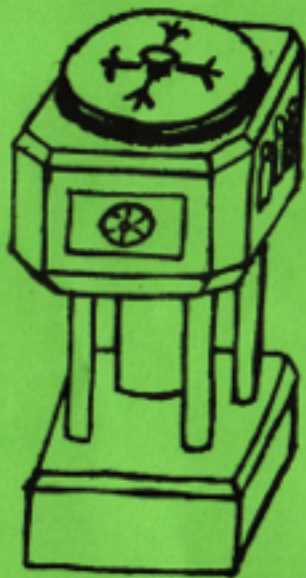


ALL HALLOWS CHURCH RINGMORE

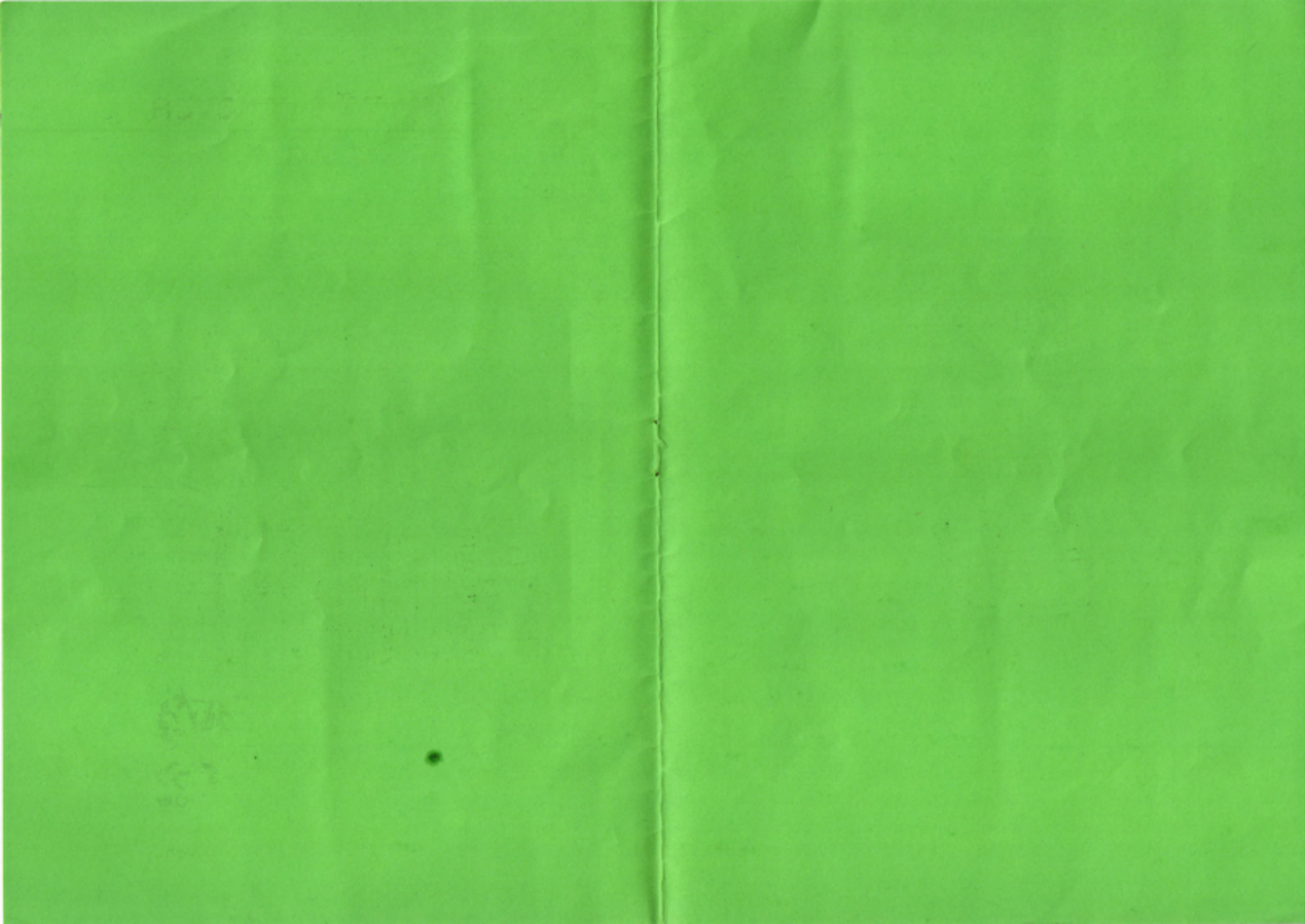
Your Own Conducted Tour



Font



South-West Porch



A PRAYER BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

Grant, O Lord, Thy Blessing on
the continuing worship, witness,
and work of this Church and
Parish; and as I leave this
House of Prayer may I not leave
Thy presence, but be ever near
to Thee and Thou to me:
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

