

## St Andrew's Church, Fontmell Magna in 1830

*Transcribed by Chris Bellers from Dorset Natural History & Antiquarian Field Club 1924 XLV pages 24-25.*

*Notes by Sir Stephen Glynne who, between 1825 and 1874 visited 5,530 English churches, 88 in Dorset. These notes, from a visit to Fontmell Magna in 1830, are of particular interest, as they describe the church as it was before it was rebuilt in 1862-63.*

FONTMELL MAGNA. (1830). A neat and interesting village church, comprising a fine Perpendicular west tower, a nave with south aisle, and porch and a chancel. The tower is of good grey stone, with an embattled parapet and four crocketed pinnacles and a projecting square turret on the south; It has three stages ó the lowest very large; the west window of two lights; the second stage has small square apertures; the belfry windows of two lights. The west doorway has an obtuse arch and dripstone on square corbels. The South aisle is of fine Perpendicular work, and together with the porch presents a very rich exterior. The whole of the aisle and porch has a very fine panelled battlement, beneath which are two courses of panelling ó one of open work in form of quatrefoiled lozenges, one filled with roses, portcullis~~s~~ (*sic*) and shields; in the porch three are still more enriched, with groups of figures, etc., and the lower course has an inscription ó with two stags in the centre. The porch has pinnacles ó those in the aisle are only in part finished. The nave has a lead roof. The chancel, which is low and small, is covered with stone flags. The north wall may perhaps be earlier, but there is no decided character about it, and its windows are Perpendicular; one square-headed, one is set above the others, and there are portions of stained glass. The nave is very wide and has a waggon roof with ribs, and tie beams which seem decayed. There are three square moulded brackets for images in the north wall. The tower arch is moulded without capitals. The nave is divided from the south aisle by four elegant moulded arches of Perpendicular character with lozenge piers having shafts set at intervals of hollow mouldings and general capitals, which vary in details, but all are sculpted with angels bearing scrolls, but many of the heads have perished. The scrolls on the capitals are inscribed; on the first pier from the west is: - *Non nobis, Domine, non nobis sed nomini tuo*; On the second, the inscription is rendered illegible; On the third, the scrolls are damaged, but are entwined with emblems of the Evangelists; On the last respond are three angels, one bearing an inscribed scroll; one a shield with hands, feet and heart, in cross shape. The east end of this aisle is enclosed by a fine wooden screen, with elegant tracery and vineleaf cornice; but symptoms of later carving appear introduced in the tracery. There are two brackets against the east wall, and a hagioscope now closed. The south windows have some square heads, some contracted arches, and there is a little stained glass. The ceiling of the aisle is flat and panelled.

The chancel arch is not in the centre of the nave, but nearer the south side and has issues from straight sides without shafts. The chancel is low and small ó earlier than the rest of the church, with a Decorated east window of two lights; the other windows are modernized. The screen to the chancel appears to be modern Gothic; the pulpit carved in the style of James I. Against the wall of the chancel is inserted a piece of sculpture brought from elsewhere, representing a crowned head set in a recess within a semi-circular arch. The font is early, a circular cup sculptured with scrolls, and singular figures of birds intermixed; The stone is cylindrical upon a square basement with knobs at the angles, and set upon an octagonal plinth. The north door, set further than usual towards the east, is stopped up.