

**HOLY TRINITY.** Mostly built in 1782 by *George Richardson* for the fourth Earl of Harborough, part of the church-building activity of the Earl which shows itself also at Stapleford and Saxby in Leicestershire. Teigh retained its medieval w tower; lower part c 13, upper c 14, though the circular lobby is of

course Richardson's work. Top stage, ashlar-faced, also c 18 rebuilding. Dec bell-openings. A fine, archaeologically incorrect frieze along the battlements on the tower and body of the church – an c 18 variant on the popular medieval lozenge frieze on so many local towers. Obelisk pinnacles. Bell frame dated 1794. Tall aisleless nave of three bays and no separate chancel. The pointed window apertures are original but the tracery was being put in about 1893 by the incumbent.

The interior under its gently coved, thinly decorated plaster ceiling has PEWS arranged as in a college or a cathedral choir. Three rising tiers are provided. The w and e walls are articulated by slender shafts into three blank arches. On the e side the window is in the middle space, the boards with the Ten Commandments are in the lateral ones. The w wall is more surprisingly and entertainingly organized. The lateral spaces have boards with the Lord's Prayer and the Creed. In the middle space the doorway; a little higher up l. and r. of it two reading desks in boxes accessible from behind, and, above the doorway, the pulpit also accessible from the tower. The wall l. and r. of the pulpit is painted with mock glazing bars and trees appearing behind them. The three boxes give one the irresistible hope that at any moment preacher and readers might pop out like little figures in a weather-house. – FONTS. A mahogany vase of elegant shape, originally fixed to the altar rails, and a stone font with rude detail carved in 1845 by the then incumbent.

**OLD RECTORY.** Six bays, two storeys, pitched roof, moulded door surround with straight hood. Probably also provided by the Earl.

## LAUNDE ABBEY

700

Not an abbey but a priory for Augustinian canons, founded between 1119 and 1125 by Richard Bassett. At the Dissolution it went to Thomas Cromwell. It was sold c. 1611 to William Halford, then in 1763 to John Simpson of Leicester, made High Sheriff in 1775. The Cromwells built a mansion on the ruins, but what of this still stands is not clear. The present house looks early c 17 but according to Nichols was 'so much

modernized' by Mr Simpson 'that but little of the ancient structure is visible externally'. However he illustrates the w front as it looks now. There were further alterations in 1844, the date on the rainwater heads and on the new gabled porch.

The house is H-plan, the N wing built on the site of the nave of the priory church. Of this the chancel survives as the CHAPEL projecting to the E, and the sturdy tripartite responds of the transept arch, 18 ft wide and not chamfered, with scalloped capitals, which are partly visible inside the chapel and on the N wall of the house. The date c. 1125 is convincing. The chancel itself is a remodelling, first of the early or mid c 13, then in the Perp style. Of the former the chancel arch, triple-chamfered on corbels with beautiful stiff-leaf, carrying capitals with equally beautiful stiff-leaf. The rest of the chancel is Perp but was much restored by W. Railton in 1839 or 1840. The big pinnacles, N porch, roof, etc., must be his. He probably removed the Dutch-style E gable shown in Nichols. – In the E window, though somewhat fragmentary, the original STAINED GLASS. Three large figures. Also quite a number of small figures in the tracery lights of the s windows. The probable date is c. 1450. – MONUMENTS. Gregory Cromwell, 1551. One of the purest monuments of the early Renaissance in England, very grand and restrained. Made of local stone. Large coat of arms flanked by pilasters elegantly decorated with trophies. Pediment with three standing putti. Roman script. In the 'predella' a very elongated, finely designed strapwork cartouche. In the equally finely decorated entablature below the pediment the initials E. C. Gregory Cromwell was the son of Thomas Cromwell and married the sister of Jane Seymour and was therefore brother-in-law of that architectural innovator, Protector Somerset.

The HOUSE faces w, with a gabled five-bay centre and gabled projecting wings with battlemented bay-windows. Three-to-five-light mullioned and mullioned-and-transomed windows, mostly with ovolo mullions. A six-light window r. of the porch and one or two others with hollow-chamfered mullions suggest the hall range at least still incorporates older work. Between the wings at the back service rooms added in 1829 by *Thomas Rickman* in a deferential style. The hall in the cross-wing, with a much renewed fireplace with a four-centred head, has been divided into entrance hall and library, the latter with Neo-Classical decoration. N of the entrance hall the c 18 staircase with twisted balusters and an open string. In the dining room (N wing) panelling of 1844 set with imported, especially Flemish, carved panels. Composite fireplace: lowest tier c 16 with a four-centred head, delicately carved shields and flowers; middle tier sandstone, dated 1689 and apparently carved in imitation of the lowest tier with crude pilasters and flowers; the top tier of arcaded panelling, with imported pieces and one dated 1676 set in.