



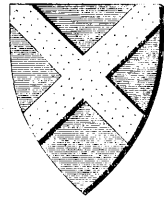
'Guide Sheet to St Albans Abbey'

This document, published early in 1846 by George Bell of 186 Fleet Street, London, was the Society's first. The author, shown as 'CB', was Revd Charles Boutell, one of the secretaries. The engravings were provided by Orlando Jewitt.

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THE ABBEY CHURCH



OF SAINT ALBAN.

Persons desirous of visiting the Abbey-Church, can procure tickets of admission at any of the Libraries of the Town. Instead of an indefinite donation from Visitors, heretofore a perquisite of the parish-clerk, a fixed sum is now charged for each ticket, by the authority of the Rector, and with the approval of the Churchwardens; and the fund thus raised will be applied by the Rector, from time to time, to various Restorations of the Church.

Visitors are requested to enter their names severally, or the name of one of the party, with the number composing it, in a book provided for the purpose. They will receive every attention from a person appointed to admit them, to whom they are requested not to offer any gratuity.

ALBAN, a native of Britain, holding a command under the Romans, having refused to renounce the Christian faith, was put to death at Verulam, June 17th, A.D. 297, during the persecution excited against the Christians throughout the Roman empire, by the Emperor Dioclesian.

Upon the spot where the remains of the sainted martyr, the *first* martyr of Britain, had been at the time obscurely buried, Offa, king of Mercia, A.D. 796, erected a shrine and a Church, and there also he founded a monastery. Over this establishment a succession of forty abbots presided. Of these, Robert de Gorham, the 18th abbot, in the year 1154, was constituted first abbot of England in order and dignity, as St. Alban was the English protomartyr. And to the greater number of them, if not indeed to every individual abbot, the Abbey-Church appears to have been indebted, in a greater or a less degree, either for its actual construction, or for renovation and enrichment: and thus the existing remains, while they exhibit a diversity of architectural design, perhaps unequalled in any other single edifice, are also of the highest value as examples of each successive style and period of English Church architecture.

The several more important parts of the present Church may be assigned to the following abbots:—

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| <p>PAUL DE CAEN, 14th abbot, from A. D. 1077, to 1093, in the reigns of William I. and William II.; central tower; ante-choir or baptistery, with its aisles; transepts; six northern and three southern compartments of nave, from the east, with its aisles; part of the aisles of retro-choir.</p> <p>RICHARD DE ALBINI, 15th abbot, from A. D. 1097, to 1119, in the reigns of Wm. II. and Hen. I., completed the works of his predecessor, and dedicated them, A. D. 1115. See Ground-plan, C, B, U, b, S, g, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, V, Z, P, n.</p> <p>GEOFFRY DE GORHAM, 16th abbot, from A. D. 1119, to 1146, in the reigns of Henry I. and Stephen;—abbot's cloister. See Ground-plan, j.</p> <p>JOHN DE CELLA, 21st abbot, from A. D. 1195, to 1215, during the reigns of Richard I. and John: and</p> <p>WILLIAM DE TRUMPINGTON, 22nd abbot, from A. D. 1215, to 1235, during the reign of Henry III.;—four northern and five southern compartments of nave, to the west; three western porches; window-arches of north aisle of nave, and of north and south aisles of ante-choir; arches to western lateral chapels (now destroyed) of south transept. See Ground-plan, 2, 3, 4, 15, —5, 6, 7, 8, 9,—W, X, Y, V, U, b, l, m.</p> <p>ROGER DE NORTON, 24th abbot, from A. D. 1263, to 1290, during the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I.: and</p> | <p>JOHN DE BERKHAMSTED, 25th abbot, from A. D. 1291, to 1301, during the reign of Edw. I.;—retro-choir, or chancel; shrine of St. Alban, or presbytery: ambulatory, or ante-chapel to lady-chapel, with the greater part of their aisles. See Ground-plan, D, H, s, t, O, P, F, n.</p> <p>HUGH DE EVERS DEN, 27th abbot, from A. D. 1308, to 1326, during the reign of Edward II.; —lady-chapel. See Ground-plan, v.</p> <p>RICHARD DE WALLINGFORD, 28th abbot, from A. D. 1326, to 1335, during the reign of Edward III.;—five southern compartments of nave, from the east, with south aisle. See Ground-plan, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, Z.</p> <p>THOMAS DELAMERE, 30th abbot, from A. D. 1349, to 1396, during reigns of Edward III. and Rich. II.;—St. Cuthbert's screen; windows of north aisle of nave and ante-choir; abbot's entrance; encaustic-tile paving throughout entire Church, of which now but few solitary examples remain. See Ground-plan, d, V, U, e.</p> <p>JOHN DE WHEATHAMSTED, 33rd abbot, from A. D. 1421, to 1460, during the reign of Henry VI.;—ceiling of choir, nave, and transepts; screen between retro-choir and shrine of St. Alban; duke Humphrey's, and his own sepulchral chapels; enrichment of lady-chapel; watch-gallery in shrine of St. Alban. See Ground-plan, B, D, A, S, g, p, I, o, v, K.</p> |
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WILLIAM DE WALLINGFORD, 36th abbot, from A. D. 1476, to 1484, during the reigns of Edw. IV. Edw. V. Richard III., completed the screen between retro-choir and shrine of St. Alban, which now bears his name; sepulchral chapel for himself, probably abutting upon easternmost part of south aisle of shrine of St. Alban, now

destroyed, except windows marked (23) in Ground-plan, which have been recently discovered.

