

Biographies of Rectors of Barcheston

The names of some rectors (to 1701) were published in the revised Dugdale, *Antiquities of Warwickshire* (1730). The list is continued here from a variety of sources and what is now known of their lives has been added. Dates in the titles are those of the rector's incumbency.

The right of presentation (the advowson) was exercised by the de Bercheston family in the fourteenth century; it passed to Sir George Throckmorton around 1487 as trustee for Henry Duraunt whose family purchased Barcheston manor and was sold to Ralph Sheldon (d.1613) in 1587 (WaCRO CR 1998/Box 45/6610/1). The right to present remained in their hands until 1799, though sometimes exercised on their behalf by others. It was then bought by Thomas Lambert Snow, later rector and passed from him to the Reverend George Domvile Wheeler; it was conveyed to the Bishop of Coventry around 1900 (*Victoria County History, Warwickshire*, V, p.10).

Hugo Humfrey, (August 1503- 1530) was probably born around 1465; he first appears in Cambridge University registers in 1481 and in 1501 was allowed to supplicate for a degree as a Bachelor of Theology. He was by then warden of the Throgmorton charity in Fladbury, Worcestershire, and was a canon of Lichfield cathedral before being appointed to Barcheston. It is not known to what extent he was resident, but the commemorative brass in the south aisle suggests that some in the parish at least had reason to remember him fondly.

(A B Emden, *A Biographical Register of the University of Cambridge to 1500*, 1963)

He was followed by another Cambridge man, **William Buckmaster**, (1530-46) appointed, it seems, through the patronage of Sir George Throckmorton of Coughton Court. He graduated BA in 1513-14 as a student of Peterhouse where he was admitted a fellow in 1517. He was admitted MA the same year, and was ordained deacon in the diocese of Lincoln on 18 September 1518 and priest on 18 December. He was admitted Bachelor of Theology in 1525 and Doctor of Theology in 1528, the year of his appointment as Lady Margaret preacher in the University of Cambridge.

As vice-chancellor of the University in 1529, he became involved in the consultations about the king's 'Great Matter' – the possibility that Henry would divorce his wife, Katherine of Aragon. Though Buckmaster was eventually able to offer the king the advice he wanted to hear, those he consulted had been neither enthusiastic nor unanimously agreed. Buckmaster himself reported the deliberations to the king – something of an uncomfortable interview according to one account (Gerard B. Skelly, 'Henry VIII consults the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge', in G. Bedouelle and Patrick le Gal, *Le Divorce du Roi Henri VIII*, (Geneva 1987). Buckmaster does not himself seem to have held strong views about the need for reform; he held two other rectories, served a second time as vice-chancellor of Cambridge University and finally was appointed to the prebend of Holborn in the diocese of St Paul's, London.

It is probable that he was largely non-resident; he was not buried in the parish. Most of the legacies in his will (TNA, PROB 11/31/359) were books; he left nothing to local men and only the small sum of 10d to the poor of the parish.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, on-line.

He was succeeded by **William Lane**, (1546-71) whose bequests and inventory reveal that he at least was a Worcestershire man. He was a member of the Lane family of

Haselor and, at the time of his appointment, was around 35 years old. (CR 580/17/5 gives his age as 50 in 1561) He thus had charge of the parish through the changing religious practices of the reigns of Edward, Mary and then Elizabeth. There is much to suggest that he was resident and an active participant in village life; he wrote many of the wills which span his incumbency and acted as overseer for several. When he died in 1571 he requested burial in the chancel. Although the event is not recorded in the parish registers, his wish may have been granted; the incised stone slab now standing vertically in the Willington aisle was previously set into the chancel floor, noted there by a visiting antiquary in 1685, (Bodleian Library, Oxford, Wood Ms C.10, ff. 19v-20r). It may have been intended as a memorial to him.

Lane's will with its inventory survives. He was not a poor man; his cash bequests, most of which went to his three brothers and two sisters, totalled £54 18s 4d. He was also generous to the church - 40s for repairs, 2s 8d 'for other considerations' and two wether sheep - and to the poor of Willington 20s to be paid within a year of his death. Every husbandman owning a plough in Willington was to receive 2s. to buy a plough share and their wives 2s for a kerchief; any one who had no plough would receive 3s 4d. His godchildren - un-named - in the settlement were each to have 2s and a sheep. The care of the parish was entrusted to Mr John Hopkins, 'scolemaster' to Mr Edward Sheldon, during the ensuing vacancy (WA&AS, Bishops' Register 7 Jan 1571/72, X 716.093, fo. 5) and he was to receive 2s 8d. Ten shillings was given for the repair of Shipston bridge and, also in Worcestershire, Haselor church and its poor were to receive 13s 4d. Unusually, his apparel was itemised both in the will and in the inventory; he owned 4 shirts, 6 gowns, 2 doublets, 2 coats (one of chamblett, the other grograyn), 2 pair of hose, 2 capes and 2 hats. His friese gown was to go to Roger Locke and his furred gown, though without the fur, to Anne Seeley, both of Willington. His plate - 7 silver spoons and a silver goblet, was distributed amongst his family. His real wealth however lay in his sheep - 83 of them were valued at £9.6s 8d together with 8 loads of wool worth £5.6s.8d. His luxuries were few; a dornix coverlet and certain painted cloths. No details about his dwelling house were mentioned.

