

LANCHESTER

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Issue No 7.



SCRIPTA BREVIA LONGOVICIENSIA

*The Journal of the
Lanchester Local History Society.*

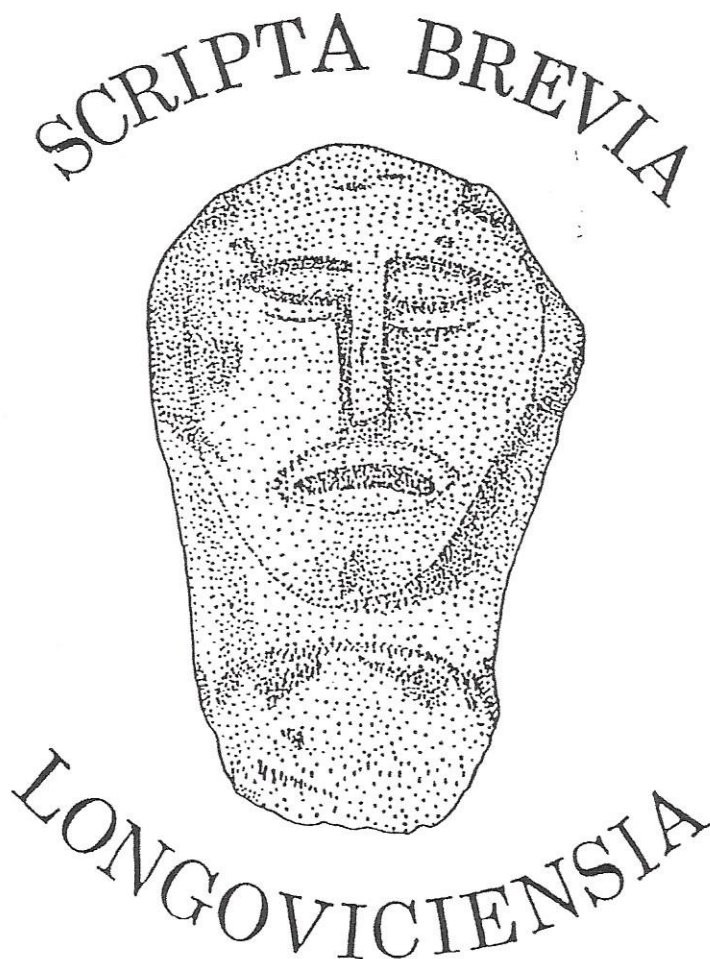
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*Enquiries to: Kevin Leary, 60 Deanery View, Lanchester, Durham. DH7 ONJ.
Telephone: 01207-521627.*

*The Logo Shows
The Horned God Of The Brigantæ
Found at Upper Houses Farm Lanchester.*



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This is the seventh journal of the Lanchester Local History Society, and my first as editor. Jack Clifford, who set the ball rolling, decided to call it a day after producing the first six journals, and a vote of thanks must go to Jack from all our members for his dedication over the last several years.

Personally, I would like to thank him for his guidance in the production of this edition, and can only hope by following in his footsteps I can maintain the quality of our small magazine. But that depends on my stress levels remaining normal.

As usual the contributions from the members have ensured that the Journal does still contain many varied subjects covering all periods.

In this edition, the contents, all of which I hope you will find of interest, vary from a fascinating insight into an old British custom called Rush Bearing, an account regarding local villains of the 17th & 18th centuries who lived in the Derwent Valley, and a concise history of the Parish Church of Lanchester by William Fawcett, which has been faithfully re-produced by Alan & Marjorie Hopps, who have kindly allowed the Society to publish their manuscript.

Finally, if any of our readers who are not members of the Society, would like more information on our activities, or, would like to contribute to the magazine, please give me a call, or if you wish to attend our meetings, they are held in the Community Centre, Lanchester, at 7.30pm on the first Friday of every month.

Kevin Leary.

1997.

THE HISTORY OF LANCHESTER CHURCH.

James William Fawcett 1867-1942, was a brilliant man of whom very few local people are aware. Born at Wooley Close Farm, Brancepeth, his parents moved shortly after his birth to The Grange, Satley, he was baptised at St. Cuthbert's Church, Satley. Going on to become an outstanding scholar. His services were called upon frequently as interpreter, also for deciphering very old documents for some notable people. It is claimed he knew thirty-three languages. He travelled extensively in the Middle East, and the Antipodes.

Writing and recording was a labour of love, wherever in the world he happened to be, covering many subjects, including local events, places and ornithology.

A series of histories of Durham Churches was one of his accomplishments.

Herewith reproduced and thrown open to debate and discussion, is his account of All Saints Church, Lanchester, up to 1908, which was the date his original work appeared.

The reader is asked to appreciate that the spellings throughout have been diligently checked, and whilst what would appear to be obvious mistakes, i.e., Beck and Bek in the same reference, they have been reproduced verbatim.

If anyone can continue Mr Fawcett's great work on the church up to the present time, it is surely a debt we owe both him and future generations, especially with the extension of the church having just been completed.

Whilst self-humility was his desire in his life time, it would not be remiss of us to acknowledge the part he played as a historian, which was at least on a par with Surtees, Hutchinson and the like.

His home at Holly Cottage, Satley, was a virtual Aladdin's Cave with books, artifacts, &c., &c. Ill health dogged him in later years, and when the end came, it was swift. He died at No. 1 Newbiggin Road, Lanchester, on the 20th March, 1942, and lies buried in an unmarked grave in Satley Churchyard.

Alan & Marjorie Hopps.
2 Colepike Hall Cottages,
Lanchester.
May, 1995.

THE HISTORY OF LANCHESTER CHURCH.
 COMPILED BY J.W. FAWCETT IN 1908.

Lanchester Church, dedicated to All Saints, is an ancient structure of hewn stone and ashlar work, and is one of the most interesting in the county. It consists of a chancel, with north vestry, and organ chamber; nave of four bays, with clerestory; north and south aisles; square, embattled western tower with pinnacles, containing a peal of six bells and a clock; and a south porch. The predominating architecture is Early English (1190-1245), with remains of Norman work (1066-1145), and later additions.

The Chancel, which measures about 41 feet in length by 15 feet in breadth, is lighted by a fine large window of three tall grouped lancet lights, the central one under a circular droopstone, the others under pointed ones - filled with stained glass, erected to Joseph Davison, Esq., (1868), by his children - on the east; and by three windows of plain glass on the south, the two eastern ones of two lights each, cinquefoil headed with quartrefoil, the eastern one under a pointed droopstone, with corbels or terminals of human hearts; the western one under a pointed droopstone with roseate corbels; and the westernmost, a large and beautiful window of three lights, under a large pointed droopstone having corbels of crosses or Crucifixion terminals. On the north side are three narrow upper lancet lights - now blank - which at one time overlooked the vestry of lower altitude than the present one. The walls are plastered and covered with a white wash, and the structure is open to the roof, which is lined with oaken boards. In the floor are seven gravestones, and across the chancel arch is an oaken screen.

The Sanctuary, which occupies the eastern portion, measures 12 feet by 15 feet, is raised six steps above the floor of the chancel, contains on the south side a piscina with a trefoil-headed arch and a projecting basin. Between the two eastern windows is the trefoil-headed arch of a sedilia. The altar or sanctuary rails are of oak.

Near the east end of the chancel, and partly within the sanctuary, is a series of brackets or corbels - three on each side. Each bracket is carved with a human head, and are alternately crowned and mitred, but all are more or less mutilated. One, on the north, is that of a prelate. The others were probably those of a king and an abbot. They are remnants of the pre-Reformation period, and carried candles to light the sanctuary. On the top of each head was a socket to support an iron candlestick to hold the lights. In one of them a portion of the iron knob remains.

On the north side is a doorway beneath a pointed arch into the vestry. Above the pointed arch is a cinquefoil arch, in which is contained one of the most beautiful and interesting features of Lanchester Church. The Tympanum bears a representation of our Lord in session.

This figure has sometimes been described as the Blessed Virgin enthroned on a chair of state, surrounded by angels, with the prostrate dragon underneath.

At the west end of the north side is a low, broad-pointed arch of four orders. This formed a recess during the collegiate period (1283-1545) for six prebendal stalls. It now forms the organ chamber.

On the south side, visible from the outside only, is what looks like the top stone of a leper's window. It is under the west side of the central window in the chancel.