THOMAS RAMRYGE, 37th abbot, from A. D. 1484, to 1524, during the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII.;—his own sepulchral chapel. See Ground-plan, *q*.

The earliest parts of the present edifice are assigned to abbot Paul, on the authority of Matthew Paris, who expressly states *a new Church* to have been erected by that zealous and active ecclesiastic: "Paulus . . . *novam Ecclesiam . . . extruxit.*" It will, however, be borne in mind that Paul made use of a vast mass of materials, which had been collected by his Anglo-Saxon predecessors from the ruins of ancient Verulam, and by them partly employed in the construction of a still older Church. And it would appear to be even more than probable, that Paul availed himself not only of mere building-materials, but also of certain rudely-wrought architectural members, previously existing, and on the spot, such as the shafts in the triforia of the tower and transepts. Neither is it at all beyond probability, that the oldest walls of the Church still contain portions of original Romano-Saxon masonry, which, from both the identity and the peculiarity of the constructive materials, it now is impossible to distinguish from the adjacent parts of later, though still very early, workmanship.

The several styles and periods of English Church-Architecture, of each of which the Abbey-Church affords examples, have been distinguished as follows:—

ANGLO-NORMAN, 1066, to 1189; during the reigns of William I., Henry I., Stephen, and Henry II.



Fig. 1.

from A. D. 1189, to 1272; during the reigns of Richard I., John, and Henry III.



Fig. 2.

EARLY ENGLISH-GOTHIC, from A. D. 1189, to 1272; during the reigns of Richard I., John, and Henry III.



Fig. 3.

DECORATED ENGLISH-GOTHIC, from A. D. 1272, to 1377; during the reigns of Edward I., Edward II., and Edward III.

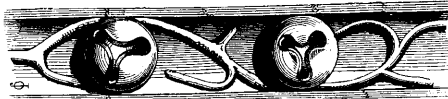


Fig. 4.

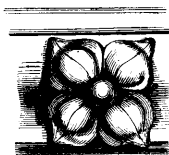


Fig. 5.

PERPENDICULAR ENGLISH-GOTHIC, from A. D. 1377, to 1547; during the reigns of Richard II., Henry IV., Henry V., Henry VI., Edward IV., Edward V., Rich. III., Henry VII., and Henry VIII.

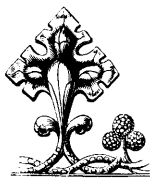


Fig. 6.

Fig. 1.—Early Anglo-Norman cushion-capital, from south transept, (*g*).

Fig. 2, 3.—Early English-Gothic tooth-ornament, from triforium of nave, (*6*).

Fig. 4.—Decorated English-Gothic ball-flower ornament, from lady-chapel, (*v*).

Fig. 5.—Flower of four leaves, of the same period, from triforium of nave, (*12*).

Fig. 6.—Perpendicular English-Gothic Tudor-flower ornament, from capital in duke Humphrey's sepulchral chapel, (*I*).

The principal measurements of the Abbey-Church are,—

Exterior.—Extreme length, from east to west, 547 feet, 9 inches.—Extreme width, from north to south, 206 feet.—Height of tower, 144 feet, 6 inches.

Interior.—Length, from western extremity of nave to eastern extremity of shrine of St. Alban, 410 feet, 8 inches.—Width, from north to south of transepts, 174 feet.—Width of nave and aisles, 74 feet.

The monumental brasses yet remaining in the Abbey-Church, are,—

The magnificent Flemish brass of abbot Delamere, now preserved in abbot Wheathamsted's chapel, (*o*).

The brass of Sir Anthony de Grey, brother of John Lord Grey, of Groby, who fell at the battle of Bernard's Heath, near St. Alban's, Feb. 17, 1461, (*r*).

The brass of a civilian, merchant of the Staple, at Calais.

