

# The Rectors of High Wickington,

IN THE

## Deanery of Torrington.

COMPILED FROM THE EPISCOPAL REGISTERS BY THE  
REV. PREBENDARY F. C. HINGESTON-RANDOLPH,  
AND ANNOTATED BY THE  
REV. J. INGLE DREDGE.

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# The Rectors of High Bickington, in the Deanery of Torrington.<sup>1</sup>

(FROM THE EPISCOPAL REGISTERS, &C.)

This list of Rectors was compiled by the Rev. Prebendary Hingeston-Randolph for the Rev. E. R. Yerburgh, the present Rector, who kindly allows me to have it printed. My annotations from Parish Registers, &c., are in *smaller type*. It is much to be regretted that no Registers are now to be found at High Bickington earlier than 1707 for Baptisms and Burials, and 1754 for Marriages. Mr. Worthy has courteously assisted me with particulars as to some of the more recent Rectors.

J. INGLE DREDGE.

Pat. Rolls, Master SERLO, on the Presentation of the King, 15 Oct., 4 John, m. 8. 1202,—the Abbey of Tewkesbury being vacant. He became Archdeacon of Exeter, and in 1225 (the *first*) Dean; he died 21 July, 1231.

4 John, m. 7. He was also presented to the Rectory of Kilkhampton, "ratione Abbatis de Teokesbiri vacantis," 20 Dec., 1202. (Preb. Randolph's *Epis. Reg.* i., 492).

Our authorities now fail us, till we reach the earliest of the Episcopal Registers, that of Bishop Bronescombe.

Reg. Bronescombe fol. 85<sup>b</sup>. GILBERT DE ROFFA (*i.e.*, Gilbert of Rochester), subdeacon, was instituted on the Feast of St. Gregory, the Pope (12 March), 1277-8; Patron, Dame Joan de Chambernun. He was succeeded by

Reg. Quivil, fol. 117. GEOFFREY DE ROFFA, who was presented, and admitted to

Ibid., 117<sup>b</sup>. the Charge of the Parish, on the 10th of the Kalends of May (22 April), 1283—"until the next Ordinations;" Patron,

the same. He was instituted, "iij Nonas Julii" (5 July) following.

In the Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV. (A.D. 1288-91), this Rectory is valued at Cs.

There is no Register extant for the latter years of Bp. Quivil, or for the Episcopate of Bp. Bytton; but we find in Bp. Stapeldon's Register that

ROBERT DE WYLYNGTONE, clerk, was Rector of this Parish in 1308; and we learn from a Memorandum in Abp. Winchelessey's Register (fol. 48) that he was Rector as early as 1305. He was a pluralist, and was deprived of the Rectory of Newington, Dioc. of Winchester, 13 July, 1305. The interval being short, he was probably Geoffrey's immediate successor. He resigned the Benefice in the following year, we are not told *why*, and was again immediately instituted, 14 Dec. 1309; Patron, Sir John de Wylyngtone, Reg. Stapeldon, fol. 36. Ibid., fol. 45<sup>b</sup>. Knt. He is called, in a marginal note, "idem prius Incumbens," lest it should be supposed that he was another man, bearing the same name. He exchanged for the Rectory of Huntshaw, with

Ibid., fol. 86<sup>b</sup>. Sir WILLIAM DE KEMPELEGHE, priest, who was instituted 13 Aug., 1314; Patron, the same. The Custody of the Sequestration of the Benefice had been committed by the Bishop, on the 3rd of that month, to Sir Reginald de Wylyngtone, Rector of Atherington. This Rector resigned, some six months afterwards, and returned to Huntshaw;

Ibid., fol. 101<sup>b</sup>. Sir ROBERT DE WYLYNGTONE, returning to High Bickington, to which he was again instituted (in the person

<sup>1</sup> Before the recent re-arrangement of the Deaneries (by Bishop Temple) this Parish formed part of the Deanery of Barnstaple.

of his Proctor, William de Chorleton), 6 Feb., 1314-15. Sir John de Wylyngtone was Patron of both Benefices. His successor was *Ibid.*, fol. 140<sup>b</sup>.

MASTER GEOFFREY DE LUCY, subdeacon, the date of whose Institution is not recorded; but he occurs as Rector as early as 21 April, 1319; and I believe that he was instituted on that day. He obtained, on this occasion, Licence of non-residence for one year, to study at a University, and the Register adds—"et super hoc *habuit Literas* presencialiter sibi traditas per Magistrum Nicholaum de Hele, clericum, in porticu Aule Curie Episcopi Exoniensis extra Barras Novi Templi Londoniarum; dicto Clerico sibi verbaliter exponente quod, quia dictus Rector aliam Ecclesiam prius optinuit et tenuit, ut asseruit, eisdem Literis suo periculo, si voluerit, uteretur; presentibus Willelmo de Wolleghe et Ricardo de Oteri." As to his other Benefice, I find from Bishop Drokensford's Register (fol. 103<sup>b</sup>), that he was Rector of Hardingtoa (Dioc. of B. & W.) at this time. The "*Litere*" were, probably, Letters of Institution and Induction. On his death, Reg. Grandisson, RICHARD FITZ WARYN, "de iii, 62. Brithleghe," clerk, was instituted 1 Aug., 1347; on the presentation of Walter de Hortone and William Barry, "attorneys-general" of Sir Ralph de Welyngtone, Knt., the true Patron, "in remotis agentis." Not long afterwards the Living became vacant, and the right of Presentation was disputed by Dame Isabella de Wylyngtone, who presented Master Roger de Boggaworthe, and Sir John de Stouforde, Knt., who presented Laurence Fitz Waryn. The Bishop

