

Church.

The church of Wanborough with its tithes and some land attached to it was among those granted by St. Osmund to Salisbury Chapter in 1091. (fn. 240) It was still held by the chapter in 1146, but apparently not in 1158. (fn. 241) The advowson was presumably included in the grant of the church to the chapter but its descent over the next 200 years is obscure. It may have passed to the overlords of the main manor of Wanborough, the counts of Perche, and from them to the Cluniacs of Nogent-le-Rotrou (Eure-et-Loir), for whom the counts had a special devotion. (fn. 242) It was not among the possessions of that house confirmed in a bull of 1182, (fn. 243) but in 1290 the Prioress of Amesbury asserted that Nogent-le-Rotrou had held the advowson of Wanborough for 100 years and had then granted it to her. (fn. 244) She was at the time claiming it against the lord of the manor, Stephen Longespée, who had, she alleged, wrongfully presented to the church some years earlier. (fn. 245) Six years later, however, in 1296 it seems to have been established that the advowson belonged to the overlords of Wanborough, for that year the Earl and Countess of Lincoln conveyed it to Amesbury Priory. (fn. 246) The rectory was probably appropriated by the priory shortly after this. (fn. 247) In 1305 the abbey of Fontevault, the mother house of Amesbury, unsuccessfully claimed to present a vicar to the church. (fn. 248) Amesbury continued to present until the Dissolution, although in 1523 the convent leased the advowson with the rectory to Anthony Fetiplace for 61 years. (fn. 249) After the Dissolution rectory and advowson were granted in 1541 to the Dean and Chapter of Winchester. (fn. 250) John Snowe of Wilcot and Ellis Wyn of Winchester presented in 1543 and 1551 respectively, probably as farmers of the rectory. (fn. 251) In 1639, however, the lease of the rectory estate to Henry Hedges expressly excluded the right of presentation. (fn. 252) The queen was patron by lapse in 1583. (fn. 253) The chapter continued as patrons until 1908 when they transferred their rights to the Lord Chancellor. (fn. 254)

In 1291 the appropriated rectory was valued for taxation at £20 (fn. 255) and it was reckoned to be worth the same in 1535. (fn. 256) At the later date payments of 5s. 5d. to the lord of the manor and 20s. to the Vicar of Wanborough were charged upon it. In 1341 a ninth of the value of corn, wool, and lambs was reckoned to be £15. (fn. 257) The title of certain meadows valued at £6 6s. 8d. also belonged to the rectors at this date. During the 16th and 17th centuries the great tithes were leased by the lessees of the rectory estate. In 1649 the tithes due to the farmer of the estate were valued at £135 12s. 6d. and comprised all the great tithes in the parish except those from Earls court and Hide Field, which belonged to the vicar. (fn. 258) All the rectorial tithes were extinguished by the Inclosure Act of 1779 when land was allotted to the appropriators in their stead. (fn. 259)

Some land was already attached to the church when it was granted to Salisbury Chapter in 1091. (fn. 260) In 1341, by which date the church had been appropriated by Amesbury Priory, it was reckoned that the rectorial estate with all its profits was worth £8 12s. 2d. (fn. 261) In 1649 it comprised 69 a. of arable, 11a. of pasture, a rectory house and farm buildings, 2 cottages, and grazing for 23 cows or horses. It was valued at £180 but was charged with certain payments totalling £23. (fn. 262) An account of the descent of this property is given above. (fn. 263)

In 1291 the vicarage was valued at £5. (fn. 264) In 1535 its value, which lay in land, tithes, a payment of 20s. from the rector, and other emoluments, was reckoned to be £21 10s. 6d. net. (fn. 265) It was valued at £100 in 1649 (fn. 266) and in 1835 the average net income of the benefice was £375. (fn. 267) By 1649 besides the lesser tithes, the vicar had the great tithes of Earls court and Hide Field (fn. 268) and by 1672 he also had the great tithes from a few other scattered fields. (fn. 269) All the vicarial tithes, except the great tithes from Earls court and Hide Field, were extinguished by the Inclosure Act of 1779 when land was given as compensation. (fn. 270) The tithes from Earls court and Hide Field were commuted for a rent-charge of £25 2s. 9d. in 1843. (fn. 271)

