

63 No. 1

Slebech

St. John the Baptist's Church

6431

An early Victoria church of no particular interest. The monuments of the despoiled church of the Hospitallers have been moved here, and are of great interest. They consist of two alabaster effigies. One is supposed to represent Roger Barlow, brother of the Bishop and founder of the Pembrokeshire Barlows; the effigy is adorned with the Order of the Golden Fleece. By Roger's side is a lady with flowing hair; the figure almost exactly corresponds with that of Anne Talbot, wife of Sir Henry Vernon in Tong Church, Salop. Lady Vernon died (apparently a young woman) in 1494. As Roger Barlow purchased Slebech after the suppression of the smaller monasteries in 1536, if Juliana, daughter of Roger Dawes of Bristol city, wife of Sir Roger, was then alive she must have been a very old woman. Any how her dress was old fashioned, but as the unfortunate lady had a deformed mouth, perhaps she did not care much for frocks and frills. Near the effigies are three Barlow tablets, also removed from the old church (1) to Anna Vernon of Hodnet, raised by her husband George Barlow (sheriff 1618) grandson of Roger; Anna died 19th June 1591, aged 21. (2) Another Anna, wife of John Barlow, armiger; she was eldest daughter of Simon Lord Harcourt, Lord Chancellor to Queen Anne, and died 13th November 1733, aged 48. (3) A third to John aforesaid, erected by his second wife; he died 29th October 1739, aged 57. These various memorials were stored away in a crypt of the new church, and were placed as they now stand by William Henry Erard Rudolph, Baron de Rutzen in 1904.