

DEDDINGTON

Deddington, now a large attractive village, was once a thriving market town, probably from as early as the CII. It is situated at the crossing of the ancient routes from Buckingham to Chipping Norton, and from Banbury to Oxford; a castle lay to the E. The market place was probably laid out in the C12, and the town was called a borough in 1275-6. Later it much declined in importance, being outstripped by nearby Banbury. The market continued into the C19, when the building trades were still well represented: by the *Hopcraft* family, then by the firm of *Robert Franklin* (†1864) and his sons *Henry Robert* and *William* (closed 1917).

ST PETER AND ST PAUL. The massive four-stage W tower, with big diagonal buttresses, has a festive air; its battlements have eight crocketed pinnacles and gilded vanes (renewed in 1893). It was built in the C17 to replace the tower and spire which fell in 1634, severely damaging the W end of the nave.* Rebuilding

*The steeple was then called 'the most noted of all Oxfordshire and seen the farthest'.

was interrupted by the Civil War, and not completed until 1683-5, by *Thomas Wood* of Oxford. Its details are still Gothic (e.g. the moulded Y-traceried bell-openings), except for a straight entablature over the w doorway. This has a frieze of leaf scrolls, carried on baluster-shaped corbels; hood with eagle and monkey stops. On the third stage a plain mullioned window flanked by rustic stone figures of St Peter and St Paul from the medieval church. Heavily repaired in the C17, they were given new heads in 1966. The w windows of the tower, and of both aisles, also no doubt C17, have forms of intersecting tracery, as has the similar N aisle NW window. Tall triple-chamfered tower arch. The N porch is a further example of C17 Gothic Survival, with a moulded four-centred arched entrance, blank quatrefoiled parapet, and, inside, an extraordinary domed vault with radiating fan tracery.

Of the Norman church, only fragments remain of the E responds of the nave arcades: on the S, part of the chamfered impost and some early masonry; on the N, even less. This building, probably cruciform, may have dictated the plan of the present church when it was rebuilt in the C13. The extra width of the E bay of both arcades perhaps indicates that they replaced arches to former transepts; also, the unusual width of the aisles suggests they may have been built to incorporate such transepts. The present chancel and nave are basically early C13, remodelled in the late C13 to early C14; much of the w end was rebuilt after the fall of the tower. Four-bay nave arcades, with moulded capitals and double-chamfered arches. Three E piers and the E responds are C13 and circular; the w piers and responds are octagonal, probably of c. 1300, rebuilt in the C17. Both nave doorways are early C13: the N has an arch with roll mouldings on jamb shafts with stiff-leaf capitals, the S doorway a similar arch on renewed, uncarved jamb shafts. Beneath the E end of the S aisle is a small crypt, reached by outside steps. The E ends of both aisles formed large chapels, each presumably enclosed by a screen and rood loft; the steps of the stair to this loft remain in the w reveal of a three-light Dec window, on either side. In the N chapel (E wall), a late C13 PISCINA with filleted roll mouldings and trefoiled head; beside it, the blocked entrance to the rood loft over the chancel screen. In the S chapel, a C14 PISCINA in an ogee-cinquefoiled recess, beneath a mutilated hood with head-stops. W of this, part of a C13 TOMB RECESS and another complete, both with a plain chamfered arch; E of the S doorway, steps lead up to a room over a former porch. The medieval porch, rebuilt in the C18, and again rebuilt in 1865, is flanked, outside, by two more tomb recesses. Both aisles have a large Late Perp E window, of four simple cinquefoil-cusped lights. More striking, the Perp S aisle SE window, of five lights with panel tracery, the mullions carried down below the glazing to a window seat in the manner of Richard Winchcombe, the master mason who rebuilt the chancel at Adderbury (1408-18). Another Perp window with panel tracery, w of the S porch.

The Perp clerestory is not synchronized with the arcades. There is also a four-light window over the chancel arch, a feature more usual in Cotswold churches (but cf. Chipping Norton). The Geometrical tracery of the N aisle NE window is by *G.E. Street*, whose restoration, begun 1858, was only completed (because of local dissensions) in 1865-6. Shallow-pitched nave roof rebuilt 1843; other roofs mostly renewed by *Street*. The chancel is largely late C13, its (renewed) arch to the nave triple-chamfered; windows with Y-tracery, with part of a string course on the side walls below the sills. Excellent SEDILIA and PISCINA, of four arches with roll mouldings (the piscina with a cinquefoil-cusped inner arch), and shafts with naturalistic leaf capitals. Lowside window, sw. Late Perp clerestory. The large Geometrical E window (and the gabled N vestry) are again by *Street*.