Most of the vicar's glebe in 1672 lay in East Field and amounted to over 30 a. (fn. 272) By 1887 the acreage had increased to 84 a. (fn. 273) Further additions were made before 1912, principally by the purchase of Mount Pleasant Farm in Little Hinton. (fn. 274) In 1925 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners purchased 165 a. of glebe for £4,050. (fn. 275)

In 1668 it was said that a former vicar had allowed the vicarage house to fall into disrepair and had added to it without licence from the bishop. (fn. 276) The house was said to be in good repair in 1686. (fn. 277) In 1812 the curate was living in the vicarage house which was described as 'new and small'. (fn. 278) The vicarage house of 1966, built in part of the grounds of the early-19th-century house, was designed by Oswald Brakspear and erected in 1959. (fn. 279)

At a visitation in 1584 the minister was reported for not wearing a surplice. (fn. 280) Two years later the offence was again noted. (fn. 281) Not until 1595 apparently was the fault remedied when the churchwardens paid 10s. to the incumbent of Little Hinton for a surplice. (fn. 282) In 1668 the churchwardens presented themselves for failing to provide a Book of Homilies and a Book of Canons. (fn. 283) The homilies were still wanting in 1674. (fn.

[284](#)) Preachers at the church in 1686 were said to be so well known that it was unnecessary to keep a register of their names and licences. The vicar at the time was resident and had a curate. The parishioners attended well on Sundays and other days, as commanded by law, but not on saints' days. Most behaved with decency during service except two or three old men who, in cold weather, wore their hats during the sermon. [\(fn. 285\)](#) A century later services were held on Sunday mornings and afternoons and prayers were said on Wednesdays and Fridays before Sacrament Sundays. Communion was celebrated five times a year when 20 or 30 people attended. The church was then served by a curate who lived in Swindon; the vicar lived at Chiddeston (Hants). [\(fn. 286\)](#) In 1812 the church was served by a resident curate who also served the church of Little Hinton. Services were then held only once on Sundays in winter, but twice in summer. [\(fn. 287\)](#) Some 30 persons attended Communion four times a year. By 1851 services were held on Sunday mornings and afternoons, and on Census Sunday that year 180 people were present in the morning and 200 in the afternoon. [\(fn. 288\)](#)

In the 15th century there was a chantry with a priest at the altar of St. Mary in the church. In 1434 Nicholas Palmer and Agnes his wife released the advowson of this to Sir Walter Hungerford and others. [\(fn. 289\)](#) Churchwardens' accounts for 1530–1640 and 1735–68 survived until the 19th century and were transcribed. [\(fn. 290\)](#) They include information about various lights in the church which were supported either by alms or property. In c. 1541–2 All Souls light was endowed with 4s., 2 sheep, and a lamb. [\(fn. 291\)](#) Somewhat later Our Lady's light had, besides a small sum of money, the income from a few sheep and a cow. [\(fn. 292\)](#) By 1566 the churchwardens were responsible for a church house which was let for 6s. 8d. [\(fn. 293\)](#) and from 1591 they accounted regularly for the Whitsun church ale. [\(fn. 294\)](#)

The church of *ST. ANDREW* occupies a commanding position at Upper Wanborough, the ground falling away steeply to the south and west. It is built largely of local chalk-stone and consists of a chancel with a vestry to the north of it, an aisled nave, north and south porches, and a west tower. It possesses some of the features of a cruciform plan, having an extra bay between nave and chancel, divided from both by transverse arches. Above this bay or 'crossing' rises a slender hexagonal tower with a stone spire. Flanking the crossing are small 'transepts', which are divided from the aisles by arches but do not project beyond their outer walls. The south transept contains an original piscina and is now used as a chapel with a modern dedication to St. Katherine. Above the crossing small additional arches to north and south help to provide a square support for the tower. Both tower and spire have windows on each face, giving light to the area below. All this work dates from the 14th century when the rest of the nave, which is of four bays, was also rebuilt. It is possible that the curious arrangement between nave and chancel perpetuates the plan of an earlier cruciform church. The only survivals from the earlier building are the Norman font and some re-used stones in the walls of the nave. It has been suggested that the north doorway of the nave, with its elaborate 14th-century carving to arch and jambs, was brought from the former chapel of St. Katherine at Wanborough. [\(fn. 295\)](#)

