

leyford there was a private chapel; and again at Widmer, in the parish of Marlow, there were some interesting remains of a chapel attached to a farm-house, which had probably succeeded a spacious mansion on that spot. A considerable portion of the original roof was still standing, and on the south side were three Decorated windows. Under the chapel was a fine old crypt (in a good state of preservation), which, with the north window, were of the twelfth or thirteenth century. The east and south windows were at least a hundred years later. Widmer is about two and a half miles from the parish church, but we learn from Domesday Book that at that date (A.D. 1080) it was a considerable village. The present chapel was not built until it became the property of the Knights Templars, whose "chapters" were no doubt held in the crypt. Again, at Medmenham, besides the abbey church, there was another, which was in the hamlet of Hollowicks, long since swept away, but the site of it is still marked as Chapel Field. Again, at Saunderton, a village of only 232 souls, there were formerly the churches of St. Michael and St. Mary, with separate endowments. In 1455 the two rectories were united, and St. Mary's Church was alone used for divine worship. Not a vestige of the other remains, and its exact site is uncertain. In 1807 its old foundations were discovered in the garden of a public-house, and human bones and skeletons were dug up there. Many years afterwards a stone coffin and two skeletons were found on the same ground, which is said to be unusually fertile. This is doubtless the site of the demolished church. The foundation of these apparently needless edifices may be accounted for by the fact that ancient churches were really founded for manors, not for parishes, and were usually near the residence of the lord of the manor. Hence they are often at a distance from the village, and when any disagreement prevented the lords of two adjacent manors from having a church in common, there would be two, however near. In one instance there are actually three churches in the same churchyard. At Wooburn there have been two chapels destroyed, one adjoining the Manor-house at Deign Court, but no particulars respecting it can be obtained. The other was connected with the Episcopal Palace, which for many centuries was a favourite residence of the Bishop of Lincoln, and which continued in use till about 1750, when the mansion built by Lord Wharton was pulled down. This chapel, had it been preserved, would have been useful, being near the village of Wooburn Green. There are thus thirteen houses of prayer within the deanery of Wycombe which have been desecrated, making, with those noticed previously, at least sixty within the county. If, from the migratory nature of the population, many of them were no longer needed where they stood, it must be remembered that, until recently, little effort was made to supply the needs of the accumulating population in other places. On the other hand, it was gratifying to bear in mind that within the incumbency of the present Archdeacon there have been twelve new churches, five rebuilt, and forty-five restored, among which he could not but allude to St. Mary's, Aylesbury, now the gem of the county. In building new churches, he thought it was not desirable to make every one a new incumbency, but in some cases to retain the dependance on the mother church, so that the experience and resources of the incumbent might be made available in supplying the wants of the neglected district.

The Archdeacon, in thanking Mr. Kelke for his paper, said he listened