

Diocese of Chichester



Guide to BURTON CHURCH



Plate 1: The 15th century screen dividing nave from chancel is an important feature.

BURTON CHURCH

Burton (formerly called, Bodecton,¹) church is one of the smallest in Sussex. It was built c.1075, altered and improved in the 15th and 17th centuries, and restored in the 19th and 20th centuries. The nave measures, internally, 29 ft. in length and 14 ft. 9 in. in width, and the chancel 12 ft. 4 in. in length and 11 ft. 7 in. in width. These modest dimensions contrast with the grander scale of the adjacent Burton House.

Burton Park was home to the senior branch of the Goring family and their descendants, the Biddulphs, for many centuries. The Park has had several owners since the Biddulphs sold during the 1890s, most notably Major John Courtauld and his family who lived there between the wars. After the Second World War, Burton Park became home to St Michael's School. Following closure of the school in 1994, Burton House and its Park were redeveloped sympathetically. As a consequence, Burton Church, after many years of somnolence, is once more a flourishing parish church.

INTERIOR

The north and south walls of the nave and of the chancel each have a window of two rectangular lights under a depressed head; these are of 15th century date with later restorations. The east window of three trefoil-headed lights is modern; the west window of three rectangular lights matching the others is above a doorway with a two-centred head and a depressed rear-arch. On the south side at the west end is one of the narrow oak benches with embattled cresting with which the church was once furnished; other pews incorporate some early paneling of good quality.

In the south wall is a blocked, round-headed doorway of c.1075; the arch and jambs are devoid of any mouldings. The bell-turret is carried on a semicircular arch of 17th century date. The nave roof has a plain king-post and was probably once ceiled but, like the chancel roof, is now boarded; note how the easternmost beam of the chancel roof forms the top of the window opening.

The 15th century screen dividing the nave from the chancel is an important feature. It retains considerable traces of coloured decoration and its tiny rood-loft, about two feet wide, has survived.² There are four plain cinquefoiled openings with vertical tracery on each side of a central opening with a four-centred head; the panelled carved with a rose and two palmate leaves; the entire spandrel is missing on the south side which suggests that the beam was originally made for a wider church. To the east of the screen is a plaster tympanum painted with the Commandments. In the floor, just to the west of the centre of the screen is a 14th century inlaid floor-tile.

¹ Bodeca's tun. Bodeca is a derivative of the Old English personal name Boda; tun, in its primary sense, means an enclosed piece of ground with dwellings on it.

² John Goring, by will, 1520, left two kine to maintain a light before the rood in Burton church; see W. H. Godfrey, ed., *Transcripts of Sussex Wills* (Sussex Record Society, vol. 41, 1935), p. 233.

The font is tub-shaped with a simple roll round the upper edge and traces of the staples by which a lid was fastened; the present lid is of 19th century date. This font is among the earliest in Sussex¹ and the bowl may have been cut away at the base to allow it to rest on its present and later stem, made of four blocks, instead of on a thick cushion stone.

In the south wall of the chancel is a piscina with a curious oblique drain; the bowl appears to be on the remains of a stem indicating that this fitting may once have been free standing. On the north side of the altar is a recess, and on the south side another, which is smaller but deeper; it would be difficult to assign a date or purpose to these recesses, but they are undoubtedly early. The very small and slender communion rails and the altar table apparently date from the 1636 restoration; the gates of the rails have been cut away. The other fittings in this church are either late in date or unimportant.

MONUMENTS

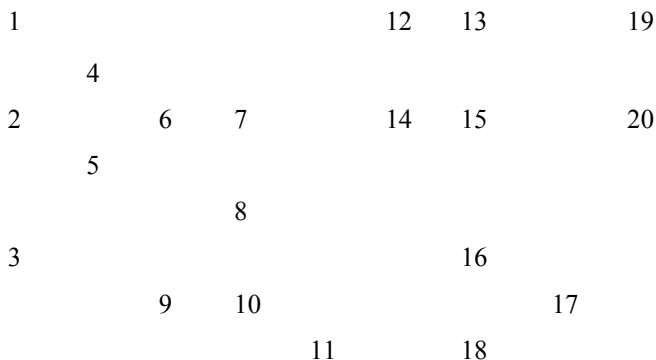
Against the north wall of the nave (Plate II). A large and richly carved monument of Purbeck marble comprising an altar tomb beneath a canopy. The plinth has three blank shields on the front and one at each end in elaborately cusped panels; the canopy has its sides panelled on both faces with trefoil-headed niches, a panelled ceiling of complex design with a large central pendant carved as a Tudor rose, an architrave of quatrefoils, a frieze decorated with rosettes and a cornice of conventional leaves. At the sides are delicate shafts carved with rather stiff foliage and flowers in bud (see Plate IV); the bases are moulded, but above the carving there are three mouldings separating the spiral continuations of the columns which terminate in moulded capitals. This monument should be compared with others of the same period at Arundel (Fitzalan Chapel), Broadwater, Petworth, Westhampnett and West Wittering and with the great de la Warr chantry at Boxgrove.