WELCOME to this lovely ancient Church, set in the centre of a cliff-top village, with a magnificent view of Aymer Cove as you approach the south-west porch: an inspiration to "enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise". On a clear day Eddystone lighthouse can be seen on the horizon. The church building today is virtually that which stood here in the 13th century, with some parts going back to Saxon and early Norman times. The sun-dial above the porch is 18th century.

THE LIST of rectors on the wall by the door goes back to 1257. Note the unusual references, in 1658 to 'Samuel Ford - Intruder - Minister of the Gospel', and his predecessor 'William Lane - also Rector of Aveton Gifford'. At the time of the Civil War William Lane, an ardent Royalist, trained men of Ringmore to fight the Roundheads, and also set up cannon on high ground at Aveton Gifford. This presented problems for Cromwell's men who needed to cross the bridge over the Ayon to lay siege to Salcombe. The Parliamentary troops nicknamed him 'Bishop Lane the traitor', and a contingent of soldiers was despatched from Plymouth to apprehend him. After hiding in the church tower for three months he escaped to France, and his subsequent adventures and tragic demise when he was about to take up work again in Devon make exciting reading.

Francis Torkington and Thomas Heskett are both credited with being incumbents for 62 years, but old registers show that such men were usually absentee-rectors, with the actual parochial work being undertaken by curates.

THE REVEREND (later Prebendary) F.C. Hingeston-Randolph was instituted in 1860. He set about restoring the church which, largely due to the poverty of the people, had been sadly neglected. A rickety old Minstrels Gallery which had occupied the west wall of the Nave was

removed, and the original circular window replaced. It is said that in smuggling days a light would shine from that window to guide ships into Ayrmer Cove. F.C. Hingeston-Randolph did not like the high-backed pews which he found in the church and - in days before Faculties and Archdeacon's Licences - he and the village carpenter spent one Saturday afternoon reducing the pews to 'a decent and uniform height': quite a surprise for the worshippers on Sunday morning! He also restored the chancel roof in memory of his parents. When he died in 1910 he was succeeded by his son, Herbert Castillion Hingeston-Randolph. Since 1934 rectors of Ringmore have also been rectors of nearby Kingston.

THE GRANITE FONT standing on marble pillars is of Norman design but of much later date. It has a fine wooden cover with decorated ironwork, given (by his sister Emily) in memory of Lt. Frederick Francis Nigel Rees of the Royal Engineers who died in India in 1898. The brass pitcher was given in 1928 in memory of George Hart Secker, a local barrister, who, a quarter of a century earlier, had given the choir-window opposite the organ in memory of his wife.

THE WINDOW near the font, depicting St. Augustine and St. Alban, was given in memory of John and Ann White, worshippers and benefactors in the late 19th century.

OPPOSITE, on the north wall of the nave, is a beautiful War Memorial depicting St. George as an armoured knight in an attitude of deep devotion. The window is most unusual in that it gives not only the names of those who fell in battle but also the actions in which they died, with Ringmore losing a number of her sons in one day.

THE COMMUNION RAILS were given by Kenneth, son of Herbert Castillion Hingeston-Randolph, in memory of his parents.

Designed by the Rev. Alexander Wood, they replaced an old ornamental brass communion rail "which no-one could or was willing to clean". Kenneth himself was commemorated by the gift of the prie-dieu. He was Patron of the Living from 1945 to 1966, and the Patronage is still in the hands of the Hingeston-Randolph family. The credence table was given in memory of Flossie Bardens - member of a local fishing family, she was President of the Women's Institute for some years, and had been organist at the Parish Church. Both the prie-dieu and the credence table were designed and carved by the Rev. Alexander Wood, and were made by Ernest Farley - a wonderful craftsman who was churchwarden, a choirman, and also the village joiner and carpenter.