The chancel, the north porch, and the embattled west tower of three stages were built in the 15th century. A brass plate on the tower records that it was begun in 1435, mentioning Thomas Polton, his wife Edith, and others as benefactors. Various legendary explanations have been given for the existence of two towers to the church, one at each end of the nave. It was not uncommon, however, for imposing west towers to be added to parish churches in the 15th century, largely in order to accommodate the number of bells then thought necessary. [\(fn. 296\)](#) In the case of Wanborough the earlier and smaller tower may have continued to house the sanctus bell. The present chancel is of later-15th-century date and it is possible that a rebuilding of the nave in the same style, involving the demolition of the central tower, was contemplated but never carried out. At some period after the west tower was in existence the nave roof was given a lower pitch; [\(fn. 297\)](#) it may have been at this time that a shallow clerestory was added. The clerestory no longer contains windows although one window on the north side survived into the 19th century. [\(fn. 298\)](#)

A restoration of the church was carried out in 1887 during which internal whitewash and plaster were removed, revealing 15th-century wall paintings; [\(fn. 299\)](#) one of these, depicting the Entry into Jerusalem, has been preserved on the north wall of the nave. Monuments in the church include a brass with figures of Thomas Polton and his wife Edith (both d. 1418) and a mural tablet with a long inscription which probably commemorates Anthony Hinton (d. 1598). [\(fn. 300\)](#) A tablet in the vestry is in memory of Thomas Gray (d. 1725). Housed in the south porch are two incomplete stone effigies of the 14th century. A painted notice in the north porch requests all 'females' to take off their pattens on entering the church.

In 1370 the church possessed a portas, a psalter, and a corporal which had recently been stolen by a former servant of the vicar. [\(fn. 301\)](#) The king's commissioners took 17 oz. of plate in 1553 and left a chalice weighing 9 oz. [\(fn. 302\)](#) In 1966 the plate comprised a chalice and cover of 1577, a paten of 1690, and a flagon of 1615, the gift of Martha Hinton of Earls court. [\(fn. 303\)](#)

Four bells and a sanctus bell were delivered to the king's commissioners in 1553. In 1966 there were 6 bells and a sanctus bell. Three dated from the later 17th century, two from the 18th century, and one from 1950 when all the bells were recast or retuned. The sanctus bell dates from 1783. [\(fn. 304\)](#) The registers begin in 1582 and are complete except for the years 1653–65 in the register of baptisms, 1651–1665 in the marriage register, and 1653–65 in the burial register. [\(fn. 305\)](#)

A chapel dedicated to St. Katherine was founded in 1270 by Emily Longespée (d. c. 1276), widow of Stephen Longespée, lord of the manor. (fn. 306) She endowed it with a small estate to support two chaplains and a clerk who were to say matins and vespers and celebrate mass daily. (fn. 307) The senior chaplain was apparently appointed for life and was called warden, the other was said to be 'elected'. (fn. 308) Further small grants followed, including some land for extensions to the chapel. (fn. 309) In 1280, when more land was granted, another priest was added who was to spend 1 mark each year upon clothing the poor and was to distribute 20s. in alms. (fn. 310) In 1329 more property was granted by Robert of Wanborough for the maintenance of another chaplain. (fn. 311) At the time of Robert's death in c. 1334 there seem to have been proposals to use some of the land for a new foundation to support two chaplains either in the parish church or in St. Katherine's chapel, to pray for the overlord of the manor, for John of Wanborough, Robert's brother, and the souls of Emily Longespée, Robert of Wanborough, and Robert of Hungerford. (fn. 312) Nothing more is heard of these proposals and in 1336 the chapel's endowments were maintaining two chaplains and a warden following the rules of the original foundation and celebrating mass for the Bishop of Salisbury and members of the Wanborough family. (fn. 313) Obits were also kept in the chancel of the chapel for Emily Longespée and Robert of Wanborough. (fn. 314)

By agreement with the rectors of the parish church offerings made at the chapel could be retained on condition that none of the parishioners was admitted to the sacraments. (fn. 315) In 1273 the chaplains were exempted from archidiaconal jurisdiction (fn. 316) and at about the same time from all exactions of the overlord. (fn. 317)