The Chancel Arch, which has a span of 12 feet, is a beautiful piece of Norman work (1066-1145). It is a lofty circular arch, of three orders, each of which is adorned with rich chevron or zigzag mouldings. It is supported by circular pilasters or clustered columns on short, stilted bases or shafts. The abacus on the north side bears the star ornament [a symbol of the reign of King Henry I., 1100-1135], and that on the south side a kind of lozenge moulding. The jambs have cylindrical engaged shafts - two on the face with a fillet between them, and a third shaft in the angle on the west side. They have cushioned capitals.

The most remarkable feature about this arch is the height of the base of its jambs above the floor of both chancel (70 inches) and nave (84 inches). One explanation of the singular arrangement is that the original floor of the chancel was very much higher than that of the nave, from which it was reached by a short flight of steps. Such an arrangement still exists in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin at Barnardcastle, where the chancel is six steps above the nave.

The Nave, 45 feet in length by 20 feet in width, consists of four arcades or bays, of Transitional architecture (1145-1190), and present an elegant appearance. They are each supported on beautiful and handsome cylindrical or circular piers or pillars, with bell or circular capitals, the pointed arches having a slight dentelle moulding or zigzag embellishment on the labels over them. These arches are of two orders, the inner one being plainly chamfered, and the outer one chamfered on the angle towards the aisle, and in the pear-shaped moulding on the angle towards the nave.

The piers or pillars differ in the northern and southern rows. In the former they are about five feet in circumference, and in the latter five feet three inches in circumference. The height of the former are about nine feet one inch, and the latter eight feet ten inches. They stand on square bases which are above the level of the floor.

The four piers in the north arcade are monoliths of solid stone, of Roman dressing, and are supposed to have come from the Basilica or Exchange in the Roman Camp, or probably the pillars which supported the arcade which ran round the Forum or Market Place, which was rebuilt between A.D. 238 and 244.

The clerestory is lighted by eight windows of plain glass - four on each side - of two lights each, under square tops.

The North Aisle, which measures 46 feet long by 15 feet wide, is lighted by two windows of two trefoil-headed lights each, under square labels of stained glass, on the north, and a similar one of two trefoil lights with tracery on the west.

The South Aisle, which measures 46 feet long by about 19 feet wide, is lighted by three windows of two round-headed lights each - the western two under square labels, the eastern one minus any terminals - all of stained glass; a window on the east, of three trefoil lights with tracery, under a pointed arch with a circular droopstone bearing corbels, now greatly dilapidated by the weather; also stained glass, erected to Sir T. J. Clavering, of Greencroft Hall (1853), and a window of one trefoil-headed light

under a pointed droopstone, partly filled with a coat-of-arms (Tempest impaling Umfraville).

In the east wall of this south wall, close into the south-east corner, is a piscina with a projecting bowl, which has been greatly damaged.

In close proximity is a recess, 74 inches long and 46 inches high, having a fine circular arch, having a chevron or zigzag moulding of the same type as that of the chancel arch. Within it lies the effigy of a priest, in Frosterley marble. He is represented in a recumbent position, and is dressed in alb, chasuble, stole, and maniple, and holds a chalice between his hands. His head rests on a cushion, and his feet on an animal, probably a lamb. The sculpture belongs to the first quarter of the fourteenth century (1301-1325), although Hutchinson, Surtees, and other historians conjecture that the effigy is that of Stephen Austell, Dean of Lanchester, who died in 1461.

The Tower, at the west end of the nave, is a square of twenty feet, with a height of seventy feet. It is a heavy-looking structure, of the architecture prevalent in the period between 1400-1430, and is supported and strengthened by flying buttresses at the north-west and south-west corners. It is separated from the nave by a pointed arch, has ribbed groining in its lowest stage, and is lighted on the west by a pointed window of two trefoil-headed lights of stained glass. On the south side is a doorway which leads up to a winding staircase to the belfry, clock room, and the bell loft. Its floor is boarded, and it is now used as a choir vestry.

The South Porch, which measures 14 feet by 12 feet, is a stone structure, which from its size gives a rather heavy and ungainly appearance to the church when viewed from the south side. It has two small oblong lights of plain glass, one in each of its east and west walls, and its outer entrance is enclosed by a trellised gateway, under a lofty pointed archway having pillars of Early English Architecture (1140-1145), the pointed apex being of a century later (1300-1325). Above it is an old dial, which once bore a legend and a date, now both totally obliterated. The date was 16.., and the legend - "Ui hora sic vita" - "As in the hour so is life".

The North Entrance to the church, at the north-west corner, is under a pointed archway, by an oaken door of recent date.

The South Entrance is under a broad pointed archway, in width under a richly-moulded label, by an oaken door of ancient date, - about 1200 - having the hinges extended nearly right across. This door, which has recently been cleaned by having ten or a dozen coats of paint scraped off it, and its iron hinges - good specimens of mediaeval ironwork - are worthy of special notice. It measures 74 inches wide by 96 inches in height to point of apex.

The Northern Vestry is lighted by a remarkably fine pointed quatrefoil light, and also by a window of two round-headed lights, under a square label; and also by a similar window at its east end. There is also a pointed window in its east wall, part of which is now used as a doorway giving access to a loft, now walled up. The outer vestry door is under a square lintel.

The church is supported by three buttresses on the south of the nave, one south of the chancel, and two on the north side of the nave. The nave and side aisles are embattled, and the tower is surmounted by an embattled parapet with small corner spirets.

The walls, which are up to 30 inches in thickness, are largely built of stones brought from the Roman Camp, and several of them may yet be identified by their dressing or "tooling". The roof of nave and aisles and chancel are of blue slate and of the Southport grey slate.

The internal fittings are neat and orderly.

The seats in the chancel are of oak. The long seat in the recess, beneath the three-light window, is part of the chancel seats of the Collegiate Period (1283-1545), and are the old prebendal stalls formerly on the north side. The remainder are modern, and were placed therein in 1905, as a brass informs us - "For the service of God, and in loving memory of Elsie Nowell, these choir seats were erected by her husband, H.M. Nowell, late of Greencroft Park, Lanchester, March, 1905".

The organ is a new instrument by ----. It was erected in 1907, "To the glory of God, and for the worship of His House, this organ is erected by Oswald William Henry Hedley, in loving memory of his father, Edward Hedley, of Burnhopeside Hall".

It was dedicated by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Jarrow, on Thursday, 23rd May, 1907".

The seats in the nave and aisles are old-fashioned box-shaped pews of pine on boarded floors.

The lectern or reading desk is a handsome brass eagle.

The pulpit is a magnificent piece of oak carved work of beautiful design and workmanship, every detail being almost perfect. In the centre of the front panel is represented in bold relief the Virgin and Child, and the two side panels, of equal merit, enclose representations of Dr. Lightfoot and Dr. Westcott, Bishops of Durham. It was erected in 1893.

The litany desk is of oak.

The font, which stands at the west end of the nave, is a round bowl on circular stem, all of Frosterly marble, on a circular freestone base of two steps.

6.

The Communion Plate of Lanchester Church consists of seven pieces, as follows :-

1. Communion cup., of silver, eight inches in height, with floreated band on side, hall-marked, made by H.W., in London in 1570; has been repaired on more than two occasions.

2. Cover to Communion cup, of silver, made by the same person as cup and in same year. The button on the top is of modern addition.

3. Paten or salver of silver, with moulded edge, with the sacred monogram in the centre, and inscribed around it:-

"The Gift of the Rev. Robert Richarby, to his Parish Church of Lanchester, 1730". It is hall-marked, and was made by Simon Pontin, of London, in 1710. The stem, however, is supposed to have been found among the ruins of the Roman Camp at Lanchester, and to have been part of a Roman Patera, or Libation bowl, used by the Romans in making offerings.

4. A coffee pot shaped flagon, of silver, with a double curved handle, no spout, and a domed lid with a thumbpiece, hall-marked by William Grundy in London in 1763. Around the base is inscribed:-

"Lanchester Church, 1887. Rev F.W. Glyn, Vicar", and under the base - "John Cuming, William Logan, Geo. Leybourne, Ralph Walton, Churchwardens".

5 and 6. Two saucer-shaped silver plates, each inscribed:-

"A Gift to the Parish Church of Lanchester for the use of Ye Communion, in ye yr. 1762, by Miss Jane Tempest".

