

The painted wooden effigy on this tomb, consisting of a rudely carved figure of a Crusader in plate armour, has a quaint history, for Sir John bought it in 1628, while still a young man, in an antique shop in London. He brought it home to the Island and left instructions in his will that, after his death, it was to be placed on top of his tomb. A few years later, in 1632, his eldest son George, who had been sent to Caen to learn French, died there of smallpox; and as his body could not be sent home for burial his father commemorated him by placing a small replica of the Crusader in a niche in the wall immediately above the spot where his own body was to lie.

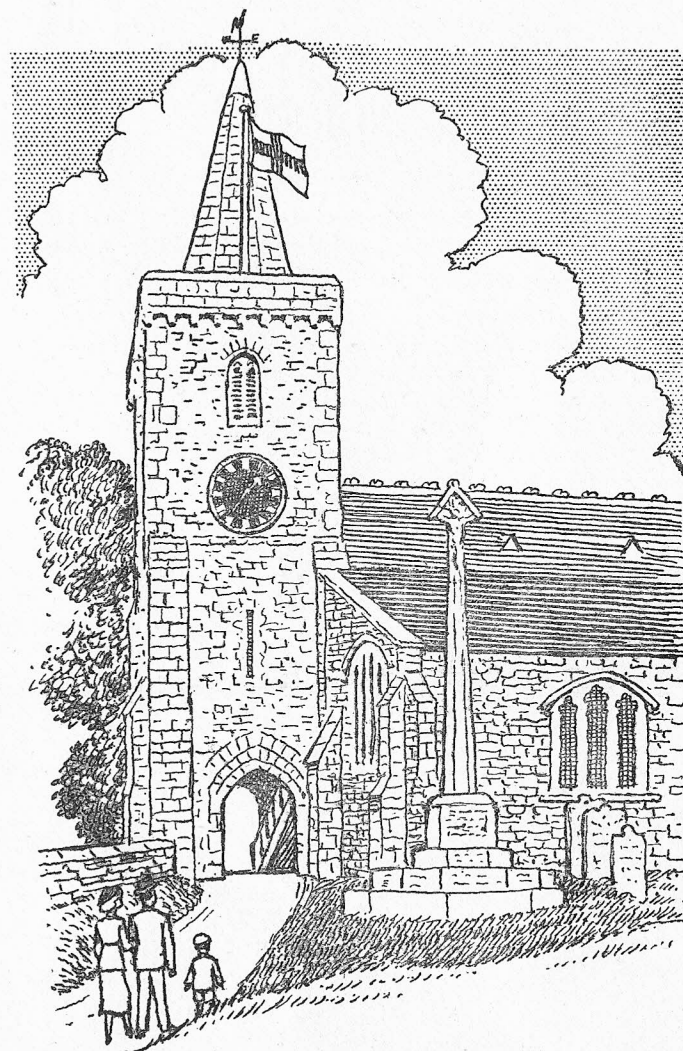
The Jacobean communion table in the Oglander Chapel bears the inscription: "I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord," and the Altar-piece, in memory of Frances Catherine Oglander, died 1921, is a reproduction of Francia's *Pieta* in the National Gallery.

Above the memorial tablet to John Henry Oglander, died 1924, is a 16th century Spanish picture of the Madonna and Child, and immediately below it is an unusually fine Victorian table-tomb, mostly in alabaster, with gracefully carved angels at each corner, commemorating Sir Henry Oglander, who restored the church, and his wife Louisa, who died in 1894. The inlaid chair in the chapel belonged to Legh Richmond.

The 15th century chapel on the North side of the Chancel, at present used as an organ chamber and vestry, has been inaccurately called the De Aula Chapel (after the ancient de Aula family, who were lords of the manor of Aul-land-now Yaverland—in the 12th and 13th centuries) owing to the tombs of William Howles and his wife having been placed there in the 16th century. The tomb on the South side is inscribed "Jhu have merci on Wylyam Howly's sowl. Amen. MCCCCCXX," while on the North side are recorded the simple words "and Helizabeth hys wyf."