commissioned his Official-Principal and Master Rd Giffarde, Rector of Ashwater, on the 17th of Feb., 1349-50, to make Inquisition as to the Patronage. They decided in the Lady's favour; and, accordingly, the said

Master ROGER DE BOGGAWORTHE was instituted, at Exeter, by the said Official-Principal, on the 21st of February in that year. On the death of Buggeworthe (*sic*),

Reg. Grandisson, Sir THOMAS LYNDWODE, iii, 133. priest, was instituted, 12 Dec. 1361; Patron, the same Dame Isabella, here described as relict of Sir Henry de Welyngtone, Knt. His successor was

Sir WILLIAM CREDY, whose Institution is

not recorded: it, probably, occurred during the vacancy of the See; for he was Rector as early as 15th Oct., 1395, less than four months after Bishop Stafford's Consecration.

For this Rector's Will, see Appendix A.

On his death

Reg. Stafford, ROGER WODEHELE, clerk was ii, 91. instituted (by proxy—Thomas Racheford, chaplain), 17 Aug., 1406; Patron, King Henry IV. His successor, Reg. Stafford, Sir JOHN CLERK, "de Code- ii, 95. ford," chaplain, was instituted 13 March, 1406-7.

15 March 1414-15, a Licence to celebrate Divine Service in a Domestic Chapel, or Oratory, was granted to RICHARD POLLARD and THOMASIA his wife, and to John their son, for their House in Langelegh (*hodie* Langley), in High Bickington. (Preb. Randolph's *Stafford*, p. 279).

Reg. Lacy, In Lacy's Register is a record vol.ii, fol. 362. of a Commission as to the vacancy of Huntshaw, dated 18 April, 1451. This gives us a Rector of High Bickington, whose Incumbency is not otherwise recorded. The Commissioners were,

Sir JOHN BUKE, Rector of Bukyngtone, Sir William Stephine, Rector of Atherington, Sir William Leymane, Rector of Fylleghe, Thomas Colle, Vicar of Barnstaple, William Smale, Vicar of Chidelhampton, and Hugh Gyffard, Vicar of Ernescombe. [Yarnscombe.]

Sir JOHN COMPTONE succeeded; probably, during the vacancy of the See, for there is no record of his Institution; but he died Rector,—

The memorial stone for John Compton still remains in the floor of the Church, just as you enter the Chancel; its inscription, in Church Text, records the date of his death:—

Hic jacet dnus Johannes Compton quondam rector | [istius] ecclie qui obiit | vicesimo die mensis Martij anno dni | **MCCCCXX.**

and

Reg. Nevyl, Sir WILLIAM HILLINGE, chap- fol. 11. lain, was instituted 30 March 1459; Patron, Richard Denshill, Esquire. This "Master" William Hyllynge, "Arcium Magister" (he had therefore taken this Degree since his Institution), exchanged Benefices with

Reg. Bothe, Sir JOHN STRETE, (Canon and fol. 33. Sacristan of the Collegiate Church of Ottery St. Mary). He was instituted 29 Oct., 1475; Patrons, Thomas Beamont, Esquire, John Denys, and John Rayne. On his death,

Reg. Bothe, fol. 36. Sir JOHN CLYFFE, chaplain, was instituted 1 Jan., 1476-7; Patron, Thomas Beaumont, Esquire. His successor was

Reg. Fox, fol. 98. Sir RICHARD BRIFE, chaplain, instituted, 30 June, 1487; Patron, Sir John Sapcote, Knt., "hac vice, racione concessionis Thome Beaumont, Armigeri, dicto Johanni Sapcote in hac parte facte." The Benefice is, here, called "Ecclesia de Bekyngtone Logys." On the death of Richard Brytt (*sic*),

Reg. Oldham, fol. 54. Sir JOHN ARSCOTT, chaplain, was instituted, 3 Jan., 1513-14, "ad Ecclesiam Parochialem Beate Marie de Bukyngtone;" Patron, Sir John Basset, Knt., "pro hac vice."

Sir John Basset, Knt., died 31 Jan., 1529. (Vivian's *Visit. of Devon.*)

On Arscott's resignation,

Sir JOHN ALLGAR, priest, was instituted, 7 March, 1525-6; Patron, Sir Henry Dawbenaye, Knt., Lord of Dawbenaye.

It was during the incumbency of this Rector that the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of Hen. VIII. was compiled. The return for "Bukyngton" gives £29 7s. 4½d. as the value of the Benefice.

