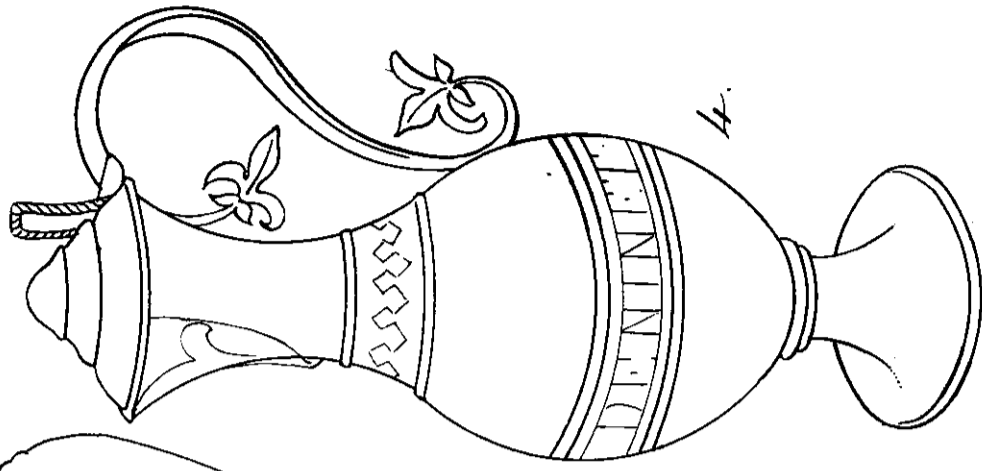
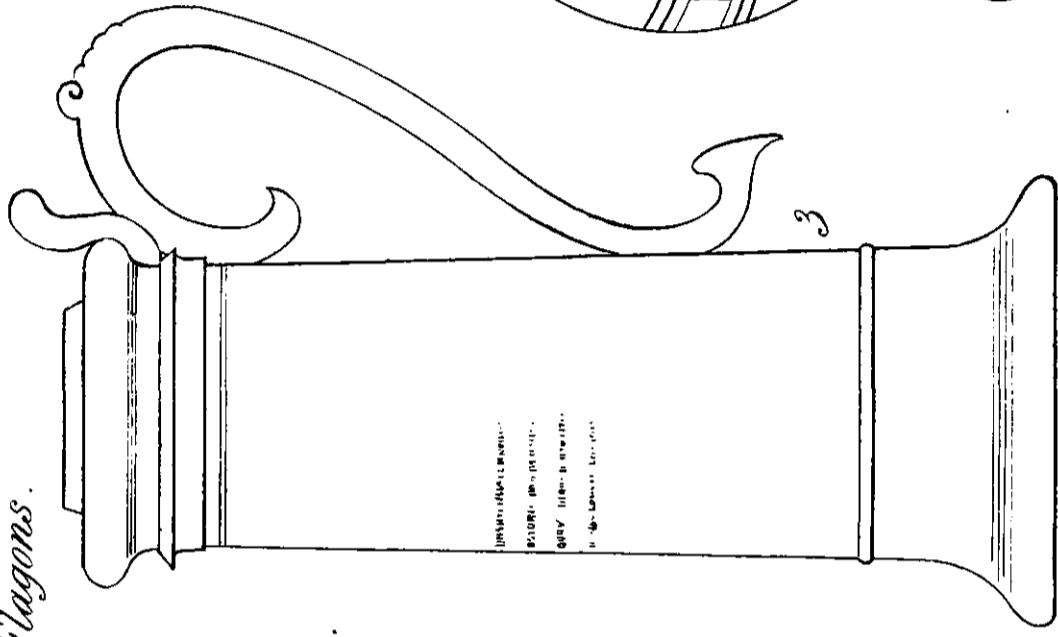
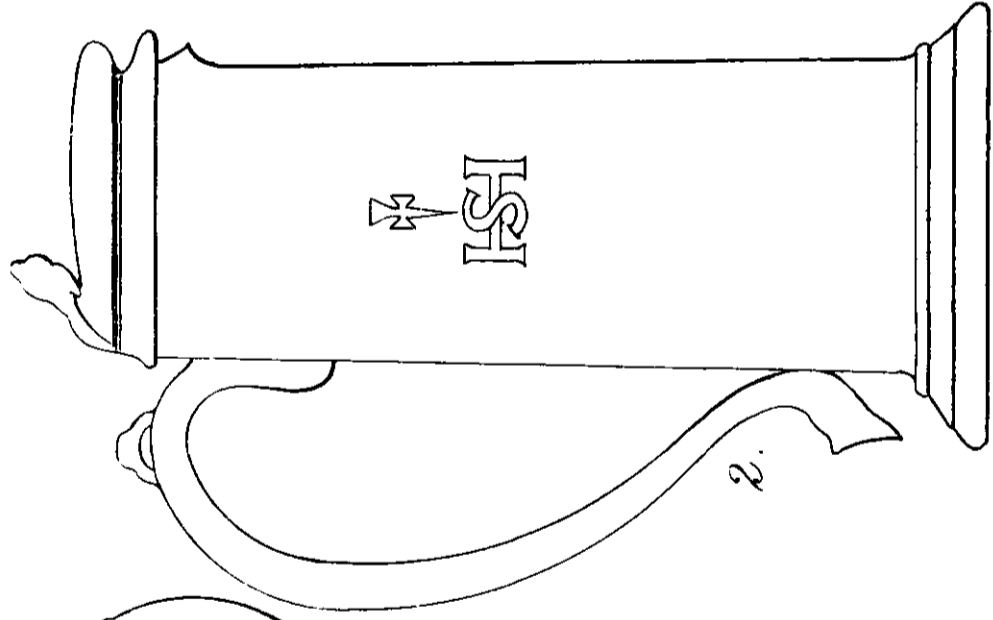
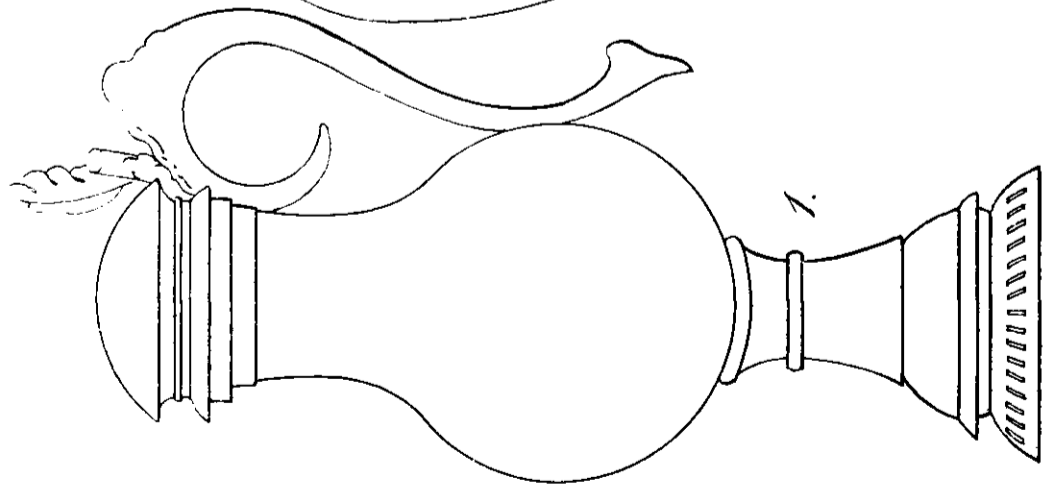


PLATE 4. *Flagons.*



1. *Elizabethan 1591*

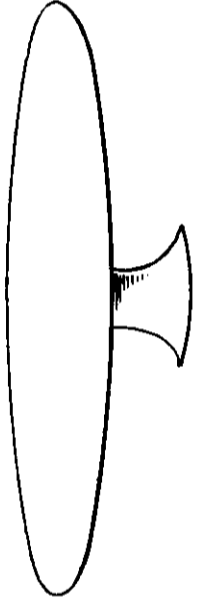
2. *Restoration 1663.*

3. *Georgian 1714*

4. *Modern Medieval.*

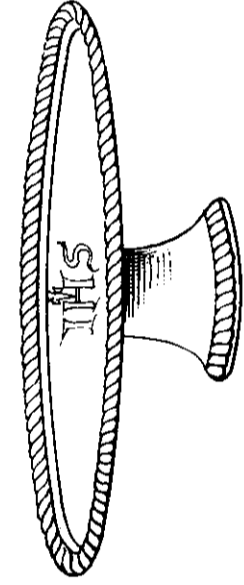
PLATE 3. Patens.

2.

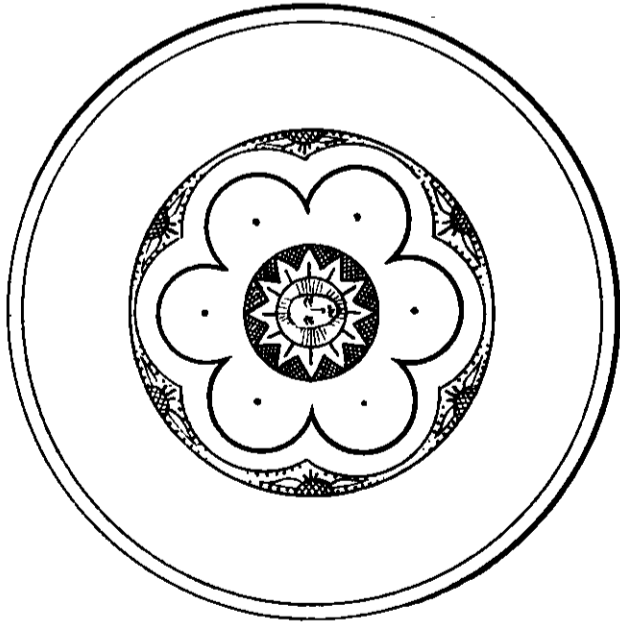


*2. Silver Paten plain.
1590.*

3.