FURNISHINGS. FONT of 1663-4 (perhaps altered in 1841). Octagonal plinth with blank trefoiled panels, small moulded bowl. Good solid COVER by *J.B.L. Tolhurst*, 1958. - His also the ENGLISH ALTAR in the s chapel, of 1948. - SCREEN. C15, with unusual tracery: three bays, each with triple crocketed ogee arches, to either side of the four-centred doorway. It was originally vaulted, though the present vault and top frieze are of c. 1870. - STALLS with typical *Street* poppyheads and *Minton* floor TILING. - ORGAN CASE by *C.G. Hare*, 1912; also his, the PULPIT (1909) and eagle LECTERN (1908). - STAINED GLASS. By *C.E. Kempe* the ornate E window, 1888, and one N aisle N, 1900. The N aisle E, 1924, and NE, 1937, are by *A.J. Davies* (of the *Bromsgrove Guild*). - MONUMENTS. C14 effigy of a lawyer or judge, in the s aisle recess; rather flat, but with interesting details (e.g. the fully carved eyeballs). - N aisle, E end. Late C14 BRASS with the half-effigy of a civilian (17½ in./44 cm.), reset on the s wall. - William Byllyng †1533 and wife Elizabeth †1522. Of Purbeck marble: tomb-chest with three roundels enclosing blank shields, and reredos with indents of brasses, and part of the inscription. Traces of painted figures (SS Mary and John?) remain, l. of the indent for the cross. - Beata Belchier †1686, stone cartouche with standing cherubs and drapery. - Frank Wakefield †1730 (nave w), also a stone cartouche, with cherub heads.

CHURCHYARD. s of the tower, an ornate chest tomb to Mary Hitchcock †1818, by *George Cakebread* of Bloxham; acanthus-enriched consoles, antefixae and a high cover with draped urn. - Earlier chest tombs include a good early C18 group of three, a little ESE of the chancel, with vigorously carved cartouches, wreaths and cornucopiae.

THE OLD VICARAGE, s of the church. Late C17, given a new front range in 1822 by *William Rose*, a local builder. Three wide bays and two-and-a-half storeys, with sash windows; off-centre doorway with C20 hood, beneath a round window. Curving garden wall, E, with the entrance to the hipped-roofed STABLES. - Further s in Church Street, the especially pretty ALMSHOUSES of 1818-22. Symmetrical two-storeyed row of

four, with paired pointed doorways, pointed central passage-way and latticed Y-tracery windows.

CASTLE HOUSE (formerly the Great House), N of the church, was built as the rectorial manor house. It was acquired by the Dean and Canons of Windsor in 1353. The present house is mainly C17, to a complex plan, incorporating some medieval work. In 1894 it was restored by *Thomas Garner*, for the builder H.R. Franklin; the triple-gabled s range, of two storeys, with full-height gabled porch, l., and semicircular bay window, r., is mostly of this date. The N range behind comprises three tower-like structures. The NW section, which has very thick walls at its base, incorporates medieval work, much altered in the C17. A small first-floor room was presumably a chapel; it has three recesses with pointed arches, forming seats, on both the N and W walls, and a C13 roll-moulded piscina with mutilated bowl, s. In the N wall a small mullioned window of two lights. Similar W window in the room over the chapel, to which there is now no access. C17 stair-tower E of the chapel, of four storeys, with three-light mullioned-and-transomed windows and a balustraded parapet with corner ball-finials. The stone is laid in bands of two different colours, and there is a rainwater head dated 1654, with the initials of Thomas Appletree. The fine dog-leg staircase within is of ample proportions, with heavy turned balusters, fluted newel posts with double ball-finials, and an unusual cusped string with bosses and pendants. The chamber tower, NE, has on its E side, facing the garden, a handsome canted bay window through three storeys, each with 2:5:2 lights. This E front was carefully reconstructed after a fire of 1925 which destroyed the two upper storeys of the NE



Deddington, Castle House and church tower.
Engraving, C19

tower. Within the chamber tower three fine rooms with c17 oak panelling, also overmantels with three blind arches flanked by fluted pilasters. The double-depth subsidiary range to the w is of c. 1930.