The advowson of the chapel descended from the founder to successive lords of the manor of Wanborough, (fn. 318) although in 1361 the Bishop of Salisbury presented. (fn. 319) In 1483 Francis, Viscount Lovel, sold the chapel and its estate to William Waynflete, Bishop of Winchester. (fn. 320) In the same year Waynflete conveyed the property to Magdalen College, Oxford. The last recorded presentation of a warden was made that year, (fn. 321) although college fellows continued to preach there on St. Katherine's Day and at other times. (fn. 322) Offerings were still made there in 1535 (fn. 323) but the chapel was otherwise little used and was probably demolished in 1549. (fn. 324)

The chapel stood within Emily Longespée's court, and a chamber and wardrobe for the priests and for the chapel ornaments were built nearby 'in her courtyard near the marsh on the south side of the granary'. (fn. 325) The wardrobe was built on the south side of the court, with ditches on both sides connected to the marsh. (fn. 326) Access to the chapel in 1292 was by a gate between the 'great fishpond' and the boundary of the warden's property. (fn. 327) It seems likely, therefore, that the chapel was situated on the moated site at Cold Court at the Marsh, more than a mile north-west of the parish church. (fn. 328) It was evidently of considerable size, having a chancel and more than one altar. An inventory of goods taken from the chapel to the vicarage house in 1484 included at least eight service books, a silvergilt chalice engraved with the Lovel arms, various vestments and ornaments, and a casket of relics including the girdle of St. Katherine with her vial of holy oil. (fn. 329)

In 1334 Maud de Holand, great-grand-daughter of the founder, gave a rent of 14 marks from her manor of Market Lavington to the Warden of St. Katherine's to celebrate masses for herself and her husband in the chapel of St. Mary, presumably in St. Katherine's chapel. (fn. 330) After 1368 this rent was payable by Edington Priory. (fn. 331) Magdalen College successfully defended its right to it in 1496 (fn. 332) and the property was valued at £9 6s. 8d. in 1535. (fn. 333)

¶ It has been said that there was a chapel dedicated to St. Ambrose at Hall Place and its existence is supported by the survival of the name as a fieldname. (fn. 334)

- 240. *Reg. St. Osmund* (Rolls Ser.), i. 199; *V.C.H. Wilts.* iii. 157.
- 241. *V.C.H. Wilts.* iii. 159 and n. 43.
- 242. *W.A.M.* xxxv. 95.
- 243. *Chart. of Nogent-le-Rotrou*, ed. C. Metais, 226–31.
- 244. W. Prynne, *Supreme Eccl. Jurisdiction*, iii. 438.
- 245. *Ibid.*
- 246. *Feet of F. Wilts. 1272–1327* (W.A.S. Rec. Brch.), 42.
- 247. *V.C.H. Wilts.* iii. 250.
- 248. Phillipps, *Wilts. Inst.* i. 6.
- 249. *Doc. rel. to Winchester Chapter, 1541–7* (Hants Rec. Soc.), 101.
- 250. *Ibid.* 73; *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xvi, p. 147.
- 251. Phillipps, *Wilts. Inst.* i. 210, 215.
- 252. *W.A.M.* xli. 29–31.
- 253. Phillipps, *op. cit.* 231.
- 254. *Lond. Gaz.* 6 Oct. 1908 (p. 7203).