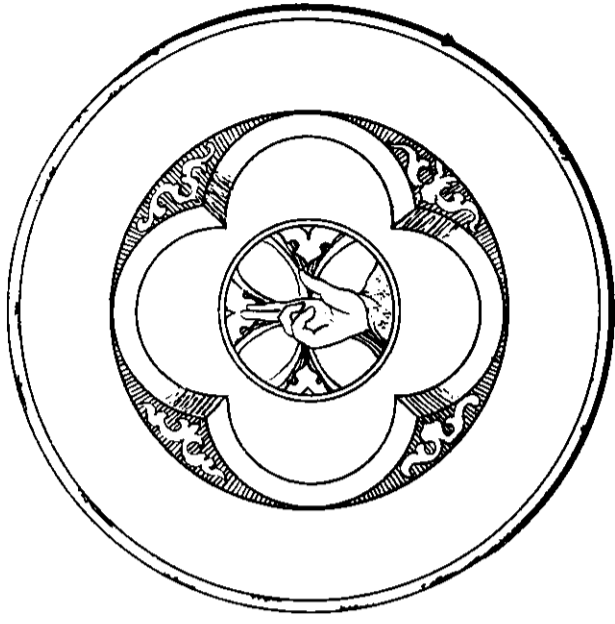


*3 Silver Paten.
Cable border Queen Anne.*



1.

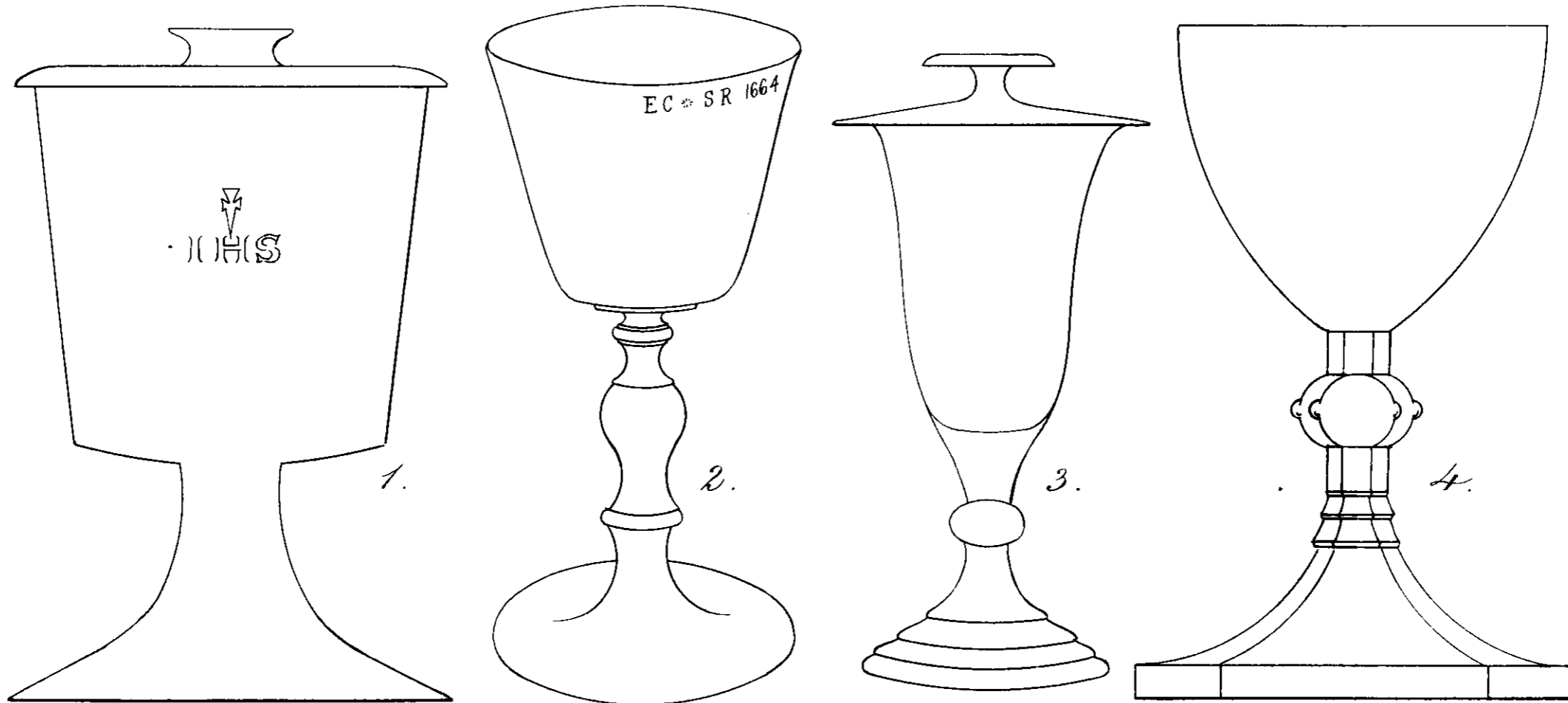
*1. Cofton Hacket
of pre-Reformation date
but possibly Foreign*



4.

*4. From the Stone Coffin of
Walter de Cantelupe
Bishop of Worcester 1236.*

PLATE 2



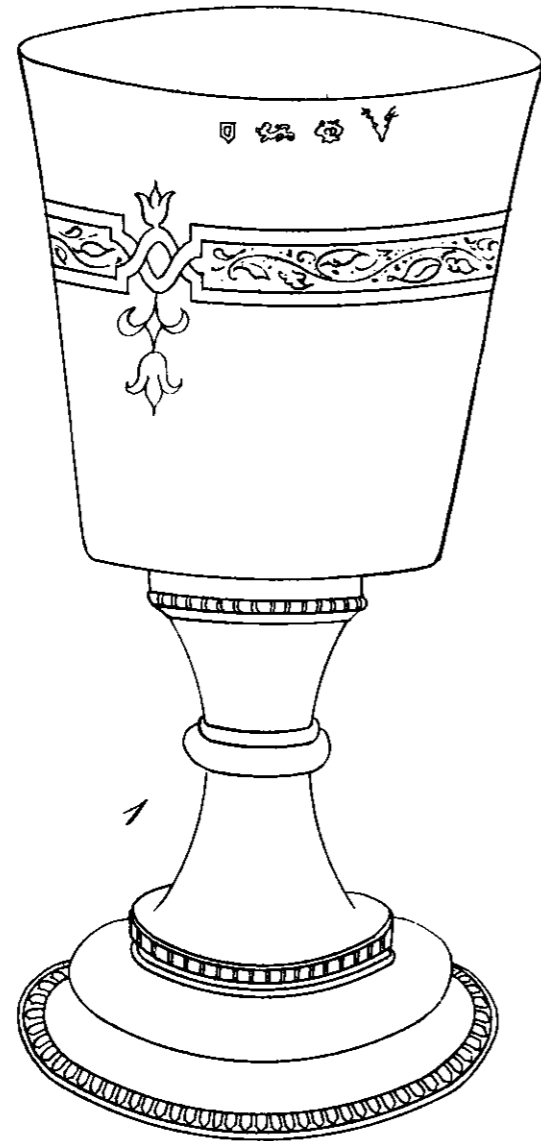
1. Puritan Pattern

2. Baluster Stem Pattern

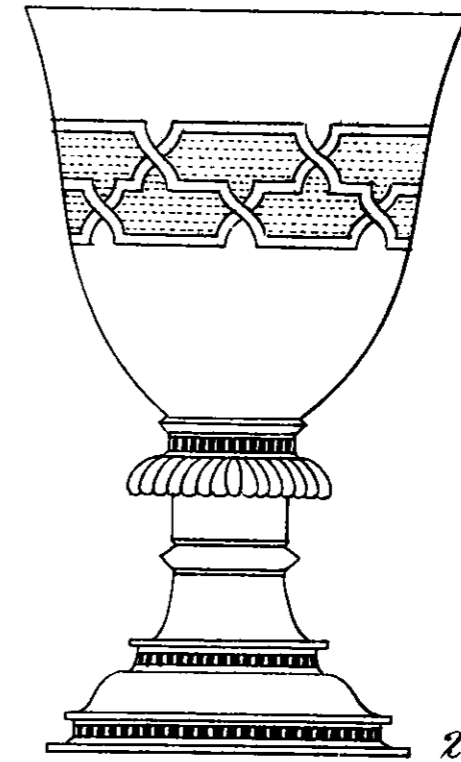
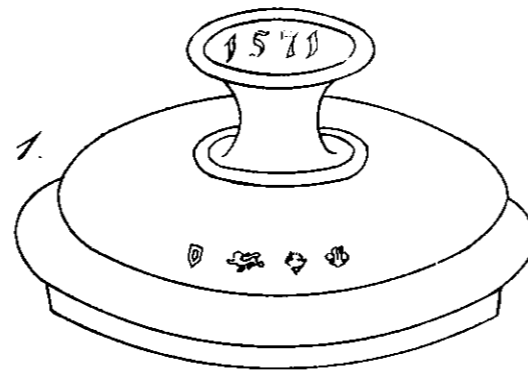
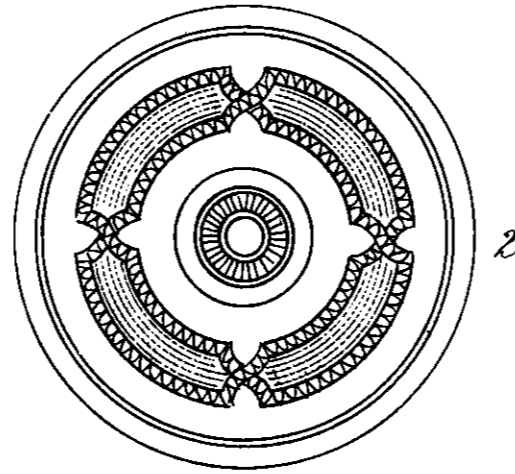
3. Georgian Pattern.
(half the proportionate size)

4. Modern Medieval Pattern

PLATE I. Elizabethan 1571 Patterns



1. Usual Pattern with Floral Band and Cover for Paten



2. Fringe on Stem Pattern and Cover with dotted line Band.

Notes on the Church Plate,
now existing in the Deaneries of Baldock and Hitchin,
in the Diocese of St. Albans.