IN THE late 1950s, repairs to the west wall of the Nave revealed that there had been a large Gothic window or door reaching from just under the rose-window to the ground. While the scaffolding was in position, the weathercock - which had been used for target practice and had seized up - was replaced by an exact copy gilded by the Rector. Like Longfellow's weathercock, ours can

"...see the roofs and the streets below,
And the people moving to and fro,
And beyond, without either roof or street,
The great salt sea and the fishermen's fleet".

with which, under three sets of the Commandments, painted on successive coats of plaster or whitewash (the innermost of which, in black letter, and bordered with Arabesque scrollwork, was evidently of the date of the ordinance), I found, and with my own hands helped to uncover, a unique and beautiful mural painting, in perfect condition, contemporaneous with, and covering the whole of, the east wall of the nave, above the chancel arch".

OPPOSITE the tower door is the North Transept which once housed the Manor Chapel and formed part of the old cruciform Church which stood in Saxon times. There is a memorial on the west wall of the transept to Henry Legassicke of Ringmore Cottage (now Cross Manor) who died in 1826. Part of the transept is now used as a vestry.

THE LADY CHAPEL in the north choir-aisle goes back to Norman times. There is a well-preserved piscina in the south-east corner.

THE ORGAN, built by Bevington, was fully overhauled and restored in 1952 and again in 1979. It is ideally suited for the Church and has a rich mellow tone. It is a one-manual instrument with 6 speaking stops, plus a Bourdon pedal-stop and a coupler. The organ was not welcomed by everyone, and we are told that when it was installed "the musicians did not give up gracefully".

A PLAQUE let into the Decani (south-side) choir stalls commemorates Bertie Colwill: a farmer's son at Lower Manor Farm, he was a choirboy and crucifer until his tragic death by drowning at Challaborough in 1925, aged 14.

JUST BEYOND the list of rectors a curtained door leads to the tower (not open to the public) where William Lane hid for three months. There are three bells - restored and re-hung in the early 1960s - which are 'chimed' from a frame on the lower floor. This curtained door replaces an outside door (the outline of which can still be traced in the stonework) which was blocked by an incumbent who objected to ringers calling others to worship and then not staying for the Service themselves.

THE WALLS of the Nave used to be lined with decorated tin, the pattern being continued (and still visible) in the stonework of the window by the pulpit. Picturesque as this was, moisture condensing on the tin ran down to a wooden dado, rotting this and the floor. The tin was removed as part of a big restoration programme during the incumbency of the Rev. Alexander Wood.

THE STAINED-GLASS figures in the pulpit-window are of David, Archbishop of Menevia, and Aidan, Bishop and Abbot of Lindisfarne - 7th century Church leaders who, living in the days before the Synod of Whitby, followed the Celtic ritual while the rest of England observed the Roman tradition.

THE PULPIT and Screen are comparatively modern. Somewhat garish embellishments of the Victorian era, they were made in Belgium. There used to be a mediaeval screen, a small sad fragment of which hangs in the Chancel over the doorway into the Norman Chapel.

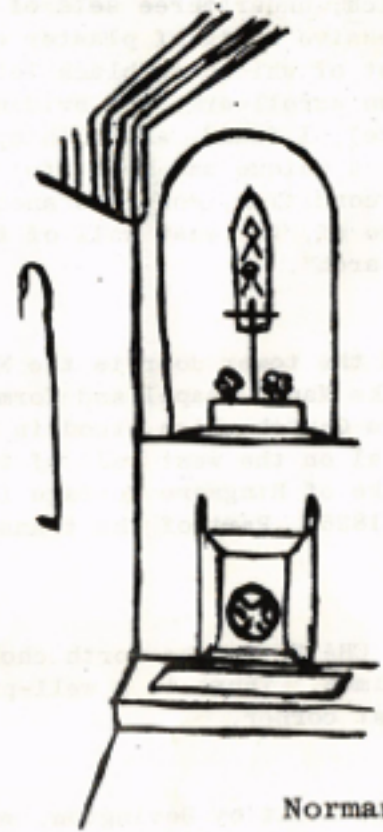
OPINIONS differ about the date of the pattern over the Chancel arch, but the Rev. R.C. Hingeston-Randolph, writing in 1880 about restoration work, reported: "I cannot refrain from telling of the surprise and joy



Weathercock



Rose Window



Norman Chapel



18th Century Sundial



Credence Table



Fragment of
Mediaeval Screen



RINGMORE CHURCH.

Ringmore Church.

