

St Giles, West Bridgford

This Church consists of Chancel, nave, South aisle & porch & a West tower, a vestry on the North side.

It stands in a well kept Churchyard, & looks as God's acre should.

On approaching the Church one is struck by the large projecting gargoyles, formed in the shape of human heads, one of which bears an uncanny likeness to Gladstone.

The Chancel is of good proportions, & has some noticeable features. It appears to be of two dates, containing Early English work which may probably be assigned to c1230, & Decorated work, of at least a century later. Most probably the Church was largely rebuilt about the latter period.

The East end has two three light windows of the later date containing some good tracery & over them a smaller one of the shape known as a spherical triangle. This arrangement is uncommon in the Decorated period & gives the east end rather an unusual appearance. Externally the hood mould is continued over both windows.

On the N. side are two lancets, deeply splayed, which with the Priest's door on the S. side, are remains of the E. E. building.

On the S. side the windows appear to be of Perpendicular date. They are two in number, of 2 & 3 lights respectively, & are square headed with very poor tracery.

Within the Sanctuary on the S. side are two square recesses, one a piscina the other having probably been an aumbry, they are perfectly devoid of ornament & probably date from the 13th century.

The Sedilia, a double one, is of much better work & of a later date.

On the N. side is an arched recess, plain with the exception of an hood mould terminating in a finial. The authorities are of opinion that it is the remains of an Easter sepulchre. At the restoration of the Church the words "Christ is risen" were painted thereon with reference to this theory. It seems more probable however that it marks the founders tomb, the figure or slab having been removed.

The Altar is of oak of Georgian character & is nicely vested. On the retable are a cross, four candlesticks & vases. It looks dignified but it is not quite satisfactory. The dorsal wants raising, & a little more taste exercising, & loving care bestowing upon it.

The nave is entered from the Chancel under a good four centred arch resting upon corbels, & probably inserted when the clerestory was built. Stretching across is a handsome oak screen of perpendicular date & very delicate workmanship. When the present Vicar came to the parish it was painted green! but has been very carefully restored to nearly its ancient beauty. It is however disfigured by several gas jets, which project from the top, & by a ludicrously small gilt cross, in the place of the ancient rood.

The nave consists of four bays supported by octagonal piers of Decorated character. The bases have been chamfered off on the S. side probably when the pews were put in. As in so many of our Churches extensive restoration &c appears to have taken place here during the Perpendicular period c1450. To this date belongs the clerestory which replaced a high pitched

roof. The beams of the present handsome & oak roof rest upon corbels of this date. All the corbels throughout the Church are remarkable being heads of uniform ugliness.

The windows of the N. side are of three lights, & contain good Decorated tracery. A remarkable feature of this tracery is that the entire head of each window is cut out of a single piece of stone. This is the more curious as the rest of the stonework in the Church is small, while for these windows very large blocks must have been used.

The S. aisle has a Decorated E. window, its head formed of a single stone & containing a fragment or two of old glass. The windows on the S. side are new - & ugly - but at the W. end is a lancet window cut out of a single stone & evidently part of the earlier structure.

The aisle* was originally a chapel, with its own altar, the piscina still remaining in the S. wall. It is cut out of a single stone & has two triangular openings with a quatrefoil pierced above them. The aisle wall has evidently been raised & a new roof added, the corbels which supported the old one still remaining.

The font is a plain octagonal one, very shallow & quite uninteresting.

The South porch is very deep & has a small chamber in the gable.

The W. Tower is of perpendicular date, having no door, but a Perpendicular West window. It contains three bells.

The pulpit is old & interesting. Its base is formed of the old sounding board & the old altar rails have been utilized as pillars. The panels are part of the old pulpit, but have been turned "inside out" & carved.

The Registers date from 1559.

They have a surpliced choir, & a good service of bright hearty character.

But the Church is kept locked, having to go to the Vicarage for the Keys.

Visited with A. G. April 20 / 87.

Additions to the Church.

Whole of the N. wall taken down & a fine large wide nave, with spacious Chancel erected, in the Decorated style. The old chancel arch has been moved two bays Eastward, thus the priests door is in the aisle, the screen occupies the arch, & the organ the old sanctuary. The clerestory windows of the old part now filled with figures of the 12 Apostles. The founders tomb removed to the N. side of the new chancel. East window of 7 lights, sedilia formed in sill of window light - now screen on stone base dividing Chancel * nave. Fine oak flat roof supported on curious heads & corbels. The tracery of the N. windows is in the porch.

1903

* There is an altar here now. 1903