*Contributed to the Transactions of the St. Albans Architectural and
Archaeological Society.*

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FORMERLY RECTOR OF RADWELL, HERTS.

INTRODUCTION.

The present Bishop of Salisbury, in the first charge which he delivered after his appointment to that See in 1885, made use of the following words:—"I would venture to urge great care and reverence in preserving those treasures of ancient art and those historical monuments, whether in wood, stone, metal, glass or parchment, which have come down to us from our forefathers. In times of Church Restoration there is always a danger lest anything that does not suit the taste of the day should be sold or even destroyed as of no account. We must not despise the last century because it is not the 13th century, much less must we destroy the work of

the period of the Reformation and Restoration. Both clergy and churchwardens must remember that they are in reality stewards, not absolute owners, and that they are stewards of the records of a Christian History as noble as that of any nation on the face of the earth. I propose as a contribution to this Conservatism . . . to make a complete Inventory of the Church Plate of the Counties of Wilts and Dorset . . . I can claim no special knowledge, but it seems to belong to my office to take oversight of these material things connected with the service of God and with the holiest associations of our Christian life."

These are weighty words, and I think it will be allowed that pre-eminent among the "treasures of ancient art" in metal belonging to our parish churches may be reckoned the vessels used in the service of the Holy Communion. In many a parish there are still existing those in which for more than 300 years the "faithful" have received the Body and Blood of their Lord to the strengthening and refreshing of their souls, some of those very vessels having in all probability been manufactured from the silver which has been used ages before the Reformation for the same sacred purpose. It is, however, much to be regretted, on the other hand, that in many a parish the ancient vessels have disappeared from the service of the Church, many of them to reappear in the collections of those who are curious in such matters, the change of locality however depriving them of half their interest, and their place being supplied by plate of modern design, and often of very questionable taste, or even by vessels of plated metal. And it is not only on account of the historic interest derived from its antiquity that the alienation of church plate is so much to be deprecated, but some of it is known to have been actually consecrated to its sacred use by a special service, a form of which may, I am told, be found in the works of Bishop Andrews: and, moreover, who can tell what annoyance may have been felt by the descendants of those who gave an offering of their best to God, if they heard of the gift of their ancestors being made away with merely because it did not happen to suit the taste of those who were for the time-being in charge of it. There may of course be, and doubtless are, cases in which, owing to the increased size of a

parish, it is desirable or even necessary to procure new plate, but that is no reason why the old should be banished from its sacred associations, and thereby, as I said before, deprived of half its interest.

Before proceeding with the notes on the church plate, now existing in the Deaneries of Baldock and Hitchin in the Archdeaconry of St. Albans, it will be as well to give a short account of the history of what is usually found in our parish churches.

It may be stated, to begin with, that, owing to the destruction of church goods which took place during the 16th century, examples of Pre-Reformation art in church plate are very rare indeed, not a dozen perhaps being in existence throughout the whole of England. The shape and design of the Pre-Reformation chalice and paten are however very familiar owing to the fact that they are so frequently re-produced in modern workmanship. The chalice consisted of three parts—*the cup or bowl*, hemispherical, or approximately so, in shape; *the stem*, which about the middle swelled out into a bulb called the knop; and *the foot*, which was commonly hexagonal. The Pre-Reformation paten was something like an ordinary plate in shape, the centre being generally a lobed depression often containing a representation of the face of Our Saviour.

A terrible work of destruction, however, commenced in the reign of Henry VIII., and included the plate belonging to the monasteries and cathedrals which was seized and appropriated by the Crown. But that belonging to parish churches was not to any great extent interfered with in this reign, and there is evidence of its great value in many churches up to the last year of Edward VI. : for example, in 1552 St. Olaves, Southwark possessed no less than 1062 oz. of silver, and a church in Norwich about the same time possessed 857 oz. It was in that year—1552—that the seizure of parish church plate was decided upon, but *even then* the Commissioners were directed to leave “one, two, or more chalices or cuppes according to the multitude of people.” These, however, were alike doomed to destruction under the king’s injunctions which ordered that all “monuments of superstition,” which would include vessels which had been used at the Mass, were to be taken away and utterly destroyed. A very few Com-

munion cups *made* in this reign may still be seen, notably a pair belonging to the Church of St. Margaret, Westminster, of the date 1551-2; but most of these were made only to be at once destroyed as unfit for the restored ritual of Queen Mary's reign. The final blow was dealt under Queen Elizabeth, when the injunctions of her brother were reinforced, and the proscribed church goods followed even into private houses. We find stringent enquiries made in the Diocese of Canterbury at the Visitation of Archbishop Parker, whether the clergy ministered in "any prophane cuppe," "or els in a decent Communion cuppe"; and the Visitation articles of Archbishop Grindal, in 1576, enquired "Whether you have in your parish churches and chapels a fair and comely Communion cup of silver and a cover of silver for the same, which may serve also for the administration of the Communion Bread." These were provided, and in many a church at the present day it is the very same "fair and comely Communion cup" that is in existence and in use.

There is a remarkable uniformity in their shape and style of ornamentation, though it may be difficult to find any two that are exactly alike, and the Norwich and Exeter goldsmiths had patterns of their own which differed, though not very materially, from those made in London and elsewhere. With the exception of these local peculiarities they are all so much alike that there must have been, one would think, at the time some general order given prescribing their pattern, and it is curious that no direction or authority of this kind can be found. It has been suggested that, as the earliest of these cups is found in 1562, some order may have been issued by Convocation which was held in London that year, when many matters touching the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England were settled. The late Mr. Octavius Morgan has given a good description of these cups which may be summarised thus: Like the Pre-Reformation chalice they consisted of three parts, bowl, stem and foot. The bowl is in "the form of an inverted truncated cone slightly bell-shaped." The stem swells out in the middle into a small knop or the rudiments of one, and is sometimes ornamented with bands of some simple pattern. Belonging to these cups was always a cover which was apparently intended to be used as a paten for distributing

the bread. The top of the cover being a kind of flat button serves as a foot for it to stand upon, and on this button the date is often found engraved in figures. The ornaments on these cups and paten-covers (as they may be called) consist almost without exception of an engraved band round the body of the cup and on the top of the cover, formed by two narrow fillets which interlace or cross each other at intervals, the space between these fillets being occupied with a scroll of engraved foliage. The Hall-mark which is found just beneath the lip of the cup and on the top of the cover is generally very clear and distinct perhaps owing to the silver being heavily hammered and very hard, and also no doubt to the fact that church plate is not rubbed and cleaned so often as that used for domestic purposes.

This pattern of cup and cover continued till about the middle of the next century, but in those made after the 16th century the engraved band is often absent. Between 1610 and 1650 a cup is found shaped something like the letter V, and the stem is what is known as the baluster pattern. About the time of the Restoration came in a plainer style. Cups of this period are found of great size, the cup having straight sides with more of a lip, the stem and foot being circular without any ornament or relief, excepting a knop or ring as plain as the rest. The paten cover is still found but was not always fitted to the cup. It was a plain circular salver on a central circular conical foot like the stem of the plainest of the cups. Another pattern of this and a later period has ever a plainer stem, very much in the shape of a trumpet attached to the bottom of the cup. There are, of course, exceptions to be found to these rules, but they will not be mentioned here, as I have not met with them in the specimens of plate treated of in these notes. There are also fine examples of secular drinking cups to be found among the ancient possessions of our parish churches: these have at various times been dedicated by their owners to sacred purposes. I have met with a tankard at King's Walden dated 1736-7. At the commencement of the 18th century cups were made very upright and narrow and always quite plain. After this period little or no attention was paid to art in ecclesiastical matters and church plate of the last century shared in the general want of taste. There has been of late years a revival of

the old Mediæval patterns in the plate that has been manufactured, some of which is enriched with jewels and precious stones given for that purpose by liberal donors. Plate of this description is to be found at St. Saviour's, Hitchin.

Besides the cup and paten there are two other vessels very commonly found in parish churches, *viz.*, the flagon and almsdish, about which a few words may be said. The earliest flagons which are found are of the reign of Elizabeth, and are usually in pairs. The pattern is what is called "round-bellied," *i.e.*, it had a pear-shaped body with domed lid and a handle and was mounted on a circular foot. In Pre-Reformation times two cruet-shaped vessels were used, often made of pewter, the one for containing wine, the other water, the former often very small, as the cup was withheld from the laity. Elizabethan flagons, however, are very rarely found, and they were succeeded soon after the beginning of the 17th century by the usual tankard pattern which is so familiar. Almsdishes of the Elizabethan period are not found, though basons, whatever they may have been used for, are often mentioned in the inventories of church goods of 1552. One belonging to Lambeth Palace Chapel of the year 1635 is said to be the oldest known. Later on they were always plain plates and dishes differing in size, sometimes having coats of arms engraved on the centre or rim. Few are of earlier date than the time of the Restoration.

In addition to the above-mentioned articles, three others are occasionally met with, *viz.*, a knife to cut the bread, a small box of silver or plated ware in which to bring the bread to the church, and a perforated spoon to remove anything which may have fallen into the wine. The first I have not met with and the other two only in one instance each, *viz.*, a box at Letchworth * and a spoon at St. Saviour's, Hitchin, and both are of modern manufacture.

HALL MARKS.

A few words about the marks usually found on silver may appropriately find a place here, as it is chiefly by these marks that we discover the date and history of any

* Since the above was written, a box for the same purpose has been presented to the Church of Radwell by Miss C. R. Pym.

particular piece of plate. They are commonly called "Hall marks" because with the exception of the "maker's mark," they are impressed at Goldsmiths' Hall upon silver articles assayed or tested by the London Goldsmiths' Company and are a guarantee that the metal used in their manufacture is at least equal in purity to that of the coinage of the time; is in fact as we term it, "sterling silver." Besides the Goldsmiths' Company in London there are a few provincial towns which have assay offices for testing the quality of silver, and each has its own special mark.