The monument was erected to Sir William Goring (died 1553) and his wife Elizabeth (died 1558), daughter of John Covert of Slaugham.² The figure of Sir William is missing, but Elizabeth (Plate III) is shown in her ordinary dress of a long, full skirt, a cap with a circlet of knotted ribbon at the back and a long veil, ruffs at the neck and at the ends of tight-fitting sleeves. But what is so remarkable about this figure is the fact that it is the only one in England showing a lady in that essentially male garment, the heraldic tabard. This bears, on the right shoulder (a), the quartered arms, 1 and 4, Covert, 2, Pelham, 3, de Courcy; on the left shoulder (b), the quartered arms, 1, Goring, 2, Dyke, 3, Camoys, 4, Hawtrey, 5, Radmylde; on the body, the quartered arms as (b) impaling those as (a). Lady Elizabeth kneels at a prayer-desk on which rests an open book; her husband was in a similar attitude. There are indents where were the effigies of eight children. Four shields of arms remain, some with traces of the original colouring.

¹ See *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, vol. 60, p. 79, for other examples.

² The monument and its brasses are in accordance with the wills of Sir William and Lady Elizabeth Goring abstracted in *Sussex Record Society*, vol. 41, p. 233.

As the brasses on this monument are difficult to read, *and to discourage the practice of making rubbings of them*, the full inscriptions¹ and blazons of the arms are given; the following key shows their positions and those of matrices on the back of the tomb:—



1. Shield: Quarterly of five. 1, Argent a chevron between three annulets gules, for Goring; 2, Argent on a chief indented gules three mullets or, for Dyke; 3, Or on a chief gules three plates, for Camoys; 4, Argent four lions passant in bend between two bendlets sable, for Hawtrey; 5, Argent three bars and on a canton sable a leopard's face or, for Radmylde.

2. Missing effigies of four children.

3. Inscription plate fixed endwise: Thomas Edward & Custance childre[n] of the / same Will[ia]m & Elizabeth dep[ar]ted in the[i]r infancy & / one other died afore it had Received Christe[n]dom.²

4. Inscription plate: Henrye Goringe sonne & heyre of y^c same S[ir] / Willi[a]m & Elisabeth nowe lyvinge & mar[r]ied / to dorethe one of y^c dought[ers] & heyres of / Willi[a]m Evera[r]d Esquire dyed & hath Issue by / her lyving Willi[a]m Edward Barbare & Elisabeth

5. Missing effigy of one child.

6. Shield: Quarterly of eight. 1, Goring; 2, Dyke; 3, Camoys; 4, Hawtrey; 5, Radmylde; 6, Gules on a/ess ermine between three martlets or an annulet of the first for difference, for Covert; 7, Azure three pelicans argent, for Pelham; 8, Azure fretty or, for de Courcy. Impaling, Quarterly 1 and 4, Sable on a fess between three estoiles argent as many mullets of the first, for Everard; 2, Ar-

¹ Missing letters in contracted words on the older memorials are supplied in square brackets, but otherwise the spelling is as the original except that the modern use of the letters i and j and u and v has been adopted.

² i.e. before being baptized.

gent on a bend cotised sable three double-headed eagles or, for Erneley; 3, Azure a lion rampant or crowned argent charged on the shoulder with a cross crosslet sable, for Darell.

7. Missing effigy of Sir William Goring.

8. Inscription plate: Sir Will[ia]m Gorynge knight one of y^e Gen- / tilmen of y^e previe chamber to Kyng Edward / the Syxte: deceased the xiiij daye of March / An[n]o 1553: and lyeth here Intombed.

9. Missing effigy of one child.

10. Shield: as no. 6, but with a crescent at the fess point of the dexter half for difference.

11. Missing inscription plate.

12. Inscription plate: O god forget My synne[s] Impute / them not to me but for geve me for thy dere son[n]e Jesus Christe[a] sake & Judge / me a[c]cordinge unto thy Inscrutable / mercy for yf we say y^t we have no syn[n]e / we deceave o[ur]selves & ther[e] is no truth in us.

13. Inscription plate: I have Geven deligent care unto the[e] and / nowe I see the[e] wyth myne eyes Wher[e]fore / I geve myne owne selfe the blame: and / take Repentance in the duste and ashes.