On Allgar's death,

WILLIAM THOMAS, priest, was instituted, 15 Feb. 1536-7; Patron, John Barre, Gentleman, "hac unica vice tantum, racione Advocacionis sibi concessa per Honorabilem Virum Henricum Daubeney, Militem, Dominum Daubeney." (This Lord Daubeney, son and heir of Giles Daubeney, succeeded his Father, as 2nd Baron, in 1507; was created Earl of Bridgewater, 19 July, 1538, and died 8 April, 1548, sine prole, when these titles became extinct; but an older Barony of Daubeney, created by Writ, 23 Edward I., became vested in his nephew and heir (son of his sister, Florence), viz., John Bouchier, Earl of Bath—as heir-general of Elias, first Baron Daubeney; and it is now in abeyance, together with the Barony of Fitz-Warine, between the heirs of the daughters and coheirs of Edward Bouchier, Earl of Bath, who died in 1636). The next Rector was

GEORGE CAREWE, clerk, whose Institution, probably, occurred between the deprivation of Bishop Turberville in 1559 and the consecration of Bishop Alley in 1560; for it is not recorded, but he was Rector in 1562, and on his resignation,

Sir JOHN CLARYS was instituted, 27 March,

1562; Patron, George Harvie, Archdeacon of Cornwall, *hac vice*,—"racione Advocacionis eidem per Willelmum Rastell, unum Justiciariorum Serenissime Domine nostre Regine Elizabethæ ad Placita, Ranulplum Chomley, Servientem ad Legem ac Recordatorem Civitatis Londoniarum. et Willelmum Roper, Armigerum, Executores Testamenti et Ultime Voluntatis Jacobi Bassett, Armigeri, nuper defuncti, et, ea racione, originales, veros, et indubitatos Ecclesie predictæ Patronos, uti dicitur."

James Bassett, Esquire, died 21 Nov. 1557. (Vivian's *Visit. Devon.*)

Sir John Clarys was instituted to the Vicarage of Barnstaple on 2 September, 1562; Patron, Lord William Howard. This Vicar died there in April, 1590, having made on the 27th of that month and year a nuncupative Will, in favour of his servant, James Clace. (Oliver's *Eccles. Ant.* iii, 31.)

"1590 Syr John Claris Vicar of Barum, buried 30 April." (Barnstaple *Par. Reg.*)

He was succeeded by

SIMON HERT, B.A., who was instituted, 14 April, 1587; Patron, Queen Elizabeth, by lapse to the Crown. The Benefice is described as "priori anno vacantem."

JOHN JONES, clerk, succeeded. His Institution is not recorded, and it is probable that it occurred *circa* 1597, during the vacancy of the See, between Bishops Babington and Cotton. On his resignation,

BENEDICT BROWNINGE, clerk, M.A., was instituted 5 August, 1619; Patron, Richard Bellew, of Ashwys, Esq<sup>re</sup>, *hac vice*, by grant from Sir Robert Bassett, Knt.

He was of Exeter College, Oxford; admitted B.A. 17 July 1601; lic. M.A. 2 July, 1611.

(Clark's *Reg. Univ. Oxf.*, II. iii. 228.)

Benedict Browninge, M.A., was admitted to the Vicarage of Braunton, 13 January, 1608, on the resignation of John Vicarie; patron, Matthew Sutcliffe, D.D., Dean of Exeter. (Bp. Cotton's *Reg.*)

1610, Marg<sup>t</sup>. d. of Benedict Browninge Clerk and Mary, bapt. 12 Aug<sup>t</sup>.

1614, Mary d. of Mr. Benedict Browninge Clerk and Mary, bapt. 10 Julie.

1614, Mrs. Mary Browning, buried 15 Mar. [1614-15].

1615, Mr. Benedict Browning Clerk and Mrs. Eliz<sup>th</sup> Bellew, married 21 Sept.

1616, Samuell, s. of Mr. Benedict Browning and Eliza, bapt. 3 Nov.

1617, Samuell, s. of Mr. Benedict Browning, minister, buried 12 March. (Braunton *Par. Reg.*)

This Rector's Will. dated 26 Sept., 1621, was proved at Exeter, 4 June, 1622.

Sir Robert Bassett, Knight, who granted the Presentation for this turn to Richard Bellew, Esq., died 11 Nov. 1641. *Mon. Inscr. in Heanton Pundardon Church.*) Richard Bellew, Esq., would be

either the father or the brother of Brownings's second wife, probably the latter.

His successor was

LAURENCE BURNELL, clerk, S.T.B., instituted 15 August, 1622; Patron, King James I., *hac vice*. We lose sight of him in the confusions of the rebellion.

He was of St. John's College, Cambridge; B.A. 1601; M.A. 1604.

Lawrence Burnell, M.A. of Cambridge, was incorporated at Oxford, 10 July 1604.

(Clark's *Reg. Univ. Oxf.* II., i. 356.)

Lawrence Burnell was admitted a Prebendary of Exeter 7 July, 1624. (Hardy's *Le Neve* I. 423.)