Now if we take one of the Elizabethan cups so often found in our parish churches we shall notice just beneath the rim of the bowl four marks in a line. 1. The maker's mark; 2. The leopard's head; 3. The lion passant guardant; 4. The date letter. This is not necessarily the order in which they occur, as there is no uniformity in this matter, but we will adopt it for the sake of making a few remarks upon them.

First: "The maker's mark." This as its name implies is the mark affixed by the manufacturer to the article in question. In the earliest times it was some emblem or symbol probably in allusion to the name of the maker, or it was the sign of the goldsmith's shop where the article was made, *e.g.*, a golden ball, a squirrel, etc. At the beginning of the 17th century initial letters became the rule: symbols and emblems *unaccompanied* by them hardly ever occur later. An order of 1697 enacted that the maker's mark should consist of the first two letters of his surname. From 1739 to the present time the initial letters of the christian and surname have been used.

The second mark, we will notice, is that of the "leopard's head." Properly speaking, it is the head of a lion passant guardant, which is in fact a lion's front face, and in all probability it was taken from the arms of the Sovereign, three such lions having been, from the time of Richard I., the arms of England. It is the oldest of all the marks, having existed from the year 1300 if not before, and it was then the king's mark for "silver of the sterling allay." It has sometimes been called the London Hall mark, but it is doubtful if this is a correct definition. The point has been learnedly discussed by Mr. Cripps in his valuable work on Old English Plate,

and is much too intricate a matter to be more than alluded to here. The head was crowned with a ducal crown up to about the year 1822, and in or about that year it was deprived of its crown, and the form of the stamp somewhat changed, the face presenting a much less bold appearance than formerly, in fact more like a cat than a leopard.

We now come to the "lion passant guardant," than which no mark is better known or less understood. It came into use about the middle of the 16th century—in fact it is a mark never found on silver before 1543, and never absent after 1545. But its origin, intention, and the precise date of its introduction, are involved in obscurity. There is no article of plate known to exist of the intervening years; so in one or other of the years, 1544 and 1545, it must have been introduced. The following conjecture has been hazarded in explanation. In 1542 the fineness of silver coin of the realm was, for the first time since the Conquest, lowered by Henry VIII. In 1544 it was again lowered, and this was followed by a final degradation in 1545. Now the Leopard's head certified only that silver was "of the alloy of the sterling or better," so that after 1542 the buyer would have no security that what he bought was of better silver than the debased coinage. So it has been conjectured that the lion passant was adopted to show that plate bearing this mark was not only as good as the coinage, but was of the old sterling standard.

Our fourth mark is the "Date letter," sometimes called the "Wardens or Assayers mark." This is a very important mark, inasmuch as by it we are able to ascertain the precise year in which a particular article of plate was manufactured. It has been in use from the early part of the 15th century, but no specific mention of it occurs till the year 1597. The Assayer's mark, however, which was almost certainly the same, is mentioned in 1507. There is very little doubt that the mark was first invented and adopted by the authorities of Montpelier, in 1427, and was probably introduced into England in 1438, and for this reason, that the Warden under whom a fraudulent assay of a piece of plate was made, might be known and held answerable for the fraud. The mark consists of a succession of alphabets of 20 letters (J, U or V, W, X, Y, Z, being omitted). Until 1561-2, with

trifling exceptions, they were enclosed in shields, more or less closely following their own outline. From that date the letters have, with hardly any exceptions, been enclosed in regular heraldic shields of various shapes, and, owing to the great similarity of some of the alphabets used, the shape of the shield has great weight in determining which of them is the one intended. A new Alphabet comes into use on the morning of May 30th, and this is the reason why two years are always given in fixing the date of a piece of plate, it being obvious that one letter serves for the rest of the year from May 30th, and for the first part of the next year up to that date.

We have now described the marks found upon silver, say of the Elizabethan period, and for some time afterwards. It only remains to add a word or two about three other marks found upon plate of a later date. By a Statute of 1696-7, the standard for silver was slightly raised, and in consequence a "lion's head erased," and "a figure of Britannia" were substituted for the "leopard's head" and "lion passant." They were in sole use until June, 1720, when the old sterling standard was restored, and its own old marks, but not to the exclusion of the new standard and its marks. They are, however, very rarely met with after 1732.

From December 1st, 1784, the mark of the Sovereign's head is found upon all plate liable to the duty which was then imposed. Certain articles were exempted from duty, but it is not necessary here to do more than just allude to the fact.

Beaurey of Baldock.

ASHWELL.

1. CUP. Elizabethan. *Date letter*, 1568-9. *Maker's mark*, a Fleur-de-lys without a shield, a mark found on a cup belonging to St. Olave's Church, Old Jewry, London.

There is a peculiarity about this Cup, viz., that a projecting rim runs round it about an inch below the mouth, giving it the appearance of having been added to at a later date, in order to enlarge it, but this cannot have been the case, as the Hall Mark is found on that part of the Cup which forms the apparent addition. The

only other cup in which I have noticed this peculiarity is at Lilley. The ornamental band is of a very plain description, without the usual foliage ornament. Weight, $8\frac{1}{4}$ oz. ; height, $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. ; diameter of bowl, 4 in.

2. PATEN. Forms a cover to the cup, but does not fit it. *Date letter*, 1632-3. *Maker's Mark*, the letters F and W in a shaped shield, the F being placed above the W. This mark occurs on a pair of Flagons belonging to the church of S. Stephen, Norwich, which bear the date letter of 1626-7 ; and the Rev. C. R. Manning, in his "Notes on the Church Plate in the Deanery of Norwich," observes that this maker "made much church plate, *e. g.* Patens at S. Andrews, Plymouth ; also a tazza belonging to the Corporation of Hull." The same letters are found in a line with each other, and enclosed in an oval on the Communion cups and patens of 1655-6, belonging to S. Paul's, Covent Garden, and may possibly be another form of the same maker's mark. Weight, 4 oz.

3. FLAGON. Plated metal.

BALDOCK.

1. CUP. Elizabethan. *Date letter*, 1569-0. *Maker's mark*, the letter A in a shaped escutcheon. The band ornament is engraved higher up in the bowl than usual, and lower down, about the centre of the bowl, is another plain band ornamented with the indented pattern commonly found on the knops of these cups. Weight, 13 oz. ; height, $7\frac{1}{2}$ in.

A memorable incident connected with this cup is worth recording. It is said that about the middle of the year 1647, Charles I passed through Baldock on his way to London, and was met on his entrance to the town by some of the parishioners, headed by the Rector, the Rev. Josias Byrd, in his robes of office. The old clergyman, who evidently sympathised with the misfortunes of the Sovereign, presented the Communion cup, filled with wine, to the king with the words, "May God bless your Majesty." On the king enquiring the name of his loyal subject, "Please your Majesty," was the reply, "I am Josias Byrd, the parson of Baldock, and I offer you this cup for your refreshment." The king, having drunk, returned the cup with the humorous observation, "Mr.

Byrd, I thank you ; I did not think I had so good a bird in all my kingdom."

The Rev. Josias Byrd was instituted to the rectory of Baldock in the year 1613, and he held the living for 53 years. Chauncy in his History of Hertfordshire, has given the following lines as having been engraved upon his tombstone which has since disappeared :

Josias Bird lies buried here,
Who taught this parish three and fifty year ;
Aged he was, as I have heard some say,
He was eighty-eight before he passed away ;
And died in the year
When I and sixes three made up the Quere (1666).

He lived in troublous times, and was temporarily ejected from his living, as appears from the following note in an annotated copy of Chauncy's History, formerly belonging to the Rev. Thomas Tipping, Vicar of Ardeley : "One, Sherwin, a rascally Millenarist, was intruded here — in that rogue Cromwell's dayes. Went out 24th Aug., 1662," when Josias Bird was restored to the living.

2. PATEN. Cover to above. Same marks. Much battered and defaced. Weight, 3 oz. 17 dwts.

3, 4. PAIR OF CUPS. *Date letters*, respectively 1832-3, and 1837-8. Gothic shape and design, enriched with modern repoussée work. *Inscription* upon one of them, "Presented to the Parish Church of Baldock, by Edward Hampson, D.C.L., Senior Fellow of S. John's College, Oxford, A.D., MDCCCXXXVII.

5, 6. PAIR OF ALMS DISHES. *Date letter*, 1837-8. Similar inscription to that on cup.

7. PATEN. *Date letter*, 1832-3. Same inscription ; and, in addition, the words, "All things come of thee and of thine own have I given thee." Rev. John Smith, A.M., Rector.

The total weight of this very handsome set of modern Communion Plate is upwards of 124 oz., and though opinions may differ as to the taste displayed in the general design there can be but one opinion as to the generosity which prompted so noble a gift.

The same Edward Hampson repaired and beautified the north porch of Baldock Church, and procured it for the sepulchre of his family in the year 1836. Within the porch are several monuments to members of this family, who belong to the same stock as that of Sir

George Francis Hampson, Bart., of Taplow, in the county of Bucks.

The Rev. John Smith was Rector of Baldock from 1832 to 1870.

BYGRAVE.

1, 2, 3. CUP, PATEN, and FLAGON. Plated metal. Presented to the parish by the Rev. J. H. Carnegie, Rector, in the year 1873.

4, 5. CUP and PLATE. Old pewter.

CALDECOTE.

1. CUP. Elizabethan. *Date letter*, 1569-0. *Maker's Mark*, illegible. The floral band ornament is of a very elegant design. Weight, 7 oz. 8 dwts. ; height, $6\frac{1}{8}$ in. ; diameter at mouth, 3 in.

2. PATEN. *Date letter*, 1638-9. *Maker's Mark*, EM with three pellets above, in a shaped shield ; a mark which I have not been able to discover elsewhere. Weight, 3 oz. 3 dwts. ; diameter, $4\frac{5}{8}$ in.

3. FLAGON. Plated metal. Modern mediæval shape, with the sacred monogram on an engraved band.

4. CUP. Pewter. Plain Georgian shape.

5, 6, 7. PLATES. Pewter. "Compton superfine hard metal," and other marks engraved thereon.

CLOTHALL.