14. Shield: Quarterly of five (as no. 1), impaling, Quarterly, 1 and 4, Covert; 2, Pelham; 3, de Courcy.

15. Effigy of Lady Elizabeth Goring, described above, p. 5.

16. Inscription plate: Elizabeth goringe wife of y^e same S[ir] Willi[a]m / & dought[er] of John Covert of Slaugh[a]m dyed y^e / xvj of Nove[m]be[r] 1558 and lyeth here i[n]tombed.

17. Missing effigy of one child.

18. Inscription plate: Anne delalind daughter of y^e same syr Willi[a]m & / Elizabeth late the wyffe of syr George delalind / of y^e Cou[n]tye of dorset & nowe wife to ffraunc[e]s / browne Esqu[i]re brother to y^e vi[s]count mountague.

19. Missing effigy of one child.

20. Inscription plate fixed endwise: Robert Goringe deceased one other son[n]e of / Syr Willi[a]m & Elizabeth lat[e]ly mar[r]ied to Mary / daughter of Thomas Onley Esquire ha / vynge Issue by her nowe lyving Elizabeth.

Against the south wall of the nave. An altar tomb and shallow canopy of Purbeck marble. The canopy is supported on panelled sides decorated with shallow trefoil-headed niches on the front; the architrave is moulded, the frieze is a series of quatrefoils and the cornice is embattled. The ceiling is divided by moulded ribs into diamond shapes. The plinth of the tomb is devoid of ornament and the marble has flaked. At the back of the recess is the effigy of a man in mail and plate armour kneeling at a prayer-desk on which lies an open book; he has a *passe garde* on the left shoulder, *tuilles*, *genouillieres*, *sabbotons*, spurs and a sword attached to a *bawdric*. His face is clean-shaven, his hair long. An ejaculatory scroll is inscribed: *Delicta juventut' meae, et ignorancias meas, ne memineris D[omi]ne.*¹ There are four shields of arms retaining traces of original colour:—

Top left. Goring.

Top right. Goring, impaling. Quarterly, 1 and 4, Camoys; 2 and 3, *Per fess* dancetty argent and gules three pierced mullets counterchanged, for Dyke or Radmylde.²

Bottom left. Quarterly, 1 and 4, Goring; 2, *Argent on a chief dancetty gules two pierced mullets or*, for St. John; 3, Quarterly, 1 and 4, Camoys, 2 and 3, Dyke or Radmylde (as above).

Bottom right. Quarterly, 1 and 4, Goring; 2 and 3, Camoys and Dyke or Radmylde quarterly (as above), impaling St. John.

The inscription plate is missing, but the monument is to John Goring (died 1520) who married Constance Dyke.

Against the south wall of the chancel (Plate VI). On a low altar tomb in a recess beneath an ogee arch crocketed to the finial and supported by slender panelled columns terminating in pinnacles, is an effigy (3 ft. 8 in. long) of a lady in a very low-cut, close-fitting dress girdled at the waist. Her head-dress, now mutilated, was presumably of the 'butterfly' type; the head rests on a cushion; the arms, now broken, were in an attitude of prayer; at the feet are the remains of a slender dog. The plinth of the tomb is decorated with three quatrefoils enclosing blank shields; another plain shield is in the space between the ogee arch and that forming the top of the recess. At the back of the latter are signs where a brass plate (about 21 in. by 8 in.) had been fixed. There is also evidence of horizontal and vertical bars having been fitted to the front of the recess for a height of about 9 in. This tomb may be dated to about 1480 and could be that of Elizabeth St John, heiress of the family that then owned Burton.

¹ Remember not, O Lord, the offences of my youth, nor my ignorances [transgressions]. Psalm XXV. 7. This text is in accordance with John Goring's testamentary directions: see *Sussex Record Society*, vol. 41, p. 233.

² This attribution is doubtful, but cf. with the arms on the monument against the opposite wall. See also *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, vol. 73, pp. 125, 126.

OTHER MEMORIALS

1. *On south wall of nave.* Brass plate: Here lyeth the body of S[i]r Henry Goring / ing Baron[e]t who married Mary, one / of y^e daughters and heirs of John / Chamberin of Sherborne Esqu[ir]e, by / whom he had issue two sonn, William / & Henry & one daughter Ann, he dyed / ye eight day of June in ye year of our / Lord 1671, being 52 years of age. / Requiescat in pace.