7. A straight-sided flagon of Pewter.

There are some scores of bodies buried beneath the floors of both chancel and nave of Lanchester Church. In the floor of the chancel are eight gravestones bearing inscriptions as follows:-

1. On a brass 22 x 5.1/2, on a large blue limestone or Frosterly marble gravestone in the centre of the chancel:-

"Orate p' a'l'a mri Joh'is Rudde, in decretis bacca laurij quond'm decani huius loci qui xxix die Septembris Anno d'ni Mccccclxxxx cui d'i'e p'piciet de' Amen.

[Which being translated is:- "Pray for the soul of Master John Rudde, Bachelor in decretals [Bachelor of Laws], who was Dean of this place, who died the 29th day of September, in the year of our Lord 1490, upon whose soul God have mercy. Amen."].

7.

2. On the same large blue stone:-

"Here lyeth the Body of George Baker, of Crooke, Esqr. eldest Son of Sr. George Baker, Kt. who departed this Life October the 14 Anno. 1677. Vita Christus mors lucrum. Phil. 1. 21".

3. On a blue marble slab, on the south side of No. 2:-

4. Large blue limestone slab, 40 x 86, at east end of No. 3:-

"Here lyeth John Whittingham, the 3 sonne of Sir Timothe Whittingham, who died the 1 day of June 1614". "Here lye ye Bodies of Stephen and Elizabeth Whittingham, second sonne and eldest daughter of Timothy Whittingham, of Holmside, Esqr., which sonne was Buried ye 10 day of July Elizabeth my daughter ye 22nd day of October, both in ye year 1679".

5. Large blue limestone slab, 41 x 36, at east end of No. 4, divided by a line down the middle, and deeply incised.

On the northern half is a coat-of-arms - a lion rampant [for Whittingham] impaling three asses passant [for Ayscough]- "Here Lyeth Dame Elizabeth Whittingham, Wife of Sir Timothe Whittingham of Holmside who died the 13 of Marche Anno Dmi. 1614".

On the southern half is a coat-of-arms - a blank shield impaling a lion rampant [for Whittingham] - "Here lyeth Elizabeth Milforde, their 2 daughter, wf. of Michel Mitford of Sighell in the County of Northumberland, Esquier, who died the first of December Anno Dmi. 1613".

6. Large blue stone slab, 98 x 47, at east end of No. 2:-

"Zach. Whittingham 1711". "Timothy Whittingham, Esqr. Died October the 7, 1751. Aged 57".

7. Large blue stone slab, 78 x 39, on north side of No.6. Coat of arms with crest - party of six, over all a bend, a sword proper [for Sanderson] impaling fretty on a chief of the second, three leopard's heads [for Liddle]; crest - a talbot passant; on a scroll under the arms the motto - "Sans Dieu Rien".

"Samuel Sanderson of Hedley Hope Esquire;
was buryed here in Anno 1650.
And his Wife, Barbara, in 1672.
And Samuel their fift sonne in 1662".

8. Sandstone slab .. x .. on north side of No. 7 and near vestry door:-

"Anthony Meaborne, Esqr. Obt. 28 Decr., 1712. AEtat, 84".
"Elizabeth Meborne Obit 3d April 1724".

The following are on flags or gravestones in the nave -

A. In the north aisle -

1. Sandstone flag, 71 x 29, lying E. and W. opposite middle pillar. "Here lies the Body of Michael Raw of Wharna Burn, who Departed this life Oct., ye 14 an 1715".

"Also the Body of Thomas Raw, who Died April the 25th, 1752, Aged 75".

"Thomas Raw, Wharney burn, died May 11th, 1815, aged 60".

B. In the middle aisle:-

1. Sandstone flag, 48 x 33, lying S. and N. at junction of cross aisles [under present litany desk]. [The first line of the inscription, that between [] has been cut off, and is now wanting :-

[Here lies the Body] of Dorothy Thompson wife of Michael Thompson, of Huler Bush, who dyed the 18 day of March, Ano. Dm. 1635. M.T. O.T.1651.

2. Sandstone flag, 48 x 22, with iron rings lying E. and W. on south side of aisle, partly covered by edge of third pew:-

Robert Burnop, of Low Burnopside, Buried April thi 26th, 1727.

Ralph Burnop, son of Rob. died 9 of Decr., 1762, Aged 61.

3. Sandstone flag, 73 x 30 (inscription greatly worn off).

Carolus Adey oblit Dec. 13 Anno Dom. 1762, AEtat 23.

Ann Adey oblit 25 Oct. 1765, AEtat 19.

4. Limestone flag, 78 x 14 on north side of No.3, lying E. and W., partly covered by pew.

Here lieth Robert Ornesby December 21, An, no 1641 Tui qui legis et audis para sequis.

5. Sandstone flag, 45 x 36, lying E. and W., at west end of aisle.

"Here Lieth Mary Gibson, Daughter of John and Jane Gibson of Greencroft, Low Town, who departed 12th of June, 1801, in the 9th year of her AGE".

C. In the South Aisle -

1. Limestone flag, 73 x 24, lying E. and W., with rings:-

Nico Greenwell, Alias Ford.

Ann Wife of Alan Greenwell, of Greenwell Ford, died April 23rd, 1783. Aged 38.

Elizabeth, their 5th daughter, Died July 14th, 1780. Aged 2 years.

Alan, Their Eldest Son, Died May 10th, 1790. Aged 16.

Jane, their 4th Daughter, Died March 5th, 1797. Aged 16.

Alan Greenwell, Armiger, Obi. Feb. 25th, 1806. AEt. 67.

2. Limestone flag, 73 x 25, lying E. and W., with rings, west of above.

Sepulchrum de Greenwell, William Greenwell of Ford, Died April 14, 1758, Aged 63.

Mary, his Wife, died March 12th, 1771, Aged 70.

3. Sandstone flag, 48 x 21, broken in two, lying S. and N., with rings.

Ann Brigs Buried December 30th, 1702.

John Brigs of peth House. Buried may the 31th, 1726.

Thomas Walton, Buried Oct. 11, 1763, aged 86.

Mary, his wife, May 16, 1775.

William Walton, Died 29 decr. 1712, Aged 75 yrs.

1. Sandstone flag, 40 x 65, with rings, lying E. and W., opposite south door:-

"Robertus Greenwell, oblit. Dec. 29, Anno 1715, AEtat 18".
 "Thomas Greenwel, Aug. 27, Anno 1741, AEtat 29". "Edwardus Sharper, oblit. Mail 5, Anno 1762. AEtat 62".

2. Sandstone flag, 59 x 25, with rings, lying E. and W., opposite south aisle:-

"Here Lyeth the Body of Willm Rippon, who departed this Life Septr, ye 4 day 1717". "Also the body of Jane his wife, died June the 26, 1749". "Iohn Rippon died February ye 18, 1780. Aged 77 years". "Mary the Wife of Iohn Rippon, died the 9th of July, 1782. Aged 62 years".

3. Large Sandstone flag, 83 x 44, lying E. and W., on north side of No. 2:-

"RSPI 1847.

IMPI 1802".

4. Sandstone flag, 24 x 32, lying S. and N., at east end of No. 3, and on the south side of western-most pillar:-

(Here lieth the Body of Anthony) "Blarton, sonne of Anthony Blarton of Kyo peth" (also his) "wife and three children. He did give to the poor of the parish v pounds, to be letten for ten shillings in the year for their use and the stoke to remain for ever. He was buried the 11 of September, 1717".

10.

5. Sandstone flag, 35 x 22, with iron rings, lying E. and W., on north side of No. 3:-

"Here Lyeth the Body of Ann wife of Thos. Raw who Died June the 1, 1747. Aged 23".

6. Sandstone flag, 46 x 28, lying E. and W.:-

"Here Ann Taylor, Stobbilee was buried 6th August, 1749".

7. Sandstone flag, 20 x 24, lying N. and S. on south side of font:-

"Guis Aday Bowerbank, oblit. Iuly 22, 1768".

8. Sandstone flag, 25 x 27, lying N. and S. at foot of No. 7:-

"Elizabetha Uxor Reodi Gulmi Adey, oblit. Dec. 27, mo. Nov. Anno Dom. 1775 - AEtat 73".

9. Sandstone flag, 25 x 20, lying N. and S. on west side of 8, marked in north-east corner with letter R only.

10. Sandstone flag 48 x 30, lying E. and W., with rings, at west end of middle aisle and on the east side of font:-

"Here Lieth the Body of Thomas Mayson of High Woodside. Buried the 28th of 7ber, 1716. Robert the son of Thomas Mayson Buried August the 13th, 1728".

