



St. James Church, Ansty

Ansty Extracts from the History of Modern Wiltshire

Richard Zouche

Before I take my leave of Ansty, I must notice a learned man, native to this Parish, by the name Richard Zouche, or Zouchleus, as he sometimes writes himself, the cadet of an ancient and noble family, who was born of worthy parents in the Parish of Ansty, educated in Wykeham's School, near Winchester.

In the year 1619 he was admitted Doctor of Civil Law, became the King's Professor of that faculty in the year following, was chosen Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, a Burgess twice at least for Hythe in Kent to serve in Parliament in the latter end of King James 1, became Chancellor of the Diocese of Oxon, Principal of St. Alban's Hall in 1625 and at length, Judge of the High Court of Admiralty.

The Church

Dedicated to St. James, situate in a valley to the north of the great turnpike road. It is a small edifice of irregular architecture without either turret or steeple. It still retains some vestiges of its ancient state in a large fishpond and old grange with many ancient windows blocked up. At the east end is the cross of the Knights of St. John. The nave is separated from the chancel by a plain pointed arch. On the side of the nave is an ancient Norman arch which opens to a small chantry. The font is probably coeval with the Church, being a circular heavy bason on a plain shaft. It is a lay impropriation; the great tithes belong to Lord Arundell, Lord of the manor, who is bound to provide a Minister to perform service of the Church.

On a mural tablet:-

To the memory of Mrs. Bridget, wife of Mr. Daniel Lambert, surgeon of Ansty, who died 2 December 1792, aged 44 years. Also Mr. Joseph Butt, who died 18 July 1779, aged 63 years.

Likewise Mrs. Bridgett, wife of Mr. Joseph Butt, who died 17 November 1775 aged 65 years.

On a mural tablet north of the nave:-

To the memory of Mr. William Best, Son of Mr. William Best and Mary his wife, late of this parish He was a quarter-master in the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards; and in the war between the Allied Powers and the Republic of France, he died in the service of his King and Country at Bois le Due in Holland, 1 September 1794, in the 36th year of his age, at which place he was interred with military honours.

Parish Registers

I find nothing worthy of notice in the first Register of Baptisms, commencing 3 September 1751. In the year 1775 there were fifteen burials, of which twelve died in the small pox.

An older Parish Register was offered for sale at Shaftesbury in 1819 and is now in my possession. It contains a few entries of births and deaths from 1654 to 1658 inclusive. The entries commence again in 1686 and continue till 1744 inclusive. Ill as this Register has been kept, it is much superior to the latter, then which nothing can be more disgraceful to the Curates of this Parish.

Written by James Everard, Baron Arundell of Wardour Castle, Count of the Roman Empire and Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Bart. Published 1929