Laurence Burnell, S.T.B. was installed Chancellor of the Cath. Church of Exeter, 20 July, 1624.

(*Ibid.*, I, 420.)

He was one of ten, who were created D.D. by his Majesty's letters-patent, when James I. visited Cambridge in December 1624.

(Russell's *Life of Bishop Andrewes*, p. 500.)

Dr. Burnell officiated, in the Cathedral of Exeter, when "Henrietta daughter of our Sovereign Lord King Charles and our Gracious Queene Mary was baptized on the 21st of July 1644." (*Cath. Reg.*)

He died 12 Nov. 1647, aged 68, and was buried in the Cathedral, where his memorial stone remains inscribed,—

Laurentius Burnell Nottinghamensis  
S. S. Theolog (omission here?) Regibus  
Jacobo et Carolo Capellan Ordinar Eccles:  
huius Cancellar et Canon Resident: Qui  
solus e sacris tractabit d..... verbi unde  
sibi est regum conciliatus amor, cuius  
erat vultui gravitas behementia invida mens  
..... mensa parat ..... obiit Novemb 12  
Aetat suæ 68, 1647."

(*Trans: Exe: Dioc: Architec: Soc.* III. 117.)

Mr. Hewett's version, as thus given is imperfect, and since his time [1849], the inscription has been rendered more obscure than ever, being encroached on by the lowest of the steps leading into the choir.

At the time of the Restoration,

JOSHUA TUCKER, Clerk, M.A., appears to have been in possession of the Benefice, and he was probably among those who conformed, for there is no record of his Institution, and he held the Benefice till 1679.

He was of Exeter College, Oxford; B.A. 26 Jan. 1629-30. (Boase's *Reg. Exet. Coll.*, p. 263.)

Joshua Tucker was collated Archdeacon of Barnstaple 19 July, 1662; he died in the summer of 1679, and his Will, dated 12 Aug., 1679, was proved 11 Nov., 1679. (Hardy's *Le Neve* I. 407.)

*Inscription on the floor of High Bickington Church.*

"Hic jacet corpus Dni Ioshuæ Tucker Archidiaconi Barum nec non hujus Ecclesie Rectoris: obiit 27 die Augusti Anno Domini 1679."

*Inscription on the north wall of High Bickington Chancel.*

"M.S. | JOSHUA TUCKER | A.M. hujus Ecclesie nuper | Rectoris nec non Archidiaconi | de Barum,

Gratiæ Uxoris et Hum | phredi eorum Filii, Quorum Cineres | non procul ab hâc Columnâ Spe | lætæ Resurrectionis requiescunt. | Ioshua Tucker, Filius prædicti Ioshuæ | et Graciæ primogenitus (in eod | em etiam loco | cum mortuus | fuerit sepeliendus) hoc Mar | mor vivus posuit. | .Ætatis suæ 55. | Anno Salutis 1705. | "

*Inscription on the floor of High Bickington Chancel.*

Joshuæ Tucker | Qui obiit Anno .Ætatis 70 | Domini 1721<sup>mo</sup> Martii 12. | Beatæ spe fisus Resurrectionis—Hoc solum tumulo inscribi voluit. | Resurgam. |

For an abstract of the Will of this gentleman see Appendix B.

On the death of the Archdeacon,

THOMAS WORTH, clerk, M.A., was instituted 11 Dec. 1679; Patron, John Basset, of Heanton Punchardon, Esquire.

He was of Exeter College, Oxford, B.A. 15 Oct. 1668; M.A. 23 June, 1671. (*Cat. Oxf. Graduates.*)

Thomas Worth was instituted to the Rectory of Washfield 29 March, 1676; patron, Henry Worth. (*Oliver's Eccles. Antiq.* I. 139.)

1710. Mr. Thomas Worth, Rector of this parish, buried 16 Nov. (*High Bickington Par. Reg.*)

*M.I. in the chancel of High Bickington Church.*

"Here lieth the body of Thomas Worth (son of Henry Worth, of Worth, Esq.) who died Rector of this parish & of Washfield, in the 63rd year of his age, November the 12th, 1710."

This Rector was the second son of Henry Worth, of Worth, by his second wife, Dorothy, daughter of John Bampfylde of Poltimore; was bapt. at Washfield 22 Feb. 1647; married Margaret Tucker of High Bickington, sister of Joshua Tucker, gent., of Tawstock, and daughter of Archdeacon Tucker, the marriage licence dated 28 Dec. 1674; the issue three daughters and a son Thomas, who was a clerk in Holy Orders. (*Mr. Worth's.*)

His patron, John Basset, Esq., was buried at Heanton-Punchardon, 5 June, 1686. (*Par. Reg.*)

On his death, another

THOMAS WORTH, clerk, M.A. was instituted, 20 Dec. 1710; Patron, the same.