11. Sandstone flag 21 x 22, with one ring between west end of middle and north aisles, without inscription - never had any.

12. Sandstone flag 38 x 22.1/2, at west end of north aisle, opposite door [inscription almost obliterated]:-

"Here lyeth the Body of Margaret Hull, who died June 12th, 1719".

13. Blue limestone slab, .. x 32, in north-west corner of north aisle, immediately behind the door:-

"Benjamin, son of James Clavering of Greencroft, Esqr., Departed this life April the 26, 1683". "Isa. Clavering, 5 Dauther of James Clavering, Esqr., of Greencroft, Died Sbr. 30th, 1706". "Henry Clavering, youngist Son of Sir James Clavering, Axwell. Died Aug. ye 11th, 1711". "Catherine, wife of James Clavering, Esqr., Died Nov. 29, 1793. She was daughter of Thomas Yorke, Esqr., of Richmond in York Shire".

14. Blue limestone slab, .. x 20, on south side of above.

The following mural tablets are on the walls of the nave. There are no mural tablets now on the walls of the chancel.

a. On the north wall -

1. A white marble on a black slab:-

"Sacred To the Memory of Thomas White, Esqr., of Woodlands, in this Parish who departed this life on the 27th day of September, 1811, aged 75 years".

"Also of Thomas White, Esqr., His Son, who departed this life on the 7th day of September, 1836, aged 72 years".

"And Elizabeth, his wife, who departed this life on the 9th day of September, 1839, aged 60 years".

[This tablet was removed from the north wall of the chancel in; 1900, where it had remained since 1837.]

2. A white marble on black slab with grey base:-

"In affectionate remembrance of Elizabeth Greenwell the wife of John Greenwell, Esq., of Broomshields, and daughter of the late Alan Greenwell, Esq., of Greenwell Ford, who died on the 15th January, 1845, In the 63rd year of her age. This tablet is erected by her sorrowing husband".

"The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance". Rs. 112, 6.

"It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory". 1 Cor., 15,43.

"Also in further remembrance of the above named John Greenwell, Esq. For upwards of 40 years an active magistrate of the County of Durham who died on the 7th day of December, 1869, aged 84 years".

"And of his three sisters, Eleanor, Mary, and Elizabeth Greenwell Who after lives Full of good works and almsdeeds which they did Died at the several times and ages following:-

"Mary Greenwell on the 14th day of September, 1869, Aged 86 years.

"Elizabeth Greenwell on the 11th day of June, 1872, Aged 89 years.

"Eleanor Greenwell on the 10th day of April, 1873, Aged 96 years.

"All of whom lie in this churchyard.

"This tablet is enlarged and restored by their affectionate son and nephew, Thomas Greenwell, Esqr".

"These all died in faith". Hebrews 11, 13.

"The Hoary head is a crown of glory if it be found in the way of righteousness". Proverbs 16, 13.

On the east wall of the south aisle:-

1. A white marble on black slab -

"Sacred to the memory of the Reverend Joseph Thompson, Perpetual Curate of this parish during thirty-five years and upwards, who died on the 6th May, 1842, in the 73rd year of his Age. This tablet is erected as a memorial of esteem and respect by an old friend and parishioner".

12.

2. A white marble on a slate slab -

"M.S. Johannis Hutchinson, Civis Dunelm, ex hoc agre oriundi, fuit hic vir integer, pius, prudens, decessit et vita multo flebilio prid. Calend. Oct. A.D. mdcccxxxi., aet. lxiv., Maria uxor carissima ob. ivd., Oct. A.D. mdcccxliv., aet. lxxviii".

3. A brass tablet on marble slab -

"In memory of Alan William Hutchinson, of Hollingside, Durham, Born 17th January, 1799 Died 18th August, 1863".

On the south wall:-

1. A white marble; tablet -

"In memory of Mary, the wife of John Hutchinson, F.L.S. She died 12 July, 1851, aged 34 years".

2. A white marble on black slab -

"Sacred to the memory of George Hedley, of Burnopeside Hall, in this parish, who died at 66, Jesmond Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the 2nd day of July, 1886, in the 77th year of his age, and was interred in the family burial place at Newburn. He was the youngest son of William and Frances Hedley, and took a deep interest in establishing the claims of his father as the constructor of the first practically successful locomotive steam engine; as a landowner, coalowner, and magistrate, the subject of this memorial was well-known and greatly esteemed. Erected as a tribute of respect and affection by his brother, William Hedley, of Newton and Burnopeside Hall".

A white marble on black slab:-

"In loving memory of the Rev. John Dingle, M.A., for 29 years Vicar of Lanchester, who died March 12th, 1885, aged 72 years. The righteous hath hope in his death. This tablet is erected by his sorrowing parishioners".

3. White marble -

"In Memory of John and George, the sons of John and Elizabeth Maddison, of Hole House, near Allansford in this parish".

John the elder went to the Hague in 1761 as private secretary to Sir Joseph Yorke, Bart. (afterwards Lord Dover); from thence he proceeded to St. Petersburg in 1762, and on his return to London, in 1764, received an appointment in the General Post Office, in which department he discharged the duties of different official situations, and died at his apartments there, October the 24th, 1808, in the 67th year of his age.

George, the younger, also commenced his public life as secretary to Sir Joseph Yorke, Bart. after filling various diplomatic situations he was appointed Under Secretary of State for the Foreign Department in 1782, and Secretary of Legation under the Duke of Manchester, who negotiated the Peace of Paris in 1783, where he died suddenly August the 27th of that year, in the 36th year of his age.

"This monument was erected by their only sister, Eleanor, wife of Thomas Greenwell, of Broomshields, in this parish".

"Say, when wilt thou cease to complain,
O Derwent thine destiny cries;
Far off, on the bank of the Seine,
Thy darling, thy Maddison, lies".
"Derwent; An Ode".

4. White marble, with crest -

On a wreath a gryffon's head, coupéd [sable], and a coat-of-arms [Argent], a chevron, ermine, inter 3 gryffons' heads coupéd [sable].

"Sacred to the memory of Ralph Stephen Pemberton, Esquire, born in Monkwearmouth on the 20th June, 1780, second son of Richard Pemberton, Esquire, of Barnes, who departed this life on the 27th of February, 1847 in his 66th year. In 1820 he was High Sheriff for the county of Caermarthen, and in 1846 he was likewise High Sheriff for the county of Durham, and was a Justice of the Peace for this county. His life was adorned with unostentatious charity and disinterested benevolence to all around him. He was a zealous member of the Church of England, in whose communion he died, and whose services he piously and regularly attended up to the last moment that his health permitted.

"This monument was erected to his memory by his affectionate widow.

"Ann Mary Pemberton, widow of the above, died at York, December 2nd, 1862, in her 80th year, and is interred in this church".

Lanchester Church is lighted by 13 windows in the ground floor, and of these nine are stained memorial windows:-

1. Chancel -

East window of three narrow lights, containing 12 illustrations of the life of Christ - inscribed at the base :-

"This window is erected to the memory of Joseph Davison, Esq., died December 13, 1868, by his five children".

(This window was at one time filled with very old richly ornamented stained glass of Early English date (11.., - 11..), some portions of which still remain, and are now enclosed in frames - three in number - and placed against the large three-lighted chancel window. They are subjects from the life of our Lord, and are:-

a. (Representing the flight into Egypt!).

b. Represents the Adoration of the Magi (Matt. 11., 11), with the following inscription at the top - "Ecce Magi Deum Verum Ador".

c. (?).

2. Nave -

East window of south aisle - of three lights, containing representations of the Resurrection, and inscribed at the base:-

"In memory of the late Sir Thomas John Clavering, Bart., of Greencroft, in this parish, who died the fourth day of November Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-Three. This window was erected by a number of his friends and admirers".

(This window formerly contained in stained glass the arms of Tempest impaling Umfraville - now in west window).