Rector: Rev. H. Hingeston Randolph.
Services: Sundays at 11.0 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Holy Communion: Sundays.

The church of All-Hallows, Ringmore (formerly Redmore or Reinmore), is an ancient stone structure with low tower, containing three bells, and compares well for interest and antiquity with any in the Diocese. The interior of the edifice has nave, chancel and north transept. It comes down all but unchanged a style of English church architecture at its best before Domesday, a fragment of the old Saxon Sanctuary in which the first Christian fathers of the hamlet worshipped. Portions were re-built in the 13th century, but the thick original walls still remain together with other portions of the ancient building. The church was re-decorated in 1779, the bells being rehung in 1785. The old church (Parish) books are full of interesting records, and contain many marvellous (to us now) entries.



Baptist Chapel, St. Anne

Minister: From Modbury Baptist Chapel and Supplies.

Services: Sundays, 6-30 p.m.

Ringmore

Dedication All Hallows



Ridmore, or Redmore, as the name of this Parish was formerly written, is the Somesday Reimora then belonging to Ludhzel of Totnes.

Although no title from this manor seems to have been given to Totnes Priory, it continued to be held "of the Honour of Totnes," during the Middle Ages.

In the 12th century (tempo Henry 2nd 1154--1189) William Fitz-Stephen was the owner. In 1219 Gilbert Fitz-Stephen had a knight's fee and a half in Ridmore, "of William de Cantilupe, of the Honour of Totton." Mr Watkins considers that about 1284--1286 Ridmore was the chief manor, and probably the residence of Richard Fitz-Stephen.

In this family may be ascribed the foundation of the church, of which the Rectory was valued in 1288: - Ecclesia de Ridmore D. Just about this time the manor and advowson had passed to new holders. The first Rector we hear of was "Hugh" who also had South Pool. He was most likely instituted on the presentation

Ringmere

of the Fitz-Stephens before the beginning of the Bishops Registers in 1259. Of him we know nothing, but that on his death Giles de Eichkere, a new manor holder, presented Henry de Lyneton to the rectory on Sept 15 1284.

William Ferrers of "Churchton" (Churston) owned the manor in the 14th century; and in 1354 we find the curious entry that William de Ferrers was presented to the Rectory by Sir Edmund and Oliver Champenoun, "peoffees of Sir Ralph Smelyn priest, of the manor and advowson of Rydmere."

The successor of William Ferrers was presented in 1387 by Nicholas Kirkham, patron, "by hereditary right. In 1434 an enquiry was held as to the right of patronage, which was proved to belong to the Kirkhams, and continued in that family till the 17th century.

Now Nicholas in 1387 came to true hereditary right in this manor, & have failed to be able to discover. There were Ferrers and Kirkham marriages in the 16th century; but they were long after the time when the Kirkhams were fully established as lords of the manor and advowson of Ringmere.

We shall however seek in vain for any traces of these early possessors in the church itself, which; notwithstanding unmistakable evidences of antiquity, is a most disappointing building.

Ringmere

The thick walls, strong buttresses, and lancet windows, deeply splayed within, that characterise this church, give evidence of its early foundation at the end of the 12th or during the 13th century.

The tower is on the south side, embattled, crenellated, and completed with a low spire. Small lancets light the south side, upon which a sundial is placed. The exterior is rough cast.

A doorway with a plain pointed arch admits to the base of this tower, through which the church is entered. This has a stone barrel roof. The inner doorway, admitting to the church, has simple mouldings, and is surmounted by an image niche.

When the late Prebendary Wincston-Randolph was appointed rector in 1860, the church was in a very dilapidated condition, and its restoration was one of his first undertakings.

The building is small, comprising nave, north transept and chancel. The walls are plastered and painted, and the dignity of the interior much marred by a mistaken style of decoration, which detracts from the merits of the architecture.

The roof of the nave is open-timbered, and the seats are modern benches; a small pulpit being set at the south east. In 1847 there was a west gallery for singers. Now there is an organ on the north side of the chancel.

Ringmore

The bowl of the square font, dating from about 1170, is the oldest feature of the church. It is now set on a new marble base. Davidson in 1847 describes it as:-

"Ancient and curious. A large heavy stone basin, square, but with the corners cut off, standing on a square column and base, the sides rudely carved in trefoiled arches and uncouth animals."