1. CUP. Elizabethan. *Date letter*, 1571-2. Usual floral band. *Maker's mark*, a stag's head in a shaped escutcheon. This maker's mark occurs on the Communion cups belonging to the Church of St. Margaret's, Westminster, alluded to in the introduction. In size and shape this cup is almost identical with that at Radwell. Weight, 6 oz. 5 dwt.

2. PATEN. Cover to the above, and has the same marks. It is plain, without any ornament, and much battered and defaced. The date, 1571, is engraved on the foot, the figure 5 being upside down. This occurs on the cover of a cup at Ombersley in the County of Worcester which bears the same date.

3. PATEN. *Date letter*, 1693-4. This is an ordinary plate with an ornamental rim of the cable pattern, having nothing ecclesiastical in its shape or design. Round it is inscribed, "The gift of the Rev. Mr. William Neale, Master of Arts, Rector of this parish, 1755," and in the centre, "For the use of the parish Church of Clothall in Hertfordshire."

The Rev. William Neale was Rector of Clothall from 1752 to 1773, and held at the same time the Vicarage of Cheshunt in the same county.

4. ALMS-DISH. Plated metal. Inscribed with "Clothall parish 1836."

5. FLAGON. Plated metal. Engraved with sacred monogram.

HINXWORTH.

1. CUP. *Date letter*, 1762. *Maker's mark*, $\frac{C}{TW}$. This was the mark of Thomas Whipham and Charles Wright who entered their names and mark at the Goldsmith's Hall in 1757. Mr. Thomas Whipham was one of the Wardens of the Goldsmith's Company in the year 1772. The same mark occurs on some Communion flagons and an alms-bason in St. Paul's Church, Exeter. This cup has what is usually called a baluster stem (See Plate 2. No 2). Weight, 10 oz. 12 dwt. ; height, $8\frac{1}{4}$ in. Diameter of bowl, $3\frac{7}{8}$ in.

2. PATEN. Same Hall marks as on cup. Quite plain, with foot. Weight, 4 oz. 3 dwt. ; diameter, $5\frac{1}{4}$ in.

3-4. PLATES. Pewter. Made by Cocks, of London, and bearing four marks in shields, *viz.*, a lion passant, a leopard's head, a buckle, and the letters S.C.

KELSHALL.

1. PATEN. *Date letter*, 1685-6. *Maker's mark*, a monogram composed of the letters C and F in a shield. The same mark is found on a paten at St. Mary Arches, Exeter. It is very plain, without any foot and deep. On the bottom is inscribed, "Kelshill in Hertfordshire." Weight, 4 oz. 8 dwt.

2. CUP. *Date letter*, 1872-3. Shallow V-shaped bowl. Weight, 12 oz. 3 dwt.

3. PATEN. Same date as cup. Engraved on the rim and in the centre with a kind of "cross fleurie." On

the bottom is inscribed, "S. Faith's Church, Kelshall."
Weight, 4 oz. 10 dwt.

4. FLAGON. Glass, silver mounted.

5-6. FLAGON and PATEN. Old pewter.

NEWNHAM.

1. CUP. Elizabethan. *Date letter*, 1568-9. *Maker's mark*, the letter A in a shaped escutcheon. This is the same mark as that on the cup at Baldock, and occurs also on a small cup at Oxburgh Church, Co. Norfolk, which bears the date 1567-8. We also see the extra band ornament with indented pattern as on the Baldock cup: the maker being the same, this may have been a distinguishing mark of his work. The stem of the Newnham cup is long in proportion to the size, and the boss small. Weight, 5 oz. 8 dwt.; height, $5\frac{3}{4}$ in.; diameter at mouth, 3 in.

PATEN. Cover to the cup. Same marks. It has been very much mutilated, a part of the rim having been at some period apparently cut off with blunt scissors. The foot is ornamented with a circular band and dots. Weight, 1 oz. 0 dwt. 18 gr.

3. ALMS-DISH. Plated metal.

4. FLAGON. Plated metal. This, together with No. 3, bears the sacred monogram and the following inscription: "Presented by John Remington Mills, Esq., Impropiator, December 23rd, 1871."

John Remington Mills, late of Tunbridge Wells, Esq., came into possession of the Manor of Newnham with Rectory and Advowson of the Vicarage in 1862. He was the son of Samuel Mills who in 1807 bought the Manor from Simon Yorke, of Erthig, Co. Denbigh, Esq. It is now in the possession of John Trueman Mills, Esq.

NORTON.

1. CUP. Evidently Elizabethan, though it contains no marks whatever. It is about the same size as that at Radwell, and has the usual band ornament of the Elizabethan period. The bowl is rather deep, and there is more of a lip than is usually found in these cups. The boss is a small one and the foot plain.

When Communion plate is found with no Hall Marks at all, it has been supposed that it was not made for sale, but was ordered to be made for that particular parish, and possibly out of the silver of older vessels which were melted down for that purpose.

2. PATEN. *Date letter*, 1813-4. Engraved with the words, "Norton, Herts."

RADWELL.

1. CUP. Elizabethan. *Date letter*, 1574-5 *Maker's mark*, the letter M. in a square shield. Weight, 5 oz. 10 dwt. ; height, 6 in. ; diameter at mouth, $3\frac{1}{4}$ in.

2. PATEN. *Date letter*, 1797-8. *Maker's mark*, the letters R.C. in a plain oblong, being the mark of Richard Crossley, who entered his name in April, 1782. This paten is of the usual cover-paten shape, with foot, on which is engraved the sacred monogram. Round the rim is inscribed, "Radwell Church, Hertfordshire, 1797." Weight, 4 oz. 8 dwt. ; diameter, 5 in.

3, 4, 5. PAIR OF CUPS and PATEN. Plated metal. They are contained in a box bearing the date 1834, and were probably procured by the Rector at that time, the Rev. Wollaston Pym, the Elizabethan cup being in a useless condition. It was not repaired till about the year 1879.

6, 7. FLAGONS. One silver, and one glass with silver handle and rim ; Elizabethan design. Presented to the church at Easter, 1888, by Miss C. R. Pym, of Radwell House.

8. Box. Silver. Used for conveying the bread to the church. Presented by Miss C. R. Pym, at same time as the flagons.

The family of Pym, above mentioned, came into Hertfordshire about the year 1662, when William Pym, of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, purchased the Manor of Norton, which adjoined that of Radwell. In 1721, the Manor of Radwell, with the Advowson of the church, was purchased by William Pym, of Nortonbury, Esq. The latter is now in the possession of Francis Pym, Esq., of Radwell House.

ROYSTON.

1. CUP. Elizabethan pattern. Silver gilt. *Date letter*, 1621-2. *Maker's mark*, the letters H.S. in a shield, the lower part of which is obliterated. It probably contained a representation of a blazing star, this being a mark found upon a plain cup belonging to Sir T. Thornhill, Bart., of about the same date. There is the usual Elizabethan band ornament, upon which the date, a comparatively late one for this pattern of cup, is engraved. In the interlacing parts of the ornament are depicted alternately a bird, and a snail issuing from its shell. The meaning of these emblems I have not been able to discover, nor have I found anything of the kind elsewhere; but it is reasonable to suppose that the bird represents the "corvus cornix," commonly called the Royston, or hooded crow, from its frequenting the district during the winter. There is the same band ornament round the foot of this cup, but without the bird and snail. Weight, nearly 15 oz.

2. PATEN. No marks. It is on a foot and decorated with repoussée work, characteristic of the middle and latter part of the 18th century. Engraved round the inside are the words, "The gift of Hale Wortham, Esq., to the parish church of Royston," and in the centre are the arms of Wortham, viz., Gules. A chevron ermine between three lion's jamps, erect and erased of the last.

The family of Wortham, of Shepreth Manor, Co. Cambridge, have been connected with the town of Royston for many generations, and have a burial place in the church. The name Hale occurs several times in the family. The Hale Wortham, who gave this paten, was in all probability the one who died in 1755. He is mentioned as having given a bell to the church of Royston, in 1739, and it is reasonable to suppose that he gave the paten at or about the same time.

3. ALMS-DISH. Plain. *Date letter*, 1738-9. The *Maker's mark*, though much obliterated, is plainly that of Richard Gurney and Co., who entered his name as plate-worker at Goldsmiths' Hall, in partnership with Thomas Cook, at the Golden Cup, in Foster Lane, in the year 1734. His ancestor, Sir Richard Gurney, Knight and Baronet, was Lord Mayor of London in 1642. Engraved round the rim of this alms-dish are the words, "The gift of the Rev. William Fordham, M.A., to the church

of Royston, Anno Dom., 1739. Also the arms of Fordham, viz., Barry Wavy of six or and azure. On a chief gules two arrows in saltire points in base between as many castles argent.

The family of Fordham have been settled in the neighbourhood of Royston for upwards of 400 years, and the name occurs as that of a landowner, in the County of Essex, as early as the year 1187. The William Fordham who gave the alms-dish was, as far as I can ascertain, the son of Richard Fordham, of Royston, who lived there between the years 1665 and 1738.

Weight, 14 oz.

4, 5. PATENS. Plated metal.

6. FLAGON. Plated metal. Beneath the base is inscribed, "The gift of James Wortham, Esq., for the Sacramental service in the parish church of Royston, A.D., 1844."

RUSHDEN.

1. CUP. *Date letter*, 1714-5. Britannia Standard. *Maker's mark*, the letters H.S. with a pellet above and below in a lozenge-shaped shield. I believe this mark to be upside down, and that in reality it is S.H., with the pellets and lozenge, as that is the mark of Alice Sheene, entered in the year 1700, and is found on a plain paten or alms-dish in Chedworth Church, Co. Gloucester. It is inscribed with the following: "The gift of Adolphus Meetkerke to ye church of ye parish of Rushden, in the County of Hertford."