The churchyard contains many interesting tombs, including that of *Little Jane*. At its entrance, under the old Town Hall, can be seen the ancient stocks and whipping-post, with the lock-up behind; and at the eastern end of the churchyard is the village pound.

WILL YOU PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH
IN REPAIR BY A GIFT HOWEVER SMALL?
THANK YOU.



CHURCH OF ST. MARY
BRADING : ISLE OF WIGHT

CHURCH OF ST. MARY, BRADING.

IN bygone days this inland village of Brading stood at the head of a picturesque arm of the sea, called Brading Haven, which extended southwards from the Solent at St. Helens Point.

Before Ryde existed, travellers from the mainland to the East Wight would sail straight up the haven to the little quay at Brading and, according to age-old tradition, it was here that Bishop Wilfrid, subsequently Archbishop of York, landed from Selsey in A.D. 685, when he came to convert the pagan Jute inhabitants of the Island to Christianity.

It is pleasant to believe that St. Wilfrid preached his first sermon to the cottagers of Brading on the high ground overlooking their little quay—the site of our present church; but the legend that he subsequently built a church here—the first Christian church in the Isle of Wight—cannot be supported by any known facts.

The Norman pillars of St. Mary's, Brading, show that our church was built in the middle of the 12th Century. A hundred years later, about 1250, it was altered and enlarged by the raising of the roof, the addition of the North and South aisles, and by the building of the tower.

The lancet window at the West end of the North aisle belongs to this date, as also do the Early English arches built on top of the Norman pillars in order to raise the roof.

An unusual feature of the tower, which is surmounted by a stone spire, is that it is built on four piers, and thus encloses a porch open on all four sides. In the tower belfry is a peal of eight bells, the oldest of which, the tenor, is dated 1594, and weighs nearly half a ton.

Except for the addition of the chapels on each side of the chancel in the latter half of the 15th Century no great alteration has taken place in the general appearance of the church since its remodelling in 1250, but in 1865 the whole church was carefully

restored by Sir Henry Oglander, of Nunwell, when the chancel was lengthened, the roof largely reconditioned, and the old seats replaced by the present pews.

The oldest memorial in the church is on the South side of the sanctuary—a fine incised slab of Purbeck stone to the memory of John Curwen, Constable of Portchester Castle, d. 1441., who is represented in plate armour. The helmet, gauntlets, and sword hilt were once inlaid with metal, and the shield with enamel.

Others items of interest in the church are the small movable font, dated 1631, the bread-chest, in which bread for the poor used to be placed every Sunday, dated 1634, and the churchwardens' chest, with a lock for each warden and one for the vicar, dated 1637. The Vicar and Churchwardens of the present day still use this chest and invite visitors to place in it their offerings for the upkeep of the Church.

In the South aisle is a brass tablet erected by his descendants to the memory of Legh Richmond, author of *Annals of the Poor*, who was Curate-in-Charge of Brading and Yaverland from 1797 to 1805.

The Oglander Chapel, on the South side of the chancel, is the private chapel of the Oglander family, who have lived at Nunwell, about three-quarters of a mile from Brading, since Norman times.

The chapel was built in the second half of the 15th century by John Oglander, whose tomb is the centre table tomb on the South side, and bears the date 1483. Opposite to it, between the chapel and the chancel, the elaborately carved tomb, with figures in bold relief, is the tomb of Sir Oliver Oglander, Lieut.-Governor of Guernsey, who died in 1536, the year that saw the first issue of the Bible in English.

The figures on the South panel, which still show traces of the old colouring, removed in Puritan days, depict the deceased kneeling before the altar in plate armour, his wife and seven children grouped behind him, with large Bibles in their hands.

On the South side of the chapel, to the East of John Oglander's tomb, is that of his descendant, Sir William Oglander, died 1607, surmounted by a finely-carved wooden effigy; while to the East of Sir Oliver's is that of Sir William's son, the famous Island diarist, Sir John Oglander, at one time M.P. for Yarmouth, who entertained Charles I at Nunwell and died in 1655.