



## LYMINGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY - ARCHAEOLOGY – THE WORK OF CANON JENKINS 1815-1896



### THE REV CANON R C JENKINS - CHURCHMAN, SCHOLAR AND ANTIQUARIAN 1815-1896

Canon Jenkins was Vicar and Rector of Lyminge from 1854-1896. He had formerly been at Christ Church, Chiswick for 11 years and then for a period of 2 years at Willesden. In 1869 he was appointed to an honorary canoncy at Canterbury Cathedral. At the request of the then Archbishop of Canterbury, (Dr. Archibald C. Tait, 1868-1883), Canon Jenkins was made Curator of the Lambeth Palace Library. He was a member of the Council of the Kent Archaeological Society and also a local correspondent for the Antiquarian Society of London.

His interest in archaeology and of Anglo-Saxon England, and the history of Kent and Lyminge in particular, thanks to the Royal Abbess Ethelburga who founded the dual monastery in Lyminge in 633 AD (died 647 AD), produced a wealth of publications. He embarked on excavations around the church and churchyard of St. Mary and St. Ethelburga, the Parish Church of Lyminge, and found evidence of the former monastic site, with Romanesque Apse outside the present porch. The present south wall of the Church is based on the north wall of the earlier building.



Parish Church of St Mary and  
St Ethelburga, Lyminge  
(Photograph © John Piddock)

Alan Warhurst who carried out the excavations of the Jutish Cemetery in the 1950s, wrote the following regarding the archaeology found when the Elham Valley Railway Line was constructed in Lyminge and Canon Jenkins' interest in the discovery:

*“In 1890, Canon Jenkins, a noted Lyminge antiquary, reported to the Society of Antiquaries that a number of burials of Saxon date had been discovered during the cutting of the Elham Valley Railway line. The burial goods included a garnet set radiate-headed brooch and a knobbed cruciform brooch, the foot of which terminates in an animal head. Spearheads and shield bosses were also found.*

*“The site of these finds stands upon rising ground on the opposite side of the Elham Valley from the parish church and geographically the finds are more closely linked with a settlement on the site of modern Lyminge than are those of the newly discovered cemetery. Their date, however, would seem to indicate that the cemetery from which they came from was in use about the same time, and possibly a little earlier, than the other.”<sup>1</sup>*

#### **Further Information and Reading:**

*The Jutish Cemetery at Lyminge* by Alan Warhurst. Published in *Archaeologia Cantiana* Volume 69 1955.

<sup>1</sup> *The Jutish Cemetery at Lyminge* by Alan Warhurst published in *Archaeologia Cantiana*, Volume 69, 1955