ent story, and I must return to Ashbury's village hall.

It is due to the enterprise of the pre-sent incumbent, the Rev. Edward Glanville Mortimer, who was formerly Vicar of St. Paul's, at Swindon, that Ashbury now possesses one of the most picturesque halls in the country.

The visitor to Ashbury is at once attracted by the Church of Our Lady of the Vale, which can have no equal in regard to the mixed styles of the

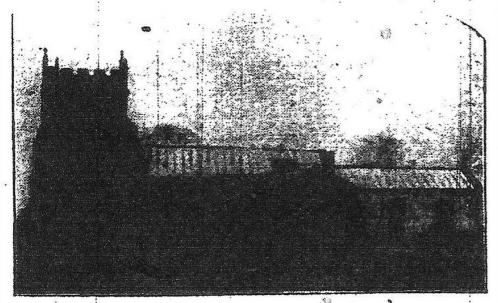
exterior. one encounters the village hall, which ford. He went to Clifton College, and is conspicuous through its roof with a his first caracy was at Christ Church,

outside introductions, and these have been designed to tone with the 16th century exterior.

The cost of the project is £900, and so far about £700 has been subscribed. The hall will be opened by the Countess of Craven on Wednesday, 15

April The premises include a main hall, complete with platform and gallery. a kitchen, dressing-rooms, and a men's club-room.

The Vicar of Ashbury is a son of the It is on the way to the church that I late Rev. E. Mortimer, of Little Somer-

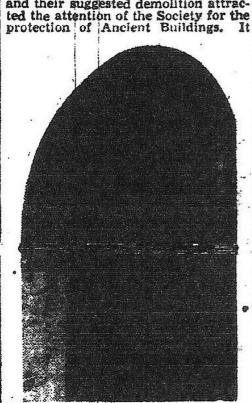


THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

bury.

delightful new thatch of straw. most casual visitor would appreciate the attractive design of the new hall, but his appreciation would change to admiration when he learned that a veritable transformation had been achieved.

What is now a commodious and wellequipped hall was formerly a block of derelict cottages, so tumble-down that they were condemned by the Faringdon Rural District Council. These cottages were of 16th century origin, and their suggested demolition attrac-



a panorama of the Vale of the White Horse extending to the Cotswolds. In the Vicarage gardens are stones believed to be relics of the burialplace of a British chieftain. stones form part of the Ashbury "barrow." Near to the Vicarage runs

Swindon. He was there from 1914 to 1916, and then went to St. John's, Frome. He was appointed Vicar of

Hullavington in 1921, and Vicar of St. Paul's, Swindon, five years later, He married Miss Dorothy Pitt,

daughter of Dr. C. W. Pitt, of Maimes-

The Church of Ashbury is, erchitecturally, of a heterogeneous character. There is a Norman south doorway. with elaborate "dog-tooth" mouldings, and in the south-west nave are remains of a Norman arch. The main fabric of the tower is Early English, with a lancet window. The chancel and the two transepts are of the Decorated period, and the central

arches are Perpendicular.

Avebury Temple.

In the west end of the north aisle is a domestic fireplace and a priests' cell, probably used by the visiting priests when Ashbury parish embraced Uffington. The smoke from the fire place was emitted from the mouth of a gargoyle known as "The Devil's Head."

The interior includes a memorial said Mr. L. Mattick, when he ad-chapel to St. Hubert, the Patron saint dressed Swindon Brotherhood last of hunting, which was given in 1926 Sunday. Turnin

Death of Former Tradesman and Councillor.

The death took place in a Swindon nursing home on Sunday of Mr. William John Austin, aged 69, of "Everest," Ermin-street, Blunsdon, a former well-known public man of that village, in which for generations his family carried on the business of wheelwright, undertaker, etc., but which was closed down when Mr. but Austin retired some years ago.

Mr. Austin was at one time a member of the Blunsdon Parish Council, and was on the committee of the Highworth Flower Show.

A lifelong churchman, Mr. Austin was formerly a sidesman at St. Leonard's Church, Blunsdon, but had not taken an active part in church affairs of lat; owing to failing health. He was also an Oddfellow and in his younger days was a footballer and cyclist of local repute.

The late Mr. Austin was a widower, but there are two sons—Mr. Ray Austin, a member of the staff of Lloyds Bank at Swindon, and Mr. Frank Austin, who is in the scholastic profession at Faringdon.

Knight, who spoke in appreciation of a lifelong Churchman who had rendered good service as a sidesman and in other capacities. The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Austin (son and daughter-in-

The funeral took place yesterday, at St. Leonard's Church. A simple service was conducted by the Rev. L A.

Mrs. Frank Austin (son and daughter-inlaw), Mr. and Mrs. Ray Austin (son and
daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. W. Gardiner. of Stroud (brother-in-law and
sister-in-law), Mr. Joseph Gardiner, of
Stroud (brother-in-law), Mr. and Mrs.
F. Pates, of Weymouth (brother-in-law
and sister-in-law). Mr. F. Shaylor, of
Stroud (cousin), Mr. F. Pates, of Weymouth, Mr. L. Martin, Mr. E. Martin and
Mr. A. Martin (nephews), Mrs. P. Godwin (niece), Mr. F. Gerring (nephew),
Mr. S. Cuss. Mr. Andrew Harford, Mr.
R. H. Robson, Mr. and Mrs. Knibbs, Mrs.
Evans, Mr. A. Pearce, Mrs. Goldstein,
Miss Lewis, Mrs. Dance and many
others. The floral tributes were as follow: In loving memory of dear father,
from Ray and Peggy; With love, from
Jimmy, Daphine and David; To dear Dad,
with fondest love, from Frank, Ethel and The Vicarage of Ashbury is sheltered by the Berkshire hills, and commands with fondest love, from Frank. Ethel and

family; In loving memory, from sister Emily and family; In affectionate remembrance, from Willie, Nellie, Deris and Urmston; With deepest sympathy, from Mr. and Mrs. G. Martin and family; Ever the Ridgeway, which was used by the worshippers of old on their journeys to at rest—from all at Weymouth; in re-membrance of Mr. Austin, from all at Membrance of Mr. Austin, from 811 at Aynho; With sincere sympathy, from The Limes; With deepest sympathy, from Mr. and Mrs. J. H. R. Skyrme, Mr. and Mrs. Goldstein and Mr. and Mrs. F. Dennis; With sincerest sympathy, Mrs. A. D. Titley: With deepest sympathy, Mr. and Mrs. Dance and Mr. and Mrs. Aubiey: To a dear old pal, from Mr. and Mrs. S. Cuss; Fred and Mary; Mrs. and Miss Flower and Mrs. Purdy.

SWINDON BROTHERHOOD.

"If we use our imagination and study the characters of our fellow-travellers, we shall find the journey on the road of life less monotonous."