Will: PROB 11/54/492 + inventory in Worcester Archives & Archaeology Service, 1572/110; inventory copied at SCLA ER 82/6/100.

Robert Hill, (?1572, ?1581, 1587-1606)

Hill was an Oxford graduate, (BA Nov 1561; fellow of Oriel, MA 1566; Bachelor of Divinity 1581 according to Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses*). By the time of his presentation to Barcheston he may also have been rector of nearby Tredington where, according to his own account, he was inducted, in 1572. Bishop Freake's register dates this event to 1581 and his institution to Barcheston to 1587, (WA&AS, X716.093, f.65, 65v.). Because Barcheston parish registers were not kept up between Lane's death and 1587 the latter seems to be the more credible account. Bishop Freake's register dates his induction to Barcheston to 1587 (f.65, WA&AS, X716.093) Because Barcheston parish registers were not kept up between Lane's death and 1587 the latter seems to be the more credible account, suggesting that there may have been a long gap before his arrival in the parish, possibly not entirely accidental. The earliest record of the appointment of a curate dates from his incumbency when first Simon Presse, the schoolmaster at Brailes, and later Thomas Watterman are known; the latter appears in wills from the 1590s. He was appointed overseer by John Tustian, shepherd 1592, but is more usually a witness - for

Humphrey Hill, arrasworker 1596; William Ball, labourer 1603; Thomas Trepus, 1606 and of Groves, labourer 1615. Waterman died in Tidmington worth £68 28s 8d. (WA&AS 008.7 BA 3585 819/3462).

Hill died around age 65; his will does not survive and there is no indication that he was married.

(Dugdale, *Antiquities*, (1730), 602; Clergy database on-line.

William Bulwer (also Buller), (1606-1631)

Ordained in 1585, Bulwer was probably a Cambridge graduate, admitted as a student (matriculating) in 1580 (J. & J.A. Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses from the earliest times to 1751*, Cambridge 1922). He was appointed to Barcheston in October 1606 and already familiar with the area, having served in the adjacent parish of Burmington. He is likely to have been resident, intervening in a legal dispute in 1626, (TNA C 5/87/71, sheet four).

His will was written in 15 December 1630; he requested burial in the chancel. Having divided his possessions into three parts between his wife, his son and his daughter he then appointed no fewer than five Overseers, including two members of the Brent family, Sir Nathaniel and William of Little Wolford. He probably anticipated the difficulties which emerged after his death, (Fry, *Worcester Wills*, 1632/42).

The inventory, written on 29 December, described goods totalling £256 19s 10d, about £140 of which represents his horses, agricultural tools and foodstuffs, including fruit trees valued at £10. It is the first to describe the well-furnished rectory which consisted of a hall, a parlour and at least six other rooms each with a bed, three of the rooms being on an upper floor. There were also extensive outhouses. Together with the later evidence of the Hearth Tax (1676), which noted 6 hearths, it seems it was already the largest house in Barcheston, one of only three houses with six hearths in the parish.

His successor was **Thomas Horton**, (1631-1639) born in St James Garlickhithe, London around 1580. He matriculated at Cambridge University in 1597 and was ordained deacon and priest in 1606 aged 26, (J. & J.A. Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses*). He served first as a curate in the parish of his birth before advancing to Tredington in 1607, purchased for him by his father, (TNA C 2/JasI/H1/45) and one of the wealthiest livings of the deanery. He arrived in Barcheston at a testing time, just before the decisions made by Archbishop Laud which affected the liturgical practices of the church. He erected a new pulpit, at least according to an inscription in the church and many of his other actions are detailed in the churchwardens' accounts, see

<http://www.barchestonhistory.info/seventeenthc.html>

Horton requested burial 'in Christian fashion under a plain stone tomb between myne and my wife's seat in the chancel of the church'. He was a man of means, leaving land at Neithrop (Oxfordshire) and Quinton, Warwickshire, and goods totalling £230 10s 4d. His will (Fry, *Worcs Wills* 1639/118, p.169) divided his possessions between his wife and his nine children, one of whom, Mary was lame and received a large number of books including a copy of 'ye king of Spain's bible'. So called because it had been dedicated to king Philip of Spain in 1572, it contained parallel texts – Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Aramaic and Syriac. The inventory of July

1639 also describes the rectory, in similar terminology to that of Bulwer before him, and details the crops and foodstuffs in store.