Nave and chancel are divided by a fine pointed arch of the 13th century. Across this is a light screen, said to be set on the base of the original Rood screen. It is surmounted by a Crucifix, and has saints painted on the panels of the base. These are modern work, and represent:-

St Paul: St Jacobus minor: St Matthew: St Andrew:

St Bartholomew: St Matthias: St John the evangelist,

St Peter.

The floor of the chancel is tiled, the roof wagon shaped. A beautiful little piscina with a shelf is preserved on the south side of the Sanctuary.

There is a narrow chancel aisle at the north, which has an interesting lancet window, but this is all so much blocked up by the organ, as to be difficult to examine with any satisfaction.

A squint is set between the transept and the chancel. The transept is said to be the oldest part of the church, but screens for a vestry, and plaster on the walls, render examination impossible.

Ringmore

In the lancet windows are figures in stained glass representing British Saints..

The oldest memorial lies on the ledge of a north window, it is fragmentary, but appears to be part of a coffin shaped stone with an incised cross upon it, dating from the 13th century. This may formerly have covered the grave of one of the early lords of the Manor.

The only other memorial (in 1908) was a metal monument:-

B M. Henry Legassick esqr
of Ringmore Cottage in this parish
died 12 March 1826 aged 73.

A Russian Scab that hangs in the church, is said to have been brought from Sebastopol.

The Church Goods Commissioners, in their returns for the Hundred of Ermington in 1553, reported:-

Parochia de Rudemore iiij belles in the towre their
and one chalice committed to the custody of William
Nard, Roger Tom, and other parishioners there by
indenter.

Three bells are reported by Ellocombe, one being mediæval:-

- 1 Voce mea viva depello cuncta nequicia.
- 2 Nicholas Hooppell Ch Warden. Mordecai Cockey
cast me in Totnes 1692.

(This was "broken to pieces" in 1865)

- 3 James Gilbert Warden. I Casting 1740

In May 16 1381 Sir William Ferrers had license for celebrating Divine service in the chapel of St Katherine, in his parish, on her feast days.

Was it this chapel of St Katherine to which reference is made in Miles Collections:—"An old house in this parish called Okenbury, where there remains of a chapel, and a field close by called chapel park."

In the tower of the church there is a "refuge room," reached by a doorway and steps from the south east. It has a little watch window inside, looking into the church.

This in the 17th century served very practically for the Rev. William Lane, Rector of Ringmore and Queton Giffard at the time of the Parliamentary rebellion. He was of a military turn of mind, and mustered and drilled a body of his parishioners to serve the Royal cause, and with them held the bridge at Loddiswell so effectually as to be a considerable annoyance to the Parliamentarians. A body of Round-heads was sent from Plymouth with orders to capture and shoot him. Evading them he took refuge in the church tower, his parishioners, as loyal to their parson as to their king, bringing him food. The worst hardship was enduring the sermons of the "Sntuder" on sundays, when the disloyalties and heresies uttered in his own pulpit were such that he could hardly refrain from coming out of his concealment. Three months he remained in this hiding place

Ringmere

of which his enemies seem to have been utterly unaware, for they ransacked the old Rectory, and searched for him in vain. Subsequently he made his escape, but he does not seem to have survived to see the Restoration.

For 50 years another Rector has held the benefice, who has left an imperishable record in this Diocese. In 1860 the Rev. Francis Charles Hingston was instituted as rector. He took the name of Randolph on his marriage with Miss Martha Jane Randolph, daughter of the Rev. Herbert Randolph incumbent of Melrose Scotland. In 1885 Mr Hingston-Randolph was made a Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral, and as Prebendary Hingston-Randolph he will ever be remembered, for the magnificent work he has done in his Transcriptions from the Registers of the Bishop's of Exeter. "Indexes" he called them, but they, (especially the later volumes) are more than this. For those to whom these ancient records are inaccessible, or illegible, he has afforded inexhaustible materials for Diocesan or County history. His work covers the records of the Bishops from Bronencombe (1259) to Long, the last Register, a very large one, being left unfinished. (1) It is impossible to express what every student of local history owes to his stupendous work. He died at

(1) It was completed in II 3 by the Rev. G. J. Reichel and Dr Brown of Lynton, but has not yet been printed.

Ringmore

Ringmore Rectory in 1911.

