



THE PARISH CHURCH OF HARTSHORNE

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**P**ASSING through the village of Hartshorne, most travellers see the Parish Church, a fine building, located on a hill about 400 ft. above sea level. Dedicated to St. Peter, the church consists of a nave, chancel, chapel, north aisle and vestry, with a splendid tower at the west end of the aisle. In 1835 the nave was re-built at a cost of £1,400, and several other alterations were also effected. The nave has a length of 39 ft. and is 18 ft. wide, while the chancel is almost 24 ft. long and 12 ft. wide. Separating the north aisle from the nave are two pointed arches resting on octagonal pillars. These show signs of the type of work created in the 15th century. The windows in the south wall of the chancel, also in the aisle, are of more recent origin. The decoration of the east window is in the style of the 14th Century. The tower, which is embattled, is a fine specimen of the perpendicular type, and formerly had arches to communicate with the church.

Above the west door is a row of five sculptured stones. The first and last carry a dog, the second and fourth show monograms of our Lord, whilst the third row carries a shield of the Hasting family. On a stone in the west wall is a shield vaire. Placed there recently, probably during

alterations, it represents the Meynell coat-of-arms.

Two of the five bells are dated prior to the Reformation and were certainly in the church before that period. These bells were dismantled in 1960 owing to their unsafe condition. At present they are placed on view behind the font. When sufficient funds are available, they will be re-cast and re-assembled in the tower. For this alone the estimated cost is near £1,000.

The font is of a plain octagonal design, slightly tapering downwards, and stands near the bell tower. In the organ loft are a few old oak benches which bear carvings and one has a coat of arms.

Over the vestry door is a figure of St. Stephen. In this corner the organ stood until about 1903 or so.

The church possesses a fine old chest about seven feet long, and has a lid with nine iron clamps for protection. In the chest are some of the earliest registers of the church which date back to 1624. In the registers are some loose folios in parchment on which are entries dated 1594, 1611,

1621 and 1624. Records show that in 1612 one great Bible and one Communion 'Cuppe' were bought for use of parishioners.

Church treasures include a lidded pewter jug to hold communion wine (said to be given in 1613), a lovely silver chalice, and a silver paten said to have been given about 1480.

The chest also contains some well-preserved registers and accounts.

Near the entrance are some fine effigies of Humphrey Dethick of Newhall, who died in 1599, and Eliza, his wife; on the front are representations of six children, one of whom, William, was later a rector of this parish. In 1624, this incumbent bequeathed £100 to the parish, and he was buried here on his death in 1705.

The old rectory was built in 1835 by Rev. H. W. Buckley, M.A., who died in 1892, having been rector for 59 years.

In 1624, the rector built a school for the village. This is situated at the lower end of Manchester Lane, and is now only used for

meetings and social functions. Known as the Old Boys' School the cost of erection was £170.

In 1864 a separate school was built for girls and infants and is a part of the present primary school.

One rector was Stebbing Shaw Junr., an editor and historian of repute. It was during his rectorship that three bells were hung.

Owing to neglect and war periods, the church has recently needed much attention both in and out. A new heating apparatus was installed in 1959 at a cost of over £700. Last year, the organ was cleaned and repaired, costing £140, whilst repairs to walls, roof and windows have been effected at a cost of £250. In the churchyard much has been done to enhance the beauty of our ancient church. In 1947 extra ground was consecrated by the late Bishop of Derby. The path from the entrance gates leading to the porch and around was much improved for £120 or so. We now possess our own motor mower and so the churchyard will be kept tidy at less expense. To make the church more efficient and beautiful we hope to restore the bells to the tower and see

that interior decoration is carried out. These items will cost a further £2,000 or more, then the "Church on the Hill" will be safe, beautiful, and worthy of He who has great love for us.



#### RECENT GIFTS

- 1 Wrought-iron gates erected at the entrance to the memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. King.
- 2 Warden's Maces, in memory of the late Mr. E. Heffield for some years a warden, a gift from his daughter, Mrs. E. Cooper.
- 3 A Kneeling Stool for use of the Rector at the altar, the gift of Mr. A. J. Harvey.

The following is a list of Rectors taken from old records and magazines.

- 1303 HENRY SAVAGE  
1321 JOHN DE MELBOURNE  
1332 HENRY DE HUTTIES  
1375 JOHN SLYGH  
1390 GEOFFREY FRANCE  
1453 RALPH LYNGE (*also Canon of Gresley.*)  
1477 THOMAS WAYNEMAN  
1478 JOHN TONG  
1494 THOMAS HOGGEKYSOY  
1520 JOHN DETHICK  
1550 BARTHOLOMEW KYRKEBY. (*Resigned in 1624 and was buried at Hartshorne on 31st May, 1626. See registers.*)  
1624 ANTHONY RICHARDS  
1663 THOMAS STANHOPE  
1713 ?  
1717 THOMAS EVERARD  
1747 WILLIAM ASTLEY  
1769 STEBBING SHAW  
1799 STEBBING SHAW JUNR. (*Historian.*)  
1802 WILLIAM EDWARDS  
1803 FRANCIS TUNNICLIFFE  
1833 HENRY W. BUCKLEY (*See East Window and Mural Tablet.*)  
1893 W. E. BEAUMONT  
1897 R. C. L. READE  
1905 A. R. LANGHORNE  
1928 S. BAZALGETTE  
1941 W. GUINNESS  
1943 J. MYERS BRIDGE  
1948 H. LOGAN