2. *On south wall of nave.* Brass plate: Here lyeth the body of Ann Bid / dulphe the most deservedly belov / ed wife of Richard Biddulph Esq / and daughter to S[i]r Henry Goring / of Burton Bar[one]t by Mary his wife she / had issue three sonnes and one / daughter, and changed this life / for a better the 25. of Octob[e]r 1679 / aetatis 21 Requiescat in pace

3. *On south wall of nave.* Brass plate: Here lyeth the body of Mary Goring / the most deservedly beloved wife of S[i]r / Henry Goring of Burton Bar[o]n[e]t & daugh[te]r / of John Chambirland, of Sherborne Esqr / who departed this life the 12th of / September An[n]o Dom[ini] 1694.

4. *On south wall of nave.* Brass plate: In loving memory of /C.E. A. Milburne/ 1868-1942 / He lived at Burton Rough for 30 years and was churchwarden of Burton for many of those.

5. *On north wall of nave.* Brass plate partly broken away: . . . nne of Syr Willpam] Goringe late of / ... ysabeth, maryed to Marye, daughter / . . . Pulborowe Esquire having issue by her / . . . aye of June: 1557. and lyeth here buried.

6. *On north wall of nave.* Copper coffin plate: The body of Mary Lady St John wife of / the L[or]d St John, eldest son of the Mar- / quess of Winchester, & afterward / married to William Arundell second / son of The R^t Hon^{ble} Thomas Lord / Arundell of Wardour; deceased / November the XIII, Anno MDCXCII, and in the xcix year of her age.

7. *In chancel floor.* Black marble slab with Jesuit emblem at top: Here lyeth the Body of John / Biddulph Esqr who Departed / This life the 12th of May 1720 / in the 45th year of his Age / Requiescat in Pace. / And also ye Body of Mary / Biddulph his Wife who / Departed this life the / 5th of Decemb[e]r 1744 Aged 63 / Requiescat in Pace.

8. *In chancel floor.* Black marble slab, as no. 7: Here lyeth the Body of S[i]r / William Goring Bar[one]t / who Departed this life the 29th / of February 1723 in the 65th / Year of his Age. / Here also lyeth the Body of / Henry Goring Esq^r / Brother of the said S[i]r William / Goring, who Departed this life / the the [sic] 16th of May 1683. Requiescant in Pace.

9. *In chancel floor.* Sussex marble slab from which a brass inscription plate has been reaved. Nos. 1, 2 or 3 above could have fitted this matrix.

10. *In nave floor, centre aisle.* Two stones inscribed CB and I + B.

11. *In nave floor, centre aisle.* Brass plate with crest. *Out of a ducal coronet or a plume of five ostrich feathers proper:* Car. Geo. Scroope / De Danby Super Yore / Co. Ebor. Arm. / Obiit 1st Sept: AD: 1841, / Ætatis 36. / R.I.P.

12. *In nave floor, centre aisle.* Brass plate: + / Lucy Wright, / sister of A. G. Wright Biddulph, Esqr / of Burton, / Died 27th of April, 1847, / Aged 67 Years. / "On whose soul Jesu have mercy." / R.I.P.

13. *In nave floor, south side.* Two stones inscribed I + G PD.

WALL PAINTINGS

On the eastern splay of the north window of the nave (Plate IV) is a remarkable early 16th century wall painting of a young round-faced female figure tied head downwards on a St. Andrew's cross; she has a mass of deep red hair. Below the figure is a wide band of diaper work resembling a "box-pattern". It has been suggested that this depicts St Wilgefortis (also known as St Uncumber) whose cult achieved some degree of popularity during the early 16th century, but this seems implausible.

Over the south blocked doorway (Plate V) is a large painting of the Stuart Royal Arms dated 1636. Above it is the text "Obey them that have the Rule over you" (Hebrews, 13. 17) and below the arms, *Christo auspice regno*, a motto which appears frequently on coins of Charles I. On the south wall is verse 9 from Psalm 96 and on the north wall, texts—Titus 2. 11-13, Hebrews, 12. 28 and 2 Corinthians, 5. 20, all in 'black-letter'. Whether these texts stem from the restoration of churches in obedience to injunctions¹ or from half a century earlier is unclear.

HATCHMENTS

At the west end of the church are hatchments for two male members of the Biddulph family. The arms are *Vert an eagle displayed argent*, and for a crest, *A wolf sejant argent*; the motto ribbons are inscribed *Resurgam* and *In Coelo Quies* respectively.

BELL

The turret contains one uninscribed bell cast in about 1440 by William Chamberlain of London².

PLATE

A silver chalice and paten dated 1851; the paten is inscribed 'Presented by the Lord Bishop of Chichester [Ashurst Turner Gilbert] on the restoration of Boderton Church. A.D. 1851.' Note: these are **not** kept in the church.

