

Extract includes, St Andrews, Elm Tree House and Beckett Hall (RMCS) SHRIVENHAM

The following extract is taken from BERKSHIRE in the Buildings of England series by
Nikolaus Pevsner. (1966).

St. ANDREW. This is an extremely interesting church, because it represents a personal solution to the building of a large church, when few were built. There was on the spot a church which was cruciform, and of this, the central tower on its four arches (many continuous broad mouldings) remain and demonstrates a date about 1400. The roof line of the old continuation is also still visible, but that is all. All the rest was removed in 1638 when Lord Craven decided to build afresh. He built a large oblong outside the four arches, of nave and aisles and chancel and chapels, and added a west porch. This has entrances from North and South with four-centred heads and hood-moulds on big stops. The porch has a pediment too, the only classical feature. In the East wall of the church, set symmetrically at the ends of the chapel, are also two such entrances. Otherwise, all is long straight-headed Perp windows, with cusped arched lights and no tracery, of three, four (two plus two), and five lights. That is all. Inside, the arcade has double-chamfered round arches on Tuscan columns with an excessive entasis, reminiscent of a certain bottle-shape.

FONT. Of Purbeck marble, circa 12th cent., octagonal, with two shallow blank arches on each side - a familiar type.

PULPIT. Very good, and unusual. The usual blank arches made the pretext for false perspectives. (cf. Buckland - Jacobean) Angle columns and balusters. Large tester.

BENCHES. Simple, straight-headed, and pleasant.

PANELLING. Nearly all the way round, plus a more decorated surround for the tower-stair doorway.

PLATE. Cup of 1577/8; Cup of the early 17th cent; Flagon, 1624; two Patens, 1636; two plates with allegorical figures, foreign.

MONUMENTS. Defaced effigy in the South aisle, this could be 13th cent. On the chancel wall (East side) two nearly identical tablets (1713 and 1734). On the chancel West wall pretty tablet with garlands (1721) - Rothesia Ann Barrington (1745) By Thomas Paty of Bristol.

Coloured marbles. Obelisk and single urn. It looks later. Second Viscount Barrington d.1793. Designed by James Wyatt and carved by Richard Westmacott. A circular base and an urn on top. Now supported by a Victorian angel bust. Admiral Barrington (1800) With a big flag; by Flaxman. Russell Barrington (1840) by T. Denman. A roundel with a sweet ivy wreath.

In the main street ELM TREE HOUSE, a fine specimen of about 1700. Five bays, two storeys, hipped roof, later Tuscan porch. wooden cross-windows. Staircase with twisted balusters. Next door is the variedly grouped SCHOOL, Gothic of 1863. Royal Military College of Science. Founded as the "Advanced Class" at Woolwich in 1864 became the Artillery College in 1885, the Military College of Science in 1927, and moved to Shrivenham in 1947. The Officers' mess (now the College library) is Becket Hall, built in 1851-4 in a Tudor style for the sixth Viscount Barrington. The architect was W. Atkinson. (**Note:** This is not correct. It was built in 1829 - 1833 to be occupied, but completely finished by 1850). The architect was Thomas Liddell). The main rooms have plaster ceilings. In the centre the hall with a covered ceiling, the centre panels glazed. Close to the house by the lake is a SUMMER HOUSE, square, with a big (renewed) pyramid roof and stone cross-windows. Each side has two, close to a middle doorway. This seems to be original work of circa. 1635.