

A list of Norman tympana and lintels : with figure or symbolical sculpture still or till recently existing in the churches of Great Britain; by [Keyser, Charles E. \(Charles Edward\), 1847-1929](#)  
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...There are other examples where dragons or serpents are introduced, in which the symbolism is by no means clear. In the singular sculpture at Charney Bassett (Fig. 71) we find a human figure, with



CHARNEY BASSETT.

FIG. 71.

perhaps a low crown and single garment down to his ankles. A large winged griffin on either side has the upper part of his arm in its mouth, while the man has his hand on the neck of each animal. A band of foliage is carried round above, and a row of pellets form a border to the whole subject, a large head is affixed (? originally) to the apex of the tympanum. Mr. Romilly Allen suggests (page 285 of his "Early Christian Symbolism") that this may be intended to represent the ascent of Alexander, but it seems more probably designed to illustrate the passage in Psalm xlv., verses 18-20:—

*"And though all this be come upon us, yet do we not forget thee : nor behave ourselves frowardly in thy covenant.*

*Our heart is not turned back: neither our steps gone out of thy way ;*

*No, not when thou has smitten us into the place of dragons : and covered us with the shadow of death."*

Charney Bassett Church, Berkshire.

North wall, interior of chancel.

A human figure between two dragons. Leaves round arch, large head at apex.

Lysons' Magna Britannia, Berkshire, p. 204.

Archaeological Journal, xlv., 185, 186.

J. Romilly Allen, *Early Christian Symbolism*, p. 285. *Berks, Bucks, and Oxon Archceological Journal*, vi., 12.