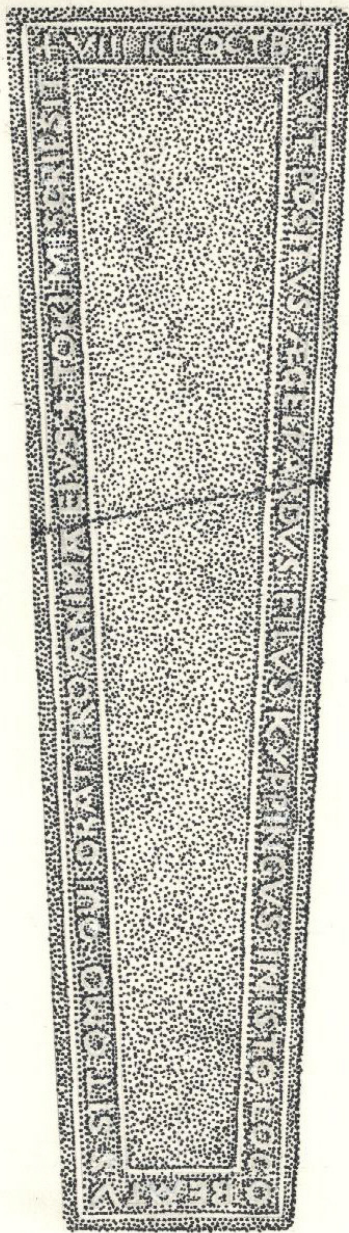


# The Saxon Period

Apart from its name, which at that time was Stratfeld Magna, the Anglo-Saxons have left one other legacy in Mortimer. In St. Mary's Church there stands a Saxon tombstone. It is made of Purbeck marble: 6 feet 6 inches in length, 20 inches wide at the top and 14 inches wide at the base. The centre of the stone is bare, but there is a marginal inscription in Latin which reads:

*"On 8th before Kalends of October Aegalward son of Kypping was laid in this place. Blessed be he who prays for his soul. Toki wrote this".*



It is unclear who the individuals named were. Toki was a fairly common name, although it might just be the one who was a wealthy courtier in the reign (1017-1036) of King Cnut (now better known as King Canute). A number of people called Aegalward are known from this reign.

Perhaps more significantly, the Saxon thane who held Stratfield Mortimer at the time of the Norman conquest was called Cheping, which is probably the same name as Kypping.

Another local association with this name is that there was a wood in Mortimer known as Kyppingsfrith, probably in the extreme southwest of the parish next to Pamber Heath and Silchester Common.

Once again, then, there is very little evidence about what was happening in Mortimer during the Saxon period. Although not written until the Norman period, some idea of the activities of the people in Saxon times can be gained from the entries in Domesday Book for Stratfield Mortimer and Wokefield where some comparisons are made between land values and population before and after the Norman Conquest.