3, 4, 5. Nave -

Three windows in south wall of south aisle - of two lights each. Contains 12 illustrations of the life of Christ - Christ before Pilate, Lifting of Christ's body from the Cross, Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, and Death of Christ, in the eastern one; the Transfiguration, the Feeding of Five Thousand, Christ's Baptism, and the Miracle of Turning Water into Wine in the centre; and the Magi (Wise Men) on their way to Bethlehem, their worshipping Christ, the Angel appearing to the Shepherds, and the Angel appearing to Mary at Nazareth in the western one; with the following inscription on a brass plate under the central window:-

"These windows were erected to the glory of God, and to the Memory of William and Frances Hedley, by their son, William Hedley, of Burnopeside Hall, in this parish, who, in so doing, was actuated, not only by filial feelings, but also by a desire to carry out the verbally expressed wish and intention of his brother George. Anno Domini 1887".

6. Nave - West window of south aisle - of one light, containing in the centre, in stained glass, the arms of Tempest (Argent, a bend engrailed, sable, between six martlets, sable) impaling umfraville (Gules, a cinquefoil between eight cross crosslets, or), this emblazon was removed hither from the east window of the south aisle in 1853.

7 and 8. Nave - Two windows in north wall of north aisle, of two lights each, containing scenes from Acts, chap. viii., ver. 27, 30; Acts, chap. vii., ver. 58 - 60; Acts, chap. 12, ver. 7-9; and Acts, chap. iii, ver. 2 - 9, in eastern; and from Acts, chap. xx, ver. 22 - 23; Acts, chap. ix, ver. 3 - 18; and Acts, chap. xxviii, in the western one; and on a brass plate between them:-

"To the; Glory of God and in memory of William Hedley, who died on the 13th of December, 1888, at Burnopeside Hall, in this parish, in the 81st year of his age, and was interred at the family burial-place at Newburn. These windows were erected by his nephews Edward Hedley and John Thomas Hedley as a tribute of affection. Anno Domini 1890".

9. Tower -

Window in west wall, of two lights, containing representations of the Good Samaritan and the faithful servant, and on a bronze at the bottom is inscribed:-

"In loving memory of Edward Hedley, who died at Burnopeside Hall, on the 18th October, 1897. This window was erected by his widow and children.

In the church are also four hatchments.

1. Over the south doorway of nave - bears the Tempest coat-of-arms (Argent, a bend engrailed sable, between three martlets, argent) with skull and crossbones beneath, and on a scroll between them - more iter ad vitam (Death is the way of life), the motto of the family, with the initials I.T. and the date 1762. This is the hatchment of Jane Tempest, of Old Durham, who was baptised in St. Nicholas', Durham, 19th June, 1707, and who died at Hamsteels Hall, 2nd August, 1762, aged 56, and was buried at Lanchester, 5th August, 1762.

Over the west window of south aisle was formerly a hatchment with similar coat-of-arms and motto, and the initials E.T. and date 1762. This was the hatchment of Elizabeth Tempest, second daughter of John and Jane Tempest of Old Durham; baptised at St. Nicholas', Durham 31st January, 1708, who died unmarried at Hamsteels Hall, 21st July, 1762, aged 55 years, and was buried at Lanchester 24th July, 1762.

16.

2. On the north wall of the ground floor of the tower - a hatchment bearing a shield quartered -

1. A chevron ermine; three griffons' heads coupé, sable (for Pemberton).

2. Or a chevron gules, between three --- heads.

3. Gules in a pond surrounded by a mound, a hind couchant all proper (for Hindmarch).

4. Or lion rampant gules.

Over all a shield - or two lions rampant, and ---.

3. On a south wall of the ground floor of the tower is a hatchment emblazoned - gules, and a bend sable on a canton, the red hand of Ulster (for Clavering).

Above the pointed arch, between the nave and tower, and on its eastern side, under the clock, is a square board bearing the Royal Arms of King George III., date 1767 and names of the then churchwardens:-

17. Ios Hull
Wm. Walton

ARMS
Church
Wardens

Sym Fawell, 67.
Forster Fairlam.

When the first church was erected at Lanchester we know not. The earliest portion of the present church dates back to the middle of the twelfth century, or to about 1150. But there must have been a sacred edifice at Lanchester long before that. As the site of a Roman Station and of a Saxon settlement, there was a population in the district for at least eight centuries before that date. We know from remains that have come to light that there were Christians among the Roman soldiers, the last of whom departed from Britain in a body in 410, and also that there were Christian places of worship in some of their stations. Whether such a church existed in, or outside the Roman Station at Lanchester or not, we have as yet no evidence, for the "camp" is as yet unexplored. It is not at all improbable that such a station did exist. When the Romans left the Saxons took their place. Whatever may have been the religious condition of the people prior to the seventh century, we know that after the establishment of the See of Lindisfarne in 6., the Christian evange spread over the north, and during the existence of the See of Hexham, 671-821, in which diocese Lanchester then was, churches and preaching stations were founded or established in most localities where there was any population. Lanchester then must have been one of those places to have an early Saxon Church. But of this church no visible signs remain. Not a stone, sepulchral or otherwise, remains, so far as can be seen, to witness its existence. The Rev John Hodgson, who as a young man was a schoolmaster at Lanchester from 1804 to 1806 - over a century ago - in his work, "Poems Written at Lanchester", published in 1808, in speaking of the church says; " There was in all probability a Saxon Church at Lanchester of which no remains now occur".

The oldest portion of the present church was built in the earlier part of the twelfth century, sometime between the years 1101 and 1145, when Henry 1., was King of England. This we know from the star ornament on the abacus on the north side of the chancel arch, which was a symbol of the reign of that monarch, and occurs in more than one church in the North of England.

The church as it stood in 1140, was a small stone structure, consisting of a chancel and nave only, with a southern porch, the main building being lighted by means of narrow round-topped windows, and under a high pitched roof. We have proof still existing that this church had no aisles, in the angle quoins which still exist at the north-west corner. It contained some richly ornamented architecture of the Norman Style (1066-1145), as it is called. Of this Norman church several portions still remain, as follows:-

- a. The chancel arch.
- b. The upper portions of the walls of the chancel.
- c. The jambs of the outer doorway of the southern porch.
- d. The hoodmoulding of the inner or south doorway.
- e. The arch of a recess, or canopy, of a mural tomb at the east end of the wall of the south aisle.

The jambs and the hoodmoulding and the canopy are all portions of one and the same doorway of the original southern porch.

The first recorded Rector of Lanchester - Henry by name - occurs in 1147, or soon after the date of erection of this church.

Towards the end of the twelfth century, or between the years 1180 and 1200 - forty or fifty years after the church was built - the church was enlarged by the addition of north and south aisles. This was done during the episcopate of Hugh Pudsey, Bishop of Durham, not many years before his death in 1194-5. The arcades with their pointed arches are very similar in character and style to the earlier parts of St. Cuthbert's Church, Darlington, which we know, from historical records yet in existence, to have been erected in the year 1192. Over all - nave and aisles - would be placed a high single-compass roof, or roof of one span, and the round-topped windows of the aisleless nave gave place to long lancet windows in the aisles, of which not one now remains.

When the nave arcades were erected, recourse was had to the Roman Camp, on the top of the hill, to the west of the village, where the neatly-dressed stones of the dilapidated Roman buildings proved of easy access and great value to the builders. It was at this time that the four large monolithic pillars which separate the north aisle from the nave were conveyed from the "Camp", where they had supported the arcade which ran round the Forum or Market Place. Each of them is a single stone 60 inches in diameter, and from 75 inches to 76 inches in height. Similar columns of Roman workmanship are found in the Churches of St. Pancras at Canterbury, Kent, St. Giles' at Chollerton, Northumberland, and at Reculvers, Kent.

It is also interesting to note that in the underground church of St. Clement's at Rome, are a most valuable series of frescoes or paintings, and one of them shows workmen dragging a monolithic stone, much like the columns in Lanchester Church, from a heathen temple to be re-erected in a Christian church.

To this same period (1180-1200) belongs the great south door of British oak - 74 inches in width and 96 inches in height to the top of its pointed apex - with its very beautiful and well-preserved ironwork.

To this same period, also, or to a little later (1190-1245) belong the three quarries of stained glass representing scenes in the life of our Lord - formerly in the east window, from whence they were removed in 1865, and now inserted in wooden frames against the three-light window at the west end of the south side of the chancel.

Early in the thirteenth century, some time between 1201 and 1225, the chancel was rebuilt and elongated. All its windows were long lancets with pointed trefoil scoinson arches inside. Of these, the fine but irregular triplet at the east end, and three others, but much shorter, now blocked up in the north wall, still remain.