- [255](#). *Tax Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 190.
- [256](#). *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), ii. 94.
- [257](#). *Inq. Non.* (Rec. Com.), 163.
- [258](#). *W.A.M.* xli. 29–31.
- [259](#). Wanborough Incl. Act, 19 Geo. III, c. 75 (priv. act).
- [260](#). *Reg. St. Osmund* (Rolls Ser.), i. 199.
- [261](#). *Inq. Non.* (Rec. Com.), 163.
- [262](#). *W.A.M.* xli. 29–31.
- [263](#). See p. 178.
- [264](#). *Tax Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 190.
- [265](#). *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), ii. 126.
- [266](#). *W.A.M.* xli. 29–31.
- [267](#). *Rep. Com. Eccl. Revenues*, H.C. 54, p. 852 (1835), xxii.
- [268](#). *W.A.M.* xli. 29–31.
- [269](#). Sar. Dioc. R.O. Glebe Terrier, 1672.
- [270](#). Wanborough Incl. Act, 19 Geo. III, c. 75 (priv. act).
- [271](#). Tithe Award, *penes* the vicar.
- [272](#). Sar. Dioc. R.O. Glebe Terrier, 1672.
- [273](#). *Retn. of Glebe*, H.C. 307, p. 66 (1887), lxiv.
- [274](#). Abstract of Title, *penes* the vicar.
- [275](#). Ex inf. Principal Officer, Ch. Com.
- [276](#). Sar. Dioc. R.O. Chwdns.' Pres. 1668.
- [277](#). *Ibid.* 1686.
- [278](#). *W.A.M.* xli. 136.
- [279](#). Ex inf. the vicar.
- [280](#). Sar. Dioc. R.O. Ep. Vis. 1584, f. 21.
- [281](#). *Ibid.* 1586, f. 42v.
- [282](#). Phillipps, *Collectanea*, 823.
- [283](#). Sar. Dioc. R.O. Chwdns.' Pres. 1668.
- [284](#). *Ibid.* 1674.
- [285](#). *Ibid.*
- [286](#). *Ibid.* Vis. Queries, 1783.
- [287](#). *W.A.M.* xli. 136.
- [288](#). H.O. 129/250/2/3/5.
- [289](#). C.P. 25(1)/257/62/29.
- [290](#). Phillipps, *Collectanea*, 819–33.
- [291](#). *Ibid.* 820.
- [292](#). *Ibid.*
- [293](#). *Ibid.* 822.
- [294](#). *Ibid.* 821.
- [295](#). *Guide* to church. For St. Katherine's chapel see below.
- [296](#). A similar arrangement is found at Purton where a 14th-century central tower survived the building of a west tower in the 15th century.
- [297](#). The line of the steeper roof is visible on the east face of the tower.
- [298](#). Watercolour of 1810 by John Buckler in W.A.S. Libr., Devizes, see pl. facing p. 182.
- [299](#). *Guide* to church.
- [300](#). *Ibid.*; Pevsner, *Wilts.* (Bldgs. of Eng.), 487.
- [301](#). J.I. 3/161 mm. 16, 20d.
- [302](#). Nightingale, *Wilts. Plate*, 191–2.
- [303](#). *Ibid.*; *W.A.M.* xli. 136.
- [304](#). *W.A.M.* i. 93–94; Walters, *Wilts. Bells*, 225–6; *Guide* to church.
- [305](#). Ex inf. the vicar.
- [306](#). See pp. 176, 177.
- [307](#). Magdalen Coll. Oxford, Wanborough deeds, 66a. and see p. 177.
- [308](#). *Ibid.* 22, 23.
- [309](#). See pp. 177–8.
- [310](#). Magdalen Coll. Oxford, Wanborough deeds, 65a.
- [311](#). *Ibid.* 3.
- [312](#). *Ibid.* 62a.

- [313](#). Ibid. 4, 26.
- [314](#). Ibid.
- [315](#). Ibid. 6, 37a, 40a.
- [316](#). Ibid. 35a.
- [317](#). Ibid. 27.
- [318](#). Phillipps, *Wilts. Inst.* i. (see index in *W.A.M.* xxviii).
- [319](#). Ibid. 55.
- [320](#). Magdalen Coll. Oxford, Wanborough, deeds, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 29a.
- [321](#). Ibid. 28.
- [322](#). W. D. Macray, *Reg. Magd. Coll.* i. 15, 20, 68, 100, 127. A missal was bought for the chapel in 1512–13.
- [323](#). *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), ii. 278.
- [324](#). Macray, op. cit. ii. 26.
- [325](#). Magdalen Coll. Oxford, Wanborough deeds, 66a.
- [326](#). Ibid. 24.
- [327](#). Ibid. 34.
- [328](#). Ibid. 26: 'Colne' was the name of a message which formed part of the grant of John of Wanborough (see p. 178). In July 1866 paving tiles of 14th-century date were found at the site, covering a lead coffin: *Wilts. Cuttings*, xvi. 371.
- [329](#). Magdalen Coll. Oxford, Wanborough deeds, 31.
- [330](#). *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327–77 (Index Libr.), 106.
- [331](#). Ibid. 349.
- [332](#). Magdalen Coll. Oxford, Wanborough deeds, 79a.
- [333](#). *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), ii. 278.
- [334](#). Aubrey, *Topog. Coll.* ed. Jackson, 196, and see p. 175.