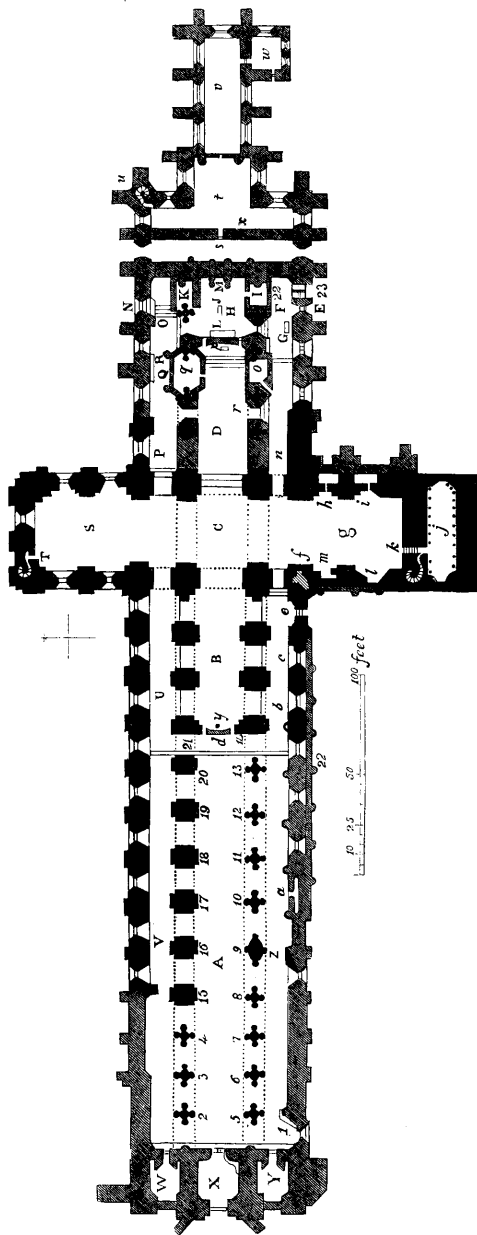
The brass of a monk holding a heart.

A rich canopy, now mutilated.

Several fragments.

GROUND-PLAN OF THE ABBEY-CHURCH.

In this Plan the Anglo-Norman portions of the Church are distinguished by a darker shade, than those of later date.



REFERENCES TO PLAN.

- A. Nave.
- B. Ante-choir, or baptistery.
- C. Central tower.
- D. Retro-choir, or chancel.
- E. South-door.
- F. South-aisle of shrine of St. Alban.
- G. Altar-stone of St. Cuthbert.
- H. Shrine of St. Alban, or presbytery.
- I. Sepulchral chapel and vault of Humphrey, duke of Gloucester, brother of king Henry V.
- J. The spot where St. Alban is said to have been buried, and over which his tomb was erected.
- K. Watch-gallery.
- L. Balustrade, with votive inscription.
- M. Arches leading eastward, closed subsequent to the dissolution.
- N. North door.
- O. North aisle of shrine of St. Alban.
- P. North aisle of Retro-choir.
- Q. Back of abbot Ramryge's chantry.
- R. Early English-Gothic arcade.
- S. North transept, supposed site of the martyrdom.
- T. Tower-stairs; early arch, and masonry.
- U. North aisle of ante-choir.
- V. North aisle of nave.
- W. North-western porch, now closed externally.
- X. Central-western porch, shewing original level of floor, and basement mouldings.
- Y. South-western porch, now closed externally.
- Z. South aisle of nave.
- a. Recess in main wall, probably the lavatory originally open to the cloisters.
- b. South aisle of ante-choir.
- c. Sepulchral heptafoil arch, now surmounting a piscina.
- d. St. Cuthbert's screen, with positions of two altars.
- e. Abbot's entrance.
- f. Recess in main wall.
- g. South transept.
- h. Chapel of St. Mary.
- i. Chapel of St. Simeon.
- j. Abbot's cloister.
- k. Stairs to triforia.
- l. Arch to chapel of abbot Delamere.
- m. Arch to chapel of St. John.
- n. South aisle of retro-choir.
- o. Chantry, or sepulchral chapel of abbot Wheathamsted, now containing brass of abbot Delamere.
- p. Screen between retro-choir and shrine of St. Alban.
- q. Chantry, or sepulchral chapel of abbot Ramryge.
- r. Brass of Sir Anthony de Grey.
- s. Now a public thoroughfare, but formerly forming, with t, the ambulatory, or ante-chapel to lady-chapel.
- t. Turret with stairs.
- u. Lady-chapel, now a school-room.
- v. Vestry.
- x. Modern partition-wall.
- y. Font.

- 1. Excavation, shewing basement and original floor.
- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. Early English-Gothic compartments of nave.
- 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. Decorated English-Gothic compartments of nave.
- 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. Anglo-Norman compartments of nave.

- 22. Remains of cloisters.
- 23. Windows between Church and destroyed chapel, probably that of abbot Wallingford. These windows had been built up in the main wall, but have recently been discovered.

JANUARY 1846.

C. B.

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All Communications relative to the "Architectural Society of the Archdeaconry of St. Alban's," to be addressed to the Secretaries,

The Rev. C. BOUTELL, M. A., Sandridge Vicarage, St. Alban's.

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