The family of Meetkerke came originally from Bruges, the head of the family having been born in that town in the year 1528. He was appointed on an embassy to Queen Elizabeth, and having resided in England for some time, died in London in 1591. His great grandson, Adolphus Meetkerke, who presented the Communion vessels to the parish of Rushden, was a Fellow of New College, Oxford. He married as his second wife, Penelope, eldest daughter, and co-heiress of Thomas Stone, Esq., of Julians, in the parish of Rushden, by which marriage the property of Julians came into the family of Meetkerke.

This cup has a very thick stem like the one at Sandon, and the bowl has a lip. Weight, 6 oz. 5 dwt.; height, $6\frac{3}{4}$ in.; diameter at mouth, $3\frac{1}{4}$ in.

2. **PATEN.** Same date and maker's mark as the cup. Salver shaped (see plate 3, No. 2). Weight, 5 oz. 10 dwt. ; diameter, $5\frac{7}{8}$ in.

3. **FLAGON.** Same date and maker's mark, and same inscription as on the cup. Weight, about 30 oz. ; height, about 10 in.

4. **PATEN.** *Date letter*, 1847-8. Engraved with the sacred monogram, and the words, "Rushden parish, presented by the Vicar." The Vicar at that time was William Skynner. Weight, 6 oz. 15 dwt. ; diameter, $6\frac{3}{4}$ in.

5. Pocket set of Communion vessels in a case. Plated metal.

SANDON.

1. **CUP.** *Date letter*, 1688-9. *Maker's mark*, the letters T.G. with three pellets between in a plain circle. It is charged with the following coat of arms, viz. : Argent. A fess wavy gules between three ravens or. Crest ; a castle or, surmounted by a bird (? raven) wings expanded. It is also inscribed with the text, "Torrente deliciarum tuarum Potabis eos, Psalm xxxvi. 8," and beneath the foot, "Poculum ecclesiæ de Sandon (in comitatu Hertford) dicatum, 1689." This cup is without ornament, and has a very thick stem rising out of the foot, and has no boss. (See plate 2, No. 1). Weight, 14 oz. 3 dwt. ; height, $7\frac{3}{4}$ in. ; diameter at mouth, 4 in.

2. **PATEN OR ALMS-DISH.** *Date letter* and *Maker's mark* same as the cup. Same arms engraved on the rim elaborately surrounded with feathers and scrolls, and opposite to it the crest, also surrounded with scrolls. It has no ornament, and is raised on a foot. The following is inscribed upon it : "Donum Johannis Nicholas S.T.P. Coll. Beatæ Mariæ prope Winton custodis" ; and underneath, "Patina ecclesiæ de Sandon (in comitatu Hertford) dicata, 1689" ; also, "Accipe dona nostra Deus ut tua largiaris." Weight, 14 oz. 7 dwt. Diameter, 9 in.

3, 4. **PAIR OF FLAGONS.** *Date letter*, 1637-8. *Maker's mark*, the letters R.C. a pheon below point downwards, in a heart-shaped shield. This mark is found on some of the Communion plate at S. Margaret's, Westminster, and also on some flagons at Exeter Cathedral. The same Coat of Arms as above is engraved on each flagon, with the crest on the lid, and the same inscription, "Donum,

&c.," as on No. 2. Below is also inscribed, "Quid rependam Domino pro omnibus retributionibus ejus quas contulit mihi? Calicem salutarem accipiam et nomen Domini invocabo." Psalm, cxvi. 12, 13.

5. ALMS-DISH. Brass. Modern.

The armorial bearings above mentioned belonged to the Nicholas family of Sandonbury. They are found in the church on a tablet erected to the memory of Edward Nicholas, of Sandonbury, the son of Mathew Nicholas, LL.D., who was sometime Dean of S. Pauls. John Nicholas who gave the Communion vessels was probably a brother of Edward who died in 1683.

THERFIELD.

1. CUP. Silver gilt. No Hall mark. *Maker's mark*, the letters I.B. and below them a crescent with points upwards between two pellets, the whole in a plain shield. This mark is found on a Communion cup dated 1669 belonging to the Dutch Church, Austin Friars, London. It has a bowl with straight sides and a slight lip, and the stem and foot are hexagonal. There is a boss, and below this the stem swells out again into a kind of ring. Weight, 17 oz. 6 dwt. ; height, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. ; depth of bowl, $3\frac{3}{4}$ in. ; diameter at mouth, $4\frac{1}{4}$ in.

2. PATEN. Silver gilt. Quite plain. No Hall mark. Same maker's mark as the cup. Weight, 2 oz. 3 dwt. ; diameter, 6 in.

3. PATEN or ALMSDISH. Silver gilt. Quite plain. No Hall mark, but same maker's mark as above. Weight, 14 oz. 12 dwt. ; diameter, $9\frac{1}{4}$ in.

4. FLAGON. Silver gilt. Large and handsome. *Date letter*, 1667-8. *Maker's mark*, the letters R.S. with a mullet above and below in a shaped shield. The same mark occurs on a two-handled drinking bowl belonging to the Armourers' Company. Inscribed on the body of the flagon is the following :—

In usum Deo opt. Max.
 Ecclesiæ de Therfield.
 D.D.
Reverendus Vir Johanes Barwick
Decanus { Ecclesiæ } Paulinæ.
Rector { } Therfieldianæ.
 Tu ne despice Christe.

Inscribed on the lid of the flagon are the words, "Poculum Benedictionis cui Benedicimus nonne Communicatio Sanguinis Christi est. 1 Cor. 10. 16."

John Barwick was instituted to the Rectory of Therfield in 1662 and died in 1664. He was born in Westmoreland in 1612, and became a Fellow of S. John's College, Cambridge. Barwick warmly espoused the cause of the King against the Parliament. Shortly after the execution of Charles, he and his brother were imprisoned in the Gate House, Westminster, for nearly 3 years. By Charles II. he was instituted to the Deanery of Durham, and on the 19th October, 1661, was installed Dean of S. Paul's. He died on the 22nd October, 1664, and was buried in the south aisle of S. Paul's Cathedral.

WALKERN.

1. CUP. *Date letter, 1782-3. Maker's mark, the letters I.Y. in an oblong with the corners cut off, the mark of James Young who entered it in 1775. Inscribed with the sacred monogram and the following: "Given by Benjamin Heath, D.D., Rector of Walkern, 1782." It is of Georgian shape and design and is ornamented with a beaded pattern. Weight, 10 oz. 18 dwt.; height, $8\frac{3}{8}$ in.; diameter at mouth, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.*

2. PATEN. *Same date letter, maker's mark, and inscription as the cup. Raised on a foot and ornamented with beaded work. Weight, 4 oz. 3 dwt.; diameter, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.*

3. ALMS-DISH. *Same marks, etc., as above, and is rather peculiar in having the centre convex. Weight, 9 oz. 12 dwt.; diameter, 8 in.*

4. ALMS-DISH. *No marks, but in other respects like No. 3. Weight, 8 oz. 8 dwt.; diameter, 8 in.*

Dr. Benjamin Heath was Rector of Walkern from 1781 to 1817. The only memorial that exists of him in this parish, besides the Communion vessels is a shield of arms which is one of four in the east window of the church bearing the following charge: Per chevron sable and or; in chief two mullets pierced and in base a heath-cock counterchanged. Crest: a heath-cock's head sable. Beneath is inscribed, "Bn. Heath, D.D., 1787."

WALLINGTON.

1. CUP. *Date letter*, 1754-5. *Maker's mark*, somewhat obliterated but is, I believe, H.M. in a shaped shield, this being the mark entered by Hugh Mills, in February, 1745. It is of plain design with a thickish stem and round foot. Weight, 7 oz. 18 dwt.; height, $6\frac{3}{4}$ in.; diameter at mouth, $3\frac{1}{4}$ in.

2. PATEN. *Date letter*, 1840-1. Plain, and engraved with the sacred monogram. Weight, 5 oz. 1 dwt.; diameter, 5 in.

3. FLAGON. Pewter. Engraved with the sacred monogram.

4. ALMS-BOWL. Pewter. Very heavy, with deep basin, surrounded with a cable border.

5. PATEN or ALMS-DISH. Pewter. Engraved with the Tudor rose and crown, also with a crown beneath a fleur-de-lys between two crosses paté, and other curious marks about which little or nothing is known.

6. PATEN or ALMS-DISH. Pewter. Engraved with the words, "Parish of Wallington," also the maker's name, IOHN (surname illegible) SNOW HILL, LONDON. With the following arms: A lion rampant: Impaling, Per bend angled, six mullets. There are also four other marks, *viz.*, (1) SS; (2) a figure of Britannia; (3) a leopard's head crowned; (4) a lion's head erased, all in shields of different shapes. The second and fourth of these marks belong to silver of the new or Britannia standard introduced in 1696, the third to silver of the old standard, and it is somewhat remarkable to find them stamped on a pewter vessel.

It would be interesting if more were known about the pewter vessels found so often in our old parish churches, many of them being doubtless of considerable antiquity, and having a more honest and genuine look than the plated articles sometimes seen. I have not myself seen any of more interest than those belonging to this parish.

WESTON.

1. CUP. The hall marks are much obliterated, but the *Date letter* seems to be that of 1678-9. The *Maker's mark* is also illegible, but appears to be P with some letter following it, and underneath what looks like a "seeded rose." The cup has straight sides, and is

comparatively shallow. The stem is of the baluster pattern, and, together with the foot, is of much later date, viz., 1843-4, with J.C.E. for maker's mark. Weight, 10 oz. 10 dwt. ; height, $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. ; diameter at mouth, $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

2. CUP. Same marks as on the foot of No. 1, and was evidently made to match it, as they correspond in shape and size. Weight, 11 oz. 17 dwt. On it is the following inscription : "The gift of Margaret Donne, 1843." She was the wife of the Rev. Benjamin Donne, who was Vicar of the parish from 1837 to 1864.

3. PATEN. No hall mark. It fits cup No. 1 as a cover, and was probably made for that purpose. It bears a *Maker's mark*, which is apparently that of Benjamin Pyne, a celebrated plate worker, at the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th centuries. Inscribed with "Weston Hartfordshire." Weight, 4 oz. 4 dwt. ; diameter, $4\frac{3}{4}$ in.

