

The Churches of Cambridgeshire Arthur George Hill 1880  
Foxton.

The church, dedicated to S. Lawrence, is chiefly Early English, and is thus of interest; it consists of chancel, nave, aisles and west tower. To begin with the interior - the east window of the chancel consists of three fine Early English lancets, forming a triplet within, but separate without. They are deeply splayed, and united by banded shafts, four in all, each having a single band in the centre. The three lancets are of the same height, and their arches are finely moulded and exhibit dog-tooth in their hoods. The roof is too low at present, and cuts off the proper view of them, coming down as far as the points of the arches. On the north side, close to the east wall, is an Early English arched recess, now blocked up, which may once have been a credence, or a window. On the south side is a square recess, which contains two piscinae, now destitute of ornamentation, but which, no doubt, had formerly some tracery over the basins, as seems evident by the outside moulding. The original windows on the north side are gone, and two semi-circular headed 18<sup>th</sup>-century ones substituted for them, having single wooden mullions running up to the head. The south side has two two-light Decorated windows, the easternmost being plain, the western of good design.

Some original stall-work, with simple carved ends, remains as also a good chest. The present chancel arrangements, as regards the altar, fittings, &c, are of the most miserable and wretched type.

The roof is exceedingly good Perpendicular of a high pitch of four compartments, separated by collars, and having well carved cornices and corbels. It is of similar design to that at Hauxton, only larger.

There is no chancel arch remaining, the present substitute being an unsightly wooden framing. The lower part, and mullions of a good Perpendicular rood-screen, remain. The nave has three Early English bays to a side, which are very excellent in character. Each of the piers is formed of four elliptical-shaped engaged shafts, with a rib between them, and they are surmounted by Purbeck caps of a slightly later date. The arches are plainly chamfered. There is a clerestory of four windows to the side, having three lights each; the two western ones are the original Decorated, the rest being Perpendicular insertions. The roof is a good flat Perpendicular, with knots of carving in the centres of the principals. The original plain seats remain throughout.

The north aisle has a good Early English door at its western end, with double shafts in the jambs - this door has been restored. Here are two two-light Decorated windows, with finely-moulded and well-designed tracery.

The east window is a singularly good Early English specimen of three lights; and it contains some excellent, though fragmentary, remains of 14th-century glass.

In the south aisle the east window is noticeable three-light Decorated, with reticulated tracery. Here also are two two-light Decorated windows like those opposite. Both aisles have good roofs.

The tower-arch is Perpendicular, as also the three-light west window, but this portion possesses no particular interest. The font is Early English, but has been very badly restored. The old rood-stairs still remain

We will now notice the exterior. The tower is of three stages, and has four two-light Perpendicular windows in the top stage. The whole church is in a bad state, and needs restoration. The bottom of the chancel wall has been patched with brick, and there are slanting brick supports at the east end. The gargoyles are of lead. There is a south porch of 18<sup>th</sup> century brick-work, with an inner Perpendicular door. At the present time there are no monuments or reliques of interest in the church, but Cole mentions an old stone coffin, which laid in the north aisle, taken from some part of the

church or churchyard.

He also gives the following arms " in ye upper window on the south side of ye church."

1. Quarterly i and iv gu. a lion ramp.arg.  
ii and iii arg.three cinquefoils gu
2. . Quarterly I and iv az. a fess dancettè between three escallops arg.  
ii and iii gu. a lion ramp. arg.
3. Or, three chevrons gu. - Clare
4. Gu. three crowns or. - See of Ely

He also mentions " in a window within a chapel on ye north side of ye church 'Thomas de Foxton me fecit.'"

In Cole's time there was a proclamation by James II. put up in the church for curing of the "kings-evil" as also the following by Archbishop Sancroft -

ALL PARSONS VICARS AND CURATES ARE HEREBY  
REQUIRED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT YE FEAST OF ST.  
MATTHIAS IS TO BE CELEBRATED (NOT UPON YE 25 OF  
FEBRUARY, AS YE COMMON ALMANACKS BOLDLY AND  
ERRONEOUSLY SIT IT, BUT) - UPON YE 24 OF FEBRUARY FOR  
EVER, WHETHER IT BE LEAP YEAR OR NOT, AS YE  
CALENDAR IN YE LITURGIE, CONFIRMED BY YE ACT OF  
UNIFORMITY APPOINTS AND ENJOYS.  
GIVEN AT LAMBETH HOUSE, FEB 5, A.D. 1683.  
"W. CANT."