The second recorded Rector of Lanchester occurs in 1221, 74 years after the record of the first. There were evidently others occurring in between these years, whose names have been lost.

In 1280 William de Wickwaine, Archbishop of York, was at Lanchester.

In 1283 Lanchester Church, which had previously been a rectory, was made Collegiate by Anthony Beck, Bishop of Durham, for a Dean and two assistant vicars, and seven Prebendaries, three of whom were to each find a Vicar Chaplain, and the other four were to support a Vicar in holy orders. The Dean was also to provide proper chaplains for the several chapels of ease (Esh, Medomsley, and Satley) in the parish.

The endowment is dated at Auckland on the 12th of the Kalends of October (i.e. on 30th September), and was confirmed by Hugh de Derlington, Prior of Durham, and the Convent of Durham, shortly afterwards.

Some of the chief articles for the regulation of the Collegiate establishment are sufficiently curious to justify me giving an abridgement of them in modern English:-

The Dean was to bear all charges of the Church, the repairing and upholding of the chancel, but not to be obliged to pay for the work of any new building.

He was also to retain the whole altarage of the church of Lanchester, viz., of offices for the dead, of sheaves, grain, and blades, called thrush tithes, mortuaries, wool, lambs, milk, calves, chickens, cocks and hens, pigs, lyne, hemp, hay, and all petty tithes, &c.

He was to direct all things relative to divine service, to make rules and amend them, and to taken special care that matins were sung daily for the benefit of the parishioners who were able to attend before they went to work.

Each Vicar going to and returning from church was to walk in a modest and grave pace, and when he entered the church was to humble himself before the cross, and pray, and after he had entered the choir, and before he entered into his stall, he had to bow himself before the high altar as a token of honour and reverence towards our Lord and his mother.

None of the Vicars were to brawle or chide either inside or outside the choir; but were to be silent, neither murmuring, gainsaying, nor contending with one another; neither were they to laugh, flear, stare, nor cast vagabound eyes towards the people in the church.

All the Vicars were to read and sing aloud, with a distinct and full voice, and were not to skip or cut short any word; but to make a good pause in the middle of every verse, beginning and ending together, &c.

None of the Vicars, unless with sufficient cause, were to enter or stay in a public-house, nor to exercise in any hurtful games as wrestling, dancing, etc., nor were they to frequent such sites as miracle players, &c., nor to give any assistance to such as practiced them.

None of the Vicars were to wander about upon the street, or to sit in the houses of any lay person in their clerical habit unless in performance of their duty.

Punishment was meted out to all offenders of these regulations.

To the respective prebends the following endowments were made:-

To the first prebend (called the Prebend of Esh or the Prebend of Cornsay), the farm fees of Esh, Cornsay, Hedley Hope, Hamsteels, Broomshields, and those arising from the lands of Matthew the Forester (now unknown).

To the second prebend (called the Prebend of Medomsley or of Kyo), the farm fees of Medomsley, Kyo, Housetrees, Bushblades, Billingside, Bradley and Crook [Hall].

To the third prebend (called the Prebend of Greencroft or of Butsfield), the farm fees of Greencroft, Holmside, Colpike, Steely, Butsfield, the Smith's land [now unknown], and Satley.

To the fourth prebend (called the Prebend of Langley or of Lanchester), the farm fees of Langley, Riding, Stobbilee, Burnhope, Broom, Notesteles, Lanchester, and Peche [Pea].

To the fifth prebend (called the Prebend of Conside or of Knitsley), the farm fees of Healeyfield, Consett and Knitsley.

To the sixth prebend (called the Prebend of Iveston), the farm fees of Iveston and Benfieldside.

To the seventh prebend (called the Prebend of Newbiggen), the farm fees of Moorlees, Newbigging, Hurbuck, and the Ford.

The churchyard and the church buildings were divided between the Dean and the Canons for their dwelling.

The stalls in the choir were also apportioned out as follows :-

On the South, the first, or western one, was for the Bishop "and his successors in token of pre-eminence", and the second, third and fourth, for the first, third, and seventh prebendaries respectively, on the north, the first, opposite the Bishop's was for the Dean, and below him, those of the second, fourth, fifth, and sixth prebendaries respectively.

Bishop Bek's foundation lead to extensive, various, and somewhat curious alterations and changes in the structure. In order to gain room for the stalls of the new dignitaries, recesses were formed in the side walls of the narrow chancel at its west end. On the north side the lower half of the western portion was pierced, but not completely, and the thickness of the wall arched over. In this recess were placed five stalls - for the Dean and the second, fourth, fifth, and sixth prebendaries respectively.

On the south side the recess was extended almost to the wallplate before it was arched over. Though the recesses differ in their proportion, both have arches of four orders. In the southern recess were placed four stalls - for the Bishop, and the first, third, and seventh prebendaries.

In the shallow wall of the southern recess was placed a beautiful, large, and very fine window of three lights in the early Geometrical Style, identical in design with those in the Galilee Chapel of Durham Cathedral.

In order to give a better light to the chancel "at eventide", the six brackets - three on each side - with human faces, were fixed in the easternmost walls. They had holes in their tops, in which were placed short iron sockets or candlesticks to hold the candles, and were used for carrying lights from 1283 until 15.., if not later. They are similar to those in Medomsley Church, and are also not unlike those decorating the wall arcading of the easternmost piers of Durham Cathedral.

To the same date belongs the very fine piscina basin which projects from the south wall of the chancel, as well as the niche behind it.

In Pope Nicholas's taxation, called also the Lincoln taxation, made in 1291, for the tenths granted to King Edward I., towards defraying the expense of an expedition to the Holy Land, Lanchester Collegiate Church, with its Dean and seven prebendaries, was valued at £90.13s.4d.

On the 13th of March, 1297-8 Pope Boniface VIII., confirmed the ordinance of Anthony Beck, Bishop of Durham, creating Lanchester a collegiate church.

At or very shortly after this period - certainly not later than 1300 - was erected a north vestry, built large and spacious enough to meet the requirements of the new order of things. It may or may not stand on the site of a previous but smaller structure. The present doorway between the chancel and vestry, with its fine piece of sculpture in its cinquefoil head of our Lord in Session, which is unique so far as the county of Durham is concerned, belongs to this date (1290-1300).

Early in the fourteenth century, or some time between 1301 and 1325, more important alterations took place in Lanchester Church. First the two easternmost windows on the south side of the chancel - tall lancet lights - were taken out and replaced by others of a richer kind in order to bring them into harmony with the westernmost window of Bishop Bek's time (1283-1310).

At the same time the south aisle, with its fine southern porch, were taken down. The aisle was widened by at least six feet, and its wall re-erected, and, as usual, heightened. The porch was practically taken to pieces, and re-erected, but not "as before". The coupled shafts or jambs of the outer arch were re-erected in their relative original position, but a new, lofty, pointed arch was erected upon them. The original arch, with their rich chevron moulding, was taken to form the arch or canopy of a recess in the south wall of the new aisle, which had been built to receive a contemporary effigy, while the richly moulded hood or label was re-jointed, and made to fit the pointed head of the new inner doorway.

On the 10th of August, 1303, King Edward I., on his way from Durham to Hexham, attended service at Lanchester Church, and made an offering of three shillings in honour of St. Lawrence, whose saint's day that was.

In consequence of the destructive raids of the Scots during their invasions of 1312, 1314, and 1315, into the North of England, a new taxation of the churches in the Diocese of Durham was made in the year 1318, and in this assessment Lanchester Collegiate Church was returned at £24.15s.8d. a decrease of £65.17s.8d. in the valuation of 1291, 27 years previously.

Between the years 1375 and 1400 the north aisle was taken down, widened, and heightened.

In the array of the clergy of the Diocese of Durham, held on Gilesgate Moor, 24th March, 1399-1400, John de Cockyn, Dean of Lanchester, attended with one lancer and three archers.

During the episcopate of Thomas Langley, Bishop of Durham from 1406 to 1438, that prelate issued a commission to inquire into the condition of the several churches of the diocese. Amongst those so enquired into was the collegiate church of Lanchester. It was found to be in a ruinous and miserable state, both as to the fabric itself, and its dependent offices. Orders were thereupon issued to put the whole into an efficient state of repair, and this was accordingly done forthwith. The tower, as documentary and internal evidence alike shows us, was at this time, i.e., shortly before 1430, newly built throughout; the materials of its predecessor, for such it must almost necessarily have had, being doubtless used up again in its construction.