He was of Christ Church, Oxford, B.A. Oct. 12, 1698; M.A. June 20, 1701. (*Cat. Oxf. Graduates.*)

Thomas Worth was instituted to the Rectory of Loxbeare, 1 June 1702; patron, Robert Cudmore, Esq. His successor was instituted 11 July, 1711, on Worth's resignation. (*Oliver's Eccles. Antiq.* I, 142.)

Thomas Worth was instituted to the Rectory of Washfield, 6 March, 1710-11; patron John Worth.

(*Oliver's Eccles. Antiq.* I, 139.)

Thomas Worth was admitted a Prebendary of Exeter, 30 April, 1724: to whom succeeded Thomas Prouse, 13 May, 1737, vice Thomas Worth, deceased. (*Hardy's Le Neve*, I, 427, 428.)

1737, Mr. Henry Worth [a brother of the Rector], buried 7 March.

1757, Mrs. Gertrude Worth, buried 4 Feb.

1764, Charles Yonge of St. Andrew in Plymouth & Thomasine Worth, married by lic. by John Yonge, minister, 17 May.

1766, Mrs. Worth, widow, buried 24 Jan.

(*High Bickington Par. Reg.*)

This Rector was the younger son of John Worth, of Worth, Esq., by Thomasine, eldest daughter of Josias Calmady, of Laugdon Court, par. of Wembury, and co-heir to her mother, dau. of Sir Richard Bulier. Whom Thomas Worth married, and when, is not known at present, but there is evidence that he must have married twice. At his death, he left three daus., Margaret, Gertrude, and Thomasine. (*Mr. Worthly.*)

"Patron the same," not exactly; the same name, but another person; for John Bassett, Esq., who presented in 1679, according to his monument in Heanton Punchardon Church, died 13 May, 1686; his son presented in 1710. This Patron was buried at Heanton Punchardon, 3 Aug. 1721. (*Par Reg.*) On whose death,

THOMAS MORRISON, clerk, M.A., was instituted, 26 Oct. 1737; Patron, the same.

Matriculated at Oxford, from New College, 22 May, 1723, aged 18; son of Thomas Morrison, "Pleb." of Midhurst, Sussex; B.A. 26 Jan. 1726-7; M.A. 5 Feb. 1730-31.

1736, May 5, instituted to the Rectory of Wear-Gifford; patron, Hugh Lord Clinton. This Benefice he resigned in 1745.

1736, May 5, admitted to the King's Prebend in Endellion; patron John Bassett, Esq.

1736, May 5, collated Prebendary of Exeter. (It is remarkable that these three preferments should have been bestowed at the same time.)

1744, Dec. 4, instituted to the Rectory of Littleham; patron John Bassett, Esq. This he resigned on his being presented to the Rectory of Langtree.

Mr. Morrison married 1. Elizabeth, dau. of Sir Nic. Hooper, Knt.; 2, Margaret, d. of John Ham, Esq.; 3, Honour, d. of Sir Thomas Bury, Knt. His death took place at Great Torrington, 20 July, 1778, aged 73; a mural monument to his memory was placed in the south aisle of Torrington Church.

"Patron the same." The same name; but, in this case, the grandson of John Bassett, Esq., the patron of the first Thomas Worth, who now presented his tutor, Tho<sup>s</sup> Morrison.

On whose resignation,

JOSHUA WORTH, clerk, M.A., was instituted, 8 Sept., 1742; Patrons, Thomas Blake, of Exeter, Goldsmith; John Fursman, clerk, Chancellor of Exeter Cathedral, and Nicholas Webber, of Exeter, Gentleman,—for that turn only, by Grant from John Bassett, of Heanton Court, Esquire.

He was of Exeter College, Oxford; matriculated 17 March, 1732-3, aged 16, son of the Rev. Thomas Worth of Washfield, Devon. (*Rev. C. W. Boase.*) B.A., 14 Oct., 1736; M.A., 3 July, 1739.

(*Cat. Ox. Grad.*)

A Joshua Worth was admitted to the Rectory of Chagford, 15 Nov. 1771: who resigned in 1779.

(*Trans. Dev. Assoc.*, viii. 81.)

1773, Mary d. of M<sup>r</sup> Joshua worth and Mary, bapt. 5 Aug<sup>t</sup>.

1774, Gertrude d. of M<sup>r</sup> Joshua Worth and Mary, bapt. 8 Dec.

1777, Thomas son of M<sup>r</sup> Joshua Worth and Mary, bapt. 19 Sept.

1777, Thomas, son of M<sup>r</sup> Joshua Worth and Mary, buried, 14 Dec.

1788, Joshua Worth, Rector of this Parish, buried 7 March. (*High Bickington Par. Reg.*)

This Rector was the grandson of Thomas Worth and his wife, Margaret, daughter of Archdeacon Tucker. His daughter Gertrude, born in 1774, became the wife of William, 4th son of William Bruton, of South Yeo in Alwington; and died at Croford in the par. of Wiveliscombe, Som., July 22, 1862, aged 87 years. Her husband died at Croford in 1846. They had two sons, John M. Bruton, who died in 1860, aged 56, and William Bruton, clerk, vicar of Sidlesham, Sussex, who died in 1881. (*Mr. Worthly.*) On Worth's death,

WILLIAM MOGGRIDGE STAWELL, clerk, M.A., was instituted, 9 April, 1788,—on his own Petition as Patron.

