

The Churchyard contains many interesting tombs, besides that of "Little Jane." The sundial, dated 1815, is on a post, the remains probably of the old Churchyard cross, dated 1714, and the original dial of that date was found in an antique shop in London, and is now in the Vicarage garden. The fine War Memorial is by Stone and Nicholls. Near it, under the old Town Hall, are the Stocks and Whipping Post with the Lock-up behind, and at the other end of the churchyard is the Pound. Brading still preserves its Bullring, and at Nunwell is the parish gun dated 1549. The town books go back to 1555. The original charter was granted about 1280, by Edward I, the second charter was given by Edward VI in 1548. The church register goes back to 1547. Brading parish still covers twelve square miles, though nine daughter parishes have been formed from it. In old days it had chapels of ease at Walverton (S. Urian's copse), in Whitefield, Alverstone and Shanklin (the present old church), Bonchurch and the church at Yaverland. The road leading past the Vicarage to the old quay is thought to be part of the old tin track from Cornwall in use some 4,000 years ago. When the sea came right up through the marshes Brading was a place of importance, even in Roman times, as the Roman Villa proves; the harbour afforded safe anchorage for the fleet and much traffic was done in the town, which is one of the oldest towns in the Island, the King's Towne of Bradyng.

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HISTORICAL NOTES

on

BRADING CHURCH

ISLE OF WIGHT

The upkeep of this ancient Church
is very costly -

The Parochial Church Council invites
every Visitor to contribute generously
to the CHURCH FABRIC FUND

NOTES

THE position of Brading Church on a limestone eminence at the head of Brading Haven lends probability to the tradition that this was the site chosen by S. Wilfrid for his first sermon when he sailed from Selsey Bill to convert the Jutes of the Isle of Wight, in A.D. 685. Some evidence has been adduced to show that in earlier times burials had taken place there, and it is not improbable that Wilfrid consecrated the site as a Christian Church—such a building would probably have been of wood, and no trace of it remains. The present church was built in 1150—the Norman pillars in the Nave are of that date. A century later (1250) the roof was raised and the Early English arches put on the Norman pillars. At the same time, the tower, surmounted by a broached spire, was built on four piers, so that each wall is pierced by an arch-way—a very rare feature. The West wall of the North aisle well shows the 13th century work. No great alteration in the appearance of the church has taken place since then, except that the chancel has been lengthened slightly so as to project beyond the chapels on each side of it. The North Chapel (now the organ chamber and vestry) is the de Aula Chapel, built by the founders of Yaverland Manor. There are two tombs in it dated 1500. That on the south has an inscription on lozenges reading, "Jhu have merci on Wylyam Hawly's soul. Amen. MCCCCC," while on the north simply records, "Helizabeth, hys wyf." Over the outer doorway of the Chapel are two consecration crosses, indicating perhaps, that two persons are buried within. The South Chapel is the proprietary Chapel of the Oglander family, who have been at Nunwell since Norman times. It contains many interesting tombs. The oldest is the table tomb below the steps on the south side to the memory of John Oglander, d. 1482. The next in date is that between the Chapel and the Chancel with figures of Oliver Oglander, Ann (Bullock) his wife, and seven children, d. 1530. On the North side of the tomb are mendicants, and what may have been a chrysom child. The table tombs next the east wall of the Chapel have full length recumbent wooden effigies in plate armour—that on the south side a well-executed figure of Sir

William Oglander, d. 1607; and on the N. side a rude figure on the tomb of Sir John Oglander, the diarist, d. 1655. A small replica of the same figure in the niche above the tomb commemorates George Oglander, his eldest son. The fine modern tomb on the south side was erected in memory of Sir Henry Oglander and his wife, who died in 1894. The altar piece, a reproduction of the pieta by Francia in the National Gallery, is in memory of the late Mrs. Oglander, d. 1921. In the Chapel are placed the fine old Jacobean Communion table with the inscription "I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord," and a Carolean inlaid chair said to have belonged to Legh Richmond, author of "The Annals of the Poor," to whom a memorial brass was erected in the south aisle by his descendants. He was Curate-in-charge of Brading and Yaverland from 1797 to 1805, and introduced the first organ into the church. On the south side of the Sanctuary is a fine incised marble slab to the memory of John Curwen, constable of Porchester Castle, d. 1441. He is represented in plate armour beneath a canopy in which was the figure of the Virgin and child, while at the sides are six figures of Apostles. The helmet and gauntlets and swordhilt were once filled in with mastic. The reredos, by Powell, representing the scene at Emmaus, is in memory of Lady Rollo, d. 1909. Notice the fine brass candelabra of Dutch workmanship in the Chancel dated 1798, the Piscinas in the Sanctuary, the Royal Arms of William and Mary in the Vestry, the niche over the pulpit, thought to be the remains of a stone screen, with its hieroglyphic inscription, the effigy of the infant daughter of Lord and Lady Rollo in the north aisle, the coffin lid in the floor of the tower (there is another in the east wall of the Oglander Chapel), the list of Rectors and Vicars near the west door, the Churchwardens' chest in the south aisle with a lock for each, and another for the Vicar, dated 1637, the small movable font dated 1631, the "bread chest" in which bread for the poor was put every Sunday, dated 1634, and in the south porch what may have been a holy water stoup. There is a peal of eight bells in the tower, the oldest, dated 1594, being the tenor, which weighs just over 9 cwt. Under the sill of the west window of the tower is an image niche of the 14th century, and in the porch are the beacon irons which used to be fixed on the top of the tower.