PERAMBULATION

An anticlockwise tour can start in the spacious, roughly rectangular MARKET PLACE, SW of the church. Towards its w side is the humble TOWN HALL, built in 1806, probably incorporating elements of its early c17 predecessor. Segmental arches on square brick piers on the ground floor, three by two bays, the N bay blocked; rendered timber-framing above. Shield of arms added 1994. The surrounding buildings are mostly unremarkable ironstone cottages. A stuccoed section SW of the Town Hall includes the UNICORN INN, with full-height rectangular bay windows; mid-c17, remodelled c. 1800, further altered by *Wilkins & Arnett*, 1937. The only outstanding building is THE HERMITAGE (formerly The Corner House), near the N end of the w side. c17 double-pile, refronted with limestone ashlar in the early c18. Four bays and two storeys, with finely moulded architraves, doorway with fanlight, and wide bracket cornice. The ends are gabled, with kneelers and c17 mullioned windows. To the E is the BULLRING, dominated by a large late c19 retail WAREHOUSE, of stone and brick (and beyond this, Castle House, p. 292). In HORSEFAIR, N, closing this end of the square, the DEDDINGTON ARMS (formerly King's Arms), c16-c17, gabled and stuccoed; three square bay windows, the central one two-storeyed, with its original stone mullions, now painted over. Other windows are c18-c19, but the c16-c17 plan and much internal detail survive. ROTHBURY HOUSE (formerly the Three Horseshoes), further E, rebuilt 1948-9, retains a finely moulded c16 four-centred-arched doorway, with hoodmould.

Then W, to the corner with High Street. Here, STONELEIGH HOUSE now shows no signs that it was once the police station (altered by *J.C. Buckler*, 1854, and by *W. Wilkinson*, 1871). The latter added the low brick Magistrates' Room (now COUNTY LIBRARY) in 1874-5. In Banbury Road, a little N, the SCHOOL, by *William Hambley* of London, 1852-3. Tudor Gothic, with gables and plain mullioned windows; originally boys' and girls' schools at right angles, the latter, along Earls Lane, extended by *T. Lawrence Dale*, 1956.

In HIGH STREET (and, its continuation, S, New Street, i.e. on either side of the main Oxford to Banbury road), almost continuous c17-c18 ironstone houses and cottages. Near the start, W side, OSBORNE HOUSE, c18, of four bays, and the taller HOLCOMBE HOUSE, mostly of c. 1800, with several tripartite windows. Then MAUNDS FARMHOUSE, early c17, L-plan, also altered c. 1800. It comprises a taller chamber block, S, three-bay hall and service range, N, all with three-light casement windows. Inside, most remarkably, between the hall and

service range, a pair of unequal Late Norman doorways, apparently *in situ*: chamfered, with moulded imposts. GROVE HOUSE has a smart symmetrical five-bay front, its two-light windows with flat stone mullions; illegible plaque above the doorway, but the date must be c. 1690. Central gabled stair projection at the rear (the stair with slender barley-twist balusters).

At the start of HUDSON STREET, leading back E to the Market Place, an Early Victorian interlude, S side: THE PRIORY, stone, perhaps c. 1850, with gables and Tudor-arched windows with hoods on diamond stops, and Nos. 2-3, an unequal semi-detached pair, probably c. 1841, of brick, with elaborate Gothick iron-latticed windows. All were (re)built, around a late C17 core, for the antiquary Charles D. Faulkner, whose private museum (now a shop) stood opposite. At the rear of the houses are the dates 1690, 1841, 1851 and 1854; also, reset in the back wall of The Priory, a cinquefoil-headed niche of c. 1300.

Now NEW STREET, beginning with a brick section which includes CONISTON HOUSE, of c. 1800. Three bays and storeys, brick, with doorways with fanlights. Opposite, W side, set back, the former CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL by John Sulman, 1880-1. E.E.-style, gabled, with a tall octagonal W turret with spire above the central gabled porch; high-set E triplet.

Back on the E side, a good section begins with the mid-C18 CROWN AND TUNS (one of several inns, most now closed); four bays, the central carriageway flanked by single-storey canted bays. Then the low BERWICK HOUSE, of four wide bays, clearly earlier than its C18 refenestration, followed by ILBURY HOUSE, mostly c. 1800. Stuccoed, of five bays with raised architraves, doorway with fanlight and canopy on scroll brackets, renewed hipped dormers. An additional bay, of ironstone, contains its carriage archway. The OLD POST HOUSE was rebuilt in 1935-6, by *Briant Poulter* of London, in good Cotswold style, with gabled dormers and mullioned windows. THE LEADENPORCH HOUSE next door is a rare survival of an early C14 hall-house, of five bays. In the late C17 an upper floor, ovolo-moulded mullioned windows, and a large central chimney (backing on to the screens passage) were inserted, and a parlour (with cellar below) added to its N. The original service end is S of the cross-passage. Again restored, after falling into disuse, c. 1840; the long kitchen wing at the rear is probably of this date. Facing the road, the C14 doorway remains *in situ*; it has continuous hollow and sunk-quadrant mouldings and a hood with headstops, probably carved as beasts, now much weathered. To the l., one of the original windows of the medieval hall, blocked by the C17 chimney; of two trefoiled lights with a transom and remnants of tracery above. Deep chamfered plinth. A modern pointed window at the back of the house may replace medieval work. C14 raised-cruck roof construction, with arch-braced collars, kingposts

and wind-braces, still blackened with soot from the medieval open hearth of the hall.