He was of Exeter College, Oxford; matriculated 11 Oct. 1773, aged 17, as son of George Stawell, gentleman, of South Molton, Devon. B.A. 28 May, 1777; M.A. 19 March, 1781. Rector of Croscombe, instituted 18 Dec., 1822, and of Filleigh, with East Buckland, instituted 26 Jan., 1823; died 9 Feb., 1833.

(*Rev. C. W. Boase.*)

He married Charlotte, dau. of Joseph Palmer, of South Molton, Surgeon, who married Elizabeth Bawden, 9 April, 1753, and had issue—

William Palmer Stawell (of whom below).

Charlotte Stawell, mar. J. Hodgkin, clerk, Vicar of North Molton and Twitchen. He died 1 March, 1878, aged 92.

Mary Stawell, mar. J. Gilbert Pearse, gent.

Fanny Stawell, mar. Edward Jackson Riccard, gent.

Elizabeth Stawell, mar. W. Binford, Esq., J.P.

(*Dr. Colby's Palmer Family*, pp. 1, 2.)

None of these children were baptised at High Bickington.

On the resignation of Wm. Moggridge Stawell

WILLIAM PALMER STAWELL, clerk, was instituted, 2 August, 1808; Patron, the above-named William Moggridge Stawell, late Rector.

He was of Exeter College, Oxford; matriculated 21 May 1801, aged 18, as the son of the Rev. William Moggridge Stawell, of South Molton, Devon; B.A., 25 March, 1805 (as "William" only). (*Rev. C. W. Boase.*)

He married Mary, 2nd daughter of the Very Rev. Joseph Palmer, Dean of Cashel. (*Palmer Family* p. 1).

1810, William Palmer, s. of Rev. Wm. Palmer & Mary Stawell, born Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> priv. bapt. the 18<sup>th</sup> and received in Church 9 Nov.

1812, Joseph George, s. of Rev. W. P. Stawell & Mary, born ye 21<sup>st</sup> Oct., 1811, priv. bapt. ye 28, received in Church, 14 July.

(These two brothers became the co-patrons in the next Presentation.)

1813, Mary Elizabeth, d. of Wm. Palmer & Mary Stawell, clerk, born Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1812, bapt. 3 Aug<sup>t</sup>.

1818, Charlotte Caroline, d. of Wm. Palmer & Mary Stawell, born March 25<sup>th</sup>, bapt. 27 March.

1844, Charles Richard Jones, s. of John Day Jones purser, R.N., & Charlotte Caroline Stawell, d. of Wm. Palmer Stawell, clerk, mar<sup>d</sup> 15 Oct.

1834, Mary Elizabeth Stawell, aged 21, bur<sup>d</sup> 13 May.

1850, The Reverend William Palmer Stawell, aged 67, bur<sup>d</sup> 13 June.

1872, Joseph G. Stawell, of Torrington, aged 60, bur<sup>d</sup> 24 May. (*High Bickington Par. Reg.*)

The following inscriptions are in the Churchyard.  
 "Sacred to the memory of William Palmer Stawell, 42 years Rector of this parish, who died June 8th, 1850, aged 67 years.

Resurgam !

Also to the memory of Mary Stawell, wife of the late Rev<sup>d</sup> W. P. Stawell, who died Feb<sup>r</sup> 2, 1859, aged 70 years."

"Mary Elizabeth Stawell, Ob. May 8, 1834. .Et. 21."

"Sacred to the memory of Joseph George Stawell, LL.B., who died May 19th, 1872. Aged 60 years. Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Will be done."

On the death of W. P. Stawell,

SEPTIMUS PALMER, clerk, M.A., was instituted 5 December, 1850; Patrons, William Palmer Stawell, of High Bickington, clerk, and Joseph George Stawell of the same place, Esquire.

He was of St. Peter's College, Cambridge; B.A. 1824; M.A. 1827; ordained deacon 1825, priest 1826, by the Bp. of Exeter. He was the 7th son of the Very Rev. Joseph Palmer, Dean of Cashel, born in 1798. He married Susan, daughter of General Guard, and had issue three sons and six daughters.

(*Palmer Family*, p. 4).

1858, Charles Hamlen Gamble, gent., s. of Henry Gamble, clerk, & Juliana Mary Palmer, dau. of Septimus Palmer, clerk, mar<sup>d</sup> 27 Oct.

1860, Octavius Dene, clerk, s. of John Dene, clerk, & Theresa Susan Palmer, dau. of Septimus Palmer, clerk, mar<sup>d</sup> 6 March.

1842, Caroline Frances, dau. of Nicholas & Elizabeth Ann Palmer, Major in the 56 Reg<sup>t</sup> of Foot [a brother of Septimus], bap<sup>t</sup> 14 April.

1842, Herbert William, son of Nicholas & Elizabeth Ann Palmer, bap<sup>t</sup> 14 April.

