Daughter married to Sir *Peter Warburton* of *Cheshire*, whose Son Sir *George* enjoys it. The other Moiety of the Manor, called *Pirton d'Odingsfels*, belongs to *Eton College*. They let it by Lease, and Mr. *Edward Lacy* is their Tenant. There is a Castle Hill in the Manor of *d'Odingsfels* near the Church, which is called a *Berystede*. It is moated in.

The Manor of the RECTORY.

This was once Part of the other Manor, and was separated from it by *Ralph de Limesy*, who gave it to the Priory of *Hertford*. Upon the Dissolution it was sold to the Possessor of *Odingsfels*, and for some time went with it; but came from Sir *John Davy* to *Poultney*, from him to *White*, who left it to his Sons to pay his Debts. They sold it to Sir *Anthony Deane*, from whom it descended to his Son *William*, from him to his Son *Morgan*, whose Name by Act of Parliament is now *Morgan Morgan*.

The Vicarage is in the Archdeaconry of *Huntingdon*, united with the Rectory of *Ickleford*, and in the Deanry of *Hitchin*. Mr. *William Goodwyn* is Vicar.

The Church, dedicated to the Virgin *Mary*, has the Steeple between the Nave and the Chancel. The Belfrey makes the Passage from one to the other dark, which is uncommon. There was an old Vestry over the Porch, the Stairs and Door remain. In the North Wall of the Church is a low small Arch, which may have been for the Founder, as there is at *Ansty*, where he lies in a Sort of Miniature, at half the Bigness of a Man. On the South of the Steeple, on the Outside, was a Building called the *St. John's House*, of what Use 'tis not known, where it joined to the Steeple is yet visible.

MONUMENT.

"*Jane*, the Relict of *Thomas Docwra*, Esq; and formerly the Wife of *Thomas* the sole Son of Sir *Gabriel Pointes*, Kt. and one of the Daughters and Coheirs of Sir *William Periam*, Kt. Lord Chief Baron of the *Exchequer*; - - - Ob. March 15. 1645."