The same prelate by his decree settled a dispute respecting the right of vending and distributing holy water in the villages of "Hamsteels, Corneshow [Cornsay], and Hedlie [now Hedley Hill and Hedley Hope]".

On the 27th February, 1461-2, Stephen Austell, who had been Dean of Lanchester since 1428, died, and was buried before the image of St. Catherine in the north aisle. The effigy in the recess in the south aisle is conjectured to represent him, but the sculpture and character of the figure annuls this, as already stated. Soon after his death Thurston Ryston, Rector of Stanhope [1461-1473], and William Southern, of Durham, Chaplain, conveyed [in 1462] two tenements and 18 acres of land in Greencroft to the churchwardens and parishioners of Lanchester, upon condition that the said churchwardens caused to be sung annually placebo et dirige (the vespers for the dead and the funeral psalms), with mass to be solemnly celebrated in the church of Lanchester for the soul of the late Dean on the anniversary of his death, viz., 27th February, and to find one light, which was to be kept burning before the image of St. Catherine.

Within 30 years later another Dean of Lanchester died, and was buried in the church. This was John Rudde, B.D., Austell's successor, who died 29th September, 1490, and lies buried under a large slab under the floor of the chancel, fixed to which is a brass bearing the following Latin inscription in black letter:-

Orate p' a'i'a mri Joh'es Rudde, in decretis baccalaurij.
Quond'm decani huius loci qui obilt xxix die Septembris.

Anno d'n'i M'ccclxxxx cui a'i'e p' piciet de
Amen

Which being translated is:-

Pray for the soul of Master John Rudde, Bachelor in degrees, who was Dean of this place, and who died the 29th day of September, in the year of our Lord 1490, upon whose soul God have mercy. Amen.

Between the years 1500 and 1520, the existing clerestory, the roof of chancel, nave and aisles, and the battlemented parapets of the aisles were added, and the three south windows in the south wall were inserted. The whole of which are specimens of the late Gothic, or debased style of architecture, a style or type just as much domestic as it was ecclesiastical.

On the 12th of July, 1430, Thomas Langley, Bishop of Durham, issued a monition to the Chaplains of the parochial chapels of the collegiate church of Lanchester, to warn their parishioners against carrying their weapons (clubs, sticks, swords, bows and arrows) with them to church, under the penalty of excommunication.

The oldest portion of the stall work in Lanchester Church, which remained until modern times, belonged to the half century from 1450 to 1500, and consisted of the ends of the stall, which remained in the chancel until 1905.

In the year 1535, a taxation of the churches was made, and in the Liber Regis or King's Book, Lanchester Collegiate Church is assessed at £49. 3s. 4d.

In 1545, Lanchester Collegiate Church, in common with the other religious institutions of the country, was dissolved. The Dean and the Prebends had pensions assigned to them. The Collegiate Church was reduced to a Perpetual Curacy. Small pensions were reserved for the Perpetual Curates of Lanchester [of £6], Esh [of £6. 13s. 4d.] and Satley [£1. 10s.]. All the rent of the Collegiate possessions, both lands and tithes were distributed under Crown grants to various persons. Lanchester Church remained a perpetual Curacy until 1834.

In 1553 the following pensions granted at the dissolution of Lanchester Collegiate Church in 1545 to the Dean and Prebendaries were paid:-

Prebends	Ann. value			Pension		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
William Knagge, Prebendary of Esh	8	13	4.	5	0	0
Richard Burnchaper Prebendary of Medomsley	7	6	2.	5	6	8.
John Mylmer, Prebendary of Greencroft	4	13	4.	4	13	4.
Lancelot Knagge, Prebendary of Langley	3	0	0.	2	0	0.
Prebendary of Healyfield	2	0	0.	-	-	-
William Frankland, Prebendary of Iveston	5	6	8.	3	0	0.
Prebendary of Newbiggin	2	10	0.	-	-	-
Robert Hyndmer, Dean	43	0	0.	20	0	0.
Total	76	9	6.	40	0	0.

Lanchester Parish Registers commence in 1560. The date of the earliest burial is 3rd November, 1560; earliest baptism, 15th December, 1560; and earliest marriage, 3rd June, 1561.

In 1569 occurred the Rebellion of the Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland, and the attempt to restore the Roman Catholic service and ceremonies in the churches of Durham, &c. The Perpetual Curate of Lanchester - Richard Milner - took part in it, and for so doing was cited at the Ecclesiastical Court and punished.

The oldest portion of the Communion service at Lanchester - the cover of the Communion cup or chalice - bears the date 1521.

In 1575 one James Walton, of Lanchester, was cited at the Ecclesiastical Court at Durham, for laying violent hands on, and assaulting, the Rev. Richard Milner, a Perpetual Curate, in the churchyard, and was punished.

The first recorded churchwardens of Lanchester occur in 1577. They were John Dryden, John Snaith, Robert Marley, and William Greenwell. Thomas Robinson was then Parish Clerk.

The earliest Churchwarden's Account Book at Lanchester began in 1599, and contained records thenceforth up to 1645.

In 1600 mention is made in the Churchwarden's Books of a clock in Lanchester Church. In 1609 repairs were made to the bell in Lanchester Church. Curfew was rung every night at this time. In 1613 Lanchester Church was altered and repaired at a cost of £50. 8s. 1d., obtained by a church rate of 5s in the pound. The total rateable value of Lanchester Parish (including Esh, Medomsley and Satley chapelries) was £184.

In 1630 the floor of Lanchester Church was flagged. In 1631 two pewter flagons were purchased for the use of the church at a cost of 8s 6d. In 1632 the old sundial above the south entrance of the church was repaired. In 1639 a couple of chains for chaining the book to the reading desk was purchased at a cost of 7s 6d.

In 1643 the civil war broke out, and episcopacy was abolished. In January, 1645, the Book of Common Prayer was abolished by the House of Commons, and a new Book called the Directory substituted. In December, 1646, a new confession of faith was substituted for the 39 articles, and Presbyterianism established in place of Anglicanism. The bishops and clergy who refused to conform were expelled from their livings. Among the rest was Thomas Thompson, Perpetual Curate of Lanchester since 30 September, 1635, and in his place a sectarian or intruder was thrust in by Parliament. Between 1646 and 1660 the names of at least three intruders occur - Patrick Duncan, Richard Frankland, William Cornforth, and Josias Dockwray.

In 1649 Timothy Whittingham, of Holmside, offered to give 6d a Sunday to each of any five ignorant poor persons who attended Lanchester Church every Sunday, and remained during the whole of the service, and were judged by the preacher to have remembered most of the sermon, but his kindly offer had no effect, and was abandoned.

In 1653 John Plumpton, of Greencroft, was appointed Parish Registrar of Lanchester, and all the entries of Publications and Marriages, Births, etc., in the Registers from 1653 to 1659 are in his hand-writing.

In 1660 the Monarchy and Espiscopacy was restored, and the expelled clergy returned to their livings, or others in Anglican Orders took the place of the intruders.

In 1673 the pulpit, reading desk, and clerk's pew were ordered to be set back to the first pillar of the middle alley of the south side of the church, whence they had been removed in the late rebellious times.

In 1683 repairs, including walls, belfry, and mending the great bell were made at a cost of £71.3s.4d.

In 1691 the bells were repaired by a church rate of 6s.8d. in the pound, and repairs were made to the church by a church rate of 11s.8d. in the pound.

In 1697 the Venerable Robert Boothe, Archdeacon of Durham, made an official visitation of Lanchester Church, and admonished the churchwardens to erect rails before the communion table, to whiten the interior of the Church, and repair the seats, and recommended that Mr. Widdrington (the impropiator) should repair the chancel (then out of repair).

In 1706 a new clock made by George Wheatley, a local mechanic, was erected in the tower, in place of the clock which had existed since 1600 and before. Wheatley's clock remained until 190..

In 1717 the vestry on the north side of the chancel was erected at a cost of £13.5s.0d. by Roger Graham, the first stone being laid on June 13th. It still exists, and occupies the site of an older, smaller, and lower structure.

In 1723 the executors of the will of Nathaniel Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham (1674-1722), who bequeathed £10. to each of 12 poor livings, ordained that Lanchester should receive £10. a year for one.

In 1730 the Rev. Robert Richarby gave a Paten or desk for the Holy Bread for Holy Communion to Lanchester Church.