DEDDINGTON MANOR, across New Street, probably built c. 1800 for Samuel Churchill, was much altered and enlarged for the Rev. W.C. Risley by *H.J. Underwood*, 1839-41. Ashlar front of 1:3 bays, with later pedimented porch on fluted Doric columns. The three-bay s return, facing the garden, has a taller centre rising to a pediment with a Diocletian window above a tripartite one. Shallow bow window at the rear, w, facing the small park, also created c. 1839-41. N of the New Street front a lower service range, of rubble, then the hipped-roofed stables. Further s, beyond the garden wall, a former PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL of 1878-9 (later Salvation Army): brick, with pediment, and stone pilasters. Then a long row of early to mid-C18 ironstone cottages.

On the E side, a couple more C17 houses of note. PLOUGH HOUSE (with The Steps), a former inn, has four bays in all. At the s end two four-light mullioned windows above the continuous hood of a larger ground-floor window (now replaced). Beneath the N end a C14-C15 vaulted cellar, with deep chamfered ribs, and tiercerons springing from angle shafts with moulded capitals and bases. Then TREHOLFORD, mid-C17, with three-light mullioned windows below two-lighters, all beneath square hoods.

Slightly further on, St Thomas Street, then Goose Green and Philcote Street, return back, N, towards the Market Place. All are attractively lined with C17-C18 ironstone cottages, especially PHILCOTE STREET, which opens into CHAPEL SQUARE. On the N side here, the WESLEYAN REFORM CHAPEL, dated 1851. Stuccoed, its central round-arched doorway flanked by Tudorish wooden windows of two lights; another, of three lights, above. The former CHAPEL of c. 1800 behind (approached from Church Street) is now a house. A miniature building with keystoned sash windows and central doorway. Provided with a gable c. 1851; originally with urn finials and a tablet inscribed 'Wesleyan Sunday School 1822'. Church Street (cf. p. 291) leads back to the church.

First, however, a detour further E, along CASTLE STREET. Half-blocking the road is FEATHERTON HOUSE, mid-C17, L-plan, gabled with mullioned windows, much altered in the C19 for W. Franklin. Then, N side, CASTLE TERRACE, C17-C19, of stone and brick.

Opposite, in HOPCRAFT LANE, leading back ssw, is ORCHARD HOUSE (formerly School House), with datestones of 1655, 1735 and 1917, the last two recording alterations for the Stilgoe family. The original two-unit house is of 1655, with ovolo-moulded stone mullioned windows on the ground floor, wooden mullions above, and a central gabled stair projection at the rear. Lower s extension added 1735, with wooden mullions, one of seven lights to the large upper room (probably a workshop). A barn and the gabled OAK COTTAGE, again with wooden mullions, completes the group.

CASTLE END, further NE in Castle Street. A long house with an attractive front neatly divided by a gabled porch, dated 1647, its four-centred-arched entrance with a hood on diamond stops. To the l. of this, the hall and parlour, mid-C17, with two large gabled dormers and mullioned windows under hoods. To the r., under a continuous roof, the former dining room and kitchen, with three bays and two storeys of sashed windows. The four-centred doorway within the porch, however, is early C16, and so are the first three roof trusses of the apparently Georgian range, so this probably incorporates the early C16 hall. At the rear a passage with a staircase and flanking service wings, added later in the C18.

DEDDINGTON CASTLE, S of Castle End. Impressive earthworks, approached by a footpath, a little SW, past the late C19 CASTLE LODGE. The large outer bailey (now occupied by a sports field) of about 8½ acres, surrounded by a prominent bank and outer ditch, with the entrance, W, was probably constructed for Bishop Odo of Bayeux in the late C11, as the centre for his large Oxfordshire estates. The kite-shaped inner bailey, E, of about one acre, was formed on the site of the original motte in the C12–C13. Excavations in 1947–53 and 1977–9 showed that this had a curtain wall, with square towers N and E, a larger gatehouse tower, W, and, to the S, a hall, solar, stables and chapel. It was demolished in the late C13 and C14.

ILBURY CAMP, 2 m. WSW. *See* Hempton.