1859, Reginald Guard Palmer, aged 27, died on the 11th and bur<sup>d</sup> 16 Sept.

1871, Septimus Palmer, of Dawlish, aged 72, bur<sup>d</sup> 2 March.

(*High Bickington Par. Reg.*)

The following two inscriptions are in the Churchyard,—

"To the Memory of Reginald Guard Palmer, late Captain in Her Majesty's 3 West India Reg<sup>t</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup> son of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Septimus Palmer, M.A. rector of this parish, who died on the 11th day of Sept. 1859, Aged 27 years. . . . Monumentum hoc Parentes mæstissimi poni curaverunt, 1860."

"Hic Requiescit omne quod mortale fuit Septimi Palmer, Parochiæ hujus viginti annos Rectoris. Quem nec morbo languentem nec Senio confectum Mors Heu ! Inopina Rapuit, Anno ætatis suæ LXXIII, Salutis nostræ MDCCCLXXI. Vigilare et orate."

<sup>1</sup> Died in consequence of an accident in a state of somnambulism when on a visit at Dunster Castle. (*Dr. P. T. Colby*).

On Palmers resignation,

ALFRED LANGDON, clerk, B.A., was instituted, 15 December, 1869: Patron, the Rev<sup>d</sup>. John Guard, clerk, of Langtree, County of Devon.

He was of St. John's College, Cambridge; B.A. 1864; ordained deacon 1865, and priest 1866, by the Bp. of Durham. Curate of Sedgfield, Durham; afterwards of Menheniot, Cornwall. (*Crockford*).

1871, Arthur Mervyn, son of Alfred and Elizabeth Langdon, clerk, bap<sup>t</sup>. 29 Jan.

1872, Mabel Frances dau. of Alfred and Elizabeth Langdon, clerk, bap<sup>t</sup>. 28 April.

1874, John Edgar, son of Alfred and Elizabeth Langdon, clerk, bap<sup>t</sup>. 16 Aug.

1876, Winifred Elizabeth, dau. of Alfred and Elizabeth Langdon, clerk, bap<sup>t</sup>. 17 Dec.

1878, Wilfrid James, son of Alfred & Elizabeth Langdon, clerk, bap<sup>t</sup>. 30 Mar.

1878, Peyton, son of James & Emma Jane Langdon, of Ashford, gent., bap<sup>t</sup>. 11 Augt.

(*High Bickington Par. Reg.*)

On Langdon's resignation,

RICHARD YERBURGH, clerk, B.A., was instituted, 28 September, 1882; Patron, the aforesaid Rev. Alfred Langdon.

He was the son of the late Richard Yerburgh, D.D. Rector of Tothill and vicar of New Sleaford by Elizabeth daughter of Eardley Norton, Esq., of Little Stanmore, Middlesex; born 1817; married in 1846 Susan, youngest daughter of John Higgin, Esq., of Greenfield, Lancashire. Mr. Yerburgh was educated at Harrow and Christ's College, Cambridge (*Walford*), B.A. 1840; ordained deacon, 1841, and priest, 1842, by the Bp. of Chester. Vicar of New Sleaford, 1851-82, Chaplain of Sir Robert Carre's Bede Houses, Sleaford, 1851-82, Chaplain to the Sleaford Union 1865. (*Crockford*).

1885, Walter Loveband (25), clerk, son of Anthony Wm. Loveband, clerk, & Lucy Isabel Yerburgh (27), spinster, dau. of Richard Yerburgh, clerk, married 2 July.

1886, Richard Yerburgh (Rector), aged 69, buried 3 Sept. (*High Bickington Par. Reg.*)

"In loving memory of Richard Yerburgh, Rector of this parish. Died August 29th 1886. Aged 69 years. Waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ." (*Mons. Ins. in Churchyard*).

On whose death,

EDMOND ROCHFORD YERBURGH, clerk, B.A., was instituted, 18 January, 1887, Patrons, the Trustees of the Will of the late Rev<sup>d</sup>. Richard Yerburgh. The present Rector.

The fourth son of the previous Rector, born in 1856; educated at Magdalen College, Cambridge; B.A. 1882; ordained deacon 1883, and priest 1884, by the Bishop of St. Alban's; Curate of Kimpton, Herts, 1883-86. (*Crockford*).

1890, at Witton, Edmond Rochfort Yerburgh Rector of High Bickington, clerk, was married to Constance Thwaites, daughter of John Thwaites, Esq., of Troy, Witton, Lancashire, 21st April.

(*Witton Par. Reg.*)

1891, Richard Edmond Rochfort Yerburgh, son of Edmond Rochfort and Constance Yerburgh, was baptized 4 Oct. (*High Bickington Par. Reg.*)

## APPENDIX A.

Abstract of the Will of WILLIAM CREDY, R. of [High] Bickington (*Bp. Stafford's Reg., col. i, fol. 307<sup>b</sup>*) Dated, 1 August, 1406.

He commends his soul to God; his body to be buried in the cemetery of St. John Baptist, Bridgewater, between the two gates, viz., the gate of Thomas Caudel and the gate of the antient infirmary of the Church.