4. ALMS-DISH. *Date letter*, 1661-2. *Maker's mark*, quite illegible. Inscribed with "Weston in Hartfordshire." Weight, 12 oz. 14 dwt. ; diameter $10\frac{3}{8}$ in. On all these vessels the sacred monogram is engraved.

Deanery of Hitchin.

GRAVELY.

1. CUP. *Date letter*, 1773-4. *Maker's mark*, the letters W.G. in script characters, enclosed in a stamp shaped to the letters, being the mark of William Grundy, of Fetter Lane. It is of plain Georgian pattern, and inscribed with the word "Gravelly," and the usual sacred monogram. Weight, 12 oz. 3 dwt. ; height, $8\frac{1}{4}$ in. ; diameter at mouth, $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.

2. PATEN. This is a square salver, with the same marks and inscription as the cup. Weight, 9 oz. 5 dwt. It is $7\frac{1}{4}$ in. square.

3. FLAGON. Small. Plated metal.

HEXTON.

I have not seen the plate belonging to this parish, but am informed that it consists of a cup and paten and also a portable font and cover presented by Mrs. Jane Young, widow of William Young, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Hexton, in July, 1827.

There is also a cup and smaller paten presented by the Rev. John Reynolds Wardale, Rector of Higham Gobion, and curate in charge of Hexton, in October, 1826.

On all these pieces the sacred monogram is engraved.

HITCHIN (S. MARY.)

1, 2. PAIR OF CUPS and COVERS. *Date letter*, 1705-6. Britannia Standard. *Maker's mark*, the letters P.Y. with a fleur-de-lys, surmounted by a crown, the mark of Benjamin Pyne, who was a celebrated goldsmith and plate-worker living in S. Martin's-le-grand. The cups are engraved with the sacred monogram, and on the inside of the rim of the covers are the words, "For the use of the Church of Hitchin." The covers can hardly have been meant to use as patens, not having the usual flattened button for a foot, but a rounded knob instead, and so, when inverted, do not stand of themselves. Weight of the pair together, a little over 30 oz.; height of each cup, about 9 in.

3. ALMS-DISH. Plain. *Date letter*, 1635-6. *Maker's mark*, the letter F in script character, with a small o at each extremity of the cross bar of the letter, enclosed in a shaped shield. It is not known whose mark this was, but it occurs on a plain alms-dish "*ex dono* Bainbrigge" at Christ's College, Cambridge. Round the rim is the inscription, "The gift of Dorothe Hill, Widdow, 1635, to the parish church of Hitchinge for receiveinge the offeringe at the Communion Table."

This Dorothy Hill is mentioned in Chauncy's History of Hertfordshire as having given the alms-plate to the church of Hitchin. Weight, 20 oz.; diameter, about 12 in.

4. PATEN. Plain, and not mounted on a foot. *Date letter*, 1625-6. *Maker's mark*, a monogram composed of the letters T and F in a plain shield. The same mark occurs on some gilt Communion cups and covers, belong-

ing to the Temple Church in London. Engraved in the centre is the word, "Hitchin," and round it, "The gift of Mr. Thomas Weals, deceased, Ao. Dni., 1625." Weight, 6 oz. 15 dwt., though 7 oz. 4 dwt. is marked on the back as the weight.

5. PATEN. No marks. There is an engraving of scroll work, and cherubs' heads, round the rim, and the following inscription at the back: "Ex dono Annæ Chapman viduæ Johannis Chapman ecclesiæ de Willian nuper Rectoris."

This John Chapman was appointed Rector of Willian in the year 1606, but only held it for one year. He was related to George Chapman, the translator of Homer's Illiad, who, if not a native of the town of Hitchin. at all events resided there, for he is addressed by W. Browne, a contemporary writer, in 1616, as,

"The learned Shepherd of fair Hitchinge Hill."

Members of this family are, I believe, still residing in Hitchin.

6, 7. PAIR OF FLAGONS. Large and handsome. *Date letter*, 1705-6. Britannia Standard. *Maker's mark*, much obliterated, but is, I think, that of Humphrey Payne, who manufactured a large plain Communion flagon for Winchcombe Church, Co. Gloucester, in 1709. He was a goldsmith and plate-worker, who carried on business at the Golden Cup, Gutter Lane (formerly Guthuron's Lane), and entered his name at the Goldsmith's Hall in the year 1701.

Cussans, in his History of Hertfordshire, mentions these flagons as having been given by Dame Mary Radcliffe, but they bear no inscription to this effect. Weight of the two flagons, nearly 83 oz. The total weight of silver plate belonging to Hitchin Church is nearly 150 oz.

Chauncy, writing in 1700, mentions that "Alice Pigot the widow of Thomas Pigot, Esq., gave one Communion cup with a cover," but this has apparently been lost, as the existing cups bear a later date, viz., 1705-6.

HITCHIN (S. SAVIOUR).

1. CUP. *Date letter*, 1864-5. *Maker's mark*, that of Savory and Sons. Modern mediæval design, with bowl, almost hemispherical in shape, and hexagonal stem and

foot. (See plate 2, No. 4). It is jewelled with diamonds, rubies, amethyst, garnet, and turquoise. Inscribed round the bowl with, "Calicem salutans accipiam et nomen Domini invocabo," being the Vulgate version of Psalm cxvi. 13. Height, $8\frac{1}{3}$ in. ; diameter of bowl, 4 in.

2. PATEN. Same marks as on the cup, and same design. In the centre is the sacred monogram in raised letters, gilt and jewelled with a diamond and rubies. Inscription round the rim, "Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi da nobis tuam pacem." Diameter, 6 in.

3. PATEN. Same marks as above. Inscribed round the rim with "Benedicamus Patrem et Filium cum Spiritu." Diameter, 9 in.

4. FLAGON. Same mark as above. Modern mediæval design. (See plate 4, No. 4). Inscribed with the words, "Pascha nostrum immolatus est Christus."

5. SPOON. Perforated, the handle surmounted by a cross. *Date letter*, 1872-3. This is the only perforated spoon which I have found in these deaneries.

6. ALMS-DISH. Brass.

ICKLEFORD.

1. CUP. *Date letter*, 1807-8. *Maker's mark*, the letters J.E. in a lobed escutcheon, being the mark of John Emes, who entered it in the year 1796. The shape and design are Georgian with round bulging bowl and a lip. The following inscription appears upon it, "The gift of Thomas Cockayne, Esq., of Ickleford House, to the Parish of Ickleford, Herts, 1807," and also the sacred monogram. Weight, 18 oz. 8 dwt. ; height, $9\frac{1}{8}$ in. ; diameter at mouth, $4\frac{1}{8}$ in.

Thomas Cockayne, Esq., came into possession of the Manor of Ickleford by purchase in the year 1788. The family traces descent from Sir John Cockayne, Kt., Chief Baron of the Exchequer, temp. Richard II., Henry IV., Henry V. and Henry VI. Thomas Cockayne had with other issue a son Thomas who had issue an only child Marian Charlotte Emily, who was married to the Hon. F. Dudley Ryder, third son of Dudley first Earl of Harrowby, and who is subsequently mentioned as having given the flagon to this church.

2. PATEN. Silver gilt, with the Birmingham Hall Mark (an anchor) and *Date letter* of the year 1878. *Maker's mark*, J.H. & Co., in an oblong shield. Round the rim is engraved, "Panem cælestem accipiam et nomen Domini invocabo." Beneath the rim are the words, "Made from two old silver patens, 1878." I have not been able to discover anything about these two old patens. The present one is very heavy for its size, weighing 9 oz. 12 dwt., and being only 6 in. in diameter.

3. FLAGON. *Date letter*, 1862-3. *Maker's mark*, ^{E.B.} & _{J.B.} in a square shield. Modern mediæval shape (See Plate 4. No. 4). Round it is inscribed, "Pascha nostrum immolatus est Christus," and beneath the foot the words, "Given to Ickleford Church, Nov. 2nd, 1862, by Marian only child of Thomas Cockayne." On the rim of the foot is also inscribed in small characters, "τοῦτο ποιῆτε εἰς τὴν ἐμὴν ἀνάμνησιν." Weight, 20 oz. ; height, 11 in.

4-5. PAIR OF CRUETS. Glass with tops of plated metal.

6. ALMS-DISH. Brass. Inscribed with, "Freely ye have received freely give," and "Dedicated to the glory of God and for the use of St. Katherine's Church, Ickleford. T. I. Walton, M.A., Rector, October, 1883."

IPPOLYTS.

1. CUP. *Date letter*, 1634-5. *Maker's mark*, an escallop shell, in shield of the same shape. This mark is found on a paten and pair of flagons belonging to the Church of St. Olave's, Jewry, London. There is also a cup belonging to the parish of Hugill or Ings in the county of Westmoreland of almost identical size, shape and weight, and with the same marks as the one we are considering. The stem has no knop, a ring of silver surrounds it about half-an-inch below the bowl, from which it swells out gradually to the foot. Below the lip is engraved the word, "Ippollits." Weight, 12 oz. 8 dwt. ; height, $7\frac{3}{8}$ in. ; diameter at mouth, $4\frac{1}{8}$ in.

2. PATEN. Forms a cover to the cup. *Date letter*, 1639-0. *Maker's mark*, almost illegible, as it seems to have been stamped with a damaged punch. As far as I can make out, it consists of the letters I.I., with a pellet below, and, if so, is the same as that found on a Com-

munion paten formerly belonging to the Rev. T. Staniforth. Weight, 4 oz. 18 dwt. ; diameter, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in.

3. ALMS-DISH. Small, and may have been intended for a paten. Plated metal. Marked with cross-keys.

LETCHWORTH.

1. CUP. Very small and plain, without any mark or ornament whatever, but from its general shape and design apparently belonging to the Elizabethan period. Weight, together with the cover, 7 oz. 13 dwt. ; height, $6\frac{1}{8}$ in. ; diameter at mouth, $2\frac{7}{8}$ in.

2. PATEN. Cover to above. No marks.

3. PATEN. *Date letter*, 1863-4. *Maker's mark*, I.K. (J. Keith). Engraved in the centre and gilt is the sacred monogram, and on the rim a small cross fleury. Weight, 2 oz. 5 dwt.