During the course of his work over the Bishop's Registers, Prebendary Hingston-Randolph compiled many interesting lists of incumbents for other parishes, but, as far as I am aware left none for his own. Among other literary works, while Rural Dean for Woodhagh he contributed a series of historical articles on these churches entitled "Up and Down the Deanery" to the Salcombe Parish Magazine. It is to be hoped that somewhere a file of these has been preserved, but contributions to parish magazines are of a very transitory nature. These however may yet be discovered, and serve to correct errors, and give additions to the notes I have attempted to gather into this volume.

Rectors

- Hugh: rector of Ringmore & South-Parl,
on whose death,
- 1284 Sept 15 Henry de Lynetone Giles de Eichaker
John de Ridmore, died before 1305
- A Rector, whose name is not given,
on whose death,
- 1324 Apr. 6 Robert de Downe Sir Roger le Jeu kn^t
1354-5 Feb 1 William de Ferrers
Sir Edmund and Oliver Chambernain
feoffees for Sir Ralph Jamelyn
priest of the manor and advowson of
Rydmore.
on whose death,

Ringmore

1387	Sept 24	Mr John Mayne.	Nicholas Kirkham, by hereditary right.
1396	June 17	John Stancombe	Sir James Chudleigh and others, by grant of Sir Nicholas Kirkham domicellus, deceased.
		William Palmer occurs, 1434.	He had been presented by Robert Kirkham deceased, and enquiry was made as to vacancy and rights of presentation.
1465	June 28	Thomas Dery.	Nicholas Kirkham on whose death,
1473	Sept 22	John Welynsworth	Wm Yeo.
1510	Apr 11	John Symon, on whose death,	Salfridus Philips
1516	Aug 2	Edward Killerton	Sir John Kirkham
1546	Oct 30	Walterus Myllendon,	occurs 1536
1555	Oct 31	John Bowdrey	John Barnhouse esq
1637	Nov. 18	Nicholas Coote	Geo. Kirkham esq
1663-4	Feb 13	Francis Jorkington, on whose death,	William Lane. S. J. B.
1697	March 29	Samuel Ford, on whose death,	George Reynell
1759	Oct 3	Thomas Heskett	Wm Kirkham
1802	May 5	Thomas Baker	Francis Kirkham
1812	Mar. 26	Christopher Rigby	John Baker
1822	Nov. 16	Stephen George Ram, on whose death,	Sarah Rigby widow
1827	Oct 17	Richard Eastcott	on whose death,
1859	June 16	Gilbert Rutland	
1911		Francis Charles Kingston-Randolph.	died 1911
		Herbert Castillon Kingston-Randolph.	

-:-:-:-

From Misses Parochial Collections:-

Ringmore. Parish church a small mean building having a tower and spire. There is a square font of ancient workmanship. On the wooden ceiling over the pulpit are printed the arms of Kirkham and other families.

A SHORT HISTORY
OF
RINGMORE AND ITS CHURCH

It has not been possible to obtain any information about the village of Ringmore prior to the reference in the Devon Domesday Book of 1086, which commences as follows :- "Juhel has a manor called Reimora which Hece held on the day on which King Edward was alive and dead etc". The village has not always been known by its present name, and, at different times, was called REIMORE, RIDMORE, RIDEMORE and RINMORE before settling down as RINGMORE.

After Domesday little is known of the early history of Ringmore beyond that the manor passed into the hands of certain great families. William, the son of Stephen, held it in 1205 and, in 1284, it passed into the hands of Giles de Fissacre and remained with the Fissacre family until 1346. In this year the manor passed to William de Ferrers of the Kyrkeham (Kirkham) family and remained with this family over the next four hundred years until 1759, when it was purchased from Thomas Kirkham by William Row of Gnaton. Since this date the manor has had several different owners and, in 1862, was put up for public auction at Plymouth.

At one time it would appear that Ringmore aspired to the status of a 'Town' and there is still in the village, near to the Journeys End inn, a patch of ground and a disused well called the Town Well. An old Parish Rate book of 1763 has a reference that the Councillors had their Town Hall meetings in the long room at the New Inn (now called the Journeys End). In those days Ringmore possessed a second tavern - the Rising Sun - which was on the upper road near to the 'Billing' or Bowling Green and is now known as Challabore Cottage. It also had its pack of hounds and kennels and its own Poor House, which had been donated by the Lord of the Manor, Francis Kirkham, in 1768.