He leaves to Wm. Patehill, Master of the said House, 40s.; and to each of the brethren there, 20s. To the said House one set of Decretals and one *Sextus Liber cum Clementinis*; and to every one serving in his office there, 2s. To Wm. Radwyll a surplice and his cloak. To Philip Martyn a book of sermons, a green coat, with hood, and 40*d.* To each poor person in the infirmary aforesaid, 12*d.* To Edith Chepstone, 12*d.* To the Master of the said Hospital a priest's set of vestments, (*par vestimentorum sacerdotale*). To the Lady Elizabeth Poulet, his sister, a missal, and a chalice with two cruets, (*cruetis*) of silver; also a ciborium and a reliquary. To Wm. Halswyll *omnia arma mea* at Bridgewater, *cum brekendariis*. To Philip Martyn 2 sheets. To Rob. Halswyll a Manual and a Book called *Maria Egipciaca*. To Thos. Paulet a bed called *broydit bed*. To Joan Halwyll (*sic*) 40s., a silver bowl and 6 spoons. To Rob. Halswyll 2 spoons and a silver bowl. To John Alexander, 13s. 4*d.* To John Byke his greaves and spurs, a cloak, a coat of russet cloth, and a hood of scarlet cloth, a saddle and bridle, 13s. 4*d.*, and a doublet. To Agnes, dau. of Thos. Creden, a bed with tapestry. To Joan, dau. of Adam Crydy (*sic*), one of his best beds, with 2 sheets and 2 blankets (the Lady Elizabeth to choose a bed for herself first); also 40s. To Wm. Serle and to John, his brother, 40*d.* each. To Wm. Halswyll *unum scrinium longum*. To Joan atte Yeate, 6s. 8*d.* and 4 yards of cloth (*quatuor virgas de panno*). To Wm. Creden 20 marks. To Joan Halswyll an ewer and wash-basin. To Adam Creden, his brother, he leaves a hanging (*doser*), with a bench-cover (*bancker*), and 6 cushions (*cussynys*); also 12 new plates of tin. To Dionisia Brauncombe, 20s. To Wm. Halswyll a long coat of worsted. To the Lady Elizabeth Poulet he bequeaths a mare (*unum jumentum*). To Thos. Poulet a colt out of the said mare (*unum pullum equinum ejusdem*

*jumentum*). To his brother, Adam Crydy (*sic*), his colt, then at Womberley, and a chaldron *unum cacabum*. To the Lady Elizabeth, his sister, a wagon, bound with iron. To Ralph Crydy (*sic*) a cup, with cover. To Adam Creden all his lands and tenements, rents, reversions, etc., in Devon, belonging to him by hereditary right after the death of Wm. Creden, his father, and Thos. Creden, his brother; to have and to hold, to the said Adam, and his heirs of his body, so that if he should die without an heir of his body, all the said lands, tenements, etc., should devolve on his sister, the Lady Elizabeth Poulet for the term of her life,—after her death they were to pass to testator's nephew, Thos., son of Elizabeth Poulet (*sic*) and the heirs of his body; failing which they were to pass to the direct heirs of his said sister, Elizabeth.

*Executors*:—Adam Creden, Ralph Creden, and Henry Crosse; who are to act under the Lady Elizabeth, his sister.

*Proved*, 17 August, 1406, before the Bishop at Crediton.

(*Prebendary Hingeston-Randolph's Bp. Stafford*, p. 386.)

## APPENDIX B.

Abstract of the Will of JOSHUA TUCKER, of Tawstock, Gentleman.

*Dated* 6th January, 1719.

To be buried in High Bickington Church, near the monument erected to my father. His executor to place a stone over the grave, with age, and time of death, "and with this word only underneath, Resurgam."

"Item whereas I did long since" receive "about £25 on the brief for Newmarket, which by reason of the death of the person who employed me, and to whom I was to pay it, and for several other reasons, though I was always ready and willing to have paid it, is yet in my hands," I order, &c., the sum of £50, by way of restitution, to such person or persons as shall have power to receive it, or to the chief Magistrate or Minister there, as soon as possible after my death.—To the poor of Bickington £40, the Interest to be distributed every Christmas Day for ever.—To

my dear Sister, Mrs. Worth, a silver cupp with two handles and cover, on which my coat of arms is engraven, a five pound piece of K. Chas. ii, and a diamond ring: to revert to the eldest of her daughters.—To her 3 daughters £21, to be laid out in plate, if they so please. To Major John Worth, my large cane with a silver head on which is my cypher, and a large mourning ring which was for my late brother Worth enamelled with thigh

bones and deaths heads. Certain wearing apparel to my servant, with legacy of £2 2. Save my "floured silk morning gown and capp," and six shirts to be chosen by my Executor, if he pleaseth. The residue to my nephew Thomas Worth, Clerk, who is Sole Executor.

[Witnesses names obliterated.] Seal. Arg. on a bend engrailed 3 body hearts. Proved, May, 1722. (*Mr. Worthy.*)