

cates." The latter manor seems to have been afterwards held by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, brother of King Henry III., as pertaining to the "honour" of Wallingford, whilst that belonging to Richard de Tonbridge was given to the Abbey of Boxley, near Maidstone. In the reign of Edward I. there was here a park, pertaining to the manor of Maldon, and belonging to the College of Merton. On the suppression of the monasteries this manor became vested in the greedy king, and it has since passed through various private hands, the Herveys, the Hattons, and the Northys, to the family of Gosse, who now own it.

Chessington is intersected from south to north by the high road from Leatherhead; and on the western side of the road as we make our way towards Kingston we pass the hamlet of Hook, anciently called La Hoke, an assemblage of small cottages occupied chiefly by farm-labourers, and bordering a narrow byeway which winds westward towards Claygate. St. Paul's Church, at Hook, erected in 1833, is a small and poor structure, of red and yellow bricks intermingled. It is in the earliest Pointed style, lighted by narrow lancet-headed windows, and has a small open bell-turret rising from the roof.

The distance of this small hamlet, with its population of 500 souls, from the mother church of Kingston—nearly four miles, as we learn from Brayley—was the cause of its being separated into a distinct parish chapelry; independently of which the only place requiring notice is the manor of Berwell or Barwell Court, an ancient possession of the Priors of Merton, who, in the reign of Henry VIII., "had a charter of free warren throughout the same," paying six shillings yearly as a quit-rent to the corporation of Kingston. On the suppression of monasteries this manor escheated to the Crown, and was subsequently granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Thomas Vincent, of Stoke D'Abernon, who, towards the end of the sixteenth century, alienated it, together with the manor-house and its surroundings, to the Carletons of Stoke. This family later on obtained for themselves and their tenants a free right of pasture on the commons of Norbiton, Surbiton, &c., from the corporation of Kingston. The property has since undergone several changes of ownership, in various ways. Long tenanted as a farm, a considerable part of the old manor-house has been pulled down.

Far away to the north of Chessington, to which place we now retrace our steps, and on the high road connecting Ewell with Kingston and Long Ditton—indeed, forming part of the latter—lies the hamlet of Talworth, or Tolworth, one of those

localities where town is still struggling with country. Long lines of villas stretch in every direction, and are gradually overcoming the rural character of the district. The church, dedicated to St. Matthew, is a very large and well-built edifice in the Pointed Gothic style, having nave, aisles, transepts, and chancel, the latter being semicircular in form, and containing five stained-glass windows.

The old manor-house, called Talworth Court, stands on the right of the road from Ewell, at the point where it crosses the Hog's-mill stream; it is now a farmhouse, and shows but little traces of its original architecture.

Long Ditton, which lies between Talworth and Esher, is a parish of some little historical interest, as that from which the Evelyns of Wotton took their origin. George Evelyn, son of John Evelyn, of Kingston-on-Thames, first settled here, but subsequently removed to Godstone, and ultimately to Wotton, where he died in 1603. He was largely engaged in the manufacture of gunpowder, an industry which he is said to have introduced into this country. Having obtained a patent from Queen Elizabeth, he continued these powder works with great profit until the civil wars of the reign of Charles I., when the family were deprived of their exclusive rights and privileges.

The parish, which comprises a population of about 2,000 souls, belongs to the Hundred of Kingston, and is bounded on the north-west by Thames Ditton.

Long Ditton Church, according to old Aubrey, originally consisted of a body and two aisles, and doubtless was a fair and goodly specimen of a country village church. But in the dreary reigns of Queen Anne and George I. it was spoiled by the mania for beautification which here and there swept over whole neighbourhoods. Little or nothing is known of it in detail, except that it was "newly ceiled and beautified" early in the last century, and that there were fresco paintings on the west wall, representing David playing on the Harp, with Time and Death on either side. But it contained some interesting monuments, including several to the Evelyns and to members of families with whom they were allied. It is enough to make one's blood run cold to read it coolly stated by Brayley, without one word of censure, that these "were removed when the church was re-built, and were never replaced." Happily the inscriptions for the most part may be read in Aubrey's "Surrey," and in the History of the county by Manning and Bray.

The present church, which was built in 1880, is of stone, and in the mediæval style, consisting of chancel, nave, and aisles. It replaced a building