Originally there was a slab bearing the following inscription in brass -

"HERE LYETH THE BODY OF JOHN FULLER WHO  
DEPARTED IN APRILL 1588 WHO MARRIED  
DOROTHY DAUGHTER OF THOMAS CHICHELEY OF  
WIMPOLE ESQ. BY MARYAN HIS SECOND WIFE THE  
DAUGHTER OF HUSSEY OF LINCOLNSHIRE: THE  
WHICH THOMAS CHICHELEY AND OF ALICE HIS WIFE  
THE DAUGHTER OF BRUGES GRANDFATHER TO  
THE FIRST LORD CHANDOS: THE WHICH WILLIAM  
THE SONNE OF HENRY THE SONNE OF JOHN,  
THE SONNE OF WILLIAM WHO WAS BROTHER TO  
HENRY ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY AND ROBERT  
CHICHELEY TWICE MAYOR OF LONDON THE  
SONNES OF THOMAS CHICHELEY OF HIGHAM  
FERRERS."

Above were the arms-

1. Or, a chevron between three cinquefoils gu. For Chicheley, impaling arg. on a cross sab. a leopard's face, or, for Bruges.
- 2 Chicheley pale with Hussey - Barry of six, erm. and gu.
- 3 Fuller pale with Chicheley.
- 4 Gu. a. fess cheque or and az. between three lozenges of the second, charged

with as many martlets sab.; quartered with five martlets in cross - for Brakin.

"At ye top of ye first north window" was "a compleat and neat crucefix but small," there was "a pretty deal of painted glass in ye rest of ye. windows, but much broken."

In the chancel windows were formerly the following coats:-

1. Gu. a chevron erm. Between three trefoils slipped - for Meade
2. Arg. Three bars and a canto gu. a crescent sab. For difference.

*Vicars.*

1271. ---- Gamielis, vicarius  
1377. Dnš Thomas, vicarious.  
1393. William de Lyttington.  
1404. John Chukwold.  
1407. Robert Beche.  
1445. John Baldwin.  
1456. Gilbert Ebchestre.  
1465. John Rich.  
1466. Indulg. Pro repař eccliā.  
1463. Edmund Haggis.  
1497. Robert Barton.  
---- Richard Bryket.  
1539. Robert Wright.  
1547. John Clarke.  
1552. John Gray.  
1554. Robert Holt.  
---- Reuben Hulse.  
1572. George Ander.  
---- Henry Brampton.  
1595. Ditto. He was rated for his vicarage, jointly with the vicar of Shepreth to raise 1 pike furnished.  
1663. Stephen Norton. It appears that Bishop Wren grants a warrant to one of this name, to officiate in Foxton church, and to take all profits of the living, and if any refuse to pay him, to certify their names in the Chancellor's Court. Thus it seems that he was instituted.  
1682. 13 June. Thomas Leech, S.T.B.  
1691. 20 Feb. William Smith, S.T.B.  
1696. 23 June. William Woodroffe.  
1697. 15 March. Thomas Shikes. Cedente W. Smith.  
1722. 26 July. Licentia non residendi concessa Thomae Shikes proper malam ejus valetudinem, durante bene placito Epi.  
---- George Birker takes his duty.  
1763. ----- Davy, M.A.  
1764. ----- Rand, M.A.  
1769. ----- Purkis.  
1835. J.W. Berry.

1878. H.G. Whittington.

Foxton vicarage. S. Lawrence. "Valet in regiis libris £11 12s. 11d. Solvit Xmas £1 2s. 3½d. Procuŕ 5s 5d. Vicaria ejusdem £0. 1s. 3d." " Eccliã de Foxton appropriatur priori et gtui Eliensi. Est vicarius ad collacoẽm Epi Elien."

1291. " Eccliã de Foxtone taxatur ad  $\frac{40}{1}$  m. Decimatur Lxvj<sup>s</sup> xvij<sup>d</sup>

1290-1. " Eccliã de Foxtone taxatur ad £21 13s. 4d. Vicaria ejusdem 5<sup>t</sup>."

1561. June 10. "Decanus et capitulum eccliãe cath Elien sunt proprietarij eccliãe de Foxton. Dnš Robertus Holt est vicarius ibm."

In 1377 Foxton church had the privileges of sanctuary, and we are told that it was violated by certain persons, who seized the refugee and cast him into prison, for which act they were excommunicated.