Horton's great love was books; he wanted his son Samuel to be brought up to be a scholar and was pleased to leave his books to be divided 'equally by lot' between his sons Nathaniel and Samuel, John having had his share. He was prepared to pay for an English bible to the value of 8 shillings for any of his children who asked for one and he presented the church with a copy of *The Common Places of Christian Religion*, printed in London by Henry Bynneman in 1578 for which he had paid 9s. It is now in the keeping of the County Record Office (DR 6/2) and pictured on the website Windows on Warwickshire, <http://www.search.windowsonwarwickshire.org.uk/>

Nathaniel Horton, son of Thomas (1639-71)

Son of Thomas Horton, Nathaniel was admitted as a student of New Inn Hall, Oxford on 15 May 1629, aged 18 (Foster, *Alum. Oxonienses*, 1500-1714); he succeeded his father in May 1639 (Clergy database on-line). A Nicholas Horton had 20 soldiers quartered on him in 1644 (TNA SP 28/128) and was noted in the hearth tax 1670; it is not clear whether this was a relation or perhaps a mistake for the same man. Nathaniel was buried in the parish on 16 April 1671.

Charles Stafford, (1671-78)

He went to Magdalen Hall at Oxford University matriculating in November 1654 and received his MA in 1661; he was a Fellow of Magdalen College between 1661 and 1672 and ordained deacon 6 March 1664 (Oxford History Centre, Ms Oxf Dioc papers d.106 (Register) and as priest 29 June 1664 *ibid.*) He received the degree of Bachelor of Divinity in December 1669 and in the same year, described as 'clerk of Barcheston' was licensed to marry Elizabeth Fettiplace of Lambourne. He moved and is found at Wavenden, Buckinghamshire by 4 March 1679, and was buried there on 29 July 1702 (Clergy database on-line).

Richard Crofte, (1678/9- ?1684)

The identification of this man is uncertain; he is probably Richard, the son of Edward, of Tredington, Worcs, gent., who was admitted as a student of Oxford University at St Mary Hall on 17 December 1666 aged 16; he achieved his BA in 1670 and his MA in 1674 (Foster, *Alum. Oxonienses*, 1500-1714). He became rector of Barcheston in 1679; according to an entry in the Clergy database on-line a man of the same name became vicar of Stratford on Avon from 1684. However, Croft was still signing the Barcheston Churchwardens' Accounts as rector in 1693 (WaCRO DR 5/6, f. 100) so there may be two men of the same name.

Thomas Hope, (1701-20)

A man of this name served at Burmington between 1678 and 1691 (Clergy database on-line); he signed Barcheston parish register as curate in 1687 and as rector **from** ~~(not in)~~ 1706. He was buried on 20 January 1720/21, (Barcheston parish register, WaCRO DR 5/2).

Thomas Taylor, (1720-46)

Nothing is known of him other than his date of birth, 1683, and of his burial, 29 November 1746, (Parish Registers, WaCRO DR 5/2). He is commemorated in the

diamond-shaped inscription incised on the stone slab showing the priest, dying 27 November, aged 63.

There is no entry in the Clergy database on-line or the University registers.

Edward Walker, (1746-1777)

This is probably Edward Walker, possibly of Tidmington, who matriculated at Balliol College Oxford on 27 March 1727 aged 17; BA 1730 (Foster, *Alum. Oxonienses, 1715-1886*). It was noted in parish register on his burial on 6 June 1777 that 'he lived deservedly respected and died universally lamented', (WaCRO, DR 5/3).

Another Edward Walker, possibly his son, who matriculated at Merton on April 5 1764 aged 19, taking his BA in 1768, (Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses, 1715-1886*). was first curate by November 1772 and then vicar (1772-1807) of Sandford St Martin, Oxfordshire & then held Lower Ettington, Warwickshire from 1782. He lived at Barcheston & then Whichford. See *VCH Oxon Steeple Barton*, vol 11, ed Crossley 1983, pp. 59-75, and Bodl Ms Oxf Dioc d.585 f.153; c.327 p.173. Oldfield, *Clerus Oxf Dioc*; McClatchey, *Oxfordshire Clergy 1777-1863*, p.56.