¹ See H. R. Trevor-Roper, *Archbishop Laud* (2nd ed., 1962), esp. pp. 189-195, and J. R. H. Moorman, *A History of the Church in England* (1954), pp. 230, 231.

² Letter dated 12th February 1998 from Whitechapel Foundry.

ADVOWSON

Burton was consolidated with the nearby parish of Coates early in the 16th century. Burton with Coates now forms part of the benefice of Sutton and Bignor, Barlavington and Burton with Coates.

EXTERIOR

The west doorway is two-centred with a hollow-chamfered head and continuous jambs; above it is the west window. The belfry, built into the west wall and supported, internally, as we have seen on a semi-circular arch, has been considerably restored and its quoins are now of brick. It has small, plain, pointed windows in the north and south walls; its roof, now tiled, was stone-capped in the mid 19th century.

The walls of the church are of rubble mixed with large quantities of ironstone and a variety of tufa; notice the substantial quoins at the west end and the herringbone work especially in the north walls of the nave and chancel and the south wall of the chancel. This is indicative of an early building: the possibility of Saxon workmen having been employed on erecting Burton church cannot be entirely dismissed although perhaps it would be safer to regard this church as being of immediate post-Conquest date.

The windows in the north and south walls of the nave and chancel all have square moulded labels; the east window is entirely modern. The outline of the low, blocked doorway is visible in the south wall, and a slight bulge in the north wall may indicate the presence of a former doorway there. Although there are few memorials in the churchyard, that to Major John Sewell Courtauld (died 20 April 1942) who lived at Burton Park and was Member of Parliament for Chichester, 1924-1942, and of his wife, Henrietta Barbara (nee Holland; died 11 June 1959), may be mentioned. Next to them rests their daughter, Jeanne Barbara Courtauld, who was patron of the living for over 40 years and was instrumental in ensuring the church's restoration between 1985 and 1998.

DEDICATION

The original dedication of Burton Church has long since been forgotten. In 2003, the church was named after St Richard of Chichester to mark the 750th anniversary of his death. St Richard was Bishop of Chichester from 1245—1253 and as he was an active diocesan bishop it is possible that he would have known Burton.

GLOSSARY OF HERALDIC TERMS

Annulet: a ring.
Argent: silver.
Azure: blue.
Bar: a horizontal band about one-fifth of the shield.
Bend: a band across a shield from the top left to the bottom right.
Bendlet: a diminutive of the bend.
Canton: an area about one-third of the chief and usually at the left-hand side. Chevron: a shape like a rafter of a roof.
Chief: an area occupying about one-third of a shield from the top downward.
Cotise: a diminutive of the bendlet.
Counterchanged: when the tinctures (i.e. metals or colours) are interchanged or reversed.
Dancetty: a zig-zag with larger "teeth" than used in indented, q.v.
Ermine: a white fur sprinkled with black tails.
Estoile: a star with six wavy points.
Fess: a horizontal band about one-third of the height of a shield.
Fretty: an interlacing, like trellis-work.
Gules: red.
Indented: notched. The "teeth" are smaller than those used in dancetty, q.v.
Martlet: the heraldic swallow.
Mullet: a five-pointed star or spur-rowel.
Or: gold.
Passant: applied to a beast in the attitude of walking with head straight in front.
Per fess: divided by a horizontal line.
Plate: a silver disc or roundel.
Proper: in natural colours.
Sable: black.
Sejant: in a sitting position.
Vert: green.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sussex Archaeological Collections, vol. 24, pp. 4, 5, for a brief account of the Goring family; for a more detailed account, see D. G. C. Elwes and C. J. Robinson, *A History of the Castles, Mansions and Manors of Western Sussex* (1876), esp. pp. 56-58 & pedigree after p. 266.

Sussex Archaeological Collections, vol. 73, pp. 124-126, for the heraldry in Burton church; vol. 76, pp. 102-108 for descriptions and illustrations of the brasses; vol. 36, p. 178 and plate opposite for brass of Lady Elizabeth Goring. Minor errors in these valuable papers have been corrected in this present *Guide*. See also H. R. Mosse, *The Monumental Effigies of Sussex* (2nd ed., 1933), pp. 35-39.

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Plate II: Tomb of Sir William and Lady Elizabeth Goring (see ps.4—7).



Plate III: Detail of brass depicting Lady Elizabeth Goring (see ps.4 & 6).



Plate IV (above): Young female martyr inverted on saltire cross.

Plate V (above right): Arms of Charles I.

Plate VI (below right): Tomb of lady in chancel.