In 1733 the Parsonage House of Lanchester (the house near the church gates) was rebuilt at a cost of £46.2s. from money obtained by public subscription.

In 1733 Mr. Ralph Widdrington, the Impropiator of Lanchester living, having ceased paying the pension of £17.6s.8d. a year granted in 1547, the Rev. Miles Patrick, Perpetual Curate of Lanchester, filed a petition in Chancery against him for the payment of pension and arrears, and obtained both.

In 1742 the total income of Lanchester living was £57.12s., that of Esh £15.9s.6d., and Satley £10.2s.6d. - in all £83.4s., the three (now separate livings) being held by one clergyman.

In 1749 a new bell, weighing 12 cwt., was cast this year, and hung up in the tower in place of an old bell, weighing 7 cwt., which was sent to be melted down.

In 1762 a new pulpit and reading desks, costing 16 guineas, were placed in the church. Miss Jane Tempest, of Hamsteels Hall, gave two silver communion plates to the church in the same year.

On a Sunday in June, 1765, five men, whose united ages amounted to 507 years - the youngest of them being 100 - partook of Holy Communion in Lanchester Church.

In 1765 the inside walls of the church, which had hitherto been bare, were covered with plaster at a cost of £10.7s.4d.

On April 11th, 1768, the parochial chapels of Esh and Satley, which had hitherto been dependent on Lanchester (the former occasionally, the latter wholly), were severed from it, and made a joint curacy under the patronage of the Perpetual Curate of Lanchester, in which state they remained until 1834.

In 1774 a new font was erected in the church, in place of the old Early English one, which had suffered great mutilations, a portion of which now lies in the south porch.

In 1773, on the division of Lanchester Common, six acres were allotted to the Perpetual Curate of Lanchester.

In 1792 the roof of the church was covered with lead, and the same year the boundaries of the parish (these comprising 41,890 acres) were ridden.

From 1804 to 1806 John Hodgson, afterwards the Rev. John Hodgson, "the historian of Northumberland", was schoolmaster at Lanchester, and sub-curate of Esh and Satley.

In September, 1834, Dr. Van Mildert, Bishop of Durham, confirmed the augmentation of Lanchester, Esh, Satley, &c., free of expenses, and by so doing made three separate livings with resident ministers, or titular vicars.

In 1893 an old pulpit - a magnificent piece of carved work - a screen, and a handsome brass eagle lectern were placed in the church, and dedicated on Sunday, 8th October, 1893.

Lanchester is a titular Vicarage in the Rural Deanery of Lanchester, Archdeaconry of Durham, and Diocese of Durham. Patron the Lord Chancellor.

The church was Rectorial up to 1283, Collegiate with a Dean and Seven Prebendaries from 1283 to 1547, a Perpetual Curacy from 1547 to 1834, and a Perpetual Curacy and Titular Vicarage since 1834.

The following is a list of the Rectors up to ----

Hervey, occurs in 1147.

Philip de St. Helena, occurs in 1221.

Alexander de Alverton, occurs in 1270; died in 1283.

John de Craven, appointed 1283.

The following were Deans of the Collegiate Church of Lanchester from 1283 to 1547:-

John de Craven, appointed 12th December, 1283.

William de Marclan, occurs in December, 1311.

William de Quycham, occurs 19th May, 1312.

John de Newbigging, 19th June, 1350.

John de Derby, 2nd August, 1369; resigned in 1383.

John Burgeys, 1383; resigned in 1399.

John de Cokyn, 18th May, 1399.

John Dalton, resigned in 1409.

William Patteson, 1409.

John Hunteman, S.T.B., (D.D.), 25th January, 1409-10; resigned in 1416.

John Suthwell, 12th July, 1416; resigned in 1417.

William Browne, 21st November, 1417.

William Aslaby, 1424.

Stephen Austell, 1428; died 27th February, 1461-2; buried at Lanchester.

John Rudd, B.D., 1462; died 29th September, 1490; buried in the chancel of Lanchester Church. Brass there.

Thomas Thomyoo, D.D., 1490.

27.

Lancelot Claxton, 7th April, 1496; died in 1532.

Robert Hyndmers, 2nd April, 1532; Last Dean; resigned in 1549 for a pension of £20. a year.

The following were Perpetual Curates of Lanchester from 1547 to 1834:-

Richard Mylner, occurs 21st July, 1562; died 16th May, 1586; buried at Lanchester; no memorial.

Miles Watmough, 31st January, 1586-7; died in 1624.

Robert Hunt, M.A., licensed 15th September, 1624.

Thomas Thompson, licensed 30th September, 1635.

Intruders during the Commonwealth (1649-16..) -

Patrick Duncan, 1649.

Richard Franklin, 1651.

William Cornforth, 1655.

Thomas Dockwray, 16..; deprived in 1662.

Jonas Dockwray, B.A., 1663; resigned in 1669.

John Martin, B.A., licensed 15th July, 1669.

Alexander Eagleston, licensed in 1682; resigned in 1686.

Thomas Scaife, 1686; resigned in 1694.

Robert Carr, 1694; resigned in 1695.

John Bryding, M.A., 1695; resigned in 1721.

Richard Richarby, licensed 10th September, 1721; died 1st September, 1731, aged ..; buried at Lanchester. No memorial.

Miles Patrick, licensed 17th September, 1731; died 13th August, 1744, aged 45; buried at Lanchester. Headstone there.

William Adey, licensed 14th September, 1744; died in 1778.

Robert Dent, 1778; died 9th October, 1796, aged .. years; buried at Lanchester.

Joseph Walker, 1796; died 27th October, 1806, aged 47 years; buried at Lanchester. Mural memorial tablet there.

Joseph Thompson, appointed December, 1806; died 6th May, 1842, aged 73 years. Buried at Lanchester. Headstone there, also mural memorial tablet.

John F. Fanshawe, M.A., 1842; resigned in 1856.

John Dingle, M.A., 1856; died 12th March, 1885, aged 72 years. Buried at Lanchester. Headstone there; also mural memorial tablet.

Frederick Ware Glyn, M.A., 1885; resigned in 1893; now Rector of Brancepeth.

George Jepson, M.A., 1893; resigned in 1903.

Robert Richard Fenning, B.A., 1904; present Titular Vicar.

No lists of the Prebendaries who held the Prebends in Lanchester Collegiate Church are now extant that I know of, nor is it possible to compile a complete list from existing documents, but the following names, gathered from many and varied sources, constitute a first list of the same.

FIRST STALL. -

Prebendary of Esh, value £13.6s.8d.

John de Lacy, occurs 1291.

Thomas de Nova Haya, occurs 1312.

John de Romana, occurs in 1318.

John de Derlington, occurs 13...

Alan de Newark, died in 1411.

Richard Cliffe, occurs in 1547.

William Knaggs, there at dissolution of college in 1547, had a pension of £5. which was paid in 1553.

SECOND STALL. -

Prebendary of Medomsley, value £16.13s.4d.

1. Thomas de Sudinton, occurs 1291.

2. Oliver Dayncourt, occurs in 1312 and 1318.

Richard Burncheper, there at dissolution of college in 1547, had a pension of £5.6s.8d. which was paid in 1553.

THIRD STALL. -

Prebendary of Satley, value £6.13s.4d.

1. Henry de Stanton, occurs in 1291.
2. John de Laci, occurs in 1312.
3. Adam de Osgotby, occurs in 1318.

Robert Darell, occurs in 1547.

John Mylner, there at Dissolution of College 1547, had a pension of £4.13s.4d. which was paid in 1553.

FOURTH STALL. -

Prebendary of Langley, value £6.13s.4d.

1. Egidino de Garderobe, occurs in 1291 and 1312.
2. Michael de Harcla, occurs in 1318.

Lancelot Knagg, there at Dissolution of College, 1547, had a pension of £2. which was paid in 1553.

FIFTH STALL. -

Prebendary of Consett or Helay. Value £6.13s.4d.

Roger de Clerk, occurs in 1291.

Richard de Eryum, appointed 15th March, 1311-12, there in 1323.

Reynold Hyndmer, occurs in 1347.

SIXTH STALL. -

Prebendary of Benfieldside, value £6.13s 4d.

1. Richard de Besage occurs in 1291.
2. Ralph Besage occurs in 1312.
3. Robert de Brompton occurs in 1318.

William Frankland there at dissolution of College in 1547, had a pension of £3., which was paid in 1553.