Anthony Apperley, (1777-1800)

He was an Oxford graduate, admitted to Jesus College on 26 June 1729 and taking his BA on 2 June 1735; his MA followed on 19 December 1741 (Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses, 1715-1886*). He subsequently became rector at Steeple Barton, Oxfordshire, from 19 December 1742 which may also be the date of his ordination. He remained there until 16 November 1772. The connection is significant because a junior branch of the Sheldon family still owned the manor here – and the senior branch still enjoyed the right of presentation to Barcheston where Apperley became rector in 1777. By that date he also seems to have held the living of Idlicote. He was said to be upwards of 80 years in the advertised sale of the advowson 8 April 1797 *Jacksons Oxford Journal*, (p. 1) and was buried on 5 December 1799.

In his will (PROB 11/1333/181) he described himself as clerk of Halford, MA; the will lists his goods and his wearing apparel. His wife, Mary, predeceased him in 1783 and after her death he and his household was cared for by a servant John Canning who was in his service for 48 years. Every evening at 9pm he would bring Apperley an old night-cap and coat to replace his 'good' coat and wig. Changed into comfortable apparel, Apperley then enjoyed a white pipe with a waxed mouthpiece, a cup of ale and a glass of rum and water. Canning was under instructions not to let his master get into debt and to keep a good household. He was also to bear the poor in mind. Info from <<http://www.wells-genealogy.org.uk/apperley/apbirthsthreehtm>>.

After Apperley's death R. Parry, the auctioneer at Shipston on Stour, sold Apperley's household furniture and belongings which included an inlaid harpsichord with four stops and two rows of keys and 600 books.(18 February 1800). Some of these he had bought from the Sheldon sale of the contents of Weston in August-September 1781, from which he also acquired two lots of Madeira – six dozen bottles in all (Christie and Ansell, *Catalogue of..household Furniture...of... William Sheldon*, 27 August 1781).

See Clergy database on-line; Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses*; <<http://www.wells-genealogy.org.uk/apperley/apbirthsthreehtm>>

Thomas Lambert Snow, (1800-1839)

He attended Worcester College, Oxford, admitted as a student on 25 April 1789, aged 17, taking his BA in 1793 (Foster, *Alum Oxonienses, 1715-1886*). According to the Clergy database on-line he was ordained deacon in December 1797 and served as a curate at Chastleton before his ordination as a priest in December 1798 and his presentation as rector of Barcheston in 1800. He served until his death on 22 June 1839, dying in the middle of negotiations about the Tithe Award at Willington.

Either he or his father, Thomas of Tidmington (d.1825), was the purchaser of the advowson advertised for sale by the Sheldon family in 1797, *Jackson's Oxford Journal* April 8 1797 (page 1) and Warwickshire Record Office CR 580/74.

Francis Demainbray, (1839-1846)

He was admitted to Oxford University, a student at Pembroke College, on 1 November 1809 aged 14, taking his BA in 1814 and MA in 1816. He was a Fellow of the College from 1814 until 1827, serving as junior bursar in 1823 and senior bursar the next year, (Foster, *Alum. Oxonienses, 1715-1886*). He was presented to Barcheston in 1839 and died 2 April 1846 aged only 52; his will is at PROB 11/2038/355 (and of his wife PROB 11/2244/5).

George Domvile Wheeler, (1846-1890)

Born in Bath on 1 May 1815, he matriculated from Oriel College, Oxford on 13 June 1832 aged 17; he was then a scholar of Wadham College from 1833 until 1841, taking his BA in 1836 and his MA in 1841. He then became a fellow of the college. Ordained deacon in 1839 and almost immediately priest he was appointed curate at Blockley, Worcestershire, as vicar of Great Wolford in 1843 and in 1846 rector also of Barcheston. He was a JP in Warwickshire, Worcestershire and later Gloucestershire, Rural Dean of South Kington Deanery and, from 1875, an honorary canon of Worcester Cathedral. (Foster, *Alum Oxonienses, 1715-1886*). He was buried in Great Wolford; an informative account of his funeral is given in *Jacksons Oxford Journal*, 3 May 1890, p.7.

Peter Henry Boissier, (1862-1873)

First son of Peter E Boissier of Cheltenham; Peter matriculated at Oxford University from Exeter College on 10 June 1841 aged 18. He was curate in sole charge at Barcheston from 1862-73 and was reported to be in favour of the restoration of free seating (ie of the abolition of pew fees) when restoration of the church was discussed; he seems to have voiced his views at a meeting of The Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building and Repairing of Churches and Chapels, reported on 25 May 1869 (*Kentish Gazette*, p.3). The church received a grant from that body towards the cost of the new pews (WaCRO DR 354/10). He moved to St Paul's Clifton, Bristol in 1872 where he remained from to 1876. He died on August 5 1880.

George Wheeler 1890

Octavius Camillus Wright 1892

Frederick Salkeld 1895

Charles Frederick Turner 1897

C J A Robinson 1913

F. D Lane 1921