

These pages give two interesting accounts of Saint Andrew's Church during the English Civil War 1642-1651

First account:

From

Edmund Carter

*The History of the County of Cambridge from the Earliest  
Account to the Present Time*

London, 1819

## TOFT.

A village 6 miles nearly west of Cambridge, 10 north-west of Royston, 13 south-east of Huntingdon; and 48 north of London.

Mr. Henry Downhall, minister thereof, had these articles exhibited against him, May 17, 1644 :

“ That he is a non-resident \* ; that his curates are strict observers of ceremonies, by his order.—That he is an enemy to Parliament ; that he was thrown out of St. Ives as a Delinquent, and therefore imprisoned at present.”

Whereupon by Manchester's warrant he was ejected, &c.

Reformation, 1648.—“ March 6. We destroyed 27 superstitious pictures in the windows, 10 others in stone, and 3 brass inscriptions, ‘ Pray for the souls.’ We ordered a cross to be taken from the steeple, divers ‘ Grate pro animabus’ from the windows, a bell with ‘ Ora pro anima Sanctæ Katharine ;’ we received but 6s. 8d.

“ William Disborough, churchwarden.

“ William Basely and John Newman, constables.”

### Freeholders.

Francis Everet

Thomas Chapman

Oliver Bull (Kingston)

Will. Eversden, esq.

William Allen (Cumberton)

Thomas Sutton (Hadden-

James Noble (Eaton)

ham)

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\* Called a non-resident while they kept him in prison.

**Thomas Medcalfe, cl.**  
**William Harradine**  
**Peter Whittitt**

**Robert Mole**  
**John Richardson.**

**It is a rectory, dedicated to St. Andrew; valued in the king's books at 6*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* Patron, Christ College. Situate in Stow hundred, and Barton deanery. Feast, Sunday fortnight after Michaelmas-day.**

**The Rev. Mr. Metcalf, rector.**

**Bishop's procurations, rector, 2*s.* 6*d.***

**Births 8, burials 5.**

Second account on following page

First comes a southward turn to Hardwick, the church of which is so conspicuous an object in the view from the roof of King's College Chapel. Here, in 1644, "Mr. Mapletoft, parson thereof, with a wife and seven children, had these articles exhibited against him, viz., that he refused to read anything from the Parliament, but read many things from the King at Oxford with great boldness; that he prayeth not for the Parliament nor hath found them any arms at all; that he is a man devoted to many superstitious ceremonies, and commonly useth altar-worship, east-worship, and dropping-worship,<sup>1</sup> and after his sermon came out of the pulpit into the chancel and there made an end of his will-worship." Whereupon, by the Earl of Manchester's warrant, he was promptly ejected and sequestered. The previous year the church had been purified by Dowsing, who notes with disgust that for dealing with "ten superstitious pictures and a cross" he was here paid only 3s. 2d. instead of the 6s. 8d., which was his regular fee.

→ The great iconoclast has the same grievance in the adjoining village of Toft, where he got "only 6s. 8d." for a specially heavy "purification" of the church, involving the destruction of "twenty-seven superstitious pictures in the windows, ten others in stone, three inscriptions, *Pray for the souls*, divers *Orate pro animabus* [sic] in the windows, and a bell *Ora pro anima Sancta Katharina*." The "pictures in stone" were doubtless the alabaster images of the reredos, fragments of which are still preserved in the church, exquisite in modelling and colour. The most noticeable is a headless figure of St. Hubert, the mighty hunter of legend, who was converted by meeting a white hart with golden horns (supposed to be an emblem of Christ), and received from St. Peter a key wherewith to cure hydrophobia. The key is here in his hand, with

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.* genuflecting.

a dog beneath it, and the golden-horned hart couched by his side.

Just before we reach the seventh milestone from Cambridge another south-running lane diverges to Caldecote, with its retired little fane on the hill-side over the Bourn, a very oasis of devotional peace and quietude. Confronting it across the stream is the steeple of Kingston, where there is a fine fourteenth century fresco in the north aisle, and a delicious little niche in the western wall of the tower, outside.