4. BOX. Small, round, made of pewter. On the lid is engraved a cross, something like a Maltese cross set in a circle. This is the only article of the kind in these deaneries with the exception of the one at Radwell, which was presented after these notes were compiled. It is used for conveying the bread to the church, and does not appear to be ancient.

5. CRUET. Glass, for containing the wine.

LILLY.

1. CUP. *Date letter*, 1569-0. It bears a great resemblance to the cup at Ashwell, having the same rim round it about an inch below the lip. The usual band is between the rim and the lip. The floral ornament is a little different from that usually seen, *viz.*, 3 devices of scroll work hanging from the rim. The part above the rim swells out to the mouth, forming an obtuse angle with the rest of the bowl, giving it quite the appearance of having been added, but the Hall Mark, which is in the usual place just below the lip, seems to forbid this supposition. At a later date the sacred monogram has been engraved, a device so totally out of character with the date and style of the cup that it would be well to obliterate it. The stem and foot are modern, which is explained by the following inscription :—“ Repaired by

W. Wade, B.D., Rector of Lilley, Herts, 1802." Weight, inscribed beneath the foot, 6 oz. 12 dwt.

The Rev. William Wade was Rector of the Parish of Lilly from 1798 to 1823.

2. PATEN. *Date letter*, 1776-7. *Maker's mark*, somewhat obliterated, but appears to be the letters WD in an oblong, the mark either of W. Day or W. Dorrell, silversmiths, who were flourishing about that period. Weight, inscribed beneath the foot, 4 oz. 18 dwt.

3-4. PAIR OF CRUETS.

5. ALMS-DISH. Brass.

OFFLEY.

1, 2. PAIR OF CUPS. *Date letter*, 1729-0. The shield containing the letter has its upper angles square, and not cut off, as given in Cripps' "*Old English Plate*." *Maker's mark*, a monogram composed of the letters A and N in script character, contained in a shaped shield. This was the mark of Antony Nelme, who, according to Chaffers, was a goldsmith, living in "Avie Mary Lane," who entered his name and mark at the Goldsmith's Hall, in 1697, but died in 1722, and was succeeded by Francis Nelme in that year. He adopted the same monogram until 1739, when he re-entered his name at the same house in 1739, with the letters FN in an oblong shield as his mark. These cups are of modern Georgian shape. They are inscribed with the words, "Eliza Chamber Wid. dedicated this to God, and the church of Offley, A.D. 1730," and are charged with the following arms: On a lozenge Arg. a chevron azure between 3 trefoils slipped. Impaling. Az. on a chief gules 3 martlets. I could ascertain nothing with regard to the family of Chamber, excepting that a mural monument exists in the church at the west end of the north aisle, to the memory of William Chamber, who departed this life upon the 22nd day of May, 1728, in the 29th year of his age. Weight of cups respectively, 20 oz. 1 dwt., and 21 oz.; height, $10\frac{5}{8}$ in.; diameter, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.

3, 4. PAIR OF PATENS. Same marks, inscription, &c., as on cups. Weight, 8 oz. 5 dwt. each; diameter, $5\frac{3}{4}$ in.

5. ALMS-DISH. Same marks, &c., as above. Weight, 19 oz. 3 dwt.; diameter, 10 in.

6. FLAGON. Same marks, &c., as above. Weight, 69 oz. 5 dwt. ; height, 14 in. ; diameter at base, $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. Total weight of plate, nearly 146 oz.

7. A large shield of plated metal, with the sacred monogram engraved thereon ; presumably intended to stand on the Holy Table. No exact date can be assigned to this article, as I have not met with anything of the kind elsewhere.

PIRTON.

There is no silver belonging to this parish. The vessels are of plated metal, and consist of two cups, a paten, two almsdishes, and a flagon. On the flagon is inscribed, "St. Mary, Pirton, T. W. Thirlwall, B.D., Vicar, A. E. Fowler, M.A., curate, William Hanscombe, William Woolston, churchwardens."

The Rev. T. W. Thirlwall was Vicar of Pirton from 1835 to 1847.

The name Hanscombe appears on a slab in the floor of the nave of the church to the memory of James Hanscombe, and his son William Hanscombe, who were living at Pirton Grange at the end of the last century.

STEVENAGE.

1. CUP. *Dale letter*, 1634-5. *Maker's mark*, the letters R.M. with a cinquefoil below in a shaped shield. The same mark is found on some plain Communion flagons belonging to Trinity College, Oxford, and also on some gilt flagons at the Temple Church, London. There was a Richard Marsh, a goldsmith, flourishing about this time, according to Chaffers, and it is possible it may have been his mark. The shape and design of this cup is of the plain pattern called by Archdeacon Lea in his "Church Plate in the Archdeaconry of Worcester," the Puritan pattern (see plate 2, No. 1). The bowl of the cup is large in proportion, and the foot and stem perfectly plain, without boss or other ornament. Upon it is inscribed, "The parish of Stevenage, 1634," in fine dotted characters. Weight, 11 oz. 10 dwt. ; height, $7\frac{5}{8}$ in. ; diameter at mouth, $4\frac{1}{4}$ in.

2. PATEN. Cover to the above. Same marks and inscription. Weight, 4 oz. 10 dwt. ; diameter, $4\frac{7}{8}$ in.

3. PATEN OR ALMS-DISH. Large, with a foot, and quite plain, *Date letter*, 1683-4. *Maker's mark*, the letters R.C. in a dotted circle with three pellets above and three below, the same mark being found on a porringer and cover "*ex dono Mansel*" belonging to Jesus College, Oxford. Round the rim is inscribed, "Ex dono Fulconis Tudor hujus ecclesiæ Rectoris D.D. 1683." A sacred monogram is engraved in the centre, the usual three nails being represented piercing a heart. Weight, 18 oz. 4 dwt. ; diameter, 10 in.

The above mentioned Fulke Tudor appears to have been Rector of Stevenage for only six months.

4. FLAGON. Very large. Same marks as on No. 3. On it is inscribed, "Vas sacru Ecclesiæ de Stevenage, 1683," beneath the sacred monogram. Weight, 69 oz. ; height, about 12 in. The total weight of plate belonging to this church, is about 104 oz.

STEVENAGE (HOLY TRINITY.)

1, 2, 3, 4. CUP, PAIR OF PATENS, and FLAGON. Plated metal. Given at the consecration of the church in 1862.

5, 6. PATEN and FLAGON. Silver-gilt. Given by the communicants at the time of the enlargement of the church in 1881.

KINGSWALDEN.

1. CUP. *Date letter*, 1638-9. *Maker's mark*, quite illegible. This cup is very similar to that at Ippolyts, but smaller. Weight, 7 oz. 12 dwt. ; height, $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. ; diameter at mouth, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.

2. CUP. No hall marks. Probably of plated metal, and modern. Beneath the foot there is the mark of a pair of scales.

3, 4. PATENS. Salver shaped, on ball feet, and with a raised pattern round the edge. Plated metal. They are said to have been given by the Rev. R. Baker.

5. TANKARD. *Date letter*, 1736-7, *Maker's mark*, ^{T.}_{R.G.}^{C.} that of Richard Gurney and Co. It is a handsome piece of plate weighing some 20 oz., but much more secular than ecclesiastical in appearance.

WILLIAN.

1. CUP. *Date letter*, 1738-9. No maker's mark. The sacred monogram is engraved upon it. Weight, 7 oz. 6 dwt.; height, 7 in.; diameter at mouth, $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.

2. PATEN. Cover to above. Same Hall marks. Weight, 2 oz. 15 dwt.

3. PATEN OR ALMS-DISH. Large and mounted on a foot. *Date letter*, 1712-3. Britannia Standard. *Maker's mark*, much obliterated, but is, I think, that of John Leach, of Distaff Lane, who entered his name in April, 1697. Engraved in the centre is a pattern of scroll-work and shells, enclosing a monogram of several letters, the meaning of which I have been unable to discover. Weight, 13 oz. 5 dwt.; diameter, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in.

4. FLAGON. Pewter. Same sacred monogram as on the cup.

5. ALMS-DISH. Pewter.

GREAT WYMONDLEY.

1, 2. CUP AND PATEN. *Date letter*, 1883-4. Sheffield hall mark. *Maker's mark*, $\frac{RM}{RH}$ in a lozenge. Height of cup, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in.; diameter at mouth, $4\frac{5}{8}$ in.; diameter of paten, $6\frac{1}{2}$ in.

3. CRUET. Glass, silver mounted. *Date letter*, 1884-5. Sheffield hall mark.

LITTLE WYMONDLEY.

1. CUP. Modern Georgian pattern. *Date letter*, 1862-3. *Maker's mark*, the letters W.S. in a plain oblong, being that of Messrs. Savory and Sons. Inscribed with, "Presented to the church of St. Mary, Little Wymondley, by Mrs. Hose, A.D., 1863," together with the sacred monogram. Weight, 7 oz. 9 dwt.; height, $7\frac{1}{8}$ in.; diameter at mouth, 3 in.

2. PATEN. *Date letter*, 1860-1. Same maker's mark and inscription as on cup. Weight, 12 oz. 3 dwt.; diameter, 7 in.

3. FLAGON. *Date letter*, 1859-0. Same marks, etc., as above. Weight, 20 oz. 15 dwt.; height, 10 in.

There is a small Elizabethan cup and cover, now in the possession of the Rev. W. J. E. Rooke, late Vicar of

Little Wymondley, which formerly belonged to the church. *Date letter*, 1570-1. *Maker's mark*, the letters HS with a pellet below in a shield. The same letters interlaced occur on a Communion cup of the same date formerly at Aldermaston, Berks.

In compiling the foregoing notes I have been greatly indebted to the works of Mr. Wilfrid J. Cripps, Q.C., to Mr. W. Chaffers, to the Rev. C. R. Manning, to Mr. J. E. Cussans and others, and also to the Ven. Archdeacon Lea for leave to re-produce the plates which appear at the beginning.
