*From “ All Saints’, Danehill with Chelwood Gate. Occasional Paper” No. 1 January 1945.*

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF DANE HILL, SUSSEX.**

Note by the Vicar: The Rev. P.G.P. Cornish:

*The writer of the folioing short account is an elderly dabbler in Gothic Architecture. He has been through and through all Counties He has seen seen all the Cathedrals in England and Wales and virtually all of the fine churches. His impressions may be of interest therefore.*

Sussex seems to me to be the loveliest of all English Counties - surpassing, on the whole, even the Lake District of Westmoreland. The sublime scenery of the neighbourhood of Dane Hill (especially in the Autumn) is most inspiring,

The great glory of Dane Hill is its Parish Church - set upon a hill. At first sight one exclaims “Surely a Bodley masterpiece” And so it proves to be. '

The Church is frankly modern, and yet pure Gothic. This in itself is a proof of excellence. G. F. Bodley, R.A. (who, with his partner, the late Mr. Garner, built it), was a Royal Academician and a foremost Church architect of the Gothic Revival.

Here is one of his greatest works - vying with his own, fine Cruciform Church of Hoar Cross, Staffordshire as a model of' what is a perfect VILLAGE Church should be.

There is a distinct Sussex feeling about the exterior, and every detail (even to the smallest) is thought out.

The style is late decorated (circa A.D. 1350), but the Church is no "museum piece.”' The window tracery is pure Bodley and the tower is a very fine piece of work. The glass is most lovely - apparently by Kempe, and/or Clayton and Bell. It is as good as (or better than) much glass. There is no pitch-pine woodwork inside. All good English oak.

 String courses, roofs, bosses and all details are the very best, and details even where hard to see are all equally excellent. Quite a mediaeval touch this! One can try and try again, but he cannot discover a fault in this lovely building.

Details never obscure the main idea, which is beauty of line and proportion. There is only one criticism to offer.

The “Rood-loft” is fine. The external turret breaks the line of roof well. But why, O why, place the organ over the screen? I know some Cathedrals have it so, and, notably at Exeter, it adds to the beauty of an unrivalled interior. But this is, a moderate sized Parish Church. I am told that there are some precedents, (notably, in Germany) for LARGE Parish Churches to have organs so placed. But these churches were also monastic (their choirs were) and over the *pulpitum i.e*., screen an organ placed and a parish altar erected to West of it. The organ served both nave and choir. But Danehill is small and entirely parochial. Obviously there is no parallel in this case. Further, an organ symbolically signifies nothing. A rood-screen is significant for a Rood (with attendant Figures) or a plain cross, as at Chichester Cathedral, and who can deny the extreme symbolism of such an arrangement.

However, the organ ease is excellent and harmonises well with the other fittings of the Church. In the Churchyard is a fine replica of a Village Cross in stone.

Altogether a Church both to see and appreciate.

Geo. H. Freeland.