In common with most Devon coastal villages the nefarious trade of smuggling flourished at one time in the village and the footpath leading from Aymer Path to the Cove is still known as Smugglers Lane. The story has it that when the old Rectory was demolished and a new one erected in 1822, traces were found of a secret passage leading to the cellar from outside. Besides agriculture, fishing provided a living for some of the village and, when the pilchard shoals arrived in the bay, a successful catch would be celebrated by a procession round the village and a great spread provided by the owners of the New Inn.

Several of the thatched cottages in the village are categorised as 'Listed Buildings' and are probably of 17th Century origin and the central portion of the village was recently declared to be a Conservation Area. The village inn, which started life as the New Inn, changed its name to Journeys End after the celebrated playwright, R.C. Sheriff stayed at the inn whilst he was writing the World War 1 play of the same name.

The Church of All Hallowes, previously known as All Saints, is one of the few churches in Devon that have come down to us un-enlarged and structurally, in the main, unchanged since the end of the thirteenth century, when it was rebuilt. It retains in its North transept - the Manor Chapel - a portion of the old cruciform church, which probably stood in the time of Edward the Confessor. The tower, a remarkable structure, stands on the south side of the nave and has no tower~~arch~~; only a narrow doorway communicating with its first floor by a winding staircase of stone. The lowest stage of the tower is utilised as a porch and, a rare feature, on the first floor is a room, which contains a fireplace in the south east angle, the flue of which is carried up the leads of the tower, where it

+ The tower is not open for public viewing.

emerges behind the battlements. There is another little room above, approached by a ladder through a trap-door, and over this the bell-chamber. The windows are little more than slits and, when they had their original filling-in of thick sheets of lead, pierced with many tiny holes arranged in patterns, it must have been a very gloomy place for the bell ringers. Nevertheless, for one of the Rectors of Ringmore, it served as a place of refuge for three long months - this was William Lane, who was instituted as Rector in 1637.

William Lane was a Royalist and, at the commencement of the Civil War, he took an active part in organising the building of a fort on a hill at Aveton Gifford, which commanded the road bridge leading to Kingsbridge. Unfortunately for him, before it could be finished the King's party were destroyed and a party of soldiers from Plymouth, which had declared for Parliament, came searching for 'Bishop Lane, the traitor'. For the next three months he remained concealed in the church tower and was succoured by his faithful flock but, finally, had to take refuge in France. He was dispossessed of his living and, when he returned from France later on, he had to resort to working in a lime-stone quarry, near Torquay, to maintain his family. In 1654 he walked all the way to London to petition Cromwell's Council Board unsuccessfully to have his living restored and, during his long walk back, being hot and dry, he drank from a puddle of water in the road. This made him ill and, whilst staying the night at the King's Head in Exeter he 'took a fever which deprived him of his life'.

Besides William Lane, the records of Rectors of Ringmore Parish extend back to 1257 and a detailed list can be seen in the Church. Old records reveal that, for long periods the Church was neglected, partly because of the poverty of the parishioners and it was not until after the appointment in 1860 at the age of 27 of the Reverend F.C. Hingeston-Randolph as Rector, that a programme of restoration of the Church was devised and carried out. The main work of restoration, which occupied the period of the next two years, was commenced in 1872 and left the Church looking much as it does to-day. This included removal of the rickety Singing Gallery, which for many years had occupied the West wall of the nave, and replacement of the original foliated circular window in the West wall high up in the gable. The Rector was obviously a man of great energy, as shown by his description of the removal of the old high-backed pews :- 'The high-backed pews I had found to be simply unbearable and a serious hindrance to my work - the people were buried in them so effectively that I could not see a single soul when, at Communion time, I turned to read, Epistle, or Gospel or Exhortation. So, one Saturday afternoon, the whole of the enclosures fell to a decent and uniform height under the saws of the village carpenter and myself - to the great amazement of the congregation on the following morning.'

The mural decoration covering the east wall of the nave above the chancel arch is believed to be contemporaneous with the erection of the Church and was finally revealed after the removal of three sets of the Commandments painted on successive coats of plaster or whitewash.

This worthy gentleman remained as Rector of the Parish for fifty years until his death in 1910 and was followed by his eldest son, who served as Rector for a further twenty three years - thus the family of Hingeston-Randolph has been associated with the village of Ringmore for many years. One of the old Rector's foibles, so the story goes, was that, for the period of Lent each year, he used to separate the cock from his family of hens at the Rectory!